**Phase II and Phase III Archeological Database and Inventory**

**Site Number:** 18CH281

**Site Name:** IH-35

**Other name(s):** Posey

**Brief Description:** Late Woodland/Contact/17th century hamlet and trading post

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Location and Environmental Data:</th>
<th>Maryland Archeological Research Unit No.</th>
<th>SCS soil &amp; sediment code</th>
<th>Ethnobotany profile available</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Latitude 38.5802°</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Ms</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longitude -77.1940°</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Federal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elevation 9 m</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>State of MD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site slope 0-5%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Regional/county/city</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown historic context</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Nearest Surface Water**

- **Name (if any):** Unnamed tributary of Matta
- **Saltwater:** Freshwater
- **Ocean:** Stream/river
- **Estuary/tidal river:** Swamp
- **Tidewater/marsh:** Lake or pond
- **Swamp:** Spring
- **Minimum distance to water is:** 20 m

**Physiographic province:** Western Shore Coastal

**Ethnobotany profile available:** ✓

**Maritime site:**

**Physiographic province:** Western Shore Coastal

**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**

**Topographic Features:**

- Floodplain
- Hilltop/bluff
- Upland flat
- Ridgetop
- Low terrace

**Ownership:**

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

**Site Function Contextual Data:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prehistoric</th>
<th>Domestic</th>
<th>Industrial</th>
<th>Urban/Rural?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Multi-component</td>
<td>Homestead</td>
<td>Mining-related</td>
<td>Rural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village</td>
<td>Farmstead</td>
<td>Quarry-related</td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamlet</td>
<td>Mansion</td>
<td>Mill</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Base camp</td>
<td>Row/townhome</td>
<td>Black/metalsmith</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rockshelter/cave</td>
<td>Cellar</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earthen mound</td>
<td>Privy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cairn</td>
<td>Other context</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burial area</td>
<td>Other context</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Historic**

- Furnace/forge
- Transportation
- Commercial
- Educational
- Financial
- Religious
- Social
- Political
- Military
- Urban/Rural
- Rural

**Ethnic Associations (historic only):**

- Native American
- African American
- Anglo-American
- Hispanic
- Unknown

**Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:**

- Contact period site Y ca. 1820 - 1860
- 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 Unknown
- Unknown prehistoric context Unknown context

**Ethnic Associations (historic only):**

- Native American Y Asian American
- African American Unknown
- Anglo-American Other
- Hispanic

**Interpretive Sampling Data:**

- Flotation samples taken Y
- Other samples taken

**Prehistoric context samples**

- Soil samples taken Y
- Pollen analysis

**Historic context samples**

- Soil samples taken Y
- C14, see prehistoric form
### Phase II and Phase III Archeological Database and Inventory

**Site Number:** 18CH281  
**Site Name:** IH-35  
**Other name(s):** Posey

**Brief Description:** Late Woodland/Contact/17th century hamlet and trading post

### Diagnostic Artifact Data:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Projectile Point Types</th>
<th>Koons-Crispin</th>
<th>Perkiomen</th>
<th>Clovis</th>
<th>Hardaway-Dalton</th>
<th>Susquehana</th>
<th>Palmer</th>
<th>Kirk (notch)</th>
<th>Piscataway</th>
<th>Kirk (stem)</th>
<th>Calvert</th>
<th>Le Croy</th>
<th>Selby Bay</th>
<th>Morrow Mtn</th>
<th>Guilford</th>
<th>Jacks RI (notch)</th>
<th>Brewerston</th>
<th>Otter Creek</th>
<th>Levanza</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Projectile Point Types</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

### Prehistoric Sherd Types:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sherd Types</th>
<th>Shepard</th>
<th>Keyser</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marcey Creek</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Popes Creek</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbian</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Townsend</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yeocomico</td>
<td>331</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selden Island</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watson</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sullivan Cove</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Monongahela</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Susquehannock</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wolfe Neck</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clemson Island</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moyaone</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vinette</td>
<td>Page</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potomac Cr</td>
<td>3566</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Historic Sherd Types:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sherd Types</th>
<th>Ironstone</th>
<th>Staffordshire</th>
<th>Tin Glazed</th>
<th>Whiteware</th>
<th>Porcelain</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Earthenware</td>
<td>Ironstone</td>
<td>Staffordshire</td>
<td>Tin Glazed</td>
<td>Whiteware</td>
<td>Porcelain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Astbury</td>
<td>Jackfield</td>
<td>Tin Glazed</td>
<td>Whiteware</td>
<td>Porcelain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Borderware</td>
<td>Mn Mottled</td>
<td>Whiteware</td>
<td>Porcelain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buckley</td>
<td>North Devon</td>
<td>Porcelain</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creamware</td>
<td>Pearlware</td>
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<th>Jacks RI (notch)</th>
<th>Brewerston</th>
<th>Otter Creek</th>
<th>Levanza</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Prehistoric Features:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature (s)</th>
<th>Storage/trash pit</th>
<th>Midden</th>
<th>Burial(s)</th>
<th>Shell midden</th>
<th>Ossuary</th>
<th>Postholes/molds</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Palisade(s)</th>
<th>Heath(s)</th>
<th>Lithic reduc area</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Lithic Material:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Jasper</th>
<th>Chalcedony</th>
<th>European flint</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fer quartzite</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sil sandstone</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Radiocarbon Data:

