



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18ST1-133

Site Name: Boathouse

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

17th century boat landing; 20th century college waterfront/boathouse

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Latitude 38.1959 Longitude -76.4251

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 10

SCS soil & sediment code

Elevation m Site slope 1-2%

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater 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 filled stream mouth
- Low terrace

Ownership

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

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) St. Mary's River

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 30 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

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 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

- 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"/> 2	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"/> 1	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	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"/>

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 16	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 13	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/> 114	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/> 11
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc.	<input type="checkbox"/> 76
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Other	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>	utility trench	<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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Brief Description:

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External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at Historic St. Mary's City

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Boathouse Site (18ST1-133) is the remains of a 17th century boat landing and is a 20th century college waterfront and boathouse. It is located within the floodplain at the shore of the St. Mary's River, north and west of St. John's Pond, within the St. Mary's City National Historic Landmark. Site 18ST1-133 includes the buried 17th century shoreline at the mouth of Mill Creek as well as secondary deposits of fill, including deconstruction debris from the 1924 fire that destroyed Calvert Hall (St. Mary's College) and fill excavated during construction of the other college buildings. In the 17th century, the mouth of the creek served as a boat landing for St. Mary's City. During the 19th century, the mouth of the creek was filled until the present topography was created. Thus, natural and cultural strata associated with the shoreline and creek bed and 19th and 20th century fill comprise the site. The site is presently occupied by the St. Mary's College boathouse and used for various waterfront recreational activities.

Phase I and Phase II archeological investigations were undertaken as a result of proposed new construction by St. Mary's College. The college planned to construct a new boathouse and make other improvements to the waterfront area. The goals of the project were to test for historic waterfront cultural features that may contribute to the National Historic Landmark, to evaluate the significance of known resources (site 18ST1-133) within the area of potential effect, and to identify and document important natural features at the historic waterfront that have been buried during the historic period. The project area is bordered on the north by the St. Mary's River, on the east and south by Route 584, and on the west and southwest by the Kent Hall parking lot and the Alumni Lodge. The area to the west and southwest of the boathouse had been tested in 1995, and resources associated with the 1924 burning of St. Mary's Seminary Calvert Hall were identified and designated Site 18ST1-133. During that testing, preserved wood was encountered at a depth of 1.2 m below the surface in shovel tests. Three large logs, lying side-by-side, were found in a test unit excavated to evaluate the wood. The area to the east and southeast of the boathouse was untested. The proposed construction would be concentrated in the untested area where there was high potential for preserved natural and cultural features associated with 17th century waterfront.

Prior to testing, the grid used in previous investigations in the vicinity of the project area was reestablished. Two datum points were established on the boundaries of the project area. Subsurface testing was concentrated in the untested areas to the south and east of the boathouse but areas to the southwest and west were also tested to evaluate resources associated with 18ST1-133. Five trenches, equaling approximately 60.96 m (200') of excavated area, were mechanically excavated. Two 1.524 m² (5'X5') test units were also excavated to examine stratigraphy and evaluate features.

Natural and cultural features were identified in the trenches. Trenches 1 and 3 contained evidence that a sandbar extended beneath the boathouse. Trench 1 was an 18.28 m long trench running east-west parallel to the river. At the western end of the trench, there was a layer of marsh grass and wood overlying beach sand. Trench 3 consisted of 2 discontinuous north-south segments, each 3.657 m long. The segments were offset because of obstructions preventing the backhoe from excavating 1 continuous trench. The sandbar is a small dome of graded gravel and sand overlain by sand mixed with peat. This is evidence of a peat bog at the mouth of Mill Creek. The sand bar would have separated the marsh from the open water of the river.

Trench 2 began about 3.05 m north of Route 584 and extended 18.29 m northward and was excavated to an average depth of 1.82 m with a maximum depth of 2.13 m. At 12.8 m from the south end of the trench, a feature of dry-laid stones resting on a poured concrete foundation was encountered (Feature 1, Structure 1). The concrete foundation was at 0.46 m below ground level and the stone and cobbles were as shallow as 21 cm below ground surface. The trench's wall ran along the west wall of the foundation for its entire 3.048 m length. In the southwest corner of the foundation an in situ cedar post measuring 24.38 cm in diameter was found. Two other cedar posts were found, one located about 2.13 m north of the first and next to the west wall, and one a further 2.13 m from the second post and 1.2 m beyond the end of the west wall.

