



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18CV15

Site Name: St. Leonard Creek

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Commodore Barney Road

Historic

Brief Description:

shell midden, 1814 gun battery, 19th-20th century cannery

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 9

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 38.4286

Longitude -76.4975

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) St. Leonard 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

Contact period site

ca. 1820 - 1860

Y

Archaic site

MD Adena

ca. 1630 - 1675

ca. 1860 - 1900

Y

Early archaic

Early woodland Y

ca. 1675 - 1720

ca. 1900 - 1930

Y

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland Y

ca. 1720 - 1780

Post 1930

Late archaic

Late woodland Y

ca. 1780 - 1820

Unknown historic context

Unknown prehistoric context

Unknown context

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American

Asian American

African American

Unknown

Anglo-American Y

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

artifact scatter

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

foundation

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples

Soil samples taken U

Flotation samples taken N

Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken N

Flotation samples taken N

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"/> 1
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"/> 11	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"/> 8	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		Staffordshire		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	<input type="checkbox"/>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	<input type="checkbox"/> 66	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/> 12
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/> 58
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/> 22	Oyster shell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 13	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ossuary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input checked="" 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

Fer quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sil sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jasper	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
		European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

1814 military fortification - artillery battery

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> 20
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc.	<input type="checkbox"/> 13
Personal items	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<input 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"/>	gun emplacement	<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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External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The St. Leonard Creek site (18CV15), also known as the Commodore Barney Road site, is a multi-component prehistoric and historic site along the shores of St. Leonard's Creek in Calvert County Maryland. The site consists of a prehistoric shell midden with evidence of Early-Late Woodland occupations, a gun battery from the War of 1812, and remnants of a 19th-20th century cannery operation. The site is situated on a gently sloping terrace overlooking St. Leonard's Creek near the village of Wallville, MD. A low ridge runs along the southwest side of the site, at the top of the creek bank. The total site area is approximately 13,935 square meters (or 300 ft SW-NE X 500 ft. VW-SE). Floral cover at the time of the first well-documented archeological work at the site consisted of secondary growth of pines with some undergrowth. Soils at the site are Rosedale fine sands.

The site was first identified around 1934 during the course of a survey project along the Patuxent River and its tributaries. This survey project was purely academic in nature, undertaken by an early 20th century naturalist who reported his findings in the local naturalists' journal. The project was an attempt to identify historic Indian towns along the Patuxent River shown on Captain John Smith's early 17th century map of Virginia. The survey made use of previous publications and field survey from a cruising boat. Site 18CV15 was identified as a small village near the head of the creek with two small shell heaps situated nearby. Ceramic sherds and projectile points were identified in the "village" area.

No other known avocational or professional work was conducted at the site between the time of the 1934 river survey and 1979/1980. In 1979, the site was visited by staff from the Maryland Historical Trust during a preliminary one-day survey of a property (incorporating the site) slated for major development. A number of sites were identified within the area of planned development and, thus, an agreement was formulated between MHT and members of the St. Leonard Shores Joint Venture (the development company) for the purpose of conducting archeological survey in 1980 on the 602 acre development property. St. Leonard Shores (the development tract) consisting of open space and large building lots at the time, and plans called for 117 lots with an average lot size of just over 5 acres and covering some 437 acres of total land. The remaining area was planned as open space and recreation areas. Nearly 19,000 feet of streets were planned. The status of the development project at the time of the 1980 survey was that several of the main roads were graded but not paved, and no houses were under construction. Survey field research at two sites progressed to a level that seems equivalent to Phase II testing (i.e. the excavation of formal test units). Site 18CV15 was one of the locales identified for more intensive fieldwork.