- **Sample 1:** 375 +/- 90 years BP  
  - B-13560: charcoal from a small pit (Feat. 1), assoc. w/ Potomac Creek sherds, a quartzite flake, animal bones, a charred nut, and 2 shell beads
  - Reliability: High

- **Sample 2:** +/- years BP
  - Reliability:

- **Sample 3:** +/- years BP
  - Reliability:

- **Sample 4:** +/- years BP
  - Reliability:

- **Sample 5:** +/- years BP
  - Reliability:

- **Sample 6:** +/- years BP
  - Reliability:

- **Sample 7:** +/- years BP
  - Reliability:

- **Sample 8:** +/- years BP
  - Reliability:

- **Sample 9:** +/- years BP
  - Reliability:

Additional radiocarbon results available
The Posey (18CH281) or IH-35 Site is an apparent Late Woodland/Early Historic period site with abundant evidence of Native American interaction with European colonists and traders. The site is located near Indian Head on the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Charles County, Maryland. It is situated on a limited portion of a relatively level terrace adjacent to the northern shore of Mattawoman Creek. Much of the surrounding landscape has been altered by construction activities in the last century and at present, the area containing and surrounding the Posey Site is utilized by the Navy as a nitration plant for the production of nitroglycerin and jet fuel. The soil at the site is Matawan Loamy Sand, part of the Evesboro-Keysport-Elkton Association.

The site was first encountered in 1963 by a local amateur archeologist named Calvert R. Posey, Sr., for whom the site is named. Mr. Posey worked as a chemist at the aforementioned facility. An explosion at the plant in 1957 resulted in a period of construction/re-construction activity around the (then unknown) Posey site. For approximately 4 months, Posey and several others spent their lunch hours investigating the area. Few details are known about the excavation methods employed, but the group did screen all of the soils they were removing through hardware cloth. They collected significant numbers of artifacts during the construction of a new munitions magazine. Mr. Posey also observed several large pit-type features in the area of a current pallet shed that were exposed by the grading of fill soils used to cover the magazine. Although grading removed the plowzone from portions of the site, the features that extended beneath the topsoil were not completely destroyed.

Posey wrote a short, unpublished synopsis of the site. He reported the recovery of large numbers of artifacts that were determined to be of both European or colonial and Native American origin. Artifact types found by Posey included ceramic sherds, tobacco pipe fragments, metal, glass, a few native and trade beads, and flakes of flint and quartz. Numerous copper or brass fragments and triangular ornaments were recovered, and an iron blade fragment was identified as a tool used in the cutting of the ornaments from larger sheets of metal. Features reported at the site included several house patterns of an undescribed shape that measured approximately 3.6 X 6.1 meters (12 X 20 ft), randomly scattered throughout the inhabited area. Larger postmolds within these reported structures were approximately 1.22 meters (4 ft) apart. In addition, numerous pits containing a very dark, artifact-rich fill were observed. These were approximately 46 cm (18 in) in diameter and about 76 cm (30 in) deep, and were also scattered throughout the village area. An area at the eastern edge of the site was identified as the location of an Indian "football field", and was marked by two shaped stones that apparently functioned as goals. No complete inventory of the artifacts collected by Mr. Posey has ever been made and consequently, the tables above do not include tallies form these 1960s excavations.

Posey also reported the possible presence of a Native American ossuary or burial site beneath the paved portion of a road between the main site area and Mattawoman Creek. He cited information from older employees of the station who told him that while the road was under construction a burial was uncovered, and that a small hump in the road marked the spot. This hump in the road still exists, and Posey identified it on at least two visits to the site with MHT staff in recent decades.

