



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18CH162

Site Name: W-T, CH-K1

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief Description:

Late Archaic camp; Early & Middle Woodland shell midden, Mid-18th century domestic site & historic cemetery

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 11

SCS soil & sediment code MTA

Latitude 38.4097

Longitude -77.0895

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 3 m

Site slope 2-5%

Ethnobotany profile available Maritime site

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Potomac River

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 50 m

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

Low terrace

Ownership

Private

Federal

State of MD

Regional/county/city

Unknown

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? 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

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	<input type="text"/>	1
Clovis	Perkiomen	<input type="text"/>	
Hardaway-Dalton	Susquehana	<input type="text"/>	
Palmer	Vernon	<input type="text"/>	
Kirk (notch)	Piscataway	<input type="text"/>	
Kirk (stem)	Calvert	<input type="text"/>	
Le Croy	Selby Bay	<input type="text"/>	
Morrow Mntn	Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="text"/>	
Guilford	Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="text"/>	
Brewerton	Madison/Potomac	<input type="text"/>	
Otter Creek	Levanna	<input type="text"/>	

Prehistoric Sherd Types

Marcey Creek	<input type="text"/>	Popes Creek	54	Shepard	<input type="text"/>	Keyser	<input type="text"/>
Dames Qtr	<input type="text"/>	Coulbourn	<input type="text"/>	Townsend	<input type="text"/>	Yeocomico	<input type="text"/>
Selden Island	<input type="text"/>	Watson	<input type="text"/>	Minguannan	<input type="text"/>	Monongahela	<input type="text"/>
Accokeek	<input type="text"/>	Mockley	2	Sullivan Cove	<input type="text"/>	Susquehannock	<input type="text"/>
Wolfe Neck	<input type="text"/>	Clemson Island	<input type="text"/>	Shenks Ferry	<input type="text"/>		
Vinette	<input type="text"/>	Page	<input type="text"/>	Moyaone	<input type="text"/>		
				Potomac Crk	<input type="text"/>		

Historic Sherd Types

Earthenware		Ironstone	<input type="text"/>	Staffordshire	5	Stoneware	
Astbury	<input type="text"/>	Jackfield	<input type="text"/>	Tin Glazed	8	English Brown	<input type="text"/>
Borderware	<input type="text"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="text"/>	Whiteware	<input type="text"/>	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="text"/>
Buckley	11	North Devon	<input type="text"/>	Porcelain	<input type="text"/>	Nottingham	<input type="text"/>
Creamware	2	Pearlware	<input type="text"/>			Rhenish	<input type="text"/>
						Wt Salt-glazed	3

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts			
	Other fired clay	<input type="text"/>	
Flaked stone	958	Human remain(s)	<input type="text"/>
Ground stone	1	Modified faunal	2
Stone bowls	<input type="text"/>	Unmod faunal	50
Fire-cracked rock	345	Oyster shell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	6	Floral material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	86	Uncommon Obj.	10
Rimsherds	<input type="text"/>	Other	<input type="text"/>

Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)	<input type="text"/>	Storage/trash pit	<input type="text"/>
Midden	<input type="text"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="text"/>
Shell midden	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ossuary	<input type="text"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="text"/>	Unknown	<input type="text"/>
House pattern(s)	<input type="text"/>	Other	<input type="text"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="text"/>		
Hearth(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Lithic reduc area	<input type="text"/>		

Lithic Material

Fer quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sil sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jasper	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
		slate or siltston	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts			
	Tobacco related	22	
Pottery (all)	132	Activity item(s)	1
Glass (all)	21	Human remain(s)	<input type="text"/>
Architectural	185	Faunal material	<input type="text"/>
Furniture	<input type="text"/>	Misc. kitchen	<input type="text"/>
Arms	4	Floral material	<input type="text"/>
Clothing	<input type="text"/>	Misc.	11
Personal items	<input type="text"/>	Other	<input type="text"/>

Historic Features

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

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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External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The W-T, CH-K1 Site (18CH162) is a varied archeological site with the following components: a Late Archaic campsite, Early & Middle Woodland shell middens, a Mid-18th century domestic site, and a historic cemetery that may or may not be related to the 18th century household. The site is located on the Blossom Point Field Test Facility (BPFTF) in southern Charles County, Maryland. It is situated in the extreme southeastern portion of the Facility, along the Potomac River, just north of 18CH161. The site area is wooded, with improvements consisting of several dirt roads crossing through it. The area has been cleared and plowed in the past. Soils at the site are moderately eroded Mattapex fine sandy loams.

