Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Site Number: 18CA234 **Site Name:** Bridgetown TRC-3

Other name(s)

Prehistoric ☑ Historic ☑ Unknown ☐

Brief Description: Late Archaic and Middle & Late Woodland short-term resource procurement camp; Historic brick scatter

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 4 SCS soil & sediment code Fs

Latitude 39.0605 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	☐	High terrace	☐
Hilltop/bluff	☐	Rockshelter/ cave	☐
Interior flat	☑	Hillslope	☐
Upland flat	☐	Unknown	☐
Ridgetop	☐	Other	☐
Terrace	☐		
Low terrace	☐		

Ownership

Private	☑
Federal	☐
State of MD	☐
Regional/ county/city	☐
Unknown	☐

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Mason Branch

Saltwater		Freshwater	
Ocean	☐	Stream/river	☑
Estuary/tidal river	☐	Swamp	☐
Tidewater/marsh	☐	Lake or pond	☐
		Spring	☐

Minimum distance to water is 180 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Contact period site				ca. 1820 - 1860			
Paleoindian site		Woodland site		ca. 1630 - 1675		ca. 1860 - 1900	
Archaic site		MD Adena		ca. 1675 - 1720		ca. 1900 - 1930	
Early archaic		Early woodland		ca. 1720 - 1780		Post 1930	
MIddle archaic		Mid. woodland	Y	ca. 1780 - 1820			
Late archaic	Y	Late woodland	Y	Unknown historic context	Y		
Unknown prehistoric context				Unknown context			

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American		Asian American	
African American		Unknown	Y
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? Rural

Domestic	☐	Furnace/forge	☐	**Military**	☐	Post-in-ground	☐
Homestead	☐	Other	☐	Battlefield	☐	Frame-built	☐
Farmstead	☐	**Transportation**	☐	Fortification	☐	Masonry	☐
Mansion	☐	Canal-related	☐	Encampment	☐	Other structure	☐
Plantation	☐	Road/railroad	☐	**Townsite**	☐	**Slave related**	☐
Row/townhome	☐	Wharf/landing	☐	**Religious**	☐	**Non-domestic agri**	☐
Cellar	☐	Maritime-related	☐	Church/mtg house	☐	**Recreational**	☐
Privy	☐	Bridge	☐	Ch support bldg	☐	**Midden/dump**	☐
Industrial	☐	Ford	☐	**Burial area**	☐	**Artifact scatter**	☑
Mining-related	☐	**Educational**	☐	Cemetery	☐	**Spring or well**	☐
Quarry-related	☐	**Commercial**	☐	Sepulchre	☐	**Unknown**	☐
Mill	☐	Trading post	☐	Isolated burial	☐	**Other context**	☐
Black/metalsmith	☐	Store	☐	**Bldg or foundation**	☐		
		Tavern/inn	☐	Possible Structure	☐		

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		Koens-Crispin	
Hardaway-Dalton		Perkiomen	
Palmer		Susquehana	
Kirk (notch)		Vernon	
Kirk (stem)		Piscataway	
Le Croy		Calvert	
Morrow Mntn		Selby Bay	
Guilford		Jacks Rf (notch)	
Brewerton		Jacks Rf (pent)	
Otter Creek		Madison/Potomac	
		Levanna	

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Prehistoric Sherd Types

				Shepard		Keyser	
Marcey Creek		Popes Creek		Townsend		Yeocomico	
Dames Qtr		Coulbourn		Minguannan		Monongahela	
Selden Island		Watson		Sullivan Cove		Susquehannock	
Accokeek		Mockley		Shenks Ferry			
Wolfe Neck		Clemson Island		Moyaone			
Vinette		Page		Potomac Crk			

Historic Sherd Types

Earthenware		Ironstone		Staffordshire		**Stoneware**	
Astbury		Jackfield		Tin Glazed		English Brown	
Borderware		Mn Mottled		Whiteware		Eng Dry-bodied	
Buckley		North Devon		**Porcelain**		Nottingham	
Creamware		Pearlware				Rhenish	
						Wt Salt-glazed	

