



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18QU326

Site Name: Benton Farm Site #6

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Kent Island quad unconfirmed locality #11

Historic

Brief Description:

E & L Archaic and E Woodland camps, Middle and/or Late Woodland village/hamlet; Late 17th-Early 18th house site

Unknown

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 5

SCS soil & sediment code MqB

Latitude 38.9884 Longitude -76.2927

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"/>                      | Estuary/tidal river <input checked="" 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 1 m

## Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

- Paleoindian site
- Archaic site
- Early archaic
- Middle archaic
- Late archaic
- Unknown prehistoric context
- Woodland site
- MD Adena
- Early woodland
- Mid. woodland
- Late woodland
- Unknown historic context
- Unknown context

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

### Ethnic Associations (historic only)

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

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

Flotation samples taken N 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"/>	Susquehanna	<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"/>
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"/>
Minguannan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sullivan Cove	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shenks Ferry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moyaone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Potomac Crk	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yeocomico	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monongahela	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehannock	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Sherd Types		Ironstone		Staffordshire		Stoneware	
<b>Earthenware</b>		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"/>	<b>Porcelain</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	<input type="checkbox"/>		<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 type="checkbox"/>

Prehistoric Features	
Mound(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Midden	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>
Lithic reduc area	<input type="checkbox"/>
Storage/trash pit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ossuary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<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 type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sandstone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Dated features present at site

Oyster shell sample from midden; assoc. w/ daub fragments

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"/>

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 checked="" 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: 1220 +/- 70 years BP Reliability Sample 2: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 3: +/- years BP Reliability

B-147080: Oyster shell sample from midden feature TR 3-01, associated with daub fragments

Low

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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E & L Archaic and E Woodland camps, Middle and/or Late Woodland village/hamlet; Late 17th-Early 18th house site

Unknown

## External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

Benton Farm Site #6 (18QU326) is a multicomponent site with occupation during the Early and Late Archaic and Early to Late Woodland periods, and a late 17th to early 18th century artifact scatter, possibly representing a historic occupation in the location. This site is located along the Chester River on the east side of Kent Island. It is situated on a small knoll west of a tidal pond with small drainages to the north and south. The shoreline (eastern) section of the site has been graded and bulkheaded and the majority has been untilled for some time. The inland section of the site is still being cultivated. Soil profiles fall within the range of variability for the Mattapex series. Typical soil profile in the tree line consisted of 0-50 cm dark grayish brown (10YR 4/2) clay loam over 50-70 cm very dark grayish brown (10YR 3/2) clay loam buried A (Ab) horizon, over dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) silty clay. The typical soil profile in the plowed field consists of 0-20 cm dark gray brown (10YR 4/2) clay loam over yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) loamy clay. The site measures approximately 95 m north-south by 135 m east-west.

The site was identified in 1992 during a non-systematic survey of fields and shoreline at Kent Island. Several fragments of fire-cracked rocks and shell were noted at the site but none was collected. In May 2000, a preliminary Phase II testing of the site was conducted prior to the proposed Four Seasons at Kent Island Development Project. An intensive pedestrian reconnaissance along the shoreline in the 1992 mapped location of the site failed to identify any cultural materials. A few isolated patches of plow-damaged oyster shell fragments were observed along the eroding beach. Extensive bank stabilization efforts and recent dredge spoil dumping have substantially altered the landscape. Much of the mapped location is now waterlogged. The site was eventually re-identified west of the mapped location on the other side of a small seasonal drainage and just north of the Late Archaic to Late Woodland site 18QU321.

The Phase II field investigations conducted in 2000 consisted of the excavation of 51 shovel test pits (STPs) at 15 m intervals, 7 of which contained prehistoric artifacts. Further testing consisted of the placement of five 1x1 m test units (TUs) near STPs that had prehistoric material. Three test units were positioned within dense scatters of oyster shell, and two were placed along the edge of the landform to test the boundary of the shell scatter. Upon completion of the test units, a controlled surface collection was conducted within 10 x 10 m blocks. The data collected from the surface collection and test units guided the placement of an additional seven 1 x 10 m, two 1 x 8 m, and one 1 x 12 m mechanically excavated trenches. These were placed in areas with a dense scatter of oyster shell and in close proximity to features discovered within test units.

