<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Phase II and Phase III Archeological Database and Inventory</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Site Number:</strong> 18CH673  <strong>Site Name:</strong> Site 2, Area A  Prehistoric ✓  Historic  ✓  Unknown  ☐</td>
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<td>Other name(s)  Strauss Avenue Bluff</td>
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<td><strong>Brief Description:</strong> Early Archaic and Late Woodland short-term camp; Early 20th century artifact scatter</td>
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### Site Location and Environmental Data:

| **Latitude** | 38.5935 |
| **Longitude** | -77.1839 |
| **Elevation** | m |
| **Site slope** | 0-5% |
| **Site setting** |
| - 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 |

### Maryland Archeological Research Unit No. 11
- **Physiographic province**  Western Shore Coastal  |
- **Ethnobotany profile available**  ☐  **Maritime site**  ☐ |
- **Nearest Surface Water**  Potomac River  |
| **SCS soil & sediment code**  HgB  |
| **Terrestrial site** ✓  Underwater site  ☐ |
| **Minimum distance to water is**  100 m |

### Site Function Contextual Data:

#### Prehistoric
- **Urban/Rural?**  Rural
- **Domestic**
  - Multi-component ✓  Misc. ceremonial  ☐
  - Village  Rock art  ☐
  - Hamlet  Shell midden  ☐
  - Base camp  STU/lithic scatter ✓
  - Rockshelter/cave  Quarry/extraction  ☐
  - Earthen mound  Fish weir  ☐
  - Cairn  Production area  ☐
  - Burial area  Unknown  ☐
  - Other context  ☐

#### Historic
- **Urban/Rural?**  Rural
- **Domestic**
  - Multi-component ✓
  - Homestead  Farmstead  Mansion  ☐
  - Privy  ☐
  - Rockshelter/cave  Cave  ☐
  - Earthen mound  Cayo  ☐
  - Cairn  Production area  ☐
  - Burial area  Unknown  ☐
- **Industrial**
  - Mining-related ✓
  - Quarry-related  ☐
  - Mill  ☐
  - Black/metalsmith  ☐

#### Interpretive Sampling Data:

| **Prehistoric context samples** |
| Soil samples taken | N |
| Flotation samples taken | N |
| Other samples taken |  |

| **Historic context samples** |
| Soil samples taken | N |
| Flotation samples taken | N |
| Other samples taken |  |
**Phase II and Phase III Archeological Database and Inventory**

**Site Number:** 18CH673  
**Site Name:** Site 2, Area A  
**Other name(s):** Strauss Avenue Bluff  
**Brief Description:** Early Archaic and Late Woodland short-term camp; Early 20th century artifact scatter

### Diagnostic Artifact Data:

**Projectile Point Types**
- Clovis  
- Hardaway-Dalton  
- Kirks (notch)  
- Kirks (stem)  
- Le Croy  
- Morrow Mtn  
- Guilford  
- Brewerton  
- Otter Creek  
- Koen-Crispin

**Prehistoric Sherd Types**
- Shepard  
- Popes Creek  
- Dames Qtr  
- Watson  
- Wolfe Neck  
- Selden Island  
- Mockley  
- Creamware  
- Piscataway  
- Perkiomen  
- Vernon  
- Piscataway  
- Piscataway  
- Koe-Crispin  
- Cornell

**Prehistoric Features**
- Mound(s)  
- Burial(s)  
- Storage/trash pit  
- Shell midden  
- Unmod faunal  
- Postholes/molds  
- Housing pattern(s)  
- Palisade(s)  
- Heath(s)  
- Lithic reduc area

**Historic Sherd Types**
- Ironstone  
- Earthenware  
- Staffordshire  
- Stoneware  
- Abury  
- Astbury  
- Borderware  
- Buckely  
- Mile Creek  
- Madison/Potomac  
- Blockley  
- Creamware  
- Perkiomen  
- Vinette  
- Popes Creek  
- Hardaway-Dalton  
- Guilford  
- Morrow Mtn  
- Le Croy  
- Alexander  
- Koens-Crispin  
- Perkiomen  
- Kirk (notch)  
- Kirk (stem)  
- Hardaway-Dalton  
- Guilford  
- Morrow Mtn  
- Le Croy

**Other Artifact & Feature Types:**
- Flaked stone  
- Ground stone  
- Stone bowls  
- Fire-cracked rock  
- Other lithics (all)  
- Other fired clay  
- Human remain(s)  
- Modified faunal  
- Unmod faunal  
- Oyster shell  
- Other  
- Uncommon Obj.  
- Floral material  
- Tobacco related  
- Activity item(s)  
- Human remain(s)  
- Faunal material  
- Misc. kitchen  
- Misc.  
- Misc.

