



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18CV254

Site Name: Solomons Waste Pump Station

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Late Woodland short-term camp

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 9

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 38.3290

Longitude -76.4593

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 6.2 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) Patuxent River

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 200 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
- 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

Bldg or foundation

Isolated burial

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"/>
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"/>	Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>
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"/>
Otter Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Madison/Potomac	<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"/>	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	38	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	2		

Historic Sherd Types

Earthenware				Ironstone		Staffordshire		Stoneware	
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	1	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	1	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	<input type="checkbox"/>		<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	92	Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	2	Unmod faunal	7
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oyster shell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	40	Floral material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> charcoal	

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	oyster roasting pit	<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

C-14 dated oyster roasting pit (Feat. A) and hearth (Feat. B)

Historic Artifacts			
Pottery (all)	2	Tobacco related	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	3	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.	2
		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: 620 +/- 50 years BP

Reliability

Sample 2: 530 +/- 70 years BP

Reliability

Sample 3: 640 +/- 70 years BP

Reliability

B-13050: charcoal from oyster roasting pit (Feat. A), assoc. w/ 24 Sullivans Cove sherds, quartz shatter, and fire-cracked rock

High

B-13051: charcoal from hearth (Feat. B), assoc. w/ 14 Sullivans Cove sherds, and quartz & jasper flakes/shatter

High

B-15936: shell from oyster roasting pit (Feat. A), assoc. w/ 24 Sullivans Cove sherds, quartz shatter, and fire-cracked rock

70

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:

Site 18CV254, the Solomons Waste Pump Station Site, is an apparent Late Woodland short-term camp located northwest of the community of Solomon's Island, Maryland. The site is situated on generally level terrain, which slopes gradually upward towards the northwest. It is situated a short distance inland from the northern shoreline of the lower Patuxent River. Soils at the site consist of severely eroded Matapeake silt loams.

The site was first encountered during construction activities during the Solomons Island/Apeal Sewage Treatment Project, in Calvert County. The terrain investigated during this study consisted of two separate project areas. One was the Appeal Wastewater Facility project area, where a large sewage treatment plant would be constructed. The other was the Solomons Island Wastewater Facility project area, where a sewage pumping station with storage tanks was to be built. During grading and excavation work in the latter area, previously undiscovered prehistoric deposits were encountered, prompting a full Phase I assessment of the project area and Phase III data recovery in the vicinity of the encountered deposits.

Since the topsoil in the site location had been stripped away by construction work before the site was discovered, work focused on those areas of the site where the least amount of disturbance had occurred. Surface inspection of the site revealed three areas where concentrations of artifacts were apparent either on the ground surface or in bulldozed soil piles, suggesting intact artifacts might still be present in these areas (designated Areas #1, #2, and #3). Area #1 was the proposed location of an overflow holding basin in the southern portion of the site, Area #2 was a patch of intact terrain along the northwestern margin of the site, and Area #3 was the immediate vicinity surrounding the previously identified feature near the center of the site.

Area #1 was investigated by means of a systematic shovel test pit (STP) survey. These STPs were 30.5 cm (1 ft) in diameter with the excavated soil being screened through hardware mesh. They were spaced 12 meters apart, covering the roughly 1 acre Area #1. Judgmentally placed STPs were also used in apparently undisturbed locales within the area. When artifacts were encountered in an STP, supplemental shovel tests were then excavated at a distance of 1-2 meters in each of the cardinal directions surrounding the positive find. A total of 33 STPs were excavated in this portion of the site. Other work in this portion of the project area consisted of the scraping by hoe of a part of Area #1 that had already been stripped of its topsoil by bulldozer. The hoe scraping was done to systematically expose ½ of the bulldozed terrain in an effort to reveal the presence of any subsurface features.

Artifacts recovered from Area #1 included a porcelain sherd, 5 oyster shell fragments, 2 turtle shell fragments, a tar fragment, an unfinished quartz projectile point blank, and a piece of quartz shatter. All the cultural materials found were isolated finds and in no instance was any patterning apparent which might have indicated the presence of an identifiable artifact scatter or the presence of a cultural feature. Only about 10% of the total surface area of Area #1 was undisturbed. No intact cultural features were encountered in Area #1.

The work in Area #2 consisted of a detailed surface inspection, and a series of systematic shovel test pits. The surface inspection covered all of the terrain in Area #2. At the beginning of the investigation, the southern portion was covered with piles of soil. The northern area had only been cleared of vegetation when archeological work commenced. The surface inspection included a search for artifacts in the northern part, where the ground's surface was bare earth, as well as the southern part, where the soil piles were searched for artifacts. The southern portion of Area #2 was the part closest to the location of the known prehistoric feature (in Area #3). This area was also investigated with a series of 30.5 cm STPs spaced at an interval of 10 m. A total of 30 STPs were excavated in the southern portions of Area #2.

