Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Site Number: 18MO569 **Site Name:** Snowden Manor

Other name(s) Snowden

Prehistoric ☑ Historic ☑ Unknown ☐

Brief Description: Middle Archaic and Terminal Archaic/Early Woodland quartz quarry and short-term camp;19th-20th century scatter

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Latitude 39.1103 Longitude -76.9705

Elevation m Site slope 0-5%

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

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 12 SCS soil & sediment code 2B

Physiographic province Eastern Piedmont Terrestrial site ☑ Underwater site ☐

Ethnobotany profile available ☐ Maritime site ☐

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	☐

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Unnamed tributary of Paint

Saltwater		Freshwater	
Ocean	☐	Stream/river	☑
Estuary/tidal river	☐	Swamp	☐
Tidewater/marsh	☐	Lake or pond	☑
		Spring	☐

Minimum distance to water is 200 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	P	ca. 1675 - 1720		ca. 1900 - 1930	Y
MIddle archaic	Y	Mid. woodland		ca. 1720 - 1780		Post 1930	Y
Late archaic	Y	Late woodland		ca. 1780 - 1820			

Unknown prehistoric context ☐ Unknown historic context ☐ Unknown context ☐

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American	☐	Asian American	☐
African American	☐	Unknown	Y
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	☑	Furnace/forge	☐	**Military**	☐	Post-in-ground	☐
Homestead	☐	Other	☐	Battlefield	☐	Frame-built	☐
Farmstead	☐	**Transportation**	☐	Fortification	☐	Masonry	☐
Mansion	☐	Canal-related	☐	Encampment	☐	Other structure	☐
Plantation	☐	Road/railroad	☐	**Townsite**	☐	**Slave related**	☐
Row/townhome	☐	Wharf/landing	☐	**Religious**	☐	**Non-domestic agri**	☐
Cellar	☐	Maritime-related	☐	Church/mtg house	☐	**Recreational**	☐
Privy	☐	Bridge	☐	Ch support bldg	☐	**Midden/dump**	☐
Industrial	☐	Ford	☐	**Burial area**	☐	**Artifact scatter**	☑
Mining-related	☐	**Educational**	☐	Cemetery	☐	**Spring or well**	☐
Quarry-related	☐	**Commercial**	☐	Sepulchre	☐	**Unknown**	☐
Mill	☐	Trading post	☐	Isolated burial	☐	**Other context**	☐
Black/metalsmith	☐	Store	☐	**Bldg or foundation**	☐		
		Tavern/inn	☐	Possible Structure	☐		

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples		Soil samples taken	Y
Flotation samples taken	Y	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		Koens-Crispin	
Hardaway-Dalton		Perkiomen	
Palmer		Susquehana	
Kirk (notch)		Vernon	
Kirk (stem)		Piscataway	
Le Croy		Calvert	
Morrow Mntn		Selby Bay	
Guilford		Jacks Rf (notch)	
Brewerton		Jacks Rf (pent)	
Otter Creek		Madison/Potomac	
		Levanna	

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Prehistoric Sherd Types

Marcey Creek		Popes Creek		Shepard		Keyser	
Dames Qtr		Coulbourn		Townsend		Yeocomico	
Selden Island		Watson		Minguannan		Monongahela	
Accokeek		Mockley		Sullivan Cove		Susquehannock	
Wolfe Neck		Clemson Island		Shenks Ferry			
Vinette		Page		Moyaone			
				Potomac Crk			

Historic Sherd Types

Earthenware

Astbury		Ironstone		Staffordshire	
Borderware		Jackfield		Tin Glazed	
Buckley		Mn Mottled		Whiteware	
Creamware		North Devon		**Porcelain**	
		Pearlware			

Stoneware

English Brown	
Eng Dry-bodied	
Nottingham	
Rhenish	
Wt Salt-glazed	

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts

Flaked stone	34313	Other fired clay	
Ground stone		Human remain(s)	☐
Stone bowls		Modified faunal	
Fire-cracked rock	1	Unmod faunal	
Other lithics (all)	3	Oyster shell	☐
Ceramics (all)		Floral material	☐
Rimsherds		Uncommon Obj.	
		Other ☐	

Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)		Storage/trash pit	☐
Midden	☐	Burial(s)	☐
Shell midden	☐	Ossuary	☐
Postholes/molds	☐	Unknown	☐
House pattern(s)	☐	Other	☐
Palisade(s)	☐		
Hearth(s)	☑		
Lithic reduc area	☑		

Lithic Material

Fer quartzite	☐	Sil sandstone	☐		
Jasper	☐	Chalcedony	☐	European flint	☐
Chert	☑	Ironstone	☐	Basalt	☐
Rhyolite	☐	Argilite	☑	Unknown	☐
Quartz	☑	Steatite	☐	Other	☐
Quartzite	☑	Sandstone	☐		

☐ **Dated features present at site**

Historic Artifacts

Tobacco related			
Pottery (all)		Activity item(s)	
Glass (all)		Human remain(s)	☐
Architectural		Faunal material	☑
Furniture		Misc. kitchen	
Arms		Floral material	☑
Clothing		Misc.	
Personal items		Other ☐	

Historic Features

Const feature	☐	Privy/outhouse	☐	Depression/mound	☐
Foundation	☐	Well/cistern	☐	Burial(s)	☐
Cellar hole/cellar	☐	Trash pit/dump	☐	Railroad bed	☐
Hearth/chimney	☐	Sheet midden	☐	Earthworks	☐
Postholes/molds	☐	Planting feature	☐	Mill raceway	☐
Paling ditch/fence	☐	Road/walkway	☐	Wheel pit	☐
				Unknown	☐
				Other	☐

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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Prehistoric ☑ Historic ☑ Unknown ☐

Brief Description: Middle Archaic and Terminal Archaic/Early Woodland quartz quarry and short-term camp;19th-20th century scatter

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at JPPM MAC Lab 2017.028.001

☐ Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Site 18MO569, the Snowden Manor site in Spencerville, Montgomery County, MD is an upland quartz quarry that was in use during the Middle Archaic and Terminal Archaic/Early Woodland Periods. The site is located within the Limits of Disturbance (LOD) for the SHA's road improvements planned for MD198, which involve road widening, constriction of acceleration/deceleration lanes, and the installation of several stormwater management ponds.

Snowden Manor is located in the Hampstead Upland District, part of the Harford Plateaus and Gorges Region. This is within the Piedmont Upland Section of the Piedmont Plateau Province. The bedrock in this area is composed of Lower Pelitic Schist of the Wissahickon Formation. This is a medium- to coarse grained quartz-feldspar schist (USGS 2016), and it is likely that a variety of other metamorphic rocks occur. The 18MO569 study area is located within the Council for Maryland Archeology Research Unit 12, the Potomac Drainage.

The 18MO569 site is situated on an upland landform that is dissected by the Patuxent River to the north and by Paint Branch to the south. Terrain at the site is generally level, with a slight slope to the south and west. The closest water source to the project area is the headwaters of Paint Branch, located approximately 550 feet to the southwest of the edge of the site. The boundaries of the Snowden Manor site as identified by the Phase I survey fall entirely within one property, which contains a circa 1940 house with a detached garage and is bounded on the east and west by open fields that are used to exercise horses. The southern part of the property contains a horse paddock and barn. Soils within the site are mapped as Glenelg silt loam, 3-8% slopes (2B). That soil is characterized as well drained and is commonly found on the summit and shoulders of interfluves.

The first archaeological investigations at 18MO569 were conducted in May of 2003 by John Milner Associates as part of the Phase I survey of the MD 198 corridor. The Phase I survey included 41 positive STPs excavated in 20m intervals and one Test Unit within the boundaries of the Snowden Manor site. The Phase I survey recovered prehistoric artifacts (n= 9,320), historic artifacts (n= 29), floral material (n= 64), and faunal (n=1) material. Of the 9,320 prehistoric artifacts recovered from the Phase I, 7,006 came from one STP. The majority of the STPs were low density, with less than five artifacts per positive STP. Seven STPs and 1 Test Unit yielded more than 50 artifacts. Overall, the systematic STP survey conducted at the Phase I investigation at the Snowden site demonstrated a high density of raw material at the source, with a significant decrease in artifact density in the immediate surrounding area.

