**Leon**

**Other name(s)** Pig Point

**Brief Description:** Early-Late Archaic and Early, Middle & Late Woodland base camp or village; late 17th-early 20th cen. Domestic

**Site Number:** 18AN50

**Site Location and Environmental Data:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latitude</th>
<th>Longitude</th>
<th>Elevation</th>
<th>Site slope</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>38.7990</td>
<td>-76.7099</td>
<td>m</td>
<td>5-10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Physiographic province:** Western Shore Coastal

**Maryland Archeological Research Unit No.:** 8

**Nearest Surface Water:** Patuxent River

**SCS soil & sediment code:** DvC,CSF

**Topography:**
- Floodplain
- Hilltop/bluff (Rockshelter/cave)
- Interior flat
- Upland flat
- Ridgetop
- Terrace
- Low terrace

**Ownership:**
- Private
- Federal
- State of MD
- Regional/county/city
- Unknown

**Minimum distance to water is:** 107 m

**Site Function Contextual Data:**

**Prehistoric**
- Multi-component
- Village
- Hamlet
- Base camp
- Rockshelter/cave
- Earthen mound
- Cairn
- Burial area
- Misc. ceremonial
- Rock art
- Shell midden
- STU/lithic scatter
- Quarry/extraction
- Fish weir
- Production area
- Unknown

**Domestic**
- Homestead
- Farmstead
- Mansion
- Plantation
- Row/townhome
- Cellar
- Privy

**Urban/Rural?**
- Rural

**Industrial**
- Mining-related
- Quarry-related
- Mill

**Transportation**
- Canal-related
- Road/railroad
- Wharf/landing
- Maritime-related
- Bridge
- Ford

**Educational**
- Commercial
- Trading post
- Store
- Tavern/inn

**Historic**
- Battlefield
- Fortification
- Encampment
- Townsite
- Religious
- Church/mtg house
- Ch support bldg
- Burial area
- Cemetery
- Sepulchre
- Isolated burial
- Birg or foundation
- Possible Structure

**Military**
- Post-in-ground
- Frame-built
- Masonry
- Other structure

**Slave related**
- Non-domestic agri
- Recreational
- Midden/dump
- Artifact scatter
- Spring or well
- Unknown

**Tobacco inspection station**

**Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paleoindian site</th>
<th>Woodland site</th>
<th>Archaic site</th>
<th>MD Adena</th>
<th>Early archaic</th>
<th>Early woodland</th>
<th>Middle archaic</th>
<th>Mid. woodland</th>
<th>Late archaic</th>
<th>Late woodland</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Contact period site**
- ca. 1820 - 1860
- ca. 1630 - 1675
- ca. 1675 - 1720
- ca. 1720 - 1780
- ca. 1780 - 1820
- Post 1930

**Ethnic Associations (historic only):**
- Native American
- African American
- Anglo-American
- Hispanic

**Ownership:**
- Private
- Federal
- State of MD
- Regional/county/city
- Unknown

**Ownership Context:**
- Private
- Federal
- State of MD
- Regional/county/city
- Unknown

**Future Development:**
- Site Setting restricted
- Lat/Long accurate to within 1 sq. mile, user may need to make slight adjustments in mapping to account for sites near state/county lines or streams

**Ownership:**
- Private
- Federal
- State of MD
- Regional/county/city
- Unknown

**Other context:**
- Native American
- African American
- Anglo-American
- Hispanic

**Soil samples taken:** Yes

**Other samples taken:** Faunal

**Interpretive Sampling Data:**

**Prehistoric context samples**
- Flotation samples taken: Yes

**Historic context samples**
- Flotation samples taken: No

**Soil samples taken:** No

**Other samples taken:** Faunal
Phase II and Phase III Archeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN50
Site Name: Leon
Other name(s): Pig Point
Description: Early-Late Archaic and Early, Middle & Late Woodland base camp or village; late 17th-early 20th cen. Domestic

