



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN961

Site Name: South Bluff II

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief Description:

Early, Middle, and possibly Late Woodland short-term resource procurement camp

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 8

SCS soil & sediment code CSG

Latitude 38.9682 Longitude -76.7003

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m Site slope 0-5%

Ethnobotany profile available Maritime site

Site setting

-Site Setting restricted

-Lat/Long accurate to within 1 sq. mile, user may need to make slight adjustments in mapping to account for sites near state/county lines or streams

Topography

- Floodplain
- Hilltop/bluff
- Interior flat
- Upland flat
- Ridgetop
- Terrace
- Low terrace
- High terrace
- Rockshelter/cave
- Hillslope
- Unknown
- Other

Ownership

- Private
- Federal
- State of MD
- Regional/county/city
- Unknown

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Patuxent River

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 50 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Archaic site

MD Adena

Early archaic

Early woodland

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

Late archaic

Late woodland

Contact period site ca. 1820 - 1860

ca. 1630 - 1675 ca. 1860 - 1900

ca. 1675 - 1720 ca. 1900 - 1930

ca. 1720 - 1780 Post 1930

ca. 1780 - 1820

Unknown historic context

Unknown prehistoric context

Unknown context

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American

Asian American

African American

Unknown

Anglo-American

Other

Hispanic

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

Site Function Contextual Data:

Prehistoric

Multi-component

Misc. ceremonial

Village

Rock art

Hamlet

Shell midden

Base camp

STU/lithic scatter

Rockshelter/cave

Quarry/extraction

Earthen mound

Fish weir

Cairn

Production area

Burial area

Unknown

Other context

Historic

Urban/Rural?

Domestic

Homestead

Farmstead

Mansion

Plantation

Row/townhome

Cellar

Privy

Industrial

Mining-related

Quarry-related

Mill

Black/metalsmith

Furnace/forge

Other

Transportation

Canal-related

Road/railroad

Wharf/landing

Maritime-related

Bridge

Ford

Educational

Commercial

Trading post

Store

Tavern/inn

Military

Battlefield

Fortification

Encampment

Townsite

Religious

Church/mtg house

Ch support bldg

Burial area

Cemetery

Sepulchre

Isolated burial

Bldg or foundation

Possible Structure

Post-in-ground

Frame-built

Masonry

Other structure

Slave related

Non-domestic agri

Recreational

Midden/dump

Artifact scatter

Spring or well

Unknown

Other context

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples

Soil samples taken N

Flotation samples taken Y

Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken



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Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types			
Clovis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Koens-Crispin	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Le Croy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>
Morrow Mntn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guilford	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brewerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Otter Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Madison/Potomac	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Levanna	<input type="checkbox"/>

Prehistoric Sherd Types

Marcey Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Popes Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Shepard	<input type="checkbox"/>	Keyser	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Dames Qtr	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coulbourn	<input type="checkbox"/>		Townsend	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yeocomico	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Selden Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Watson	<input type="checkbox"/>		Minguannan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monongahela	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Accokeek	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Mockley	<input type="checkbox"/>	65	Sullivan Cove	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehannock	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wolfe Neck	<input type="checkbox"/>		Clemson Island	<input type="checkbox"/>		Shenks Ferry	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Vinette	<input type="checkbox"/>		Page	<input type="checkbox"/>		Moyaone	<input type="checkbox"/>		
			Potomac Crk	<input type="checkbox"/>					

Historic Sherd Types

Earthenware				Ironstone		Staffordshire		Stoneware	
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>			Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>			Whiteware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>			Porcelain	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	<input type="checkbox"/>					Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>
								Wt Salt-glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts				
Flaked stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	152	Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>		Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>		Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	32	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	37	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	72	Floral material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>		Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Storage/trash pit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shell midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ossuary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
House pattern(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Hearth(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Lithic reduc area	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Lithic Material

Jasper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fer quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sil sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	hematite	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts				
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tobacco related	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>		Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>		Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>		Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>		Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>		Misc.	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features

Const feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Privy/outhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	Depression/mound	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Hearth/chimney	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Earthworks	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Planting feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mill raceway	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Paling ditch/fence	<input type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wheel pit	<input type="checkbox"/>		

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Radiocarbon Data:

Sample 1: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 2: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 3: +/- years BP Reliability

Sample 4: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 5: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 6: +/- years BP Reliability

Sample 7: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 8: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 9: +/- years BP Reliability

Additional radiocarbon results available



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External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The South Bluff II site (18AN961) is a multi-component Early-Middle Woodland short-term resource procurement camp northwest of Davidsonville in Anne Arundel County. The site is situated on a bluff on the eastern side of the Patuxent River, along a flat to gently sloping ridge directly to the south of a weakly incised intermittent spring-fed drainage that flows into the Patuxent River. This drainage probably resulted from historic farming activity. The site area is thickly wooded and covered with a significant amount of dead fall and secondary growth. A narrow footpath runs north-south through the center of the site and parallel to the drainage. A more substantial forked lateral drainage to the Patuxent lies to the south of the site. Soils at the site are Evesboro loamy sands.

