



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18PR703

Site Name: Garret's Chance #2

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief Description:

Late Woodland lithic scatter, Late 17th to early 18th century domestic site, possible tenant house

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 9

SCS soil & sediment code WAB2

Latitude 38.5901

Longitude -76.7258

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m

Site slope 6-12%

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) Swanson's Creek

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Spring

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 549 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 historic context

Unknown prehistoric 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? 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

possible tenant house

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples

Soil samples taken N

Flotation samples taken N

Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken Y

Flotation samples taken Y

Other samples taken



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Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types		Koens-Crispin	
Clovis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>
Le Croy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Morrow Mntn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guilford	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brewerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Madison/Potomac	1
Otter Creek	<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	192	English Brown	44
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	2	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	<input type="checkbox"/>			Rhenish	33
						Wt Salt-glazed	7

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	33	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	6	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<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 type="checkbox"/>		
Lithic reduc area	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Lithic Material

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

Dated features present at site

Late 17th Century wattle and daub domestic structure w/ early 18th century repairs

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	292	Activity item(s)	2
Glass (all)	241	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	776	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	6	Misc. kitchen	92
Arms	2	Floral material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	28	Misc.	34
Personal items	6	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features

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

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Garret's Chance #2, or 18PR703, is an archeological site near Aquasco in rural Prince George's County with both prehistoric and historic deposits. Prehistoric deposits appear to represent the remains of a Late Woodland lithic scatter, while historic deposits represent a late 17th-early 18th century domestic site (possibly a tenant site). The site occupies a small knoll in an agricultural field where a dark soil stain is evident whenever the area is freshly plowed. The slope falls off sharply to the southeast and there is a forest to the south and west. Open field is situated to the east and north, and an unimproved farm road divides a smaller field to the north from the main field in which the site is situated. Soils at the site are primarily Marr and Westphalia sandy loams.

The site area was originally part of two 17th century tracts known as "Dove's Nest" (towards the west) and "Dove's Perch" (towards the east) totaling roughly 350 acres. A Bernard Johnson had acquired these two tracts from Nathaniel Truman in 1686, but the patents (as well as Johnson's will) strongly suggest that Johnson (not Truman) was already occupying the properties at the time of the purchase. No document notes the location of his house. A combined parcel of 350 acres likely was occupied by one or more tenant households in addition to the Johnson household. Johnson left four heirs, all daughters, discounting the possibility that one or more sons set up household on Doves Nest or Doves Perch. When Johnson died around 1702 he did bequeath both tracts to his daughters (Mary Willery, Elizabeth Williams, Catharine Rawlins, and Martha Nelson) who, by virtue of an indenture, partitioned each tract equally, each taking 37.5 acres of Dove's Nest and 50 acres of Dove's Perch. At the time of this agreement, all four were married and the properties conveyed, by law, to their husbands.

Mary and Phillip Willery and Elizabeth and Hugh Williams conveyed their divided and unconsolidated portions to William Wilkerson in 1711. Catharine and Paul Rawlins and Martha and Thomas Nelson sold their interests in Dove's Nest as well, although when and precisely to whom is uncertain. William Wilkerson, a large landowner in Patuxent Hundred (later Aquasco District), appears to have acquired most if not all of Dove's Nest and Dove's Perch during the first quarter of the 18th century. His family retained ownership of these lands until just before the Revolutionary War when they conveyed the land to Samuel Crane. By means undetermined (possibly from the Morton family), John TW Compton acquired 90 acres of Dove's Nest prior to the Civil War. The Compton family retained ownership throughout the second half of the 19th century and through most of the 20th century. Similarly, Dr. Michael J. Stone purchased two parcels to the east in 1844, totaling 50 acres, most of which remained in the hands of his descendants well into the 20th century.

The site was first identified in May of 2004 during a Phase I survey of a (then) proposed residential development of 113 acres: what was referred to as the Garrett's Chance Project. The Phase I work was carried out in anticipation of concerns of the Prince George's County Department of Planning, and out of concern for the increased design costs that might be incurred to avoid potentially significant archeological resources. The Phase I archeological work involved controlled surface collecting of the plowed and disked fields and shovel testing in some forested portions of the Garrett's Chance project area.

