MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18FR101 **Site Name:** Stevens Rockshelter

Other name(s)

Prehistoric ☑ Historic ☐ Unknown ☐

Brief Description: Middle Archaic (possibly), Late Archaic, Early Woodland (possibly) & Late Woodland rockshelter

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Latitude 39.4384 Longitude -77.2798

Elevation 104 m Site slope 21-30%

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

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 17 SCS soil & sediment code LpC

Physiographic province Eastern Piedmont Terrestrial site ☑ Underwater site ☐

Ethnobotany profile available ☐ Maritime site ☐

Topography

Floodplain	☑	High terrace	☐
Hilltop/bluff	☐	Rockshelter/ cave	☑
Interior flat	☐	Hillslope	☐
Upland flat	☐	Unknown	☐
Ridgetop	☐	Other	☐
Terrace	☐		
Low terrace	☐		

Ownership

Private	☑
Federal	☐
State of MD	☐
Regional/ county/city	☐
Unknown	☐

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Linganore Creek

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

Minimum distance to water is 6 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site		Woodland site		Contact period site		ca. 1820 - 1860	
Archaic site		MD Adena		ca. 1630 - 1675		ca. 1860 - 1900	
Early archaic		Early woodland	P	ca. 1675 - 1720		ca. 1900 - 1930	
MIddle archaic	P	Mid. woodland		ca. 1720 - 1780		Post 1930	
Late archaic	Y	Late woodland	Y	ca. 1780 - 1820			
Unknown prehistoric context				Unknown historic context			
				Unknown context			

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American		Asian American	
African American		Unknown	
Anglo-American		Other	
Hispanic			

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

Site Function Contextual Data:

Prehistoric

Multi-component	☑	Misc. ceremonial	☐
Village	☐	Rock art	☐
Hamlet	☐	Shell midden	☐
Base camp	☐	STU/lithic scatter	☐
Rockshelter/cave	☑	Quarry/extraction	☐
Earthen mound	☐	Fish weir	☐
Cairn	☐	Production area	☐
Burial area	☐	Unknown	☐
Other context	☐		

Historic

Urban/Rural?

Domestic	☐	Furnace/forge	☐	**Military**	☐	Post-in-ground	☐
Homestead	☐	Other	☐	Battlefield	☐	Frame-built	☐
Farmstead	☐	**Transportation**	☐	Fortification	☐	Masonry	☐
Mansion	☐	Canal-related	☐	Encampment	☐	Other structure	☐
Plantation	☐	Road/railroad	☐	**Townsite**	☐	**Slave related**	☐
Row/townhome	☐	Wharf/landing	☐	**Religious**	☐	**Non-domestic agri**	☐
Cellar	☐	Maritime-related	☐	Church/mtg house	☐	**Recreational**	☐
Privy	☐	Bridge	☐	Ch support bldg	☐	**Midden/dump**	☐
Industrial	☐	Ford	☐	**Burial area**	☐	**Artifact scatter**	☐
Mining-related	☐	**Educational**	☐	Cemetery	☐	**Spring or well**	☐
Quarry-related	☐	**Commercial**	☐	Sepulchre	☐	**Unknown**	☐
Mill	☐	Trading post	☐	Isolated burial	☐	**Other context**	☐
Black/metalsmith	☐	Store	☐	**Bldg or foundation**	☐		
		Tavern/inn	☐	Possible Structure	☐		

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples

Soil samples taken N

Flotation samples taken N Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken

Flotation samples taken Other samples taken

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Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types

Clovis		Koens-Crispin	
Hardaway-Dalton		Perkiomen	
Palmer		Susquehana	1
Kirk (notch)		Vernon	
Kirk (stem)		Piscataway	
Le Croy		Calvert	
Morrow Mntn	1	Selby Bay	
Guilford		Jacks Rf (notch)	
Brewerton	1	Jacks Rf (pent)	
Otter Creek		Madison/Potomac	1
		Levanna	1

