



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18KE246

Site Name: South of Panhandle

Prehistoric

Other name(s) EN-14, Panhandle Point, ESN-023P, ESN-024H

Historic

Brief Description:

Middle to Late Woodland short-term camp and shell midden with burial

Unknown

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 5

SCS soil & sediment code FmB

Latitude 39.0168

Longitude -76.2083

Physiographic province Eastern Shore Coastal P

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation <20 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

### Ownership

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

### Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Chester River

#### Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

#### Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 0 m

## Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Contact period site

ca. 1820 - 1860

Archaic site

MD Adena

ca. 1630 - 1675

ca. 1860 - 1900

Early archaic

Early woodland

ca. 1675 - 1720 P

ca. 1900 - 1930

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland Y

ca. 1720 - 1780 P

Post 1930

Late archaic

Late woodland Y

ca. 1780 - 1820 P

Unknown historic context

Unknown prehistoric context

Unknown context

### Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American

Asian American

African American

Unknown Y

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

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 U

Flotation samples taken U

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	629	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

<b>Earthenware</b>		Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Stoneware</b>	
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	2	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Porcelain</b>	<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	69	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	4	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	1	Unmod faunal	2
Fire-cracked rock	286	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	60	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	658	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	12	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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

### Lithic Material

Jasper	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fer quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sil sandstone	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	slate	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	25	Activity item(s)	1
Glass (all)	10	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	133	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	4
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:  +/-  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:

The South of Panhandle site (18KE246) is a Middle to Late Woodland short-term camp and shell midden south of Rock Hall on the Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge in Kent County. Human burials dating to the prehistoric period are also present. The site is situated on Eastern Neck Island, near the mouth of the Chester River. The waters surrounding the island are fully estuarine in character, while inland waters are primarily small streams and pockets of freshwater swamp. The landscape around the site is gently rolling in character and actually somewhat shelters the site from prevailing winds. Soils at the site are Westbrook peat and Sassafras loams.

The site was originally identified during an impact assessment survey conducted in 1978 for the the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The service had acquired the various tracts on the island between 1962 and 1967, to preserve wildlife habitat on the island from planned development. In the intervening years, staff at the Refuge had identified prehistoric remains eroding along the shoreline of the island in several areas. Archeologists were called in to assess the potential threat from continued erosion in 1978. When archeologists visited the vicinity of 18KE246, significant artifactual remains were observed eroding from the shoreline in the western portion of the site. In addition, crushed shell (indicating a midden deposit) was identified in the plowzone for a distance of approximately 100 meters south from the location of the pit. It was evident that this site, as well as several others on the shoreline margins of the Refuge, were subject to ongoing attrition caused by shoreline encroachment and additional investigations were recommended.

In September of 1979, a prehistoric burial was discovered by the Refuge staff at the eroding shoreline, and archeologists were called in to conduct salvage archeology. The presence of this feature and the pit identified during the 1978 survey suggested that the site might contain significant intact subsurface remains. Since few, if any, prehistoric archeological sites on the upper part of the Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay had been subject to scientific investigation, and since this site was subject to ongoing attrition by shoreline erosion, additional investigations were again recommended to determine the extent and significance of the archeological remains at the site. A Phase II testing program was therefore carried out in 1980.

Phase II testing began with a controlled surface collection. A baseline was laid out parallel to the site access road (generally east-west) and a datum was established. A series of transects was plowed (two adjacent passes) across the site in a grid north-south direction spaced every 20 meters along the baseline. The length of each plowed transect was determined by observing the soil exposed by the plow an terminating the plowing when shell-bearing soil had not been observed for 20 or 30 m on the assumption that the site boundaries were defined by the extent of the shell-bearing soil. Some discontinuity in the distribution or potential midden deposits was observed, so a "safety margin" was allowed to make sure that the boundary of the deposits had indeed been identified. On the south end of the site, one transect had to be terminated while dark soil and shell were still being exposed by the plow due to heavy vegetation and a high water table in this area. The eastern limits of the plowed transects were determined by an absence of shell and artifacts in a field road running along the eastern margins of the locale.

