



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18TA212

Site Name: Paw Paw Cove

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Lowery PP Site #2

Historic

Brief Description:

Middle Archaic & Early Woodland short-term; Paleoindian, Early & Late Arch & Middle & Late Woodland base camp

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 4

SCS soil & sediment code Cb

Latitude 38.7013 Longitude -76.3489

Physiographic province Eastern Shore Coastal P

Terrestrial site Underwater site

Elevation m Site slope

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
- Shoreline

Ownership

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

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Paw Paw Cove

- | Saltwater | | Freshwater | |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Ocean <input type="checkbox"/> | Estuary/tidal river <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Stream/river <input type="checkbox"/> | Swamp <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tidewater/marsh <input type="checkbox"/> | | Lake or pond <input type="checkbox"/> | Spring <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Minimum distance to water is 0 m | | | |

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| Paleoindian site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Woodland site <input type="checkbox"/> | Contact period site <input type="checkbox"/> | ca. 1820 - 1860 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Archaic site <input type="checkbox"/> | MD Adena <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | ca. 1630 - 1675 <input type="checkbox"/> | ca. 1860 - 1900 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Early archaic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Early woodland <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | ca. 1675 - 1720 <input type="checkbox"/> | ca. 1900 - 1930 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Middle archaic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Mid. woodland <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | ca. 1720 - 1780 <input type="checkbox"/> | Post 1930 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Late archaic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Late woodland <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | ca. 1780 - 1820 <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Unknown prehistoric context <input type="checkbox"/> | | Unknown historic context <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| | | Unknown context <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

- | | |
|---|---|
| Native American <input type="checkbox"/> | Asian American <input type="checkbox"/> |
| African American <input type="checkbox"/> | Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Anglo-American <input type="checkbox"/> | Other <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

Site Function Contextual Data:

- | Prehistoric | |
|---|--|
| Multi-component <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Misc. ceremonial <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Village <input type="checkbox"/> | Rock art <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hamlet <input type="checkbox"/> | Shell midden <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Base camp <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | STU/lithic scatter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Rockshelter/cave <input type="checkbox"/> | Quarry/extraction <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Earthen mound <input type="checkbox"/> | Fish weir <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cairn <input type="checkbox"/> | Production area <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Burial area <input type="checkbox"/> | Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other context <input type="checkbox"/> | |

- | Historic | | Military | |
|---|---|---|--|
| Urban/Rural? <input type="checkbox"/> | Furnace/forge <input type="checkbox"/> | Battlefield <input type="checkbox"/> | Post-in-ground <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Domestic <input type="checkbox"/> | Other <input type="checkbox"/> | Fortification <input type="checkbox"/> | Frame-built <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Homestead <input type="checkbox"/> | Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> | Encampment <input type="checkbox"/> | Masonry <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Farmstead <input type="checkbox"/> | Canal-related <input type="checkbox"/> | Townsite <input type="checkbox"/> | Other structure <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mansion <input type="checkbox"/> | Road/railroad <input type="checkbox"/> | Religious <input type="checkbox"/> | Slave related <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Plantation <input type="checkbox"/> | Wharf/landing <input type="checkbox"/> | Church/mtg house <input type="checkbox"/> | Non-domestic agri <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Row/townhome <input type="checkbox"/> | Maritime-related <input type="checkbox"/> | Ch support bldg <input type="checkbox"/> | Recreational <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cellar <input type="checkbox"/> | Bridge <input type="checkbox"/> | Burial area <input type="checkbox"/> | Midden/dump <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Privy <input type="checkbox"/> | Ford <input type="checkbox"/> | Cemetery <input type="checkbox"/> | Artifact scatter <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> | Educational <input type="checkbox"/> | Sepulchre <input type="checkbox"/> | Spring or well <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mining-related <input type="checkbox"/> | Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> | Isolated burial <input type="checkbox"/> | Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Quarry-related <input type="checkbox"/> | Trading post <input type="checkbox"/> | Bldg or foundation <input type="checkbox"/> | Other context <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mill <input type="checkbox"/> | Store <input type="checkbox"/> | Possible Structure <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Black/metalsmith <input type="checkbox"/> | Tavern/inn <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

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



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18TA212

Site Name: Paw Paw Cove

Prehistoric

Other name(s): Lowery PP Site #2

Historic

Brief Description:

Middle Archaic & Early Woodland short-term; Paleoindian, Early & Late Arch & Middle & Late Woodland base camp

Unknown

Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types			
Clovis	5	Koens-Crispin	
Hardaway-Dalton		Perkiomen	
Palmer	33	Susquehana	
Kirk (notch)		Vernon	
Kirk (stem)	3	Piscataway	
Le Croy	127	Calvert	
Morrow Mntn		Selby Bay	
Guilford	4	Jacks Rf (notch)	
Brewerton		Jacks Rf (pent)	14
Otter Creek		Madison/Potomac	
		Levanna	

