



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18FR55

Site Name: Rich's Ford

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Early & Middle Archaic short-term resource procurement, Late Archaic & Early, Middle & Late Woodland base camp

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 17

SCS soil & sediment code HaC,DuB,CnA

Latitude 39.3946 Longitude -77.3656

Physiographic province Lancaster/Frederick Lowl

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m Site slope 0-20%

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 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) Monocacy River

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 85 m

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site Woodland site

Archaic site MD Adena

Early archaic Y Early woodland Y

Middle archaic Y Mid. woodland Y

Late archaic Y Late woodland Y

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 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?

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

Post-in-ground

Battlefield

Fortification

Encampment

Townsite

Religious

Church/mtg house

Ch support bldg

Burial area

Cemetery

Sepulchre

Isolated burial

Bldg or foundation

Possible Structure

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 Y 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	<input type="text" value="2"/>	
Clovis	<input type="text"/>	Perkiomen <input type="text"/>
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="text"/>	Susquehana <input type="text" value="3"/>
Palmer	<input type="text"/>	Vernon <input type="text" value="1"/>
Kirk (notch)	<input type="text"/>	Piscataway <input type="text"/>
Kirk (stem)	<input type="text"/>	Calvert <input type="text"/>
Le Croy	<input type="text" value="1"/>	Selby Bay <input type="text" value="21"/>
Morrow Mntn	<input type="text" value="2"/>	Jacks Rf (notch) <input type="text"/>
Guilford	<input type="text" value="4"/>	Jacks Rf (pent) <input type="text" value="1"/>
Brewerton	<input type="text" value="3"/>	Madison/Potomac <input type="text"/>
Otter Creek	<input type="text" value="2"/>	Levanna <input type="text" value="16"/>

Prehistoric Sherd Types

Marcey Creek	<input type="text" value="17"/>	Popes Creek	<input type="text"/>	Shepard	<input type="text" value="1"/>	Keyser	<input type="text"/>
Dames Qtr	<input type="text"/>	Coulbourn	<input type="text"/>	Townsend	<input type="text"/>	Yeocomico	<input type="text"/>
Selden Island	<input type="text" value="5"/>	Watson	<input type="text"/>	Minguannan	<input type="text"/>	Monongahela	<input type="text"/>
Accokeek	<input type="text" value="28"/>	Mockley	<input type="text"/>	Sullivan Cove	<input type="text"/>	Susquehannock	<input type="text"/>
Wolfe Neck	<input type="text"/>	Clemson Island	<input type="text"/>	Shenks Ferry	<input type="text"/>		
Vinette	<input type="text"/>	Page	<input type="text"/>	Moyaone	<input type="text"/>		
				Potomac Crk	<input type="text"/>		

Historic Sherd Types

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

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		
Other fired clay	<input type="text"/>	
Flaked stone	<input type="text" value="952"/>	Human remain(s) <input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="text" value="3"/>	Modified faunal <input type="text"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="text" value="4"/>	Unmod faunal <input type="text"/>
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="text" value="25"/>	Oyster shell <input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="text" value="75"/>	Floral material <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="text" value="76"/>	Uncommon Obj. <input type="text"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="text"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>

Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)	<input type="text"/>	Storage/trash pit	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Hearth(s)	<input checked="" 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"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sandstone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		schist, siltstone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Feature 1 - small basin w/ FCR, Normanskill/Motley Pt., and 3 flakes

Historic Artifacts		
Tobacco related	<input type="text"/>	
Pottery (all)	<input type="text"/>	Activity item(s) <input type="text"/>
Glass (all)	<input type="text"/>	Human remain(s) <input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input type="text"/>	Faunal material <input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="text"/>	Misc. kitchen <input type="text"/>
Arms	<input type="text"/>	Floral material <input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="text"/>	Misc. <input type="text"/>
Personal items	<input type="text"/>	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"/>	Well/cistern	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<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 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

B-???: taken from small basin (Feature 1) filled w/ fire-cracked rock, soil, possible Normanskill or Motley pnt, and 3 unmodified flakes. Contaminated?

