



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18CE146

Site Name: Herring Island

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Early Archaic-Late Woodland base camp, lithic quarry

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 6

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.5113

Longitude -75.8796

Physiographic province Eastern Shore Coastal P

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation -6 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) Back Creek

#### Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Minimum distance to water is 0 m

#### Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

## 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
- 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

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"/>	Koens-Crispin	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
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"/> 1	Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
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"/> 2
Otter Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Madison/Potomac	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
		Levanna	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Prehistoric Sherd Types

Marcey Creek	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	Popes Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shepard	<input type="checkbox"/>	Keyser	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dames Qtr	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	Coulbourn	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	Townsend	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	Yeocomico	<input type="checkbox"/>
Selden Island	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	Watson	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minguannan	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	Monongahela	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accokeek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mockley	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	Sullivan Cove	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehannock	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wolfe Neck	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	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"/> 5		

## 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"/> 1213	Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/> 40	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<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 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 checked="" 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"/>	Tobacco related	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal items	<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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Brief

Description:

Early Archaic-Late Woodland base camp, lithic quarry

Unknown

## External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

The Herring Island Site (18CE146) is a multicomponent site with occupation spanning from the late Early Archaic to Late Woodland periods. The island consists of identified ca. 3000 BC habitation locales and a lithic reduction activity area, but cultural resources have been encountered all around the island. Artifacts from the 17th and 18th centuries have also been noted on the island. Herring Island is located on a portion of the Elk River in Cecil County, Maryland. The soil type on the island is Hambrook sandy loam, 2-5% slope. The island measures approximately 231 m in length by 31 m in width. Aerial photos and maps from the 1930s and 1940s make it clear that the island has undergone extensive erosion and loss of land area. Due to its small size and isolation, the island has not been subjected to agricultural activities.

In the late 1970s, the landowner proposed construction of a stone revetment covering about 25% of the shoreline of Herring Island, especially in the northeast and southwest beach areas. The plans provided for the placement of approximately 1,756 cubic yards of rip-rap. From preliminary review of the application, it was determined that there were no known sites within the permit area. The Army Corp of Engineers granted the landowner a permit to construct a stone revetment around the island. However, in the fall of 1980 it was discovered that the standard cultural resource management review process between the Corp and the Maryland Historical Trust had been circumvented. It was therefore decided that the time for site mitigation procedure was long past and that an attempt should be made to carry out a salvage operation to obtain a valid sample of the archeological material contained on the beaches in the construction areas. The only record of the excavations was 2-page a draft report located in the site file and a journal article that focused on the lithic reduction activity area.

Early archeological investigations of the Herring Island site were carried out in 1978 and 1979. Details of those studies were not available. However, as a result of that work, a number of archeologically sensitive areas were identified on the island. During the months from August to December 1980, a more intensive salvage archeological project was undertaken in the areas to be affected by construction activities. There were 3 main objectives of the field work: the establishment of a grid over the island, the excavation of 3 test units in the area where a power conduit trench was to be dug across the island, and the collection of a systematic sample of units from the threatened shoreline areas, to a lesser extent in the northeast beach area but more extensively from the southwest beaches (Areas A and B). The proposed revetment was to completely cover the broad southwest beach from the bank to the mean low water level. In addition to the fieldwork, several artifact assemblages belonging to four generations of local collectors were examined in order to develop a chronological range of occupations for the island as a whole.

A total of 4 units (probably 1 m<sup>2</sup>) were excavated at 5 cm intervals within the natural stratigraphy in the northeast construction area. Debitage and fire-cracked rock (FCR) were collected from the units. The 3 test units excavated in the proposed conduit trench area were excavated at 5 cm intervals within the natural stratigraphy. The test units yielded FCR anddebitage as well as prehistoric ceramic sherds. No cultural features were identified. Testing in the northeast beach area revealed that the topsoil had a variable thickness. It showed evidence of historic fires and an incinerated log cabin structure. A flooding episode was identified in the unit closest to the water where a sandy layer underlay the topsoil. The B-horizon below the topsoil sat above a sterile clay subsoil. Historic period artifacts were recovered from the topsoil layer. Lithicdebitage appeared to be concentrated higher in the unit profile than the prehistoric ceramics. Also, the FCR was clustered lower in the profile, closer to the subsoil. During the surface survey of the island, a tightly localized concentration of Late Woodland lithic and ceramic types was identified on the far northern end of the island. However, this area was not further tested during the 1980 season.

Approximately 27 units measuring 1 m<sup>2</sup> were excavated in the southwest beach area. Due to the effects of deflation and the disturbance of the vertical profile, each unit was excavated in a single arbitrary level. All soils were screened through ¼" mesh. Two artifact concentrations were identified in the southwestern portion of the island. Near the middle of the beach (Area A), a concentration of FCR and ceramics associated with high densities of lithicdebitage, flake tools and projectile point discards was identified. The character of the lithicdebitage indicated that some reduction activities were being conducted in the habitation area of the site, particularly utilizing quartz, quartzite, and ironstone. Although ironstone was found across the area, there was an ancillary concentration of ironstone toward the southern end of the beach (Area B). This was interpreted to be an early stage ironstone lithic reduction activity area. The southern section of Area A along with Area B contained the majority of the primary ironstone bifaces, a fact which further supported the theory that Area B was a specialized ironstone reduction area. The excavators suggested that the larger size of the ironstone raw material, when compared with the other smaller and more portable raw materials found at the site, necessitated that reduction activities took place outside of the habitation area. Conversely, rather than relating to purely technological constraints, it was also suggested that the specialized activity area reflected the role of the Herring Island residents in the regional ironstone exchange network. That is, the ironstone early stage bifaces were for exchange, not local consumption. Clusters of late stage ironstonedebitage have been found at other sites on the Delmarva Peninsula further supporting an exchange/acquisition of the early stage ironstone bifaces found at the site. Eventually, the desire for ironstone bifaces decreases but human activity continued on the island.

The prehistoric artifacts were inconsistently reported in the two available reports; therefore, the totals here and in the table above should be considered minimum estimates. No details of the identified 17th or 18th century artifacts were provided. An estimated 1,213 chipped stone items were found. There were 1,178 pieces ofdebitage (ironstone, quartz, quartzite, and unidentified materials), 3 flake tools, 2 scrapers, and 11 biface tools, one of which was a Delmarva Adena/Robbins leaf-shaped biface made of Flint Ridge chalcodony. A total of 19 points were also recovered (2 each Bare Island, Fox Creek lanceolate, Jack's Reef pentagonal, Clagett, Orient Fishtail, Lehigh/Koens-Crispin broadspear, Rossville, Calvert, Madison/Potomac, and 1 St. Albans/LeCroy bifurcate fragment). There were 4 groundstone items including a ¾ grooved axe, a small celt, an engraved gorget fragment, and a small engraved pendant. Other lithic items (n=4) included 2 grinding stones and 2 hammerstones. An estimated 40 FCR fragments were also collected (69,415 g). There were an estimated 50 ceramic sherds including 5 sherds each Marcey Creek, Dames Quarter, Seldon Island, Wolfe Neck, Colburn, Mockley, Potomac Creek, Hell Island, Minguannan, and Townsend.

The Herring Island Site (18CE146) is a multicomponent site with occupation spanning from the late Early Archaic to Late Woodland periods. The southwest beach area of the island revealed intensive quarrying and reduction activities near ironstone outcroppings that occurred around ca. 3000 BC. An associated habitation site was located very nearby. Continued testing at the site was planned for the summer of 1981 but it is unknown if it was undertaken. Current aerial images show that the proposed erosion control activities were completed along portions of the island.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00005721, Site Files