



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18CH673

Site Name: Site 2, Area A

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Strauss Avenue Bluff

Historic

Brief Description:

Early Archaic and Late Woodland short-term camp; Early 20th century artifact scatter

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 11

SCS soil & sediment code HgB

Latitude 38.5935

Longitude -77.1839

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 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) Potomac River

Saltwater

- Ocean
- Estuary/tidal river
- Tidewater/marsh

Freshwater

- Stream/river
- Swamp
- Lake or pond
- Spring

Minimum distance to water is 100 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Contact period site ca. 1820 - 1860

ca. 1630 - 1675 ca. 1860 - 1900

Archaic site

MD Adena

ca. 1675 - 1720 ca. 1900 - 1930

Early archaic

Early woodland

ca. 1720 - 1780 Post 1930

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

ca. 1780 - 1820

Late archaic

Late woodland

Unknown historic context

Unknown prehistoric 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

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

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

Flotation samples taken N

Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken N

Flotation samples taken N

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"/>	7	

Historic Sherd Types

Earthenware		Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	7	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stoneware
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>		Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>	English Brown
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>		Whiteware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eng Dry-bodied
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>			9	Nottingham
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	<input type="checkbox"/>		Porcelain	<input type="checkbox"/>	15
							Rhenish
							Wt Salt-glazed

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	549	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	1	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls		Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	54	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	7	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	22	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	4	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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	59	Activity item(s)	14
Glass (all)	180	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	102	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture		Misc. kitchen	49
Arms		Floral material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	1	Misc.	30
Personal items	3	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>	modern burn feature; concrete sign footers, brick steps	
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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Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Site 18CH673 (Site 2, Area A) is the apparent remains of a Late Woodland short-term camp and historic period artifact scatter. The site is situated on the property of the Naval Surface Warfare Center at Indian Head, Charles County, Maryland. This site is on Cornwallis Neck, near the confluence of Mattawoman Creek and the Potomac River. Terrain at the site area consists of a high riverine terrace and most of the vegetation in the area is lawn manicured by base maintenance crews. Soils at the site were mapped as Mattawan Loamy Sand and Elkton Silt Loam (1974). More recent USDA soils mapping shows the area as the Hoghole-Grosstown complex (2011). Mattawan Loamy Sand is sandy and moderately well drained to well drained.

The site was first identified during a 2000 Phase I survey for a parking lot project at the Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC). The site was located through shovel-testing. A total of 56 shovel test pits (STPs) was excavated at 15 meter intervals on transects placed 15 m apart. Delineation shovel tests were excavated at 7.5 m intervals around shovel tests containing isolated prehistoric artifacts and around site boundaries when required. Shovel tests measured approximately 35 cm in diameter and were excavated to a minimum depth of 100 cm, or 10 cm into sterile subsoil. Soils were removed by natural strata and screened through hardware cloth. Artifacts visible on the surface were opportunistically collected, however, no systematic surface collections were made as snow cover in the field inhibited visual examination of the ground surface. All pre-modern artifacts were retained.

Both prehistoric and historic components were identified at 18CH673. The prehistoric sub-assembly consisted of 73 lithic artifacts and 1 Potomac Creek ceramic sherd. The lithics include a quartz biface, 4 quartz cores, 3 pieces of chert debitage, 13 pieces of quartz debitage, 34 fragments of quartzite debitage, 2 pieces of rhyolite debitage, a mano fragment, 2 hammerstones, a heated cobble, and 12 pieces of fire-cracked rock. The presence of fire-cracked rock in the assemblage indicates at least short-term encampment on the terrace. The recovery of one Potomac Creek ceramic sherd documents a Late Woodland occupation at the site. The historic component consisted of two historic artifact scatters (one modern discard from military activities and the other kitchen midden), a brick walkway or patio feature, and several concrete piers. The 184 historic artifacts include 5 activity items (a machine part and 4 storage can fragments), 37 architectural objects (2 window glass fragments, 3 brick pieces, 30 wire nails, & 2 unidentified nails), 1 metal personal object, 137 kitchen remains, and 4 miscellaneous objects (3 pieces of metal and 1 piece of coal slag). The kitchen sub-assembly included 4 ceramic sherds (ironstone), 88 miscellaneous glass fragments, a metal canning jar lid, a crown cap, and 43 oyster shell fragments.

