



# Phase II and Phase III Archeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN113

Site Name: Obrecht's

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Hurst,Wright #S/12

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Early-Late Woodland base camp and village

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code 13) EoB

Latitude 39.0752 Longitude -76.6244

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site  Underwater site

Elevation 3 m Site slope 0-5%

Ethnobotany profile available  Maritime site

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

### Topography

- Floodplain
- Hilltop/bluff
- Interior flat
- Upland flat
- Ridgetop
- Terrace
- Low terrace
- High terrace
- Rockshelter/cave
- Hillslope
- Unknown
- Other

### Ownership

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

### Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Severn River

- | Saltwater                                |   | Freshwater                            |                                 |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Ocean <input type="checkbox"/>           | Estuary/tidal river <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Stream/river <input type="checkbox"/> | Swamp <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| Tidewater/marsh <input type="checkbox"/> |   | Lake or pond <input type="checkbox"/> | Spring <input type="checkbox"/> |

Minimum distance to water is 0 m

## Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

- Paleoindian site
- Archaic site
- Early archaic  P
- Middle archaic
- Late archaic
- Woodland site
- MD Adena
- Early woodland  Y
- Mid. woodland  Y
- Late woodland  Y
- Unknown prehistoric context

- Contact period site
- ca. 1820 - 1860
- ca. 1630 - 1675
- ca. 1675 - 1720
- ca. 1720 - 1780
- ca. 1780 - 1820
- Unknown historic context
- Unknown context
- ca. 1820 - 1860
- ca. 1860 - 1900
- ca. 1900 - 1930
- Post 1930

### Ethnic Associations (historic only)

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

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

## Site Function Contextual Data:

### Prehistoric

- Multi-component
- Village
- Hamlet
- Base camp
- Rockshelter/cave
- Earthen mound
- Cairn
- Burial area
- Misc. ceremonial
- Rock art
- Shell midden
- STU/lithic scatter
- Quarry/extraction
- Fish weir
- Production area
- Unknown
- Other context

### Historic

- Urban/Rural?
- Domestic
- Homestead
- Farmstead
- Mansion
- Plantation
- Row/townhome
- Cellar
- Privy
- Industrial
- Mining-related
- Quarry-related
- Mill
- Black/metalsmith
- Furnace/forge
- Other
- Transportation
- Canal-related
- Road/railroad
- Wharf/landing
- Maritime-related
- Bridge
- Ford
- Educational
- Commercial
- Trading post
- Store
- Tavern/inn
- Military
- Battlefield
- Fortification
- Encampment
- Townsite
- Religious
- Church/mtg house
- Ch support bldg
- Burial area
- Cemetery
- Sepulchre
- Isolated burial
- Bldg or foundation
- Possible Structure
- Post-in-ground
- Frame-built
- Masonry
- Other structure
- Slave related
- Non-domestic agri
- Recreational
- Midden/dump
- Artifact scatter
- Spring or well
- Unknown
- Other context

## Interpretive Sampling Data:

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

Historic context samples Soil samples taken  
 Flotation samples taken Other samples taken



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## Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types		Koens-Crispin	
Clovis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
Le Croy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Morrow Mtn	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
Guilford	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
Brewerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Madison/Potomac	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Otter Creek	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Levanna	<input type="checkbox"/> 42

## Prehistoric Sherd Types

Marcey Creek	<input type="checkbox"/> 59	Popes Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shepard	<input type="checkbox"/>	Keyser	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dames Qtr	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coulbourn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Townsend	<input type="checkbox"/> 1642	Yeocomico	<input type="checkbox"/>
Selden Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Watson	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minguannan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monongahela	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accokeek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mockley	<input type="checkbox"/> 1314	Sullivan Cove	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehannock	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wolfe Neck	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clemson Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shenks Ferry	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Vinette	<input type="checkbox"/>	Page	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moyaone	<input type="checkbox"/>		
				Potomac Cr	<input type="checkbox"/> 506		

## Historic Sherd Types

<b>Earthenware</b>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Stoneware</b>	
Astbury	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eng Dry-bodie	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Porcelain</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	Pearlware	<input type="checkbox"/>			Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>
					Wt Salt-glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

## Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	<input type="checkbox"/> 2494	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/> 205
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Oyster shell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	Floral material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 5958	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/> 63	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Storage/trash pit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shell midden	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ossuary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
House pattern(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	activity areas, for concentrations	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearth(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Lithic reduc area	<input type="checkbox"/>		

## Lithic Material

Jasper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fer quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sil sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 11	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/> 94	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Misc.	<input type="checkbox"/> 322
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Historic Features

Const feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Privy/outhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	Depression/mound	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Hearth/chimney	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Earthworks	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Planting feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mill raceway	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Paling ditch/fence	<input type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wheel pit	<input type="checkbox"/>		

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

## Radiocarbon Data:

Sample 1:  +/-  years BP Reliability  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



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## External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

The Obrecht site (18AN113) is a multi-component base camp and village site west of Severna Park and Pasadena, in Anne Arundel County. The site is situated on the eastern side of a narrow peninsula near the head of the Severn River. Extending for 200 meters, the site lies above the river on a steep bank, several meters from the river's edge, which is slowly being undercut and eroded into the river. During the period of site investigations (the mid-late 20th century) the site and surrounding landscape were in a secondary succession of pine-oak and oak-hickory forest. Undergrowth included redberry greenbriar, black raspberry, black huckleberry, May apple or mandrake, wild grapes, and various ferns. The prehistoric landscape may have been a quite similar pine oak and oak-hickory regime. Soils at the site are Evesboro sandy loams.

