



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18MO79

Site Name: Sycamore Landing

Prehistoric

Other name(s) HI

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Archaic and Middle and Late Woodland short-term camps

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 12

SCS soil & sediment code 46A, 47A

Latitude 39.0808

Longitude -77.4074

Physiographic province Eastern Piedmont

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m

Site slope 0-3%

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) Potomac River

#### Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Spring

#### Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 53 m

## Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Contact period site

ca. 1820 - 1860

Archaic site

MD Adena

ca. 1630 - 1675

ca. 1860 - 1900

Early archaic

Early woodland

ca. 1675 - 1720

ca. 1900 - 1930

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

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

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?

#### Domestic

- Homestead
- Farmstead
- Mansion
- Plantation
- Row/townhome
- Cellar
- Privy

#### Industrial

- Mining-related
- Quarry-related
- Mill
- Black/metalsmith
- Furnace/forge
- Other

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

#### Bldg or foundation

Isolated burial

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

N

Flotation samples taken N

Other samples taken

### 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"/>	
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Le Croy	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Morrow Mntn	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Guilford	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Brewerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Otter Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Koens-Crispin	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jacks Rf (pent)	<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"/>	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"/>			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	509	
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	12
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ceramics (all)	29	
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Floral material	<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 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 type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	siltstone	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Tobacco related	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Floral material	<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



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18M079

Site Name: Sycamore Landing

Prehistoric

Other name(s) HI

Historic

Brief Description:

Archaic and Middle and Late Woodland short-term camps

Unknown

## External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC Lab #1993.020.051

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

Site 18M079, also known as Sycamore Landing, is a prehistoric site, likely an informal intermittent camp or resource exploitation area dated to the Archaic and Middle to Late Woodland periods. It is located near Sycamore Land Road next to the Potomac River. It lies within the Middle Potomac Floodplain District and is characterized by deciduous trees and silt loam soils. A crushed gravel parking lot covers part of the site, as does an agricultural field and road. Construction of the parking lot and road appears to have removed the upper 20-40 cm of native soil, however, below the crushed rock parking lot, there did appear to be relatively undisturbed cultural deposits.

The Paleoindian period (ca. 11,000 - 9500 B.C.) is the earliest substantiated cultural adaptation in Maryland and Virginia. Our current view of Paleoindian peoples is that they tended to live in small bands and traveled seasonally within set territories for food sources. There are over 25 known Paleoindian sites within the region with the Pierpoint site (18M041) located downstream and Catocin Creek site (44LD15) upstream from the current project area. Additionally, isolated Paleoindian projectile points have been found throughout the region. The Archaic period is divided into the Early, Middle, and Late Archaic and is characterized by the exploitation of a larger variety of plant and animal resources with an overall greater diversity in material culture. The transition to the Early Archaic Period is inferred to include a less mobile and more localized lifestyle than the preceding Paleoindian Period. By around 1250 B.C., technological changes occurred in the material culture of the prehistoric inhabitants of the region, which is the basis for determining the transition from the Archaic Period to the Woodland Period. European explorers first encountered Native Americans in the area in the 1520s, most likely through trade.

The majority of the prehistoric sites within the Potomac River floodplain are located near the banks of the Potomac River. In general, prehistoric sites not directly next to the river are located on slight rises within the floodplain or along stream channels in the upland settings. Recorded sites dating to the 19th and 20th centuries tend to be located out of the floodplain and primarily include the remains of cabins or farmsteads. In total, there are 47 prehistoric, three multicomponent prehistoric/19th to 20th century, and four 19th to 20th century sites located within a mile of the APE. Based on the background research, it was expected that the Phase I survey would identify cultural resources within the APE. This was based on the high density of prehistoric archeological sites within the Potomac River floodplain.

The initial recording of 18M079 was in 1974 by R. E. McDaniel and the site was revisited in 1975 by R. E. McDaniel and C. Petit. Based on the site form, the artifacts present included small quartz triangular points, stemmed points, corner notched points, side notched points, hammer stones, knives, scrapers, shell, quartz, sand, granite, black grit, and limestone tempered sherds. All of the observed sherds were cordmarked and one of the projectile points was consistent with the Savannah River type. No excavations are known to have occurred, but surface artifacts were collected and curated with MHT. Based on the artifacts, the site was dated to the Archaic and Middle to Late Woodland Periods. No features were identified and the site was not evaluated for NRHP eligibility. The site was classified as a hamlet.

