



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18CH734

Site Name: P-SWB-31

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Prehistoric lithic scatter

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 11

SCS soil & sediment code B1C2

Latitude 38.6257

Longitude -77.0023

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 Matta

- | Saltwater | | Freshwater | |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------|
| Ocean <input type="checkbox"/> | Estuary/tidal river <input type="checkbox"/> | Stream/river <input checked="" 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 244 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

- Paleoindian site
- Archaic site
- Early archaic
- Middle archaic
- Late archaic
- 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
 - 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 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		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	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	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	111	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	1	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	1	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<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

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

Dated features present at site

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

Historic Features

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

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Site 18CH734 (P-SWB-31) is a lithic scatter of unknown prehistoric age located in northern Charles County, Maryland. The site is situated on an upland flat setting near the headwaters of two small intermittent streams. The two small streams drain the site to the north and east toward an unnamed tributary of Mattawoman Creek. A steep slope leading down to the two intermittent stream drainages marks the eastern limits of the site. Soils at the site are of the Beltsville-Grosstown-Woodstown complex.

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 18CH734, this work entailed the excavation of shovel test pits (STPs) where the LNG pipeline right-of-way (ROW) crossed through the site. Typically, this involved two transects of STPs 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. Four positive STPs led to the excavation of 7 additional radial STPs. None of the radial STPs resulted in the recovery of additional artifacts. Based on the distribution of finds, the site was initially divided up into areas "A" and "B", however, Phase II STP excavations would later reveal that these sub-areas actually joined to form one continuous site.

Based on Phase I STP excavations, the overall dimensions of Site 18CH734 measured approximately 82.5 m east-west and 45 m north-south. Phase I shovel testing recovered 23 lithic artifacts, including 22 debitage fragments and one use-modified sandstone object. Stratigraphy observed included a sandy loam A horizon overlying a clay loam B horizon subsoil. The main source of variation in the profile was in the thickness of the A horizon, ranging from 6-20 cm thick. Artifacts were generally recovered from the near surface A horizon, with no indication of a buried cultural component. Based on Phase I work, the site was determined to be the remains of a Native American encampment of unknown age. 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 east-west axis. Grid North was oriented approximately 15° east of magnetic north. Phase II fieldwork included the excavation of 51 additional STPs at 5 m intervals across the upland flat. Of these, seven yielded a total of 25 lithic artifacts from across the site. The same excavation methods were employed as were used at the Phase I stage. Based on these supplementary STPs, the areas previously designated Area A and Area B were joined into one discontinuous, L-shaped lithic scatter measuring approximately 45 m north-south and 50 m east-west. The decreased site size is due to the increased accuracy of Phase II mapping of STP locations with a total station.

In addition to the 51 STPs, Phase II fieldwork included the excavation of three 1 X 1 m test units. The three test units were judgmentally placed to sample the entire site area. 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 two of the test units failed to turn up any additional artifacts. One unit, in the northern portion of the site, did yield 65 lithic artifacts. No cultural features were identified during Phase II work at 18CH734 and no diagnostic artifacts indicative of the site's age were recovered.

Artifacts recovered during Phase II testing at 18CH734 include 2 late-stage bifaces, 1 early-stage biface, 1 core, 1 retouched flake, 84 pieces of flake debitage, and a piece of fire-cracked rock. Each of the test units contained an A-E-Bt1-Bt2-2C horizon sequence and had well-developed ridgetop soil profile formed in Late Pleistocene-age loess over Coastal-Plain sediments. Prehistoric artifacts were recovered entirely within the upper A and E horizons. Quartzite (85%) is the dominant lithic raw material, with quartz (14.2%), and sandstone (1%) present as well. Cortex is lacking on most artifacts (71.4%), with cobble cortex present on the remainder. No artifacts with block cortex were recovered.

The assemblage reflects a short-term camp or lithic-reduction station where an individual or small group of Native Americans briefly rested on one or more occasions during hunting and gathering activities in uplands east of Mattawoman Creek. While at the site, they conducted low-intensity tool production and maintenance activities. The age of the site is uncertain due to a lack of dateable artifacts or cultural features. The site's undated status, its low artifact density, and the apparent lack of features indicate that its information potential is poor. The site does retain good integrity, as reflected by the undisturbed soil profile documented in Phase II test units. However, due to low information potential, Site 18CH734 is unlikely to improve our understanding of Maryland prehistory.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

97002596