Diagonal Artifact Data:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Projectile Point Types</th>
<th>Koons-Crispin</th>
<th>Perkiomen</th>
<th>Knapped stone</th>
<th>Wt Salt-glazed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clovis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardaway-Dalton</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palmer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirk (notch)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirk (stem)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Le Croy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morrow Mtn</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guilford</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brewerton</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otter Creek</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Prehistoric Sherd Types:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sherd Type</th>
<th>18AN50</th>
<th>18AN51</th>
<th>18AN52</th>
<th>18AN53</th>
<th>18AN54</th>
<th>18AN55</th>
<th>18AN56</th>
<th>18AN57</th>
<th>18AN58</th>
<th>18AN59</th>
<th>18AN60</th>
<th>18AN61</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marcey Creek</td>
<td>Popes Creek</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dames Qtr</td>
<td>Coulbourn</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selden Island</td>
<td>Watson</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accokeek</td>
<td>Mockley</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolfe Neck</td>
<td>Clemson Island</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prehistoric Features:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature Type</th>
<th>Storage/trash pit</th>
<th>Burial(s)</th>
<th>Ossuary</th>
<th>Unknown</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Heath(s)</th>
<th>Lithic reduc area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mound(s)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midden</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shell midden</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postholes/molds</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House pattern(s)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palisade(s)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heath(s)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithic reduc area</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lithic Material:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material Type</th>
<th>Fer quartzite</th>
<th>Sil sandstone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jasper</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chert</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhyolite</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quartz</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quartzite</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandstone</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dated features present at site

Hearts include Features 2, 5, 9, 17, 31, 36, 111, & 112; Midden layers include Strata A, B, and C of Feat. 11; Postmolds include the base of Feat. 19

Radiocarbon Data:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>Reliability</th>
<th>Site Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>B-273057: charcoal from base of hearth (feat. 5), assoc. w/ Townsend sherds, triangular pts., lithics, fcr, and faunal remains</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>B-260443: charcoal from hearth (feat. 9), assoc. w/ shell and gravel-tempered sherds, lithics, fcr, and faunal remains</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>B-260444: charcoal from Stratum A of Feature 11, a large midden deposit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>B-273058: charcoal from Stratum B of Feature 11, a large midden deposit, assoc. w/ a Hopewell pt., &quot;Sperling disks&quot;, &amp; dense bone concentrations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>B-273059: charcoal from Stratum C of Feature 11, a large midden deposit, assoc. w/ copper bead, canine tooth pendant, &quot;Sperling disks&quot;, bone, &amp; other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>B-273060: charcoal from postmold at base of feat. 19, a hearth, assoc. w/ 1 Calvert pt., Accokeek &amp; Popes Cr. sherds, fcr, bone, fish scales, &amp; shell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>B-273061: charcoal from base of large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>B-260071: charcoal from hearth (feat. 9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>B-261482: charcoal from hearth (feat. 9)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Number</th>
<th>Site Name</th>
<th>Other name(s)</th>
<th>Prehistoric</th>
<th>Historic</th>
<th>Unknown</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18AN50</td>
<td>Leon</td>
<td>Pig Point</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Brief Description:
Early-Late Archaic and Early, Middle & Late Woodland base camp or village; late 17th-early 20th cen. Domestic

Additional radiocarbon results available

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Find</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>hearth (feat. 31), assoc. w/ 1 Piscatway, 1 triangle pt., uniface debitage, fcr, Popes Creek &amp; Accokeek sherds</td>
<td>2), assoc. w/ 1 Yeocomico sherd, 3 other shell-tempered sherds, 11 mica flakes, debitage, 1 piece of bird shot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17), assoc. w/ 1 utilized flake, debitage and fcr</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Pig Point site (also known as Leon or 18AN50) is a multi-component prehistoric base camp and village in western Anne Arundel County. The site is situated on a large bluff and some low terraces and fields on the eastern bank of the Patuxent River overlooking the freshwater marsh north of Jug Bay. The site has produced in situ artifacts dating from the Early Archaic through to the Late Woodland periods of prehistory. A substantial Early and Middle Woodland deposit is present. In addition, a late 17th century to modern European/American occupation of the area has also left its mark on the site. Most of the surrounding landscape is freshwater, but tidal wetlands. The site itself is on a series of privately owned parcels, but most of the surrounding landscape is owned and managed by the Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks as wetland and nature preserves. Soils at the site are primarily Downer and Hammonton loamy sands and sandy loams.

