



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18ST708

Site Name: Michaud

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief Description:

Late Archaic and Early & Late Woodland base camp, 17th century possible structure

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 9

SCS soil & sediment code EwE2,MnA

Latitude 38.3017

Longitude -76.3958

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m Site slope 0-45%

Ethnobotany profile available Maritime site

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Pearson Creek

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 2 m

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Site setting

-Site Setting restricted

-Lat/Long accurate to within 1 sq. mile, user may need to make slight adjustments in mapping to account for sites near state/county lines or streams

Topography

Floodplain High terrace

Hilltop/bluff Rockshelter/cave

Interior flat Hillslope

Upland flat Unknown

Ridgetop Other

Terrace Low terrace

Ownership

Private

Federal

State of MD

Regional/county/city

Unknown

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Contact period site ca. 1820 - 1860

ca. 1630 - 1675 Y ca. 1860 - 1900

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

Misc. ceremonial

Village

Rock art

Hamlet

Shell midden

Base camp

STU/lithic scatter

Rockshelter/cave

Quarry/extraction

Earthen mound

Fish weir

Cairn

Production area

Burial area

Unknown

Other context

Historic

Urban/Rural? Rural

Domestic

Homestead

Farmstead

Mansion

Plantation

Row/townhome

Cellar

Privy

Industrial

Mining-related

Quarry-related

Mill

Black/metalsmith

Furnace/forge

Other

Transportation

Canal-related

Road/railroad

Wharf/landing

Maritime-related

Bridge

Ford

Educational

Commercial

Trading post

Store

Tavern/inn

Military

Battlefield

Fortification

Encampment

Townsite

Religious

Church/mtg house

Ch support bldg

Burial area

Cemetery

Sepulchre

Isolated burial

Bldg or foundation

Possible Structure

Post-in-ground

Frame-built

Masonry

Other structure

Slave related

Non-domestic agri

Recreational

Midden/dump

Artifact scatter

Spring or well

Unknown

Other context

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples

Soil samples taken N

Flotation samples taken N

Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken N

Flotation samples taken N

Other samples taken



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Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types		
Clovis	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Le Croy	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Morrow Mntn	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Guilford	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Brewerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Otter Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Koens-Crispin	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jacks Rf (pent)	<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	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stoneware	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	<input type="checkbox"/>			Wt Salt-glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		
Flaked stone	876	
Ground stone	2	
Stone bowls		
Fire-cracked rock	484	
Other lithics (all)		
Ceramics (all)	3	
Rimsherds		
Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Modified faunal	10	
Unmod faunal	754	
Oyster shell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Uncommon Obj.		
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"/>	schist,siltstone	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Feature 1 and 4 (radiocarbon dates below)

Historic Artifacts		
Pottery (all)		
Glass (all)		
Architectural	5	
Furniture		
Arms		
Clothing		
Personal items		
Tobacco related	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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: 4240 +/- 30 years BP	Reliability	Sample 2: 4090 +/- 30 years BP	Reliability	Sample 3: +/- years BP	Reliability
cal. 2900-2870 B.C., 2800-2780 B.C.; Beta-345762 (nutshell)		cal. 2860-2810 B.C., 2750-2720 B.C., 2700-2570 B.C., 2510-2500 B.C.; Beta-345762 (nutshell)			
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 18ST708, also known as the Michaud site, is a multicomponent site that includes a Late Archaic and Early & Late Woodland base camp, 17th century possible structure. This site, located near the southern end of Pearson Creek, south of a ravine, measures 200 feet east-west by 300 feet north-south. Antekill's Neck (18ST707) is 200 feet west and may be associated with this site. The vegetation in this area is fairly open, with the dense undergrowth that characterized most of the project area confined only to the northern section, on the banks of the ravine, and near the road. Soils on site are mapped as belonging to the Evesboro-Westphalia complex, 20 to 45 percent slopes, moderately eroded.

Site 18ST708 (along with 18ST395 and 18ST491) 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.

Site 18ST708 (the Michaud site) was identified during Michaud's (2001) survey of the Pearson Creek area. This survey focused on the forested areas that were not surveyed during Pogue's (1983) previous investigations of the area. Michaud noted that much of the western shoreline area of Pearson Creek contains prehistoric cultural materials that are likely related; but these have been separated into individual sites for management purposes. Site 18ST708 is located between Davis Circle and the bank of Pearson Creek and encompasses an area approximately 200 ft east-west by 300 ft north-south. Much of the vegetation in the area is secondary growth trees, but a mid twentieth-century aerial photograph does show the area as a cleared agricultural field.

