



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18PR141

Site Name: Site 1, Stream A

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Middle and Late Woodland short-term resource procurement camps

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 11

SCS soil & sediment code SIE

Latitude 38.6663

Longitude -77.0066

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 43 m

Site slope 21-30%

Ethnobotany profile available  Maritime site

## Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Intermittent stream

### Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Minimum distance to water is 0 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
- 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

## Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Archaic site

MD Adena

Early archaic

Early woodland

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

Late archaic

Late woodland

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 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

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

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 N

Flotation samples taken Y

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		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"/>
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"/>
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	8	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	12		

## 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		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	259	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	140	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	4	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	34	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

Jasper	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Dated features present at site

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



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Brief

Description:

Middle and Late Woodland short-term resource procurement camps

Unknown

## External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at Catholic University

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

Site 18PR141 (Site 1, Stream A) is a multi-component site in southern Prince George's County with evidence of Middle and Late Woodland occupations. The site is situated on in a narrow stream valley, along an unnamed tributary of Piscataway Creek (hereafter Stream A). The local environment includes brackish water at the mouth of Piscataway Creek, fresh water from Stream A, and easily tilled sandy soils. The surrounding landscape is a vegetative transition zone between the oak-hickory, and mixed oak-southern pine forest biomes. Soils at the site are sandy, gravelly loams.

The site was first identified by Dr. William Gardner and a number of undergraduate and graduate students from the Catholic University of America. In early 1976, Gardner and his students were conducting survey work along two secondary streams draining toward Piscataway Creek in the vicinity of planned sewer-line improvements by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC). Reconnaissance methods included sub-surface sampling with 61 X 61 cm (2 X 2 ft) square test unit excavations and screw augers, map study, archival and laboratory study, and examination of exposed surfaces, eroded slopes, and stream bank cuts. Four areas of prehistoric cultural habitation were found, one of which was 18PR141.

The extent of the survey-phase excavations conducted at 18PR141 are not known. An unpublished manuscript by Gardner concerning the excavations (on file at MHT) references a site map that would provide some level of details concerning which techniques were utilized at the site, however this map is not included in the manuscript. At a minimum, six positive 61 cm test squares were excavated. Typically, in areas where archeological deposits were encountered in an initial unit, on the surface, or in auger samples, test unit excavations were scattered out in all directions to determine the extent of each site. Thus, a number of additional 61 cm test squares (beyond the 6 that were positive) were likely excavated. The 6 positive units yielded 5 chert flakes, 1 rhyolite flake, 1 jasper flake, 10 quartz flakes, 8 quartzite flakes, 8 pieces of fire-cracked rock, 2 hammerstones, 6 Potomac Creek sherds, and 2 unidentified sand-tempered ceramic fragments.

Based on this data, the site was initially interpreted as a limited purpose extractive camp of the Late Woodland period. The researchers determined that the site was potentially eligible to the NRHP and pursued a more rigorous testing regime the following summer.

In May, June, and July of 1976, Site 18PR141 was investigated with the excavation of three 3.05 m X 3.05 m (10 ft X 10 ft) excavations units. Standard excavation procedures during this work included digging in 7.62 cm (3 in) arbitrary levels. All excavations with this method employed only small hand tools such as trowels, dental picks, and spoons. Most soil was screened through 3/8 inch mesh hardware cloth. Selected samples from floors and all soils from features such as hearths were floated through window screen in an effort to recover charcoal, bone, small artifacts, etc. Only very tiny pressure flakes were recovered using this method. Efforts were made to leave all artifacts encountered in situ until an entire level had been excavated. This method insured that any patterning of the artifacts was noted, aided in interpretation, and served to guide the ongoing excavations. The only exception to this rule was the excavation of Level 1 (topsoil). This level was excavated in quadrants by careful shoveling and all artifacts were bagged as a single unit. After each level was excavated, the floors were photographed and mapped (where warranted) with artifacts being numbered and keyed to the map prior to removal. After artifact removal, the floor of each level was scraped in an effort to discern soil stains denoting pits, postmolds, etc. However, no cultural features were ultimately identified. Vertical excavation in the squares continued until artifact free levels were encountered. All artifacts were retained for analysis.

Lithic artifacts encountered during the in-depth testing at 18PR141 include 2 rhyolite points, 1 chert point, 2 chert bifaces, 1 quartzite biface, 2 quartz cores, 2 quartzite cores, 8 retouched flakes (material unspecified), 213 flakes (22 chert, 14 rhyolite, 1 jasper, 70 quartz, 44 quartzite, 1 sandstone, & 61 other), 3 unspecified tools, 132 fire-cracked rock pieces, and 2 hammerstones. The ceramic assemblage consisted of 6 Potomac Creek, 8 Popes Creek, and 26 unidentified sherds.

The artifact bearing layers at the site were all located within the lower part of and beneath a buried A horizon. It can be reasonably inferred that the burial of this paleosol came about as a result of the post AD 1600 erosional cycle set up by Colonial period deforestation plowing. The artifacts from the site all fall into a limited functional range which can best be associated with hunting. The lack of hearths and low density of fire-cracked rock, chipping features, primary debitage (except for crude flake cores) and the low density of artifacts all suggest a highly transitory occupation. The presence of broken pottery would indicate some extended length of stay and activities related to food processing. The other artifacts, three projectile points, a hafted knife (possible Holmes), a chert knife-scraper, and a quartz scraper all indicate hunting and processing of by-products from the hunt.

The chronological periods represented include, based on the ceramics, Popes Creek and Potomac Creek. At least one of the Potomac Creek sherds was elaborately decorated. These separate occupations appear to be segregated horizontally at the site. The lithic artifacts are more difficult to assign chronologically. A straight stemmed elongate blade quartzite biface (knife) was associated with Popes Creek pottery. Similar associations were noted at 18PR142 and 18PR143 (see synopsis reports). Two side notched, concave base projectile points (one of chert, one of rhyolite) were found in levels with Potomac Creek ceramics. This was an unexpected association since such points are not predicted to be in a Late Woodland context. These points could represent an otherwise unknown third component predating the Late Woodland.

Within a year of the completion of work by Gardner and his students, two archeological surveys were conducted in the vicinity of 18PR141. Both were associated with improvements to the nearby Indian Head Highway (MD 210), but each report merely mentions that the site is located just outside the highway right-of-way. According to archeology staff at the Maryland SHA, in 1985 the right-of-way (ROW) was expanded to include the western-most portion of the site when the highway was dualized. In 2000, another highway improvement project along MD 210 generated a Phase IB survey, which re-located 18PR141. Researchers noted that the portion of the site within the impact area for highway improvements (i.e. within the ROW as defined in 1985) was confined to steep and eroded slopes that border the site on the highway side. These western portions may have been graded during construction of a parallel service road in the ROW a few years previous to the 2000 Phase IB study. However, the researchers suggest that the major portion of the site, located on more level terrain to the east, may be intact since they recommend fencing this area off to protect it during the highway improvement project.

The work conducted at 18PR141 suggests that it is a fairly intact prehistoric site with evidence of multiple occupations at horizontally discrete locales within the site. The cultural deposits are contained within a buried paleosol and contain diagnostic artifacts. While the western-most portion of the site may have been disturbed by highway improvements, much of the site may still be intact and warrant further investigation utilizing modern techniques.

MARYLAND  
HISTORICAL



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Site Number:

Site Name:

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief  
Description:

Unknown

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External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):