



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18DO464

Site Name: Church Creek Site 3

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Stick & Ball House

Historic

Brief Description:

Late 18th & early 19th century artifact concentration; Mid 19th century village houses

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 4

SCS soil & sediment code Oh

Latitude 38.5018

Longitude -76.1537

Physiographic province Eastern Shore Coastal P

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m Site slope

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
- lowland flat

Ownership

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

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Church Creek

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 274 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 Y

ca. 1630 - 1675 ca. 1860 - 1900 Y

ca. 1675 - 1720 ca. 1900 - 1930 Y

ca. 1720 - 1780 Post 1930 Y

ca. 1780 - 1820 Y

Unknown historic context

Unknown context

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American

Asian American

African American

Unknown

Anglo-American Y

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? 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

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken N

Flotation samples taken N

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"/>	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		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	458	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	17	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	164	Pearlware	400			Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>
						Wt Salt-glazed	1

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	1	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	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 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 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 type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input 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)	1550	Activity item(s)	21
Glass (all)	1863	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	1507	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	298
Arms	1	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	21	Misc.	542
Personal items	15	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: +/- 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: +/- 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

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Church Creek Site 3 (18DO464) is a late 18th and early 19th century artifact concentration, as well as archeological remains associated with the occupation of 5 extant houses that were part of a mid 19th century village (MIHP# D-654) southwest of Cambridge in Dorchester County. The site is situated along Church Creek extending across the yard areas of these five properties. Soils at the site are Othello Silt loams.

European settlement on the Eastern Shore of Maryland in the 17th century was concentrated along the shores of the Chesapeake Bay and its important tributary rivers. By the middle of the 17th century, the isolation of the eastern shore was drawing colonists anxious to escape the crowded conditions of St. Mary's County and the dominating rule of the Calvert family in the capital city. Colonists first arrived there in the 1660s, establishing settlements along the Choptank and Nanticoke Rivers and the numerous creeks that drain the intervening uplands. A 1673 map of Virginia and Maryland shows settlement along Church Creek and Fishing Creek by this time. The Trinity Episcopal Church, for which the Creek is named, has been dated to the 1690s, although local history indicates that it was founded in 1675. The early town of Islington was also legislated in this area in the 17th century. Islington was re-legislated in 1706, suggesting that the first effort to establish the town was not successful.

Unlike many other areas of the Eastern Shore, where agriculture was the main industry, the town of Church Creek was settled in the mid part of the 18th century by shipbuilders. Surrounded by forest and farmland, Church Creek village boasted a population of craftsmen. The town was officially established on an original land grant called "White Haven", which by 1767 was occupied only by a "Captain Ewing's Shipyard". The town developed at that particular site for several reasons: 1) its proximity to Old Trinity (one of the earliest churches in America), 2) its location on Church Creek (a navigable stream that winds its way to the Chesapeake Bay by way of Fishing Creek and the Little Choptank River), and 3) its accessibility to local oak and pine forests (which provided ample wood for a successful shipbuilding industry).

Although the shipbuilding industry began prior to the Revolutionary War, organized settlement did not occur until 1786. Settlement clustered along the east side of Church Creek, for which the town was eventually named. The road from Cambridge to Taylor's Island (now MD 16) provided access around the southeastern tip of the Church Creek estuary. A secondary road left the main road near this site and followed the east side of the creek north towards its confluence with Fishing Creek. The earliest residential construction developed along this secondary road, which accessed the early shipyards. Within a decade, the population had grown to such an extent that in 1795 a half-acre lot was purchased for the construction of a Methodist meetinghouse. That same year the town appeared on a map of Maryland, with the Methodist Meetinghouse to the east. The earliest inhabitants were shipbuilders, carpenters, painters, and lumbermen.

By the 19th century, Dorchester County shipbuilding facilities were located in Madison and Church Creek. The shipbuilding industry expanded to include two shipyards in Church Creek by the first half of the century. White oak and pine was lumbered from local forests and sawn at a mill along Black Water Road. During this period, a Baltimore steamboat line provided freight and passenger service along the Chesapeake Bay. The line sailed up Fishing and Church Creeks, with wharves at Madison, Woolford, and the town of Church Creek. Church Creek was as far inland as the steamboat could travel and the village served as the endpoint of the line. Sailors and clerks who worked for the steamboat line occupied the town.

