



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18HA284

Site Name: Old Trails Locus 2

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief Description:

Middle Woodland short-term camp, Late Woodland base camp; Civil War find, Late 19th/20th scatter

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.3962

Longitude -76.3525

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m Site slope

Ethnobotany profile available Maritime site

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Gunpowder River

Saltwater

Freshwater

Ocean

Stream/river

Estuary/tidal river

Swamp

Tidewater/marsh

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 10 m

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? 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

artifact scatter

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"/>	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	1
		Levanna	2

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	29	Yeocomico	<input type="checkbox"/>
Selden Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Watson	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minguannan	2	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	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stoneware	
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"/>	Porcelain	3	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	1	Pearlware	4			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	508	Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	1
Fire-cracked rock	25	Unmod faunal	7
Other lithics (all)	2	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	64	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	2	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Prehistoric Features

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

Lithic Material

Jasper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fer quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sil sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	amphibolite	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts			
Pottery (all)	11	Tobacco related	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	14	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	12	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arms	1	Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc.	4
		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 possibly Goodwin and Associates

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Old Trails Locus 2 (18HA284) is a multicomponent site with Late Archaic/Early Woodland and Middle Woodland short-term camps and a Late Woodland base camp, a Civil War find, and a late 18th/ early 19th to 20th century artifact scatter. The site is located on a low terrace overlooking Gunpowder River in southwestern Harford County. The topography slopes upward east from the site. The area is wooded in mature hardwoods with a light to moderately dense understory of greenbrier and poison ivy. The area has been logged in the past and several unmodified two-track trails are located throughout the area. There is no evidence for plowing at the site. Recent camping has occurred in a portion of the site. Although there was some variation, a typical soil profile consisted of a dark brown (10YR 3/3) to dark grayish brown (10YR 4/2) silt loam layer underlain by a yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) to dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) silt loam, above a yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) clay loam. These strata represent an unplowed organic A1 horizon underlain by an unplowed A2 horizon, then a more clayey B1 horizon, probably associated with the Loamy and Clayey Land or the Joppa series.

Prehistoric occupation of the area of Harford County has been documented since at least the Archaic period. Native American occupation continued through the Late Woodland and Contact periods until the initial European settlement during the first half of the 17th century. A 1652 treaty with the local tribe, the Susquehannocks, encouraged the expansion of settlement in the area and the first land grants were patented in 1658. By the early 1700s, the Susquehannocks had left the region. Around 1670, a road that followed the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay had been completed. A link to the road extended from Gunpowder River (at the future site of colonial Joppa Town) to the Bush River where a ferry crossed to Baltimore Town. The route then proceeded through to the town that later became Havre de Grace.

In 1712, the Baltimore County seat moved to Joppa Town. In 1773, Baltimore County was subdivided and Harford County was established. During the 19th century, several towns in Harford became prominent. In the mid-19th century, the development of the railroad further spurred community growth. By 1858, Joppa Farm, the village of Magnolia, and the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore (PW&B) railroad were all that occupied the site vicinity. The area saw action during the Civil War and the Gunpowder Bridge located just to the south of the site was burned down twice. Following the Civil War, the county's population increased steadily. By 1878, J. C. Walsh owned a building that was located somewhere in the site area and another building further northwest. Records indicate that the gravel pit operation (identified at site 18HA34, and located approximately 170 m south of 18HA284) was connected to Walsh and established sometime between 1858 and 1878. The Walsh Gravel Pit currently consists of trees at least 80-100 years old, suggesting that the quarry operations ended sometime around the early 1900s. In 1902, the PW&B railroad was absorbed by the Pennsylvania System. In 1917, the Federal government established Aberdeen Proving Grounds (APG) and Edgewood Arsenal, initially occupying 35,000 acres of land. APG has remained an important factor in the economy of southwestern Harford County and now occupies some 72,500 acres of land.

