



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18CV491

Site Name: Dunkirk P&R1

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief Description:

Late Archaic and Early, Middle, & Late Woodland Short-term and Base Camp

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 8

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 38.7326

Longitude -76.6530

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m

Site slope 2-6%

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 Hall

- | 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 30 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

- Paleoindian site
- Archaic site
- Early archaic
- Middle archaic
- Late archaic
- Unknown prehistoric context
- 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

Flotation samples taken 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="text" value="0"/>	Koens-Crispin	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Perkiomen	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Palmer	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Susquehana	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Kirk (notch)	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Vernon	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Kirk (stem)	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Piscataway	<input type="text" value="6"/>
Le Croy	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Calvert	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Morrow Mntn	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Selby Bay	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Guilford	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Brewerton	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Otter Creek	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Madison/Potomac	<input type="text" value="0"/>
		Levanna	<input type="text" value="0"/>

Prehistoric Sherd Types

Marcey Creek	<input type="text" value="1"/>	Popes Creek	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Shepard	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Keyser	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Dames Qtr	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Coulbourn	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Townsend	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Yeocomico	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Selden Island	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Watson	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Minguannan	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Monongahela	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Accokeek	<input type="text" value="3"/>	Mockley	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Sullivan Cove	<input type="text" value="1"/>	Susquehannock	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Wolfe Neck	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Clemson Island	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Shenks Ferry	<input type="text" value="0"/>		
Vinette	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Page	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Moyaone	<input type="text" value="0"/>		
				Potomac Crk	<input type="text" value="0"/>		

Historic Sherd Types

Earthenware		Ironstone	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Staffordshire	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Stoneware	
Astbury	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Jackfield	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Tin Glazed	<input type="text" value="0"/>	English Brown	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Borderware	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Whiteware	<input type="text" value="4"/>	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Buckley	<input type="text" value="0"/>	North Devon	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Porcelain	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Nottingham	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Creamware	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Pearlware	<input type="text" value="2"/>			Rhenish	<input type="text" value="0"/>
						Wt Salt-glazed	<input type="text" value="0"/>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts			
Flaked stone	<input type="text" value="1998"/>	Other fired clay	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Ground stone	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="text" value="134"/>	Unmod faunal	<input type="text" value="2"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="text" value="5"/>	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="text" value="4"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="text" value="0"/>
		Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)	<input type="text" value="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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
House pattern(s)	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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

Feature A - house feature, Feature B - work area (woodland)

Historic Artifacts			
Pottery (all)	<input type="text" value="8"/>	Tobacco related	<input type="text" value="5"/>
Glass (all)	<input type="text" value="49"/>	Activity item(s)	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Architectural	<input type="text" value="22"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arms	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Misc. kitchen	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Clothing	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal items	<input type="text" value="2"/>	Misc.	<input type="text" value="52"/>
		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: 0 +/- years BP Reliability Sample 8: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 9: +/- years BP Reliability

Additional radiocarbon results available



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Description:

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Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC Lab

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Site 18CV491, also known as Dunkirk P&R 1 Site, consists of the well-preserved, intact remains of a small multicomponent short-term base camp that was subjected to repeated, intermittent habitation between the Late Archaic and Late Woodland Periods of prehistory. The site is located in the Dunkirk Park and Ride project parcel approximately 150 meters east of MD 4 and 110 meters north of Town Center Boulevard. The site encompasses approximately 1,664.35 square meters (~0.41 acres, ~0.17 hectares) on a small rise of a stream terrace that overlooks the north side of an unnamed tributary to Halls Creek.

Overall, post-Contact Period human activities at 18CV491 have been low. Historic mapping and land use records do not provide any cartographic information to suggest that either site coincides with the locations of any former buildings or other forms of historic construction. Although the land was cleared and repeated historic plowing did occur, agricultural production appears to have been both limited and relatively short-lived. As evident on historic aerial imagery, by the late 1930s, the land was already fallow pasture.

Discernable nascent natural succession vegetation that is visible on 1957 aerial photography implies that routine pasture maintenance probably ceased sometime during the 1940s and early 1950s. The existing mature forest overstory dates to the 1970s. Although some occasional random dumping has occurred within the woodlot during the twentieth century, these episodes have been infrequent, relatively minimal, and generally confined to small areas.

