



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18CH227

Site Name: T15

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Middle & Late Archaic short-term camp; Early, Middle & Late Woodland shell midden; 18th century house site

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 11

SCS soil & sediment code Ek

Latitude 38.4217

Longitude -77.1138

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 3 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
- 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) Nanjemoy Creek

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 0 m

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 | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Clovis | <input type="checkbox"/> | Perkiomen | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hardaway-Dalton | <input type="checkbox"/> | Susquehanna | <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 | 1 | 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 | 1 |

Prehistoric Sherd Types

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Marcey Creek | 9 | Popes Creek | 15 | Shepard | <input type="checkbox"/> | Keyser | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Dames Qtr | <input type="checkbox"/> | Coulbourn | <input type="checkbox"/> | Townsend | 2 | Yeocomico | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Selden Island | 1 | Watson | <input type="checkbox"/> | Minguannan | <input type="checkbox"/> | Monongahela | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Accokeek | 10 | Mockley | 11 | 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 | 107 | | |

Historic Sherd Types

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Earthenware | | Ironstone | <input type="checkbox"/> | Staffordshire | 2 | 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 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 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 | 1 |

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

| Prehistoric Artifacts | | Other fired clay | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Flaked stone | 226 | Human remain(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ground stone | <input type="checkbox"/> | Modified faunal | 58 |
| Stone bowls | <input type="checkbox"/> | Unmod faunal | 5 |
| Fire-cracked rock | 350 | Oyster shell | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Other lithics (all) | 6 | Floral material | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Ceramics (all) | 252 | Uncommon Obj. | 44 |
| Rimsherds | 9 | Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Prehistoric Features

| | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Mound(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Storage/trash pit | <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Steatite | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Sandstone | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

Dated features present at site

Shell Midden base - assoc. w/ flakes; Feat. 1 - poss. hearth containing debitage, FCR, burnt nuts/seeds, bone, shell, Mockley & other sherds

| Historic Artifacts | | Tobacco related | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Pottery (all) | 32 | Activity item(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Glass (all) | 3 | Human remain(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Architectural | 63 | Faunal material | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Furniture | <input type="checkbox"/> | Misc. kitchen | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Arms | 5 | Floral material | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Clothing | <input type="checkbox"/> | Misc. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Personal items | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Historic Features

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| Privy/outhouse | <input type="checkbox"/> | Depression/mound | <input type="checkbox"/> | Unknown | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Const feature | <input type="checkbox"/> | Burial(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Foundation | <input type="checkbox"/> | Well/cistern | <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: 1975 +/- 50 years BP Reliability Mod Sample 2: 3370 +/- 90 years BP Reliability Low Sample 3: +/- years BP Reliability

NO ID NUMBER: carbon collected from base of shell midden, quartz & quartzite chunks/flakes in association

Mod

B-140957: charcoal sample from Feat. 1, possible hearth assoc. w/ debitage, FCR, burnt nuts/seeds, bone, shell, sherds (some Mockley)

Low

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 T15 Site (18CH227) is a multi-component archeological site with occupations dating from the Middle Archaic through the 18th century. It is located on the Blossom Point Field Test Facility (BPFTF) in southern Charles County, Maryland. It is situated on a north-south oriented bluff overlooking Nanjemoy Creek. The northern part of the site is wooded and the southern part is an open field. Soils in the area are Elkton silt loams.

The site was originally recorded in the 1970s, as a prehistoric shell midden with Late Woodland (Potomac Creek) ceramics and a radiocarbon date at the base of the midden from the Middle Woodland period (1,975 ± 50 radiocarbon year before present). Numerous chunks and flakes of quartz and quartzite were also recovered. In 1985, additional work was conducted at the site simply to assess the level of ground disturbance for the entire BPFTF. Site 18CH227 was determined to be largely undisturbed. The first significant archeological work conducted at 18CH227 came in 1993 as part of a Phase I survey throughout the BPFTF. Limited subsurface testing (shovel test pit excavation) of the site was conducted in the northern (wooded) portion of the site, but not in the southern portion. The only artifacts recovered were a brick fragment, a hammerstone, 2 pieces of fire-cracked rock, and a small quantity of shell.