The site was first examined archeologically in 1993, during the course of a Phase I survey by the Argonne National Laboratory of the Andrews Air Force Base and associated Davidsonville Transmitter Station. The site area was shovel tested at 15 m intervals in multiple transects (also 15 m apart) paralleling the bluff edge. Two of the initial shovel test pits (STPs) produced artifacts, resulting in the excavation of "bracketed" shovel tests at 5 m intervals around the positive finds. Since two of the bracketed STPs produced artifacts, the overall shovel testing intervals was reduced to 10 m. In total, 64 STPs were excavated in the vicinity of the site.

Artifacts recovered during the Phase I survey included 4 quartzite flakes and 4 ceramic sherds. Two of the four ceramic sherds appear to be Accokeek cord-marked ware and 1 is an extremely thick example of Pope's Creek ware. The fourth sherd appears to be a nondescript basal sherd. The diagnostic materials suggest an Early Woodland occupation of the site. The site was determined to be roughly 50 m by 25 m in extent.

Additional research was conducted at 18AN961 from January through April of 1998 as part of a Phase II investigation of Andrews Air Force Base and the associated Davidsonville Transmitter Station (where 18AN961 is located). These excavations were conducted to maintain compliance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act, which requires federal agencies to identify and evaluate any cultural resources on their land that may be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and if necessary, nominate eligible resources to the NRHP. The Phase II investigations were the direct result of consultations with the Maryland State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) about the 1993 Phase I survey which had identified 6 sites at Andrews Airforce Base and another 3 at the base's Davidsonville Transmitter Station in Anne Arundel County.

Phase II work in 1998 began with the establishment of an arbitrary datum within the previously identified site boundaries, on the east side of the footpath. From this datum, a grid was established using a compass (magnetic directions) and measuring tapes. The metric system was used for measurement. A series of 14 STPs were excavated across the site to establish boundaries and identify areas of high artifact density. Based on the artifact distribution and site boundaries, eight 1 m² test units were placed and excavated across the site.

All excavations were conducted using hand methods (shovels and trowels) and excavated soils were screened through hardware cloth. The A horizon and/or plowzone was removed as a single level and soils below it were removed in arbitrary 10 cm levels. All excavation units were excavated at least 10 cm into culturally sterile subsoil. Artifacts recovered were bagged in the field by provenience and all relevant information was recorded on standardized field forms. Plan views were prepared as necessary and profiles were drawn for at least one wall of each test unit. Excavations were documented through photography as well.

Based on STP and test unit data, Site 18AN961 measures approximately 50 m north-south by 20 m east-west, with artifacts and features located in greater concentration in the central portion of the site. Excavation units represent a sample of less than 1% of the site. Cultural materials at this site were limited to the upper 60 cm of soil.

Only one potential feature was discovered during the Phase II investigation of 18AN961. One small, circular stain was discovered in the north central portion of the site. The stain was identified at 26 cm below surface and measured approximately 16 cm in diameter. It was darker in color than the surrounding matrix. Once bisected, it was determined to be basin-shaped and extended 10 cm into the underlying subsoil. No artifacts were recovered from the feature fill, but some charcoal in the surrounding matrix was retained (but not apparently analyzed).

Artifacts recovered during Phase II testing included a quartz triangular point (elongate), a quartz point tip, a jasper biface, a quartz uniface, 144 pieces of debitage (86 quartz, 45 rhyolite, 8 quartzite, 5 other), 32 fragments of fire-cracked rock, 37 other lithics (a large quartzite cobble and 36 pieces of hematite), 68 prehistoric ceramic sherds (65 Mockley), 11 pieces of bone (some burnt), 1 charcoal sample, and 2 pieces of modern bottle glass.

Site 18AN961 extends across an area measuring roughly 1,000 square meters. Artifact recovery suggests that this site was occupied intermittently during prehistoric times and it functioned as a short-term occupation site. Pottery recovered during the Phase I dates to the Early Woodland (Popes Creek and Accokeek), while pottery recovered during the Phase II dates almost exclusively to the Middle Woodland Period (Mockley). One Woodland period triangle point (not diagnostic enough to tie to the Late Woodland) was found during the testing.

Although Site 18AN961 has been affected by plowing and erosion, some features are still intact and patterning is apparent in the distribution of cultural material. This site retains sufficient integrity to hold research potential. It has demonstrated the capacity to yield otherwise unobtainable information important in understanding the past. The site was recommended eligible for listing on the NRHP. Additional research conducted at this site may produce information on site formation processes and internal site patterning. It has the potential to yield carbon dates in context with diagnostic tools, providing comparative data. In addition, many of the sites identified along the Patuxent River have been compromised by more intensive ground-disturbing activities than farming, such as sand and gravel mining and construction.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00007631, Site Files