



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18DO429

Site Name: North Guinea Island

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Late Archaic and Early, Middle & Late Woodland shell midden

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 3

SCS soil & sediment code MtdA,SuA,RsB

Latitude 38.3974

Longitude -75.9758

Physiographic province Eastern Shore Coastal P

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m

Site slope 2-5%

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
- Aeolian landform; Dune

Ownership

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

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Transquaking River

- | Saltwater | | Freshwater | |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Ocean <input type="checkbox"/> | Estuary/tidal river <input checked="" 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

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 <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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | STU/lithic scatter <input checked="" 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			
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	<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			
Flaked stone	29	Other fired clay	2
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	34	Unmod faunal	639
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oyster shell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uncommon Obj.	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 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

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

Dated features present at site

See below.

Historic Artifacts			
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tobacco related	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>	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.	<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: 1280 +/- 25 years BP	Reliability	Sample 2: 1300 +/- 25 years BP	Reliability	Sample 3: 1310 +/- 30 years BP	Reliability
calibrated dates were AD 950-1150		calibrated dates were AD 910-1110		calibrated dates were AD 900-1100	
Sample 4: 1390 +/- 25 years BP	Reliability	Sample 5: 1750 +/- 25 years BP	Reliability	Sample 6: 1370 +/- 30 years BP	Reliability
calibrated dates were AD 820-1020		calibrated dates were AD 460-660		calibrated dates were AD 830-1040	
Sample 7: 1320 +/- 25 years BP	Reliability	Sample 8: 1340 +/- 25 years BP	Reliability	Sample 9: 1350 +/- 25 years BP	Reliability
calibrated dates were AD 900-1070		calibrated dates were AD 890-1050		calibrated dates were AD 870-1050	

Additional radiocarbon results available



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Brief

Description:

Late Archaic and Early, Middle & Late Woodland shell midden

Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at N/A

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Site 18DO429, also known as the North Guinea Island site, is a Late Archaic and Early, Middle & Late Woodland shell midden located along Transquaking River at the north side of Fishing Bay. The area is southeast of the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. The site contains Early to Late Woodland period occupations. The buried midden has Middle & Early Woodland artifacts. Soils on site are Mattapex fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent, and part of the Sulua series.

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 Nantaqeaq, 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 North Guinea Island site (18DO429) was discovered during a shoreline examination. The site was first recorded in 2003 by Darrin Lowery. Late Woodland era cultural material was noted on the surface of the forest floor. Augering revealed a buried midden with Early Woodland diagnostic artifacts (Dames Quarter ware). Stratigraphic test excavations were conducted at only one site within during this survey, at Site 18DO429. Several simple criteria were used to select the specific site for testing. First, the degree of presumed intactness was considered. Second, a site was sought that likely had intact stratification, as well as the potential to provide information about regional landscape formation processes. Third, preservation and the degree of preserved organic materials was a criterion. Finally, the site selection process took into account the potential significance of the site, in terms of potential new information that excavation could provide and potential National Register eligibility. With respect to the goals of the project, it seemed sensible to select a new, previously unrecorded archaeological site for test excavations. The North Guinea Island site (18DO429) was selected as the best candidate within both project areas for testing.

A one-meter square excavation unit accompanied the two auger holes. The assemblage excavated from 18DO429 is particularly rich for a site in the region. The upper thirty-two centimeter stratum of the site represents the accumulated refuse material from roughly 500 to 1,200 years ago, the Late Woodland period. The Late Woodland-era material from the upper thirty-two centimeter section of the test unit included 214 bone fragments, 137 fragments of Townsend ware, two fragments of grit-tempered smoking pipes, 34 fragments of fire-cracked rock, 27 flakes, and two triangular points. Five bone awls and one conical bone point were found within the assemblage of bone collected from this level. The Late Woodland midden included oyster, ribbed mussel, deer, large turtle, small turtle, and small mammal remains.

Below the Late Woodland midden stratum was a 58-centimeter thick sequence of sands. The final cultural layer encountered was between 90 and 100 centimeters below the ground surface. The material collected from this thin, discontinuous lower midden stratum included one argillite flake, one chert Orient fishtail point, one fragment of Wolfe Neck ware, and two fragments of Dames Quarter ware. Some small fragments of oyster shell were also noted within this stratum. The lower midden stratum represents the accumulated refuse material from roughly 2,800 to 3,200 years ago. Excavation was continued for another 10 cm, revealing no additional deposits (confirmed by the deeper auger tests). The excavations clearly suggest that 18DO429 has extensive stratified deposits, with a layer of aeolian or wind deposited sands separating the two distinct cultural layers.

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. 18DO429 was characterized by relatively thick, undisturbed deposits spanning about two centuries, and therefore was deemed the most likely to reflect change during the Late Woodland.

At Site 18DO429, two 1 x 2 m unit (Units 1 and 2) and one 1 x .25 m unit (Unit 3) were opened. Units 1 and 2 were screened through ¼ inch screen, and material collected included oyster left valves, vertebrate remains, and artifacts. Artifact type was not identified in this study. All screen residuals were collected from Unit 3.

As part of this study, ten radiocarbon samples were taken. 18DO429a (Unit 1, Top of unit, 3–6 cmbs) was tested and dated as 1280 years old with an error of



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Unknown

25 (calibrated dates were AD 950-1150). 18DO429b (Unit 1, 10–20 cmbs) was tested and dated as 1300 years old with an error of 25 (calibrated dates were AD 910-1110). 18DO429c (Unit 1, 10–20 cmbs) was tested and dated as 1310 years old with an error of 30 (calibrated dates were AD 900-1100). 18DO429d (Unit 1, Base of Unit, 20–25 cmbs) was tested and dated as 1390 years old with an error of 25 (calibrated dates were AD 820-1020). 18DO429e (Auger north of Unit, ~100 cmbs) was tested and dated as 1750 years old with an error of 25 (calibrated dates were AD 460-660).

18DO429f-1 (Unit 1, Stratum 1) was tested and dated as 1270 years old with an error of 25 (calibrated dates were AD 970-1160). 18DO429fg-2 (Unit 1, Stratum 1) was tested and dated as 1370 years old with an error of 30 (calibrated dates were AD 830-1040). 18DO429f-3 (Unit 1, Stratum 1) was tested and dated as 1320 years old with an error of 25 (calibrated dates were AD 900-1070). 18DO429f-4 (Unit 1, Stratum 1) was tested and dated as 1340 years old with an error of 25 (calibrated dates were AD 890-1050). 18DO429f-5 (Unit 1, Stratum 1) was tested and dated as 1350 years old with an error of 25 (calibrated dates were AD 870-1050).

Although the current investigation located and documented many sites, the archaeological components at 18DO429 are particularly important. The site has revealed one of the largest, most intact Late Woodland-era middens found on Maryland's eastern shore. The test excavations revealed a remarkable level of preservation, which can be linked to the fact that the site has never been tilled. Also, the Late Woodland-era shell refuse contributed to the unusually good bone preservation evident at this site. Finally, the test excavations provided a regional glimpse into how the landscape formed and how climatic changes and the regional geologic conditions resulted in a rare stratified coastal plain archaeological site. The results of the survey and the selective glimpse into one of the newly discovered sites clearly show the value of archaeological investigations beyond the traditional scope of reconstructing past lifeways and into the realm paleoclimatology and geoarchaeology.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95008672, 18DO429 SF