



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18CV495

Site Name: Torp's Lament

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Low density Late Woodland shell midden

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 9

SCS soil & sediment code Wad3

Latitude 38.4770 Longitude -76.6031

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m Site slope 5-10%

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) Battle Creek

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Spring

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 1 m

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?

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

Post-in-ground

Battlefield

Fortification

Encampment

Townsite

Religious

Church/mtg house

Ch support bldg

Burial area

Cemetery

Sepulchre

Isolated burial

Bldg or foundation

Possible Structure

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		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"/> 1

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"/> 14	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	<input type="checkbox"/> 41	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/> 104
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Oyster shell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 14	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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Shell midden containing Late Woodland Townsend sherds and a Levanna point

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>	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"/>
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: +/- 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: 0 +/- 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:

Torp's Lament (18CV495) is a low density Late Woodland shell midden located on the Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm near Prince Frederick in Calvert County, MD. The site is situated along a narrow finger ridge just south of and above Battle Creek. Topography across the site area undulates gently across the generally convex landform that is surrounded by steep slopes. The vegetation is primarily mixed deciduous trees with a stand of Virginia Pine located in the western half of the site area. The understory varies from non-existent to moderate density and is comprised of immature holly, blackberry, and other scrub brush varieties. Soils at the site are Sassafras-Westphalia soils.

The site was first examined by professional archeologists in 2009 as part of a general inventory and investigation of archeological resources on the Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm property. The archeological study was part of a larger effort (funded by a Preserve America grant)to create a master plan for the development of the property into an educational working farm that would promote tourism, provide opportunities for public education in cultural and environmental stewardship, and sustainable agriculture. Based on information relayed to Calvert County by the former landowner (Biscoe Gray), the property contained one abandoned domestic structure with three associated outbuildings, one stand-alone domestic structure, a colonial period archeological site, and a possible cemetery of unknown temporal cultural affiliations. Additionally, reconnaissance of the farm property by the Calvert County Department of Planning and Zoning identified the location of a probable prehistoric oyster shell midden (Torp's Landing). The county planning and zoning department determined the necessity of documenting these known sites and any suspected cultural resources on the property so that management decisions could be made in the future which would allow for the protection of the resources.

The archeological work conducted at 18CV495 in 2009 consisted of a shovel test pit survey (STPs) and the hand excavation of two 1 X 1 m test units. STPs were excavated at a 10 meter interval across the site and measured approximately 35 cm in diameter. Each was excavated to a depth not less than 10 cm into sterile subsoil unless otherwise obstructed. A total of 34 STPs were excavated to identify and delineate 18CV495. The majority of the STPs were excavated in a single transect across the crest of the landform, approximately 5 m from the bluff edge that drops down to Battle Creek. Six of the STPs were excavated in a transect parallel to the primary transect and 2 STPs were excavated in a third transect.

Nine of the STPs contained oyster shell, all of which were situated at the southern part of the tested area. The three STPs with the densest quantities of shell, also contained additional prehistoric artifacts. Each of the three contained a single quartz flake and one also contained a single sherd of Late Woodland Townsend ware.

Based on these findings, two 1 X 1 m test units were placed so as to best encounter midden deposits (based on the shovel testing data). Test Unit 1 was situated approximately two meters north of the STP that contained the Townsend ceramic sherd. Test Unit 2 was placed to the south of Test Unit 1 to determine the shape and extent of a feature encountered in the former unit. The test units were excavated in levels approximating natural stratigraphy and all soils were screened through hardware mesh for uniform artifact recovery.

The feature encountered during the shovel test pit and 1 X 1 excavations is an at least partially intact oyster shell midden containing rich black soil and prehistoric artifacts. The site encompasses an area of approximately 1,200 square meters or .25 acre. The midden dates to the Late Woodland period based on the recovery of a triangular Levanna point and several sherds of Townsend prehistoric pottery. The density of the shell deposits varies considerably across the site, possibly reflecting variegated midden integrity or possibly indicating specific activity areas expressive of a particular cultural behavior. Shell is visibly eroding from the north of the site, into Battle Creek.

Artifacts recovered during the 2009 work at 18CV495 included a quartz Levanna point, a jasper scraper, 3 chert flakes, 1 rhyolite flake, 17 quartz flakes, 6 jasper flakes, a piece of chert shatter, 11 pieces of quartz shatter, an unidentified pebble, a possible groundstone object, a piece of fire-cracked rock, 6 deer bones, 24 turtle bones, 3 small mammal bones, an unidentified long bone, and 14 Townsend sherds. A sample of more than 70 oyster shell fragments was also collected.

The archeological fieldwork conducted at Torp's Lament (18CV495) revealed the presence of a low density Late Woodland shell midden in a fairly undisturbed condition. The site yielded diagnostics as well as a wide variety of artifact types (flaked stone, ceramics, groundstone, and faunal materials). The diagnostic materials (at least those encountered thus far) suggest a single Late Woodland component. The site location is easily accessible from land or water, is high enough above sea level to avoid flooding, and possesses well-drained soils, suggesting that the site has high research potential relating to human/environmental interactions. The site should be considered a significant resource, capable of answering important research question relate to Maryland prehistory.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95001392