



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18CH281

Site Name: IH-35

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Posey

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Late Woodland/Contact/17th century hamlet and trading post

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 11

SCS soil & sediment code Ms

Latitude 38.5802

Longitude -77.1940

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 9 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 Matta

- | 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 20 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
- trading post

### 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

trading post

## Interpretive Sampling Data:

### Prehistoric context samples

Soil samples taken

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken  Pollen analysis

### Historic context samples

Soil samples taken

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken  C14, see prehistoric form



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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	2
Otter Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Levana	1

Prehistoric Sherd Types			
Marcey Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Popes Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dames Qtr	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coulbourn	<input type="checkbox"/>
Selden Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Watson	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accokeek	11	Mockley	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wolfe Neck	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clemson Island	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vinette	<input type="checkbox"/>	Page	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shepard	<input type="checkbox"/>	Townsend	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keyser	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minguannan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yeocomico	331	Sullivan Cove	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monongahela	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shenks Ferry	<input type="checkbox"/>
Susquehannock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moyaone	13
		Potomac Crk	3566

Historic Sherd Types		Ironstone		Staffordshire		Stoneware	
<b>Earthenware</b>		3					
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	26	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	5	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	10	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Porcelain</b>	2	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	<input type="checkbox"/>			Rhenish	8
						Wt Salt-glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

## Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	733	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	2	Modified faunal	1136
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	3370
Fire-cracked rock	292	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	11	Floral material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	4122	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	151	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Prehistoric Features	
Mound(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Midden	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Shell midden	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
House pattern(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearth(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lithic reduc area	<input type="checkbox"/>
Storage/trash pit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ossuary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Lithic Material		Fer quartzite		Sil sandstone	
Jasper	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input 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

Feat. 1 – small pit w/ pipe frags, 4 Potomac Crk., flake, shell beads, faunal; Midden Feat. dated using pipe stem diameters & late 17th C. sherds

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	90	Activity item(s)	28
Glass (all)	61	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	352	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	1	Misc. kitchen	1
Arms	14	Floral material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	7	Misc.	3448
Personal items	15	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features		Privy/outhouse		Depression/mound		Unknown	
Const feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input 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: 375 +/- 90 years BP Reliability High Sample 2: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 3: +/- years BP Reliability

B-13560: charcoal from a small pit (Feat. 1), assoc. w/ Potomac Creek sherds, a quartzite flake, animal bones, a charred nut, and 2 shell beads

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, Private Collection - Calvert R. Posey

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

The Posey (18CH281) or IH-35 Site is an apparent Late Woodland/Early Historic period site with abundant evidence of Native American interaction with European colonists and traders. The site is located near Indian Head on the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Charles County, Maryland. It is situated on a limited portion of a relatively level terrace adjacent to the northern shore of Mattawoman Creek. Much of the surrounding landscape has been altered by construction activities in the last century and at present, the area containing and surrounding the Posey Site is utilized by the Navy as a nitration plant for the production of nitroglycerin and jet fuel. The soil at the site is Matawan Loamy Sand, part of the Evesboro-Keysport-Elkton Association.

The site was first encountered in 1963 by a local amateur archeologist named Calvert R. Posey, Sr., for whom the site is named. Mr. Posey worked as a chemist at the aforementioned facility. An explosion at the plant in 1957 resulted in a period of construction/re-construction activity around the (then unknown) Posey site. For approximately 4 months, Posey and several others spent their lunch hours investigating the area. Few details are known about the excavation methods employed, but the group did screen all of the soils they were removing through hardware cloth. They collected significant numbers of artifacts during the construction of a new munitions magazine. Mr. Posey also observed several large pit-type features in the area of a current pallet shed that were exposed by the grading of fill soils used to cover the magazine. Although grading removed the plowzone from portions of the site, the features that extended beneath the topsoil were not completely destroyed.