The site was first identified in the 1940s by Richard Stearns, an archeologist with the Natural History Society of Maryland. He characterized the site as consisting of two small shell middens (roughly 9 m in diameter) and a scatter of artifacts in the fields near the river. Stearns collected approximately 100 quartz and shell-tempered sherds (cord-marked, fabric-impressed, and undecorated), 85 stemmed points, 4 triangular points, 1 stone celts, 2 grooved axes, and a wide-grooved adze. Howard MacCord, a local collector and eventually Virginia’s State Archeologist, is also known to have worked at the site. His collection from 18AN50 was donated to the Maryland Historical Society. The collection includes 21 projectile points, 4 other bifaces, 2 ceramic sherds, and 2 pipe stem fragments. The pipe stem fragments have not been included in the tables above because it is not clear whether the “pipe stems” are prehistoric or historic (and there is a historic occupation at the site).

In addition to Stearns and MacCord, other local collectors are known to have worked at the site over the years, but their activities are poorly documented or largely unknown. It is thought that most of the 20th century collecting activities were centered either in the low-lying fields or low terraces at the northern end of the site, which were either plowed fields or gardens for much of the 20th century. The high bluff portion of the site was probably not plowed as it is situated in the yard areas of some of the local residences. This probably helped to preserve this portion of the site. The site was first recorded in the Maryland State Site Files in 1989.

Anne Arundel County Archeologists conducted a non-systematic surface collection of the low-lying fields in the northern portion of the site in June of 1991. This portion of the site, produced 1 Selby Bay side-notched point, 2 quartz cores, 4 quartz flakes, 1 chert flake, 1 quartzite flake, 2 quartz pebbles, 1 piece of fire-cracked rock, 58 Accokeek sherds, 12 Pope’s Creek sherds, 23 Mockley sherds, 8 Rappahannock sherds, and 1 quartz-tempered net-impressed sherd. Oyster shell was also observed on the surface of the plowed field, but was not collected. The Anne Arundel County Archeologists interpreted the site to be a shell midden and village measuring 30.5 X 15.2 m (100 X 50 ft) in extent with a substantial Middle Woodland component.

During the 1991 survey, historic materials associated with the colonial and Federal period occupation of the site were also recovered. Historically, the Pig Point area was first settled in the 17th century and was called “Wrighton”. The extent to which any development occurred in the 17th century is not well-known. However, in the early 18th century a 50 acre town and ferry known as Bristol or Bristol Landing were established at Pig Point and lots were subdivided and sold. Most of the lots were not purchased and developed until much later in the 18th century, but the public ferry and an inn were established there by 1710. Much of the later development of Pig Point was likely driven by the establishment of a tobacco inspection warehouse and wharf at the site by the General Assembly in 1747-1748. General stores and other development followed. The commercial character of the Pig Point area would remain until the latter part of the 19th century, when the businesses moved away and the area took on a more rural/residential character. Several residences are situated at the site (and in the general area) today.

In 2009, a multi-year study was begun to examine the Middle Woodland time period of prehistory. The Lost Towns Project, based out of Anne Arundel County, was awarded a non-collaborative grant from the Maryland Historical Trust to further examine the period with a focus on Anne Arundel County and Central Maryland. All of the known 169 previously recorded Middle Woodland sites in the county were re-visited and their potential to yield additional information was assessed. Literature review was also conducted as a means of background research.

Lost Towns archæologists visited 18AN50 in February 2009 and met with the property owner whose holdings encompassed the largest portion of the site. As a long-time resident of the parcel and an avocational archeology enthusiast, he was able to provide explicit information on where he had encountered and collected concentrations of artifacts on the property. The property owner shared his collection, provided general provenience for much of the assemblage, and was able to provide confirmation that the field to the north of his residence was likely the one where artifacts were collected from the surface from the mid to late 20th century. This field was not owned by the individual but by a neighbor who also owned land to the east.

