



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18PR168

Site Name: Folly Branch

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

prehistoric lithic scatter

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 8

SCS soil & sediment code Bn

Latitude 38.9413

Longitude -76.8251

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 30 m

Site slope 0-5%

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) Folly Branch

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Minimum distance to water is 0 m

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Contact period site

ca. 1820 - 1860

ca. 1630 - 1675

ca. 1860 - 1900

Archaic site

MD Adena

ca. 1675 - 1720

ca. 1900 - 1930

Early archaic

Early woodland

ca. 1720 - 1780

Post 1930

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

ca. 1780 - 1820

Late archaic

Late woodland

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 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		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	<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

Earthenware		Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stoneware	
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	14	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	<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	56	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	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	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

Fer quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sil sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jasper	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	14	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	7	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	4	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	1	Misc.	7
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features

Privy/outhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	Depression/mound	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Const feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<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 MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Folly Branch (18PR168) is a prehistoric lithic scatter or short-term campsite in the Mitchellville area of Prince George's County. The site is situated on a low terrace at the head of a dry tributary of Folly Branch (a tributary of the Patuxent River). At the time of the site's discovery, the local landscape was described as swampy and wooded. Soils at the site are primarily Marr and Dodon sandy loams.

The site was first recorded in 1977 during the course of a Phase I survey of US Route 50/301 from Interstate 495 to MD 70, prior to (then) planned widening of Route 50. Eleven archeological sites were identified, one of which was 18PR168. The site was examined through shovel test pit (STP) excavation, with a total of 7 STPs dug at the site in 1977.

Five of these STPs produced prehistoric artifacts and a sixth produced 2 historic pottery sherds. The assemblage included 2 chert flakes, 18 quartz flakes, 8 quartzite flakes, and 1 chipped stone.

The site was not examined again archeologically until 1982, when plans for the highway widening were more concrete and a right-of-way corridor had been defined. The Maryland State Highway Administration had requested that the Maryland Geological Survey re-examine the 11 previously identified sites (including 18PR168) to determine their locations with respect to the latest right-of-way specifications for the project. This work would result in Phase II testing at 18PR168 which was found to be partially within the right-of-way for the project. The work was carried out in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

The 1982 re-examination consisted of surface survey of selected sites and, where the surface was obscured by vegetation, shovel test pit and strata cut excavation. With respect specifically to 18PR168, four randomly placed STPs were excavated within the site areas defined in 1977. Two of these STPs produced one quartz flake each. Based on this apparent confirmation of the site location, and the realization that the site fell within the right-of-way for the planned highway widening project, it was decided that more intensive testing was warranted.

Accordingly, twelve 60 X 60 cm test squares were placed throughout the site. All 12 units were excavated to sterile subsoil and all matrix was screened through hardware cloth.

Nine of the test units produced artifacts, primarily prehistoric artifacts, but some relatively modern artifacts as well. No prehistoric features were identified. The assemblage from the 1982 test units consisted of 1 quartz biface, 11 quartz flakes, 6 quartzite flakes, 2 rhyolite flakes, 5 quartz pebble fragments, a melted glass button, 3 pieces of brick, 1 piece of window glass, 14 sherds of undecorated whiteware, 6 pieces of unidentified glass, and 1 piece of coal. None of the prehistoric materials is diagnostic. The non-prehistoric items appear to date to the 20th century and are not considered significant.

Given the modest artifact assemblages recovered during both the 1977 and 1982 studies, 18PR168 can probably best be defined as a short-term, intermittent hunting station/campsite. The swamp associated with the Folly Branch drainage would have provided the necessary game attractant for a hunting site. A spur jutting out into the swamp (the core of the site) would have provided an ideal campsite location. Artifactual evidence also seems to support this interpretation. The predominance of small flakes, including pressure flakes, in the assemblage is indicative of the late stages of tool manufacture and may indicate on-the-spot reduction of preforms, a typical occurrence at hunting sites. The presence of cortex on some flakes points to exploitation of locally available quartz and quartzite cobbles and may be associated with the primary reduction stages of pre-form manufacture. This type of activity could easily have taken place at a short-term campsite. The presence of rhyolite debitage indicates transportation of lithic material from outside the immediate area (i.e. from South and Catoctin mountains), possibly during extended hunting rounds. Without diagnostic artifacts, temporal placement of the site is not possible, although it is likely that this favorable location was used sporadically throughout much of prehistory.

It is possible that 18PR168 could be considered eligible for listing on the NRHP on the grounds that it could yield significant information on prehistory. But, considering the low density of aboriginal artifacts at the site and the non-descript nature of the artifacts themselves, this possibility is remote. While the site was partially within the highway project right-of-way, construction would be unlikely to actually impact the site. Avoidance was recommended and the site may still be substantially intact today.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00006579, Site Files