Prehistoric Sherd Types

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

Historic Sherd Types

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

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts			
Flaked stone	4278	Other fired clay	
Ground stone	4	Human remain(s)	
Stone bowls		Modified faunal	
Fire-cracked rock		Unmod faunal	
Other lithics (all)	3	Oyster shell	
Ceramics (all)		Floral material	
Rimsherds		Uncommon Obj.	1
		Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> copper awl	

Prehistoric Features

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

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 type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Dated features present at site

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

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: 17820 +/- 170 years BP

Reliability

High

Sample 2: 330 +/- 85 years BP

Reliability

High

AA-3870: a fragment of carbonized wood associated with a buried wetland that occurs below the Clovis occupation

AA-3672: charcoal sample initially thought to be assoc. w/a hearth but instead coincided w/17th century forest clearing

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



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18TA212

Site Name: Paw Paw Cove

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Lowery PP Site #2

Historic

Brief Description:

Middle Archaic & Early Woodland short-term; Paleoindian, Early & Late Arch & Middle & Late Woodland base camp

Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC Lab/JPPM

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Paw Paw Cove Site (18TA212) is a multi-component prehistoric site with Paleoindian base camp components, and Early Archaic through Late Woodland short-term camp components in Talbot County. The site is located on the west side of Tilghman Island, in the Paw Paw Cove area. Tilghman Island, a terrestrial remnant of a drowned upland landscape, is located at the end of a long peninsula and is separated from the mainland by a wide tidal narrows (Knapps Narrows). Two streams drain into the site. Post-Pleistocene sea level rise has affected the shoreline and the drainage patterns of the area directly associated with the site. During the Late Pleistocene, Paw Paw Cove would have been an interior settlement situated around the headwaters of a small ancestral Susquehanna River tributary.

Site 18TA212 is one of three sites that comprise the Paw Paw Cove Paleo-Indian Complex of sites. The Paw Paw Cove site (18TA212) encompasses three discrete loci: 18TA212a, 18TA212b, and 18TA212c. These three localities have been defined through a combination of subsurface testing and the presence of eroding artifacts found along the shoreline. Locus 18TA212a is the northernmost area of the site and is defined as the northern sub-concentration of the Paleo-Indian component of the site. Locus 18TA212b is in the central portion of the site and is defined as the southern sub-concentration of the Paleo-Indian component of the site. Locus 18TA212c is a large multicomponent locus encompassing the southernmost portion of the site.

In 1985, a local collector reported the location of the site to personnel at the Maryland Historical Trust. His private collection, recovered during several site visits from 1977-1985, included 1 sandstone hammerstone, 1 chert sidescraper, 1 jasper fluted point, 1 bird stone, 2 gorgets, plus 375 points ranging from the Middle Archaic to the Late Woodland periods, and including 1 Clovis point found in 1981.

Locus 18TA212a (also referred to as Locality #1) was located within a poorly drained area of Othello silt loam. It is situated within a formerly active spring fed wetland, and where the site meets the Chesapeake Bay a tidal marsh has formed. Aside from the Paleo-Indian occupation level, no other prehistoric components have been found at this locus. The low topographic setting of the site relative to the spring and the poorly drained nature of the soils may not have been conducive for reoccupation of the area by later Holocene peoples. The Paleo-Indian cultural occupation strata appear to be at, or slightly below, modern sea level. The site dimensions are approximately 100 m long by 80 m wide.

Prior to systematic subsurface testing, only non-systematic surface collection along the shoreline had been done at the site. A total of 229 lithic artifacts were collected. There was 1 piece of debitage and 5 cores, 119 utilized flakes, 4 denticulates, 10 graters, 10 wedge tools, 1 uniface tool, 48 scrapers, 1 drill, 5 early stage bifaces, 10 late stage bifaces, and 15 fluted points and knives. Within the assemblage, 51.5% of the artifacts were made on jasper, 38% on chert, 1.3% on quartz, 0.4% on ironstone, 7.9% chalcedony, and 0.9% on orthoquartzite. Roughly 41% of the assemblage retain cortex. All of the raw materials were locally available. The lithic assemblage found along the shoreline at 18TA212a is the largest of the 3 sites that make up the Paleo-Indian Complex (sites 18TA211 and 18TA213). It also shows the most intensified interest in small jasper and chert cobbles. It was suggested that the size of the jasper and the chert cobbles influenced the lithic technology expressed at the site.