In 2008, this site was identified during a Phase I/II archaeological survey by the recovery of 59 flakes, 1 early stage biface reject, 2 pieces of worked quartz, and 13 pieces of fire cracked rock on a small rise situated on a stream terrace. These artifacts were recovered from 11 STPs excavated at 10-meter intervals and one 1- by 1-meter test unit. Forty-six of the prehistoric artifacts were recovered from the test unit.

The survey determined that the site encompassed an approximate 60m by 40m area. Test excavations indicated that the site contains well-preserved, intact archaeological materials with good subsurface integrity. The site is capped with approximately 25-centimeter thick overburden composed of modern alluvium/slopewash. Intact, artifact bearing, buried A and B horizons lay beneath the alluvium/slopewash overburden. Although the overburden does contain some prehistoric artifacts and an occasional example of historic debris, the majority of the prehistoric artifacts at the site were contained in the buried A and B horizons. Thirty seven of the forty-seven artifacts recovered from a test unit excavated at the site (TU N34E15) were recovered from the buried A and B horizons. Nineteen of the aforementioned thirty seven artifacts, including the early stage biface fragment, were recovered from the buried A horizon in the test unit. The remaining eighteen artifacts were collected from the underlying B horizon.

Although site excavation did not yield a substantial quantity or diversity of artifacts, the excavation results did indicate that the site contained well-preserved intact archaeological deposits with good subsurface integrity. The absence of any evidence of past plowing and lack of any historic artifacts in the buried A and B horizons (Ab and Bb horizons) indicate that the site is intact and has experienced little, if any, post-occupational subsurface disturbance. The small areal size of the site (~2400 sq. meters) and the recovered artifact types are common characteristics of temporary habitation sites. The site likely functioned as a small transient base camp or procurement/processing locale. The limited assemblage also suggests that repeated use of the site, if any, was minimal. Due to the absence of any diagnostic artifacts in the recovered artifact assemblage, the temporal occupation of the site was unknown.

In 2014, a Phase III investigation was planned. A total of 29 1m x 1m test units (TU) were excavated by the Phase III excavations at 18CV491. These excavations yielded a total of 2,049 prehistoric artifacts, which constitute approximately 96.47% of the combined Phase I, II, and III 18CV491 assemblage (n = 2144).

The core area of the site was excavated via two block excavations, a 16-unit block and a 4-unit block excavated. The 16-unit and 4-unit blocks were designated Block 2 and Block 1, respectively. The artifact recovery from Block 1 and Block 2 were 711 and 1123 prehistoric artifacts, respectively. The redefined core area generally corresponds to the site's main activity area, which is centered around a house feature with an associated work area. The house feature, designated Feature A, was identified in Block 2 and is represented in the archeological record as a collection of small postmold features and dense lithic artifact concentrations. The work area, designated Feature B, was encountered in Block 1 and is expressed in the archeological record as a discrete dense concentration of lithic artifacts. It is estimated that 100 percent of the portions of the core area that best represents the site's characteristics, namely Feature A and Feature B, was recovered by the excavations.

Eight individual TUs, one TU per 10-meter grid block, were excavated to acquire representative samples of the site's peripheries. A total of 295 prehistoric artifacts were recovered from the peripheral sample units. While several of the sample units did yield prehistoric artifacts from both plowzone and sub-plow zone contexts, these assemblages are not nearly as diverse as those collected from the core area. Aside from three projectile points, all of which were recovered from compromised or questionable subsurface contexts, these assemblages also do not contain any particularly unique collections of artifact types. No substantial artifact concentrations or discrete subsurface features were encountered in sub plow zone stratigraphic contexts in any of the sample units. Although the small artifact scatters encountered in the sample units are not significant on their own, they do, nonetheless, provide supplemental information about site usage outside of the core area. The few tools that were recovered suggest that some of these artifact scatters may represent remains of small work areas.

Over ninety percent (92.49%) of the recovered prehistoric assemblage is composed of chipped lithic artifacts. This subassemblage contains 1,983 artifacts. The excavations of Block 1, Block 2, and the sample units recovered 669, 1,022, and 292 lithic artifacts, respectively.

