



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18CE287

Site Name: Kieffer Prehistoric

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief Description:

Late Archaic-Late Woodland base camp, historic field scatter

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 6

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.6121

Longitude -75.8504

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 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) Little Elk Creek

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 80 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Archaic site

MD Adena

Early archaic

Early woodland

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

Late archaic

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?

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

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

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	5
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	<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	<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		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	657	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	191	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	5	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

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	148	Activity item(s)	4
Glass (all)	242	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	209	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	1	Misc. kitchen	6
Arms	1	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	2	Misc.	8
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

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Kieffer Prehistoric Site (18CE287) is a multicomponent site with Middle to Late Archaic through Late Woodland period base camp occupations, and a 19th and 20th century historic field scatter. It is located west of Elkton in Cecil County. It is situated on a relatively level upper terrace north of Little Elk Creek. The terrace consists of open fields, which have been used for agriculture for the last 200 years. The Kieffer prehistoric site encompasses an area of about 8 acres.

Early investigations within the site area were conducted in the late 1970's when the Route 279 right-of-way was tested, with negative results. The results are not surprising given the low artifact densities encountered in the collection units adjacent to Route 279. Those densities indicated that the road was placed very close to what would have been the edge of the site.

The site was first recorded in 1992 during the Phase I reconnaissance of the YMCA project area. The YMCA was planning to build new facilities on a 35 acre tract, including administrative offices and facilities. The site was identified as an extensive scatter of prehistoric artifacts that represented a multicomponent procurement camp and/or base camp. Phase I investigations consisted of controlled surface collection, shovel testing, and trench excavations. Three small prehistoric artifact concentrations were noted within the generalized scatter: Archaic components were located in the northwestern and northeastern portions of the site, and Woodland period components were located near the southern margins of the site. It was also noted that the majority of the chert found at the site derived from the southern section and that most of the jasper and flint was recovered from the eastern half of the site and overlapped with the greatest concentrations of non-diagnostic bifacial and unifacial tool distributions.

A total of 356 prehistoric artifacts were retrieved from the site during the Phase I investigations. There were 233 pieces of debitage (129 quartz, 45 Cecil County flint (herein flint), 31 Newark jasper (herein jasper), 18 chert, 5 quartzite, 5 ironstone) and 16 cores (8 quartz, 6 jasper, 1 flint, 1 chert). Tools included 3 unifaces (2 quartz, 1 flint), 1 utilized rhyolite flake, 3 staged bifaces (1 quartz, 2 flint), and 1 quartz preform. A total of 30 points and point fragments were collected including 8 stemmed points (1 argillite, 1 jasper, 3 quartz, 1 quartzite, 2 chert), 2 contracting stemmed points (quartz), 3 notched points (quartz), 5 triangles (3 chert, 1 quartz, 1 flint), 1 quartz Teardrop, 1 chert Fishtail, and 10 unidentified fragments (1 flint, 7 quartz, 2 quartzite). The original report indicated that 12 of the points recovered from the site were diagnostic; 1 was the quartz Teardrop (Early Woodland), 1 was the Orient Fishtail (Late Archaic), and 5 were Madison (Late Woodland) points. The remainder was comprised of unidentified numbers of Bare Island (Late Archaic to Early Woodland), Lamoka (Middle to Late Archaic), and Lackawaxen (Late Archaic) points. There were 66 fire-cracked rock fragments. Other lithics consisted of 3 hammerstones.

Historic artifacts that were scattered throughout the project area were not collected except from excavated contexts because there was no discernable concentration of historic materials anywhere on the site, the majority of the diagnostic ceramics dated from the mid-late 19th to the 20th century, and entire functional groups of artifacts (Activities, Arms, Personal, Furniture) were missing from the assemblage. These factors indicated that the scatter of historic materials represented the commonly observed field scatter of the kind often found close to historic period residences or farmsteads. The historic artifacts that were retained derived from shovel tests and test units excavated north and west of the Kieffer house site (18CE288), in areas just outside the boundaries of the prehistoric site (18CE287) as delineated by the Phase I survey. Therefore, the historic artifacts are listed with the synopsis of site 18CE288.

Phase II archeological testing at the Kieffer Prehistoric Site (18CE287) was undertaken in the first part of 1993 on behalf of the YMCA of Cecil County. The research goals associated with the Phase II survey were to determine the horizontal and vertical boundaries of the site, assess the integrity of the archeological deposits, determine site functionality if possible, and assess the site's eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Field methods included re-establishing the 40 x 40 m grid used during the Phase I testing. The site area was then surface surveyed. Once high and low artifact density areas were flagged, thirty-six 20 x 20 m collection blocks were laid out in low density areas and a total of 241 collection blocks measuring 10 x 10 m were laid out in high density areas. The site area was then surface collected at 1 m intervals and all prehistoric and historic artifacts were retained. Once artifact densities and distributions were mapped out, locations were selected for subsurface testing. The plowzone of twelve 5 x 10 m blocks was stripped using a backhoe. Features were recorded and cross-sectioned and soil samples were collected for flotation. Additional testing included the excavation of four 1 m² test units (TUs 1-4) and the machine stripping of 360 linear meters of 1-meter wide trenches. Any identified features were mapped and/or tested to determine their functions and cultural affiliations if possible. All hand excavated soils were screened through ¼" mesh.