After the arrival of the steamboat, the small community developed into a market center featuring stores and other services for the surrounding rural area. The post office in Church Creek was established by 1832. In 1846, White Haven Church was constructed along Main Street to replace an earlier church in the village. Many new residences were built to house the town's growing population during this period. The area of densest development was the area along MD 16 between its intersection with MD335 and Daniel Orem's House. Orem's House was built ca. 1865 in the Federal-style as a replica of Abraham Lincoln's Springfield home. Within this area, 20 dwellings lined the street, including the homes of a Captain Fooks and Captain Brannock. Also within this stretch were the White Haven Church and its parsonage, an African American Church, blacksmith and wheelwright shops owned by J.P. Graham, and the stores of L. Richardson, J. Jefferson, and J. Parker.

Many of the African-American slaves in Dorchester County were freed in the decade prior to the Civil War, despite limited abolitionist sentiment in the region. Consequently, there was a large free-black population in the Church Creek area. Fueled by the area's most outspoken abolitionist Daniel T. Orem, a Church Creek merchant, the African American population established both a church and a public school in the small village. Prior to the opening of the school, African-American children attended school in the Orem's house, much to the dismay of other local residents.

Church Creek reached its economic and industrial heyday during and just after the Civil War. It was incorporated as a town in 1867. By 1875, local lumber had become scarce and shipbuilding, likewise, declined as a major industry. An 1877 atlas illustrates 68 buildings in Church Creek, including approximately 50 primary dwellings (including two parsonages), 4 stores, 2 schools, 2 churches, 2 wheelwright shops, 1 blacksmith shop, 1 storehouse, 1 cemetery, and 1 steamboat wharf. The atlas does not indicate that the shipyards were in operation during this period, which may have been a reflection of the downturn of the industry.

By the last quarter of the 19th century, Church Creek had passed its heyday as a shipbuilding center. Metal vessels powered by steam grew in use and production after the Civil War, gradually replacing wooden vessels. The 1880 census for Church Creek reflected the change in occupation of its residents from shipbuilders and carpenters to sailors, steam clerks, and oyster planters. Although the type of occupation changed, almost half of the workforce maintained sea-based employment. The census also indicated that 19 of the town's 73 households were African-American and that the two racial groups lived interspersed within the community.

Agricultural practices shifted in Dorchester County during the early decades of the 20th century. Grain production became increasingly unprofitable due to competition with Midwestern farmers, and was replaced by truck farming and dairy products. Church Creek remained a small market center for the surrounding rural community. In addition, canning quickly became an important industry and included not only oysters, but also fruits and vegetables. In 1938, a tomato cannery was built just outside the eastern limits of Church Creek. The cannery employed hundreds of seasonal workers, providing the town with its biggest 20th century industry. The canning industry continued to thrive throughout World War II. One of the biggest changes to the community came with the closing of the steamboat line. Employees turned to other sea-based occupations, becoming "watermen" engaged in sailing, fishing, crabbing, and oystering. Limited small-scale shipbuilding continued at the Linthicum yard into the mid 20th century.



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The site was first examined archeologically in the fall of 2006, during the course of a Phase I survey. The survey was carried out on behalf of the Maryland State Highway Administration, which was undertaking streetscape improvements to MD 16 and MD 355. The undertaking involved widening and various sidewalk, shoulder, and drainage improvements along the roadways over an area 1.02 miles in length. In addition, wetlands mitigation, stormwater management, and other activities requiring construction could be accomplished in three nearby areas totaling 2.8 acres. Both state and federal legislation necessitated survey and mitigation for significant cultural resources.

The Phase I archeological survey primarily involved the excavation of shovel test pits (STPs) at 20 m intervals along the road right of ways. The shovel tests were minimally 40 cm in diameter and were excavated by stratum/level into sterile deposits. Excavated soils were screened through hardware cloth. Shovel tests that were positive for prehistoric materials had additional STPs placed around them at 5-10 m intervals in each cardinal direction. Notes on shovel tests, including soil profiles, artifacts found, and setting, were systematically recorded on standardized forms and locations were recorded on project maps. Representative photos were taken of the project area in general and of the potential site areas where additional testing was conducted.

In total, 325 STPs were excavated during the Phase I survey. Five adjacent STPs produced historic artifacts, leading to the initial definition of 18DO464. An additional 25 STPs were excavated across the site during Phase I at closer 5 m intervals to better define the site boundaries. All but one of these supplemental STPs produced artifacts. The site was situated in the front yard areas of 5 standing 19th century structures on the north side of MD 16.

