



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN449

Site Name: Retriever

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Late Archaic short-term camp; Middle & Late Woodland shell midden

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code 26) MvE

Latitude 38.9361

Longitude -76.5786

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 2 m

Site slope

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) Beards Creek

#### 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

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?

#### 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

### Historic context samples

Soil samples taken

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN449

Site Name: Retriever

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief Description:

Late Archaic short-term camp; Middle & Late Woodland shell midden

Unknown

## Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types		
Clovis	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Le Croy	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Morrow Mntn	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Guilford	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Brewerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Otter Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Koens-Crispin	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Madison/Potomac	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
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"/>	416	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"/>	2	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"/>	8	

## 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	<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"/>	<b>Porcelain</b>	<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		
Flaked stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	277
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	153
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	8
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	426
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>	16461
Oyster shell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Floral material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Uncommon Obj.	<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 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 type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ferruginous san	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Late Woodland shell midden

Historic Artifacts		
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Tobacco related	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Misc.	<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



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN449

Site Name: Retriever

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief Description:

Late Archaic short-term camp; Middle & Late Woodland shell midden

Unknown

## External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

The Retriever Site (18AN449) is a Middle and Late Woodland period shell midden in the Riva area of Anne Arundel County, Maryland. The site is situated on the terrace of a peninsula and faces northeast onto Beards Creek, a tributary of the South River. At the time of its discovery, the surface of the site was covered by grass, low brush, and a few large trees. The site had already been disturbed by the construction of a house and dock facility at that time. The soil at the site is predominantly Annapolis fine sandy loam.

The site was initially recorded during a 1977 survey of the South River. The site was recognized during walk-over of the area because of a deposit of oyster shell extending for some 50 m along the northern shoreline of a small peninsula jutting out into Beards Creek. The northern half of the site appeared to have the heaviest concentrations of shell. The site had already been disturbed by both construction and erosion. The shell deposit was approximately 10 to 20 cm deep based on observations of the eroded bank profile. The shoreline bank had been stabilized with wire netting and vegetation. No test units or shovel tests were excavated, but artifacts collected from the eroded areas included 1 fragment of a quartzite core, 1 piece of fire-cracked rock, and 2 sherds of Mockley Plain pottery.

The site was visited again in 1980 by personnel from the Maryland Historical Trust. Ten artifacts were collected from the surface. The artifact forms are not cataloged and, thus, are not included in the artifact tables above. MHT staff reported that approximately 80% of the site had been destroyed by road construction, lot development, and landscaping activities associated with the construction of a new housing development in the area. Based on these findings, MHT recommended immediate salvage of the remaining portion of the site.

The salvage testing was carried out from January to March of 1981, prior to completion of the Annapolis Landing Housing development. Annapolis Landing was a project to construct single-family homes on a tract incorporating 248 building lots. Since 80% of the site had already been destroyed, salvage work only consisted of small-scale test excavations on the remainder of the site prior to construction of a proposed boat house, pier, and boat ramp. Five 2 x 2 m test units were excavated. Four of these were located along a former road running along the eastern side of the peninsula. The fifth unit was placed on the western side of the peninsula, west of the site of an abandoned cottage (occupied from the 1940s to the 1960s), which had been dismantled and removed. The area between the western unit and the eastern units was the major portion of the site, which had been extensively disturbed by the dismantling and clearing of the area to prepare building lots for construction. Two low berms had been bulldozed into place in the former interior of the site to counter erosion from fill deposited at the point's higher elevations. It should be noted that the dirt road which provided access to the cottage was placed directly atop and along the shell midden, possibly to take advantage of the firm bedding provided by the shell of the midden. Thus, even this western "preserved" area may have been considerably disturbed.

The four eastern units were first cleared of vegetation and surface collections were made. Only a few fragments of oyster shell and recent artifacts were recovered. A layer of slopewash (Level 1) was removed from all four units, thus exposing the strata of soil and shell strata making up the prehistoric midden. Soil samples (30 cm square columns the depth of the midden) were taken from the center of each unit for flotation. Resulting material was retained for further analysis. Soil from the test units was flat-shoveled and then water screened through hardware mesh for maximum artifact recovery. There was no apparent stratigraphic division within the shell midden layer, and it was removed as a single unit. Test excavations of the soil underneath showed it to be devoid of cultural material.

The western unit encountered the midden in the western third of the square. Uniformly, the midden was thickest towards the edges of the terrace along the bluffs above Beards Creek, becoming much thinner towards the interior of the peninsula. Given the noticeable decrease in thickness over the 2 m width of the test square, it appears that the midden layer along the eastern side of the point narrows and disappears over a short horizontal distance.

One whole and one partial Holmes point were found during the salvage excavations, indicating a Late Archaic component predating the midden itself. A total of 16,416 oyster valves (one-half a complete oyster) were recovered from the five test squares. This represents 8,208 whole oysters. Mixed in with the shell midden was a substantial number of artifacts, composed almost entirely of lithic material and ceramic sherds. While much of it consists of fire-cracked rock and debitage, there are significant numbers of ceramics and tools. A total of 424 ceramics were found, including 370 Rappahannock fabric-impressed, 17 Rappahannock incised, 29 Townsend corded-horizontal, 7 Potomac Creek plain, and 1 Potomac Creek cord-impressed rim. Besides the two Holmes points, diagnostic tools included 1 chert Potomac point, 1 jasper Madison point, and 1 medium-sized crude triangular point. Other tools found were 1 quartzite point tip, 1 chert biface knife, 14 utilized flakes, 1 worked cobble, 1 ferruginous sandstone abraded, 1 sandstone abraded, 1 siltstone fragment with possible residue of black pigment, 1 V-notched quartz rock, and 4 hammerstones. One-hundred and fifty-two pieces of fire-cracked rock were also recovered. Faunal remains and implements included mammal bone fragments (31) and fish bones (10 minimum), 1 bear claw, 2 turtle shell fragments, 1 hard shell clam fragment, 1 possible shell bead, and 1 awl made from a deer bone, in addition to the 16,416 oyster shell valves. Carbonized seeds and nuts were also recovered. These are not described in detail in the full report. Two white clay pipe fragments were found among the Level 2 and 3 midden layers.

As the shell midden deposit did not appear to contain any stratigraphic discontinuity, it was the result of a single, and more or less uninterrupted cultural occupation dating to the later part of the Late Woodland period, Sullivan Cove phase. It is, however, possible that the 1977 recovery of 2 Mockley sherds indicates a Middle Woodland occupation. It may also be that these were found on a different part of the now-disturbed peninsula.

The final documented archeological examination of the site occurred in 1986. At that time, personnel from MHT visited the site and reported that it had been largely destroyed by grading prior to housing construction. It should no longer be considered a significant archeological resource.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00000467, 00000488