



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18ST659

Site Name: Harper Creek

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Early, Middle, & Late Archaic and Early, Middle & Late Woodland camps, Late 18th-19th century refuse disposal

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 9

SCS soil & sediment code MnA

Latitude 38.2916

Longitude -76.4012

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 5 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) Harper Creek

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 10 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Contact period site ca. 1820 - 1860 Y

ca. 1630 - 1675 ca. 1860 - 1900 Y

Archaic site

MD Adena

ca. 1675 - 1720 ca. 1900 - 1930

Early archaic

Early woodland

ca. 1720 - 1780 Post 1930

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

ca. 1780 - 1820

Late archaic

Late woodland

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
- 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? Rural

Domestic

- Homestead
- Farmstead
- Mansion
- Plantation
- Row/townhome
- Cellar
- Privy

Industrial

- Mining-related
- Quarry-related
- Mill
- Black/metalsmith
- Furnace/forge
- Other

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

refuse disposal

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples

Soil samples taken

Flotation samples taken

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	1	Calvert	4
Morrow Mntn	1	Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guilford	4	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	2

Prehistoric Sherd Types

Marcey Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Popes Creek	11	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	43	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	1		

Historic Sherd Types

Earthenware		Ironstone	4	Staffordshire	1	Stoneware	
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	9	Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	154	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain		Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	18		<input type="checkbox"/>	Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>
					<input type="checkbox"/>	Wt Salt-glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts			
Flaked stone	17686	Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	15	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	8524	Unmod faunal	747
Other lithics (all)	42	Oyster shell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	107	Floral material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	2	Uncommon Obj.	2
		Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Storage/trash pit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shell midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ossuary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input checked="" 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"/>	siltstone	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Several pit and hearth features assoc. w/ w/lithic tools and debitage, FCR, and paleobotanical remains

Historic Artifacts			
Pottery (all)	215	Tobacco related	4
Glass (all)	115	Activity item(s)	4
Architectural	447	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	1	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arms	3	Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal items	2	Misc.	104
		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: 4150 +/- 40 years BP	Reliability	Sample 2: 4140 +/- 40 years BP	Reliability	Sample 3: 200 +/- 40 years BP	Reliability
B-195679: Charcoal sample from TU6, Feat. 1 fill, Stratum III, Level 4; a large prehistoric pit feature assoc. w/ lithics, FCR, botanical remains	High	B-195680: Charcoal sample from TU6, Feat. 1 fill, Stratum III, Level 10; a large prehistoric pit feature assoc. w/ lithics, FCR, botanical remains	High	B-195681: Charcoal sample from TU 11, Feat. 2 fill, Stratum III, Level 3; hearth feature assoc. w/ceramics, FCR, lithic debitage and tools	40
Sample 4: 370 +/- 40 years BP	Reliability	Sample 5: 310 +/- 40 years BP	Reliability	Sample 6: 1080 +/- 60 years BP	Reliability
B-207328: Charcoal sample from Block 2, TU 14, Strat III, Level 4, outside Feat. 1 fill matrix; assoc. w/ceramics, FCR, lithic debitage and tools	Low	B-207329: Charcoal sample from Feat. 18 pit fill, Block 1, TU 25; assoc. w/lithic tools and debitage, FCR, and paleobotanical remains	High	B-207330: Charcoal sample from Feat. 19 pit fill, Block 1, TU 39; assoc. w/lithic tools and debitage, FCR, and paleobotanical remains	High
Sample 7: 2160 +/- 40 years BP	Reliability	Sample 8: 4120 +/- 40 years BP	Reliability	Sample 9: 450 +/- 40 years BP	Reliability
B-207331: Charcoal sample from	High	B-207333: Charcoal sample from	High	B-207332: Charcoal sample from	High



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Feat. 20 pit fill, Block 2, TU 22; assoc. w/lithic tools and debitage, FCR, and paleobotanical remains

Block 4, TU48, Stratum III, Level 4; assoc. w/high frequency of lithic tools and debitage, and few botanical remains

Block 1, TU29, Feat. 14 refuse pit; assoc. w/oyster shell concentration and lithic tools and debris