In 1985, a preliminary Phase I archeological survey was conducted throughout the Naval Ordnance Station (now the Naval Surface Warfare Center). This survey was conducted in order to satisfy the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, and involved inventorying all known archeological sites on the federally-owned/managed property and conducting Phase I survey to identify unknown sites, and to make management recommendations concerning said sites. Site 18CH181 was re-located through informant information (Mr. Posey) and attacted a considerable amount of attention during this survey. Upon determination of the site location, researchers were immediately drawn towards a cluster of trees directly behind the building constructed in 1963 that originally exposed the site. This cluster of trees had escaped re-grading activities when the building was built and researchers encountered several Potomac Creek sherds eroding out of a bank in the area. A baseline was established extending through the middle of the wooded area towards Mattawoman Creek and a large 2 m X 8 m excavation block of 1 meter test squares was opened up within this tree cluster. In addition to the block excavation, a 1 X 2 meter trench, a 1 meter square, and a 1 meter X 50 cm trench were excavated outside of the cluster of trees to determine the extent of disturbance. Excavation proceeded by the removal of natural soil horizons, which were subdivided into smaller arbitrary units when necessary. Plan maps were made of any artifact clusters; profiles were drawn of one wall, soil layers being measured using Munsell soil charts. In addition to these units, four shovel tests were randomly placed in the woods across an access road and to the north and northeast of the site to determine whether or not it continued across the road.

A wide variety of artifacts were recovered which were interpreted as representative of a protohistoric/contact period primary occupation at 18CH281. In addition to artifacts, the research conducted in 1985 revealed a total of 17 features. These features were confined to the excavation block of eight 1 X 1 m units. The features consisted of 16 postmolds and a small pit. The 16 postmolds were all discovered in relatively close proximity to each other, and they were interpreted as probably representing the outline of a small oval or roughly circular house or other structure. The small pit located in the excavation block was designated Feature 1. It was roughly circular in plan, and was located at the plowzone/subsoil interface approximately 20 cm below the ground surface, near the northwest corner of the excavation block. The feature was approximately 60 cm in diameter, and sectioning revealed a shallow basin-shaped profile that extended to 17 cm beneath the soil surface interface. Several artifacts were reported to be present within the pit fill including a pipe stem and bowl fragment that mend, 2 other pipe bowl fragments, a Potomac Creek rim with 2 cord wrapped lines, a Potomac Creek Plain rimsherd, 2 Potomac Creek plain body sherds, a quartzite primary flake, 2 flat disc shell beads, a single charelled nut fragment (hickory or walnut), and animal bones. The faunal material included 16 fragments of mammal bone. 3 fragments of bird bone, 9 fragments of reptile bone, and 22 pieces of fish bone. Identified species found within the feature included white-tailed deer, probable turkey, mud and soft shell turtles, suckers, gar and catfish. A charcoal sample was recovered from the pit fill and yielded an uncalibrated radiocarbon date of 375±90 years before present. This corresponds to a probable (2 sigma) calendrical date of AD 1397-1677 when calibrated.

Artifacts encountered throughout the site during the 1985 study included 1,047 ceramic sherds (including 51 rimshers), 68 terra-cotta clay tobacco pipe fragments (counted as prehistoric "other fired clay" above), 26 white clay pipe fragments (counted as historic "Tobacco related" above), a Potomac point, 2 possible scrapers, 96 pieces of debitage, a fragment of ground steatite, a piece of limonite, an unmodified piece of mica, 73 pieces of fire-cracked rock, a bone tool (probable needle or fishing jig), a bone bead, 1 barrel-shaped shell bead, 3 flat disc-shaped shell beads, 11 unidentified pieces of glass, 22 handwrought nails (11 rosehead, 3 T-head, 8 unidentified), a single copper-alloy furniture tack, a copper-alloy clothing fastener, 3 copper-alloy triangular pendants, a piece of sheet lead, 17 unidentified metal objects, 25 pieces of mortar, 7 brick fragments, a piece of slag, 61 mussel/clam shell fragments, 1 oyster shell fragment, 12 unidentified shell fragments, 20 bird bones, 560 mammal bones, 66 fish bones, 2 rodent bones, and 14 floral objects (a possible carbonized maize fragment and burnt hickory or walnut shell). Among the identifiable ceramic sherds were 804 Potomac Creek (39 rimshers), 176
The work conducted at 18CH281 confirmed the interpretation by Mr. Posey, that the site includes a probable Contact Period deposit with significant research potential. The excavators contended that the site likely consisted of a very late Prehistoric occupation that extended into the period of interaction with Europeans, but the extent of that interaction was poorly understood. The site was deemed likely to provide information relevant to our understanding of the process of Native American acculturation. The tremendous research potential of the site attracted the interest of the Research Department at the Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum (a branch of MHT) and they applied for and successfully received a Department of Defense Legacy Resources grant to conduct Phase II/III level research in 1996. In addition to the work to be performed at 18CH281, the grant provided funds to examine a second, probably related site that was encountered as a surface lithic scatter during the 1985 study at a short distance from the site. The work completed at this site can be found in the synopsis report for 18CH282. As a part of the 1996 investigations, extensive archival research was conducted to better understand the historical context of the site.

