



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18BA458

Site Name: Losch Rockshelter

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Poplar Run Rockshelter No.3, Rockshelter Field No.331

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Early & Middle Archaic rockshelter

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 15

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.6609

Longitude -76.7697

Physiographic province Eastern Piedmont

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 184 m

Site slope

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) Poplar Run

- | Saltwater | Freshwater |
|--|--|
| Ocean <input type="checkbox"/> | Stream/river <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Estuary/tidal river <input type="checkbox"/> | Swamp <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tidewater/marsh <input type="checkbox"/> | Lake or pond <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Spring <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Minimum distance to water is 14 m | |

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

- Paleoindian site
- Archaic site
- Early archaic
- Middle archaic
- Late archaic
- Woodland site
- MD Adena
- Early woodland
- Mid. woodland
- Late woodland

- Contact period site
- ca. 1820 - 1860
- ca. 1630 - 1675
- ca. 1675 - 1720
- ca. 1720 - 1780
- ca. 1780 - 1820
- ca. 1820 - 1860
- ca. 1860 - 1900
- ca. 1900 - 1930
- Post 1930

Unknown historic context

Unknown context

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

- Native American
- African American
- Anglo-American
- Hispanic
- Asian American
- Unknown
- Other

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

Site Function Contextual Data:

Prehistoric

- Multi-component
- Village
- Hamlet
- Base camp
- Rockshelter/cave
- Earthen mound
- Cairn
- Burial area
- Misc. ceremonial
- Rock art
- Shell midden
- STU/lithic scatter
- Quarry/extraction
- Fish weir
- Production 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

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"/>	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"/>
		Levana	<input type="checkbox"/> 1

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	<input type="checkbox"/>	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

Earthenware		Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	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"/> 45	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"/>	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Other <input type="checkbox"/>	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Lithic reduc area	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Lithic Material

Jasper	<input 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"/> 1
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"/>	<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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Early & Middle Archaic rockshelter

Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at Property Owner - Michael and Amy Losch

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Losch Rockshelter (18BA458) represents a Pre-Contact rockshelter site with Early Archaic, Middle/Late Archaic, and Late Woodland components located on Poplar Run, a small tributary of the Big Gunpowder Falls in northern Baltimore County, Maryland. The Pre-Contact component at 18BA458 consists of flaked stone lithics and one possible hearth feature.

18BA458 is located on the right bank of Poplar Run, a small tributary that flows into Prettyboy Reservoir in northern Baltimore County, Maryland. Topographically the Losch Rockshelter is situated at the base of a shallow but steep rocky slope, along a narrow floodplain reach of Poplar Run at elevation 605 feet above mean sea level. The site lies in the Eastern Piedmont physiographic province, in the Council for Maryland Archeology Research Unit 15. Soils near 18BA458 consist of stony loam soils including Manor-Brinklow complex and Brinklow channery loam soils.

The Losch Rockshelter was first recorded as a potential rockshelter site in June of 1997 during the Central Chapter of the Archeological Society of Maryland's Big Gunpowder Falls Rockshelter Survey. The rear wall of the rockshelter is nearly vertical, 5 meters in height, and extends for 11.5 meters in the form of an open rockshelter. The floor of the Losch shelter lies on a shallow rise or talus area that runs along the rear wall of the open shelter and extends out 3.8 meters into the narrow (14 m wide) Poplar Run floodplain. Rooffall covers a large portion of the rockshelter's talus floor.

Preliminary test excavations at the Losch Rockshelter were conducted by the Central Chapter between January and July of 1998. The objectives of the test excavations were to document the presence or absence of prehistoric habitation at the rockshelter, and to define the context of any cultural remains found at the site. Field investigations included the excavation of three test units (TUs). One TU measured 2 x 1.5 meters and the other two TUs measured 1-x-1 meters. TUs were excavated in 10-cm levels within natural stratigraphy to a depth of 10 cm into culturally sterile subsoil or until slabs of rock halted excavation. All excavated soils were screened through 0.25-inch hardware cloth in order to ensure uniform artifact recovery. Field data were recorded on standard field forms and in general field notes. At the completion of each excavation unit, wall profiles were drawn and photographs taken.

The recovered cultural material consists of 6 bifaces made of rhyolite, 41 finishing flakes, 1 early stage flake, 1 quartz core, and 4 burnt bone fragments. The lithic material consisted of quartz (n= 21), rhyolite (n= 18), and chert (n= 6). One historic artifact, an iron rod with a looped end, was found on the surface of the site.

Diagnostic Pre-Contact artifacts recovered from the site include a rhyolite Levanna point (Late Woodland), a rhyolite Halifax side-notched point with a broken tip (Middle/Late Archaic), and a rhyolite Bifurcate based point with serrated blade edges (Early Archaic). These diagnostics indicate reuse of the rockshelter occasionally from ~9,000 years ago (Early Archaic), ~5,000 years ago (Middle/Late Archaic), and ~1,000 years ago (Late Woodland). No Woodland ceramics were found.

Based on the stratigraphic context of the diagnostics, the Losch Rockshelter was interpreted as having reverse stratigraphy because the Levanna triangle and a Halifax side-notched point were found buried deeper than the older bifurcate based point. Holocene period events including schist roof fall, bioturbation activity, and floodplain alluvial dynamics likely caused the reverse stratigraphy and the mixed natural and cultural conditions identified at 18BA458.

One feature (Feature 1), an ash lens was documented at 18BA458. The ash lens was culturally sterile and was not radiocarbon dated.

In sum, Site 18BA458 consists of a Pre-Contact rockshelter with Early Archaic, Middle/Late Archaic, and Late Woodland components. The research excavations determined that the archeological stratigraphy at the site is shallow and mixed by roof fall and bioturbation. The presence of an ash lens feature suggests that other features may still be preserved at the site.

Further testing of the Losch Rockshelter is recommended to better define the bedding plane, talus area, and the prehistoric cultural pattern(s) within the Poplar Run watershed, a tributary of the Big Gunpowder Falls watershed. Further exploration of the Poplar Run shelters may add to the understanding how the Native Americans utilized smaller tributaries within the Eastern Woodlands.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

18BA458 SF, 95003046