



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN124

Site Name: Browns Cove I

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Wright # S/BRW-1

Historic

Brief Description:

Early, Middle, & Late Woodland shell midden, possible village

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code AoB/MuB2

Latitude 39.0394

Longitude -76.5827

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
- Shoreline

Ownership

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

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Browns Cove

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Minimum distance to water is 0 m

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Contact period site ca. 1820 - 1860

ca. 1630 - 1675 ca. 1860 - 1900

Archaic site

MD Adena

ca. 1675 - 1720 ca. 1900 - 1930

Early archaic

Early woodland

ca. 1720 - 1780 Post 1930

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

ca. 1780 - 1820

Late archaic

Late woodland

Unknown historic context

Unknown prehistoric context

Unknown context

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American

Asian American

African American

Unknown

Anglo-American

Other

Hispanic

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

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

Prehistoric Sherd Types

Marcey Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	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"/>	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"/>	3	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 Crk	<input type="checkbox"/>			

Historic Sherd Types

Earthenware		Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stoneware	
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/>	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		
Flaked stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	12
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	7
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Oyster shell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Storage/trash pit	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Hearth(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Lithic reduc area	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Lithic Material

Jasper	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fer quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sil sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Dated features present at site

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

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Browns Cove I (18AN124) is the remains of a Woodland period oyster shell midden south of Herald Harbor. The site is situated on a low terrace and hillslope overlooking Little Round Bay on the Severn. The site sits amidst a functional marina, including a boat storage lot, a small steep parcel occupied by an outbuilding, wooded parcels, and the lawns of surrounding house parcels. Soils at the site are Monmouth fine sandy loams.

This site was initially recorded in 1958 by Henry T. Wright, who described it as a "village refuse and shellheap". The fill of this heap was described as "shells with small amounts of refuse underlain by red sand" and artifact recoveries (Marcey Creek ceramics) point to the earliest occupation of the site during Early Woodland. This was followed by a Middle Woodland Selby Bay Complex occupation and a final Late Woodland component. Wright described the "quality" of his specimens from the site as, "higher than at others." Artifacts recovered included shell tempered, net impressed and cordmarked pottery sherds, 1 Marcey Creek Plain sherd, side notched and triangular points of rhyolite, chert, and quartzite, and lanceolate blades of rhyolite and chert, as well as numerous flakes.

Thought the site has been discussed in a few works, no formal investigations were carried out at 18AN124 until March of 2009. At that time a Phase II testing program was carried out at the site. The marina operators were proposing replacement of a derelict building on the property and installation of a sanitary system at the marina. Under the authority of Article 17, Section 6, Subtitle 5, of the Anne Arundel County Subdivision Regulations, the Anne Arundel County Archeologist requested an archeological investigation of the parcel to determine the integrity of the shell midden.

It was evident that by 2009, most of the parcel had been heavily graded, bulkheaded, and paved. Crushed oyster shell, dense in some areas, was visible on unpaved surfaces. Unfortunately, since Phase II investigation was tied explicitly to the alterations at the marina, relatively undisturbed areas on nearby properties could not be examined. A small wooded lot towards the north was examined by excavating shovel test pits (STPs) at 7.62 m (25 ft) intervals in the 30.5 X 24 m area of the lot that had not been impacted by paving. The boat storage lot and the yard around the derelict building could be tested only judgmentally (with STPs), though attempts were made to keep the sampling interval under 12.2 m (40 ft). The north and south edges of this portion of the marina were accessible, but crushed stone paving precluded access to deposits in the center of the boat storage yard.

STPs in the boat storage lot and around the derelict building were plotted on drawings provided by the facilities' construction company relative to identifiable landmarks such as power poles. STP location in the boat storage lot was particularly difficult as dense placement of boats limited visibility as well as access to testable ground. All of the STPs were 40 cm in diameter and excavated stratigraphically, the soil screened through hardware mesh. All artifacts were retained for laboratory analysis.

The 2009 excavators dug 27 shovel test pits on four transects. None of these STPs encountered intact shell midden, but at least 22 of the 27 revealed evidence of midden. Three STPs yielded one Mockley sherd each. Other prehistoric materials included: one rhyolite tertiary flake, 1 quartz decortication flake, 1 bird bone fragment, and 1 mammal bone splinter. Several wire nails, window glass shards, and 20th century colorless vessel glass were also recovered. These items are not included in the table of artifacts provided above.

The Brown's Cove I site (18AN124) is a badly deteriorated oyster shell midden with a distinct Selby Bay phase (late Middle Woodland) component. A small parcel of less than ¼ acre on the north side of the marina may contain evidence of a Selby Bay campsite. The area appears to have been plowed at some point in the past. Portions of the site lying within the boat storage yard have been heavily deflated and disturbed by grading, paving, and erosion. The land around a derelict building, site of proposed construction, also has been severely deflated and eroded. Site remnants bordering a local road lack integrity. The undeveloped wooded area to the north may warrant additional testing should that area be developed. However, no formal test units were excavated during the 2009 Phase II as this area was the only potential intact portion of the site and was outside the area that would be impacted by the (then) proposed marina improvements.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95001270, Site Files