



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18MO462

Site Name: Knoll

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Knoll Site at NIH

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Late Archaic and Early Woodland short-term camp, late 18th or early 19th century farmstead

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 12

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.0000

Longitude -77.1076

Physiographic province Eastern Piedmont

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 125 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

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 33 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? 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 Y

Flotation samples taken Y

Other samples taken Ground Penetrating Radar



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18MO462

Site Name: Knoll

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Knoll Site at NIH

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Late Archaic and Early Woodland short-term camp, late 18th or early 19th century farmstead

Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types		Koens-Crispin	
Clovis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Calvert	1
Le Croy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Morrow Mntn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guilford	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (pent)	1
Brewerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Madison/Potomac	<input type="checkbox"/>
Otter Creek	<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"/>	Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	61	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	2	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	3	Pearlware	46			Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>
						Wt Salt-glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	2276	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	2	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	2	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<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

Fer quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sil sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jasper	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	144	Activity item(s)	3
Glass (all)	282	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	275	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	39
Arms	2	Floral material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	2	Misc.	98
Personal items	3	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features

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



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18MO462

Site Name: Knoll

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Knoll Site at NIH

Historic

Brief Description:

Late Archaic and Early Woodland short-term camp, late 18th or early 19th century farmstead

Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at DeWitt Stetten, Jr. Museum of Medical Research at NIH

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Knoll Site (18MO462) is located on the Bethesda Campus of the National Institutes of Health in Montgomery County, Maryland. The surrounding area consists of residential complexes, government office buildings, retail establishments, restaurants, and a notable number of well-known public and private research and development organizations. The site is about 4.83 km (3 miles) from the Potomac River at its closest point, and only a short distance farther from the fall line. Intermittent streams, although now contained by culverts in most places, run through the campus. These streams may well have provided more water in the past than they do at present. These streams flowed through the gently rolling hills of the site and surrounding vicinity in a dendritic pattern. Soils at the site are Glenelg Silt Loams.

The site was first examined archeologically by a local collector named Vernon Taylor who is known to have recovered several well made projectile points in this area. It was first examined professionally as part of a Phase I survey in 1996. At that time the areas to be affected by the proposed development of a new Clinical Center at NIH were examined for their archeological potential. Besides the Knoll site, additional archeological sites were identified on the campus including 18MO463 and 18MO464. The Phase I survey consisted of an extensive documentary and literature search, other background work, and fieldwork. The fieldwork in the entire area included the excavation of 480 shovel test pits (STPs) and six 1.524 meter X 1.524 meter (5 ft X 5 ft) excavation units. STPs were excavated on a 6.1 meter (20 ft) grid and the larger excavation units were established where concentrations of cultural material or especially important cultural materials were encountered. A total of 133 STPs were excavated within the boundaries of 18MO462 along with a single 1.524 X 1.524 m excavation unit. A detailed description of the artifacts encountered during Phase I work is not provided in the full site report and, therefore, the artifact tallies above do not include the Phase I assemblage, with the exception of diagnostic prehistoric projectile points. A number of projectile points were found, including 2 Fox Creek, 1 Jack's Reef point (could be pentagonal or notched, but is catalogued in the tables above as pentagonal), and 1 Calvert point. In addition to the prehistoric objects, historic materials were recovered which possibly date to just after the Colonial era (late 18th or early 19th century). The historic artifacts were of the sort that might have been in use at a small farmstead.

Archival research was conducted as part of the examination of the Knoll site. For a detailed description of the archival research findings, see the full Phase I site report which provides chain of title work and other data that places the site in its proper historical context. The most important finding was that neither a 1794 map, nor an 1865 map of the area depicts a structure or farm in the vicinity of 18MO463. While only large plantation farms commonly show up on late 18th century maps, even modest farmsteads should show up on maps with an 1865 production date. This would suggest an occupation from the early 19th century if a farmstead was present.

In 1997, researchers returned to the site to conduct Phase II research which had been recommended as appropriate following the Phase I survey the previous year. This work entailed the excavation of eight 1.524 meter X 1.524 meter test squares located in areas identified during the Phase I survey. In addition, in areas thought most likely to contain concentrations of artifacts or features, 24 additional shovel test pits (STPs) were excavated. STPs were excavated on a 6.1 meter (20 ft) grid. In one of the 1.524 meter test squares, the remnants of a stone foundation were encountered. In order to better establish the full extent of this foundation, seven additional STPs were excavated and three 30.5 cm (1 ft) extensions were excavated to the side of the unit. This feature (Feature I) was tentatively identified as a smokehouse and plant material was collected from it. In addition a single trench, 6.4 meters (21 ft) in length by 61 cm (2 ft) in width, had to be excavated in order to locate the full extent of a stone feature. Ground penetrating radar was used over the entire Knoll Site in an attempt to locate foundations in addition to those that had been discovered by excavation.

Excavation revealed 2 important implications for interpreting site integrity. First, the prehistoric occupation component of the Knoll Site has been compromised by historic and modern activities. Given the degree to which prehistoric and historic artifacts are mixed in non-cultural sterile soils, it seems likely that the agency that produced this mixing might very well have destroyed any prehistoric features at the Knoll Site. The most likely cause for the thorough mixing of artifacts is plowing, although no clear plow scars were discovered. Second, it is clear that soil stratigraphy resulting from the historic occupation of the site has been compromised only minimally. The significance of the historic component of the site, then, depends upon the nature and distribution of the artifacts and the floral and faunal materials recovered, and the association of these artifacts and materials with the historic feature discovered during the Phase II evaluation (Feature I).

