



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18BA464

Site Name: Spur

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Late Archaic short-term resource procurement, lithic scatter

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 15

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.3900

Longitude -76.4523

Physiographic province Eastern Piedmont

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 21 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) tributary of Honeygo Run

- | Saltwater                                |  | Freshwater                                       |                                |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------|
| Ocean <input type="checkbox"/>           | Estuary/tidal river <input type="checkbox"/> | Stream/river <input checked="" 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 31 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
- Unknown prehistoric context

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

### 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

#### 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"/>
		Levanna	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

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

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

## Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts			
Flaked stone	116	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	16	Unmod faunal	1
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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	Fer quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sil sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Feature 1 historic fire pit was C14 dated.

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.	1
		Other <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

## Radiocarbon Data:

Sample 1: 230 +/- 50 years BP Reliability Sample 2: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 3: +/- years BP Reliability

UGA-7719: Charcoal sample from Feature 1 historic fire pit.

Mod

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 Joseph Hopkins Associates

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

The Spur Site (18BA464) is the location of a possible Middle or Late Archaic short-term resource procurement camp and lithic scatter. It is located on the base of a low ridge slope just below a residentially developed ridge within an area of unused wetland just northwest of White Marsh in Baltimore County, Maryland. The site sits on the small spur extension of the ridge east of freshwater tributary stream to the Gunpowder River. It is adjacent to wetlands associated with the flood plain of this freshwater run to the west and north. The site may extend west into the adjacent wetlands. The Spur Site falls within the deep, moderately drained luka silt loam soil series. Soil stratigraphy was uniform across the site except in the far northern area where atypical profiles believed to represent fill, flood deposits, or excessive slopewash were encountered.

The site was initially identified in 1998 during the Phase I investigation along a proposed sewer alignment tract between White Marsh and Perry Hall. The proposed alignment consisted of 4.82 km (3 miles) of new sewer line. The anticipated subsurface impact included a 6.096 meters (20 ft) sewer bed flanked by two 4.572 meters (15 ft) areas of additional disturbance. This project was subject to wetlands permits from the Army Corps of Engineers. Goals of the project were to determine what cultural resources were present within the sewer alignment and to assess any potential adverse effects to those cultural resources present under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The project area was divided in 13 sections (Section 1 to Section 13), encompassing a total of 7.7 hectares of land, and each section (or leg) was assigned individual alphabetic transect names moving from south to north. The Spur Site was located near the northern edge of Section Six and identified through the excavation of 5 shovel test pits (STPs) (X-8, X-9, X-10, X-11, and X-13). All STPs were excavated by natural stratigraphy 10 cm into subsoil, all soils were screened and all artifacts were retained. A total of 30 prehistoric artifacts were collected at that time (see totals for the site below). The only historic artifact recovered during the Phase I survey was a piece of clinker from STP X-8 (recorded as a miscellaneous item in the table above).

Archival research was conducted as part of the Phase I survey. At that time, research revealed that 12 prehistoric sites had previously been located within 3.2 km (2 miles) of the site area. A quick review of the available mapped data at the Maryland Historical Trust suggested that this number of sites has not significantly changed since the late 1990s. Only 3 of those had functional interpretations (one possible village site located on a river shore, one probable base camp and one processing station, both located on hillslopes). The earliest known occupation recorded was the Middle Archaic period. One site was dated to the Late Archaic period, 3 sites included both Archaic and Woodland components, and the remaining site dated to unspecified prehistoric periods. It was noted that smaller lithic scatters appeared to be more prevalent in terrace and flat settings.

The Spur Site yielded 30 quartz artifacts from a small area. Results of the Phase I survey suggested that the site maintained good vertical integrity. It was thought to show good potential for providing information about extractive activities at the location. It was recommended that if the site could not be avoided, Phase II archeological testing should be conducted to determine if the site is eligible for listing to the National Register of Historic Places.

Phase II archeological investigations were undertaken at the Spur Site in 1999. The purpose of the Phase II archeological testing was to determine the significance of the site in terms of its eligibility for listing to the National Register of Historic Places. In order to accomplish that task, the boundaries of the site needed to be determined, the horizontal and vertical integrity of the site was investigated, and data was collected and analyzed in order to determine the research potential of the site. In order to ensure that the entire impact corridor was tested during the Phase II study, an estimated impact corridor of 19.81 meters (65 ft) was used rather than the precise 15.24 meter (50 ft) corridor used for the construction plans. During the Phase II testing, (0.10 acres) at 18BA464 was examined. An additional 11 STPs were excavated in order to determine site boundaries and two 1 m<sup>2</sup> test units (TUs) were excavated. STPs were excavated by natural strata 10 cm into sterile subsoil and all excavated soils were screened through 0.635 (¼ in) hardware mesh. TUs were excavated in 10 cm arbitrary levels within the natural strata and 10 cm into sterile subsoil and a 10 cm half unit window was excavated. Soils from the windows were subject to a 25% screening sample. All observed soil anomalies were bisected and if determined to be a cultural feature, were profiled and the remaining portion was excavated. All artifacts were retained. The excavators used 'stratum' to refer to site-wide soil deposits as defined by reconstruction across STP profiles and reference to the soil survey, 'layer' when describing soil changes within a specific provenience, especially a TU, and 'level' when describing the arbitrary 10 cm distinction within layers.

