**Site Name:** Curtis F. Peterson 2

**Brief Description:** Late Archaic and Woodland base camp, lithic scatter

**Site Number:** 18AN666

**Physiographic province:** Western Shore Coastal

**SCS soil & sediment code:**

**Nearest Surface Water Name (if any):** Tributary of Little Patuxent

**Saltwater Freshwater**

- Ocean
- Stream/river

**Terrestrial site**

**State of MD**

**Minimum distance to water is**

**15 m**

**Legal Jurisdiction:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Setting</th>
<th>Private</th>
<th>Federal</th>
<th>State of MD</th>
<th>Regional/county/city</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Site Setting restricted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Site slope</td>
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<td>Site Location and Environmental Data:</td>
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<tr>
<td>-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</td>
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**Topography:**

- Floodplain
- Hilltop/bluff: Rockshelter/ cave
- Interior flat
- Upland flat
- Ridgetop: Unknown
- Terrace
- Low terrace

**Ownership:**

- Private
- Federal
- State of MD
- Regional/county/city
- Unknown

**Archaeological Data:**

**Contact period site**

- ca. 1820 - 1860

**Earliest Archaic:**

- Woodland site
- ca. 1630 - 1675
- ca. 1860 - 1900

**Middle Archaic:**

- MD Adena
- ca. 1675 - 1720
- ca. 1900 - 1930

**Hilltop/bluff:**

- Rockshelter/ cave

**Ridgetop:**

- Unknown

**Ethnobotany profile available:**

- Yes

**Ethnic Associations (historic only):**

| Native American | Native American |
| African American | African American |
| Hispanic | Hispanic |

**Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:**

| Paleoindian site | Woodland site | ca. 1630 - 1675 |
| Archaic site | MD Adena | ca. 1675 - 1720 |
| Early Archaic | Early woodland | ca. 1720 - 1780 |
| Middle Archaic | Mid. woodland | ca. 1780 - 1820 |
| Late Archaic | Late woodland | ca. 1820 - 1860 |
| Unknown prehistoric context | Unknown historic context | |

**Urban/Rural?**

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

**Industrial:**

- Mining-related
- Quarry-related
- Mill
- Black/metalsmith

**Transportation:**

- Canal-related
- Road/railroad
- Wharf/landing
- Maritime-related

**Education:**

- Bridge
- Ford

**Military**

- Battlefield
- Fortification
- Encampment

**Religious**

- Church/mtg house
- Ch support bldg

**Transportation**

- Canal-related
- Road/railroad
- Wharf/landing
- Maritime-related

**Burial area**

- Cemetery
- Sepulchre
- Isolated burial

**Site Function Contextual Data:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Historic context samples</th>
<th>Soil samples taken</th>
<th>Y</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flotation samples taken</td>
<td>Other samples taken</td>
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**Prehistoric context samples**

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<td>Flotation samples taken</td>
<td>Other samples taken</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Phase II and Phase III Archeological Database and Inventory**

**Site Number:** 18AN666  
**Site Name:** Curtis F. Peterson 2  
**Brief Description:** Late Archaic and Woodland base camp, lithic scatter

### Diagnostic Artifact Data:

#### Projectile Point Types
- Clovis
- Hardaway-Dalton
- Palmer
- Kirk (notch)
- Kirk (stem)
- Le Croy
- Morrow Mtn
- Guilford
- Brewerton
- Otter Creek

#### Projectile Point Types
- Koens-Crispin
- Perkiomen
- Susquehana
- Vernon
- Piscataway
- Calvert
- Selby Bay
- Jacks RI (notch)
- Jacks RI (pent)
- Madison/Potomac
- LeVanna

