



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18MO463

Site Name: Treetops Terrace

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief Description:

Early and Middle Woodland short-term camp, 19th to early 20th century house

Unknown

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 12

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.0063

Longitude -77.1006

Physiographic province Eastern Piedmont

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 122 m

Site slope 0

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) Unnamed tributary of Rock

#### Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

#### Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 122 m

## Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Contact period site

ca. 1820 - 1860

Y

Archaic site

MD Adena

ca. 1630 - 1675

ca. 1860 - 1900

Y

Early archaic

Early woodland Y

ca. 1675 - 1720

ca. 1900 - 1930

Y

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland Y

ca. 1720 - 1780

Post 1930

Late archaic

Late woodland

ca. 1780 - 1820

Unknown historic context

Unknown prehistoric context

Unknown context

### Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American

Asian American

African American

Unknown

Anglo-American Y

Other

Hispanic

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 Y

Flotation samples taken Y

Other samples taken Wood analysis

### Historic context samples

Soil samples taken Y

Flotation samples taken Y

Other samples taken



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## 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	<input type="checkbox"/> 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)	<input type="checkbox"/> 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

<b>Earthenware</b>		Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Stoneware</b>	
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"/> 17	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Porcelain</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	Pearlware	<input type="checkbox"/> 4			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	<input type="checkbox"/> 8014	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	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)	<input type="checkbox"/>	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)	<input type="checkbox"/> 43	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 653	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/> 808	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/> 25
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Misc.	<input type="checkbox"/> 132
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	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 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



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## External Samples/Data:

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

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

The Treetops Terrace Site (18MO463) is located on the Bethesda Campus of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Montgomery County. This is a multi-component site with the Early and Middle Woodland periods and the 19th to early 20th centuries represented. 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 predominately Glenelg Silt Loams.

Survey work was carried out at the NIH campus in 1996. The purpose for the work was to investigate areas of archeological potential that could be affected by the proposed development of a new Clinical Center at NIH. Besides the Treetops Terrace Site, additional archeological sites were identified on the campus including 18MO462 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. Approximately 121 STPs fell within the site boundaries. 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 in these STPs. During the Phase I investigations a number of historic artifacts including window and container glass, machine cut nails and a few fragments of earthenware, stoneware and pearlware were recovered. Prehistoric artifacts included quartzite flakes, a Calvert projectile and a (possible) Jack's Reef point. These totals are not included in the inventory listed above with the exception of the Calvert and Jack's Reef points. The Jack's Reef point was put into the pentagonal category as a default but as the base was missing it was impossible to determine if the point was pentagonal or notched.

Phase II fieldwork was conducted in the winter of 1997-1998 in order to determine if the site was National Register eligible. A total of fourteen 1 meter x 1 meter test units were excavated. The majority of the artifacts recovered from prehistoric and historic contexts derived from a natural bench that sits below the terrace and indications are that much of the material was washed down slope onto the bench. The prehistoric period is well represented by a total of 8,012 artifacts. These date to the Early and Middle Woodland periods (1000 BP – AD 900). Approximately 10% of the lithic artifacts are points, preforms, bifaces and scraper tools. Unfortunately, none of the tools were complete enough to pin down an exact type. The remainder of the lithic assemblage is made up of numerous cores, flakes and other debitage associated with tool production. With only a few exceptions (two rhyolite flakes were noted) the objects were made from local quartz.

Historic structures appearing on the north side of the NIH campus in the area of the Treetops Terrace Site are located on an 1865 map, an 1879 G. atlas, and on the 1923 USGS 15' Rockville topographic quadrangle map. The 1923 quadrangle shows the main house on top of the hill. This structure is known as the "Treetops Estate" from which the Treetops Terrace Site takes its name. Additionally, there were a number of extant outbuildings associated with the site and that predate the first half of the 20th century. 1,241 historic artifacts that were collected during Phase II investigations most reflect the presence of the Treetops Estate in the early 20th century but items dating from the late 18th century and the early to mid 19th century were also present. The bulk of the assemblage is comprised of architectural-related items (808 total) (nails, brick and window glass) that likely reflects large-scale remodeling in the early 20th century. There were few items detailing daily activities or personal habits in the assemblage; however, there was a toy/ game piece, 2 clay pipe fragments, and 3 buttons (two metal, one possibly leather). There were a number of kitchen-related items including clear and colored bottle glass (217). Whiteware (17), which dates to the late 19th/ early 20th century, was the most abundant ceramic noted. Also identified were 8 stoneware, 6 creamware and 3 redware sherds, likely dating to the late 18th century, and 4 pearlware and 3 porcelain sherds (and possibly some stoneware) that date to the 19th century. There was also 1 earthenware fragment and 4 terracotta ceramic fragments were recorded as being possible flower pot fragments or utility pipe fragments. Other kitchen-related items include a tin can fragment and 24 oyster shell fragments. Miscellaneous objects consist of coal, slag, 2 horseshoe fragments, and samples of modern material identified at the site such as plastic.

Flotation samples were collected from four areas during the Phase II excavation. The linked ethnobotany profile provides additional details regarding those results.

The Treetops Terrace Site has a strong prehistoric component that likely represents an Early and Middle Woodland short-term camp and tool production area. There is also a smaller 18th/19th to early 20th century presence at the site represented primarily by the Treetops Estate. The only prehistoric diagnostic artifacts were a Calvert point and a possible Jack's Reef point, which were found during Phase I testing. Phase II testing, despite 14 test units, failed to recover further prehistoric diagnostic artifacts. Numbers indicate a probable series of short-term resource procurement camps. It is unlikely that the collection of any further materials would be more informative than those collected to date. Furthermore, the proposed construction would not affect the area on the hill.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00006279, 00005270