Eight shovel test transects were placed across the site in 25-ft (7.6-m) intervals. The transect near the road contained mixed construction fill with natural sediments to a depth of approximately 1.5 ft (46 cm). In the central portion of the site was a yellowish brown to brown (10YR 5/3-4) silt loam plowzone that extended to a depth of 7 in (18 cm). Below this was an intermediate zone of yellowish brown (10YR 6/4), yellow (10YR 7/6), or very pale brown (10YR 7/4) silt loam that overlaid a subsoil of yellowish brown (10YR 5/6-8) and brownish yellow (10YR 6/8) clayey silt loam. At the east end of the site, near the creek bank, the plowzone was absent and a dark brown (10YR 3/3) topsoil represented the epipedon. Most shovel tests were excavated to subsoil at a depth of 14 in (37 cm) below the ground surface.

Michaud (2001) notes that site 18ST708 contained the highest densities of lithic materials recovered during the Pearson Creek survey. Diagnostic artifacts included one probable Savannah River (Late Archaic) and one possible Calvert (Early Woodland) points and two Townsend Series (Late Woodland) pottery sherds. Two additional nondiagnostic projectile points, 27 lithic tools, two nondiagnostic pottery sherds, FCR, and debitage were also identified on the site. Based on the abundance of lithics recovered, Michaud interpreted the site as a base camp that was occupied during at least the Late Archaic, as well as Early and Late Woodland periods.

Michaud (2001) additionally identified a limited historic component on the site. Colonial period artifacts were three square nails, two fragments of olive green bottle glass, and one handmade brick fragment. These artifacts suggested a middle-late seventeenth-century time period for the site. Given the proximity of the Anketill's Neck colonial site (18ST707) situated to the immediate northwest, this site was interpreted as a possible outbuilding related to the main dwelling suspected to be located at 18ST707. The Anketill family leased 120 acres from the Eltonheads during the 1650s and, based on the artifacts present, were likely wealthy tenant farmers in the area. Additionally, twentieth-century materials (such as coal, slag, and brick) were identified on the site. It was recommended that both the prehistoric and colonial historic components at the site contribute to the site's research potential; however, the twentieth-century component adds little to the research value of the site.

In 2014, a Phase II survey was conducted. A typical profile elsewhere on the site contained a 10-12-in-thick plowzone of dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) to dark grayish brown (10YR 4/2) loam. The presence of this horizon in this area that is currently densely forested is not surprising because a 1943 aerial photograph shows that nearly the entire area between Pearson and Harper's creeks was once cleared agricultural land. Below the plowzone was typically a thin, 4-in-thick E horizon that was distinguished as yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) loam. However, occasionally, the E horizon was not present, and the plowzone was resting on top of the yellowish brown (10YR 5/8) to strong brown (7.5YR 5/8) sandy clay loam Bt horizon. Bioturbation was observed typically in the plowzone and near the interface with the E horizon. Overall the site appears to be relatively unaffected by significant root and rodent activity.

The total of 15 test units excavated on the site resulted in the identification of 3,096 artifacts and ecofacts. Of this total, 955 oyster shell fragments (1,171 g) and 10 FCR (168 g) were discarded in the field. The remaining materials yielded a total collection of 2,131 artifacts, excluding the counts of charred vegetal remains (n=103 samples, 2.09 g) recovered from the flotation fill. Generally, the test units with the densest artifacts were those placed within 82 ft (25 m) of the creek bank. This largely confirmed Michaud's (2001) shovel test results. Oyster remains were found to be highly localized on the site, since 99 percent of the shellfish remains were identified within three contiguous units (Test Units 4, 11, and 15). These units were placed within the area noted by Michaud (2001) as containing concentrations of lithic debris, but the shovel tests containing significant oyster deposits were adjacent to Test Units 6 and 14.

However, in Test Units 6 and 14, only 5 fragmentary oyster shells were identified. Similar to that observed at nearby site 18ST395, it is likely that additional oyster middens exist on the site, but these are expected to be small localized features. Disturbance was noted in the four excavation units (Test Units 1, 2, 10, and 12) along the western and southern margins of the site. The majority of the disturbances were located within approximately 40 ft (12 m) of the road.

The prehistoric ceramic collection from site 18ST708 consists of three sherds collected from Test Unit 4. Very little of the exterior and interior surfaces remain on any of the sherds. The sherds have been tentatively identified as Townsend Series ceramics based on the presence of shell inclusions in the temper. The projectile point collection from site 18ST708 consists of 11 artifacts. Five of the points recovered were diagnostically identifiable. Similar to the results at the other sites in the area, three of the diagnostic points were identified as Bare Island points. Another was identified as a Early Woodland Rossville point by the short, thick contracting stem. The final diagnostic projectile point is a small lanceolate Selby Bay point that is very thick for its size. The untyped projectile points are composed of fragmentary artifacts such as point tips or portions of the stem or shoulder elements. Additionally, three late-stage bifacial preforms were included in the projectile point category. Three bifacial tool fragments were recovered from the site. The debitage collection from site 18ST708 consists of 855 artifacts.

