



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18CV416

Site Name: Grover's Cove Bugeye

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Widgeon

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description: 19th century bugeye shipwreck

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 9

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 38.4244

Longitude -76.4952

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m Site slope

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
- underwater

Ownership

- Private
- Federal
- State of MD
- Regional/county/city
- Unknown

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Grover's Cove, St. Leonard'

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Minimum distance to water is 0 m

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Archaic site

MD Adena

Early archaic

Early woodland

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

Late archaic

Late woodland

Unknown prehistoric context

Contact period site ca. 1820 - 1860

ca. 1630 - 1675 ca. 1860 - 1900

ca. 1675 - 1720 ca. 1900 - 1930

ca. 1720 - 1780 Post 1930

ca. 1780 - 1820

Unknown historic 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

vessel

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"/>	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	<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	<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"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	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 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

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 type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input 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

Late 19th-early 20th century schooner

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	2	Activity item(s)	10
Glass (all)	17	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	31	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture		Misc. kitchen	5
Arms		Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing		Misc.	9
Personal items		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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	hull	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Hearth/chimney	<input type="checkbox"/>	Planting feature	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Paling ditch/fence	<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 Grover's Cove Shipwreck (18CV416), or Widgeon, is the wreck of a late 19th-early 20th century Chesapeake Bay workboat. The vessel is located in the Grover's Cove area of St. Leonard's Creek and was excavated during the Chesapeake Flotilla Project undertaken in the mid-1990s and funded by the Maryland Historical Trust and other agencies.

As early as 1977, systematic surveys of the Patuxent River and its tributaries began to be undertaken in an attempt to locate any remains of Barney's Chesapeake Flotilla, which saw action on the river during the War of 1812. All of the vessels were scuttled or sunk during naval operations and a considerable amount of archeological interest has been expressed in the wrecks. The early work of the 1970s and 1980s would eventually locate the wreck of the USS Scorpion (18PR226). A new survey attempt was begun in 1995, with a focus on locating the gunboats scuttled in St. Leonard's Creek as a major goal. This "Chesapeake Flotilla Project" was funded largely by the Maryland Historical Trust and was carried out in 1996 and 1997.

A magnetometer survey conducted in April of 1996 as part of the project identified 18 anomalies, which were further investigated by divers. An anomaly at Grover's Creek Cove was deemed one of the most likely candidates to be a 19th century gunboat as 'ground truthing' by the dive team had identified what might be two vessels. Side scanning sonar was then used in November to get a more detailed look at the anomaly. The results exhibited two sonar signatures, reinforcing the idea that two gunboats might be present.

The following summer, a Phase II underwater investigation was carried out on the Grover's Creek Cove shipwreck(s). A team of East Carolina University students and other specialists in underwater and nautical archeology began working at the site in June of 1997.

Excavation of the vessel began with the establishment of silt barrier and boom around the shipwreck's perimeter and determining the vessel's likely longitudinal axis. Long 2.4 meter (8 ft) stakes were used as probes to make these determinations. Only one shipwreck could be located. Divers were then sent in to make some initial determinations about the layout of the wreck and to establish a baseline and transects.

Four transects were then dredged to expose the details of the vessel's construction: the midships transect, the bow transect, the stern transect, and a long transect along the entire keelson. Within three days of beginning the investigation, the team realized that they were not dealing with a Jeffersonian-era gunboat from the War of 1812. The presence of a centerboard on the vessel indicated that the ship was built sometime after 1815, when vessels with centerboards first appeared on the Chesapeake. The "second vessel" turned out to be a sonar "reflection" upon closer inspection. The vessel appeared to be roughly 18.3 meters (60 ft) in length and 6.1 m (20 ft) in beam/width. Much of the structure above the waterline appeared to have been stripped at some point in the past during a Derelict Vessel Removal Program (a drag-line wreck removal program of the 1970s), making the vessel difficult to identify and likely resulting in much of the confusion with a gunboat at the outset. The remaining evidence of construction suggested a work vessel such as a bugeye or schooner. Additional details of the construction of the vessel are available in the full site report.

Artifact recovery operations revealed the presence of 10 activity items, 31 architectural artifacts, 24 kitchen-related objects, and 9 miscellaneous items. The activity items were a length of iron wire/rope, 3 deadeyes, 4 rigging blocks, a piece of hemp rope, and an iron bar clamp. Architectural objects were a bowsprit, 16 nail/spike fragments, a copper drift pin, a lynch pin, 2 copper alloy sheathing fragments, a lead sheathing fragment, a red navigation light cover, a brass fixture, a Hawse pipe, a lead scupper liner, a rubber gasket, a piece of wood planking, an iron chain plate, an iron shackle, and an iron hook. Kitchen-related artifacts were 2 stoneware jugs, 17 glass container fragments, a fork, 3 spoons, and a tin kettle fragment. The miscellaneous objects were 3 stones, 5 concretions, and a piece of unidentified turned wood.

Historical research and informant interviews revealed that the wrecked schooner was the Chesapeake Bay workboat The Widgeon. A retired waterman named Alvin Grover was able to positively identify the wreck as the Widgeon, which was abandoned in Grover's Cove in the 1930s. Subsequent archival work turned up two photographs from 1941 of the abandoned vessel, as well as a journal entry from the same year mentioning its location and that it was a "schooner wreck". The annual list of Merchant Vessels of the US describes the Widgeon as a schooner-rigged vessel built in Whitehaven, Maryland in 1882. It was 65½ ft in length, 20½ ft in beam, and 5¾ ft in depth of hold.

The Phase II excavations at 18CV416 exposed the remnants of the late 19th century workboat schooner Widgeon and revealed some basic details of its construction. The artifact sample provides some limited information about the everyday shipboard material culture of a workboat in the 1930s (when the vessel was abandoned), however, the wreck has likely yielded up whatever useful information it can provide. It should no longer be considered a significant historical resource.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

CHESFLOT, 97000495