



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18HO129

Site Name: Barse VII

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief Description:

Late Archaic and Early & Late Woodland base camp & late 19th-20th century scatter

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 13

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.3221

Longitude -76.9162

Physiographic province Eastern Piedmont

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 168 m

Site slope 3-8%

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) Little Patuxent River

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Spring

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 58 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
- 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

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples

Soil samples taken N

Flotation samples taken N

Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken 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"/>	
Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
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"/>	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	<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	<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		
Flaked stone	258	
Ground stone	1	
Stone bowls		
Fire-cracked rock		
Other lithics (all)		
Ceramics (all)	1	
Rimsherds		
Other fired clay	3	
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		
Pottery (all)	1	
Glass (all)	1	
Architectural	9	
Furniture	5	
Arms		
Clothing		
Personal items		
Tobacco related		
Activity item(s)	1	
Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Misc. kitchen	7	
Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Misc.	9	
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

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Barse VII Site (18HO129) is located west of Columbia in northern Howard County, Maryland. It is situated on the floodplain of the Little Patuxent River. The surrounding topography is characterized by low north to south running ridges that are divided by shallow swales. The swales, which present evidence of carrying seasonal runoff, descend towards the river situated just to the south of the site. Soils at the site consist primarily of Chester silt loams and Glenville silt loams.

The archeological site was first identified in 1985 during a Phase I archeological survey prior to the creation of the Alpha Ridge Park; a project of the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks. The site is situated in the southern portion of the park project area. The parkland improvements included construction of roads and a parking area, grading for playing fields, construction of storm-water catchment ponds, and creation of wetlands mitigation facilities in adjacent areas. The survey of the entire park project area included surface reconnaissance and limited subsurface testing, and archival research. Four shovel tests were excavated in the floodplain portions of the park project area, two of which yielded one rhyolite flake, one retouched rhyolite flake, and one chert flake all found within the plowzone. The site was recommended for further investigation at the Phase II level.

Phase II testing was conducted in 1992. In order to determine the horizontal and vertical boundaries of Site 18HO129, a total of 29 shovel tests, three 50 X 50 cm test units, and five 1 X 1 m test units were excavated. The shovel tests were placed at 10 m intervals along seven transects within the site boundaries as defined during the Phase I survey. Test units and supplemental shovel tests were placed on the basis of the initial shovel test results. Testing of adjacent portions of Site 18HO126 revealed a related prehistoric occupation approximately 20 meters north of 18HO129 as initially defined. The boundaries of Site 18HO129 were extended to encompass this second prehistoric locus. The following discussion incorporates the findings from this adjacent area.

A total of 8 prehistoric artifacts were recovered from 5 of the initial shovel tests. Seven of these artifacts were recovered from disturbed plowzone contexts. One artifact, a quartz flake, was recovered from below the plowzone. Artifacts in the plowzone consisted of 5 quartz flakes, 1 rhyolite flake, 1 jasper flake, and 1 chalcedony flake. A high percentage of the flakes represented cryptocrystalline material. Based on the test results, a series of five 1 X 1 m units were excavated. The debitage from the plowzone across the site consisted of 49.7% silicate-based (sandstone, quartzite, quartz, silicified sandstone) raw material; 28.9% metamorphic material (rhyolite, trachyte, diorite, and gabbro); and 21.4% cryptocrystalline material. However, debitage obtained from the underlying B horizon was significantly different; it included 75.3% metamorphic material, 21.7% silicate-based material, and 2.9% cryptocrystalline material. In Units 1 and 5, the difference between the Ap and B2 horizon materials was even greater. For instance, in Unit 1, the artifacts in the Ap consisted of 52% quartzite and 17% rhyolite. In the B horizon, the lithic debitage consisted only of 18% quartzite flakes and 80% rhyolite flakes; a single chert flake was the only flake of cryptocrystalline material in the B horizon.

The significant difference between the upper and lower soil horizons demonstrates that there are at least two distinct components on the site. One is represented by a high percentage of silicate-based debitage and a substantial amount of associated high-grade cryptocrystalline debitage. This occupation, which may date from the Late Woodland period, appears to be confined to the plowzone; however the base of possible features were noted at the interface between the plowzone and the B horizon. A second prehistoric component is represented by materials in the undisturbed underlying stratum. This component is represented by a high percentage of metamorphic flakes, a moderate proportion of silicate-based flakes, and a low percentage of exotic materials. This component may date from the Late Archaic or Early Woodland.

A total of 33 historic artifacts (all Phase II units and STPs) were recovered from Site 18HO129. Of these 33 artifacts, 1 is related to transportation activity, 9 were architectural, 5 were furniture-related, 9 were kitchen-related, and 9 were miscellaneous. The temporal range of the three dateable historic artifacts (1 wire nail, 1 embossed glass fragment, and 1 domestic gray stoneware sherd) potentially ranged from the mid-eighteenth century through the early twentieth century. The majority of these historic artifacts were recovered from plowzone deposits that also contained prehistoric artifacts.

