



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18CH623

Site Name: A-1

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Late Archaic and Early, Middle, & Late Woodland short-term camp

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 11

SCS soil & sediment code LsB

Latitude 38.5401

Longitude -77.2537

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 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) Potomac 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 5 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

- Paleoindian site
- Archaic site
- Early archaic
- Middle archaic
- Late archaic
- 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

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

Bldg or foundation

- Isolated burial
- 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

N

Flotation samples taken N

Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18CH623

Site Name: A-1

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief Description:

Late Archaic and Early, Middle, & Late Woodland short-term camp

Unknown

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"/>
	1	Levanna	<input type="checkbox"/>

Prehistoric Sherd Types

Marcey Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Popes Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	6	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"/>	1	Mockley	<input type="checkbox"/>	6	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"/>	1	

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				
Flaked stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	565	Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>		Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	132	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>		Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	106	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"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input checked="" 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

Historic Artifacts				
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>		Tobacco related	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	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"/>
			9	
			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: 731 +/- 26 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



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18CH623

Site Name: A-1

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief

Description:

Late Archaic and Early, Middle, & Late Woodland short-term camp

Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC Lab

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Site 18CH623, also known as Site A-1, is an early Woodland to Middle Woodland resource procurement, tool production, and possibly temporary hunting camp. There is also a possibility of a Middle to Late Archaic component. It is located near the southern tip of Stump Neck, on a high bluff overlooking the Potomac River. The site is located in the NSF Indian Head, Stump Neck Annex, which consists of gently rolling upland landforms that are relatively low-lying and which have been progressively drowned by Holocene sea level rise. The Stump Neck area has experienced significant erosion, with map research suggesting there has been as much as 100 feet of shoreline lost since colonial times. Soils in the area are Liverpool silt loam, described as deep and moderately well-drained, with a silt texture and argillic subsoil (Bt-horizons).

Given the archaeological remains recovered in the area, the entire NSF Indian Head area was likely utilized by the Pre-contact peoples of Maryland. In the early nineteenth century, Stump Neck was known as Mason's Enlargement. The tract was patented by William Mason in 1812 and contained 1,290 acres. After Mason's death in 1828, his estate sold the property to Charles County resident Alexander Greer. In 1838 Greer sold the parcel to Edmund Monroe of Boston, Massachusetts. Before that time, Stump Neck was likely occupied by tenants. The first mention of them appears in the land record for the 1838 transaction between Greer and Monroe. In the deed Monroe is given ownership of the entire parcel as well as "all and singular the fisheries, tenements, and hereditaments". In 1849 Edmund Monroe sold Mason's Enlargement, commonly known as Stump Neck, to James Sewell of Baltimore. Sewell immediately sold the property and ownership of the tenements to Josiah Lee for \$10,000. Stump Neck remained in the Lee family through much of the second half of the nineteenth century. Lee likely continued to lease land and tenements to residents of Charles County during his ownership of Stump Neck. In 1891 the trustee for Josiah Lee's estate sold Stump Neck to Eli Gaffield for the same price Lee paid for the property over 40 years earlier. In 1890 the Bureau of Ordnance acquired 473 acres on the adjacent Cornwallis Neck to be used as a new proving ground facility. Residents of Stump Neck soon complained of shells from the Proving Ground passing overhead. In 1900 and 1901, Lt. Joseph Strauss, in command at Indian Head, recommended the purchase or lease of Stump Neck "to obviate the annoyance to people now residing in the vicinity when shell pass close to this point". As a result, over 1,000 acres of land on Stump Neck were acquired from the Gaffield family in 1901.

The southern portion of Stump Neck was minimally used by the Navy before World War II. As EOD activities expanded, however, Navy use of the landscape expanded. A sketch was made of the activity's layout during World War II; this sketch shows a duck-blind structure (labeled "23") within or adjacent to the 18CH623 site area. At an unknown point in the last half of twentieth century a small structure (Building C26SN) stood northwest of the site and had paths and walkways connecting it to nearby roads. A storage building (Building 2000) was constructed east of the site circa 1957. Building C26SN is no longer standing, while at the time of survey Building 2000 was standing but vacant. During the time that the EOD school was in operation near the site (1957-1999), part of the site area was used as a demolition area. The environs of Site 18CH623 have not recently been in active military use.

