

Phase II and Phase III Project Cover Sheet

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REPORT INFORMATION:

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Phase II Archaeological Testing of 18HO45, 18HO221, and 18HO222, Howard County Pathways Project, Phase 3.
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Research Firm/Institution:

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Sites examined:

18HO45 18HO221 18HO222

Project Details:

Phase I

Phase II



Phase III

Project Justification:

This report describes Phase II testing at 3 documented archaeological sites carried out in late 1997 and early 1998 by the Baltimore Center for Urban Archaeology. All three sites were located within the (then) proposed right-of-way for the Howard County Pathways System Phase 3 or Spinal Pathway. The Spinal Pathway involved building a 4.3 mile path between Lake Elkhorn in Columbia and Savage. Testing was required by the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) and the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) before construction of the Spinal Pathway, since a grant from the federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Enhancement Act (ISTEA) would be used in the development of the pathway system. Because of federal funding, the Spinal Pathway project was subject to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

Project Objectives:

- Define the horizontal and vertical limits of each site.
- Interpret activities, functions, time span and historic contexts of each site.
- Assess the local or regional significance of each site.
- Evaluate the eligibility of each site for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places or the Maryland Inventory of Historic Places.
- Determine the impact (if any) of the undertaking on each site.
- Determine the need for additional archeological treatment of each site, if needed.

Research Potential:

Archeological excavation during the 1997/1998 Phase II project at 18HO45 failed to encounter any cultural remains. The area investigated during the Phase I and II probably represents the very edges of a once larger site. Almost all of this site has been destroyed by construction of a subdivision on the terrace above. A few small chipping clusters may remain. Two of these were located during the Phase I project, but no others were located during Phase II work. While no further work was required for the Spinal Pathways project, the site may still retain some potential in areas of the site which are located outside the right-of-way for the trail.

The Phase II investigations at 18HO221 focused on those areas of the site within the right-of-way for the Spinal Pathway. Though no intact features were encountered, specific activity areas could be documented based on their horizontal segregation. Thus, the site retains some degree of integrity. Areas of the site that were not examined during Phase II work could include living areas, or additional lithic workshop locales. No additional work was required within the trail right-of-way, but the site may still retain significant potential in other areas that remain largely unexamined.

Phase II testing at 18HO222 uncovered a series of in situ stratigraphic deposits in the terrace portion of the site ranging from the Late Archaic to the Late Woodland in date. Though no determination of eligibility has been completed by MHT, this site is likely eligible for nomination to the NRHP. The Middle Archaic through the Early Woodland periods were a time of intense change in the lifeways of prehistoric populations. The Sheet 19 site has the potential to allow us to gather data concerning settlement habits over a long period of time. Trail plans were altered in such a way that those portions of the site that would be impacted by construction of the Spinal Path could be preserved in place. Much of the rest of the site fell outside the right-of-way for the project altogether. It should still be considered a resource with tremendous potential.