



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18PR412

Site Name: UNNAMED

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Middle & Late Archaic and Early & Middle Woodland short-term resource procurement camps

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 8

SCS soil & sediment code MnB,MnC,MnD

Latitude 38.8857

Longitude -76.7422

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m

Site slope 2-15%

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) Collington Branch

- | 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 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

- Contact period site
- ca. 1820 - 1860
- ca. 1630 - 1675
- ca. 1675 - 1720
- ca. 1720 - 1780
- ca. 1780 - 1820
- 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

Unknown prehistoric context

Unknown historic context

Unknown context

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		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"/> 10
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Le Croy	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Morrow Mntn	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guilford	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	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"/>	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"/> 38	Mockley	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	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"/>	Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>	English Brown	<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"/>			Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>
						Wt Salt-glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	<input type="checkbox"/> 3296	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"/> 1467	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 18	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 156	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
Rimsherds	<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 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		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	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 MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Site 18PR412 is a multi-component Archaic and Woodland period short-term resource procurement site in east-central Prince George's County. The site is located on the east bank of Collington Branch, between two small tributary streams, south of the city of Bowie. It is situated on an L-shaped terrace which at the time of its discovery was an overgrown tract that had been formerly cultivated (about 10-15 years earlier). Soils at the site are severely eroded Westphalia fine sandy loams.

The site was first identified in 1991 during the course of a Phase I survey for the planned construction of a new corporate office center. Grading and construction would be undertaken throughout the tract and several planned stream crossings would require issuance of US Army Corps of Engineers wetland permits. The company developing the tract was required to demonstrate compliance with Section 106 prior to issuance of these permits.

Phase I work entailed surface reconnaissance and shovel testing. The entire 90 acre project area for the proposed office center was subject to an unsystematic surface reconnaissance in June of 1991. No prehistoric artifacts were noted in the field, but researchers were familiarized with the tract. The project area was then sub-divided into seven survey units (A-G). Standard shovel testing was conducted within these units. Because the artifact recovery rate for such an upland location was anticipated to be quite low, a 30.5 meter (100 ft) interval between transects and shovel test pits (STPs) was deemed adequate. Supplementary STPs were excavated at 3.05 to 4.57 meter (10 to 15 ft) intervals around units yielding positive or ambiguous results. The results of shovel testing clearly showed a dense concentration of prehistoric artifacts (far more than was expected in this setting) in Area G, the southwestern portion of the project area. Of the 60 initial STPs conducted in Area G, 22 yielded artifacts. As a result, 38 supplemental STPs were excavated in the area with 31 yielding additional material.

Thirty-seven percent of the STPs in Area G (later defined as 18PR412) produced one or more pieces of stone tools, pottery, flakes, or fire-cracked rock. By contrast, no prehistoric cultural materials were recovered from Areas A through F (though historic and modern materials, mostly from illegal refuse dumping, were encountered). The full Phase I prehistoric assemblage from 18PR412 included 5 projectile points, 1 drill, 9 bifaces, 1 core, 1 uniface, 1 utilized flake, 95 other flakes, 16 fragments of shatter, 55 pieces of fire-cracked rock, 1 anvil stone, 2 pieces of coal and 2 unidentified volcanic rocks (Manuports?), 1 piece of burned hematite (counted as an "other lithic" and "uncommon object"), and 3 unidentified ceramic sherds. While the ceramic sherds could not be assigned to a specific type, 3 of the projectile points were diagnostic. These were a bifurcated LeCroy point, a Rossville or Guilford point, and a Selby Bay point.

Little can be said definitively about the layout of the site, but the recovery of diagnostic materials and large quantities of fire-cracked rock (a possible indication of hearth features) suggested the site was potentially significant.

A combined Phase II/Phase III project was conducted later in 1991 at 18PR412. The Washington Research Library Consortium (WRLC) facility was the planned improvement for Area G in the proposed corporate office center. Phase II work was required, this time, because the US Department of Education was providing funds to the WRLC for the new construction. The artifacts recovered from the Phase II evaluation clearly corroborated the results of the Phase I study and it became clear that a Phase III data recovery would be required. The work was carried out by students with the American University and other schools participating in the Potomac River Archeology Survey.

