



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18DO79

Site Name: Bloodsworth Cemetery

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

late 19th century cemetery

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 3

SCS soil & sediment code ET

Latitude 38.2010

Longitude -76.0435

Physiographic province Eastern Shore Coastal P

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 0-5 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
- Elevated marshland

Ownership

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

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Fin Creek

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 85 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Contact period site ca. 1820 - 1860

ca. 1630 - 1675

ca. 1860 - 1900

Archaic site

MD Adena

ca. 1675 - 1720

ca. 1900 - 1930

Early archaic

Early woodland

ca. 1720 - 1780

Post 1930

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

ca. 1780 - 1820

Late archaic

Late woodland

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? 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

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	<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		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	<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

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

Dated features present at site

Dated gravestones and burials

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		gravestones	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features

Privy/outhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	Depression/mound	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Const feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<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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Brief

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External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Site 18DO79, the Bloodsworth Family Cemetery, is a small late 19th century graveyard associated with an oystering family living on an island in the Chesapeake. The site occupies part of a low ridge east of Fin Creek on Bloodsworth Island, Dorchester County. The site is marked by three sets of grave markers (head and foot stones): Mary E. Bloodsworth (d. 1882), Sarah Bloodsworth (d. 1883), and William Bloodsworth (d. 1885). Each marker is fashioned from white granite. The site is overgrown with brush and small trees and the surrounding landscape is extremely marshy. Soils at the site are Honga peat and mucky, occasionally inundated, silt loams.

The first record of ownership of Bloodsworth Island dates to 1672, when George Thompson of St. Mary's County patented the entire island. Like many of the early land holders in Maryland and Virginia, Thompson was a colonial land speculator, buying and reselling property. The only evidence of occupation on the island is found in a mortgage Thompson placed on part of the property in 1706 to James Bowles, a St. Mary's County merchant. In the mortgage, Thompson makes reference to Hans Lawson, a tenant, whose rents Thompson reserved for himself. No additional information concerning Lawson, his shelter, or undertakings on the island has been found.

George Thompson died in 1712 without satisfying the mortgage to Bowles. Thompson's heir and grandson, William Cavanaugh, sold his interest in the island to James Smith of St. Mary's. There is no mention of the island in Smith's will and it is unclear how he relieved himself of his interest in the property. Sometime prior to 1730, James Bowles, having assumed ownership of part of the island through Thompson's mortgage default, sold his interest to Roger Woolford of Dorchester County. In his will of 1730, Woolford conveyed the land in joint tenancy to his sons, Thomas and John, and their male heirs. This was eventually conveyed to Thomas and John's heirs, Roger and Levin Woolford. There is no indication that the Woolfords made any improvements to the island during this time.

It seems the Thompsons and Woolfords were not strident in their stewardship of the land, since in 1739, Comfort Hopkins attempted to patent part of the island as a vacancy. A survey for "Hopkin's Adventure" describes a dwelling house, an 'old' log house, fencing and fruit trees. The land would not be formally patented until 1755. In 1758 and 1759, Charles Goldsborough of Dorchester County, purchased all of the Bloodsworth island tracts and their improvements. Charles Goldsborough held this land until his death in 1767. After Charles' death, Goldsborough's son, Robert, was assessed for owning the property. Robert Goldsborough died in 1788, leaving his lands to be divided among his ten children. Howes Goldsborough, the youngest of the heirs, bought out the interests of the other heirs by the 1790s.

In 1799, Robert Bloodsworth, Sr., a resident and landowner in Dorchester County, purchased Howes Goldsborough's interest in the island, then referred to as "Thompson's Island". Bloodsworth previously had patented vacancies on the island and with his purchase from Goldsborough became the sole owner of the island. Bloodsworth married Margaret "Peggy" Wingate in 1807 and their children were Robert, Jr., Risdon, Nancy (later Price), and John. During the first decades of the 19th century, Robert Sr. continued to live on Ballard's Island while several of his children took up residence on Bloodsworth Island.

