



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN424

Site Name: W-T, AA-A 5

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Sellman Creek 3

Historic

Brief Description:

prehistoric lithic scatter, Late 18th to Mid 19th century house and ferry landing

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code 30) Ot

Latitude 38.8907

Longitude -76.5471

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 0 m

Site slope 5-10%

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) Sellman Creek

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Minimum distance to water is

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

0 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Contact period site

ca. 1820 - 1860

Y

Archaic site

MD Adena

ca. 1630 - 1675

ca. 1860 - 1900

Y

Early archaic

Early woodland

ca. 1675 - 1720

ca. 1900 - 1930

Y

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

ca. 1720 - 1780

Y

Post 1930

Late archaic

Late woodland

ca. 1780 - 1820

Y

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

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		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"/>	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"/>	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		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	162	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	19	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	21	Pearlware	34			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	6	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"/>
Fire-cracked rock	2	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 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 type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Dated features present at site

Late 18th-19th century house foundations and architectural remnants

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	288	Activity item(s)	7
Glass (all)	423	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	2683	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	319
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	2	Misc.	283
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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Planting feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mill raceway	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Paling ditch/fence	<input type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<input checked="" 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 Anne Arundel County - Londontowne

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Site 18AN424, also known as Sellman Creek 3, is the archeological remains of a late 18th to mid 19th century domestic site and possible slave quarter near Mayo in Anne Arundel County. The site is situated on a wooded and overgrown terrace overlooking a creek that flows into the Rhode River. The possible slave quarter (at one time thought to be a possible ferry landing) is situated on an apparent manmade landscape feature on the shores of Sellman Creek, while the domestic portion of the site was located uphill on the level terrace. A minor prehistoric component is also present. Soils at the site are primarily Collington and Wist sandy loams.

18AN424 is an historic site associated with a parcel of land originally patented in 1651 by Walter Mansfield and possessed by the Gassaway family in the mid to late 18th century. By 1761, the Gassaway family accumulated this land and several adjacent parcels, and re-patented a 302 acre parcel as Wrighton Farm. The Wrighton Farm parcel was divided in the 1770s, with the Gassaway family retaining the northern portion of the land (91 acres of Wrighton Farm) while the Waters Family (Nathaniel and son Nathan) retained the lower portion on which the site is situated: approximately 211 acres. The presence of creamware and pearlware at 18AN424 coincides with the Waters occupation. During the Waters' tenure, the 1798 tax assessment reports the following complex located on the Waters property: "One dwelling house 1-story 40 by 20, kitchen 15 feet square, negro quarter 20 feet square, meat house 10 feet square, all of wood".

The parcel stayed in the Waters Family until 1850, when the property was transferred to William and Janetta Deal. These Baltimore County residents held the property until 1856, when it was sold to Joseph Buc(e)y. This deed refers to the land having been rented to Thomas Collinson by the Deals. An 1860 map reveals that a John Collinson lived to the northeast of this parcel and a John Bucy had a house across Sellman or "Waters" Creek. The name Richard Carter is shown as the occupant of the house site at 18AN424 on this 1860 map, yet this name does not appear in the chain of title. This cartographic evidence suggests that after the Waters family sold Wrighton farm, the domestic site was most likely occupied by tenants of the Collinson and Buc(e)y families throughout the latter half of the 19th century. On an 1878 map of the area, several Collinson Households, and the Buc(e)y household are clearly marked on adjacent properties.

Continued occupation occurred at the site through the end of the 19th century. Laura Buc(e)y (widow) sold Wrighton Farm to Robert and Clara Gibson in 1910. Records do not reveal how the transfer took place, but by 1922, a John C. Letts owned the property. Letts donated the land to the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) in that same year in order that they might found a camp for youth. This remains the primary use of the property today.

This site was initially identified in 1976 by Steve Wilke & Gail Thompson during a survey of the area. They recorded the site as, a clearing under the trees with heavy bank erosion where 6 or 7 quartz flakes were observed (but not collected). No other archeological work is documented for the site until 2005.

In November of 2005, the site was revisited during a Phase I survey of 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, 18AN424 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.

During the November 2005 investigation, the site was re-identified primarily through visual inspection. There are visible features on the landscape that drew the archeologists' attention to the area, and subsequent surface reconnaissance and a systematic shovel test pit (STP) survey suggested that the property may have been occupied as early as the last quarter of the 18th century. Twelve STPs were excavated at the top of the hill where remnant foundations were visible on the surface, while an additional 8 STPs were placed at the bottom of a sloping hill leading to an interesting manmade feature. This feature consisted of a flattened area that terminated at a projection jutting out into Sellman Creek. The projection of slightly higher land had very straight edges and consisted of "fill dirt", suggesting that it was man-made or modified. The STP investigations suggested that the top of the hill represented a domestic site, while the manmade feature along Sellman Creek might represent a ferry landing.