Phase I and II investigations were conducted at Site 18HA284 between May and June 2005 ahead of the proposed construction of the Old Trails Residential Development. The objectives of the study were to locate, identify, and delineate all archeological resources, to evaluate the potential of those resources for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, to determine the nature, age, and function of the identified resources, to define the horizontal and vertical site boundaries, and to determine the integrity of the resources. The project area encompassed about 31 acres on slopes and terraces along Foster Branch and the east bank of Gunpowder River. The current Amtrak railroad, which is the location of the 19th century PW&B railroad, bordered the southeast edge of the project area and crossed Gunpowder River. The Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, which was established in 1917, and a modern residential development lie just south and east of the project area. The project area was divided in two: Area A comprised the northernmost 3 acres and was separated from Area B, the remaining project area, by a maintained powerline right-of-way. Three sites were located within the project area (18HA283, 18HA284, and 18HA34); however, only the latter 2 were selected for Phase II evaluation.

Site 18HA284 was identified in the southern portion of Area B, north of prehistoric site 18HA34, during the Phase I survey. Phase I involved detailed archival research and field methods that consisted of the systematic excavation of shovel test pits (STPs) at 20 m intervals and additional testing done at 10 m intervals for site delineation. All STPs were dug by 10 cm levels within natural strata including 10 cm into subsoil and all excavated soils were screened through 0.635 mm (1/4") mesh. Eight STPs were found to be associated with Site 18HA284. The site produced a total of 37 prehistoric artifacts. Chipped stone objects included 32 pieces of debitage (29 quartz, 2 jasper, 1 rhyolite), 1 quartz utilized flake, and 1 quartz biface fragment. Three unidentified ceramic sherds were also recovered, 2 shell-tempered and 1 with a mixed shell/feldspar/hematite temper, and dated to the Late Woodland period. A single historic item, a bottle glass fragment, was also collected.

Based on the Phase I findings, Site 18HA284 appeared to represent an encampment, with a mix of biface and core reduction, and possibly some food-processing activities. Just over 32% of the artifacts originated from A2 or B1 horizon contexts, indicating the possible presence of intact deposits. It was suggested that the site had the potential to provide information on prehistoric land-use and intra-site activity. Therefore, it was recommended for avoidance or for Phase II archeological evaluation.

The Phase II archeological evaluations of the site included the excavation of 49 STPs at 5 m intervals and of fifteen 1x1 m test units (TUs 1-15). One 50x50 cm unit (TU 16) was excavated alongside TU 6 to determine if the fire-cracked rock scatter in the unit may have come from a nearby cultural feature; no feature was located. All STPs and test units were dug by 10 cm levels within natural strata including 10 cm into subsoil and all excavated soils were screened through 0.635 mm (1/4") mesh. No cultural features were identified during the Phase II testing.

Two loci of activity were observed at the site. Locus A was in the central portion of the site and occupied an area of about 7x8 m. Locus B was located in the northwestern portion of the site in an area of about 5x5 m. Locus B had a higher artifact density than Locus A even though Locus A contained almost 50% of all the artifacts recovered from the Phase I and II investigations compared to 26% from Locus B. The majority of prehistoric shell-tempered ceramics were recovered from Locus A but were also found in Locus B, suggesting that both loci were occupied during the Late Woodland period. Debitage and cores were also found in abundance in each locus; however, the average debitage weight was considerably lower in Locus B than in Locus A possibly indicating that activity in Locus B focused on late stage reduction. No fire-cracked rock, no cores and only a few core flakes were recovered from Locus B; almost all the fire-cracked rock found at the site, 4 of the 6 cores found at the site, and several core flakes were recovered from Locus A. Some level of horizontal integrity of the site was suggested by the presence of these distinct loci. The widespread concentration within unplowed A2 horizon contexts further suggested some level of vertical integrity.

A total of 562 prehistoric artifacts were recovered during Phase II investigations. There were 453 pieces of debitage, 60% of which derived from A2 contexts



