



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18ST491

Site Name: NAS-38

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Late Archaic and Early & Late Woodland short-term camps

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 9

SCS soil & sediment code MnA

Latitude 38.2966

Longitude -76.4027

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 3 m

Site slope 0-2%

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) Pearson Creek

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Spring

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 60 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?

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"/> 1
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	Staffordshire	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	527	Other fired clay <input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	2	Human remain(s) <input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	1	Modified faunal <input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	268	Unmod faunal <input type="checkbox"/> 3
Other lithics (all)		Oyster shell <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)		Floral material <input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds		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 type="checkbox"/>	
Lithic reduc area <input type="checkbox"/>	

Lithic Material

Jasper <input type="checkbox"/>	Fer quartzite <input type="checkbox"/>	Sil sandstone <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Sandstone <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	shale fragment <input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		
Pottery (all)		Tobacco related <input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)		Activity item(s) <input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	2	Human remain(s) <input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture		Faunal material <input type="checkbox"/>
Arms		Misc. kitchen <input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing		Floral material <input type="checkbox"/>
Personal items		Misc. <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 18ST491, also known as NAS-38, is a prehistoric site consisting of Late Archaic and Early & Late Woodland short-term camps. The site is located in the north central of the Patuxent Naval Air Station within the boundary of the Ammo Depot along the coast of Pearson Creek, in St. Mary's County. Part of the site is located in the agricultural field, while part is covered in thick vegetation consisting mostly of greenbriers, vines, and small locust trees. The eastern section is also an area of open grass, and a paved road runs through the site. Soils on site are mapped primarily belonging to the Matapeake silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes (MnA), map unit.

Site 18ST491 (along with Site 18ST395 and 18ST708) is located in the weapons storage area at NAS Patuxent River, in an area known as Anketill's Neck, along the west bank of Pearson Creek. Through the years, Pearson Creek has been known by several different names, including St. James Creek or James Creek, Cedar Point Creek, Harper Creek, and Pearson Creek (also spelled Parson Creek). The property with which the sites are associated can be traced back to 1637, when the Patuxent Native American Group gifted a large tract of land known as Mattapany to the Jesuits. In 1641, the Jesuits were forced to relinquish ownership of the property to Cecilius Calvert, the second Lord Baltimore, who did not approve of the Jesuits acquiring the property. In 1648, William Eltonhead patented a 2,000-acre tract of land at Cedar Point, on which sites 18ST395, 18ST708, and 18ST491 are located. William Eltonhead was executed in 1655–1656 after he was captured during a failed attack on Severn. After Eltonhead's death, there was some dispute over who was the rightful executor of his estate; however, by 1658, the property at Cedar Point, which was known as "Richneck" and "Little Eltonhead," was granted to his widow Jane Eltonhead.

During his life, William Eltonhead leased portions of his property at Cedar Point for farming purposes, and it is believed the land on which sites 18ST395, 18ST708, and 18ST491 are located was part of the land leased to the tenant farmer Francis Anketill. Michaud's (2001) previous report, Phase I Archaeological Inventory of the Pearson Creek Area Naval Air Station, Patuxent River St. Mary's County, Maryland, discusses site 18ST707, located along the west bank of Pearson Creek between sites 18ST395 and 18ST708, as the possible location of Francis Anketill's residence. Francis Anketill is known to have moved to Little Eltonhead in 1650 and entered a life-long lease contract with William Eltonhead in 1654. The terms of the lifelong lease provided that Francis Anketill, his wife Jane, and his brother John would have rights to the property until their deaths, so long as they paid one barrel of corn per year. In addition, for the payment of one cow calf, heirs could be added to the lease and entitled to the life-long terms of the lease. After William Eltonhead died, Francis Anketill continued to lease the property from his widow, Jane Eltonhead.

Jane Eltonhead died in 1659, and the property at Cedar Point was granted to Thomas Taylor, her eldest son from her second marriage to Phillip Taylor (William Eltonhead was Jane's third husband). At the time of his mother's death, Thomas Taylor was a minor and Phillip Calvert was assigned as his guardian. Once of age, Thomas Taylor began selling off portions of the 2,000-acre property. In 1664, Thomas sold 100 acres near "Cedar Point Pond" to his sister Sarah and brother-in-law Thomas Courtney. Thomas sold an additional 600 acres to Charles Calvert in 1668. The following year, Charles Calvert acquired the entire original 2,000-acre tract that was Little Eltonhead Manor. The tenant farmer, Francis Anketill, did not continue his lease with Thomas Taylor as he had done with Jane Eltonhead. Instead, his will stated that his heirs were to renew the lease with Charles Calvert by paying one cow calf for each of his three sons, Francis Jr., George, and Barnabie. In addition, Charles Calvert was named guardian of Anketill's sons, as all three were minors at his death in 1675. However, it is unknown if any of Francis Anketill's heirs ever returned to the property once they were of age.