Phase II testing was conducted over most of 18PR412. Some of the western portions of the site were not examined because they would not be impacted by construction of the library facility and corporate office center. What remained was a parcel of land 243.84 X 60.96 m (800 X 200 ft) which was intensively surveyed using a combination of transect interval sampling with STPs and the placement of 91.44 X 91.44 cm (3 X 3 ft) discretionary test units. North-south transects were laid out at 9.14 m (30 ft) intervals along an east-west grid baseline. One hundred eighty-six STPs were excavated at 9.14 m intervals along these transects. Since high concentrations of artifacts were found in two distinct areas (designated Area 1 and Area 2), 91.44 cm test squares were placed at these locations. A total of 28 such test units were excavated in 7.62 to 15.24 cm (3-6 in) arbitrary levels. All soil matrix was screened through wire mesh.

Phase II investigations revealed that the site was approximately 61 m (200 ft) wide and 228.6 m (750 ft) long running on a west-north-west to east-south-east axis. No features were encountered in either Area 1 or Area 2. The lack of features indicating prolonged use and a limited range of artifact types found during the Phase II work suggest that this site may have functioned as intermittently occupied camps used for short-term extraction purposes. Excavations of Areas 1 and 2 indicate that site integrity varies over the site. Soil profiles noted in Area 2 indicate that below the plowzone there was no disturbance except for that caused by rodents and trees. Field observations and stratigraphic mixing of point types in Area 1 demonstrate that it was more disturbed. This greater disturbance was a result of deep plowing and recent landscaping activities. No floral or faunal remains were recovered during Phase II work.

Diagnostic artifacts indicate that Area 1 was primarily occupied during the Late Archaic, and Early and Middle Woodland periods. This is demonstrated by the presence of 1 Holmes point and 2 Vernon/Halifax points dating to the Late Archaic, a single Early Woodland Calvert point, and 2 Selby Bay points associated with the Middle Woodland. Accokeek and Mockley ceramics, associated with the Early and Middle Woodland respectively, were also recovered from the Phase II excavations in Area 1. In addition, a single Morrow Mountain point base recovered from the Area 1 excavations may indicate that this area was visited in the Middle Archaic period. Total quantities of non-diagnostic artifacts are not provided in the full site report, but relative frequencies are provided. These indicate that approximately 3 other non-diagnostic point fragments, 4 scrapers, 2 cores, 330 flakes, 44 chunks, 54 pieces of fire-cracked rock, and 20 ceramic sherds were recovered in addition to the diagnostics noted above.

Diagnostic artifacts indicate that the occupation of Area 2 was limited to the Late Archaic and Early Woodland periods. This is demonstrated by the presence of 1 Piscataway point, 1 Zekiah Swamp point, and 3 Holmes points all dating to the Late Archaic, and 2 Early Woodland Calvert points. No ceramic artifacts were recovered from Area 2. The relative frequencies of non-diagnostic artifacts provided indicate that approximately 3 other non-diagnostic point fragments, 2 cores, 380 flakes, 56 chunks, 76 pieces of fire-cracked rock, and 12 other lithics (6 tools and 6 unidentified) in addition to the diagnostics noted above.

The only artifacts reported from portions of the site outside Areas 1 and 2 are 2 Holmes points and an unidentified ceramic sherd.

Based on the recovery of discrete sub-areas of the site dating to specific time periods, it was determined that Phase III data recovery was necessary before construction work could proceed. The Phase III excavations would provide greater areal exposure and larger artifact samples (both lithic materials and hopefully floral and faunal remains) from both Areas 1 and 2. These data could then lead to better understanding of environmental adaptation during the time



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Unknown

periods in question.

The Phase III research design consisted of establishing a grid in each of the two areas (Areas 1 and 2). As was noted earlier, there appeared to be greater disturbance in Area 1 than in Area 2. With this in mind, the grids in Area 1 were laid out in close proximity to the Phase II test units, but in what appeared to be less disturbed areas. Grid 1 in Area 1 was 3.66 X 3.66 m (12 X 12 ft), while Grid 2 in Area 2 was 5.5 X 5.5 m (18 X 18 ft). Because time and resources permitted, two additional grids were laid out and excavated: Grid 3 in Area 1 was 2.74 m (9 ft) X 3.66 m, and Grid 4 in Area 2 was 3.66 X 3.66 m.