The Phase I assemblage from 18DO464 consisted of 423 historic artifacts. The artifacts included 5 activity items (2 toys, an auto light fragment, 1 axehead and 1 chisel), 185 architectural artifacts (including 14 pieces of brick, 104 window glass fragments, 66 nails, and 1 piece of drain pipe), 2 clothing items (1 brass and 1 plastic), 217 kitchen-related items (131 ceramic sherds, 1 mason jar lid liner, 2 pieces of tableware, 61 pieces of container glass, 10 bone/teeth fragments, and 12 pieces of shell), 3 personal items (2 coins and a bisque figurine), 1 tobacco pipe fragment, and 10 miscellaneous objects (1 piece of coal, 1 piece of porcelain, 2 plastic fragments, and 6 unidentified metal objects). The ceramic assemblage included 1 creamware sherd, 12 pearlware, 1 whiteware, 102 ironstone, 3 semi-porcelain, 1 porcelain, 7 redware, and 4 stoneware sherds. Chronologically diagnostic artifacts representing a late 18th to early 19th century occupation included the one creamware sherd, the 12 pearlware sherds (with 8 different types of surface decoration), and a wrought nail. However, most of the artifacts could be considered characteristic of a 19th to early 20th century occupation.

Based on the Phase I findings, Phase II testing was recommended and was carried out immediately. Field testing involved a combination of 1 X 1 m test units and 50 additional shovel tests. Shovel tests were excavated at 10-20 m intervals throughout the side and backyards of the properties in question to further define site boundaries. These shovel tests were square, measuring 40 X 40 cm. Ten 1 X 1 m units were excavated in the front yard areas sampled during Phase I. The soils from all sampling units were screened through hardware cloth, and excavated by stratum/level into demonstrably sterile strata. Data were recorded on shovel test and unit/level forms and artifacts were provenienced according to the same parameters.

In addition to the Phase II fieldwork, site specific archival research was also carried out. The archival research revealed the site was occupied from approximately 1830 to the present. During its early years, there were three properties at the site, which were further subdivided later in the 19th century. Although much archival evidence was obtained about household makeup (see the full report), the fieldwork would eventually show that the soils were so disturbed that there was no way to separate households physically on the ground. This severely limited the information that the site could provide. The archival evidence did show that dwellings were first built on site in the early 19th century and that ship carpenters and sailors were the primary residents, some of whom owned the properties. A tailor lived in one of the houses at the site.

The only features encountered during Phase II excavations at 18DO464 were modern utility trenches and a section of brick paved pathway.

Artifacts recovered included 16 activity items, 1,322 architectural artifacts, 19 clothing items, 2,408 kitchen-related artifacts, 12 personal items, 39 tobacco-related artifacts (16 ball clay stems, 22 ball clay bowls, and 1 stoneware bowl), 1 arms object (a gun part), 532 miscellaneous objects, and a single prehistoric artifact (a lithic flake). The activity items were 3 clay marbles, 1 other toy, a windup key, 3 pieces of lamp glass, a light bulb, 2 pencil erasers, and 5 hardware objects. The architectural artifacts were 102 pieces of brick, a building stone, 10 pieces of mortar, a wood fragment, 2 pieces of plaster, 977 window glass fragments, a piece of decorative window glass, 3 ceramic tile fragments, a slate tile, 1 other tile, 20 cut nails, 16 wire nails, 175 other nails, a spike, 3 plumbing parts, a piece of shutter hardware, and 7 miscellaneous building materials. The clothing items were 16 buttons (2 glass, 5 brass, 2 shell, 6 prosser, and 1 plastic), a piece of pantyhose, a buckle, and a brass straight pin. The kitchen assemblage included 1,419 ceramic sherds (1 miscellaneous earthenware, 163 creamware, 388 pearlware, 11 semi-porcelain, 16 porcelain, 88 ironstone, 457 whiteware, 22 yellowware, 217 redware, 1 white salt-glazed stoneware, and 29 miscellaneous stoneware), 713 pieces of kitchen glass (20 tableware, 1 glass stopper, and 692 pieces of container glass), 1 fork, a cutlery handle, 6 pieces of aluminum foil, a crown cap, a metal cap, 3 pull tabs, 4 fast food beverage lids, and 359 faunal remains (197 bone/teeth, 57 shell, 5 claw). The personal items were 4 beads, 2 coins, 1 key, a barrette, 2 combs, and 2 bisque figurines. Miscellaneous items were a piece of mica, 5 pieces of melted glass, 6 pieces of coal, and 520 other objects.

Late 18th and early 19th century ceramics such as creamware and pearlware are evident in the Phase II assemblage, as well as later ceramics such as whiteware. Although there were moderate artifact densities in the front yard areas of the site, the materials were all in mixed contexts, with no discrete strata or disposal features. As mentioned previously, while much archival evidence was obtained about household makeup, there is no way to separate households physically on the ground. Thus, there is no potential for the site to yield further information. It should not be considered a significant archeological resource.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

97003224