



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18CV494

Site Name: Sunken Road

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief Description:

Late Woodland unknown; Early-late 18th century post-in-ground house site; Mid-late 19th century scatter

Unknown

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 9

SCS soil & sediment code MIB2

Latitude 38.4846

Longitude -76.5844

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation

Site slope 0-3%

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 Battle

#### Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 229 m

#### Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

## 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

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? 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 Y

Flotation samples taken N

Other samples taken

Soil Chemistry: Nitrogen, Potassium, Phosphorous



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

Historic Sherd Types		Ironstone		Staffordshire		Stoneware	
<b>Earthenware</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Porcelain</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	<input type="checkbox"/>			Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
						Wt Salt-glazed	<input type="checkbox"/> 4

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

## Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	<input type="checkbox"/> 11	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	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

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

Dated features present at site

18th century post-in-ground dwelling

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 38	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 14	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/> 20	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/> 33
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/> 12	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Misc.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features		Privy/outhouse		Depression/mound		Unknown	
Const feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<input checked="" 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

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

The Sunken Road Site (18CV494) is an 18th century domestic site with evidence of a post-in-ground structure and other features. The site also possesses a minor prehistoric component dating to the Late Woodland and a minor secondary component dating to the 19th or early 20th century. The site is located on the property of the Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm near Prince Frederick in Calvert County, MD. The site is situated in an open agricultural field bounded by treelines in the western portion of the farm. The treelines conceal a deeply incised historic road trace (from which the site takes its name). An unnamed tributary of Battle Creek runs near the site. Soils at the site are Marr fine sandy loams.

The site was first examined by professional archeologists in 2009 as part of a general inventory and investigation of archeological resources on the Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm property. The archeological study was part of a larger effort (funded by a Preserve America grant) to create a master plan for the development of the property into an educational working farm that would promote tourism, provide opportunities for public education in cultural and environmental stewardship, and sustainable agriculture. Based on information relayed to Calvert County by the former landowner (Biscoe Gray), the property contained one abandoned domestic structure with three associated outbuildings, one stand-alone domestic structure, a colonial period archeological site, and a possible cemetery of unknown temporal cultural affiliations. Additionally, reconnaissance of the farm property by the Calvert County Department of Planning and Zoning identified the location of a probable prehistoric oyster shell midden. The county planning and zoning department determined the necessity of documenting these known sites and any suspected cultural resources on the property so that management decisions could be made in the future which would allow for the protection of the resources.

The colonial period archeological site described by the previous landowner was the Sunken Road site (18CV494). Biscoe Gray was aware of the site because his nephew had initially identified and collected artifacts from it. The purpose of the archeological investigation at 18CV494 in 2009 was to formally document the known historical archeological site and to temporally and functionally characterize the deposits. As part of the archeological study, extensive background research was conducted.

Archival research reveals that three families played a role in the development of the modern Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm; the Laveille, Rice, and Gray families. The Laveille family has a long history in Calvert County. John Laveille, a French Huguenot, arrived in Calvert County in the late 17th or early 18th century. One branch of this family established a homestead along Battle Creek. Early land records of Calvert County indicate that this land, described as being "on the east side of Battle Creek...part of 'Harwood' and part of 'Brooke Place Manor'...approximately 250 acres...", was transferred from John Thomas Laveille, Sr. to his son John Thomas Laveille, Jr. in 1796. The Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm (hereafter BGHF) has two lots, comprised of 144 acres, which were a part of the Harwood tract.

In the 19th century, Uriah Laveille (1800-1855), a descendant of a John Laveille, owned the Laveille homestead. Uriah had 8 children between 3 wives. His third wife, Mary Harris Laveille (1806-1877) gave birth to Alexander Laveille (1839-1882). Alexander married Mary Ann Lomax Sedwick (1842-1922), the daughter of neighbor John Sedwick; his farm holdings would total more than 415.6 acres. In 1899, Mary Ann Lomax Sedwick Laveille willed her landholdings (including the BGHF tracts) to her seven children.

