



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN197

Site Name: Hillsmere Pond I

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief Description:

Early, Middle, and Late Woodland shell midden; Late Archaic short-term camp

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code 30) MuB2

Latitude 38.9265 Longitude -76.5036

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 2 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) Hillsmere Pond

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Spring

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 0 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Archaic site

MD Adena

Early archaic

Early woodland

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

Late archaic

Late woodland

Contact period site ca. 1820 - 1860

ca. 1630 - 1675 ca. 1860 - 1900

ca. 1675 - 1720 ca. 1900 - 1930

ca. 1720 - 1780 Post 1930

ca. 1780 - 1820

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 Misc. ceremonial

Village Rock art

Hamlet Shell midden

Base camp STU/lithic scatter

Rockshelter/cave Quarry/extraction

Earthen mound Fish weir

Cairn Production area

Burial area Unknown

Other context

Historic

Urban/Rural? 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 Y

Other samples taken Shell analysis

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken N

Flotation samples taken N

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"/> 1	Popes Creek	<input type="checkbox"/> 16	Shepard	<input type="checkbox"/>	Keyser	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dames Qtr	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Coulbourn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Townsend	<input type="checkbox"/> 42	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"/> 3	Mockley	<input type="checkbox"/> 32	Sullivan Cove	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	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		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"/> 1	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"/> 102	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/> 9
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/> 23	Oyster shell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 171	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
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 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 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"/> 3	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/> 17	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"/> 8
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>	oyster shell midden	<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, Maryland Historical Society, Smithsonian?

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Hillsmere Pond I (18AN197) is a prehistoric shell midden and short-term resource procurement camp located just south of Annapolis in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. The site contains documented Late Archaic as well as Early, Middle, and Late Woodland occupations present. The site is situated along the North River on a terrace that slopes off to poorly drained tidal marshes to the north and south. During modern times the dominant on-site vegetation was mature oak with a heavy understory, suggesting that the site was not plowed in recent history. Soils at the site are those of the Annapolis-Urban land complex.

The site was first recorded in MHT site files in June of 1971. However, it had been collected by Henry Sturdy, a professor at the United States Naval Academy, between 1920 and 1930. His work at the site has not been published. The site was also collected and recorded by Henry T. Wright who recovered an incomplete Rappahannock incised vessel and a full-grooved axe that are now in the Maryland Historical Society's collections (Catalog #73.38.7). In the late 1970's a survey was conducted of the South River. Surface collection of the site produced 2 Rappahannock-Imprinted sherds, an unidentified shell-tempered sherd, and a quantity of historic brick along the shoreline.

The first and only systematic subsurface investigation of the site occurred in 1979. By that time, the site property had been incorporated into what was known as the Hillsmere Shores residential development. In the spring of 1979, plans got underway for development of the site area and some initial brush clearance was undertaken with a bulldozer, which further exposed and impacted the shell midden. Planned development of the property included the construction of a swimming pool, house, and watershed bulkhead. The plans for construction became known when the landowner filed an application for a Corps of Engineers permit for the bulkhead. After MHT staff reviewed the permit, they visited the site and spoke with the landowner. In addition, some limited testing was performed by MHT staff in the area that had been disturbed by the property owner's land clearance.

Most of the shell midden had been stripped of the upper 20-30 cm of topsoil, which was then re-deposited as fill in a marshy area to the south. Ten irregularly spaced shovel test pits (STPs) were excavated to a depth of 30 cm across the disturbed portion of the site. Mockley net-impressed sherds were recovered from the remaining shell layer and tan sand layer beneath it. A concentration of handmade bricks was noted in a disturbed portion of the hillslope. This limited testing suggested that although the uppermost portion of the site had been stripped, cultural strata, though truncated, were still present and warranted investigation.

Since construction of the house and swimming pool would proceed regardless of whether or not the bulkhead permit was granted, and such construction would have an adverse impact on the remaining deposits at the site, MHT personnel sought permission from the property owner to obtain a representative sample from the site prior to development. The permission was granted and archeological testing was carried out in October by MHT and the Maryland Geological Survey (MGS) with volunteer/student assistance.

First, the site was gridded into 10 meter squares. A series of eight 2 X 2 meter squares, 2 meters apart, was laid out in a north-south direction from the shoreline. Additional 2 X 2 m squares were placed at both the western and eastern margins of the knoll where the slope increases sharply. A total of fifteen test units were ultimately excavated.