Based on the Phase I findings, Phase II testing was recommended within a portion of the site which could not be avoided during parking lot construction. This was undertaken later in August of 2000. Phase II evaluation of the site primarily focused on the investigation of the nature and extent of the prehistoric component in the eastern portion of the site. Specifically, efforts were made to evaluate the vertical and horizontal integrity of the site, based on the presence or absence of intact features and/or deposits, the identification of disturbed soils or unusual soil stratigraphy, and patterns of distribution of artifacts across the site. Further research goals aimed at determining the period of occupation and nature of land use, and identifying and characterizing activity areas at the site.

In an effort to delineate site boundaries and to define more clearly the horizontal distribution of material remains, Phase II investigations involved systematic shovel testing at 7.5 m intervals. A total of 112 STPs was excavated during Phase II evaluation of the site. The same shovel testing methods were utilized at the Phase II level, as were used during Phase I investigations. In addition, twelve 1 X 1 m test units were excavated across the site to further investigate the presence or absence of intact features and deposits and to provide a database reflecting the vertical and horizontal distribution of cultural remains. Test units were placed adjacent to positive shovel tests and were excavated in natural stratigraphic levels or in 10 cm arbitrary levels within natural strata. Soil was screened through hardware cloth. Modern materials encountered in shovel tests and test units were noted but not collected.

The Phase II evaluation recovered a total of 461 prehistoric artifacts from shovel tests and test units from the eastern portion of 18CH673. The prehistoric sub-assembly included 1 unfinished biface, 400 pieces of debitage, 1 hammerstone, 41 fragments of fire-cracked rock, and 18 ceramic sherds (including 4 rims). Three of the ceramic sherds could be positively identified as Potomac Creek ware, and all of the sherds came from disturbed plowzone contexts. No cultural features were encountered. The dominant lithic raw material was quartzite, followed by quartz, chert, rhyolite, and an indeterminate material type. Artifacts were fairly well-dispersed with little evidence of clustering. There were some slightly higher concentrations in the western portion of the Phase II study area (the center of the site).

The dispersal of the prehistoric assemblage recovered appears to reflect repeated brief periods of prehistoric activity at the site. Modern disturbances such as plowing and other past military activities or construction may account for general evidence of mixed contexts. The assemblage provides no evidence for any sort of prolonged occupation. A large quantity of secondary and non-cortical debitage in the sub-assembly indicates an area of primarily late stage lithic reduction. The lack of cores indicates major primary reduction is occurring elsewhere, perhaps at the site of lithic procurement. Interestingly, the paucity of bifaces in general indicates that the finishing of lithic tools is also occurring elsewhere. The general activity in this area is most likely the further reduction of rough blanks before being transported to a finishing area. Based on the number of objects bearing cobble cortex, occupants of the site relied primarily on stream-bed cobble sources for raw material rather than bedrock sources. Fire-cracked rock was not encountered in concentrations that would suggest the presence of intact features.

Due to the percentage of prehistoric artifacts recovered within the plowzone, the general degree of post-occupational disturbance, and the lack of diagnostic artifacts and features, the prehistoric component of Site 18CH673 does not seem to warrant further investigation.

A total of 171 historic artifacts were recovered from shovel tests and test units during the Phase II testing at 18CH673. Most of the artifacts were kitchen-related or architectural. The complete historic sub-assembly consisted of 8 activity items (2 doll parts & 6 non-electrical wire fragments), 54 architectural objects (7 sewerage pipe fragments, 11 pieces of window glass, 2 brick fragments, 1 bolt, 1 screw, 1 construction staple, and 31 nails), 1 clothing item (a glass button), 1 personal item (a penny), 87 kitchen-related artifacts, and 20 miscellaneous objects (18 pieces of metal, 1 piece of coal, and 1 unidentified stone). The kitchen artifacts were 33 ceramic sherds (9 whiteware, 2 ironstone, 15 later porcelain types, 6 domestic brown stoneware sherds, and 1 coarse earthenware), 52 miscellaneous glass pieces, and 2 metal kitchen container objects. Datable artifacts span a date range from 1800 to the present. Some 93% of the assemblage was recovered from beneath the plowzone, but mixed with prehistoric material, suggesting a considerable degree of disturbance. No intact historic features were encountered during Phase II investigations.

