



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18ST245

Site Name: Richardson

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Middle Woodland shell midden, mid-18th-mid-19th century house site

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 10

SCS soil & sediment code WsB

Latitude 38.2221

Longitude -76.6177

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 3 m

Site slope 2-5%

Ethnobotany profile available  Maritime site

### Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Potomac River

#### Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Minimum distance to water is 0 m

#### Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

### 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

Beach

### Ownership

Private

Federal

State of MD

Regional/county/city

Unknown

## 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

house site

## 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



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18ST245

Site Name: Richardson

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Middle Woodland shell midden, mid-18th-mid-19th century house site

## 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	27	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		Staffordshire		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	19	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	6	Pearlware	2			Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>
						Wt Salt-glazed	5

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

## Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	33	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	4
Fire-cracked rock	5	Oyster shell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	1	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	27	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	1	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 checked="" 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

Jasper	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fer quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sil sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	116	Activity item(s)	1
Glass (all)	18	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	232	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	11
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	2	Misc.	182
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	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 type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Hearth/chimney	<input checked="" 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



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18ST245

Site Name: Richardson

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief

Description:

Middle Woodland shell midden, mid-18th-mid-19th century house site

Unknown

## External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

The Richardson Site (18ST245) is a multicomponent site with a possible early Middle Woodland period shell midden and a mid-18th to mid-19th century dwelling and refuse midden. This site is located in St. Mary's County on the bank of the Potomac River, east of an unnamed drainage, and west of the mouth of Belvedere Creek. An unnamed intermittent drainage lies near the site. The soils at the site are of the Woodstown Series, which are found on uplands and on low terraces that border rivers. The soil stratigraphy consists of uniform 10 cm thick brown topsoil above tan sandy loam. The shoreline, once wooded, was deforested in 1978. The site has been badly damaged as a result of shoreline erosion. The site area measures approximately 48 m by 49 m.

Work at the site was conducted ahead of a proposed shoreline stabilization project involving 426.72 m (1,400') of shoreline at the Richardson water front property. The site is situated in the eastern portion of the property. Work would include bulkheading and grading construction. In 1979, Phase I investigations commenced. Archival research revealed that the project area was located on a 5,000-acre parcel of land historically known as 'Poplar Hill Hundred'. In the 17th century, 4 structures were presumably located in the project area. The 200-acre plot where the site is situated was known as 'Latchford' and owned by James Johnson at least by 1647. Presumably, a plantation house was located at Latchford by 1650. Records are scanty but it appears that at some point in the 18th century, Johnson (or one of his descendants) sold Latchford to William Sommervilles. The 18th century maps do not show any structures within the project area. Fieldwork included surface examination and excavation of four test units. During the examination of the shoreline, two ca. 16 m long deposits of oyster shell about 50 m apart were noted. Partially fallen bricks from an 18th century fireplace foundation and an almost completely eroded 77 cm deep by 215 cm wide rubble filled cellar feature were associated with the westernmost shell deposit. The remainder of the bank appeared to be void of cultural resources.

Test Unit 1 was placed in the area of the brick fireplace and shell deposit. TU1 originally measured 150 cm X 75 cm but was expanded to 415 cm X 75 cm with a 'shovel wide' 3 m trench extended to the west. Below the topsoil, a refuse layer containing oyster shell, plaster, and brick specks was encountered. Below the refuse deposit, a mottled sandy soil containing architectural and domestic objects was identified. Within the unit, the remains of a stone and shell mortar foundation were exposed. The exposed foundation constituted a row of 4 stones aligned perpendicular to the bank and on line with the center of the exposed cellar feature. The portion of the cellar feature exposed on the bank measured 215 cm by 77 cm with a remaining depth of less than 20 cm. No dimensions of the brick fireplace foundation were obtained.

Test Unit 2 was located on a small hammock on the eastern edge of the property and 2 m in from the bank. It measured 200 cm by 75 cm and reached a depth of 45 cm. Along the exposed bank, a thick (approximately 15 cm) oyster shell lens was exposed below the topsoil. The uppermost layer contained whole oyster shell, brick, and mortar fragments. Below this, prehistoric ceramic sherds, bone fragments, and flakes were recovered from the oyster shell lens. Below the oyster shell lens, prehistoric artifacts continued into the upper portion of the underlying tan sandy loam soil.

