



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18MO464

Site Name: Spate/Convent at NIH

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Area A

Historic

Brief Description:

Middle Woodland short-term camp, 20th century artifact scatter from Catholic convent

Unknown

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 12

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 38.9963

Longitude -77.1036

Physiographic province Eastern Piedmont

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 116 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 305 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

Archaic site

MD Adena

Early archaic

Early woodland

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

Late archaic

Late woodland

Unknown prehistoric context

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 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

refuse pile,convent

## 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"/>	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

<b>Earthenware</b>		Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	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"/>	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>		<b>Porcelain</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	<input type="checkbox"/>	3			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"/>	433	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)	<input type="checkbox"/>		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"/>	Sil sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>		

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts				
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	16	Tobacco related	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	108	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>	61	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>		Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>		Misc.	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Misc.	<input type="checkbox"/>
			74	
			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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## 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 Spate/Convent Site (18MO464) is located on the Bethesda Campus of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Montgomery County, Maryland. This is a multi-component site with a prehistoric element (possibly dating to the Middle Woodland period) and a scatter of historic artifacts that date to the 19th and early 20th centuries. This site is located around the southeast corner of the former Sisters of the Visitation of Washington, D.C. Convent (built in 1923) on the NIH Bethesda Campus. 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. 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. Soils at the Spate/Convent Site vary greatly from one area to the next. This is likely the result of disturbance related to construction episodes associated with the convent, nearby road construction, and construction of the NIH campus.

Phase I 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 Spate/Convent Site, additional archeological sites were identified on the campus including 18MO462 and 18MO463. 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. Of these, 116 STPs were excavated within the boundaries of site 18MO464 at 6.1 meter (20 ft) intervals. The larger excavation units were established where concentrations of cultural material were encountered in these STPs. In the case of the Spate/Convent site, excavation units were placed in the areas of potential impact by the proposed construction. During the Phase I investigations recovered prehistoric artifacts included the base of one Fox Creek point indicating presence during the Middle Woodland Period, and a number of non-diagnostic tools and lithic debitage. These totals are not included in the inventory listed above. No historic artifacts were recovered from the site during the Phase I excavation.

Phase II fieldwork was conducted in the summer of 1997 in order to evaluate the portion of the site that would be affected by construction of a utility tunnel related to the development of the new Clinical Center at NIH and to determine if the site was National Register eligible. Phase II evaluations involved the excavation of four 1.524 meter X 1.524 meter units. 433 quartzite tools and debitage were recovered from disturbed prehistoric contexts. None were diagnostic.

Of the historic artifacts that were identified, 35% were glass (primarily table glass and flat glass) and 20% were animal bone (unidentified species). Other kitchen-related items were 2 pieces of milk glass, and 2 stoneware, 3 pearlware, 6 redware and 1 ironstone ceramic fragments. Items related to architecture were brick and mortar fragments, slate and nails and activity-related items consisted of 3 fence staples. Only one clothing-related item, a copper button, was collected. One arms-related object was identified as a metal shell casing. It is most likely that these artifacts are associated with occupation at the convent and to a lesser extent, the Spate farmhouse that previously stood on the property prior to the convent's construction.

The Spate/Convent Site (18MO464) most closely resembles a short-term hunting camp and tool production site with a very small historic component present as well. The find of a partial, possible Fox Creek point recovered from Phase I investigations is the only prehistoric diagnostic and a date for occupation cannot be precisely assigned. Artifacts, possibly associated with trash dumping from the convent, are all that remains of the historic component. The area under investigation is highly disturbed by construction of the convent and a nearby road, and building on the NIH campus.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00006279, 00006287