In 1666, Charles Calvert married Jane Sewall, the widow of Henry Sewall, who owned the property west of Little Eltonhead Manor known as Mattapany-Sewall. After Henry Sewall died in 1665, Mattapany-Sewall was passed to his wife Jane, who relinquished ownership to Cecilius Calvert, the second Lord Baltimore. In 1666, Jane was remarried to Charles Calvert, the son of Cecilius Calvert. In compensation for the Mattapany-Sewall property, Charles gave Jane the 2,000-acre Little Eltonhead property, which became known as Charles Gift (also sometimes known as Governor's Gift). Charles and Jane Calvert lived at Mattapany-Sewall until 1684, when they returned to England. Prior to their departure, Jane gave her eldest son Nicholas Sewall, son of Henry Sewall, the 2,000-acre property at Cedar Point known by then as Charles Gift. In addition, Nicholas Sewall was granted the Mattapany-Sewall property by the fifth Lord Baltimore in 1722. Nicholas Sewall married Susanna Burgess, and together they had 11 children (Charles, Henry, Nicholas Jr., Clement, Jane, Clare, Elizabeth, Susanna, Mary, Ann, and Sophia). Nicholas Sewall died in 1737, and his property was divided among his children and grandchildren. His eldest son Charles Sewall was left the family's home plantation, Charles Gift (previously known as Little Eltonhead).

Charles Sewall married Eleanor Brooke and together they had two sons, Charles and Nicholas. His son Nicholas, who married Mary Darnall, inherited Charles Gift in 1742. Nicholas and Mary had seven children and lived on the property until Charles's death in 1798, at which time their son Nicholas Sewall Jr. inherited the property (Michaud 2001:17–18). In 1813, Nicholas Sewall Jr. died and Charles Gift was passed to his sons Henry and Robert, who were minors at the time of their father's death. During their ownership, portions of the original 2,000-acre tract were sold, including 300 acres to Elijah Thompson in 1820 and an additional 870 acres to Cornelius Combs in 1836. Sites 18ST395, 18ST708, and 18ST491 are located on the parcel sold to Cornelius Combs.

In 1859, Combs sold his 870 acres plus an additional 42 acres of the property to Beal Kiebard, who died in 1860. After Kiebard's death, 300 acres of what was Charles Gift, including the land on which sites 18ST395, 18ST708, and 18ST491 are located, were sold to William Stuart, who sold the property to George Combs. In 1862, George Combs sold the property to Dean H. Dawson, who according to the 1900 Federal Census was a farmer. In 1877, Dean H. Dawson granted the property to his wife Margaret A. Dawson, with whom he is known to have had five children (George H., Mary C., John, Martha [Mattie] W., and Margaret A.). The property was divided in 1908, when Dean and Margaret Dawson granted 42.5 acres along Pearson Creek (known as parcel 3 on plat maps) to their son George H. Dawson. Site 18ST395 is located on what is now known as parcel 3. Between 1924 and 1926, the northern end of parcel 3, along Pearson Creek, was further subdivided and conveyed away. Many of the subdivided lots and portions of parcel 3 were developed as vacation properties consisting of waterfront vacation homes. By 1939, a total of 13 vacation homes (bungalows) had been constructed. Approximately 30 acres of the original 42.5 acre tract, however, continued to be used for agricultural purposes. Of the 13 vacation homes constructed, five were located on parcel 3. In general, the bungalows were one-story wood frame buildings with pier and beam foundations. Additional buildings on parcel 3 included the main house, garage, electric plant house, storage house, tobacco barn, and two outhouses. These buildings were all of wood frame construction with either pier and beam or concrete foundations. The properties' main house was two stories with a concrete foundation.

According to archival records, the exact locations of the buildings on parcel 3 are unknown; however, since the central portion of the property is listed as agricultural land, most of the buildings were likely along or near the property's waterfront.

