



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18PR317

Site Name: O'Barr

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Obar

Historic

Brief Description:

Early Woodland, Late Woodland short-term resource procurement

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 8

SCS soil & sediment code Bo, GaC

Latitude 39.0231

Longitude -76.7718

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 34 m

Site slope 6-10%

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) Unnamed tributary of Patux

- | Saltwater | | Freshwater | |
|---|--|--|--------------------------------|
| Ocean <input type="checkbox"/> | Estuary/tidal river <input type="checkbox"/> | Stream/river <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Swamp <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tidewater/marsh <input type="checkbox"/> | Lake or pond <input type="checkbox"/> | Spring <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Minimum distance to water is <input type="text"/> 0 m | | | |

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

- Paleoindian site
- Archaic site
- Early archaic
- Middle archaic
- Late archaic
- Woodland site
- MD Adena
- Early woodland
- Mid. woodland
- Late woodland
- Unknown prehistoric context

- Contact period site
- ca. 1820 - 1860
- ca. 1630 - 1675
- ca. 1675 - 1720
- ca. 1720 - 1780
- ca. 1780 - 1820
- Unknown historic context
- Unknown context
- ca. 1820 - 1860
- ca. 1860 - 1900
- ca. 1900 - 1930
- Post 1930

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

- Native American
- African American
- Anglo-American
- Hispanic
- Asian American
- Unknown
- Other

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?
 - 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		
Clovis	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Le Croy	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Morrow Mntn	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Guilford	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Brewerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Otter Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Koens-Crispin	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Madison/Potomac	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Levanna	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Prehistoric Sherd Types

Marcey Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Popes Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shepard	<input type="checkbox"/>	Keyser	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dames Qtr	<input type="checkbox"/>		Selden Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Townsend	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yeocomico	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accokeek	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Wolfe Neck	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minguannan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monongahela	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vinette	<input type="checkbox"/>		Clemson Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sullivan Cove	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehannock	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Page	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shenks Ferry	<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	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	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		
Flaked stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	403
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	125
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	10
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	13
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Uncommon Obj.	<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 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 checked="" 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"/>	7
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Tobacco related	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Misc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	6
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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External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The O'Barr site, 18PR317, is a short-term resource procurement camp utilized in both the Early and Late Woodland periods. The site is located north of Bowie, adjacent to a small unnamed drainage a short distance from the tidal marshes of the Patuxent River floodplain. This part of Prince George's County is part of the Chesnut Oak-Post Oak-Blackjack Oak natural forest association. Edible plants of this vegetative regime include 7 oak species, 2 hickory species, beech, black cherry, blueberry, huckleberry, deerberry, and sassafras. Soils at the site are primarily excessively-drained Galestown gravelly loamy sand.

The O'Barr site was discovered during a Phase I reconnaissance survey conducted in August of 1987. The Phase I work was conducted as part of a road reconstruction project involving a slight re-alignment of Jericho Park Road. The total road reconstruction project area was about 2,150 m long and between 40 m and 73 m wide. The O'Barr site was identified within the project right-of-way.

To facilitate survey, the project area was divided into 7 transects throughout the road project right-of-way, based on modern land-use patterns and topographic features. Low surface visibility required subsurface testing (shovel test pitting) throughout the project area. Shovel test pits (STPs) measured 40 cm in diameter, and were excavated to sterile clay subsoil on hilltops (averaging about 30 cm below surface), and to a depth of about 1 m in sandy floodplain soils. Soil was screened through hardware cloth, and artifacts were collected and bagged. Where cultural material was encountered, additional STPs were excavated within 10 m of the first to delineate the extent of the remains. A site record was filled out, the site was photographed, and it was mapped with compass and tape.

Site 18PR317 was identified by the excavation of 4 STPs, 3 of which were positive for prehistoric artifacts. Sixteen quartz flakes were recovered from these 3 shovel tests. Additional artifacts, both prehistoric and historic, were recovered from the surface as well, as portions of the site were a plowed field. The full Phase I assemblage from O'Barr included 1 quartz biface fragment, 20 quartz flakes, 7 whiteware sherds, 1 piece of molded glass, and 6 coal fragments. Based on these findings, Phase II testing was recommended.

