



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18DO81

Site Name: Wilke II

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

late 19th century house site

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 3

SCS soil & sediment code Et

Latitude 38.1908

Longitude -76.0648

Physiographic province Eastern Shore Coastal P

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 0-5 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
- 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 17 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	40	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	70	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	1	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

19th century dwelling and oyster refuse dumps

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	115	Activity item(s)	4
Glass (all)	148	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	224	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	4	Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	4	Misc.	700
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<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 type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	hard-packed floor of mortar fragments	
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Earthworks	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearth/chimney	<input type="checkbox"/>	Planting feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mill raceway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wheel pit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paling ditch/fence	<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 MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Wilke II Site (18DO81) is the archeological remains associated with a late 19th to early 20th century domestic occupation on Bloodsworth Island, Dorchester County. The site is associated with John Bloodsworth, a member of an oystering and farming family living on a marshy island in the Chesapeake. The site is situated on a very slight rise to the west of Fin Creek. While the specific location of the site is a relatively high area, the surrounding landscape is low-lying terrain. The site is vegetated with grasses and marshy plants 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 1849, William and John Bloodsworth agreed to make a deed of partition and division of their land holdings. The boundaries of John's part of the division included the area that make up Site 18DO81. In 1871, John applied for a "certificate of oyster lot" in Piney Island Cove off the shore of his land holdings. As with many oystermen at the time, John Bloodsworth may have been planting seed oysters into this lot to farm them or to wait for oyster prices to go up. Tax assessments around this period show that John Bloodsworth owned a canoe and a punt that he would have used in his oystering pursuits. He was also assessed for a number of livestock consisting of 17 cattle, 10 hogs, and 25 sheep. The 1860 census shows that Bloodsworth, a 54 year old "day laborer", was living with his wife Mary and daughters Ann and Mary on the island.

In 1877, John Bloodsworth sold two acres of his property to John C. Fisher. Fisher's parcel was located on the eastern shore of the island, north of Piney Island Cove (i.e. nowhere near Site 18DO81). Fisher is supposed to have left the island by 1889, when he was declared insolvent in the county assessments. Around the 1870s to 1880s, the island, heretofore mentioned in deeds as "Thompson's Island", became known as "Bloodsworth Island".

Sometime prior to 1906, John Bloodsworth died and his properties descended to his wife, Mary E., and children. In that same year the heirs sold the property to the Chesapeake and Tangier Company, which in turn sold the property in 1908 to John W.P. Insley of Baltimore. In 1919, Insley, his wife and others, sold the property at public auction.

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. All of Bloodsworth Island was involved in this condemnation. The owners of the various properties were compensated for the "lease" of their land during this period.

In 1949, Bloodsworth Island was sold to the US Government. The military, still in need of a facility for amphibious training after the war, was willing to fully compensate the owner(s) for their 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.

Site 18DO81 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.



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The 1980 Phase I survey entailed a combination of pedestrian survey, motorboat survey, and systematic raking and surface examination. Site 18DO81 was found during a systematic raking of West Ridge, on which the site is situated. The process consisted of clearing 50 X 50 cm to 1 X 1 m squares of litter and vegetation sufficient to determine if cultural resources were present. A testing interval of approximately 15.24 m (50 ft) was used for the raked areas. A total of 132 test areas were examined across the entire island.

At 18DO81, raking revealed a scatter of brick rubble and other artifacts on the surface. A series of 14 additional raked areas were then used to sample the site and establish site limits and probe for subsurface features. Two formal test units (a 1 X 1 m units and a 2 X 2 m unit) were excavated in the vicinity of this artifact scatter in order to determine if any subsurface features or structural elements remained. Soils were screened through hardware cloth.

The excavations revealed a four course brick pier/support next to a hard-packed area. Six hundred thirty-seven artifacts were recovered from the test pits and excavations (counted in the table above as miscellaneous objects). The materials were mostly of a domestic nature, with diagnostics pointing towards a mid-late 19th century date for the site.

Phase II work was carried out at 18DO81 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.

Owing to a period of bad weather, which limited access to the island, the Phase II investigations at 18DO81 were less extensive than the effort that was initially planned and relied on surface reconnaissance in combination with less intensive subsurface testing.

