



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18FR617

Site Name: Monocacy Bottom II

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief Description:

Late Archaic base camp, Late Woodland short-term resource procurement

Unknown

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 17

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.2979

Longitude -77.4263

Physiographic province Eastern Piedmont

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 75 m

Site slope

Ethnobotany profile available

Maritime site

### Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Unnamed tributary of Benn

#### Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 30 m

#### Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

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

## 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

ca. 1675 - 1720

ca. 1900 - 1930

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

ca. 1720 - 1780

Post 1930

Late archaic

Late woodland

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

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"/>	
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Le Croy	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Morrow Mntn	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Guilford	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Brewerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Otter Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Koens-Crispin	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Madison/Potomac	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Levanna	<input type="checkbox"/>	1

### 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

<b>Earthenware</b>		Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Stoneware</b>	
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	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	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"/>
						Wt Salt-glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

## Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		
Flaked stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	329
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Floral material	<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

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

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

The Monocacy Bottom II Site (18FR617) is situated along a very level, slightly elevated, terrace-like bench which is located near the juncture of two unnamed tributary streams of a feeder creek to the Monocacy River in Frederick County, MD. It is just east of a related site, 18FR618, the Monocacy Bottom I Site. It is an apparent Late Archaic base camp which also may have served as a Late Woodland short-term resource procurement site. Soils at the site are dominated by the 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 22.5 km long, 15.2 m wide section of the BG&E natural gas pipeline right-of-way. Upon completion of the survey, 14 new prehistoric aboriginal archeological sites and 2 previously recorded sites were identified within the project right-of-way. The methods employed included background library research, surface collection, and shovel testing. Most of the sites represented small temporary encampments exemplified by scatters of lithic debitage. At the time of the Phase I survey, the Monocacy Bottom II locus had recently been plowed and disked, and visibility for surface collection was excellent along the expansive level field which extended south and away from the pipeline corridor. Numerous artifacts were observed throughout the entire field, suggesting that the pipeline corridor "sliced" through only a narrow portion of the site. Among the artifacts collected during Phase I were a quartz corner-notched Brewerton-like point, a Brewerton corner-notched point, 1 rhyolite Brewerton side-notched point, 1 rhyolite Bare Island point, and 1 rhyolite Savannah River point. These point types are typically dated to the Late Archaic and Early Woodland periods. All of the Phase I artifacts are included in the count below.

After a review of the sites identified during the Phase I Survey, Phase II archeological testing was recommended to ascertain National Register eligibility on the three sites which demonstrated a frequency of diagnostic artifacts with potential to contribute to culturally significant data (18FR617 among them). The site was again plowed, disked, and rainwashed to remove a crop of corn which had been planted. Each artifact was piece plotted to its exact location and transferred to a map to examine artifact distributions and concentrations. Although the Phase II testing was limited to studying the site within the pipeline corridor only, piece plotting was extended across an electric line transmission right-of-way as well. The gas line right-of-way happened to be within the much larger electric line right of way for BG&E and the Potomac-Edison companies. Although the latter right-of-way could not be examined further through the excavation of trenches, it was determined that examining the artifact densities/concentrations in the larger area would help to evaluate the cultural significance of the section of the site within the pipeline corridor.

During the Phase II study, four trenches measuring 1.8 X 30 meters each and encompassing a total area of 216 square meters or 16.7% of the site were excavated within the gas pipeline right-of-way. Cultural features were identified in two of the four trenches. Five of the six features excavated were identified to be cultural based on configuration, size, and preliminary examination of the feature contents. Features 1 and 4 were identified as hearths. Feature 3 turned out to be a rodent tunnel and was eliminated from further analysis. Features 2, 4, and 6 were circular or ovoid storage pits. In addition to the features, a number of artifacts were recovered, both during piece plotting and in the subsurface trenches. These are also included in the count below.

