



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18CV219

Site Name: Bradley

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Mears Creek, Mears Cove

Historic

Brief Description:

shell midden

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 9

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 38.3735 Longitude -76.4823

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site Underwater site

Elevation <6 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 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

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Mears Creek

- | Saltwater | | Freshwater | |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Ocean <input type="checkbox"/> | Estuary/tidal river <input type="checkbox"/> | Stream/river <input type="checkbox"/> | Swamp <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tidewater/marsh <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Lake or pond <input type="checkbox"/> | Spring <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Minimum distance to water is 0 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| Paleoindian site <input type="checkbox"/> | Woodland site <input type="checkbox"/> | Contact period site <input type="checkbox"/> | ca. 1820 - 1860 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Archaic site <input type="checkbox"/> | MD Adena <input type="checkbox"/> | ca. 1630 - 1675 <input type="checkbox"/> | ca. 1860 - 1900 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Early archaic <input type="checkbox"/> | Early woodland <input type="checkbox"/> | ca. 1675 - 1720 <input type="checkbox"/> | ca. 1900 - 1930 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Middle archaic <input type="checkbox"/> | Mid. woodland <input type="checkbox"/> | ca. 1720 - 1780 <input type="checkbox"/> | Post 1930 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Late archaic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Late woodland <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | ca. 1780 - 1820 <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Unknown prehistoric context <input type="checkbox"/> | Unknown historic context <input type="checkbox"/> | Unknown context <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

- | | |
|---|---|
| Native American <input type="checkbox"/> | Asian American <input type="checkbox"/> |
| African American <input type="checkbox"/> | Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Anglo-American <input type="checkbox"/> | Other <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

Site Function Contextual Data:

Prehistoric

- | | |
|---|--|
| Multi-component <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Misc. ceremonial <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Village <input type="checkbox"/> | Rock art <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hamlet <input type="checkbox"/> | Shell midden <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Base camp <input type="checkbox"/> | STU/lithic scatter <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rockshelter/cave <input type="checkbox"/> | Quarry/extraction <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Earthen mound <input type="checkbox"/> | Fish weir <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cairn <input type="checkbox"/> | Production area <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Burial area <input type="checkbox"/> | Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other context <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Historic

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| Urban/Rural? <input type="checkbox"/> | Furnace/forge <input type="checkbox"/> | Military <input type="checkbox"/> | Post-in-ground <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Domestic <input type="checkbox"/> | Other <input type="checkbox"/> | Battlefield <input type="checkbox"/> | Frame-built <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Homestead <input type="checkbox"/> | Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> | Fortification <input type="checkbox"/> | Masonry <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Farmstead <input type="checkbox"/> | Canal-related <input type="checkbox"/> | Encampment <input type="checkbox"/> | Other structure <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mansion <input type="checkbox"/> | Road/railroad <input type="checkbox"/> | Townsite <input type="checkbox"/> | Slave related <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Plantation <input type="checkbox"/> | Wharf/landing <input type="checkbox"/> | Religious <input type="checkbox"/> | Non-domestic agri <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Row/townhome <input type="checkbox"/> | Maritime-related <input type="checkbox"/> | Church/mtg house <input type="checkbox"/> | Recreational <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cellar <input type="checkbox"/> | Bridge <input type="checkbox"/> | Ch support bldg <input type="checkbox"/> | Midden/dump <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Privy <input type="checkbox"/> | Ford <input type="checkbox"/> | Burial area <input type="checkbox"/> | Artifact scatter <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> | Educational <input type="checkbox"/> | Cemetery <input type="checkbox"/> | Spring or well <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mining-related <input type="checkbox"/> | Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> | Sepulchre <input type="checkbox"/> | Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Quarry-related <input type="checkbox"/> | Trading post <input type="checkbox"/> | Isolated burial <input type="checkbox"/> | Other context <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mill <input type="checkbox"/> | Store <input type="checkbox"/> | Bldg or foundation <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Black/metalsmith <input type="checkbox"/> | Tavern/inn <input type="checkbox"/> | Possible Structure <input type="checkbox"/> | |

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		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"/>
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	347	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"/>	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	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	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	496	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	1	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oyster shell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	75	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	356	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	6	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 type="checkbox"/>	Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	2	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	117	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	10
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc.	4
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 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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shell midden

Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Bradley Site (18CV219), also known as the Mears Creek or Mears Cove site, is a prehistoric shell midden near Lusby in rural Calvert County, Maryland. The site is situated on a natural promontory separating Mears Creek from Mears Cove in the vicinity of the creek's confluence with the Patuxent River. At the time the site was first examined by professional archeologists it was covered with lawn and included a century old white frame house in the center. Soils at the site were Mattapex silt loams.

