MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18PR470 **Site Name:** Area B-1,Site D

Other name(s)

Prehistoric ☑ Historic ☑ Unknown ☐

Brief Description: Archaic through Woodland base camp, short-term camp,18th-19th c. plantation & possible slave/tenant quarter

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 11 SCS soil & sediment code BaA,GgB,BaB,

Latitude 38.6924 Longitude -76.9740 Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal Terrestrial site ☑ Underwater site ☐

Elevation m Site slope 0-15% 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	☐	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) Unnamed tributary of Pisca

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

Minimum distance to water is 3 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site		Woodland site		Contact period site		ca. 1820 - 1860	Y
Archaic site		MD Adena		ca. 1630 - 1675		ca. 1860 - 1900	Y
Early archaic	Y	Early woodland	Y	ca. 1675 - 1720		ca. 1900 - 1930	Y
MIddle archaic	Y	Mid. woodland	Y	ca. 1720 - 1780	Y	Post 1930	
Late archaic	Y	Late woodland	Y	ca. 1780 - 1820	Y		
Unknown prehistoric context				Unknown historic context			
				Unknown context			

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American		Asian American	
African American	Y	Unknown	
Anglo-American	Y	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	☑	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	N	Flotation samples taken	N
Other samples taken			

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Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types

Clovis		Koens-Crispin	
Hardaway-Dalton		Perkiomen	
Palmer		Susquehana	
Kirk (notch)		Vernon	3
Kirk (stem)		Piscataway	
Le Croy	1	Calvert	3
Morrow Mntn		Selby Bay	1
Guilford		Jacks Rf (notch)	
Brewerton		Jacks Rf (pent)	
Otter Creek		Madison/Potomac	2
		Levanna	1

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	2		

Historic Sherd Types

Earthenware		Ironstone		Staffordshire		**Stoneware**	
Astbury		Jackfield	2	Tin Glazed	3	English Brown	
Borderware		Mn Mottled		Whiteware	68	Eng Dry-bodied	
Buckley	5	North Devon		**Porcelain**	28	Nottingham	
Creamware	111	Pearlware	123			Rhenish	6
						Wt Salt-glazed	21

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts

		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	1170	Human remain(s)	☐
Ground stone		Modified faunal	
Stone bowls		Unmod faunal	
Fire-cracked rock	7	Oyster shell	☐
Other lithics (all)	4	Floral material	☐
Ceramics (all)	3	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**

Artifact-dense soil layer containign a dense deposit of mid-18th to mid-19th century domestic artifacts - possible cellar feature.

Historic Artifacts

		Tobacco related	43
Pottery (all)	488	Activity item(s)	1
Glass (all)	473	Human remain(s)	☐
Architectural	269	Faunal material	☑
Furniture		Misc. kitchen	40
Arms		Floral material	☐
Clothing	1	Misc.	72
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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Prehistoric ☑ Historic ☑ Unknown ☐

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External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at

☐ Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Site 18PR470 (also called Area B-1, Site D), is a multi-component site with evidence of occupation during a broad range of prehistoric (Early Archaic to Late Woodland) and historic (post-1760) periods. The site is located near the village of Piscataway in southern Prince George's County, Maryland. The site is situated amidst agricultural fields and wooded areas. A large wooded wetland lies north of the site. It straddles the drainage divide between two tributaries of Piscataway Creek. The site is actually composed of two loci of artifacts separated by approximately 120 meters. Soils at 18PR470 are primarily Beltsville silt loams and Sassafras soils.

Archeological attention was first paid to the site in 1993, when a Phase I archeological survey was conducted at the site and in the surrounding area. The survey was part of a long-term residential housing development project on a large tract known as the "Bailey Property". The 878 acre development site is adjacent to the historic village of Piscataway. An archeological survey of the development area was required prior to obtaining a grading permit for a new access road, as required by the Prince George's County's Planning Board. An archeological survey, as well as evaluation of standing structures on the property was requested by the Maryland Historical Trust as a condition of approval for a wetlands permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Survey work within and in the vicinity of 18PR470 was accomplished with surface collection in transects and shovel test pits (STPs). In the northern artifact-bearing locus, the surface collection transects were placed 20 meters apart, with collections made from 3 meter diameter areas spaced at 10 meter intervals along these transects. A total of 107 artifacts were collected in this manner in the northern area. Following the surface collection, 11 STPs were excavated at a 10 meter interval to examine the stratigraphy within the site. An additional 2 historic artifacts and 3 prehistoric artifacts were recovered from 5 of the STPs. All of the artifacts were found within the plowzone.

