MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18PR490 **Site Name:** Area F-7,Site B

Other name(s)

Prehistoric ☑ Historic ☐ Unknown ☐

Brief Description: Late Archaic, Late Woodland short-term resource procurement camp

Site Location and Environmental Data:

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

Latitude 38.6854 Longitude -76.9384 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	☐	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 0 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	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**	☐	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	285	Human remain(s)	☐
Ground stone		Modified faunal	
Stone bowls		Unmod faunal	
Fire-cracked rock	5	Oyster shell	☐
Other lithics (all)	2	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

☐ Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Site 18PR490 (also called Area F-7, Site B), is a multi-component prehistoric site evidencing occupation during the Late Archaic and Late Woodland periods of prehistory, between 3,000 and 350 years ago. 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 surrounding the head of a first-order intermittent stream. The eastern portion of the site is within a PEPCO electric transmission right-of-way. 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 18PR490 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. A total of 64 prehistoric artifacts were recovered from 12 STPs. The prehistoric component was defined by the presence of 64 artifacts, including a triangular point, 50 flakes, 8 pieces of block/shatter, a possible hammerstone, and 4 fire-cracked rocks. The majority of these artifacts were recovered from two stratums, both below the A horizon, suggesting the possibility of subsurface integrity. The Phase I survey results were interpreted to define Site 18PR490 as a Woodland "lithic reduction site".

The researchers that conducted the Phase I work recommended that further investigations be conducted to evaluate the significance of 18PR490, 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. One problem noted during Phase II work, was that several Phase I transects were not laid out at right angles to the baseline. However, 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. Surface finds were collected during the Phase II study while walking to the site along a dirt road in the PEPCO right-of-way. These artifacts were found eroding out of a road-edge bank.

Phase II work primarily 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. One soil anomaly was encountered at 18PR490, but excavation seemed to indicate that it was natural, rather than cultural, in origin.

In total, two stratigraphic test units were placed within 18PR490. 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. Both 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 majority of the artifacts were recovered from the E and BE horizons. An E horizon develops when organic matter and iron are chemically leached out of the upper zone of the subsoil, which causes it to be lighter in color than the horizons above or below it. A BE horizon is a transition zone between an E horizon and the underlying B horizon. Thus, this stratum does not represent a former surface where the artifacts were deposited and then buried by subsequent sedimentation. As the artifacts were apparently not deposited directly into these E or BE horizons, the best explanation is that the artifacts have moved down through the soil profile into these natural subsurface horizons over the hundreds or thousands of years since these 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.

In total, 228 prehistoric artifacts were collected during Phase II investigations. The Phase II assemblage included a Late Archaic Clagett point fragment and a biface fragment (both surface finds from the PEPCO right-of-way), 5 cores, 104 flakes, 102 pieces of shatter, 13 pieces of "blocky" shatter, 1 hammerstone, and a fire-cracked rock. Raw materials for the flaked stone objects include chert (6 objects), quartz (202), and quartzite (19), all of which could have been obtained from local gravels. The percentage of flakes showing cortex (33%) implies that tool finishing and/or re-sharpening and re-hafting was a more prevalent activity at this site than initial tool production. However, compared to assemblages from surrounding sites, 18PR490 has a greater number of cores.

Phase II testing revealed that Site 18PR490 is characterized by lithic artifacts that occur in a moderate density throughout the site and a very high density in the center of the site. The temporally diagnostic artifacts recovered date to the Late Archaic and Late Woodland periods. Analysis of the prehistoric artifacts indicates that tool finishing and/or re-sharpening and re-hafting was an important activity on this site, although tool production also took place. Given its location adjacent to a small wetland away from major watercourses, this site represents a poorly documented component of Late Archaic and Late Woodland regional settlement systems. Additional artifact samples and cultural feature data from the site might allow significant advances in our ability to address research questions related to Late Archaic and Woodland period subsistence, settlement mobility, and resource use. Despite the lack of clearly identified cultural features, 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 people inhabiting the area during the Late Archaic and Late Woodland periods of prehistory.

In the final analysis, MHT felt that while some horizontal patterning of cultural materials may be present, the two temporally distinct components might be mixed. Thus, the site's research potential was considered hampered. 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.

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Historic ☐

Unknown ☐

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External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00006780, 00005274