The site was first identified in 1984 during a reconnaissance survey by the US Army Corps of Engineers (COE). At that time, the COE was planning to install 400 linear feet of bulkhead on the promontory on which the site is located. The purpose of the re-grading and installation of the bulkhead was to inhibit soil erosion. Portions of the shoreline had slumped over the creek bank, taking trees in the process. In some segments of the bank, the surface was slumping over a rather clean bank exposing pockets of shell midden lenses. These lenses were observed by COE personnel on a routine visit to the locale during the planning stages. Since, the COE has the responsibility under Federal cultural resources policies for regulatory programs to take into account the impact of proposed activities on significant archeological and historical sites and properties, an archeological investigation was undertaken to determine the significance of the midden deposits and the potential impact of the proposed construction.

Initially, 9 shovel test pits (STPs) were excavated along the bank where bulkhead and grading were planned. The STPs were dug 15 to 20 cm deep through the turf and A Horizon soils, into the B Horizon tan silty soils. Later, two additional STPs were dug near the tip of the promontory for a total of 11 STPs dug during the investigation of the midden. The STPs were dug 40 cm in diameter. Three of the STPs revealed a 10 cm thick shell midden but with a minimum of artifact recovery. Based on the information gathered from these STPs, a 15.24 X 15.24 m (50 X 50 ft) area at the tip of the promontory was delineated as having the highest potential for containing significant cultural resources.

In the "high potential" area at the north tip of the promontory, eight 1.524 X 1.524 m (5 X 5 ft) test units were excavated to sample the site for buried prehistoric features. Excavation procedures involved removing the sod in small squares, trowelling the bottom of the sod, and skimming and trowelling the test units from 6 to 20 cm below grade. All soils were screened through hardware cloth. At the surface of B Horizon soils, the test unit floors were again trowelled, photographed, and drawn to scale to document the presence/absence of any cultural or natural features that might be exposed.

Aside from the aforementioned shell concentrations in the creek bank, no identifiable features were found, however, 10 subtle soil stains were observed in the field and in reviewing photo-documentation. One is likely the remains of a plant bed/garden that was recently removed by the property owner. Four stains were initially thought to be postmolds, but after sectioning were determined to be non-cultural (likely rodent burrows). Five of the stains were of entirely uncertain function. These might be plowscars, but were not found in parallel contexts and would be unlikely on the narrow promontory. The shell midden itself was found to be largely disturbed. According to the property owner, several years prior to the archeological investigation, he used fill from the excavation of a cellar beneath his home to level out low areas (including the site area) in his yard. This activity may have significantly impacted the shell midden.

The site can best be characterized as a shell midden remnant containing Late Archaic/Early Woodland and Late Woodland occupations and historic trash. The historic component appears to be incidental except for a discrete cluster of machine cut nails. Prehistoric artifacts were principally recovered from A Horizon soils, from 5 to 15 cm deep. The prehistoric component consists of a shallow shell lens containing Rappahannock (incised, fabric-impressed, and cord-impressed) sherds, miscellaneous Townsend sherds, sand tempered and sand-and-shell tempered sherds, and a small collection of lithic artifacts and debris. Many of the sherds were highly fragmented and had eroded surfaces. It was hypothesized by researchers that the site may have been more substantial at one time. What was excavated in 1984 was likely the periphery of the site, with the core having eroded into the creek some time ago. The local informant related to field researchers that the promontory, twenty years prior, had extended another 18 meters (approximately) further to the north.

Artifacts from the STPs and test units included a mixture of prehistoric and historic materials. Historic artifacts included a piece of sandstone, 45 fragments of cemented limestone, 15 brick fragments, 2 pieces of window glass, 54 cut nails, 3 kaolin pipe fragments, 4 non-architectural stone fragments, and 10 animal bones. The prehistoric assemblage consisted of a Levanna point, a contracting stem point, a quartz biface, 59 utilized/retouched flakes, 362 flakes, 21 pieces of shatter, 3 cores, 48 worked cobbles, 36 pebbles, 38 cobbles, 1 possible hammerstone, a soapstone vessel fragment, 39 Rappahannock sherds (5 rims), 308 Townsend sherds (1 rim), 7 miscellaneous sand tempered sherds, 2 miscellaneous sand and shell tempered sherds, and 8 lumps of fired clay.

Again, no historic or prehistoric structures or other features were encountered during field research in 1984. In light of the intensive testing of this small site remnant, and the adequate sample already recovered, additional work at the site is unlikely to yield additional information. Both prehistoric and historic components, lacking in situ features or structural remains, appeared incapable of addressing ongoing research question in Maryland prehistory or history. The site should no longer be considered a significant cultural resource.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00000236