A total of 51 historic artifacts were recovered during the Phase I survey of this northern area at 18PR470. The historic artifacts included a wide range of early and more recent material. No architectural debris was found. Pearlware and whiteware sherds were present in moderate numbers, while a variety of mid to late 18th century ceramic types were also represented by one or two sherds per type (tin-enamelled earthenware, Nottingham stoneware, Buckley, Jackfield, white salt-glazed stoneware, and creamware). Nine dark olive green bottle glass fragments were found indicating an early historic component. These artifacts are not included in the tally above because of ambiguities in the northern locus boundaries between Phase I and Phase II research projects. Overall, however, the Phase I historic assemblage in this area suggested the presence of a long-term 18th and early 19th century domestic site.

A total of 61 prehistoric artifacts were recovered during the Phase I survey in the northern locus, including points, bifaces, debitage, fire-cracked rock, and 1 ceramic sherd. The debitage was primarily non-cortical, indicating late stage lithic reduction. One of the points is described in the original field report as dating to the Middle/Late Archaic, while the other point was attributed broadly to the Archaic. No other information is provided regarding diagnostics, and, again, due to ambiguities in the locus boundaries, these artifacts are not included in the site artifact tally above.

The Phase I investigation within and in the vicinity of the southern locus at 18PR470 was carried out with shovel test pits. A grid of STPs was excavated at a 20 meter interval and then 10 STPs were excavated at a 10 meter interval around positive STPs to examine the stratigraphy within the site and refine the site boundaries. In total, 59 artifacts were recovered from 19 STPs, including 42 historic and 17 prehistoric artifacts. All of the artifacts were found in the plowzone or in an earlier, buried plowzone.

Artifacts from this southern locus include 53 historic artifacts and 6 prehistoric artifacts. The historic assemblage included 6 architectural objects (3 pieces of brick, 1 cut nail, and 2 handwrought Rosehead nails), 34 kitchen-related artifacts (1 Buckley sherd, 1 creamware sherd, 3 pearlware sherds, 2 early porcelain sherds, 3 whiteware sherds, 3 redware sherds, 2 white salt-glazed stoneware sherds, 1 imported brown stoneware sherd, 2 miscellaneous stoneware sherds, 2 table glass fragments, 10 pieces of dark green bottle glass, and 4 oyster shell fragments), 1 tobacco-related artifact (a ball clay pipe stem), and 1 miscellaneous object (unidentifiable metal). The prehistoric assemblage consisted of a Lamoka-like point, 6 flakes, 3 pieces of shatter, 2 utilized flakes, 1 retouched flake, 3 pieces of fire-cracked rock, and a sand/quartz-tempered red-paste ceramic sherd.

Overall, the Phase I survey results were interpreted to define Site 18PR470 as a multicomponent prehistoric (Archaic) and historic (late 18th century and later) occupation. Archival research during the Phase I project did not identify landownership for this tract before 1850, so no attributions were made as to the type of historic occupation represented at 18PR470. The Phase I researchers recommended that further investigations be conducted to evaluate the significance of 18PR470, based on the site's potential to contribute substantive information on Archaic settlement along Piscataway Creek and domestic occupation in late 18th century Prince George's County. Researchers returned to the site in 1997 to conduct Phase II testing as part of the same housing development project.

As part of the Phase II testing, efforts were made to use the same provenience-control grids established during the Phase I investigation. However, for the north locus, the metric grid established in 1995 could not be precisely re-created due to the datum having been placed in a plowed area of the site. Thus, a new metric grid approximating the declination of the Phase I grid was established for provenience control at the north locus. A length of steel rebar was hammered into the ground beyond the plowed area at the northern end of the site, marking a permanent point that could be tied into. No difficulty was encountered in re-establishing the Phase I grid in the south locus, as this area had not been plowed and STP locations were easy to see on the ground and many were still clearly marked with flagging tape.