Unsurprisingly, most of the lithic assemblage is unmodified debitage. This assemblage is composed of 1,538 flakes and forty-five pieces of shatter. Debitage constitutes approximately 79.82 percent of the site's lithic artifacts and approximately 73.83 percent of the entire 18CV491 assemblage. The debitage totals of the Block 1, Block 2, and sample unit assemblages are 603 (flakes = 577, shatter = 13), 802 (flakes = 775, shatter = 27), and 178 (flakes = 173, shatter = 5) pieces, respectively.

The lithic assemblage includes several tool types (Table 13). Most of the tools are nondiagnostic expedient forms such as utilized (unmodified) flakes (n=236), flake tools (n=48), and other miscellaneous chipped stone tools (n=16); however, the assemblage also includes several small (non-diagnostic) biface fragments (n=47), discernable early and late stage biface rejects (ESBR and LSBR) (n=22), point fragments (n=16), as well as a small number of cores (n=8) and tested/worked cobbles (n=8).



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Unknown

Site excavations yielded fifteen datable projectile points. This assemblage contains two Susquehanna broadspears, one fishtail/orient point, one Piney Island variant stemmed point, two contracting stemmed points, six Piscataway point forms, a base of an ovate/teardrop form, and two triangle points. Both broadspears and one Piscataway point were recovered in the peripheral sample units. The remaining points were recovered from the excavations conducted in the core area of the site (i.e. Block 1 and Block 2). All of the points are, like most of the non-diagnostic tools, heavily-worn and/or broken.

The recovered ceramic assemblage contains five sherds, all of which were recovered from Block 1/Feature B in the core area of the site. These artifacts are one Marcey Creek sherd (N30E20, Zone 2), three Accokeek sherds (N30E20, Zone 2), and one Sullivan Cove Plain sherd (N30E19, Zone 1A). All of the sherds are small, heavily-weathered body fragments that are less than 25mm in maximum dimension.

The 18CV491 assemblage contains five hammerstones. Other stone items include seven cortex spalls, two cobble fragments, and seven slate fragments. The cortex spalls and cobble fragments are likely non-cultural but were retained due to their recovery in close association with artifacts made of similar material. The seven slate fragments are likely early historic artifacts that were plowed under prior to the burial of the site.

Two primary features were identified and excavated in the core area of 18CV491. These features have been designated Block 2/Feature A (hereafter referred to as Feature A) and Block 1/Feature B (hereafter referred to as Feature B). A small number of secondary features were also identified by the peripheral sample unit excavations.

Feature A is the partial remains of house pattern that was discovered in Block 2 of the core area of site. The house pattern is represented by a series of postmold features and several associated artifact concentrations. The house feature was identified, delineated, and investigated via block excavation of sixteen contiguous 1m x 1m test units. In opening plan view, the postmold features consisted of various small circular/oval stains within the intact subsoil (2BEb, top of Zone 2). The stains were positioned at sixty to seventy centimeter intervals along a continuous arc. A total of nineteen candidate postmold features were identified in Block 2. While several of the candidate features were strongly suspected to be non-cultural, it was deemed prudent to systematically examine all nineteen candidate features to ensure the recovery of an accurate, unbiased sample. During the excavations, the candidate postmold features were divided into three classifications: Rank 1, Rank 2, and Rank 3. Rank 1 and Rank 2 features were those that were concluded to be postmold and probable postmold features, respectively. These two classifications were differentiated by the level of subsurface integrity. Twelve of the postmold features were found to be intact and classified as Rank 1 features. Six postmold candidates were classified as Rank 2 features. Features determined to be non-cultural during the early stage of excavation, but still within alignment with the overall pattern, were classified as Rank 3. One feature was classified as a Rank 3 feature. No artifacts were recovered from the fill of any of the postmold features.

