



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18FR72

Site Name: Heater's Island North

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Conoy

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Contact, 17th century Piscataway village

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 17

SCS soil & sediment code HnA

Latitude 39.2739

Longitude -77.5374

Physiographic province Lancaster/Frederick Lowl

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 70 m

Site slope 0-5%

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) Potomac River

- | Saltwater | | Freshwater | |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------|
| Ocean <input type="checkbox"/> | Estuary/tidal river <input type="checkbox"/> | Stream/river <input checked="" 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 0 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

- Paleoindian site
- Archaic site
- Early archaic
- Middle archaic
- Late archaic
- Woodland site
- MD Adena
- Early woodland
- Mid. woodland
- 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

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

village

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples

Soil samples taken N

Flotation samples taken N

Other samples taken Skeletal

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken N

Flotation samples taken N

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"/>
Dames Qtr	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coulbourn	<input type="checkbox"/>
Selden Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Watson	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accokeek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mockley	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wolfe Neck	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clemson Island	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vinette	<input type="checkbox"/>	Page	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shepard	<input type="checkbox"/>	Townsend	<input type="checkbox"/>
Minguannan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sullivan Cove	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shenks Ferry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moyaone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Potomac Crk	<input type="checkbox"/>	Keyser	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yeocomico	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monongahela	<input type="checkbox"/>
Susquehannock	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Historic Sherd Types		Ironstone		Staffordshire		Stoneware	
Earthenware		Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	<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"/>	Porcelain	<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		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	47	Human remain(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	8	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	2133	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	1	Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> trade items	

Prehistoric Features	
Mound(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Midden	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shell midden	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>
House pattern(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearth(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Lithic reduc area	<input type="checkbox"/>
Storage/trash pit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Burial(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ossuary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Lithic Material		Fer quartzite		Sil sandstone	
Jasper	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input 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)	269	Activity item(s)	30
Glass (all)	416	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	140	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	64
Arms	188	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	7	Misc.	91
Personal items	224	Other <input type="checkbox"/>	

Historic Features		Privy/outhouse		Depression/mound		Unknown	
Const feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<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 checked="" 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

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 Heater's Island North site is located on a large Island in the Potomac River along the border between Loudoun County, VA and Frederick County, MD. Three geographically distinct sites are located on Heater's Island; 18FR73 which is a transitional Late Archaic/Early Woodland base camp, 18FR59 which is a Late Woodland village, and the site discussed here, Heater's Island North (18FR72). The latter site is a large contact period Piscataway village known in historic times as "Conoy" or "Canavest".

The Piscataway moved to Heater's Island in 1699. The Piscataway were at one time a fairly powerful chiefdom controlling significant territory within the northern Chesapeake Bay region and bounded on the south by the Potomac River. Minor Piscataway chiefs controlled small territories and were loyal to a single paramount chief known as the "Tayac". At the time of contact with Europeans, the "Tayac" had a long-established capital at the village of "Moyaone" on Piscataway Creek. The Susquehannocks to the north were their traditional enemies. The tribe eventually allied themselves with the English Catholic colony in Maryland in the hopes that they could offer protection and a reliable trade partnership (for firearms, ammunition, and metal trade goods). The colony at Maryland hoped that the Piscataway would serve as an effective buffer against the hostile tribes to the north. However, the Susquehannocks soon allied themselves with the powerful Five Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy and made a series of unrelenting attacks against the Piscataway. The Piscataway abandoned Moyaone and established a new village at Zekiah Swamp, before they were uprooted a second time. The alliance with the English proved to be of very little assistance in defending Piscataway territory. After two very short-lived settlements in Virginia and modern DC, the remnants of the Piscataway people established Conoy in 1699 on the large island in the Potomac. Conoy became something of a gathering point for the beleaguered remnants of the Algonquian-speaking tribes of the Chesapeake. These groups (including the Piscataway) eventually became known collectively as the Conoy. Seeking the protection of their former enemies, the Five Nations, they moved a final time to Pennsylvania around 1712. Most were probably absorbed into other Indian communities with the passage of time, but some Piscataway remained hidden away in their former homeland.

Testing and data recovery excavations were carried out at 18FR72 by two groups of college-age students. In 1967 members of the George Washington University Anthropology Club excavated several test trenches through the site. They were alerted to the presence of the site by an aerial photograph of the island, showing a dark oval-shaped stain in a plowed field. Work was oriented towards locating a possible palisade, which is thought to have surrounded the village, but no evidence of its discovery has been reported. A brief preliminary report published in Maryland Archeology mentions the presence of Late Woodland shell-tempered pottery, Late Woodland grit-tempered pottery, glazed English ceramic sherds, "thick" colonial glass, black and white glass trade beads (1/16 to 1/4" diameter), European clay pipes (6/64 - 5/64" diameter bores), a hearth, and two small middens chock-full of faunal remains. Few details are provided concerning the artifacts recovered or the methods used in excavation. No known follow-up report was ever produced concerning the 1967 excavations.

