



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN458

Site Name: Almhouse Creek I

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Early & Late Woodland shell midden

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code 27) MvB2

Latitude 38.9356

Longitude -76.5485

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) Almhouse Creek

- | Saltwater   |  | Freshwater                            |                                |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Ocean <input type="checkbox"/>                      | Estuary/tidal river <input type="checkbox"/> | Stream/river <input type="checkbox"/> | Swamp <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tidewater/marsh <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Lake or pond <input type="checkbox"/>        | Spring <input type="checkbox"/>       |                                |

Minimum distance to water is 0 m

## Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

- Paleoindian site
- Archaic site
- Early archaic
- Middle archaic
- Late archaic
- Unknown prehistoric context
- Woodland site
- MD Adena
- Early woodland
- Mid. woodland
- Late woodland
- Unknown historic context
- Unknown context

- Contact period site
- ca. 1820 - 1860
- ca. 1630 - 1675
- ca. 1675 - 1720
- ca. 1720 - 1780
- ca. 1780 - 1820
- ca. 1820 - 1860
- ca. 1860 - 1900
- ca. 1900 - 1930
- Post 1930

### Ethnic Associations (historic only)

- Native American
- African American
- Anglo-American
- Hispanic
- Asian American
- Unknown
- Other

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

## Site Function Contextual Data:

- ### Prehistoric
- Multi-component
  - Village
  - Hamlet
  - Base camp
  - Rockshelter/cave
  - Earthen mound
  - Cairn
  - Burial area
  - Misc. ceremonial
  - Rock art
  - Shell midden
  - STU/lithic scatter
  - Quarry/extraction
  - Fish weir
  - Production 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 N Other samples taken

Historic context samples Soil samples taken

Flotation samples taken Other samples taken



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## 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"/>	1
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"/>	
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	12	Yeocomico	<input type="checkbox"/>
Selden Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Watson	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minguannan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monongahela	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accokeek	10	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	<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	12	
Ground stone	1	
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ceramics (all)	22	
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Unmod faunal	1	
Oyster shell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Floral material	<input 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 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

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	1	
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



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Description:

Early & Late Woodland shell midden

Unknown

## External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at American University

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

Almhouse Creek I (18AN458) is an Early and Late Woodland shell midden at the head of Almshouse Creek in central Anne Arundel County, Maryland. The site is situated on a low lying, level area that faces east towards Almhouse Creek. When the site was first documented archeologically in 1977, much of its western portion was covered by sand and gravel fill and served as a parking area. That parking area appears to have been paved in modern times. The eastern portion of the site is in dense vegetation. Soils at the site were loamy sands of the Annapolis-Urban land complex.

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 30 m along the bank of Almshouse Creek. The deposit may have at one time extended farther to the south, but in 1977, this area had already been impacted by residential development and the site's original extent was considered uncertain. Shell reached to a depth of 15-20 cm in the creek bank profile. The surrounding matrix was a dark brown loam. Artifacts recovered from the profile were 2 sherds of Rappahannock Incised, 4 sherds of Rappahannock Fabric-Imprinted (2 with a loose weave of thin fibers), and 1 fragment of bone. These artifacts suggest a Little Round Bay component.

The site was next examined in 1982 during the investigation of a 52 acre tract known as the South River Landing development tract. The area was under examination because of the threat of impending development of the waterfront. Fortunately, the land developer was interested in the local archeology and generously agreed to voluntarily finance excavation work as needed following the discovery of additional sites on the tract. This resulted in a combined Phase II/III investigation program at several of the sites located on the tract in 1982. The 1982 work was carried out by students and faculty of the American University's Potomac River Archeology Survey (PRAS).

The 1982 work at 18AN458 involved the excavation of an unspecified number of shovel test pits (STPs), five 1 X 1 m test units, and a roughly 1 X 2 m vertical bank cut. Three 1 X 1 m test and the vertical bank cut were excavated in the southern portion of the site, which was found to have been severely impacted by grading. Examination of the unit profiles in the area revealed that, with the exception of a small deposit partially sheltered by a large tree, this area of the site had been heavily graded with complete removal of the plowzone and both crushing and redistribution of the midden deposit. The test unit protected by the tree produced a mixture of historic and prehistoric material, including a highly decorated 18th century pipe stem, sherds (at least 2 each) of Rappahannock Fabric Imprinted and Rappahannock Incised, debitage of quartz and jasper (estimated at 10 pieces), and a partially complete quartz projectile point. A Piscataway point was collected from the surface during a preliminary reconnaissance of the site.

During examination of the area, it came to the attention of field personnel that a battered full groove axe was recovered from the front yard of a house adjacent to this part of the site, during installation of sewer lines. The specimen was examined by the field crew and was determined to be manufactured from diorite and exhibiting evidence of both bettering and resharpening.

Two 1 X 1 m units were excavated in the northern portion of the site. In contrast to the southern section, this area was heavily vegetated and undisturbed below the plowzone. The area preserves deep midden deposits of highly humic soil and interspersed shell in a fragmentary state. The ratio of soil to shell was estimated to be around 1 to 5. The two closely adjacent test units produced respectively sherds of Rappahannock Fabric Imprinted (at least 2 sherds) and Accokeek Cord-Marked ceramics (estimated at 10 sherds). A single Accokeek vessel is suggested by numerous sherds with well-defined cord-marking and a heavy quartz temper suggesting a variant typology. Typical Accokeek ware is sand and crushed quartz tempered, but otherwise resembles the recovered specimens in characteristics of deep, loosely-wrapped cord impressions, wall thickness, and color. While dense vegetation hindered precise definition of site boundaries, shovel testing in addition to the 1 X 1 m squares indicated a substantial horizontal extent for the shell concentrations. This was visible on the surface as slight mounding of the soil. No evidence of features or artifact concentrations other than the single pot bust was encountered.

Based on these findings, the site appears to represent a prehistoric shell midden with occupation dating to both the Early and Late Woodland periods. The results suggest that most of the southern portion of the midden has been altered and destroyed by earth-moving activity. However the northern portion of the site may be preserved by a parking lot and the surrounding overgrown vegetation. Though little is known about it, the site should be considered to have a least a moderate potential for research.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00000467, 00000456, Site Files