Phase II work was undertaken at Site 18CH227 in February of 1999 as part of a multi-site Phase II effort on the BPFTF property. A pedestrian survey was conducted in the cleared portion of the site and along the coastline. During this survey shell was noted eroding out of the bluff above Nanjemoy Creek and east towards a springhead. More shell was present in the southern portion of the site than in the northern portion. In addition, a number of artifacts were recovered from the beach area including diagnostic projectile points and prehistoric pottery, other stone tools and debitage, and fire-cracked rock. An arbitrary datum was established for the site and a grid was established across the site using a compass and measuring tapes. Grid points were marked at 10 m intervals. Prior to excavations, the STP loci were screened for unexploded ordinance. A number of STPs could not be excavated due to the presence of ferrous (and potentially dangerous) materials in the ground. A total of 46 grid points had to be avoided, mostly in the west central portion of the site.

A total of 203 shovel test pits (STPs) were excavated, 97 of which yielded cultural material other than shell, and most of the STPs yielded oyster shell. Most of the shell was concentrated in the southern portion of the site. A total of 258 artifacts were recovered from the Phase II STPs (91 prehistoric only and 5 prehistoric/historic). Using information gained through STP excavation, a series of 13 larger units (six 1 X 1 meter and seven 1 X 2 meter units) 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 (shovels and trowels) with the exception of one unit (a 1 X 2). The surface layer of this excavation unit was removed using heavy equipment because it was fill. 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 recovered were collected and bagged according to provenience (excepting shell, which was noted but not retained).

The shovel testing identified several areas of high artifact density and several potential features. Most of the material recovered and all of the potential features found were interpreted as being associated with prehistoric occupation. Six of the formal excavation units were placed in the southern (and cleared) portion of the site. This area contained, based on shovel testing, some areas of high debitage density (possible workshop areas), some areas with a high density of tools (specialized task areas) and a number of possible features. Other units were spread throughout the site to ensure adequate geographic coverage. In addition, artifacts suggestive of an 18th century domestic site were found in the extreme southeastern portion of the site.

Four features were positively identified through the excavation of the formal units. Feature 1 was a shallow, basin-shaped, and possible shell-lined pit. It may have served as a hearth, as charcoal was encountered throughout all levels of the feature fill. Artifacts contained within the feature consist of debitage and fire-cracked rock, burnt wood, nuts/seeds, bone and shell, and pottery. Some of the potsherds have been identified as Mockley ware. A 10-liter sample of the feature fill was taken for paleobotanical analysis and charcoal samples were taken for radiocarbon dating. More details of the paleobotanical analysis are provided in the linked ethnobotany profile document, but several species of tree were identified amongst the charcoal and burnt hickory nut shell was also identified. Radiocarbon dating of charred materials recovered from this feature yielded an uncalibrated date of 3370±90 radiocarbon years before present. This corresponds to a calibrated calendrical date of 1888-1489 BC, a date which does not comport well with a pit filled with Mockley sherds. Feature 2 was just to the south of Feature 1 and consisted of a steep-walled pit filled with oyster shell (some of which was burnt) and fire-cracked rock. Four sherds probably came from the feature fill, all of which appear to be from the same Marcey Creek vessel. A 10-liter soil sample was retained from this feature for paleobotanical analysis and charcoal was retained for radiocarbon dating. No results from the latter are provided if C-14 analysis was ever performed. Flotation of the feature fill led to the recovery of white oak and ash wood charcoal, and 22 burnt hickory shell fragments. Feature 3 was a rounded, shallow, basin-shaped feature containing the same soils as the surrounding matrix, but with a concentration of shell and light charcoal flecking. Artifacts contained in the feature fill were limited to two small pieces of possible fire-cracked rock. Feature 4 turned out to be a recent historic post feature; circular, 36 cm in diameter and 53 cm deep. Feature fill was identical to the plowzone soils. Artifacts recovered from the feature fill include a metal ordnance fragment, fire-cracked rock, and a Holmes projectile point, but the prehistoric materials appear to have been incorporated into the feature fill inadvertently.

