



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18WA442

Site Name: Mountaintop I

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Early and Late Archaic base camp and Early Woodland Adena short-term camp

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 18

SCS soil & sediment code ReC,RcC

Latitude 39.6483

Longitude -77.5478

Physiographic province Blue Ridge

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m

Site slope 3-15%

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) Unnamed tributary of Antietam

- | 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 14 m | | | |

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

- Paleoindian site
- Archaic site
- Early archaic Y
- Middle archaic
- Late archaic Y
- Unknown prehistoric context
- Woodland site
- MD Adena
- Early woodland Y
- Mid. woodland
- Late woodland
- Unknown historic context
- Unknown context

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

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 | Furnace/forge <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Military</td> <td>Post-in-ground <input type="checkbox"/> </td> | Military | Post-in-ground <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Urban/Rural? <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Other <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Battlefield <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Frame-built <input type="checkbox"/> </td></td></td> | Other <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Battlefield <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Frame-built <input type="checkbox"/> </td></td> | Battlefield <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Frame-built <input type="checkbox"/> </td> | Frame-built <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Domestic | Homestead <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Transportation</td> <td>Fortification <input type="checkbox"/> </td> | Transportation | Fortification <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Farmstead <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Mansion <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Canal-related <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Encampment <input type="checkbox"/> </td></td></td> | Mansion <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Canal-related <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Encampment <input type="checkbox"/> </td></td> | Canal-related <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Encampment <input type="checkbox"/> </td> | Encampment <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Plantation <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Row/townhome <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Road/railroad <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Townsite <input type="checkbox"/> </td></td></td> | Row/townhome <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Road/railroad <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Townsite <input type="checkbox"/> </td></td> | Road/railroad <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Townsite <input type="checkbox"/> </td> | Townsite <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cellar <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Privy <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Wharf/landing <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Religious <input type="checkbox"/> </td></td></td> | Privy <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Wharf/landing <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Religious <input type="checkbox"/> </td></td> | Wharf/landing <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Religious <input type="checkbox"/> </td> | Religious <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Industrial | Mining-related <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Quarry-related <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Mill <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Black/metalsmith <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Maritime-related <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Bridge <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Ford <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Educational <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Trading post <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Store <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Tavern/inn <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Church/mtg house <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Ch support bldg <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Burial area <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Cemetery <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Sepulchre <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Isolated burial <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Bldg or foundation <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Possible Structure <input type="checkbox"/> </td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td> | Quarry-related <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Mill <input 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| | | Slave related <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Non-domestic agri <input type="checkbox"/> </td> | Non-domestic agri <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Recreational <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Midden/dump <input type="checkbox"/> </td> | Midden/dump <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Artifact scatter <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Spring or well <input type="checkbox"/> </td> | Spring or well <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Other context <input type="checkbox"/> </td> | Other context <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18WA442

Site Name: Mountaintop I

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief Description:

Early and Late Archaic base camp and Early Woodland Adena short-term camp

Unknown

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	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (notch)	2	Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (stem)	4	Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Le Croy	<input type="checkbox"/>	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	2	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"/>	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	2563	Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	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)	<input type="checkbox"/>	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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<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



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18WA442

Site Name: Mountaintop I

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief Description:

Early and Late Archaic base camp and Early Woodland Adena short-term camp

Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Mountaintop I site (18WA442) is located within a level topographic swale situated between two ridgetops, and within an existing electric transmission line right-of-way. At the time of excavation, it was vegetated in scrub growth and bisected by a narrow road that parallels the transmission line. Soils at the site consist of a strongly developed and poorly drained Highfield gravelly loam, a moderately eroded and very gravelly or channery silt loam.

This site was first identified during Phase I surface collections in the vicinity in preparation for the replacement of the existing Reid-Thurmont 138kV electric line with the proposed Allegheny Power System's Ringgold-Liberty 138kV line. Thirty-three lithic artifacts, all made of rhyolite, were found lying across the surface of the narrow access road associated with the existing transmission line. Because the integrity of the site was uncertain, and impact to the site could not be avoided during construction, Phase II testing was recommended to ascertain site boundaries, significance, chronology, and integrity.

Phase II work at the site involved the excavation of 77 shovel test pits measuring 50 cm X 50 cm on a 5-meter grid to establish the site's physical limits and to determine the extent of impact from previous powerline construction. Subsequently, ten 2 X 2 meter units were hand excavated to investigate site integrity, and they were placed in locations which yielded the greatest number of artifacts and/or diagnostic artifacts during the shovel testing. A total of 912 lithic artifacts (discussed below) were encountered during Phase II operations. Given the large number of artifacts found within a small section of the right-of-way during Phase II work and the presence of undisturbed cultural deposits, it was determined that the site was regionally significant for its research potential. Although it was determined that the Mountaintop I site would not be directly impacted by the proposed construction of the transmission line, it was located in an area proposed for limited grading to deter slope erosion (and the impacts of off-road vehicles frequenting the site). Since these activities were determined to potentially impact the site, it was subsequently recommended for data recovery excavations.

Following the methodology previously outlined for testing the Mountaintop I site, an additional ten 2 X 2 meter test units were excavated within the area of the site containing the greatest concentrations of artifacts. To maintain tighter provenience control, each 2 X 2 meter unit was subdivided into 1 meter quadrants. In addition, the Phase III study included retrieving a 2-liter soil sample for water screening from one quadrant of each unit to retrieve microlithics. Unfortunately, no microlithics were recovered from any of the Phase III excavation units.

A total of 2563 prehistoric artifacts were recovered from the Phase I, Phase II, and Phase III investigations at the Mountaintop I site. All were lithics, the dominant raw material being rhyolite. Quartz, black and brown quartzite, silicified sandstone, jasper, and chert were also recovered. A total of 14 projectile points were recovered, including five heavily curated rhyolite Kirk-like points, a black chert Kirk serrated point, a quartz Adena-like point, a rhyolite Brewerton side-notched, a rhyolite Brewerton corner-notched, and several other points and point fragments. Some of the points have bifurcated bases suggesting an Early Archaic association. Twenty-six bifaces and biface fragments were also encountered. Most appear to be remnants of mid to late stage biface reduction. The remaining lithics from the site are 7 utilized/retouched flakes, 3 scrapers, 5 quartz cores and core fragments, 912 primary flakes, 1395 secondary flakes, 72 tertiary flakes, 107 blocks, and 22 pieces of shatter.

The data obtained from the Mountaintop I site have shown that the ridgetop was occupied at least twice throughout prehistory; one or several occupations took place during Early Archaic times and again one or more prehistoric occupations took place during the Late Archaic period. During both periods it appears the locus was utilized as a base camp which also functioned well for processing rhyolite. The rhyolite raw material was carried in blocks and/or small pieces from exposed outcrops located near the locus (such as 18WA443 & 18WA446) or arrived in roughed-out slabs from other outcroppings. Although no cultural features were exposed during the investigations, this was not unexpected given the shallow soil depth to bedrock. This probably precluded the intrusion of subsurface storage pits and hearths into the substrata. The poorly-drained nature of the soil would suggest that the site was occupied during the summer or early fall (the dry season). A much more detailed discussion of the findings at the site and how they fit into the regional context are available in the interpretive sections of the Phase III site report, than is possible here. This investigation does demonstrate that lithic scatter sites containing no features can yield significant data which are useful in interpreting regional prehistoric cultural behavior.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00006337, 00006355