A surface survey (no systematic methods are described in the full site report) was carried out at the site to delineate cultural features and provide preliminary data on site structure and content. A program of shovel testing and test unit excavation was also carried out at the site to help relocate the site and assess its size and depth. The test units were meant to obtain information on site context and identify cultural features. This work entailed the excavation of a total of 51 shovel test pits (STPs) and only two 1 X 1 m test units.

All STPs were excavated by natural stratigraphy, and all excavated soils were screened through hardware cloth. Soils and artifact data were recorded on standardized forms using standard nomenclature and each STP was placed on a plan map of the site. STPs were excavated at 5 m intervals in a grid pattern across the site.

Test unit locations were based primarily on the results of surface reconnaissance and shovel testing. Test units were excavated by arbitrary 10 cm levels within natural strata. All excavated soils were screened through hardware cloth and, again, test unit data were recorded on standardized forms using standard data. Following the completion of a unit, a minimum of one wall was documented with black and white and color photographs, and a measured drawing of the same wall was prepared.

Based on archival evidence, field, and artifact data recovered in 1997, Site 18DO81 appears to represent a domestic occupation that dates from the second half of the 19th to the early 20th century: likely the remnants of John Bloodsworth's homestead on the island. The site possesses the potential to yield information on the domestic life of families involved in 19th century Chesapeake fishing and oystering trades. The site is represented by a complex of archeological features that suggest a possible dwelling as well as activities and other aspects of the cultural landscape. The domestic complex itself consisted of the previously identified brick pier, 3 oyster shell concentrations (dumping areas), and a dark soil stain, possibly a midden area. The latter features include a possible boat landing, a stock pond, and a fence. These suggest that the site contains the evidence necessary to reconstruct site structure, intrasite settlement, and past landscapes.

The Phase II investigations produced 426 artifacts. The assemblage consisted of 4 activity items (3 pieces of lamp glass and a screw), 224 architectural artifacts (56 pieces of brick, 109 pieces of window glass, 3 hinges, 52 nails, and 4 pieces of mortar), 4 clothing items (1 pieces of shoe leather and 3 buttons), 4 furniture items (stove parts), 126 kitchen-related artifacts (115 ceramic sherds and 11 pieces of container glass), 1 tobacco pipe fragment, and 63 miscellaneous items (including 28 pieces of unidentified glass). The artifacts suggest a broad date range, but do not point to an occupation of the site prior to the mid 19th century, and a mean ceramic date suggests intensive use of the site during the last quarter of the 19th century. Ceramic sherds include 70 whiteware, 40 ironstone, 1 porcelain, 2 gray salt-glazed stoneware, and 1 Rockingham sherd. Analysis of the ceramic assemblage implies that the occupants of the site did not participate in similar consumer activities, and hence in the same social activities, as 19th century middle class families. This interpretation is tentative, however, inasmuch as it is based on a limited artifact sample.

Site 18DO81 is a late 19th to early 20th century domestic occupation associated with John Bloodsworth. Occupants of the site were involved in oyster tonging during the intensive exploitation of this resource after the Civil War. The site contains archeological deposits and cultural features that represent a dwelling, possible outbuildings and livestock areas, refuse disposal, and possibly other elements of the past cultural landscape. The site appears to possess the potential for further research into the domestic aspects of people involved in the oyster fishery. In particular, appropriate data is present for understanding site content and structure and for reconstructing the past landscape at the site. This data would be important for understanding the adjustments made to conditions imposed by the oyster trade as well as living in a marginal location like Bloodsworth Island. Further, archeological deposits at the site appear suitable for understanding consumer practices and the degree of interaction with local and regional economic networks. The historical research conducted for the 1997 project established a historic and cultural context for these materials as well. Finally, the combination of features at the site, with the support of archival data, convey as a sense of the site's function as the domestic occupation of a family engaged in the 19th century oyster fishery. These are qualities of significance as defined by the National Register of Historic Places.

The domestic site 18DO81 conveys a sense of its function and contains appropriate archeological deposits and cultural features for reconstructing and understanding past landscapes and the oystering way of life in the 19th century. It is a significant archeological resource. The most pressing threat to the site is not development, but sea level rise. Hopefully further documentation can take place before inundation destroys the site.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00000186, 00006861