



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN129

Site Name: Cranberry Swamp

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Wright # S/MA-2, Cranberry Bog

Historic

Brief Description:

Late Archaic through Late Woodland base camp and oyster shell midden

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code 18) Mt

Latitude 39.0275 Longitude -76.5831

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m Site slope 0

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) Cranberry Swamp

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

Minimum distance to water is 9 m

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 <input type="checkbox"/> | Asian American <input type="checkbox"/> |
| African American <input type="checkbox"/> | Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Anglo-American <input type="checkbox"/> | Other <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

Site Function Contextual Data:

Prehistoric

- | | |
|---|---|
| Multi-component <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Misc. ceremonial <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Village <input type="checkbox"/> | Rock art <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hamlet <input type="checkbox"/> | Shell midden <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Base camp <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | STU/lithic scatter <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rockshelter/cave <input type="checkbox"/> | Quarry/extraction <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Earthen mound <input type="checkbox"/> | Fish weir <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cairn <input type="checkbox"/> | Production area <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Burial area <input type="checkbox"/> | Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other context <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Historic

Urban/Rural?

Domestic

- Homestead
- Farmstead
- Mansion
- Plantation
- Row/townhome
- Cellar
- Privy

Industrial

- Mining-related
- Quarry-related
- Mill
- Black/metalsmith
- Furnace/forge
- Other

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

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"/>
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>
Le Croy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Morrow Mntn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guilford	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brewerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Madison/Potomac	<input type="checkbox"/>
Otter Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Levanna	<input type="checkbox"/>

Prehistoric Sherd Types

Marcey Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	29	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"/>	1	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"/>	1	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"/>	3	

Historic Sherd Types

Earthenware		Ironstone		Staffordshire		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		Other fired clay			
Flaked stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	502	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>		Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>		Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>	26
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	36	Oyster shell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	117	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	73	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>	33
Rimsherds	<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 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 type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input checked="" 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

Late Woodland midden

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

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC (Accession # 1985.014.001)

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Cranberry Swamp site (18AN129), also known as the Cranberry Bog site and Wright # S/MA-2, is a stratified Early Woodland and Late Woodland base camp near Crownsville in Anne Arundel County. The site is situated on a terrace above a tributary creek to the Severn River. The cranberry bog, from which the site draws its name, is located northeast and adjacent to 18AN129, a type of eco-niche which is relatively rare this far south. The surrounding landscape is largely comprised of gently rolling upland terrain and low bluffs or terraces dissected by intermittent drainages and small areas of tidal wetlands. The diverse local fauna would be expected to include upland species such as whitetail deer, rabbit, fox, raccoon, squirrel, wetland species such as ducks, geese, a variety of shore birds, muskrat, and several species of crab and turtle, as well as fish and shellfish species present in the Severn River. Soils at the site consist largely of Sassafras and Evesboro well-drained sandy loams overlying clayey loams.

The first documented archeological work at Site 18AN129 occurred in the late 1950s. At that time, Dr. Henry Wright from the University of Michigan, Department of Anthropology, tested the site with the excavation of three formal test units and a surface collection. The interpretation of the findings was that the site was stratified and evidenced the remains of multiple Woodland components. One of the units also produced evidence for what was classified as a "fire pit associated with Marcey Creek ceramics". Artifacts recovered during the 1958-1959 fieldwork include 1 sand-tempered sherd, 28 shell-tempered sherds, 7 quartz-tempered sherds, 28 steatite-tempered sherds, 2 quartz lanceolate points, a rhyolite biface, 2 quartzite bifaces, 3 quartz scrapers, 7 chert flakes, at least 2 jasper flakes, 18 rhyolite flakes, 23 quartz flakes, 26 quartzite flakes, 2 hammerstones, 33 pieces of hematite, 15 pebbles, 67 pieces of ironstone, fire-cracked rock (estimated at 10 pieces), 21 pieces of shell, 17 charcoal fragments, and 5 pieces of bone.

No additional documented work occurred at the site until 1992, when a combined Phase I survey and Phase II testing program led to examination of the site. The work was carried out because of (then) planned upgrades to an existing Baltimore Gas and Electric (BG&E) 115kV transmission line. Phase I work was carried out throughout the electrical line right-of-way (ROW), but since 18AN129 was a known site that fell within the ROW, Phase II testing was immediately carried out in the Cranberry Swamp area.

Phase II testing at 18AN129 consisted of the excavation of nine 1 m test units excavated down to an average depth of 90 cm. The shallowest unit was excavated to a depth of 35 cm, while the deepest extended to a depth of 1.5 meters. With the exception of a test unit which evidenced deep fill soils, all test units were excavated down to the point where the water table made further excavation impossible and/or down below the maximum depth of the cultural deposits. Test units were excavated using arbitrary 10 cm levels within identifiable strata. All hand excavated soil matrices were screened through hardware cloth and all units were backfilled after recordation. Recordation included field notes, profile description, photos, and drawings.

