



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18TA381

Site Name: Harleigh Knoll

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Early & Late Archaic and Late Woodland short-term camp; Late 17th-early 18th & Mid 19th century cemetery

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Latitude 38.6972 Longitude -76.1124

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 4

SCS soil & sediment code

Elevation m Site slope 5-10%

Physiographic province Eastern Shore Coastal P

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

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
- Aeolian dune or knoll

Ownership

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

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Unnamed tributary of Tripp

- | Saltwater | | Freshwater | |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------|
| Ocean <input type="checkbox"/> | Estuary/tidal river <input type="checkbox"/> | Stream/river <input checked="" 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 1 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

- Paleoindian site
- Archaic site
- Early archaic
- Middle archaic
- Late archaic
- Woodland site
- MD Adena
- Early woodland
- Mid. woodland
- Late woodland

- Contact period site
- ca. 1820 - 1860
- ca. 1630 - 1675
- ca. 1675 - 1720
- ca. 1720 - 1780
- ca. 1780 - 1820
- ca. 1860 - 1900
- ca. 1900 - 1930
- Post 1930

Unknown historic context

Unknown prehistoric context

Unknown context

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

- Native American
- African American
- Anglo-American
- Hispanic
- Asian American
- Unknown
- Other

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

Site Function Contextual Data:

Prehistoric

- Multi-component
- Village
- Hamlet
- Base camp
- Rockshelter/cave
- Earthen mound
- Cairn
- Burial area
- Misc. ceremonial
- Rock art
- Shell midden
- STU/lithic scatter
- Quarry/extraction
- Fish weir
- Production area
- Unknown
- Other context

Historic

Urban/Rural? Rural

Domestic

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

Industrial

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

Transportation

- Canal-related
- Road/railroad
- Wharf/landing
- Maritime-related
- Bridge
- Ford

Educational

Commercial

- Trading post
- Store
- Tavern/inn

Military

- Battlefield
- Fortification
- Encampment

Townsite

- 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 Y

Flotation samples taken N

Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken Y

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"/>
Dames Qtr	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coulbourn	<input type="checkbox"/>
Selden Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Watson	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accokeek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mockley	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wolfe Neck	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clemson Island	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vinette	<input type="checkbox"/>	Page	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shepard	<input type="checkbox"/>	Townsend	<input type="checkbox"/>
Minguannan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sullivan Cove	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shenks Ferry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moyaone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Potomac Crk	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yeocomico	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monongahela	<input type="checkbox"/>
Susquehannock	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Historic Sherd Types		Ironstone		Staffordshire		Stoneware	
Earthenware		Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	<input type="checkbox"/>	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	<input type="checkbox"/>			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	<input type="checkbox"/>	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	<input type="checkbox"/>	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"/>
Midden	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shell midden	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>
House pattern(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearth(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lithic reduc area	<input type="checkbox"/>
Storage/trash pit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ossuary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Dated features present at site

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

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

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Harleigh Knoll site (18TA381) was a Late Archaic and Late Woodland short-term camp; and was later used as a cemetery in historic times, most likely in the 17th and 18th centuries. It was likely also inhabited in the Early Archaic period. The site is situated atop an Aeolian dune, or knoll, located at the headwaters of a small tidal creek, which drains into Trippe Creek and eventually the Choptank River on Maryland's Eastern Shore. This tidal creek is east of the town of Oxford and north of the intersection of Oxford Road and Otwell Road. The knoll is covered with black cherry and oak trees, one of which is at least 100 years old. Surrounding the knoll are several former plowed fields and pastures. Two former springs drain into the tidal creek and a poorly drained freshwater wetland is situated immediately south of the site. In essence, the site location represents a former upland area adjacent to two first order springs that has been inundated by sea level rise.

On the property immediately west of the site, a Paleo-Indian fluted projectile point was discovered within the soils of an excavated pond. It was discovered approximately 800 feet northwest of the site in the 1990's. The artifact indicates that prehistoric people were in the area 12,500 years ago.

Historical maps of the region provide very little valuable information about the use of the region. The earliest accurate map of the area is the 1847 coastal survey on file at the National Archives. Unfortunately, this survey stopped immediately west of the study area and does not show the tidal creek and the drainage system. The lack of any earlier survey data is clearly expressed in the depiction of the study area in the 1877 atlas of Talbot County. The tidal creek is largely undefined and the study area is designated as dry land far inland from the Trippe Creek. This is obviously not accurate. The 1899 survey of the area defines the creek area. The detail of the later survey is also not particularly impressive. Given the historic map data, the site location seems to have had little or no historic use over the past 100 or so years.