As a result of the large size of the shoreline artifact assemblage at 18TA212a, it was suggested that this locality had the greatest potential to produce intact Paleo-Indian deposits. In late 1988, archeologists from the Smithsonian conducted excavations at 18TA212a. A total of four 1 m² test units were placed roughly parallel to, and alongside the shoreline, on top of a berm of redeposited coastal sand. All excavated soils were water screened and augering was conducted. At the conclusion of the excavation, no Paleo-Indian deposits were encountered and only a few redeposited artifacts were collected, including a late stage biface fragment and 5 (minimum estimate) utilized flakes.

A second, limited excavation was conducted in the spring of 1989 by archeologists from the University of Delaware Center for Archeological Research. The articulated bones of a cow eroding from the base of a parabolic dune were excavated. Several prehistoric artifacts were redeposited over the bones. The stratigraphic profile of the site revealed that to the north and the south of the artifact concentration soils consisted of three strata: a modern plowzone overlaid a dense blue clay fragipan soil, which sat above marine clay. No artifacts were collected from those areas. Artifacts were collected from the area where no fragipan soils were identified in the stratigraphy. The conclusion was that soil in that location represented reworked sands that are the remnants of eroded landscapes along the marsh and that once had the fragipan soils. This indicated that the places to do more work were the edges of the small marsh.

In addition to the University of Delaware investigations, a single 1 m² test unit placed 100 meters east of the shoreline was also excavated. The goal of the test excavation was to compare the stratigraphy along the east side of the marshy basin observed at the site with the stratigraphy observed along the exposed shoreline. A single fluted projectile point and a single piece of debitage were recovered from the unit.

In the fall of 1991, a single 1 m² test unit was excavated by a professional archeologist on a low knoll located between two drainages and approximately 40 m east of the shoreline. The unit was placed within a poorly drained wooded thicket directly west of the earlier 1989 test unit. A broken fluted point, 1 utilized flake, and 2 pieces of debitage were retrieved from between 38-40 cm below surface within a fragipan stratum.

Archeologists from the University of Delaware Center for Archaeological Research returned to the site in 1992 and conducted Phase II investigations. Nine 1 m² test units were placed in the northwestern portion of the site. Each unit was either completely or partially excavated in 10 cm levels and each level was screened for artifacts. These excavations resulted in the discovery of the first buried Paleo-Indian living surface on the Delmarva Peninsula. The surface was encountered at 53-57 cm below the modern ground surface.

A total of 25 lithic artifacts were collected from the 9 test units in 1992. This included 8 core flakes and 8 biface thinning flakes, 1 fluted projectile point, 1 biface, 1 sidescraper, 1 graver, 1 modified and utilized flake, and 3 utilized flakes. A single 'other lithic' item, 1 hammerstone, was also found. The artifacts occurred within a narrow layer of soil roughly 43-48 cm below ground level. All of the artifacts were located within the upper level of the fragipan soils. It was concluded that this location (Locus A) of the site represented an activity area where tools were being resharpened and flake tools were being produced.

Soil samples were collected from 18TA212a for radiocarbon dating that was conducted at the University of Arizona. Sample AA-3870 yielded a calibrated date range (2-sigma) of 19,714-18,560 BC; Sample AA-3672 yielded a calibrated date range (2-sigma) of AD 1424-1682. The early date was obtained on a fragment of carbonized wood associated with a buried wetland that occurs below the Clovis occupation. The second date was obtained on a fragment of burned wood that was initially thought to be associated with a hearth above the Clovis occupation. Instead, it was determined that the sample was associated



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18TA212

Site Name: Paw Paw Cove

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Lowery PP Site #2

Historic

Brief Description:

Middle Archaic & Early Woodland short-term; Paleoindian, Early & Late Arch & Middle & Late Woodland base camp

Unknown

with a series of burnt tree roots that likely coincides with the documented forest clearing on the Paw Paw Cove area during the late 17th century.

Locus 18TA212b was located within a poorly drained area of Othello silt loam. It is situated within a former spring fed wetland, and where the site meets the Chesapeake Bay a tidal marsh has formed. This locus is approximately 230 m south of 18TA212a. It is separated from Locus A to the north and Locus C to the south by tidal marshes associated with the inundated stream channels. The interior-most landward portion of the site was a tilled field. The site dimensions are approximately 40 m long by 30 m wide.

Prior to systematic subsurface testing, only non-systematic surface collection along the shoreline had been done at the site. A total of 107 lithic artifacts were collected. There were 7 pieces of debitage and 1 core, 47 utilized flakes, 4 denticulates, 3 graters, 2 wedge tools, 1 uniface tool, 27 scrapers, 2 drills, 1 early stage biface, 4 late stage bifaces, and 5 fluted Clovis points and 3 unidentified fluted points and knives. Within the assemblage, 42% of the artifacts were made on jasper, 32.7% on chert, 8.5% on quartz, 2.8% on quartzite, 10.3% chalcedony, and 3.7% on orthoquartzite. About 43% of the artifacts retain cortex. In comparison to the assemblage from 18TA212a, it appeared that larger cobble materials were available to the occupants of 18TA212b. This supposition was based on the larger size of discarded artifacts from locus B.