In addition to the plowed transects, a block area adjacent to the baseline and the previously identified shoreline feature locations was plowed. This area was 20 meters wide and 130 meters long in a grid east-west direction. An interval of unplowed soil between the shoreline and west side of the plowed block was left to avoid accelerating shoreline erosion.

An examination of the plowed transects revealed that artifacts exposed by the plowing were sparsely distributed. Accordingly, each artifact was flagged in place, and stadia readings for each distance from the baseline were recorded. Surface collections in the plowed block at the center of the site were grouped by 5 m grid squares laid out from a secondary grid line laid out perpendicular to the baseline. An inspection of the plowed area west of this secondary line revealed that no artifacts were in that portion of the plowed block.

Although fire-cracked rock was observed on the surface, a walk-over of the exposed portions of the site surface failed to reveal any clear-cut concentrations or patterning in this material. Time and budget constraints were such that a judgment was made that this material would not be mapped or collected since it showed little promise of yielding information about in-situ contexts, the primary target of the investigations. It is possible that a controlled surface collection of the entire site, as opposed to the sampling procedure applied in this case, might reveal significant patterning in the fire-cracked rock. Since, with the exception of excavated areas (a small portion of the site surface), this class of artifacts was left on the surface, future studies of this material can be completed. Fire-cracked rock was tabulated for undisturbed horizons in the excavated areas.

The surface collection failed to reveal any clear-cut concentrations of prehistoric artifacts, but the exposure of the surface soils allowed some conclusions about the nature of the site deposits. Shell appeared across the surface of the site in varying concentrations. However, because the redistribution of midden shell to enhance soil fertility was a common agricultural practice prior to the introduction of modern chemical fertilizers, shell alone did not reliably indicate in-situ site deposits. Soil color also varied from a reddish subsoil to a dark humic material, suggestive of midden deposit. The combination of this dark soil with shell was assumed to be the surest indication of the original site deposits.

To test the assumption about the surface signs, a series of shovel test pits (STPs) were placed along the plowed transects in each of the patches of dark soil and shell. The purpose of the shovel tests was to penetrate the plowzone and identify the character of the sub-plowzone soil, and they were not screened. They were approximately one shovel-blade wide and were made only deep enough to insure that either undisturbed subsoil or cultural horizons lay below the plowzone. The STPs were all judgmentally placed based on soil color and shell.

In general, undisturbed midden deposit was located only in areas exhibiting both dark soil and shell, but an exception to this was identified in a low swale north of the baseline. This appears to be the location of an intermittent drainage that had been partially filled for agricultural purposes. Soil from a higher area north of the swale had apparently been dragged into the lower area, resulting in the reversed stratigraphic position of lighter-colored subsoil at the surface. This had apparently been done more than once, because a series of plowzones were revealed in these shovel tests, with undisturbed midden at the bottom. The shovel tests also confirmed the position of the site margins on the north and southeast sides of the site. The current western margin was formed by the eroding shoreline. The east side of the block-plowed area showed very little shell, but dark soil suggested archeological remains might be present. This was confirmed by a test trench (see below). Artifacts on the surface fell off rapidly beyond this point and were absent in the field road, thus effectively defining the easternmost extent of the site. Shovel tests also suggested that the site may extend farther to the south than the limits of the 1980 excavations.

