MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18PR465 **Site Name:** White Oak

Other name(s)

Prehistoric ☑ Historic ☐ Unknown ☐

Brief Description: Late Archaic short-term camp or base camp, lithic quarry/extraction

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Latitude 39.0429 Longitude -76.9523

Elevation 70 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. 12 SCS soil & sediment code

Physiographic province Eastern Piedmont 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) Paint Branch

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

Minimum distance to water is 100 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site		Woodland site		Contact period site		ca. 1820 - 1860	
Archaic site	Y	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	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	
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**	☐	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

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	
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	81	Human remain(s)	☐
Ground stone		Modified faunal	
Stone bowls		Unmod faunal	
Fire-cracked rock		Oyster shell	☐
Other lithics (all)	6	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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External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC

☐ Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The White Oak site, 18PR465, is a Late Archaic camp and lithic quarry/extraction site in the White Oak area of northern Prince George's county. The site is located on the property of the US Army Research Lab's Adelphi Laboratory Center near the Prince George's/Montgomery County line. It is situated in an upland setting characterized by knoll tops and finger ridges dissected by small drainages. The site overlooks a small springhead to the south. Soils at the site are primarily Beltsville fine silty loams.

The site was examined in the spring of 1995 during the course of a Phase I project on the Army's Adelphi Laboratory Center; recently acquired from the Naval Surface Warfare Center. The parcel on which the survey work was carried out was to be used for a wastewater containment pond, an administrative building, and a parking lot. These improvements would almost certainly impact archeological resources in the construction area and, hence, a Phase I survey and subsequent Phase II testing were carried out.

The Phase I survey entailed the excavation of shovel test pits (STPs) across the parcel at 30 meter intervals. Transects were laid out perpendicular to a road that crosses the property from north to south. Once the presence of 18PR465 was detected, shovel tests were excavated at a closer 15 meter interval on the same survey grid. Additional judgmental shovel tests were placed at lesser distances based on surface concentrations of artifacts and other factors. This strategy resulted in the excavation of 21 shovel tests within the boundaries of 18PR465. Fifteen of these shovel tests were positive for cultural remains. The phase I assemblage from 18PR465 included 1 biface, 4 pieces of shatter, and 30 flakes. All of the materials were quartz and quartzite, except for a single piece of jasper. Based on these findings, the site was included when the project moved to a Phase II level of inquiry.

Researchers returned to the site later in the year to conduct Phase II testing, involving supplemental shovel testing and the excavation of ten 1 X 1 m test units. The supplemental shovel testing was conducted along the slope south of the prehistoric site. This was done to determine if flakes and other debris could be found resulting from the testing and reduction of quartzite cobbles mined from the outcrop along the slope. Five STPs were excavated along the slope at 15 m intervals. Total depth of the STPs ranged from 24 to 28 cm before encountering gravel. Under the root mat they contained yellowish brown gravelly loam. No artifacts were found on the slope.

The placement of test units in Site 18PR465 was informed by two pertinent conditions; 1) the distribution of artifacts from the Phase I STPs, and 2) topography and related colluvial and erosional facies of the site as they could be inferred from the topography. A total of 52 artifacts were recovered from the ten 1 X 1 m test units. None were manufactured from materials other than quartz or quartzite. The Phase II assemblage consisted of a single projectile point, 1 abrader, 2 flaked choppers, 39 flakes, 3 shatter fragments, 4 hammerstones, 1 nutting stone, and a split cobble. The projectile point appears to be of the Late Archaic Bare Island/Holmes variety. The yield of artifacts per 1 X 1 m unit was extremely low, ranging from one to ten objects per unit.

This prehistoric site may have been a quarry but was not a workshop. Though raw materials from the gravels underlying the site were exploited (several hammerstones and a split quartzite cobble), there is no indication of extensive working of these gravels. The few artifacts other than hammerstones from these gravels (including a scraper and possible nutting stone) imply domestic activities. This suggests that the site served as, at the very least, a seasonal camp, and possibly as a base camp during the Late Archaic period. The proximity to the gravels and nearby spring likely played a role in the choice of location.

Because there are no sub plowzone archeological deposits or features, the artifact density is very low, and there are almost no diagnostic artifacts, site 18PR465 is not capable of addressing significant research questions related to Maryland prehistory. Further work at the site will not yield additional information and the site should not be considered a significant resource. Much of the site was destroyed during the subsequent construction of the aforementioned facilities and infrastructure.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00006755