



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18QU325

Site Name: Benton Farm Site #5

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Lowery area 31 site A

Historic

Brief Description:

Early, Middle, and Late Woodland shell midden; Contact hamlet?; 19th century artifact scatter

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 5

SCS soil & sediment code MqB

Latitude 38.9897

Longitude -76.2985

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 pont of Che

- | Saltwater | | Freshwater | |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Ocean <input type="checkbox"/> | Estuary/tidal river <input type="checkbox"/> | Stream/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 5 m | | | |

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

- Paleoindian site
- Archaic site
- Early archaic
- Middle archaic
- Late archaic
- Woodland site
- MD Adena
- Early woodland
- Mid. woodland
- Late woodland

- Contact period site ca. 1820 - 1860
- ca. 1630 - 1675 ca. 1860 - 1900
- ca. 1675 - 1720 ca. 1900 - 1930
- ca. 1720 - 1780 Post 1930
- ca. 1780 - 1820

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

- Native American
- African American
- Anglo-American
- Hispanic
- Asian American
- Unknown
- Other

Unknown prehistoric context

Unknown historic context

Unknown context

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 N

N

Flotation samples taken N

Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken N

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"/>	Levana	<input type="checkbox"/>

Prehistoric Sherd Types			
Marcey Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Popes Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dames Qtr	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coulbourn	<input type="checkbox"/>
Selden Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Watson	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accokeek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mockley	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wolfe Neck	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clemson Island	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vinette	<input type="checkbox"/>	Page	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shepard	<input type="checkbox"/>	Townsend	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yeocomico	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minguannan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monongahela	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sullivan Cove	<input type="checkbox"/>
Susquehannock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shenks Ferry	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Moyaone	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Potomac Crk	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Sherd Types		Ironstone		Staffordshire		Stoneware	
Earthenware		Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	<input type="checkbox"/>			Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	glass trade bead

Prehistoric Features	
Mound(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Midden	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shell midden	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
House pattern(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearth(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Lithic reduc area	<input type="checkbox"/>

Lithic Material		Fer quartzite		Sil sandstone	
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 type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sandstone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	unidentified me	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Oyster samples from intact midden contexts; assoc. w/ Hells Island, Townsend, Minguannan, and Killens wares

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

Historic Features		Privy/outhouse		Depression/mound		Unknown	
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: 1840 +/- 60 years BP Reliability Sample 2: 2010 +/- 60 years BP Reliability Sample 3: +/- years BP Reliability

B-147076: Oyster shell sample from Feature 1-01, assoc. w/charcoal, animal bones, lithics, Hells Island, Townsend, Minguannan, and Killens

Low

B-147077: Oyster shell sample from Test Unit 2, shell midden feature; assoc. w/ Hells Island, Townsend, Minguannan, and Killens

Low

B-147078: Oyster shell sample from Test Unit 4 shell midden feature; assoc. w/ Hells Island, Townsend, Minguannan, and Killens

Sample 4: 1200 +/- 60 years BP Reliability

B-147079: Oyster shell sample from Test Unit 6, shell midden feature; assoc. w/ Hells Island, Townsend, Minguannan, and Killens

Low

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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Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Benton Farm Site #5 (18QU325) is a multicomponent site comprised of possible Middle Archaic and Woodland period shell middens, and a small historic artifact scatter. The site is located on a bluff at the headwaters of an unnamed tributary to the Chester River on Kent Island, Queen Anne's County. Two small drainages run on either side of the knoll and flow to a nearby tidal pond. Soil profiles fall within the range of the Mattapex series. The typical profile consisted of 0-20 cm dark grayish brown (10YR 4/2) silty loam with oyster shell over yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) loamy clay. However, on the sides of the knoll and near the drainages, a buried A (Ab) horizon was located between 40 and 70 cmbs, and consisted of a very dark grayish brown (10YR 3/2) loose wet clay loam. The site measures approximately 90 m east-west by 130 m north-south.

The site was identified during a non-systematic surface survey of Kent Island in 1992 and described as a prehistoric camp measuring 100 x 200 m. Fire-cracked rock, shell, and lithic material were noted at the site. It is unclear if any of this material was retrieved from the site. It was indicated that the location had been collected by local residents for many years.

