



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18TA425

Site Name: SH 9

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Prehistoric short-term camps or quarry; Early to mid 18th century house sites

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 5

SCS soil & sediment code HFB

Latitude 38.8161

Longitude -76.0670

Physiographic province Eastern Shore Coastal P

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m

Site slope 2-5%

Ethnobotany profile available Maritime site

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Goldsborough Creek

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Minimum distance to water is 122 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 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

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Archaic site

MD Adena

Early archaic

Early woodland

Middle archaic

Mid. 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

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

N

Flotation samples taken N

Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken N

N

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	1
Otter Creek	<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"/>	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	1	Staffordshire	15	Stoneware	
Astbury	3	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	41	English Brown	3
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	44	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	4	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	16	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	171	Pearlware	79			Rhenish	2
						Wt Salt-glazed	31

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	242	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	1	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	7
Fire-cracked rock	46	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	2	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"/>	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 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 type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Dated features present at site

18th century farmstead features - possible well, a cellar, and several pit features

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	1094	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	284	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	1582	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	49
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	2	Misc.	1326
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features

Const feature	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 18TA425 (or SH 9) is a very large multi-component site consisting of a series of prehistoric short-term camps or quarries, as well as mid 18th and early 19th century house sites north of Easton in Talbot County. The site appears to really be three occupation sites with overlapping boundaries, which prompted the single site designation. The site is situated on a terrace northeast of a small intermittent stream that flows towards nearby 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 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 18TA425 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 18TA425.

Shovel testing at 18TA425 defined a site roughly 335.28 m (1,100 ft) east to west and 304.8 m (1,000 ft) north to south. The impression in the field is that the site is really three sites with overlapping boundaries, which prompted the single site designation. It appeared that material from the site had been spread as cultural material was found to be erratically distributed west and south.



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Unknown

The northwest portion of the site was the location of a house that appears on 19th century atlases of the area and 20th century aerial photographs and maps. Maps identify it as the "Brown House". The house was destroyed in the late 20th century. Phase I testing over this portion of the site failed to identify any features associated with the house and indicated a high level of disturbance caused by demolition. Because of its age and degree of disturbance, this portion of the site was considered non-significant.

On the east edge of the site, a prehistoric scatter was found. The portion of the site overlooks a low, wet portion of the field that may have been an attractive area for game in the prehistoric past. Some potential was noted for this area to contain sub-plow contexts.

The south-central portion of 18TA425 was found to contain 18th century artifacts during the Phase I examination. A feature (a possible stone foundation) was also identified. Both the 18th century materials clustering in this area and the possible feature suggest a good possibility that a significant colonial site existed here. It is this 18th century component of the site that seems to have the most potential to yield important scientific information about the past.

A total of 1,582 historic period artifacts were recovered during Phase I work. Architectural materials include 568 brick fragments, 111 pieces of window glass, 46 fragments of mortar or cement, and 258 nails. This amounts to 62% of the assemblage. Among the nails there were 3 wrought nails, 4 wire nails, and 13 cut nails. The others were too corroded to identify. Among the 184 ceramic sherds there were 44 redware, 41 whiteware, 35 pearlware, 26 creamware, 6 porcelain, 5 Staffordshire slipware, 2 Rhenish stoneware, 2 Rockingham, 1 delftware, and 1 ironstone.

The prehistoric assemblage included 187 artifacts. It included 2 corner-notched points, 1 biface, a scraper, 129 flakes, 9 chunks, a mano, a hammerstone, and 43 pieces of fire-cracked rock. These materials represent lithic reduction from cobbles through to finished products.

Based primarily on the possibility of intact 18th century features and artifact deposits, Phase II testing was recommended at 18TA425.

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 south-central portion of the site (where colonial material had been encountered), 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 481 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 21 formal test units. While most of the units were 1.524 X 1.524 m (5 X 5 ft) in extent, 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, 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.

Phase II work re-iterated that Site 18TA425 is a complex site with multiple components. Prehistoric and historic artifacts were spread over a large area, as defined in the Phase I and verified during the Phase II. In fact, the entire Hospital project property appears to have a smear of 19th and 20th century artifacts across it. The modern topographic map of the area shows a house and other outbuildings toward the north end of this site. Document research (maps) and archeology showed the house dating back into the 19th century. The Phase I testing also showed a high level of disturbance in that area.