### Prehistoric Sherd Types

#### Palisade(s)
- Shepard
- Keyser

#### Marcey Creek
- Popes Creek
- Townend
- Yeocomico

#### Dames Otr
- Coulbourn
- Minguannan
- Monongahela

#### Selden Island
- Watson
- Sullivan Cove
- Susquehannock

#### Accokeek
- Mockley
- Shenks Ferry

#### Wolfe Neck
- Clemson Island
- Moyaone

#### Vinette
- Page
- Potomac Cr

### Historic Sherd Types

#### Ironstone
- Staffordshire
- Tin Glazed

#### Astbury
- Jackfield
- Whiteware

#### Borderware
- Mn Mottled
- Porcelain

#### Buckley
- North Devon

#### Creamware
- Pearlware

### Historic Artifacts

#### Tobacco related
- Activity item(s)

#### Pottery (all)
- Human remain(s)

#### Glass (all)
- Human remain(s)

#### Architectural
- Faunal material

#### Furniture
- Misc. kitchen

#### Arms
- Misc. 

#### Clothing
- Misc.

#### Personal items
- Other

### Other Artifacts & Feature Types:

#### Prehistoric Artifacts
- Storage/trash pit
- Burial(s)
- Ossuary
- Unknown
- Other
- Lithic reduc area

#### Historic Features
- Privy/outhouse
- Depression/mound
- Burial(s)
- Other
- Railbed
- Earthworks
- Mill raceway
- Wheel pit

### Lithic Material
- Fer quartzite
- Sil sandstone
- Chert
- Ironstone
- Basalt
- Rhyolite
- Argilite
- Unknown
- Quartz
- Steatite
- Other
- Quartzite
- Sandstone

### Radiocarbon Data:

- Sample 1: +/- years BP  
- Sample 2: +/- years BP  
- Sample 3: +/- years BP  
- Sample 4: +/- years BP  
- Sample 5: +/- years BP  
- Sample 6: +/- years BP  
- Sample 7: +/- years BP  
- Sample 8: +/- years BP  
- Sample 9: +/- years BP  

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Additional radiocarbon results available
Site 18AN666 (also known as Russett Site 8, 8A, and 8B) is a Late Archaic and Woodland Period base camp and lithic scatter northeast of Laurel in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. The site is situated on a relatively level terrace above an unnamed third-order stream that joins with the Little Patuxent River a short distance away. Higher elevations and steeper slopes are found along the southwestern margins of the site. The forest community at the site reflects early and mid-20th Century land-use. The plateau shelf area adjacent to the stream bank contains Virginia pine, dogwood, sassafras, paw-paw, black cherry, hickory, big-toothed aspen, tulip tree, black tupelo, beech, red oak, and scarlet oak. The soils at the site area loamy and clayey land with Christina silt loams along the western margins.

The site was first identified in 1988 during the course of a Phase I reconnaissance survey of the “Russett Center” development property. The development would entail the construction of both single and multi-family residential structures and the associated roads, utility lines, public spaces, and other infrastructure to support the new development. Twenty-six archaeological sites were identified in the development project area during this reconnaissance, 22 of which (including 18AN666) required additional follow-up investigations. The work was carried out pursuant to Anne Arundel County Planning and Zoning Regulations which require consideration for archeological and historical resources as part of the subdivision review process.

In the vicinity of 18AN666, the 1988 Phase I work entailed the excavation of 14 shovel test pits (STPs) along the unnamed tributary and the Little Patuxent. Most of these were spaced 61 meters (200 ft) apart, but there was considerable variation in spacing due to field conditions. Soil from all shovel tests was screened through hardware cloth. Field notes and profile drawings were made for each shovel test. A single positive shovel test as well as the collection of numerous surface finds in the immediate vicinity of that STP led to the identification of the site.

The artifacts collected during Phase I work at 18AN666 included 1 point tip, 2 cores, 16 quartz flakes, 3 quartzite flakes, 10 quartz shatter fragments, 2 pieces of quartzite shatter, 1 hammerstone, 18 heated/fire-cracked rocks, 1 Mockley net-impressed sherd, and 2 other ceramic sherds. Phase II testing was recommended to determine if a more substantial deposit was present.

Phase II work was carried out in 1988, again, as part of the Russett Center development project. This work was conducted at 5 of the previously identified sites, which could be detrimentally impacted by the proposed construction. Phase II work entailed the excavation of systematically placed STPs and judgmentally placed 1 X 1 m test units.