Additional radiocarbon results available



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External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC Lab/Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Harper Creek (18ST659) is a multicomponent site with Early, Middle and Late Archaic and Early, Middle and Late Woodland resource procurement camps, and a late 18th-19th century refuse disposal/artifact scatter. The site is situated west of Cedar Point in the north-central portion of the Naval Air Station Patuxent River (NASPAX) in St. Mary's County. It sits on a raised landform that borders a creek and extends to a large swale. Along the shoreline, the landform rises to a maximum height of approximately 4 m above the water's edge and the bank generally occurs as a steep cliff with some slumping bank portions along the northwest portion of the site area. A growth of shrubs, briars, and small trees separates the steep shoreline slope from fallow agricultural fields which supported tall grasses, weeds, and naturally occurring flowering plants. Soils in the site area were identified as Matapeake silt loams. The site area measures approximately 250 m x 65 m, as determined by the Phase III investigations.

In the Chesapeake Bay region, the first human exploitation and occupation (albeit on a limited scale) began some time before 10,000 BC. The preceding Archaic period has generally been characterized by a significant increase in population and in a diversification of settlement and subsistence strategies. By the Late Archaic period, settlement in southern Maryland was characterized by scattered campsites on major rivers and estuaries. Late Archaic populations relied on intensive foraging within relatively limited areas. Oyster shell middens first appeared along the Patuxent River during this period. The subsequent Woodland period is defined by the introduction of pottery and is characterized by the onset of cultivation practices and an increase in permanent and semi-permanent settlements, particularly in areas near the confluence of the Potomac and the Patuxent Rivers.

The first known European settlement in the Harper Creek area was the Jesuit mission of Mattapany, located at the mouth of the Patuxent River. It was established by 1637 on lands acquired from the local Patuxent Indians, and was in operation for less than 5 years. The mission extended across both shores of the river, and included most of the land that now makes up the NASPAX. The Harper Creek area was part of a property the Jesuits called 'Conception Manor'. By 1641, Lord Baltimore seized the property and this along with political upheaval, caused considerable depopulation along the Patuxent River during the 1640's. Resettlement of the area finally began late in the decade. In 1648, William Eltonhead patented a 2,000 acre tract at Cedar Point known as Little Eltonhead Manor (the main house was located east of Harper Creek). On the west side of Harper Creek, a 300 acre tract was patented to Joseph Edlow and a 250 acre tract was patented to John Halfehead, both ca. 1649. Christopher Rousby had purchased 200 acres of Edlow's property sometime before Rousby's death in 1684. Rousby had also purchased Halfehead's property and the 2 properties were combined as Susquehanna. Rousby died in 1685, leaving the property to his brother who died the following year. Eventually, the property was patented to Henry Sewall.

During the last 40 years of the 17th century, the Cedar Point area became an important seat of power and of critical political events. The Mattapany-Sewall Manor, the large plantation originally owned by Henry Sewall, became the home of Charles Calvert, the colonial governor and third Lord Proprietor (Baltimore), at Sewall's death. Calvert remarried Sewall's widow, Jane. In exchange for Mattapany-Sewall, Calvert gave Jane the nearby Eltonhead Manor. Due to political unrest, the importance of the Cedar Point area waned at the close of the 17th century. For the next 240 years, the area remained a relatively quiet agricultural community.

The Navy took possession of Cedar Point in 1942 and construction continued until 1945. Many of the agricultural and residential buildings were destroyed while others were converted for use as storehouses or shops. The Mattapany-Sewall Manor became the Station Commander's house and the 1916 St. Nicholas Church, which was built by a descendant of Henry Sewall, was converted for use as the station chapel.

The Harper Creek site was initially identified by a collector in 1994 (he claimed to have returned all his artifacts when he was informed it was illegal to collect off Federal property). The site was then visited by archeologists from the Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum and from the NASPAX, who in a cursory examination discovered large numbers of points, tools, debitage, and shell. No artifacts were collected. Diagnostic artifacts observed included 1 quartz bifurcate base Early Archaic point, several Late Archaic stemmed point types, and 1 Late Woodland triangular point.