Trench 4, which began about 9.14 m southwest of the southwest corner of the boathouse, extended 12.8 m to the west running roughly parallel to the shore. At approximately 0.97 m below the surface, a 1.86 m cedar log was exposed. This log is similar to the 3 cedar logs found during the 1995 investigations that were thought to be part of an early 20th century walkway across the marsh. At 4.66 m from the east end of the trench, a feature (called "Feature 2" in the text but "Feature 1" on the profile drawing, Structure 2) was exposed. This feature was not associated with the cedar log. The feature consisted of 2 vertical, 30.48 cm thick, poured-concrete foundation slabs. The foundation is over 2.4 m deep. The bottom was not reached because of the instability of the trench walls. The entire north wall of the foundation was exposed and measured 5.49 m (18') long and had molded floor-joint slots at 1.2 m intervals. Part of the foundations wooden mold was identified on the exterior of the west side at 1.52 m below the surface. A 1" steel pipe extended diagonally in the foundation across its northeastern corner. This foundation was identified as the remains of a pump house built in 1929. Several layers of debris and rubble that make up the fill are probably related to the 1924 Calvert Hall fire. A terracotta drain pipe was found in the eastern end of the trench. The association of this pipe is unknown.

Both of the test units revealed variable depths of mixed fill overlying sandy clay subsoil and a layer of ash, rubble, and debris associated with the 1924 fire. The only features in Test Unit 1C were a shell concentration and 2 modern trenches dug to bury utility cable. Test Unit 2C was dug in order to expose more of the Feature 1 foundation. Based on measurements from the trench and the test unit, the foundation is about 2.13 m long. The feature has been interpreted as a storage or maintenance building, but its exact purpose is unknown. Research suggested that the building was built after 1938 and was razed prior to 1952.

A total of 231 historic artifacts were collected during the Phase I and Phase II investigations. There was 1 activity item (a fragment of a light bulb). There were 114 architectural items (2 brick fragments, 25 cut nails, 9 wire nails, 1 T-head cut nail, 41 unidentified nails, 2 window glass shards, 24 fragments of plaster and sand mortar, 3 pieces of ceramic fixture, 3 pieces of tar paper, 3 pieces of plumbing pipe, and 1 spike). There were 38 kitchen-related items (8 bottle glass shards, 2 sherds of hard-paste porcelain, 2 sherds of ironstone, 2 sherds of domestic gray salt-glazed stoneware, 9 sherds of gray Bristol glaze/Albany slip stoneware, 1 sherd of whiteware, 2 milk glass bowl fragments, 1 glass canning jar fragment, and 11 oyster shell and shell fragments). There were 76 miscellaneous objects (66 pieces of unidentified burnt glass, 4 pieces of unidentified metal items, 1 slate piece, and 5 samples of charcoal). The only personal items were 2 modern coins (1983 dime and 1972 quarter).

The Boathouse Site (18ST1-133) represents the remains of a 17th century boat landing and is a 20th century college waterfront and boathouse. There are deep layers of modern (20th century) fill across the majority of the site. The excavations exposed old land formations that will contribute to the understanding of changes in the topography of the waterfront. The 2 foundations (Structures 1 and 2) are clearly associated with the early 20th century history of St. Mary's College. The proposed waterfront improvements would have affected Structure 1, not Structure 2; however, the remains of Structure 1 have been exposed and documented and further excavation would be unlikely to yield additional important information. No further investigation is recommended for the structures. However, if construction excavation penetrates the 17th century waterfront strata, archeological monitoring would be the appropriate measure to take.

MARYLAND
HISTORICAL



TRUST

Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number:

Site Name:

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief
Description:

Unknown

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):