



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18FR789

Site Name: Ballenger

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Late Archaic lithic scatter, Late 18th to 19th century scatter

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 17

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.3654

Longitude -77.4061

Physiographic province Lancaster/Frederick Lowl

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 79 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) Ballenger Creek

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Spring

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 10 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Contact period site

ca. 1820 - 1860

ca. 1630 - 1675

ca. 1860 - 1900

Archaic site

MD Adena

ca. 1675 - 1720

ca. 1900 - 1930

Early archaic

Early woodland

ca. 1720 - 1780

Post 1930

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

ca. 1780 - 1820

Late archaic

Late woodland

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? 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

N

Flotation samples taken N

Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken N

N

Flotation samples taken N

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"/>	
Otter Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Koens-Crispin	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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"/>	

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		Stoneware	
Earthenware	Ironstone <input type="checkbox"/>	Staffordshire <input type="checkbox"/>	English Brown <input type="checkbox"/>
Astbury <input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield <input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed <input type="checkbox"/>	Eng Dry-bodied <input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware <input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled <input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware <input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham <input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley <input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon <input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain <input type="checkbox"/>	Rhenish <input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware <input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware <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"/>	668
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
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"/>
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 type="checkbox"/>
Lithic reduc area	<input type="checkbox"/>
Storage/trash pit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ossuary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Lithic Material		
Jasper	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Chert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Rhyolite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Quartz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Quartzite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Fer quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Argilite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sandstone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Sil sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	
European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
limestone	<input checked="" 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"/>	147
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Historic Features		
Const feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Hearth/chimney	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Paling ditch/fence	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Privy/outhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Well/cistern	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sheet midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Planting feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Road/walkway	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Depression/mound	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Earthworks	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Mill raceway	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Wheel pit	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other	<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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Brief

Description:

Late Archaic lithic scatter, Late 18th to 19th century scatter

Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Ballenger Site (18FR789) is a Late Archaic lithic scatter north of Buckeystown in Frederick County. A Late 18th to 19th century artifact scatter is also present. The site is situated in a pasture on an undulating upland surface that overlooks Ballenger Creek, a tributary of the Monocacy River. Though the site is cleared today, prehistorically the area would have been an Oak-Chestnut forest, containing a predominance of oak, accompanied by tulip tree, hickory, and white pine. Animal species exploited by prehistoric and early historic inhabitants of the area likely included white-tailed deer, raccoon, gray and red squirrel, rabbit, bobcat, red fox, wood rat, porcupine, skunk, turkey, and ruffed grouse in the woodlands; muskrat, duck, geese, and turtle in the wetlands areas; and a variety of fish and shellfish in the larger drainages. Soils at the site are Hagerstown loams and Huntington silt loams.

The site was first identified in June of 2002 during a Phase I survey prior to (then) proposed improvements to nearby MD 85. The survey work was carried out within the area of potential effects (APE) for proposed improvements to MD 85. The survey was conducted to assist the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and the Maryland Historical Trust Act of 1985, Maryland Code, Article 83B, Title Five, Sections 5-616 to 5-619.

Phase I work entailed the excavation of 78 shovel test pits (STPs) in the pasture that contains the site. Forty-seven of these STPs yielded prehistoric artifacts, consisting entirely of lithic debitage (primarily rhyolite, quartz, and a few flakes of chert and chalcedony). This extensive lithic scatter, measuring approximately 300 X 90 m, was designated site 18FR789. No temporally or culturally diagnostic artifacts were found at that time. Minor amounts of historic/recent artifacts (interpreted as agricultural field scatter) were recovered along with the prehistoric finds. The full Phase I assemblage consisted of 194 prehistoric debitage fragments and 55 historic/modern artifacts. A great majority of the artifacts recovered were from a disturbed plowzone context. However, recovery of several flakes from the B horizon suggested that there might be a few remnant patches of undisturbed cultural deposits in the B horizon. Phase II evaluation was recommended.

