



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18TA303

Site Name: LaTrappe Creek Canoe

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Early 19th century log canoe, possibly African American (Slave) built or owned

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 4

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 38.6266

Longitude -76.1174

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
- Beach

Ownership

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

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) LaTrappe Creek

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Minimum distance to water is

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

0 m

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

P

ca. 1630 - 1675

ca. 1860 - 1900

ca. 1675 - 1720

ca. 1900 - 1930

ca. 1720 - 1780

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
- Village
- Hamlet
- Base camp
- Rockshelter/cave
- Earthen mound
- Cairn
- Burial area
- Misc. ceremonial
- Rock art
- Shell midden
- STU/lithic scatter
- Quarry/extraction
- Fish weir
- Production 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

single log hewn canoe, vessel, shipwreck

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			
Clovis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Koens-Crispin	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Le Croy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>
Morrow Mntn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guilford	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brewerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Otter Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Madison/Potomac	<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			
Flaked stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uncommon Obj.	<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

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 type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts			
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tobacco related	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc.	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>	vessel, possible tie-down post	
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 Living Classrooms Foundation/African American Muse

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The La Trappe Creek Canoe Site (18TA303) consists of the remains of a mid-18th to mid-19th century single log hewn canoe. The canoe was located on the southern tip of Martin Point at the junction of the Choptank River and La Trappe Creek, in Talbot County, Maryland. An association of the vessel to African Americans comes from its proximity to slave quarters on the land of former Governor Martin who owned many slaves before and after 1800. A hitching post (in similar condition to the canoe) was also recorded at one end of the canoe, which verified the provenience for the vessel.

Crafted from a single pine log and buried for over 150 years by sand and marsh, the La Trappe Creek Canoe was discovered in October 1993 and reported to the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) by Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum (CMBB) staff. Preliminary field visits revealed that the canoe was exposed for a quarter of its length and lying perpendicular to the shoreline, just below the mean low water line. For a few days during late October/early November, personnel from MHT and CMBB returned to the site to fully expose the gunwales of the canoe and to acquire detailed measurements of its interior depth and shape.

An approaching winter storm was a cause of concern for the safety of the partially exposed craft. Therefore, a Phase III recovery of the canoe was undertaken in early December 1993. The project began with the construction of a wooden cradle to support the canoe. By the time the excavation team had reached the site, 0.609 m (2') of sand had built up over the previously exposed canoe end and an additional 0.609 m of sand covered the remainder of the canoe. The canoe was relocated using previous positioning measurements and the excavation began in earnest ahead of an oncoming storm. As the sand was excavated from the site, the outline of the gunwale was flagged. Once the outline of the vessel was completely exposed, the flagging tape was removed. After 5 hours of excavation and recording the canoe in place, the wooden pieces were carefully removed and placed into the wooden cradle. The maximum length (LOA) of the canoe was 4.08 m, the width (beam) was 74 cm, and the depth was 34 cm. A 'sitting' plank was located at the vessel's stern. There was a 12cm scar from a broad ax or shipwright's adze, and a 2.5 cm knick from a barge builder's chisel on the canoe's hull. The methods employed in building the vessel suggested a construction date sometime between 1750 and 1850. The vessel is recorded as a single architectural item in the table above.

Once at CBMM, the boat was treated using the polyethylene glycol (PEG) method for a period of approximately 6.5 months. Eventually, the vessel was transported to the Maryland Archeological Conservation Laboratory at the Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum. The excess PEG was removed using an ethanol bath and sand and other particles were removed from the worm- and root-damaged areas mechanically using a probe and vacuum cleaner. The canoe was then placed in a freeze-dry unit where it remained for several years. In early 2005, the vessel was reconstructed. The reassembly involved pinning the pieces of wood together with fiberglass rods and using Butvar B-98 adhesive.

The La Trappe Creek Canoe Site (18TA303) consists of the remains of a single log hewn canoe dated to ca. 1750-1850. The reconstructed vessel went on display at the Living Classrooms African American Museum in Baltimore. In 2006, the Living Classrooms Foundation opened the Frederick Douglass - Isaac Myers Maritime Park on the Fells Point waterfront at the historic Chase's Wharf. Frederick Douglass and Isaac Myers, along with 14 fellow African Americans, started the first African American owned shipyard in the United States. The park incorporated a working shipyard/ maritime railway and deep-water pier, monuments to Douglass and Myers, exhibits on African American maritime history, and the restored "Sugar House," the oldest remaining industrial building on the waterfront.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

Site Files (18TA303 SF)