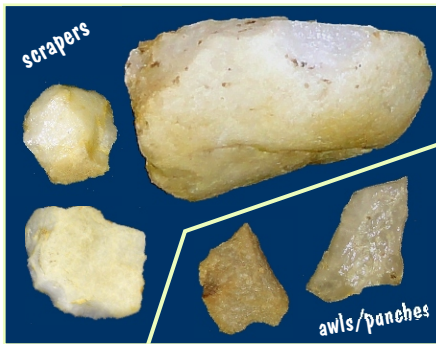


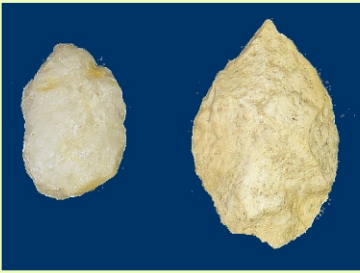
## Tool Making

Tool making was a main activity at both sites. Nearly all of the recovered tools are heavily worn and clearly discards. Although several carefully prepared and cared for tools (like projectile points) were recovered, most of the tools found at the sites are ones that were made quickly and discarded after a few times of use. ■



These disposable tools probably served as scrapers, awls, and punches for the processing of animal and/or plant resources.

These artifacts, known as bifaces, are in the early to middle stages of point manufacturing. Some expedient tools are also made from bifaces. A biface is defined as a tool that has been worked on both sides. For one reason or another, these bifaces were lost or discarded before completing the tool. The toolmakers' intentions for these bifaces are unknown.



This artifact is an exhausted core. Unlike bifaces, where the goal was to create a tool by removing flakes, cores were used to generate flakes with sharp edges that could be used as tools.



## Why Archeology?

Progress is important, but so is our cultural heritage. Like many of MTA's other cultural resource projects, the archeological excavations at the Dunkirk Park and Ride sites have helped protect our heritage while improving Maryland's transit system. Once it is decided that resources will be affected, MTA and consulting agencies work together to minimize the effects of the project on those resources. This process allows the public and the MTA to exchange ideas, alternatives, and solutions that result in a better future while protecting the past. To learn about regulations regarding the protection of cultural resources visit:

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
[www.achp.gov](http://www.achp.gov)

The U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Transit Administration  
[www.fta.dot.gov/12347\\_2235.html](http://www.fta.dot.gov/12347_2235.html)

The Maryland Historical Trust  
[www.mht.maryland.gov](http://www.mht.maryland.gov)

We also recommend visiting:  
Calvert County - Historic Preservation  
[www.co.cal.md.us/index.aspx?NID=1252](http://www.co.cal.md.us/index.aspx?NID=1252)  
Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum  
[www.jefpat.org](http://www.jefpat.org)

## A Glimpse into the Past

### Archeological Investigations of 18CV491 and 18CV492

Dunkirk Park and Ride, Calvert County, Maryland



Excavating 18CV492 - October 2012



Excavating 18CV491 - September 2012

## Uncovering Native American Life at the Dunkirk Park and Ride

The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) conducts various studies as part of its project planning process. Together, engineers, scientists, environmental planners, preservation specialists, archeologists, and historians use the findings of the studies to develop functional and creative designs that are sensitive to our natural, cultural, and social resources. In addition to studying the effects of a project on the environment, the planning process often presents unique opportunities to explore Maryland's remarkable past.

Archeological sites 18CV491 and 18CV492 were discovered during a 2008 planning study for the Dunkirk Park and Ride. The sites were found to contain well-preserved and undisturbed remains of two small Native American encampments that were occupied mostly between 2000 B.C. and A.D. 50 (Late Archaic - Early Woodland). The Maryland Historical Trust determined that both sites are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places because of the sites' excellent preservation and their ability to provide significant new information about Native American life in Calvert County before the arrival of European settlers.