Charles County was founded in 1658 as population growth in the new colony of Maryland and the need for large tracts of land to cultivate tobacco led to increased displacement of Native Americans and expansion of the colony. The issue of ownership and control of the land on which the Posey Site is situated is clouded by legal disputes and conflicting claims during the period the site was apparently occupied in the late 17th century. Ownership and right to use the land was disputed into the first half of the 18th century as well. The first application by a European for a land grant in the area was made by Thomas Comwallis on August 8, 1636. A grant of 5,000 acres was provided by Lord Baltimore with manorial rights, excluding Royal Mines, and rents were to be paid on the Feast of the Annunciation or the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel. Comwallis was active in the fur and corn trade with the Indians, but primarily made money by growing tobacco on his large tracts in St. Mary’s county. Comwallis’ tract was resurveyed in 1654, and a new patent was issued by Lord Baltimore with some changes in rents due, but largely reiterating the terms of the 1636 grant. Although the land was patented to Comwallis in 1654, it is probable that he did not occupy or begin producing tobacco on the land and he probably held it purely for speculative purposes.

The fieldwork in 1996 began with the establishment of a unified grid system overlaid across the entire project area to ensure standardization of results for possible comparative analysis. Shovel test pits, were placed from the datum at 8 meter intervals throughout the survey area. A total of 510 shovel test pits (STPs) were excavated, yielding a total tested area of 400,012 square meters (9.89 acres). Each shovel test pit measured approximately 40 cm in diameter, and was excavated with a round shovel into culturally sterile subsols or one meter in depth. Selected pits were deepened with a split spoon probe and/or bucket auger to further assess stratigraphy and to search for buried soil horizons beyond the reach of hand excavation. All soils removed from STPs were screened through hardware cloth. Artifacts encountered during the STP stage of research in 1996 included 91 ceramic sherds (including 4 rimsherd), 2 terra-cotta clay tobacco pipe fragments (counted as prehistoric “other fired clay” above), 1 white clay pipe stem (counted as historic “Tobacco related” above), 55 pieces of lithic debitage (including 4 cores), 5 fragments of fire-cracked rock, 8 pieces of clam and mussel shell, 8 pieces of animal bone, 24 unidentified fragments of glass, 3 handwrought nails (2 roseheads), 26 unidentified pieces of metal, 210 fragments of modern building material, 14 other modern items (plastic, rubber and modern glass), and large quantities of slag. The large amounts of slag are likely related to a coal-fired power plant that was once located in the general area. Among the ceramic sherds were 77 Potomac Creek plain (3 rimsherd), 3 Yeocomico, 1 Camden ware, 5 whiteware (1 rimsherd), 3 ironstone, and 2 porcelain fragments.