At some point prior to 1930, George H. Dawson granted parcel 3 to George R. Quirk, who granted the property to John Dawson and Martha Wells Dawson



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Unknown

Quirk (George R. Quirk's wife). Dean H. Dawson died in 1918, at which time his wife Margaret A. Dawson, divided the remaining portions of land at Cedar Point among their children.

Sites 18ST708 and 18ST491, located south of parcel 3, are on what became known on the plat maps as parcel 4. This parcel was granted to Margaret and Dean Dawson's daughter, Mary C. Jarboe. Parcel 4 does not appear to have been as extensively developed as parcel 3, but was likely used for agricultural purposes. A main dwelling may have been present on parcel 4, located south of site 18ST491 near the southern tip of Pearson Creek. Parcels 3 and 4 remained in the Dawson family until 1942, when both properties were sold to the U.S. Navy for the construction of what is now NAS Patuxent River.

NAS Patuxent River opened in 1943, but initial construction activities continued through 1945. During the initial construction, parcels 3 and 4 were developed as the base weapons storage area, and all of the previously existing buildings, including the vacation homes, dwellings, and ancillary buildings, were demolished. The 1944 base map shows by that time the weapons storage area was only developed up to the southern tip of Pearson Creek, near building 208. By 1953, a road was constructed along the west bank of Pearson Creek, and weapons storage structures, consisting of earth-covered concrete, had been constructed south and west of sites 18ST395, 18ST708, and 18ST491. Currently, the landscape of sites 18ST395 and 18ST491 consists of cleared land west of the creek bank, whereas land near the creek has intensive vegetation. Site 18ST708 consists of mostly heavy vegetation. No structures are currently located on any of the three sites.

Pogue (1983) initially recorded site 18ST491 as an Archaic period surface scatter located entirely on the west side of Davis Circle. Michaud (2001) surveyed the forested area east of the road and confirmed that a portion of the site extended east of Davis Circle. Pogue's survey identified only a single diagnostic artifact, which was a Late Archaic Vernon projectile point, on the site. However, he did record a scatter of bifaces, cores, and flakes and interpreted the site as an Archaic hunting camp. Diagnostic materials from Michaud's survey included one Early Woodland Accokeek pottery sherd and five Late Woodland Townsend Series sherds. Overall, Michaud noted an absence of oyster shell, but a dense concentration of lithic debitage and FCR suggested that the site was likely a continually reused short-term resource procurement camp.

In 2014, a Phase II survey was conducted. The archaeological investigations were initially informed by the previous surveys. However, given that primary activity areas were not inferred from the density of artifacts in those surveys, the test units were evenly spread to test all portions of the site. It was initially thought that the forested areas may have better preservation due to less intense deep plowing. Therefore, six units were placed in the forested areas and four units were placed in the agricultural field. An additional five units were placed based on the results of the current investigations in order to expand areas of interest.

With the exception of two test units (Test Units 4 and 10), the site was found to be contained within a very consistent soil profile. The majority of the artifacts were recovered in an 8–12-in-thick (20–30-cm) plowzone that was distinguished as a very dark grayish brown (10YR 3/2) loam. In most units, the transition to subsoil occurred in the third level, but there was generally not an observed E horizon. Instead, the profile was mottled with root traces of plowzone within a subsoil matrix of yellowish brown (10YR 5/6–8) heavy silt loam. Artifacts were identified in most units within this transitional zone, but only four units yielded artifacts (n=12) entirely within the Bt subsoil.

As a result of the 15 test units excavated on the site, a total of 849 artifacts and ecofacts were identified. Of this total, 40 fragments of fire-cracked rock (1,806 g) and six oyster shell fragments (23 g) were discarded in the field. This yielded a total collection of 803 artifacts (Table 20), excluding the counts of charred vegetal remains (n=1,191, 196.95 g) and burned earth (n=8, 3 g) recovered from flotation fill. Similar to Michaud's (2001) observations, the site was lacking in shellfish remains. However, subsistence processing was documented on the site through the 268 fragments of FCR that were recovered. Additionally, three features were identified on the site. These features document that primary activity areas do remain intact below the plowzone. In fact, based primarily on the results of two test units and the recovery of three features, potentially significant deposits are present at depth on the site.

