



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18QU321

Site Name: Benton Farm Site #1

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Kent Island quad unconfirmed locality #12

Historic

Brief Description:

Late Archaic and Early, Middle, & Late Woodland shell midden, possible hamlet or village, 18th-19th C. scatter

Unknown

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 5

SCS soil & sediment code MqB

Latitude 38.9886

Longitude -76.2831

Physiographic province Eastern Shore Coastal P

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m

Site slope 2-5%

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) Unnamed tidal pond of Che

- | Saltwater   | Freshwater                                       |
|---|--|
| Ocean <input type="checkbox"/>                      | Stream/river <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Estuary/tidal river <input type="checkbox"/>        | Swamp <input type="checkbox"/>                   |
| Tidewater/marsh <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Lake or pond <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|   | Spring <input type="checkbox"/>                  |

Minimum distance to water is 2 m

## Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Contact period site  ca. 1820 - 1860  Y

ca. 1630 - 1675  ca. 1860 - 1900  Y

Archaic site

MD Adena  P

ca. 1675 - 1720  ca. 1900 - 1930

Early archaic

Early woodland  Y

ca. 1720 - 1780  Y Post 1930

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland  Y

ca. 1780 - 1820  Y

Late archaic  Y

Late woodland  Y

Unknown historic context

Unknown prehistoric context

Unknown context

### Ethnic Associations (historic only)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Native American <input type="checkbox"/>  | Asian American <input type="checkbox"/> |
| African American <input type="checkbox"/> | Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>        |
| Anglo-American <input type="checkbox"/>   | Other <input type="checkbox"/>          |
| Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/>         |   |

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

## Site Function Contextual Data:

### Prehistoric

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Multi-component <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Misc. ceremonial <input type="checkbox"/>              |
| Village <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>         | Rock art <input type="checkbox"/>                      |
| Hamlet <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>          | Shell midden <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>       |
| Base camp <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>       | STU/lithic scatter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Rockshelter/cave <input type="checkbox"/>           | Quarry/extraction <input type="checkbox"/>             |
| Earthen mound <input type="checkbox"/>              | Fish weir <input type="checkbox"/>                     |
| Cairn <input type="checkbox"/>                      | Production area <input type="checkbox"/>               |
| Burial area <input type="checkbox"/>                | Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>                       |
| Other context <input type="checkbox"/>              |  |

### Historic

Urban/Rural?

### Domestic

- Homestead
- Farmstead
- Mansion
- Plantation
- Row/townhome
- Cellar
- Privy

### Industrial

- Mining-related
- Quarry-related
- Mill
- Black/metalsmith

Furnace/forge

Other

### Transportation

- Canal-related
- Road/railroad
- Wharf/landing
- Maritime-related
- Bridge
- Ford

### Educational

### Commercial

- Trading post
- Store
- Tavern/inn

### Military

Battlefield

Fortification

Encampment

### Townsite

### Religious

- Church/mtg house
- Ch support bldg

### Burial area

- Cemetery
- Sepulchre

### Bldg or foundation

- Isolated burial
- Possible Structure

Post-in-ground

Frame-built

Masonry

Other structure

### Slave related

### Non-domestic agri

### Recreational

### Midden/dump

### Artifact scatter

### Spring or well

### Unknown

### Other context

## Interpretive Sampling Data:

### Prehistoric context samples

Soil samples taken  N

Flotation samples taken  N

Other samples taken

### Historic context samples

Soil samples taken

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken



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## Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types		Koens-Crispin	
Clovis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>
Le Croy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Morrow Mntn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guilford	1	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	41	Yeocomico	<input type="checkbox"/>
Selden Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Watson	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minguannan	6	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	<input type="checkbox"/>	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	1

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

## Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	268	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	1476
Fire-cracked rock	33	Oyster shell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	13	Floral material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	57	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	1	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Storage/trash pit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Midden	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shell midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ossuary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
House pattern(s)	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sandstone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	3	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	8	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	9	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arms	3	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc.	2
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Historic Features

Const feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>		
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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**Brief**

**Description:**

Late Archaic and Early, Middle, & Late Woodland shell midden, possible hamlet or village, 18th-19th C. scatter

Unknown

**External Samples/Data:**

Collection curated at

Additional raw data may be available online

**Summary Description:**

Benton Farm Site #1 (18QU321) is a multicomponent site comprised of Late Archaic to Late Woodland period shell middens, and an 18th to 19th century artifact scatter. The site is located on the east side of Kent Island, on the western shore of the Chester River in Queen Anne's County. It is situated on a knoll, border by two drainages and a tidal pond. The majority of the site lies within an agricultural field. The sediments encountered in the area are typical of the Mattapex series. They typically consisted of 0-20 cm dark grayish brown (10YR 4/2) silty loam with oyster shell over yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) loamy clay. The site measures approximately 160 m east-west by 90 m north-south.

During a non-systematic surface survey of Kent Island in 1992, the site was initially identified as a 200 x 200 m base camp with Late Archaic, Middle Woodland, and Late Woodland components. Fire-cracked rock fragments and dense oyster shell were noted at the site. The only artifacts recovered from the site were 1 Fox Creek point fragment, 1 broken jasper point, and 7 rhyolite flakes. A private collector reportedly had also found a celt and a hammerstone when perusing the site some time earlier.

