MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18PR312 **Site Name:** Crane Pen

Other name(s)

Prehistoric ☑ Historic ☑ Unknown ☐

Brief Description: Early & Middle Archaic and Early, Middle, & Late Woodland camps, Late Archaic base camp;18th-19th scatter

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 8 SCS soil & sediment code Ot,GdB,EnA

Latitude 39.0406 Longitude -76.7868 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	☑	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) Unnamed stream

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

Minimum distance to water is 68 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site		Woodland site		Contact period site		ca. 1820 - 1860	Y
Archaic site		MD Adena		ca. 1630 - 1675		ca. 1860 - 1900	Y
Early archaic	Y	Early woodland	Y	ca. 1675 - 1720		ca. 1900 - 1930	
MIddle archaic	Y	Mid. woodland	Y	ca. 1720 - 1780	Y	Post 1930	
Late archaic	Y	Late woodland	P	ca. 1780 - 1820	Y		
Unknown prehistoric context				Unknown historic context			
				Unknown context			

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American		Asian American	
African American		Unknown	Y
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? 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 14 carbonized hickory shells

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken N

Flotation samples taken N Other samples taken

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Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types

Clovis		Koens-Crispin	3
Hardaway-Dalton		Perkiomen	
Palmer		Susquehana	
Kirk (notch)		Vernon	6
Kirk (stem)	1	Piscataway	4
Le Croy	1	Calvert	2
Morrow Mntn		Selby Bay	6
Guilford		Jacks Rf (notch)	
Brewerton	5	Jacks Rf (pent)	
Otter Creek	2	Madison/Potomac	
		Levanna	

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Prehistoric Sherd Types

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

Historic Sherd Types

Earthenware		Ironstone		Staffordshire		**Stoneware**	
Astbury		Jackfield		Tin Glazed		English Brown	
Borderware		Mn Mottled		Whiteware	1	Eng Dry-bodied	
Buckley		North Devon		**Porcelain**		Nottingham	
Creamware		Pearlware				Rhenish	
						Wt Salt-glazed	

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts

		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	1052	Human remain(s)	☐
Ground stone	2	Modified faunal	
Stone bowls		Unmod faunal	
Fire-cracked rock	7380	Oyster shell	☐
Other lithics (all)	19	Floral material	☐
Ceramics (all)	2	Uncommon Obj.	
Rimsherds		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	2
Pottery (all)	4	Activity item(s)	
Glass (all)	8	Human remain(s)	☐
Architectural	85	Faunal material	☐
Furniture		Misc. kitchen	
Arms		Floral material	☑
Clothing		Misc.	133
Personal items		Other ☑	coal, clinkers,lime/lime stone

Historic Features

		Privy/outhouse	☐	Depression/mound	☐
Const feature	☐	Well/cistern	☐	Burial(s)	☐
Foundation	☐	Trash pit/dump	☐	Railroad bed	☐
Cellar hole/cellar	☐	Sheet midden	☐	Earthworks	☐
Hearth/chimney	☐	Planting feature	☐	Mill raceway	☐
Postholes/molds	☐	Road/walkway	☐	Wheel pit	☐
Paling ditch/fence	☐				

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**

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External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC

☐ Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Crane Pens Site, 18PR312, is an Early Archaic, Late Archaic, and Woodland period base camp on the National Park Service property at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (PWRC) in Laurel, Prince George's County, Maryland. The site is situated on a terrace overlooking Cash Creek which flows toward the nearby Patuxent River. Soils at the site are Elkton silt loams.

The site was first professionally examined in June and July of 1986. The site was within the impact area for a planned crane breeding pen for the Endangered Species section of the PWRC. The report of a prehistoric site (18PR162) recorded by the State Archeologist in 1972 indicated that archeological resources were present in the vicinity which could be affected by construction of the pen. Two clusters of artifacts were identified in the immediate area and Phase II work was carried out in the cluster that would be directly impacted by construction of the pen. NPS and Fish and Wildlife Service Archeologists conducted the study with assistance from Youth Conservation Corps and other volunteers. The work led to the assignment of a news site number; Site 18PR312.

The archeological testing at the Crane Pen Site was intended to locate artifact concentrations reflecting loci of prehistoric activity, and to assess the significance of such concentrations, in order to provide any mitigation needed to proceed with planning and construction of the crane pen itself. Preliminary drawings, which were the basis for survey staking of the site prior to the testing, and on-site discussions with PWRC personnel involved with the project, identified four specific elements which could affect resources. These were perimeter and interior fencing through an area of 76.2 X 158.5 meters (250 X 520 feet) for the crane pen proper, an access road extending southwest from the west corner of the pen, a water supply line extending north from the west corner, and a drainage line extending northeast from the east corner.

