



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18PR424

Site Name: Area E (Site 1)

Prehistoric

Other name(s) McKuen Farmstead

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description: 19th to early 20th century farmstead

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 12

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.0170

Longitude -76.8984

Physiographic province Eastern Piedmont

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 34 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) Indian Creek

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 150 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Archaic site

MD Adena

Early archaic

Early woodland

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

Late archaic

Late woodland

Unknown prehistoric context

Contact period site

ca. 1820 - 1860

Y

ca. 1630 - 1675

ca. 1860 - 1900

Y

ca. 1675 - 1720

ca. 1900 - 1930

Y

ca. 1720 - 1780

Post 1930

ca. 1780 - 1820

Unknown historic 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

Flotation samples taken

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"/>	Koens-Crispin	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Le Croy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>
Morrow Mntn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guilford	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brewerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Otter Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Madison/Potomac	<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"/>	Mockley	<input type="checkbox"/>	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	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	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	15	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	6	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	2	Pearlware	9			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	4	Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<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 type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts			
Pottery (all)	67	Tobacco related	2
Glass (all)	131	Activity item(s)	14
Architectural	123	Human remain(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	1
Clothing	1	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal items	3	Misc.	401
		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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>	outbuildings	<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:

Site 18PR424, also known as Area E (Site 1), is the remains of a 19th to early 20th century farmstead on property that is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Research Complex in Beltsville, Maryland. The site consists of agricultural fields (both crops and pasture) that have been used primarily for research purposes in modern times. The site is situated on a relatively level landform that is best described as portions of an ancestral terrace oriented towards a creek to the east. The surrounding landscape is gently rolling in character, composed of small ridges and knolls with gentle slopes surrounded by major highways and transportation infrastructure. Site 18PR424 is located on Rumford series loamy sands.

The site was first encountered during a Phase I survey conducted in March and April of 1992. The survey was conducted because the site and surrounding area was being considered for the development of an office/research facility that would include at least 2 large buildings, extensive parking lots, and the associated infrastructure to support them. Such development would have extensive impacts on any archeological resources in the area and survey was required under Section 106 of the NHPA of 1966.

Methods employed in the course of Phase I work consisted of vehicular and pedestrian surface surveys, controlled surface collection procedures, and the excavation of shovel test pits in those areas where surface visibility was poor. Site 18PR424, however, was actually identified during the course of background research. An early to mid-19th century farmstead is depicted on an 1861 map as being inhabited by a Mrs. Miller. Historic documentation indicates that the house would most likely have been erected sometime before 1861 and sometime after 1835, when, what had up to that time been a large plantation, was subdivided and sold off as smaller farms. Shortly after the Miller family worked the farm, the property passed to the McKuen family. Informant interviews indicate that the farm consisted of a frame house on a brick foundation, at least one outbuilding located west of the house, and a well which was later capped by the USDA for safety reasons.

Site 18PR424 was examined during Phase I as part of the 45 acre Survey Area E. A three acre patch of Survey Area E had recently been plowed for planting potatoes. Except in this recently plowed portion where surface visibility was 100%, the overall visibility was poor. Thus, both surface collection and subsurface methods were utilized. A systematic surface collection was conducted along transects spaced at 5 meter intervals and at 1 meter intervals in the recently plowed area. Subsurface testing included the excavation of 289 shovel test pits (STPs) placed at 20 meter intervals in those portions of Survey Area E having at least moderate potential for containing archeological resources, and at 40 meter intervals in a wood lot which was considered to have low potential. A 1 X 1 meter test unit was also excavated at the location of a potential feature, which turned out to be the foundation of a house.

A total of 131 artifacts were encountered during Phase I work, the majority of which are related to the historic occupation of the site. The Phase I assemblage included 3 activity items (a chisel fragment, a glass syringe plunger, and a piece of molded lead), 44 architectural artifacts, 1 clothing item (a metal buckle), 67 kitchen-related artifacts, 1 personal item (part of a whiteware chamberpot), 2 tobacco-related artifacts (a kaolin pipe bowl and pipe stem), and 9 miscellaneous objects. The architectural remains were 2 mortar fragments, 2 glazed brick fragments, 5 other brick fragments, 25 pieces of window glass, 5 cut nails, 3 unidentified nails, and 2 roofing tacks. The kitchen-related artifacts were 45 ceramic sherds (8 pearlware, 14 whiteware, 3 semi-porcelain, 5 porcelain, 1 redware, 1 yellowware, 6 refined earthenware, 2 brown stoneware, 1 blue & gray stoneware, and 4 gray stoneware) and 22 pieces of kitchen glass (1 jar fragment and 21 bottle shards). The miscellaneous objects include 2 pieces of metal, 1 piece of plastic, 2 pieces of glass, a muskrat mandible, and 3 modern tiling fragments. In addition to these historic finds, 4 prehistoric quartz flakes were also encountered.