Prior to his death in 1839, Bloodsworth conveyed to his son, Risdon, a tract of the land on Thompson's Island containing 500 acres. In 1845, Risdon Bloodsworth's property was sold by the Dorchester County Collector, John H. Hodson, for payment of taxes not paid in 1840, 1841, and 1843. At auction, the highest bidder on the property was William Andrews of Dorchester County, who paid \$23 for the whole parcel of 500 acres. Less than a year later, Andrews sold the property to William and John Bloodsworth, adding to other purchases they made on the rest of the island. Various members of the Bloodsworth family would own the various parcels of the island until the 20th century.

In the 1850 census, William Bloodsworth (who is buried at 18DO79) was listed as a 47 year old oysterman living with his wife, Elizabeth, who was 41 years old, and five children. The eldest son, John, was listed as a sailor. In the 1860 census, William was listed as a 57 year old "farmer/laborer", living with his wife Elizabeth, and five children, three of whom were listed as "farmer/laborer". Fluctuations in occupation for area residents are probably an indication of the time of year the census was taken. If the census taker arrived during the winter months, the occupants of Bloodsworth Island would have been involved in oystering and fishing. If, however, the census taker arrived during the summer months, the same family members would more likely be involved with raising livestock, growing tomatoes, or tending to their fruit trees. This supposition is supported by the fact that in later censuses, the occupations return to "oysterman" or "sailor".

The Bloodsworths appear to have lived in larger extended-family households. They owned no slaves. This data suggests the closeness of the island community and the relative size of the households, as well as being an indication of the families' economic status. Family members owned canoes, bugeyes and other small vessels which they used in the oystering business and raised livestock such as cattle, hogs, and sheep on the island.

After William's death, his heirs included 2 sons and a daughter and their families. Land records for the 1870s and 1880s reveal that William J. and Andrew Bloodsworth (William Senior's male heirs) owned parcels near Crocheron on the mainland. It is thought that they may have moved their families to the mainland around this time. By the 1890s, Sarah Jane Murphy (William Senior's daughter) and her husband owned property on the mainland near Crocheron as well.

In 1901, William Bloodsworth's heirs sold to Harvey Jones of Crapo 500 acres on Bloodsworth Island. This deed is significant as the first mention of the Bloodsworth cemetery (18DO79) as a reserve, or exception, from the conveyance. No mention of the cemetery is found in deeds of conveyance prior to the purchase by Jones.

In 1912, Jones and his wife, Ethel M., conveyed to John W.P. Insley this 500 acre tract with the agreement that the Bloodsworth Family Cemetery by excepted. Marcie Bloodsworth, a direct descendent of William Bloodsworth was interviewed in the late 1990s and stated that his Great-Grandfather William Bloodsworth was the last to be buried in the family cemetery on the island. Mr. Bloodsworth, who still lived in Dorchester County, stated that he recalled 10 to 15 graves at the cemetery. Besides those burials identified by headstones, it is not certain who else may have been buried on the island.

Between 1919 and 1921, the 500 acre tract that includes the site was transferred several times, eventually being acquired by Colonel Albanus Phillips of Cambridge. Colonel Phillips was a well-known community member, holding numerous public offices, and was the president of the Phillips Packing Company. The company canned harvested and canned oysters and also preserved and canned vegetables. Phillips ultimately acquired the entire island with the



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intention to manage it as a game preserve. He was an avid hunter and his purchase of the island for a game preserve and gun club was noted in local newspapers. An article in The Daily Banner (1921) mentions that the island was uninhabited and had "been so for many years" and that at the time many businessmen looked to Dorchester County as "a favorite place for the purchase of lands for game preserves". During the 1920s, the Phillips Packing Company would acquire additional lands on the mainland for the "Bloodsworth Island Game Preserve".

