



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18PR81

Site Name: University Park

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Late Archaic-Middle Woodland cobble reduction workshop

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 11

SCS soil & sediment code BuB

Latitude 38.9770

Longitude -76.9648

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m

Site slope 0-2%

Ethnobotany profile available Maritime site

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Wells Run

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Minimum distance to water is 300 m

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

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

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Archaic site

MD Adena

Early archaic

Early woodland

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

Late archaic

Late woodland

Unknown prehistoric context

Contact period site

ca. 1820 - 1860

ca. 1630 - 1675

ca. 1860 - 1900

ca. 1675 - 1720

ca. 1900 - 1930

ca. 1720 - 1780

Post 1930

ca. 1780 - 1820

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

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

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		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	<input type="checkbox"/>
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	Staffordshire	Stoneware	
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<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		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	798	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	19	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

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

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	8	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	101	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	154	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	104
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	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 MAC Lab

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Site 18PR81, also known as the University Park Site, is situated at the crest of a ridge that divides the drainages of the Northwest and Northeast Branches of the Anacostia River, which are 0.42 miles and 1.87 miles from the site respectively. The closest mapped water source to the project area is an intermittent tributary that forms the headwaters of Wells Run, situated across Belcrest Drive from the site, at a distance of approximately 1,000 feet. Prior to the construction of Northwestern High School, the tributary extended further to the northwest and came within 500 feet of the site. Approximately 50% of the site fell on property that is now the grounds of Northwestern High School, with the remaining 50% situated within the adjoining 33-acre Landy Property tract. The Marvin R. Blumberg Company proposes to construct a 331-unit townhouse development on the 33-acre Landy Property tract. Soils within the site are characterized as Beltsville-Urban land complex, 0-5% slopes and 5-15% slopes. The actual soils encountered during excavation were more variable than what is mapped for the site location, particularly in the western portion of the site, where soils were too sandy to be consistent with the Beltsville series. Downer series soils, which are mapped nearby, are described as a similar sand base to what was noted in the field, but only with a steeper slope than occurs.

Historically, the property that includes site 18PR81 has been part of large tract of land. Originally part of a 714-acre patent issued in 1714, it existed as a large tract through the 19th century, when it was owned by Arundel Smith and later Christian Heurich, who operated a dairy there from 1893 to 1950. A review of historic maps and imagery that include the project area are helpful in tracing the historic development of the vicinity of the project area. While 18th century mapping is on too large a scale to effectively depict individual properties or even entire towns, it does show general trends. By the mid-19th century county level maps and atlases show greater detail of communities in general. The project area is not shown to have contained any dwellings on the 1861 Martenet or 1872 Hopkins maps, or subsequent USGS quadrangle maps. Historic aerial imagery that goes back to 1938 shows that the site falls entirely within area that was cleared grazing area for the Bellevue dairy farm. Immediately to the west of the site, where the landform slopes down towards the Northwest Branch of the Anacostia, there is a woodlot depicted. This is the case through 1957, although scrub growth is apparent. By 1963, much of the site is covered in tree growth that extends to the newly constructed swimming pool and tennis courts for the Plaza Towers Apartments, and rows of individual trees suggest intentional forestation. By 1980 the woods are quite heavy to the edges of the swimming pool and tennis court. Between 1984 and 1988, the original tennis courts were removed and new ones were added adjacent to the swimming pool. The wooded area continued to move to the east until it was completely wooded in 2005. It remained wooded until early 2017, when most of the trees were harvested in response to expressed public safety concerns of the local police department.

Prior to the Phase I survey in 2017, the property has not been subjected to professional archeological survey. The University Park site is described on the site form as being situated on the property that contains Northwestern High School, although the notes of the avocational archeologist who reported the site, Dennis Webb, states that the site is situated on a hill between the Northwestern High School football field and the parking lot for the adjacent apartment complex. Both the site form and Webb's notes indicate that flaked stone are present but makes no mention of any tools being observed or collected.

In November 2017, the Phase I archeological survey of the Landy Property determined that the University Park site, 18PR81, which was identified by an avocational archeologist in 1972, extended into the property. In November 2017, a total of 153 prehistoric lithic artifacts were recovered from 23 positive STPs. Two tools were recovered during the testing: one Savannah River-like base fragment and one preform. Artifacts were recovered from two distinct areas within the site, with the artifacts in the eastern locus encountered at deeper depths below fill soils.

The site type is categorized as a lithic scatter whose function is short-term resource procurement. Twenty-four sites with prehistoric components were examined in an attempt to identify similarities to the University Park site. Attributes including site function, period of use, landform, and distance to water were compared. The occupation period for the surrounding sites is largely an unknown. For comparative purposes the University Park site is a lithic workshop dating to the Middle Woodland period, situated on a ridgetop and situated approximately 600 feet from a water source. 18% of the sites fall between 400 and 800 feet, the same range that the University Park site does. None of the sites are situated on a ridgetop setting or have a Middle Woodland period of use like the University Park site. Finally, examination of the function of the comparative sample finds two workshop sites that have a function comparable to the University Park site, however, the other attributes do not compare with the site at all.

