



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18PR264

Site Name: Laser

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

prehistoric lithic quarry and short-term resource procurement

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 11

SCS soil & sediment code Ha

Latitude 38.9739

Longitude -76.9286

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 12 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) Northeast 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

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? 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

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 N

Flotation samples taken N

Other samples taken



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18PR264

Site Name: Laser

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief Description:

prehistoric lithic quarry and short-term resource procurement

Unknown

Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types			
Clovis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Koens-Crispin	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Le Croy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>
Morrow Mntn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guilford	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brewerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Otter Creek	<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

Earthenware				Ironstone		Staffordshire		Stoneware	
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Wt Salt-glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts			
Flaked stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	451	
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	35	
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Rimsherds	<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 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			
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Personal items	<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: 18PR264

Site Name: Laser

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief Description:

prehistoric lithic quarry and short-term resource procurement

Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Laser Site (18PR264) is a prehistoric lithic quarry and short-term resource procurement site near the College Park Airport, in Prince George's County, Maryland. The site is located on a first terrace on the western shore of the Northeast Branch. Historically, the land on the western side of the stream was at least seasonally damp as witnessed by a linear drainage ditch which cuts through the northern end of the site. In the early decades of the 20th Century the Northeast Branch was actively eroding the terrace on which the site rests, but has since migrated to the east. Soils at the site are poorly drained Hatboro silt loams underlain by dense gravel. It seems unlikely that the site would have been consistently cultivated in historic times.

The site was first identified by four transects of shovel tests (STPs) excavated during a Phase I survey in 1985. This Phase I cultural resources survey was conducted as part of a study of several alternative routes for the relocation of Calvert Road in Prince George's County, Maryland. Five alternates and a "no build" option were considered as a part of the impact study. The 15 STPs which contained artifacts yielded 57 prehistoric artifacts (quartzite, quartz, and jasper flakes and shatter fragments) and one historic artifact (English Brown stoneware). No diagnostic artifacts were recovered. Based on the Phase I findings, Phase II testing was recommended to determine if the site was a significant resource.

Phase II testing conducted in 1986 consisted of the excavation of a series of shovel tests on a 9.14 m (30 ft) grid over the entire site and the excavation of six 91 X 91 cm (3 X 3 ft) test units. A total of 90 STPs were excavated, of these, five were located on roads that cut through the site and were not included in analysis. All excavated matrices were screened through hardware cloth, and information on the location, content, soil color and texture, and stratigraphy of each test was recorded on standardized forms.

The 6 formal test units were located to test areas of dense artifact concentration and areas closer to the site peripheries where artifact frequencies were less. Unit 1 was excavated in an undisturbed area before shovel testing began, to provide a basic profile of the site and to aid in the interpretation of the shovel tests.

The excavations recovered prehistoric, historic, and modern artifacts. The modern artifacts were recorded but will not be discussed further, except as they pertain to site disturbance. No historic component was defined at the site, although several isolated historic artifacts were recovered (1 creamware sherd, 1 pearlware sherd, 1 piece of green glass, a clinker, a wrought nail and a square cut nail). Phase II testing primarily identified a prehistoric site with approximate dimensions of 106.7 X 106.7 m (350 X 350 ft).

The prehistoric cultural deposits began at approximately 7.62 cm (3 in) below the surface, and, while artifacts declined dramatically in frequency at 17.78 cm (7 in) below the surface, in places they continued to 45.72 cm (18 in). No temporally diagnostic artifacts and no cultural features were found. The prehistoric artifacts recovered from the site during Phase II work were 5 broken biface preforms, 1 tool, 1 possible perforator/drill, 144 complete flakes, 73 broken flakes, 97 flake fragments, 73 pieces of debris/shatter, and 35 pieces of fire-cracked rock. Quartzite was the most common raw material (359 objects) followed by quartz (34) and chert (1).

Most of the site area has retained at least moderate integrity. However, in some areas where the site may have existed previously, the surface has undergone major alterations. These include a borrow pit and a runway road for the airport. The drainage ditch on the north edge of the site also destroyed portions of the site. Minor disturbances include several paths through the site and the dumping of fill on top of the western section of the site. The fact that the soil is shallow and is situated on top of a gravel deposit makes it unlikely that the site area would have been plowed very often, if at all. This conclusion is supported by the fact that the artifacts were not evenly distributed throughout the profile but were concentrated between 7.62 and 17.78 cm below surface. In general, the eastern section of the site is the least disturbed.

Lithic analysis has suggested that various activities took place on the site, including both intensive core reduction and biface manufacturing, with perhaps more of the latter. The location of the site on a gravel bed, and the activities indicated by lithic analysis, indicates the site is a temporary quarrying and tool manufacturing site. Unfortunately, the role of the site in the general subsistence/settlement system cannot be addressed since no temporally diagnostic artifacts were recovered. The absence of chronological evidence at the Laser Site severely limits the importance of information that could potentially be gained from its further study. Thus, while Site 18PR264 has retained much of its integrity, it is unlikely to provide information important in defining or understanding the area's prehistory.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00006641, 00006643