



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18PR487

Site Name: Area F-1, Site C

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

prehistoric short-term resource procurement, base camp

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 11

SCS soil & sediment code GgC,CwG,BaB

Latitude 38.6996

Longitude -76.9518

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m

Site slope 2-60%

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) Unnamed tributary of Pisca

- | Saltwater | Freshwater |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Ocean <input type="checkbox"/> | Stream/river <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Estuary/tidal river <input type="checkbox"/> | Swamp <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tidewater/marsh <input type="checkbox"/> | Lake or pond <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Spring <input type="checkbox"/> |

Minimum distance to water is 0 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

- Paleoindian site
- Archaic site
- Early archaic
- Middle archaic
- Late archaic
- Woodland site
- MD Adena
- Early woodland
- Mid. woodland
- Late woodland
- Unknown prehistoric context

- Contact period site
- ca. 1820 - 1860
- ca. 1630 - 1675
- ca. 1675 - 1720
- ca. 1720 - 1780
- ca. 1780 - 1820
- Unknown historic context
- Unknown context
- ca. 1820 - 1860
- ca. 1860 - 1900
- ca. 1900 - 1930
- Post 1930

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

- Native American
- African American
- Anglo-American
- Hispanic
- Asian American
- Unknown
- Other

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

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"/>	Shepard	<input type="checkbox"/>	Keyser	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dames Qtr	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coulbourn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Townsend	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yeocomico	<input type="checkbox"/>
Selden Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Watson	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minguannan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monongahela	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accokeek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mockley	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sullivan Cove	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehannock	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wolfe Neck	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clemson Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shenks Ferry	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Vinette	<input type="checkbox"/>	Page	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moyaone	<input type="checkbox"/>		
				Potomac Crk	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Historic Sherd Types

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

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts			
Flaked stone	359	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	21	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	8	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"/>	Storage/trash pit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shell midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ossuary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
House pattern(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Hearth(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Lithic reduc area	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Lithic Material

Jasper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fer quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sil sandstone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts			
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tobacco related	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>	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.	1
		Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features

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

Collection curated at

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Site 18PR487 (also called Area F-1, Site C), is a prehistoric site evidencing occupation during the Late Archaic period, between 5,000 and 3,500 years ago. The site is located near the village of Piscataway in southern Prince George's County, Maryland. It is situated along a PEPCO electric transmission right-of-way in a well forested area. The topography at the site is varied, with multiple gullies dissecting a flat plateau area surrounding the head of a first-order intermittent stream. Soils at the site are Beltsville silt loams and Grosstown gravelly 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 18PR487 was accomplished with shovel test pits (STPs). A grid of STPs was excavated at a 20 meter interval to examine the stratigraphy within the site and determine the site boundaries. No historic artifacts were recovered during the Phase I survey. In total, 77 prehistoric artifacts were recovered from 25 STPs. The prehistoric artifacts included 48 flakes, 3 cores, 18 pieces of block/shatter, and 8 fire-cracked rocks. Lithic raw materials included quartz, quartzite, chert, jasper, and silicified sandstone. The majority of these artifacts were recovered from below the A horizon, suggesting the possibility of subsurface integrity. The survey results were interpreted to define site 18PR487 as a long-term lithic reduction site.

The researchers that conducted the Phase I work recommended that further investigations be conducted to evaluate the significance of 18PR487, 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.

An attempt was made during the Phase II investigation to use the provenience control grid that was used during the Phase I investigation. However, problems were found in the Phase I grid due to the overlapping of Phase I transects. Determining the existence and extent of this problem 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. Rather than attempt to establish an alternative grid, compass and tape were used to map the Phase I STPs onto a topographic map. The same mapping method was used for the Phase II STPs and test units.

Shovel test pits were used during the Phase II evaluation of 18PR487 in order to define the site boundaries and the site's internal structure. The Phase I STP data did not provide a clear definition of the southern limit of the site. Thus 14 STPs were excavated on the southern edge of the Phase I site boundary. In addition, the Phase I grid problem left a small area in the northeast portion of the site untested, so 3 STPs were excavated there during the Phase II. 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. The Phase II STP survey revealed a site that is 28,000 m2 in extent.

Phase II work also 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 clearly defined cultural features were recorded within 18PR487. However, a concentration of fire-cracked rock, cobbles, cores, flakes, and shatter was noted within one quadrant of a test unit. As no dark stain was associated with this concentration, it was not assigned a feature number in the field.

In total, four stratigraphic test units were placed within 18PR487. 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 Phase I and Phase II STPs. All four 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.

In total, 311 prehistoric artifacts were collected during the Phase II investigations. Artifacts are predominantly waste materials from stone tool production and/or maintenance, although 11 stone tools and 13 fire-cracked rocks were also recovered. The Phase II assemblage included 2 projectile points, 1 biface, 11 cores, 146 flakes, 96 pieces of shatter, 34 fragments of blocky shatter, 7 hammerstones, 1 grinding stone, and 13 pieces of fire-cracked rock. A single historic artifact, a piece of hard rubber, was also recovered.

The only temporally diagnostic object recovered from 18PR487 is the base and midsection of a Late Archaic Bare Island point made of quartz. Another quartz projectile point included only the tip and midsection without the base. This point could not be assigned to a particular type, but its narrow blade is suggestive of the same time range as the Bare Island point. Raw materials used in flaked stone tool production include quartz (173 objects), quartzite (102), chert (20), and rhyolite (14). Three of the 4 raw materials could have been obtained from local gravels, the exception being rhyolite. Rhyolite sources exist in the South Mountain region of Maryland and Pennsylvania. The majority of artifacts were recovered from the surface layer and underlying E horizon. The vertical distribution fits the pattern of downward movement of artifacts within a natural soil profile. However, the general horizontal patterning within the site has not been seriously impacted by this downward movement of artifacts.

The prehistoric component is characterized by lithic artifacts that occur in a moderate to high density. The temporally diagnostic artifact recovered dates to the Late Archaic period. It is possible that some of the prehistoric artifacts date to earlier or more recent occupations at this site. Analysis of the prehistoric artifacts indicates that activities on this site included initial tool production, tool maintenance, and fire-related tasks. Given the site's location at the head of a



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small upland stream, this site represents a poorly documented component of the Late Archaic regional settlement system. Additional artifact samples and cultural feature data from this site might allow significant advances in our ability to address research questions related to subsistence, settlement mobility, and resource use during the Late Archaic. Despite the lack of clearly identified cultural features at the site, it displays an integrity of horizontal patterning that should allow for detailed activity area and landscape reconstruction. Such reconstruction might shed new light on the lives of people inhabiting this area during the Late Archaic period of prehistory.

In the final analysis, MHT felt that the lack of diagnostic materials at 18PR487 hampered the site's research potential. The developers of the Bailey Property were notified that the site was not NRHP eligible and that construction could proceed. However, delays in the development project, coupled with a severe down-turn in economic conditions in 2008 effected a de-facto preservation of the site. Thus, additional research is still possible to obtain a larger sample for determining the site's research potential.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00006780, 00005274