Site boundaries were identified by excavating shovel test pits systematically across the site area. STPs were placed in a grid at 7.62 m (25 ft) intervals initially. In an attempt to determine the horizontal extent of the western portion of the site, wider interval testing was employed (typically 15.24 meters or 50 ft, but sometimes more). Shovel tests ranged between 40 and 60 cm in diameter, and were excavated to sterile subsoil. All soils were screened using hardware cloth and appropriate data were recorded on standardized forms. A total of 236 shovel tests were excavated. One-hundred and thirty-two of these STPs contained artifacts, identifying a site area of roughly 11.5 acres in size and with three areas of high artifact density (these were subsequently referred to as Site 8, 8A and 8B).

The shovel testing was followed up with the excavation of three 1 X 1 m test units. All of these were3 situated within the eastern-most high-density area (Site 8), and two were actually adjacent to each other, forming a 1 X 2 m block. Soils were excavated by natural strata into sterile subsoil and all soils were screened through hardware cloth.

The test unit excavations indicated that intact subsurface deposits were present. Possible cultural features were also documented. One feature was excavated by sectioning and appeared to be a clearly-defined postmold. Other features may be represented by heated stones from disassembled hearths. A total of 1,740 prehistoric artifacts were discovered at 18AN666, including projectile points and steatite bowl fragments dating to the Late Archaic period, ceramics dating to the Early, Middle, and Late Woodland, bifaces and other tools, hammerstones, debitage, and fire-cracked rocks.

The assemblage of artifacts recovered during Phase II work at 18AN666 included 3 Drybrook Fishtails, 1 Holmes Point, 1 Vernon point, 15 other bifaces, 42 cores, 27 utilized/retouched flakes, 753 other flakes, 373 shatter fragments, 1 possible abrader, 2 pebble tools, 21 hammerstones, 1 other use-modified lithic object, 2 groundstone objects, 278 fire-cracked/heated rocks, and as many as 220 ceramic sherds. Identifiable sherds in the ceramic assemblage included at least 3 Marcey Creek sherds, 2 Mockley sherds, and 1 Potomac Creek sherd. Based on these findings, Phase III data recovery was recommended if the site could not be avoided.

Phase III data recovery was carried out in 1990. The western and southwestern portion of the site (Site 8A and Site 8B) would be detrimentally impacted by impending construction. The 1990 fieldwork in these areas was geared towards mitigation of these construction impacts. The eastern portion of 18AN666 (Site 8) would not be impacted by construction, but would be preserved in place. The 1990 work in this area of the site was directed towards the preparation of a management document for the preserved resource.

Site boundaries and artifact concentrations were identified by mapping the Phase II data, and formal test units were placed in areas of medium and high artifact concentration. A 20 m grid of supplemental shovel tests was excavated in Site 8A and 8B to provide additional data for use in the determination of possible areas for excavation. A total of 58 supplemental STPs were excavated during Phase III work. Shovel tests measuring 35 cm in diameter were excavated to a maximum depth of 40 cm, or 10 cm into sterile subsoil, whichever came first. Soils were removed by natural strata and were sifted through hardware cloth. Each shovel tests was recorded in the field, including its position within the sampling pattern, the depths of soil horizons within each unit, and the presence or absence of cultural resources.

A total of 114 formal 1 X 1 m test units were excavated across Site 18AN666 during the Phase III excavations. Units were excavated in a combination of natural and arbitrary levels. Shovel shoving and hand shoving were the only means of soil removal. All soils were screened through hardware cloth. An excavation level form was completed for each excavation increment, and the following information was recorded: presence or absence of cultural materials and features, soil color and texture, and both vertical and horizontal provenience. Levels containing features were drawn to scale and photographed and then the features were recorded and excavated separately. Representative wall profiles also were photographed and drawn. At the conclusion of fieldwork, each
unit was backfilled. An approximately 2.5 liter volumetric soil sample was taken for waterscreening from the southwest corner of each level of representative excavation units. Other soil samples and non-artifactual lithic samples also were collected and retained for future analysis. Volumetric samples of the soil matrix from within features were taken for flotation and analysis.