The artifact assemblage from the 1999 Phase II testing at 18CH227 consisted of 970 prehistoric artifacts, 145 historic artifacts, 2 modern artifacts, 25 artifacts that could not be identified as to period, and three non-cultural items. The three latter categories of objects have been eliminated from the tallies in the tables above. The prehistoric assemblage includes 252 ceramic sherds, 6 projectile points, 10 bifaces or biface fragments, 3 flaked cobble tools, 207 fragments of debitage (including 16 cores/tested cobbles), 3 possible hammerstones, 41 pieces of hematite, 3 pieces of ochre, a sandstone cobble, a fragment of steatite, 348 fire-cracked rock pieces, 58 pieces of burnt bone (3 bird, 9 from a small mammal and 1 bearing cut marks), and 37 burnt floral samples (some of which appear to be burned nutshell). The ceramic assemblage included 9 Marcey Creek, 1 Selden Island, 10 Accokeek, 15 Pope's Creek, 11 Mockley, 107 Potomac Creek, and 2 Rappahannock sherds. At least 9 of the sherds appear to be rimsherds. Among the diagnostic projectile points were 1 Morrow Mountain, 4 Savannah River-Holmes variants, and a small Levanna point. The historic assemblage included 62 pieces of architectural debris (49 hand-wrought nails, 2 cut/hand-headed nails, 3 cut nails, 4 rosehead nails, and 4 pieces of brick), 35 kitchen-related artifacts (1 white lead-glazed earthenware sherd, 2 other earthenware sherds, a white salt-glazed stoneware sherd, 1 Westerwald sherd, 2 other stoneware sherds, 2 possible Staffordshire sherds, 23 pieces of redware, and 3 container glass fragments), 43 tobacco-related artifacts (pipestem and bowl fragments made from mostly kaolin, but also some local clays), and 5 arms objects (gunflints).

Based on the Phase II findings, site 18CH227 is a multi-component site with occupations ranging in date from the Middle Archaic through the 18th century. One Morrow Mountain point was found on the beach below the northernmost portion of the site. Very few artifacts of this nature were encountered during the



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Unknown

testing and most of the shovel test pits excavated on the bluffs over the find spot contained no cultural material other than oyster shell fragments. It seems most likely that the Morrow Mountain point is an isolated find. It is also possible that a Middle Archaic site did exist on the banks of Nanjemoy Creek but the site has been lost through time to erosion. It is highly unlikely that Site 18CH227 has the potential to yield additional information on the Middle Archaic Period. Otherwise, it is obvious that the environment in which Site 18CH227 is located was an attractive place for people to stay for thousands of years. There is evidence of prehistoric occupation dating from the Archaic through Late Woodland Periods. The intersection of fresh water, including the navigable river and streams, and the wetlands, provide an unusually rich variety of shellfish, fish, mammals, duck and other birds, as well as flora. An 18th century historic site of some form is also located at 18CH227. The large number of nails and brick fragments suggests an architectural structure on the site, although intact remains were not found during these excavations. Most ceramics were remains of coarse everyday cooking or serving pieces. No porcelain or fine wares were recovered, as is in keeping with an agricultural home, possibly a tenant farmhouse that existed within the Jesuit plantation holdings. Based on the Phase II findings, the site is probably able to yield useful information relating to both Maryland colonial history and prehistory. The stratigraphy of the prehistoric component remains intact, although historic plowing has created a plowzone and the first levels are disturbed. Also, the identification of features suggests that additional features with carbonized material that can be used for absolute dating exist sub-surface in association with prehistoric artifacts. The presence of a possible structure associated with the historic occupation also warrants further work and may shed some light on life on the Jesuit-owned tenant farms of the 18th century.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00005793, 97002182