Posey wrote a short, unpublished synopsis of the site. He reported the recovery of large numbers of artifacts that were determined to be of both European or colonial and Native American origin. Artifact types found by Posey included ceramic sherds, tobacco pipe fragments, metal, glass, a few native and trade beads, and flakes of flint and quartz. Numerous copper or brass fragments and triangular ornaments were recovered, and an iron blade fragment was identified as a tool used in the cutting of the ornaments from larger sheets of metal. Features reported at the site included several house patterns of an undescribed shape that measured approximately 3.66 X 6.1 meters (12 X 20 ft), randomly scattered throughout the inhabited area. Larger postmolds within these reported structures were approximately 1.22 meters (4 ft) apart. In addition, numerous pits containing a very dark, artifact-rich fill were observed. These were approximately 46 cm (18 in) in diameter and about 76 cm (30 in) deep, and were also scattered throughout the village area. An area at the eastern edge of the site was identified as the location of an Indian "football field", and was marked by two shaped stones that apparently functioned as goals. No complete inventory of the artifacts collected by Mr. Posey has ever been made and consequently, the tables above do not include tallies from these 1960s excavations.

Posey also reported the possible presence of a Native American ossuary or burial site beneath the paved portion of a road between the main site area and Mattawoman Creek. He cited information from older employees of the station who told him that while the road was under construction a burial was uncovered, and that a slight hump in the road marked the spot. This hump in the road still exists, and Posey identified it on at least two visits to the site with MHT staff in recent decades.

In 1985, a preliminary Phase I archeological survey was conducted throughout the Naval Ordnance Station (now the Naval Surface Warfare Center). This survey was conducted in order to satisfy the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, and involved inventorying all known archeological sites on the federally-owned/managed property and conducting Phase I survey to identify unknown sites, and to make management recommendations concerning said sites. Site 18CH181 was re-located through informant information (Mr. Posey) and attracted a considerable amount of attention during this survey. Upon determination of the site location, researchers were immediately drawn towards a cluster of trees directly behind the building constructed in 1963 that originally exposed the site. This cluster of trees had escaped re-grading activities when the building was built and researchers encountered several Potomac Creek sherds eroding out of a bank in the area. A baseline was established extending through the middle of the wooded area towards Mattawoman Creek and a large 2 m X 8 m excavation block of 1 meter test squares was opened up within this tree cluster. In addition to the block excavation, a 1 X 2 meter trench, a 1 meter square, and a 1 meter X 50 cm trench were excavated outside of the cluster of trees to determine the extent of disturbance. Excavation proceeded by the removal of natural soil horizons, which were subdivided into smaller arbitrary units when necessary. Plan maps were made of any artifact clusters; profiles were drawn of one wall, soil colors being measured using Munsell standard. In addition to these units, four shovel tests were randomly placed in the woods across an access road and to the north and northeast of the site to determine whether or not it continued across the road. Shovel tests typically measured 70 cm square. All four of these units were sterile and so the excavators determined the site to be approximately 75 X 40 meters across. It should be noted that boundaries were not firmly established by a systematic shovel testing strategy. The undisturbed portion of the site was reported to consist of an approximately 12 by 18 meter area in the wooded patch behind the building.

A wide variety of artifacts were recovered which were interpreted as representative of a protohistoric/contact period primary occupation at 18CH281. In addition to artifacts, the research conducted in 1985 revealed a total of 17 features. These features were confined to the excavation block of eight 1 X 1 meter units. The features consisted of 16 postmolds and a small pit. The 16 postmolds were all discovered in relatively close proximity to each other, and they were interpreted as probably representing the outline of a small oval or roughly circular house or other structure. The small pit located in the excavation block was designated Feature 1. It was roughly circular in plan, and was located at the plowzone/subsoil interface approximately 20 cm below the ground surface, near the northwest corner of the excavation block. The feature was approximately 60 cm in diameter, and sectioning revealed a shallow basin-shaped profile that extended to 17 cm beneath the soil surface interface. Several artifacts were reported to be present within the pit fill including a pipe stem and bowl fragment that mend, 2 other pipe bowl fragments, a Potomac Creek rim with 2 cord wrapped lines, a Potomac Creek Plain rimsherd, 2 Potomac Creek plain body sherds, a quartzite primary flake, 2 flat disc shell beads, a single charred nut fragment (hickory or walnut), and animal bones. The faunal material included 16 fragments of mammal bone, 3 fragments of bird bone, 9 fragments of reptile bone, and 22 pieces of fish bone. Identified species found within the feature included white-tailed deer, probable turkey, mud and soft shell turtles, suckers, gar and catfish. A charcoal sample was recovered from the pit fill and yielded an uncalibrated radiocarbon date of 375±90 years before present. This corresponds to a probable (2 sigma) calendrical date of AD 1397-1677 when calibrated.

