

Phase II and Phase III Project Cover Sheet

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REPORT INFORMATION:

2017 Franz, K., L. Torp, D. Knepper, and T. Horsley
Phase II Archeological Evaluation of the Snowden Manor Site (18MO569), MD 28/MD 198
From MD 97 to I-95, Montgomery County, Maryland.
Submitted to Maryland Department of Transportation, State Highway Administration
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Research Firm/Institution:

The Ottery Group
3910 Knowles Avenue
Kensington, Maryland 20895

Sites examined:

18MO734

NRHP Eligible:

[Justification](#)

Project Details:

Phase I

Phase II

Phase III

Project Justification:

An archaeological identification survey (Phase I) was performed for the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) within the area of proposed roadway improvements along MD Route 198 located in Montgomery County, Maryland. The SHA identified one archeological site within the area of proposed impacts, the Snowden Manor site (18MO569), which was recommended for Phase II archeological evaluation. The Ottery Group was contracted to develop and implement a scope of work that included a combination of remote sensing, STP testing, and test unit excavation, resulting in a recommendation of National Register eligibility under Criterion D.

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Project Objectives:

Phase II investigations included a combination of remote sensing, STP testing, and test unit excavation to gather the data necessary to make a recommendation of National Register eligibility under Criterion D. The primary goals of the evaluation were to characterize the vertical and horizontal extents of the site, establish chronological and functional aspects of the site, and to evaluate the integrity of archaeological deposits. In addition to establishing integrity of the site internal structure, the evaluation involved the analysis of artifacts recovered from the site to assess specific procurement activities at the site itself, and to provide a basis for inter-site comparisons with other sites around the region where quartz is a predominant material type. Specific goals included the use of geophysical survey methods to locate possible geological and cultural features across the site, the excavation of supplemental shovel testing to further refine site boundaries and the excavation of test units to identify and ample quarry-related cultural features.

Research Potential:

The Snowden Manor site is a significant archeological resource that is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D for its research potential. A total of 34,316 artifacts were recovered from Phase I and II excavations, 99.9% of which were quartz directly associated with extraction activities conducted onsite. There are intact features in a subplowzone context within the site including an extraction pit. The upland quartz quarry is not a well documented or understood site type, particularly when compared to the body of knowledge that exists regarding quartzite and steatite quarries in the Potomac Region. The stratified quarry pit and its contents are similar to those identified by Holmes in his 1897 work on prehistoric quarries in Washington DC. There is doubtlessly a relationship to material quarried from the Snowden Manor site and other sites in the vicinity that remains unknown. The Snowden Manor site was in use during the Late Archaic period, when steatite quarrying was at its peak. It is possible that there is an undetermined relationship between the Snowden Manor site and the dense concentration of steatite quarry sites located less than one mile to the north of the project area on the Patuxent River. Other unanswered questions include methods of extraction and the function of the outer portions of the site that do not appear to be involved in the quarrying process. It was recommended that the site be avoided by the SHA during planning and construction related to roadway improvements along MDI98, however, if avoidance is not possible, mitigation should be considered.