



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18TA23

Site Name: Highley

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Woodland shell midden, base camp

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 4

SCS soil & sediment code SmB2

Latitude 38.5947

Longitude -76.0447

Physiographic province Eastern Shore Coastal P

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation -20 m

Site slope 0-5%

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) Choptank 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

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?

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 N

Flotation samples taken Y

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	9	Coulbourn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Townsend	20	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	6	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	<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	1182	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	14
Fire-cracked rock	744	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	157	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 checked="" 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

Jasper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fer quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sil sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	5	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	18	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	8	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	1
Arms	3	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc.	11
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 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/JPPM

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Highley Site (18TA23) represents an Early to Late Woodland period shell midden and short-term base camp. The site is located on the north bank of the Choptank River in Talbot County. The Choptank River borders the site to the west and a creek borders the site to the east and south. The area north of the site is a grassy field. The terrain is level but the west border is an actively eroding sheer drop to the beach. Soils within the site are described as Sassafras sandy loam, which develop in sandy marine sediments. They are well-drained soils suited to most crops, trees, and grasses. As of the early 1990s, the site was approximately 305 m long by 152 m wide; over time, erosion may have affected the width from the shoreline landward.

In 1971, a collector and avocational archeologist reported the site to Maryland Historical Trust/Maryland Geological Survey (MGS) staff. Then in late 1972, he donated his collection to the MGS. The assemblage consisted of a stemmed projectile point, several shell tempered sherds with cord and fabric impressed decoration, and several shell and limestone tempered sherds with cord and fabric impressed decoration. An inventory number could not be located for the collection. MGS personnel visited the site in October 1973. At that time, scattered oyster shell fragments were noted along the edge of the field, from within a few meters off highway Route 50 (to the northwest) to where the land slopes off to a grassy and sandy spit to the east. The site profile showed a plowzone ca. 20.32 cm (8") thick comprised of dark soil and oyster shell fragments overlaying yellow subsoil. A portion of recently disturbed midden was observed at the far east end of the bank exposure. It was recommended that parts of the field should be stripped in order to locate any sub-plowzone features prior to earthmoving activities related to proposed new bridge construction nearby. The Choptank River Bridge was located just beyond the grassy field to the north of the site. The bridge, originally constructed ca. 1933, was replaced by a new bridge ca. 1986. A portion of the Choptank River Bridge was retained for use as a fishing pier.

From August to September 1992, a Phase II archeological investigation was conducted at the Highley Site. The study was conducted for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Shore Erosion Control, in order to evaluate the significance of site 18TA23 in terms of the National Register of Historic Places. Archeological work was conducted as part of a wetland permit required from the Army Corps of Engineers ahead of proposed shoreline stabilization. The site was divided into two areas: Area 1 encompassed approximately 1/3 of the northern portion of the site and Area 2 encompassed approximately 2/3 of the southern portion of the site. In all, 115 shovel test pits (STPs) and ten 1 m² test units were excavated. STPs were placed at 5 m intervals roughly parallel to the shoreline. In Area 1, a single transect was placed along a proposed access road and in Area 2 three transects were placed in a 12.192 m (40') corridor to be graded and covered with rip-rap. The STPs and 7 of the test units were dug according to natural strata until subsoil was reached. Three of the test units were divided into 10 cm levels because of the potential for intact midden deposits to exist below the plowzone. Soil samples were taken from 2 levels of Unit S2W29 for flotation. All excavated soils were screened; soil from the bottom of the STPs was collected into artifact bags and screened in the laboratory. This saved field time and allowed for the recovery of a few small bone fragments which would likely have been pushed through the screen in the field. No cultural features with the exception of a few plowscars were encountered during the investigations.

Soil profiles from across the area indicated that the south end of Area 2 contained deeper deposits of shell and contained artifacts below the plowzone. Historic erosion and redeposition was thought to be the cause of the deeper deposits. Throughout Area 1 and most of Area 2, the upper strata consisted of a relatively thin plowzone over sandy clay loam subsoil. Oyster shell distribution clearly showed a concentration in the south end of Area 2 but shells were distributed throughout the project area. Shell was primarily recovered from the plowzone except in the south end of Area 2 where deposits were deeper. The distribution of lithic and ceramic items was similar to that of the oyster shell in that counts were higher in the south end of Area 2. The Early Woodland component of the site appeared to be contained in the southeast end of Area 2 and close to the creek. The small amount of late 19th to early 20th century materials recovered from the site represent only a sparse scatter, with no identifiable area of artifact concentration.

The artifact totals in the table above were taken from a revised artifact inventory located in the 18TA23 Site File. A total of 2,097 prehistoric artifacts were retrieved. There were 1,182 lithic items including 1,155 pieces of debitage (938 chert, 210 quartz, 4 quartzite) and 8 cores (6 chert, 1 quartz, 1 quartzite), 14 bifaces and unifaces (9 chert, 5 quartz), 5 cobble tools (2 chert, 2 quartz, 1 quartzite), and 3 unidentified points (chert). There were 744 pieces of fire-cracked rock in the assemblage, primarily sandstone and quartzite. A total of 157 ceramic sherds were collected including 9 Dames Quarter and 6 Wolfe Neck (Early Woodland), 7 Hell Island (Middle Woodland), 20 Townsend and 26 Killens ware (Late Woodland), and 89 unidentified sherds. A total of 14 faunal remains were recovered. Most of the faunal remains were recovered from the shell bearing level. A total of 69,379.88 grams of oyster shell was recorded from the site but because no total counts were provided, the shell remains are not included in the table above.

In addition to the prehistoric material, a total of 45 historic artifacts were collected from the site. There were 8 architectural items (3 brick fragments, 1 piece of window glass, 1 wire nail, 3 cut nails). There were 23 kitchen related items (17 pieces of bottle glass, 1 ironstone sherd, 2 redware, 1 pearlware, and 1 whiteware sherd, 1 beer can). There were 11 miscellaneous items (4 pieces of unidentified metal objects, 3 pieces of plastic, 3 pieces of coal, 1 metal grommet). The 3 arms related items were pieces of lead shot.

The Highley Site (18TA23) represents an Early to Late Woodland period shell midden and short-term resource procurement/ base camp. The most intensive occupation at the site appeared to have occurred during the Late Woodland period although material remains dating from the Early and Middle Woodland periods were also recovered. The shell midden can offer important data on prehistoric settlement, subsistence, and technology. Historic period plowing had disturbed much of the site, mixing the Early to Late Woodland prehistoric components with sparse late 19th to early 20th century materials. However, intact sub-plowzone deposits were present at the southern end of 18TA23, adjacent to the creek. In contrast to other investigated portions of the site which are insignificant and warrant no further study, the integrity of this southern end and its promise to provide important information on the Early Woodland period of the Eastern Shore point to the National Register eligibility of the resource.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00005244, Site Files