The most recent archeological investigations at 18TA212b were conducted from late 1999 to early 2000. The work was partially funded by a non-capital grant from the Maryland Historical Trust. The goals of the investigations were to determine if inland areas of the site contained intact Paleo-Indian deposits and to provide data that would contribute to an assessment of regional interpretations regarding Paleo-Indian lifeways. The study area was located where 2 streams merged. The tidal wetland area adjacent to the site represented former interior freshwater wetlands during lower sea levels. Only the northern portion of the site was available for study as the southern section of 18TA212b was under contract to sell and had no artifact "deed of gift" arrangement. A total of six 1 m² test units were hand excavated in arbitrary 10 cm levels except for the plowzone which was excavated as a single bulk stratum. All excavated soils were screened.

The investigations revealed stratified Early Archaic and Paleo-Indian components. The Paleo-Indian component was documented in only two test units. Six lithic artifacts were recovered from this level. The artifacts included 1 chalcedony drill, 1 chert fluted preform, 1 jasper fluted projectile point, 1 chert endscraper, 1 quartz endscraper, and 1 jasper spokeshave or concave-convex scraper. The limited amount of debitage recovered from the Paleo-Indian component of the site in conjunction with the character of the assemblage indicated that the items were made somewhere else and brought onto the site. The lithic assemblage suggested that hunting related activities, hide processing, and wood or bone tool manufacture were conducted at the site.

The Early Archaic component was documented in 4 test units. A total of 38 artifacts were recovered, 2 in the plowzone and 36 within the 10 cm level below the plowzone. There were 22 pieces of debitage and 1 core, 3 biface thinning flakes, 4 utilized flakes, 1 graver, 1 Amos corner-notched point fragment, 2 unidentified corner-notched points, 2 scrapers. A hammerstone and a small pebble of hematite were the only 'other lithic' artifacts collected. Almost half of all the debitage derived from a single cluster that was likely associated with stone tool resharpening. The patterned orientation of the Early Archaic artifacts suggested that non-cultural processes may have moved the items. The landscape to the north was higher than in the study area indicating that natural runoff combined with bioturbation may have contributed to the resulting artifact pattern. Based on the Early Archaic assemblage, it appeared that tools were resharpened and the waste debris was discarded.

Locus 18TA212c was located on a bluff or ridge of Woodstown sandy loam with 0-2% slopes. The site is adjacent to a spring fed wetland that has become inundated and altered to a tidal marsh. It is situated approximately 160 m south of 18TA212b. The site consists of two multi-component localities. It has extensive occupational components that span the Early Archaic through the Late Woodland periods. No diagnostic Clovis or Paleo-Indian points were found at this locus. The site dimensions are approximately 150 m long by 50 m wide. The only information available regarding archeological investigation at the site, including the artifact counts, was located in the site file (18TA212c). According to the data form, the artifact assemblage was collected during a non-systematic surface survey (presumably of the shoreline).

The assemblage from 18TA212c included approximately 2,500 pieces of debitage, 1,285 projectile points (33 Palmer/Kirk/Amos points (recorded as Palmer in the table above), 3 Kirk stemmed points, 127 LeCroy/St. Albans bifurcated points (recorded as LeCroy in the table above), 4 Guilford points, 645 Late Archaic stemmed points, 27 Meadowood points, 135 Fox Creek points, 14 Jack's Reef pentagonal points, 297 Late Woodland triangular points), and 308 nondiagnostic bifaces. The 4 groundstone objects included 3 gorget fragments and an unfinished birdstone fragment (also recorded as an uncommon object in the table above).

The Paw Paw Cove Site (18TA212) represents a rare Paleo-Indian occupation (Loci A and B) and a fairly significant Early Archaic to Late Woodland period occupation (Locus C) on the Delmarva Peninsula. The presence of Early Archaic occupation at Locus B suggests that the location was utilized for a longer period of time than Locus A, and possibly contemporaneously with Locus C. While the effects of natural erosional processes and agricultural activity have affected the condition of the site, the erosion rates on the west side of Tilghman Island are much less extreme than in other parts of the Delmarva Peninsula. In 2009, the site was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register boundary covers only the southern portion of 18TA212b and the northern portion of 18TA212c. Locus 18ST212a was compromised and no longer considered a viable resource.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00005250, 97001954, Site Files