



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18TA424

Site Name: SH 8

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Late Archaic Base Camp, Early Archaic & Middle Woodland short-term camp, Late 18th-19th century artifact scatter

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 5

SCS soil & sediment code CoA, HFB

Latitude 38.8187

Longitude -76.0683

Physiographic province Eastern Shore Coastal P

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m

Site slope 0-5%

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

Ownership

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

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Unnamed tributary of Golds

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Minimum distance to water is 350 m

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Contact period site

ca. 1820 - 1860

Y

Archaic site

MD Adena

ca. 1630 - 1675

ca. 1860 - 1900

Y

Early archaic Y

Early woodland

ca. 1675 - 1720

ca. 1900 - 1930

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland Y

ca. 1720 - 1780

Post 1930

Late archaic Y

Late woodland

ca. 1780 - 1820

Y

Unknown historic context

Unknown prehistoric context

Unknown context

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American

Asian American

African American

Unknown

Anglo-American Y

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			
Clovis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Koens-Crispin	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehana	1
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Le Croy	1	Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>
Morrow Mntn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guilford	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brewerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Otter Creek	<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"/>
Dames Qtr	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coulbourn	<input type="checkbox"/>
Selden Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Watson	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accokeek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mockley	1
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"/>
Keyser	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minguannan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yeocomico	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sullivan Cove	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monongahela	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shenks Ferry	<input type="checkbox"/>
Susquehannock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moyaone	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Potomac Crk	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Sherd Types			
Earthenware		Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	3	Pearlware	18
		Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Whiteware	2
		Porcelain	1
		Stoneware	
		English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Nottingham	<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			
Flaked stone	1141	Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	1	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	34	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	317	Oyster shell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	1	Floral material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> clam shell	

Prehistoric Features			
Mound(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Storage/trash pit	<input checked="" 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"/>
Chert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sil sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Argilite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Probable Late Archaic pit features

Historic Artifacts			
Pottery (all)	35	Tobacco related	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	16	Activity item(s)	1
Architectural	68	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc.	48
		Other <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features			
Const feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Privy/outhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearth/chimney	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Planting feature	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paling ditch/fence	<input type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Depression/mound	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Earthworks	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Mill raceway	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Wheel pit	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Other	<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 18TA424 (or SH 8) is a multi-component prehistoric and historic archeological site north of Easton in Talbot County. The site consists of Middle Woodland lithic scatter, as well as a late 18th-19th century artifact scatter. The site is situated on a terrace overlooking a low area to the east. It is believed that in the prehistoric past, the low area was wetter than in modern times. Goldsborough Creek flows to the south of the site. 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 and Woodstown 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 18TA424 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, color, texture, and some interpretation. This resulted in the identification of 12 archeological sites, one of which was 18TA424.

Shovel testing at 18TA424 defined a site roughly 198.12 m (650 ft) east to west and 76.2 m (250 ft) north to south. A total of 84 prehistoric artifacts were recovered from this area. The Phase I prehistoric assemblage included 1 Fox Creek point, 1 core, 3 other biface fragments, 69 flakes, 1 chunk, a mano, a hammerstone, and 7 fire-cracked rocks. Also recovered from the site were a few historic artifacts. There were 16 brick fragments, 2 nails, 8 pieces of unidentified pottery, 2 fragments of whiteware, 1 piece of creamware, and 1 piece of pearlware. Three of the shovel tests produced 8 prehistoric artifacts from



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what appeared to be a sub-plowzone context. This material raised the potential for the site to have intact buried deposits and Phase II testing was recommended.

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 majority of the previously identified site area, 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 187 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 twelve 1.524 X 1.524 m (5 X 5 ft) excavation units. 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. 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.

During the Phase II testing, 1,391 prehistoric artifacts were recovered. A number of projectile points were recovered indicating that the site was used most heavily during the end of the Late Archaic. Point types of Dry Brook, Orient Fishtail, Rossville, Poplar Island, and Bare Island all have date ranges between 3000 BC and AD 1 with overlap around 1000 BC. Some occupation also took place during the Early Archaic based on the presence of bifurcate points, but this is a minor component.

The full Phase II prehistoric assemblage included 1 LeCroy point, a bifurcate point, 5 Bare Islands, 2 Rossvilles, a Susquehanna broadspear, 3 Poplar Island points, a Dry-Brook Fishtail, an Orient Fishtail, a side-notched point, an unidentified point tip, 11 bifaces, a scraper, 5 cores, 1,013 pieces of debitage, 19 chunks, 27 pieces of fire-cracked rock, 316 other lithics, and a Mockley sherd. In addition to the prehistoric artifacts, the Phase II excavations recovered 136 historic items. The historic assemblage included 1 activity item (a ball joint), 50 architectural artifacts (23 brick and 27 nails), 37 kitchen-related items (1 buff-bodied sherd, 2 creamware sherds, 17 pearlware, 1 porcelain, 2 redware, and 14 pieces of bottle glass), and 48 miscellaneous objects (11 unidentified iron, 2 pieces of glass, and 35 unidentified objects).

Two deep pit features were found at the site and appear to be related to the Late Archaic occupation. No ceramics were found nor were any Woodland-era projectile points. The presence of the pits is somewhat unusual for Late Archaic sites. Carbonized plant material (charred nut shell) was encountered in one of the pits (Feature 6). Not only can such materials provide information about the environment and diet, but ample samples for C-14 dating might be collected from similar undiscovered features.

Debitage collected from the site indicated some use of local cobbles. Cores and flakes suggest that the reduction sequence of these materials, and a variation of those sequences between quartz and other materials, might be discernible. At least two uni-facial quartz fragments suggest bi-polar reduction of quartz, a trait not seen on other material.

Hearths or chipping clusters were not identified. It is possible that these were destroyed by plowing. Given the number of pits and the deep soils, it is still possible these types of features remain. Even without hearths and chipping clusters, the information available from the pits could provide important information about the Late Archaic on the Delmarva Peninsula. 18TA424 clearly has the potential to provide important scientific information. The site has been determined eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95001736, 95001882