



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18CA56

Site Name: Shorts Farm

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Mr. L. T. Shorts Farm

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Archaic and Woodland lithics, historic house site

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 4

SCS soil & sediment code GaA

Latitude 38.8987

Longitude -75.8303

Physiographic province Eastern Shore Coastal P

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 20 m

Site slope 0-5%

Ethnobotany profile available  Maritime site

### Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Choptank River

#### Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Minimum distance to water is 0 m

#### Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

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

## Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Archaic site

MD Adena

Early archaic

Early woodland

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

Late archaic

Late woodland

Contact period site

ca. 1820 - 1860

ca. 1630 - 1675

ca. 1860 - 1900

ca. 1675 - 1720

ca. 1900 - 1930

ca. 1720 - 1780

Post 1930

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

artifact scatter

### 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

## 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		Koens-Crispin	
Clovis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>
Le Croy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Morrow Mntn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guilford	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brewerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Madison/Potomac	<input type="checkbox"/>
Otter Creek	<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	18	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		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	4	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	1			Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>
						Wt Salt-glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

## Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	97	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	1
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	7	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	48	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	2	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"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	8	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc.	1
Personal items	<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 Lab/JPPM

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

The Shorts Farm Site (18CA56) is a multicomponent site with a late Middle Woodland and Late Woodland prehistoric artifact scatter, and a historic artifact scatter. This site is located on the bluffs and a cultivated field along the east bank of the Choptank River, just north of Denton, in Caroline County. The land is dissected by a spring, and its accompanying erosional gully, which may be seasonal.

In November 1976, archeologists from the Division of Archeology, Maryland Geological Survey, conducted a preliminary archeological reconnaissance of the area to be affected by the proposed Maryland Route 404-Denton By-Pass. The study area contained two alternative alignments (Alignment C and Alignment F) with a combined total length of approximately 13.19 km (8.2 miles). The study area was first examined by car, and then several locations where the ground surface or soil profile was exposed, and where there was the potential for site locations in overgrown areas, were inspected on foot. At the conclusion of the Phase I study, it was determined that the site represented a mixed Woodland component that would be destroyed should the proposed Alternate C alignment be constructed. Furthermore, the site is located in an area where previous archeological work has been absent. Therefore, further testing was recommended in order to determine if the site could provide data that would aid in better understanding the settlement pattern during the Woodland period.

During the spring of 1979, a Phase II evaluation of the site was undertaken. One of the goals of the archeological work was to retrieve data that would contribute to the development of models for prehistoric settlement patterning and the paleo-environmental events in the Middle Atlantic. The archeological investigations included minimal archival and background research, interviews with land owners and avocational archeologists, and examination of private artifact collections. Test excavations were primarily concentrated in the identified site areas within the right-of-way, with supplemental testing conducted to further define those areas and detect subsurface features.

Site 18CA56 was subjected to controlled surface reconnaissance. In addition, a total of eleven 0.914 m<sup>2</sup> (3 ft<sup>2</sup>) test units (TUs A-K) were then excavated along 3 generalized east-west transects in order to determine the horizontal and vertical limits of the site and the presence of subsurface features, disturbances, and buried land surfaces. Additional test units and shovel tests were excavated in order to further delimit those aspects. All excavated soils were screened and all materials were retained.

The surface collection was skewed in favor of the presence of pottery rather than lithic tools due primarily to the fact that the land owner regularly collected stone artifacts from the field. His collection revealed a mixed component of Woodland period artifacts including a pestle, adze, flakes, and projectile points. A number of Middle and Late Woodland period ceramics were recovered during the Phase II surface collection along with a Late Woodland triangular point. A historic period artifact concentration was identified just east of the prehistoric area. This likely related to the old family home that had been located in the field and was burned down in the recent past. No subsurface features were located during the investigations. No artifacts were found below the plowzone, which extended to a depth of about 30.48 cm. Much of the proposed right-of-way lies within the disturbed area of the site although the artifacts appeared to extend for a significant distance north of the right-of-way.

A total of 153 prehistoric artifacts were recovered during the Phase I and II studies. In all, 91 pieces of debitage were retrieved (52 quartz, 15 jasper, 11 chert, 5 rhyolite, 8 quartzite). A total of 6 tools were identified including 1 jasper core, 1 jasper Late Woodland triangular point, 2 bifaces (1 jasper, 1 rhyolite), and 2 scrapers (1 chert, 1 quartzite). During periods of low tide, a gravel shore contains ready quantities of chert, jasper, and quartz cobbles. Rhyolite is the only non-local material identified in the assemblage. There were 7 fire-cracked rock fragments. The closest available source of rhyolite is in western Maryland, west of the Monocacy drainage. A total of 48 ceramic sherds, including 2 rims, were also recovered including 20 cord-marked, crushed rock or quartz tempered Albemarle/Hell Island (Middle Woodland), 18 Townsend (14 Plain, 4 cord-marked), 6 unidentified plain bodied, crushed rock tempered sherds, 1 unidentified cord marked, crushed rock tempered sherd, and 3 unidentifiable sherds. A single animal bone fragment, recorded as unmodified faunal in the table above, was also retained.

In addition to the prehistoric items, 9 historic artifacts were retained. There were 8 kitchen items (1 pearlware, 1 earthenware, 2 redware, and 4 whiteware sherds), and 1 miscellaneous item (a piece of unidentified glass).

The Shorts Farm Site (18CA56) is a multicomponent site with a late Middle Woodland and Late Woodland prehistoric artifact scatter, and a historic artifact scatter. Examination of the soil profiles at the site indicated that there had been subsurface disturbance over much of the area. Although several artifacts were recovered, the large-scale disturbance which occurred must precipitate the conclusion that the artifacts have been removed from their original context. Much of the proposed right-of-way lies within the disturbed area of the site. Therefore, no further excavations were recommended at the site.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00000338, 00000339