



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18DO439

Site Name: North Central Elliotts Island

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Adena Early Woodland, Middle, and Late Woodland shell midden

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 3

SCS soil & sediment code FmA,FmB,KgB,

Latitude 38.3182

Longitude -76.0150

Physiographic province Eastern Shore Coastal P

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m

Site slope 0-5%

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
- upland aeolian landform

Ownership

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

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Fishing Bay

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
- Archaic site
- Early archaic
- Middle archaic
- Late archaic
- Woodland site
- MD Adena
- Early woodland
- Mid. woodland
- Late woodland

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

Unknown historic context

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

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"/>	Levana	<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	5	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	5	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	5		

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	561
Fire-cracked rock	5	Oyster shell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	15	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Storage/trash pit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adena biface cache	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearth(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Lithic reduc area	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Lithic Material

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

Dated features present at site

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

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: 1290 +/- 25 years BP Reliability Sample 2: 1320 +/- 25 years BP Reliability Sample 3: 1330 +/- 30 years BP Reliability
 calibrated dates were AD 930-1130 calibrated dates were AD 900-1070 calibrated dates were AD 890-1070

Sample 4: 20400 +/- 90 years BP Reliability Sample 5: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 6: +/- years BP Reliability
 calibrated dates were AD 22980-22270

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 18DO439, also known as North Central Elliotts Island site, is an Adena Early Woodland, Middle, and Late Woodland shell midden located off Elliotts Island Road along Fishing Bay in Elliot, Maryland. The site consists of an undulating series of old dune deposits. The area is mowed and partially covered with underbrush. The site is inundated on the north side of the dune. Soils are classified as Runclint sand & Fort Mott loamy sand.

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 in 2003. This site was visited twice during the fieldwork. The extensive amount of shell refuse and fire-cracked rock indicate that Fishing Bay was a major shellfish harvesting area during the late prehistoric period. No diagnostic artifacts were discovered, but the other materials indicate that the site was periodically used during the Woodland period.

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 18DO439, 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, fish, barnacle, moon snail and near negligible amounts of turtle, limpet, blue crab, and piddock. The midden produced a few quartz flakes and three fragments of shell-tempered Townsend vessels.

As part of this study, four radiocarbon samples were taken. 18DO439a (Unit 1, Top of Midden, 10–11 cmbs) was tested and dated as 1290 years old with an error of 25 (calibrated dates were AD 930-1130). 18DO439b (East locus, 20–23 cmbs, base of midden) was tested and dated as 1320 years old with an error of 25 (calibrated dates were AD 900-1070). 18DO439c (22 cmbs, base of midden) was tested and dated as 1330 years old with an error of 30 (calibrated dates were AD 890-1070). 18DO439d (Auger sample in peat layer, ~490–516 cm) was tested and dated as 20400 years old with an error of 90 (calibrated dates were AD 22980-22270).

In summary, site 18DO439 is shell midden temporally dated to Adena Early Woodland, Middle, and Late Woodland. This is based upon site inspection, limited archaeological excavation, and radiocarbon dating. Further work is needed to make further conclusions about the site.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95008672, 18DO439 SF