



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18CA232

Site Name: Bridgetown TRC-1

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief Description:

Late Archaic and Early & Late Woodland base camp or short-term camps; 19th century isolated cut nail

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 4

SCS soil & sediment code Fs,SnB,Jo

Latitude 39.0598

Longitude -75.8541

Physiographic province Eastern Shore Coastal P

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) Unnamed tributary of Maso

- | 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 70 m | | | |

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

- Paleoindian site
- Archaic site
- Early archaic
- Middle archaic
- Late archaic
- Unknown prehistoric context
- 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
- 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? 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
 - isolated cut nail

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples Soil samples taken N

Flotation samples taken N Other samples taken

Historic context samples Soil samples taken N

Flotation samples taken N Other samples taken



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Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types		
Clovis	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Le Croy	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Morrow Mntn	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Guilford	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Brewerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Otter Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Koens-Crispin	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jacks Rf (pent)	<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"/>	1	Coulbourn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Townsend	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Selden Island	<input type="checkbox"/>		Watson	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minguannan	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Accokeek	<input type="checkbox"/>		Mockley	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sullivan Cove	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Wolfe Neck	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	Clemson Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shenks Ferry	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Vinette	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	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"/>	792
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	7
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	89
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Floral material	<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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Greenstone,Gr	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Tobacco related	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Floral material	<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: 0 +/- 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

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Bridgetown TRC-1 (18CA232) is an Early & Late Woodland base camp or short-term camp near Bridgetown in northwestern Caroline County. An undisturbed Early Archaic component has also been recognized in one particular part of the site. The site is situated on a ridge overlooking a low-order tributary of Mason Branch. The local topography is characterized by relatively level landforms with gentle changes in elevation on terraces and remnant dunes in swamps, marshes, and basin-like depressions. Local wildlife includes songbirds, red fox, white-tailed deer, woodchuck, raccoon, gray squirrel, eastern chipmunk, Virginia opossum, and black rat snake in the uplands. Wildlife in wetland habitats include great blue heron, mallard, wood duck, red-winged black bird, various migratory waterfowl, muskrat, bullfrog, common musk turtle, northern water snake, white and yellow perch, herring, alewife, largemouth bass, chain pickerel, and blue spotted sunfish. Soils at the site fall principally within the Sassafra and Pocomoke series, with a small portion in Falsington sandy loams.

The site was first identified in March of 2009, during the course of a Phase I survey. The survey was carried out within what was then a proposed 95.35 acre sand and gravel mine expansion parcel. The CRM work was requested as part of the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) surface mining permit review process to ensure protection of significant cultural resources.

The Phase I survey consisted of the systematic excavation of shovel test pits (STPs) at 20 and 25 m intervals within the impact areas for the expanded sand and gravel operation. In total, 712 STPs were excavated in the project area, resulting in the identification of 4 archeological sites (18CA232-18CA235) and the recovery of a total of 327 artifacts.

Site 18CA232 was identified over a 140 X 100 m (3.5 acre) area where 49 positive shovel tests produced 122 prehistoric artifacts. All artifacts were recovered from the Ao organic horizon and Stratum II (subplowzone) to a maximum depth of 65 cm below ground surface. No subsurface features were observed.

Based on these findings, Phase II testing was recommended, which was carried out in May and June of 2009. Phase II work entailed the hand excavation of close interval shovel tests and 1 X 1 m test units in order to obtain sufficient samples of lithic debitage, tools, and ceramics for artifact pattern analysis, as well as to determine if artifact bearing soils were stratified and if features were potentially present.

Prior to the initiation of Phase II work, artifact distribution maps from the previous Phase I survey were generated and examined. Systematically placed STPs were then excavated in selected areas of the site to guide the placement of the 1 X 1 m test units. In total, 11 test units and 30 shovel tests were excavated at Site 18CA232.

Shovel tests measured 40 cm in diameter and were placed along the same 20 m grid used during the Phase I survey, but at closer intervals. Shovel tests were excavated by natural or cultural horizons until sterile soils were reached. Soils were screened through hardware cloth, and profiles were described and standardized forms using standard methods and nomenclature. Test units were hand-excavated in arbitrary 10 cm levels within natural stratigraphy until sterile subsoil was reached. All soils from the test units were screened through hardware cloth and all artifacts, including fire-cracked rock, were retained for analysis. A series of two-liter soil samples were also recovered from selected deposits for fine-screening and flotation. Upon completion of test unit excavation, two soil profiles from each test unit wall were drawn and photographed before backfilling.