Formal 1 X 1 m test units were excavated to evaluate the integrity and contents of undisturbed midden deposits and to identify any features that might be



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present. These units were placed in locations where shovel testing had indicated there might be undisturbed archeological contexts and to identify site margins. For the most part, these excavations were continued to the bottom of midden deposits. Deeper extensions into the subsoil were periodically made to determine if any pre-midden cultural components were present. All soils below the plowzone were shoveled through hardware cloth and possible discrete features were trowelled. In the first unit in a particular area, the plowzone was also screened. If adjacent 1 m squares were opened, the decision about whether or not to screen the plowzone was made based on the artifact yield from the plowzone in the initial unit. If (as was most often the case) little or no artifact materials were recovered from the plowzone in the first unit, the plowzone in the adjacent unit was removed without screening. A bulk soil sample from all confirmed features (including a shell pit exposed in the eroding shoreline) was removed for laboratory analysis. Separate soil and shell samples (1.75 liters of soil) were collected from each excavation unit for each individual cultural or natural level. When possible, charcoal was collected from undisturbed contexts for potential radiocarbon dating.

A six meter trench was also placed adjacent to the eroding bluff near the features previously located and a one meter square in this trench was extended into the subsoil to identify any occupation prior to the creation of the midden. On the eastern end of the baseline, a five meter trench was placed in dark soil beyond the limit of shell concentration. This unit was designed to determine if any cultural material existed beyond the surface evidence of shell midden. Undisturbed midden was identified in shovel tests in a swale north of the base line, in the two western-most plowed transects. A three-meter long test unit and a one meter square unit were placed into the midden in these locations. Undisturbed midden was also identified in a plowed transect south of the baseline and a one meter square and 2 X 1m unit were placed there.

In addition to all of the above efforts, a 20 X 20 meter area at the west end of the block-plowed area, adjacent to the shoreline, was mechanically stripped of its plowzone to look for any previously unidentified features. A grader and small bulldozer were used to strip the plowzone once STPs had been excavated systematically at 4 m intervals to measure the depth of the plowzone and guide the stripping operation. Project personnel and Refuge staff continuously monitored the soil removal operation, and potential features were immediately flagged and tied to the baseline by transit. Several features were identified during this procedure.

Salvage operations were also conducted on some of the previously identified eroding prehistoric features. The remains of the largest of three pit features (Feature 5) exposed by erosion in the shoreline bluff was excavated and additional excavation was carried out in the vicinity of the aforementioned burial pit (Feature 3) to ensure that the limits of this pit had been fully defined during the earlier salvage work. A dirt road running along the eastern margin of the site was also examined for surface evidence of archeological remains, and a general surface collection of artifacts was gathered from the beach below the eroding bluff.

Phase II archeological investigations in the 1980s at 18KE246 revealed that it is a shell midden site at least 270 meters long, and that it contains undisturbed and in situ contexts, including both midden horizons and features. The artifacts recovered during the testing program were not numerous. However, they possessed attributes generally consistent with those previously recorded at the site, which suggest an early Late Woodland occupation. The primary indicator for this cultural-temporal provenience is the presence of shell-tempered ceramics of the Townsend series (including both fabric-impressed and incised types). Cord-marked ceramics tempered with crushed rock (including flake mica) and two un-typed projectile points, suggest that a late Middle Woodland component is also present at the site. A single cord-marked, shell-tempered sherd also supports this interpretation. The crushed rock tempered ceramics may be associated with the Hell Island Series from the Delaware side of the Delmarva Peninsula. They were surface collected from the beach and no clear-cut stratigraphic contexts included both components, but it is possible that they are contemporaneous (at least in broad terms). If this is true, then 18KE246 is yet another example of a "transitional" (Middle-to-Late Woodland) site in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Features identified at the site include a trash pit that contained the remains of three partially re-constructable vessels, an individual flexed burial, and large and small shell pits, along with several other disturbances whose origin is ambiguous. No obvious patterning of the features was observed. Shellfish remains at the site are primarily oyster, though a few shells from "hard" clams were discovered at the base of Feature 5 (the large pit). Animal bone, representing raccoon, deer, and turtle were recovered, but faunal remains were not common in the portions of undisturbed midden penetrated by test excavations. This suggests that shellfish gathering was the primary focus of subsistence activities at the site, and that it was a specialized and probably seasonal occupation. This further implies that other portions of the settlement-subsistence round remain to be located, presumably away from the coastline. Snake bones and the remains of a large canid, probably a wolf, were recovered, but the snake is presumed to be a post-depositional intrusion in the midden context. The canid burial (Feature 12) may be either prehistoric or historic in origin.