Artifacts encountered throughout the site during the 1985 study included 1,047 ceramic sherds (including 51 rimsherds), 68 terra-cotta clay tobacco pipe fragments (counted as prehistoric "other fired clay" above), 26 white clay pipe fragments (counted as historic "Tobacco related" above), a Potomac point, 2 possible scrapers, 96 pieces of debitage, a fragment of ground steatite, a piece of limonite, an unmodified piece of mica, 73 pieces of fire-cracked rock, a bone tool (probable needle or fishing jig), a bone bead, 1 barrel-shaped shell bead, 3 flat disc-shaped shell beads, 11 unidentifiable pieces of glass, 22 handwrought nails (11 rosehead, 3 T-head, 8 unidentified), a single copper-alloy furniture tack, a copper-alloy clothing fastener, 3 copper-alloy triangular pendants, a piece of sheet lead, 17 unidentified metal objects, 25 pieces of mortar, 7 brick fragments, a piece of slag, 61 mussel/clam shell fragments, 1 oyster shell fragment, 12 unidentified shell fragments, 20 bird bones, 560 mammal bones, 66 fish bones, 2 rodent bones, and 14 floral objects (a possible carbonized maize fragment and burnt hickory or walnut shell). Among the identifiable ceramic sherds were 804 Potomac Creek (39 rimsherds), 176



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Historic

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Unknown

Yeocomico (1 rimsherds), 55 Camden (11 rimsherds), 4 tin-glazed earthenware, 3 Rhenish stonewares, an unglazed coarse redware, and a yellow-glazed stoneware sherd.

The work conducted at 18CH281 confirmed the interpretation by Mr. Posey, that the site includes a probable Contact Period deposit with significant research potential. The excavators contended that the site likely consisted of a very Late Prehistoric occupation that extended into the period of interaction with Europeans, but the extent of that interaction was poorly understood. The site was deemed likely to provide information relevant to our understanding of the process of Native American acculturation. The tremendous research potential of the site attracted the interest of the Research Department at the Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum (a branch of MHT) and they applied for and successfully received a Department of Defense Legacy Resources grant to conduct Phase II/III level research in 1996. In addition to the work to be performed at 18CH281, the grant provided funds to examine a second, probably related site that was encountered as a surface lithic scatter during the 1985 study at a short distance from the site. The work completed at this site can be found in the synopsis report for 18CH282. As a part of the 1996 investigations, extensive archival research was conducted to better understand the historical context of the site.

Charles County was founded in 1658 as population growth in the new colony of Maryland and the need for large tracts of land to cultivate tobacco led to increased displacement of Native Americans and expansion of the colony. The issue of ownership and control of the land on which the Posey Site is situated is clouded by legal disputes and conflicting claims during the period the site was apparently occupied in the late 17th century. Ownership and right to use the land was disputed into the first half of the 18th century as well. The first application by a European for a land grant in the area was made by Thomas Cornwallis on August 8, 1636. A grant of 5,000 acres was provided by Lord Baltimore with manorial rights, excluding Royal Mines, and rents were to be paid on the Feast of the Annunciation or the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel. Cornwallis was active in the fur and corn trade with the Indians, but primarily made money by growing tobacco on his large tracts in St. Mary's county. Cornwallis' tract was resurveyed in 1654, and a new patent was issued by Lord Baltimore with some changes in rents due, but largely reiterating the terms of the 1636 grant. Although the land was patented to Cornwallis in 1654, it is probable that he did not occupy or begin producing tobacco on the land and he probably held it purely for speculative purposes.

The land may have been occupied by Native Americans for at least several years after ownership was granted to Cornwallis. In October 1665, Nancotamon, one of the great men of the Mattawoman petty chiefdom (a client group of the Piscataway Confederacy) came before the Colonial Council and asked what his people should do, whether they should, "Remove further into the woods or to remain upon the land where they now or lately lived". The Council ordered the surveying of the Mattawoman lands and forbade any Englishman from settling within the boundaries or living within three miles of any Indian settlement of Charles County, on pain of a year's imprisonment. In 1666, Articles of Peace and Amity were signed between the colony and 12 Native American groups, including the Mattawoman. One of the articles stipulated that the Indians would not be forced to leave the places appointed to them by the Governor without their consent. A 1670 map seems to depict the area north of the mouth of Mattawoman Creek as still being Native American land, but some colonial settlement was present on the southern bank of the Mattawoman (at the apparent time of the occupation at 18CH281). The colonial population of Charles County was clearly continuing to grow.