The STP survey revealed that the boundary between 18CH281 and 18CH282 (see above) was primarily the result of construction-related disturbance and/or grading of the area and the latter is not the result of separate activities from what produced the Posey site. The Posey site consists of a small core area containing a very high density of artifacts in plowzone or truncated plowzone context over relatively undisturbed subsols. This portion of the site comprises approximately 200 square meters. The site core is bordered on the west and south by an area of disturbed, truncated, or redeposited toposols that also contain a high density of artifacts over undisturbed subsols. Surface area of this portion of the site is approximately 600 square meters. A low-density scatter of ceramic and lithic artifacts extends to the south and southwest of the central portion of the site. Construction related disturbance is extensive in this area of the site. Finally, another important goal of the STP program was to attempt to locate the cemetery or ossuary reported to have been present near the western...
A total of thirty-seven 1.5 X 1.5 meter units were excavated during the investigation. Six of the excavation units were placed in the site’s core (as defined above), in an area that STP work revealed to contain a high density of artifacts in an undisturbed plowzone context. Twelve additional contiguous units were excavated as a block over a feature which was overlain by a truncated plowzone, and an additional 11 units were excavated on the periphery of the site’s core. The remaining eight units were dispersed throughout the area of low-density deposits surrounding the site’s core. Taken together, the 37 units excavated during this project represent a sample of less than 1% of the entire site area. However, the 29 units excavated in the core of the site comprise a sample of 8.15% of this area. An additional eight square meters in the core was excavated during the 1985 study. Including these units, a total of 9.15% of the high-density core area of the site has been excavated. Where possible, 1.5 X 1.5 meter units were excavated in natural stratigraphic layers down to undisturbed, culturally sterile substrata. The exceptions were units that contained cultural features, which were not entirely excavated, or units where modern construction-related disturbance extended beneath the level of the archeological deposits that comprised the site. Primary excavation tools were flat shovels, trowels, and dustpans, but round-nosed shovels and breaker bars were used in units that contained fill or mechanically compacted soil layers. A 25 X 25 cm column sample (usually from the northeast corner of the unit) was taken from each excavation unit that contained a plowzone stratum that had not been redeposited or extensively disturbed by the construction that has occurred in the area. These samples were water screened through 1/32” mesh screens. During processing of the initial column sample taken from the 12 unit block excavation at the western edge of the core area, a large number of shell beads were noted. Subsequently, 2 column samples were retained from opposite corners in each of these units in order to recover a larger sample of these artifacts.

A total of 7,510 artifacts, 3,668 fragments of faunal material, several intact postmolds, a semi-disturbed pit feature, and a large intact midden were encountered in the test unit excavations. All units contained some artifacts, although density was found to vary from quite high to low across the site. In addition, all units contained at least some faunal material, usually slug within the strata immediately beneath the ground surface. The artifact assemblage from the test units (excluding artifacts encountered within features or column samples) consisted of 2,891 ceramic sherds, 257 terra-cotta tobacco pipes (counted as prehistoric “other fired clay” above), 115 white clay pipe fragments (counted as historic “Tobacco related” above), 33 other ceramic objects (apparent fired-clay squeezes, lumps, possible terra-cotta pipe manufacturing waste, etc.), 1 Orient Fishtail point, a Madison point, a Levanna point, a biface, 5, 0.5 utilitarian flake tools, 515 pieces of lithic debitage (including 3 cores), 2 hammerstones, 1 possible grinding stone, 2 unmodified steatite and 1 unmodified graphite/slate fragments, 206 pieces of fire-cracked rock, 2 gurifints (counted as historic arms), 15 pieces of modified bone/shell (1 tubular shell bead, 8 disk shell beads, and 7 oyster shell fragments), 24 oyster shell fragments, 24 shell fragments, 17 small shell fragments, 1,018 pieces of burned and 1,650 pieces of unburned animal bone, 4 glass buttons, 23 heavily-patinated bottle glass fragments, 79 handwrought nail fragments (43 roseheads, 16 T-headed, and 20 indeterminate), 25 fragments of brass sheet in various stages of manufacture (counted as historic activity items), 1 brass projectile point (counted as historic arms), 5 elongate brass “pendants” or unfinished “tinkling cones” (counted as personal items), 2 brass “tinkling cones” (counted as personal items), a flattered spiral strip of brass (personal), a brass leather strap ornament (activity item), a brass clasp from a manuscript cover (counted as personal), 2 unidentified brass objects, (counted as activity items), 6 lead shot or musket balls, a .22 caliber bullet, a lead flintlock component, a piece of lead spuit (counted as an arm of an object), a pewter or lead button, an unidentified lead cylinder (counted as miscellaneous), an iron knife blade fragment (counted as archaeological), 17 unidentified non-modern iron objects, one patterned metal buckle of an unknown alloy, 778 miscellaneous modern ceramic objects, and 2,530 fragments of slag. Among the ceramic sherds were 2,571 Potomac Creek (86 rimsherds), 136 Yeocomico (2 rimsherds), 92 Camden (5 rimsherds), 12 Moyaone (1 rimsherd), 7 Accokeek, 5 unidentified “hybrid ware”, 24 redware (3 rimsherds), 21 tin-glazed earthenware (1 rimsherd), 10 possible early Buckley-ware variants (1 rimsherd), 5 Challis-like earthenware (1 rimsherd), 5 Rhenish, and 3 German Brown stoneware sherds.