Phase II evaluation began with a controlled surface collection of the 3.4 acre agricultural field where the northern locus was situated. The field had been plowed, disked, and planted with squash in early May. Following sufficient rainfall, all artifacts visible on the disked surface were collected in contiguous three-meter square provenience units. Analysis of the artifact distribution from the surface collection showed high artifact densities continuing to the south and west edges of the collected area. Thus additional surface collection was conducted in late July/early August after the field was disked again and re-planted with new vegetables. An additional 3.5 acres was incorporated into the original surface collection area with this second survey.

Shovel test pits were used during Phase II evaluation of the south locus in order to define the site boundaries and the site's internal structure. In total, 36 STPs were excavated at 20 and 10 meter intervals on the metric grid. Each Phase II STP was 35 to 40 cm in diameter. STPs were excavated in natural stratigraphic layers. Excavation of STPs was stopped at a depth 10 cm below where cultural remains were expected or at the maximum practical depth, general more than 1 meter below the modern ground surface. Measured drawings were made of all STP profiles and all excavated soil was screened through hardware cloth.

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Prehistoric ☑ Historic ☑ Unknown ☐

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Stratigraphic test units were excavated to evaluate the stratigraphic integrity of the site, to obtain a sample of artifacts and features from the activity or activities represented at the site, and to test the internal variability of the site. Stratigraphic test units were 1 X 1 meter square and were excavated by recognizable soil layers in 10 cm horizontal levels, when layers were thicker than 10 centimeters. The exception to this practice was excavation of any plowzone, which was removed as a single layer that was not subdivided into 10 cm arbitrary horizontal levels. Excavation of test units generally continued to 10 cm below the lowest level where cultural remains were expected. After completion of each stratigraphic excavation unit, at least one wall of the unit was trowelled, cleaned, photographed, and had a measured drawing made. All excavated soil was screened through hardware cloth. When soil anomalies with any possibility of being cultural features were encountered, they were photographed, then drawn and mapped in plan view before being sectioned. Generally, half of the anomaly was removed, which enabled any internal stratification to be observed. One probable and one possible cultural feature were encountered at 18PR470.

In total, 14 stratigraphic test units were placed within 18PR470, including 11 in the northern locus and 3 in the southern locus. Test unit placement focused on those areas within the site in which a high density of artifacts had been identified by the Phase I and II STPs and surface collections, with low density areas also sampled. Both test units were examined by a soil scientist. These test units revealed soil profiles consistent with the USDA's mapping of Beltsville and Sassafras soils. The Beltsville soils within 18PR470 are on the level terrace top, while the Sassafras soils are on the slopes. The northern locus is within an active agricultural field where the surface layer is a plowzone. As artifacts were not found in the subsoil, only the upper 10 cm of subsoil was excavated. However, in one test unit, an intervening layer between the plowzone and subsoil was found and determined to represent a cultural feature related to the historic component. The STPs and test units along the south-facing slope in the southern locus revealed a series of distinctively different stratigraphic profiles.

The southern locus was located within a recently fallowed portion of the agricultural field and an adjacent forested area. A thick surface layer (25-75 cm) was seen in Test Unit 1 and several STPs along the base of the slope, where it was overlying an earlier plowzone. Large quantities of mixed historic and prehistoric artifacts were found in the thick surface horizon, suggesting colluvial movement and/or intentional disposal along this steep slope. Test Units 2 and 3 were located on gently sloping land above the steep slope leading to Test Unit 1. In Test Unit 2 the plowzone directly overlaid a culturally-sterile silt loam layer assumed to be subsoil. In Test Unit 3 a similar silt loam layer was found between the plowzone and subsoil, except that both prehistoric and historic artifacts were found in this layer. It is not clear whether this layer represents an older plowzone, a remnant E horizon, or a cultural feature. Comparison of the three test unit profiles indicates that erosion and associated colluvial deposition have been active on this slope.