The property owner insisted that the highest density of prehistoric artifacts on his own property was to be found on the bluff that is situated just to the east of his house, in the yard of a tenant property that he owned. He recalled encountering a layer of dark soil in this vicinity when installing a drainage pipe through the yard areas of some of the local residences. This probably helped to preserve this portion of the site. The site was first recorded in the Maryland State Site Files in 1989.

The property owner’s private collection of prehistoric artifacts and the intact stratigraphy encountered in the STP by the tenant house convinced the Lost
Based on these findings, Lost Towns researchers returned to the site in April of 2009 and undertook intensive excavations there from April through December of that year. A total of 13 shovel test pits (STPs) were excavated across the southern bluff (in the vicinity of the tenant house) along with twenty-seven 1.524 m (5 X 5 ft) test units. A total of four STPs were placed to the east of the tenant house and 9 were placed to the north or west. STPs were generally situated 6.1 meters (20 ft) apart, with some variation due to field conditions. Productive STPs helped to identify locations for the establishment of formal test units or test unit blocks. One unit was situated just to the north of the tenant house where one of the thirteen STPs produced a number of artifacts. The other test units were situated in two blocks of adjoining test units. Twenty-two units were situated in the northeast yard of the tenant house at the top of the bluff. This area was referred to as the “Upper Block”. The remaining four test units were situated in a block referred to as the “Lower Block”. These units were located at a slightly lower elevation on the southern edge of the bluff, to the southeast of the tenant house.

In the excavated units, key data on features and soil layers were documented on standardized forms and in graph paper notebooks. All significant layer and feature transitions were photographed using digital cameras. Initially, all soils were screened through hardware mesh. This continued to be the case in the Upper Block, however, as features began to be found in great abundance on the Lower Block, methodology shifted to a 3:1 ratio of water-screening to floating of all Lower Block soils and all feature soils across 18AN50.

The water-screening was done on-site with a garden hose through window screen. The soils were left to air dry in the field, after which time they were packaged and labeled with provenience information and brought back to the lab for processing. Once totally dried in the lab, the soils were separated through a series of nesting screens with sizes of mesh 5, mesh 10, and mesh 35. The mesh 5 materials were sorted and added to the rest of the materials from that provenience for standard processing. Due to time constraints, much of the mesh 10 and mesh 35 soils were not examined. Rather, they were bagged and retained for future analysis.

A small soil flotation station was established on-site for immediate processing as staffing allowed, while a second larger flotation station was set up back at the Lost Towns lab to accommodate the large amount of soil to be processed. Samples recovered by flotation were screened through mesh 35 and then sorted using a microscope.

Nearly all of the soils from the Lower Block were 3:1 water screened and floated, as many of the horizons were actually prehistoric living surfaces. Once these living surfaces were no longer encountered, methodology reverted to simple screening through hardware mesh. In the upper block, all of the soils were screened through hardware mesh, with the exception of feature fill. Soil samples were also retained from several larger features and charcoal samples from 44 discrete contexts and intact features were collected and placed in aluminum foil.

At the close of the 2009 season, 51 features were identified and excavated. A total of 292 individual proveniences (or lots) were documented, 82 flotation samples were processed and retained, and 85,184 artifacts were recovered and processed and curated at the Anne Arundel County Archeology Lab at Historic London Town in Edgewater, Maryland. An overview of the artifacts encountered at Pig Point is included below (and in the tables above) included with the tally of artifacts recovered in 2010.

The defining element of the significantly larger Upper Block was the predominance of overlapping, stratified prehistoric postholes, many arranged in recognizable house patterns. Over 1,000 posthole stains were identified, mostly in Strata 4 through 9. Several of these postholes still retained vertical potsherds that were used as “shims”, or supports for the ancient wooden posts. Once archeologists firmly established the presence of the overlapping postholes in this area, the goal of the Upper Block dig was to follow the patterns and try to find whole house footprints. Several of these house footprints, or “wigwams”, were identified throughout the different strata. They are, on average, roughly 3.7 X 4.9 meters (12 X 16 ft) in extent. Several features associated with these prehistoric wigwams were also found and excavated, including hearths and pits.