Phase I fieldwork was undertaken at the site from June to December 1997 as part of the Navy's compliance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. The project was designed to expand the survey of the facility conducted previously and to identify all cultural resources that might be impacted by future activity within the area by NASPAX. The Phase I survey area encompassed approximately 460 acres and was located between the Patuxent River and Runways 14 and 24. A north-south baseline was established for the project and 2 iron reinforcement bars were given arbitrary grid coordinates of N5000/E5000 and N4900/E5000. The project area was divided into 18 arbitrary geographic sections designated A-R. Each section was then divided into east-west transects and shovel test pits (STPs) were placed at 25 m intervals along those transects. All excavated soils were screened through ¼" mesh hardware cloth and all artifacts were retained. In all, 23 archeological sites were surveyed, including 14 previously unidentified sites.

The Harper Creek site was located in Section J in the southwestern portion of the survey area, in close proximity (ca. 250 m across a swale) to site 18ST754, a newly identified site also in Section J. Both sites have been plowed over time. As 95% of the assemblage of both sites was recovered from the plowzone, it was suggested that neither site contained a structure nor refuse pit and that material was transposed across the site from nearby documented structures. An anonymous 1861 map clearly shows several structures, all within several hundred meters east and south of the sites. Historically, there was a farm site located in the general area of 18ST659.

Phase I shovel testing yielded 132 positive STPs in the area of 18ST659. The prehistoric diagnostic material suggested dates for occupation at the site from the Middle Archaic period through the Early Woodland period. A total of 593 prehistoric artifacts were retrieved including 408 pieces of debitage (156 quartz, 214 quartzite, 36 chert, 2 siltstone) and 7 cores. There were 11 biface tools, 2 retouched flake tools, 12 utilized flakes and shatter, and 10 projectile points included 1 rhyolite Morrow Mountain, 1 Savannah River-like, 1 Bare Island, 1 Clagett, 3 Calvert, and 3 nondiagnostic broken fragments. The only other lithic item was 1 possible spokeshave (also listed under uncommon objects in the table above). There were 63 fire-cracked rocks (FCR). The presence of a high number of fire-cracked rocks indicated that a number of hearths may be preserved. The density of debitage, tools, and points suggested that the site may have served as a resource procurement/hunting base camp; therefore, the 1 animal bone fragment and the 86 oyster shells and shell fragments that were recovered are included as prehistoric materials in the table above.

The disturbed nature of the soils in the immediate area of the historic cluster, which was identified in the eastern portion of the site, made interpretation difficult. The historic component may represent a small quarter or outbuilding, or perhaps a refuse disposal episode. Historic artifacts included 96 architectural items (36 brick fragments, 49 pieces of daub, 1 cut nail, 1 wrought nail, 3 unidentified nail, 5 flat/ window glass fragments, and 1 siltstone building slab), 22



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kitchen-related items (10 bottle glass fragments, 1 tableware glass fragment, 4 pearlware, 3 whiteware, 1 Staffordshire slipware, 2 brown stoneware, and 1 ironstone), 27 miscellaneous items (19 pieces of coal, 1 concrete piece, and 7 unidentified metal objects), and 2 arms-related items (1 shotgun cartridge and 1 gunflint fragment).

Following the Phase I study, it was recommended that if any further earth moving activities were unavoidable at the site, Phase II testing should be undertaken to determine the National Register eligibility of the site. Between August and September 2004, Phase II testing of the site was done ahead of the development of a proposed new VXX Presidential Helicopter Program Support Facility. Site 18ST659 was located in the eastern portion of the area of potential effect (APE). The Phase II study consisted of the excavation of thirteen 1 m² test units (TUs) and 43 STPs dug at 20 m intervals across the site. During the Phase II testing the site was grouped into the three discrete areas (Northern, Central, and Southern) corresponding to clusters of test units. TUs 1, 2, 5, 6, and 9 were excavated in the Southern Area; TUs 3, 4, 7, and 8 were excavated in the Central Area; TUs 10-13 were excavated in the Northern wooded area of the site. Units were excavated in 10 cm arbitrary levels within natural strata until subsoil was reached. Each test unit was labeled by both its unit number and the coordinates of its southwest corner. All soils were screened through ¼" mesh hardware cloth and all artifacts were retained for analysis. A series of 2-liter soil samples were recovered from selected features and deposits for fine-screening and flotation. Three soil samples were also collected and submitted for radiometric analysis. The banks of Harper Creek within the APE were also examined for archeological deposits and/or features visible in the bank profile.

