PG:83-11 Late Archaic to Contact
Accokeek Creek Site (Moyaone)
Mockley Road
Accokeek
Federal

This extensive tract of land at the confluence of Piscataway Creek with the Potomac River includes a series of archeological sites, ranging in date from the Late Archaic period (c. 3000 B.C.) to historic times. The earliest components at the site are represented by hunting and campsites. Later, during the Middle Woodland period (c. A.D. 800), small horticultural hamlets were established. The major component at Accokeek Creek, however, is an extensive late-16th/early-17th century village of the Piscataway Indians, referred to as Moyaone. Multiple palisade lines at this Potomac-facing village indicate numerous rebuilding episodes, and attest to a fairly lengthy occupation of the site. Four ossuaries associated with the village contained the remains of more than 1000 individuals, indicating a substantial population at Moyaone. The village appears to have been abandoned prior to Contact. At the north end of this tract on the banks of Piscataway Creek was a rectangular fort occupied by the Susquehannocks in 1674-75.

Based on material excavated by Alice L.L. Ferguson in the 1930s and 1940s, and analyzed by Robert L. Stephenson in the 1950s, the Accokeek Creek site served as the basis for understanding ceramic chronology in the Middle Atlantic region. This chronology established the Early Woodland Marcey Creek/Accokeek/Popes Creek--Middle Woodland Mockley--Late Woodland Potomac Creek continuum. The village referred to as Moyaone represents the largest and last-occupied Piscataway village before the arrival of Europeans.

See National Register Form.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY PG: 83-11

HISTORIC SITES SUMMARY SHEET

P.G. County Survey # ~~83-2~~ Date c. 3000 B.C. - 17th c. A.D.

Building Name Accokeek Creek Archaeological Site

Location Piscataway and Accokeek Creeks at Potomac River, Accokeek, Md.

Open to Public x yes ____ no Restricted

The Accokeek Creek site has been occupied intermittently for over 5000 years. The earliest occupational levels represent an Archaic, hunting and gathering culture of c. 3000 to 500 B.C. A village culture developed, practicing some agriculture and pot-making, thus leading into the Woodland periods c. 100 B.C. The most significant occupation occurred in the Late Woodland period; sometime before 1200, a new cultural group arrived and established a larger settlement, four ossuaries, and an oval stockade for defense. These people, known in Historic times as the Piscataways, received the first contact from European colonists; they abandoned the village in the 1630's. A group of Susquehannocks built a fort on the site in 1674, but abandoned it shortly thereafter.

The Accokeek Creek Site provides valuable chronological information for comparison with other east coast sites, and gives insight into the cultural development of the Piscataways of the Late Woodland period and at contact time. Although extensively excavated in the 1930's and again in the early 1970's, the site may yet yield information on prehistoric cultures. It is currently used as a center for demonstration agriculture and nature study, preserving an environment consistent with its ancient usage.

NOTE:
— LOCATIONAL MATERIAL RESTRICTED —