



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18PR319

Site Name: Ford

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Tent Landing Historic

Historic

Brief Description:

Archaic lithic scatter, 19th century cemetery and artifact concentration

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 11

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 38.7348

Longitude -77.0205

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m Site slope 0

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) Hedge Neck

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 400 m

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? 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 N

Flotation samples taken N

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"/>
Dames Qtr	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coulbourn	<input type="checkbox"/>
Selden Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Watson	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accokeek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mockley	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wolfe Neck	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clemson Island	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vinette	<input type="checkbox"/>	Page	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shepard	<input type="checkbox"/>	Townsend	<input type="checkbox"/>
Minguannan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sullivan Cove	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shenks Ferry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moyaone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Potomac Crk	<input type="checkbox"/>	Keyser	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yeocomico	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monongahela	<input type="checkbox"/>
Susquehannock	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Historic Sherd Types		Ironstone		Staffordshire		Stoneware	
Earthenware		Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	<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"/>	Porcelain	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	<input type="checkbox"/>		1	Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>
	1		4			Wt Salt-glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	19	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"/>
Midden	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shell midden	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>
House pattern(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearth(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lithic reduc area	<input type="checkbox"/>
Storage/trash pit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ossuary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Dated features present at site

Marked 19th century graves

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	11	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	5	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	13	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	1
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	1	Misc.	1
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features		Privy/outhouse		Depression/mound		Unknown	
Const feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Earthworks	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Hearth/chimney	<input type="checkbox"/>	Planting feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mill raceway	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wheel pit	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Paling ditch/fence	<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 Ford site (18PR319) is primarily the remains of a 19th century cemetery and artifact scatter overlooking the floodplain of the Potomac River near Fort Washington in Prince George's County. There is also a dispersed Archaic lithic scatter present across the site. The Ford site is situated on a bluff top above the river; a third terrace underlain by unconsolidated gravelly deposits. The base of the bluff top probably represents an old backwater meander channel. Soils at the site belong to the Evesboro-Downer and Piccowaxen-Liverpool complexes.

The site was first subject to archeological examination in September of 1987 when a Phase I survey was conducted over a 67.5 acre property (including the site) purchased for development into the Fort Washington Lifecare Retirement Community. The purpose of the reconnaissance survey was to locate and identify potentially significant prehistoric and historic archeological resources within the construction project area. Archeological research was carried out largely at the behest of the developer and CRM firm in anticipation of federal, state, or local laws regarding significant archeological and historical resources that might come into play. In other words, the developer initiated archeological research even though, at the time, they were not legally obliged to do so based on the work proposed. MHT was not involved in any consultation process until after Phase II fieldwork had been completed (see below), although the county and/or the Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission (MNCPPC) may have played some sort of advisory role (although this is not clear). The Phase I field investigations included a pedestrian survey of exposed shoreline surfaces on the property, and subsurface examination through the excavation of shovel test pits (STPs) elsewhere.

In the vicinity of 18PR319, shovel tests were excavated at 30 meter intervals along parallel transects spaced 30 m apart. Shovel tests were staggered in alternate rows to increase the efficiency in locating and identifying sites. A total of 10 STPs were excavated within 18PR319, 8 of which contained artifacts and defined the site. STPs were excavated to sterile subsoil, generally 35 to 45 cm below surface in the absence of cultural material, or to the limit of practical excavation. Soils were screened through hardware cloth.

Materials recovered during the Phase I survey in 1987 include both prehistoric and historic artifacts. The absence of ceramics at 18PR319 (compared to nearby sites like 18PR131) suggests the prehistoric occupation may date to the Archaic period. No diagnostic prehistoric artifacts were recovered with which to further date the occupation. An historic cemetery which lies to the east of the main artifact concentration at 18PR319 dates to the early 1800s. The cemetery contained 5 tombstones dating between 1826 and 1828. The burials represent a family plot, the Lyles family, and include the burials of four children, aged 6 weeks to 7 years, and their father, Dennis Magruder Lyles, age 34. Historic map research indicates that domestic structures appeared in this area at least by 1860. However, no map prior to 1860 with illustrated structure locations has been found. Thus, the cemetery may have been associated with an earlier historic structure located on the site.

The principal residences of the Lyles family were approximately 1½ miles to the northeast (see synopsis reports for Harmony Hall/18PR305 and Want Water/18PR589) in the community known as Broad Creek. During the 18th and 19th centuries, this property was part of a larger (nearly 500 acre) tract owned by the Lyles known as the Tent Landing Farm. On another part of the tract (approximately ¼ mile north of 18PR319) the Lyles family operated a boat landing and fishery of the same name. The Lyles family is known to have owned slaves and utilized slave labor in their plantation economy.

The prehistoric artifacts recovered during the Phase I research were 2 rhyolite flakes, 4 quartz flakes, and 13 quartzite flakes. The historic artifacts were 7 architectural artifacts (2 window glass fragments, 3 square nails, 1 nail, & 1 spike), 1 clothing item (a metal buckle), 11 kitchen-related artifacts (1 creamware sherd, 4 pearlware sherds, 1 porcelain sherd, 3 redware sherds, a green bottle glass shard, and a piece of oyster shell), and a piece of unidentified metal.

