



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18MO243

Site Name: Taylor

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Late Archaic-Late Woodland short-term resource procurement camps; Late 19th-20th century artifact scatter

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 12

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.0008

Longitude -77.0927

Physiographic province Eastern Piedmont

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 107 m

Site slope 0

Ethnobotany profile available Maritime site

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Unnamed tributary of Rock

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 38 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

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

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

multiple occupations

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"/>	
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"/>	27
Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>	6
Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>	5
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	<input type="checkbox"/>	3698
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	4
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	6
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 checked="" 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)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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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Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Taylor Site (18MO243) is a small cluster of Late Archaic-Woodland short-term resource procurement camps located on the campus of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland. The site is situated in an area consisting of level and moderately sloping terrain along the eastern side of an unnamed intermittent stream which flows into a small tributary of Rock Creek. It is located approximately one mile upstream from the stream's junction with Rock Creek. The surrounding vicinity consists of moderately rolling uplands. Soils at the site consist of Glenville and Manor silt loams. Both of these soil types are suitable for pasture, but are not highly productive for agriculture. By the time archeological researchers were made aware of the site (in the early 1980s), the vicinity was already highly developed.

The first professional archeological work conducted at the site was a Phase I reconnaissance survey in 1983 to mitigate the impacts of a road extension onto the NIH campus. During the course of the survey, project personnel were introduced to Mr. Vernon "Bull" Taylor who worked on the NIH Grounds Maintenance staff. Mr. Taylor had collected artifacts, including a number of diagnostic projectile points, and pointed the researchers to the area where the greatest concentration of these artifacts occurred; 18MO243. During the Phase I study, the entire road extension project area was systematically tested by means of 28,317 cubic centimeter (1 cubic foot) shovel test pits placed at 7.62 meter (25 ft) intervals. A total of 179 shovel test pits (STPs) were excavated at that time with the spoils being screened through hardware cloth. Of these, 51 STPs produced material of clear prehistoric cultural origin. Historic period material was recovered from 88 STPs. The historic period artifacts, however, dated from the late 19th century to the present and were not found to be associated with any potentially significant cultural deposit. The historic artifacts will not be discussed further here. Flaked stone artifacts encountered during the Phase I survey include 3 projectile points, 1 core, 1 end scraper, 1 side scraper, 122 pieces of debitage and 383 pieces of shatter (mostly quartz). Among the projectile points were a Selby Bay point, and both a finished and unfinished Piscataway point. Other lithic tools included a grinding stone and a hammerstone. Three ceramic sherds were also encountered; 1 Moyaone body sherd and 2 Accokeek body sherds. Two additional projectile points were recovered by Mr. Taylor prior to the Phase I survey. These include a quartz Piscataway point and a rhyolite Selby Bay point. Additional points have been found by Mr. Taylor elsewhere on the NIH campus, but were not situated near 18MO243.

The Phase I investigation work served to identify the existence of Site 18MO243, and to define the extent of the prehistoric remains. All but 5 of the 51 STPs yielding artifacts were concentrated in the southeastern portion of the road extension impact area and site boundaries were restricted to this general area of high concentration. Based upon the Phase I research findings, it was recommended that Site 18MO243 be intensively tested (Phase II) to evaluate its level of significance and eligibility for nomination to the NRHP. The remainder of the road extension impact area was found to contain very little cultural material of potential significance, and was largely disturbed by 20th century construction activity. No further work was recommended for those portions of the project area.

Researchers returned to the site in 1984 to conduct this Phase II work. An initial series of 450 subsurface excavation units were shovel test pits placed systematically at 3.048 meter (10 ft) intervals on a structured grid system. Of the initial STPs, 310 (69%) produced prehistoric artifactual material. The artifacts encountered within these initial test units include 39 lithic tools, 248 flakes, and 740 pieces of shatter. The vast majority of all these artifacts were made of quartz. Besides the lithic material recovered from the initial STPs, two fragments of prehistoric pottery were also found during the Phase II study. One is an Accokeek body sherd and the other is a Moyaone sherd. Sixty-four supplementary shovel tests were placed at 1.524 meter (5 ft) intervals around 12 of the initial STPs which produced especially interesting prehistoric cultural material. These supplementary units were oriented to the four cardinal directions and a total of 51 supplementary STPs (80%) produced prehistoric material. These test units were excavated in order to further define the specific locations at which larger excavation units should be located. In these STPs were 73 cultural flakes, 89 pieces of lithic shatter, and 1 sandstone tool. Again, the majority of the artifacts were made of quartz.