All excavation units were excavated using the following standard procedure. The disturbed topsoil layer was flat-shoveled and screened as a single unit. The underlying midden stratum (generally about 7 cm thick) was removed as one level. Subsequent levels were removed in 10 cm arbitrary levels. Upon completion of the midden layer, the southwest quadrant (1 meter square) of each square was excavated into culturally sterile subsoil to insure that no cultural material was beneath the more obvious oyster shell layer.

A photographic record in both black & white and color slides was maintained for each completed level. Wall photographs and completed excavation panorama shots were taken and units were measured and profiled. Flotation samples (30X30X30 cm units) were taken from each southwest quadrant and saved for later analysis. In addition, soil samples were extracted from the topsoil at each 10 m stake at the midpoint of each 10 meter square, and from the north and south walls of units in the north-south line of 2 X 2s.

Artifactual material was recovered in varying amounts from all of the excavated units. The areas of the lowest artifact output are those that are in the interior of the site, where the most intense truncation through bulldozing occurred. Based on soil profiles and general field observations, it was apparent that there was greater depth of shell concentration and more artifactual refuse to the north. Horizontal separation of different ceramic wares was observed for the Middle and Late Woodland periods. Discrete areas of Popes Creek and Mockley wares indicated limited use of the total available site area during the respective periods. Townsend series ware, as well as several unidentified shell-tempered groups which probably belong to the Townsend Series, have a much larger area of site coverage. Such a general distribution suggests an increased use of the site during the period.

The total shell midden area of the site consists of 1,064 square meters. Aside from the main shell midden at the site, two secondary, much smaller shell concentrations (Features 2 and 3) were noted in a unit 8 meters from the north-south line of initial test units. However, their designation as separate features may be artificial, as bulldozing activity in this area was extensive and the shell midden may have simply been removed, leaving these two remnants. Seasonal subsistence data based on the terminal growth lines of the oysters' lower valves from 4 units within the midden indicate that inhabitants were harvesting oyster during the spring.

Aside from the shell deposits, the only other feature mentioned in the full site report on the 1979 work at 18AN197 was a possible storage pit (Feature 1) encountered below the shell midden in one of the units. The flotation materials from Feature 1 contained no lithic remains but did produce a number of small black seeds that appear to be pokeweed (*Phytolacca Americana*). Flotation samples from throughout the rest of the site, produced additional pokeweed and what appeared to be the skins of a berry species that could not be identified.

Prehistoric artifacts recovered from the site during the 1979 fieldwork included 4 projectile points, 1 other biface, 2 utilized flakes, 102 pieces of debitage, 2 hammerstones, 23 pieces of fire-cracked rock, 1 Marcey Creek sherd, 1 Dames Quarter sherd, 3 Accokeek sherds, 16 Pope's Creek sherds, 32 Mockley sherds, 2 Sullivan's Cove sherds, 39 Townsend Fabric-impressed sherds, 16 quartz and sand-tempered sherds, 57 shell-tempered sherds, and 9 bone fragments. Only two of the projectile points are diagnostic: a quartzite Bare Island point and a chert triangular point. Lithic raw materials include quartz (58 objects), jasper (22), chert (21), rhyolite (3), and quartzite (3). Red ochre staining was noted in one unit. Nine snail shells along with the extensive deposits of



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oyster shell were also recovered, but are not included in the tables above. In addition to the prehistoric artifacts, 6 nails, 6 pieces of brick, 8 pieces of glass, and 3 historic sherds (1 porcelain) were encountered. The historic remains were not concentrated and were found scattered randomly across the site.

Based on the recovery of identifiable projectile point and ceramic types, aboriginal presence is now known to have extended from the Late Archaic through the Late Woodland. On the basis of the percentage of identified ceramic types and their more widespread distribution across the site, the greatest use of the site appears to have been during the Late Woodland. Mockley and Popes Creek ceramics appear in relatively confined areas and may represent singular or short-term occurrences. The small amount of Sullivan's Cove and absence of other types from the latter part of the Late Woodland indicate that the site may have been abandoned by AD 1400.

The 1979 salvage project at 18AN197 documented a significant multi-component shell midden and short-term resource procurement camp on the South River. Shortly after that work, the site was destroyed by construction activities. The site has yielded up all of the information that it can and should no longer be considered a resource for additional archeological sampling.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00000508, Site Files