Site 18CH623 was first recorded during an intensive Phase I survey by R. Christopher Goodwin (RCG) in 1998. The site is located near the southern tip of Stump Neck, on a high bluff overlooking the Potomac River. RCG noted a portion of the site appeared to have eroded down the bluff. As determined in the Phase I survey, the site encompassed an irregular area measuring approximately 100 meters east-west by 120 meters north-south. Positive shovel tests were generally clustered within 20-40 meters of the bluff.

RCG recovered a total of 61 prehistoric artifacts from the survey of Site 18CH623. The artifacts included 39 pieces of debitage, seven potsherds, two projectile point/knives, one biface fragment, two utilized flakes, a core, two cobble tools (an abrader and a hammerstone), and seven pieces of fire-cracked rock. The pottery recovered included five sherds of Potomac Creek ware, one piece of Townsend ware, and one sherd of indeterminate type. The Potomac Creek and Townsend ware date to the Late Woodland Period. The projectile points include a Late Woodland triangular point (Madison type) and a corner-notched point tentatively typed as Potts, a Middle Woodland diagnostic.

RCG concluded that activities at Site 18CH623 included lithic reduction, stone tool maintenance, food preparation, and possibly resource procurement. They concluded the site was likely a temporary camp dating to the Late Woodland Period. RCG noted that soils at Site 18CH623 were generally quite deep, with artifacts recovered from depths as much as 107 centimeters below surface (cmbs), with many recovered between 23-75 cmbs. The RCG report does not analyze the site's stratigraphy and does not posit a cause for the deeply buried artifact deposits.

In 2017, further investigation was completed by Louis Berger and Marstel-Day. Louis Berger and Marstel-Day focused their Phase II investigation on the bluff landform within the larger site area. This particular area was chosen because of heavy erosion in the area. The Phase II investigation confirmed the integrity of the site and recovered artifacts dating to the Woodland and possibly Late Archaic periods. A total of 1,866 artifacts were collected in the field; however, when analyzed at the laboratory, 981 of these were determined to be noncultural. These noncultural items are small and flat sandstone or iron concretions. Seventeen surface finds were also recovered.

The Phase II investigation of Site 18CH623 involved excavation of seven STPs and 11 test units, and a nonsystematic surface reconnaissance. A total of 0.70 acre was investigated. The Phase II testing plan was based on Phase I results. Standard round shovel tests were dug to a depth believed to represent a sterile soil horizon. Test units were typically 3.0 x 3.0 feet in horizontal dimension with varying depths determined during excavation. Units were excavated with a shovel and trowel, and the matrix dry-screened through quarter-inch woven mesh. Three features were recorded and excavated.

Seven STPs were excavated as part of this evaluation. An A transect of five shovel tests and a B transect of two shovel tests were placed north-south in the south part of the site to expand the area of interest. Tests were dug to between 1.0 and 2.0 feet deep and contained an average of three soil horizons. STPs along the B transect are noted to have high gravel content and disturbance in the upper horizons, possibly associated with the remnants of an old road. Twenty-nine artifacts were recovered during the STP excavations. The majority of these are lithic debitage from Shovel Tests A-1 and A-2. No artifacts of diagnostic value were recovered.

A surface collection was undertaken, focusing on the site's southern and western periphery. Due to the slope and instability of the bluff edge, this collection was nonsystematic. Suspected unexploded ordnance was encountered, and reconnaissance did not extend to the site's farthest southern margin. Seventeen artifacts were recovered, including 13 lithics and four prehistoric ceramic sherds. These lithics do not provide temporally diagnostic information. The ceramics are all body sherds. Two are cord-marked and two display an indeterminate surface decoration. These are consistent with the Woodland Period occupation of this site.

Eleven test units were excavated to collect additional information on the site's integrity. These were located in the north part of the site. Units 1 through 7 were excavated in the northernmost part of the site, while units 8 through 11 were excavated to the south. One surface find was located to the west along the slope.



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18CH623

Site Name: A-1

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief

Description:

Late Archaic and Early, Middle, & Late Woodland short-term camp

Unknown

Unit 1 did not encounter any features. Thirty artifacts were recovered from the first two levels of the unit, and within the Ap-, E-, and BE-horizons. These consisted of: 10 quartz or quartzite debitage, none exhibiting cortex or signs of heat treatment; two FCR fragments, one a possible hammerstone; and 18 sherds of prehistoric ceramic exhibiting quartz, shell, or sand temper; one identifiable as Mockley from Level 1, one cord-marked, the remainder lacking diagnostic characteristics. Mockley is a Middle Woodland ceramic with accepted dates ranging from AD 200–900.

