MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18PR126 **Site Name:** Kenilworth

Other name(s) GWU Site No. 1

Prehistoric ☑ Historic ☐ Unknown ☐

Brief Description: Archaic and Woodland base camp

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Latitude 38.9114 Longitude -76.9475

Elevation m Site slope 0-5%

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 11 SCS soil & sediment code Jo

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal Terrestrial site ☑ Underwater site ☐

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	☑	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) Beaverdam Branch

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

Minimum distance to water is 0 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site		Woodland site	Y	Contact period site		ca. 1820 - 1860	
Archaic site	Y	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 prehistoric context				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?

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 N

Flotation samples taken N Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken

Flotation samples taken Other samples taken

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18PR126 **Site Name:** Kenilworth

Other name(s) GWU Site No. 1

Prehistoric ☑ Historic ☐ Unknown ☐

Brief Description: Archaic and Woodland base camp

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	1	Popes Creek		Shepard		Keyser	
Dames Qtr		Coulbourn		Townsend	56	Yeocomico	
Selden Island		Watson		Minguannan		Monongahela	
Accokeek	55	Mockley		Sullivan Cove		Susquehannock	
Wolfe Neck		Clemson Island		Shenks Ferry			
Vinette		Page		Moyaone			
				Potomac Crk	47		

Historic Sherd Types

Earthenware		Ironstone		Staffordshire		**Stoneware**	
Astbury		Jackfield		Tin Glazed		English Brown	
Borderware		Mn Mottled		Whiteware		Eng Dry-bodied	
Buckley		North Devon		**Porcelain**		Nottingham	
Creamware		Pearlware				Rhenish	
						Wt Salt-glazed	

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts

Flaked stone	1099	Other fired clay	
Ground stone	1	Human remain(s)	☐
Stone bowls		Modified faunal	
Fire-cracked rock	2	Unmod faunal	4
Other lithics (all)	2	Oyster shell	☐
Ceramics (all)	269	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	1
Pottery (all)		Activity item(s)	
Glass (all)	2	Human remain(s)	☐
Architectural	4	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**

Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Site Number: 18PR126 **Site Name:** Kenilworth

Other name(s) GWU Site No. 1

Prehistoric ☑ Historic ☐ Unknown ☐

Brief Description: Archaic and Woodland base camp

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC, Smithsonian NMNH (Accession 221135)

☐ Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Kenilworth Site (18PR126) is an apparent multi-component base camp located near the Washington DC-Prince George's County line. It is situated on the higher of two low terraces adjacent to a small creek tributary of the Anacostia River. It is approximately 1 acre in size. Vegetation consists of secondary locust-bramble forest and soils appear to be Fallsington sandy loams. The site has also been referred to in the past as GWU Site #1.

The site was first discovered during a reconnaissance survey of the Anacostia River Valley by Howard MacCord in 1956. At that time the site was threatened by the impending construction of the "Anacostia Park and Highway System" (today's MD 295 – the Anacostia Freeway). There was concern that the site would be entirely destroyed by construction of the highway, as the proposed route was only vaguely known at the time. Ultimately, the highway was built to the east of the site and did not impact it directly.

The site was situated on a former farm property that had been acquired by the National Capital Parks in preparation for the highway construction. The topsoil was plow-disturbed and research began with a surface reconnaissance. No details of the methods utilized for surface survey are provided, but a table of recovered artifacts includes 8 triangular points, 2 generally triangular bifaces, 1 lanceolate point, an ovoid base point, 3 side-notched points, a drill, a flaked stone knife, 15 other bifaces, 12 Potomac Creek sherds, 37 Albemarle sherds, 35 Chickahominy sherds (a.k.a Rappahannock or Townsend), 5 Stony Creek (Accokeek) sherds, and a "trade" pipestem (presumably European in origin).