A total of 2,276 prehistoric artifacts were encountered during the Phase II testing. Nearly all of the assemblage, some 2,272 objects, consisted of flaked stone including 2 quartzite point fragments, 1 other point fragment, 7 quartzite bifaces, 24 quartzite biface fragments, 203 quartzite preforms, 102 quartzite tool fragments, 51 quartzite cores, 4 quartzite uniface fragments, 4 quartzite scrapers, 3 utilized quartzite flakes, 5 primary decortication flakes, 855 quartzite flakes, 2 chert flakes, 4 other flakes, 991 pieces of quartzite shatter, 5 pieces of quartz shatter, 1 piece of chert shatter, and 8 other pieces of shatter. Other lithics include 2 groundstone objects (grinding stones), 1 piece of fire-tempered quartzite, and an unidentified greenstone fragment. When this material is combined with that from the Phase I investigation of the area, there is little doubt of prehistoric use of the Knoll Site. The Knoll Site is very well situated for use as a hunting and collecting camp. The site was very probably visited on a seasonal basis for many hundreds, if not several thousands, of years. It overlooked a small stream, was elevated (well drained) and probably cooled by a breeze in the summer, and quartz rock was eroding out of the ground surface. The diagnostic points collected during Phase I work suggest that the Knoll site contains Late Archaic to Early Woodland prehistoric components. The wide variety of lithic objects representing several stages in the production process, indicate the site's use for flintknapping activities. It is, as has already been noted, heavily disturbed and the presence of intact features is unlikely.

The only feature encountered at the site (Feature I) is a probable historic smokehouse on the basis of its dimensions and overall design. Associated artifacts and plant remains also suggest that the feature represents a smokehouse. The foundation is built of cut native quartzite and its exterior sides are 3.96 X 3.96 meters (13 X 13 ft), dimensions typical for smokehouses of the period according to insurance records. The foundation walls are 91.4 cm (3 ft) thick and laid without mortar. A total of 19 liters of unscreened soil was collected from the unit for water flotation. Most of the material was carbonized wood, notably cherry and hickory which are commonly used to flavor foods in smoking. In addition, nutshell, seeds, corn cobs, green twigs and buds, fungal fructifications, and amorphous material were also recovered. Small green twigs and buds, like those found in a carbonized condition, were used in the smoking process. Corncobs were used to light smokehouse fires. For a more detailed description of the botanical assemblage from Feature I, see the linked Ethnobotany Profile. A ground penetrating radar test was conducted at the site in an effort to discover other features in the complex that contained the probable smokehouse (such as a main house). GPR findings were negative. The only indication of subsurface remains derived by the GPR survey were very faint echoes near the southern end of the probable smokehouse foundation, which may indicate a collection of stone rubble there.



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18MO462

Site Name: Knoll

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Knoll Site at NIH

Historic
**Brief
Description:**

Late Archaic and Early Woodland short-term camp, late 18th or early 19th century farmstead

Unknown

Historic artifacts encountered at the site during the Phase II study include 3 activity items, 275 architectural objects, 2 clothing artifacts, 391 kitchen-related artifacts, 3 personal items, 2 tobacco-related objects, 2 arms items, and 98 miscellaneous objects. The activity items were two pieces of wire and a metal ring. The architectural assemblage included 11 paving stones, 135 brick fragments, 2 pieces of mortar, 1 piece of plaster, 3 fragments of architectural stone, 74 pieces of window glass, 3 cut nails, 45 unidentified nails, and a piece of miscellaneous hardware. The clothing items were 2 brass/copper buttons. The kitchen assemblage included 144 ceramic sherds (1 earthenware, 3 creamware, 46 pearlware, 2 porcelain, 5 blue transfer print sherds, 1 miscellaneous stoneware, 61 whiteware, 21 redware, and 4 miscellaneous sherds), 208 fragments of probable container glass, 11 animal bones, 11 pieces of oyster shell, 4 plastic utensil handle fragments, a green plastic bottle neck, an aluminum bottle label, 10 aluminum pull tabs, and a piece of aluminum foil. Personal items were all coins; a 1944 copper penny, a silver 1954 dime, and a 1955 penny. The tobacco-related artifacts were a kaolin pipe stem and a plastic cigarette filter. Both arms objects were gunflints. And finally, the miscellaneous objects were 8 pieces of metal, and unidentified ceramic object, 12 pieces of plastic, 40 pebbles, 7 pieces of coal, 11 clinkers, 17 pieces of charcoal, and 2 pieces of asphalt. The late 18th century to early 19th century historic component of the Knoll Site probably represents a farmstead.

The Knoll Site is what remains of both an apparent multi-component prehistoric short-term campsite and a late 18th to early 19th century smokehouse (possibly once part of a larger farmstead). The site's prehistoric component is disturbed and no intact features have been identified. The site's historic deposits, though less disturbed, appear to consist solely of the smokehouse feature and are incapable of providing additional significant data on daily life on 19th century Maryland farmsteads. They are deemed not to have any additional research potential.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00006279, 00006284