While most of the diagnostic bottle glass dated to the last quarter of the 19th century, the ceramics confirmed the earlier documented date for the farmstead. The assemblage contained diagnostic ceramics from the period post-dating the Civil War and a few fragments of transfer-printed pearlware dating from ca. 1820 to 1860. The wall of a house foundation was encountered in the 1 X 1 meter test unit and consisted of a two brick thick foundation wall extending across the unit in an east/west direction. Based on these findings, Site 18PR424 was interpreted to be the remains of the aforementioned Miller/McKuen family farmstead and Phase II testing was recommended.

Researchers returned to the site in October of 1992 to begin carrying out Phase II testing operations. Field testing included the excavation of STPs systematically placed at 7.62 meter (25 ft) intervals across the site area. Density maps were then generated and used to identify the locations of in-ground foundations and other types of features which once supported the above-ground components of the site. Backhoe trenches were then excavated in order to: 1) expose portions of features, 2) get accurate dimensions for foundations, as well as to get 3) accurate assessments of the materials used in their construction, 4) their depth, and 5) the likely function(s) of the structures which they supported. Machine stripping was then followed by the excavation of formal test units to determine the depth of building foundations and to see if any primary deposits useful for functional interpretation could be located. All hand excavated soil matrices (STPs and test units within trenches) were screened through hardware cloth to insure standardized artifact recovery and comparable data sets. All excavated blocks, shovel test pits, and units were backfilled after recordation, which included field notes, mapping of features and site stratigraphy, and photodocumentation.

A total of 115 STPs were excavated across the site during Phase II work., and 74 of these tests yielded artifacts. A total of 259.08 linear meters (850 ft) of 1.22 meter (4 ft) wide trenches and several small excavation units in blocks totaling 74.32 square meters (800 sq ft) of horizontal exposure, were excavated with a backhoe and cleaned off with shovels and trowels. A total area of 390.19 square meters (4,200 sq ft) of horizontal exposure was obtained, amounting to an 11% sample of the total site area. Hundreds of artifacts were recovered from the site, along with the locations of six features: a house foundation (Feature 1), a barn foundation (Features 2 and 5), the foundation to a small garage or outbuilding (Feature 3), a small concrete footer which might have supported a sign or an oil tank (Feature 4), and a long section of bullet-nosed concrete retaining wall, which would have bordered a flower and/or vegetable garden (Feature 6).

There is a discrepancy in the full site report between the artifact assemblage as described in the body of the document and the assemblage as described in the site appendices. The former reports the recovery of 509 artifacts and does not describe them in detail, the latter lists only the 184 artifacts recovered from STP contexts. While it describes these in detail, it does not provide any descriptions of artifacts recovered from mechanical trenching or test unit excavations. Thus, the 325 artifact difference has been lumped in here and in the table above under the "miscellaneous" historic artifact grouping.

The artifacts from the Phase II STPs include 11 activity items, 79 architectural objects, 25 kitchen-related artifacts, 2 personal artifacts, and 392 miscellaneous objects. The activity items were a telephone insulator fragment, a piece of angle iron, and 9 redware flowerpot fragments. The architectural



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Historic Brief
Description:

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Unknown

remains were a glazed header brick, another brick fragment, 20 pieces of window glass, 1 wire nail, 54 unidentified nails, 1 screw, and a bolt/washer. The kitchen assemblage included 21 ceramic sherds (2 creamware, 1 pearlware, 9 white earthenware, 3 vitreous china, 1 porcelain, 3 redware, 1 gray salt-glazed stoneware, and 1 yellow stoneware), 3 pieces of glass (1 canning jar lid and 2 bottle fragments), and an animal bone. The personal items were a hard rubber comb and a shark's tooth (probably a collected item). Miscellaneous remains included 7 pieces of iron, a fragment of metal foil, 59 unidentified glass pieces, and the aforementioned 325 artifacts.

Phase II work largely supports the characterization of 18PR424 as a 19th and 20th century farmstead. The excavations also suggest a total absence of primary deposits and evidence of extensive disturbance of the site during the demolition of the former structures. Additionally, the shallowness of the foundations associated with structures suggests that most features (which would not have extended as deeply into the soil as a foundation) can be expected to have been destroyed. The site does not appear to possess any physical integrity. It should not be considered likely to have any research potential or to yield any significant data regarding Maryland history. Much of the site today has been further impacted by the construction project that led to Phase I and Phase II work in the 1990s.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00006705, 00006712