Several discrete sub-plowzone or sub-disturbance features were discovered during the test unit excavations at the Posey Site in the core site area. A large, intact midden feature was also found in the series of 12 adjacent units excavated at the western edge of the core area of the site. In addition, several artifact forms were found to be almost exclusively linked with the site core area and evidence of manufacturing/modification activities (shell beads, brass objects, etc.) was concentrated in the core. Of the features discovered were initially located at the base of plowzone or disturbed soil strata, and were found to intrude into undisturbed subsoil. Surfaces were cleaned and soils photographed and mapped in plan view prior to the excavation of features. The majority (5) of the features identified at Posey were postmolds. They were excavated by removing half of the feature along a section line which bisected the maximum horizontal diameter of the postmold. Soil from sectioned postmolds was retained in bulk for either water screening through 1/32” mesh or flotation. After sectioning, a scale profile of the exposed face of the feature was prepared and photos were taken. The remaining half of the feature was either left in-situ, or, in one case, removed for flotation. Only 2 of the postmolds produced conclusive artifacts. One postmold contained a single piece of fire-cracked rock, 4 animal bones, and 4 intrusive pieces of slag. The other contained 3 quartz flakes, 6 ceramic vessel sherds (including a cord-impressed Potomac Creek body sherd), an animal bone, and a terra-cotta pipe stem. Five animal bones were found in another postmold and 3 were found in another, but these are unmodified and may be intrusive. Wood charcoal fragments were also recovered from all postmolds. Because only 5 postmolds were exposed, determination of function and possible association with a structure is problematic.

The second type of feature consisted of a disturbed pit with intrusive post or root molds. This feature was excavated stratigraphically, with each separate component of the deposit sectioned, profiled, and photographed prior to complete excavation. Feature fill was retained in bulk for water screening, and a 50% sample of the probable pit fill was retained for flotation. The cultural contents of the pit feature included faunal remains, ceramic artifacts, lithic debitage, and untyped wood charcoal. Twenty-six bone fragments, primarily of unidentified fish species, and 7 unidentified shell fragments were recovered. Ceramic artifacts consisted of 5 probable Potomac Creek fragments, 3 probable Yeocomico fragments, one probable Moyaone sherd, and one possible terra-cotta pipe fragment. Lithic artifacts consisted of 2 quartz tertiary flakes. A single wrought nail fragment with a square or T-head was also present. One hundred twenty-six charcoal fragments were also recovered (charcoal was not included in the tables above). In addition to the artifacts described above, a large fire-cracked quartzite fragment and a large, fine-grained pebble or grinding/crushing tool were present at the top of the subsoil immediately adjacent to the feature. Intrusive material consisted of a single piece of slag. It appears probable that a pit was excavated, used for an unknown purpose, then allowed to fill over a relatively extended period of time. Evidence for at least 2 possible postmolds was found beneath the pit fill. However, it did not appear that the pit was deliberately excavated to support the posts, as there was no evidence of deliberate backfilling to indicate a short construction sequence. It may be that the possible postmolds are actually the casts of tree roots that penetrated the less compact fill of the pit feature after it was originally abandoned.

A feature of unknown function and origin was discovered near the southwestern edge of the core area of the site. This feature consisted of a deposit of sandy clay embedded in a matrix of undisturbed sandy subsoil typical for this portion of the site. The contents of this feature were limited to 2 fragments of bone, less than 0.1 gram of charcoal, a single Potomac Creek Plain body sherd, and 3 small slag fragments. A fragment of Potomac Creek ceramic was found in subsoil excavated around the feature during sectioning. The function of the feature is unknown, but it may have been created by construction-related disturbance or otherwise represents a non-cultural soil anomaly.
The final feature discovered consisted of a large, intact midden deposit that was located in the 12 adjacent excavation units. Due to time limitations and preservation concerns, the entire horizontal expression of this deposit was not exposed, and the feature was sampled rather than excavated in its entirety. Seven 25 cm wide sections were removed from this feature in order to determine its depth and profile. Five of these sections were removed from a single unit in order to expose a large section of the subsoll at the base of the deposit in an effort to locate postmolds or other architectural components. Scale profiles and plan views were prepared for each section removed, and the entire deposit was extensively photographed. Fill removed from the feature was retained in bulk for water screening and/or flotation. Point provenienced carbon and ceramic samples were taken from the surface of the exposed portion of the feature in several areas. The entire horizontal expression of this feature was not uncovered due to time constraints and preservation concerns. The feature was found to be a filled, trough-shaped depression. No evidence of deliberate excavation of the depression, such as shovel cut marks, a flat bottom, or steep sides, was found. Lack of motting and the contents of the fill (see below) seem to suggest accumulation of refuse in a natural depression (perhaps an erosional feature from a natural watersource) as a formative mechanism for the feature. The small size of many of the artifacts, and the presence of large numbers of ceramic fragments, suggests that the area was trampled at least periodically following deposition of the cultural material. Post-depositional plowing of the site mixed the upper portions of the feature into the topsoil/powdertone horizons, but the midden deposits within the protection were disturbed from disturbance by their lower stratigraphic position. The recovery of incomplete shell beads, faunal materials, lithic debitage, and partially completed brass artifacts from the fill indicates a multipurpose function for this area of the site, beyond the simple discard of refuse. Diagnostic artifacts (pipe stems and pottery) point to a late 17th century date for the feature.

