# 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:**

2010 Sara, T.R., et. al.

Phase II Archaeological Investigations of Sites 18CA232, 18CA233, and 18CA234 Within the Proposed Bridgetown Shore Sand and Gravel Phase VI Mine Expansion, Caroline County, Maryland.

Submitted to Shore Sand and Gravel

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Research Firm/Institutution:

TRC Environmental, Inc.
9056 Chevrolet Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Sites examined:

18CA232 18CA233 18CA234

Project Details:

Phase I

Phase II [X]

Phase III

Project Justification:

This report presents the findings of Phase II archeological investigations at three prehistoric archeological site (18CA232, 18CA233, and 18CA234) located within a (then) proposed 95.35 acre sand and gravel mine expansion parcel. The sites were initially identified during archeological survey for the mine expansion in March of 2009, which resulted in a recommendation for further work. The CRM work was requested as part of the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) surface mining permit review process to ensure protection of significant cultural resources.

Project Objectives:

-Determine if analysis of the data from the 3 sites can identify different functional activities related to subsistence pursuits, lithic material procurement, and processing during different prehistoric periods.

-Assess the chronology of the human occupation at each of the site. Determine the degree to which radiocarbon dates and temporally diagnostic artifacts provide more refined dates for the various prehistoric occupations.

-Ascertain whether artifact concentrations represent discrete activity areas such as lithic reduction workshops, hearths, and possible cooking, storage, and habitation features.

-Utilize (if possible) fire-cracked rock to indicate the presence of hearths including possible roasting or cooking pits, or fires used for heating.

-Locate any other features that are present.

-Determine how the three sites relate to other contemporaneous sites in the Choptank River Drainage and whether such relationships can be discerned through comparative analysis.

-Determine if there is sufficient data present to address questions regarding the organization and function of the sites as applicable to the overall subsistence and settlement themes outlined in the Maryland State Historic Preservation Plan.

Research Potential:

Phase II investigations have shown that Sites 18CA232 and 18CA233 have yielded, and will undoubtedly continue to yield information important to our understanding of the prehistoric period of Maryland's Eastern Shore Coastal Plain and Chesapeake Bay region. Avoidance or mitigation of impacts to the sites was recommended for the gravel mining expansion project. In November of 2009, revised site plans for the expanded mine were provided to MHT and illustrated the level and extent of impact to the archeological sites in the project vicinity. The revised site plans illustrated that both 18CA232 and 18CA233 would be protected by a 50-foot buffer and, consequently, would not be impacted by the expanded mine. Thus, these sites should still retain significant research potential.

Due to the very low frequency of artifacts recovered from Site 18CA234, further investigation of this site is unlikely to enhance our understanding of the site, or local and regional prehistory. The site should not be considered a significant archeological resource.