Phase II investigations at 18ST659 resulted in the identification of in situ prehistoric features. Feature 1 (F1) was a large, deep pit identified in TU 6. The feature fill contained lithic tools, debitage, fire-cracked rock, charcoal, and paleobotanical remains. The pit extended to approximately 135 cm below the ground surface. It was interpreted to be a possible roasting pit that was later used as a refuse pit. Charcoal samples were collected from Feature 1, Level 4 and Level 10. Both samples yielded a calibrated (2 Sigma) date range between 2,879 BC and 2,620 BC, corresponding to the middle of the Late Archaic period. Additional radiocarbon and botanical samples were obtained from F1 during the Phase III investigations (below).

Feature 2, encountered in TU 11, was defined as a fire-cracked-rock-and-charcoal concentration thought to represent the remains of a hearth. It was a linear feature running northwest-southeast across the unit and was approximately 42-80 cm wide. The northern and southern boundaries of the feature extended beyond the unit and were not delineated. Artifacts diagnostic of the Late Archaic and Early Woodland periods were recovered from the feature fill. Feature 2 was interpreted as the remains of a hearth used either for cooking, heating, or resource processing. The flotation sample collected from the fill yielded seeds and nut hull fragments. Other artifacts from the fill included prehistoric ceramic sherds, lithic debitage and tools, and FCR. A charcoal sample was recovered from the Feature 2 fill matrix. However, it yielded a calibrated date in the historic period (with intercepts in the 15th century and the 17th-19th centuries). Feature 3, also identified in TU 11, was located below Feature 2 in Stratum III. It was recorded as a postmold of undetermined origin. No artifacts were recovered from the feature fill or the surrounding soil matrix and the square shape of the mold suggested that it was likely to be historic in origin.

The northern area produced the least number of historic items (n=3), but intensive prehistoric occupation was revealed in that portion of the site. In addition to the 3 features identified, there were 2 other areas that were interpreted as possible locations of prehistoric hearths. Based on the recovered artifacts, activities likely included seasonal habitation where hearths were constructed as well as the manufacturing and maintenance of lithic tools. The central area contained a slightly higher number of historic artifacts (n=33), all of which except 2 (one brick fragment and one nail) came from plowzone contexts. Although no features were located, the large number of recovered prehistoric objects and their occurrence in the lower plowzone and subplowzone suggested that the central area was also an intensively utilized portion of the landform. The vast majority of the historic artifacts (n=154) came from the southernmost portion of the landform, the portion closest to site 18ST754, an 18th-19th century possible house site or refuse dump. The highest frequency of historic artifact type was coal, while the most common diagnostic artifact type was plain whiteware. The high frequency of prehistoric artifacts in the southern portion indicated that this area of the site had a high potential for locating prehistoric features or activity areas. A high density of FCR in TU 1 suggested this may have been a cooking or heating locus.

A total of 2,313 prehistoric artifacts were recovered during the Phase II study. There were 1,441 pieces of lithic debitage (1 chalcedony, 114 chert, 24 jasper, 1 metavolcanic, 1 rhyolite, 627 quartz, 585 quartzite, 105 sandstone, 10 siltstone) and 9 cores (3 quartz, 5 quartzite, 1 sandstone). There were 32 tools including 3 quartzite Bare Island points, 1 quartzite Savannah River point, 1 quartz Calvert point, 10 point fragments (6 quartz, 4 quartzite), 6 early stage bifaces (1 quartz, 5 quartzite), 2 quartzite mid-stage bifaces, 2 quartzite late-stage bifaces, 1 quartz scraper, and 6 utilized flakes (1 quartz, 3 quartzite, 2 chert). Other lithic items included 1 sandstone grinding stone and 2 sandstone hammerstones. There were 549 FCR. There were 37 ceramic sherds, of which 23 were quartz/sand-tempered (3 tentatively identified as Pope's Creek ware), 11 were sand-tempered, 3 with unidentifiable temper. A total of 38 oyster shell fragments and 4 animal bone fragments and 200 seed and nut fragments were also attributed to the prehistoric component. Although not all directly related to prehistoric contexts, the faunal remains were suspected to be dietary refuse dragged out of nearby prehistoric features.