A total of 1,033 prehistoric artifacts were collected during the Phase II investigations of the northern locus. These were predominantly waste materials from stone tool production and/or maintenance, though stone tools, fire-cracked rocks, and ceramic vessel fragments were also recovered. The Phase II assemblage from the northern locus at 18PR470 includes 15 points, 30 bifaces, 1 unifacial tool, 48 cores, 317 flakes, 520 pieces of shatter, 94 pieces of "blocky shatter", 1 hammerstone, 3 pecked stone objects, 2 pieces of fire-cracked rock, and 2 ceramic sherds. Sixteen temporal diagnostics were found during the Phase II investigations. These artifacts indicate that the prehistoric occupation ranged from the Early Archaic up to the Late Woodland. They include a bifurcate point base (St. Albans or LeCroy), 3 Vernon points, 2 Halifax side-notched points, 1 Bare Island point, 3 Calvert points, 1 Selby Bay point, 1 Levanna point, 2 Madison points, and 2 ceramic sherds that may be Potomac Creek wares.

Flaked lithic raw materials represented in this collection include chert (8 objects), jasper (2), quartz (950), quartzite (67), and rhyolite (2). All of these, except rhyolite, could have been obtained from local gravels. A nearly equal occurrence of cortical and non-cortical lithic debris indicates that a wide range of lithic reduction and maintenance activities took place here, from initial tool production to tool resharpening and rehafting. The recovery of fire-cracked rock, although minimal, suggests that fire-related features may be present within this site. However, no prehistoric cultural features were identified in the test excavations. Given the large size of this site and the minimal excavated area, the lack of identified features cannot be taken to mean the features are absent. As with the Phase I STPs, all prehistoric artifacts from the Phase II test units were recovered from the plowzone. The only exception is 1 flake found within the historic feature mentioned previously. The temporal diagnostics are differentially distributed across the site. The clustering of artifacts of specific periods indicates that the site is composed of a series of smaller, spatially and temporally discrete concentrations. In addition, recognizable nodes of high artifact density were noted when examining the surface collection results as well as the comparison of test unit artifact densities. Thus, even though the deposits have clearly been plowed, occupational patterning has been preserved to a large extent.

A total of 835 historic artifacts were recovered from this same northern locus. The collection includes the diversity expected on a domestic site: ceramics, glass, nails, hardware, animal bone, shell, and tobacco pipes. The artifacts possess manufacturing date ranges from the 17th century to present, with the date ranges of the most diagnostic ceramic types falling in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Twentieth century artifacts (machine-made glass and wire nails) cluster around the location of a recently-razed barn in the northern part of the site. The Phase II historic assemblage from the northern locus included 1 activity item (a chain link), 180 architectural artifacts (94 pieces of brick, 71 fragments of window glass, 2 cut nails, 2 wire nails, and 11 unidentified nails), 577 kitchen-related artifacts (2 Buckley sherds, 2 Jackfield sherds, 67 creamware sherds, 96 pearlware sherds, 50 whiteware sherds, 24 procelain sherds, 1 yelloware sherd, 6 Rhenish stoneware sherds, 16 white salt-glazed stoneware sherds, 3 American gray/blue stoneware sherds, 70 unidentified sherds, 4 free-blown bottle glass shards, 1 pressed glass fragment, 129 machine-made bottle glass fragments, 96 other bottle glass fragments, a mammal bone, a fish bone, 6 oyster shell fragments, and 2 other shell fragments), 16 tobacco-related objects (white clay pipe stems), and 61 miscellaneous items (18 pieces of metal, 40 unidentifiable glass fragments, 1 piece of plastic, and 2 pieces of slag).

Filtering out the aforementioned barn-related 20th century deposition, several other moderate density concentrations of historic artifacts can be seen when examining the surface collection data. These concentrations are clustered around 3 or 4 areas where, otherwise, no historic artifacts were found. These "clear areas" vary between 80 and 3000 m2 in extent and may represent residences or yards that were intentionally swept clean. The test unit excavations mirrored these results. The highest density of historic artifacts occurred in an intervening layer between the plowzone and subsoil of a single test unit. A variety of domestic and architectural artifacts were found concentrated in this deposit. A grid of auger tests was placed surrounding the 1 X 1 m unit where this feature was encountered. The auger tests indicate that the feature is no larger than nine square meters. The size and contents of this feature suggest that it may represent the remains of a root cellar or other subterranean storage area under an historic residence. Such features have been found on 18th and 19th century sites in the Chesapeake and beyond, particularly at slave quarters.

