



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18CH729

Site Name: P-MLD-4

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

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 Bo

Latitude 38.5951

Longitude -76.7817

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) Unnamed tributary of Swan

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Spring

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Minimum distance to water is 457 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

Asian American

African American

Unknown

Anglo-American

Other

Hispanic

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

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"/>	
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Le Croy	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Morrow Mntn	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Guilford	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Brewerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Otter Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Koens-Crispin	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jacks Rf (pent)	<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

Earthenware	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stoneware	
Astbury	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	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	125	
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Fire-cracked rock	18	
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Storage/trash pit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shell midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ossuary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
House pattern(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Hearth(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Lithic reduc area	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Lithic Material

Jasper	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fer quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sil sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Arms	1	
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Tobacco related	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Misc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Historic Features

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

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Radiocarbon Data:

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

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

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

Additional radiocarbon results available



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Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Site 18CH729 (P-MLD-04) is a Late Archaic and Late Woodland short-term camp site located in northern Charles County, Maryland. The site is situated within a wooded mid-slope terrace overlooking an unnamed swamp/wetlands to the south. A small intermittent stream borders the southeast margin of the site. Construction of gas pipeline in the 1970s and residential developments nearby have truncated portions of the site on the north and west.

The site was first identified during Phase I survey in 2004 as part of a liquefied natural gas (LNG) pipeline project in Calvert, Charles, and Prince George's Counties. The proposed construction work involved the installation of a 36-inch pipeline over 48 miles of right-of-way, as well as construction of ancillary facilities (e.g. pipeyards and access roads). As such, Phase I and, in some cases, Phase II work was conducted throughout the pipeline right-of-way and in other areas that might be impacted by the construction. In the vicinity of Site 18CH729, this work entailed the excavation of 11 shovel test pits (STPs) which indicated that the site was roughly 22.5 m east-west and 10 m north-south. Typically throughout the LNG pipeline right-of-way (ROW), two transects of STPs were deployed along either side of the ROW centerline, with STPs excavated every 15 meters. Positive STPs were investigated with 4 radial shovel tests surrounding them. STPs measured approximately 50 cm in diameter, and were excavated in natural soil horizons 15 cm into sterile subsoil. Excavated soils were screened through hardware mesh.

Based on initial shovel testing, stratigraphy at Site 18CH729 contained an A-B soil horizon sequence, consisting of a sandy loam A horizon above a sandy loam subsoil. The A horizon in the positive STPs measured ca. 5-20 cm thick. Phase I survey at 18CH729 yielded 14 artifacts, including a Late Woodland triangular projectile point, 6 flakes, and 7 pieces of fire-cracked rock. The flaked stone objects are of quartz and quartzite. The presence of fire-cracked rock (possible features) coupled with the absence of Late Woodland pottery raised the prospect that the site represented a task-specific locale rather than an occupation by a broader residential group. The site was interpreted to be the remains of one or more brief Native American encampments adjacent to the swamp. Since the site could not be avoided during pipeline construction, Phase II testing was recommended.

Phase II work was conducted in April of 2005 and included additional shovel testing as well as the excavation of 1 X 1 m test units. A grid was established using a total station and the centerline of the ROW as an arbitrary north-south axis. Grid north was oriented approximately 10° east of True North. Phase II fieldwork included 14 additional STPs at 5 m intervals to better define the eastern and western site margins. The same excavation methods were employed, but only 4 shovel tests yielded artifacts. Based on the supplementary shovel testing, the revised site size was determined to be 25 m east-west and 10 m north-south. Excavation of the supplementary STPs yielded 8 additional lithic artifacts.

Subsequent to the Phase II shovel testing, two 1 X 1 m test units were excavated to better evaluate the density of stratigraphic distribution of artifacts within the site. Test Unit 1 was excavated in the southwestern corner of the site, while Test Unit 2 was excavated within the center of the site; both near positive STPs. Test units were hand-excavated by arbitrary 10 cm levels within natural strata to a minimum depth of 10 cm into the B horizon and 10 cm below the last recovered artifact. Excavation of the two units yielded an additional 121 lithic artifacts and 1 modern/historic artifact (a shotgun shell). No cultural features were encountered. Each of the two test units contained a similar soil profile, including an O-A-Bw1-Bw2-BC-C horizon sequence. The site contains a poorly developed soil profile within sandy Coastal-Plain-derived sediments. The lack of soil development indicates that the landform itself dates to no earlier than the latter Holocene. A peak of artifacts within the Bw1 and Bw2 horizons likely reflects the fairly shallow top soil horizon (7-15 cmbs), which may indicate erosion of the landform over time and subsequent downward movement of artifacts by bioturbation and/or deflation. Alternatively, the subsoil peak in artifacts may reflect a possible prior land surface that has been overprinted by development of the modern soil.

Prehistoric artifacts recovered during Phase II excavations at 18CH729 included 1 possible Vernon or Halifax point, 3 unidentifiable points/point fragments, 1 biface, 1 endscraper, 112 flakes, and 11 pieces of fire-cracked rock. The majority of the lithics from both Phase I and II research were recovered from the southwestern portion of the site. Quartz and quartzite predominate in the assemblage (84% and 10.4%), followed by cherts and rhyolite. The only certain non-local material is the rhyolite, which likely derives from north-central Pennsylvania or south-central Maryland.

The two diagnostic points recovered at 18CH729 indicate at least two site occupations during the mid-late Holocene (Archaic-Woodland transitional and Late Woodland). Native Americans deposited their worn and broken quartz and quartzite projectile point fragments and collected local quartz, quartzite and chert cobbles from streams as raw material for point replacement. A high frequency of flaking debris from the early-middle stages of reduction, as well as dominance of flakes bearing cobble cortex suggests that hunters conducted mainly the initial stages of biface reduction at the site. Rhyolite appears at the site as biface-reduction flakes, suggesting its curation as late-stage bifaces/projectile points which were retouched and/or finished for use elsewhere. The lack of pottery and the recovery of only one unifacial tool (the endscraper) indicate a limited range of site activities and a settlement pattern oriented toward local travel, with only occasional long-distance movement via trade or individual mobility to mainland Maryland/Pennsylvania. Use of the site was likely as a short-term camp while hunting and gathering in uplands above the Patuxent and Potomac Rivers.

Based on disturbances to the northern portion of the site during prior gas pipeline installations, the site maintains poor-moderate integrity. The low artifact density, the apparent lack of intact features, and the presence of mixed deposits from at least 2 different occupations indicates a low potential to yield important information which could contribute to a better understanding of local and regional prehistory.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

97002596