In total, 190 historic artifacts were recovered. There was 1 activity item, a possible plow fragment. There were 61 architectural items including 34 brick fragments, 5 window glass shards, 1 piece of flat glass, 14 square/cut nails, 1 wire nail, 5 unidentified nails, and 1 tack. There were 60 kitchen-related items including 19 bottle glass fragments and 41 ceramic sherds (1 Jackfield, 1 Albany slipped, 29 whiteware, 3 pearlware, 2 unidentified earthenware, 3 salt-glazed stoneware, and 2 redware). The only personal item recovered was a flattened thimble. Finally, there were 67 miscellaneous items including 54 pieces of coal and 13 unidentified metal objects.

The Phase II site investigations produced a substantial number of artifacts representative predominantly of the Late Archaic period. A smaller Early Woodland component was also indicated based on the recovery of ceramic sherds. As a result of the Phase II findings, the prehistoric component of the site was determined eligible for listing on the National Register and was recommended for Phase III data recovery prior to construction of the new helicopter facility. Phase III fieldwork was conducted between April and May 2005. As planned, the new construction of the VXX Presidential Helicopter Facility would result in the removal of approximately 80% of the site area; the northern, wooded portion of the site would be protected from future development.

Phase III data recovery excavations consisted of manual excavation of a total area of 144 m² in four block excavations. Based on the results of the Phase II testing, 4 areas of the site were identified for block excavation. Blocks 1 and 2 were placed in the southern area near Phase II TU 6 and the central area between TUs 4 and 8 respectively. Blocks 3 and 4 were placed in the northern area near Phase II TUs 11 and 12. The 4 m² blocks were excavated in 1 m² quadrants which were assigned test unit numbers. Only a 12.5% sample of debitage from the total plowzone volume was subjected to full analysis. Units overlying features were targeted for full analysis to compare plowzone and feature deposits. All formal tools, ceramics and faunal remains recovered from all deposits were also analyzed. All excavated deposits beneath the plowzone were 100% screened with 100% artifact recovery. A series of 2-liter soil samples were recovered from selected features and deposits for flotation. Block excavation was followed by machine stripping of three 10 x 20 m areas and one 10 x 10 m area of the site in order to expose features, analyze site deposits, and recover artifactual data. All recognized features (n=51) were documented



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(mapped, drawn, and photographed) but only a representative number of features were then selected for hand-excavation. Forty (or 78%) of the features were bisected and recorded in profile. In general, half of each feature was screened on site and half was recovered as a flotation sample. No detailed analysis was conducted on the organic material collected from historic feature contexts.

