



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18BA112

Site Name: Painters Mill Road

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Gwynns Falls

Historic

Brief Description:

Early Archaic to Late Woodland base camp

Unknown

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 14

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.4041

Longitude -76.7698

Physiographic province Eastern Piedmont

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 140 m

Site slope 0

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) Gwynns Falls

#### Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 75 m

#### Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

## Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Contact period site

ca. 1820 - 1860

Archaic site

MD Adena

ca. 1630 - 1675

ca. 1860 - 1900

Early archaic

Early woodland

ca. 1675 - 1720

ca. 1900 - 1930

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

ca. 1720 - 1780

Post 1930

Late archaic

Late woodland

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 N

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"/>	Susquehanna	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (notch)	1	Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Piscataway	1
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"/>	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	1	Mockley	<input type="checkbox"/>	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

<b>Earthenware</b>		Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Stoneware</b>	
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"/>	<b>Porcelain</b>	<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	481	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	2	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	2	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	1	Floral material	<input 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<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"/>	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 Laboratory

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

The Painters Mill Road Site (18BA112), also known as the Gwynn Falls site, is a multi-component prehistoric site with evidence for use from the Early Archaic period through the Middle Woodland period, although it appears to have been most actively utilized during the Archaic period. The site is situated on a broad colluvial fan near Reisterstown in Baltimore County, Maryland. It is bordered by a steep slope to the west and Gwynns Falls, a second order tributary of the Patapsco River, flows to the east of the site. Agricultural use of the field has resulted in some downslope movement of soil, while modern development in the watershed has resulted in recent flooding which has capped the lower end of the site under several feet of flood deposits. Soils at the site are Baltimore silt loam, 0-3% slope. Site 18BA112 is located south of another Archaic and Woodland period base camp. The two sites are separated by a low-lying swampy area that contains a light scattering of cultural material.

Between 1973 and 1975 three phases of investigations at the Painters Mill Road site were undertaken by personnel from the Maryland Geologic Survey (MGS). The 1973 and 1974 fieldwork seasons were reported separately but the 1975 season was combined with the previous 2 seasons in a final report on the 3 year project. The Northwest Transportation Corridor project involved construction of a highway from Gwynn Falls where it entered the transportation corridor at Owings Mills until it emerged upon the relatively flat uplands which continue beyond the project area to MD Route 30 at Reisterstown. The proposed impact to the site was the construction of a parking lot for the rapid rail transit line associated with the Northwest Expressway. In all, 15 alternatives were proposed for the highway alignment. A total of 12 prehistoric and 7 historic archeological sites were located during the 3 year survey.

During July and August of 1973 reconnaissance of the Northwest Transportation Corridor was carried out. The purpose of the survey was to locate as many historic and prehistoric sites as possible within the accessible portions of the direct impact zone. In wooded areas, pasture, or grass-covered fields, exposed surfaces were examined for artifacts. Test excavations measuring 0.9144 m<sup>2</sup> (3 ft<sup>2</sup>) were excavated in well-drained areas adjacent to open water resources and all covered areas that produced surface artifacts (conducted in 1975 at Site 18BA112). It was during the 1973 reconnaissance that Site 18BA112 was identified. The survey consisted of uncontrolled surface collection.

The initial survey was followed with an analysis of the data and writing of the preliminary report. The second phase of field research involved controlled surface collection of the areas that had previously been in crop in 1973. Due to delays in starting the project, and after the fields had again been cultivated and planted, a controlled surface survey was not possible until the spring plowing. However, archeologists from MGS with help from several Boy Scouts conducted a random collection of the field. As a result of that unsystematic survey, the boundaries of Site 18BA112 were expanded to include the entire area of occupation in the southern half of the field (Site 18BA106 comprised the northern half – see synopsis report). Following the 1974 cultivation, the site was revisited after every rain and in June when the soils were washed off of a sufficient quantity of artifacts, the entire surface area of the field was surveyed.

During the 1974 controlled survey, the locations of all observed artifacts were marked with a numbered stake. All 78 artifacts were then placed in a bag marked with the corresponding number. After 10 days of constant rain, the investigator returned to the site to map the artifact locations to find that several of the markers were obscured by more than half a meter of corn growth. The entire field had to be resurveyed to search for the marker stakes. Four of the markers could not be relocated. Finally, the locations of the artifacts could be plotted. At that time, six artifact clusters were postulated (Areas A-F). It was suggested that Areas A-C representing activities related to the tool maintenance. Further discussion or interpretation of these clusters was not addressed in later reports. Based on the results of the survey, the interim 1974 report recommended excavation of both Sites 18BA106 and 18BA112 to determine the relationship between the distribution of surface artifacts at the sites with the distribution of cultural features at the sites.

A limited controlled surface collection and test excavations were conducted at the site in 1975. Although not originally scheduled for a second surface survey, the lack of sub-surface features resulted in an extra day for surface survey. A 10 m<sup>2</sup> grid was established over areas of the site that had been previously identified to contain artifact clusters; a 20 m<sup>2</sup> and larger grid units were employed in less productive areas of the site. Only the eastern portion of the site, which had been in cultivation in 1974, was systematically collected in 1975. The western, uncultivated section of the field was in 80% cover and was not systematically collected. The western area was randomly surveyed and cultural items were found in the wash and at the base of the slopes.