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts

		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	71	Human remain(s)	☐
Ground stone		Modified faunal	
Stone bowls		Unmod faunal	
Fire-cracked rock	1	Oyster shell	☐
Other lithics (all)		Floral material	☐
Ceramics (all)	8	Uncommon Obj.	
Rimsherds		Other ☐	

Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)		Storage/trash pit	☐
Midden	☐	Burial(s)	☐
Shell midden	☐	Ossuary	☐
Postholes/molds	☐	Unknown	☐
House pattern(s)	☐	Other	☐
Palisade(s)	☐		
Hearth(s)	☐		
Lithic reduc area	☐		

Lithic Material

		Fer quartzite	☐	Sil sandstone	☑
Jasper	☑	Chalcedony	☐	European flint	☐
Chert	☑	Ironstone	☑	Basalt	☐
Rhyolite	☑	Argilite	☐	Unknown	☑
Quartz	☑	Steatite	☐	Other	☑
Quartzite	☑	Sandstone	☑	Greenstone, Gr	

☐ **Dated features present at site**

Historic Artifacts

		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)		Activity item(s)	
Glass (all)		Human remain(s)	☐
Architectural	5	Faunal material	☐
Furniture		Misc. kitchen	
Arms		Floral material	☐
Clothing		Misc.	
Personal items		Other ☐	

Historic Features

		Privy/outhouse	☐	Depression/mound	☐
Const feature	☐	Well/cistern	☐	Burial(s)	☐
Foundation	☐	Trash pit/dump	☐	Railroad bed	☐
Cellar hole/cellar	☐	Sheet midden	☐	Earthworks	☐
Hearth/chimney	☐	Planting feature	☐	Mill raceway	☐
Postholes/molds	☐	Road/walkway	☐	Wheel pit	☐
Paling ditch/fence	☐				

Unknown	☐	
Other	☐	

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-3 (18CA234) is a Late Archaic/Woodland short-term resource procurement camp and historic brick scatter near Bridgetown in northwestern Caroline County. The site is situated on a knoll, directly adjacent and east of a large cleared gravel mining area. 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 Sassafras and Pocomoke series.

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 18CA234 was identified over an 80 X 40 m (.8 acre) area where 13 positive shovel tests produced 14 prehistoric artifacts. All artifacts were recovered from the Ao organic horizon and Stratum II (subplowzone) to a maximum depth of 50 cm below ground surface. No subsurface features were observed. Though very few artifacts were found (compared to other sites encountered during the Phase I project), the location on a knoll stands out as an ideal location as it is a well-drained, distinct landform surrounded by poorly drained soils.

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, 4 test units and 15 shovel tests were excavated at Site 18CA234 during Phase II work.

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 18CA234 in 2009 revealed that the site is probably a small activity area associated with two larger occupations to the north (see synopsis reports for 18CA232 and 18CA233). A very low frequency of artifacts was recovered from the four test units excavated at the site (59 artifacts total). A single projectile point recovered from one test unit is a Bare Island or Piney Island point. The only other projectile point recovered from 18CA234 was a Rossville point. Both of these objects date to the Late Archaic period. The presence of ceramics documents a Woodland occupation at the site as well.

Combined, the Phase I and II testing at 18CA234 produced 80 prehistoric artifacts and a few fragments of historic brick. The prehistoric assemblage consisted of 2 projectile points (described above), 68 pieces of debitage (flakes and shatter), 1 worked cobble, a piece of fire-cracked rock, and 8 non-diagnostic ceramic sherds. No potential features were encountered.

Due to the very low frequency of artifacts recovered from Site 18CA234, further investigation of this site is unlikely to enhance our understanding of the site, or local and regional prehistory. The site should not be considered a significant archeological resource.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95001305