



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18DO436

Site Name: West Groggs Point

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief Description:

Early Archaic short-term camp and Middle-Late Woodland shell midden

Unknown

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 3

SCS soil & sediment code Tm,BT

Latitude 38.3767

Longitude -76.0003

Physiographic province Eastern Shore Coastal P

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation

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
- Tidal marsh

### Ownership

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

### Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Transquaking River/Fishing

- | 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 <input type="text"/> 0 m |   |                                       |                                 |

## Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

- Paleoindian site
- Archaic site
- Early archaic  Y
- Middle archaic
- Late archaic
- Woodland site
- MD Adena
- Early woodland
- Mid. woodland  Y
- Late woodland  Y
- Unknown prehistoric context

- Contact period site
- ca. 1820 - 1860
- ca. 1630 - 1675
- ca. 1675 - 1720
- ca. 1720 - 1780
- ca. 1780 - 1820
- Unknown historic context
- Unknown context
- ca. 1820 - 1860
- ca. 1860 - 1900
- ca. 1900 - 1930
- Post 1930

### Ethnic Associations (historic only)

- Native American
- African American
- Anglo-American
- Hispanic
- Asian American
- Unknown
- Other

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
  - 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

## Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples Soil samples taken  Y

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)	1	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"/>	Levana	<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	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wolfe Neck	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clemson Island	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vinette	<input type="checkbox"/>	Page	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shepard	<input type="checkbox"/>	Townsend	30
Minguanan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sullivan Cove	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shenks Ferry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moyaone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Potomac Crk	<input type="checkbox"/>	12	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keyser	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yeocomico	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monongahela	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehannock	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Sherd Types		Stoneware	
<b>Earthenware</b>	Ironstone	Staffordshire	English Brown
Astbury	Jackfield	Tin Glazed	Eng Dry-bodied
Borderware	Mn Mottled	Whiteware	Nottingham
Buckley	North Devon	<b>Porcelain</b>	Rhenish
Creamware	Pearlware		Wt Salt-glazed

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

## Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	3	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	2	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	116
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)	43	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	
Jasper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fer quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sandstone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sil sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Basalt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
slate	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts	
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tobacco related	<input type="checkbox"/>
Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Misc.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

## Radiocarbon Data:

Sample 1: 1260 +/- 25 years BP Reliability Sample 2: 1270 +/- 25 years BP Reliability Sample 3: 1290 +/- 25 years BP Reliability  
 calibrated dates were AD 980-1170 calibrated dates were AD 970-1160 calibrated dates were AD 930-1130

Sample 4: 1310 +/- 25 years BP Reliability Sample 5: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 6: +/- years BP Reliability  
 calibrated dates were AD 900-1080

Sample 7: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 8: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 9: +/- years BP Reliability

Additional radiocarbon results available



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Description:

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Unknown

## External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at N/A

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

Site 18DO436, also known as the West Groggs Point site, is an Early Archaic short-term camp and 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 is largely invisible at high tide. Topographically, the site's present elevation would be at or near sea level as indicated by the surface of the tidal marsh. The overlying parent sediment associated with the site is tidal marsh. The archaeological remains are located beneath tidal marsh and are completely drowned at high tide. At low tide, a shelf of reworked midden-related oyster shell is scattered along the shoreline.

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 Nantaqaeack, 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 originally recorded in 2003 and at that time he noted the presence of a Late Woodland era shell midden beneath a covering of tidal marsh peat. Artifacts collected from the site in April 2003 include 26 Townsend ware, 6 Potomac Creek, 1 Hell Island, 1 chert flake, 1 bi-pitted hammerstone (sandstone), 1 fragment of a basalt mortar, 16 fragments of deer bone, 3 fragments of turtle bone, 2 fragments of large bird bone (swan?), 1 fragment of opossum jawbone, 8 unknown fragments of bone. In October 2003, artifacts collected included 4 fragments of Townsend ware, 6 Potomac Creek, 1 chert flake, 5 fragments of deer bone, and the 1 jasper Kirk corner-notched point.

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 18DO436, two 50L bulk samples were taken from different parts of the site. Each sample was screened through 1/8 inch screen, and all screen residuals were collected. Soils described in auger borings suggest that the site during the Late Woodland occupation was a stable, upland landscape that may have supported mixed deciduous forest prior to inundation. Faunal remains from the site consisted of Eastern oyster shell, white tail deer bones, fish, and near negligible amounts of turtle, land snail, and barnacle.

As part of this study, four radiocarbon samples were taken. 18DO436a (Surface) was tested and dated as 1260 years old with an error of 25 (calibrated dates were AD 980-1170). 18DO436b (Unit 1 Bulk sample, lower deposit) was tested and dated as 1270 years old with an error of 25 (calibrated dates were AD 970-1160). 18DO436c (Surface) was tested and dated as 1290 years old with an error of 25 (calibrated dates were AD 930-1130). 18DO436d (Unit 2, lower level) was tested and dated as 1310 years old with an error of 25 (calibrated dates were AD 900-1080).

In summary, site 18DO436 is an Early Archaic short-term camp and Middle-Late Woodland shell midden. This is based upon site inspection, limited archaeological excavation, and radiocarbon dating. Further research is necessary to make further conclusions, though the inundation of the site makes it a difficult area for testing.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95008672, 18DO436 SF