In addition to several plow scars, 4 cultural features (Features 4, 14, 18, and 19) were encountered in Block 1, which was comprised of 14 contiguous excavation units in the westcentral portion of the site. Feature 4 (F4) was located in TU 15. The feature was identified as a shallow concentration of charcoal located in the plowzone just under the humic layer. It was excavated as one deposit and a single piece of FCR was recovered. F4 was interpreted to be a recent anomaly, postdating the historic plowing of the area, possibly a campfire. Feature 18 (F18) was located in TU 25, Stratum III, Level 4. It was a roughly bowl shaped pit that extended from 19 to 46 cmbs. F18 was interpreted to be a refuse or storage pit feature. A charcoal sample was collected for radiometric dating from the eastern half of the feature. The sample returned a calibrated (2 Sigma) date of AD 1472-1653, placing it in the Late Woodland/Contact period. Feature 14 (F14) was identified in TU 29. The eastern edge of TU 29 was extended to fully expose the feature. F14 consisted of a prehistoric refuse pit first identified as a shell concentration on the surface of Stratum III, Level 3. Two charcoal samples were collected from the feature fill (Stratum III, Level 4) for C14 dating. The samples returned calibrated dates of 2781-2577 BC and 3348-3082 BC respectively, dating the feature to the late Middle Archaic/early Late Archaic period. Feature 19 (F19) was located in TU 39 as a roughly oval, 55 cm wide, prehistoric pit feature. Its depth extended from 20 cmbs to 80 cmbs. A plow scar was original defined and excavated as part of the feature. Additional plow scars were visible on the surface of the subsoil in the northwestern quadrant of the unit. The fill of F19 contained FCR and debitage and charcoal flecking, some of which was retrieved for radiocarbon assaying. The sample returned a calibrated date (2 Sigma) of AD 778-1042 placing it in the late Middle Woodland/ early Late Woodland period. Much of the assemblage recovered from Block 1 was located in the northcentral portion of the block, specifically TUs 19, 25, 27, and 33. Conversely, the southeastern portion of the block had evidence of lesser activity.

Block 2 consisted of a series of 16 contiguous 2 m² units located in the southwestern portion of the site. Three prehistoric features (Features 1, 16, and 20) and several historic features (12A-I, 12J, 17, 21, and 22) were encountered during the block excavation. Based on the excavation of TUs within Block 2, it was determined that the western portion of the block was an important activity locus of the site. Feature 1 (F1) was a prehistoric pit first identified in Phase II, TU 6. F1 was further delineated in TU 14 during Phase III. The feature was fully excavated in ten 10 cm levels and artifacts were recovered from as deep as Stratum IV, Level 13, 128 cmbs. The presence of several formal tools in the feature fill, including a large mortar and pestle, suggested former use of the pit as a cache. A carbon sample from just outside the feature matrix at Level 4 was submitted for radiometric dating. The sample returned a calibrated date (2-sigma) of AD 1446-1530 which corresponded to the Late Woodland period. This date was inconsistent with the dates derived from samples taken from Levels 4 and 10 during the Phase II study. This may have been the result of the sample recovery outside the feature matrix or from contamination from backfilling and re-excavation activity around the original Phase II test unit where F1 was first identified. Feature 20 (F20) was identified in Block 2, TU 22 as part of F12A, and defined as a prehistoric pit. F20 was roughly oval in shape and measured 80 cm north-south by 49 cm east-west, extending from 29 cmbs to 69 cmbs. A sample of charcoal was recovered from feature fill, Stratum III, Level 4. The sample returned a calibrated date of 362-92 BC, corresponding to the late Early Woodland period. Feature 16 (F16) was also identified as a possible prehistoric pit located in the northern half of TU 32. The feature originated at 27 cmbs within Stratum III, Level 3. It was roughly circular with a 45-55 cm diameter and bowl-shaped in profile.

Features 12A to 12I were identified across Block 2 and were determined to be a series of historic plowing disturbances. These included plow scars and associated soil stains. Features 12A through 12I originated between 23 and 31 cmbs and terminated between 28 and 35 cmbs. Each feature was removed as one layer to subsoil. F12J was defined as a historic intrusion, possibly a postmold from a fence. Feature 17, which was identified in TU 42, was a shallow depression interpreted as a plow disturbance similar to those identified in the F12 complex. Feature 21 (F21) was interpreted as a possible postmold cut into the historic plow disturbance in TU 28. The feature was approximately 19 cm in diameter and sharply sloped in profile. Feature 22 (F22) was also interpreted as a post mold. It was identified at the center of the eastern wall of TU 38. The feature was subcircular with an average diameter of 16.5 cm and in profile had straight sides. It was located at 22 cmbs in Stratum III, Level 3 and extended 16 cm into the subsoil.

Block 3 consisted of four 2 m² test units that were placed around Phase II TU 11 in order to explore further for features. No cultural features were identified in this block. Compared to artifact counts from the other excavation blocks, Block 3 yielded a relatively small number of artifacts. Results of the botanical analysis indicated that food processing and consumption may have occurred in this area.