To ensure the retrieval of as much data during Phase III data recovery as possible, a series of scattered 1 X 1 meter units was excavated across the site. To facilitate this part of the excavation, the portion of the site within the gas line right-of-way was gridded into 1 X 1 meter units, and each unit was assigned a consecutive number. A table of random numbers was used to choose which units were to be excavated. Twenty-six such test units were excavated at 18FR617, constituting a 2% sample of the site area within the pipeline right-of-way. The plowzone soils were hand excavated and screened. After each unit was excavated, the underlying subsoil was examined for cultural features. If features were identified within these units, they were completely excavated and mapped as to their locations within the excavated area. Soil samples were retained for flotation. Following the excavation of these units, the plow disturbed topsoil was removed from 40% (in addition to the portion removed during Phase II testing) of the site to locate features. Eight additional trenches were excavated. Typically these were of the same size as the Phase II trenches (1.8 X 30 meters), although two were shorter in length. Trench 5 was much larger than the others and included stripping the entire 3 meter wide area proposed as the pipeline trench. Phase III stripping (40%) and test unit sampling (2%), plus the Phase II sample at the site (16%), constituted excavating a 58% sample of the site within the proposed pipeline right-of-way.

The subsoil in each stripped area was carefully exposed using flat-bladed shovels and sharpened garden hoes, and examined for cultural features. Seven additional features were identified during Phase III (both in test units and trenches). Of all the features encountered during both Phase II and Phase III, seven were storage/trash pits (both circular and ovoid, basin-shaped), three are probably hearths, and one is a probable rodent burrow. One of the pits also contained a dark stain in the center which may have been a burned post. The post mold could not be positively identified as prehistoric, but the size of the post (in profile) would suggest that it was. All of the features exposed at the site were drawn in plan view and then hand excavated. A vertical profile was prepared for the features to aid in determining their functions. The soil from the first excavated half of each feature was dry screened. Then the remaining feature matrix, constituting 50% of the feature matrix, was removed by cultural levels for flotation. AN attempt was also made to retain charcoal from several of the features for radiocarbon dating, however samples that were large enough to attain a date were not recovered.

Lithic materials were the only cultural artifacts recovered during all three phases of research at the site (aside from ethnobotanical remains obtained primarily from the flotation samples). These include 6 quartz and 13 rhyolite projectile points/fragments, 9 quartz and 4 rhyolite bifaces/fragments, 1 quartz biface fragment, 1 quartz scraper, 1 quartz and 5 rhyolite utilized/retouched flakes, 36 quartz and 52 rhyolite primary flakes, 42 quartz and 37 rhyolite secondary flakes, a quartzite secondary flake, a quartz tertiary flake, 10 quartz cores, 82 quartz and 6 rhyolite chunks/blocks, and 22 fragments of quartz shatter. Of the projectile points which could be classified into "types" there was 1 quartz Piscataway, 1 rhyolite Savannah River point, 2 rhyolite Brewerton points, 1 possible quartz Brewerton corner-notched, 1 rhyolite Bare Island point, and 1 rhyolite Levanna point. The Levanna point attests to a previously unrecognized Late Woodland occupation at the site.

Details concerning the plant remains recovered from the features at the site can be found in the ethnobotanical profile. A total of 290 seed and plant fragments were recovered from all of the features. Of these, 83 specimens were charred. Although botanical remains were found in all of the features, only five contained charred native botanicals.

Excavations at the Monocacy Bottom II site revealed that the site was areally extensive and the portion of the site situated within the pipeline right-of-way represented a very small section of the entire site. The excavations, confined to within the pipeline corridor, revealed that the site was most likely inhabited intermittently from Late Archaic through Late Woodland periods (as attested by several diagnostic stone tools). The features excavated at the site strongly suggest that the terrace-like bench was utilized as a base camp where food was being collected, possibly stored, and processed. The presence of a number of native botanicals found in the features in a charred state indicates that the area was being occupied from early spring through late fall and was possibly part



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of the occupants' seasonal round. Many of these plants grow in particularly moist environments. The lithic artifacts were determined to have been deposited through two processes: 1) implements were broken during the manufacturing process and abandoned; or 2) implements were broken or dulled during use and discarded when they were replaced. The majority of the rhyolite artifacts were brought to the site in finished form or as bifacial cores which were then fashioned into finished form, while quartz manufacture was more localized (much of it perhaps taking place at nearby 18FR618).

The site appears to be a significant resource with future research potential based on the fact that it has yielded 1) diagnostic artifacts, 2) intact features with charcoal, and 3) ethnobotanical remains. In addition, only a very small portion of the site was subject to testing and data recovery, the remainder presumably remaining intact.

**External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):**