At 18PR703, the former agricultural field was surface collected twice, before and after heavy rains, producing a small but unmistakable collection of Colonial period materials. The assemblage consisted of 6 handwrought nails, 2 tin-glazed earthenware sherds, 13 Rhenish Blue and Gray "Westerwald" stoneware sherds, 2 English brown stoneware sherds, 3 white salt-glazed stoneware, 1 plain red earthenware, 14 pieces of wine bottle glass, 7 table glass fragments and 1 vial, 63 tobacco pipe fragments, and oyster shell. Conspicuous by their absence were Queensware and Pearlware, suggesting a late 17th through mid-18th century date for the site occupation. Four non-diagnostic prehistoric artifacts (flakes) were also recovered.

Based on these findings, the site was subject to a combined Phase II/III investigation in June and July of 2004. The developer of the property on which 18PR703 was situated had determined that redesign of their subdivision and housing construction plans was not feasible. The site was situated in the midst of one of the parcel's two premier lots and mitigation was requested.

Phase II work in 2004 included additional surface collecting, shovel test pit (STP) excavation, and the excavation of one 122 X 91 cm (4 X 3 ft) excavation unit. Phase III data recovery entailed extensive mechanical stripping of the field to expose features, cleaning and mapping of said features, and their excavation. Repeated surface collection of the plowed field at 18PR703 narrowed the area of interest to approximately 1.5 acres, the southern third of which was severely eroded. Shovel testing at 7.62 m (25 ft) intervals further narrowed the area in which artifacts and burned daub were being recovered to a roughly 15.24 X 15.24 m (50 X 50 ft) area. The shovel tests also demonstrated a very low density of material, an observation supported by the excavation of the 122 X 91 cm unit where STP work indicated the highest concentration of artifacts might be found. The yield was low: 86 artifacts, of which 63 were small fragments of daub. The field crew also recovered 23 tobacco pipe, vessel glass, and nail fragments. The unit did uncover part of a feature, ultimately determined to be a structural posthole. Combined, these data suggested a low-density housesite with wattle and daub construction consistent with what would be expected for a late 17th or early 18th century occupation. Thus, Phase III data recovery was carried out immediately.

Phase III data recovery entailed extensive mechanical stripping to expose building remnants, pits, and fencelines, cleaning and mapping of all features at scale, stratigraphic excavation of features, screening of removed soils through hardware cloth, and the recovery of several liters of feature soils with high charcoal content for flotation extraction of plant remains. Mechanical stripping was guided by topographic considerations and clear evidence of erosion, not by surface or subsurface artifact distributions, both of which were too sparse to define the site extent. A front-end loader stripped most of the plowzone and then, dragging backward with its tripartite bucket, scraped the subsoil clean to expose the features.

The combined Phase II/III excavations at 18PR703 exposed six original postholes and six replacement postholes and associated molds, representing the footprint of an earthfast building measuring 20 feet by 16.5 feet (1 perch - a standard unit of measure in surveying from the Colonial period). That the building was a dwelling seemed evident by the presence of a large root cellar at one end, filled with burned daub and charcoal. In addition, eight borrow pits were identified to the south of the building, most of which intersected one another in a manner typical of early Colonial sites. One posthole feature, the root cellar, 3 borrow pits, and 4 probable borrow pits were excavated during the Phase III. The borrow pits were used for refuse disposal following their excavation in the colonial period.

Excavated evidence suggested that the dwelling burned and the hearth and chimney collapsed into the root cellar after the floor had burned. Fire-reddening of the north wall of the cellar indicates that the fire continued to burn after the collapse. The burned daub, charcoal, numerous nails, melted window glass and comes, three burned and/or broken (but largely restorable) vessels, and a very small quantity of food refuse, support this hypothesis.

The various lines of evidence (archival, spatial, stratigraphic, and artefactual) admit a fairly straightforward interpretation. The dwelling, on land occupied by aborigines sometime in the Late Woodland, if not earlier, was built by Bernard Johnson for himself or by and for tenants, in the last decade of the 17th



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century. Pipestem dates, scarce white salt-glazed stoneware sherds, and relatively abundant Rhenish blue and gray and English brown salt-glazed stoneware sherds support that initial date. The lack of case bottle sherds and the recovery of only one lead-backed tin-glaze (i.e. Majolica) sherd from the root cellar argues against an earlier date, as does the rare occurrence of tobacco pipestems with bore diameters of 7/64".