After Thomas Cornwallis died in the late 1670s, his property was willed to his wife Penelope, who in turn sold the tract including 18CH281 to Captain Edward Pye in 1688. The last line of the deed states that the land is "now in the Possession of Indians". The possession of the land by Indians was apparently not considered to be an impediment to the sale, and there was also no limitation on its exchange despite the aforementioned formal order of the Council in 1665. Seven years after the sale to Pye, in 1695, the land was apparently still under Indian control, but the Governor of the colony was pondering ways to placate the Native Americans to open up new lands for tobacco cultivation by settlers. Based upon the archeological evidence recovered from the Posey Site, it was about this time that the site was abandoned. Edward Pye died around 1696, and the entire 5,000 acre tract was willed to his son Charles. It is during Charles' tenure that the first evidence of tenancy on the land is encountered. In addition, legal disputes led to some fairly thorough documentation of the tract's history. For a full account, see the full site report from the 1996 excavations.

In short, the legal arguments are related to the location of the northern boundary of the tract: said to be near a swampy "neck" of land on which an old Indian town was located, and which was occupied by an Indian man named "George". A letter from the Council clerk to Charles Pye in 1736 indicates that although the boundary had been set, "George" was petitioning the government to let him and his family remain on the land legally owned by Pye, but clearly set aside as "Indian land" by earlier Council actions. Pye's reply states that, George was marking Pye's hogs, killing his game, raising tobacco on his land, and encouraging settlers across the Mattawoman Creek to bring over their hogs and cattle to winter on Pye's land for a fee paid to George. The Council decided to allow Pye his "remedy at law against the said Indian". These records indicate that some Native Americans were living on or near 18CH281 until at least 1736, and were able to become familiar enough with the developing colonial system to interact in both legal and economic spheres. Leasing of the land began in earnest in 1737, a mere year after George's presumed eviction.

The fieldwork in 1996 began with the establishment of a unified grid system overlaid across the entire project area to ensure standardization of results for possible comparative analysis. Shovel test pits, were placed from the datum at 8 meter intervals throughout the survey area. A total of 510 shovel test pits (STPs) were excavated, yielding a total tested area of 400,012 square meters (9.89 acres). Each shovel test pit measured approximately 40 cm in diameter, and was excavated with a round shovel into culturally sterile subsoils or one meter in depth. Selected pits were deepened with a split spoon probe and/or bucket auger to further assess stratigraphy and to search for buried A soil horizons beyond the reach of hand excavation. All soils removed from STPs were screened through hardware cloth. Artifacts encountered during the STP stage of research in 1996 included 91 ceramic sherds (including 4 rimsherds), 2 terra-cotta clay tobacco pipe fragments (counted as prehistoric "other fired clay" above), 1 white clay pipe stem (counted as historic "Tobacco related" above), 55 pieces of lithic debitage (including 4 cores), 5 fragments of fire-cracked rock, 8 pieces of clam and mussel shell, 8 pieces of animal bone, 24 unidentified fragments of glass, 3 handwrought nails (2 roseheads), 26 unidentified pieces of metal, 210 fragments of modern building material, 14 other modern items (plastic, rubber and modern glass), and large quantities of slag. The large amounts of slag are likely related to a coal-fired power plant that was once located in the general area. Among the ceramic sherds were 77 Potomac Creek plain (3 rimsherds), 3 Yeocomico, 1 Camden ware, 5 whiteware (1 rimsherd), 3 ironstone, and 2 porcelain fragments.