Test Unit 3 was placed 3 m east of test unit 2 on the eastern side of the small hammock, 2 m in from the bank. It measured 100 cm by 75 cm and reached a depth of 45 cm. A posthole and post mold feature was identified below the topsoil in the north wall profile. The mottled fill contained ash and burnt oyster shell. The same oyster lens that was encountered in test unit 2 was identified in unit 3. One historic ceramic sherd and a piece of mortar were found in the upper layer. Below the oyster shell lens, in the sandy loam soil, prehistoric artifacts were recovered.

Test Unit 4 was arbitrarily dug 50 m west of Test unit 1 in order to better understand the stratigraphy and cultural potential. No artifacts or features were located in the unit.

A total of 34 prehistoric artifacts were recovered. There were 12 pieces of debitage (primarily quartz flakes) and 1 preform. There were 5 fire-cracked rocks. There were 12 ceramic sherds, all with crushed quartz and gravel temper in a sandy, reddish paste, with cord-marked decoration. It was thought that the ceramics were related to the Accokeek Phase of the Early Woodland period but with a different paste. They were tentatively dated to the early Middle Woodland. Four animal bone fragments were also counted in the prehistoric total because they were recovered from a lens associated with prehistoric sherds and lithic debris.

A total of 228 historic artifacts, mostly oyster shell, were retrieved. There were 67 architectural items including 25 brick fragments (minimum estimate), 25 shell mortar fragments (minimum estimate), 14 pieces of plaster, 2 rose head nails, and 1 unidentified nail. There were 5 kitchen items including 3 bottle glass fragments, 1 salt-glazed sherd, 1 earthenware sherd, and 1 unidentified sherd. The 155 oyster shells and shell fragments (minimum estimate) were put under miscellaneous items in the table above. This is because it is unclear how much of the shell was food related and how much was used for construction (shell mortar). The shell is placed under historic items because it appeared that the prehistoric material was most related to the prehistoric layer below the oyster shell.

At the termination of the Phase I investigations, bulkhead construction was given the go-ahead provided that equipment avoided disturbing the oyster shell lenses along the bank and that the bulkhead fill be trucked in. Due to the proposed future grading of the river front to reduce the sharp angle of the surface slope (in essence burying the site under modern fill), a more detailed investigation was recommended in order to retrieve more data on the historic and prehistoric occupations. Phase II investigations were undertaken in the fall of 1980. The goals were to determine the nature and extent of the cultural resources and to determine their eligibility for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

During the Phase II study, the prehistoric component was designated as Site I and the historic component as Site II. The field investigation entailed excavating 80 shovel test pits (STPs) at each of the 2 components. Soil samples were collected every 10 cm from 25% of the STPs. Next, the outer 5 m from the bank of the river inward was tested. This was to test for significant features and artifact concentrations which would have been in immediate danger of impact by construction. Six 1 m<sup>2</sup> test units were dug in Site I; 4 adjoining test units made up Square I and 2 separate test units made up Squares II and III. The equivalent of ten 1 m<sup>2</sup> test units were dug in Site II; 4 test units made up Square I, 2 test units made up Square II, 3 test units made up Square III, and 1 test unit made up Square IV. Units were excavated in 15 cm arbitrary levels. A space of approximately 12.3 m was left between the 2 sites.

The STPs in Site I indicated a concentration of prehistoric artifacts along the eastern and southern portions of the tested area. Historic artifacts were scattered across the STP area, probably the result of plowing, but unlike the prehistoric material, historic items extend heavily into the northernmost row. STPs excavated outside the area of potential impact indicate that the prehistoric component extends for at least 10 m outside the impact zone; therefore,



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18ST245

Site Name: Richardson

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief Description:

Middle Woodland shell midden, mid-18th-mid-19th century house site

Unknown

construction would not totally obliterate the site. The mixing of prehistoric and historic material in the upper levels of the STPs is likely the result of plowing activities. Soil analysis did not indicate any concentrations of potassium, phosphorous, or magnesium.