Following surface survey, a sketch map of the site was produced and used to establish a central baseline for laying out excavation units. These consisted of a test trench approximately 3 meters wide by 10.7 meters long (10 ft X 35 ft) as well as six 1.524 meter (5 ft) test squares excavated in-line with the trench. The trench was excavated in 4 arbitrary levels consisting of approximately 18 cm of plow disturbed topsoil (Layer 1), followed by 5 cm of mottled humus with rootlets (Layer 2), 7.6 cm of sand containing numerous flakes (Layer 3), and an undisturbed subsoil (Layer 4) tested to a depth of 50+ cm. Quantities of pottery encountered decreased with each successive layer.

Once the uniformity of the stratigraphy, lack of features, and the generally shallow nature of the deposits had been established by the trenching, excavation methods switched to the use of the test squares. Excavation proceeded in the same manner as the trench excavations. No cultural features of any kind were encountered. Artifacts encountered in the trench and test units include 47 projectile points and bifaces, 962 flakes, 1 quartzite chopper tool, 2 hammerstones, a groundstone axe, and 180 ceramic sherds. The diagnostic ceramic types varied by stratigraphic layer. Layer 1 contained 21 Potomac Creek sherds, 29 Albemarle, 12 Chickahominy, and 14 Stony Creek sherds. Layer 2 contained 14 Potomac Creek, 39 Albemarle, 9 Chickahominy, 1 Prince George, 28 Stony Creek, and 1 Marcey Creek sherd. In Layer 3, four Albemarle and 7 Stony Creek sherds were encountered. Only 1 Stony Creek sherd was recovered from Layer 4. This distribution suggests some possible segregation into stratified deposits. The excavation work in 1956 suggests that the site served as a base camp during multiple periods of prehistory.

The site was next examined in 1975 as part of the Anacostia Force Main Project. This infrastructure improvement project entailed the construction of a pumping station, installation of a force water main, and creek improvements in the vicinity of the site. At the time, the alignment that was proposed for the water main was estimated to impact some 60% of the site. The site was test excavated by researchers at the George Washington University working as part of the broader D.C. Consortium of Universities' Potomac Valley Archeological Project to determine more about the nature of the site.

The site was recognized as lying on the higher of two low terraces within about 2.43 meters of the aforementioned creek. Its horizontal distribution was estimated from the presence of flakes and oyster shells wherever the sandy terrace deposits were bare of vegetation cover. Initial work at the site was limited to mapping the distribution of these with a tape and pocket transit. Artifacts were then collected from the surface where visibility was sufficient. A total of 13 flakes (of quartz, quartzite, and rhyolite), a probable core fragment (of quartz), a piece of quartz shatter, and four oyster shells were recovered.

Next, a 1.5 meter square was excavated in five arbitrary levels to a depth of 70 cm where the water table was encountered. The unit was subdivided into 50 cm subunits for greater control of artifact provenience. Depth below surface was measured from the highest (southeast) corner of the unit. The excavation of the test unit revealed that the site is relatively shallow (no artifacts below about 50 cm) and undisturbed (no more than 25 cm of plowzone). The topsoil contained both recent material (bricks and glass) in small quantity and aboriginal material, while the first 10 to 15 cm of subsoil contained just under half of the aboriginal material. Prehistoric artifacts included an argillite Archaic point (no type provided), a rhyolite knife tip, 3 possible quartz core fragments, at least 2 chert flakes, 21 quartz flakes and shatter fragments, 9 quartzite flakes, a rhyolite flake, 4 broken cobbles, and at least 2 pieces of fire-cracked rock. No pottery sherds were noted in the excavation unit. Three possible postmolds (5 cm in diameter) were encountered at a depth of approximately 30 cm. These may indicate the presence of a relatively intact occupation floor, but they turned out to be rather shallow and difficult to follow into the next stratigraphic level.

The interpretation of the 1975 excavators, was that the site served as an Archaic base camp. The site was place chronologically within the Archaic based on the presence of the single point and the absence of pottery, however, significant quantities of pottery were present when the site was excavated in the 1950s. Plans were proposed for further mitigation of the site, prior to the pumping station construction. Unfortunately, it is not known whether this mitigation work was ever conducted or if construction plans were altered to avoid the site. Thus, the research potential of 18PR126 is currently unknown. A site visit and possible preliminary work to assess whether or not any portions of the site remain intact are certainly warranted.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00006930, 00006556, Site Files