Shovel test pits (STPs) were excavated at a 15.24 meter (50 ft) interval throughout the areas where these project elements would entail ground disturbance. Additional shovel tests, generally at an interval of 7.62 m (25 ft) between the initial STPs, were dug in most locations where lithic debris was found. Where a concentration of lithic debris was discovered along the route of the drainage line, eleven 1.524 X 1.524 meter (5 X 5 ft) test units were excavated. The shovel tests were about 30.5 cm (1 ft) in diameter and 23-46 cm (0.75-1.5 ft) deep, depending on the depth of the subsoil (of which about 7 cm was usually dug). The 1.524 m test squares were dug to depths of around 30.5cm, except Unit 3 where the subsoil was excavated to a total depth below grade of 38 cm (1.25 ft). Other than at the break between the topsoil (plowzone) and subsoil, where trowels were used, shovels were employed in excavating the test units. All excavated soils were screened through hardware cloth.

Of the 122 shovel tests excavated, 37 were found to contain evidence of human activity. Prehistoric material was found to only be significantly concentrated in the area of the drainage line route, which led to the excavation of the formal test units. Two-thirds of all the lithic debris recovered in the shovel tests was found in that area. The prehistoric artifacts collected during the excavation of STPs include 1 possible biface, 23 flakes, 7 pieces of shatter, 1 other lithic object (not described), and 6 pieces of fire-cracked rock. Historic artifacts were also encountered (though considered insignificant) and include 31 brick fragments, 8 nail fragments, 33 pieces of lime or limestone, 3 pipe fragments, 1whiteware sherd, 8 bottle glass fragments, 66 pieces of coal and cinders, 58 pieces of charcoal, and 7 other objects.

The 11 test units excavated where the concentration of prehistoric material was found, being substantially larger than the shovel tests, yielded much larger amounts of artifacts, including a few diagnostic items. A few historic items were also recovered. The prehistoric assemblage from the test units includes 3 Holmes points, 1 Rossville-like point, and 9 unidentified point fragments, 2 preforms, 1 knife, 2 drills, 1 biface fragment, 1 utilized flake, 801 flakes and shatter fragments, a pecked shale object (possible anvil), 3 hammerstones, a very small unidentified groundstone object, 7,374 pieces of fire-cracked rock, 1 ceramic sherd, and 14 pieces of carbonized hickory nut shell. The historic artifacts recovered from the test units include 8 brick fragments, 1 piece of lime, 1 pipe fragment, 3 ceramic sherds, and a brass fragment.

The density and variety of artifacts are indicative of encampments of some type. However, although plow scars, root stains, and rodent burrows were evident, no features reflecting the presence of structures or hearths were found. Based on the diagnostic materials recovered, these encampments were probably established periodically over a span of several thousand years. During at least some of this timespan, the local occupations were likely to have been base camps (based on the recovery of a wide variety of materials and fire-cracked rock).

In 1987, an archeological overview and assessment study was done of the entire PWRC to identify sites within the refuge for consideration during the development plan for the PWRC property. It would also help managers address compliance issues which involve archeological resources. As part of the overview and assessment study researchers examined avocational collections conducted by several of the center's staff over many decades. Most of this archeology consisted of the collection of artifacts from plowed fields and other areas of disturbed ground. Many of these artifacts were catalogued in 1962, along with a substantial amount of provenience information; artifacts could be tied to specific 100 meter (330 ft) square plots within which the artifact was collected. Artifacts from the immediate vicinity surrounding 18PR312 were in an area referred to as "Cluster F".

The Prehistoric artifact assemblage from avocational surface collection in Cluster F included 87 projectile points, 46 preforms, 8 knives, 36 biface fragments, 11 scrapers, 6 drills, 6 flakes or cores, 3 hammerstones, a ¾ grooved axe, 1 piece of pottery, and 11 other prehistoric items (assumed to be lithics). The diagnostic projectile points were 1 Kirk-like point, 1 bifurcate-base point, 1 Stanley –like point, 4 Piscataway points, 4 Brewerton side-notched points, 1 Brewerton eared-notched point, 2 Otter Creek-like points, 6 Vernon points, 30 Holmes, 1 Savannah River-like point, 3 Koens-Crispin points, 2 Orient-like points, 2 Calvert points, and 6 Selby Bay points. Other points either could not be typed or were fragmentary. Three historic objects were also part of the collection; 2 clay pipe fragments and an unidentified historic object.

Even though no intact cultural features were encountered during the Phase II work conducted in 1986 at 18PR312, the analysis in 1987 of avocational collections suggests that portions of the site likely extend into areas that were never subject to testing in 1986 due to the limited impact area for the construction of the crane pens. Intact deposits and additional diagnostics may be present, particularly in areas southeast of the site as defined in 1986 and future work should attempt to determine the boundaries of the site. The site (potentially a base camp) could in the future yield information important to our understanding of Maryland prehistoric cultures.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

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