



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18MO396

Site Name: 400 Area Ridgetop

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Paleoindian and Late Archaic short-term camps

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 12

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.0309

Longitude -76.9604

Physiographic province Eastern Piedmont

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 60 m

Site slope 0

Ethnobotany profile available Maritime site

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Paint Branch

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Minimum distance to water is 60 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 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

Historic

Urban/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

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken

pH, phosphates, calcium, pot

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken

Flotation samples taken

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	578	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	50	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	2	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 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 checked="" 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"/>	Tobacco related	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	20	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	11	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.	<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 MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Site 18MO396 is an apparent Paleoindian and Late Archaic short-term campsite on the U.S. Army Research Laboratory Facility at the Adelphi Laboratory Center. The Adelphi Laboratory Center is located on the boundary line between Montgomery and Prince George's County, Maryland. The site itself lies primarily on the Montgomery County side and occupies a relatively level upland flat above and east of the Paint Branch. The site was covered by deciduous forest at the time the site was discovered and investigated, although several military buildings were present to the north and an access road bisected the site. Utility corridors also cut through portions of the site. Soils at the site consist of Manor silt loams and Beltsville soils associated with Coastal Plain alluvium.

The site location, designated Locus I, was identified as having high potential for prehistoric occupation during a preliminary cultural resources assessment since the Locus I area was the largest of the upland flats on the facility and possessed a topographic setting very similar to that of another early prehistoric occupation site in the region. Subsequently, in 1992 a Phase I survey was conducted on the Adelphi Laboratory Center property in anticipation of the construction of new facilities in the area including a parking lot at the site. The survey consisted of 22 shovel test pits (STPs) placed at selected locations across the upland flat, and excavated in most cases to a depth of 50 cm below grade. A total of 80 prehistoric lithic artifacts was recovered from 21 of the 22 tests. The majority of the artifacts were recovered from the upper 20 cm of possible plow zone, although three were found at depths greater than 20 cm. No temporally-diagnostic artifacts were found. The report notes the presence of 1 quartz biface, 10 quartz cores, 1 quartz and 1 quartzite scraper, 1 worked jasper flake, 2 worked quartz flakes, 1 black chert flake, 2 jasper flakes, 40 quartz flakes, 12 quartzite flakes, 2 hammerstones, and a fire-cracked rock fragment. Researchers determined that, based on the density of artifacts recovered in Locus I, that a site was present on the ridgetop in Area 400 of the Adelphi Laboratory Center and it was assigned site number 18MO396 and recommended for further study.

Researchers returned to the site in 1994 to conduct Phase II testing. After reviewing the placement and artifact content of the various Phase I STPs, the site was investigated with a series of 22 hand excavation units. These excavation units were laid out in a series of 4 transects situated to determine whether artifact distribution was uniform across the upland flat or if concentrations could be defined. The transects were oriented so that they intersected one another and were oriented with reference to a chain link fence and a nearby concrete bridge. The initial 20 test units each measured one meter square, although two additional tests measured 50 cm by one meter. The test units were placed ten meters apart. Stratigraphic divisions in the units were based on natural stratigraphy, and occasional arbitrary subdivisions were made within thicker strata. All excavated soils were screened through hardware cloth and soil samples were taken every three meters along each transect for geochemical analysis.

The 22 excavation units yielded 555 lithic artifacts, with another artifact being recovered from the surface of the upland flat. The prehistoric assemblage from the site included three temporally diagnostic artifacts. A Brewerton side-notched quartz point indicated Middle to Late Archaic occupation, and the base of an Orient Fishtail point on rhyolite was indicative of the later Transitional Archaic-Woodland period. The base of a jasper point, probably of Paleoindian or Early Archaic origin was also recovered. The other artifacts were 1 re-utilized biface, 1 middle stage biface, 3 early stage bifaces, 4 irregular cores, 5 core fragments, 4 unifaces, 16 biface thinning flakes, 186 non-cortical flakes, 68 partially cortical flakes, 26 cortical flakes, 102 other pieces of debitage, 13 utilized cobbles, 11 tested cobbles, 64 broken cobbles, and 49 pieces of fire-cracked rock. As mentioned previously, samples were also taken to measure geochemical levels of the soil. Five chemical residues were studied: phosphates, calcium, potassium, and magnesium. Cultural activity may result in localized or general increases in soil pH and chemical quantities. However, the soil survey indicated that the site was relatively "clean" and differences in the soil were not sufficient to discern cultural activity areas. Geochemical data do reveal some slight correspondence between potassium/magnesium values and quantities of fire-cracked rock in the western portion of the site. A total of 31 historic artifacts were also recovered (mostly modern bottle glass and a few nails) intermingled with prehistoric materials in the upper levels of the site. This indicates that the upper stratigraphy at the site (at least) was plow disturbed.

The site of 18MO396 consists of lithic artifacts largely confined to the plow zone. Spatial concentrations of artifacts are apparent; one in the center of the site, and another which is deeply-stratified on the western edge of the site. Temporally diagnostic bifaces included a probable Paleoindian or Early Archaic jasper point base, a broken Middle to Late Archaic quartz Brewerton side-notched point and Transitional Archaic-Woodland Orient Fishtail point base made of rhyolite. No features were encountered, although the deeply-stratified concentration at the western edge of the site is of interest. Fire-cracked rock was encountered throughout this site area; the presence of artifacts extending into the B horizon in this area. Concentrations in the test units of this area suggest that at least the lower portions of some fire-cracked rock features may have survived the ravages of the plow.

Site 18MO396 can best be characterized as an "overnight camp" for procurement activities of limited duration undertaken beyond the limits of a larger residential camp. These procurement activities were probably related to needs other than those for lithic raw materials. The local quartz and quartzite resources would be available near virtually any stream. The use of these local lithics was oriented to production of bifaces in addition to less formal expedient tools which were used and discarded on site. The Phase II researchers who worked at 18MO396 argued that because two discrete concentrations of artifacts were encountered, one of which was deeply stratified, that undisturbed features (or portions of them) may be buried at the site. Thus, the site should be considered a significant archeological resource. However, MHT staff did not agree with this assessment and felt that the archeological deposit was too diffuse and the temporal data too fragmentary to warrant further investigation. A parking lot was constructed atop the site, but may not have significantly impacted deposits in the western portion of the site. Thus, the deeply stratified concentration in this area may still be present.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00006262