The Laveilles owned a prominent house and large farmstead along Battle Creek. La Vielle Place is a 1 ½ storey gable roof dwelling clad in Flemish bond and constructed in the mid-to-late 18th century with a 19th century addition. Given the grandeur of their family home, it is unlikely that they would have relocated to a 19th century vernacular dwelling that has been located to the northwest. It is more likely, due to its form and function, that the modest 19th century dwelling was constructed for people working the land (enslaved individuals or tenants) rather than the land owners. The location, style, use, and construction of this modest dwelling indicate that it dates to the second half of the 19th century, suggesting that it was a likely built as a tenant house.

The property on which the 19th century structure site would eventually be purchased from the Laveilles by an African American farmer named George E. Rice in 1902. It is possible that after purchase, George E. Rice lived in the 19th century vernacular house while working the land. During his occupation of the house, he may have improved it with interior plastering and a more formal stairway and newel post. In 1915 George E. Rice further added to his landholdings by purchasing another parcel of the former Laveille farm. It is on this parcel that George E. Rice constructed a second dwelling sometime between 1915 and 1938. Rice eventually lost his 144-acre property in 1938 for failing to pay his mortgage.

William B. Gray was the owner of a large property adjacent to Rice's 144-acre tract, which he had inherited as part of his family estate in 1875. William B. Gray purchased Rice's property in 1938 following the foreclosure. Gray and his family lived in a 2 storey frame farmhouse to the north of the BGHF property that he had built circa 1900. Upon William's death in 1947, the land he owned was split between his children. His son Biscoe L. Gray and his wife Margaret Gray inherited the 144 acres formerly of the Laveille farm. Biscoe increased his holdings throughout the late 20th century, with 206 acres eventually being sold to Calvert County by the Biscoes in 2004.

The archeological work conducted at 18CV494 in 2009 consisted of the systematic surface collection of 195 individual 5 X 5 m collection units, a metal detector survey, shovel testing (STPs) conducted at 10 m intervals with discretionary STPs placed at 5 m intervals, and the mechanical excavation of 5 trenches.

Approximately 1.3 acres of the open field that contains the Sunken Road site was plowed to provide the surface visibility necessary to conduct a controlled surface collection. Immediately upon plowing, the site was reconnoitered and temporary pin-flag markers were placed to note the presence of artifacts visible on the surface. Subsequently, an arbitrary grid was established across the site area. The site was divided into 195 individual surface collection units measuring 5 X 5 m each. Each collection unit was subjected to a systematic visual inspection consisting of 1 m transects within each collection unit. Surface collection resulted in the recovery 76 historic artifacts and 12 prehistoric artifacts. The distribution of historic artifacts indicated a minor concentration in the northwestern portion of the site, immediately south of the road trace with secondary concentrations to the south and east. Prehistoric artifacts did not appear to cluster appreciably.

Metal detection was then conducted across the entire western half of the site area (including the area of densest historic concentration noted above). Sweeps were made along north-south trending transects interspersed at 2 m intervals to ensure overlap. Orientation followed the grid established for the systematic surface collection in order to accurately correlate data and correctly place materials recovered. However, no artifacts were recovered during metal detection.



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The aforementioned private collector (a member of the Gray family) stated that he had recovered a number of metal and lead objects from the site through metal detection. His collection has been examined by Calvert County archeologists and other researchers, but has not been formally cataloged.

Subsequent to surface collection, STPs were excavated at a 10 meter interval across the site. Discretionary STPs were then placed at 5 m intervals on a small topographic rise in the western portion of the site. STPs measured approximately 35 cm in diameter and were excavated to a depth not less than 10 cm into sterile subsoil unless otherwise obstructed. A total of 57 STPs was excavated at 10 m intervals, with another 8 excavated on the 5 m interval.