Seven of the Phase II test units were placed in the area of direct impact for the transmission line upgrades. The testing resulted in the recovery of 523 artifacts, including 453 prehistoric items and 70 historic/modern objects. One hundred and thirty-five of the artifacts were recovered from the A horizon mantling the site or from fill levels. The remaining 388 artifacts were recovered from the B horizon or subsoil levels of the site. Artifacts were recovered from 7 of the 9 test units and the test unit profiles appeared to be entirely undisturbed in four of the units. These undisturbed units exhibited a profile of a 20-25 cm thick A horizon comprised of a brown sand. The A horizon was underlain by a 10 to 20 cm thick subsoil horizon comprised of tan/yellow colored coarse sand, which was in-turn underlain by additional subsoil levels consisting of fine yellow/white sand. Prehistoric artifacts were recovered down to a depth of up to 80 or 90 cm, in 3 of these units. Those below 70 cm were very small (tertiary flakes) and could have migrated from above through the sandy matrix soils of the site.

Undisturbed midden soils were located in three of the units located on the periphery of the highest point of the site. This suggests disposal of food wastes away from the principal habitation/work areas. The midden deposits were comprised of fragments of oyster and clam shell, as well as a few fragments of burned bone, including what were identified as fragments of turtle carapace and a single fragment of long bone. The largest of the turtle carapace fragments was less than 1.27 cm (1/2 in) square, and could therefore not be speciated. The long bone fragment was 2.54 cm (1 in) long by .64 cm (1/4 in) wide and .64 cm thick, and could have only come from a large mammal. The only types of large mammal native to the area during the Woodland period would have included deer, bear and elk. Although all of these species have been identified in the faunal assemblages at prehistoric sites, bear and elk are rarely represented, while deer remains often constitute the bulk of the food remains associated with terrestrial species. Aside from the midden, no additional cultural features were encountered.

The prehistoric assemblage recovered during the 1992 Phase II testing included 7 lithic tools, 411 pieces of flake debitage, 26 fragments of fire-cracked rock, and 9 pieces of pottery. The seven stone tools included a quartzite bifurcate point, a quartz lanceolate biface, a rhyolite biface, a quartz contracting stem biface fragment, a quartzite contracting stem biface fragment, a quartz uniface, and a quartzite uniface. The prehistoric ceramics included 1 Marcey Creek sherd, 1 Mockley sherd, 3 Potomac Creek sherds, 1 Townsend sherd, and 3 unidentifiable pottery fragments. The diagnostics that were recovered from the four units that exhibited no evidence of disturbance included younger artifacts in the upper strata and older artifacts in the lower strata. The debitage consisted of 260 quartz flakes, 79 quartzite flakes, 51 rhyolite flakes, and 21 other flakes (chert and jasper). The recovery of raw materials in the four intact test units exhibited a pattern that suggests horizontal integrity in addition to the vertical integrity exhibited by the distribution of diagnostics. Units exhibit relatively large proportions of rhyolite and quartzite in the lower levels, while quartz tends to dominate in the upper strata.

Historic artifacts, all of which were recovered from the A horizon of the site and introduced fill levels, consisted mostly of fragments of modern bottle glass, wire nails, shell casings, occasional fragments of plastic, coal and slag. These materials have not been included in the artifact tables above.

The stratigraphic and artifactual data obtained in the course of the testing all tend to indicate that the undisturbed portions of Site 18AN129 are largely confined to the eastern half of the Baltimore Gas and Electric ROW and may extend further east. Diagnostic artifacts recovered from the upper levels of the site along with faunal remains indicate that the Late Woodland occupation of the site involved the procurement and processing of upland, wetland, and estuarine resources, as well as some base camp maintenance activities including tool manufacture and the maintenance of curated tool kits. The Late Woodland occupation may have consisted of a series of short-term procurement camps which were revisited for purposes of obtaining seasonally available resources. Alternatively, it could represent a micro-band base camp occupied on a somewhat more permanent basis. The Early Woodland occupation appears to have been somewhat more restricted, and based on the data recovered to date, appears to represent a specialized procurement camp, evidencing a limited range of activities which included tool maintenance and hunting.

Evidence for additional components is sparse, but does include a number of artifacts, all of which were recovered from disturbed contexts. These include an



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Late Archaic through Late Woodland base camp and oyster shell midden

Unknown

Early Archaic component represented by a bifurcate point and two additional Woodland components each represented by a single sherd of pottery. These Woodland components are evidenced by Marcey Creek soapstone-tempered pottery dating from ca. 1000 BC to ca. 800 BC, and a Mockley corded sherd dating from ca AD 200 to ca. AD 800.

Based on the Phase II testing at the Cranberry Swamp site (18AN129), the site is known to have a relatively high degree of integrity and research potential. The site has been determined to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. There is evidence of stratification at the site, with Late Woodland period artifacts overlying an Early Woodland component with contracting-stem stone tools. While the excavations revealed disturbed soils in the western portion of 18AN129, the eastern part of the site appeared to be intact. The physical integrity of this eastern portion and the demonstrated potential of the site to provide important information on the prehistoric themes of settlement, subsistence, technology, and environmental adaptation all suggest that the site is an important resource capable of contributing to our understanding of Maryland prehistory.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00000720, Site Files