

Phase II and Phase III Project Cover Sheet

All information contained within the individual site database and inventory sheets is solely the work of the researchers and authors noted below. The data provided has been culled from the original site reports noted below and in many cases has been lifted directly from them with little or no editing. The database and inventory sheets are meant to serve as a synopsis of the report findings and a finding aid and are not intended to replace or republish the research of the authors noted below.

REPORT INFORMATION:

2007 Cox, C.J., et. al.
Assessment and Evaluation of Select Archaeological Resources in the Rhode River Region:
Anne Arundel County, Maryland.
Submitted to the Maryland Historical Trust

Library ID No: 95001575 Catalog/Shelving ID: AN 612

Research Firm/Institution:

The Lost Towns Project
P.O. Box 1573
Annapolis, MD 21404

Sites examined:

18AN282 18AN339 18AN424 18AN1281 18AN1285

Project Details:

Phase I

Phase II



Phase III

Project Justification:

In FY2005, the Maryland Historical Trust awarded a Non-capital Historic Preservation Grant to the Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation (ACT), and the associated Lost Towns Project, to conduct an archeological survey of the north shore of the Rhode River in Anne Arundel County. A total of 44 archeological sites were discovered and preliminarily assessed, 9 of which were targeted for future work. In FY2006, MHT again provided funds to ACT to carry out testing at 5 of the potentially significant sites. The five sites chosen (18AN1281, 18AN1285, 18AN282, 18AN424, and 18AN339) were selected based on accessibility (from the landowners), variation, and potential. The MHT Non-capital Historic Preservations Grants are funded by the state legislature and, as such, represent expenditures of public funds for the purposes of archeological (and historic) research and interpretation.

Project Objectives:

- Better define the site boundaries for each resource.
- Determine if intact subsurface features are present at any of the sites.
- Further assess each site's potential significance in terms of its NRHP eligibility.

Research Potential:

Site 18AN282 is likely eligible for the National Register based upon Criterion D. The most intact portion of this site extends into the woods, towards the shoreline (where plowing did not reach). More is certain to be learned from both the intact and plowed portions of this site should further systematic testing be undertaken. It is clear that this area has the potential to yield more information. The site is relatively protected, as it is privately owned, and the owners are strongly inclined towards the preservation of this site and the many other site on their property. The beach is rarely visited, thus, erosion is the most likely threat and is likely due to natural and not manmade forces. The inland topography is relatively stable though at the shoreline edge, the soil is actively eroding. Prehistoric ceramics and lithics are regularly recovered from the beach as the erosion continues and the pace of erosion should be monitored if possible.

See below for remaining research questions at 18AN339.

Site 18AN424 is likely eligible for the National Register based upon Criteria D. This site promises to yield information that is important in learning more about the history in this region, and the artifacts discovered show evidence of an early 19th century farm complex. The site also has subsurface integrity and intact features. This site is relatively protected as it is on privately-owned land that is operated primarily as a passive recreational space.

Site 18AN1281 is likely eligible for the National Register based upon Criteria D. This site has yielded information that is important in learning more about Late Woodland prehistory in this region, and with intact deposits showing evidence of a short-term procurement site, that promises to yield additional information. The site is relative protected as it is on Anne Arundel County parkland operated as a passive recreational space. The beaches are not heavily used and the topography is relatively stable, thus, not threatening the integrity of the site.

See below for remaining research questions at 18AN1285.

REPORT INFORMATION:

2008 Sperling, S.T.
Limited Phase III Investigations at 18AN339: the Java Plantation and 18AN1285: Camp
Letts, Rhode River Region, Anne Arundel County, Maryland.
Submitted to the Maryland Historical Trust

Library ID No: 95001576 Catalog/Shelving ID: AN 613

Research Firm/Institution:

The Lost Towns Project
P.O. Box 1573
Annapolis, MD 21404

Sites examined:

18AN339 18AN1285

Project Details:

Phase I	Project Justification: In FY2005, the Maryland Historical Trust awarded a Non-capital Historic Preservation Grant to the Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation (ACT), and the associated Lost Towns Project, to conduct an archeological survey of the north shore of the Rhode River in Anne Arundel County. A total of 44 archeological sites were discovered and preliminarily assessed, 9 of which were targeted for future work. In FY2006, MHT again provided funds to ACT to carry out testing at 5 of the potentially significant sites. Finally, in 2007, two of the most promising and representative sites in the watershed: 18AN1285 (a Middle Woodland period prehistoric site) and 18AN339 (an expansive multi-component historic plantation) were subjected to Phase III data recovery. The MHT Non-capital Historic Preservations Grants are funded by the state legislature and, as such, represent expenditures of public funds for the purposes of archeological (and historic) research and interpretation.
Phase II	
Phase III <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Project Objectives:
-Conduct geophysical survey at the two subject archeological sites.
-Carry out documentary research related to the inhabitants of 18AN339.
-Investigate the earthfast dwelling identified at 18AN339.
-Examine the two oyster shell middens at 18AN1285.

Research Potential:

The research potential of Site 18AN339 is almost limitless. With over 350 years of continuous historic occupation and perhaps thousands of years of prehistoric occupation before that, there is a great deal that can be learned at the site about the rich history of Anne Arundel County. As mentioned previously, intact historic features were encountered during the 2006-2008 research project, but were not excavated. Recently, the property was acquired by the Smithsonian Land Trust, and the land, its management, and its opportunity for public programming, will be consolidated within the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center.

Investigations at Camp Letts 11 (18AN1285) revealed exciting and unexpected information about the Selby Bay Phase of the Middle Woodland period (ca. AD 200 – AD 900). After careful analysis of the artifact assemblage and consultation with prehistoric pottery experts, it was determined that the site exhibited evidence of attempted pottery manufacture on the Rhode River. Hundreds of partially fired, crumbly, friable, shell-tempered, near-pottery sherds were recovered from one of the shell middens on site, clearly demonstrating a failed attempt at making coiled clay pots in the vicinity. This, coupled with a relative dearth of rhyolite recovered from the site (a non-local lithic type usually found in abundance on sites of this time period), demonstrated that 18AN1285 offers a new perspective on the presumably transient and temporary nature of a short-term resource procurement camp from the Middle Woodland time period. Sampling at the site covered only a fraction of it. From an academic perspective, further consideration of the pottery-making component may be of great interest. Acquiring clay samples from the region, and conducting clay sourcing studies would allow archeologists to further explore prehistoric pottery making. Site 18AN1285 retains significant research potential.