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Prehistoric Sherd Types

				Shepard	2	Keyser	
Marcey Creek		Popes Creek		Townsend		Yeocomico	
Dames Qtr		Coulbourn		Minguannan		Monongahela	
Selden Island		Watson		Sullivan Cove		Susquehannock	
Accokeek		Mockley		Shenks Ferry			
Wolfe Neck		Clemson Island		Moyaone			
Vinette		Page		Potomac Crk			

Historic Sherd Types

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

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts

		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	52	Human remain(s)	☐
Ground stone		Modified faunal	
Stone bowls		Unmod faunal	65
Fire-cracked rock		Oyster shell	☐
Other lithics (all)		Floral material	☐
Ceramics (all)	4	Uncommon Obj.	
Rimsherds	2	Other ☐	

Prehistoric Features

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

Lithic Material

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

☐ **Dated features present at site**

Historic Artifacts

		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)		Activity item(s)	
Glass (all)		Human remain(s)	☐
Architectural	2	Faunal material	☐
Furniture		Misc. kitchen	2
Arms	2	Floral material	☐
Clothing		Misc.	
Personal items		Other ☐	

Historic Features

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

Unknown	☐	
Other	☐	

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Radiocarbon Data:

Sample 1:	+/-	years BP	Reliability	**Sample 2:**	+/-	years BP	Reliability	**Sample 3:**	+/-	years BP	Reliability
Sample 4:	+/-	years BP	Reliability	**Sample 5:**	+/-	years BP	Reliability	**Sample 6:**	+/-	years BP	Reliability
Sample 7:	+/-	years BP	Reliability	**Sample 8:**	+/-	years BP	Reliability	**Sample 9:**	+/-	years BP	Reliability

☐ **Additional radiocarbon results available**

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External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC-Spencer Geasey Collection

☐ Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Stevens Rockshelter (18FR101) near New Market in Frederick County, Maryland is an apparent rockshelter site utilized sporadically during the Middle and Late Archaic, Early Woodland, and Late Woodland Periods. The site was excavated in the early 1970s by Spencer O. Geasey, a prominent member of the Archeological Society of Maryland. The shelter opens to the south and is 7.62 meters (25 ft) in length. The shelter varies in height from 4.572 to 6.096 meters (15 – 20 ft).

Geasey (who was assisted by Mr. Larry J. Loveland of New Market) was only able to excavate the east end of the site because of extensive rock-fall on the western side. The deposit on the floor of the rockshelter appears to be heavily disturbed as it exhibited no stratigraphy and nails, tin cans, a shotgun shell, and a .32 caliber rimfire cartridge were recovered in the same deposit as prehistoric materials. No features were observed in the deposits, but small amounts of bone and charcoal were noted throughout the site (particularly near the rear wall).

No details are provided in the full site report regarding the excavation strategy.

Artifacts recovered from the Stevens Rockshelter include 4 ceramic sherds of the Late Woodland Abemarle series (2 rims), 6 rhyolite projectile points, 4 quartz bifaces (rejects), 1 broken rhyolite drill, 1 broken rhyolite biface (knife), 2 utilized/retouched rhyolite flakes, 26 fragments of rhyolite debitage, 12 fragments of quartz debitage, and approximately 65 fragments of split and charred bone (mostly deer, also some small game and turtle).

Geasey's collection was examined and catalogued during Peck's Monocacy Valley Survey in the late 1970s. Peck was able to typologically classify several of the projectile points excavated by Geasey. He notes the presence of a Morrow Mountain I point, A Brewerton eared-notched point, a Bare Island, a Susquehanna Broadspear, a Levanna point and a single Madison point. Among Geasey's four Abemarle series sherds, two appear to be Shepard ware.

No other documented work has been performed at 18FR101. Again, the site appears to be a Middle Archaic (possibly), Late Archaic, Early Woodland (possibly) & Late Woodland rockshelter. The prsences of pottery as well as bifaces in various stages of completion, would seem to indicate some degree of permanence of habitation at the site. The lack of undisturbed deposits and intact features severely limits the research potential of 18FR101. However, there is some possibility that less disturbed deposits are preserved beneath the rockfall in the western half of the rockshelter. Heavy machinery would likely be required to examine said deposits.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

MDARC7-2, 00005981