The STP survey revealed that the boundary between 18CH281 and 18CH282 (see above) was primarily the result of construction-related disturbance and/or grading of the area and the latter is not the result of separate activities from what produced the Posey site. The Posey site consists of a small core area containing a very high density of artifacts in plowzone or truncated plowzone context over relatively undisturbed subsoils. This portion of the site comprises approximately 200 square meters. The site core is bordered on the west and south by an area of disturbed, truncated, or redeposited topsoils that also contain a high density of artifacts over undisturbed subsoils. Surface area of this portion of the site is approximately 600 square meters. A low-density scatter of ceramic and lithic artifacts extends to the south and southwest of the central portion of the site. Construction related disturbance is extensive in this area of the site. Finally, another important goal of the STP program was to attempt to locate the cemetery or ossuary reported to have been present near the western



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end of the project area identified by Calvert Posey. STPs were excavated on both the north and south side of the road crossing through the supposed ossuary location, but the soil profiles revealed extensive grading and modern filling episodes and no evidence of human burials was encountered. MHT staff have noted that the location is consistent with other ossuary sites known throughout the state, but little more can be said.

A total of thirty-seven 1.5 X 1.5 meter units was excavated during the investigation. Six of the excavation units were placed in the site's core (as defined above), in an area that STP work revealed to contain a high density of artifacts in an undisturbed plowzone context. Twelve additional contiguous units were excavated as a block over a feature which was overlain by a truncated plowzone, and an additional 11 units were excavated on the periphery of the site's core. The remaining eight units were dispersed throughout the area of low-density deposits surrounding the site's core. Taken together, the 37 units excavated during this project represent a sample of less than 1% of the entire site area. However, the 29 units excavated in the core of the site comprise a sample of 8.15% of this area. An additional eight square meters in the core was excavated during the 1985 study. Including these units, a total of 9.15% of the high-density core area of the site has been excavated. Where possible, 1.5 X 1.5 meter units were excavated in natural stratigraphic layers down to undisturbed, culturally sterile subsoils. The exceptions were units that contained cultural features that were not entirely excavated, or areas where modern construction-related disturbance extended beneath the level of the archeological deposits that comprised the site. Primary excavation tools were flat shovels, trowels, and dustpans, but round-nosed shovels and breaker bars were used in units that contained fill or mechanically compacted soil layers. A 25 X 25 cm column sample (usually from the northeast corner of the unit) was taken from each excavation unit that contained a plowzone stratum that had not been redeposited or extensively disturbed by the construction that has occurred in the area. These samples were water screened through 1/32" mesh screen. During processing of the initial column sample taken from the 12 unit block excavation at the western edge of the core area, a large number of shell beads were noted. Subsequently, 2 column samples were retained from opposite corners in each of these units in order to recover a larger sample of these artifacts. A total of 7,510 artifacts, 3,668 fragments of faunal material, several intact postmolds, a semi-disturbed pit feature, and a large intact midden were encountered during the test unit excavations. All units contained some artifacts, although density was found to vary from quite high to low across the site. In addition, all units contained at least some modern material, usually slag within the strata immediately beneath the ground surface. The artifact assemblage from the test units (excluding artifacts encountered within features or column samples) consisted of 2,891 ceramic sherds, 257 terra-cotta tobacco pipes (counted as prehistoric "other fired clay" above), 115 white clay pipe fragments (counted as historic "Tobacco related" above), 33 other ceramic objects (apparent fired-clay squeezes, lumps, possible terra-cotta pipe manufacturing waste, etc.), 1 Orient Fishtail point, a Madison point, a Levanna point, a biface tip, 5 utilized flake tools, 515 pieces of lithic debitage (including 3 cores), 2 hammerstones, 1 possible grinding stone, 2 unmodified steatite and 1 unmodified graphite/slate fragments, 206 pieces of fire-cracked rock, 2 gunflints (counted as historic arms), 15 pieces of modified bone/shell (1 tubular shell bead, 8 disk shell beads, 5 fragments of a bone comb, and a bone needle fragment), 857 mussel/clam shell fragments, 24 oyster shell fragments, 17 snail shell fragments, 1,018 pieces of burned and 1,650 pieces of unburned animal bone, 4 glass buttons, 23 heavily-patinated bottle glass fragments, 79 handwrought nail fragments (43 roseheads, 16 T-headed, and 20 indeterminate), 25 fragments of brass sheet in various stages of manufacture (counted as historic activity items), 1 brass projectile point (counted as historic arms), 5 elongate brass "pendants" or unfinished "tinkling cones" (counted as personal items), 2 brass "tinkling cones" (counted as personal items), a flattened spiral strip of brass (personal), a brass leather strap ornament (activity item), a brass clasp from a manuscript cover (counted as personal), 2 unidentified brass objects, (counted as activity items), 6 lead shot or musket balls, a .22 caliber bullet, a lead flintlock component, a piece of lead sprue (counted as an arms object), a pewter or lead button, an unidentified lead cylinder (counted as miscellaneous), an iron knife blade fragment (counted as kitchen-related), 17 unidentified non-modern iron objects, an apparent clothing buckle of an unknown alloy, 773 miscellaneous modern objects, and 2,530 fragments of slag. Among the ceramic sherds were 2,571 Potomac Creek (86 rimsherds), 136 Yeocomico (2 rimsherds), 92 Camden (5 rimsherds), 12 Moyaone (1 rimsherd), 7 Accokeek, 5 unidentified "hybrid ware", 24 redware (3 rimsherds), 21 tin-glazed earthenware (1 rimsherd), 10 possible early Buckley-ware variants (1 rimsherd), 5 Challis-like earthenware (1 rimsherd), 5 Rhenish, and 3 German Brown stoneware sherds.

