



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18PR438

Site Name: 500 Area Ridge Top

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Late Archaic and possibly Woodland short-term camp

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 12

SCS soil & sediment code RcB,CcC,MfF

Latitude 39.0281

Longitude -76.9507

Physiographic province Eastern Piedmont

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m

Site slope 0-10%

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) Paint Branch

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 79 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

Late archaic

Late woodland

ca. 1780 - 1820

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
- 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

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"/> | 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"/> |
| 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 | | Stoneware | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| Earthenware | Ironstone <input type="checkbox"/> | Staffordshire <input type="checkbox"/> | English Brown <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Astbury <input type="checkbox"/> | Jackfield <input type="checkbox"/> | Tin Glazed <input type="checkbox"/> | Eng Dry-bodied <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Borderware <input type="checkbox"/> | Mn Mottled <input type="checkbox"/> | Whiteware <input type="checkbox"/> | Nottingham <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Buckley <input type="checkbox"/> | North Devon <input type="checkbox"/> | Porcelain <input type="checkbox"/> | Rhenish <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Creamware <input type="checkbox"/> | Pearlware <input type="checkbox"/> | | Wt Salt-glazed <input type="checkbox"/> |

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

| Prehistoric Artifacts | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Flaked stone | 231 | 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 | 72 | Unmod faunal | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other lithics (all) | 14 | 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"/> |
| 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 | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Jasper | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fer quartzite | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Chert | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sil sandstone | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rhyolite | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Chalcedony | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Quartz | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | European flint | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Quartzite | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Ironstone | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Basalt | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Argilite | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Unknown | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Sandstone | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Dated features present at site

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

| Historic Features | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Const feature | <input type="checkbox"/> | Privy/outhouse | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Foundation | <input type="checkbox"/> | Well/cistern | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cellar hole/cellar | <input type="checkbox"/> | Trash pit/dump | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hearth/chimney | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sheet midden | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Postholes/molds | <input type="checkbox"/> | Planting feature | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Paling ditch/fence | <input type="checkbox"/> | Road/walkway | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Depression/mound | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Burial(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Railroad bed | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Earthworks | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Mill raceway | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Wheel pit | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Unknown | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Other | <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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Brief

Description:

Late Archaic and possibly Woodland short-term camp

Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The 500 Area Ridge Top Site, 18PR438, is a prehistoric lithic scatter (possibly of Late Archaic age) along Paint Branch in Adelphi, Prince George's County. The immediate topography consists of dissected plateau or upland bench with undulating summits surrounding the area. The Paint Branch is immediately adjacent to the site, running in a steep-sided valley through this topography. The natural vegetation is pine, with some hardwoods, but suburban, corporate, and military development and gravel extraction have modified much of the surrounding area. Soils at the site are Beltsville fine sandy loams.

The site was first examined archeologically in 1993 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The locale had previously been identified as having moderate potential for containing prehistoric archeological sites during completion of a cultural resources management plan of the (then) new Army Research Laboratory (ARL) at Adelphi. The 1992 fieldwork was part of a Phase I survey for planned ARL improvements. Seven shovel test pits (STPs) were excavated at 15 m intervals on the site, 5 of which yielded prehistoric artifacts. The Phase I artifact assemblage included 3 cores (2 quartz and 1 quartzite) and 30 flakes (9 quartz and 21 quartzite), which were recovered along with a quantity of pebbles and cobbles (72). The flake to core ratio and low number of artifacts per STP suggest a low-intensity use for the site.

In 1994, a Phase II testing project was implemented at the site to examine portions of the ARL that would be affected by construction of a new Microwave Facility. Phase II testing was undertaken to evaluate the eligibility of the site under Section 106 and Section 110 of the NHPA of 1966 and to determine the impact of the construction work. Fieldwork on the site consisted of a pedestrian survey and systematic shovel testing (85 STPs total) supplemented by the excavation of two 91.44 cm (3 ft) test squares.

The pedestrian survey was conducted concurrently with subsurface testing, and took place both within project boundaries and along relevant adjacent parcels of land. Its primary purpose was to aide in defining the site's horizontal boundaries. Pedestrian survey was only conducted in areas of high visibility and artifact locations were tied only to the nearest STP.

Ten transects of STPs were laid out at 15.24 meter (50 ft) intervals, and STPs were excavated at 15.24 m intervals along each transect as well. Shovel tests measured approximately 38 cm in diameter and were excavated to an average depth of 50 cm. Where significant amounts of artifacts were encountered, additional judgmental shovel tests were placed at 7.62 meter (25 ft) intervals around the test in an effort to delimit possible activity areas. All units were excavated manually using shovel and trowel and soils were screened through hardware cloth. A total of 85 STPs were excavated during Phase II work.

The two excavation units were placed in two zones having high artifact densities. The first was centrally located within the project area, while the second lay in the southwestern portion of the project area. Details related to the method of excavation for these units (or the STPs for that matter) are not provided in the full site report. The artifacts from the excavation units make up nearly 50% of the total recovered from the site. No features were encountered in these units (or the STPs).

The full Phase II artifact assemblage consisted of 284 prehistoric lithics and 2 historic artifacts (an isolated pearlware sherd and a piece of window glass). Only one potentially diagnostic item was recovered: a quartzite projectile point missing the basal and proximal ends. In other morphological respects, it is similar to the Late Archaic Brewerton type. Other prehistoric artifacts were 1 biface, 2 bifacial tools, 1 graver, 1 chopper, 1 core, 1 utilized flake, 190 other flaked stone objects (mostly debitage), 3 cobble tools (1 a possible pestle), 9 tested pebbles, 1 tested cobble, 1 hammerstone, and 72 pieces of fire-cracked rock. The primary lithic raw material was quartzite, with lesser amounts of quartz and only 3 rhyolite objects.

All of the evidence together points to 18PR438 being a simple prehistoric lithic scatter, possibly of Late Archaic age. It shows that locally-available raw materials were being tested, worked, and probably made into finished tools on the site at a low-level of intensity. The stratigraphic data that was recovered during Phase II work, in particular the minimal humus development and a thin A-horizon, suggest strongly that the soil profile has been truncated and disturbed and that artifacts are not in their original locations. This means that the potential of the site to provide spatial information on activity areas, and possibly on social organization and structure, has been greatly reduced. The research potential of the site is therefore restricted to examination of the artifacts as an essentially unstratified group. Consequently, 18PR438 should not be considered a significant archeological resource.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00006741