Nearly all of these units were excavated through natural strata (generally Strata 1-6 or 7) Four units in the Upper Block were excavated through several more arbitrary levels, each of approximately 12.2 cm (.4 ft) and referred to as Strata 7 or 8 through 14). Few cultural materials were recovered deeper than Stratum 11. As the posthole and ceramic distributions indicate, it appears as if the heaviest use of this area occurred in the Late and Middle Woodland periods.

Soils in the Upper Block were very sandy, and less than 25% of the 2009 site assemblage came from this area. There are likely two main reasons for this. First, the acidic nature of the sandy soil and the easy movement of water through the column did not provide for good preservation, especially of delicate faunal materials. Second, all excavated soils (with the exception of features) were screened through hardware mesh, allowing very small items to fall through. With the exception of minor bioturbation, the stratigraphy appears intact as evidenced by a series of radiocarbon dates and hundreds of diagnostic artifacts.

Despite relatively poor preservation, one of the most striking finds from 2009 was found in Stratum 4 of one of the Upper Block units. An ornately decorated, shell-tempered vessel was found broken in situ in the greater soil horizon and not within feature contexts. This vessel (likely Rappahannock incised) had decoration running from the rim to the base and likely dates to the Middle or Late Woodland time period.

There were a total of 19 numbered features encountered in the Upper Block, with two exceptions, none of these are posts. The 1,066 small posts were mapped and excavated along with the rest of the strata in which they occurred and were not given feature numbers. Of the numbered features, eight were historic while the rest were prehistoric hearths (7), pits with little evidence of burning (2), or large structural posts (2).

Three radiocarbon dates were obtained from the upper block feature excavations in 2009. Feature 2, a hearth, first appeared as an amorphous dark stain in Stratum 4. It ultimately was found to contain two soil layers. A shallow pit called Feature 3 was located just to the east of Feature 2, and while it produced no artifacts, they may be related. Several large chunks of charcoal were recovered from the upper soil layer in Feature 2. Other artifacts from the feature included 4 shell-tempered sherds, 11 mica flakes, and 14 pieces of quartz, quartzite, and rhyolite debitage. A single lead bird shot may suggest historic contamination or bioturbation in this once intact pit. Five small post stains were noted around the base...
of the hearth. The charcoal collected from the upper level of the hearth was radiocarbon dated and produced an uncalibrated date of 190±60 years before present. When calibrated, this corresponds to a calendrical date range (2 sigma) of AD 1530-1953. This date could bolster the idea that the feature was disturbed, or (given the presence of the shell-tempered sherds) it could date to the proto-historic era.

Feature 36 was also a hearth. It was vaguely circular, measured about 61 cm (2 ft) in diameter and extended as deep as 30 cm (1 ft). Only one stratum of dark brown sand was encountered. Few artifacts were recovered from the hearth (including one possible Popes Creek sherd, 24 fire-cracked rocks, and 21 pieces of quartz and quartzite debitage), but a cigarette filter recovered from a mole tunnel is slightly suspect. A cluster of fire-cracked rock (possibly a “kick-out” of the hearth) was found along the eastern edge of the hearth. Regardless, charcoal from this feature produced an uncalibrated date of 1720±40 radiocarbon years before present. When calibrated, this corresponds to a calendrical date range (2 sigma) of AD 237-412.

Feature 17 was a shallow, round-bottomed hearth. It was very charcoal rich and contained 1 utilized flake, debitage and fire-cracked rock. A sample of the charcoal produced an uncalibrated radiocarbon date of 1440±40 years before present. When calibrated, this corresponds to a calendrical date range (2 sigma) of AD 553-658. This date lends substantial credibility to the accuracy of the date for Feature 36. Feature 36 was encountered in Stratum 5 of Test Unit 6. Feature 17 was encountered in Stratum 4 (the layer above) on the margins of Test Units 6 and 9.

The defining element of the smaller Lower Block was a thick, dark, rich, organic midden that spanned the entire 9.3 m2 block. This midden represents a cooking and working area that was occupied and reoccupied over thousands of years. Several radiocarbon dates and thousands of diagnostic potsherds and projectile points demonstrated intact stratigraphy through the entire Woodland period. The midden was referred to as a single feature (Feature 11) for consistency, but dozens of individual features were found within the midden, including trash pits, hearths, firepits, and pot seats.