Block 1/Feature B encompasses the remains of a small work area/chipping station. The feature is represented in the archeological record as a dense lithic artifact concentration. The feature encompasses a four square meter area that is situated approximately two meters southeast of the Block 2/Feature A house feature. A total of 711 artifacts were recovered from Block 1/Feature B. The Block 1/Feature B artifact assemblage contains 590 flakes, thirteen pieces of shatter, thirty-two utilized flakes, eight flake tools, one miscellaneous stone tool, three diagnostic projectile points, two non-diagnostic projectile point fragments, two early-mid stage biface rejects/fragments, one late stage biface reject/fragment, eleven biface fragments, three worked/tested cobbles, three core/core fragments, four ceramic sherds, one hammerstone, one cobble tool, and thirty-one pieces of fire-cracked rock. The assemblage also includes one cobble fragment with physical characteristics suggestive of human use and three pieces of (non-local) slate. The deposition of the slate is believed to be historical.

The diagnostic artifact assemblage of Block 1/Feature B contains eight artifacts, three projectile points and five ceramic sherds. These points are one quartz contracting stem variant from Zone 1A, one quartzite Piscataway base from Zone 2, and one quartz triangle from Zone 1B. The contracting stem point is small, heavily-worn and has a fractured base. The combined dates of the Piscataway point (ca. 4050 B.C. - 50 B.C.) and the (probable) Madison triangle (ca. A.D. 1250 - A.D. 1600) span the Late Archaic through Woodland Period. The contracting stem point is too general in form to afford it a date other than ca. 5000 B.C. - A.D. 800. The ceramic assemblage contains four Early Woodland wares (1 Marcey Creek and 3 Accokeek) and one Late Woodland ware (Sullivan Cove Plain). Collectively, the Piscataway point, Marcey Creek, and Accokeek sherds provide a strong Early Woodland context for the intact sub-plow zone cultural deposits of Feature B. The recovery of these three artifact types in association with one another also has broader site implications since it places the Piscataway point with an Early Woodland Period occupation.

While the Phase III investigations did confirm that the archeological deposits that best characterize the site are indeed located within the aforementioned 30m by 30m square area, the Phase III investigations also revealed that the primary activity area is situated in the south central portion of the site, specifically between transects N37 and N29. Based on the collective site investigations, the core area of 18CV491 has been redefined as 10-meter by 5-meter oval-shaped area that encompasses approximately 30 square meters.

Although various projectile point types that can be attributed to the Late Archaic Period were recovered from mixed contexts across the site, the most definitive Late Archaic component of 18CV491 is represented by two small, isolated, low density lithic scatters located at opposite ends of the site. The scatters are contemporaneous, and based on the recovery of a worn Susquehanna broadspear from each scatter, have a projected date range of ca. 2,000 B.C. to ca. 1,500 B.C. The scatters may represent two small work areas of a single occupation, or two different episodes of occupation. The small sizes of the scatters and the limited variation of artifact types within the scatters suggest that between ca. 2,000 B.C. and ca. 1,500 B.C. 18CV491 was utilized as procurement/processing station rather than as a transient base camp. The Late Archaic component generally runs along the west edge of the site.

The main components of 18CV491 consist of a series of small Late Archaic-Late Woodland short-term, low capacity, seasonal base camps that are centered on two features in the south central portion of the site. These features are a house pattern feature that is represented as a circular configuration of postmold features, and a dense lithic artifact concentration that constitutes the remains of a chipping/work area feature. The house pattern feature and its associated chipping/work feature exhibit evidence of at least four episodes of occupation. Point types recovered in association with the house and its work area include one fishtail point, several Piscataway points, several stemmed variants, one teardrop/ovate variant, and two triangle points. Three ceramic wares, Marcey Creek, Accokeek, and Sullivan Cove Plain were recovered in association with the 18CV491 base camp area.

While many of the point types recovered at the site span time periods, temporal overlaps of the points and ceramic wares indicate that the more prominent occupations of the 18CV491 base camp area occurred during the early portion of the Early Woodland Period, specifically between 1,000 B.C. and A.D. 900. The base camp may have also included transitional Late Archaic/Early Woodland and Early Woodland/Middle Woodland occupations but the archeological signatures of these occupations are less pronounced.



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Most of the non-diagnostic tool assemblage consists of utilized flakes; however, flake tools, bifaces/biface fragments, core fragments, points, and hammerstones were also recovered. The site also yielded examples of general prehistoric household debris such as fragments of fire-cracked rock, a small number of ceramic sherds, and large quantities of debitage. The majority of the lithic artifacts are made of cobble quartz and quartzite, a local lithic resource that is readily available on site and in the adjacent stream bed. Overall, the assemblage reflects various general resource procurement/processing, toolkit maintenance, and expedient tool production activities, all of which are commonly attributed to base camp sites.