Block 4 was located in the northernmost, forested portion of the site. It consisted of a series of 3 contiguous 2 m² TUs. Although high frequencies of prehistoric artifacts were recovered from the block, no cultural features were identified. Unlike the southern portion of the site, very few historic artifacts or organic materials were recovered from this block. A radiocarbon sample was recovered from TU 48, Stratum III, Level 4, within Block 4 for dating. It returned a calibrated date of AD 1470-1513, corresponding to the end of the Late Woodland period. This is inconsistent with the Middle-Late Archaic Bare Island point that was recovered from the upper level, but it may attest to later period groups utilizing the area.

Machine Area 1 (MA1) was a 10x20 m area located just east of Block 1. Seven possible cultural features (Features 38-44) were identified on the machined soil surface. Feature 38, a circular soil stain measuring 30-40 cm in diameter, was determined to be either the remains of a Phase I shovel test or a prehistoric pit of undetermined function. Only a few pieces of FCR and debitage were collected from the feature flotation sample. Features 39, 40 and 41 were identified as shallow depressions that were thought to represent one large refuse pit. Numerous oyster shells were recovered from the features suggesting that they may represent the remains of a prehistoric refuse pit that was dispersed by historic period plowing. Feature 42 was also thought to be associated with the same dispersed refuse pit. Features 43 and 44 were natural soil disturbances and were not excavated.

Machine Area 2 (MA2) comprised a 10x20 m area located between MA1 and Block 2 in the central portion of the site. Several possible cultural features (Features 33, 35-37) were located in MA2. Feature 33 was a 35 cm circular stain that extended 14 cm below the surface of Stratum III. It was interpreted to be the possible remains of a prehistoric pit. Feature 35 was identified as a distinct cluster of cobbles located on the surface of Stratum III. Five unmodified cobbles associated with the feature were interpreted as cached lithic source material. The cache of cobbles extended to approximately 35 cmbs. Feature 36 was a roughly circular soil stain 38 cm in diameter and was located within 10 cm of Feature 35. The feature extended from 30 cmbs to 71 cmbs into Stratum III. It was interpreted to be a prehistoric pit possibly associated with the cobble cache. Feature 37 was possibly the remains of a truncated prehistoric pit. It measured 88x35 cm and extended 25 cm into Stratum III.

Machine Area 3 consisted of a 10x20 m area located to the southeast of Block 2. Of the 8 soil anomalies identified, only 1 was characterized as a prehistoric cultural feature. Feature 28 was a roughly square-shaped deposit 92 cm wide and 11 cm deep. It was interpreted as the possible remains of prehistoric pit.

Machine Area 4 was composed of a 10x10 m area located in the northeastern part of the site, near the bank of Harper Creek. It was placed 9 m south of



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18ST659

Site Name: Harper Creek

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief

Description:

Early, Middle, & Late Archaic and Early, Middle & Late Woodland camps, Late 18th-19th century refuse disposal

Unknown

Block 3. A single feature (Feature 45) was identified in the area. It was interpreted to be the possible remains of a Phase I shovel test.

