



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18CH625

Site Name: Chickamuxen Knoll

Prehistoric

Other name(s) A-3

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Late Archaic and Late Woodland short-term camp

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 11

SCS soil & sediment code LsB

Latitude 38.5392 Longitude -77.2376

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) Chickamuxen Creek

#### Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

#### Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 2 m

## Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Archaic site

MD Adena

Early archaic

Early woodland

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

Late archaic

Late woodland

Contact period site  ca. 1820 - 1860

ca. 1630 - 1675  ca. 1860 - 1900

ca. 1675 - 1720  ca. 1900 - 1930

ca. 1720 - 1780  Post 1930

ca. 1780 - 1820

Unknown historic context

Unknown prehistoric context

Unknown context

### Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American  Asian American

African American  Unknown

Anglo-American  Other

Hispanic

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

## Site Function Contextual Data:

### Prehistoric

Multi-component  Misc. ceremonial

Village  Rock art

Hamlet  Shell midden

Base camp  STU/lithic scatter

Rockshelter/cave  Quarry/extraction

Earthen mound  Fish weir

Cairn  Production area

Burial 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

Post-in-ground

Battlefield

Fortification

Encampment

Townsite

Religious

Church/mtg house

Ch support bldg

Burial area

Cemetery

Sepulchre

Isolated burial

Bldg or foundation

Possible Structure

## 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"/> 1
		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

<b>Earthenware</b>		Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Stoneware</b>	
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"/>	<b>Porcelain</b>	<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"/> 56	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	<input type="checkbox"/> 24	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 26	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input 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"/> 1
		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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Brief Description:

Late Archaic and Late Woodland short-term camp

Unknown

## External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC Lab

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

Site 18CH625, also known as Chickamuxen Knoll or Site A-3, is a Late Archaic and Late Woodland lithic reduction site. 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. A sketch of the activity's layout during World War II shows two unidentified structures in the site vicinity (labeled "18" and "19"). A map of the area from 1959 shows a shelter (Building 53SN) standing north of the site area. This shelter was demolished at an unknown point in time. A magazine structure (Building 2054) was constructed north of the site circa 1962 and has also been demolished. An additional structure, characterized as a training area tank (Building 2055) was also constructed north of the site circa 1962 and has subsequently been demolished. The environs of Site 18CH625 have not recently been in active military use.

Site 18CH625 was identified during a Phase I survey by RCG in 1998. The site is located approximately 230 feet east of Site 18CH623, and is situated on a low terrace overlooking Chickamuxen Creek. RCG noted that a portion of the site may have eroded down the slope into the creek. The Phase I assemblage from the site included artifacts from the Late Archaic and Late Woodland Periods, and the assemblage indicated that site activities were principally early-stage lithic reduction. RCG noted they did not believe the site had been plowed. Prehistoric artifacts were recovered from depths as much as 62 cms.

In 2017, further investigation was completed by Louis Berger and Marstel-Day. Site 18CH625 was relocated through a pedestrian reconnaissance and was then subjected to subsurface testing. The reconnaissance revealed that the site is not suffering from substantial erosion into Chickamuxen Creek. No artifacts were recovered from the beach alongside the site, and the bluff had no signs of recent slump. Based on the relative stability of the site, a decision was made by Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Washington to test Site 18CH625 minimally and then expend more archaeological effort at Site 18CH388. Consequently, no shovel tests were excavated in the site area, and testing consisted of the excavation of two test units (Test Units 1 and 2). Test Unit 1 was excavated in the central part of a small ridge landform, while Test Unit 2 was excavated next to the bluff leading down to Chickamuxen Creek.

Unit 1 was placed on the west side of the site, approximately 80 feet west of the bluff. The unit assemblage consisted of nine lithic artifacts and four prehistoric ceramic sherds. The presence of FCR suggests that a hearth feature may have been nearby, but no features were encountered in the unit. Non-lithic artifacts from the unit included four prehistoric ceramic sherds, of which two were very small, with eroded surfaces and unidentifiable temper. The remaining two sherds had smoothed interior surfaces and sand temper.

Unit 2 was placed on the site's east side, nearer to the bluff. It was considerably more productive than Unit 1 and produced 103 artifacts. The majority of artifacts (N=77) were found in the A-horizon, from between 0.2 and 0.9 feet bgs. Eighty lithic artifacts were found in Unit 2. Approximately 63 percent are classified as debitage, primarily tertiary flakes. This indicates tool maintenance, such as resharpening, was likely the main activity at this part of the site. The only tool recovered was a Potomac triangular point dating to the Late Woodland Period (ca. 1300 to 1700 AD). Fire-cracked rock and cracked rock (split thermally, but not discolored) makes up approximately 36 percent of the lithic assemblage. This suggests that cooking activities, such as stone boiling or pit roasting, also took place at the site. Twenty-two prehistoric ceramic sherds were collected. Those that were not too eroded or fragmentary had visible quartz- and sand-temper, and a few were grit- or shell-tempered. Without more discernable attributes, the sherds can only be dated broadly to the Woodland Period.

In summary, artifacts recovered during the limited Phase II excavations at Site 18CH625 suggest habitation during the Woodland Period. The identification of a Potomac Triangle point may indicate a tighter time range for occupation during the Late Woodland Period. Artifact types, such as tertiary flake debitage and FCR, are likely indicative of tool maintenance and food preparation at the location. The Phase I survey by RCG in 1998, as previously reviewed, indicates that there may be a Late Archaic Period component at the site in addition to Woodland Period components. Louis Berger and Marstel-Day archaeologists investigated the site and found it to be in relatively stable condition with minimal erosion. Consequently, the design for Phase II investigation was scaled back, and the site was investigated with the excavation of two test units. The test unit excavation confirmed the site location and Late Woodland Period occupation, but testing was not sufficient to determine the site's significance or to adequately gauge site integrity. Site 18CH625 is recommended for future Phase II investigation.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95002791, 18CH625 SF