

Phase II and Phase III Project Cover Sheet

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REPORT INFORMATION:

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Phase II Archeological Evaluations for the Proposed Alpha Ridge Park, Howard County, Maryland.
Submitted to J. Christopher Batten, Inc.

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Sites examined:

18HO125	18HO126	18HO128	18HO129
	NRHP Eligible: <input type="checkbox"/> N	NRHP Eligible: <input type="checkbox"/> N	NRHP Eligible: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y
	Justification	Justification	Justification

Project Details:

Phase I	<input type="checkbox"/>	Project Justification: This report presents the results of Phase II archeological evaluations of four archeological sites for the proposed Alpha Ridge Park in Howard County, Maryland. The proposed park area encompasses fallow fields on low ridges above and within the floodplain of the Little Patuxent River. Site 18HO125 is located almost entirely within the bounds of the Howard County Landfill; a portion of this landfill property will be used for the park's entrance road. The proposed development by the Department of Recreation and Parks will include construction of roads and a parking area, grading for playing fields, construction of storm-water catchment ponds, and creation of wetlands mitigation areas. Portions of the adjacent Howard County Landfill property will be graded for construction of the entrance road.
Phase II	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Phase III	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Project Objectives:
-Determine the age and function of each archeological resource.
-Determine the horizontal and vertical boundaries of each resource
-Determine the integrity of each resource.
-Assess the project effects on each resource.

Research Potential:

No significant intact historical deposits were encountered at 18HO125. However, due to the unexpectedly large extent of the historic site as a whole, and the relatively limited portion which was to be impacted by construction of the access road, much of the remaining area could not be assessed to a degree sufficient to test for archeological significance. Should future project plans call for development in the eastern portions of the site, additional Phase II investigations should be undertaken. Although a small number of prehistoric artifacts were recovered from a remnant A2 horizon, the limited depth of this horizon makes it unlikely that any substantive research questions could be answered through further investigation of the prehistoric deposits.

The historic deposits at 18HO126 are representative of a common 19th-20th century agricultural farmstead. Similar representative examples of this site type may be seen throughout the Maryland Piedmont. Furthermore, nearby Site 18HO125 is a second example of this site type located within the same mitigation project area. Only very limited archeological data would be generated by additional excavation at 18HO126 and the site should be considered to have low research potential. Furthermore, a majority of the prehistoric artifacts that were recovered, came from portions of the site that were later determined to be associated with Site 18HO129. Those prehistoric deposits still associated with 18HO126 are mixed with historic deposits and are not considered significant.

The occupation of Site 18HO128 reflects a probable Late Archaic hunting or processing station. Unfortunately, deflation and plowing of the site have destroyed the vertical and horizontal integrity of artifact patterning in the site. Thus, the site has no remaining prehistoric research potential.

Because there is so little information on the prehistoric occupation of the central Maryland Piedmont, it is clear that Site 18HO129 (a stratified multi-component site) offers substantive research potential. Further documentation of the site will afford opportunities to clarify the local prehistoric sequence and to resolve research questions related to the regional relationship of the central Piedmont to the better known Western Shore of the Monocacy Valley.