The historic component of the site consisted of a spatially dispersed assemblage, likely associated with agricultural practices and refuse discard during the



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Unknown

mid to late 19th and 20th centuries. Archival evidence indicates that the Cornwallis Neck area was used for farming from as early as the 17th century up until it was purchased by the Navy at the end of the 19th century. In 1890, a portion of land in the vicinity was used to build Swann's Court, a planned, segregated African-American community. According to maps and Phase I investigations, remains of Swann's Court extend into the western portion of Site 18CH673. However, no evidence of that historic site was encountered.

Based on historic evidence and the results of Phase II investigations, the historic assemblage from this portion of the site constitutes an historic scatter distributed evenly across the site by years of plowing fields and modern grading from the construction of nearby roads and adjacent buildings and parking lots. The assemblage is not representative of any particular time or place; rather it is likely a mix of material from an early farmstead that occupied the area, from nearby Swann's Court, or from recent military activity. Because no horizontal patterning or integrity could be demonstrated, and no obviously intact deposits or features were encountered to establish vertical integrity, the historic component at 18CH673 lacks research potential and does not warrant further investigation.

In 2015, Louis Berger conducted Phase II testing of the southern portion of Site 18CH673. Eighty shovel tests were excavated; of these 80 shovel tests, 21 yielded only prehistoric artifacts, 12 yielded historic artifacts, and one yielded both. A total of 83 prehistoric artifacts and 46 historic artifacts were recovered by shovel testing. All these artifacts were recovered from the plowzone or immediately beneath it. The prehistoric artifacts recovered from shovel tests include five sherds and 34 lithic artifacts. Three of the sherds represent a sand and grit-tempered ware that may be assignable to Potomac Creek or Moyaone, Late Woodland to Contact period types (AD 1200 to 1600); the other two sherds are small fragments that cannot be assigned to any type.

Additionally, test units were placed judgmentally in areas where artifact concentrations were identified during the shovel testing; eight test units were excavated. The artifact quantities recovered from these units were uniformly low, ranging from a minimum of two (in Test Units 5 and 6) to a maximum of only 12 (in Test Unit 2). The total from all eight units is only 51 artifacts: seven historic/recent, 44 prehistoric (plus one charcoal sample). The prehistoric artifacts comprise a projectile point (two refitting pieces), a hammerstone, 25 pieces of debitage, and 16 small sherds and ceramic crumbs.

Shovel Test N1015 E1000 encountered a deposit of charcoal (Feature 1). This feature appeared as a thin lens of carbonized material and ash, with some rocks in the matrix. Prehistoric artifacts were recovered from the shovel test but none was found in the feature context. A test unit was subsequently excavated adjacent to the shovel test (Test Unit 1, discussed below); within this unit there was some ash and disturbed soil in the feature area, but again no prehistoric artifacts lay within the feature context. Feature 1 is interpreted as a modern burn feature, perhaps associated with explosive ordnance detonation, or perhaps representing a modern campfire. No other archaeological features were identified in the shovel testing.

During the Phase I survey several pieces of structural material were found near a berm. Two of the structural pieces are poured concrete footers; the concrete was poured around dimensional lumber. The gap in the concrete corresponds to the dimensions of what is sold as 2x6 lumber. The concrete footers are interpreted as supports for a sign. Also found near the road berm on the surface was a small set of mortared brick steps. The steps are partially covered by soil, and it appears that the steps were part of the fill soil used to create the berm.

Eighty shovel tests and five units excavated at Site 18CH673 revealed a light and patchy scatter of Archaic, Woodland, and nineteenth- and twentieth-century artifacts. In view of the low density and lack of stratigraphic separation of these components, the southern portion of Site 18CH673 is recommended as not eligible for listing in the NRHP. No additional investigation of Site 18CH673 was recommended. Due to this recommendation, there is the likelihood that this portion of the site will be impacted by future work at the Naval facility.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

97000333, 97000548, 95002612