



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18TA420

Site Name: SH 4

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief Description:

Late Archaic & Late Woodland short-term camp; Late 18th-19th century artifact scatter

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 5

SCS soil & sediment code HfB,HfC,LgA

Latitude 38.8176

Longitude -76.0717

Physiographic province Eastern Shore Coastal P

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m

Site slope 0-10%

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) Goldsborough Creek

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 15 m

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Contact period site ca. 1820 - 1860

ca. 1630 - 1675 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
- 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

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

field scatter

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"/>	2
Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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"/>	1	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		
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Pearlware	<input type="checkbox"/>	5		Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>
							Wt Salt-glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		
Flaked stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	355
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	61
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Uncommon Obj.	<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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	IPS	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	31
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	12
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>	66
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Tobacco related	<input type="checkbox"/>	18
Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Misc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	9
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Historic Features

Const feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Privy/outhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	Depression/mound	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input checked="" 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: 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

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Site 18TA420 (or SH 4) is a multi-component prehistoric and historic archeological site north of Easton in Talbot County. The site consists of a Late Archaic & Late Woodland short-term camp, as well as a late 18th-19th century artifact scatter. The site is situated on a terrace near a dry stream bed that formerly ran through an agricultural field towards Goldsborough Creek. At the time of the site's discovery (in 2011) the site and surrounding landscape was mostly open cropland with a fringe of woods to the south. Soils at the site are Sassafras and Hambrook sandy loams.

The land on which the site is situated was originally part of two large patents. The majority of the property (the eastern portion) was part of Jacob and Johns Pasture patented in 1687 by John Newnam and Jacob Abrahams. A small portion of the property to the west was part of Cottingham.

In 2008, Talbot County purchased the nearly 158 acres of land that includes the site from Carole Parris Young and Clarke L. Parris. Carole and Clarke inherited the land from their mother, Anne Austin Littleton. Anne became vested in the property through a series of wills and deeds all of which trace back to Sallie B. Austin. In 1888, Sallie B. Austin became the sole owner of approximately 147 acres of land that had been the home farm of Harrison Austin. Austin had assembled his farmland through several purchases.

In 1856, Austin bought four small tracts from George Messick. Most of these were on the east side of Route 662 (the historic Easton-Centerville road), but three acres, part of Jacob and Johns Pasture, were on the west side. This land was inherited by George Messick from his wife, who was the niece and heir of John Thomas Robinson. Another tract of 128 acres was bought by Austin from the executrix of Thomas Robinson. Part of this land was on the west side of "the road from Easton to Centerville".

In 1850, Harrison Austin acquired 385 acres that had been involved in a lawsuit between William Robinson and Thomas Robinson against George Thompson and John Robinson. Tract names for this land include Jacob and Johns Pasture, Clicket, Ratcliffe Lot, Weeden Lot, and Denny Lot. Another tract bought by Austin was Catrop's Security, this 102 acre parcel was on the public road from Easton to Kings Creek about three miles above Easton. This tract was formerly owned by Elizabeth Catrop, the widow of William Marsh Catrop. A daughter of William Marsh Catrop married Thomas Robinson. Through all of these various deeds, it seems that Harrison Austin collected a number of parcels that once belonged to Thomas Robinson.

Besides coming into the land of William Catrop through his wife, Thomas Robinson bought various other parcels. He purchased 19½ acres, part of Jacob and Johns Pasture from James and Elizabeth Ratcliffe in 1816. In 1820, he acquired a piece of Jacob and Johns Pasture from John Craw. In 1831, Daniel Weeden sold Thomas Robinson 15 acres, formerly part of Jacob and Johns Pasture and once the land of James Denny. Another 8 acres was on the west side of the main road and was bought of Howes Goldsborough in 1833.

It seems the land of William Marsh Catrop (Catrop) passed through inheritance after his death without deeds being recorded. His many purchases, however, are documented with deeds. In 1791, Catrop purchased 50 acres from James Ratcliffe. Three other deeds recorded in 1791 and 1792 seem to give title to this same land from other members of the Ratcliffe family, all of whom claimed an undivided interest. Also in 1792, Catrop purchased 12 acres from Thomas Harwood on the south side of Carter's Delight.

William Marsh Catrop owned 533 acres in 1783, based on the Federal Tax assessment. On Cottingham, he had one dwelling house, a tobacco house, a granary, old corn house, two smoke houses, two milk houses, an old log house, a hen house, and an old apple orchard. On his part of Jacob and Johns Pasture there were two frame dwellings (one not weatherboarded), 2 stables, a good granary, 2 smoke houses, one log shop, a tobacco house, two other old outhouses, and two apple orchards. In this same assessment, land of William Ratcliffe (deceased) is listed as 117 acres with a frame dwelling, a kitchen, tobacco house, granary, corn house, a quarter, smokehouse, milk house, and a stable. Another part of Jacob and Johns Pasture also owned by Ratcliffe is listed as 50 acres with an old framed dwelling, on old outhouse, and a small orchard. It is possible that this 50 acre parcel is the same that Catrop bought in 1791 from the Ratcliffe family members.

In 1791, a Richard Ratcliffe sold a piece of Jacob and Johns Pasture to Robert Harwood. This deed clearly states that Richard inherited this land from his grandfather, also Richard Ratcliffe. Richard, the grandfather, acquired this part of Jacob and Johns Pasture in 1715 from Samuel and Anne Cockayne. Anne was the heir of Richard Carter who purchased the property from John Neunam, one of the original patentees. Richard, the grandfather, died in 1721 leaving his estate to his sons. Sons James and John each got half of Jacob and Johns Pasture. James died in 1765 and in 1767 William, probably son of James, sold part of the land to William Catrop.

