



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18HO12

Site Name: Rockburn Branch I

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Rockburn Branch 1

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description: Archaic short-term resource procurement camp

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 14

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.2171

Longitude -76.7650

Physiographic province Eastern Piedmont

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m Site slope 0

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) Rockburn Branch

- | 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 Y
- 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. 1675 - 1720
- ca. 1720 - 1780
- ca. 1780 - 1820
- Unknown historic context
- Unknown context
- ca. 1820 - 1860
- ca. 1860 - 1900
- ca. 1900 - 1930
- Post 1930

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

- Native American
- African American
- Anglo-American
- Hispanic
- Asian American
- Unknown
- Other

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?

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

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"/>	
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"/>	
Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
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

Earthenware	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stoneware	
Astbury	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	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"/>	168
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 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 type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input 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"/>	1
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
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 MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Rockburn Branch I (18HO12) is the archeological remains of a multi-component short-term resource procurement camp on county-owned property in eastern Howard County. The site is situated on a jutting finger ridge that slopes off sharply towards Rockburn Branch, a tributary of the Patapsco River. The site consists of fallow agricultural fields with very dense briar and thick hedge regrowth, as well as a moderately wooded area of Virginia pine, beech, red maple, and black walnut. Soils at the site are primarily Legore silt loams.

The site was first recorded in the early 1970s by researchers from the University of Maryland – College Park during a survey of the Patapsco River drainage. The researchers viewed the collection of a local avocational archeologist which consisted of mostly Archaic projectile points and a single non-archaic jasper point. Although the UMD researchers visited the site with the local collector, the area had not been recently plowed and no indications of the site were apparent.

In May and June of 1998, a Phase II testing program was carried out at the site. The work was carried out prior to construction of the (then) proposed Rockburn Branch Sewer Line at Howard County's Rockburn Branch Park. Development of the sewer line would include grading and construction activities that would have an adverse impact upon the site which had been acquired by the county. Therefore, Phase II testing was carried out on behalf of the Howard County Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and Article 83B, Sections 5-617 and 5-618, of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

The site was re-located by excavating a series of shovel test pits (STPs) at 15 m intervals. Once the site was relocated, the focus of the investigation turned to finding the locations of numerically high concentrations of artifacts as well as those of functionally divergent activities. This stage of the evaluation used shovel test retesting to delineate the boundaries of the site and to locate special density areas. Retesting was done at 5 m intervals across the entire portion of the site within the sewer line alignment and impact area, and extended until culturally sterile deposits were encountered. A total of 158 STPs were excavated to relocate 18HO12, while 12 STPs were excavated at 18HO12.

Once special density areas were located, a large enough horizontal exposure of intact soil deposits was undertaken in order to locate cultural features. This stage of the evaluation involved the excavation of 1 X 1 m test units. The unit excavations concentrated upon the portions of the site that would be impacted by the sewer line project, but were also placed in areas where artifact quantities and types suggested that these locations could produce essential interpretive data. A total of 8 test units were excavated at 18HO12.

All shovel tests and test units were hand excavated. The shovel tests measured 35 cm in diameter and were excavated to a depth of 40 cm below surface or 10 cm into sterile subsoil. The test units were excavated to sterile subsoil, using 10 cm arbitrary levels within natural stratigraphy. Excavated soils were screened through hardware cloth. Each shovel test and test unit was recorded in the field, noting its position within the sampling pattern, the depths of soil horizons, and the presence or absence of cultural remains. All soil characteristics, including color and texture, were recorded using standard methods and nomenclature.

Eight of the 158 shovel tests excavated during the initial stage of the Phase II evaluation yielded a total of 13 prehistoric artifacts, including one rhyolite flake in an isolated shovel test, and 12 clustered finds that identified 18HO12. Prehistoric cultural material was recovered from all eight of the 1 X 1 m test units. A total of 156 prehistoric artifacts were recovered from the units. All of the artifacts (both STP and test unit recoveries) came from the Ao and Ap horizons.

A total of 168 prehistoric lithic artifacts were recovered during the Phase II investigation at Site 18HO12. The site assemblage was composed of flaked stone and groundstone artifacts. The assemblage included 8 bifaces, 2 unifaces, 3 cores, 153 pieces of debitage, 1 use-modified stone tool, and 1 piece of fire-cracked rock. Five of the bifaces were associated with known projectile point/knife types, including 1 Savannah River point, 3 Piscataway points, and 1 Levanna point. The points/knives suggest site occupations from the Late Archaic and Late Woodland periods, and possibly the Early to Middle Woodland as well. The dominant raw material in the assemblage is quartz, followed distantly by rhyolite, chalcedony, quartzite, and ironstone.

Phase II testing also produced two historic artifacts. These included a fragment of a 1974 dime and a piece of machine-made bottle glass. These artifacts date to the 20th century and were interpreted to represent casual discard. They are not significant.

No intact prehistoric features were encountered at the site. It appears that 18HO12 represents a camp reoccupied over some 3000 years. Among prominent activities at the camp were late stage or secondary lithic reduction (part of stone-tool manufacture). Due to probable soil deflation and to evident historical plowing, artifacts from different time periods are mixed together. This situation has compromised the physical integrity of the site.

Site 18HO12 was found to consist of at least Late Archaic and Late Woodland occupations, and possibly Early to Middle Woodland components as well. At Site 18HO12, there appears to be sufficient horizontal integrity to differentiate distinct activity areas. However, the blending of discrete temporal components due to historic plowing, and the absence of diagnostic artifacts in many parts of the site limit the potential for placing these activities within the context of particular periods. The site was determined ineligible for listing on the NRHP and no further work was recommended prior to construction of the new sewer line.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00006866