During the 1980 survey, the St. Leonard Creek site was investigated by means of surface reconnaissance and shovel testing (STPs) coupled with the excavation of two 91 X 91 cm (3 X 3 ft) test units. Surface reconnaissance appears to have been rather informal in nature, rather than a controlled surface survey. Surface visibility was quite poor (due to leaf and pine needle cover) and reconnaissance was geared primarily towards identifying obvious above-ground features or surface modifications. Shovel tests were roughly 30.5 cm (1 ft) square and were not screened. Instead the backdirt was broken up and sorted through with shovel and trowels in search of artifacts. The STP profile was examined and trowelled if necessary to detect stratigraphic differences, and subsoil was examined for subsurface features. A total of 41 STPs were excavated within the confines of the site, in a transect at 3.05 m (10 ft) intervals. Formal test units were excavated with shovels and trowels and screened through .95 cm (3/8 in) hardware mesh. Three areas of cultural activity were identified at the site through these methods.

Area 1 was located at the south end of the site adjacent to the water's edge on a small elevated point extending into the creek. Oyster shell was observed eroding out of the low rise and, thus, a 91 X 91 cm (3 X 3 ft) test unit was excavated to determine the cultural affiliation of the shell deposit. The unit revealed earlier materials overlying seemingly undisturbed later materials. It appears that sometime during the 19th century (as evidenced by the presence of coal) soils containing historic artifacts as well as Early and Middle Woodland artifacts (Strata A and B) was dumped on top of a Late Woodland stratum (Stratum C). The historic occupation is probably related to a historic foundation located in Area 3.

The Late Woodland, represented by undisturbed Stratum C contained an excellent sample of habitation debris. The variety of raw lithic materials is noteworthy (rhyolite, flint, quartzite, and quartz), however, local quartz and quartzite comprise the overwhelming majority of lithic used. On-site tool manufacture, particularly the finishing stages of manufacture of lithic tools, is suggested by a large number of thinning flakes. During the Woodland, this area would have provided easy access to both good agricultural soils and tidal estuary/water resources.

Prehistoric artifacts encountered in the Area 1 test unit included a Calvert point, 2 biface fragments, 4 cores, a quartz end-scraper, 2 rhyolite flakes, 7 chert flakes, 5 quartz flakes, 30 quartzite flakes, 7 unidentified flakes, 19 pieces of fire-cracked rock, a Mockley cord-marked sherd, 3 Rappahannock Fabric-impressed sherds, 8 Rappahannock Plain sherds, 1 deer bone, 6 pieces of turtle shell, 2 bird bone fragments, 2 mammal bone fragments, 12 burned oyster shell fragments, a fossilized barnacle, and 4 oyster shell fragments. The historic artifacts encountered were a semi-porcelain sherd and fragments of coal (estimated at 13 pieces).

Area 2 was situated just north of Area 1 and was defined primarily by the line of 41 STPs. The area is relatively gently sloping to the southwest. Shovel tests in this area revealed a buried stratum extending for approximately 33.5 m (110 ft) northeast-southwest. A second 91 X 91 cm test unit was excavated to ascertain the nature of the stratigraphy, obtain a representative artifact collection, and examine subsoil for possible subsurface features.

A buried stratum, averaging 14.24 cm (6 in) in thickness was clearly present in Area 2. No diagnostic artifacts were recovered from the test unit or STPs, but a buried prehistoric midden or humus is suggested. Below the buried stratum, disturbances into subsoil were discovered and were suggestive of architectural evidence. Artifacts encountered in Area 2 STPs and the test unit included 2 quartz biface fragments, a chert flake, 4 quartz flakes, 3 pieces of fire-cracked rock, an unidentified prehistoric sherd, approximately 42 pieces of oyster shell, and a charcoal sample.

Area 3 was perhaps the most important historic site identified during the 1980 survey. Area 3 was the locale of a gun emplacement (lunette or 'one-gun battery') from the War of 1812, situated in the southwest portion of the site, overlooking the creek. The site was in excellent condition (when first encountered in 1980) with some erosion on the south side, above the creek. The lunette had a commanding view down the creek for at least 1 mile. The lunette is identified on an 1814 map by Commodore Joshua Barney as a "1 gun battery".