In Site I, Square I was positioned on top of the shell deposit. The other 2 squares were positioned to the east and west of Square I. The majority of the artifacts derived from Square I, with only 1 coming from Square II. Square III contained a number of cobbles (not collected) in the upper layer and 1 possible fire-cracked rock. No historic artifacts were found in Squares II or III. No features besides the midden itself were located. The shells in the midden were densely packed and extended to a depth of 24 cm below ground level. No prehistoric material was recovered from the excavated portion of, or from above, the midden.

The focal point of Site II was the fallen fireplace foundation. The few prehistoric objects recovered from Site II reflect repeated plowing or were found along the shoreline. Square I, Site II was positioned directly over the fireplace foundation about 2 m from the river bank. A feature that represented the remains of a fallen wall associated with a former house was uncovered. It extended approximately 40 cm north-south and 30 cm east-west. The collection of Delftware sherds from Square II can be attributed to a single vessel. A clustering of artifacts in the eastern quadrant of Square II lead to Square III being excavated immediately to the east. Square IV was located about 7 m west of Square I. Brick fragments were noted in the first stratum but were not collected. No artifacts other than brick fragments and mortar specks were found in the square. No cultural features were identified in Squares II-IV.

Brick scatterings and concentrations were much thicker in Site II confirming that Site II is closer to the focal point of the historic dwelling. The focal extent was noted to be about 9 m to the north of the test squares or about 14 m from the eroding bank. A local informant indicated that at one time a larger portion of the house foundation was visible. Soil levels of potassium, phosphorous, and magnesium suggested activity areas within Site II but the results of the STP excavations did not reveal any features. The fireplace foundation was found to be 94 cm long north-south and 2.16 m east-west. The bricks were of slightly differing sizes with the average being 5 cm X 18.16 cm X 9.52 cm (2"X7.15"X3.75"). The mortar bonding in the brick was between 2 and 4 cm thick. Both the mortar and the bricks were shell tempered. Shell tempering of mortar usually indicates 18th century construction. It was the opinion of the archeologists that the previously identified 'cellar feature' was actually the result of a fracture of the fireplace foundation from the bank level. That feature was not excavated in order to avoid causing further erosion to the site.

A total of 47 prehistoric artifacts were collected. There were 18 quartz and quartzite flakes. There were 2 chipped stone tools (quartzite point fragments). One of the points is a lanceolate type that dates from the Late Archaic through the Middle Woodland period. There was 1 other lithic (a hammerstone). There were 11 fire-cracked rocks. There were 14 ceramic body sherds and 1 rimsherd all with quartz temper.

A total of 328 historic artifacts were collected. There was 1 activity item (a horse bit). There were 165 architectural items (97 brick fragments, 25 mortar pieces, 18 plaster fragments, 5 rose head nails, 1 wrought nail, 14 unidentified nails, 1 L-head nail, 2 T-head nail, 1 metal bolt, and 1 spike). There were 2 clothing items (metal buttons). There were 131 kitchen related items (7 bottle glass fragments, 48 Delftware, 2 pearlware, 2 black-glazed redware, 7 other redware, 19 whiteware, 6 creamware, 5 white salt-glazed stoneware, 15 brown-glazed earthenware, and 9 other earthenware sherds, and 11 animal bone fragments). There were 27 miscellaneous items (19 unidentified metal fragments and 8 unidentified glass pieces). There was 2 tobacco item (a white clay pipe bowl fragment and a white clay pipe stem fragment).

The material assemblage from the Richardson Site (18ST245) reflects a possible early Middle Woodland period shell midden and a mid-18th to mid-19th dwelling and refuse midden. The focus of the prehistoric site was at the junction of an intermittent stream and the Potomac River. The inland scatter of artifacts was thought to be indicative of plowing activities. Artifacts from the historic component indicate an occupancy range from ca. 1760-1840. Erosion has largely washed away the historic structure that was identified by the fireplace foundation, and has equally caused damage to the prehistoric shell midden. The resulting loss of integrity indicates that the remains of the site to be impacted by construction would not contribute significantly to the archeological record.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00006391, 00006392