



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18MO354

Site Name: NIH

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

prehistoric lithic scatter, late 18th-20th century artifact concentration

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 12

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.0006

Longitude -77.0894

Physiographic province Eastern Piedmont

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 320 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

Minimum distance to water is 400 m

#### Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

### 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

## Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Archaic site

MD Adena

Early archaic

Early woodland

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

Late archaic

Late woodland

Contact period site

ca. 1820 - 1860

ca. 1630 - 1675

ca. 1860 - 1900

ca. 1675 - 1720

ca. 1900 - 1930

ca. 1720 - 1780

Post 1930

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

N

Flotation samples taken N

Other samples taken

### Historic context samples

Soil samples taken N

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"/>
Dames Qtr	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coulbourn	<input type="checkbox"/>
Selden Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Watson	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accokeek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mockley	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wolfe Neck	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clemson Island	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vinette	<input type="checkbox"/>	Page	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shepard	<input type="checkbox"/>	Townsend	<input type="checkbox"/>
Minguannan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sullivan Cove	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shenks Ferry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moyaone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Potomac Crk	<input type="checkbox"/>	Keyser	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yeocomico	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monongahela	<input type="checkbox"/>
Susquehannock	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Historic Sherd Types		Stoneware		
<b>Earthenware</b>	Ironstone	1	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>
Astbury	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	6
Buckley	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Porcelain</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	Pearlware	1	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Nottingham	<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	27	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	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	1	Oyster shell	<input 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"/>
Chert	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sil sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts			
Pottery (all)	10	Tobacco related	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	126	Activity item(s)	3
Architectural	21	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arms	1	Misc. kitchen	2
Clothing	2	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc.	2
		Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features			
Const feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Privy/outhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Depression/mound	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearth/chimney	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paling ditch/fence	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Sheet midden	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Earthworks	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Planting feature	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Mill raceway	<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:

Site 18MO354, the NIH Site, in Montgomery County is an apparent scatter of prehistoric lithic objects and late 18th-20th century artifacts comingled in a plowzone context. The site is situated on the campus of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland. In the immediate vicinity of the site is the 12.3 acre former George Freeland Peter Estate which includes the historically significant principal dwelling, a caretaker's house, and associated designed landscape features. This locale was one of a series of county estates constructed along Rockville Pike during the early 20th century. By the time archeological work was first conducted at the site in the early 1990s a small building which served as a temporary chemical disposal plant had been constructed on the site. The surrounding area has seen heavy commercial and other development. Soils at the site consist of Glenelg silt loams.

Archeological work was first conducted at 18MO354 prior to the construction of the proposed William H. Natcher Building in 1991. This construction project would result in a complex incorporating offices, a conference center, a dining facility, and underground parking facilities. Phase I archeological work was combined with archival research, architectural survey, and viewshed analysis of the surrounding area. The viewshed analysis was performed to assess the impact to historically significant structures such as the Peter Estate of the new, modern building. Construction of the Natcher Building would require the removal of NIH Building 26 (the chemical disposal plant constructed in 1954) and would impact the soils surrounding it in the footprint of the proposed structure.

Archival research revealed that the proposed construction site was a part of "Claggett's Purchase". Robert Peter purchased approximately 600 acres of that tract from Walter Claggett ca. 1760. The land remained largely unimproved until 1902, when George Freeland Peter and his three brothers inherited 200 acres of the "Claggett's Purchase" tract. George Freeland Peter received 47.9 acres. This parcel included the proposed construction site. In 1931, George Peter commissioned the design and construction of the George Freeland Peter Estate. The estate included a two and one-half story coursed ashlar block Colonial Revival style principal dwelling, a caretaker's house, and landscaped grounds. The George Peter Estate was one of the last of the substantial county estates constructed along Rockville Pike during the early 20th century. Property located to the north of the Peter Estate was deeded to the US Government for the construction of a medical research facility in the mid-1930s. The US government expanded the medical research facility in 1949 through the acquisition of the Peter's property. Since 1949, the construction project area has been a portion of the National Institutes of Health campus.

During Phase I archeological investigations, 101 shovel tests and retests (STPs) were excavated within the 9.4 acre construction project area. Shovel tests were excavated at 20 m intervals along 10 transects spaced 20 m apart. Auxiliary shovel tests were placed at 10 m intervals in cardinal directions around shovel tests yielding pre-modern materials. Twenty-six positive shovel tests yielded a total of 62 artifacts. All of these were found within the historic plowzone (Ap horizon), or in the root mat that has developed over the plowzone (Ao horizon). As some of the recovered artifacts appeared to be occurring in discrete concentrations, a decision was made to proceed with Phase II testing.

Phase II archeological investigations comprised the excavation of one 50 X 50 cm test unit and two 1 X 1 m test units. These units were excavated to more closely examine slight artifact concentrations, possible subsurface features, and soil stratigraphy.

A total of 183 artifacts were recovered during Phase I and II archeological investigations of the proposed Natcher Building site. A complete description of the artifacts encountered is not provided in the text of the full site report and several pages are missing from the report appendices where a table is provided of all artifacts from 18MO354. The tallies provided below are best estimates based on the minimum number of artifacts of each type provided in the appended tables and the broader descriptions in the report text. Prehistoric artifacts encountered at 18MO354 included 18 quartzite flakes and 9 pieces of shatter, along with a single fragment of steatite. The historic assemblage included 3 activity items, 21 architectural objects, 2 clothing items, 126 kitchen-related artifacts, an arms item, and 2 miscellaneous objects. The activity items were an unidentified toy, a piece of non-electrical wire, and an iron ring. Among the architectural objects were 12 pieces of window glass, 6 wire nails, 2 unidentified nails, and a spike. The clothing items were pieces of leather. Kitchen-related artifacts were 10 ceramic sherds (1 pearlware, 1 ironstone, 1 domestic brown stoneware, 1 domestic gray stoneware, and 6 whiteware), 83 container glass fragments, 3 blown-in-mold bottle fragments, 28 machine-made bottle fragments, and piece of aluminum foil, and an oyster shell fragment. The arms object was a .22 caliber shell. And finally, miscellaneous items from the site included a piece of plastic and an unidentified metal object.

The William H. Natcher building area contained a thin scatter of modern, historic, and prehistoric artifacts. The area encompassed by this scatter was assigned site number 18MO354. The modern and historic components of the site represent a thin sheet scatter entirely contained within the historic plowzone and the overlying root mat. Most cultural materials recovered date from the 20th century domestic and institutional occupation of the parcel. No significant concentration of historic artifacts was observed. The prehistoric component also represents a thin scatter within a plowzone context. Additionally, all prehistoric materials were found in association either with historic or modern materials. Based on the low density of artifacts, their mixed and disturbed nature, and the lack of any identifiable features at the site, it was determined to lack any significant potential for either historic or prehistoric research in Montgomery County. The decision was made to proceed with construction of the new facilities at NIH and today much (if not all) of the site has been destroyed.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00006234