



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18SO364

Site Name: Wicomico Creek Shipyard

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Daniel Whitney Shipyard, Wicomico Creek #7, WC 7

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description: 18th or early 19th century shipyard

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 3

SCS soil & sediment code Tm

Latitude 38.2674 Longitude -75.7026

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 High terrace
- Hilltop/bluff Rockshelter/cave
- Interior flat Hillslope
- Upland flat Unknown
- Ridgetop Other
- Terrace shoreline
- Low terrace

Ownership

- Private
- Federal
- State of MD
- Regional/county/city
- Unknown

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Wicomico Creek

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

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 ca. 1900 - 1930

ca. 1720 - 1780 Post 1930

ca. 1780 - 1820

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

shipyard

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples

Soil samples taken

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken N

Flotation samples taken N

Other samples taken Dendrochronology



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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"/>
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	
Earthenware		Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	<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"/>
	1					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 type="checkbox"/>
Shell midden	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>
House pattern(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearth(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lithic reduc area	<input type="checkbox"/>
Storage/trash pit	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>		<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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>	wooden pilings and timbers	<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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External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Wicomico Creek Shipyard Site (18SO364) is a late 18th and early 19th century shipyard located on the south side of Wicomico Creek in Somerset County. Initially, the site was identified by the presence of a large wooden slipway located to the west of a modern pier. Historical records indicate that a series of shipwrights occupied the property throughout the late 18th and early 19th century.

The site was located during The Lower Eastern Shore Shipyard Survey, which was part of a dissertation study through the Department of Anthropology at Florida State University. The project was designed to study the material culture and technology associated with wooden shipbuilding in the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland. The project was sponsored by the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum and funded through a grant from the Maryland Historical Trust. Three phases of archeological research were conducted between December 2005 and October 2006 to identify shipyard sites and document other historical maritime archeological resources within selected waterways of Wicomico, Somerset, and Worcester counties, Maryland.

Phase I involved exhaustive historical research using primary and secondary sources to identify shipwrights and merchant operating shipyards in the area of old Somerset County, Maryland between 1660 and 1820. This data was compared with a database of 17th and 18th century patent and tract boundaries that may have been involved with shipbuilding. In combination with data on soil types capable of supporting shoreline structures, a predictive model was established with locations of high probability areas for containing shipyard sites. Phase II consisted of a shoreline archeological survey of those areas predicted to have high potential for containing shipyards. The survey relied on visual inspection of the shoreline from a boat at low tide. When historic sites or shipwrecks were identified along the shoreline, their position was mapped using a handheld GPS unit, photographs and/or videos were taken, and brief notes were completed. In some cases, more intensive investigation included a preliminary pedestrian survey of the shoreline. Phase III of the project involved collecting additional data about some of the sites identified during the initial survey. Site 18SO364 is one such site. During this phase of the project exposed timbers and other structural remains were measured and mapped.

The slipway, the most visible part of the site, is sub-rectangular in place and measures approximately 10.7 m wide by 30.5 m long. It is divided into two areas, the upper and lower slipway. The upper slipway, which is about a 9 X 10 m area, is located just north of the shoreline and is composed of 5 large hewn timbers. The timbers are irregularly spaced but oriented parallel to each other. They measure between 7.3 and 10 m in length and average about 0.52 m in width. Notches and abrasions are visible in the center of the timbers suggested suggesting some wear on the surface. The upper slipway has a slope of about 3.1%. The lower slipway is an area of about 19.2 X 10.7 m in size of densely spaced pine pilings. A sample count of a 2X2 m area of pilings indicated that 99 pilings were present in that area giving a total estimate of 5,084 pilings in the lower slipway. The metrics for the individual pilings varies widely ranging between 10 to 27 cm in diameter and a length of at least 2 meters. The lower slipway has a slope of about 4.1%. East of the modern pier 2 other large timbers were located (T6, T8). T6 is similar the timbers from the upper slipway and may have been moved during the construction of the modern pier. T8 is a large, heavily rotted timber that resembles a keel block. A large number of rounded cobbles were located on the shoreline east of T8 that are not local in origin. They could possibly have been used as ballast stones. During probing of the bottom of the creek at the site a large trunnel (wooden dowel) and a section of 2.5 cm (1 in) thick plank with a wrought iron nail were recovered. The trunnel measured 3.25 cm in diameter and 28 cm in length. Two shovel tests excavated directly inland from the shipyard within an area of woods revealed a lens of oyster shell and located a single creamware sherd.

Multiple tree-ring samples were collected from six timbers (T1-T6) for dendochronological analysis. The clustering of dates from the site suggests a felling date of circa 1800 for 4 of the timbers. Because of the deterioration of the wood no bark was present on the samples and it is likely that several years of growth rings were lost.

The Wicomico Creek Shipyard Site (18SO364) yielded important information about the structure of the historic shipyard. Unfortunately, the site has suffered some modern disturbance during the construction of a residence, swimming pool, and large pier with a boat lift. However, shovel test excavations on the portion of the property inland from the shipyard suggests that there is a potential for the presence of archeological features and artifacts related to the historic shipwrights.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

97003145