Forty-six of the units were excavated in Site 8 (the northeastern portion of 18AN666), 65 units were excavated in Site 8A (the central and southern portion of 18AN666). One unit was excavated in both Sites 8A and 8B, over a surface rock feature. Only two units were excavated in Site 8B (the southwestern portion of 18AN666). The downslope portion of Site 8B had been disturbed by construction. Throughout much of the Site 8 area, A1 and A2 horizons were removed and screened as separate levels roughly corresponding to the first two 5 cm levels. Below the A2 horizon, a generally poorly differentiated deposit of sandy loam was encountered to a minimum depth of 40 cm below surface. Arbitrary levels were excavated within this sandy loam to maintain vertical control. These arbitrary levels were 5 cm thick in Site 8, and 10 cm thick in Sites 8A and 8B. Excavation continued to culturally sterile levels, approximately 60-70 cm below surface.

Soil conditions and relief at the site reflect past land use. This agricultural land use, mostly plowing, in turn has affected the vertical distribution of cultural remains in the bulk of the site. Cultural materials are probably rather mixed between 0 and 25 cm below surface. In addition, the construction of a road and sewer line had disturbed portions of Site 8A. However, a small, stratified and preserved section was encountered in the southeast portion of Site 8A.

A total of 4,545 artifacts were recovered from the 92 units excavated in old plowzone. Of these, 41 were projectile points/knives or fragments, 19 were general bifaces, 102 were cores, 306 were utilized/retouched flakes, 3,575 were unmodified flakes, 5 were groundstone (2 manos, a possible slingstone, a metate, and a pestle), 3 were handstones, 7 were pecking/grinding/abrating stones, 25 were other use-modified tools, 146 were steatite ‘crumbs’ (either fragments of a vessel or steatite being processed for temper), 2 were daub or clay paste fragments, and 73 were ceramic sherds. Diagnostic points from this assemblage included 4 Vernon points, 2 Jack’s Reef Corner-notched-like points, 2 Calvert points, 2 Patuxent/Steubenville points, 1 Rossville point, 1 possible Adena point, 1 LeCroy point, 1 Susquehanna Broad spear, 2 Selby Bay points, and 1 Claggott point. Four of the specimens from the plowzone were submitted for blood residue analysis. A Vernon point and the Adena point tested positive for turkey blood and one of the Selby Bay points tested positive for human blood. The ceramic assemblage included 6 Marcey Creek sherds, 7 Accokeek sherds, 13 Pope’s Creek sherds, 23 Mockley sherds, 23 unidentified sand-tempered ceramic sherds, and 1 unidentified limestone-tempered sherd. The historic assemblage included 210 items.

A total 2,626 artifacts were recovered from non-feature contexts below the plowzone in these units. Of these, 23 were projectile points/knives or fragments, 8 were general bifaces, 35 were cores, 170 were utilized/retouched flakes, 2,013 were unmodified flakes, 1 was a groundstone buriin, 22 were hammerstones, 1 was an anvil, 8 were pecking/grinding/abrating stones, 11 were other use-modified tools, 319 were steatite fragments (either fragments of a vessel or steatite being processed for temper), 7 were daub or clay paste fragments, and 7 were ceramic sherds. Diagnostic points from this assemblage included 2 Vernon points, 1 Patuxent/Steubenville point, a Susquehanna Broad spear, 2 Selby Bay points, 1 possible Morrow Mountain II, 1 St. Alban’s point, 1 Brewerton corner-notched point, and a Potts point. Five of the specimens from below the plowzone were submitted for blood residue analysis. The St. Alban’s point tested positive for grouse (or other wild fowl) blood. The Morrow Mountain point had a weak reaction for feline blood. A non-diagnostic point-tip tested positive for blood from species such as porcupine (most likely), squirrel, or beaver. No diagnostic ceramic ‘types’ were identified within the sub-plowzone assemblage, but 1 steatite-tempered, 1 shell-tempered, and 3 sand-tempered sherds were identified.

Fire-cracked rock was recovered from both the plowzone and sub-plowzone non-feature contexts, but the number of pieces is not enumerated in the full site report. This has been minimally estimated at 200 pieces in the table above.

A total of 3,001 historic cultural features were identified in the disturbed/plowed portions of 18AN666. The majority of these features were identified immediately below the depth of suggested plow disturbance, approximately 25-35 cm below surface. These features included 5 hearths or heated rock features, one pit, and seven possible postmolds. Additional feature numbers also were assigned initially to natural soil disconformities. Upon excavation, a number of these proved to be root stains, rodent disturbances, or tree falls.