Researchers returned to the site in the fall of 1987 to conduct the Phase II work, which entailed the excavation of additional shovel tests, surface collection, and excavation of five 1 X 1 m test units. Phase II fieldwork commenced with the establishment of a grid system on the site, aligned at 10° west of magnetic north. A limited amount of surface collection occurred in conjunction with grid layout. Shovel test pits were initially excavated at 15 m intervals on the grid system. This was followed by the excavation of additional STPs at 7.5 m intervals in areas where significant quantities of artifacts were found. STPs were 40 cm in diameter and excavated into sterile subsoil. This averaged 35 to 40 cm in depth for most shovel test pits, however shovel tests along the creek banks penetrated over 90 cm in some instances. All soil was screened through hardware mesh and prehistoric artifact totals were tallied in the field. A total of 53 STPs were excavated on the 15 m grid and an additional 64 shovel tests were subsequently excavated on the 7.5 m interval.

Following excavation of shovel test pits, five 1 X 1 m test excavation units were opened in the areas of high prehistoric artifact density. These units were excavated using arbitrary 10 cm levels within natural layers. All soil was screened through hardware mesh, and two walls were profiled in each unit. Three of these units were located in wooded portions of the site, while two were situated in open field.

The Phase II work revealed a general low-density prehistoric artifact scatter across the site. Soil profiles and physical features indicate that nearly all of the site area, including the wooden portion, was plowed at one time. Artifacts recovered from these areas are confined to the plowzone, or plowzone/subsoil interface. A narrow corridor adjacent to the drainage was never plowed, but appears to represent the silted in former channel of the stream. These deposits are heavily reworked, and contain occasional historic and prehistoric artifacts at relatively great depths. No intact prehistoric deposits and no cultural features were found.

The prehistoric artifacts recovered during the Phase II excavations at 18PR317 include 6 projectile points, 8 bifaces, 22 cores, 1 scraper, 2 retouched flakes, 247 flakes, 96 chunks, 125 pieces of fire-cracked rock, 10 hammerstones, and 13 pottery sherds. Quartz is the dominant raw material (419 objects), followed by much lesser amounts of rhyolite (33), quartzite (33), chert (13), limonite (8), and sandstone (11). Diagnostic projectile points include a Vernon point, a possible serrated Kirk point, a Bare Island, and a Late Woodland triangular point. Identifiable pottery types include 2 Marcey Creek sherds, 2 Accokeek sherds, and 1 Rappahannock (Townsend) sherd.

Phase II test excavations at the O'Barr site revealed a small prehistoric campsite dating largely to the Early Woodland subperiod, but also containing Late Woodland remains, and possibly even a late Early Archaic component. Hunting, butchering, and hide processing activities are suggested by the flaked stone tool assemblage. Debitage, the most plentiful artifact type recovered from the site, is nonetheless relatively low in overall quantity. Quartz debitage is heavily weighted towards the earliest stages of tool manufacture. Debitage of other lithic materials suggests maintenance and/or completion of tools from curated blanks brought to the site. Small numbers of very small sherds suggest food preparation activities, but overall short periods of occupation. Lack of cultural features, such as storage pits, also suggests transient occupation.

Two main artifact clusters may mark separate occupations, with the majority of Early Woodland artifacts occurring in the western portion of the site, and the majority of Late Woodland artifact occurring to the east. Alternatively, these clusters could represent different activity areas. Knapping debris, hammerstones, fire-cracked rock, and flaked stone tools are concentrated in the western portion of the site on a slope. The smaller eastern cluster also contains debitage, but fewer tools. Unrelated historic artifacts (not tallied above) are concentrated in the eastern area.

Due to the overall low density of artifacts, and the lack of intact sub-plowzone deposits, the O'Barr site has little potential to yield important information beyond that already gathered through systematic sampling techniques. It should no longer be considered a significant archeological resource.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00006673, 00006685