



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18WC68

Site Name: Miller

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Tyaskin, Maryland

Historic

Brief Description:

Early and Late Woodland shell midden and 18th century scatter

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 3

SCS soil & sediment code Tm

Latitude 38.3208

Longitude -75.8893

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

Ownership

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

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Nanticoke River

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Spring

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 0 m

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? 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 N

Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken N

Flotation samples taken N

Other samples taken



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18WC68

Site Name: Miller

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Tyaskin, Maryland

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Early and Late Woodland shell midden and 18th century scatter

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	221	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	2	Susquehannock	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wolfe Neck	3	Clemson Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shenks Ferry	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Vinette	<input type="checkbox"/>	Page	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moyaone	<input type="checkbox"/>		
				Potomac Crk	2		

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	57	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	1053
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oyster shell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	9	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	228	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 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

Late Woodland shell midden based on preponderance of Townsend sherds.

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	38	Activity item(s)	9
Glass (all)	152	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	130	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	56
Arms	6	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc.	177
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



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18WC68

Site Name: Miller

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Tyaskin, Maryland

Historic

Brief

Description:

Early and Late Woodland shell midden and 18th century scatter

Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Miller Site (18WC68) is a prehistoric shell midden with Early and Late Woodland components on the lower reaches of the Nanticoke River in Wicomico County. The site is situated near Bivalve Harbor on the southernmost rise of a sand hummock overlooking the Nanticoke, west of Salisbury. The landscape surrounding the site is forested shoreline with a number of low dunes or hummocks interspersed throughout. Most of the vegetation is fairly young Loblolly Pine. During the 19th and 20th centuries, the area appears to have been harvested of its oak and sweetgum stands. Soils at the site are primarily Evesboro loamy sands and sands of the Runclint-Cedartown complex.

The site was first recorded by J.T. Ducatel (the Maryland State Geologist) in 1836. Ducatel simply reports the presence of a prehistoric shell midden along the lower Nanticoke in the vicinity of Bivalve, Maryland. No documented archeological work is known to have occurred at the site until the 1980s.

In the summer of 1983, personnel from Salisbury State College visited the site on behalf of MHT to conduct some preliminary reconnaissance prior to a US Army Corps of Engineers project that would be taking place in the area. It appears that the site visit was geared specifically towards re-locating the site, the location of which was only very generally known. Approximately 76 m of shell midden was observed in the A and B soil horizons, eroding out of the river bank. Several prehistoric shell-tempered ceramic sherds were seen and collected from the top of the exposed bank.

In December of 1983, and continuing into the spring of 1984, the US Army Corps of Engineers (COE) conducted field investigations of nearly 360 m of shoreline. The field investigation was undertaken as a result of a letter from the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) to the Baltimore District of the COE which indicated that a proposed permit action for grading and riprap (later modified to a prefab concrete bulkhead construction) might impact the potentially significant prehistoric shell midden recorded as 18WC68. The investigation was required to comply with the Department of the Army regulations for the protection of cultural resources permit actions in waters of the United States.

The 1983-1984 investigations consisted of a surface reconnaissance, the excavations of shovel test pits (STPs) on a 10 m interval, and the excavation of formal 1 and 2 m test squares in areas of artifact concentration. A total of 17 STPs and 14 formal test units were excavated within the bounds of 18WC68. STPs and test units were excavated in arbitrary 4 cm levels to sterile subsoil. All soil was screened through hardware cloth. All test units and STPs were plotted by transit from a single survey station. A sample of oyster shell (to be analyzed to potentially determine site seasonality) was recovered from approximately 50% of the test pits.

Many of the STPs and test units revealed disturbed soils as a result of plowing, logging activity, or land clearing, however, on one hummock, adjacent to the riverbank edge, an apparent intact shell lens was located approximately 10 m in length and 10 cm in thickness. The intact shell lens appeared to have been truncated on the north side by an erosion cut. This is where the majority of the 1 and 2 meter test units were placed: to determine the shell midden's condition and significance.

A total of 486 historic artifacts and 320 prehistoric artifacts (exclusive of the shell sample) were recovered from the site during the 1983-1984 project. In addition, oyster shell samples from the intermittent midden, and two flotation samples were taken from the main excavation area. The historic artifact sample provides little but chronological information indicating a late 17th to 20th century historic occupation of the property. The 20th century artifacts were all of recent origins and were attributed to periodic campers and campfires. No structural remains were encountered during the excavation, however, a nearby cemetery (which dates back to the period of the original land grants in the area) is likely related to the historic component at the site.

The historic assemblage consisted of 9 activity items, 130 architectural artifacts, 153 kitchen-related items, 11 tobacco-related artifacts, 6 arms objects, and 177 miscellaneous objects. The activity items were 5 pieces of wire and 4 pieces of barbed wire. The architectural items were 1 piece of slate, 6 roofing paper fragments, 19 brick fragments, 93 window glass fragments, 6 square nails, and 5 wire nails. The kitchen assemblage consisted of 3 coarse earthenware sherds, 13 yellowware sherds, 6 whiteware sherds, 16 stoneware sherds, 59 container/bottle glass fragments, 37 bottle caps, 2 tin can tops, and 17 zip top lids. The tobacco-related artifacts were all kaolin pipe fragments: 8 stems and 3 bowls. The arms objects were 2 lead shot fragments and four .22 shells. The miscellaneous objects were 8 pieces of metal and 2 pieces of plastic, and 167 pieces of coal.

Intermittent remains of a shallow, primarily Late Woodland shell midden were the major component of the site. The prehistoric artifacts recovered evidence a post AD 1285 occupation camp from which oysters were exploited and small game hunted in the vicinity. Some earlier materials were identified from the site as well, but not from secure contexts.

The main problem with interpretation of the site is a complete lack of features aside from the shell lens. Even the integrity of the shell lens as an undisturbed feature is suspect because of 1) the loose, sandy soil context, and 2) the impression that the lens was held together by tree roots, implying that it may be a secondary deposit. The sample of artifacts recovered was primarily from what would have been the interior edge of the site, furthest from the shoreline of the Nanticoke River. This suggests that the Miller Site has, for the most part, been washed away. It was estimated that about 90% of the site now lies in the Nanticoke River after several hundred years of severe riverbank erosion, coupled with a gradual rise in sea level.

The prehistoric assemblage consisted of 67 flaked stone objects, 9 other lithics (sandstone objects), 228 ceramic sherds, 1,053 faunal remains, and 1 nut fragment. The flaked stone objects were 29 quartz flakes, 5 quartzite flakes, 6 chert flakes, 2 jasper flakes, 1 other flake, 4 worked quartz cobbles, 8 quartz cores, and 2 quartzite cores. The ceramic assemblage consisted of 3 Wolfe Neck sherds, 2 Potomac Creek sherds, 60 Rappahannock sherds, 161 other Townsend sherds, and 2 Sullivan Cove sherds (1 rim). The faunal assemblage included a sample of 1,028 shells and shell fragments, 2 bird bones, 23 animal and bones and teeth.

The intensive testing of the Miller Site (18WC68) did not provide sufficient data for National Register eligibility. The small collection from the site is, however, a good study collection for the Lower Nanticoke River Basin. No further work on the site was considered necessary as additional data would probably not have provided enough information to alter the basic interpretation of the site. The COE project moved forward and the site was likely impacted heavily by the construction of bulkheading.

MARYLAND
HISTORICAL



TRUST

Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number:

Site Name:

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

**Brief
Description:**

Unknown

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):