Artifacts encountered in the midden fill include 149 ceramic sherds (3 rimsherds), 37 terra-cotta pipe fragments, 9 white clay pipe fragments, 3,043 unidentified ceramic crumbs (counted as other fired clay), 1 quartzite, 31 flakes, 11 other debitage fragments, 6 fragments of fire-cracked rock, 49 shell beads (disk and tubular), 8 metal objects (a rosehead hand-wrought nail, a sheet brass triangle, a .35 caliber lead ball, a lead pellet, 4 undentifiable iron fragments), 3 probable bottle glass shards, large numbers of burned and unburned animal bone, a large quantity of shell, and fragments of charcoal. Among the identifiable ceramic sherds were 94 Potomac Creek (2 rimsherds), 13 Yeocomico, 8 Camden (1 rimsherd), 1 tin-glazed earthenware, 1 black-glazed earthenware, and 1 German Brown stoneware sherd.

In addition to the excavation of features, a total of 41 column samples were taken from 31 units following the procedure outlined above. Two samples were retained from 10 of the 12 units which were excavated to determine the extent of the large midden feature mentioned above. Water screening of column samples from the first two units placed in this area revealed the presence of relatively large numbers of small shell beads, as well as numerous small fragments of bone and unmodified shell. The column sampling program was therefore intensified in this area in order to retain a larger number of these materials. A total of 38 beads was recovered from the column samples. Thirty-six were shell, and the remaining 2 were glass. Shell beads consisted of 2 types: small flat disks (known as Roanoke) and larger tubular forms (known as peake). Five of the shell beads were of the former variety and 31 were the latter type. Of note among the shell disk beads was the presence of 6 beads that had irregular forms and rough edges. The remaining beads had all been ground smooth on both face and edge. These irregular bead blanks, along with the presence of unmodified shell fragments, probably indicate that disk beads were manufactured at the site. The two glass beads were oval to round and white in color and are of forms popular at 17th and 18th century Susquehannock sites. All of the beads were recovered from the core area, with the exception of a 39th bead (a flattened black oval) encountered in a column sample that fell within the bounds of 18CH282 (see associated synopsis report) and is not counted here. The washing and analysis of the large number of artifacts other than beads in the column samples was prevented by time constraints. In addition, most of the flotation samples were not analyzed by the time the final site report was written.

The earliest evidence of human use of the Posey Site area recovered during this project was the single Orient Fishtail projectile point. This point type is diagnostic of the latter portion of the Late Archaic Period. Although this point was recovered from within the site boundaries, it does not indicate an occupation dating to this period, but more likely represents an incidental use of the area during the Late Archaic. Small amounts of two ceramic wares also indicated some earlier use of the area that eventually became the Posey Site. By and large, however, artifacts recovered from the site indicate a single occupation component, almost certainly Native American, dating to the period between AD 1650 and 1700. No evidence of a palisade or other defensive features was encountered. The spatial characteristics of the site, a small core area marked by a very high density of artifacts, surrounded by an area of few artifacts, may represent evidence of the presence of a single household. Evidence for multiple structures, such as temporally or spatially discrete features or several high-density artifact deposits, is absent. The site appears to have functioned as a locus for the manufacture of trade goods, and for the reprocessing of materials acquired through trade into objects deemed useful to Native Americans in a utilitarian or symbolic sense. It may have been a small community, such as a hamlet, or may have been a Native controlled “trading post” that served as a buffer between colonial communities to the south and larger Native American villages to the north.