Two ground stone artifacts were recovered from the site. One very small fragment of a steatite vessel was identified in Test Unit 14. The second ground stone



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artifact is a limestone adze recovered from the base of the plowzone in Test Unit 8.

The faunal collection from site 18ST708 consists of nine animal bone fragments and 755 oyster shell fragments. Nearly all of the animal bone was recovered from Features 1 and 4, but one small fragment of unidentified mammal was recovered from Test Unit 4 in screened fill above Feature 1. Although a total of 755 oyster shell fragments was recovered from the site, only 63 valves are complete enough to obtain detailed measurements. Although all specimens are identified as common Atlantic oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*), the HLR suggests two different oyster habitats. Approximately 55 percent of the measurable collection (n=35) were bed oysters. The remaining 28 valves were shallow-water sand oysters. Unfortunately, only 21 shells recovered from Features 1 and 4 were complete enough to obtain salinity measurements. These features were directly dated to the Middle Archaic period, at a time when sea level would have been at least 20 ft lower than present.

The historic collection from site 18ST708 consists of a total of five artifacts, all of which are architectural items. Three small fragments of tar paper are from Test Unit 1. One wire nail was recovered from Test Unit 7, and the final object consists of one 3.0-mm-thick fragment of window glass collected from Test Unit 15. No diagnostic artifacts predating the twentieth century were identified.

Two features were identified in three adjacent units near the bank of Pearson Creek. Test Unit 4 was initially placed in an area that had displayed a high artifact concentration during Michaud's (2001) survey. Within the third level, the general matrix darkened to very dark brown (10YR 2/2) and nearly the entire level contained very small (roughly one-quarter-inch) fragments of oyster shell. Given the high concentration of artifacts and the darkening of the matrix, the zone was designated Feature 1. A flotation sample was collected from this level from the northeast quadrant of Test Unit 4 before Test Units 11 and 15 were established immediately north and south of the unit, respectively. A storage pit feature was identified in the northwest corner of Test Unit 15 and was designated Feature 4. The feature was identified in plan view as an area where the darkened matrix persisted below the base of Feature 1. The feature was approximately 16 in (40 cm) in depth in the western wall of the unit, and it extended only approximately 4 in (10 cm) eastward into the unit. In order to obtain a profile of Feature 4, the entire unit was excavated and the feature fill was dry-screened separately from the rest of the unit matrix. The artifacts recovered from within the feature were recorded on the unit level forms separately from any artifacts recovered from the rest of the unit. This resulted in the recovery of 16 artifacts and ecofacts from within the feature (nine oyster shells, five FCR, and two debitage) and the remaining unit matrix was sterile below the plowzone. In profile, the feature was found to be 16 in (40 cm) thick below the base of the plowzone. A flotation sample was recovered from the profile wall and yielded a total of 515 artifacts and ecofacts (509 small oyster shell fragments, two turtle bone/shell fragments, and four debitage specimens).

A radiocarbon sample from both the northern portion of Feature 1 and from the center of Feature 4 was submitted. A nutshell belonging to the hickory/walnut family from Feature 1 yielded a date of $4,240 \pm 30$ 14C yr B.P. (cal. 2900–2870 B.C., 2800–2780 B.C.; Beta-345762 [18ST708-205]). The Feature 4 sample was also a hickory nutshell that yielded a date of $4,090 \pm 30$ 14C yr B.P. (cal. 2860–2810 B.C., 2750–2720 B.C., 2700–2570 B.C., 2510–2500 B.C.; Beta-345762 [18ST708-205]). Both of these samples statistically overlap and indicate a Middle/Late Archaic presence. It is worth noting that shellfish exploitation is not a typical attribute for the Middle Archaic period.

Feature 2 was initially identified in the northern and southern profile walls of Test Unit 10. Below the first topsoil layer, the excavators noted that the floor of the unit was mottled grayish brown (10YR 5/2) and dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4), which was generally not typical compared to other units on the site. Limited prehistoric artifacts were recovered from the upper 12 in of the unit. Upon completion of the fourth level, it became clear that the unit was placed within a shallow modern trench. Test Unit 12 was established on the southern end of Test Unit 10 to determine if this feature was, in fact, a modern linear feature. The mottled stain in Test Unit 12 was visible in plan view as covering nearly three-fourths of the unit floor and was oriented parallel to Davis Circle. The fill from Feature 2 was dry-screened separately from the rest of the soil in Test Unit 12. Twenty-five prehistoric artifacts, including one Bare Island projectile point, were recovered from the feature fill. Although prehistoric materials were identified exclusively in the feature, the orientation and definition of the feature boundary suggests that it is a backfilled mechanical trench that represents a temporary fire break along Davis Circle.

