



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18DO127

Site Name: Doctor's Creek Hummock

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Brice I

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Middle & Late Woodland shell midden

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 3

SCS soil & sediment code Tm

Latitude 38.3868

Longitude -75.9955

Physiographic province Eastern Shore Coastal P

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m

Site slope 0-2%

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) Transquaking River

#### 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

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

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

## 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"/>
Dames Qtr	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coulbourn	<input type="checkbox"/>
Selden Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Watson	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accokeek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mockley	5
Wolfe Neck	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clemson Island	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vinette	<input type="checkbox"/>	Page	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shepard	<input type="checkbox"/>	Townsend	13
Keyser	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minguannan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yeocomico	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sullivan Cove	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monongahela	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shenks Ferry	<input type="checkbox"/>
Susquehannock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moyaone	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Potomac Crk	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Sherd Types		Ironstone		Staffordshire		Stoneware	
<b>Earthenware</b>		Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Porcelain</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	<input type="checkbox"/>			Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<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	6	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	960
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oyster shell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	25	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Prehistoric Features	
Mound(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Midden	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shell midden	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>
House pattern(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearth(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lithic reduc area	<input type="checkbox"/>
Storage/trash pit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ossuary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Dated features present at site

Shell midden. See below radiocarbon data.

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		Depression/mound		Unknown	
Const feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Earthworks	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Hearth/chimney	<input type="checkbox"/>	Planting feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mill raceway	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wheel pit	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Paling ditch/fence	<input type="checkbox"/>						

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

## Radiocarbon Data:

Sample 1: 1050 +/- 25 years BP Reliability Sample 2: 1110 +/- 40 years BP Reliability Sample 3: 1320 +/- 25 years BP Reliability  
 calibrated dates were AD 1190-1320 calibrated dates were AD 1080-1300 calibrated dates were AD 900-1070

Sample 4: 1320 +/- 25 years BP Reliability Sample 5: 1350 +/- 30 years BP Reliability Sample 6: +/- years BP Reliability  
 calibrated dates were AD 880-1100 calibrated dates were AD 860-1050

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 N/A

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

Site 18DO127, also known as Doctor's Creek Hummock or Brice I site, is a Middle & Late Woodland shell midden located near Doctor's Creek at the north point of Fishing Bay. The area is southeast of the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. The site consists of a scatter of fire-cracked rock with some oyster shell on a drowned surface at 18DO434. An organic sediment filled pit feature has been observed along the bank edge. The site is situated on the east side of a large meander bend along the Transquaking River. The site consists of tidal marsh over a drowned upland surface and poorly drained upland forest. The low forest encompasses an extensive midden that is ~30 cm thick. Parts of the site are drowned and covered by a stratum of tidal marsh peat. Soils are classified as silt loams.

By 1608, sections of lower Dorchester County and Somerset County had been surveyed by John Smith, within a year of the initial English settlement at Jamestown. The results of Smith's survey were published in his famous and often reproduced 1612 "Map of Virginia." Smith's map is very generalized, but it provides the earliest view of the study area and seems to show some marked similarities to the modern landscape. Although differently named, Smith's map clearly defines the Honga River, Fishing Bay, the Nanticoke River, the Wicomico River, the Manokin River, the Annemessex River, Tangier Sound, and Pocomoke Sound. His map also documents the presence of several Indian villages, notably the Nause and the Nantaqeaack, the Nause being the only group plotted within one of the study areas. The Nause seem to be located on the eastern side of the neck of land leading out towards Elliott's Island, and the location of the camp would be within the Fishing Bay study area. If the Smith map is indeed accurate with respect to the Nause camp, it may have been located near the forested hummock on Upper Greens Cove, on the west side of the Nanticoke River. The next detailed historical map of the region is Augustine Herrman's 1670 map of Virginia and Maryland.