Preservation within the midden was outstanding, and tens of thousands of faunal remains, several scraps of clay with fingerprints, and 24 mysterious soil disks were recovered. These disks (referred to by the crew as “Sperling Disks”) were nothing more than small circular or oval objects of compressed soil. They were thought to possibly be the result of drip marks left in the soil during the Late Woodland period. Over 75% of the 2009 artifact assemblage was recovered from the Lower Block, due to the high degree of preservation and the fact that nearly the entire block was a feature. Thus, all soils were water-screened through window mesh and large samples were floated.

The impressive assemblage recovered from the Lower Block included dozens of bone tools, intact clay pots, thousands of sherds of unusually decorated pottery, and adornments such as a copper bead, drilled canine teeth, margiella shell beads, and decorated gorgets. One of the most interesting discoveries was the presence of triangular points in strata thought to be of Late Archaic age. These triangles were found along with Piscataway points and unusual, tiny, unfacially worked quartz disks with an unknown function. Triangular points are generally considered to be Late Woodland occurrences in Maryland, yet some of these appear in clearly pre-ceramic contexts. However, researchers (primarily in New England, New York, and New Jersey) have reported the recovery of triangular points in Archaic contexts. The stratified nature of the Lower Block enabled this remarkable discovery though similar findings were not seen in the Upper Block.

Heavy activity was noted in the Archaic horizons of the Lower Block. A steep slope in the amount of quartz and quartzite debitage in the deep Archaic horizons (Strata I and J) demonstrates increased use of this portion of the site during that time period. Correspondingly, a steep increase in the amount of quartz and quartzite tools was noted in these levels.

Lower block features can be roughly divided into four types: the midden deposit (Feature 11), distinct hearth-like features (at least 19 exhibiting evidence for heat application), pits lacking evidence for heat (6, but some may be pot seats), and stains that may represent structural features (10). In addition, the 24 Sperling disks could be considered features and a root stain and historic intrusion were also encountered.

Seven radiocarbon dates were obtained from the lower block feature excavations in 2009.

Feature 5 was a hearth. This fire pit had sloping sides with several pieces of fire-cracked rock on the edges. The lowest portion of the hearth fill (which was ultimately determined to contain 4 strata, but was excavated in 3 strata) consisted of a dense clam shell and bone lense with charcoal underlying it. This charcoal was sampled and produced a C-14 date of 690±40 radiocarbon years before present. When calibrated this corresponds to a calendrical date range (2 sigma) between AD 1358-1439. This date should be noted that a halo of artifacts was encountered in the unit around the feature, from the stratum that was just above the level that was radiocarbon sampled. These artifacts included nearly 200 pot sherds (mostly shell-tempered Townsend wares), 2 projectile points (1 triangle), 11 other stone tools, 53 flakes, 118 fire-cracked rocks, 623 pieces of animal bone and teeth, and 15 clam and oyster shell fragments. This likely represents a single “basket dump” of discarded clam shell, bones, and broken incised Townsend pottery.

Feature 9 was a small, very well-defined ovoid hearth. The fill soils were very charcoal-rich and also contained 3 shell-tempered sherds, 2 gravel-tempered sherds, nine sherds with an unidentified tempering agent, a few burned animal bones and shell, lithics, and fire-cracked rock. Charcoal from the feature fill produced a radiocarbon date of 690±60 years before present. When calibrated this corresponds to a calendrical date range (2 sigma) of AD 1022-AD 1399. The feature was encountered within the same stratum of the larger midden deposit (Feature 11) that the Feature 5 hearth was first exposed in.

