



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18DO54

Site Name: Indian Town Road

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Late Woodland short-term resource procurement camp & historic scatter

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 3

SCS soil & sediment code SnC

Latitude 38.4830

Longitude -75.8270

Physiographic province Eastern Shore Coastal P

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 6 m

Site slope 6-10%

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
- 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) Nanticoke River

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 0 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Archaic site

MD Adena

Early archaic

Early woodland

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

Late archaic

Late woodland

Unknown prehistoric context

Contact period site

ca. 1820 - 1860

ca. 1630 - 1675

ca. 1860 - 1900

ca. 1675 - 1720

ca. 1900 - 1930

ca. 1720 - 1780

Post 1930

ca. 1780 - 1820

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
- 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

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		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	698	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	9	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	11	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	4	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	4	Pearlware	5			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	161	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	1385
Fire-cracked rock	131	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	698	Uncommon Obj.	1
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

Jasper	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	48	Activity item(s)	1
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	24	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	1	Misc.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	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: +/- 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 MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Indian Town Road Site (18DO54) represents a possible Late Woodland resource procurement camp and an 18th and 19th century historic scatter. The site is situated in a cultivated field on the north bank of the Nanticoke River near the town of Vienna in Dorchester County. The soil in the study area is classified as a well-drained Sassafras sandy loam. The plowzone reaches to 18-35 cm below surface, with a mean depth of 22 cm.

The site was first located during Phase I field investigations conducted by Mid-Atlantic Archaeological Research, Inc. (MAAR) in 1977. The State Highway Administration (SHA) was considering the construction of a new bridge at the point where U.S. Route 50 crosses the Nanticoke River. The Phase I level of effort consisted of a pedestrian survey and the excavation of nine test units, each measuring 1 m x 2 m, and excavated to the subsoil beneath the existing plowzone. The Phase I survey recovered a total of 231 prehistoric artifacts. There were 55 flakes (jasper and quartz), 18 quartz chunks, 2 cores, 1 stemmed projectile point, 77 fire-cracked rocks, 68 small, heavily weathered ceramic sherds (Townsend), and 5 shells. No shell concentrations or features were identified. The Phase I report also mentioned that several late 19th and early 20th century historic artifacts were collected but were considered insignificant.

Phase II investigations were conducted by Archaeological Services, Inc. (ASI) in 1978 in order to determine the cultural significance (if any) of the area from which the prehistoric artifacts were recovered during the Phase I study. Two study areas were defined during the Phase II survey. The first was a defined area 54 m wide X 144 m long on a northwest-southeast axis, and aligned with the SHA project corridor, within which a 6 m² grid system was set up. The secondary study area defined a 144 m² area on a side that included the intensive study area and extended from a swale on the northeast side to the area investigated during Phase I on the southwest side of the project area within which a 12 m² grid system was established. The total study area was 20,736 m². Prior to sub-surface testing, augering across the site was done in order to establish plowzone depth and to collect soil samples for testing. Samples were collected at a depth of 30 cm, or just below the plowzone. Soil pH and soil phosphate concentration variability over space were analyzed in an attempt to locate archeological features, with negative results.

Since no artifact concentrations were identified during the Phase II surface examination and collection, 262 test units (TUs) were opened across the site. Mathematically random points were selected for TUs outside of the intensive survey corridor and systematic TUs were excavated within the intensive survey corridor. Each excavation unit measured 50 cm on a side, and was excavated to below the plowzone horizon. The subsoil level of each unit was leveled and cleaned, then examined by the principal investigator for any indication of subsurface archaeological features. After sifting the soil from 100 TUs through a screen with 7 mm mesh openings (measured diagonally), and finding very few artifacts and no subsurface features, it was decided to discontinue the sifting of soil and to visually examine the loose matrix for major artifacts as the units were excavated.

A total of 2,150 prehistoric artifacts were collected during the Phase II investigation. There was 1 triangular quartz point (typically dated to the Late Woodland period), along with 30 chert flakes, 3 chert flakes possibly utilized as scrapers, 50 quartz flakes, and 1 quartz graver. There were 54 fire-cracked rocks. A total of 630 Townsend ceramic sherds (dated to the Late Woodland period) were collected. Another fired clay item was a ceramic bead. The bead, unglazed and with a fine sand temper, measured 1.4 mm in diameter and was bored with a 2 mm diameter hole. The bead is listed under the 'other fired clay' and 'uncommon items' categories in the table above. A total of 1,380 shell fragments were also collected.

A total of 77 historic artifacts were collected during the Phase II investigation. The only activity item was 1 hand painted porcelain doll. Architectural items included 24 brick fragments. There were 48 kitchen-related items including 4 creamware and 5 pearlware sherds dated to ca. 1760-1830, 5 lead-glazed redware and 2 decorated stoneware sherds dated from the 1700's on, 8 American Blue & Grey stoneware dated to post-1820, 9 Ironstone (1 hand painted), 4 Whiteware, 3 blue transfer-printed whiteware, 1 annular whiteware, 3 other decorated whiteware, and 2 undecorated porcelain sherds all dated to post-1830, 1 rim decorated porcelain dated to the mid-1800's on, and 1 Decalcomania decorated porcelain dated to post-1910. The only clothing item was 1 white button. There were 3 tobacco-related items (clay pipe bowl fragments).

The Indian Town Road Site (18DO54) may represent a short-term camp occupied during the Late Woodland period, as Townsend ceramics have been found on the site. It was believed by ASI that this did not even constitute a site, but rather represented the accumulation of primary and secondary cultural debris which had accumulated along the region's major transportation route, the Nanticoke River. They believed that it may be possible to locate such artifact distributions anywhere along the shore for a considerable distance up and down the river, but acknowledged that this remains an untested hypothesis. It was ASI's opinion that the Indian Town Road Site did not meet the qualifications for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, and that even though proposed U.S. Route 50 improvements would have a direct impact on the site, further study or relocation of the construction project was not warranted.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00000181