Each grid consisted of excavation units measuring 91.44 X 91.44 cm. A total of 80 units was excavated. Sixteen units were excavated within Grid 1 of Area 1 and an additional 12 units were excavated within Grid 3 of Area 1. Thirty-six units were excavated on Grid 2 of Area 2 and an additional 16 were excavated within Grid 4 of Area 2. Excavation proceeded within each unit in arbitrary 7.62 cm levels measured from the adjacent modern ground surfaces. Flat shoveling and hand-trowelling were used for removal of deposits. All soil was screened through hardware mesh and excavation continued until two culturally sterile levels (15.24 cm depth) were completed. Within each grid, one unit was excavated for an additional 30.5 cm (1 ft) to confirm that sterile sub-soil had been reached. When points or knives were recovered in situ, their three-dimensional location was mapped on a separate sheet. When excavation of each unit was completed, a wall profile was drawn (generally the north profile) and photographed (both color slides and black and white prints), and the profile of the entire length of at least one wall was drawn. In the event that features were discovered, a sample would have been taken for soil analysis and flotation. Flotation procedures would then have been undertaken to recover floral and/or faunal remains.

Artifacts recovered during the excavation of both grids in Area 1 include 7 Holmes points, 1 Selby Bay point, 1 Hellgramite point, a biface reworked into a drill, 4 other bifaces, 1 uniface, 1 scraper, 1 utilized flake, 466 flakes, 166 pieces of fire-cracked rock, 37 Accokeek sherds, 6 Mockley sherds, and 89 unidentified sherds. The diagnostic artifacts recovered during the Phase III excavations in Area 1 confirm the Phase II findings that this area of the site was occupied during the Late Archaic and Early and Middle Woodland periods. The number of ceramic artifacts recovered suggests that the Woodland components may be more significant than had been thought. Identifiable sherds suggest that the Early Woodland occupation may have been more intense than the Middle Woodland component. The flakes and debitage found were primarily quartzite, followed by quartz and rhyolite. Most of the flakes were small reduction and thinning flakes, indicating that the area was the site of secondary reduction and/or retouch rather than primary reduction.

Artifacts recovered during the excavation of both grids in Area 2 include 19 Holmes points, 8 Vernon points, 7 Piscataway points, a Hellgramite point, an unidentified point tip, 1 drill, 1 biface, 1 knife, 1 utilized flake, 1,681 flakes, 125 debitage chunks, and 1,116 pieces of fire-cracked rock. The diagnostic artifacts recovered from the Phase III excavations in Area 2 are associated primarily with the Late Archaic period. The exception to this is the single Hellgramite point recovered; usually associated with the Early Woodland. The greater quantity of non-diagnostic lithic tools (compared to Area 1), along with large numbers of the multi-functional Holmes point, may indicate the presence of a range of activities requiring general purpose tools. The flakes and debitage found in Area 2, as in Area 1, were primarily quartzite, followed by quartz and rhyolite. The vast majority of the flakes were secondary reduction or thinning flakes, suggesting later stage tool production or retouch rather than primary tool manufacturing at the site.

The majority of artifacts were recovered from plow-disturbed soils. In Area 1 the Phase III excavations also showed evidence of vertical disturbance. Artifacts associated with the more recent time periods (Early and Middle Woodland) were found at the same levels or beneath those having artifacts dating to the Late Archaic. While no evidence of disturbance below the plowzone was noted in Area 2, there was also no evidence of vertical segregation of occupations. No features were encountered during Phase III work and no floral and faunal remains were ever encountered.

The data from the Phase II investigations indicated that the site may have functioned as an intermittently occupied camp for resource procurement. The results of the Phase III investigations support this conclusion. Extensive excavations did not yield any evidence of permanent or semi-permanent occupation or the range of artifact types usually associated with base camps or year round settlements. Taken as a whole, analysis of the artifacts recovered indicates that while tool retouching was occurring on the site, it was not primarily a tool manufacturing site. Given the nature of the lithic assemblage, it has been suggested that this site may represent a procurement camp; specifically geared towards the acquisition of upland resources. Because of the geographic location of the site, it appears to have been revisited so frequently that it has become archeologically opaque. Though plow disturbance was seen, apparently undisturbed areas below the plowzone seem to suggest that the time between occupations was not long enough to allow for distinct deposit of soil to separate the occupations. While individual occupations could not be distinguished, the interpretations drawn from this site can contribute to the overall understanding of the Archaic and Woodland periods.

With the conclusion of all three phases of archeological investigation, the eastern part of 18PR412 was considered to be satisfactorily tested and the office complex was constructed. An artifact bearing area extending roughly 122 meters to the west of the project boundary, however, was not tested at the Phase II or III level. This area would not be impacted by construction and remains as a preserved remnant of 18PR412. Additional work is warranted should this portion of the site become threatened by development.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00006690, 00006702