The site was well known to local collectors for many years prior to the first formal excavations at the site. Their work at the site is poorly documented, but probably consisted primarily of the collecting of artifacts that had eroded out of the bank and were exposed on the shoreline.

During his 1950-1960s era survey of the Severn River region, Henry T. Wright excavated two formal test units at Obrecht: one unit in 1959 and one unit in 1969. The unit excavated in 1969 was 3.05 X 3.05 m (10 X 10 ft) in size. Wright excavated in natural levels and screened all soils (including plowzone). After the completion of each level, the unit "floor" was examined for features before excavation into the next level proceeded, until sterile soils were reached. At least 1 feature was encountered by Wright, which appears to have been a refuse pit.

Artifacts recorded in Wright's field notes include 1 broken quartzite point, 1 jasper point, 1 broken chert point, 1 jasper biface, 1 utilized quartzite flake, 34 quartz flakes, 33 chert flakes, 19 jasper flakes, 10 rhyolite flakes, 1 argillite flake, 4 quartzite flakes, 1 piece of fire-cracked rock, 1 hammerstone, 4 other lithics, 9 Potomac Creek sherds, 107 shell-tempered sherds (1 rim), 24 quartz-tempered sherds, 2 quartz and sand-tempered sherds, 1 steatite-tempered sherd, 1 shell-tempered pipe fragment, 18 bone/teeth fragments, and 8 shells. In addition, an iron nail, 1 piece of glass, 3 pieces of coal, and 3 miscellaneous rocks were recovered.

The most extensive research project carried out at Obrecht (18AN113) occurred in 1974. The (then) proposed construction of a waterfront community named Point Field Landing on the peninsula where the site is located prompted a salvage excavation. The peninsula had already been subdivided into lots and a recreation area along with a pier had been constructed. Residential and infrastructure construction would severely impact or destroy the site. The site was, thus, excavated in the summer of 1974 by University of Maryland students under the directorship of the Maryland State Archeologist in order to obtain a representative sample before construction proceeded.

Excavation work began with the establishment of a baseline across the site, parallel to the Severn River. A stake was then driven at every 10 m interval along the baseline for 120 meters. At each 10 meter stake, a 2 meter square was then staked out, which in-turn was subdivided into four 1 m quadrants. A total of twelve 2 X 2 m units were excavated. Each 1 X 1 m quadrant within each unit was excavated separately by natural and artificial levels and sifted through hardware cloth. In one of the southern-most units, midden soil was encountered and the unit was expanded in an unsuccessful attempt to expose the entire shell midden. Once these squares were excavated, several more two-meter squares were excavated 10 m to the west. Features (mostly shell lenses and pits) were encountered and recorded below the plowzone.

Finally, an 8 X 4 m rectangle was excavated in order to expose a large area of subsoil surface and identify any possible postmold patterns and related features. The plowzone overburden was spaded-off and, to save labor, was not screened. After the remaining plowzone was removed by flat shovel, the rectangle was subdivided into 32 one meter squares which were then trowel excavated in 5 cm arbitrary levels and sifted through hardware cloth. The majority of the features encountered at the site were uncovered in the eastern quarter of this rectangle. In addition to the shell midden, all shell lenses and pits were floated by water separation in the Severn River. It appears that no publication ever resulted from the analysis of these samples.

Seven classes of features were uncovered and recorded at the site. Thirty-four of the 36 features were aboriginal and include one shell midden, 15 shell lenses, 7 refuse/storage pits, 5 concentrations of fire-cracked rock, 4 charcoal stains, 1 hearth, and 1 flint-knapping station. The two non-aboriginal features were the previously excavated test units dug by Wright. The majority of the features were encountered at the base of the plowzone within the first 5 to 10 cm of the subsoil. From the dimensions recorded, several of the pits and shell lenses were apparently truncated and their contents scattered throughout the plowzone.