Three general strata were identified at the site. Much of the prehistoric material recovered during the Phase II testing was collected from Stratum 1, a dark brown silty clay which ranged in depth from 6-17 cm. Most of the remaining prehistoric material was recovered from Stratum 2, a brown to reddish brown silty clay that ranged in depth from 20-35 cm. Stratum 3, the subsoil, produced two artifacts from a single STP. STPs located along the base of the slope produced a greater number of prehistoric materials than STPs excavated on the slope.

TU 1 was placed in the northwest grid corner to further investigate a possible hearth feature (Feature 1) first identified during the shovel testing (STP X-24). Excavated layers within the TU included prehistoric and historic artifacts. Five layers and 7 levels were excavated within the unit. However, Layer 4 (the base of Level 5a), where Feature 1 was first encountered, contained only prehistoric material. Feature 1 was covered by the upper 3 stratigraphic layers of modern soil. Several large pieces of burnt wood/charcoal were present in the feature fill. A concentration of broken rock was encountered at the base of the feature. The rock was broken but had no appearance of having been heat altered even though charcoal was found in the area around it. Feature 1 continued through Layer 5, a wet loamy clay that began to flood at a depth of roughly 70 cm below ground surface. The feature was interpreted to be a historic fire pit. The only artifacts recovered from the fill were 1 quartz flake and 4 pieces of quartz shatter/chunks. Charcoal from Feature 1 was radiocarbon dated to 230±50 years BP. This produced a calibrated age range (to 2 sigma) of AD 1513 to 1878 despite the presence of prehistoric materials in the strata above the feature. According to the excavator, this brought into question the integrity of the upper soil strata across the site because the historic deposits appeared to represent extensive colluvial deposition. Feature 2 was also identified in Layer 4; it was a continuation of the Level 5a (top level in Layer 4) mixed soil matrix which was only present in the east half on the unit. Level 6a, also in Layer 4, was originally designated as Feature 3. This level was directly below Layer 3 in the western half of TU 1 and beneath Level 5a/Feature 2 in the eastern half of the unit.

Test Unit 2 was placed in the southwest portion of the site area, approximately 11.5 meters south of TU 1. In that area, STP distribution mapping indicated a concentration of prehistoric artifacts and TU 2 was excavated in order to deny or confirm the presence of recent depositional layers such as those identified in TU 1. No features were encountered in TU 2. All recovered artifacts were prehistoric and included flakes, chunks/shatter, cores and fire cracked rock. Ground water was encountered at a depth of 94 cm below surface.

Distributional analysis of the materials indicated that within Stratum 1 artifacts were most tightly clustered in the center of the site. There were also 2 positive



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STPs located to the south of the main cluster. A possible Archaic point was the only diagnostic recovered from the stratum. All of the artifacts that were recovered from the easternmost upslope transect came from Stratum 1 only. The artifact distribution within Stratum 2 shifted to the southwest in relation to Stratum 1 distribution. No tools or diagnostic artifacts were recovered from Stratum 2. Two artifacts were recovered from Stratum 3 in only one STP.

Over 200 artifacts were collected during both phases of the investigation at Site 18BA464 but only 134 artifacts derived from intact soil contexts and were subjected to analysis. The TU 1 assemblage was solely from disturbed contexts above and around Feature 1. A total of 54 artifacts were found in non-fill STPs. The remaining 80 artifacts were recovered from TU 2. All lithic artifacts were made of quartz except for 1 rough sandstone tool. There were 64 cortical flakes in the assemblage, 2 broken flakes, 8 non-cortical flakes, 30 pieces of shatter and 7 cores/cobbles. The 5 tools included 2 utilized or retouched flakes, 1 possible Halifax or Brewerton point (recorded as a Brewerton in the table above), and 2 bifaces. There were also 16 pieces of fire-cracked rock. One bird bone and 33 pieces of charcoal were also present in the assemblage.

No historic materials were for the site.

The presence of several artifacts characteristic of lithic production at the Spur Site (18BA464) suggested that this may be tentatively classified as a single function, short-term camp site. The site was tentatively dated to the Middle or Late Archaic period based on the find of a possible Halifax or Brewerton point. The finds of a relatively consistent distribution of artifacts in both Stratum 1 and Stratum 2 suggested to the excavator that the site was reused lightly by small groups over a long period of time. Generally, however, interpretation at the site was hampered by the inability to separate possible colluvial contamination from in situ artifact deposition. Furthermore, the limited functional profile and density of the assemblage makes it unlikely that continued study of the Spur site would yield significant new information. Therefore, no further work was recommended for the site.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00005552, 97000281