



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN282

Site Name: Sheepshead Cove South

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Wright # R/SH-1

Historic

Brief Description:

Middle Woodland (Selby Bay Phase) shell midden, also Early and Late Woodland components

Unknown

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code 30) Cm

Latitude 38.8895

Longitude -76.5438

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 0 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) Sheepshead Cove

#### Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

#### Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 0 m

## Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Contact period site

ca. 1820 - 1860

Archaic site

MD Adena

ca. 1630 - 1675

ca. 1860 - 1900

Early archaic

Early woodland

ca. 1675 - 1720

ca. 1900 - 1930

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

ca. 1720 - 1780

Post 1930

Late archaic

Late woodland

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 N

Other samples taken

### Historic context samples

Soil samples taken N

Flotation samples taken N

Other samples taken



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## Diagnostic Artifact Data:

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

Prehistoric Sherd Types			
Marcey Creek	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Popes Creek	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Dames Qtr	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coulbourn	<input type="checkbox"/>
Selden Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Watson	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accokeek	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	Mockley	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
Wolfe Neck	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clemson Island	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vinette	<input type="checkbox"/>	Page	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shepard	<input type="checkbox"/>	Townsend	<input type="checkbox"/>
Minguannan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sullivan Cove	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shenks Ferry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moyaone	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
Potomac Crk	<input type="checkbox"/>	Keyser	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yeocomico	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monongahela	<input type="checkbox"/>
Susquehannock	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Historic Sherd Types		Stoneware	
<b>Earthenware</b>	Ironstone <input type="checkbox"/>	Staffordshire <input type="checkbox"/>	English Brown <input type="checkbox"/>
Astbury <input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield <input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed <input type="checkbox"/>	Eng Dry-bodied <input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware <input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled <input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware <input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham <input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley <input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Porcelain</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	Rhenish <input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware <input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware <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"/> 38	Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/> 13	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 28	Oyster shell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 48	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Other <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

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

Dated features present at site

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

Historic Features			
Const feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Privy/outhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearth/chimney	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Planting feature	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paling ditch/fence	<input type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Depression/mound	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	Earthworks	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Mill raceway	<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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Middle Woodland (Selby Bay Phase) shell midden, also Early and Late Woodland components

Unknown

## External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at Anne Arundel County - Londontowne

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

Site 18AN282, also known as Sheepshead Cove South, is a multi-component Woodland oyster shell midden west of Mayo on Sheepshead Cove in Anne Arundel County. The site is situated on the northeast edge of a large, fallow agricultural field. Portions of the site are wooded or in marsh. Soils at the site are Colemantown silt loams and Donlonton fine sandy loams.

The site was likely first identified by Professor Henry Sturdy in the 1930s. Sturdy is known to have collected a large sample of heavily shell-tempered cordmarked sherds and rhyolite tools (i.e. Selby Bay artifacts) from somewhere near Contee's Wharf. The precise location of his collecting activities is not known, however. In the late 1960s, Henry T. Wright recorded the site during a walkover survey, reporting the presence of 1 broken grinding stone, 1 denticulate tool on a large quartz flake, 1 quartz core fragment, 1 crushed quartz and sand tempered cord marked sherd, and 1 crushed quartz and shell tempered worn sherd. The site was not officially rerecorded in MHT site files until 1974.

In June of 2005, a Phase I survey was undertaken on the north shore of the Rhode River in Anne Arundel County. The survey work was being carried out by archeologists of the Lost Towns Project under an MHT Non-Capital Historic Preservation Grant awarded to the Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation (ACT) in FY2005. The grant was part of a three-year program to better assess, evaluate, and plan for the cultural resources in this region. A total of 44 archeological sites were examined and preliminarily assessed, 9 of which were targeted for future work. In FY2006, MHT again provided funds to ACT to carry out testing at 5 of the potentially significant sites, 18AN282 among them. The MHT Non-capital Historic Preservations Grants are funded by the state legislature and, as such, represent expenditures of public funds for the purposes of archeological (and historic) research and interpretation.

The site was relocated in 2005 based on both Sturdy and Wright's field notes. The team then excavated four judgmentally placed shovel test pits (STPs), which yielded a sherd of sand-tempered, net-impressed ceramic (Pope's Creek), a rhyolite flake, pieces of chert and quartz, and oyster shell fragments. The recovery of historic artifacts, including brick, daub and a metal tool, may be attributed to the proximity of Sheepshead Cove South to several historic sites and buildings, and to the agricultural plowing that has occurred, which may have redistributed these historic materials. The STPs indicate that subsoil was encountered at a depth of 27-43 cm (0.9-1.4 ft) below ground surface, and the oyster shell midden averages about 15.2 cm (6 in) thick, lying directly on top of subsoil. The Phase I results suggested that the site had further potential to yield information about the region's prehistoric past, particularly about the Middle to Late Woodland period.

