



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18ST828

Site Name: Elizabeth Hills

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Early Archaic short-term camp

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 10

SCS soil & sediment code EvB

Latitude 38.2519

Longitude -76.5117

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m Site slope 0

Ethnobotany profile available Maritime site

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Unnamed tributary of St. M

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Minimum distance to water is 43 m

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Site setting

-Site Setting restricted

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

Topography

- Floodplain
- Hilltop/bluff
- Interior flat
- Upland flat
- Ridgetop
- Terrace
- Low terrace
- High terrace
- Rockshelter/cave
- Hillslope
- Unknown
- Other

Ownership

- Private
- Federal
- State of MD
- Regional/county/city
- Unknown

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Archaic site

MD Adena

Early archaic Y Early woodland

Mid. woodland

Middle archaic

Late 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
- 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?

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

Bldg or foundation

- Isolated burial
- Possible Structure

Post-in-ground

Frame-built

Masonry

Other structure

Slave related

Non-domestic agri

Recreational

Midden/dump

Artifact scatter

Spring or well

Unknown

Other context

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples

Soil samples taken N

Flotation samples taken N

Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken



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Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types		Koens-Crispin	0
Clovis	0	Perkiomen	0
Hardaway-Dalton	0	Susquehana	0
Palmer	0	Vernon	0
Kirk (notch)	0	Piscataway	0
Kirk (stem)	0	Calvert	0
Le Croy	0	Selby Bay	0
Morrow Mntn	0	Jacks Rf (notch)	0
Guilford	0	Jacks Rf (pent)	0
Brewerton	0	Madison/Potomac	0
Otter Creek	0	Levanna	0

Prehistoric Sherd Types

Marcey Creek	0	Popes Creek	0	Shepard	0	Keyser	0
Dames Qtr	0	Coulbourn	0	Townsend	0	Yeocomico	0
Selden Island	0	Watson	0	Minguannan	0	Monongahela	0
Accokeek	0	Mockley	0	Sullivan Cove	0	Susquehannock	0
Wolfe Neck	0	Clemson Island	0	Shenks Ferry	0		
Vinette	0	Page	0	Moyaone	0		
				Potomac Crk	0		

Historic Sherd Types

Earthenware		Ironstone	0	Staffordshire	0	Stoneware	
Astbury	0	Jackfield	0	Tin Glazed	0	English Brown	0
Borderware	0	Mn Mottled	0	Whiteware	2	Eng Dry-bodied	0
Buckley	0	North Devon	0	Porcelain	0	Nottingham	0
Creamware	0	Pearlware	1			Rhenish	0
						Wt Salt-glazed	0

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		Other fired clay	0
Flaked stone	264	Human remain(s)	
Ground stone	0	Modified faunal	0
Stone bowls	0	Unmod faunal	0
Fire-cracked rock	26	Oyster shell	
Other lithics (all)	0	Floral material	
Ceramics (all)	0	Uncommon Obj.	0
Rimsherds	0	Other	

Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)	0	Storage/trash pit	
Midden		Burial(s)	
Shell midden		Ossuary	
Postholes/molds		Unknown	
House pattern(s)		Other	
Palisade(s)			
Hearth(s)			
Lithic reduc area			

Lithic Material

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

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	1
Pottery (all)	4	Activity item(s)	0
Glass (all)	2	Human remain(s)	
Architectural	3	Faunal material	
Furniture	0	Misc. kitchen	7
Arms	0	Floral material	
Clothing	1	Misc.	0
Personal items	0	Other	

Historic Features

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

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: 0 +/- 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 18ST828, also known as the Elizabeth Hills site, is a prehistoric site that occupies a small rise of loamy sand within 75 ft of Indian Bridge Road in Great Mills, St. Mary's County. An unnamed tributary of the St. Mary's River is 140 ft to the north and the main channel of the river is about 650 ft to the west. The now fallow field in which the site is situated extends to the south and east. Much of the field is low-lying and moderately well- to poorly drained. Othello fine sandy loam is the most extensive, surrounding most of the central wetland and covering the drainages that descend westerly and southwesterly from the uplands. It is poorly drained and the soils are heavily leached of organic matter.

Numerous sites have been located by professional archeologists in the St. Mary's River drainage, many identified by the Weisman and Weisman (1974) and Epperson (1981) surveys. Archaic period and late Colonial through 20th-century sites are common, the latter category including several mills, only one of which (Cecil Mills) survives as an extant complex above ground.

Archival research suggests a moderate to high probability of encountering Archaic and Early Woodland artifact scatters in the study area, particularly near wetlands and on benches above creeks, and mid-18th through early 20th century farmsteads, slave quarters, and tenancies. The prehistoric scatters should not be dismissed as "lithic scatters"; viz., as sites at which wandering groups briefly stopped to replenish their lithic tool kits. Many, if not most, of these scatters include fire-cracked rock, and those fire-cracked rocks indicate that activities other than stone-tool making occurred. Their appearance on well-drained soils adjacent to extensive wetlands and the river suggests dependence on riverine resources, at least seasonally.

Early historic occupations are possible, but the earliest European occupations likely occurred at lower elevations in close proximity to navigable water. Indeed, 17th-century and early 18th-century sites have been identified on the Tudor Hall tract (also part of America Felix Secundus) on the south side of Point Lookout Road in nearby Leonardtown. Historic sites on the Elizabeth Hills tract likely will date to the second half of the 18th through early 20th centuries. The current building stock on the farm consists of an extant mid-20th-century gambrel roof barn and the ruins of a mid-20th-century dwelling in the northwest corner of the parcel.