The projectile point collection from site 18ST491 consists of eight artifacts. The collection is composed of quartz and quartzite raw materials that would have been available locally. Five projectile points were diagnostically identifiable. The temporally earliest diagnostic point is a small, quartz Kanawaha Stemmed point. Kanawaha Stemmed points are attributable to the Early Archaic period at approximately 6000 B.C. Early Archaic points are rare in the Pearson Creek area. Pogue (1983) identified an Early Archaic point on nearby site 18ST395, and this Kanawaha Stemmed point doubles the total of Early Archaic projectile points found in the area. Two crudely flaked Late Archaic Bare Island points were recovered from the site. Both artifacts are similar in length (67–69 mm), which is typical for the type. Two Early Woodland quartz projectile points were collected from site 18ST491. One is a teardrop-shaped Piscataway point with straight blade edges and a rounded base. The artifact is nearly complete with the exception of a very small portion of the tip that is missing from an impact fracture. The second Early Woodland point is a small Rossville point that has slightly convex blades and contracting stem with a small straight base. The shoulders on this point are obtuse to rounded. The untyped projectile points are represented by portions of two dart points and one small medial arrow point.

The chipped stone tool collection also contains five biface fragments and one unifacial scraper. In general, the bifaces are roughly flaked and are very thick for their width. A total of four cores was recovered from the site. The collection consists of three tested cobbles. Three ground stone artifacts were recovered from the site. One specimen is a rounded quartzite cobble that was smoothed and has several peck marks on the narrower end. The artifact measures 116-x-61.35-x-54.31 mm. The peck marks on the end suggest that the artifact was used as a hammerstone. A second ground stone artifact is a small portion of a concave quartz grinding slab. Both of these objects were recovered from Test Units 8 and 9 located in the central portion of the site within the currently forested area.

The third ground stone artifact is a large fragment of a steatite vessel. This artifact was recovered from the interface between the plowzone and subsoil within Test Unit 10. Unfortunately, it was recovered from general screened fill from the unit and was not noted whether or not it was directly associated with the pit feature (Feature 2) identified in the unit.

Feature 1 was initially identified in the southeast corner of Test Unit 6 as a small concentration of charcoal. This unit was then expanded to a 6-x-6-ft unit with the addition of Test Units 11, 12, and 15. Feature 1 was clearly identified as a roughly circular concentration of darkened soil and charcoal with burned clay concentrated around the margins. The feature was an irregularly shaped soil stain that was approximately 2 ft (60 cm) in diameter. An additional concentration of darkened soil was identified in the southwest quadrant of Test Unit 12. This feature was separated from the margin of Feature 1 by approximately 6 in (15 cm). This feature was designated Feature 2, and Test Unit 15 was established to further confirm that Feature 2 was separated from Feature 1. Although the Feature 2 area was darker than the surrounding matrix, only very fine charcoal flecking was observed in the field.

The working interpretation in the field was that the two features represented two hearths that were likely used semicontemporaneously. However, the radiocarbon results have shown this not to be the case. Radiocarbon samples were submitted from flotation fill collected from both Features 1 and 2. A



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fragment of carbonized coastal live oak wood from Feature 1 yielded a date of $1,690 \pm 30$ 14C yr B.P. (cal. A.D. 260–300, A.D. 320–420; Beta-345759 [18ST491-403]). Dating this wood fragment comes with the danger of dating an inner portion of the tree and producing an older date than the firing event. However, the date fits well with the later portion of the date range (500 B.C.–A.D. 300) suggested by the Rossville type point. The Feature 2 sample was a hickory nutshell that would not carry the same risks in producing an anomalously old date compared with the cultural firing event. The sample from Feature 2 yielded a date of $4,010 \pm 30$ 14C yr B.P. (cal. 3760–3740 B.C., 3710–3640 B.C.; Beta-345760 [18ST491-404]). Based on these results, it is evident that the site was occupied at least intermittently during both the Middle Archaic and Middle Woodland periods.

Feature 3 was identified in the northeast quadrant of Test Unit 10. Unfortunately, the feature was not identified in plan view. In profile, Feature 3 appeared as a deep pit approximately 2 ft in diameter at the base of the buried plowzone. The pit extended to approximately 3.5 ft below the ground surface. After the unit was completed and the boundary of the feature was clearly delineated, a flotation sample was collected from the unit wall. The artifacts recovered from the northeast quadrant from feature context include 7 FCR, 14 debitage, and 1 tested chert cobble. Additionally, a portion of a steatite vessel was recovered from the bottom of Level 5 immediately above the feature. The flotation sample recovered 17 additional debitage fragments and 2 g of charcoal. One fragment of carbonized hickory wood was submitted for a radiocarbon date. This sample yielded a date of $1,240 \pm 30$ 14C yr B.P. (cal. A.D. 680–880; Beta-345758 [18ST491-380]). This date is the latest recovered on the site and it further documents a Middle Woodland presence even though no diagnostic Middle Woodland artifacts were recovered directly from the feature.