The Phase II survey consisted of excavation of seven 1-x-1-meter test units within the core of the site and one additional 1-x-1-meter test unit investigating an isolated concentration of early 20th century domestic debris, cleaning and cataloging any artifacts recovered from the field testing, and interpreting the artifact assemblage and their contexts into recommendations for further testing, if warranted. Using the results of the Phase I archeological survey of the Landy Property, an artifact density map was prepared to determine the most effective locations at which the seven test units could be placed. The density map revealed two distinct clusters of prehistoric artifact concentration. The westernmost locus contained a contiguous cluster of the nine most productive STPs from the Phase I, with artifact counts ranging from 7 to 29 total artifacts. A second locus with two adjacent STPs each containing 4 artifacts was also present. Four locations were targeted, with three 1-x-2-meter blocks and one standalone 1-x-1-meter unit to be excavated to cover both loci. All test units were excavated individually, with the plan in place that if the first unit in a planned block failed to yield expected artifact densities, the second would be placed elsewhere. The eighth test unit was placed adjacent to the STP that yielded a high quantity of early 20th century artifacts.

The survey resulted in the recovery of 819 prehistoric artifacts and 259 historic artifacts. The artifacts recovered from the site indicated that it was a lithic workshop, with the purpose of reducing locally obtained high quality quartzite into preforms, which would be finished elsewhere. The assemblage included flaked stone (n=798) and fire-cracked rock [FCR] (n=19). A total of 10 (n=10) broken preforms were recovered, accounting for approximately 1% of the total artifact yield of the combined Phase I and II efforts. The high quantity of decortication flakes (11.2% of assemblage) verifies that primary reduction occurred, while nearly even quantities of secondary and bifacial thinning flakes confirm that tool shaping occurred but that the tools were not finished onsite. Two (n=2) diagnostic projectile points, Madison and Selby Bay, indicate a Middle Woodland period of occupation for the site. One tool base recovered during the Phase I survey, identified as a Savannah River type, was determined to be a preform similar to those found during Phase II. No subsurface features were encountered due to the ridgetop landform, which would not have had sufficient soil accumulation to keep surficial features from being erased when the tract was plowed.

The eighth test unit recovered 259 pieces of historic material that date between the second and third quarters of the 20th century. Of the 259 artifacts, most of them were identified as architectural (n=154). The assemblage also included miscellaneous kitchen (n=104), ceramics (n=8), arms (n=1), and tobacco related (n=1). The deposit likely marks the location of a shed or material stockpile that coincides with the end of the Heurich ownership of the property or the post-Heurich ownership that led to the construction of the Plaza Tower apartments. It is not associated with a potentially unknown tenant occupation and does not



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represent a potentially significant deposit.

The artifact assemblage collected during the initial STP survey resulted in a different interpretation than the assemblage from the Phase II testing. Site 18PR81 is apparently unlike those within two miles of this general location primarily in its environmental setting. In a comparison to the 24 known prehistoric sites in the vicinity, it is the only one situated on a ridgetop, at the headwaters of a drainage, and is the only site currently studied dating to the Middle Woodland period within the Wells Run drainage. It should be noted that the temporal association with the Middle Woodland is based on the presence of two projectile points, both of which appear to have been modified and, as such, any ascription of time period is difficult. Site 18PR81 is one of the few workshop sites in the area and has much in common with the lithic workshops described by Holmes in his work along Rock Creek (1897).

There is a high likelihood that the source of the quartzite used at the site has been destroyed by construction that has occurred in the last 50 years. The same development has impacted more than 50% of the site as it was recorded in 1972.

Further excavation at the University Park site would likely add redundant data to the interpretation of the site as a workshop, as the evidence for this activity is fairly well-established. However, the utility of that information would be limited. While the presence of FCR indicates that hearths were used at the site, the plowed surface has almost certainly left none intact, removing any potential for recoverable radiocarbon dates or to determine whether heat treating was used in the reduction of larger cobbles.

The Ottery Group recommended that Site 18PR81 was not eligible for inclusion on the NRHP under Criterion D of the NHPA. The site meets standard for rarity under the County criteria; however, the encroaching development of the last 50 years has resulted in the destruction of unknown portions of the site, compromising integrity and research value. The public would not benefit from the in-place preservation of the remaining site. No additional testing or treatment of the site was warranted. As of 2022, ground disturbance from construction had disturbed a large portion of the site.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

SF, Report 95003341, 95003044