While tract boundaries cannot be accurately mapped, it seems that the land is part of Jacob and Johns Pasture, which was mostly east of Route 662, and part of Cottingham. Again, Route 662 is a very old road and served as the early route from Easton to the north. Based on the deed research, it appears that much of the area in the vicinity of the site was occupied by the Ratcliffe family through most of the 18th century.

Site 18TA420 was first identified during a Phase I survey in 2011 for a (then) proposed hospital near Easton in Talbot County. Various agencies were involved in the project, including the Maryland State Highway Administration and the US Army Corps of Engineers. Because of required permitting, this project was subject to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

Phase I testing consisted of a series of shovel test pits (STPs) at 15.24 m (50 foot) intervals, totaling 1,539 STPs over the entire 100 acre hospital project tract. All STPs were at least 45.72 cm (18 in) across. Soils were removed in stratigraphic layers and all soil was screened through hardware cloth. Soils were recorded on field forms and included depth, munsell color, texture, and some interpretation. This resulted in the identification of 12 archeological sites, one of which was 18TA420.

Shovel testing at 18TA420 defined a site roughly 213.36 m (700 ft) east to west and 137.16 m (450 ft) north to south. A total of 89 prehistoric artifacts were recovered from this area. Most were debitage including 31 quartz flakes, 12 chert flakes, 10 jasper flakes, 6 argillite flakes, 6 quartzite flakes, and 1 rhyolite flake. There were 9 chunks of quartz or quartzite and 11 pieces of fire-cracked rock. Also recovered were one piece of crushed quartz, cord-marked pottery, a biface fragment, and a projectile point. This is a red jasper Lamoka stemmed point. Historic artifacts believed associated with nearby 18TA425 (see associated synopsis) include 3 brick fragments, 2 pieces of whiteware, 2 pieces of bottle glass, 1 creamware sherd, 1 piece of window glass, and a ceramic



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pipe stem. No sub-plowzone contexts were detected, but Phase II testing was recommended nonetheless due to the recovery of diagnostic material.

Phase II work was carried out in the spring of 2012 and involved additional shovel testing and test unit excavation. Shovel testing was conducted at 7.62 m (25 ft) intervals over the portion of the site with the densest concentration of artifacts, but coordinates dug during Phase I were not re-dug. The same excavation methods used in the previous Phase I shovel testing study were used during Phase II work. A total of 46 STPs were excavated during Phase II work.

The findings of the shovel tests (both Phase I and II) were used to direct the placement of the equivalent of ten 1.524 X 1.524 m (5 X 5 ft) excavation units. Some of these units were further subdivided into half-units or even quarter units for greater control over artifact provenience or to extend the area covered. Soils were removed in stratigraphic layers and all soil was screened through hardware cloth. Soils were recorded on field forms and included depth, color, texture, and some interpretation. Profile drawings were also made for each test unit. Features were mapped and photographed. In some cases, features were sampled to assist in the interpretation of the feature or to help determine the age. In these cases, profile drawings of the tested features were drawn. Recovered artifacts were bagged by provenience (unit, level, feature, etc.) and removed to the lab for curation and analysis.

18TA420 was initially tested as a prehistoric site with the potential for significant features or sub-plow deposits. Testing identified a number of historic artifacts as well as the expected prehistoric materials. The historic items ranged in age from the 18th to the 20th century and all were recovered from plowzone contexts. In general, it is interpreted that the historic artifacts were part of a general scatter of materials seen over the entire hospital property.

Prehistoric materials predominated, including five projectile points, some from the Late Archaic as well as two pieces of Late Woodland pottery. All of the temporally diagnostic artifacts were recovered from the plowzone. The lithic items indicate primary and secondary reduction of mostly locally available cobble material. It appears as though this location was sporadically used in the prehistoric period leaving an overlay of mixed temporal materials.

During excavation, two possible features were located. However, it is uncertain whether these sub-plow disturbances are actually cultural features. In both cases, artifacts were sparse within the anomalies and there was nothing about their shapes that would clearly indicate human agency in their creation.

The full Phase II assemblage consisted of 331 prehistoric artifacts and 123 historic artifacts. The prehistoric assemblage included 2 Bare Island points, 2 Piscataway points, 2 point tips, 234 flake and debitage fragments, 38 chunks, 1 other lithic, 50 pieces of fire-cracked rock, a Townsend sherd and a Killens sherd. The historic assemblage included 1 activity item (a metal tool part), 62 architectural artifacts (25 pieces of brick, 2 window glass fragments, 17 wrought nails, 15 unidentified nails, a bolt, and 2 pieces of electrical wire), 34 kitchen-related artifacts (1 Buckley sherd, 1 buff-bodied sherd, 1 creamware, 5 pearlware, 2 domestic gray stoneware, 1 English Brown stoneware, 1 yellowware, 16 redware, and 6 bottle fragments), 17 tobacco pipe fragments (15 stems and 2 bowls), and 9 miscellaneous objects (1 unidentified glass and 8 unidentified objects).

Phase I and II work at 18TA420 revealed a Late Archaic & Late Woodland short-term camp, and a late 18th-19th century artifact scatter. Following Phase II work it was concluded that the site, even with two possible features, did not exhibit enough potential for meaningful scientific inquiry. Because of the disturbed context, no distinct chipping clusters were visible. Likely, the prehistoric materials were deposited over numerous short-term visits to the site and these have since been mixed in the plowzone. On this basis, it was determined that the site was not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95001736, 95001882