Surprisingly, the Herrman map shows less detail than the Smith map. The mouth of the Honga River and the Fishing Bay area seem to be poorly defined and no colonial residences are plotted within the Fishing Bay area. However, the Fairmount area seems to have been thoroughly settled by 1670, as indicated by the numerous houses plotted in that portion of Herrman's map. The establishment of early land patents within the Fairmount SWMA seems to substantiate Herrman's recognition of colonial residences within this portion of coastal Somerset County, Maryland. Interestingly, it seems that most of the Fishing Bay area was settled relatively late and that the historical colonial presence was somewhat limited. The 1861 survey of the Fishing Bay area shows a few farms or small plantations as late as the mid-19th century. The 1847 coastal survey further substantiates that the Fishing Bay region had only a limited number of farms and residences. In fact, neither survey mapped any detailed information for the Transquaking River beyond its mouth. After the Civil War, the 1877 survey plots numerous towns, wharves, roads, landings, and residences within the Fishing Bay area, as well as, the Fairmount area.

The historic map data for both the Fishing Bay and the Fairmount areas clearly support the contention that there was a post-Civil War boom relative to the seafood industry and the waterman's way of life. The archaeological evidence for the historic presence in both wildlife management areas is abundant and ranges from an isolated ship keel exposed in the marsh to an early roadbed situated stratigraphically below a modern paved road.

The site was first recorded by Chris Barse (MGS) in 1989. The landowner noted to him that he had collected several hundred ceramic sherds and projectile points from this site, though could not specify the types of ceramic or tools found.

In 2003, researchers conducted a site visit and artifact collection. The assemblage collected from site 18DO127 included thirteen fragments of decorated Townsend ware, five fragments of Mockley ware, seven fragments of unknown shell-tempered ware, four jasper flakes, one quartzite core, one quartz flake, six fragments of deer bone (one cranial with partial antler, five leg and ankle bones).

In 2009, a research project was undertaken in Fishing Bay. Larger Chesapeake bay-wide, millennial-scale investigations of the crab (*Callinectes sapidus*) and oyster populations, which indicate consistent and sustainable prehistoric use of crab and oyster resources across Chesapeake Bay, had been undertaken previously. This smaller scale, in-depth analysis of shell middens within Fishing Bay examined the local expression of that pattern, particularly in light of considerable environmental changes. Test excavations at six sites around Fishing Bay were conducted as part of this study: 18DO35 (South Elliotts Island), 18DO127 (Doctor's Creek Hummock), 18DO130 (South Snake Island), 18DO429 (North Guinea Island), 18DO436 (West Groggs Point), and 18DO439 (North Central Elliotts Island). Excavation methods varied depending on the size and condition of the deposit. The strategy focused on larger units that could provide sufficient samples of artifacts, oyster valves, and other faunal remains, along with smaller column samples that could be used to characterize the range of resources in the deposits. At Site 18DO127, one 1 x 2 m unit and one .25 x .25 column sample was opened. The unit was screened through ¼ inch screen and material collected included oyster left valves, vertebrate remains, and artifacts. Artifact type was not identified in this study. The column sample was screened through 1/8 inch screen and all screen residuals were collected. There was evidence of mixed stratigraphy at Site 18DO127.

Vertebrate remains were relatively low, but a wide variety of species, including deer, raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*), small rodents, fish, birds, and turtles were identified. The shell midden was almost entirely eastern oyster remains.

As part of this study, five radiocarbon samples were taken. 18DO127a (Column 1, Middle of Unit, 10 cmbs) was tested and dated as 1050 years old with an error of 25 (calibrated dates were AD 1190-1320). 18DO127b (Column 1, Top of Unit, 5-10 cmbs) was tested and dated as 1110 years old with an error of 40 (calibrated dates were AD 1080-1300). 18DO127c (Unit 2, Level 2 (30-40 cmbs) was tested and dated as 1320 years old with an error of 25 (calibrated dates were AD 900-1070). 18DO127d (Column 1, Base of Unit, 44 cmbs) was tested and dated as 1320 years old with an error of 35 (calibrated dates were AD 880-1100). 18DO127e (Unit 2, Level 2 (30-40 cm) was tested and dated as 1350 years old with an error of 30 (calibrated dates were AD 860-1050).

In summary, Site 18DO127 is a shell midden temporally associated with Middle & Late Woodland. This is based upon site inspection, limited archaeological excavation, and radiocarbon dating. Further research is necessary to make further conclusions.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95008672, 18DO127 SF