That a structure or structures were located within the site is suggested by the architectural assemblage. Brick is dispersed mostly across the southwest portion of the locus with another cluster at the cellar feature. Overall, the artifacts themselves, their distribution, and the presence of the cellar feature are suggestive of long-term historic occupation of the northern locus at 18PR470. This lasted from the mid-eighteenth to the mid-nineteenth century and involved people with insubstantial dwellings and relatively few material possessions.

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A total of 134 prehistoric artifacts were collected during the Phase II investigations in the southern locus. The prehistoric artifacts are predominantly waste material from stone tool production. The Phase II prehistoric assemblage from this area included 3 bifaces, 6 cores, 37 flakes, 78 pieces of shatter, 8 pieces of “blocky shatter”, and 2 fire-cracked rocks. The Lamoka point found during Phase I work and the unidentified ceramic sherd remain the only diagnostic prehistoric objects found in this area. Flaked lithic raw materials represented in this collection include chert (19 objects), jasper (1), quartz (95), quartzite (16), and rhyolite (1). Again, all of these, except rhyolite, could have been obtained from local gravels. The debitage is also evenly divided between pieces which retained cortex and pieces without cortex, suggesting that initial tool production and tool resharpening and rehafting were rather equal activities on this portion of the site. The prehistoric artifacts were distributed evenly across the entire locus area, with no cultural features encountered. The prehistoric artifacts were all found in the plowzone or the buried plowzone underneath it. In most cases the prehistoric artifacts were mixed in with historic artifacts in these contexts.

In total, 318 historic artifacts were recovered during the Phase II investigation of the southern locus. This collection included the diversity expected on a domestic site: ceramics, glass, nails, hardware, animal bones, shell, and clothing items. The objects possess manufacturing date range from the 17th century to the present, with the date ranges of the most diagnostic ceramic types falling in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The lack of automatic machine made glass supports a pre-1904 deposition. The historic assemblage from the southern locus consisted of 83 architectural objects (29 brick fragments, 1 piece of plaster, 9 window glass fragments, 6 wrought nails fragments, 7 cut nails, 30 unidentified nails, and 1 fence staple), 1 clothing item (a copper button), 198 kitchen-related artifacts (3 tin-glazed earthenware sherds, 2 Buckley sherds, 43 creamware sherds, 24 pearlware sherds, 2 porcelain sherds, 15 whiteware sherds, 1 white-paste earthenware sherd, 26 buff-red paste porcelain sherds, 2 redware sherds, 1 black basalt stoneware sherd, 3 white salt-glazed stoneware sherds, 11 miscellaneous stoneware sherds, 24 dark green bottle glass fragments, 15 other bottle glass fragments, 19 animal bones, 4 oyster shell fragments, and 3 other shell fragments), 26 tobacco-related artifacts (pipe stems), and 10 miscellaneous objects (8 metal fragments, and 2 unidentifiable glass pieces).

The former presence of a structure is suggested by the presence of architectural debris. In this case, the structure probably dated to the late 18th or early 19th century, based on the presence of both wrought nails and cut nails, without any identifiable wire nails. As in the Phase I study, all of the artifacts were found in the plowzone or in an earlier, buried plowzone. A concentration of historic artifacts, including architectural debris, in the deeper deposits along the base of the steep slope is complemented by a moderate density of similar historic artifacts at the top of the steep slope. This is suggestive of a residence at the top of the slope whose occupants habitually discarded materials downslope and eventually disposed of the structure’s demolition debris downslope as well.

The prehistoric component at 18PR470 is characterized by lithic artifacts that occur in a low density across this entire landform, with moderate and high density concentrations defining the site’s loci. The temporally diagnostic artifacts date to all periods from the Early Archaic up to the Late Woodland period. Analysis of the prehistoric artifacts indicates that a wide range of activities were undertaken here, including initial tool production, tool maintenance, and resource processing. Given its location away from major watercourses, this site represents a poorly documented component of prehistoric regional settlement systems. Additional artifact samples and cultural feature data from this site would allow significant advances in our ability to address research questions related to subsistence, settlement mobility, and resource use through the Archaic and Woodland periods. Despite the lack of identified sub-plowzone cultural features, this site displays an integrity of horizontal patterning that holds promise for the presence of features and that should allow for activity area and landscape reconstruction.

