



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18CH847

Site Name: Potomac Chase 2

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Site 2-1

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Middle Archaic to Early Woodland short-term camp; Early 20th century trash scatter

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 11

SCS soil & sediment code BcA

Latitude 38.6242 Longitude -77.0563

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m Site slope 3-8%

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 79 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
- Unknown prehistoric context

- 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? 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 N

Flotation samples taken N Other samples taken



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## Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types		Koens-Crispin		0	
Clovis	0	Perkiomen	0		
Hardaway-Dalton	0	Susquehana	0		
Palmer	0	Vernon	0		
Kirk (notch)	0	Piscataway	0		
Kirk (stem)	0	Calvert	0		
Le Croy	0	Selby Bay	0		
Morrow Mntn	0	Jacks Rf (notch)	0		
Guilford	0	Jacks Rf (pent)	0		
Brewerton	0	Madison/Potomac	0		
Otter Creek	0	Levanna	0		

## Prehistoric Sherd Types

Marcey Creek	0	Popes Creek	0	Shepard	0	Keyser	0
Dames Qtr	0	Coulbourn	0	Townsend	0	Yeocomico	0
Selden Island	0	Watson	0	Minguannan	0	Monongahela	0
Accokeek	0	Mockley	0	Sullivan Cove	0	Susquehannock	0
Wolfe Neck	0	Clemson Island	0	Shenks Ferry	0		
Vinette	0	Page	0	Moyaone	0		
				Potomac Crk	0		

## Historic Sherd Types

<b>Earthenware</b>		Ironstone	2	Staffordshire	0	<b>Stoneware</b>	
Astbury	0	Jackfield	0	Tin Glazed	0	English Brown	0
Borderware	0	Mn Mottled	0	Whiteware	9	Eng Dry-bodied	0
Buckley	0	North Devon	0	<b>Porcelain</b>	2	Nottingham	0
Creamware	0	Pearlware	0			Rhenish	0
						Wt Salt-glazed	0

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

## Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		Other fired clay		0	
Flaked stone	990	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Ground stone	1	Modified faunal	0		
Stone bowls	0	Unmod faunal	0		
Fire-cracked rock	94	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Other lithics (all)	0	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Ceramics (all)	0	Uncommon Obj.	0		
Rimsherds	0	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>		

## Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)	0	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related		0	
Pottery (all)	15	Activity item(s)	0		
Glass (all)	44	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Architectural	9	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Furniture	0	Misc. kitchen	1		
Arms	0	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Clothing	0	Misc.	1		
Personal items	0	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"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input checked="" 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:  0 +/-  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 Lab

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

Site 18CH847, also known as Potomac Chase 2 site or Site 2-1, is a multicomponent site with a Middle Archaic to Early Woodland short-term camp and early 20th century trash scatter. The site is located near the county line between Charles and Prince George's County near Indian Head Manor. The site is located along a ridge landform; the overall area is relatively level and is moderately wooded with a mixture of deciduous trees and some pine trees. Soils in the vicinity of the site were identified as Baltimore gravelly loam, deep and poorly drained, located on a nearly level broad upland ridge landform.

Site 18CH847 was identified at the Phase I level as a multicomponent site which includes an indeterminate prehistoric camp site with a historic occupation dating from the early twentieth century. Shovel testing at 50-foot intervals with half-interval (25') radial shovel tests around artifact recovery locations, were conducted and soils were screened (1/4" mesh). The site was identified on a relatively level ridge landform ranging between 150 to 175 feet (45.7 to 53.3 m) above mean sea level (AMSL). The site was found to encompass a large majority of the landform. The landscape was noted as moderately wooded with a mixture of deciduous trees and pine.

During Phase I survey by Dovetail Cultural Resource Group, archeologists recovered a large assemblage of prehistoric and historic material. The assemblage primarily consisted of historic material representative of early-twentieth century disposal patterns of secondary deposits due to the location near the edge of slope, a preferred location for dumping activities. The prehistoric assemblage was dominated by late-stage quartz and quartzite flakes but also included some fire cracked rock (FCR). No subsurface features were identified during this phase of the investigation. The prehistoric component was found to overlap the historic occupation within the site and was concentrated along the western half of the site near the edge of the landform. Two lithic concentrations were identified within the prehistoric portion of the site that indicated the highest activity areas within the site. While no features were identified within site during the survey, the presence of FCR indicated a potential for subsurface features within this site.

At the conclusion of this Phase I survey, the site was recommended potentially eligible for listing on the NRHP and a county review concurred with Dovetail's recommendations. Specific recommendations on further work stipulated that evaluation level study should focus on the prehistoric component of the site located along the southern edge of the landform.

In September of 2014, Dovetail conducted a Phase II archeological evaluation of the prehistoric component within site 18CH847 located in Charles County, Maryland. The project was completed at the request of Pulte to assess the impact of residential development on site 18CH847 which was recommended potentially eligible for listing on the NRHP.

Phase II survey by Dovetail consisted of pedestrian survey, close-interval shovel testing, and test unit excavation. Shovel testing on grid resulted in the excavation of 78 additional shovel tests within the prehistoric artifact concentration of site 18CH847. Of these STPs, 34 contained artifacts. The 34 STPs recovered a total of 214 artifacts, with only 13 of the artifacts classified as historic and the remaining assemblage was prehistoric. The historic assemblage included eight brick fragments, one unidentified nail, two clear bottle fragments, one unidentified metal fragment, and one clam shell. Most of the historic assemblage was sporadically dispersed throughout the shovel testing area while the prehistoric assemblage was found in concentrations throughout this portion of the site. Given the ephemeral nature of the historic deposits at the site, as evidenced from Phase I testing and the current Phase II close-interval shovel testing results, the remainder of the Phase II investigations at the site focused on the prehistoric occupation of the site.