Commodore Barney's map was made during the War of 1812, in which St. Leonard's Creek played a prominent role. During 1812 and 1813 the Chesapeake Bay was blockaded by the British Navy and the coastal towns were under frequent attack. In the spring of 1814 a small Baltimore-built flotilla (consisting of 10 oar-propelled barges and 3 gunboats) under Commodore Joshua Barney sailed down the bay. They were spotted very soon by the superior British forces and



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pushed up the Patuxent. The presence of Barney's flotilla, however, was a provocation to the British as the only floating force capable of annoying them. Barney could always retreat up the creeks with his small barges, and the large British warships were powerless to follow.

Barney's map was drawn to depict the Battle of St. Leonard's Creek. US Army and Marine troops arrived in St. Leonards in late June of 1814, prompting Barney to attempt a push out of the creek and up the Patuxent towards Benedict. Barney did manage to move up-river, but had to leave behind two of his gunboats in the process. After Barney left the creek US Army Colonel Decius Wadsworth, along with 8 or 10 men, returned to St. Leonards to the battery position at 18CV15, Area 3, and brought off the "spiked cannon". They tried to salvage naval gear and sink the two gunboats left behind, rather than have them fall into the hands of the enemy. They were then to follow Barney up the Patuxent in a schooner. When it became clear that the British would return up the creek, making escape impossible, the Americans fired and withdrew. British forces then marched along the creek and burned the town of St. Leonard. Barney would eventually destroy his remaining flotilla when the British made their move up the river towards Benedict in August. Barney's men salvaged what cannon were movable from the ship to be taken overland with his men to help defend Washington DC. They would eventually participate in the famous Battle of Bladensburg shortly thereafter to try and save the capital.

Two low banks were noted in the field on the south side of the battery, the location through which the "spiked cannon" would have pointed. In 1980, the walls were about 76.2 cm (2.5 ft) tall at their tallest point on the west side. Field researchers considered it to be in excellent condition, considering the 166 intervening years of erosion since it was in use. The battery may have had a camp associated with it, but this was not located by the field survey. No shovel tests or test units were excavated at the site during the survey and no artifacts were recovered.

In December of 1980 (several months after completion of the survey), the "one-gun battery" from the War of 1812 was completely destroyed during the grading associated with the construction of a house on the lot. Despite efforts by MHT staff and the St. Leonard Shores Joint Venture, the landowner would not consider an alteration to construction plans which had progressed to an advanced stage. As the construction was not being tax-payer funded, there was little that could be done to save the battery.

Prior to the destruction of the battery, a metal detector survey of the entire area was conducted and only a few wrought and machine-cut nail fragments were found (estimated at 5 objects in the table above). A small test unit was excavated in the center of the gun battery and a great deal of erosion was documented (approximately 24 cm of fill from the surrounding walls). The original wall may have stood around 1.2-1.5 meters (4-5 ft) above the clay floor of the battery. The bulldozing of the battery was monitored by an archeologist and no artifacts were observed during the process.

Area 4 is situated between Areas 1 and 3 and is the area of a stone foundation. One wall of the foundation was exposed immediately adjacent to the water. The topography of the area had been altered due to a cutting into a ridge along the waterfront to the west and leveling. The result was two man-made terraces, the foundation being located on the lower terrace. The foundation was some 5.5 meters (18 ft) long and made up of locally quarried stone and commercially-made mortar (only available after 1875).

Fragments of a large number of tin cans were found within the foundation. Upon inspection they proved to be "hole and cap" cans (in use from 1810 until the early 1900s). The samples collected showed no obvious signs of having been opened and the quantity of cans present suggests a storage or manufacturing facility at the site. This type of can was popular for many purposes such as canning fruit, and vegetables, but oysters and fish were also popular products. The site is late 19th-20th century and may represent a commercial seafood structure, although no written documentation is known to support this. The area was mapped, but no STPs or test units were excavated.

After the survey work of 1980, the housing development project moved forward as planned, no known additional archeological work was ever conducted at 18CV15. It is not known to what extent archeological resources were impacted by the construction activities. Based on modern satellite imagery of the area, the cannery site and pockets of shell midden and the prehistoric lens may be preserved closer to the water's edge. If landowner permission can be obtained, and an opportunity presents itself, a site visit (at a minimum) is warranted to ascertain the current condition of what remains of the site.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00000283, 00000230