



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18CH420

Site Name: Mattawoman Farm IV

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Early Archaic short-term camp, Late Archaic base camp

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 11

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 38.6142

Longitude -77.0369

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 61 m

Site slope 2-5%

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
- Minimum distance to water is 30 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

- Paleoindian site
- Archaic site
- Early archaic Y
- Middle archaic
- Late archaic Y
- Unknown prehistoric context
- Woodland site
- MD Adena
- Early woodland
- Mid. woodland
- Late woodland

- Contact period site
- ca. 1820 - 1860
- ca. 1630 - 1675
- ca. 1675 - 1720
- ca. 1720 - 1780
- ca. 1780 - 1820
- Unknown historic context
- Unknown context
- ca. 1820 - 1860
- ca. 1860 - 1900
- ca. 1900 - 1930
- Post 1930

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
 - 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

Flotation samples taken Other samples taken



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Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types			
Clovis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Koens-Crispin	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Le Croy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>
Morrow Mntn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guilford	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brewerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Otter Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Madison/Potomac	<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	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	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			
Flaked stone	1384	Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	72	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uncommon Obj.	<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 type="checkbox"/>	Fer quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sil sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>		

Dated features present at site

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

Early Archaic short-term camp, Late Archaic base camp

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External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Site 18CH420, the Mattawoman IV Site, is a probable Late Archaic base camp, with possible (but unlikely) Early Archaic components as well. The site is located near the town of Bennsville, in Charles County, Maryland. The site occupies a west trending ridge which overlooks the confluence of two first-order intermittent drainages. The surrounding landscape was bordered by forest to the north and west and by pasture to the south and east until recently when it became the site of a housing development. Soils at the site consist of Beltsville silt loams with a high percentage of rounded pebbles and cobbles of quartz and quartzite both on the surface and throughout the profile.

The site was originally investigated as part of a Phase I survey in 1994 of some 427 acres, prior to the onset of site preparation and construction for the Kingsview Housing Development. Because the project would impact wetlands, the development firm was required to obtain a Section 404 permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District. As such, the project was considered a federal undertaking, and the Corps was the lead federal agency. Projects that require federal permits, such as the 404 permit, necessarily trigger compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. Section 106 mandates that the Corps consider the effects of the undertaking on historic properties prior to issuance of a permit.

The Phase I survey resulted in the identification of 6 new sites (including 18CH420) and additional recording of one previously known site (18CH34 – see synopsis report). A total of 80 shovel test pits (STPs) were excavated at 15 m intervals along transects spaced 15 m apart in the immediate vicinity of 18CH420. The site was located by 14 STPs that produced prehistoric cultural materials. The site was determined to be approximately 65 x 65 m in size. Artifacts recovered from the site during Phase I work included a probable quartzite Selby Bay point fragment, a quartzite biface tip, 24 pieces of quartz debitage, and 36 pieces of quartzite debitage. Site 18CH420 was recommended as potentially eligible to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) based on the results of the Phase I survey. Thus Phase II examination was conducted prior to the onset of development.

Phase II testing was undertaken in June of 1995. Testing began with the clearing of vegetation by heavy machinery, followed by plowing and disking to enhance soil visibility. Nevertheless, a light growth of weeds was present by the time fieldwork got underway and visibility was estimated to be 50-75%. A grid was established across the known site area and STPs were excavated at 10 m intervals along parallel transects spaced 10 m apart. This initial effort allowed the archeological team to verify the vertical and horizontal extent of the site and to define areas of artifact concentrations. Each STP measured 50 cm in diameter and was excavated into sterile subsoil. All soil was screened through hardware cloth and all recovered artifacts over 50 years old were collected and labeled by provenience. Following completion of the STPs, the archeological crew performed a surface collection at the site to more accurately identify areas of high density and to assess horizontal integrity. This consisted of a systematic collection covering the entire (100%) exposed ground surface. Each 10 X 10 m grid area was divided into four quadrants, and personnel then collected surface finds from each 5 X 5 m quadrant.

A total of 48 STPs was excavated at Mattawoman Farm IV (18CH420) during Phase II. Based upon these results, initial 1 X 1 m test units were placed in locations that yielded high concentrations of subsurface prehistoric artifacts. Areas which produced concentrations of debitage, tools, and/or FCR were considered likely to contain features or evidence of activity areas. Analysis of surface collection results helped to further identify areas for additional test units to be located. In total, thirteen 1 X 1 m test units were excavated at the site. The plowzone (upper Ap horizon) or upper layer of soil was excavated as on stratigraphic unit, designated Stratum A. Underlying soils were removed in arbitrary 10 cm levels within natural strata. Thus, these soils were designated as Strata B-1, B-2, C-1, C-2, etc. All test units were excavated into culturally sterile subsoil. A representative stratigraphic profile was drawn and photographed for each test unit. Plan views were drawn and photographed, as necessary. All soil was screened through hardware cloth to ensure uniform recovery of cultural materials, and again, all artifacts over 50 years old were retained. Fire-cracked rock was collected from test unit and STPs, but was not collected as part of the surface collection due to time constraints.

The Phase II investigations resulted in the collection of 1,415 artifacts. These include 1,394 prehistoric artifacts, 16 historic artifacts (no description provided in the full site report), and 5 charcoal samples. Of the total prehistoric artifacts, 67 (4.8%) were recovered from STPs, 306 (22%) were recovered from test units, and 1,021 (73.2%) were collected from the surface. Twenty-five of the 48 STPs (52%) produced prehistoric materials, and all 13 test units contained prehistoric artifacts. The assemblage consisted of 3 quartz points, 7 quartzite points, 11 quartz bifaces (3 early stage, 4 middle, 4 late), 16 quartzite bifaces (3 early stage, 1 middle, 12 late), 5 quartz cores, 4 quartzite cores, 1 quartz uniface, 2 rhyolite flakes, 1 chert flake, 572 quartz flakes, 613 quartzite flakes, 81 pieces of quartz shatter, 6 pieces of quartzite shatter, and (apparently) 72 pieces of fire-cracked rock. The suite of projectile points include two Holmes, five untyped stemmed Archaic points including two possible Bare Island-like, one Lackawaxen, and a Kirk Stemmed (Early Archaic). If the point is indeed Lackawaxen, and the others are Holmes/Bare Island, then the date of the site occupation should be ca. 2000 to 1500 BC. The possible quartzite Selby Bay recovered during Phase I was re-examined and determined to conform better to the Holmes variety, and as such it is compatible with the other points recovered during Phase II investigations.

Results of the Phase II study with the Phase I survey are roughly similar, and corroborate one another and indicate the site represents a short-term base camp which was occupied during the Late Archaic period. Site activities appear to have been primarily focused on tool manufacture, bifacial tool reduction, and hunting activities. Information on subsistence activities, other than hunting, was not found.

Phase II testing at 18CH420 indicates that the site retains some horizontal integrity, but no vertical integrity. The phase II testing indicated that 73.2% of the artifacts were recovered from the surface collection, and the remainder (except for 11 pieces of debitage) were in the plowzone. Most, if not all of the site dates to the Late Archaic period as indicated by the presence of Holmes points, possible Bare Island points, and a possible Lackawaxen point. Although no features were identified, the site contains one bipolar quartz workshop locus, and one or two Late Archaic components differentiated based on the horizontal distribution of artifacts. These results suggested that the site was not capable of addressing significant research questions related to Maryland prehistory and construction of the housing development was able to proceed with no adverse effects.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00005799, Site Files