Ten excavation units, 1.8288 X 1.8288 meters (6 X 6 ft) in size, were excavated stratigraphically at locations of special interest. Their positions were determined by the findings from the STPs. These test units were excavated stratigraphically by flat shovel using natural soil levels or arbitrary levels, whichever was more practical. All of these test units contained prehistoric material. The test units produced an abundance of artifactual material. The assemblage from the Phase II test units include 1,020 flakes, 822 pieces of lithic shatter, and 51 tools. Most of the artifacts were of quartz and quartzite. While the material from the Phase II excavations consisted largely of debitage, there were also a substantial number of complete, fragmentary, and unfinished lithic tools (primarily projectile points). The projectile points represented several identifiable styles. The lithic tools encountered throughout the site (all Phase II STPs and the 1.8188 X 1.8288 units) include 26 Piscataway points, 6 Calvert points, 3 Fox Creek projectiles, 3 Selby Bay, 1 triangular point, 2 drills, one generalized biface, 2 bifacially worked flakes, 1 end scraper, a stone "dagger", a possible club head, 2 hammerstones and 42 unidentified stone tools (assumed flaked).

Also in 1984, students from an undergraduate class in archeology at American University conducted field practice excavations at Site 18MO243. Their work consisted of the excavation of approximately sixteen 91.44 cm (3 ft) test squares. These excavations were carried out in the most northeasterly corner of the site, outside the boundaries of the road expansion impact area. These excavations revealed substantially less dense archeological deposits, on the average, than the excavations inside the limits of the project area. The assemblage consisted almost entirely of lithic debitage (71 flakes and 31 pieces of shatter), but an end scraper, a biface, a single grit-tempered pottery sherd (probably Moyaone), and a Selby Bay basal fragment were also encountered.

The results of the Phase II investigation of the Taylor Site (18MO243) show that the portion of the site through which the road extension would pass did contain a substantial deposit of both prehistoric and historic period materials. The historic period cultural remains are of comparatively recent vintage, however, and are not considered to be of any potential significance. The nature and density of the aboriginal remains indicates that they were deposited during several separate episodes of temporary occupation. This is likely to have involved small bands of individuals engaged in generalized hunting and/or foraging for food. In addition, the presence of lithic raw materials and the substantial amount of debitage and unfinished tools indicates tool manufacture activity. The presence of aboriginal cultural remains at this location was not unexpected, since the terrain would have provided level ground for a small camp, with nearby access to fresh water. It is apparent that the prehistoric remains were deposited there over a period of around 2,100 years (beginning in the Late Archaic/Early Woodland transition around 3,000 years BP with smaller occupations in the Middle and Late Woodland). The actual number of those episodes, and the specific locations within the site at which they took place could not be determined. While evidence of individual types of cultural activity was found, their sequence and interrelationships could not be precisely defined. Diagnostic prehistoric materials from widely separated chronological periods of prehistory were found to be intermingled in the intact and undisturbed natural soil. That intermingling is probably largely a result of colluvial soil movement due to erosion of the sloping terrain at the site and re-deposition and/or further erosion in flat areas of the site.



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Historic Brief
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Unknown

While the archeological remains at Site 18MO243 are helpful in learning about the prehistoric inhabitants of this vicinity, they contained intermingled materials from a variety of chronological periods. As a consequence, the potential significance of the site is diminished. Since a substantial collection from the site has been preserved as a result of the Phase I and Phase II projects, the remaining cultural component is considered to be lacking a high level of significance.

On a final note, a group of local high school students apparently conducted what they categorized as "Phase III Data Recovery" excavations at the site in 1986. In the final report from a 2002 Phase II project conducted near (but outside) the site boundaries, it mentions the activity of these students who were members of the Magruder and Rockville High School Archeology Club. They apparently excavated three 1.524 meter test squares in July of 1986 and planned to return in September of 1986 and write a final report. Although a very minimal preliminary report has been identified, no final report has ever been located and it is not known whether the September excavations were ever carried out. The Phase II project conducted in 2002, again, did not include site 18MO243 and failed to identify any additional sites.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00006160, 00006161, 97001558