



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN463

Site Name: Glebe Bay IV

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Mid 19th-early 20th century house ruin and shell midden; House of an African American oysterman

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code 30) CK

Latitude 38.9339

Longitude -76.5452

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
- High terrace
- Hilltop/bluff
- Rockshelter/cave
- Interior flat
- Hillslope
- Upland flat
- Unknown
- Ridgetop
- Other
- Terrace
- Shoreline
- Low terrace

Ownership

- Private
- Federal
- State of MD
- Regional/county/city
- Unknown

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Glebe Bay

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

Woodland site

Contact period site ca. 1820 - 1860

ca. 1630 - 1675 ca. 1860 - 1900

Archaic site

MD Adena

ca. 1675 - 1720 ca. 1900 - 1930

Early archaic

Early woodland

ca. 1720 - 1780 Post 1930

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

ca. 1780 - 1820

Late archaic

Late woodland

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

shell midden

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples

Soil samples taken

Flotation samples taken

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		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	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	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	13	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	<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		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	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 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 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		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	15	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	6	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	2
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc.	1
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> coal

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>	shell midden	
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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Brief

Description:

Mid 19th-early 20th century house ruin and shell midden; House of an African American oysterman

Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC (1979.004.036)

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Glebe Bay IV (18AN463) is the archeological remains of a mid 19th to early 20th century house and shell midden near Edgewater in Anne Arundel County that is associated with an African American oysterman. The site is situated on a low terrace facing northwest onto Glebe Bay. Within the site boundaries are a stone and brick well and the foundation ruins of a house. The forest canopy at the site is well-developed with a moderately dense understory of holly and greenbrier. Areas with little or no understory vegetation are poorly drained and probably covered intermittently with standing water (the area is very low-lying). A maintained drainage ditch along the west edge of the site carries stormwater from local roads into a wetland to the northwest, and ultimately into Glebe Creek. The site surface appears relatively undisturbed, but has been used in recent times to amass large windrows of yard waste. Soils at the site are primarily Colemantown sandy loams and clays.

This site was first recorded in 1977 during a survey of the South River. A non-systematic surface search was carried out at that time, recording the presence of the aforementioned foundations and well, as well as an oyster shell midden extending for approximately 200 m along the shoreline and some 20 m inland. The midden was determined to be about 20 cm deep at the bank. To the south, relatively little shell was observed in proportion to the matrix. Artifactual materials recovered from the site at that time included 1 sherd of stoneware with a salt-glazed exterior and Albany glazed interior, 10 sherds of blue transfer-printed whiteware, 2 sherds of undecorated whiteware, 1 sherd of blue-glazed whiteware, and several fragments of manganese-tinted glass and milk glass (minimally estimated at 5 pieces in the table above). The site was recorded as a house site of the mid 19th to early 20th century.

Archival research reveals that the land on which the site is situated derives from tracts that were owned by the Brewer, Robinson, Collington family (related by marriage) throughout most of the 19th and 20th centuries. Documentation of the period reveals that the Brewers and Robinsons owned adjacent farms and also suggests that they cooperated in their farming endeavors and divided labor between both households. They also held slaves. The Brewer/Robinson Farm was reduced by 50 acres between 1870 and 1880 and devalued from \$4,400 to \$1,500. There are also some indications for changes in production on the farm of particular crops and a reduction in the amount of wages paid out.

By 1892, Nicholas N. Brewer conveyed 40.75 acres, including the site location, and a house to his daughter, Mary E. Collinson, wife of Dr. John Collinson. A plat dated January 26, 1892, does not depict any structures on the property.

In 1898, a Washington Simms purchased the 40.75 acres from the Collinsons. Washington Simms appears in the 1910 Census as a 52 year old black man who worked as a tonger (an oysterman) and had recently married and shared his house and farm with his mother and sister. The Simms household is listed in the population schedule of the 1910 Census immediately before the households of William Simms and George Simms, (both tongers and homeowners, but not farmers). The household of Dr. John Collinson and his wife, Mary E. Collinson (née Brewer) are listed shortly thereafter. Washington Simms appears to have been part of a local black community, mostly kin, that derived its living largely from the oystering industry. They likely were freed slaves or descendants of slaves that were owned by the extended Brewer family and some relatives probably worked, at least seasonally, on the Brewer, Robinson, and Collinson farms.

Under a variant spelling (Symes), Washington Simms appears in the 1900 Census as a black oysterman, aged 45, living in his own house with his mother Susan (aged 90) and sister Eliza, a 45-year old house servant. George Simms lived nearby with his family, the specifics of which are nearly identical with the values in the 1910 Census. George and William Simms both appeared as black oystermen in the 1920 Census, but not Washington. A 1905 USGS 15' Quadrangle depicts a structure in the approximate location of 18AN463, which would have been situated on Washington Simms property. When the superstructure disappeared is not known.

The site was the subject of Phase II testing in July and August of 2010 prior to development of two lots in the Turnbull Estates residential subdivision. The Anne Arundel County Planning Department, under authority of Article 17, Title 6, Subtitle 502, requested an archeological investigation to locate features within the two lots and to more securely date the site and its component.

Fifty shovel test pits (STPs) laid out in 11 transects across the two subject lots were excavated during the Phase II testing. All shovel tests were approximately 40.6 cm (16 in) in diameter and excavated to a depth of approximately 30.5 cm (1 ft) or greater. Soils were screened through hardware mesh and described (in terms of texture and color) on forms using standardized methods and nomenclature. All STPs were backfilled upon completion and documentation.

The STPs revealed silt loam on the northern half of the northernmost lot and sandy soils in the southern half of that lot and the entirety of the more southerly lot. The A-horizon varied, but averaged roughly 13 cm in thickness. Only three STPs produced cultural material. Two units produced 1 small piece of oyster shell each and a third produced a small piece of coal. These small, isolated finds do not suggest that Site 18AN463 extends onto the two proposed residential lots. Poor drainage probably precluded any prehistoric occupation of the area and use of the land by Washington Simms and his predecessors may have been limited to boat launching activities. There is no evidence of a well-developed plowzone, although an Ap-horizon could have deflated.

A brief reconnaissance of the shoreline and low bluff west of the two proposed residential lots was carried out after the STPs survey. This reconnaissance revealed evidence of subsurface features, an eroding oyster shell midden containing a late 19th/early 20th century liquor flask, and a whiteware bowl with traces of decals on the rim.

While the 2010 investigation revealed that development of the two residential lots would not adversely impact any significant archeological deposits, work also suggested that intact subsurface deposits still exist to the west of these lots. The site's significance has not been formally determined, but intact deposits related to late 19th-early 20th century occupation by an African-American oysterman may be present.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95001444, Site Files