Soils across the site were relatively consistent, with slight variations in certain areas. Typically a 10-30 cm thick sandy loam plowzone (Ap horizon) lay directly over a loamy sand subsoil. Of the 65 STPs excavated, 18 contained cultural material yielding a total of 44 artifacts. One possible archeological feature (a stratigraphic anomaly) was identified in the site area. The feature appeared below the plowzone layer, at a depth of 25 cm below surface and terminated at 36 cm below surface with the appearance of natural subsoil. No artifacts were recovered from the feature (or the particular STP for that matter). A full identification of the feature was not possible within the confines of the STP.

Based on the results of the surface collection and STP excavation, mechanical stripping of the plowzone was undertaken across the site. Trenching consisted of the removal of the plowzone layer and exposure of the underlying soils. Excavation was conducted with a backhoe, with trenches measuring approximately 91 cm (3 ft) wide. Trenches were placed, according to the established grid, on a north-south orientation.

A total of 5 trenches were mechanically excavated at 10 meter intervals, resulting in the identification of 10 potential cultural features (including the one identified during the STP survey). Upon further examination, one feature was determined to be a thin remnant of the plowzone at the horizon interface, while another was determined to be natural (likely a rodent burrow). The remaining 8 features, however, are believed to be related to the historic occupation of the site. These include a large soil anomaly with domestic artifacts (the feature encountered during STP work), two rectangular post holes, one circular posthole feature, one circular feature with charcoal and shell inclusions, and three small features of indeterminate function. The large anomalous feature with domestic artifacts is considered a likely remnant of an 18th century domestic structure. The two rectangular posts most likely represent the presence of an outbuilding.

Artifacts encountered during the 2009 excavations at 18CV494 include 137 historic artifacts and 14 prehistoric items. The historic artifacts were 2 activity items (lamp glass), 20 architectural items (16 pieces of brick, a piece of cut sandstone, a square nail and 2 unidentified nails), 1 clothing-related item (a pair of scissors), 85 kitchen-related artifacts (described below), 17 tobacco-related artifacts (10 white clay pipe stems, 6 white clay bowls, and a pipe with a T.D. maker's mark), and 12 arms items (gunflint flakes and chunks). The kitchen assemblage consisted of 38 ceramic sherds (1 borderware, 2 Buckley-like sherds, 3 Ironstone, 1 unidentified refined earthenware, 13 redware, 2 English Brown stoneware, 1 scratch blue stoneware, 3 white salt-glazed stoneware, 5 Rhenish stoneware, 3 American gray stoneware, and 4 miscellaneous stoneware), 2 blown glass fragments, 12 other glass bottle fragments, 9 large mammal bones, and 24 oyster shell fragments.

The historic component at 18CV494 appears to represent an 18th century domestic site likely dating to the period between ca. 1720 and 1775. This date range is based on diagnostic ceramics, the recovery of a tobacco pipe bearing the "T.D." makers mark (used from 1748-1770), and pipe stem bore regression formulae. The features suggest the presence of a post-in-ground type structure: not unusual for the time period.

The 14 prehistoric artifacts recovered from 18CV494 during the 2009 excavations included 3 cores, 2 worked cobbles, 5 thinning flakes, 1 piece of shatter, 2 pieces of fire-cracked rock, and 1 Moyaone sherd. All of the prehistoric lithics were composed of either quartz or quartzite. The presence of the Moyaone sherd suggests a Late Woodland date for the site. The distribution of the prehistoric artifacts did not exhibit any patterning and no archeological features were encountered. The prehistoric component can best be characterized as a Late Woodland period lithic scatter.

Based on the identification of intact subsurface deposits and the potential for this site to contain additional information important to our understanding of the Colonial Period in Calvert County, this archeological site should be considered a significant resource and efforts should (and apparently are) be made by Calvert County to preserve it. In the event that intact preservation is impossible, additional archeological testing should be conducted prior to any activities with the potential to impact sub-surface deposits. Additional archeological investigations at 18CV494 should focus on the identification of additional intact deposits in order to better categorize the site both temporally and functionally.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95001392