Several discrete sub-plowzone or sub-disturbance features were discovered during the test unit excavations at the Posey Site in the core site area. A large, intact midden feature was also found in the series of 12 adjacent units excavated at the western edge of the core area of the site. In addition, several artifact forms were found to be almost exclusively linked with the site core area and evidence of manufacturing/modification activities (shell beads, brass objects, etc.) was concentrated in the core. All of the features discovered were initially located at the base of plowzone or disturbed soil strata, and were found to intrude into undisturbed subsoil. Surfaces were cleaned and soils photographed and mapped in plan view prior to the excavation of features. The majority (5) of the features identified at Posey were postmolds. They were excavated by removing half of the feature along a section line which bisected the maximum horizontal diameter of the postmold. Soil from sectioned postmolds was retained in bulk for either water screening through 1/32" mesh or flotation. After sectioning, a scale profile of the exposed face of the feature was prepared and photos were taken. The remaining half of the feature was either left in-situ, or, in one case, removed for flotation. Only 2 of the postmolds produced conclusive artifacts. One postmold contained a single piece of fire-cracked rock, 4 animal bones, and 3 intrusive pieces of slag. The other contained 3 quartz flakes, 6 ceramic vessel sherds (including a cord-impressed Potomac Creek body sherd), an animal bone, and a terra-cotta pipe stem. Five animal bones were found in another postmold and 3 were found in another, but these are unmodified and may be intrusive. Wood charcoal fragments were also recovered from all postmolds. Because only 5 postmolds were exposed, determination of function and possible association with a structure is problematic.

The second type of feature consisted of a disturbed pit with intrusive post or root molds. This feature was excavated stratigraphically, with each separate component of the deposit sectioned, profiled, and photographed prior to complete excavation. Feature fill was retained in bulk for water screening, and a 50% sample of the probable pit fill was retained for flotation. The cultural contents of the pit feature included faunal remains, ceramic artifacts, lithic debitage, and untyped wood charcoal. Twenty-six bone fragments, primarily of unidentified fish species, and 7 unidentified snail shell fragments were recovered. Ceramic artifacts consisted of 5 probable Potomac Creek fragments, 3 probable Yeocomico fragments, one probable Moyaone sherd, and one possible terra-cotta pipe fragment. Lithic artifacts consisted of 2 quartz tertiary flakes. A single wrought nail fragment with a square or T-head was also present. One hundred twenty-six charcoal fragments were also recovered (charcoal is not included in the tables above). In addition to the artifacts described above, a large fire-cracked quartzite fragment and a large, fine-grained pestle or grinding/crushing tool were present at the top of the subsoil immediately adjacent to the feature. Intrusive material consisted of a single piece of slag. It appears probable that a pit was excavated, used for an unknown purpose, then allowed to fill over a relatively extended period of time. Evidence for at least 2 possible postmolds was found beneath the pit fill. However, it did not appear that the pit was deliberately excavated to support the posts, as there was no evidence of deliberate backfilling to indicate a short construction sequence. It may be that the possible postmolds are actually the casts of tree roots that penetrated the less compact fill of the pit feature after it was originally abandoned.