Component 1 (all Phase II units and STPs) yielded a total of 190 artifacts, the vast majority of which (173) were unmodified lithic flakes. Two additional flakes exhibit evidence of retouching/utilization. Quartzite was the dominant raw material present in the assemblage, followed by rhyolite and chalcedony, trachyte, silicified sandstone, quartz, diorite, gabbro, jasper, chert, and sandstone. Of these 173 pieces of flakeage, 148 were classified as non-cortex, 23 contained secondary cortex, and only 2 were classified as retaining primary cortex. In general, the debitage was small, suggesting late stage biface finishing or the production of flakes for compound tools. Both of the utilized/retouched flakes were made from chalcedony and are quite small. It is doubtful that flakes this size were hand held. Instead, they probably were used in conjunction with a compound tool. The average edge angle on these specimens is 54.5 degrees, a figure typically associated with tools utilized for general utility tasks. Five quartzite cores were recovered from Component 1 contexts. Two of the specimens are multi-directional, one is bipolar, and two are possibly bipolar. The presence of cores exhibiting bipolar flaking are suggestive of activities related to the outfitting of compound tools, which is often associated with streamside camps. One specimen of a groundstone quartzite tool fragment was recovered from Component 1. The function of the specimen is unknown, however, it does exhibit evidence of possible fingerwear. One small unidentified fragment of quartz-tempered pottery was recovered from the base of Component 1. In addition, 5.0 g of sand-tempered clay also was recovered and was interpreted either as daub or waterworn sherds. A total of 7 bifaces/projectile points were recovered from Site 18HO129. However these points give some suggestion of the age of both site components. The morphology and material of the rough triangular chalcedony biface recovered from Component 1 would support a Late Woodland affiliation. A specimen of trachyte with shallow side notches also was found in Component 1 which may be related to the Selby Bay form. Two possible Bare Island points, characterized by straight stems and narrow blades, were found near the very base of Component 1, providing a terminal date for Component 2.

Component 2 (all Phase II units and STPs) produced 71 artifacts. Sixty-nine unmodified lithic flakes were encountered which, in contrast to Component 1 flakes, were most commonly made of rhyolite. There were also flakes of quartzite, silicified sandstone, quartz, chert, and trachyte. Approximately 97% of the flakes were non-cortical. This distribution is indicative of a location where minimal primary lithic reduction took place. The average weight of the flakes was .66 g, which suggests that the flakes were not being manufactured for use as hand-held flake tools. Instead, these artifacts may reflect resharpening of bifaces or the outfitting of composite tools. In addition to the flakes, a single non-cortical multi-directional quartzite core and a fragment of daub were also recovered.

Based on the vertical distribution of the debitage, Site 18HO129 clearly possesses stratigraphic integrity. The second component appears undisturbed across much of the site. Although the horizontal extent of this second component is relatively limited, its presence affords an opportunity to examine a rare buried prehistoric component in the central Maryland Piedmont. The function of the two components can be inferred initially from the material that was recovered. Component 1 contains a range of lithic material types, including a number of ceramics and daub. This large a variety of materials in a relatively small



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assemblage, suggests several alternative interpretations. Component 1 may have been: (1) a transitory hunting/procurement station for seasonal movements up and down the Little Patuxent drainage, (2) a short-term camp for exploitation of locally-available resources (e.g. lithic raw material, mast, floodplain plants), or (3) a semi-permanent farmstead with some cultivation in the floodplain. Although the latter would represent an exciting discovery, there is little evidence at present to indicate a settlement of extended duration.

Component 2 of the site, which may represent Late Archaic or Early Woodland occupation, is characterized by lithic debitage. Non-local metamorphic material (e.g., rhyolite, trachyte) is especially abundant. The two projectile points that may come from this component were made of this type of material. There also is a significant amount of presumably local quartzite in the assemblage. This type of lithic assemblage could represent one of two site functions: (1) a short-term lithic reduction locus, in which one or more cores of non-local material were processed by a group passing through the area, or (2) the temporary camp of a local group that had access to non-local lithic material that was exchanged through the region. Unfortunately, we currently have such a poor understanding of the nature of settlement in the Maryland Piedmont that it is impossible to resolve this issue given the current data.

Because there is so little information on the prehistoric occupation of the central Maryland Piedmont, it is clear that Site 18HO129 offers substantive research potential. Further documentation of the site will afford opportunities to clarify the local prehistoric sequence and to resolve research questions related to the regional relationship of the central Piedmont to the better known Western Shore of the Monocacy Valley.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00005865