



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN444

Site Name: Cape St. John

Prehistoric

Other name(s): St. John's Cove

Historic

Brief Description:

Late Archaic & possibly Early Woodland short-term camps, Late 18th-Early 19th century artifact concentration

Unknown

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code 26) MuC3

Latitude 38.9609 Longitude -76.5631

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 18 m Site slope 6-10%

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) South River

#### Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

#### Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 107 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

Unknown prehistoric context

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 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

Post-in-ground

Battlefield

Fortification

Encampment

Townsite

Religious

Church/mtg house

Ch support bldg

Burial area

Cemetery

Sepulchre

Isolated burial

Bldg or foundation

Possible 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	1
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

<b>Earthenware</b>		Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Stoneware</b>	
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>	English Brown	2
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	69	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Porcelain</b>	14	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	12	Pearlware	45			Rhenish	4
						Wt Salt-glazed	1

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

## Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	107	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	<input type="checkbox"/>	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 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 checked="" 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

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	167	Activity item(s)	2
Glass (all)	59	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	22	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	2
Arms	1	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	2	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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## External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

The Cape St. John Site (18AN444), also known as St. John's Cove, is a prehistoric and historic archeological site near Edgewater in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. It consists of two distinct artifact concentrations: one the remnants of a Late Archaic short-term resource procurement site and the other a late 18th-early 19th century component. The site is situated northwest of Cape St. John on the South River. At the time of the site's discovery in 1977, the area was in cultivation. Soils at the site are primarily Annapolis sandy loams.

The site was initially recorded during a 1977 survey of the South River. Two superimposed concentrations of cultural material were noted in the plowed field. Aboriginal materials are to the southeast, covering an area some 30 to 40 m in diameter. No artifacts were collected when the site was visited, but the collection of a local amateur archeologist was reported in the survey manuscript. The collection from this portion of the site consisted of 3 quartz points, 1 rhyolite point, 1 piece of flaked chert, a contracting stem point base, 1 argillite blade, and various fragments of rhyolite debitage (counted as 2). To the northwest of the aboriginal deposit was a concentration of materials dating to the early to mid 18th century. The examined collection included clay pipestems, Westerwald stoneware, and a gunflint. No tallies were provided for the historic materials, so estimates (2 each) are used for pipestems and stoneware in the table above.

The site was visited again in October of 1984 by personnel from the Maryland Historical Trust. At that time, the site was undisturbed except for agricultural activities and prehistoric and historic artifacts (of both the 18th and 19th centuries) were visible on the site surface. At the time, the site was under the threat of development and MHT recommended that the site be mitigated and the remainder of the 55 acre housing development tract be surveyed. A proposal was put forward to the private developer and an agreement was reached so that the Potomac River Archeology Survey (PRAS) could perform the mitigation work.

Unfortunately, significant construction activity occurred at the site between October of 1984 (when MHT visited the site) and December of 1984 when PRAS arrived on-site to perform the mitigation work. A significant portion of the site area (ca. 70%) had been destroyed or severely impacted by grading and other earth-moving activities. The salvage/mitigation project had to be adapted and instead of subsurface excavation, the primary method of investigation was surface collection.

A controlled surface collection was attempted in areas that appeared less disturbed. Collections transects spaced no more than 10.67 meters (35 ft) apart were walked across the undisturbed portions of the field and artifacts were collected. Over 200 artifacts ranging in date from the Late Archaic to modern times were collected and could be assigned specific proveniences. Minor artifact clusters were apparent among these recoveries despite the degree of site disturbance. Additional collections in the St. John's site area were derived from extremely disturbed contexts (graded areas and bulldozer spoil piles) and were uncontrolled. Uncontrolled collections produced an additional 300 artifacts from 18AN444. Obviously, no provenience could be assigned to these materials beyond the level of the site itself.

In total, controlled and uncontrolled surface collection at 18AN444 yielded 98 prehistoric artifacts consisting of 1 quartz Calvert point, 1 rhyolite knife fragment, 2 cores, 5 unifacial tools, 4 chert flakes, 2 rhyolite flakes, 34 quartz flakes, 48 pieces of quartz shatter, and 1 quartzite flake. Both of the bifaces recovered at 18AN444 in 1984 are suggestive of a Late Archaic affiliation for the prehistoric component, though the rhyolite specimen cannot be assigned to a specific typology.

At least two small artifact clusters were noted when the artifact finds (from the controlled surface collection only) were mapped. It is highly likely, on the basis of the overall spread of artifacts that other "hot spots" could have been identified prior to the massive disturbance that occurred at the site between October and December of 1984. These clusters had horizontal distributions of 7.32 and 8.5 meters (24 and 28 ft) respectively, and are separated from one another by a linear distance of 33.5 m (110 ft). This pattern is consistent with Archaic period usage of the general area as a locus for temporary hunting camps, probably strung along a low rise no longer easily discerned among landscape modifications.

In addition to the prehistoric occupation, late 18th and early 19th century domestic artifacts were also present at the site. Less intensive site use may have continued to as late as the mid 19th century. The historic assemblage included 2 activity items (a bisque doll and a metal square), 22 architectural artifacts (2 earthenware tiles, 19 pieces of window glass, and a nail), 2 clothing items (porcelain buttons), 207 kitchen-related artifacts (12 creamware sherds, 45 pearlware sherds, 14 porcelain sherds, 69 whiteware sherds, 7 coarse earthenware sherds, 4 Rhenish stoneware, 2 English Brown stoneware, 2 Bristol-glazed stoneware, 1 white salt-glazed stoneware, 7 other stoneware sherds, 2 other sherds, 16 pieces of vessel glass, 17 mason jar fragments, 7 other glass fragments, the inner lid to a mason jar, and a cutlery handle), and 18 historic kaolin pipe fragments (14 stems and 4 bowls). Many of the historic artifacts were highly fragmentary. Diagnostics point primarily to an occupation in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The catalog in the appendix of the full site report does not match the assemblage description in the body of the report. The table in the appendix has been used here.

Such investigations as were possible at 18AN444 indicate that the Cape St. John Site first served as a focus for short but repeated usage as a campsite for late Archaic Indian populations, then was later reused in a domestic capacity during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Some less intensive site use may have continued as late as ca. 1855. Although prevailing site conditions made precise definition impossible, the huge variety and shattered condition of the site's historic artifacts strongly suggests that the site area was employed as a dump rather than a habitation. This interpretation would also accommodate the occasional finds of artifacts of somewhat earlier date (prior to ca. 1790) since these may have had an extended use life as curated household goods and been discarded many years after manufacture. The extreme disturbance of the site precludes an exact or reliable definition of the nature of the historic component.

Site 18AN444 was completely destroyed shortly following the salvage efforts in 1984. Thus, the site should not longer be considered a significant archeological resource.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00000467, 00000535