



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18WA37

Site Name: Visitor Center

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Late Archaic, Woodland base camp

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 20

SCS soil & sediment code WbB2

Latitude 39.6193

Longitude -78.0134

Physiographic province Ridge and Valley

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 440 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
- 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) Big Pool

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Minimum distance to water is 200 m

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Archaic site

MD Adena

Early archaic

Early woodland

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

Late archaic

Late woodland

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 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

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?

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

Flotation samples taken

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	3
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	1	Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guilford	2	Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brewerton	4	Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Otter Creek	1	Madison/Potomac	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Levanna	6

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	<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"/>	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			
Flaked stone	8549	Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	2	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	23	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<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 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 type="checkbox"/>	Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	greenstone	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts			
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tobacco related	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>	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.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features

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

This site was investigated in preparation for construction of a new visitor's center for the Fort Frederick State Park. The construction project will include the grading of a significant portion of an area near the fort for a parking lot. Two archeological studies were carried out to locate and evaluate the extent and significance of the archeological remains present at the impact area. The first study was a controlled surface collection of the area carried out in 1976 by Joe McNamara (then a Master's student at Catholic University). That study first located 18WA37, the Visitor Center Site. The number of artifacts collected suggested the possibility that intact archeological features might be found beneath the plow zone. A second study, Phase II work, was initiated to determine whether or not this was the case.

Visitor Center (also known as Michael's Farm) is located on a Pleistocene terrace above the Potomac River. The surface sediments are terrace gravels included in a matrix of fine orange-red sand and clay, overlaying Devonian shales. Testing revealed that all the archeological remains at the site had been disturbed by plowing and the ground surface had been severely deflated by erosion. In fact, no archeological features were encountered during Phase II work. Artifactual evidence gathered during the test excavations and the earlier reconnaissance (Phase I) work suggests that the site was occupied from late Early Archaic times through the Late Woodland period, but not during Historic times.

Phase II testing involved the excavation of seventeen 2 X 2 meter test units. These units were placed in areas of high artifact concentration based on the recoveries made during the Phase I surface collection. To allow for complete coverage of the site, five 1 X 10 meter trenches and three 1 X 15 meter trenches were placed through areas of low artifact concentration. The plow zone was removed from all excavation units before proceeding with excavation, but a sample of the plow zone was screened from each high density area. No screen samples were taken in the trenches, but diagnostic artifacts encountered by chance while shoveling out the plow zone were retained for analysis. Plow scars were evident in every unit and only one possible feature was encountered. However, this appears to have been an animal burrow.

A total of 23 ceramic sherds were recovered during both the Phase I surface collection and Phase II testing at the site. No information is available concerning these sherds, other than at least one of them is grit-tempered. While a Woodland component is clearly present at 18WA37, it appears likely from its size that it was not used for permanent or even long-term seasonal occupation.

Several diagnostic projectile points were recovered. Eight are side-notched Warren points, 1 is a Le Croy point, 1 is Morrow Mountain, 2 are Guilford points, 4 are Brewerton corner-notched, 2 are Savannah River points, 3 are Broadspears, 3 are Orient fishtails, 4 are Rossville points, and 6 appear to be Levanna triangular points. One unclassified corner-notched point and 4 shallow side-notched point (generally thought to date to the Middle Woodland) were recovered. In addition, the site yielded a large Rhyolite point similar to Otter Creek. Sixteen unidentifiable points and point fragments came from the site as well. Other chipped stone lithics include a triangular end scraper, 2 other scrapers, 1 side scraper, 2 small bifaces, 5 biface fragments, a side-notched chipped-stone axe, and some 8481 pieces of flake and debitage. The vast majority of the lithics were made of chert, followed by rhyolite. The only other stone objects recovered were 2 ground soapstone bowl fragments.

Prehistorically, the site appears to have functioned as an artifact manufacturing station, utilizing cobble deposits of chert available on the terrace, and possibly as a staging area for food extraction from the varied surrounding environments. This reflects a similar use pattern as that for other Pleistocene terraces in the region. With respect to lithic raw materials, some rhyolite, apparently available only from the Blue Ridge, some 40 km away, is present at the site in spite of the abundance of chert in the area. The heaviest use of rhyolite occurs during the Middle Woodland period, contrasting with the pattern in the Great Valley to the east, where rhyolite is the predominant lithic raw material during Late Archaic times.

The overflow parking lot for Ft. Frederick State Park has been built on top of the site.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00006350