Four test units were excavated at the site. A baseline was established that ran the entire length of the cultivated field in a southerly direction and bisected the site. Plowzone was removed in a single layer and the soil from the southwest square-meter of each unit was screened through 0.635 cm mesh. All of the excavated soil from the test units was screened and all observed artifacts were retained.

Based on the analysis of the materials, it was suggested that the earliest material recovered from the site could date to the Early Archaic period. This was determined by the finds of a chert Kirk Corner-notched point and a rhyolite bifurcate resembling the MacCorkle Stemmed type from West Virginia. The bifurcate was recovered from the wash area of the site. An artifact cluster comprised of chert and jasper was observed in a 30 m<sup>2</sup> area around S310W50. An assessment of the assemblage suggested that during this period the site served as a short-term camp, possibly where maintenance activities occurred. The Middle Archaic period was represented at the site by a rhyolite Savannah River point and a rhyolite Lackawaxen Expanding Stem point. Both objects were found in the wash area west of the 1975 area of cultivation. Those point types were found in abundance in the assemblages of the local collectors. Additionally, a heavily retouched, concave based, straight stemmed rhyolite point was found on the surface of the site. The investigator also noted that another specimen (undefined) was recovered during the 1974 survey and was also diagnostic of the Middle Archaic Piedmont tradition. Fifteen flakes of rhyolite clustered around S330W50. The assemblage suggested that biface production and maintenance, cutting and possibly scraping activities were represented. The data indicated that during this period the site may have served as a lithic resource procurement area with habitation locales situated toward the head of the colluvial deposits. The Late Archaic period was represented at Site 18BA112 by the presence of a rhyolite Lackawaxen Expanded Stem-like point, a quartzite Claggett point and a Dry Brook point (unidentified material). The investigator suggested that there was a decrease in the use of the site during this period.

The Woodland period was minimally represented at Site 18BA112. One grit-tempered cord-marked ceramic Accokeek sherd was the only Early Woodland period diagnostic recovered. The investigator cites a Calvert-type projectile point in his discussion of the Middle Woodland period although this point type is generally considered a Late Archaic to Early Woodland type. Artifacts diagnostic of the Late Woodland period were absent from the site.

The artifact analysis was presented as a diachronic synthesis within the final site report. The 1975 data was not discussed separately from the 1973 and 1974 material but all the artifacts were combined for one site total in a summary table. A total of 484 prehistoric artifacts were collected. There were 440 flakes and



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other debitage (35 quartz, 4 quartzite, 383 rhyolite, 3 jasper, 14 gray chert, and 1 dark-colored fine-grained igneous rock) and only 1 quartz core. There were 6 scrapers (1 quartz, 4 rhyolite, 1 chert) and 15 cutting tools (4 quartz and 11 rhyolite). A total of 17 piercing tools were recorded. Diagnostics included 1 rhyolite MacCorkle, 1 chert Kirk Corner-notched, 1 rhyolite Savannah River, 2 rhyolite Lackawaxen Expanding-Stem, 1 rhyolite (Middle Archaic) straight-stemmed point, 1 quartz Clagett, 1 Dry Brook (material type not noted), and 1 (possibly rhyolite) Calvert point. However, as part of the Phase II testing conducted at the site in 1981 (see below) the lithic artifacts were re-examined and the investigator identified 1 MacCorkle, 1 Kirk Corner-notched, 2 Lackawaxen, 1 Piscataway, and 1 Vosburg. The other lithic group consisted of 2 chopping tools. Two fire-cracked rock fragments were also retained. The only ceramic sherd found at the site was an Accokeek sherd.

The site area was found to encompass approximately 140 x 80 meters. No subsurface features were uncovered at Site 18BA112. All of the proposed alignments were found to directly affect the site except for Alternates 3 and 4. Based on the results of the investigation, further testing for buried archeological deposits at the site was recommended. Recommendations included random surface survey in the western extreme of the terrace that had been obscured by heavy ground cover and excavation of several deep test units between W0 and W100.

In 1980, staff from the Baltimore County Office of Planning and Zoning (OPZ) visited the site. At that time, it was noted that a sewer line had been installed along the southern edge of the site possibly destroying portions of it.

Then in September 1981, staff from MGS conducted Phase II archeological investigations at the site prior to construction of the Northwest Expressway. The Phase II fieldwork consisted of the mechanical excavation of a trench from east-west across the central portion of the site. No in situ deposits were identified at the site. Furthermore, the pedological assessment was that the potential for deeply buried cultural material was virtually nil.

The Painters Mill Road Site (18BA112), also known as the Gwynn Falls site, is a multi-component prehistoric site with evidence for period short-term use during the Early Archaic period and possibly as far as the Middle Woodland period. The site was most actively utilized during the Archaic period. Archeological investigations at the site led to the conclusion that no buried cultural deposits exist there. As a consequence, no any additional work was recommended at the Painters Camp Site. Currently, nearly the entire site is covered by the rapid rail transit parking lot located on the east side of the highway.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00005410, 00005411, 00005426, Site Files