The Feature 11 midden deposits produced three radiocarbon dates from three successive strata (Stratum A, Stratum B, and Stratum C). Feature 11, Stratum A was 3.96 cm (.13 ft) thick and was interpreted to be a Late Woodland cooking and working area littered with artifacts, charcoal, and several hearths/pits. Charcoal from the midden deposit produced a C-14 date of 760±40 radiocarbon years before present. When calibrated this corresponds to a calendrical date range (2 sigma) of AD 1224-AD 1399. The Feature 11 midden deposit produced a radiocarbon date of 760±40 years before present. When calibrated this corresponds to a calendrical date range (2 sigma) of AD 1224-AD 1399. The Feature 17 midden deposit produced a radiocarbon date of 760±40 years before present. When calibrated this corresponds to a calendrical date range (2 sigma) of AD 1224-AD 1399.
After two seasons at Pig Point, 139 features were identified and 62 test units were fully or partially excavated. Over 176,000 artifacts were recovered, but many remain to be processed, along with soil samples and additional materials. In addition, work has continued in other areas of Pig Point from 2010 through to 2012. These findings are not described here, as no final site report has been written. What follows is a very rough description of the artifact catalog from 18AN50 as of the spring of 2011 (prior to the 2011 field work).

The artifact assemblage from the 2009 and 2010 Pig Point (18AN50) excavations included at least 11,424 historic artifacts and 76,859 prehistoric artifacts. An additional 55,521 artifacts in the catalog are likely prehistoric (mostly faunal and floral remains), but that cannot be determined with 100% certainty without cross-checking contextual information. The faunal objects have been cataloged as prehistoric objects in the tables above, but the other materials are included as miscellaneous objects under the “historic” sub-section.
The the historic assemblage from 18AN50 consisted of 76 activity items, 3,461 architectural artifacts, 15 clothing items, 3 furniture items (tacks), 2,906 kitchen-related artifacts, 8 personal items (5 coins, 1 piece of costume jewelry, a watch part, and a glass bead), 218 tobacco-related artifacts, 26 arms objects, and 4,711 miscellaneous objects. The 76 activity items were a copper rod, a hook, a horseshoe, 2 iron tools, 2 pieces of lamp glass, 2 lead fishing weights, 35 pieces of non-electrical wire, and 31 pencil parts. The architectural assemblage consisted of an asphalt shingle fragment, 732 pieces of window glass, 122 pieces of handmade brick, 1,794 other pieces of brick, 5 pieces of crushed shell mortar, 5 pieces of industrial lime mortar, 10 pieces of Portland mortar, 83 unidentified mortar fragments, 10 unidentified masonry fragments, 6 pieces of tin roofing, a copper alloy Brad, 22 wrought nails, 4 L-headed wrought nails, 150 rosehead wrought nails, T-headed wrought nails, 184 cut nails, 191 square nails, 47 wire nails, 35 unidentified nails, an iron hinge, 7 screws, 3 spikes, 36 other iron hardware fragments, and 10 sewer pipe fragments. Clothing items included a copper thimble, 2 straight pins, a copper/alloy buckle, a copper/alloy clothing part, a copper/alloy leather ornament, an iron buckle, 2 iron buttons, 5 copper/alloy buttons, and a bone button. The kitchen assemblage consisted of 1,622 ceramic sherds (2 Astbury, 3 Buckley, 10 Jackfield, 21 tin-glazed, 29 Whieldonware, 227 creamware, 267 pearlware, 37 porcelain, 1 ironstone, 135 whiteware, 511 miscellaneous refined earthenware, 79 redware, 14 yellowware, 76 coarse earthenware, 15 white salt-glazed stoneware, 10 Rhenish, 35 English Brown Stoneware, 120 miscellaneous stoneware, and 30 unidentified ceramics), 2 pieces of table glass, 751 pieces of bottle glass, 488 other pieces of vessel glass, 2 iron kettle parts, 3 aluminum pop tabs, and a piece of eggshell. The tobacco-related artifacts were a cigarette filter and 217 miscellaneous pipe fragments. The arms items were 4 pieces of bullet/shot, 9 gunflints/spalls, 2 shell casings, and 11 shotgun shells. The miscellaneous objects were 947 pieces of unidentified glass, 7 pieces of melted glass, 1,884 pieces of coal, 736 pieces of slag, 2 lead objects, 2 pieces of plastic, 6 pieces of tin, 876 unidentified metal objects (copper/alloy, iron, other), 245 unidentified modern materials, and 6 unidentified items.

