



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18CE269

Site Name: Perry Point 18

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

18th c. house site, possible slave or tenant house, early 20th century bunkhouse, prehistoric short-term camp

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Latitude 39.5564 Longitude -76.0628
Elevation 6 m Site slope

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 6

SCS soil & sediment code

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater 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) Susquehanna River

- | Saltwater | | Freshwater | |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Ocean <input type="checkbox"/> | Estuary/tidal river <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Stream/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 310 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

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

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

military, bunkhouse

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples Soil samples taken
 Flotation samples taken 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		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	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yeocomico	<input type="checkbox"/>
Selden Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Watson	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minguannan	1	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	2	Tin Glazed	21	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	18	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	2	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	13	Nottingham	2
Creamware	17	Pearlware	1			Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>
						Wt Salt-glazed	28

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	238	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	1	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<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

Fer quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sil sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jasper	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	196	Activity item(s)	2
Glass (all)	461	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	828	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	3	Misc. kitchen	192
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	4	Misc.	63
Personal items	2	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features

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

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Perry Point 18 (18CE269) is comprised of an 18th century wall foundation remnant, remains of an early 20th century bunkhouse, and a prehistoric, possibly Late Woodland, short-term base camp. The site is located in the western portion of the Veterans Administration Medical Center at Perry Point in Cecil County. It is situated in the interior uplands away from the shoreline but with a view of the Chesapeake Bay and the Susquehanna River. Cartographic research indicated that a historic structure might have been located in the site area. The western half of the site is within the National Register boundary of the Perry Point Manor and Mill plantation. The site has been subjected to cultivation, erosion, construction, and landscaping.

Phase I and Phase II archeological testing was conducted on the 478 acre property of the Veterans Administration Medical Center (VAMC), which is located on the Perry Point Peninsula. The VAMC property includes developed and undeveloped areas, a historic district, and 104.5 wooded acres excessed to the General Services Administration (GSA). The project was undertaken to assist in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800. Specifically, the Act requires that each federal agency establish a program to locate, inventory, and nominate to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) all properties under its ownership or control. Additionally, Section 110 requires that the significant values of cultural resources be preserved or enhanced when they are transferred. This applies to the land excessed to the GSA who was going to deed the 104.5 acre parcel to the town of Perryville for recreational use. The goals identified for the Phase I/II project were to locate and identify all cultural resources within the project area and to determine their eligibility for the NRHP, to assess the probable effects of any future undertakings at the VAMC or the excessed property on those resources, and to prepare plans and their estimated cost to mitigate those effects likely to be adverse. Prehistoric research themes that guided the archeological investigations included settlement patterns, trade networks, and resource exploitation. Historic research focused on structure locations, the exploitation of bay versus interior resources, and yard activity areas.

In the spring of 1987, the Phase I archeological survey identified 17 sites, 10 isolated prehistoric artifact locations, 12 isolated historic artifact locations, and 2 isolated prehistoric/historic artifact locations within the project area. Field investigations included a pedestrian survey of exposed shoreline and banks and shovel test pit (STP) excavations. No testing was undertaken in areas too disturbed by development to contain intact sites or too swampy to contain evidence of previous occupation. Intensive survey units were defined as those with a high probability of containing archeological remains. Those areas were shovel tested at 30 m intervals along transects set 30 m apart. Light survey units, those with a moderate to low probability of containing archeological remains, were shovel tested at 60 m intervals. Shovel tests around the grounds of the manor house were placed at 15 m intervals along parallel transects placed 30 m apart. Radial STPs were excavated at 7.5, 15, or 30 m intervals depending on the intensity designated for a particular unit (eg. intensive survey or light survey area). Based on the Phase I fieldwork, 9 sites were recommended for further Phase II work.

In the summer and fall of 1987, Phase II archeological testing was undertaken. Phase II testing consisted of additional STPs excavated at 10 m intervals along transects placed 10 m apart, and the excavation of 1 m² test units, although larger test units were dug when conditions warranted. A grid was established over the sites that were identified for further investigation as a result of the Phase I testing. All excavated soils were screened through ¼" mesh and all pre-20th century materials were retained. Flotation samples (1 liter) were collected per level from one test unit at each site. In addition to fieldwork, archival research was also conducted as part of the Phase II investigations.

Prehistoric occupation of Perry Point began at least as early as the Late Archaic period. Historic occupation on the peninsula began ca. 1659 when a merchant and member of the Maryland General Assembly named John Bateman became the first European owner of the tract of land. In ca. 1664, Captain Richard Perry "possessed" the land for Bateman's orphaned daughter at his death, and at some point Perry took ownership of the land. In 1672, Perry returned to England, leaving his land under the management of representatives. Also in 1672, Jacob Young bought a writ allowing him to establish a water mill on 10 acres of land at Perry Point. It is not clear if Young built his mill, which would have been the first settlement at the point. Philip Thomas purchased the 840 acre Perry lands in 1728. At his death, 570 acres was willed to his son Samuel. The Veterans Administration Medical Center is located on that acreage. Samuel Thomas may have been the first owner to live on the property (his father lived elsewhere). The brick manor house located on the property overlooks the Susquehanna River. It probably dates to the period of Samuel's ownership. Improvements to the land included 2 dwellings, a barn, outbuildings, 3 mills, a wharf, and an orchard. Only the locations of the extant manor house and one mill are known. At the time of his death in 1784, Samuel Thomas held 68 slaves. In 1798, Samuel's son Richard sold the plantation lands with the exception of 4 acres of Perry Point fronting the Susquehanna River and occupied by Mrs. Rogers. Richard Thomas apparently had an interest in a ferry service that ran from Perry Point to Havre de Grace across the Susquehanna.

