

**STRATIFIED  
PREHISTORIC  
SITES  
ALONG THE C & O  
CANAL**

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# C & O Canal National Historical Park



- ▶ **Louis Berger Group and National Park Service**
- ▶ **Systemwide Archeological Inventory Program**
- ▶ **3-year program**
- ▶ **Identification and Evaluation**
- ▶ **59 miles, Georgetown to Sandy Hook**



# Potomac Floodplain Sites

**Deeply stratified sites**

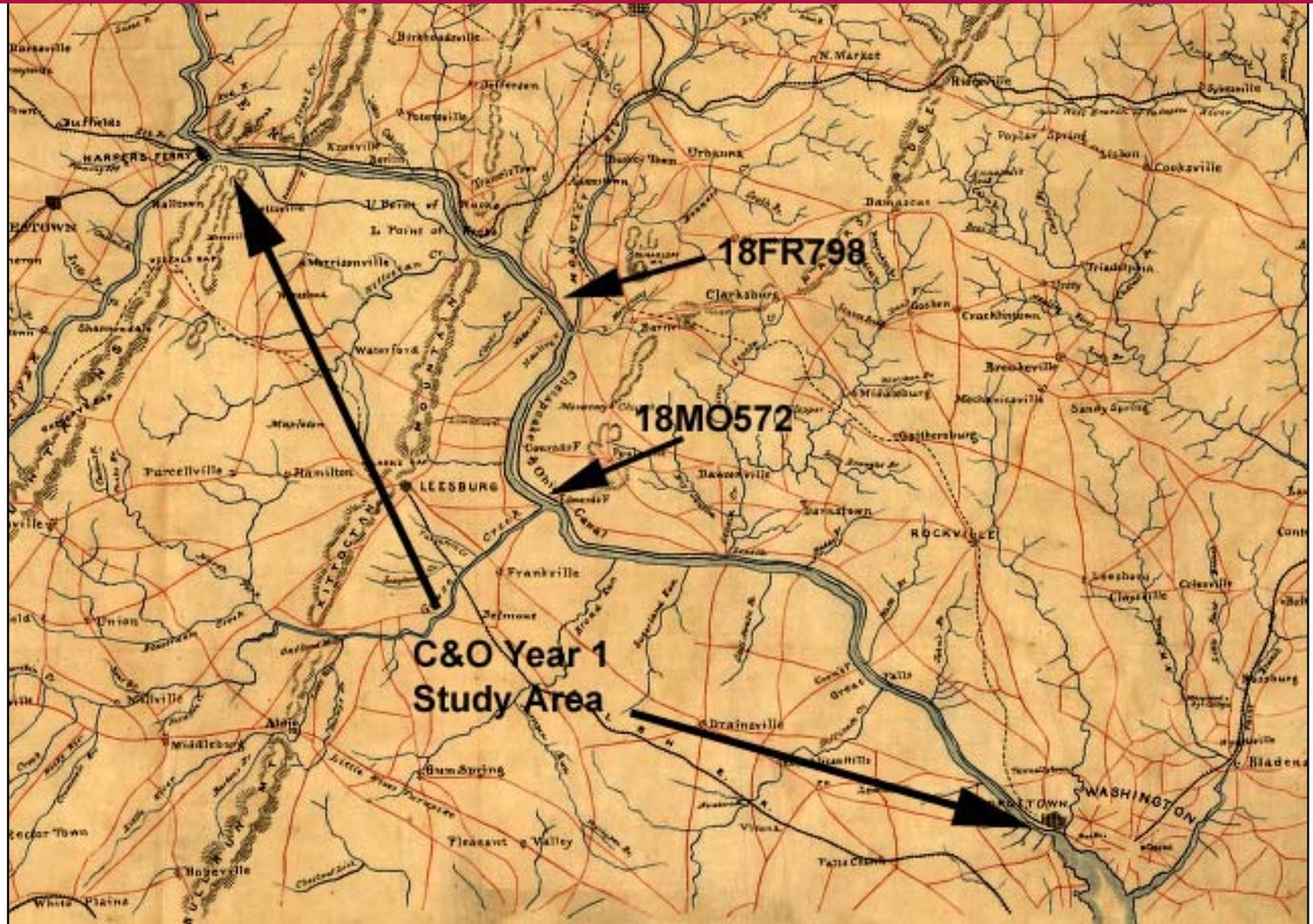