In 2003, Phase I archaeological investigations were conducted at the Harleigh Knoll by the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Archaeological Research Foundation (C-WAR) for the purpose of evaluating the elevated knoll as a potential prehistoric occupation site and to better understand the site formation processes associated with the area. At the time, the area was not an "officially" recorded site and the documentary map data for the area indicated little or no late historic use of the knoll. The archaeological investigation was initiated at the behest of the landowner, who contracted Darrin Lowery of C-WAR to excavate the knoll on his property that he believed to be a Native American burial mound.

On July 12 and 13, 2003, two 1x1 meter test units were plotted out on the knoll by Darrin Lowery. The site was then subjected to soil auger bore testing in the remainder of July and August by Darrin Lowery and geologist John Wah. Soil auger bore samples were taken from areas on the knoll and off the knoll to assess the geologic processes involved in its formation. Soil auger bore samples were also taken from inside of the plotted test units. Augering within one of the plotted test units discovered a distinct organic stain at 70-80 centimeters below the ground. Further augering revealed human bone fragments. It was determined that the ground under this test unit contained a burial, and it was not disturbed any further.

The other test unit was excavated in 10 centimeter intervals and soil was screened through ¼" mesh. Prehistoric artifacts recovered from the 10-20cm level included 2 chalcedony triangular points, 2 Potomac Creek-like ceramics, a broken tear-drop shaped preform of quartz, and lithic debitage of quartz and chalcedony. At the 20-30cm level, one chalcedony flake was found. At the 30-40cm level, a quartzite fire-cracked rock fragment was found. The 40-50cm level was the second distinct prehistoric cultural level. Items found in this level included a chert Bare Island point, a chert flake, and a basalt flake. The 70-80cm level produced a single chalcedony flake. The 90-100cm level produced three "Iron Hill" jasper artifacts, including a biface and two blade-like flakes that may have been used as ephemeral cutting tools. Lowery's previous work indicates that Iron Hill jasper is associated with Early Archaic sites. Deeper excavations into the 100-110 cm level were started, but in the southwest corner of the unit a human skull was exposed in the wall face. Further excavations within the unit were ceased.

Organic stains or casket stains were noted around the skeletal remains discovered at the site. Rounded river cobbles or boulders on the forest floor appeared to mark or identify grave locations. The area within the first test unit, where augering revealed a burial, was in close proximity to one such rock. A rock was also present above the human skull in the excavated test unit wall. The burial appeared to have an east-west orientation. Lowery hypothesized that the burials were historic, dating to the 17th and 18th century, based on their similarity to other burial sites of that time period. For instance, the use of rounded river cobble markers as headstones or footstones is noted at the Thornton site (18SO206) in Somerset County. The Thornton cemetery includes several graves associated with prominent early Maryland settlers. The earliest Thornton site burial dates to c. 1680, and has a large rounded boulder headstone and a smaller rounded cobble or boulder footstone.

Further excavations at the Harleigh Knoll site were conducted by Smithsonian archaeologists, lead by Doug Owsley, and volunteers in the fall of 2004 for the purpose of recovering the human remains for scientific study at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. An official report of these excavations was never published.

The Harleigh Knoll site (18TA381) represents a pre contact short-term camp and a historic cemetery. Diagnostic artifacts recovered during excavations in 2003 have been used to date the prehistoric occupation to the Late Archaic and Late Woodland periods. The presence of a certain type of jasper indicates that the site was likely also inhabited in the Early Archaic period. The burials at the site have been tentatively dated to the 17th and 18th centuries based on their similarity to burials excavated at other sites on the Eastern Shore from the 17th and 18th centuries, such as the Thornton site (18SO206) in Somerset County. Further excavations at the site could reveal pre contact artifacts and features, which could be used to better understand the dating and purpose of the site's use in prehistory. Additionally, there are still unexcavated burials at the site which could be excavated to learn more about the historic populations at the site and the lives of early Marylanders. The site is eligible for listing with the National Register of Historic Places.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

97002269