The prehistoric assemblage included 27,556 flaked lithics, 5 steatite bowl fragments, 14 groundstone objects, 647 use-modified or other lithics, 31,338 pieces of fire-cracked or thermally-altered rock, 16,817 ceramic sherds, 12 other pieces of fired clay, 13 modified faunal objects, and 457 items that could be considered "uncommon" at prehistoric sites. Flaked lithics include a possible Adena point, 6 Bare Island points, a Brewerton, 3 Calvert points, a Dry Brook fishtail, 3 Guilford points, a Hopewell point, a Kirk point, 6 Lamoka points, 3 LeCroys, 13 Revanna points, a MacCorkle point, 12 Madison points, 1 Morrow Mountain, 2 Orient Fishtails, 3 Otter Creeks, a Palmer point, 35 Piscataway points, a Potomac point, 4 Rossvilles, 5 Savannah River points, 3 Selby Bay points, 2 St. Albans points, a Susquehanna Broadspur, 3 Vernon points, 6 corner-notched points, 4 lanceolate points, 7 side-notched points, 8 stemmed points, 13 triangular points (some Archaic), 73 other projectile points/point fragments, 3 drills, 1 speckleshave, 90 other bifaces, 4 choppers, 13 unidentified tools, 34 unifacial microliths, 56 cores, 26 blades, 148 utilized flakes, 19,953 other flakes, 6,375 pieces of shatter, 203 fragments of debitage, and 426 other flaked lithics. Groundstone objects (aside from the 5 steatite bowl fragments) included 6 gorgets, 5 grinding stones, a mortar, and 2 pestles. Other lithics were 9 hammerstones, a nutting stone, a possible stone bead, 3 steatite fragments, 2 clumps of un-fired clay, 128 possible manuports (jasper and gabbro), 1 utilized cobble, and 502 other lithic objects. The ceramics include 896 Accokeek sherds, 1 Marcey Creek sherd, 1,334 Mockley sherds, 26 Moyaone sherds, 715 Popes Creek sherds, 89 Potomac Creek sherds, 2,205 Rappahannock sherds, 9 Sullivan Cove sherds, 1 Yeocomico sherd, 30 cord-marked sherds, 750 gravel-tempered sherds, 9 incised ceramic sherds, 2 net-impressed sherds, 161 sand/gravel-tempered sherds, 652 sand-tempered sherds, 6,899 shell-tempered sherds, 9 steatite-tempered sherds, and 3,029 prehistoric sherds. Other fire-dried clay items included 9 pieces of burned clay and 3 probable aboriginal pipes. Modified faunal objects included 3 marginella shell beads, 1 other shell bead, 7 bone beads (6 bird), and 2 unidentified worked bones. Uncommon objects include a copper bead, 184 mica fragments, and 272 pieces of ochre.

Other items that are cataloged as part of the assemblage include 63 fragments of daub, 7,936 floral remains, 4,506 pieces of stone, 3,256 modified faunal objects (burned, calcined, and 2 utilized), and 39,760 un-modified faunal objects. Pig Point (18AN50) has proven to be a highly significant site with stratified deposits representing at least 10,000 years of occupation. The Woodland and the Archaic periods (and all of their sub-periods) are represented to some degree across every part of the excavated site. Every group who occupied the site certainly had various reasons for being there, but the main draws of the area remained constant through time: relatively easy access to the Patuxent River and Jug Bay, proximity to the freshwater/saltwater interface, a high degree of biodiversity in the immediate area, and access to the major transportation route provided by the river. While a changing climate shifted the location of the meandering river and the available flora and fauna, Pig Point has undoubtedly always been an appealing place to live.

Increasingly, the discoveries at Pig Point suggest an intensive regional draw to the bluffs along this section of the river. As work at Pig Point continues, comparative research exploring other sites in the Central Maryland region of this waterway may further show the importance of the middle and upper Patuxent River in the settlement and trade patterns of prehistoric peoples in Maryland. Site 18AN50 obviously has significant research potential. Work at the site is ongoing and it should continue to be considered a significant archeological resource.