**Multiple buried A-Horizons**

**Auger-testing at 14 locations**

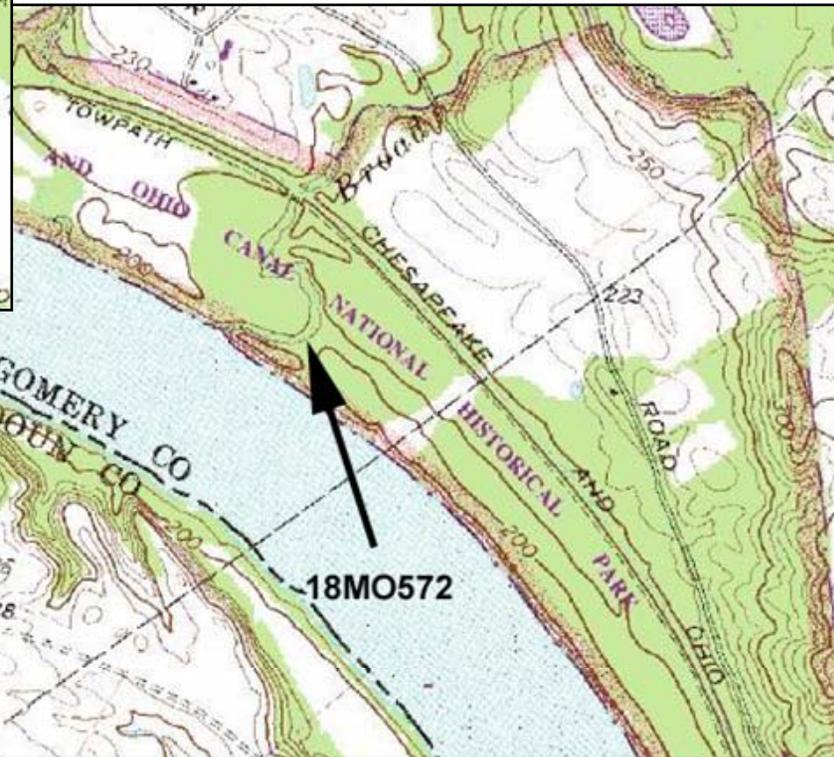
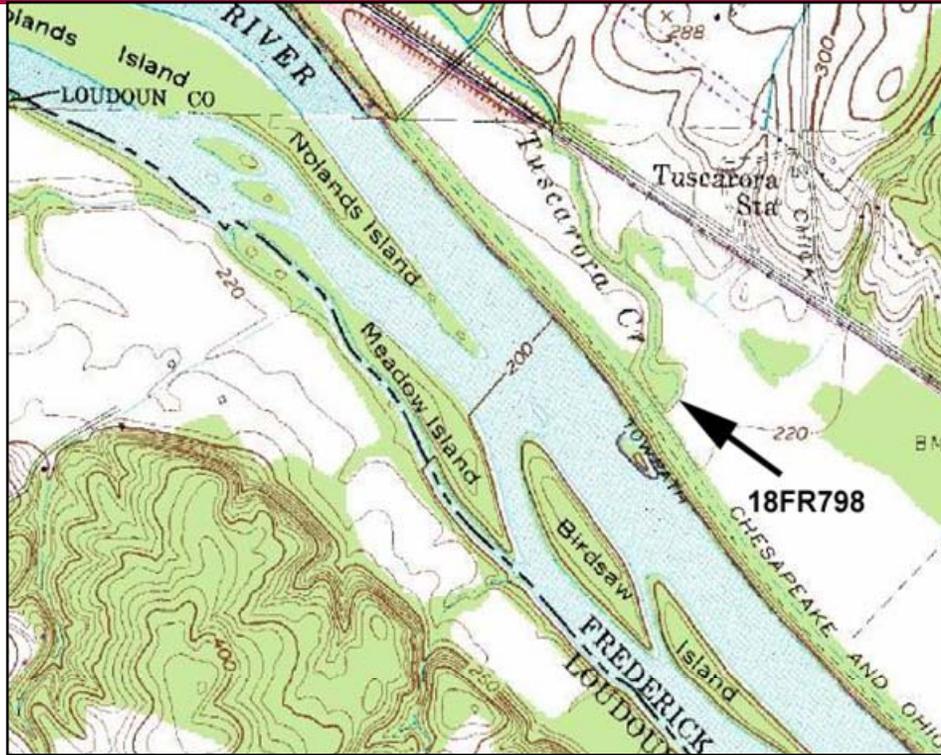
**Stepped excavation of stream  
cutbanks at Tuscarora  
Creek and Broad Run**



# C & O Year 1 Study Area



# Site Locations



# Broad Run Strata

## BROAD RUN (18M0572)

2 A-horizons:

- ▶ Upper, 1.5-2 feet below surface—Late Woodland, ca. AD 1200-1500
- ▶ Lower, 7 feet below surface—Late Archaic, ca. 4000 BP (before present): Savannah River Broadspear complex