Feature 10, one of the possible hearth features produced a single Piscataway point, a core, 2 utilized flakes, and a pecking stone.

Feature 13, another possible hearth, produced 2 Vernon points, a Susquehanna Broad spear, a straight-sided concave stem point fragment, 2 biface blanks, 7 utilized flakes, 3 cores, a chopping tool, 2 pecking stones, an anvil, 4 hammerstones, 3 groundstone objects, and an eroded shell-tempered sherd. The sherd came from the uppermost level of the hearth. This collection represents a broad spectrum of activities associated with the utilization of these hearths, including the production and utilization of flaked and pecked/grinding/stones tools.

Feature 17 was an oval pit that extended to a depth of approximately 60 cm. It had sloping walls and a flat bottom. The clearly-defined fill deposits from this feature contained 2 biface fragments, 1 core, 7 utilized flakes, 114 pieces of debitage, large quantities of fire-cracked rock (minimally estimated in the table above at 100 pieces) and one walnut shell fragment. No diagnostic artifacts were identified, however, 2 Jack’s Reef corner-notched variants were recovered in the immediate vicinity. This would place the likely creation of the feature in the Middle Woodland.

Feature 28, yet another hearth, produced a core, 5 hammerstones, and a grinding stone. No diagnostic artifacts were recovered, but a yarrowite Susquehanna Broad spear was recovered in the unit just above the hearth, providing a terminus ante quem for this feature. A cluster of steatite fragments (see artifact tallies above) that may represent working of steatite for bowls or the production of temper was found in the unit above as well, indicating later activity at this locus.

None of the other prehistoric features produced artifacts. The floated materials collected from the features revealed little to no significant botanical material. Also, the features failed to produce sufficient charcoal for radiometric dating.

A concentration of granite of historic origin (Feature 25) was encountered just west of the Site 8A area. It is thought to simply be a pile of field stones and not the remnants of a structure. Concentration of sheet metal fragments was recovered between and below the granite blocks. Bottle glass was also recovered. Excavation units nearby produced whiteware.

Eight excavation units were excavated in the unplowed and stratified area encountered in the southeast portion of Site 8A (see above). These units were found to contain an intact prehistoric occupation level (B2B stratum). This deposit was identified at the base of a buried A horizon. It extended from approximately 45-70 cm below surface. Nineteen postmolds and possible postmolds were identified just below the buried A horizon, cutting into the B2B stratum. On average, the postmolds measured 10 cm in diameter, with the deepest extending 20 cm below the level where it was first recorded. The
The archeological complex at 18AN666 is representative of both a limited-activity, extractive site and a base camp. Although no radiocarbon dates were obtained during any of the investigations, the suite of diagnostic artifacts from the site indicates a principal period of use from the Late Archaic through the Middle Woodland periods. Incidental use during the Middle Archaic and Late Woodland was also documented.

Site occupants collected cobbles required for stone tool manufacture from the unnamed stream that runs along the edge of the site. Many of the artifacts found at the site are flakes that were used as tools. The site produced evidence that its occupants manufactured projectile points and flakes for tools. Special materials such as steatite (soapstone) also were processed at the site. This soft stone was quarried nearby and brought to 18AN666, where the quarried blocks were worked into vessels. The discovery of ceramic paste fragments (unless these objects are actually daub) could indicate that that pottery was produced there as well.

Evidence of pottery production, steatite processing, and the use of some exotic lithic materials (as well as the presence of numerous hearth features and structural remains, indicate that the site served as a small base camp at different periods in the past. The preponderance of evidence points to the use of 18AN666 as a base camp during the Woodland period. In addition, a special-use locus within an intact, stratified portion of the site was identified, based on examination and analysis of fragments of several large steatite vessels, a concentration of ground/pecked and use-worn artifacts, and the possible remains of a structure. The site clearly is significant and at least some portions of the site are sufficiently intact to warrant further investigation. Much of the intact portion of the site was preserved in-place during the development projects of the 1980s and 1990s. The site should still be considered a significant prehistoric resource.