This site was re-examined due to its location within the area of potential effect (APE) of a fiber optic conduit project. Only part of the site was within the APE, and therefore subject to further study. The site was first documented by R.E. McDaniel in 1974 and revisited in 1975. No excavation was conducted, however, in surface collection, a variety of tools, points, and ceramic sherds were recovered. The site was classified as a hamlet based on these findings.

Phase I testing near the site occurred within and near the parking lot on the site. Shovel test pits in this area were positive. Within the soybean field north of the parking lot, ST-16, ST-17, and ST-18 were excavated and all three were positive for cultural resources. Five tertiary flakes and one piece of shatter, all white quartz and a quartzite scraper were found in ST-16. Within ST-17, five tertiary flakes and one piece of shatter, all white quartz, were recovered. ST-18 contained three white quartz tertiary flakes and one quartzite primary flake. All of the artifacts, with the exception of the quartzite scraper were located within the plow zone, which terminated around 25 cm. The shovel tests excavated within and near the parking lot included ST-19, ST-20, ST-21, and ST-22. All of these shovel tests were positive for cultural resources. ST-19 contained a single quartz secondary flake and one quartzite biface was recovered from ST-20. The artifacts from ST-19 included two quartz shatter specimens, three quartz tertiary flakes, one quartzite tertiary flake, and one tertiary rhyolite flake. A single tertiary rhyolite flake was recovered from ST-22. Based on the findings of the Phase I survey it was determined, through consultation with MHT, that Phase II testing of 18M079 was warranted.

The Phase II testing was confined to the extent of the area of potential effects of the project. The controlled excavation of three 1 x 1 meter units and two 1 x 2 meter units provided a relatively high number of artifacts. The more northern excavation units (EU-1 and EU-2) were relatively devoid of artifacts and possibly represent the general frequency of artifacts that can be expected within the floodplain of the Potomac River in this area. EU-3, a 1 x 1 meter controlled excavation unit, was located near Sycamore Landing Road. Artifacts were recovered from 17 to 57 cm below the modern ground surface and included a quartz scraper, quartzite knife, one specimen of quartzite shatter, ten quartzite flakes, one chert flake, and five quartz tertiary flakes. The unit was excavated to a depth of 67 cm below the modern ground surface. The number of artifacts from EU-3 was significantly higher than the more northern excavation units but less than the excavation units to the east (EU-4 and -5), suggesting EU-3 may be at the edge of the densest cultural deposits of 18M079.

The two 1 x 2 meter units were placed in the gravel parking lot after being mechanically stripped (EU-4 and EU-5). The artifacts from EU-4 included 115 flaked stone debitage specimens, six flaked stone tools, and four ceramic sherds. The artifacts from EU-5 included 336 specimens of flaked stone debitage, four flaked stone tools, 25 ceramic sherds, and 12 specimens of faunal bone. In both EU-4 and EU-5, the fifth level contained a significantly lower amount of artifacts than the fourth level and the bottom third of the fifth level appeared to be devoid of artifacts. A sixth level was excavated within each unit, but instead of excavating the entire unit, half (1 x 1 m) was excavated. This final level within both EU-4 and EU-5 was negative for artifacts. Both units were excavated to a depth approximately a meter below the modern ground surface and 60 cm below the parking lot matrix. No cultural features or prehistoric surfaces were identified, and the artifacts were not clustered or deposited in a pattern. No historic artifacts or features were recovered.

Phase II testing was undertaken to determine if the cultural deposits within the APE are potentially eligible to the Historic Register. A moderate amount of artifacts were recovered from five excavation units and were analyzed. The artifacts appear to represent the Late Archaic Period through the Woodland Period with quartzite and rhyolite dart projectile points, sand and quartz tempered sherds, and quartzite and quartz debitage representing the majority of the artifact assemblage. No features or prehistoric cultural lenses were identified during the fieldwork.

Based on the field work and artifact analysis, the portion of 18M079 within the APE is not recommended as eligible to the National Register of Historic Places. The lack of features and the diminished integrity caused by the removal of the upper cultural deposits significantly limit the potential for 18M079 to yield important information in prehistory. This recommendation only applies to the portion of 18M079 that is within the APE. Other portions of the 18M079 may retain greater integrity and have intact features that could better contribute important information about our past. Therefore, it was recommended that no additional fieldwork is required prior to the construction of the proposed Goff Project Crossroads.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95002695, Site Files