# Savannah River Complex, Broad Run



**3800 +/- 40 rcbp  
(4290-4080 cal BP)**



# Broad Run, Late Woodland



**Broad Run: Late Woodland ceramic sherds**



# Tuscarora Creek Stratigraphy

## 18FR798 (TUSCARORA CREEK)

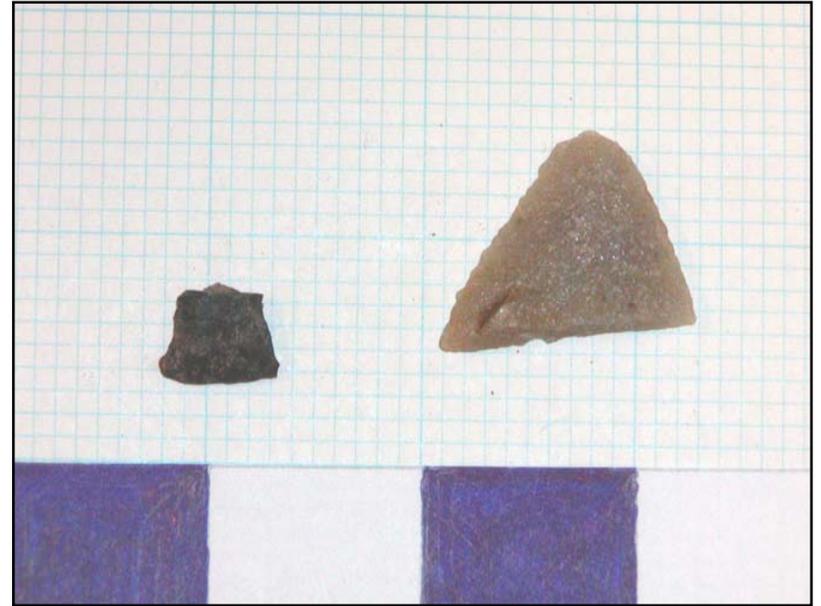
**Late Woodland (top)**  
**ca. 700 rcbp**

**Early Woodland**  
**(3 ft below surface)**  
**ca. 3000 rcbp**

**Middle/Late Archaic**  
**(5.7 ft below surface)**  
**5110 +/- 40 rcbp (5740-5930 cal BP)**

**Early Archaic**  
**(7-8 ft below surface)**  
**9290 +/- 40 and 8340 +/- 40 rcbp**  
**(10,280-10,570 and 9270-9470 cal BP)**

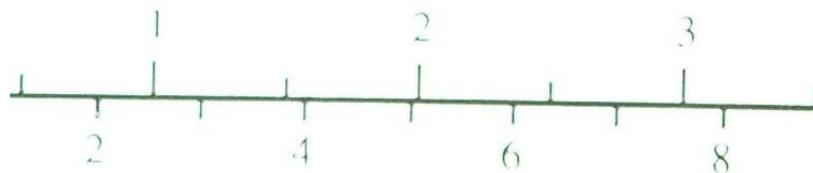




**Tuscarora Creek (18FR798) artifacts, lowest horizon:  
Jasper, chalcedony, grey and black chert, quartz, rhyolite, quartzite**

**18MO10 surface find  
Spurred Endscraper,  
Jasper/chalcedony**

**Probably Paleoindian or  
Early Archaic**



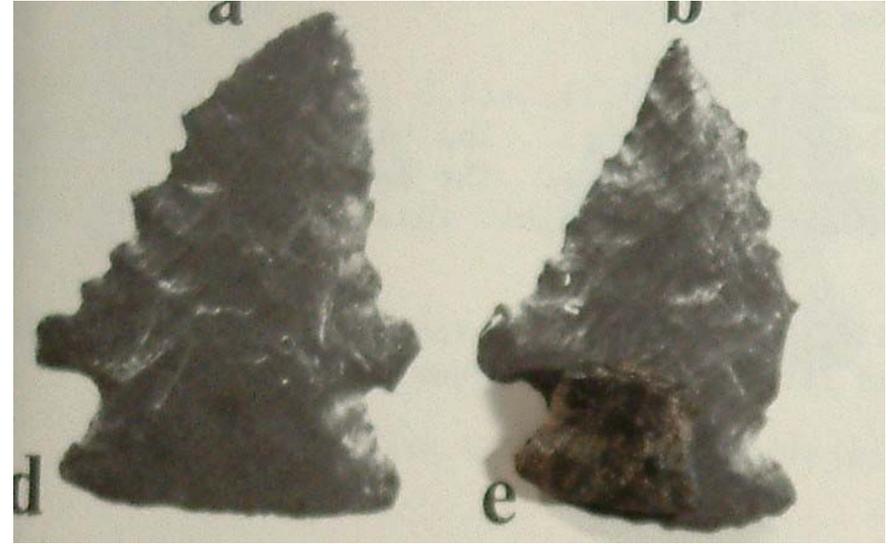
**(flake, Tuscarora Creek)**



# Palmer/Kirk Corner-Notched points



18FR798  
ca. 9300 rcbp



St. Albans, WV:  
9850+/-500 rcbp



**Jasper flakes from  
lowest cultural zone,  
Tuscarora Creek site**



# 18FR798 EARLY ARCHAIC



Chalcedony and jasper



► Chalcedony shatter



# 18FR798 red jasper flake/core remnant



# 18FR798 jasper spokeshave



# 18FR798 chopper



# Early Holocene Scouring by the Potomac?



18FR798

ca. 10,300 cal BP

Cobbles: flooding  
at 11,500 cal BP?



# Site Preservation Issues

## Monocacy Creek, 2003 Floods



## Broad Run



## Tuscarora Creek