The Phase III field investigations of Site 18CV491 (and nearby Site 18CV492) has recovered and recorded field data that can be used to accurately and comprehensively describe and interpret the site and its NRHP-defining characteristics.

At 18CV491, it was discovered that these earlier occupations, notably Late Archaic and earlier, seemed to have favored a different part of the site than the Woodland Period inhabitants. At 18CV492, it was revealed that the general plot of land was repeatedly and intermittently re-occupied. These findings are of interest as they may be related to adaptations in environmental conditions and/or seasonal use. Given their close proximity to one another, it is quite possible that site 18CV491 and 18CV492 represent different activity areas of a much larger site. This latter supposition was viewed with much interest over the course of the project, but no data could be used to directly link the sites to one another.

If the sites are viewed in this manner, the studies have revealed that use of this stretch of the unnamed tributary to Halls Creek began during the Early Archaic period and continued for several millennia. The longevity of the sites repeated, and intermittent use, reveals that 18CV491/18CV492 was clearly regarded as a favorable resource locale for the acquisition of resources. Given the diversity of the floral and faunal species that would have been supported by the environment, as well as the abundance of readily-available cobbles for expedient tool manufacturing, this is quite understandable.

The collective chronological sequence of 18CV491/18CV492 is of regional interest since it provides meaningful temporal and spatial data that assists with tracking the movement of prehistoric populations through interior settings of Maryland's Western Shore.

The onset of the Early Woodland Period marks a shift in the use of both sites. The archeological data indicates that around the Late Archaic/Early Woodland transitional period, precontact groups began to use the site for more general purposes and for longer periods of stay. The distribution of artifacts across the site indicates that, for the most part, these later occupations tended to establish themselves in the same general location. At 18CV491, this location is a nearly level piece of terrain located in the center of the terrace on which the site is situated. At 18CV492, the preferred location for settlement was the same as that of earlier occupations.

Temporal correlations between projectile point styles and ceramic artifacts indicate that collectively, 18CV491/18CV492 was visited throughout the Woodland period, but it is interesting that certain time frames are present at one site but not the other. While the Middle Woodland is well-represented at 18CV492, it is not at 18CV491. The evidence of an Accokeek Phase occupation is extremely apparent at 18CV492, but although present, it is less readily-apparent at 18CV491. Although the Early Woodland and Late Woodland residents of 18CV491 never developed the site beyond a small seasonal encampment, it does appear that their lengths of stay were long enough to warrant house construction. The archeological investigations were able to identify at least one house, which was represented in the archeological record as a circular series of regularly-spaced stains, or postmold features, formed by the decayed support posts of the structure.

While archeological studies did not encounter a house pattern feature at 18CV492, researchers were able to differentiate activity areas that include a large hearth feature, a chipping/work station, and a work area associated with the processing of faunal resources. These activity areas were identified through spatial analysis of artifact distributions. The data recovery investigations were conducted with the intent to ascertain the types of lithic reduction activities conducted at the site. Studies of the lithic assemblages from 18CV491 and 18CV492 were performed in order to examine the stone toolmaking technologies that were practiced by the sites' past occupants. To explore the lithic technologies represented at the site, the investigations strived to deduce the methods of, and the reasons that prompted, the manufacturing of tools.

The lithic artifacts indicate that the occupations of 18CV491/18CV492 practiced a combination of biface and core reduction technologies. This is evidenced in the lithic assemblages, which, though small, do contain a variety of early-mid and late stage bifaces, biface fragments, cores/core fragments, worked/tested cobbles, and projectile points.

Although the lithic assemblages do contain some carefully curated tools that are apparently a lost or forgotten item, as well as a small number of artifacts made from non-local material such as rhyolite, these types are artifacts are minor. Most of the lithic assemblages are composed of artifacts that are results of expedient cobble reduction performed for the purpose of manufacturing tools for immediate and/or general use. It is also quite apparent that most of the debitage was not the result of standard projectile point manufacturing or biface curation, but instead materials discarded during the creation and selection of flakes for use as tools.