**Pottery (all):** 55  
**Glass (all):** 153  
**Architectural:**
- Faunal material  
- Misc. kitchen  
- Misc.

**Historic Features**
- Privy/outhouse  
- Depression/mound  
- Well/cistern  
- Burial(s)  
- Railroads  
- Earthworks  
- Mill Raceway  
- Road/ walkway  
- Wheel pit  
- Modern burn feature; concrete sign footers, brick steps

**Lithic Material**
- Fer quartzite  
- Sil sandstone  
- Sil sandstone  
- European flint  
- Chert  
- Chalcedony  
- Ironstone  
- Basalt  
- Rhyolite  
- Argilite  
- Other  
- Quartz  
- 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

Additional radiocarbon results available
Site 18CH673 (Site 2, Area A) is the apparent remains of a Late Woodland short-term camp and historic period artifact scatter. The site is situated on the property of the Naval Surface Warfare Center at Indian Head, Charles County, Maryland. This site is on Cornwallis Neck, near the confluence of Mattawoman Creek and the Potomac River. Terrain at the site area consists of a high riverine terrace and most of the vegetation in the area is lawn manicured by base maintenance crews. Soils at the site include the Evesboro-Keypor-Etalon association and Beltsville-Gravelly land-Bourne association.

The site was first identified during a 2000 Phase I survey for a parking lot project at the Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC). The site was located through shovel-testing. A total of 56 shovel test pits (STPs) was excavated at 15 meter intervals on transects placed 15 m apart. Delineation shovel tests were excavated at 7.5 m intervals around shovel tests containing isolated prehistoric artifacts and around site boundaries when required. Shovel tests measured approximately 35 cm in diameter and were excavated to a minimum depth of 100 cm, or 10 cm into sterile subsoil. Soils were removed by natural strata and screened through hardware cloth. Artifacts visible on the surface were opportunistically collected, however, no systematic surface collections were made as snow cover in the field inhibited visual examination of the ground surface. All pre-modern artifacts were retained.

Both prehistoric and historic components were identified at 18CH673. The prehistoric sub-assemblage consisted of 73 lithic artifacts and 1 Potomac Creek ceramic sherd. The lithics include a quartz biface, 4 quartz cores, 3 pieces of chert debitage, 13 pieces of quartzite debitage, 34 fragments of quartzite debitage, 2 pieces of rhyolite debitage, a mano fragment, 2 hammerstones, a heated cobble, and 12 pieces of fire-cracked rock. The presence of fire-cracked rock in the assemblage indicates at least short-term encampment on the terrace. The recovery of one Potomac Creek ceramic sherd documents a Late Woodland occupation at the site. The historic component consisted of two historic artifact scatters (one modern discard from military activities and the other kitchen middens), a brick walkway or patio feature, and several concrete piers. The 184 historic artifacts include 6 activity items (a machine part and 4 storage can fragments), 37 architectural objects (2 window glass fragments, 3 brick pieces, 30 wire nails, & 2 unidentified nails), 1 metal personal object, 137 kitchen remains, and 4 miscellaneous objects (3 pieces of metal and 1 piece of coal slag). The kitchen sub-assemblage included 4 ceramic sherds (ironstone), 88 miscellaneous glass fragments, a metal canning jar lid, a crown cap, and 43 oyster shell fragments.

Based on the Phase I findings, Phase II testing was recommended within a portion of the site which could not be avoided during parking lot construction. This was undertaken later in August of 2000. Phase II evaluation of the site primarily focused on the investigation of the nature and extent of the prehistoric component in the eastern portion of the site. Specifically, efforts were made to evaluate the vertical and horizontal integrity of the site, based on the presence or absence of intact features and/or deposits, the identification of disturbed soils or unusual soil stratigraphy, and patterns of distribution of artifacts across the site. Further research goals aimed at determining the period of occupation and nature of land use, and identifying and characterizing activity areas at the site.

