



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN480

Site Name: Quiet Waters Farm I

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief Description:

Middle and Late Woodland shell midden and short-term resource procurement camp

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code 27) Mve

Latitude 38.9310 Longitude -76.5165

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) Harness 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

Archaic site

MD Adena

Early archaic

Early woodland

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

Late archaic

Late woodland

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 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 N

Other samples taken 1989: Shell samples retained

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"/>	Koens-Crispin	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Le Croy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>
Morrow Mntn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guilford	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brewerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Otter Creek	<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"/>
Dames Qtr	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coulbourn	<input type="checkbox"/>
Selden Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Watson	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accokeek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mockley	107
Wolfe Neck	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clemson Island	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vinette	<input type="checkbox"/>	Page	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Shepard	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Townsend	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Minguannan	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Sullivan Cove	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Shenks Ferry	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Moyaone	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Potomac Crk	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Keyser	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Yeocomico	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Monongahela	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Susquehannock	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Sherd Types			
Earthenware		Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Whiteware	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Porcelain	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Stoneware	
		English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Nottingham	<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	16	Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	1
Fire-cracked rock	75	Unmod faunal	456
Other lithics (all)	1	Oyster shell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	129	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	3	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 type="checkbox"/>	Fer quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sil sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Argilite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Middle Woodland shell midden (exclusively Mockley sherds)

Historic Artifacts			
Pottery (all)	1	Tobacco related	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	18	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	17	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arms	1	Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc.	2
		Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features			
Const feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Privy/outhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearth/chimney	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Planting feature	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paling ditch/fence	<input type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Depression/mound	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Earthworks	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Mill raceway	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Wheel pit	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Other	<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:

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Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at Anne Arundel County Planning and Zoning, MAC (1972)

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Quiet Waters Farm I, or 18AN480, is a Middle Woodland shell midden and short-term resource procurement camp located on the Quiet Waters Park, just south of Annapolis in Anne Arundel County. The site is situated on a low terrace overlooking a creek that flows into the South River. The site and most of the surrounding landscape is wooded with mature hardwoods. Soils at the site are Annapolis fine sandy loams.

The site was first identified in 1977 during the course of an archeological survey conducted of the South River drainage basin under a Maryland Historical Trust contract. The site was visible because of the abundance of exposed shell along the terrace over an area approximately 35 X 20 m in extent, and a 5-10 cm thick exposure of midden eroding along the creek bank. A flake and lithic chunk (both of quartzite) were the only artifacts collected at that time.

The site was next examined in late 1988 and early 1989, when a Phase I survey was carried out for the development of the Quiet Waters Park as a public amenity. The survey was performed on behalf of the Anne Arundel Department of Recreation and Parks, pursuant to a request from MHT. The survey was required under Article 41 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, which stipulates that government sponsors of projects shall consider the potential effects of their actions on cultural resources located on properties within their jurisdiction. At that time the county was just in the planning stages to open up the property for the enjoyment of the public and proposed development of a variety of recreational facilities, including roads, an amphitheater, a Visitor's Center, picnic areas, bicycle paths, and boat rental facilities.

Phase I fieldwork in 1988 and 1989 entailed the excavation of shovel test pits (STPs) and opportunistic surface collection. Shovel tests were spaced 10 meters apart and excavation proceeded in natural levels until at least 10 cm into the sterile subsoil. The A horizon was removed as a single unit. All excavated soils were screened through hardware cloth and soils were described using standard terminology to describe color in order to document field conditions and testing procedures. A total of 11 STPs were excavated across the site, 9 of which yielded shell. The excavations revealed that the shell midden was intact, ranged in thickness from 5 to 20 cm, and extended over an area roughly 40 m long and 45 m wide.

The artifact assemblage recovered during the Phase I project in the late 1980s included 1 argillite biface fragment, a chert scraper, a chert flake, a rhyolite flake, 2 pieces of fire-cracked rock, a Mockley body sherd, 346 pieces of oyster shell, a sherd of blue transfer-printed earthenware, 17 window glass fragments, a bottle shard, and 2 pieces of slag. The site was avoided during development of the park and preserved in place.

In 2009, a multi-year study was begun to examine the Middle Woodland time period of prehistory. The Lost Towns Project, based out of Anne Arundel County, was awarded a non-capital grant from the Maryland Historical Trust to further examine the period with a focus on Anne Arundel County and Central Maryland. All of the known 169 previously recorded Middle Woodland sites in the county were re-visited and their potential to yield additional information was assessed. Literature review was also conducted as a means of background research. Since Mockley ceramics were recovered during the 1988/1989 study, 18AN480 was re-visited during the winter of 2009 as part of the initial reconnaissance stage of the project.

After the initial reconnaissance, Lost Towns determined that 18AN480 had significant potential and was somewhat threatened by erosion from recreational boats passing along the nearby creek and river. Thus, they included it in the list of eight sites that they would be revisiting to conduct more rigorous testing. Ultimately, time and budget constraints would only permit the researchers to re-visit four of the planned 8 Middle Woodland sites, but 18AN480 was one of the sites that was tested.