Unit 2 did not encounter any features. A total of 65 artifacts were recovered during excavation of Unit 2. No artifacts were recovered from Level 1. Nineteen pieces of quartz and quartzite debitage, one rhyolite projectile point tip, five pieces of FCR, 11 pieces of prehistoric ceramic, two historic pipe stems, and one cut nail were recovered from Level 2. The artifacts recovered from Level 2, E/BE-horizons, have likely been turbated lower into the profile by disturbance associated with the aforementioned old road. Seventeen pieces of quartz, quartzite, and rhyolite debitage, three pieces of FCR, and six pieces of prehistoric ceramic were recovered from Level 3, within the Bt-horizon. One ceramic sherd has been identified as Popes Creek, the others exhibited cord-marking, smoothing, undetermined decoration, or lacked decoration altogether. Popes Creek is considered a late Early Woodland–early Middle Woodland ceramic with accepted dates ranging from 500 BC–AD 300.

Unit 3 did not encounter any features. A total of 17 artifacts were in Test Unit 3, all from Level 1, horizons Ap and E. These artifacts include 11 quartz and quartzite debitage pieces. Both cortical and noncortical and heated and unheated debitage were recovered. Five pieces of FCR were recovered, one a possible groundstone fragment, type unspecified. One prehistoric ceramic sherd with a burnished interior and no further diagnostic characteristics was recovered.

Unit 4 did not encounter any features. Thirteen artifacts were recovered from Levels 1 and 2 in Unit 4. Two pieces of debitage, three pieces of fire-cracked rock, and one prehistoric ceramic sherd were recovered from Level 1, the Ap-horizon. One piece of a mineral, possibly ochre, was also found in Level 1. Four pieces of debitage, one FCR fragment, and one sherd of untyped prehistoric ceramic were recovered from Level 2. The ceramic sherds were in poor condition and no further diagnosis was possible. Noted were disturbances from an old road bed and from roots.

Unit 5 encountered two features during Level 2 excavation. Feature 1 was located in the unit's southern half and Feature 2 was found in the northwest. A total of 57 artifacts were recovered from Unit 5's non-feature area. No artifacts were recovered from Level 1. One piece of debitage and one projectile point base were recovered from Level 2. This lanceolate style base has been identified as a Fox Creek point base. Fox Creek is considered Middle Woodland with an accepted date range of AD 400–900. One piece of debitage was recovered from Level 3. Levels 1, 2, and 3 were all within the Ap-horizon. Ten pieces of quartz and quartzite debitage, seven pieces of fire-cracked rock, one cobble, which was a small worn pebble, possibly a burnishing tool, and 24 pieces of prehistoric ceramic were recovered from Level 4. Eight of these ceramic sherds were net-impressed and sand-tempered body sherds, but further diagnosis was not possible. The remainder of prehistoric ceramics recovered were too badly worn or eroded to describe further. Level 4 contained the highest number of artifacts and was within the E-horizon. No artifacts were recovered from Level 5. Five pieces each of debitage and fire-cracked rock were recovered from Level 6, within the Bt-horizon. Two pieces of burned and worn prehistoric ceramic fragments were recovered from Level 7, within the BC1-horizon. Unit excavation continued to the base of Level 10, 4.0 feet below surface, to facilitate Feature 1 excavation.

Units 6 and 7 were opened to expand the area of excavation to investigate the Unit 5 features. Unit 6 was excavated in nine levels and displayed the same general stratigraphy as Unit 5. No additional features were identified in Unit 6. Eleven artifacts were from the non-feature area of Unit 6. Two pieces of quartz debitage were recovered from Level 1, and two pieces of quartz debitage and one quartz projectile point were recovered from Level 2. The projectile point is likely a Potomac triangle, dating to the Late Woodland Period. Three pieces of FCR and one sherd of prehistoric ceramic were recovered from Level 3. These first three levels were within the Ap-horizon. The prehistoric ceramic sherd is possibly Popes Creek, a late Early Woodland–early Middle Woodland ceramic with accepted dates ranging from 500 BC–AD 300. One piece of debitage each was recovered from Levels 4, within the E-horizon, and 5, within the BE-horizon. Only two levels were recorded in Unit 7 before it was recorded within the provenience of Feature 1. Level 1 encountered the expected road bed remains, and no artifacts were recovered. Four pieces of quartz and quartzite debitage were recovered from Level 2 (Table 30). Both Level 1 and 2 are within the Ap-horizon.