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 Rich's Ford site (18FR55) in Frederick County, MD is a Late Archaic & Woodland base camp that also served as a short-term resource procurement site during the Early & Middle Archaic. The site is situated on Huntington silt loams in the floodplain of the nearby Monocacy River. The site has been known to local collectors for nearly a century. During a Phase I survey of the Monocacy Valley in the late 1970s, the site was re-identified and the researchers had the opportunity to examine local collections of points and ceramics from the site. This collection included 1 Shepard ceramic sherd (originally reported as Rosenstock Cord-on-Cord), a LeCroy bifurcated-base point, a Kanawha stemmed point, a Stanley stemmed, 2 Morrow Mountain I points, 4 Guilford lanceolates, 2 Mountindales, 2 Otter Creeks, 2 Brewerton eared points, 12 Lackawaxen points, 4 Bare Island, 9 Savannah River stemmed, 2 Halifax side-notched, 1 Vernon, 2 Lehigh/Koens-Crispin points, 3 Susquehanna Broadspears, 3 Dry Brooks, 2 Rossville points, 2 Hellgrammite points, 14 Accokeek, 2 Wormans Mill points, a Selby Bay lanceolate, 12 Selby Bay stemmed, a Selby Bay notched (variant A), 5 Selby Bay notched (variant B), a Jack's Reef Pentagonal, an elongate triangular point, and 16 Levannas.

The first professional testing at the site was conducted by R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates in the spring of 1990 as part of the Monocacy Interceptor Sewer Line project. The site was within the area of potential impact along the roughly 10.2 km sewer line which now stretches from the Ballenger Creek Waste Water Treatment Plant to the City of Frederick Waste Water Treatment Plant. Thirty shovel tests and five 1 X 1 m test units were excavated within 18WA55 as part of this Phase I/II project. An auger test was placed in the bottom of each of three shovel test units; these tests extended to an average of 91.7 cm below ground surface. One intact cultural feature (Feature 1) was encountered. It consisted of a 15 cm deep, 40 cm wide basin filled with fire-cracked rock and brown-dark brown soil. Associated artifacts consisted of the only projectile point fragment recovered (see below) and an unmodified flake. Charcoal was also recovered via flotation and indicated the presence of walnuts and/or acorns, and oak or chestnut wood.

No cultural materials were recovered from the Phase I shovel tests. However, all five Phase II excavation units recovered prehistoric cultural remains. The assemblage consisted of 31 unmodified flakes, 5 cores, 7 utilized flakes, 1 biface, 1 large side-notched projectile point (possible a Normanskill or Motley point), 1 groundstone object (a pestle), 1 use-modified tool (a nutting stone), 4 Marcey Creek Plain sherds, and approximately 17,360.2 g of fire-cracked rock (at least 10 pieces based on Feature 1 plan). Based on the presence of intact features at the site and the inability to avoid the site during construction of the sewer line interceptor, the decision was made to move forward with Phase III data recovery at Rich's Ford.

Goodwin and Associates' subsequent Phase III excavations concentrated only on the vicinity of the immediate pipeline trench, at the eastern edge of the site. Their excavation methods involved the mechanical stripping of the plowzone from the alignment of the pipe line trench, resulting in a trench approximately 90m long and 1m wide. All but 10cm of the plowzone was stripped, so that the deeper, undisturbed components could be examined more readily. Subsequent to the mechanical stripping, fifteen 1 X 1 m test units were hand excavated within the trench, and another 9 units were added in a block at the feature partially exposed during Phase II work. Four 1 X 1 m units were excavated along the western edge of the project corridor, and four 1 X 5 m backhoe trenches, supplemented by four 1 X 1 m units, were excavated along the eastern edge of the project corridor. Below the plowzone, fill was removed in 10 cm levels and screened through hardware mesh. All units were excavated to 20 cm below artifact-bearing levels. Constant volume flotation samples and carbon samples were taken from features (however, only one C-14 sample was of sufficient size to permit analysis).

