



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18QU960

Site Name: Wright/DeCoursey Cemetery

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

17th-19th century cemetery

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 5

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 38.9039

Longitude -76.1507

Physiographic province Eastern Shore Coastal P

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m

Site slope

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) DeCoursey Cove

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 250 m

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Archaic site

MD Adena

Early archaic

Early woodland

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

Late archaic

Late woodland

Unknown prehistoric context

Contact period site

ca. 1820 - 1860

ca. 1630 - 1675

ca. 1860 - 1900

ca. 1675 - 1720

Y

ca. 1900 - 1930

ca. 1720 - 1780

Y

Post 1930

ca. 1780 - 1820

Y

Unknown historic 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

Misc. ceremonial

Village

Rock art

Hamlet

Shell midden

Base camp

STU/lithic scatter

Rockshelter/cave

Quarry/extraction

Earthen mound

Fish weir

Cairn

Production area

Burial 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

Flotation samples taken

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	<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	<input type="checkbox"/>	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

Earthenware		Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stoneware	
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"/>	Porcelain	<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	<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"/>	Storage/trash pit	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>		

Lithic Material

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

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input checked="" 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	<input type="checkbox"/>	Depression/mound	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Const feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Well/cistern	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>	subterranean fence line	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Hearth/chimney	<input type="checkbox"/>	Planting feature	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Postholes/molds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Paling ditch/fence	<input checked="" 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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Brief

Description: 17th-19th century cemetery

Unknown

Description:

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Wright/DeCoursey Cemetery Site (18QU960) has been dated to the late 17th through the 19th centuries. The site lies partly on the Cheston-on-Wye (Wye Institute) property in Queen Anne's County, Maryland. It is located north of Wye Narrows and east of the Wye River. An entrance road cuts across the cemetery. As many as 35 to 40 grave shafts, possibly more, and a brick vault have been located at the site. Some damage was done to the brick vault during road construction (date unknown).

The cemetery lies on the historic property of Cheston-On-Wye (Wye Institute), at one time part of 'Emory's Neglect'. The brick vault may contain the remains of 19th century Governor Robert Wright (born near Centreville on November 20, 1752), who was married to Sarah DeCoursey. A democrat (and Episcopalian), Robert Wright was a member of the Maryland state house of delegates (1777-78, 1780, 1784, 1786-87, 1791-92), a member of the Maryland state senate in 1801, a U.S. Senator from Maryland (1801-06), Governor of Maryland (1806-09), a U.S. Representative from Maryland 7th District (1810-17, 1821-23), and a state court judge in Maryland from 1823-1826. Thomas was the cousin of Turbutt Wright (1741-1783) who was also active in 18th century Maryland politics. Thomas Wright died in Queen Anne's County on September 7, 1826.

In 1997, a geophysical and archeological survey was conducted at 18QU960 in order to delineate the boundaries of the cemetery, which had no above-ground markers. The investigations were done in preparation for the construction of a boundary fence in an effort to commemorate and preserve the cemetery. A photo of the area provided blurry evidence of a fence but the extent of the graveyard was difficult to discern from the image. Using the photo as a guide, a team from the 'The Lost Towns of Anne Arundel Project' conducted a ground-penetrating radar and cesium magnetometer survey of the property along with a small archeological investigation. A grid was established across the site using 3.048 m (10 ft) intervals at a length of 30.48 m (100 ft) and running east-west.

The remote sensing survey provided extensive details of the cemetery configuration. The magnetometer survey was quite informative. Although there was a fairly regular magnetic composition across the cemetery, a few points of interest were encountered. Bases of the original iron fence posts (visible in the aerial photo) clearly showed in the magnetic contours of the site. The edge of the cemetery at the southwest corner of the survey was defined on the basis of regular magnetic hits at every 3.048 m interval, corresponding to the sections of iron fence observed at the site. The fence sections located in an adjacent shed were the original fence sections for the cemetery, each post base cut away, the remnants remaining in the ground. The site apparently served as a horse pasture when the fence was removed. Five other magnetic anomalies were encountered, but remain uninvestigated.

The most informative aspect of the geophysical survey was the ground penetrating radar. Results of the survey indicated that the graves in the site area all had a common signature, indicated by a parabolic shape on the radar screen. Radar analysis indicated that at least 35-40 graves are extant in the area, including several underneath the existing paved road.

Three test units were excavated at the site in order to provide positive proof of the cemetery, as well as to reinforce the interpretation of the magnetometer and radar surveys. To confirm the radar signature of the grave shafts, one 1.524 m² (5x5 ft) test unit was excavated. The unit revealed a grave shaft approximately 0.762 m (2.5 ft) wide, running in a northerly direction. A second test unit was excavated in order to examine a depression at the presumed location of a brick vault, which ran in a northeasterly direction. The eastern end of a brick barrel vault was encountered in the test unit. The third test unit was placed along the southwest edge of the survey area. A posthole and mold feature was identified in that unit. Artifacts that were encountered were noted, then returned to the unit when backfilled. Unfortunately, an inventory of the items encountered was not provided in the site report or on the site form.

Based on the combined geophysical survey results and the archeological testing, general boundaries of the cemetery were identified. The cemetery seemed to extend no further north than the South 30 grid line. Three possible grave signatures were noted north of this line, but the concentration of definite grave shaft signatures occurred south of that point. The southern extent was firmly defined by the regular magnetic hits at the southern edge of the survey area. The eastern and western edges of the cemetery were equivocal due to the limits of the survey area. A single, yet solid magnetic hit towards the southern corner of the survey area may be a remnant of the iron fence. The radar survey did not extend that far, so no comparison of magnetometer and radar data could be made. Likewise, radar anomalies were noted all the way up to the western edge of the survey area, and the lack of information beyond the survey area should not be construed as conclusive evidence for the western edge of the cemetery.

Although unmarked and intruded upon by a recent macadamized road, the Wright/DeCoursey Cemetery (18QU960) appeared to be intact. According to information in the site file, it has been dated to the late 17th through the 19th centuries. Radar results indicated that there may be as many as 35 to 40 grave shafts in the site area. It is likely that if the survey interval were reduced to 1.524 m, more grave shafts would be found. Based on geophysical survey data, various photographs, and the length of iron fence stored within and next to the shed, one could calculate the perimeter of the fenced cemetery and more securely fix its location on the ground. This should be done cautiously, as it is likely that graves may exist outside the original bounds of the iron fencing. Additional testing at the outer edges of the survey area could provide additional details on the extent of the cemetery.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

97001948, Site Files, pgrave-net