In June and July of 2009 a Phase II-level of investigation was carried out at Quiet Waters I. The 2009 Phase II work entailed the excavation of an additional 26 shovel test pits on a 6.1 m (20 ft) grid across the extent of the shell midden visible from the surface and also beyond it, and two formal 1.524 X 1.524 m (5 X 5 ft) test units. No description of the excavation methods is provided in the project report, but presumably soils were screened through hardware cloth. The report does note that there is a bias in the faunal assemblage due to the fact that 100% of animal bones were collected, while only whole oyster shells with "female" hinges were collected. Munsell colors and strata descriptions were recorded along with soil profile drawings.

The shovel test pit excavations revealed dense concentrations of shell within the broader shell midden. Each of these shell clusters probably represents a different episode of shellfish harvesting. The densest concentrations were along the shoreline or the southern edge of the midden, where significant erosion was ongoing. Prehistoric materials were present within the midden as expected, but additional cultural materials were also recovered in some of the STPs situated outside of the shell lens. This suggests use of the surrounding terrace landform as a campsite during oyster procurement. Not all artifacts recovered from the STPs are enumerated in the full site report, but a quartz chopper and a quartzite abrader were mentioned as being recovered from STPs.

Test Unit 1 was placed in the southern portion of the site, in the densest concentration of shell, while Test unit 2 was placed to the north on the suspected edge of the shell lens. The first stratum in Test Unit 1, the O horizon, had frequent broken and whole shell mixed in (over 30 lbs), despite being above the densely packed shell midden. The artifacts recovered included fire-cracked rock, debitage, mammal bone, and ceramic sherds (mostly Mockley). Strata 2 and Strata 3 produced dense concentrations of shell. Stratum 2 had the densest shell and yielded a broken rhyolite knife, a possible bone tool, lithics, and several larger Mockley sherds. Stratum 3 was slightly less dense with shell and yielded fewer artifacts. Stratum 4 saw a dramatic decrease in both shell and artifacts. A 12.2 cm (.4 ft) arbitrary level was excavated beneath the Stratum 4 interface to be sure that subsoil had been reached.

Test Unit 2 yielded a much smaller assemblage than Unit 1. Stratum 1 produced only 7 oyster shells, 2 pieces of charcoal, and small quantities of flaked stone, Mockley sherds, and thermally-altered rock. Stratum 2 yielded 13 oyster shells and only 1 piece of debitage and 1 fire-cracked rock. Stratum 3 appeared to be the edge of the shell midden, but could still only be described as a "light density" of shell. One piece of debitage was recovered from Stratum 3. The upper portion of Stratum 4 produced only 1 oyster shell and 2 pieces of fire-cracked rock before transitioning to subsoil. Again, unit excavation was concluded upon excavating 12.2 cm (.4 ft) into the subsoil.

A complete artifact catalog is not provided in the full site report, but a table is provided of broad artifact categories for the two test units. This table has been combined with those artifact descriptions that are available in the body of the report to produce the numbers below (and in the tables above). The 2009 assemblage from 18AN480 included 1 rhyolite biface, 1 quartzite biface, 7 pieces of debitage, 1 quartz chopper tool, 73 pieces of fire-cracked or thermally altered rock, 1 quartzite abrader, 128 ceramic sherds (3 rims), 1 possible bone tool, 14 pieces of mammal bone, 1 other animal bone, 95 shells (both clam and oyster), and 2 pieces of charcoal. Most of the sherds (at least 106) were Mockley ceramics. A shotgun shell is the only historic/modern artifact reported.



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Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic Brief
Description:

Middle and Late Woodland shell midden and short-term resource procurement camp

Unknown

Quiet Waters Farm I (18AN480) was likely a harvesting station, where a group of foragers would take advantage of the large number of local oysters, harvest them, smoke them to preserve them, and then take the processed food back to the main village. The site would be inhabited seasonally, with foragers coming to the site to work until they had their fill, or had gathered and processed enough oysters to take back to the macro camp site, returning the next season to do the same. This pattern could continue for many generations, as long as the oysters were not over-gathered. The Quiet Waters site is in proximity to numerous other shell midden sites which would have been utilized in a similar fashion.

Shell-tempered, cord-marked Mockley ware was the predominant ceramic type at the site and offers a clear single phase diagnostic indicator. This strongly suggests the site was mainly utilized during the Middle Woodland period. Recovery of a few pieces of Townsend ware suggest that the area could have been frequented into the early Late Woodland, indicating a level of cultural continuity between the Middle and Late Woodland period.

The site does show evidence of erosion and as such is in danger from natural forces. There is certainly potential to learn more, as the site is intact. The fact that no signs of any structures have been found as of yet, should discourage future attempts. The area around the general midden has yet to be thoroughly excavated. Additional research is warranted at the site, especially considering its "threatened" status and the relative rarity of single-component sites.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00000580, 95001190, GISTool