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(401 quartz, 32 jasper, 14 quartzite, 6 chert) and 6 quartz cores. Nine biface fragments were recovered including 1 indeterminate triangular chert fragment and a quartz stem that may have come from a Middle Woodland broad stemmed variety, 2 quartz indeterminate pieces, 2 Late Woodland Levanna points (quartz, chert), 1 possible Late Woodland Madison/Potomac quartz point, and 1 Bare Island quartz point that is typically dated from the Late Archaic to Early Woodland. Five utilized and/or modified flake tools were identified (4 jasper, 1 quartz) as well as 1 flaked rectangular quartz cobble (the dorsal face of the distal end was worked). Two other lithic artifacts were identified as quartzite hammerstones. A total of 25 fire-cracked rock fragments were recovered from all strata. A total of 61 ceramic sherds were collected from the site, of which almost 70% were recovered from A2 horizon contexts. This included 29 sherds identifiable as Townsend ware (net-impressed and cord-marked) and 2 Minguannan rim sherds (refits). There were 21 unidentified sherds, 18 that were shell tempered (possibly indicating a Late Woodland origin), 1 tempered with a mix of quartz, shell, and hematite, and 2 shell and quartz-tempered, that also likely correspond to Late Woodland types, and 9 other unidentified sherds. Artifacts from Level 1, TU 6 were lost in the field but included 31 quartz debitage, 1 jasper debitage, and 9 prehistoric ceramic sherds. Although they are not available in the collection for study, these artifacts are included in the totals in the table above.

Organic materials were collected from the A1 (n=2) and A2 (n=6) horizons from 4 different test units located across the site (there was no clustering). The materials included 1 burnt bone from TU 11, 2 unburnt bone fragments from TU 4, 1 fish scale from TU 14, and 4 pieces of shell from TU 12. Although the excavators indicated that it was unclear if they related to the prehistoric or historic components, for purposes of the synopsis the materials were listed in the prehistoric artifacts table above (1 modified faunal and 7 unmodified faunal). This was based on the predominance of prehistoric artifacts in the assemblages of each unit compared to the limited presence of historic materials (TU 11 contained 8 historic and 122 prehistoric artifacts, TU 4 contained 3 historic and 71 prehistoric materials, and TUs 12 and 14 contained only prehistoric materials).

Prehistoric activity at the site appeared to include core reduction, early stage biface reduction, late stage biface reduction, hearth or fire-pit related activities, perishable resource processing that included scraping and meat cutting or general utility tasks, and other food processing activities as represented by the ceramics. These varied activities were suggestive of periods of substantive site occupation, suggesting a base camp occupation, particularly during the Late Woodland period. More ephemeral short-term camps are reflected in the Late Archaic-Middle Woodland components.

A total of 39 historic artifacts were collected from Site 18HA284, the majority of which derived from the A1 horizon. There were 12 architectural items (7 brick fragments, 1 cut/wrought nail, 5 unidentified nails). The kitchen-related artifacts included 11 bottle/container glass fragments and 11 ceramic sherds (3 pearlware and 1 possible pearlware, 3 red earthenware, 3 porcelain, 1 creamware). A total of 4 miscellaneous objects were retained (2 indeterminate glass fragments, 1 piece of slate, 1 piece of plastic). The only arms-related item recovered from the site was a minie ball. It was the only artifact recovered from TU 10 which was located in the far southwestern corner of the site. It likely reflects the Civil War activity that occurred in the immediate vicinity of the site, probably representing skirmishes related to the burnings of the nearby Gunpowder Bridge. No distinct clusters of historic materials were noted at the site; the artifacts were recovered from widely dispersed locations.

Old Trails Locus 2 (18HA284) is a multicomponent site with Late Archaic/Early Woodland and Middle Woodland short-term camps and a Late Woodland base camp, a Civil War find, and a late 18th/ early 19th to 20th century artifact scatter. Although there appears to have been some limited activity during the Late Archaic/Early Woodland and Middle Woodland periods, the Late Woodland period saw the most intensive use of the site. Although two horizontally distinct loci (Locus A and Locus B) were identified at the site, and some limited evidence for vertical integrity was recognized, there did appear to be considerable conflation of the different occupations. This, combined with the lack of identified cultural features, resulted in the determination that the prehistoric component of 18HA284 did not possess significant research potential. Historic activity probably represents nothing more than brief episodes of discard from the late 18th to the 20th century, and an isolated artifact reflecting Civil War activity in the area. The historic component did not exhibit any sign of integrity or significant research potential. Neither the prehistoric nor the historic components of Site 18HA284 possessed significance as defined by the National Register criteria for evaluation. No further work was recommended.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

97002475