The historic collection from site 18ST491 consists of only two artifacts, both of which are architectural items. This collection is composed of one small handmade brick fragment recovered from Test Unit 7 and one 1.8-mm fragment of window glass recovered from Test Unit 3. Both items were recovered from the plowzone. Unfortunately, the brick fragment does not contain any original surface, so little information can be obtained from its presence. No diagnostic artifacts predating the twentieth century were identified.

In summary, the 2014 survey tested with 15 excavation units spread across the site. The investigations recovered 803 artifacts and ecofacts. The majority of the artifacts were found to be within a well-defined plowzone, but the identification of three prehistoric features and one test unit with deeply occurring cultural materials has indicated that a considerable portion of the site has not been affected by agricultural or base construction activities. The time period of occupation on the site has been documented through both diagnostic artifacts and radiocarbon dates of feature fill. The diagnostic lithic artifacts recovered during the current testing season suggest that the site was occupied intermittently from at least the Early Archaic until the Early Woodland periods.

Previous survey has additionally recovered Late Woodland pottery in low quantities on the site (Michaud 2001). A significant find to the area is the recovery of an Early Archaic Kanawaha Stemmed projectile point from approximately 2 ft (60 cm) below the ground surface in Test Unit 4. This is only the second Early Archaic projectile point to be identified in the Pearson Creek area, and it is the first to be discovered in a stratified context below the plowzone. Lithic debitage and FCR were recovered from alluvial sediments to a depth of at least 4.9 ft (1.5 m) in this unit. However, it should be noted that the soil profile and cultural materials identified in this unit were anomalous to the results seen elsewhere on the site.

Three features were identified on the site and radiocarbon samples were submitted from each of these. The radiocarbon dates yielded almost as wide an occupational period as that indicated by the diagnostic artifacts. The oldest date on the site was obtained from one of two hearth features identified adjacent to each other in the center of the agricultural field in the excavation block of Test Units 6, 11, 12, and 15. The sample yielded a Middle Archaic date of $4,010 \pm 30$ 14C yr B.P. (cal. 3760–3740 B.C., 3710–3640 B.C.). However, the adjacent feature, which was associated with a Rossville projectile point, yielded a Middle Woodland date of $1,690 \pm 30$ 14C yr B.P. (cal. A.D. 260–300, A.D. 320–420). Finally, a third pit feature on the southern end of the site in Test Unit 10 yielded another Middle Woodland date of $1,240 \pm 30$ 14C yr B.P. (cal. A.D. 680–880). A portion of a steatite vessel was recovered in this unit in the level directly above the pit feature. Steatite vessels are typically associated with a Late to Terminal Archaic presence, so it doubtful that the date obtained from the feature is directly associated with the steatite artifact.

The additional artifact collection was found to contain 513 fragments of debitage and cores, as well as five bifacial tools and one scraper, and three ground stone objects. Both the debitage and biface collections suggest that raw materials were gathered offsite where they were initially reduced prior to transporting the blanks to the site. This pattern is common to the prehistoric sites in the Pearson and Harper's creeks area (Galke 2000). Subsistence processing was documented through the recovery of 268 fragments of FCR, which equates to approximately 17 FCR per unit. Therefore, because of the types of artifactual materials present and the wide date range, the site is interpreted as a processing area that was utilized intermittently.

Based on the findings from the eligibility testing at site 18ST491 it is recommended that the site is individually eligible for inclusion in the NRHP under Criterion D. Although the majority of the site is a palimpsest of multiple punctuated occupations, it is apparent that substantial datable features and stratified deposits exist within the site boundary. Additionally, a portion of a steatite vessel was identified. The presence of this artifact suggests that the site occupants were part of a larger trade network, but the timing and nature of this interaction is still in question. Both the current investigations and previous surveys have shown the site to be one of the densest sites in terms of recovered artifacts among the sites in the Pearson and Harper's creeks area. However, although a component of the site was dated to a Woodland occupation, a time when intensive shellfish exploitation is documented in other areas, there is a noted absence in shellfish remains on the site itself. When additional sites in the area are considered, it is interpreted that site 18ST491 served as a specialized lithic processing area and primary subsistence activities were occurring elsewhere in the vicinity.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95002436, 18ST491 SF