In May of 2000, Phase II testing of the site was undertaken prior to the proposed Four Seasons at Kent Island Development Project. A total of 34 shovel test pits (STPs) were excavated at 15 m intervals within the site area. Additional testing of site 18QU321 consisted of one 0.5 x 1 m test unit and seven 1x1 m test units. Test Unit 1 (TU 1) was placed to examine a surface shell concentration encountered during the STP excavations. It was placed within the tree line bordering the tidal pond in the southeast corner of the site. Five test units (TU 2, 3, and 5-7) were placed across the knoll in order to examine site stratigraphy. TUs 4 and 4a were placed adjacent to TU 2 in the southeastern portion of the site in order to delineate a shell midden located in TU 2. A controlled surface collection was then conducted in 10 x10 m blocks. The data from the surface collection and test units guided the placement of 8 mechanized trenches (TR 1 to TR 8) which ranged in size from 1 x 9.75 m to 1 x 3.75 m.

Eleven features were identified within the test units and trenches, 8 of which were determined to be cultural (7 prehistoric and 1 historic). The prehistoric features included 3 middens and several postholes. Feature TR 1-04 was identified in Trench 1 as a possible midden that covered an area of about 20 x 30 cm. One small charcoal smear was noted on the surface of the feature. Feature TR 5-01, located in Trench 5, was identified as a shell midden which measured 3 m east-west and extended beyond the north and south boundaries of the trench. Four posthole features were identified at the site (TR 1-01, TR 1-03, TR 3-01, and TR 7-01). The postholes appeared as dark round or oval stains within the lighter subsoil. The postholes possibly represent the presence of structures in those areas. None of these features were excavated.

Feature 2-01 was a basin-shaped shell midden located in the southern portion of the site, adjacent to the small drainage. The exposed portion of the midden (it extended beyond the excavation units) measured 125 cm by 150 cm. Townsend (Late Woodland period) ceramics, lithics, charcoal, and an animal bone (deer) were found associated with the feature. Several whole oyster shells were also noted. The feature may have been used initially as a storage pit and later as a refuse pit, until it was finally filled in with oyster shells. One shell and carbon sample was collected from Stratum III and a second shell and carbon sample was collected from Stratum IV, a culturally sterile layer, for radiocarbon dating. According to the original report, the two samples yielded dates affiliated with the Late Woodland period. The dates, calibrated to 2- sigma, were AD 1290-1440 and AD 1280-1410. However, the lab report, and hence the conventional radiocarbon ages for the samples, was not located in either the Site File or the Appendix in the back of the original report. Therefore, these samples are not included in the Radiocarbon Data table above.

A single historic posthole (Feature TR 1-02) was identified as an oval-shaped dark stain in the subsoil. It measured 11 cm by 7 cm. The base of the posthole was rectangular. This was the only posthole from the site that was excavated; however, no artifacts were recovered from the feature. Presumably, this posthole, as opposed to the 4 listed above, was dated to the historic period based on its shape although the reasoning for separating it from the other postholes is not clearly stated in the text.

A total of 1,852 prehistoric artifacts were recovered. Lithic artifacts (n=305) included 235 pieces of debitage (including 16 heat-treated flakes) and 9 cores. Of the 15 recovered biface, only 1 was definitively typed as a Guilford lanceolate point, and the remaining bifaces indicated a possible range for utilization of the location from the Middle Archaic period through the Middle Woodland period. In all, 33 fire-cracked rock fragments were also collected. A total of 13 other lithic objects were found including 1 hammerstone and 12 heated cobbles. Raw material types included quartz, quartzite, rhyolite, sandstone, chert, and jasper. A total of 57 ceramic sherds including 1 Townsend rim, were identified (3 Killens, 6 Minguannan, 41 Townsend, and 7 indeterminate tempered sherds). The identified types all date to the Late Woodland period. A single other fired clay object was collected, a piece of daub. Faunal (n=1,476) artifacts included 33 animal bone fragments, 2 animal teeth, 1,167 oyster shells (a random sample) and shell fragments, 67 unidentified bivalves, and 207 snail shells. The snail was probably not eaten. Floral (n=13) artifacts included 12 wood fragments, 11 of which were burnt, and 1 nut/seed. An analysis of the artifact distribution indicated that materials dating to the Late Woodland period appeared to be clustered in the southeastern portion of the site, near and in the tree line adjacent to the tidal pond. That is, the concentration of Late Woodland artifacts was higher in the eastern portion of the site than in the western portion.

The historic artifacts (n=23) recovered from 18QU321 included 9 architectural items (2 window glass shards, 2 brick fragments, 2 cut nails, 1 wire nail, and 2 roofing shingle/tar paper fragments), 9 kitchen-related items (6 bottle glass fragments, 1 domestic gray salt-glazed stoneware sherd, 1 white salt-glazed stoneware sherd, and 1 redware sherd), 2 miscellaneous items (1 sheet metal fragment and 1 piece of coal), and 3 arms-related items (2 shotgun shells and 1 shotgun shell cap). All historic artifacts were recovered from the plowzone, and were widely dispersed across the site.

Benton Farm Site #1 (18QU321) is multicomponent site comprised of Late Archaic to Late Woodland period shell middens, and an 18th to 19th century artifact scatter. The presence of intact sub-surface features at the site demonstrates a high level of archeological integrity. The prehistoric component represents either long-term encampments or a series of less intensive encampments over a long period of time. The site has the potential to provide data concerning natural resource exploitation, ceramic and lithic technology, and possibly household patterning. The small number of historic artifacts and single post hole feature suggested that the historic component is of limited research potential. Data recovery was recommended for the prehistoric component of the site if construction impacts could not be avoided. As of 2010, the Four Seasons development has not impacted the site area.

**External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):**

97000726, Site Files

MARYLAND  
HISTORICAL



TRUST

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