Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Site Number: 18CH740 **Site Name:** P-MNH-41

Other name(s)

Prehistoric ☑ Historic ☐ Unknown ☐

Brief Description: Prehistoric lithic scatter

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 11 SCS soil & sediment code AuD3

Latitude 38.6264 Longitude -77.0142 Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal Terrestrial site ☑ Underwater site ☐

Elevation m Site slope 5-10% 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	☐	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	☐

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Unnamed tributary of Matta

Saltwater		Freshwater	
Ocean	☐	Stream/river	☑
Estuary/tidal river	☐	Swamp	☐
Tidewater/marsh	☐	Lake or pond	☐
		Spring	☐

Minimum distance to water is 76 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site		Woodland site		Contact period site		ca. 1820 - 1860	
Archaic site		MD Adena		ca. 1630 - 1675		ca. 1860 - 1900	
Early archaic		Early woodland		ca. 1675 - 1720		ca. 1900 - 1930	
MIddle archaic		Mid. woodland		ca. 1720 - 1780		Post 1930	
Late archaic		Late woodland		ca. 1780 - 1820			
Unknown prehistoric context	Y			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	☐	Furnace/forge	☐	**Military**	☐	Post-in-ground	☐
Homestead	☐	Other	☐	Battlefield	☐	Frame-built	☐
Farmstead	☐	**Transportation**	☐	Fortification	☐	Masonry	☐
Mansion	☐	Canal-related	☐	Encampment	☐	Other structure	☐
Plantation	☐	Road/railroad	☐	**Townsite**	☐	**Slave related**	☐
Row/townhome	☐	Wharf/landing	☐	**Religious**	☐	**Non-domestic agri**	☐
Cellar	☐	Maritime-related	☐	Church/mtg house	☐	**Recreational**	☐
Privy	☐	Bridge	☐	Ch support bldg	☐	**Midden/dump**	☐
Industrial	☐	Ford	☐	**Burial area**	☐	**Artifact scatter**	☐
Mining-related	☐	**Educational**	☐	Cemetery	☐	**Spring or well**	☐
Quarry-related	☐	**Commercial**	☐	Sepulchre	☐	**Unknown**	☐
Mill	☐	Trading post	☐	Isolated burial	☐	**Other context**	☐
Black/metalsmith	☐	Store	☐	**Bldg or foundation**	☐		
		Tavern/inn	☐	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		Koens-Crispin	
Hardaway-Dalton		Perkiomen	
Palmer		Susquehana	
Kirk (notch)		Vernon	
Kirk (stem)		Piscataway	
Le Croy		Calvert	
Morrow Mntn		Selby Bay	
Guilford		Jacks Rf (notch)	
Brewerton		Jacks Rf (pent)	
Otter Creek		Madison/Potomac	
		Levanna	

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Prehistoric Sherd Types

				Shepard		Keyser	
Marcey Creek		Popes Creek		Townsend		Yeocomico	
Dames Qtr		Coulbourn		Minguannan		Monongahela	
Selden Island		Watson		Sullivan Cove		Susquehannock	
Accokeek		Mockley		Shenks Ferry			
Wolfe Neck		Clemson Island		Moyaone			
Vinette		Page		Potomac Crk			

Historic Sherd Types

Earthenware		Ironstone		Staffordshire		**Stoneware**	
Astbury		Jackfield		Tin Glazed		English Brown	
Borderware		Mn Mottled		Whiteware		Eng Dry-bodied	
Buckley		North Devon		**Porcelain**		Nottingham	
Creamware		Pearlware				Rhenish	
						Wt Salt-glazed	

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts

		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	39	Human remain(s)	☐
Ground stone		Modified faunal	
Stone bowls		Unmod faunal	
Fire-cracked rock	26	Oyster shell	☐
Other lithics (all)	1	Floral material	☐
Ceramics (all)		Uncommon Obj.	
Rimsherds		Other ☐	

Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)		Storage/trash pit	☐
Midden	☐	Burial(s)	☐
Shell midden	☐	Ossuary	☐
Postholes/molds	☐	Unknown	☐
House pattern(s)	☐	Other	☐
Palisade(s)	☐		
Hearth(s)	☐		
Lithic reduc area	☐		