More extensive data recovery excavations were carried out by a University of Maryland field school over 8 weeks during the summer of 1970. While no formal report has been published, most of the original field notes are in the possession of the Maryland Historical Trust. Initially, seven shovel tests were excavated in an attempt to relocate the site. All 7 yielded artifacts, so a permanent datum (a steel pipe embedded in cement) was established near a prominent shift in the treeline. A Cartesian grid of 1.524 meter (5 foot) squares was established over the test-pitted area and several of these squares were excavated in natural stratigraphic levels. A total of 113 of these 1.524 meter squares were excavated, most in large contiguous blocks. Two small pits were also excavated in order to place latrines, both of which yielded additional artifacts. A major goal of the excavations was, again, to locate the presence of the presumed palisade. The students did locate a pattern of postmolds that may be a small bastion. In addition, 17 other features were recorded. Among them are several hearths, a single pre-contact flexed burial, numerous postmolds, refuse pits, and a concentration of seed beads in association with a copper bell and gunflint ("possibles" bag?).

As the tables above are designed in such a way that artifacts are segregated into "prehistoric" and "historic" categories, some arbitrary divisions had to be made to deal with this "contact" period Native American site. Generally speaking, the normal division into activity-related, architectural, clothing, and other historic artifact categories is used for all objects except flaked stone, native-made ceramics, and ground stone artifacts. These items are tallied in the "Prehistoric Artifacts" category, while the materials at the site obtained from European sources and all other artifacts are tallied as "Historic Artifacts".

The native-made ceramic assemblage from the site consists of 4 steatite-tempered sherds, 1 limestone or shell-tempered sherd, 1 grit and grog-tempered sherd, 2,127 unidentified native-made sherds (1 rim mentioned), and 7 fragments of "Indian" pipe. Flaked stone materials identified in the field notes include 1 Piscataway point, 1 side-notched point, 8 unidentified points (arrowheads in the field notes), 2 blanks or preforms, 2 cores, 1 scraper, 2 jasper flakes, 1 chert flake, 2 other flakes, and 27 other pieces of worked stone. Ground stone objects from the site were a fragment of greenstone (part of an axe?), a mano, a pestle, 1 ground pebble, a grinding stone, and 3 unidentified ground or similarly modified stone objects. The site yielded 30 activity-related objects; 1 mouth harp, 22 lighting objects (lantern glass), and 7 pieces of hardware (1 historic screw, 2 modern screws, 2 tacks (1 copper), a piece of wire, and a metal fastener). The 140 architectural objects from the site were 1 piece of glazed brick, 7 other fragments of brick, a large square-headed iron bolt, and 131 nails (1 brass, 1 modern, and 129 unidentified). The test units yielded 7 clothing items; 5 buttons (1 "fancy", 2 metal, 2 shell) and 2 buckles (1 is brass). Kitchen-related items from the site include 269 European-made sherds (only 2 redware sherds are identified), 416 fragments of glass (212 green shards, 17 clear, 109 unidentified, 58 canning jar fragments, and 20 modern), 1 can top, 1 bottle top, 25 pieces of burned bone, 23 other pieces of animal bone, 1 piece of shell, a walnut shell, and 12 knife parts. The vast majority of the 224 personal items recovered from the site are glass trade beads. The field notes report the presence of 1 green bead, 3 green beads with red paint, 4 blue beads, 3 blue beads with red and white stripes, 1 blue bead with red stripes, 3 clear beads, 1 clear bead with white stripes, 5 white beads, 60 black beads, 1 red and green beads, 1 red bead with stripes, 102 red beads, 1 amber bead, 1 blue "melon" bead, 3 faceted beads, a minimum of 10 seed beads, and 3 miscellaneous beads. The seed beads came from a tight cluster in association with a small copper object thought to be a "hawk" bell. The other personal items were all metal jewelry components; a Jesuit ring, 1 decorative brass and 1 decorative metal object, 10 copper spangles, 3 lead beads, and 4 copper beads. Tobacco-related artifacts (aside from the native-made pipes) include 178 pipe stem pieces, 315 pipe bowl pieces, 61 identifiable pipe fragments, a pewter pipe stem, a smoker's companion, and 1 complete clay pipe. Arms-related objects include firearms components and munitions, in addition to other projectiles. The 188 arms-related objects include a .32 caliber ball, a .30 caliber ball, 12 other musket balls, 3 other lead bullets, 40 pieces of lead shot, 5 misshapen bullet/ball pieces, 3 shotgun shell parts, 2 gun barrels, 1 gun rest, 13 other gun parts, 76 gunflints or gunflint spalls, 29 copper arrowheads (copper triangles in field notes), 1 iron arrowhead, and 1 brass arrowhead. And finally, 91 miscellaneous artifacts were encountered during the 1970 excavations at 18FR72. There were 38 lead objects, 9 iron fragments, 6 unidentified metal objects, 26 unidentified copper objects, 1 unidentified brass item, 1 "concretion", 1 "dark lump", 2 fossils, an unidentified "worked artifact", a piece of flaked glass, and 5 snail shells in the assemblage of miscellaneous items.

MARYLAND
HISTORICAL



TRUST

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Prehistoric

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Historic

Brief
Description:

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Unknown

The Heater's Island North site is of great interest because it represents the only material remains of the last native village in Maryland of the historically important Piscataway tribe. The site provides an exceptional opportunity to document their lives at a time of accelerated acculturation. In addition, only a very small percentage of the site has been excavated based on maps reconstructed from the field notes. Interpretation of the site (and Piscataway history) could certainly be augmented by additional work at the site by professionally trained and experienced archeologists (particularly those committed to publishing their findings).

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00005952, MDARC3-2, Field Notes