The results of flotation analysis on the various soil samples collected from the site (see above) yielded a rather disappointing inventory of identifiable material. None of the floral material could be identified, with the exception of a partial hackberry seed from Feature 12, stem remains from the genus *Rosa* and involucre bracts from the Asteraceae family (the latter from an undisturbed midden level). These remains are not sufficient to suggest a coherent environmental picture. The hackberry sometimes appears as a (hypothesized) prehistoric dietary constituent, but a single fragmentary example hardly indicates that an important subsistence factor has been identified.

The faunal material identified from the flotation of feature samples was exclusively invertebrate, and, other than oyster shell, represented primarily snails which invade deposits of decaying organic material (and in this case midden deposits). A number of insects, Dermestids, and Isopods, were recovered and would also be expected in such settings. A cockle fragment and the shell of a large, ribbed land snail may have been intentionally broken for food extraction.

Combining the results of the flotation analysis with the rather sparse representation of vertebrate remains discovered thus far, the impression of a rather narrow exploitation focus (centered on estuarine resources) is supported.

The testing program leaves the impression that there are two, somewhat separated concentrations of prehistoric remains. The first includes the northern section of the site adjacent to the locations of the first features identified at 18KE246. The second is to the south extending toward the low-lying marshy area south of the site. It is possible that the apparent discreteness of these areas is at least partly a product of historic-period redistribution of surface soils for agricultural purposes, that is, that materials intervening between the two areas have been removed.

Prehistoric artifacts recovered during the Phase II excavations at 18KE246 included a side-notched point, 2 triangular points, 3 cores, 3 utilized/retouched flakes, 60 other flakes, 2 hoes, 1 steatite fragment, 1 abrader, 1 axe, 5 grinding stones, 1 polishing stone, 11 hammerstones, 43 other lithics (mostly cobbles), 286 pieces of fire-cracked rock, 5 sand-tempered sherds, 5 crushed rock-tempered sherds, 18 mica-tempered sherds, 629 shell-tempered sherds (12 rims), 1 shell and crushed rock-tempered sherd, 4 clay lumps, and 2 bones.



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The historic period remains at 18KE246 were more numerous than had been expected and the presence of a significant amount of brick suggested the presence of a structure. The ceramics were primarily red and yellow-bodied earthenwares and stonewares. Finer table wares such as Delft, fine white salt-glazed stoneware, creamware, and pearlware are absent. The historic deposits were interpreted as representing an early 18th century (or earlier) domestic occupation. This interpretation rests on a certain amount of negative evidence. No undisturbed historic features were identified during the Phase II investigations, but if a dwelling was present at least 1 shallow well and a privy should be present. They may well be found within the extensive areas of the site not yet opened by excavation. Alternatively, the historic materials could be agriculturally redeposited scatter from an occupation elsewhere.

Historic artifacts recovered during Phase II work included a piece of metal wire, 130 pieces of brick (8 glazed), 1 cut nail, 1 wrought nail, 1 piece of window glass, 2 whiteware sherds, 18 redware sherds, 3 yellowware sherds, 2 stoneware sherds, 9 pieces of bottle glass, a pewter plate edge, 3 bones, and 4 kaolin pipe fragments.

Because the pits at 18KE246 dating from the prehistoric occupation contain valuable information about pre-Columbian subsistence (in this case heavy reliance on shellfish), and because of the possibility of an early Colonial occupation, the site was recommended as potentially significant. The site is relatively well-protected on public lands, though erosion and inundation could present a problem. Because the site boundary to the south was never determined and it appears that additional intact deposits may still be present there, the site should continue to be considered a significant resource.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00005913