



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18HO272

Site Name: Curtis Farm 1

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief Description:

Prehistoric short-term resource procurement camp/lithic quarry; Late 17th-Early 18th century artifact scatter

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 14

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.2208

Longitude -76.7992

Physiographic province Eastern Piedmont

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m

Site slope 2-5%

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) Deep Run

- | 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 | | 45 m | |

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

- Paleoindian site
- Archaic site
- 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? 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		Staffordshire		Stoneware	
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<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	582	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	1	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oyster shell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input 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 checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/>		

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts			
Pottery (all)	12	Tobacco related	5
Glass (all)	10	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	10	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.	71
		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:

Curtis Farm 1 (18HO272) is a prehistoric quarry and lithic reduction camp east of the Columbia community and south of Ellicott City in Howard County. The site is situated within a former agricultural field, on a low terrace overlooking a tributary to Deep Run Creek. The site is separated from nearby 18HO273 (See synopsis report) by a shallow gully that cuts through the low terrace. This gully carries water eastward to the Deep Run tributary. Soils at the site are primarily Sassafras and Croom loams.

The site was first recorded in August of 2004 during the course of a Phase I survey of the former Curtis Farm property. A Prince Georges County-based development company had recently acquired two parcels of the former farm property, totaling 58.6 acres of land. The company intended to develop the parcels into a new residential subdivision that would be known as "Shipley's Grant". A joint federal and state permit for building on non-tidal wetlands would be required for the proposed development. Thus, in accordance with the terms of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, and the Maryland Historical Trust Act of 1985, archeological survey of the parcels was required.

The Phase I survey consisted of the stratigraphic excavation of shovel test pits (STPs) at a 15 m interval, as well as non-systematic collection of surface finds over the development project area. In addition, supplemental radial shovel tests were excavated on a 5 m interval around positive finds. Two archeological sites were identified on the basis of horizontal and vertical concentration of small finds (mostly quartz lithics) that appeared to be part of primary deposition: Curtis Farm 1 (18HO272) and Curtis Farm 2 (18HO273). Both sites were provisionally identified as quarries or quarry reduction stations., which took advantage of the abundant beds of quartz gravel and the exposed underlying igneous and metamorphic rock in the streambeds.

All together, 297 artifacts were collected during Phase I operations at 18HO272. The assemblage consisted of 262 flaked stone objects, 1 piece of fire-cracked rock, 6 nails, 3 pieces of brick, 1 piece of window glass, 10 ceramic sherds (1 Staffordshire slip earthenware, 1 ironstone), 9 pieces of bottle glass, and 4 kaolin pipe stems. Based on these findings, Phase II work was recommended, which was carried out in the spring of 2006.

Phase II work at 18HO272 consisted of the stratigraphic excavation by-hand of five test units (generally 1 X 1 m in size) at the site, and five mechanically excavated test trenches between 30 and 45 meters long on the perimeter of the site. The purpose of the first manner of excavation was to attain greater control over site stratigraphy and to determine the degree of horizontal and vertical integrity of any manmade features that might be present. The purpose of the second method was to determine more precisely the site boundaries, particularly as artifact scattering of other discrete features might reveal them.

The hand-excavation of test units was done primarily with trowels. It proceeded from one edge of the unit towards the opposite one, removing one shallow layer of material after another until the natural contours of the context could be discerned. Where soil layers proved particularly thick or intractable, flat shovels or adzes were similarly used to remove a few centimeters of soil at a time. All units were excavated to a depth of at least 20 cm into non-artifact-bearing, sterile subsoil. All soils were passed through hardware mesh and standardized forms were used to record contextual information.

A front-end loader equipped with a 91 cm (3 ft), smooth-blade, articulated backhoe was used to excavate the larger machine-excavation trenches. The trenches were approximately 2 meters wide (actually 2 blade widths). Only the plowzone topsoil was removed from each trench, so as to expose in plan any archeologically significant features. All of them were linear, with 4 trenches being 30 m long and one being 45 m in length. Three of the trenches extended beyond the boundaries of 18HO272, but largely confirmed that the boundaries established during Phase I were appropriate. Rough excavation with the mechanical equipment was followed by scraping with shovel and trowel, so as to smooth out anomalies created by the machine and clean off any remaining topsoil to look for artifact deposits and features.

Phase II efforts failed to identify any intact cultural features associated with the prehistoric occupation of the area.

A total of 406 artifacts were recovered during the Phase II excavations at 18HO272. Twelve of the artifacts were faunal and of uncertain age. These items are not included in the tables above. A total of 320 artifacts date to the pre-contact era and 74 date post-contact. A formal analysis and description of all of these materials is not provided in the body of the site report, but the discussion section of the report suggests that all or most of the materials are non-diagnostic flaked stone. They have been cataloged as such in the tables above. Historic artifacts from Phase II included 1 Derbyshire-style salt-glazed stoneware sherd, 1 green lead-glazed earthenware sherd, and an additional kaolin pipe stem fragment. The remaining post-contact materials are cataloged above as "miscellaneous" historic finds.

Phase II work at the site largely confirmed that 18HO272 was probably a prehistoric quarry or quarry reduction station of unknown prehistoric age. In addition, however, Phase II work also revealed that most of the recovered materials (primarily quartz debitage exhibiting a high percentage of primary flakes) were confined to the disturbed plowzone level. Phase II efforts also failed to identify any intact cultural features associated with the prehistoric occupation of the area. The site also revealed a historic component that may be associated with habitation of the site during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, but the majority of those artifacts had been redeposited by erosion and no clear pattern in their distribution could be identified. For these reasons 18HO272 was determined not eligible for listing in the NRHP and no further investigations were carried out before construction of the new housing complex.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

97003051, Site Files