



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18QU485

Site Name: Indiantown Farm

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief Description:

Late/Transitional Archaic and Middle-Late Woodland - Contact shell midden, village site

Unknown

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 5

SCS soil & sediment code IgB,UsB,HnB

Latitude 39.1054

Longitude -76.0933

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) Chester River

#### Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Minimum distance to water is 0 m

#### Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

## 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

ca. 1900 - 1930

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

ca. 1720 - 1780

Post 1930

Late archaic

Late woodland

ca. 1780 - 1820

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?

#### 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 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			
Clovis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Koens-Crispin	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Le Croy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>
Morrow Mntn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guilford	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brewerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Otter Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Madison/Potomac	3
		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	2	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	<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	<input type="checkbox"/>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

## Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts			
Flaked stone	348	Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	2	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	41	Unmod faunal	166
Other lithics (all)	519	Oyster shell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	34	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uncommon Obj.	3
		Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> trade beads	

### 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ossuary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
House pattern(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Hearth(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Lithic reduc area	<input type="checkbox"/>		

### Lithic Material

Jasper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fer quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sil sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	diorite	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts			
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tobacco related	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	12	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	11	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	2
Clothing	1	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc.	6
		Other <input type="checkbox"/>	<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 MAC Lab(Accession# 1994.008.043), Washington Coll

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

The Indiantown Farm Site (18QU485) is a Late Archaic and Middle-Late Woodland/Contact period shell midden and possible village site on the Chester River south of Chestertown in Queen Anne's County. The site is situated on a low terrace and floodplain overlooking the broad expanse of the river to the north of its confluence with the Corsica River. At the time of the site's discovery (1993) it was in agricultural use (both plowed fields and farmhouse lawn), but in prehistoric times the locale wooded have been a dry elevated platform surrounded by expansive wetlands, with upland environs to the east. Soils at the site are Sassafras sandy loams and Woodstown loams.

The site was first identified in 1993 during an archeological survey of the Chester River. It was identified through a combination of interviews with local informants (the residents of the property recalled finding artifacts in the plowed fields when they were children) and surface collection in the plowed fields. The site was found to consist of a large area of dense shell and fire-cracked rock. Within the site boundary, shell was extremely dense and represented one of the largest middens in the Chester River drainage. The artifact assemblage collected at that time included 3 chert triangular points, a jasper biface, 6 jasper flakes, 8 chert flakes, 1 chalcedony flake, 13 quartz/quartzite flakes, a slate pendant, a diorite celt, 2 Townsend sherds, a red/white/blue chevron bead (early-mid 17th century), and a red faceted trade bead (mid 18th century). Thus, a Late Woodland and Contact era occupation of the area is suggested for the site. Since the site's initial identification, it has been speculated that the site may represent a settlement associated with the Ozinies (a native group reported by John Smith) or the Wicomese plotted on early maps of the Chesapeake Bay.

Two Washington College projects, undertaken from 2000 to 2007, developed a GIS-based predictive model for archeological sites on Maryland's Upper Eastern Shore. The college's Public Archeology Laboratory began field testing these prehistoric models in 2005 along the Sassafras River in Kent County. After the first two years of testing, the Maryland Historical Trust awarded an FY 2007 Non-Capital Grant to Washington College to expand this investigation. In 2008, another Non-Capital Grant was awarded to further expand the project into a variety of environmental zones and site-testing work was carried out in 2009 to begin the process of testing these varied environmental zones and to further develop the predictive model. As part of the 2009 fieldwork, Site 18QU485 was re-visited and tested.

Testing in 2009 entailed surface survey, shovel testing, and controlled unit excavation. Surface collection was carried out by having field personnel walk in a line at arms-length from one another in a series of successive transects laid out across the site. Artifacts were bagged and their locations recorded using a GPS. Shovel test pit excavation was carried out following the surface survey, with a total of 26 STPs dug in 2009.

After shovel testing was complete, 3 excavation units, each measuring 2 X 2m in size, were laid out and excavated. The locations of these units were determined based on the desire to sub-surface test in two different contexts (to further develop the aforementioned predictive model), both a manicured lawn that had never been plowed and a field that had been repeatedly been plowed. In both contexts, excavation units were placed in locations with a high probability for subsurface intact deposits based upon the results of the shovel testing.