Excavations produced evidence of two Early Woodland components and of a Late/Transitional Archaic component. During Phase III excavations, 291 prehistoric artifacts were recovered from Component 1, apparently a late Early Woodland occupation. This subassemblage included 233 unmodified flakes, 13 utilized flakes, 1 amorphous biface, 6 cores, 2 projectile point fragments (1 is Selby Bay stemmed), 19 ceramic sherds (likely Stony Creek or Accokeek), a use-modified object of uncertain function, 16 steatite crumbs, and 910.7 g of fire-cracked rock.

A total of 500 prehistoric artifacts were recovered from Component 2, which is an Early Woodland occupation. These artifacts included 378 unmodified flakes, 7 utilized flakes, 14 cores, 2 preforms, 5 projectile point fragments (2 Lamoka-like, 1 triangular preform, 1 Pomranky), 2 groundstone objects (both grinding stones), 5 use-modified tools (hammerstones, anvils, nutting stones, misc.), 49 ceramic sherds (3 Accokeek or Stony Creek, 5 Stony Creek, 11 Marcey Creek, 25 unknown steatite-tempered, and 5 Selden Island Cord-marked), 3 steatite bowl fragments, 35 small pieces of steatite, 1 large unworked piece of steatite, and 6465.7 g of fire-cracked rock. Two features were found in Component 2 contexts. Feature 3 was classified as a living surface. It was recognized at 60-62 cm below the surface, and consisted of four 5 cm diameter postholes and an associated soil stain. The feature contained 22 unmodified flakes, a grinding stone, 6 steatite-tempered sherds, 2 pieces of steatite, 395.6 g of fire-cracked rock, and charcoal. Feature 6 was recognized 72 cm below the surface. This 145 cm long, 20 cm deep, basin-shaped refuse pit contained 20 unmodified flakes, 1 core, 2 Lamoka-like points, a piece of steatite, 1 Marcey Creek Plain sherd, 699.0 g of fire-cracked rock, and flecks of charcoal.

A total of 150 prehistoric artifacts were recovered from Component 3, either a Late Archaic or a Transitional occupation. Artifacts included 127 unmodified flakes, 3 utilized flakes, 3 cores, 2 blanks, 3 projectile point fragments, 1 use-modified object of uncertain function, 3 ceramic sherds, 1 steatite bowl fragment, and 7 pieces of steatite. In addition, 3651.7 g of fire-cracked rock were recovered, and 4 features were excavated. One of these features, Feature 1, already had been partially exposed during Phase II testing. While the Phase I/III report indicates that the feature was 40 cm wide, the Phase III report describes it as a 30 X 32 cm oval pit first recognized 68 cm below the surface. The pit contained fire-cracked rock, dark soil, charcoal, nut fragments, a projectile point fragment, and 3 unmodified flakes (1 from Phase II, 2 from Phase III). A small sample of charcoal recovered from this feature was submitted to Beta Analytic, Inc. for radiocarbon dating. This sample produced a date of 280 ± 60 BP, a date well outside the acceptable dates for the Early Woodland occupations in Maryland. Thus, the sample is assumed to be contaminated with more recent organic material. Features 2 & 4 consisted of tightly packed, elliptical pockets of fire-cracked rock lacking stained or burnt-earth. They may have been earth ovens of the kind that were common in Late Archaic through Early Woodland contexts. Feature 5 comprised 2 large pieces of fire-cracked rock, underlain by a small dusting of unidentifiable charcoal flecks. No associated staining was observed.

Seven of eight flotation samples from the features throughout the site yielded identifiable plant remains. Species identifications are provided in the ethnobotanical profile for the site. Five artifacts from 18FR55 were submitted for blood residue analysis. Rabbit blood was positively identified on one object, but all of the others produced negative results.

The lithic applications industry at the site was based on a curated tool set of rhyolite points used as knives, and on an expendable tool set of quartz and quartzite flakes derived from river cobbles. Data from the site provided evidence that Accokeek/Stony Creek wares replaced Marcey Creek and Selden Island



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wares. An association between Selby Bay points and Early Woodland ceramics was also discovered. Evidence confirmed results from other investigations that rhyolite use increased markedly during the Early Woodland period; at 18FR55, the increase in the use of rhyolite corresponded with the disappearance of steatite-tempered ceramics.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00005981, 00006016, 00006025