In 2012, McCormick Taylor, Inc. of Baltimore, MD, with the assistance of EAC/Archeology, Inc., were retained by the MTA to conduct intensive archaeological excavations of 18CV491 and 18CV492. The excavations were performed to carefully remove, record, and study the sites' archaeological data that would have otherwise been destroyed during the construction of the 500-space commuter bus park and ride lot. ■

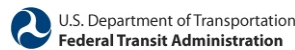


Sifting Soil

Funding for the Archeological Investigations of 18CV491 and 18CV492 was provided by the Maryland Transit Administration and the Federal Transit Administration.

For more information about the Dunkirk Park and Ride, visit:  
[www.mta.maryland.gov/dunkirk-park-and-ride-project](http://www.mta.maryland.gov/dunkirk-park-and-ride-project)

For more information about other MTA projects visit:  
[www.mta.maryland.gov](http://www.mta.maryland.gov)



### What does that number mean?

Archeological sites are numbered with a system that denotes state, county, and order of discovery. In this case, the first number, 18, represents Maryland, which is the 18<sup>th</sup> state alphabetically. The "CV" stands for Calvert County. The numbers 491 and 492 indicate that the Dunkirk Park and Ride sites were the 491<sup>st</sup> and 492<sup>nd</sup> sites recorded in Calvert County.

**In case you are interested:** Alabama is alphabetically first, so all sites in Alabama begin with 1. The numbering system was established during the 1930s before Alaska and Hawaii acquired statehood. Alaska and Hawaii were added to the end of the list. Alaskan sites start with 49 and sites in Hawaii start with 50.

## The Ground Beneath our Feet

Archeology is the study of people, situations, and events of the past. Archeological data is more than the artifacts that are recovered. The ground in which artifacts are found is equally as important.

Disturbances caused by human actions, such as the construction of a building, the lighting of a campfire, or the planting of a garden, leave traces as to how people lived. By examining the remains of what people have left behind, and most importantly, where they left them, archeologists can reconstruct the past activities that occurred at a certain location.



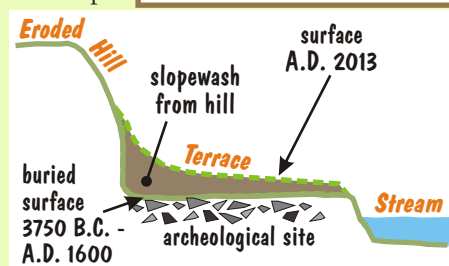
Soil discolorations and irregularities are often good indicators of past disturbances to the landscape.

As today's households reflect the technological advances, trends, fashions, diets, health conditions, and quality of life during modern times, the households we uncover provide glimpses into the past. By studying how people once lived, worked, and played, we learn about the people that helped shape the unique and diverse cultural heritage of Calvert County. ■

## A Perfect Location and a Blanket of Slopewash

Archeologists were not surprised when they found 18CV491 and 18CV492. Both sites are located on natural terraces at the southern base of a small hill that overlooks a small stream. During the Precontact era (before the 1640s), this environment contained a diversity of plants and animals, which would have attracted people to the area. Native American groups would have regarded the stream terraces as favorable spots for seasonal use due to their southern exposures and close proximity to fresh water. The meandering stream bed also provided an ample supply of cobbles for making the stone tools needed for processing plant and animal resources.

The sites' environmental settings have also protected them. The hill to the north of the sites is small, but its slopes are steep. For centuries, various processes have caused soil to erode down from the hill onto the terraces below. The accumulated soil ("slopewash") deeply buried the original land surfaces of the terraces, and the archeological materials on them. This blanket of slopewash has protected the sites from becoming eroded themselves, from becoming mixed through historic plowing, and from other common surface disturbances. ■