Nine cultural features were located during the Phase II subsurface testing. These features included 1 bowl-shaped stain (Feature 2), 4 post holes (Features 4, 8, 10 and 15), and 3 features of unknown function (Features 14, 17 and 19). The ninth feature (Feature 31) was a narrow, 50 cm wide, linear stain representing a utility trench. No artifacts were recovered from any of the feature fill but the flotation samples produced 2 small fragments of wood charcoal, 1 each from Features 4 and 15. None of the features was thought to be associated with the prehistoric component of the site. All of the features were encountered in the block excavations; no features and few artifacts were located in the test units.

A total of 497 prehistoric artifacts were retrieved from the site. There were 287 pieces of debitage (181 quartz, 41 jasper, 29 flint, 12 chert, 18 ironstone, 3 chalcedony, 3 quartzite) and 19 cores (9 quartz, 5 jasper, 3 flint, 1 chert, 1 ironstone). Tools included 34 bifaces (20 quartz, 10 jasper, 2 quartzite, 2 chert), 13 unifaces (8 jasper, 4 quartz, 1 chert), and 1 utilized ironstone flake. In all, 16 diagnostic points were identified: 4 straight stemmed points (3 quartz, 1 jasper), 4 contracting stem points (2 quartz, 1 flint, 1 argillite/ironstone), 5 notched points (3 quartz, 1 jasper, 1 argillite/ironstone), and 3 triangles (2 chert, 1 jasper). These points included unidentified numbers of Bare Island, Lamoka, and Lackawaxen points. Other lithics included a hammerstone and a pitted stone. A total of 125 fragments of fire-cracked rock were collected. Regarding the types and amounts of artifacts present at the site, the totals listed in the Artifact Inventory of Appendix A (used here) are close but not exact to those stated in the text or given in tables within the text. Also, the Site Survey form found in Appendix B of the report notes that ceramics and groundstone artifacts were present at the site. These items were not listed anywhere in the text or in the artifact inventory. They may have been included because they were part of a collection belonging to a known local collector.

All types of lithic reduction debris were represented in the assemblage, which indicated that activities carried out at the site included the manufacture of tools from locally available raw materials and maintenance of curated tools. No discreet components of tools, debitage, or fire-cracked rock could be discerned nor was any association between artifact types and raw materials observed. The lack of patterning indicated that agricultural activity at the site has largely homogenized the plowzone deposits and obscured any potential activity areas. The patterning observed during the Phase I study was probably a product of the large size of the provenience units used (40x40 m) and was not reflected when the site was examined at the micro level. One conclusion that was presented at the end of the Phase I investigation and which seems to continue to be supported by Phase II data is that Archaic components were located in



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 Unknown

the northwestern and northeastern portions of the site and Woodland period components were located near the southern margins of the site. It was postulated that during the Archaic period the waters of Little Elk Creek were higher than during the later Woodland period and this accounts for the location of Archaic occupation further back on the terrace.

Historic artifacts were scattered across the site although there were 2 minor "concentrations" of artifacts noted, in the southwestern portion of the site and in the northeastern portion of the site. A total of 532 artifacts were recorded. Four activity items were found (1 chain link, 1 horseshoe and 2 horseshoe fragments) and there were 209 architectural objects (89 small brick fragments, 10 cut nails, 1 wrought nail, 1 wire nail, 1 rosehead nail, 1 unidentified nail, 92 window fragments, 2 plate glass pieces, 1 ceramic tile, 1 bolt, 1 nut, 1 washer, 3 spikes, 4 iron wire fragments, 1 iron handle fragment). There were 2 clothing items (glass buttons) and 1 furniture item (a brass furniture handle/pull). A total of 302 kitchen-related items were retained (147 fragments of vessel and bottle glass, 1 stemware fragment, 148 ceramic sherds (66 redware, 33 whiteware, 11 American Blue and Gray stoneware, 9 pearlware, 2 yellowware, 6 porcelain, 13 vitreous china, 8 unidentified stoneware), 2 silver plate spoons, 4 milk glass lid liner fragments) and there were 8 miscellaneous items (4 unidentified iron fragments, 1 piece of glass slag, 1 slate fragment, 2 pieces of charcoal). Tobacco items included 5 kaolin pipe fragments and only 1 arms object was found (a gunflint). The overall composition of the historic assemblage pointed to a lack of in situ historic activity in the immediate site area. The density and distribution indicated that the historic component represented field scatter. The scatter of artifacts was likely related to the 18th-20th century occupation of the nearby Kieffer farmstead (18CE288).

The Kieffer Prehistoric Site (18CE287) is a multicomponent site with Middle to Late Archaic through Late Woodland period base camp occupations, and a 19th and 20th century historic field scatter. While several diagnostic point types were identified at the site, the archeological deposits are entirely contained within a disturbed plowzone. Testing also did not indicate the presence of features or other types of undisturbed archeological deposits associated with the prehistoric component of the site. The few historic features encountered do not support any significant in situ historic activity in the immediate site area. It was concluded that neither the prehistoric nor the historic components of the site have research potential beyond what was addressed during the Phase I and II investigations. The site was determined not eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00005738, 00005741