Artifacts encountered in Area #2 included a Potomac Creek sherd, and a possible piece of quartz shatter in the northern section, and 1 whiteware sherd, 2 brick fragments, 1 wire nail, a piece of coal, 4 quartz flakes, and 1 piece of quartz shatter. These items appeared to be isolated finds and the soil encountered in Area #2 appeared to be largely disturbed. No intact prehistoric features were encountered in Area #2.

Area #3 was designated as an area of interest because mechanical stripping of the topsoil during construction work revealed the presence of a prehistoric pit feature that extended into the clay subsoil. While the uppermost portion of that feature was removed by the soil stripping, the part which extended into the clay subsoil remained intact. The prehistoric materials first observed in this area consisted of oyster shell and pottery sherds on the surface of a large circular soil stain (designated Feature A). While the topsoil at this location had been stripped away (as had the terrain to the north, east, and south), the terrain towards the west remained largely intact. The only work conducted in the western portion of Area #3 consisted of vegetation removal and the placement of soil piles from elsewhere atop the bare ground surface.

A Gradall was used to remove all but a thin layer of topsoil in the immediate vicinity of Feature A. After the Gradall had removed most of the overburden, the remaining topsoil was scraped away by hand using hoes and trowels. This effort revealed 6 prehistoric artifacts (1 quartz core, 5 quartz flakes, 4 pieces of quartz shatter, and a Potomac Creek sherd) and 5 more soil stains (designated Features B-F). A plan map was prepared and each of the total 6 features was carefully excavated by hand. Only two, however, were determined to be cultural in origin: Features A and B. Each was excavated by natural stratigraphy, ½ at a time, and a profile drawing of each feature was prepared. All the soil excavated in the field from the two prehistoric cultural features was saved for subsequent laboratory analysis. In the lab, it was screened through 0.32 cm (1/8 in) hardware mesh, in order to recover any small artifacts previously overlooked, and to facilitate the collection of any floral or faunal remains. Other than oyster shell and firewood charcoal, however, no additional organic materials were recovered from either feature.

Features A and B both contained prehistoric materials in undisturbed contexts. Feature A was shaped like an irregular oval, about 40 cm in diameter. It was a roughly 40 cm deep cavity in the surrounding orange clay subsoil with internal stratigraphy. The upper layer contained eroded A horizon with small amounts of oyster shell, overlaying a dense layer of shell, with a thick layer of charcoal at the very bottom of the feature. Feature A was determined to be the remnant of an oyster roasting pit. While Feature A produced an abundant amount of oyster shell and charcoal, it contained relatively few artifacts of human manufacture. The artifacts from this pit consisted of 3 pieces of quartz shatter, 2 fire-cracked rocks, and 24 Sullivan Cove body sherds.

Two radiocarbon dates were obtained from the oyster roasting pit, Feature A, one sample from charcoal at the base of the pit and 1 sample from an oyster shell in the later above it. The charcoal yielded an uncalibrated date of 620 ± 50 radiocarbon years before present, while the shell yielded a date of 640 ± 70 radiocarbon years before present. When calibrated, these dates correspond to calendrical ranges (2 sigma) of AD 1284-1410 and AD 1262-1424 respectively.

Feature B was located 6.1 m (20 ft) northwest of Feature A. It was a generally circular soil stain, measuring 60 cm in diameter and 11 cm deep. It did not



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contain any oyster shell. It did, however, contain several small fragments of charcoal. It appeared that the feature represented the remnants of a hearth. The hearth was filled with a matrix of fine brown silt containing pottery sherds and lithic debitage, along with small charcoal fragments. The artifacts from the hearth feature included 8 jasper flakes, 1 piece of jasper shatter, 34 quartz flakes, 28 pieces of quartz shatter, and 14 Sullivan Cove body sherds. It is interesting to note the comparative lack of lithic debris in the oyster roasting pit, compared to the hearth.

One radiocarbon date was obtained on charcoal recovered from the hearth, Feature B. The charcoal provided an uncalibrated radiocarbon date of 530 ± 70 radiocarbon years before present. When calibrated this translates to a calendrical date range (2 sigma) of AD 1286-1481.

Area #3 contained the only intact prehistoric remains found to be located in the Solomons Project Area. The absence of any other concentrations, even though the terrain was disturbed by construction, indicates that the cultural materials at the site were most likely to have been a result of short-term occupation by small bands of aboriginal peoples. Both the diagnostic pottery sherds and radiocarbon dates from the intact features are in agreement with a Late Woodland date for the site. The intact prehistoric cultural deposit at the site has been completely excavated. Thus, the site is no longer capable of answering research questions related to Maryland prehistory and the site should no longer be considered a significant archeological report.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00000241