



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18ST754

Site Name: Harper's Creek Site #8

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief Description:

Prehistoric lithic scatter, 18th-19th century possible slave quarter or tenant house

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 9

SCS soil & sediment code MnA

Latitude 38.2943

Longitude -76.4038

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 6 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's Creek

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 122 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Archaic site

MD Adena

Early archaic

Early woodland

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

Late archaic

Late woodland

Unknown prehistoric context

Contact period site

ca. 1820 - 1860

ca. 1630 - 1675

ca. 1860 - 1900

ca. 1675 - 1720

ca. 1900 - 1930

ca. 1720 - 1780

Post 1930

ca. 1780 - 1820

Unknown historic context

Unknown context

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American

Asian American

African American

Unknown

Anglo-American

Other

Hispanic

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

Site Function Contextual Data:

Prehistoric

Multi-component

Misc. ceremonial

Village

Rock art

Hamlet

Shell midden

Base camp

STU/lithic scatter

Rockshelter/cave

Quarry/extraction

Earthen mound

Fish weir

Cairn

Production area

Burial area

Unknown

Other context

Historic

Urban/Rural? 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		Koens-Crispin	
Clovis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>
Le Croy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Morrow Mntn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guilford	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brewerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Madison/Potomac	<input type="checkbox"/>
Otter Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Levanna	<input type="checkbox"/>

Prehistoric Sherd Types

Marcey Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Popes Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shepard	<input type="checkbox"/>	Keyser	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dames Qtr	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coulbourn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Townsend	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yeocomico	<input type="checkbox"/>
Selden Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Watson	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minguannan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monongahela	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accokeek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mockley	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sullivan Cove	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehannock	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wolfe Neck	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clemson Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shenks Ferry	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Vinette	<input type="checkbox"/>	Page	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moyaone	<input type="checkbox"/>		
				Potomac Crk	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Historic Sherd Types

Earthenware		Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staffordshire	2	Stoneware	
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	1	Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	93	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	3			Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>
						Wt Salt-glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	52	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	8	Oyster shell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Storage/trash pit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shell midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ossuary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
House pattern(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Hearth(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Lithic reduc area	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Lithic Material

Jasper	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	110	Activity item(s)	1
Glass (all)	27	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	277	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	1	Misc.	11
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features

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

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Radiocarbon Data:

Sample 1: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 2: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 3: +/- years BP Reliability

Sample 4: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 5: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 6: +/- years BP Reliability

Sample 7: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 8: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 9: +/- years BP Reliability

Additional radiocarbon results available



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External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, MAC Lab

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Harper's Creek Site #8 (18ST754) represents a prehistoric lithic scatter, and an 18th-19th century possible house site or refuse dump. The site is located west of Cedar Point in the northcentral portion of Naval Air Station Patuxent River (NASPAX) in St. Mary's County. It is situated on an open terrace landform above the headwaters of Harper Creek. The site occupied both mowed lawn and unmanaged areas of vines and tall grasses. A linear growth of shrubs, ivy, and small trees separates the shoreline slope from the terrace landform. Soils in the site area were identified as Matapeake silt loams. The site area measures approximately 80 m x 100 m (263 x 328 ft).

In the Chesapeake Bay region, the first human exploitation and occupation (albeit on a limited scale) began some time before 10,000 BC. The following 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 later that year. Eventually, the property fell into the hands of 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, a 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.

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 1/4" mesh hardware cloth and all artifacts were retained. In all, 23 archeological sites were surveyed, including 14 previously unidentified sites.

Harper's Creek Site #8 was located in Section J in the southwestern portion of the survey area. It was located in close proximity to 18ST659, a previously identified prehistoric site also in Section J, about 250 m across a swale. 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. A 19th century map depicts a structure located in the general area of 18ST754.

Phase I shovel testing yielded 18 positive STPs in the area of 18ST754. The STP excavations indicated that the soils of the site contained plowzone but were otherwise intact. However, east of the site boundaries there was evidence of considerable disturbance that was likely the result of the mid-20th century construction. Therefore, it is possible that the edges of the site have been disturbed.

A total of 49 historic artifacts were recovered including 35 architectural items (1 window glass fragment, 28 brick fragments, 2 wrought nails, 3 cut nails, 1 unidentified nail), 10 kitchen-related items (2 Staffordshire-like slipware, 1 red-bodied earthenware, 1 unidentified stoneware, 3 whiteware, and 3 bottle glass fragments), 3 miscellaneous items (unidentified metal objects), and 1 tobacco item (a 4/64" bore kaolin pipe stem fragment).

The prehistoric component consisted of a quartz and quartzite lithic scatter with no diagnostic artifacts. A total of 8 pieces of debitage, 1 uniface scraper, and 7 oyster shell fragments were recovered.

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. It was suggested that the site likely represents a tenant house or slave quarter dating from the 18th and 19th centuries. Since few archeological investigations of slave or tenant dwellings have occurred in southern Maryland, then it is possible this site could provide information about plantation landscapes, and the health and material culture of slaves and tenant farmers. Between August and September 2004, Phase II testing of the site was done ahead of the proposed development of a new VXX Presidential Helicopter Program Support Facility. Site 18ST754 was located in the western portion of the area of potential effect.

The Phase II investigations consisted of the excavation of four 1 m² test units (TUs) and 32 STPs dug at 20 m intervals across the site. Three of the TUs were



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placed within a 10 x 20 m area that shovel testing had shown to contain high artifact concentrations. The fourth test unit was placed in the southwest portion of the site in order to better define the stratigraphic profile in that part of the site. All soils were screened through ¼" mesh hardware cloth and all artifacts were retained for analysis, except for some brick fragments and clearly modern debris. Units were excavated in 10 cm arbitrary levels within natural strata until subsoil was reached. Each test unit (TU) was labeled by both its unit number and the coordinates of its southwest corner. A series of 2-liter soil samples were recovered from selected features and deposits for fine-screening and flotation. The banks of Harper Creek within the APE were also examined for archeological deposits and/or features visible in the bank profile.

In total, 377 historic artifacts were recovered. There was 1 activity item (a fragment of lamp glass). There were 242 architectural items (170 brick fragments, 8 window glass shards, 1 piece of mortar, 62 cut and wire nails, 1 brad, 1 washer). There was 1 clothing item (a metal button). There were 118 kitchen related items (14 vessel glass fragments, 1 milk glass shard, 90 whiteware, 1 Jackfield, 8 earthenware, 3 pearlware, 1 yellowware). There were 11 miscellaneous items (1 piece of coal and 10 indeterminate metal fragments). There were 3 tobacco items (2 white clay bowl fragments and 1 stem fragment). Thirty oyster shell fragments were not assigned to either the historic or prehistoric component.

In total, 51 prehistoric artifacts were recovered. There were 41 pieces of debitage, 1 biface tool, 1 chert projectile point base, and 8 FCR.

The archeological investigations at the Harper's Creek Site #8 (18ST754) indicated that a small domestic structure may have stood in the vicinity sometime during the mid to late 19th century. Equally likely is that the site area was used as a dumping ground or trash area. No in situ historic deposits or features were identified and no in situ prehistoric shell middens or features were identified. Although artifacts and shell were recovered from former plowzone deposits within the site, their frequencies were considered very low when viewed against the high frequencies of artifacts recovered from nearby sites in the Harper Creek drainage. Based on these results, the historic component and the prehistoric component of site 18ST754 were found to have low research value and were recommended as not eligible for inclusion in the National Register. No further work was conducted at the site.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

97000633, 97002712