



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18HO193

Site Name: Curtis

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Late Woodland short-term procurement camp, 17th-18th century artifact scatter

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 14

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.2127

Longitude -76.8063

Physiographic province Eastern Piedmont

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m Site slope 0

Ethnobotany profile available Maritime site

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Unnamed tributary of Deep

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 P ca. 1860 - 1900

Early archaic

Early woodland

ca. 1675 - 1720 P ca. 1900 - 1930

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

ca. 1720 - 1780 P 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

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"/>	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"/>	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	322	Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	3	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	4	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<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 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 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	Tobacco related	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	1	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	2	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.	1
		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:

The Curtis Site (18HO193) is an approximately 70 X 90 meter prehistoric site located on a terrace overlooking the confluence of Deep Run and a small stream in Howard County, Maryland. It is one in a series of small prehistoric sites occupying separate ridges and knolls overlooking Deep Run. It was situated amidst both agricultural land and hardwood forest cover. Soils at the site include Sassafras, Chillum, and Aura-type soils.

It was first identified by archeologists of the Maryland State Highway Administration in 1992 during investigations prior to the extension of MD Route 100 from US 29 to I-95. A controlled surface collection of the plowed portion of the site, which measured approximately 60 X 70 m in area, produced 137 prehistoric artifacts from 168 5 X 5 m collection areas. In addition, six shovel tests were excavated at 20 m intervals along two transects within the field. Nearly all of the prehistoric material was recovered from the plowzone; a single quartz flake was recovered from the undisturbed B1 horizon of one shovel test.

Prehistoric artifacts collected from the site consisted primarily of quartz debitage (63 decortication flakes, 13 primary flakes, 24 secondary flakes, 4 tertiary, 7 unclassifiable and 8 shatter fragments). In addition, 2 quartz cores, 2 quartz scrapers, 2 quartzite pitted hammerstones, 3 fire-cracked rocks, 6 rhyolite flakes (1 primary flake, 5 secondary flakes), 1 quartz projectile point midsection, and a Late Woodland triangular projectile point were recovered. This material was concentrated in the northeastern portion of the site; smaller amounts of lithics to the south indicated that the site extended into the wooded area that bordered the agricultural field. The projectile point and scrapers were recovered from within and bordering the concentration of artifacts. Rhyolite debitage was recovered from across the entire site. Based on these results and the fact that the site would be severely impacted by construction of MD 100, Phase II testing was recommended for 18HO193.

Surface collection data from the Phase I survey guided the placement of the Phase II test units. A total of five 0.25 X 4 meter slit trenches and two 1 X 1 m test units were excavated within the 0.42 acre site. Slit trenches were employed to avoid damage to the mature corn crop. Sixteen shovel tests and two additional 1 X 1 m test units were placed in the wooded portion of the site. Stratigraphic and archeological data recovered indicate that the site was disturbed extensively by historic plowing.

A total of 193 prehistoric artifacts were recovered during Phase II testing of the site. This included 5 bifaces and biface fragments, 8 utilized/retouched flakes, 5 cores, 173 pieces of debitage, and 2 hammerstones. None of the biface fragments were chronologically diagnostic. Five historic objects were also encountered. These include 2 cut/wrought nail fragments, 1 aqua glass shard, 1 sherd of glazed redware, and a sample of charcoal. No features (historic or prehistoric) were identified. The greatest concentration of prehistoric material was documented from the portion of the site in the secondary undergrowth, outside of the plowed field. Nine shovel tests and two test units placed within this area produced 63.9% of the prehistoric Phase II assemblage.

The predominance of non-cortex flakes (58.38% by count), the low overall average flake weight (1.55g), and the low ratio of cores to bifaces, indicate that middle to late stage biface thinning and shaping and stone tool maintenance were the primary activities at the site. The use of expedient flake tools also is represented in the lithic assemblage. The range of activities represented at the site indicates that it was the locus of short-term resource extraction activities during the Late Woodland period. This chronological ascription is based upon the triangular point recovered during the Phase I surface collections. No prehistoric ceramics were recovered.

Site 18HO193 represents a short-term resource extraction site and possible camp site dating to the Late Woodland period. The site is the result of a short-term occupation of a small upland ridge. During the occupation, biface performs and large flakes were thinned and shaped into more finished bifaces and perhaps projectile points. Flake tools also were used and made, perhaps for procurement activities. The majority of these activities appear to have occurred on the edge or toeslope of the ridge, outside the agricultural field. Nearly all of the cultural material recovered from the site was from the plowzone. Small amounts of material found in the lower soil horizons probably resulted from natural processes, such as bioturbation. Taken together these data demonstrate that the site lacks subsurface integrity. This lack of stratigraphic integrity makes it impossible to differentiate activities and functions in the prehistoric component at the site. Furthermore, the site type is one for which there are numerous alternative examples within the Maryland Piedmont. These factors suggest that 18HO193 retains no additional research potential.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00005876