When Lost Towns returned to the site in June of 2006 and January of 2007 to complete the Phase II investigation of the site, they did so with the intention of exploring the relationship of the historic Landing area (the Landing Site) to the domestic site at the top of the hill (the Upper Site). One 1.52 X 1.52 m (5 X 5 ft) test unit and five 76.2 X 152 cm (2.5 X 5 ft) test units were placed within the boundaries of the site. Five of these units were placed in the Upper Site area (including the larger unit) along with 4 supplemental STPs, while one of the smaller units and an additional regime of 9 STPs were excavated on the southern portion of the site to investigate the Landing Site on Sellman (aka Waters) Creek. STPs were excavated with shovels by natural stratigraphy and the soils were screened through hardware mesh. The units were excavated by shovels and trowels based on natural stratigraphy. All cultural materials were retained, placed in bags labeled with appropriate provenience information and returned to the lab for processing.

Historic cultural features were encountered during the Phase II testing in the Upper Site area, including remnants of an early-mid 19th century midden, a posthole with two postmolds, and remnants of a foundation made from handmade bricks out of local clays. The Full Phase I and II assemblage from the Upper Site area consisted of 7 activity items (5 pieces of lamp glass, 1 glass marble, and a porcelain doll head), 2 clothing items (an iron shoe grommet and a copper alloy button), 1,775 architectural artifacts (1394 pieces of brick, 2 fragments of daub, 88 fragments of mortar, 4 pieces of plaster, 54 square nails, 62 cut nails, 72 wire nails, 13 pieces of other iron hardware, 2 pieces of copper alloy hardware, and 84 pieces of window glass), 272 ceramic sherds (23 coarse earthenware, 19 creamware, 33 pearlware, 155 whiteware, 4 Rockingham, 7 yellowware, 18 porcelain, and 13 miscellaneous stoneware), 332 kitchen glass fragments (328 pieces of vessel glass and 4 canning jar lid liners), 275 miscellaneous kitchen items (3 table implements, 196 oyster shell fragments, 3 avian bones, and 73 mammal bones/teeth), 13 tobacco pipe fragments, 181 miscellaneous historic objects (89 pieces of coal, 91 pieces of charcoal, and 1 piece of slate), and 7 prehistoric lithics (5 flakes and 2 pieces of fire-cracked rock).

No cultural features were encountered in the lower "Landing Site" area (other than the landform itself), though numerous architectural artifacts were recovered. Phase I and II artifacts in this portion of the site consisted of 908 architectural artifacts (881 red brick fragments, 10 pieces of daub, 2 mortar fragments, 8 square nails, 1 cut nail, and 6 window glass fragments), 16 ceramic sherds (5 coarse earthenware, 2 creamware, 1 pearlware, 7 whiteware, and 1 porcelain), 1 piece of vessel glass, 44 miscellaneous kitchen items (1 table implement, 42 pieces of oyster shell, and a fish bone), 3 tobacco pipe fragments, 102 miscellaneous historic objects (42 pieces of coal and 60 pieces of charcoal), and 1 prehistoric lithic (a chert flake).



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Prehistoric

Other name(s) Sellman Creek 3

Historic Brief
Description:

prehistoric lithic scatter, Late 18th to Mid 19th century house and ferry landing

Unknown

The Upper Site and lower Landing Site at 18AN424 yielded numerous artifacts relating to the late 18th century up until the early 20th century. The archeological and archival investigations reveal that the site was occupied by the last quarter of the 18th century, but the artifacts suggest that the more intensive occupation was from the 1830s to the 1860s. The concentration of artifacts is definitely more prominent in the Upper Site, which is most likely because the foundation of the 19th century brick dwelling is still in existence. The lower Landing Site contained a fair amount of architectural materials and may in-fact represent a domestic dwelling site mentioned in the 1798 Tax Assessment. In that document, the property has a "Negro Dwelling", which may account for the paucity of more elaborate ceramics or materials, and the concentration of coarse earthenwares. Both locations within the site date to a similar time period, with the lower Landing Site area revealing a much more domestic character than the Phase I work suggested.

Site 18AN424 is likely eligible for the National Register based upon Criteria D. This site promises to yield information that is important in learning more about the history in this region, and the artifacts discovered show evidence of an early 19th century farm complex. The site also has subsurface integrity and intact features. This site is relatively protected as it is on privately-owned land that is operated primarily as a passive recreational space.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95001575, Site Files