MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18PR380 **Site Name:** UNNAMED

Other name(s)

Prehistoric ☑ Historic ☑ Unknown ☐

Brief Description: Late Archaic lithic scatter, 20th century outbuilding

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Latitude 39.0012 Longitude -76.9638

Elevation 0 m Site slope 0

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 12 SCS soil & sediment code

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal Terrestrial site ☑ Underwater site ☐

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) Springs

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

Minimum distance to water is 0 m

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	Y
Late archaic	Y	Late woodland		ca. 1780 - 1820			

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

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	
Hardaway-Dalton		Perkiomen	
Palmer		Susquehana	
Kirk (notch)		Vernon	
Kirk (stem)		Piscataway	
Le Croy		Calvert	
Morrow Mntn		Selby Bay	
Guilford		Jacks Rf (notch)	
Brewerton		Jacks Rf (pent)	
Otter Creek		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		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	51	Human remain(s)	☐
Ground stone		Modified faunal	
Stone bowls		Unmod faunal	
Fire-cracked rock		Oyster shell	☐
Other lithics (all)		Floral material	☐
Ceramics (all)		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	
Pottery (all)		Activity item(s)	
Glass (all)		Human remain(s)	☐
Architectural		Faunal material	☐
Furniture		Misc. kitchen	
Arms		Floral material	☐
Clothing		Misc.	
Personal items		Other ☐	

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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Brief Description: Late Archaic lithic scatter, 20th century outbuilding

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at

☐ Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Site 18PR380 is a Late Archaic lithic scatter in the College Park area of Prince George's County, MD. A collapsed 20th century outbuilding is also present on-site. The site is located at the National Archives II facility on the edge of the University of Maryland campus. The site is surrounded by several major roads, a golf course, and is bounded on the west by a PEPCO power line. The topography of the site is formed by two unnamed tributaries of Paint Branch, which have cut back into the level land surface, isolating a flat hilltop between two gullies. The site is covered with a mixed hardwood forest of beech, cherry, and maple, with an understory of dogwood, Virginia creeper, greenbrier, honeysuckle, and poison ivy. Parts of the forest are mature, with large trees at least 150 years old, while other parts are covered with younger second growth trees. The soils at the site are loams and sandy loams from the Sunnyside and the Christiana series.

The site was first examined in 1988, when the National Archives was planning construction of a new facility in the area. The construction would include a new National Archives facility, plus structures to accommodate parking for patrons of the facility. Several State and Federal legislative acts mandated evaluation of the construction project area to identify archeological resources in the vicinity. Prior to the evaluation, the Maryland Historical Trust had identified the area as having a high potential for the presence of significant archeological resources based on the presence of nearby sites and predictive modeling data. Thus, a Phase I survey was carried out in the area to begin the mitigation process.

Phase I survey entailed a program of shovel test pitting (STPs). A total of 180 STPs, approximately 30 cm square and averaging 40 cm deep, were excavated in areas of high probability, at intervals of 20 m. In addition, a path traversing the property was surface collected and collection was also performed on areas of bare ground along the powerline to the west of the project area. These surface collections provided some testing in areas outside those predicted to have high potential for prehistoric remains. All material from the STPs was screened through hardware cloth, and following the cleaning and identification of artifacts in the laboratory, a map was prepared showing the distribution of STPs with artifactual material.

A total of 21 positive STPs and several surface-collected artifacts resulted in the identification of 18PR380. A total of 56 STPs was excavated during Phase I within the site boundaries as eventually determined during Phase II work. A number of lithic artifacts were recovered from Site 18PR380, but are combined with the Phase II artifacts in the tally below. One of the artifacts was a quartz projectile point suggestive of a Late Archaic age. The results of the Phase I field investigations showed no significant historic material present at the site. Post WWII artifacts were found scattered throughout the area, but this is believed to be diffuse refuse and not part of any specific occupation. Again, a 20th century outbuilding (a possible maintenance shed) was noted on the site, but neither this, nor the other historic materials are considered significant.

Based on the results of the initial survey, researchers moved immediately on to Phase II testing at 18PR380. Phase II testing at the site consisted of a program of STPs and 1 X 1 m test square excavations. Twelve additional STPs were placed at 10 m intervals from Phase I artifact-bearing STPs which, upon reexamination of the material collected, promised the most potential for information. Only one of the Phase II STPs recovered an artifact (a quartz flake).

Six 1 X 1 m test units were also excavated within site 18PR380 in order to better define the site's stratigraphy and uncover undisturbed features. Excavation of the 1 X 1 m2 test units followed the natural strata on the site. Each layer was removed as a separate provenience. Natural soil layers more than 10 cm thick were excavated in arbitrary 10 cm levels. A standardized layer/level form was recorded for each provenience and a cross section was drawn for at least one wall of each square. All soil matrix was dry-screened through hardware cloth, and the artifacts were collected by vertical provenience within each square.

Situated on a broad, relatively level terrace in the center of the site, Test Units 1 and 3 were also expected to recover a good sample of artifacts. These two units proved to be quite shallow, less than 40 cm deep, and contained few artifacts. Plow scars were present in the top of the subsoil and could be clearly observed in the cross section of Test Unit 3.

Test Unit 2, on a slope south of the wooded path, showed the least erosional disturbance. The artifacts recovered from this unit consisted of a quartz flake and a shatter fragment, one small quartzite flake, and considerable broken modern bottle glass.

The deepest unit excavated on Site 18PR380 was Test Unit 4, which encountered subsoil at approximately 43 cm below the surface. It was located on a level to slightly sloping area near an STP that produced a quartzite flake. Test Unit 4 did not produce many artifacts, other than a few flakes.

Test Unit 5 and 6 were placed on the western edge of the site in order to determine if the main part of the site was located close to or on the hilltop traversed by the power line. Test Unit 6 proved to be especially shallow, encountering a dark red clay subsoil at less than 25 cm below the surface. Few artifacts were collected from either square, although Test Unit 5 did produce a small utilized quartz flake.

Overall, the soil profiles indicate that plowing and erosion have severely deflated this site. The dark red clay subsoil of the Christiana soil series was encountered within 25-40 cm from the surface. The few prehistoric lithics collected during these investigations were all found in the plowzone horizon and no features were encountered.

A total of 51 prehistoric lithic artifacts was recovered from18PR380 during Phase I and Phase II work. The assemblage from 18PR380 includes 1 quartz point, 1 quartz biface, 1 utilized quartz flake, 15 quartz flakes, 29 quartzite flakes, 1 sandstone flake, and 3 pieces of quartz shatter.

Site 18PR380 is a sparse, widely scattered occupation. Only three artifacts were identified as tools. These include the quartz point found near the PEPCO power line, a quartz biface, and a utilized quartz flake. The site appears to be a lithic scatter on the disturbed edge of what may be a larger site centered on the hilltop in the powerline right-of-way. The site has very little subsurface integrity. Plowing has disturbed the site, and the plowzone is itself severely deflated in some areas. No artifacts were recovered below the plowzone. Deflation of the site was most severe on the north half of the portion within the project area. Profile drawings of the test units show less than 30 cm of plowzone before going to a dark red clay subsoil, suggesting erosion of the topsoil, and even possibly of the subsoil. There is very little chance of recovering artifacts in context on this site. Consequently, the site has no significant research potential.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

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Prehistoric ☑

Historic ☑

Unknown ☐

Brief Description: Late Archaic lithic scatter, 20th century outbuilding

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