MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18PR450 **Site Name:** Site A

Other name(s)

Prehistoric ☑ Historic ☐ Unknown ☐

Brief Description: Late Archaic, Early Woodland, Late Woodland short-term camp

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Latitude 38.8746 Longitude -76.8020

Elevation 19 m Site slope

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

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 8 SCS soil & sediment code

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal Terrestrial site ☑ Underwater site ☐

Ethnobotany profile available ☐ Maritime site ☐

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) Western Branch

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

Minimum distance to water is 20 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	Y	ca. 1675 - 1720		ca. 1900 - 1930	
MIddle archaic		Mid. woodland		ca. 1720 - 1780		Post 1930	
Late archaic	Y	Late woodland	Y	ca. 1780 - 1820			

Unknown prehistoric context ☐ 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?

Domestic	☐	Furnace/forge	☐	**Military**	☐
Homestead	☐	Other	☐	Battlefield	☐
Farmstead	☐	**Transportation**	☐	Fortification	☐
Mansion	☐	Canal-related	☐	Encampment	☐
Plantation	☐	Road/railroad	☐	**Townsite**	☐
Row/townhome	☐	Wharf/landing	☐	**Religious**	☐
Cellar	☐	Maritime-related	☐	Church/mtg house	☐
Privy	☐	Bridge	☐	Ch support bldg	☐
Industrial	☐	Ford	☐	**Burial area**	☐
Mining-related	☐	**Educational**	☐	Cemetery	☐
Quarry-related	☐	**Commercial**	☐	Sepulchre	☐
Mill	☐	Trading post	☐	Isolated burial	☐
Black/metalsmith	☐	Store	☐	**Bldg or foundation**	☐
		Tavern/inn	☐	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

Clovis		Koens-Crispin	
Hardaway-Dalton		Perkiomen	
Palmer		Susquehana	
Kirk (notch)		Vernon	
Kirk (stem)		Piscataway	2
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	15		

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	1183	Human remain(s)	☐
Ground stone		Modified faunal	
Stone bowls		Unmod faunal	
Fire-cracked rock	120	Oyster shell	☐
Other lithics (all)		Floral material	☐
Ceramics (all)	15	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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External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at

☐ Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Site A, 18PR450, is a short-term use camp with evidence of Late Archaic, Early Woodland, and Late Woodland occupations present. The site is approximately 15 X 30 m in size and is located in north-central Prince George's County on an alluvial terrace on the eastern side of Western Branch, a tributary of the Patuxent River. The edge of the small T1 terrace on which the site is situated forms the western boundary of the site. Collington series soils cover the entire site.

Site 18PR450 was identified during Phase Ib archeological survey in 1994 for the proposed Maryland Route 202 Dualization Project. A small concentration of debitage, bifaces, and flake tools was identified within the planned route for the westbound lanes of the highway. Shovel test pits (STPs) were placed in two parallel transects at 20 m intervals north of the existing roadway. A total of five retests were placed in a cruciform pattern around a single positive shovel test. Four of these STPs were positive. A single 1 X 1 m test unit was then placed in the center of the site to examine the prehistoric cultural deposits in a more controlled fashion.

A total of 192 artifacts were recovered during the Phase Ib investigations, including 6 bifaces, 15 cores, 3 unifacial flake tools, 162 pieces of debitage, and 6 pieces of fire-cracked rock. Quartz was the dominant raw material for both the debitage and cores, which were interpreted as the result of early stage reduction activities. Three of the bifaces were classified as middle-stage, while the others were indeterminate. None were finished tools. The majority (90.1%) of the artifacts recovered were from the test unit and a single shovel test placed in the center of the site. Approximatley 1/3 (63.57%) of the artifacts recovered from the test unit were found within a disturbed "fill" stratum covering much of the site. The balance of the recovered assemblage was associated with an A horizon, a layer of colluvium overlying it, or an E horizon below it. A trace amount of cultural material was recovered from the underlying Bt horizon. Phase II evaluatory testing of the potentially stratified site was recommended.

Researchers returned to Site 18PR450 in 1995 to conduct testing. Methods included additional shovel testing and excavation of 1 X 1 m test units. The supplementary shovel tests, placed on a 5 m grid, provided additional data with which to delineate the boundaries of the site and characterize the possible artifact concentrations identified during the Phase I study. The test units provided detailed information regarding the stratigraphic integrity and character of cultural deposits. A total of 33 shovel tests and six 1 X 1 m test units were excavated within the .11 acre site during the Phase II field efforts.

Shovel tests measured approximately 40 cm in diameter and were excavated to a depth of 50 cm, or 20 cm into sterile subsoil, whichever was reached first. Soils were removed by hand within natural strata and screened through hardware mesh. Modern cultural materials encountered in the field were noted but not retained.

Test unit locations were based on the results of the combined Phase Ib and Phase II shovel testing program. An iso-frequency map produced from scaled and contoured data from this testing guided the placement of test units. This testing was designed to characterize and assess the integrity of the entire site. A total of six 1 X 1 m test units were placed across the site; two units were joined to create a broader 1 X 2 m exposure window. Test units were excavated by hand in arbitrary 10 cm levels within natural strata to a minimum depth of 50 cm, or 20 cm into sterile soil. Soils were screened through hardware cloth. Representative wall profiles from each excavated unit were photographed and drawn. Volumetric 1-liter samples were taken from representative profiles. These samples were water-screened through fine mesh.

Geomorphological investigations at the site included a pedestrian surface reconnaissance of the area in the vicinity of the site, examination of several exposed bank cuts along Western Branch, and examination of a number of deep excavation units within the site. Several auger tests were excavated outside the site boundaries to examine the spatial extent of stratigraphic profiles found on the site and to more fully understand the development of the landforms in the vicinity of the site.

A total of 1,116 prehistoric artifacts were recovered during Phase II testing of the site. This included 12 bifaces and biface fragments, 20 cores, 10 utilized/retouched flakes, 942 pieces of debitage, 114 pieces of fire-cracked rock, and 15 ceramic body sherds. Fine screened soil samples taken in a column from the wall of one test unit produced 13 additional fragments of debitage. Small quantities of historic materials were also encountered throughout the site, but were discarded. Two of the bifaces were described by excavators as Piscataway-like, 1 is Halifax-like, and another is a small triangular point. The other bifaces could not be associated with a specific point type. The ceramic sherds were consistent with the Potomac Creek Impressed and Plain types.

Site 18PR450 represents a palimpsest of occupations dating from the Late Archaic/Early Woodland and Late Woodland, with a possible Middle Archaic component. Although the current boundaries of the site are well-defined, it is possible that the site previously extended to the south and was destroyed by the construction of MD Route 202. Comparison of the assemblage to roughly contemporaneous sites in surrounding counties as well as its location, suggests that 18PR450 served as a limited activity resource procurement site. A large proportion of the activity at the site was related to lithic reduction, based on the proportion of debitage compared to formal tools.

The stratigraphic record at 18PR450 reveals that there has been significant historic disturbance to the upper A horizon, both the removal of portions of it and burial beneath layers of historic fill. Nearly all of the diagnostic material was from these disturbed contexts. The very small size of this multi-component site also limits its potential for spatial analyses. The Late Archaic/Early Woodland and Late Woodland occupations are not sufficiently separated stratigraphically or horizontally within the site. Thus, the site was deemed unlikely to be capable of contributing to significant research. Construction of the new northbound lane of MD 202 likely destroyed much of any remaining deposits.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00006756