Feature 3 was identified in plan view approximately 10 in below the ground surface (13 in below datum) in Test Unit 13. At the interface between the plowzone and subsoil, several small fragments of FCR were identified in association with a darker inclusion into the subsoil. The plowzone in the unit was approximately 10 in thick and was mottled in color, varying between brown (10YR 4/3) and yellowish brown (10YR 5/4). Upon excavation, Feature 3 was found to maintain a shallow bowl shape that was only 2–3 in thick. Fine charcoal flecking was observed throughout the matrix, which was not observed elsewhere in the unit. Nine fragments of debitage, eight FCR, two biface fragments, and 0.48 g of charred vegetal samples were recovered from the feature. One small hickory nutshell fragment was recovered from the flotation sample and submitted for radiocarbon dating. This sample yielded a date of $4,050 \pm 30$ 14C yr B.P. (cal. 2830–2820 B.C., 2660–2650 B.C., 2630–2490 B.C.; Beta-345763 [18ST708-305]). This date statistically overlaps with Feature 4 on the site and further supports a Middle Archaic occupation. Based on the contents and form of the feature, it is interpreted as the remnants of an Archaic hearth. Although the biface fragments were identified on top of the feature, it is still unclear whether or not the bifaces were directly associated with the feature. This is questionable because one biface was a small, broken projectile point that may represent a portion of a Late Woodland Madison arrow point.

In summary, the 2014 survey conducted 15 excavation units placed across the site. The investigation recovered a total of 2,131 artifacts and ecofacts, in addition to a 2.09 g sample of charcoal. The majority of the artifacts were found to be within the plowzone, but three prehistoric features document that portions of the site remain unaffected by agricultural disturbances. Additionally, the highest density of artifacts was recovered from the five units placed within 82 ft (25 m) of the bank of Pearson Creek. These results appear to correspond with the previous results from Michaud's (2001) survey. Based on both the density and diversity in artifacts, the site is interpreted to have been used as a residential base camp that was occupied intensively during the Middle/Late Archaic period. However, based on diagnostic artifacts recovered on the site it is interpreted that the site was occupied until the Late Woodland period.

The time period of occupation has been documented through both diagnostic artifacts and radiocarbon dates from feature fill. Admittedly, the diagnostic lithic artifacts suggest a wider occupational range than the Middle/Late Archaic. Projectile points diagnostic of Late Archaic, Early Woodland, and Middle Woodland periods were recovered during both the current survey and the previous identification survey. Limited ceramics that suggest a Late Woodland presence were also recovered. However, the three radiocarbon dates recovered from two areas on the site yielded a Middle/Late Archaic date range of B.C. 2900–2490.

The artifact collection reflected use of primarily locally available materials. However, one small fragment of a steatite vessel was identified on the site. Although this artifact fragment is small, it does appear to retain an incised decoration, which has rarely been documented. Unfortunately, the artifact was recovered from the plowzone and is not directly associated with any datable features.

The remaining artifact collection was found to contain 855 fragments of debitage, 15 chipped stone tools, a ground stone adze, and 484 fragments of fire-cracked rock. The debitage collection suggests that quartz and quartzite raw materials were gathered offsite and initially reduced prior to transport to the site.



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18ST708

Site Name: Michaud

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic Brief
Description:

Late Archaic and Early & Late Woodland base camp, 17th century possible structure

Unknown

The limited chert collection suggests the opposite pattern—primary reduction of chert occurred onsite. The chipped stone tool collection contains both finished projectile points and several bifaces that show a range of tool production. Fire-cracked rock was also recovered at a density of approximately 32 artifacts per test unit, which is roughly double the density of nearby site 18ST491. The FCR collection and the identification of a storage feature (Feature 4) on the site suggest that site 18ST708 was important for food processing and caching.

Based on the findings from the eligibility testing at site 18ST708, it is recommended that the site is individually eligible for inclusion in the NRHP under Criterion D. The site appears to retain a high degree of spatial integrity and displays an intense occupation immediately adjacent to the bank of Pearson Creek. Several dated features indicate that the site was primarily occupied during the Middle/Late Archaic period. However, diagnostic artifacts also suggest that the site was utilized at least intermittently through the Late Woodland period. A dated storage feature also identified shellfish exploitation during the Middle Woodland period, which has rarely been documented in the region.

Site 18ST708 was recommended eligible for inclusion in the NRHP under Criterion D.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95002436, 18ST708 SF