The site was originally recorded in the late 1970s, and a reconnaissance survey conducted in 1980 described the site as a prehistoric oyster shell midden covering a four-acre area and ranging in thickness from a few inches to nearly two feet. Disturbance associated with plowing is acknowledged in the report. In addition, it is noted that an area of shell in the western portion of Site 18CH162 has been mined with power equipment to obtain road-surfacing material. Quartzite flakes and a single sherd of Pope's Creek pottery were observed on the beach below the site during the investigation. These artifacts are not included in the tally above as absolute quantities are unknown and it is not known whether they were collected or merely noted in the field. In 1985, an assessment was made of the area to determine the state of ground disturbance. The findings were in disagreement with the earlier studies, stating that the area was not heavily disturbed. The first significant archeological work conducted at 18CH162 came in 1993 as part of a Phase I survey throughout the BPFTF. Work at that time consisted of extensive background archival research and systematic shovel testing.

The archival research indicates that settlement on this point of land during the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries was associated with tenancy to the Jesuits who held the land. From the earliest days of settlement in Maryland, the Jesuits attempted to run a profit-making farm in this area, which was part of a large estate known as "St. Thomas Manor". They leased portions of their land to tenant farmers who would pay their rent in tobacco. Lifetime tenancies were issued beginning in 1686. These tenancies were sellable and could be acquired by heirs upon a leaseholder's death. This produced a stable population with few short-term occupants. The tenant in the vicinity of 18CH162 in the mid-18th century (which the site is believed to date to) is believed to be one John Butler. An inventory of his assets in 1763 indicates that he owned one woman slave, 14 cattle, 37 hogs, and 4 horses. He grew tobacco and corn, and held a 100 gallon cider cask. He also had furniture objects such as a spinning wheel. Systematic shovel testing (a total of 70 STPs) in the area of Site 18CH162 led to the recovery of 14 bricks or brick fragments, 2 rosehead nails, 1 Staffordshire rimsherd, 1 gray bodied stoneware sherd, 1 redware sherd, 1 tin-glazed earthenware sherd, 1 white-bodied earthenware sherd, 27 other historic sherds, a piece of glass, a historic pipe stem, 1 prehistoric sherd, 1 quartz projectile point fragment, 1 quartz core, 44 quartz and quartzite flakes, 9 pieces of shatter, 2 chunks, 33 fire-cracked rock fragments, 33 oyster shell pieces, and 2 bone pieces. Based on the Phase I testing, the site was recommended as potentially eligible for listing on the NRHP. This recommendation was based on its potential to contain information related to prehistoric subsistence strategies and settlement patterns. This recommendation necessitated Phase II testing as part of the BPFTF cultural resource management plan.

Phase II work was undertaken at Site 18CH162 in December of 2000 as part of a multi-site Phase II effort. Fieldwork undertaken at Site 18CH162 includes pedestrian survey, shovel testing, and formal unit excavations. Pedestrian survey was conducted along the coastline to confirm site location and look for indicators of prehistoric occupation in the eroding bluff. Following that, a grid was established across the site area from an arbitrary datum, using a compass and measuring tapes. The easterly baseline of the grid roughly cross-cuts the landform. Transects were established perpendicular to the baseline to the north and south at 15 meter intervals. STPs were excavated along these transects at regular 15 meter intervals, except in areas that were obviously disturbed, fell on slopes, or in drainages. Testing continued along transects until STPs were void of cultural material, or when site boundaries were dictated by landform. Radial STPs were excavated in cardinal directions from selected positive grid STPs to aid in determining unit placement. Of the 122 STPs excavated, 77 were on the regular 15 m interval grid, and 45 were excavated as 5 m interval radials. Of the grid STPs, 43 were positive, while 33 of the radial STPs were positive. Using information gained through STP excavation, a series of six larger units (1 X 2 meters) was excavated. Formal units were placed in areas defined through shovel testing; thought to be the most likely to produce diagnostic materials or contain features (i.e. areas of high artifact density and stratigraphic integrity).

All excavations (STPs and formal units) were conducted using hand methods (shovel and trowels). Soils were removed stratigraphically from excavations, albeit with more control in the larger units than in the STPs. Arbitrary 10 cm levels were excavated within natural stratigraphy in the large excavation units. All matrix was dry screened through hardware cloth. Cultural materials (excepting shell, which was noted but not retained) recovered were collected and bagged according to provenience. It should be noted that all STP and unit locations had to be screened for the presence of unexploded ordinance prior to excavations, as the BPFTF is an active firing range. In some cases, this screening identified the presence of ferrous materials in a subsurface context. The project's scope of work called for avoidance of unexploded ordinance rather than removal or remediation. Thus, STPs sometimes had to be offset from the grid or areas were avoided due to ferrous materials. This should also be taken into consideration as historic ferrous materials could also cause an area to be avoided.

