



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18FR615

Site Name: Tuscarora M & R

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Middle & Late Archaic short-term resource procurement

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 17

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.2555 Longitude -77.4806

Physiographic province Lancaster/Frederick Lowl

Terrestrial site Underwater site

Elevation 80 m Site slope

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 Tusc

- | Saltwater | Freshwater |
|--|--|
| Ocean <input type="checkbox"/> | Stream/river <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Estuary/tidal river <input 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 70 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 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

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 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			
Clovis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Koens-Crispin	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Le Croy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>
Morrow Mntn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guilford	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brewerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Otter Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Madison/Potomac	<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	<input type="checkbox"/>	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		Staffordshire		Stoneware	
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>
								Wt Salt-glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts			
Flaked stone	100	Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	1	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	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

Jasper	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fer quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sil sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input 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 5 - a large circular pit containing a hearth.

Historic Artifacts			
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tobacco related	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc.	<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: 150 +/- 50 years BP Reliability Sample 2: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 3: +/- years BP Reliability

B-30914: charcoal from Feature 5 (a hearth). Unacceptable date indicating vertical disruption.

Low

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 MHT

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Tuscarora Measuring and Regulating Station Site (18FR615) in Frederick County, MD is a well preserved Middle & Late Archaic short-term base camp. The site is situated on a relatively level portion of an elongated sloping hilltop, which comprises an upland terrace of the Potomac River. Soils at the site are dominated by the well-drained, gravelly upland Athol series.

The site was first identified during a Phase I survey in 1988. This study was undertaken in advance of the construction of a 3 acre natural gas measuring and regulating station. Because the area has been utilized for agricultural purposes, the Phase I field methodology involved two episodes of surface collection; the first time while the field contained an alfalfa crop which limited ground visibility and again after the field had been plowed, disked, and allowed to rain wash. Despite the poor visibility during the first collection episode, a sparse assemblage of artifacts was recovered, indicating that a site was present. The second collection episode involved the sectioning of the field into 3 meter blocks and piece plotting of all artifacts recovered. Ultimately, 16 lithic artifacts were recovered during Phase I. These artifacts are included in the count below.

Following verification that a site was indeed present within the proposed project area, the excavators were given approval by the Maryland Historical Trust to move forward with test excavations. Phase II testing commenced with the mechanical removal of the overburden from 20% of the surface area of the site. This was accomplished with a backhoe digging eight 1.8 meter wide by 61 meter long trenches. These trenches were located both in areas where concentrations of cultural materials had been identified during the Phase I piece plotting and where such materials were sparsely distributed. The subsoil in each strip was carefully exposed using flat-bladed shovels and sharpened garden hoes, and examined for cultural features.

A total of 12 cultural features were identified using this method. These included 11 storage or trash pits (two of which were burned indicating that they were possibly fire pits/hearths) and a postmold. From the location of these features, it seems likely that only a small portion of the site was located within the project area and much more significant portions of the site may still be preserved. Equally important to the interpretation of feature data is the systematic collection of flotation samples from the feature matrix. This was accomplished by first excavating one half of each feature and dry screening the soil. The remaining matrix was then collected for flotation. No artifacts were found in any of the features, however, with the exception of the postmold, all contained charred seeds or nuts of native origin. Trash pits would be more likely to contain lithic material (as was found scattered on the surface) and, thus, these features are thought to have functioned as storage pits for nuts, berries, etc. In addition to the numerous features, the piece plotting indicates the presence of at least one activity area; a scatter of rhyolite secondary flakes suggesting an area where the latter stages of tool manufacture may have taken place. Another possible activity area is represented by the proximity of a large cobble chopper near one of the pit features. Such an association supports the contention that these pits were used for food storage if such choppers were used in food processing.

Lithic materials were the only cultural artifacts recovered from the site (aside from ethnobotanical remains obtained primarily from the flotation samples). These include 12 quartz flakes, 5 quartzite flakes, 43 rhyolite flakes, 17 modified chunks/blocks, 2 unmodified chunks/blocks, 13 bifaces/biface fragments, 3 rhyolite projectile points, 1 quartz core, 3 quartzite choppers, 1 rhyolite drill fragment, and 1 sandstone abrading stone. The three rhyolite projectile points are diagnostic and include a Stanley-like and 2 Bare Island points. These points are representative of a Middle-Late Archaic occupation.

Details concerning the plant remains recovered from the features at the site can be found in the ethnobotanical profile. A total of 123 seeds and 3 nutshell fragments were recovered from 11 features. Of these, 52 seeds and all 3 nutshell fragments were charred. One sample of carbon from Feature 5, one of the pits exhibiting burning (charcoal and fire reddened soil), was submitted for radiocarbon dating. A date centering around AD 1800 was obtained from the charcoal; this unacceptable date indicates that the feature was vertically disrupted, probably from plowing and field burning activities associated with crop cultivation. In addition, bioturbation could have been a factor responsible for the introduction of modern uncharred botanicals into the feature found during ethnobotanical analysis of its contents.

The Phase II testing of site 18FR615 has contributed to the understanding of Archaic settlement and subsistence patterns of the Monocacy River region. As a result of the limited excavations, intact subsurface features were excavated which yielded subsistence data as well as data concerning the possible function of small pit features at Archaic sites. The data gathered from this site demonstrates that it is culturally significant and since the results of Phase II work led the natural gas project planners to alter their designs and avoid the site, important intact deposits are likely preserved at the site locale. 18FR615 likely has high potential to answer additional research questions related to the Middle and Late Archaic periods, and specifically prehistoric diet/subsistence.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00006008