Phase II shovel testing in the extreme southern portion of the site was mostly carried out to test an area that would be impacted by construction of a storm water pond for runoff around the proposed hospital. It was discovered that soils in this area had been stripped and construction of the pond would not have any significant impact on archeological resources.

On the east end of the site, a loop road was planned. This road would circumnavigate the new hospital building. Shovel tests were extended in this area from the Phase II. In the Phase I prehistoric artifacts were found with a potential for sub-plowzone contexts. Shovel tests during the Phase II did not confirm this possibility. Two excavation units were placed in this area and it was found the prehistoric materials were within the plowzone. Thus, it was determined that construction of the loop road and other infrastructure in the eastern part of the site would have no impact on significant cultural resources.

However, 18TA425 was determined to have one significant archeological component. An early to middle 18th century component was encountered in the south-central portion of the site containing impressive cultural features. The Phase II investigations recovered a total of 2,665 historic artifacts and revealed ten cultural features that all appear to be associated with the 18th century component. The presence of the features (including a possible well, a cellar, and several pit features) suggests that the site has retained a significant level of integrity and may contain additional features associated with the 18th century occupation of the property.

A variety of ceramics, many coming from the Staffordshire district, were present, suggesting well-established trading networks. A mean ceramic date calculated on material from the excavation units is 1769. Pipe stem bore holes include four of 6/64th diameter, 13 at 5/64th and 9 at 4/64th. This reinforces the mid 18th century date for the site.

A relatively low amount of brick, the numbers of nails and the presence of daub suggest a frame building. Large post holes likely persist. Faunal material recovered from this site indicates that some interpretation of diet, and possibly animal husbandry, may be garnered from this site.

Artifacts recovered during the Phase II testing included 111 prehistoric artifacts and 2,665 historic artifacts. The prehistoric assemblage included a Madison point, 99 pieces of debitage, 1 other lithic, 3 pieces of fire-cracked rock, and 7 fragments of oyster shell. The historic assemblage included 599 architectural artifacts (474 pieces of brick, 3 daub fragments, a piece of blown window glass, 9 other window glass fragments, 56 wrought nails, and 56 unidentified nails), 2 clothing items (brass buckle parts), 1,107 kitchen-related artifacts (910 ceramic sherds, 3 pieces of table glass, 145 vessel glass fragments, and 49 faunal remains), 46 tobacco-related artifacts (29 pipe stem fragments, 2 pipe bowl fragments, 25 other pipe fragments), and 911 miscellaneous objects (209 iron fragments, 16 pieces of glass, 14 coal/slag fragments, 2 cinders, and 670 undescribed historic artifacts). The ceramic sherds include 40 tin-glazed sherds, 10 Staffordshire slipware, 4 Buckley, 3 Astbury, 4 buff-paste earthenware, 1 black basalt sherd, 145 creamware, 44 pearlware, 10 porcelain, 31 white salt-glazed stoneware, 3 English Brown stoneware, 33 Westerwald stoneware, 2 miscellaneous stoneware, 3 whiteware, 530 redware, and 47 other sherds.

Based on deed research, it appears that the colonial occupation located here was the home of James Ratcliffe. He appears to have acquired the land in 1721



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when his father, Richard, died. James died in 1767. The artifacts found seem to fall within this timeframe. Pearlware, with its early date of 1780 is present in small amounts and only in the plowzone. It is believed that these items are part of the scatter spread over the fields and not related to site occupation. Also, the 7183 tax assessment lists a part of Jacob and Johns Pasture as owned by William Ratcliffe but no longer occupied. The Ratcliffe family members were middling farmers and tradesmen. Archeological sites of this status and time period have not been well-examined on the mid-shore.

Considering the age, and the amount of intact remains at Site 18TA425 (in the southern/colonial section), it has been concluded that detailed study of this site could provide important scientific information about colonial life in Talbot County. For this reason, this site should remain undisturbed until it is fully investigated. MHT has determined that the site is eligible for inclusion on the National Register.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95001736, 95001882