In 2009, a Phase I/II was planned due to a proposed residential subdivision of a 101.72-acre tract on the east side of Indian Bridge Road. The proposed subdivision required permits from the US Army Corps of Engineers and, therefore, was subject to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. The project area comprised 19 acres of well-drained to poorly drained fallow field and approximately 80 acres of moderately to poorly drained woodland and steep (<23%), well drained, eroded, wooded slopes.

The field crew established three sampling areas (A-C), avoiding steep slopes and inundated portions of the tract. Shovel testing in Area B and the eastern end of Area C was suspended as the field crew encountered increasingly wet soils and inundated surfaces. The field crew excavated 191 shovel tests on 22 parallel transects in Area A. The field crew identified one location where several prehistoric artifacts were recovered from the principal and supplemental shovel tests in the northwest corner of Area A, 18ST828. Shovel test pit U3 in Area A yielded a rhyolite projectile point with a bifurcated base and a serrated triangular blade. The projectile point is lenticular in section and appears to have been reworked. It is 37.6 mm long, 23 mm wide, and 6.8 mm thick. Serrations are moderately deep to deep, but irregular in spacing. Four of six supplemental shovel test pits excavated around that unit produced additional aboriginal material, although no other temporally diagnostic artifacts. Only one structure exists in Area A: a gambrel-roof tobacco barn.

Area B is the wooded area extending northeast of Area A. Only 33 shovel tests were excavated on 12 transects. Only one artifact was recovered (STP B5): a colorless vessel glass sherd, probably from a recently discarded beverage bottle. Extending north from Area A along Indian Bridge Road, Area C includes 3.7 acres. Only 16 shovel tests on six transects were excavated, the field crew encountering saturated and inundated soils to the north and east. Only one colorless vessel glass sherd was recovered from near the derelict dwelling and abandoned road bed. The dwelling is a small frame structure with front and rear additions, one-story in height, and lacks a basement. The stove chimney appears to be sound. At least part of the building appears to have been constructed of cannibalized materials. The north wall has collapsed, thereby exposing the kitchen and late 20th-century appliances to view. The building is in danger of imminent collapse.

Within the existing contract for a Phase I archaeological investigation, Gibb Archaeological Consulting conducted a one-day exploration of the site to determine the depth and integrity of the deposits and to recover additional temporally diagnostic artifacts with which to determine the likelihood of the site having more than one component. Using the shovel test pit data as a guide, the field crew stratigraphically excavated five 3 ft by 3 ft test units around the positive shovel tests, screening the soils through ¼-inch hardware mesh. Each was excavated stratigraphically and the soils were screened through ¼-inch hardware mesh. Recovered objects were bagged by unit and stratum. The plow zone was removed separately, followed by one to two levels of the underlying Bw-horizon.

Stratum 1 from units TU 1 and TU 3 produced two whiteware sherds, two machine-cut nails, one plastic button, and one small window pane sherd. No historic artifacts were recovered from the Bw-horizon. 183 of the 272 (67%) aboriginal artifacts recovered from the excavation units derive from the Ap horizon, and one-third come from subplowzone deposits. Tertiary flakes are over-represented in the subplowzone material, 52 of 89 (58%) as opposed to 70 of 183 (38%) of the plowzone artifacts.

Quartzite is over-represented in the category 'Fire-cracked rock,' a common finding where both quartz and quartzite are locally available for use in cooking. Quartz comprises 218 of the 263 recovered pieces of flake stone, a finding which is also consistent with site assemblages throughout the region. Three different colored cherts were recovered, including a decortication flake from a pebble that likely was collected locally. The remaining chert flakes, however, are tertiary flakes, probable products of edge re-freshening on tools made elsewhere. Rhyolite from Western Maryland is represented by the one LeCroy point, a secondary flake, and five tertiary flakes, again suggestive of re-sharpening or reduction of a blank into a task-specific tool. The presence of fire-cracked rock suggests that features were present, but have been destroyed by plowing. The field crew found no intact features.

The Elizabeth Hills site is smaller than anticipated—perhaps 30 ft or 10 m in diameter—but the small size may be more apparent than real. Patchy densities create problems for systematic sampling regimes such as those that characterize most shovel testing efforts. Testing at much closer intervals, say 5 ft, extending out from the original find in all directions, would provide a better measure of the true size of the site.



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Description:**

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The site appears to be a single-component Middle Archaic microband or resource procurement camp that lies principally (about two-thirds of the material) in the Ap horizon. It is represented by fire-cracked rock (n=26), tools (n=2), and lithic debitage (n=261). Shovel tests elsewhere in the field and two of the 3 ft test units also revealed widely scattered 19th-century domestic artifacts (one each of pearlware, pipe bowl, wine bottle, colorless vessel glass, alkaline-glazed stoneware, plastic button, and window glass, and two nails), the scatter having low visibility and focus. No artifacts were recovered in the poorly drained wooded portions of the parcel except a single sherd of colorless vessel glass from around a derelict 20th-century residence.

The tobacco barn is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and should be more thoroughly recorded if it cannot be preserved in place. The Elizabeth Hills site (18ST828) represents a very rare site type—a single-component Middle Archaic resource procurement camp—but the site largely lies within the plowzone and is unlikely to reveal significant data beyond that which already has been collected. It does not appear to be eligible for inclusion into the National Register of Historic Places.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95002447, 18ST828 ST