



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18CH629

Site Name: Dead Black Snake

Prehistoric

Other name(s) C-3

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Early Woodland hunting, resource procurement, and tool production camp

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 11

SCS soil & sediment code GcB,WdaB,GmF

Latitude 38.5516

Longitude -77.1939

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m

Site slope 0-40%

Ethnobotany profile available Maritime site

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Unnamed tributary of Matta

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 0 m

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

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 High terrace

Hilltop/bluff Rockshelter/cave

Interior flat Hillslope

Upland flat Unknown

Ridgetop Other

Terrace

Low terrace

Ownership

Private

Federal

State of MD

Regional/county/city

Unknown

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Archaic site

MD Adena

Early archaic

Early woodland

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

Late archaic

Late woodland

Unknown prehistoric context

Contact period site

ca. 1820 - 1860

ca. 1630 - 1675

ca. 1860 - 1900

ca. 1675 - 1720

ca. 1900 - 1930

ca. 1720 - 1780

Post 1930

ca. 1780 - 1820

Unknown historic 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

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

Y

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken



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Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types		Koens-Crispin	
Clovis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>
Le Croy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Morrow Mntn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guilford	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brewerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Madison/Potomac	<input type="checkbox"/>
Otter Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Levanna	<input type="checkbox"/>

Prehistoric Sherd Types

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

Historic Sherd Types

Earthenware		Ironstone		Staffordshire		Stoneware	
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	<input type="checkbox"/>			Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>
						Wt Salt-glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	238	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	2	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls		Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	21	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)		Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	5	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds		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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)		Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)		Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural		Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture		Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arms		Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing		Misc.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal items		Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features

Const feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Privy/outhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	Depression/mound	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Hearth/chimney	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Earthworks	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Planting feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mill raceway	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Paling ditch/fence	<input type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wheel pit	<input type="checkbox"/>		

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Radiocarbon Data:

Sample 1: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 2: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 3: +/- years BP Reliability

Sample 4: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 5: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 6: +/- years BP Reliability

Sample 7: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 8: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 9: +/- years BP Reliability

Additional radiocarbon results available



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External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC Lab

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Site 18CH629, also known as Dead Black Snake or Site C-3, is a Early Woodland hunting, resource procurement, and tool production camp. The site is located near Rum Point, in the northeast area of Stump Neck on a ridge and low terrace of Mattawoman Creek. 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 Grosstown-Marr-Hoghole complex, diverse soils formed in gravelly silt loam or sandy loam that are mapped at the installation in areas with high slope. All three principal constituent soil series (Grosstown, Marr, and Hoghole) are well-drained.

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.

The Union Army had a supply depot (Rum Point depot) at Stump Neck from 1861 to 1862. The depot location is indicated on Figure 5. A drawing of the depot is shown in Figure 12. In early October 1861, General Hooker established his divisional headquarters in and around Stump Neck and the lower Mattawoman Creek. He erected earthworks on the Indian Head peninsula and constructed supply depots at Rum Point (part of Stump Neck) and nearby Liverpool Point. The Rum Point supply depot included substantial warehouses and a wharf. The Army built Rum Point Road, a corduroy road, made of layers of brush, logs, clay, and sand.

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 Rum Point area was not part of the initial (1901) Navy acquisition of Stump Neck; the Rum Point area was acquired in 1966, with the Navy taking possession in 1969. A map of the installation in 1959 shows Rum Point as private property, but does indicate cultural features and topography; the environs of Site 18CH629 were undeveloped at that time. More recent maps of the area also show no buildings constructed in the site environs.

Site 18CH629 was also first recorded during the intensive Phase I survey of Stump Neck conducted by RCG in 1998. The site is located near Rum Point, in the northeastern portion of Stump Neck Annex. The site extends inland from Mattawoman Creek following a low ridge to the peninsula's interior.

RCG defined the site based on 14 positive shovel tests yielding a total of 18 prehistoric artifacts. The authors noted that site deposits are diffuse. The assemblage is principally debitage, but also includes a core, a hammerstone, and three pieces of fire-cracked rock. No diagnostic artifacts were recovered, and the site is of unknown age. Site activities were thought to be principally the procurement and production of stone tools, and the site was thought to be possibly a hunting camp.

In 2017, further investigation was completed by Louis Berger and Marstel-Day. Phase II investigation of Site 18CH629 involved excavation of four STPs and six test units. Test units were located based on finds from the Phase I excavations. Shovel tests were judgmentally placed, also based on finds from the previous excavations. One feature was identified, in Test Unit 1. A total of 263 artifacts were recovered at Site 18CH629, including 19 from Feature 1.

Artifacts were found in two STPs, J1 and J4. Each contained one quartz debitage fragment, found in the E-horizon. One of these appeared to be subject to heating; the other did not show signs of heat treatment. Both were interior fragments without cortex.

Unit 1 encountered one feature. A total of 146 artifacts were recovered from Unit 1; 127 artifacts were recovered from non-feature matrix, and 19 from Feature 1 matrix. These were all lithics and included 116 pieces of debitage, two projectile point tips, five pieces of fire-cracked rock, two hammerstones, one pot lid, and one uniface. One flake has been utilized. The debitage found in this unit represents many parts of the reduction process and contains both cortical and noncortical and heated and unheated specimens.

