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:

1989 Petraglia, M. D., J. Wingard and P. Bienenfeld
Phase II Archeological Testing at Mexico Farms, Allegany County, Maryland.
Submitted to the Allegany County Department of Economic Development

Library ID No: 00000079 Catalog/Shelving ID: AG 23

Research Firm/Institutution:

Engineering-Science, Inc.
1133 Fifteeenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Sites examined:

18AG166	18AG167	18AG168
NRHP Eligible: Y	NRHP Eligible: Y	NRHP Eligible: Y
Justification Link	Justification Link	Justification Link

Project Details:

Phase I
Phase II X
Phase III

Project Justification:	Project Objectives:
The project took place within an area slated for development as an expansion of the Mexico Farms Industrial Park by the Allegany County Department of Economic Development, Cumberland, MD. The purpose of this Phase II archeological Survey was to evaluate and determine the National Register eligibility of three sites within the industrial park.	-Define the vertical and horizontal extent of the sites. -Determine the integrity of the sites. -Interpret cultural affiliations, chronological span, and, if possible, site function of the sites. -Determine the significance of the sites within a local and regional framework. -Assess the significance of the sites in terms of National Register criteria (35 CRF 60.0). -Determine the need for additional archeological investigations in the project area.

Research Potential:

A considerable portion of 18AG166 (around 80%) was destroyed by the paving of a parking lot. However, significant portions of the site remain and all indications point to the presence of intact subsurface features. Research at 18AG166 should examine how such features relate to the defined ceramic concentration at the site and the areas of higher debitage density within that ceramic concentration. Given the nature of most Woodland village sites in this part of Maryland (known primarily from surface finds), this site could provide really valuable information about intrasite activities.

See below for remaining research questions at 18AG167 & 168.

REPORT INFORMATION:

1993 Wall, R. D.
Phase III Archaeological Investigations 18AG167 and 18AG168, and Supplemental Phase II Investigations 18AG168.
Submitted to the US Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Prisons

Library ID No: 00000088 Catalog/Shelving ID: AG 32

Research Firm/Institutution:

Louis Berger & Associates, Inc.
2445 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037

Sites examined:

18AG167	18AG168
NRHP Eligible: Y	NRHP Eligible: Y
Justification Link	Justification Link

Project Details:

Phase I
Phase II X
Phase III X

Project Justification:	Project Objectives:
The sites were mitigated through data recovery prior to the construction of a federal prison complex in an area just south of the city of Cumberland, in Allegany County, Maryland. Unlike 18AG166, which was mitigated through avoidance, an estimated 75% of 18AG167 and 50% of 18AG168 would be impacted by construction of the prison. The two multicomponent sites contain buried archeological components dating from the Early Archaic to the Late Woodland. Thus, the information value of these properties is considered high.	Based on the Phase II work, it was anticipated that these sites may be sequential in occupation within a fairly short time frame, or that they may perhaps represent different functional activities related to subsistence pursuits, lithic material procurement and processing, or various base camp activities. The data recovery program at both 18AG167 and 18AG168 was designed to: -Contribute new data to our understanding of prehistoric subsistence in the region.

-Contribute new data to our understanding of prehistoric settlement patterns in the region.

-Contribute new data to our understanding of prehistoric technology in the region.

-Contribute new data to our understanding of regional adaptation to the prehistoric environment.

Research Potential:

First, it should be noted that most of both sites was significantly impacted by the construction of the nearby Federal Prison Complex. Most of what remains lies within the C&O Canal buffer zone, where it should be preserved from further impact. In spite of their shallow contexts, the sites at Mexico Farms (18AG167 & 168) contain a wealth of information on prehistoric occupation in the region. However, it is often difficult to distinguish components, particularly where they are in congruent stratigraphic positions. The use of preferred raw material types, discrete features and artifact clusters, and key diagnostic artifacts can partially unravel the occupations to provide meaningful information.

Future work at these sites would benefit from the following:
-Greater use of piece plotting to ascertain whether microstratigraphy can be used to separate components

-Use of 1/8 inch mesh for screening to recover microdebitage. This method may show the edges of specific raw material clusters. Certain raw materials are thought to have been preferred at different times in prehistory.

-Use of techniques such as flotation and residue analysis to separate components and isolate key features.