In November of 2011, a Phase I survey was carried out at 18CH281 and surrounding areas of the Naval Surface Warfare Center (now the Naval Support Facility – Indian Head). The investigational areas were on the main installation in a facility known as the Biazzi Nitration Plant. The plant is used for the manufacture of nitroglycerin. NSF - Indian Head was planning to upgrade riverwater lines at the installation, including the replacement of lines through the Biazzi Nitration Plant and the Posey Site. At the time of the study, plans for the upgrades were still being developed and 4 different alternatives were being considered. Three of these were surveyed as part of the Phase I project. The work was carried out as part of Section 106 compliance efforts for NSF - Indian Head.

The Phase I survey was focused on an area north of the Biazzi Road that would be impacted by Alternative 2 for the riverwater line project and on an existing utility corridor that would be impacted by Alternatives 1 and 4. Alternative 3 (which ran beneath Biazzi Road) was not surveyed archeologically because it was impractical to test underneath an active roadway.

Phase I work entailed the excavation of 43 shovel test pits and one formal test unit (0.5 X 2 m). Shovel tests were initially excavated along a single transect at an interval of 10 m. The excavations revealed a wide range of materials and structures within the profile. Shovel test pits were excavated 8-in. by 8-in. in planviews, within which a 10-in. by 10-in. test unit was excavated because of the presence of a drainage ditch and large piles of earth alongside the ditch. Judgmental shovel testing was also used to account for areas where ground disturbance was observed. Each STP measured approximately 35 cm in diameter and extended a minimum of 10 cm into subsoil. All soil from the shovel tests was screened through hardware mesh for uniform artifact recovery. Artifacts post-dating 1950 were noted and discarded in the field. Brick was sampled, with most of the material discarded in the field as well. STPs were recorded on standardized forms, which included a schematic soil profile with information on soil color, texture, and inclusions. STP locations were recorded on scaled field maps and using a survey-grade GPS device.

The 0.5 X 2 m test unit was judgmentally placed along an existing utility corridor in an area where work in the 1990 had noted an artifact concentration. A major reason for the test unit was to examine the extent of ground disturbance from the utility lines running through the area. In the test unit the humus was...
screened in its entirety and excavated as a single level. Below the humus, excavation levels followed natural stratigraphy with arbitrary 10 cm levels for vertical control. Subsoil was sampled with the excavation of one 10 cm thick level across the entirety of the unit. Each excavation level was recorded on standardized field forms, and scaled stratigraphic profiles and plan views were drawn. The test unit location was recorded on field maps and also using a survey-grade GPS device. Digital photographs were taken to document the test unit excavation and to document the survey areas.

Eleven Native American artifacts were recovered from 10 of the 43 STPs excavated in 2011, principally from plowzone contexts, although artifacts were found below the plowzone in one shovel test. The assemblage consisted of a biface reduction flake, a piece of block shatter, a hammerstone, a pitted cobble, 6 Potomac Creek sherds, and 1 possible Camden sherd. This assemblage is consistent with lithic reduction activities and domestic refuse, and is contemporaneous with the main occupation of the Posey Site. This area falls outside the boundaries of the Posey site as most recently defined.

The formal test unit exposed redeposited soils extending to a maximum depth of 43 cm below ground surface. Utility trench disturbance extended outward from the existing line a maximum distance of 164 cm across the unit. A total of 16 Native American artifacts were recovered from the test unit, along with 4 brick fragments. The Native American assemblage from the test unit included 5 flake fragments, a hammerstone, 4 Accokeek sherds, and 6 Potomac Creek sherds. No features were identified in the test unit. This locale falls within the current boundaries of 18CH281.

As a whole, the Posey Site represents an aspect of the process of cultural change that the Native Americans in Maryland underwent in the years between approximately 1650 and 1700. Though portions of the Posey Site (18CH281) were certainly disturbed by the explosion of the munitions plant and subsequent construction activities in the vicinity, the testing programs in the 1980s and 90s have demonstrated the presence of intact sub-plowzone or sub-disturbance features in the core area of the site. Plowzone deposits that contain varying amounts of temporally diagnostic cultural materials are also present at the site’s core and in other areas. It is estimated that only 10% of the intact core area of the site has been excavated to date. In addition, the unique nature of many of the objects recovered (shell beads and brass tinkling cones in various stages of manufacture, glass trade beads – all tallied above as “Uncommon Objects” in addition to their regular categories) creates an extant artifact collection alone of immense research value. Thus, the Posey site has the potential to yield information that will enhance our understanding of the dynamic period of change in Native American lifeways following contact with Europeans during the period from AD 1650 to 1700. Every effort should be made to take advantage of any opportunity that presents itself to make more detailed examinations of the extant collections or to revisit the site and conduct additional research.