At the southern end of the site, a shell midden (Feature 16) was partially uncovered. Mockley and Townsend wares were found throughout the shell midden with Marcey Creek plain admixed in some areas. North of the shell midden, 15 shell lenses (Features 3, 5, 8, 9a, 9b, 10, 12, 16c, 16d, 18a, 18b, 18d, 20a, 20e, and 20f) were uncovered along the baseline parallel to the river's edge. The lenses averaged one meter in diameter and 5-10 cm in thickness. Discrete lenses dated to different time periods based on the diagnostic sherds recovered from different shell lens features. Six of the seven refuse/storage pits encountered occurred in the southern half of the site. Compared to the shell lenses, the pits were smaller in diameter (averaging 60 cm) and deeper (10-20 cm in depth). Pit features 4, 6, 7, 14, and 15 contained primarily Mockley and Townsend Wares while pit features 11 and 13 contained no ceramics. The 5 concentrations of fire-cracked rock cluster in two areas. At the southern end of the site, Features 16a and 16b appeared to be associated with the shell midden, while Features 19, 20, and 20b were associated with smaller shell lenses at the northern end of the site. Two of the concentrations contained ceramics. Feature 16b was associated primarily with Mockley and Townsend Ware sherds while Feature 20 contained 1 Townsend ware sherd along with 1 Potomac Creek sherd. Three of the 4 charcoal stains (Features 18c, 20c, and 20d) and a hearth (Feature 18) were uncovered in the 8 X 4 m rectangle and were associated with several nearby shell lenses and concentrations of fire-cracked rock. The hearth consists of reddened earth and 4 flakes. The remaining charcoal stain was encountered at the extreme southern portion of the site and is associated with two nearby pits (Feature 6 and 7). No artifacts were contained in any of the charcoal stains. West of the 8 X 4 m rectangle, a flintknapping station (Feature 17) was encountered. Associated artifacts consisted of an anvil and hammerstone with two sandstone abraders, debitage (24 flakes) and 1 biface in the vicinity.

The prehistoric assemblage from the 1974 excavations at 18AN113 includes 78 projectile points and point fragments. The point assemblage consists of 1 Kirk corner-notched point, 1 Kirk stemmed point, 1 Morrow Mountain I point, 1 Otter Creek point, 1 Vernon point, 2 Calvert points, 3 Selby Bay points, 2 Jack's Reef Corner-notched points, 2 Jack's Reef Pentagonal points, 5 Levanna points, 42 Madison/Potomac points, and 17 unidentified points/point fragments. Additional flaked lithics include 3 drills, 2 burins, 45 miscellaneous bifaces, 21 cores, 114 retouched flakes, and at least 2,125 pieces of debitage. Groundstone objects include two 3/4 grooved axes, 1 celt, and a fragment of worked steatite. Use-modified lithics were 2 hammerstones and an anvil. The



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ceramic assemblage consisted of 5,818 objects: 5,815 vessel sherds and 3 aboriginal pipe stem/bowl fragments. Identifiable vessel sherds were 59 Marcey Creek sherds (5 rims), 314 Albemarle-like sherds (4 rims), 1,314 Mockley sherds (13 rims), 1,642 Townsend sherds (32 rims), 12 Bowman's Brook incised sherds (2 rims), and 497 Potomac Creek sherds (4 rims). Other artifacts in the prehistoric assemblage were a bone awl, 178 un-modified animal bones (156 pieces of deer bone, 16 turtle bones, 2 small mammal bones, a beaver bone, a bear bone, a fish bone, and a raccoon bone), and 1 crab shell fragment.

In addition to the prehistoric artifacts, a small historic/modern assemblage was also recovered. The historic/modern assemblage consisted of 93 architectural artifacts (38 brick/mortar fragments, 54 nails, and 1 spike), a clothing-related object (a safety pin), 11 kitchen-related artifacts (1 unidentified earthenware sherd and 10 porcelain sherds), 2 pipe bowl/stem fragments, 8 arms objects (a gunflint, 3 bullets, and 4 brass casings), 36 miscellaneous metal objects, and 279 unidentified pieces of glass.

Diagnostic aboriginal artifacts recovered at Obrecht range in time from the Early Archaic to the Protohistoric era. The frequency of early projectile points at the site suggests a period of light occupation from the Early Archaic until the Middle Woodland with a sharp increase in the intensity of occupation during the Late Woodland. This pattern is partially mirrored in the ceramic type frequencies at the site. These suggest a decrease in the intensity of occupation approaching the Protohistoric phase and a more intense Middle Woodland occupation.

While some evidence of plow disturbance was noted at the site, significant evidence of intact deposits was noted in other portions of 18AN113. This evidence came in the form of intact features and horizontally discrete areas where single components were noted. Unfortunately, post-depositional disturbance (plowing) has destroyed any possibility of better defining the Protohistoric phase for the Severn region at the Obrecht site. However, an amateur test pit excavated on the west side of the peninsula encountered a pure Accokeek component and amateur surface collections on the upper terrace immediately north of the peninsula suggested the presence of an intense Selby Bay occupation. Unfortunately, these deposits could not be investigated before construction of the new housing development.

The evidence suggests that the site served as a base camp during the early periods of occupation, becoming a more permanent village by the Middle Woodland. Shortly after completion of 1974 excavations at Obrecht, the housing development was built and most, if not all of the remaining intact site would have been destroyed.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95000498, 00000483, Site Files