In an effort to delineate site boundaries and to define more clearly the horizontal distribution of material remains, Phase II investigations involved systematic shovel testing at 7.5 m intervals. A total of 112 STPs was excavated during Phase II evaluation of the site. The same shovel testing methods were utilized at the Phase II level, as were used during Phase I investigations. In addition, twelve 1 X 1 m test units were excavated across the site to further investigate the presence or absence of intact features and deposits and to provide a database reflecting the vertical and horizontal distribution of cultural remains. Test units were placed adjacent to positive shovel tests and were excavated in natural stratigraphic levels or in 10 cm arbitrary levels within natural strata. Soil was screened through hardware cloth. Modern materials encountered in shovel tests and test units were noted but not collected.

The Phase II evaluation recovered a total of 461 prehistoric artifacts from shovel tests and test units from the eastern portion of 18CH673. The prehistoric sub-assemblage included 1 unfinished biface, 400 pieces of debitage, 1 hammerstone, 41 fragments of fire-cracked rock, and 18 ceramic sherds (including 4 rims). Three of the ceramic sherds could be positively identified as Potomac Creek ware, and all of the sherds came from disturbed plowzone contexts. No cultural features were encountered. The dominant lithic raw material was quartzite, followed by quartz, chert, rhyolite, and an indeterminant material type. Artifacts were fairly well-dispersed with little evidence of clustering. There were some slightly higher concentrations in the western portion of the Phase II study area (the center of the site).

The dispersal of the prehistoric assemblage recovered appears to reflect repeated brief periods of prehistoric activity at the site. Modern disturbances such as plowing and other past military activities or construction may account for general evidence of mixed contexts. The assemblage provides no evidence for any sort of prolonged occupation. A large quantity of secondary and non-cortical debitage in the sub-assemblage indicates an area of primarily late stage lithic reduction. The lack of cores indicates major primary reduction is occurring elsewhere, perhaps at the site of lithic procurement. Interestingly, the paucity of bifaces in general indicates that the finishing of lithic tools is also occurring elsewhere. The general activity in this area is most likely the further reduction of rough blanks before being transported to a finishing area. Based on the number of objects bearing cobble cortex, occupants of the site relied primarily on stream-bed cobble sources for raw material rather than bedrock sources. Fire-cracked rock was not encountered in concentrations that would suggest the presence of intact features.

To the percentage of prehistoric artifacts recovered within the plowzone, the general degree of post-occupational disturbance, and the lack of diagnostic artifacts and features, the prehistoric component of Site 18CH673 does not seem to warrant further investigation.

A total of 171 historic artifacts were recovered from shovel tests and test units during the Phase II testing at 18CH673. Most of the artifacts were kitchen-related or architectural. The complete historic sub-assemblage consisted of 8 activity items (2 doll parts & 6 non-electrical wire fragments), 54 architectural objects (7 sewerage pipe fragments, 11 pieces of window glass, 2 brick fragments, 1 bolt, 1 screw, 1 construction staple, and 31 nails), 1 clothing item (a glass button), 1 personal item (a penny), 87 kitchen-related artifacts, and 20 miscellaneous objects (18 pieces of metal, 1 piece of coal, and 1 unidentified stone). The kitchen artifacts were 33 ceramic sherds (9 whiteware, 2 ironstone, 15 later porcelain types, 6 domestic brown stoneware sherds, and 1 coarse earthenware), 52 miscellaneous glass pieces, and 2 metal kitchen container objects. Datable artifacts span a date range from 1800 to the present. Some 93% of the assemblage was recovered from beneath the plowzone, but mixed with prehistoric material, suggesting a considerable degree of disturbance. No intact historic features were encountered during Phase II investigations.

The historic component of the site consisted of a spatially dispersed assemblage, likely associated with agricultural practices and refuse discard during the mid to late 19th and 20th centuries. Archival evidence indicates that the Cornwallis Neck area was used for farming from as early as the 17th century up until it was purchased by the Navy at the end of the 19th century. In 1890, a portion of land in the vicinity was used to build Swann’s Court, a planned, segregated
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African-American community. According to maps and Phase I investigations, remains of Swann's Court extend into the western portion of Site 18CH673. However, no evidence of that historic site was encountered.

Based on historic evidence and the results of Phase II investigations, the historic assemblage from this portion of the site constitutes an historic scatter distributed evenly across the site by years of plowing fields and modern grading from the construction of nearby roads and adjacent buildings and parking lots. The assemblage is not representative of any particular time or place; rather it is likely a mix of material from an early farmstead that occupied the area, from nearby Swann’s Court, or from recent military activity. Because no horizontal patterning or integrity could be demonstrated, and no obviously intact deposits or features were encountered to establish vertical integrity, the historic component at 18CH673 lacks research potential and does not warrant further investigation.

**External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):**

97000333, 97000548