Feature 1 was discovered approximately 0.5 feet below the surface while excavating Level 2 of Unit 5. Unit 7 was then opened immediately adjacent and south of Unit 5 to expand the area of excavation in an attempt to expose more of Feature 1. Although more of the feature was exposed, the southern outline of Feature 1 was not located in Unit 7. No further expansion was excavated. The total horizontal expanse was not exposed, so Feature 1's complete shape is unknown. The portion of Feature 1 excavated within Units 5 and 7 is considered an adequate sample. A total of 65 artifacts were recovered from Feature 1. Additional items were collected in the field, however many of these were determined to be natural after lab analysis, and discarded. The artifacts include: 16 pieces of cortical and interior quartz and quartzite debitage, including 7 biface reduction flakes, shatter, 13 prehistoric ceramic sherds, 24 pieces of FCR, two cobble tools, five unmodified pebbles/cobbles, one unidentified bone fragment, four pieces of unidentifiable metal, one piece of glass, one piece of slag, and two pieces of Styrofoam (the Styrofoam was originally one piece but tore into two pieces later).

While excavating Feature 1, it was believed to be prehistoric, possibly a storage pit or midden. Recovery of historic artifacts from Level 1 and no deeper, and the recovery of prehistoric artifacts throughout seemed to support this evaluation during excavation. However, during excavation of Level 7, the base of a Styrofoam cup was recovered. The presence of Styrofoam at this depth meant that Feature 1 is likely not an intact prehistoric feature, but more likely a modern disturbance associated with ordnance demolition from the EOD school.

Feature 2 was discovered approximately 0.5 feet below the surface while excavating Level 2 of Unit 5. Unit 6 was opened to expand the area of excavation in an attempt to expose more of Feature 2. Opening Unit 6 exposed the northeast quadrant of what appeared to be a feature square-shaped in plan view, bowl-shaped in profile view. However, this feature's western portion continued into the west wall of Units 5 and 6 and was left unexposed and unexcavated, so the complete shape is unknown. One piece of FCR and one heat-treated cortical bifacial reduction flake were recovered. Feature 2 was thought to be prehistoric based on the artifacts recovered from within, as well as the artifacts recovered from the non-feature unit matrix at corresponding depths.

Unit 8 encountered one feature. During excavation of Level 2, Feature 3 was discovered at a depth of approximately 0.5 feet in the unit's southeast quadrant. A total of 223 artifacts were recovered from Unit 8's non-feature area. Fifty-two pieces of quartz, quartzite, and rhyolite debitage, one hammerstone, and seven pieces of prehistoric ceramic were recovered from level 1. Five sherds of ceramic include Mockley ware fragments. Mockley ware is a Middle Woodland ceramic with accepted dates ranging from AD 200–900. A total of 46 pieces of quartz and quartzite debitage, one flake tool, and two very small prehistoric ceramic fragments were recovered from Level 2. A total of 84 pieces of quartz and quartzite debitage, one flake tool, and four very small prehistoric ceramic fragments were recovered from Level 3. Levels 1, 2, and 3 all fall within depths considered the Ap-horizon on the site master profile. Seventeen pieces of quartz and quartzite debitage were recovered from Level 4, which corresponds with the E/BE-horizons. Four pieces of debitage were recovered from Level 5, within the BE-horizon. Levels 6 and 7 each yielded two debitage fragments and fell within the Bt-horizon. The artifact count significantly dropped below Level 4, Level 8 was completely sterile, and excavation ceased.