In 1942, during World War II and under authority granted by the US Congress in the Second War Powers Act, a petition was filed by the US Government on July 17, which condemned certain lands for temporary use in connection with the prosecution of war and more specifically, "for the practice target firing and for amphibious training operations" by the US Navy. The six parcels of land on Bloodsworth Island owned by the Phillips Packing Company were involved in this condemnation. The owners of the various properties were compensated for the "lease" of their land during this period.

In 1949, the Phillips Packing Company conveyed its Bloodsworth Island property to the US Government. The Phillips Company was compensated \$94,641 for its property. The US Government, still in need of a facility for amphibious training after the war, was willing to fully compensate Phillips for his property due to the very real prospect that unexploded ordinance were embedded in and about the island. Since 1949, the US Government has been the sole owner of Bloodsworth Island.

The Bloodsworth Family Cemetery was first provided an archeological site number in 1980, when the site was part of a Phase I archeological survey of the island. In order to comply with the National Historic Preservation Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and similar Maryland State laws, federal agencies are required in part to survey cultural resources on their land holdings and to nominate qualified resources to the NRHP. The survey was undertaken in order to assist the US Navy in complying with these pieces of legislation.

The 1980 Phase I survey entailed a combination of pedestrian survey, motorboat survey, and systematic raking and surface examination. The cemetery was documented through pedestrian survey and documentation and no subsurface investigations were undertaken at 18DO79 at that time. The three aforementioned burials (see above) were documented by the presence of both headstones and footstones. None of the graves appeared to have been vandalized, though the headstones were eroding to the point that some of the words were becoming difficult to read. No evidence was observed to suggest that other unmarked graves were in the vicinity.

Phase II work was carried out at 18DO79 in the fall of 1997. No specific undertakings that would impact cultural resources in the area were planned for the island. Rather, the cultural resources investigations were completed for the purpose of assisting the Navy Federal Preservation Officer in making decisions with regard to historic preservation aboard the Naval Reserve.

The objective of the 1997 fieldwork was to determine the extent of the cemetery and identify any additional burials. The site was obscured by dense vegetation at the time of fieldwork, and required extensive clearing before subsurface investigations and mapping could take place. To accomplish the field objectives, researchers hand-excavated two trenches at the site. The trenches, each measuring 50 cm wide, were excavated across the three marked burials and following the apparent rows exhibited by them to obtain date on the probable appearance of any unmarked burial shafts. Trenches were excavated only to a depth sufficient to remove topsoil and expose the upper portions of the subsoil at the site. The depths of the trenches were also kept shallow in order to avoid encountering any human remains. Generally, the trenches were excavated to maximum depths of 30 to 40 cm. Soils were not screened. All trenches were placed on plan maps of the site along with the locations of surface features and other pertinent data.

No burial shafts were identified during these investigations. The reason for this result is not clear, but it may have been due to a very high water table, or simply simply grave fill that was indistinct in color and texture from the subsoil. Two possible unmarked burials were identified on the basis of shallow depressions on the ground surface. The first of these was located adjacent to the south side of Sarah Bloodsworth's grave, and the second lay immediately north of William Bloodsworth's burial. The trench excavations bisected both of these possible burials, but as noted, no subsurface evidence for grave shafts was identified.

Thus, no count of burials at the site could be obtained as a result of these Phase II investigations. In addition, it was not possible to establish the precise dimensions of the cemetery. Deed data indicated that the cemetery occupied a parcel that measured 30 feet side (east to west) by 60 feet long (north to south). While the fieldwork does not make it possible to determine the north-south boundaries of the site, the two rows of burials roughly correspond to the 30 foot wide east to west dimension of the cemetery.

The precise extent of Site 18DO79 remains uncertain. The site should be preserved in place unless, for some reason it becomes threatened. Should it become absolutely necessary to locate burial features and the bounds of the cemetery, more intrusive identification methods may need to be employed beyond those already used at 18DO79.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00000186, 00006861