Feature 1 contained a 10 YR 5/4 yellow brown silt loam and the feature was ovate in shape, measured 1.5 x 1.0 feet in plain view, and extended to 1.1 feet below surface. A total of 19 artifacts were recovered in the feature, including flakes, debitage, and two small prehistoric pottery fragments. The majority (12) of debitage recovered was quartz or quartzite unheated bifacial reduction flakes. Two prehistoric ceramic sherds were also recovered. These were thin-bodied, quartz-tempered, small body fragments with no decoration apart from interior and exterior smoothing. Together, the two fragments weighed only 1.1 grams (0.04 oz.). Feature 1 is likely a leached-out hearth, indicated by the heated chert and darker gray soil matrix, or possibly a pit feature.

Unit 2 did not encounter any features. A total of 28 artifacts were recovered in this test unit, including 27 lithic artifacts and one small eroded prehistoric ceramic sherd with indeterminate temper that weighed 0.9 g. Artifacts were principally recovered from the E-horizon.

Unit 3 did not encounter any features. Fourteen artifacts were recovered in TU 3. All were prehistoric lithics. Of the 11 debitage pieces recovered, eight were interior flakes, and three decortication flakes. None are heat-treated. Table 48 shows the finds. One quartz projectile point was recovered. The projectile point is small, with a weak stem, and is tentatively identified as Calvert, a type which dates to the Early Woodland Period. It appears to be unheated.

Unit 4 did not encounter any features. Eight artifacts were recovered in this test unit, all lithic material, evenly divided between quartz and quartzite, although the one tool, the biface, was made from quartz. Table 49 below lists the artifacts. With the exception of the one early reduction quartz flake recovered from the



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E-horizon, all were recovered from the A-horizon. Their total weight was 152 grams (5.2 oz.). Without the FCR and tested cobble, the weight is only 83.5 grams (2.9 oz.), 40 percent of which is the weight of one biface.

Unit 5 did not encounter any features. The A-horizon described in the field notes from Unit 5 indicate it is thinner than average for the site. This is also noticed in the Unit 1 profile and could be the result of horizon thinning due to colluvial action. A total of 20 artifacts were recovered. These include quartz, quartzite, and rhyolite flakes and fragments. Cortical and noncortical and heated and unheated flakes and debitage were recovered.

Unit 6 did not encounter any features. A total of 45 artifacts was recovered. These include 37 pieces of debitage, all quartz or quartzite, three prehistoric ceramic sherds, and five FCR fragments. Debitage and flakes were both cortical and noncortical, and included both heated and unheated pieces. Of the three pieces of prehistoric ceramic, one is a body sherd displaying a cord-marked exterior with a smoothed interior, while the other two are in poor condition and too small for further analysis.

A significant majority of the artifacts recovered at site 18CH629 came from Units 1 and 6. These units were located on a higher rise along the water. The artifacts recovered at 18CH629 are prehistoric lithics and ceramics. The lithics indicate tool maintenance activities. Few cobbles, cores, or preforms were recovered; however, a greater amount of mid-stage debitage was recovered. Several bifaces were recovered at this site, but they provide little diagnostic information. The tentatively identified Calvert Point would suggest occupation during the Early Woodland Period. Several prehistoric ceramic sherds were also recovered. The ceramic sherds cannot be typed and, therefore, provide little diagnostic information aside from indicating a Woodland Period occupation.

The Phase II investigation confirmed some of the conclusions drawn during the Phase I conducted by RCG (Maymon et al. 1998)—namely, that the site was a camp, possibly a hunting camp, where site activities were principally the reduction of stone tools. The Phase II was able to date site activity to the Early Woodland Period. The lithic assemblage indicate stone tool maintenance activities, rather than tool production.

In summary, the site was also first recorded during the intensive Phase I survey of Stump Neck Annex and Rum Point conducted by RCG in 1998. The site was thought to be possibly a hunting camp. The site sits mainly on flat, high ground and was first identified as a resource procurement or hunting camp site with prehistoric lithic artifacts found across the site in a diffuse pattern (Maymon et al. 1998). No diagnostic artifacts were recovered during the Phase I excavations. The presence of a hammerstone, core fragment, and flakes suggested some tool manufacturing took place at that location, and the lack of cortex on the flakes suggests secondary manufacture took place there. The Phase II excavations yielded additional artifacts to support this finding. Lithic material included hammerstones, flakes and flake fragments, including biface reduction flakes. A hearth (Feature 1) was also identified, which contained heated chert. Prehistoric ceramic fragments were also recovered although they could not be identified as to type. One Calvert point, dating to the Early Woodland, was found in Unit 3. Most of the artifacts recovered came from units that had been located on a higher rise along the water. No plowscars were identified in the excavation, and stratigraphy appears to be intact. Because of the material recovered, the presence of the feature, and the intact stratigraphy, Site 18CH629 is recommended to be determined NRHP-eligible under criterion D. The site does not meet NRHP Criteria A, B, or C. Site 18CH629 has the potential to yield significant information on Early Woodland Period camp sites and tool maintenance activities.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95002791, 18CH629 SF