Lithic Material

		Fer quartzite	☐	Sil sandstone	☐
Jasper	☐	Chalcedony	☐	European flint	☐
Chert	☐	Ironstone	☐	Basalt	☐
Rhyolite	☐	Argilite	☐	Unknown	☐
Quartz	☑	Steatite	☐	Other	☐
Quartzite	☐	Sandstone	☐		

☐ **Dated features present at site**

Historic Artifacts

		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)		Activity item(s)	
Glass (all)		Human remain(s)	☐
Architectural		Faunal material	☐
Furniture		Misc. kitchen	
Arms		Floral material	☐
Clothing		Misc.	
Personal items		Other ☐	

Historic Features

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

Unknown	☐		
Other	☐		

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 18CH740 (P-MNH-41) is a lithic scatter of unknown prehistoric age located in northern Charles County, Maryland. The site is situated on a high erosional terrace overlooking an unnamed tributary of Mattawoman Creek to the southwest. It sits within a wooded setting on a landform, which has been highly dissected by erosion, with the site's southern, eastern, and western borders marked by steep slopes to the stream channel below. Soils at the site are of the Grosstown-Marr-Hoghole 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 18CH740, this work entailed the excavation of shovel test pits (STPs) where the LNG pipeline right-of-way (ROW) crossed through the site. This involved two transects of STPs deployed along either side of the ROW centerline, with STPs excavated every 16 meters. 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. Three consecutive positive STPs delineated a prehistoric lithic scatter with overall dimensions of 40 m east-west and 10 m north-south. Positive STPs were normally investigated with 4 radial shovel tests surrounding them, but because the site area was delimited by steep slopes, these radial STPs were not conducted.

Based on the initial STP excavation, stratigraphy at 18CH740 consisted of an A-B1-B2 soil sequence. Artifacts were recovered from the A and B1 horizons, demonstrating the near-surface nature of this prehistoric lithic scatter. Artifacts were limited to three specimens, one from each STP. These were a quartzite flake fragment exhibiting cobble cortex, a quartz indeterminate flake fragment, and a fire-cracked rock. The artifact density suggests a brief Native American encampment utilized at some point in the last 11,000 years of prehistory. Since the site could not be avoided during pipeline construction, Phase II testing was recommended.

Phase II work was conducted in May 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. Phase II fieldwork included the excavation of 38 close-interval shovel test pits at 5 m intervals within 5 east-west oriented transects. The goal of the additional STPs was to better understand internal artifact distributions and to refine site boundaries defined during Phase I survey. Close interval shovel testing produced an additional 4 lithic artifacts. A higher density of artifacts was identified within the central portion of the site.

To probe for possible prehistoric features and to further sample the site, researchers excavated two 1 X 1 m test units in the aforementioned high-density lithic concentration. Excavation of the two test units yielded 19 additional artifacts (11 from one and 8 from the other). The two test units exhibited either A-BE-Bt or A-BA-Bt horizons and demonstrate that the upper terrace landform encompassed by 18CH740 likely has remained stable for the last 5-8,000 years. Artifacts were most common in the A horizon (42.1%), but were also recovered from the BA/BE horizons (31.6%), and the basal Bt horizon (26.3%). Artifacts recovered from the subsoil horizons likely moved downward from the A horizon via bioturbation or other natural processes. The Phase II artifacts were 1 core, 1 cobble chopping/sawing tool, 35 flakes, 1 unmodified quartzite stream cobble, and 25 pieces of fire-cracked rock. No diagnostic artifacts were encountered, nor were any cultural features identified.

The lithic artifact assemblage is comprised of quartz (62.1%) and quartzite (27.3%), as well as trace amounts of sandstone and chert. There is a high percentage of artifacts with cobble cortex (28.8%) and a corresponding lack of artifacts with block cortex. The presence of a utilized cobble tool (for chopping/cutting), an unmodified cobble, 26 heat-modified cobbles (fire-cracked rock), a quartz freehand core (with cobble cortex), and a high percentage of cobble cortex on flakes, indicate that site occupants collected quartz and quartzite cobbles from local streambeds for reduction into bifaces or as cores for production of flake tools or other implements.

The assemblage reflects a short-term camp or lithic-reduction station where an individual or a small group of Native Americans briefly rested during hunting and gathering activities in uplands east of Mattawoman Creek. While at the site, they conducted low-intensity tool production and maintenance with local lithic materials. 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, the narrow range of site activities suggested by its simple artifact assemblage, 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, additional research at the site is unlikely to yield useful results.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

97002596