The prehistoric artifact assemblage collected during the close-interval shovel testing included four angular debris fragments, 167 flakes, 28 FCR fragments, one biface tool and a quartzite Orient Fishtail projectile point. All material types recovered appear to have been procured from local resource locations such as the nearby drainage channels and creek banks. The recovery of the diagnostic projectile point (Orient Fishtail) helped to assign a temporal association of a Terminal Archaic to Early Woodland occupation (circa 3500–2763 B.P.) to the site. The large quantity of artifacts helped to identify three prehistoric artifact concentrations within this portion of the site, which may be indicative of activity areas within the site. The artifact loci are located along the northern boundary and two locations in the southern portion of the site at STPs. These loci also correlate with general artifact concentrations identified during the previous testing. In addition to the artifact concentrations, an examination of FCR densities recovered during the shovel testing also corresponds with these loci.

To further assess the cultural deposits at site 18CH847, test units were excavated within the high artifact concentrations and locations recovering FCR within the site. While no subsurface features were identified during the close interval testing of site 18CH847, test unit excavations within these loci and throughout the site attempted to provide additional data on the spatial patterning of artifacts within the site and potentially identify subsurface features. Five 3-x-3 foot (0.9-x-0.9 m) test units were excavated within the southwestern portion of site 18CH847.

A total of 884 artifacts were recovered from the five test units with the majority of artifacts retrieved from the upper strata (I & II). The test unit artifact assemblage was entirely prehistoric with no artifacts temporally affiliated with the historic period. The prehistoric assemblage included two core fragments, 31 angular debris, 769 flakes, 66 FCR fragments, 13 biface tools, two projectile points and one hammerstone fragment.

Diagnostic artifacts were recovered from the two artifact concentrations (Loci 1 and 2) identified during the close-interval shovel testing and test unit excavations. These locations produced the highest quantity of artifacts within the site. The assemblages from these areas include lithic debitage (n=735), FCR fragments and a variety of tools. Locus 1 is located near the southern edge of the site core approximately 150 feet (45.7 m) from the southwestern edge of the landform. This area produced 97 artifacts which included FCR fragments during the shovel testing and additional 520 artifacts from the TU excavations. Two TUs were excavated within this locus to attempt to identify any potential subsurface features. Locus 2 produced 13 artifacts during the close-interval shovel testing and additional 296 from the TU excavations. This locus is located along the northern edge of the site core along the northwestern edge of the ridge landform overlooking the drainages to the north.

Overall, the Phase II artifact assemblage included 1,094 artifacts of which 13 are historic and the remaining are prehistoric (98.8 percent). Flakes comprised the majority of these artifacts (n=948). The majority of lithic material noted appears to be locally obtainable and can be largely found in streambeds near the site. During this Phase II site evaluation the recovery of several diagnostic projectile points and a large quantity of debitage suggest a recurrent use and lithic reduction activity at site 18CH847 dating from the Middle to Terminal Archaic Period (5500–3000 B.P.) through the Early Woodland Period (3000–2200 B.P.) (Figure 35). The Orient Fish Tail projectile point type is associated with the Susquehanna Broad cluster characterized by a broad blade with angular and sharp shoulders with an alternatively beveled V-shaped base. This point type ranges from the Late Archaic to the Early Woodland transitional period, circa



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Historic Brief  
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Unknown 

3700–3000 B.P. The Fishtail-type point can be found throughout the Piedmont and Coastal zones along the Eastern United States. The Halifax projectile point recovered is a side-notched point generally associated with the Archaic Period. These point types are widely dispersed throughout the Eastern United States range from small to large with triangular blades. This point type dates from 5500 to 4500 B.P. falling within the Middle to Late Archaic Period. Prehistoric pottery generally indicates a conclusive association to the Woodland period. While a lack of prehistoric pottery at this site does not eliminate a Woodland period affiliation it likely points to a more intensive Archaic period occupation.

The quantity and diversity of material recovered from this site is not indicative of a long term occupation at this site. As such, this site does not appear to have served as a village location or long-term camp site. However, it does appear to have been utilized as an intermittent resource procurement and processing station. It is also likely that this area was used to monitor game movement in the areas below the site. It is likely that while these activities were occurring, tool production and maintenance was taking place. Due to the location of this site, with good site lines for game monitoring and in close proximity to a range of resources, it is very likely that this site was used by local groups for many years and the accumulation of artifacts witnessed at this site reflects the repeated use of this location over a long period of time.

While the site appears to retain some vertical integrity within the highest artifact bearing stratigraphic layers, these layers are relatively shallow with extensive root system disturbances and lower artifact densities are found in the lower level of Stratum II. Due to extensive bioturbation, it appears the site is unlikely to yield intact cultural features. This site was likely utilized as a temporary or short-term camp and does not appear to have the potential to yield additional information on prehistoric life and settlement patterns in Charles County during the Archaic through Early Woodland Periods (Criterion D). There are no significant associations between these deposits and a significant historical event (Criterion A). There are no associations with significant persons (Criterion B), and the deposits do not illustrate the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction (Criterion C). As such site 18CH847 is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A–D.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95002831, 18CH847 SF