Phase II work at 18AN282 was carried out under the Non-capital Grants program in January 2007 and March 2007. Testing included additional STPs to probe for the extent of the shell midden, and three 1.52 X 1.52 m (5 X 5 ft) units, which were judgmentally spread over the site area to determine the integrity and variation of the midden. The STPs and units were excavated following natural stratigraphy with shovels and trowels. The soil was screened through hardware mesh and all cultural artifacts were retained and placed in bags labeled with the appropriate provenience information. There was also a reconnaissance surface collection carried out on the beach on the eastern edge of the site as erosion there is actively exposing artifact from the midden. The three units had similar stratigraphy, and similar soil composition that contained an abundant amount of crushed and whole oyster shells. The single occupation layer was a dense oyster midden, averaging 12 cm (0.4 ft) deep across the plowed portion of the site. Diagnostic artifacts recovered included aboriginal ceramics such as Marcey Creek, Accokeek, Popes Creek, Mockley, and Moyaone wares, and a Selby Bay knife. Prehistoric artifacts in the three units and from the beach collection show evidence of habitation during the Early, Middle and Late Woodland periods. Historic artifacts found in the units, along with plow scars found in the subsoil of one unit, are evidence that plowing has disturbed some portions of the midden. The historic artifacts point to the possibility of a homesite nearby, as evidenced by the presence of brick pieces, daub, and a nail. The presence of a piece of tin-glazed earthenware dates the site to pre- 1800, and the presence of square nails upholds that dating. A piece of amber bottle glass, which dates to the last quarter of the 19th century and early 20th century, was also found in the midden.

Other than the midden itself, the only potentially significant feature identified, appeared to be historic in origin. It was a square-shaped stain identified in one of the units. Plowscars were also identified in some areas of the site.

The prehistoric artifacts recovered during both the Phase I in 2005 and Phase II in 2007 included 46 ceramic sherds (2 Marcey Creek sherds, 4 Popes Creek sherds, 4 Accokeek sherds, 7 Mockley sherds, 1 Moyaone sherd, 23 unidentified shell-tempered sherds, and 5 unidentified sand-tempered sherds), a quartzite Selby Bay knife blade, 23 flakes, 12 other pieces of debitage, a quartz hammerstone, 13 pieces of fire-cracked rock, 27 unidentified lithics, 5 pieces of bone, and 2 fragments of charcoal. Enormous amounts of oyster shell were also encountered, but were not kept. Historic artifacts included part of a tool, 23 fragments of brick, 5 pieces of daub, a square nail, 1 tin-glazed earthenware sherd, 1 piece of amber vessel glass, and 1 white clay pipe stem.

Site 18AN282 is a multi-component prehistoric site, with occupation spanning the Woodland Period. It is part of a larger system of occupation within the Rhode River and the central Maryland tidewater region. The site may in-fact be a component of a larger complex, and is very likely associated with the contemporaneous Smithsonian Pier Site (18AN242) located to the south. These two adjacent sites are very similar, and appear to be associated coastal middens, occupied intermittently through the Early, Middle, and Late Woodland periods. 18AN282 is part of a very active prehistoric occupation on Sheepshead Cove.

The site was most likely used as a short-term resource-procurement site, used to harvest and process oysters. This was obviously an important resource-procurement center for native populations and was utilized for over a millennia. The presence of ceramics at the site suggests that native populations returned regularly so that they could exploit oysters, which were a significant element of the diets of native peoples throughout the Woodland period. While no evidence of structures or storage pits have been identified as a result of these limited investigations, more extensive excavation may find evidence of a more permanent occupation. At present, it does not appear that this was a long-term or sedentary habitation site.

Site 18AN282 is likely eligible for the National Register based upon Criterion D. The most intact portion of this site extends into the woods, towards the shoreline (where plowing did not reach). More is certain to be learned from both the intact and plowed portions of this site should further systematic testing be undertaken. It is clear that this area has the potential to yield more information. The site is relatively protected, as it is privately owned, and the owners are strongly inclined towards the preservation of this site and the many other site on their property. The beach is rarely visited, thus, erosion is the most likely threat and is likely due to natural and not manmade forces. The inland topography is relatively stable though at the shoreline edge, the soil is actively eroding. Prehistoric ceramics and lithics are regularly recovered from the beach as the erosion continues and the pace of erosion should be monitored if possible.

MARYLAND  
HISTORICAL



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# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number:

Site Name:

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

**Brief  
Description:**

Unknown

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## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):