

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:

2016 Tyler, J.
Phase II archaeological evaluation of the work previously conducted at the Watts site (18MO179), Montgomery County, Maryland
Submitted to Charles P. Johnson & Associates, Inc.

Library ID No: 95002748 Catalog/Shelving ID: MO 301

Research Firm/Institution:

Applied Archaeology and History Associates
615 Fairglen Lane
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Sites examined:

18MO179

NRHP Eligible: N

[Justification](#)

Project Details:

Phase I

Phase II

Phase III

Project Justification:

The City of Rockville proposed the restoration of eight active stormwater outfall and streambank erosion sites within the Upper Watts Branch Forest Preserve. Two of these projects, Outfall #2 and Upper Watts Main Stem may have impacted the Watts Site (18MO179), a predominantly Late Woodland Period archaeological site which has been the subject of multiple investigations since the 1980s. In 2016, Applied Archaeology and History Associates, Inc. conducted a review of the archaeological work that had previously been completed in respect of the Watts Site (18MO179) which led to the recommendation for a Phase II level investigation of the site to include a geomorphological and pedological examination of the site, and additional excavations in order to determine the integrity of the site and its eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Project Objectives:

Project objectives for the Phase II excavation included: a) clearly define the horizontal and vertical boundaries of the site, b) interpret the site's cultural affiliations and functions, c) evaluate the site's integrity, d) conclusively assess the site's eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, and e) make recommendations concerning the need for additional archaeological research.

To address these requirements Charles P. Johnson and Associates, Inc., (CPJ) under contract with the City of Rockville, contracted with Applied Archaeology and History Associates Inc. (AAHA), to conduct a review of the previously completed investigations, process any artifacts remaining from the previous investigations that had not been processed and inventoried, determine the necessity for additional archaeological investigations and, if necessary, conduct an appropriately scoped Phase II archaeological investigation of the Watts Site (18MO179).

Research Potential:

Geomorphological examination of the site resulted in the identification of a historic plow zone across the majority of the site and the presence of the unstable landforms surrounding the site, specifically steeply sloping valley slopes, that have likely served to deposit locally eroded materials onto the site from the valley above. Additionally, high-energy flood events could have both deposited material onto the terrace and similarly removed other material from the terrace.

Despite the large amounts of debitage recovered during the previous investigations, both the 2017 excavation and previous excavations have failed to yield a similarly high number of temporally diagnostic artifacts as have been recovered from the surface and out of the eroding stream bank. This appears to indicate that the main locus of the site was within the eastern portion of the site and has largely been destroyed through stream erosion. This kind of severe erosion may have compromised much of the intact alluvial stratigraphy and it seems unlikely that the available data will allow for meaningful interpretation of the Watt's Site (18MO179) within regional settlement patterns.

While noting the unusual nature of recovering so many diagnostic artifacts from the surface of such a small archaeological site, considering the likely loss of the core portion of the site to stream erosion, the failure to identify any intact features, and the potential low incidence of the presence of such features due to the small size of the various occupations, together with the fact that a large percentage of the site that has already been excavated, the Watts Site (18MO179) was recommended not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and no additional archaeological research was recommended.

REPORT INFORMATION:

2017 Tyler, J., R. Wall, B. Mabelitini, and Z. Andrews
Additional Phase II archaeological evaluation of the Watts site (18MO179), Montgomery County, Maryland
Submitted to Charles P. Johnson & Associates, Inc.

Library ID No: 95002870 Catalog/Shelving ID: MO 305

Research Firm/Institution:

Applied Archaeology and History Associates
615 Fairglen Lane
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Sites examined:

18MO179

NRHP Eligible: N

[Justification](#)

Project Details:

Phase I		Project Justification:	Project Objectives:
Phase II	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The City of Rockville proposed the restoration of eight active stormwater outfall and streambank erosion sites within the Upper Watts Branch Forest Preserve. Two of these projects, Outfall #2 and Upper Watts Main Stem may have impacted the Watts Site (18MO179), a predominantly Late Woodland Period archaeological site which has been the subject of multiple investigations since the 1980s. In 2016, Applied Archaeology and History Associates, Inc. conducted a review of the archaeological work that had previously been completed in respect of the Watts Site (18MO179) which led to the recommendation for a Phase II level investigation of the site to include a geomorphological and pedological examination of the site, and additional excavations in order to determine the integrity of the site and its eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.	Project objectives for the Phase II excavation included: a) clearly define the horizontal and vertical boundaries of the site, b) interpret the site's cultural affiliations and functions, c) evaluate the site's integrity, d) conclusively assess the site's eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, and e) make recommendations concerning the need for additional archaeological research.
Phase III			To address these requirements Charles P. Johnson and Associates, Inc., (CPJ) under contract with the City of Rockville, contracted with Applied Archaeology and History Associates Inc. (AAHA), to conduct a review of the previously completed investigations, process any artifacts remaining from the previous investigations that had not been processed and inventoried, determine the necessity for additional archaeological investigations and, if necessary, conduct an appropriately scoped Phase II archaeological investigation of the Watts Site (18MO179).

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