In 1800, the land came under the ownership of John Stump. The Stump family retained the property for most of the 19th century, renting it to the United States Government from ca. 1861 until 1862 for use as a training station for horses and mules. The manor house served as headquarters for the officers and the government constructed several buildings on the property. In 1918, the government purchased the remnants of the 516 acre Perry Point plantation from the Stump heirs for the development of an ammonium nitrate plant. The company who constructed the facilities for the government management agency built railroads, streets, utilities, factory buildings, and more than 300 houses at the Perry Point site. In 1922, the Veterans Bureau acquired the facility for use as a hospital. The facility remains in use as a medical center but the extant manor house and mill create a link to the property's long history as a plantation and farm.

Site 18CE269 was identified through the excavation of about 9 STPs during Phase I and 143 STPs and 9 test units during Phase II. The site was originally considered part of 18CE264 until shovel tests indicated the swale between the 2 sites actually separated the artifact scatter into discrete sites. Cultural deposits were primarily confined to the upper 20 to 30 cm of soil. No features related to the prehistoric component at the site were identified. However, two historic features and several 20th century features were encountered (no feature numbers noted in the text). The oldest feature, identified in a 1x2 m unit, was the remains of a cobble wall or foundation associated with late 18th century ceramics. Fill deposits with 18th and 19th century artifacts overlie the wall throughout most of the unit. An intrusive pit, possibly an early 20th century posthole, was observed in the western half of the unit. The historic features included 2 utility trenches, 1 posthole, and the remnants of a burned door, all probably related to the presence of bunkhouses on the property during World War I.

A total of 1,533 historic artifacts were reported in the artifact inventory, Appendix 2 in the site report. Two activity items were identified, both chimney glass fragments. Architectural items (n=826) included 122 brick fragments, 2 wrought nails, 1 cut nail, 68 wire nails, 362 unidentified nails, 212 pieces of window glass, 8 fragments of mortar, 6 screws, 5 building stone fragments, 8 porcelain insulator sherds, 8 broken hinges, 1 length of electrical wire, 3 lock parts, 1 hook latch, 9 rivets and 1 doorknob. There were 4 clothing items (3 buckles and 1 bras snap) and 3 furniture items (1 brass handle and 2 escutcheons). There



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were 621 kitchen-related items including 236 pieces of bottle glass, 3 fragment of milk glass, 196 ceramic sherds (1 Delftware, 2 Buckley, 2 Nottingham, 4 refined earthenware, 1 buff-bodied earthenware, 2 Westerwald, 2 Jackfield, 1 Bristol glazed/Albany slipped stoneware, 17 creamware, 1 pearlware, 13 porcelain, 21 tin-glazed earthenware, 28 white salt-glazed stoneware, 7 brown salt-glazed stoneware, 3 gray salt-glazed stoneware, 58 glazed and unglazed redware, 18 whiteware, 15 unidentified), 120 animal bone fragments, 1 fish scale and 65 oyster shell fragment. There were 59 miscellaneous objects (10 unidentified pieces of burnt glass, 41 unidentified metal objects, 4 pieces of plastic, 1 pieces of coal, and 3 unidentified terra cotta sherds). The only personal items recovered were a mirror shard and a pink glass bead. A total of 16 tobacco-related items were also retrieved (9 white clay pipe stem and 5 pipe bowl fragments, and 2 stem/bowl fragments).

The historic artifact assemblage was suggested to reflect a domestic residential pattern. Deposits possibly indicated secondary peripheral middens. Samples collected for flotation analysis from one of the features (Feature 2) produced brick fragments, fish scales, animal bone, and oyster shell, and charcoal and coal (recorded as 2 architectural, 6 miscellaneous kitchen, and 4 miscellaneous items in the table above).

In all, 240 prehistoric artifacts were reported in the artifact inventory in Appendix 2 in the site report. There were 228 pieces of debitage (210 quartz, 6 chert, 11 quartzite, 1 chalcedony). There were 10 chipped stone tools: 2 staged preforms (1 quartz, 1 chert), 4 quartz utilized flakes, and 4 unidentified point fragments (2 quartz, 1 quartzite, 1 argillite). The only other lithic item identified was a hammerstone. A single late Woodland period Minguannan ceramic sherd was recovered.

Perry Point 18 (18CE269) is comprised of an 18th century wall foundation remnant, remains of an early 20th century bunkhouse, and a prehistoric short-term base camp. The site appears to maintain integrity below the plowzone. Since the artifacts date to a single period, the site could yield information about issues such as the relationship between midden content and building function and artifact deposition. If the site is the location of an 18th century dwelling then it may be one component of the plantation. Therefore, 18CE269 has the potential to yield data reflecting the differences between the occupants of this property and those of the manor house. Although not confirmed, 18th century tax records indicated that only 2 whites lived on the property at that time (both presumably in the manor house) which suggests that the structure at site 18CE269 may have been a slave dwelling. The site was determined to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00005733