These test units were excavated in natural stratigraphic levels subdivided by 10 cm arbitrary levels. The units were also subdivided and excavated in 1 X 1 m quadrants. Two of the test units were located in manicured lawn and, thus, the first layers in each were not subdivided by quadrant, but rather taken out in one unit as the context was historic. The intact prehistoric midden beneath was excavated in quadrants. In the third test unit (located in a fallow, formerly plowed field), the entire plowzone was excavated as a single unit and not divided into quadrants for artifact control until undisturbed subsoils were encountered. With the exception of the sod and the plowzone, soils generally were excavated by trowel. Compact shell was sometimes excavated by round shovel. All soils were screened through hardware cloth.

The upper strata in all three excavation units were a mix of historic and prehistoric artifacts. Underlying this extended a compact oyster shell midden that was most likely Late Woodland in age. Below the midden were remains of what appeared to be the residues of a high level of food processing activity. This is inferred from the remains of a variety of animals including deer, beaver, and turtle as well as hearth features (including charcoal and thermally altered rocks). Most interestingly, the unit in the fallow field also produced a number of postmolds, along with additional food processing residues that may relate to the food processing activities in the other two units. A single diagnostic, an Orient Fishtail point, suggests a possible date of the Late Archaic/ Early Woodland transition for the lower levels. This was not evident from earlier intensive surface collection efforts, which only recorded Late Woodland or Contact period materials and a possible Middle Woodland component.

A large number of cobbles and pebbles (many of them thermally altered) as well as animal remains in the lower strata support an interpretation of intense food processing. The lack of a significant amount of ceramics in all strata suggests that this location was a transient camp utilized for the purpose of food procurement and processing rather than a village. The lack of formalized tools also supports this. The majority of flaked stone tools are basic flake tools primarily made of quartz and quartzite.

The assemblage recovered during the Phase II project in 2009 included 1,075 prehistoric artifacts and 32 historic artifacts. The prehistoric artifacts included an Orient Fishtail, 4 preforms, a biface, 3 cores, 307 flakes, a hammerstone, 1 unidentified lithic tool, 515 cobble and pebble pieces, 41 pieces of fire-cracked rock, 32 ceramic sherds, 2 fish scales, 144 animal bones, 20 snail shells, and 3 pieces of red ochre. This historic assemblage included 10 pieces of brick, a nail, a textile fragment, a piece of bottle glass, 2 beer can fragments, 3 metal fragments, 11 pieces of unidentified glass, 2 pieces of slag, and a piece of plastic.

The location of 18QU485 would have offered prehistoric inhabitants a wide variety of advantages. These included access to shoreline plants along the river, nearby creeks and wetlands, well-drained and fertile soils, and the site is also situated far enough above the water to provide for both a drier locale and a good view along the river (for defense as well as to monitor trade). In addition, the salinity regime of the river shifts at this point, and the wider exposed waters of Comegys Bight and the lower Chester River give way to a narrower, more sheltered stream. These attributes open the door to some possible speculation on Contact Period occupation of this area.

A site of some interest to archeologists and prehistorians is Ozinies, a village marked on John Smith's map of the Chesapeake Bay in 1612. Smith showed little detail on the Chester River, as he did not visit it, but his depiction of a King's House in the area indicates that he believed there was a village somewhere in the vicinity. Whether or not the Indiantown Farm site was the village of the Ozinies or not cannot be determined with present data. It should be noted that



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the Ozinies would have been concerned about protecting their village from raiding groups such as the Massawomeck and the Susquehannock, and 18QU485 would have provided a good location for such defense. The site's location inland on the south side of the river and the presence of period trade beads and abundant Late Woodland pottery, make it at least as likely a candidate for Ozinies as any other site. However, the lack of ceramics recovered to-date, again, suggest a seasonal procurement locale rather than a village occupied for a long duration. Based on the possible connection to Ozinies, the extensive surface remains at Indiantown, and the substantial subsurface remains encountered in the limited 2009 testing, additional work at Indiantown Farm is warranted.

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

95001832, Site Files