



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18WC101

Site Name: Parsons

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Late Archaic, Early Woodland, and Late Woodland short-term procurement camp

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 3

SCS soil & sediment code EpB,EsB

Latitude 38.3976

Longitude -75.5876

Physiographic province Eastern Shore Coastal P

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 13 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) Wicomico River

- | 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 60 m

## 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
- 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?

### 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

### Religious

- Church/mtg house
- Ch support bldg

### Burial area

Cemetery

Sepulchre

### Bldg or foundation

Isolated burial

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		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	<input type="checkbox"/>
Otter Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Levana	<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

<b>Earthenware</b>		Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Stoneware</b>	
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"/>	<b>Porcelain</b>	<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		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	126	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	8	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

Fer quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sil sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jasper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	6	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	27	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	17	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	41
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc.	15
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Historic Features

Privy/outhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	Depression/mound	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Const feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Earthworks	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearth/chimney	<input type="checkbox"/>	Planting feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mill raceway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wheel pit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paling ditch/fence	<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 MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

The Parsons Site (18WC101) is a multicomponent short-term procurement site with occupations dating from the Archaic period through the Late Woodland period and a minor late 19th/early 20th century homestead component. The site sits on a dune situated on a high terrace above the Wicomico River on land owned by the State Highway Authority/Maryland Department of Transportation (SHA/MDOT). The site is bounded to the east by a steep slope leading down to the Wicomico River. Construction of wetlands by SHA at the site required extensive excavation in the 1990s. The site is situated within the Evesboro-Klej soil association. The Evesboro soils of the project area are composed of well drained loamy sands and sand.

A Phase I evaluation was conducted in December 1993. Archival research prior to fieldwork indicated that at least 5 sites with prehistoric components have previously been identified within a 3.2 km (2 mile) radius of 18WC101. These include base camps and lithic scatters that date to the Late Archaic, Early Woodland, and Late Woodland periods. The acreage that the Parsons Site sits on was occupied several times during the late 19th/early 20th century. The 2 most recent occupations were on a parcel owned by the Parsons family and another owned by the Brown family (but let out to a Rufus Johnson). All that remains of the mid-20th century Rufus Johnson house and associated outbuildings are the traces of block foundations and architectural rubble on the recently graded surface, and the Parsons dwelling are situated just south of the site.

Phase I fieldwork included a pedestrian survey and 161 shovel test excavations at 20.11 m (66 ft) intervals. A total of 20 prehistoric artifacts were recovered which were clustered on the crest and slip face of the approximately 120 m-long dune. There were 2 broken projectile points belonging to the Late Archaic/Early Woodland transition period, a Townsend Incised ceramic sherd dated to the Late Woodland period, and 17 flakes made from jasper, chert, quartz and quartzite. A number of historic artifacts were recovered that are likely associated with the Johnson occupation. These include 10 architectural items (3 brick fragments, 1 wire nail, 1 window glass shard, 1 tile fragment, 3 asbestos tile fragments, and a possible metal latch), 55 kitchen-related items (3 bottle glass shards, 1 milk glass shard, 4 table glass shards, 2 gray stoneware, 1 other stoneware, and 1 whiteware sherd, 38 animal bones, 1 oyster shell fragment, and 2 carbonized seeds), and 8 miscellaneous items (2 unidentified metal fragments, 1 piece of slate, 2 asphalt fragments, 2 coal pieces, and 1 charcoal fragment).

A Phase II evaluation of the site was conducted from August-September 1994. A total of 15 test units (Tus) and 13 shovel tests were excavated during the investigation. TUs were placed at approximately 20 m intervals across the site area and the shovel tests were excavated along a 5 m grid around TU 14 in order to define the extent of the buried artifact concentration. The concentration of prehistoric material was found on the slip face of the dune near the edge of the terrace in an intact soil horizon. It appears to represent a discrete episode of lithic reduction but it cannot be linked with any diagnostic artifacts from the site. Thus, the cultural affiliation of the concentration of material is unknown.

A total of 114 prehistoric artifacts were recovered during the Phase II excavations. These include: 3 projectile points, 3 bifaces, 6 utilized/modified flakes, 7 sand-tempered and 1 shell-tempered sherds, and 95 pieces of debitage. 83% of the debitage was recovered from TU 14. The majority raw material type was jasper (52.7%) followed by chert (43.9), quartz (1.1%), quartzite (1.1%), and rhyolite (1.1%). Chert showed the highest incidence of heat treatment. Although none of the projectile points can be specifically typed, one has characteristics similar to the Palmer type Early Archaic point. The sand-tempered ceramic sherds may represent late Early Woodland or early Middle Woodland types such as Wolf Neck Ware and the shell-tempered sherd may represent a Late Woodland type. A total of 32 historic artifacts were found at the site. There were 7 architectural items (1 window glass shard, 2 roofing shingles, 1 drainage pipe fragment, 1 wire nail, 1 cut nail, and 1 miscellaneous hardware), 18 kitchen-related items (13 bottle glass shards, 3 milk glass shards, and 2 whiteware sherds), and 7 miscellaneous items (1 piece of rubber, 1 piece of plastic, 2 coal fragments, 1 unidentified glass shard, and 2 unidentified metal fragments). Again, these are most likely associated with the Johnson occupation.

Although the Parsons Site (18WC101) represents a series of short-term prehistoric occupations dating from the Late Archaic period through the Late Woodland period, it lacks significant data pertaining to local or regional themes. No definitely diagnostic artifacts were recovered and no cultural features were identified. It has been adversely affected by the erosion/deflation of the sand dune and by subsequent plowing. This destructive combination appears to have destroyed any features associated with prehistoric use of the site, and has made impossible the delineation of any activity areas with substantive research potential.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00005122, 00005123