Sometime in the early part of the second decade of the 18th century, possibly with the conveyance of this part of Dove's Nest to William Wilkerson, a tenant household rehabilitated the dwelling, replacing the original posts and reconstructing the wattle-and-daub chimney. The dating of individual borrow pits suggests that, while some of their trash may have ended up in earlier borrow pits excavated for the original construction of the house at 18PR703, the 18th century tenants probably deposited most of their kitchen refuse, and some architectural debris, into a large borrow pit to the east. In other words, the site has spatially discrete occupations. Precisely when the site was abandoned remains uncertain. The building certainly burned in its entirety, the leaded windows destroyed along with some furnishings and utensils. The chimney collapsed through the burned wooden floor and into the re-dug root cellar. The lack of a separate chimney bay may have made this building more susceptible than most to catastrophic fire. The recovery of only seven sherds of white salt-glazed stoneware suggests abandonment during the second quarter of the 18th century. One can speculate that the site was abandoned after the fire due to the eroded, exhausted soil that had to be left fallow, and a new farmstead built closer to productive lands. Equally likely, the owners may have opted to till the land themselves or with enslaved labor, and not have renewed leases on the land. Housing for tenants may have proved inconveniently sited for enslaved labor.

Artifacts recovered during the course of the combined Phase II/III project included at least two activity items (a single bit felling axe and a mill pick), 28 clothing-related items (1 button, 5 buckles, 1 thimble, and 21 brass pins), 6 furniture-related items (tacks), 770 architectural artifacts (2 common red bricks, at least 25 pieces of daub, 569 handwrought nails, 144 unidentified nails, 19 window glass fragments, and 11 lead window came), 271 ceramic sherds (190 tin-glazed earthenware sherd, 1 indeterminate earthenware sherd, 1 Chinese export porcelain sherd, 1 porcelain sherd, 7 redware sherds, 20 Rhenish gray stoneware sherds, 42 British brown stoneware sherds, 4 white salt-glazed stoneware sherd, 5 miscellaneous stoneware sherds), 200 kitchen-related glass pieces (3 table glass fragments, 69 glass wine bottle fragments, 111 other vessel glass fragments, 17 glass vial fragments), 90 miscellaneous kitchen-related objects (2 pieces of eggshell, at least 19 oyster shells, at least 6 fish bones, 7 mammal bones, at least 34 other animal bones, 1 burned nut/pit, 16 other nut/pit fragments, 3 latten spoons, and 2 table knives), 6 personal objects (a bead, 2 pocket knives, an incised bone comb, and 2 handwrought keys), 266 tobacco-related artifacts (1 4/64ths tobacco pipe fragments, 57 5/64ths tobacco pipe fragments, 41 6/64ths tobacco pipe fragments, 9 7/64ths tobacco pipe fragments, 153 other ball clay tobacco pipe fragments, 3 terra cotta tobacco pipe fragments, 2 smoker's companions), 2 arms objects (English gunflints), 34 miscellaneous historic objects (33 indeterminate metal fragments and an unidentified item), and 35 prehistoric finds (1 Madison point, 2 other bifaces, 21 flakes, 5 pieces of shatter, and at least 6 pieces of fire-cracked rock).

Ten liters of soil were retained from the southern half of Feature 22 (one of the eastern borrow pits) and submitted for archeobotanical flotation analysis. A sample of water-screened material was also analyzed. A total of 427 fragments of wood charcoal were recovered. White oak was the most common charcoal type (9 specimens), followed by American chestnut (3), hickory (2), and beech (2). Fourteen carbonized seeds were recovered, including sedge (7), copperleaf (3), poke (2), yellow poplar (1), and an unidentified grass (1). Maize was quite prevalent and included 20 cupule fragments, 4 whole cupules, and 1 cupule with glume. In addition, 17 pieces of amorphous carbon, 3 small unidentified buds, and 1 monocot stem fragment were recovered. The prevalence of maize testifies to its prevalence in the Colonial diet.

Garrett's Chance #2 (18PR703) proved to be a relatively well-preserved late 17th/early 18th century plantation site, possibly occupied by tenants until the 1730s or 1740s. It was remarkable in that it lay on a small patch of relatively intact Ap-horizon in the midst of severely eroded, gravelly soils. A single dwelling, extensively repaired in the second quarter of the 18th century and burdened some years later, and a series of trash-filled borrow pits constitute the site. The site contained intact deposits relating to Maryland's early Colonial period. However, its research potential was exhausted during Phase II/III excavations in 2004. Because development plans could not be altered to avoid the site, mitigation was carried out and the site no longer exists. Its remaining research potential lies in the extant artifact assemblages and documentation collected in 2004.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

97002570, Site Files