Based on the Phase I findings, a Phase II study was conducted in 1990 to determine if the site was historically significant and capable of addressing archeological research questions related to Maryland history. The research project was supposed to take place in late 1989, but inclement weather delayed implementation. Although fieldwork was eventually conducted in 1990, the retirement community project was ultimately terminated and artifact analysis and a final report were never completed. As the archeological work was part of the due diligence conducted by the developer and not legally mandated mitigation, completion of a report was not required (see above).

According to MHT site files (forms filled out by the Phase II researchers) the Phase II work consisted of close interval (15 m) shovel testing, the excavation of sixteen 1 X 1 m excavation units, and excavation of an 8 m long backhoe trench. However, subsequent to completion of the site forms for 18PR319 by the Phase II researchers, a short synopsis of the Phase II work was included in a draft version of a Phase III report for nearby Site 18PR131 sent to MHT staff for comment. This section was subsequently stripped from the final Phase III report for 18PR131, but a copy of the pages containing the synopsis of Phase II work at 18PR319 is included in MHT site files. Despite being completed by the same CRM firm (the Phase II researchers) this short synopsis describes the excavation of 54 shovel tests, and twelve 1 X 1 m test units. It also describes evidence of a possible small structure (including cut nails, window glass, and brick fragments) was encountered on the flat end of a ridge toe overlooking the Potomac. These units showed evidence of plowing and other disturbances, including comingled historic and prehistoric artifacts and even historic deposits below prehistoric artifacts. The only other artifacts described are two historic ceramics. The short report mentions that none of the remains were diagnostic. Based on these results, the site was determined to lack historical significance.

During the years from roughly 2001-2004, Site 18PR319 and portions of nearby prehistoric Site 18PR131 were the subject of considerable controversy. By 2001 the 23.5 acre parcel (by then under new ownership) on which 18PR319 is situated was again attracting development interest. The potential of development attracted the attention of a local citizens group, the Potomac Valley Citizens Association, which petitioned county leaders to re-evaluate the historical significance of the area prior to granting zoning alteration requests made by the developer. This occurred at the same time that Prince George's County was developing its own local regulations for considering historical and archeological resources in the county planning process. The lack of adequate government oversight and consultation during the preceding stages of archeological work at 18PR131 and 18PR319 was actually one of the main drivers for this move at the county level. A series of county legal issues related to the proposed development resulted in the developer/owner proffering completion of a combined Phase II/III report to summarize the previous unpublished work conducted at 18PR131 (see synopsis report). However, local concern over historic resources rumored to be in the vicinity of 18PR319 continued to hold up zoning approval for the proposed development.

Local residents and some county leaders became convinced that a slave cemetery associated with the Lyles occupation was located on the property. These would likely be unmarked graves and it was not uncommon for such burials to be peripheral to the plantation owners' own family plot. This proved not to be the case. In 2003, the property owner and developer had the 5 marked graves exhumed by backhoe and re-interred at a local church graveyard. The manner



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in which the exhumation was conducted was considered somewhat traumatic by many local observers. No unmarked graves were encountered during the course of that process. In 2004, the developer also funded two ground-penetrating radar (GPR) studies of the property. The first only examined a 61 X 30.5 meter (200 X 100 ft) area immediately surrounding the Lyles family cemetery, thought to be the most likely location for unmarked slave burials. GPR echoes were measured along transects spaced every 1.524 meters (5 ft) across the survey area. Portions of the site were examined in east-west running transects and other portions were examined utilizing north-south running transects. The different directional transects intersected in the vicinity directly over the five exhumed graves for double coverage. The only significant anomalies detected in this survey area were the 5 previously exhumed graves.

Following the initial survey, several individuals lodged complaints with Prince George's County and MNCPPC stating that the areal extent of the GPR survey was insufficient. Local oral history suggested the presence of additional burials (still purported to be slave burials) elsewhere on the property. This belief was likely exacerbated by the presence of a second (and inaccurate) cemetery marking on a USGS quad map from 1966 situated to the southwest of the Lyell family cemetery plot. An internal investigation by the USGS revealed that the second marking should have been for a second-class building (barn, shed, etc.), but was incorrectly plotted and labeled during office compilation of the original maps produced in the field. The 1956 edition of the same quad map is marked correctly and the structure appears in aerial photographs of the area from 1965. Regardless, MNCPPC and the county recommended that a second GPR study be conducted over the entire 9.6 acres of the property where development would occur in order to resolve the issue. They and the Potomac Valley Citizens Association also requested that MHT provide recommendations regarding the "appropriateness" of the research methodology proposed for the second GPR study and to review the final results.

MHT, which was not involved in the consultation process at this site from the beginning, declined to get involved in the issue as there appeared to be no legal mandate for such extensive work by the developer. MHT did state in correspondence with the county that the workplan was well-designed and the professionals who would be conducting the second survey were well-qualified, but that the work being requested by the county exceeded the level of effort that would typically be required. According to MHT staff, this second GPR survey and some subsequent ground-truthing of identified anomalies failed to turn up anything of archeological significance. The development project continued to be the subject of controversy and ongoing legal disputes and ultimately MNCPPC purchased the property from the developer. It currently lies fallow.

Based on the evidence encountered at 18PR319, the site does not appear to have any historic or prehistoric significance. Phase II work conducted in the early 1990s revealed that plowing had mixed the shallow soils, compromising integrity. Subsequent remote sensing work failed to locate anomalies of any archeological interest. Site 18PR319 should not be considered a significant prehistoric or historic archeological resource.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00006646, 00006694, 97001878, Site Files