Thirteen prehistoric cultural features were identified during the Phase II investigations. Of those, 8 were possible pit features that contained dense to moderate amounts of oyster shell, and 2 were interpreted to be possible shell middens. None of those features were excavated. Three features were partially excavated. Feature 1-01 was a midden identified in TU 1. It consisted of a relatively circular oyster shell pit that measured 53 x 112 cm. Trench 5 was placed adjacent to the unit in order to expose the entire feature. The western third of the feature was excavated. Only 4 prehistoric artifacts (2 ceramic sherds, 1 flake and 1 animal bone) were recovered from the oyster shell matrix. The southwestern third of Feature TR 1-01 was excavated within Trench 1. The feature was identified as a possible midden remnant measuring about 116 cm in diameter, with a concave base that extended 17 cm into subsoil. Feature TR 3-01 was also interpreted to be a possible shell midden. It was identified during the excavation of Trench 3. The feature measured 210 cm north-south and continued beyond the walls of the 1.5 m wide trench. The northwest corner of the feature was excavated revealing a concave base. Only 4 pieces of prehistoric daub were recovered from the shell matrix. One shell sample was collected from Feature TR 3-01 for radiocarbon dating. The sample yielded a 2 sigma calibrated date from AD 665-903. This falls within the Middle Woodland period.

In addition to the midden and pit features, several post holes were also identified in the southwestern portion of the site. One post hole was identified in Trench 1 and four in Trench 2. The post holes in Trench 2 appeared to form a line from north to south. This suggested the location of a structural wall. Four midden features were located in the vicinity of the post holes. Five other possible post hole features were identified in the northern portion of the site and two more were identified in the eastern portion of the site, possibly indicating that these were activity areas within the site. One possible historic period post hole was also identified at the northern end of the site. It was characterized as a rectangular deposit that measured 50 x 70 cm. The feature was not excavated.

A total of 627 prehistoric artifacts were collected during the Phase II investigations. There were 195 pieces of debitage, 1 core, 2 Bare Island points, 1 Savannah River point, 1 Calvert point, 1 Lecroy point, 3 untyped points, and 8 other biface tools. The diagnostic points indicated occupation during the Early and Late Archaic, and Early Woodland periods. There were 7 items in the other lithics category, all heated cobbles, and 1 groundstone item, an adze/celt. Only 2 fire-cracked rock fragments were collected. A total of 30 ceramic sherds (inclusive of 2 rim sherds) were recovered from the site. There were 16 Hell Island and 2 Mockley Middle Woodland types, 3 Killens, 1 Minguannan, and 4 Townsend Late Woodland types, and 4 indeterminate types. Other fired clay items consisted of 4 daub fragments. Faunal materials (n= 367) consisted of 32 animal bone fragments and 335 oyster shell fragments (randomly sampled). The only floral material recovered were 4 pieces of burnt wood.

Artifacts dating to the Early Woodland period appeared to be focused in the southwestern portion of the site. Late Woodland materials appeared to be concentrated in the central portion of the site. The data further suggested that the Middle Woodland materials (and, hence, occupation) were scattered across the site. No distinct patterns of lithic distribution were observed. Rather, the lithic artifacts displayed a near uniform distribution across the site.

In addition to the prehistoric materials, a total of 29 historic artifacts were retrieved from the site. There were 11 architectural items (6 brick fragments, 1 screw, 1 wrought rosehead nail, 2 cut/ wrought nails, and 1 unidentified nail). There were 7 kitchen items (1 blown in mold glass fragment, 1 bottle glass fragment, 3 North Devon gravel tempered sherds, 1 gray salt-glazed sherd, and 1 hard porcelain sherd). There were 11 miscellaneous items (1 piece of unidentified metal, 1 piece of metal slag, 1 cinder, and 8 pieces of coal). No artifact concentrations were identified.

Benton Farm Site #6 (18QU326) is a multicomponent site with occupation during the Early and Late Archaic and Early to Late Woodland periods, and a late 17th to early 18th century artifact scatter, possibly representing a historic occupation in the location. Given the large number of prehistoric shell midden features identified at the site, it appeared that food procurement and processing were important activities of the early inhabitants. The historic data suggested the presence of a late 17th to early 18th century occupation in the site vicinity. It may be contemporaneous with the nearby 17th century Claiborne settlement located to the south, or to a slightly later domestic occupation. Data recovery was recommended for the prehistoric and historic components 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):



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