During the Phase I survey, one Halifax projectile point was recovered, as well as fire-cracked rock and flakes of chert, quartz, and quartzite. Features identified included a hearth and chipping cluster. Based on the Phase I survey of the MD 198 corridor, it was concluded that 18MO569 was most likely the correct location of the Speed Trap site (18MO252) recorded by Dennis Curry in 1983, since systematic testing by Milner recovered nothing in the location of Curry's mapped 18MO252 that was supposed to be located around 40 meters to the west of 18MO569.

Phase II investigations were conducted between September 12 and October 26, 2016. The primary goals of the evaluation were to characterize the vertical and horizontal extents of the site, establish chronological and functional aspects of the site, and to evaluate the integrity of archaeological deposits. In addition to establishing integrity of the site internal structure, the evaluation involved the analysis of artifacts recovered from the site to assess specific procurement activities at the site itself, and to provide a basis for inter-site comparisons with other sites around the region where quartz is a predominant material type. Specific goals of the Phase II included the use of geophysical survey methods to locate possible geological and cultural features across the site, the excavation of supplemental shovel testing to further refine site boundaries and the excavation of test units to identify and sample quarry-related cultural features and also to collect material culture used to interpret the archeological resource in terms of the site chronology and function. The Phase II investigation adhered to the standards, techniques, and methods outlined in the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation (Federal Register, Vol. 48, o. 190, 1983), the SHA (1992) Consultant Specifications for Archeological Services, and the Standards and Guidelines for Archeological Investigations in Maryland (Shaffer and Cole 1994).

Geophysical testing was conducted by Tim Horsley of Horsley Archeological Prospection, Inc over three days. The area of investigation was defined as the open pasture fields associated with Snowden Manor. In total, an area of around 4.7 hectares (11.6 acres) were investigated. The geophysical testing included examination of the project area using magnetic susceptibility (MS), magnetometer, and ground-penetrating radar. A sequential strategy was adopted, beginning with an initial reconnaissance survey employing MS that could be undertaken across the entirety of the open areas around Snowden Manor, followed with higher resolution surveys (magnetometry and GPR), to target areas of interest.

The MS survey was conducted using a Bartington MS2 system with field coil, and measurements of topsoil MS were made at 5 meter intervals. The results of the MS survey were used to guide subsequent geophysical survey methodologies. The magnetometer survey was undertaken using a Bartington Grad601-2 dual fluxgate gradiometer. Data were collected within 30m grid squares at a sample interval of 0.125m (4.9") along traverses spaced 0.5m (19.7") apart. Each line was walked in opposite directions, in the so-called zig-zag fashion. The magnetometer was set to a recording sensitivity of 0.0lnT. Subsequently, ground-penetrating radar (GPR) was used to target areas encompassing the core area(s) of the site indicated by the STP and MS surveys. A GSSI SIR-3000 GPR system was used to record radar traces at intervals of 0.02m (c.0.8") along traverses spaced between 0.25m - 0.5m apart.

STPs were excavated at intervals of 20m to remain consistent with the intervals used in the Phase I survey. Each STP measured at least 35 centimeters in diameter and was excavated in levels that approximated the existing soil conditions. Soil was sifted through ¼-inch wire mesh for cultural material. Artifacts were documented and collected in labeled bags according to their horizontal and vertical provenience for further processing. Shovel test pits were excavated to culturally sterile soils unless physical obstructions or thick fill deposits prevented excavation beyond the depth of the obstruction. Each STP was recorded utilizing standardized Shovel Test Pit forms that include information regarding the horizontal location of the STP relative to the archeological grid, the vertical location of the strata within each test, presence of artifacts, and natural landscape such as ground cover, slope, fence lines, and ground disturbances. Soil color was recorded utilizing Munsell color charts and common soil texture nomenclature. Digital photography was used to document land forms, ground cover, and natural or cultural features.

