



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18WC155

Site Name: Rewastico Creek Shipyard

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Rewastico Creek #5, RC 5

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description: 18th-Mid 19th century shipyard

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 3

SCS soil & sediment code NM

Latitude 38.4026 Longitude -75.7842

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) Rewastico Creek

- | Saltwater | | Freshwater | |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Ocean <input type="checkbox"/> | Estuary/tidal river <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Stream/river <input type="checkbox"/> | Swamp <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tidewater/marsh <input type="checkbox"/> | Lake or pond <input type="checkbox"/> | Spring <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Minimum distance to water is 0 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
- Unknown prehistoric context

- Contact period site ca. 1820 - 1860 Y
- ca. 1630 - 1675 ca. 1860 - 1900
- ca. 1675 - 1720 ca. 1900 - 1930
- ca. 1720 - 1780 Y Post 1930
- ca. 1780 - 1820 Y
- Unknown historic context
- Unknown context

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

- Native American Asian American
- African American Unknown Y
- 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
 - Furnace/forge Military Post-in-ground
 - Other shipyard Battlefield Frame-built
 - Domestic Transportation Fortification Masonry
 - Homestead Canal-related Encampment Other structure
 - Farmstead Road/railroad Townsite Slave related
 - Mansion Wharf/landing Religious Non-domestic agri
 - Plantation Maritime-related Church/mtg house Recreational
 - Row/townhome Bridge Ch support bldg Midden/dump
 - Cellar Ford Burial area Artifact scatter
 - Privy Educational Cemetery Spring or well
 - Industrial Commercial Sepulchre Unknown
 - Mining-related Trading post Isolated burial Other context
 - Quarry-related Store Bldg or foundation
 - Mill Tavern/inn Possible Structure
 - Black/metalsmith

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"/>	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"/> 1	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	Pearlware	<input type="checkbox"/> 12			Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>
						Wt Salt-glazed	<input type="checkbox"/> 1

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	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"/> 3	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"/> 79	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	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"/> 1	Misc.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features

Privy/outhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	Depression/mound	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Const feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<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 Rewastico Creek #5 Site (18WC155) is a small late 18th/early 19th century shipbuilding and repair site located on the south shore of Rewastico Creek, Wicomico County. The upland portion of the site was occupied into the mid-19th century. A grave marker located on the property is dated 1853. The industrial portions of the site are mainly confined to a 43 m long strip along the shoreline. A narrow band of forest separates the shipyard from agricultural fields due north of the shipyard. Within the wood line there are a number of 1-2 m high earthen embankments, probably the result of grading or dumping activities associated with the present farm. The large agricultural field behind the shipyard produced evidence for a prehistoric occupation and for a historic occupation that was roughly contemporaneous with the operation dates of the shipyard.

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 18WC155 is one such site. During this phase of the project exposed timbers and other structural remains were measured and mapped.

Site 18WC155 contains a number of shipbuilding and ship repair features. Feature 1 (F1) is a large slipway located on the eastern side of the site. It is about 8.5 m wide by 6.7 m long and is constructed from 6 unworked logs that are parallel with the shoreline. A 7th timber (T1) is located on the south side of F1 and forms the threshold between the end of the feature and the deep water just off the launching structure. T1 is fastened to another timber with a large metal pin or spike. F1 mapping proved difficult because portions of the site are buried under silt and some of the site has eroded, and most of it is frequently submerged and only exposed during low tide.

Feature 2 (F2) is a series of planks lying face down along the shoreline and extending into the creek. About 10 rows of planks are oriented parallel to the shoreline and roughly abut one another. These planks form a rough floor on the creek bottom and extend from the shoreline to the edge of the channel. The planks in the deeper water at the edge of the channel are more covered in barnacles and more eroded than those closer to the shoreline. Indications that many of these planks were reused elements of earlier wood structures or vessels is evident in the holes and wrought iron fasteners still attached to many of them. Overlying F2 are 4 eroded timbers that extend from the shoreline towards the channel called frames. Each frame roughly measures between 3.7 – 5.2 m in length. The frames do not appear to be fastened to the planks. F2 is tentatively interpreted as a slipway or as a careening facility for repairing and launching vessels.

A small L-shaped knee (K1), or frame, was identified on the shoreline between F1 and F2. K1 measured about 1.33 m at its longest point, 25 cm at its widest point, and was 3.5 cm thick. A second small knee (K2) was identified at the southern end of the site. It measured approximately 53 X 55 X 7 cm in size and had a single iron bolt or drift pin that fastened it to another timber. Two other timbers were found in close proximity to K2 on the southwest end of the site. They were rounded and rotten and it is unclear if these timbers were part of the shipyard or natural to the site.

Fifteen core samples were taken from 10 timbers for dendochronological analysis. Only one sample (from T1) was successfully taken and matched to the site. The results indicated an outer growth ring dating to 1791.

A number of prehistoric and historic artifacts were recovered during surface collections of the survey area. The only architecture-related items were 1 shard of window glass, 1 door hinge, and 2 nail fragments. There were 82 kitchen items (1 stoneware, 1 white salt-glazed stoneware, 8 cream colored ware, 12 pearlware, 38 whiteware, 10 creamware, 1 late porcelain, and 5 American Blue&Gray sherds, 3 unidentified ceramic sherds, and 3 bottle glass fragments (pharmaceutical phials)). There was 1 piece of unidentified glass in the miscellaneous category. The only clothing item recovered was a buckle. Tobacco-related items consisted of 2 stem and 1 bowl clay pipe fragments. Six prehistoric artifacts were identified (1 shell tempered sherd, 2 sand-tempered sherds, 1 biface, and 2 pieces of debitage).

The Rewastico Creek #5 Site (18WC155) provides another archeological example of historic maritime activities in the Lower Eastern Shore. The poor condition of the timbers and the disturbance within the wood line and the adjacent agricultural field make it unlikely that any intact archeological features exist in the site area.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

97003145