The historic component at 18PR470 is characterized by both architectural and domestic artifacts spread across both loci of the site. These deposits likely date to the middle of the 18th century into the 19th century and preserve remnants (in places) of former structures. The integrity of horizontal patterning (though plow disturbed) is an important attribute of 18PR470 that should allow for detailed reconstruction of the activity areas and landscape within this eighteenth/nineteenth century residential area.

Insight into the possible range of historic occupants of 18PR470 is available through comparison of the archeological and archival information. The land 18PR470 lies within what was called “Wade’s Adventure” during the colonial and early federal periods. This land was owned by a succession of wealthy people (the Wade, Plasay, Baynes, and Stuart families) who lived elsewhere, leaving this land to be worked by enslaved people, overseers, and perhaps tenant farmers. A 1798 tax assessment clearly lists “six Negro Houses” and an overseer’s house on this land. An 1878 land survey map shows an “old residence” in the approximate location of the southern locus. Certainly a structure built in the late 18th or early 19th century would have been considered an “old residence” by 1878. 18PR470 dates to this time range and thus probably represents the residence(s) of materially-impoverished slave laborers and hired overseers. Given the quantity and quality of information presently available, the size and artifact content of the northern locus is consistent with slave quarters, while the size and artifact content of the southern locus is consistent with the overseer’s residence.

Only one possible historic cultural feature was identified within this site. This feature is most likely a cellar pit that was located under a residence. The low visibility of historic features is probably related to the type of structures present on this site and the technical approach of the Phase II testing. Given the economic condition of the probable occupants of 18PR470 and general architectural patterns in the Maryland tidewater area of the 18th century, it is likely that earthfast (post-in-ground) construction techniques would have been used by the occupants of this site. Even less substantial structures built on piers or sills laid directly on the ground are also possible. Identification of the relatively small and isolated sub-plowzone features that would remain from such structures can only be assured by removal of plowzone over large areas of the site. Such broad excavation was not within the scope of this Phase II investigation.

Looking at the combined archeological and documentary evidence, it is clear that this site represents a set of poorly documented components of the colonial and antebellum settlement systems. All of the household types that may have occupied this site (enslaved laborers, hired overseers, or tenant farmers) are poorly known from both the documentary and archeological records of early Prince George’s County and tidewater Maryland. Additional artifact samples and cultural feature data from this site would allow significant advances in our ability to address research questions related to the social and economic structure of a late colonial and early federal tobacco plantation and the lifestyles of the enslaved and hired workers on this plantation. In addition to the identification of a sub-plowzone cultural feature, this site displays an integrity of horizontal patterning that should allow for detailed activity area and landscape reconstruction. Such reconstruction should shed new light on the lives of the enslaved and hired people inhabiting this area during the 18th and 19th centuries.

Site 18PR470 has been determined to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places based on its potential to yield information important to understanding prehistory and history. Based on the presence of an intact historic feature, numerous historic and prehistoric diagnostics, a degree of horizontal integrity, and the limited amount of work conducted at the site, 18PR470 has significant research potential. The site may not only be able to answer questions related to settlement patterns in multiple periods of prehistory, but may be able to address under-represented communities of historic times. Unfortunately, much of the northern locus was likely destroyed when construction of the aforementioned housing development ensued. Because the northern locus was not situated within the Permit Area as defined by the US Army Corps of Engineers nor within the area covered by Prince George’s County planning board rules related to re-grading, this portion of the site was not subject to further legal mandates before development could ensue. The southern locus, which would likely

Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Site Number: 18PR470

Site Name: Area B-1,Site D

Other name(s)

Prehistoric ☑
Historic ☑
Unknown ☐

Brief Description: Archaic through Woodland base camp, short-term camp,18th-19th c. plantation & possible slave/tenant quarter

have required Data Recovery for mitigation to attain legal sufficiency, remains preserved as golf course plans were developed which could avoid this location.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00006780, 00005274