A feature of unknown function and origin was discovered near the southwestern edge of the core area of the site. This feature consisted of a deposit of sandy clay embedded in a matrix of undisturbed sandy subsoil typical for this portion of the site. The contents of this feature were limited to 2 fragments of bone, less than 0.1 gram of charcoal, a single Potomac Creek Plain body sherd, and 3 small slag fragments. A fragment of Potomac Creek ceramic was found in subsoil excavated around the feature during sectioning. The function of the feature is unknown, but it may have been created by construction-related disturbance or otherwise represents a non-cultural soil anomaly.



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18CH281

Site Name: IH-35

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Posey

Historic

Brief Description:

Late Woodland/Contact/17th century hamlet and trading post

Unknown

The final feature discovered consisted of a large, intact midden deposit that was located in the 12 adjacent excavation units. Due to time limitations and preservation concerns, the entire horizontal expression of this deposit was not exposed, and the feature was sampled rather than excavated in its entirety. Seven 25 cm wide sections were removed from this feature in order to determine its depth and profile. Five of these sections were removed from a single unit in order to expose a large section of the subsoil at the base of the deposit in an effort to locate postmolds or other architectural components. Scale profiles and planviews were prepared for each section removed, and the entire deposit was extensively photographed. Fill removed from the feature was retained in bulk for water screening and/or flotation. Point provenienced carbon and ceramic samples were taken from the surface of the exposed portion of the feature in several areas. The entire horizontal expression of this feature was not uncovered due to time constraints and preservation concerns. The feature was found to be a filled, trough-shaped depression. No evidence of deliberate excavation of the depression, such as shovel cut marks, a flat bottom, or steep sides, was found. Lack of mottling and the contents of the fill (see below) seem to suggest accumulation of refuse in a natural depression (perhaps an erosional feature from a natural watercourse) as a formative mechanism for the feature. The small size of many of the artifacts, and the presence of large numbers of ceramic fragments, suggests that the area was trampled at least periodically following deposition of the cultural material. Post-depositional plowing of the site mixed the upper portions of the feature into the topsoil/plowzone horizons, but the midden deposits within the depression were protected from disturbance by their lower stratigraphic position. The recovery of incomplete shell beads, faunal materials, lithic debitage, and partially completed brass artifacts from the feature fill indicates a multi-purpose function for this area of the site, beyond the simple discard of refuse. Diagnostic artifacts (pipe stems and pottery) point to a late 17th century date for the feature.

Artifacts encountered in the midden fill include 149 ceramic sherds (3 rimsherds), 37 terra-cotta pipe fragments, 9 white clay pipe fragments, 3,043 unidentifiable ceramic crumbs (counted as other fired clay), 1 quartz core, 31 flakes, 11 other debitage fragments, 6 fragments of fire-cracked rock, 49 shell beads (disk and tubular), 8 metal objects (a rosehead hand-wrought nail, a sheet brass triangle, a .35 caliber lead ball, a lead pellet, 4 unidentifiable iron fragments), 3 probable bottle glass shards, large numbers of burned and unburned animal bone, a large quantity of shell, and fragments of charcoal. Among the identifiable ceramic sherds were 94 Potomac Creek (2 rimsherds), 13 Yeocomico, 8 Camden (1 rimsherd), 1 tin-glazed earthenware, 1 black-glazed earthenware, and 1 German Brown stoneware sherd.

In addition to the excavation of features, a total of 41 column samples were taken from 31 units following the procedure outlined above. Two samples were retained from 10 of the 12 units which were excavated to determine the extent of the large midden feature mentioned above. Water screening of column samples from the first two units placed in this area revealed the presence of relatively large numbers of small shell beads, as well as numerous small fragments of bone and unmodified shell. The column sampling program was therefore intensified in this area in order to retain a larger number of these materials. A total of 38 beads was recovered from the column samples. Thirty-six were shell, and the remaining 2 were glass. Shell beads consisted of 2 types: small flat disks (known as Roanoke) and larger tubular forms (known as peake). Five of the shell beads were of the former variety and 31 were the latter type. Of note among the shell disk beads was the presence of 6 beads that had irregular forms and rough edges. The remaining beads had all been ground smooth on both face and edge. These irregular bead blanks, along with the presence of unmodified shell fragments, probably indicate that disk beads were manufactured at the site. The two glass beads were oval to round and white in color and are of forms popular at 17th and 18th century Susquehannock sites. All of the beads were recovered from

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00005798, 00005757, 00007624, 95001777