Proportionally, the exhausted tool kits of 18CV491/18CV492 contain an overwhelming number of utilized flakes, which were found ubiquitously in association with all of the temporal occupations and across the site. These expedient tools outnumber the more prepared chipped stone implements by approximately 1.5 to one. General scraper-type and cutting implements are the most common forms of tools amongst the utilized flakes, flake tools, and even the more diligently prepared miscellaneous tools. The tool kits also include several "multi-purpose" tools, or in other words, tools with more than one functional use.

Several of the tools exhibit use wear on opposing faces, often along different edges, which suggests that the tools were rotated and flipped to maximize edge use. Throughout Maryland's Western Shore, small sites such as 18CV491 and 18CV492 have been noted with considerable frequency. Such sites, which can range from small lithic scatters to small base camp locales, can be found in a variety of small upland settings.

The excavations of the sites performed for this project have provided a new opportunity to examine the role of these small habitation locales in regional settlement patterns. The project has been able to acquire sufficient information to surmise the functional usage, shifts in use, and continuity of use at the two sites through time. Both sites are best classified as small, seasonal habitation locales or camps that served as a temporary "hub" for longer hunting/gathering forays. Although by no means extensive, both sites were found to possess the same range of features and artifacts associated with everyday subsistence as those of larger more "village"-type sites.

Site 18CV491 has been found to contain a "household cluster", a combination of features consisting of a house and associated storage/processing features.



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18CV491

Site Name: Dunkirk P&R1

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief Description:

Late Archaic and Early, Middle, & Late Woodland Short-term and Base Camp

Unknown

The site fits regional models in that its main area of use is small, less than 0.5 hectares, and situated in an environmental setting of limited carrying capacity. The discovered household cluster at 18CV491 joins a growing number of such features that have been discovered in upland settings. Like the house patterns at other sites (e.g. 36Ch674; 7NC-A-17), the house pattern at 18CV491 is small, faint, and could have been easily overlooked. The recovery of the household cluster at 18CV491 has provided information that can be used to examine the spatial layout of small, seasonal encampments in Calvert County.

Site 18CV492 was found to contain a small collection of features, in the form of artifact concentrations that reflect the performance of general activities. The features, which are clustered around hearth, include a series of closely-knit work areas. Variations in the siting of the various occupations at and across the site suggest that the sites may have been utilized during different seasons. The data recovery has acquired significant new information about prehistoric habitation and utilization of interior, low order wetland settings of Maryland's Western Shore. It has long been recognized that small, short-term, limited-use habitation sites like 18CV491 and 18CV492 were integral parts of regional settlement patterns.

While many prehistoric sites like 18CV491 and 18CV492 have been recorded along first- and second-order waterways throughout the state, to date, few such sites in southern Maryland have been subjected to intensive-level investigations. Limited artifact assemblages, absences of datable deposits, lack of discrete spatial patterning, and/or poor physical integrity are only some of the many reasons why these smaller, temporary habitation sites are often dismissed from studies beyond the basic identification/evaluation level. The primary occupations of 18CV491 and 18CV492 date to the Early Woodland Period, a time period that is marked by increases in gradual trends toward sedentism. Most of the changes consisted of subtle shifts in subsistence-settlement strategies associated with increased usage of stable estuarine and riverine settings, a trend which began during the later portion of the Late Archaic Period (Dent 1995; Custer 1994; Steponaitis 1983). As is apparent by the intact house pattern feature at 18CV491 and large ceramic assemblage from 18CV492, both sites are clearly testaments to the rise of more sedentary lifestyles, especially in interior settings, that characterize much of the Early Woodland Period. The pre-Late Woodland house pattern feature at 18CV491 is a new addition to Maryland's known assemblage of prehistoric house pattern features. The 18CV491 house feature and feature cluster identified at 18CV492 are new additions for site types that are not well-represented in the existing databases of Maryland archeological data.

In sum, the discoveries of sites 18CV491 and 18CV492, and the analysis of the data contained at them, contributes significant new information about the activities performed, technologies practiced, and subsistence strategies employed at small interior-area prehistoric encampments in Calvert County, southern Maryland, and the Western Shore.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95000704, 95002370, 18CV491 SF