

Phase II and Phase III Project Cover Sheet

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REPORT INFORMATION:

2008 Bodor, T. and K. Cooper
Little Patuxent Parallel Sewer Project: Phase II Archeological Evaluation of Sites 18HO275, 18HO276, 18HO277, and 18HO278, Howard County, Maryland.
Submitted to the Howard County Department of Public Works

Research Firm/Institution:

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Library ID No: 95000495 Catalog/Shelving ID: HO 115

Sites examined:

18HO275	18HO276	18HO277	18HO278
NRHP Eligible: <input type="checkbox"/> N	NRHP Eligible: <input type="checkbox"/> N	NRHP Eligible: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y	NRHP Eligible: <input type="checkbox"/> N
Justification	Justification	Justification	Justification

Project Details:

Phase I	<input type="checkbox"/>	Project Justification: This report presents the findings of a 2007 Phase II archeological evaluation of 4 sites within the area of potential effect (APE) for the (then) proposed Little Patuxent Parallel Sewer Interceptor. This 45 foot wide APE extended over 10.4 miles between the Little Patuxent Water Reclamation Plant in Savage, MD and I-95 near Columbia. The sewer interceptor was subject to the regulations contained in Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and Sections 5-A325 and 5-A326 of the Annotated Code of Maryland because of the issuance of wetland permits by the US Army Corps of Engineers and the MD Department of the Environment.
Phase II	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Phase III	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Project Objectives:
-Determine the NRHP eligibility status of all four previously identified archeological sites.
-Assess the integrity of each site.
-Determine if cultural deposits are present at any of these sites which are capable of addressing significant research questions related to Maryland's prehistory.

Research Potential:

Geomorphological evidence suggested that 18HO275 had been disturbed by flooding throughout the prehistoric period. This had been accentuated by land clearing during the historic and modern periods. Based on this evidence of flood disturbance, as well as a general lack of cultural materials and features, it was determined that the site lacked further research potential. The site should not be considered a significant archeological resource.

The lack of prehistoric artifacts, and absence of prehistoric cultural features at 18HO276, makes an interpretation of site function dubious. Flooding during the prehistoric periods, and accentuated by increased flooding and plowing during the historic and modern periods, has resulted in the mixing of artifacts. The presence of sparse amounts of prehistoric lithic artifacts and pottery suggests that the site was probably used as a seasonal campsite for resource procurement forays during the Woodland Period. The low density of artifacts from the prehistoric period may also be the result of redeposition of cultural materials, including high amounts of historic and modern artifacts, by flooding. The site is not a significant archeological resource.

Site 18HO277 contains intact, buried archeological contexts containing cultural features and diagnostic artifacts that would indicate that the site has the potential to continue to yield archeological information through excavation, research, and analysis. Phase II researchers suggested that the sewer line project be modified to avoid the site. MHT determined that the site was likely eligible for listing on the NRHP and entered into consultation with Howard County and the US Army Corp of Engineers on a potential modification to the site plans. It should still be considered a significant archeological resource.

Based on the recovery of sparse amounts of prehistoric lithic material, along with the absence of pottery or cultural features such as pits, Site 18HO278 is believed to represent a short term hunting camp used during the Archaic and possibly Woodland periods. The site does not appear to be a significant archeological resource.