Feature 3 was discovered in Level 2, Unit 8. The southern portion of Feature 3 continues into the southern wall of Unit 8; no expansion was excavated, and so only the feature's northern portion was excavated. In feature Level 1, 11 debitage fragments and one complete projectile point were recovered. The projectile point is side-notched, possibly an Otter Creek point, dating to the Middle or Late Archaic, 5,000–6,000 BP. Alternatively, the point may be a Selby Bay type, dating to the Middle Woodland Period. A charcoal sample was collected from Feature 3, Level 1 and analyzed for a radiocarbon date, returning a date of 731 ± 26 yBP. This date falls within the Late Woodland Period. Excavation of feature Level 2 yielded five debitage fragments and six sand-tempered prehistoric ceramics. These ceramics are in poor condition and further analysis was not possible. The excavation of Feature 3 continued to the base of Level 7, where



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18CH623

Site Name: A-1

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief Description:

Late Archaic and Early, Middle, & Late Woodland short-term camp

Unknown

the feature stain disappeared. No artifacts were recovered from below Level 2. Feature 3 appears bowl-shaped in profile, coming to a point with depth. It was noted during excavation that the feature was shifting and perhaps extended into the unit wall. Feature 3 is a hearth that was partially disturbed by tree roots or rodents.

Unit 9 did not encounter any features. A total of 57 artifacts were recovered from Unit 9. Thirty-three pieces of quartz and quartzite debitage, including eight pieces of fire-cracked rock, and five sherds of sand-tempered, net-impressed prehistoric ceramics were recovered from Level 1. The prehistoric ceramic was identified as Popes Creek, considered a late Early Woodland–early Middle Woodland ceramic with accepted dates ranging from 500 BC–AD 300. A total of 15 pieces of quartz, quartzite, and chert debitage, two pieces of prehistoric ceramic, and two pieces of wire were recovered from Level 2. The wire may indicate some disturbance; however, Level 2 spanned three horizons, including the Ap-, so it is difficult to say which horizon the wire was recovered from. One Accokeek sherd was recovered from Level 2. Accokeek ceramics date to the Early Woodland Period, with a date range of 900–300 BC.

Unit 10 did not encounter any features. A total of 53 artifacts were recovered from Unit 10. This number includes 17 pieces of quartz and quartzite debitage and 11 pieces of FCR collected from Level 1. Fourteen pieces of quartz and quartzite debitage, seven FCR fragments, and two very small fragments of prehistoric ceramic were recovered from Level 2. A noticeable drop in artifacts occurred in Level 2. Level 3 was completely sterile and excavation ceased.

Unit 11 did not encounter any features. A total of 189 artifacts were recovered from Unit 11. Level 1 yielded 132 pieces of quartz, quartzite, and chert debitage, 23 pieces of fire-cracked rock, four prehistoric ceramic sherds, and 13 very small (“crumbs”) prehistoric ceramic fragments. Level 2 yielded 10 pieces of quartz and quartzite debitage and five fragments of fire-cracked rock. Level 3 was sterile and excavation ceased at that level.

In summary, the site was first identified by RCG. It is located on a high bluff above the Potomac River. RCG identified its size as extending east across Archer Avenue, to the top of a small terrace above Chicamuxen Creek. The Phase I artifacts recovered were concentrated along the bluff above the Potomac River and the site was identified as retaining stratigraphic integrity. The Phase I excavations recovered Potomac Creek ware, shell-tempered ware, and projectile points similar to Potts or Waratan, and Madison, identifying the site as occupied during the Middle and Late Woodland periods. Louis Berger and Marstel-Day focused their Phase II investigation on the bluff landform within the larger site area. Artifacts and other evidence recovered from the Louis Berger and Marstel-Day Phase II investigation confirmed that the site is multicomponent, and was occupied several times from the Early Woodland to the Middle Woodland periods; with the slim possibility of a Middle to Late Archaic occupation. Based on the number of diagnostic artifacts, the most intense periods of occupation were during the Early and Middle Woodland periods. Lithic material included biface reduction flakes and flake fragments, and one Popes Creek body sherd was recovered. Three features were also uncovered, two in Unit 7, and one in Unit 8. Feature 3, in Unit 8, was identified as a hearth. It yielded a possible Otter Creek Point, which dates to the Middle or Late Archaic, and a C-14 analysis dated the feature to 731 ± 26 yBP. As a result of these finds and the stratigraphic integrity of the site, it is recommended to be determined NRHP eligible under criterion D. The site does not meet NRHP Criteria A, B, or C. The site has information potential related to the poorly understood Middle Archaic Period, as well as information potential on camp sites in the Middle and Late Woodland periods.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95002791, 18CH623 SF