Excavations at 18CA232 in 2009 revealed long-term and repeated use of the area by various human groups during the Archaic and Woodland periods as evidenced by diagnostic ceramic and stone tool types recovered from discrete site deposits. This is consistent with observations reported by others of sites along and in the vicinity of Mason Branch.

Two distinct loci of higher artifact concentration were identified: one in the southeastern corner of the site (Locus 1), and one 40 m to the north nearer the east-west trending ridgeline overlooking the aforementioned tributary of Mason Branch (Locus 2). The majority of diagnostic material in Locus 1 appears to be Late Archaic to Early Woodland, and a Late Woodland component is indicated by 5 shell-tempered ceramics. High frequencies of artifacts suggest either intensive use of the site by singular groups, or repeated occupations based on a seasonal basis. Stratigraphic integrity within Locus 2 was considered quite high, with nearly all materials recovered from below the plowzone. Although limited diagnostic material was recovered, an Early Woodland occupation is evident based on ceramic types, in particular a number of rock/quartz/sand-tempered sherds. Additional excavation and diagnostic material would be required to determine the intensity of this Early Woodland occupation. In addition to these discrete loci, a buried A-horizon was also identified throughout the site, containing ceramics dating uniquely to the Late Woodland period.

Combined, the Phase I and II testing produced 890 prehistoric artifacts, more than 75% of which were recovered from undisturbed subplowzone deposits. Among the recovered prehistoric tools are projectile points diagnostic of the Late Archaic to Early Woodland transition, in addition to staged bifaces, unifacial, flake, and cobble tools. The full Phase I and II assemblage consisted of 799 lithics (94% debitage), 89 prehistoric ceramics, 1 shell fragment and a calcined bone fragment. The lithic assemblage included 6 projectile points, 19 non-diagnostic tools (scrapers, utilized/retouched flakes, bifaces, and flake blanks), 2 cores, 751 flakes and shatter fragments, 14 worked cobbles, and 7 pieces of fire-cracked rock. Diagnostic projectile points were two possible fishtail or Susquehanna Broadspire point fragments, 1 side-notched point, and a contracting stemmed point. Lithic material is dominated by local jasper and quartz, although raw materials such as chert, rhyolite, ironstone, and greenstone, in addition to non-local jasper are also present in the assemblage. Such material may have been quarried elsewhere and transported directly to or traded into the area. Identifiable prehistoric ceramics included a Dames Quarter sherd, 2 Vinette-like sherds, 5 Wolfe Neck sherds, a Townsend sherd, and 2 Rappahannock sherds. One historic artifact was recovered: a cut nail.

The presence of different types of pottery from both the Early and Late Woodland periods and fire-cracked rock is indicative of sedentary occupations. Diagnostic ceramic types include Early Woodland Wolfe Neck and Dames Quarter wares, and Late Woodland Rappahannock and Townsend wares. The former include crushed rock and quartz temper, while the latter were manufactured using shell temper. Decorations are present on both the Early and Late Woodland specimens and partial vessel forms from the Phase II sample can be reconstructed from mending sherds. The presence of fire-cracked rock in site deposits is indicative of fires made by site occupants for food preparation, warmth and/or other purposes. Although few faunal elements were recovered from site deposits during the Phase II investigation, the presence of faunal and floral remains may be present in yet undiscovered features.

Phase II investigations have shown that Site 18CA232 has yielded, and will undoubtedly continue to yield information important to our understanding of the prehistoric period of Maryland's Eastern Shore Coastal Plain and Chesapeake Bay region. Avoidance or mitigation of impacts to the site were recommended



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for the gravel mining expansion project. In November of 2009, revised site plans for the expanded mine were provided to MHT and illustrated the level and extent of impact to the archeological sites in the project vicinity. The revised site plans illustrated that the site would be protected by a 50-foot buffer and, consequently, would not be impacted by the expanded mine. Thus, the site should still retain significant research potential.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):