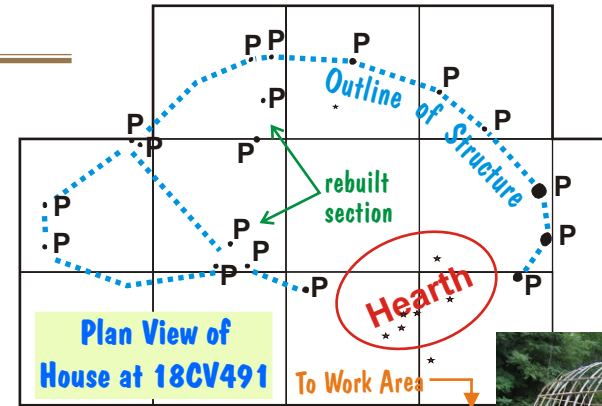
These "in situ", or "in place", pieces of ceramic are examples of the many well-preserved artifacts that were discovered at 18CV491 & 18CV492.

## Native American Habitation at 18CV491 and 18CV492

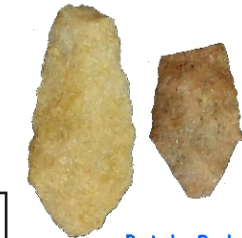
Sites 18CV491 and 18CV492 were repeatedly visited by Native Americans. Based on recovered artifact types and the remains of living surfaces, archeologists have concluded that the sites functioned as small seasonal base camps. By examining the projectile points and ceramic wares, archeologists have been able to differentiate various occupations at each site that date to the Late Archaic (3750 B.C. - 1250 B.C.), Early Woodland (1250 B.C. - A.D. 50), Middle Woodland (A.D. 50 - A.D. 950), and Late Woodland (A.D. 950 - A.D. 1600) Periods. ■

## The House at 18CV491

A partial ring of decayed support posts of a former house structure was uncovered under the slopewash at 18CV491. The prevailing post pattern outlines an approximate 3.5m x 1.85m structure with a small hearth located at one end. Inconsistencies in the post pattern suggests the house may have been rebuilt during a later occupation. A small work and tool manufacturing area was identified about 3m south of the house. The house's primary occupation is interesting because it spans the transition from the Late Archaic to Early Woodland periods. ■



Susquehanna Broadspear  
Late Archaic Period.  
These types of points were used more like a knife than a projectile.



These worn Piscataway points were recovered from 18CV491. This point type spans the Late Archaic & Early Woodland Periods. Broken tips are a good indication that the points were used as projectiles (like a spear) rather than as cutting or knife-type tools.



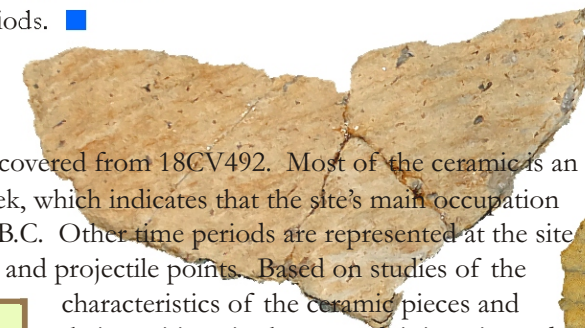
Reconstructed House at Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum in St. Leonard, MD



Fishtail point  
Early Woodland Period

## The Ceramic at 18CV492

Over 570 pieces of ceramic were recovered from 18CV492. Most of the ceramic is an Early Woodland ware called Accokeek, which indicates that the site's main occupation occurred between 900 B.C. and 300 B.C. Other time periods are represented at the site to a lesser degree by datable ceramic and projectile points. Based on studies of the characteristics of the ceramic pieces and their positions in the ground, it is estimated that there were at least three Accokeek pots and one Mockley pot (A.D. 200 - A.D. 900) at the site when it was abandoned. ■



Marcey Creek ceramic  
Early Woodland Period



Triangle points - Late Woodland Period

The diagonal marks on Accokeek ceramic were made by pressing twisted cord into the clay before the pot was fired.

Mockley ceramic  
Middle Woodland Period

