



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18GA24

Site Name: Savage Rock Shelter

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Indian Rocks

Historic

Brief Description:

Late Archaic and Early Woodland, and Late Woodland Rockshelter

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 24

SCS soil & sediment code GnC2

Latitude 39.6181

Longitude -79.4620

Physiographic province Allegheny Plateau

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 2220 m

Site slope 11-20%

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
- 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) Laurel Run

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 31 m

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

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 N

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

Historic Sherd Types					
Earthenware	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stoneware	
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Porcelain	<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	1
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	5
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	5
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	100	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	4	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Dated features present at site

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"/>
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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External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC, Carnegie

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Savage Rock Shelter (18GA24) in Garrett County, MD is an apparent stratified Late Archaic and Woodland period rock shelter. The site is situated along Laurel Run, not far from the Maryland and West Virginia border. It is also known as the "Indian Rocks Site". The entrance of the shelter opens to the southeast and is approximately 3 meters high and 26 meters wide. The depth of the shelter is roughly six meters. The site was known to local collectors since at least the middle of the 20th century.

Corliss, a local collector, excavated there in 1949 and then brought the site to the attention of the Carnegie Museum, so they could include it in their Upper Ohio Valley Survey. The Carnegie excavations of 1951 included a block excavation consisting of eight 1.524 X 1.524 meter (5 X 5 ft) test units and portions of two additional units abutting the back wall of the shelter. Profiles from these excavations show no clearly distinct cultural components, perhaps a result of disturbances by uncontrolled digging activity earlier in the century. However, broadspear points of poor grade jasper and thick fabric-impressed grit-tempered sherds were recovered from the lower levels of the deposits. Chert-tempered Half Moon ware with exterior and interior cord-marking (an Early Woodland ceramic type), were also found stratigraphically below Watson ware (Middle to Early Late Woodland) and Late Woodland pottery. Thus, the site does appear to have some degree of stratification. Carnegie excavators returned to the site in 1952 and excavated additional 1.425 m test squares. The artifact bearing deposits were generally around 46 cm (18 in) deep, but most of the cultural objects were located in the upper layers. Below the archeological components were light gravel deposits containing only intrusive artifacts. While artifacts from the site represent a wide chronological range from Archaic to Late Woodland, the Late Archaic-Early Woodland appears to be well represented.

Aside from the work performed in the middle of the 20th century, the only other physical inspection of the site was in 1972, when archeologists from the Maryland Geological Survey (now MHT) made a short field visit to the site and collected at least 14 artifacts (no description is available). These are curated at the Maryland Archeological Conservancy Lab with accession number 1972.016.002. Some of the data from the site was also synthesized as part of the Maryland Coal Region testing of the late 1980s, but no excavation was performed.

The Corliss collection (also curated at the MAC lab) contains about 60 pottery sherds, a number of chert and siltstone flakes, and a sample of faunal remains from the site. The faunal sample includes several charred bone specimens and consists of large (e.g. deer) and small mammals, fragments, and mussel shells. Ceramics include mostly limestone-tempered cordmarked body sherds, however, shale, shell, and plain grit-tempered sherds were also recovered. Surface treatment is primarily cordmarked or smoothed-over cordmarked. The three rimsherds present in the collection include a plain grit-tempered rim, a collared limestone-tempered rim similar to Page ware, and the typical Late Woodland style for the region, vertical cordmarking with a slightly thickened lip and limestone temper. Corliss also illustrates a ceramic pipe bowl from the site in his notes. The Carnegie collection includes shell, grit, and limestone-tempered pottery sherds and a shell-tempered castellated rim. Lithics recovered include a flake knife, scrapers, and stemmed and triangular projectile points. At least 65 points have been recovered from the site during all of the various excavations.

The function of the site, like many others of this type was probably a short-term hunting camp. The large amount of animal bone retrieved from the excavations indicates processing and cooking of game took place on the site prior to its abandonment. The finds of ceramics indicate some stability, perhaps routine use of the site at various times when vessels were used for storage and cooking and then left on the site for later use. Little more can be derived from the existing mixture of data due to poor stratigraphic control during the various excavations. The current status of the site and whether or not undisturbed intact deposits are still present is not known. Additional research into the preservation status of the site is warranted to determine if the site has any additional research potential.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00000381, 00000382, 00002373, 97000645