A total of seven l x lm test units were manually excavated at the site to gain better stratigraphic control over the location and context of artifacts or features identified. Three test units were excavated within the area of highest debitage concentrations identified by the Phase I survey, which is interpreted as being associated with procurement of quartz and the initial shaping of the lithic material. The remaining four test units were excavated in areas identified by the geophysical survey as having potential to contain archeological features.

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Other name(s) Snowden Historic ☑

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All test units were excavated by 10cm arbitrary levels within natural stratigraphy. Each test unit was excavated into Pleistocene soil deposits to ensure that no cultural deposits could be missed. All soils from test unit excavations will be screened for artifacts through 1⁄4-inch hardware mesh. Field notes recorded the soil stratigraphy, soil colors, and soil textures, and presence of cultural materials onto standardized forms using Munsell color charts and common soil texture nomenclature. Digital photographs were taken of each excavated layer to visually document cultural and non-cultural stratigraphy.

The results of the geophysical testing were used as a basis for the placement of the seven 1-x-lm test units. The magnetic susceptibility and magnetometer surveys provided strong evidence for the extent of buried cultural resources within the areas surveyed around the Snowden Manor site. Strongly magnetic geological features were also detected that may mask the signal due to some archaeological features; however, it is likely that these geological anomalies are indirectly associated with the quartz material that attracted prehistoric people to the site in the first place. This geological information may therefore be of value in predicting the potential extent of potential quarrying and lithic material at this site. Unfortunately, the geological effects on the north side of Spencerville Road limit the effectiveness of the topsoil magnetic susceptibility survey in this area, and it was not possible to employ magnetometry or GPR in this area due to time constraints.

The GPR surveys suggested additional non-magnetic cultural features not detected in the magnetometer survey. The most interesting GPR reflections were interpreted as dense concentrations of lithic material, probably debitage and other waste material in two large, rectangular pits. Both anomalies were situated over high amplitude reflections that are most likely geological, and therefore may be the underlying quartz vein(s). Together, these are interpreted as representing two quarry sites where the quartz was extracted.

A total of seven 1-x-1 meter test units were placed in association with soil anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. Test Unit 1 was placed within an arc of small, potentially pit-like anomalies in the northwest corner of the site. This was thought to possibly be the location of one or more overlapping structures. Test Units 2 and 3 were placed in areas of high GPR reflectivity, potentially the quartz seam, and also in the immediate vicinity of the highest density Phase I STPs. Test Unit 2 also coincided with overlapping arcs of potential structure patterns. Test Units 4-7 were placed to investigate larger anomalies that contained GPR reflections consistent with burned deposits, interpreted as possible hearth features. Soils encountered in the units were generally identical to the supplemental STP testing.

Test Unit 2 contained a quarry pit feature and was the only unit to verify the anomalies present in the geophysical survey. Test units placed to identify smaller features, such as hearths or other burned areas failed to identify the geophysical anomalies that were expected, which is likely a result of inaccurate placement of the 1-x-1-meter test units, rather than erroneous instrument data.

When viewed in the east wall profile, the quarry pit in TU 2 had a decidedly basin shape on the bottom and top. Above the feature is what appears to be a cap of non-feature subsoil. This may indicate that the quarry pit was left open after it was expended, and was filled in with soil that accumulated via slump. This would account for the noticeable lack of lithic debris. There also appears to be some banding within the body of the feature that suggests the stratification of repeated periods of extraction activities followed by periods of disuse. The activity is identical to what was described by Holmes in his details of the excavation of the Piney Branch quartzite quarry sites in Washington D C in the late 19th century. Although the lithic material type, landform, and material forms differ from the project area, the procurements follow the same exploitative scheme.

A total of 25,202 artifacts were recovered during the phase II, comprising prehistoric (n=24,996), historic (n=84), and floral (n=122) material culture. Of the prehistoric and historic artifact total from the Phase II investigation, 26 artifacts were recovered from shovel tests and 25,054 from test unit excavation. The floral material consisted of nutshell and charcoal. The charcoal was considered most likely to be from the historical period since it was found mixed with coal. The Phase II units also contained eight nutshell fragments, identified as hickory. The fragments are unburned and thus are assumed to be modern, since non-carbonized organic material does not persist long in the acidic soils in this region. The Faunal group consists of a single fragment of bone identified only as large mammal and, like the nutshell, is unburned and thus considered most likely to be from the historical period.