Researchers returned to the site in the summer of 2005 to carry out Phase II testing prior to the commencement of MD 85 construction work. Based on the results of Phase I work, most of the Phase II effort was focused on the central and western portions of the site, closer to Ballenger Creek. Thicker (alluvial and colluvial) deposits were expected in these areas. Prior to the initiation of excavation, the site area was gridded and mapped. A north-south baseline (25 degrees east of north) was oriented to cross-cut the site's prominent landforms. Artifact concentrations from the Phase I survey were used to guide the placement of Phase II STPs, with work concentrating in 5 locales throughout the site. Based on the findings of these initial STPs, shovel testing was expanded to other areas of the site to better define artifact patterning. In total, 98 shovel test pits were excavated during the Phase II.

Based on the results of the Phase II STPs, a few of the Phase I artifact concentration areas were redefined, and a 6th locale was identified. Consequently, planned test unit excavation was shifted accordingly to provide a more representative sample of the site. This involved shifting focus of the excavations to the southern and western portions of the original site grid. Units were strategically placed in more clearly defined activity areas as well as within lesser known areas of the site to provide comparative data.

After shovel testing, seven 1 X 2 m and two 1 X 1 m test units were excavated within the artifact concentrations and on the floodplain area of Ballenger Creek. Test units were excavated by natural strata through the plowzone and in 10 cm levels within B horizon deposits. All soils were sifted through hardware cloth for uniform recovery of artifacts. In subsoil contexts, potential features were to be mapped in place, photographed, and bisected (however, no cultural features were identified). Soil profiles were drawn of all units after excavation to sterile soil. Soil descriptions were also recorded in standard pedological terms and using standard methods. Black-and-white print and color digital photographs were taken for each excavation unit. All information was recorded using standardized field and laboratory forms. All excavations were backfilled upon completion and surfaces were restored as nearly as possible to their original condition.

A total of 475 lithic artifacts and 92 historic artifacts were recovered during the Phase II testing at 18FR789. Diagnostic prehistoric artifacts included 3 rhyolite Savannah River stemmed, and 1 rhyolite Broadspear. The near absence of fire-cracked rock on the site implies that these may have been very short-term extraction or specialized procurement sites. Little or no staged biface manufacturing appears to have occurred on the site, and most of the debitage is relatively small, indicating secondary tool retouch and re-sharpening rather than primary manufacturing or processing of quarry related pieces. The larger pieces of debitage such as cobble shatter and decortication flakes are almost exclusively quartz. These may have been obtained from nearby streams such as Ballenger Creek. Debitage accounts for the majority of the lithic artifacts recovered. The debitage showed evidence of all stages of lithic workshop activity from early stage preparation and decortication to bifacial tool manufacturing and reshaping. Bifacial reduction activities including primary middle and late stage work is represented by almost one third of the debitage in the assemblage, i.e. biface reduction flakes. A much smaller number of block shatter flakes (61) reflects the presence of primary outcrops of rhyolite and quartz not too far from the site. The remaining debitage consists of flake fragments and shatter.

Lithic artifacts recovered during Phase II work at 18FR789 included the 3 aforementioned points, 3 other bifaces, 1 core, 3 unifacial tools, 464 pieces of debitage, and 1 fragment of fire-cracked rock. The most common raw material represented was rhyolite, accounting for almost 70% of the assemblage. Quartz was second, composing 28% of the Phase II assemblage. Both of these materials could have been obtained directly from outcrop sources in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains (South Mountain) or collected from local streambeds and terraces. Other raw material types in the assemblage included chert, limestone, and sandstone.

A total of 92 historic artifacts were also recovered during Phase II testing. None of these artifacts has any feature context. Early historic period artifacts are likely associated with occupation of a nearby property, but no evidence was obtained during the Phase II study to indicate that an extension of that property's boundaries is necessary. These artifacts are counted in the table above as miscellaneous historic objects.

The testing demonstrated that Site 18FR789 does not contain sufficient data to enhance our understanding of the history or prehistory of the region. The site is a shallowly buried manifestation situated on a series of rises overlooking the small, active floodplain setting of Ballenger Creek. The primary component of the site appears to be Late Archaic in age based on the recovered diagnostic points, but it is confined to plowzone contexts. Following Phase II work, the site was considered ineligible for listing on the NRHP, and no further archeological work is recommended.

MARYLAND
HISTORICAL



TRUST

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Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

**Brief
Description:**

Late Archaic lithic scatter, Late 18th to 19th century scatter

Unknown

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):