In 2000, Phase II testing of the site was undertaken prior to the proposed Four Seasons at Kent Island Development Project. Archeological investigations included the excavation of 42 shovel test pits (STPs) at 15 m intervals within the site area, 6 of which were positive for prehistoric artifacts, and one of which contained a cut nail. One probable prehistoric shell feature was identified beneath the plowzone in a shovel test in the southeastern portion of the site; it exhibited subsurface integrity. Following the STP excavations, six 1x1 m test units and a controlled surface collection in 10 x 10 m blocks was conducted. Then, the data collected from the surface collection and test units guided the placement of 10 mechanically excavated trenches, each approximately 1 x 10 m in size.

Of the 38 identified features, 26 were determined to be cultural in origin. The feature (Feature 1-01) first identified during shovel testing was positively identified as a shell midden. Test unit 1 and Trench 1 were placed in the vicinity to uncover the whole feature (no measurements were provided in the original text). It appeared that the midden had been disturbed by plowing activities. A "small portion" of the feature was excavated. A shell sample was acquired for the purposes of radiocarbon dating. The sample yielded a calibrated date to 2 sigma between AD 52 and 336 for Feature 1-01. This date associates the feature with the late Early Woodland/ early Middle Woodland period.

There were also 8 possible midden features, 4 of which contained shell, and 17 possible postholes which varied widely in size. Two of the postholes were located in the vicinity of 3 possible midden features, and possibly represented an activity area. Most of the postholes were found near or adjacent to other postholes suggesting that they may have represented structures. The 5 post holes located within Trench 5 appeared to form a north-south line, possibly representing the wall of a structure.

Shell samples were taken for the purpose of C14 dating from three of the possible midden features. Samples were taken from the features identified in Test Units 2 and 4, which were located in the northern portion of the site and returned dates calibrated to 2 sigma of 173 BC-AD 90 and AD 399-665 respectively. The third sample was taken from Test Unit 6, located in the south central portion of the site, which yielded a calibrated date of AD 682-905. These date ranges fall within the Early and Middle Woodland periods.

A total of 367 prehistoric artifacts were recovered from site 18QU325. There were 203 pieces of debitage and 3 cores. In all, 9 biface were recovered; there was 1 Stanly (generally dated to the Middle Archaic period), 1 Middle-Late Woodland Bradley Spike, 1 Late Woodland Levanna, and 2 unidentifiable projectile points as well as 4 staged bifaces. The 12 other lithic items consisted of 3 hammerstones and 9 heated cobbles. Eleven fire-cracked rock fragments were collected. There were 51 ceramic sherds (1 Middle Woodland Hell Island, and Late Woodland types: 8 Killen including 1 rim, 1 Minguannan, 28 Townsend including 1 rim, and 13 unidentified sherds). A single piece of daub was the only other fired clay object found. Faunal (n=74) artifacts included 6 animal bone fragments, 55 oyster shells and shell fragments (a random sample), and 13 unidentified shell. Floral (n=3) artifacts included 3 wood fragments, all of which were burnt.

The artifacts and features suggested that there were distinct activity areas at the site. Lithic reduction and food processing activities appeared to be focused in the northwest corner of the site. Supporting evidence for this came from TUs 4 and 6 and included bifaces and 144 pieces of lithic debitage, fire-cracked rock, faunal remains and 49 of the total 52 ceramic sherds recovered from the site. In the area of Trench 5, the posthole features indicated a possible structure possibly associated with midden feature TR 5-08. Another activity area was suggested from evidence recovered from TU 1 and Trench 1 including postholes, a shell pit and a midden feature.

No historic period features were identified at the site. The 22 historic artifacts recovered included 7 architectural items (3 window glass, 1 brick fragment, 1 mortar fragment, 2 cut nails), 12 kitchen-related items (6 bottle glass fragments, 1 Bristol Slip stoneware, 3 gray salt-glazed stoneware (1 geometric design), 1 whiteware, and 1 milk glass lid liner), and 3 miscellaneous items (1 rubber item, 1 piece of slag, and 1 coal fragment). All of the artifacts were recovered from the plowzone and no concentrations could be discerned. The historic component appears to be no more than a scatter, remnant of a possible historic site in the vicinity.

Benton Farm Site #5 (18QU325) is a multicomponent site comprised of possible Middle Archaic and Woodland period shell middens, and a small historic 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. 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