MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18PR483 **Site Name:** Area F-6,Site A

Other name(s) RCGA Entrix MAPP Site 5239-01

Prehistoric ☑ Historic ☐ Unknown ☐

Brief Description: prehistoric short-term resource procurement camp

Site Location and Environmental Data:

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

Latitude 38.6880 Longitude -76.9436 Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal Terrestrial site ☑ Underwater site ☐

Elevation m Site slope 2-5% 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 107 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 prehistoric context Y 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

Marcey Creek		Popes Creek		Shepard		Keyser	
Dames Qtr		Coulbourn		Townsend		Yeocomico	
Selden Island		Watson		Minguannan		Monongahela	
Accokeek		Mockley		Sullivan Cove		Susquehannock	
Wolfe Neck		Clemson Island		Shenks Ferry			
Vinette		Page		Moyaone			
				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

Flaked stone	80	Other fired clay	
Ground stone		Human remain(s)	☐
Stone bowls		Modified faunal	
Fire-cracked rock	3	Unmod faunal	
Other lithics (all)		Oyster shell	☐
Ceramics (all)		Floral material	☐
Rimsherds		Uncommon Obj.	
		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 18PR483 (also called Area F-6, Site A), is a prehistoric short-term resource procurement site of undetermined age. The site is located near the village of Piscataway in southern Prince George's County, Maryland. It is situated in a mature forest, on a flat area above and north of the head of an intermittent stream. Soils at the site are primarily Beltsville silt loams.

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 18PR483 was accomplished with shovel test pits (STPs). A grid of STPs was excavated at a 20 meter interval and then additional STPs were excavated at a 10 meter interval around positive STPs to examine the stratigraphy within the site and refine the site boundaries. No historic artifacts were recovered during the Phase I survey. The recovery of prehistoric artifacts from 23 STPs was interpreted to define Site 18PR483 as a prehistoric "lithic reduction site". Artifacts encountered included 23 flakes, 8 pieces of block/shatter, and a single fire-cracked rock. The majority of these artifacts were recovered from below the A horizon, suggesting the possibility of subsurface integrity. The pattern of Phase I STPs was sufficient to define both site boundaries and the internal structure of the site. The site boundaries included two clusters of positive STPs with a 20 to 60 meter wide zone of negative STPs separating them.

The researchers that conducted the Phase I work recommended that further investigations be conducted to evaluate the significance of 18PR483, based on the site's potential to contribute substantive information on prehistoric activity in southern Prince George's County. Researchers returned to the site in 1997 to conduct Phase II testing as part of the same housing development project.

The provenience-control grid used during the Phase I investigation was also used during the Phase II testing. Re-establishing the Phase I grid was facilitated by the clearly marked Phase I datum stake and the frequent discovery of Phase I flagging tape marked with grid coordinates at obvious surface depressions from the Phase I STPs. Since the pattern of Phase I STPs was sufficient to define both the site boundaries and the internal structure of the site, no further STPs were excavated during the Phase II testing.

Phase II work entailed the excavation of stratigraphic test units to evaluate the subsurface 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. No soil anomalies were encountered, however, which were determined to be cultural in origin at 18PR483.

In total, three stratigraphic test units were placed within 18PR483. Test unit placement focused on those areas within the site in which a high density of artifacts had been identified in a preliminary analysis of the information from the Phase I STPs. Two test units were placed near high density STPs in the southern artifact cluster (see discussion of Phase I above) and one unit was placed within the northern artifact cluster. The two southern test units were examined by a soil scientist. The soil profiles were determined to represent typical natural profiles for Beltsville soil: An A horizon overlying an E, BE, and Bt horizon.

The Phase II findings were not substantially different from what was recognized during Phase I work. This site is characterized by lithic artifacts that occur in a low density, with localized higher density concentrations (the north and south clusters). The Phase II assemblage included 1 biface, 28 flakes, 20 pieces of shatter, and 2 fragments of fire-cracked rock. The flaked lithics were primarily quartz, and some quartzite. None of the artifacts encountered (in either phase of research) is diagnostic of a particular period of prehistory. Analysis of the debitage indicates that tool resharpening and rehafting were the dominant lithic activities at 18PR483 (based on the percentage of cortex present). Overall, it appears that this site was used for brief periods during resource procurement forays into this interior area.

The site appears to be approximately 8,000 m2 in extent. Archeological resources were limited to the upper horizons and no cultural features were encountered intruding into the older subsoil. Phase II work established that the second stratum (where the majority of Phase I artifacts were recovered) is an E horizon. The artifacts have moved down through the soil profile into this natural subsurface horizon over hundreds or thousands of years since the artifacts were deposited on the surface of this landform. The general horizontal patterning within the site has not been seriously impacted by this downward movement of artifacts. However, since no temporally diagnostic artifacts have been recovered from 18PR483, and cultural features have not been identified, additional work is unlikely to provide significant advances to our understanding of regional research issues. Thus, the site should not be considered a significant archeological resource.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00006780, 00005274