The collection of 24,598 prehistoric artifacts included 15,384 pieces of debitage and 33 cores and tested cobbles (14 quartz, 11 quartzite, 1 chert, 4 jasper, 3 unidentified materials). There were 337 tools including 169 points (10 Bare Island, 4 Teardrop/Guilford, 1 LeCroy, 1 rhyolite Broadspear, 1 Kamak Stemmed, 2 Levanna (1 quartz, 1 chert), 1 Savannah River, 1 Fishtail, and 148 unidentified points and point fragments (54 quartz, 79 quartzite, 6 jasper, 5 chert, 4 siltstone)), 21 preforms (9 quartz, 9 quartzite, 1 siltstone, 1 chert, 1 unidentified material), 107 bifaces (49 quartz, 52 quartzite, 2 jasper, 2 chert, 2 unidentified material), 15 scrapers (8 quartz, 7 quartzite), 1 quartz knife, 9 modified flakes/uniface tools (5 quartz, 3 quartzite, 1 siltstone), 14 utilized flakes (9 quartz, 3 quartzite, 2 chert), and 1 quartz drill tool. Other lithic artifacts (n=38) included 8 hammerstones (6 quartzite, 1 sandstone, 1 unidentified material), 1 quartzite "hafted hammerstone" (this very closely resembles a ¾ grooved ax fragment in the photo), 8 choppers (4 quartzite, 4 quartz), 2 quartzite cobbles, 2 sandstone fragment with fossil crinoid, known to have been used as ornaments by Native Americans, and 17 cobble manuports. Groundstone objects (n=15) included 1 quartzite atlatl weight with notching/ grooving and a hole drilled in one end (also listed as an 'uncommon object' in the table above), 2 possible quartz spokeshaves, 7 mano/pestle/abradar (6 quartzite, 1 sandstone) and 2 metate/mortar (1 quartzite, 1 sandstone), 2 netsinkers, and 1 combination quartzite mortar/metate. There were 7,912 FCR. A total of 70 ceramic sherds, including 2 rim sherds (43 quartz/sand-tempered, possibly Accokeek ware, 8 sand/quartz tempered Pope's Creek ware, 2 shell-tempered, 1 z-twist cord-marked and grit-tempered possible Potomac Creek ware, and 16 unidentified sherds) were found. A total of 618 faunal remains (571 oyster shell fragments, 1 unidentified shell, 8 animal bones, 38 turtle shell fragments, and 1 fish bone fragment) were attributed to the prehistoric period. A total of 191 botanical remains were recovered from flotation samples (141 carbonized hickory nutshell fragments, 1 walnut shell, 3 oak shells, 5 pieces of nutmeat or maize kernel fragments, 8 maize fragments, 17 seeds, 15 of which were charred, and 16 miscellaneous plant remains). The remainder of the floral material recovered from flotation samples were determined to be modern intrusions.

During Phase III investigations of 18ST659, 543 historic artifacts were recovered. The artifacts were recovered mostly from plowzone deposits. There were 3 activities group items, 1 modern plastic toy, 1 shard of light bulb glass, and a rubber insect/toy. Architectural group artifacts (n=290) comprise the largest group of the total assemblage, including 210 brick and concrete fragments, 14 window glass shards, 64 nails (48 square, 3 round, and 13 unidentified types), 1 metal bracket, and 1 threaded metal screw. There was 1 furniture item (1 upholstery tack). The second largest group was kitchen related objects (n=234), consisting of 60 vessel glass fragments and 174 ceramic sherds (122 whiteware, 3 ironstone, 11 pearlware, 6 stoneware, 2 American Blue & Gray, 4 porcelain, 14 redware, 8 Jackfield, 2 Albany slip, and 2 unidentified ceramic sherds). There were 10 miscellaneous items including 1 fabric fragment, 1 piece of red rubber, 5 unidentified metal objects, 1 metal clip, 1 metal tack head, and 1 metal plate fragment. The only personal item was a 1930 buffalo nickel. There were 4 white clay tobacco pipe fragments (3 stem pieces and 1 bowl fragment with a wheat design). The only arms-related item was 1 piece of gunflint. Phase III historic artifacts and their distribution support the theory that the items represent scattered refuse deposits.

Based on the archeological investigations, prehistoric occupation of the Harper Creek site (18ST659) was found to have spanned several thousand years. Artifacts dating from the Early Archaic period through the Late Woodland period have been recovered from the site. However, the primary focus of the settlement appears to have been during the late Middle Archaic to early Late Archaic period. The primary lithic activity represented at the site is staged biface reduction and tool manufacture. Evidence of other activities such as fishing and nut mast processing are also represented. The excavation of site 18ST659, and the recovery and subsequent curation of a large sample of the site's material remains, will provide an important contribution to the future study of prehistoric lifeways in the Chesapeake Bay and greater mid-Atlantic region. Although the majority of the site was removed during construction of the new helicopter facility, the northern wooded area, representing about 20% of the overall site area, was not to be impacted by construction. If the northern area cannot be avoided during any future earth moving activities, it has been recommended that further data recovery be conducted in that area. The preferred course of action would be to permanently protect the area.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

97000633, 97002712