Phase II excavations at 18CH162 led to the recovery of 1,742 artifacts, including both prehistoric and historic items. Diagnostic materials found during the investigation include a few Late Archaic period projectile point fragments, Middle Woodland Period pottery, and 18th century historic artifacts. Prehistoric and historic features were found, including prehistoric shell middens, a possible prehistoric hearth, a lithic workshop area, and 6 historic pit and post features. In addition, STP excavation led to the identification of at least six historic period burials on the site. The Late Archaic component appears to be located primarily in the central to western portion of the site, whereas the Middle Woodland component is most visible to the east along the shoreline. The historic cemetery is located in the north central portion of the site, and the remains of an 18th-century domestic occupation are located in the central portion of the site. The Late Archaic period occupation, suggested by the volume of the quartzite debitage and stone tool fragments, appears to have been a lithic workshop and short-term campsite. The Middle Woodland Period site is also a campsite, most likely focusing on the seasonal procurement and processing of oysters. The historic component consists of the remains associated with a domestic site occupied in the mid-1700s by a John Butler and his family. The cemetery is probably associated with the domestic site, however, the possibility that it is associated with another occupation elsewhere nearby cannot be eliminated based on the work conducted in 2000. Bones identified as possibly human were immediately reburied in the field.

Prehistoric artifacts encountered during the Phase II testing at 18CH162 included 85 ceramic sherds, 21 flaked tools, 880 pieces of debitage (including 15 cores/tested cobbles), 1 grinding stone, 2 possible hammerstones, 312 pieces of fire-cracked rock, 17 bone fragments (15 pieces of turtle shell and 2 burnt bones), 4 pieces of wood charcoal, 2 pieces of unworked steatite, a piece each of unaltered quartzite and sandstone, and 10 pieces of hematite. Among the ceramic sherds are 54 Pope's Creek fragments and 2 pieces of Mockley ware. The remaining 25 are too eroded or small to be definitively tied to a specific type. None appear to be rimsherds. The formal stone tools included a Middle Woodland "Adena" point, 3 Savannah River Holmes variant points, 1 Koens-



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Krispin point, 4 unidentifiable point fragments, 9 biface fragments, and 3 axe-like flaked cobble tools. Historic artifacts included 1 activity item (a piece of lamp glass), 169 architectural artifacts, 162 kitchen-related artifacts, 21 tobacco-related items (all kaolin pipe fragments), 4 arms objects (gunflints), and 10 miscellaneous items. The architectural artifacts were 95 fragments of brick and daub, 58 wrought nails, and 16 other nails. The kitchen-related artifacts include 7 tin-enamelled Delftware sherds, 2 creamware sherds, 3 white salt-glazed stoneware sherds, 11 Buckley sherds, 1 Westerwald sherd, 4 Staffordshire sherds, 16 stoneware fragments, 56 other fragments of earthenware (mostly coarse forms), and 20 container glass fragments. And the miscellaneous items were 6 pieces of coal, 2 large iron fragments, a washer-like object, and a thin decorated brass strip.

The site was found to retain integrity despite erosion and plowing, and additional features associated with all occupations are very likely present at the site (especially in the non-wooded areas). Additional excavations would allow for a closer examination of the timing, subsistence strategies, settlement patterns, and technologies of the Late Archaic and Middle Woodland Periods. Subsistence and seasonality studies could be undertaken for components. Careful large-scale block excavations may produce data useful in determining the date range, length, and intensity of occupations and may also permit an examination of settlement and population size. Intersite settlement patterns could also be examined as could cultural chronologies. Data obtained could aid in better understanding the timing of the change from generalized to focused subsistence strategies apparent during the Late Archaic and Early Woodland Periods. Cultural change is linked to environmental change, and additional testing at Site 18CH162 could lead to a better understanding of the environmental history of the Potomac River.

Examination of the historic component has the potential to contribute to the understanding of the Jesuit farm system and Saint Thomas Manor. Additional archeological research could provide information on Historic Period economic issues, intrasite and intersite patterning, and material culture. Additional excavations are likely to produce additional ceramic, glass, and faunal remains, as well as artifact classes that have not been recovered to date. Materials will aid in answering questions about rural economy, social organization, and diet during the 18th century. The historic cemetery identified, which includes at least 6 graves, should be avoided.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00005793, 97002182