One diagnostic projectile point, a Small Stemmed point made from a quartz flake, was recovered during the Phase II investigation. The point expands the identified period of use for the site from the Middle Archaic (based upon the Halifax point recovered during the Phase I survey) into the Early Woodland.

Phase II shovel testing recovered 15 prehistoric artifacts that included quartz flakes and shatter and argillite flakes. Test Units 2, 3, and 4 were excavated in the area interpreted as the main quarry locus and contained most of the artifacts recovered in the investigation. Test Units 1, 5, 6, and 7 were excavated in areas peripheral to Area U and contained markedly lower artifact frequencies.

All knapped lithic tools recovered from the test units (n=70) were made of quartz and included early stage bifaces (n= 46), middle stage bifaces (n= 1), late stage bifaces (n= 1), freehand cores (n= 9), and bipolar cores (n=13). Three hammerstones were also collected. Bifaces occurred only in the core area of the site, in rough proportion to the amount of flaking debris in the excavations. Freehand and bipolar cores occurred throughout the area that appeared to represent the main quarry locale. All three hammerstones were located at the source of the quartz material, where the vast majority of the flaking debris was located.

The debitage from the Phase II test units included 20,379 flakes and 4,528 pieces of shatter. Very little cortical material is found in the flaking debris overall (n=23). When present it is slightly more common on larger artifacts. The finding is consistent with debris from the quarrying of outcrop or float material, where little true cortex occurs.

Of almost 35,000 artifacts, 29 were of lithic material other than quartz. Non-quartz artifacts recovered from the site included 25 pieces of quartzite flaking debris, two argillite flakes, one chert flake, and one small quartzite hammerstone. The absence of finished tools, the small number of points, and the lack of fire-cracked rock or features imply a focused site use. The evidence from flaking debris clearly indicates this use was quarrying. While other activities are likely to have occurred at or near quarry locales, no appreciable or tangible evidence was identified in the artifact assemblage. Based on the chronologically diagnostic points in the collection, there is evidence of at least two episodes of site use separated by several thousand years. This finding implies that the site may have been known for a long period of time, and thus it is likely that there were other periods of use that either left no chronological evidence or left evidence that was not found in the excavated sample from the site. The uniform vertical distribution of artifacts in the test units indicates a lack of stratification within the main depositional layer rendering separation of non-diagnostic artifacts from the several occupations impractical.

Based on the Phase II survey, 18MO569 was recommended as eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion D. Site 18M0569 is, in part, significant because most of the site appears to be intact below the plowzone surface layer and therefore has the potential to contain and yield data that can

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further refine the understanding of prehistoric lifeways in the region. Testing at the site, combined with the results of the geophysical survey, revealed an expansive site area that includes discrete geologic features where high-quality quartz is found in abundance, with extensive evidence of quarrying activities and partial lithic reduction, such as expedient core manufacturing, early-stage reduction, and preferential selection of material. Although relatively few test units were excavated for the Phase II evaluation, there was sufficient indication that the site contains cultural features, such as hearths or possible pit features, that could provide additional data to refine site chronology (e.g. time period(s) that the site used/ occupied) and duration of stays at the site. The presence of hearths, in addition to evidence of late-stage lithic reduction (e.g., thinning flakes) and evidence of other tools may help to refine the understanding of the nature of site occupation and use.

Based on the Phase II The Ottery Group recommended that 18MO569 be avoided by the SHA during planning and construction related to roadway improvements along MDl98, however, if avoidance was not possible, mitigation should be considered. It was recommended that mitigation further investigate quartz procurement at 18MO569, identify the nature of activities surrounding the procurement area, clarify the role of quarry/ lithic procurement locales within the regional settlement system, and develop models for the use of quartz throughout the settlement system.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95002808