



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18WC3

Site Name: Barren Creek I

Prehistoric

Other name(s): Baron Creek I

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Woodland base camp; Late 19th-20th century marine railway

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 3

SCS soil & sediment code GcB;RsB

Latitude 38.4604

Longitude -75.7969

Physiographic province Eastern Shore Coastal P

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 0 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 shoreline

Ownership

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

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Barren 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

Woodland site

Contact period site ca. 1820 - 1860

ca. 1630 - 1675 ca. 1860 - 1900

Archaic site

MD Adena

ca. 1675 - 1720 ca. 1900 - 1930

Early archaic

Early woodland

ca. 1720 - 1780 Post 1930

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

ca. 1780 - 1820

Late archaic

Late woodland

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
- 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 marine railw
- 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 N

Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken N

Flotation samples taken N

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"/>	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		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	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"/> 20
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oyster shell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Storage/trash pit	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input checked="" 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"/>	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>	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"/>	Misc.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features

Privy/outhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	Depression/mound	<input 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 Barren Creek 1 Site (18WC3) is a small late 19th/early 20th century shipyard located on the north side of Barren Creek, Wicomico County. The shipyard extends along the shoreline for approximately 40 meters. The site is only visible at low tide and consists of timbers, metal rails, a launching cradle, and miscellaneous wood. The Barren Creek 1 Site also has a small prehistoric Woodland component.

The prehistoric component at the site represents a Woodland base camp situated approximately, 10 m from Barren Creek on a portion of the study area that had been cultivated. The site was identified in 1954 at which time archeologists excavated 3 non-systematic units into a shell midden. The total area measured approximately 166 m long by 33 m wide. The artifacts collected during the 1954 excavation include 2 triangular and hafted points of jasper and rhyolite, 2 shell-tempered pottery sherds, 20 animal bones, and 1 fragment of an "Indian" clay pipe. The presence of 'triangular' points suggests a date for the site in the Late Woodland period. The record of the artifacts recovered from the site does not state the total amounts for points, pottery, or bone collected; therefore, minimum estimates are given above.

The historic component of 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 18WC3 is one such site. During this phase of the project exposed timbers and other structural remains were measured and mapped.

Two features were identified at the site. Feature 1 (F1) consists of the partially articulated remains of a launching and repair cradle, which was used to draw boats out of the water or to lower them into the water. The cradle is wood-frame constructed with square-headed bolt and metal plate fasteners and measures approximately 8.5 by 2 m in size. Only one small iron wheel remains of the two that were originally fastened to the axle. The cradle has lost at least one wheel on the axle closest to the shoreline and the rest of the cradle is falling apart. East of the launching cradle is another axle with a pair of mounted wheels. The wheels were 2.02 m wide. This may be the second axle of the cradle or be from a second cradle. Feature 2 (F2) is located about 5 m east of F1 and is the remains of the marine railway. It consists of 2 metal rails extending from the bank of the shoreline towards the channel. Fragments of metal rails are also present in the water adjacent to both F1 and F2. The western rail extends 1.0 m from the bank and the eastern rail extends 1.65 m from the bank. The 2 rails are spaced at about 0.98 m apart. It is possible that there was at one time a third rail spaced at the same distance, thus perfectly accommodating a 2 m wide launching cradle.

Large quantities of gravel, bricks, and oyster shells present along the shoreline, including a 47X36 cm sized articulated block of mortared bricks. The most unusual artifacts from the site are the multiple gravestones deriving from a variety of different periods. The gravestones and the articulated bricks were piled along the beach possibly as part of a breakwater or shoreline stabilization. The owner of the property at one time was a gravestone mason. The remnants of a duck blind or other small waterfront shack may be represented by remains of vertical planks, vertical pilings, and a perpendicular bulkhead.

The Barren Creek 1 Site (18WC3) yielded important information about the shape and structure of historic launching cradles. The presence of gravel, brick, and gravestones suggests that human activity has probably disturbed the site after its use as a launch. It is unlikely that the site will yield further significant archeological data. The prehistoric component of the site does not appear to have subsurface integrity and has been disturbed by plowing and other cultural activity.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

97003145, Site Files