



Phase II and Phase III Archeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18WO165

Site Name: Woodcock Farm Shell Middens

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Late Archaic and Middle & Late Woodland shell middens

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archeological Research Unit No. 1

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 38.2399

Longitude -75.1766

Physiographic province Eastern Shore Coastal P

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 2 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

Ownership

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

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Green 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | Lake or pond <input type="checkbox"/> | Spring <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Minimum distance to water is | | 3 m | |

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

- Paleoindian site
- Archaic site
- Early archaic
- Middle archaic
- Late archaic
- Unknown prehistoric context
- Woodland site
- MD Adena
- Early woodland
- Mid. woodland
- Late woodland

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

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

- Native American
- African American
- Anglo-American
- Hispanic
- Asian American
- Unknown
- Other

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?

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

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	<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 Cr	<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-bodie	<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	76	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	1
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	1145
Fire-cracked rock	20	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	3	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	131	Uncommon Obj.	2
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	activity or living floor	<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 checked="" 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

Townsend ceramics were recovered from a shell midden feature and assoc. w/ lithic debitage, projectile points, and FCR.

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	1	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	6	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	1172
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc.	1
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"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<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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Brief Description:

Late Archaic and Middle & Late Woodland shell middens

Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Woodcock Farm Shell Middens Site (18WO165) lies between Green Point Creek and Sinepuxent Bay in Worcester County. The site is comprised of an area of three contiguous shell middens (midden complex) on an overlook above the creek and another shell midden in the (uncultivated) woods just to the north. The shell middens are dated to the Late Archaic and Middle to Late Woodland periods. Within the site area there is a diversity of environmental settings such as woodlands, bay basins, open cultivated fields, and tidal marsh land. The soil types in the plowed field are primarily Sassafras moderately eroded 2 to 5 percent slope and Pocomoke poorly drained soils. The soil types in the wooded and open areas are Fallsington and, slightly to the north, Mattapex silt loam surrounded by Othello soils.

Phase I survey was conducted in 1994-1995 ahead of the proposed construction of a golfing community on the western shore of the Sinepuxent Bay. The project would alter the landscape by re-contouring to create the golf course and by clearing of woodlands to accommodate the golf course, a club house, access roads and residential dwellings. The project area was around 250 acres and encompassed privately owned land and a portion of the land that was to be conveyed to the National Park Service. Prior to field investigations, extensive archival research of the project area was done. Survey consisted of extensive field walking with controlled surface collection. This was followed by excavating shovel test pits (STPs) at intervals never exceeding 15 meters (some areas required shorter interval testing). Lastly, in certain loci a single 1 meter square was excavated. These were areas where site potential was considered to be high, thus facilitating an accurate sample of cultural material. Seven of these loci, which were assigned roman numerals, were excavated. The Woodcock Farm Shell Middens Site (18WO165) consists of two loci designated as Locus III and Locus IV.

Three contiguous shell midden features were identified on small points of land along Green Point Creek within the site area during the Phase I survey of Locus III. During the walk over survey it was established that the midden complex was a clearly-defined roughly circular feature about 121.9 meters (400 feet) in diameter. A total of 18 STPs were dug east and north of the midden. Locus III overlapped with a concentration of 19th century artifacts first identified during the field walking that was designated as Area A. Those artifacts from Area A were counted as a collection and the artifacts that fell within the boundaries of site 18WO165 were not distinguished from the collection. Therefore, they are not counted in the totals here. All shell, coal, and brick found in the STPs was simply noted and discarded, thus providing no absolute counts. There was 1 uncommon object, a stone net sinker, 7 sherds of prehistoric ceramic, 9 jasper, chert, quartz, and chalcedony flakes, 2 fire-cracked rocks, 1 chert scraper, 2 bashed pebbles, 375 faunal items (7 animal bones, 132 oyster shell fragments, 175 clam shell fragments, 8 spiral shell fragments, and 51 unidentifiable shell fragments), and 2 burned nut hulls. 5 architectural items (brick fragments) are all that reflect the historic component at the site.

During phase I evaluations in Locus IV, 18 STPs and the excavation of a single 1 meter X 1 meter square test unit revealed another shell midden feature. The shell is mostly clam with some oyster. The midden was a compact shell heap no more than 60.96 (200 feet) in diameter. Shell was counted and kept from the meter square test unit but not from the STPs. Only 1 fire-cracked rock and 2 prehistoric ceramic sherds were collected from the STPs although shell fragments, coal and charcoal were noted but discarded and not counted. Artifacts found in the Locus VI test unit were 13 prehistoric ceramic sherds (one that was net-impressed) and 1 fire reddened clay nodule, 2 chert and 1 quartz flakes, 2 fire-cracked rock, and 592 faunal items (4 animal bones, 155 oyster shell fragments, 425 clam shell fragments, 1 scallop shell fragment, 1 spiral shell, and 6 unidentified shell fragments).

Phase II evaluations of Locus III involved the excavation of six 1 meter X 1 meter square test units across the center of the midden and 3 additional STPs. Below the plowzone, numerous pit features were identified but not clearly described by the archeologists. Since shellfish seasonality and source are important aspects of research in the region, special attention was directed at retrieving whole (or nearly whole) shells. Only in a few cases was the total number of shells reported by the archeologists. Undisclosed numbers of shell, glass, and brick were discarded. Numbers of other artifacts such as flakes and ceramics were not always clearly stated. Total numbers for those objects were arrived at using a standardized system developed for the synthesis project. There were 68 clam and oyster shell fragments, 7 fire-cracked rocks, 35 flakes, 6 pieces of debitage, 3 projectile points, 47 ceramic sherds, 1 hammerstone-type tool, 8 bone fragments, and 1 wood fragment. Two of the projectile points are Late Archaic types and the third is a Brewerton-style side-notched point dated to the Middle Archaic period. The bulk of the ceramic appear to be relating to the Late Woodland Townsend series (a minimum of 2 Townsend sherds were recorded in the table above).

Phase II evaluations of Locus IV involved the excavation of six 1 meter X 1 meter square test units across the center of the midden. Two pit features were found in Locus IV, one in ER 400 and one in ER 401. The one in ER 400 contained 8 cord-marked sherds, 2 fire-cracked rocks, 7 flakes, and 1 clamshell fragment. The one in ER 401 contained 2 pieces of animal bone, 1 nut shell, 1 shell fragment, and 2 fire-cracked rocks and had some charcoal flecking. Like with the finds from Locus III, only in a few cases was the total number of shells reported by the archeologists. The numbers of other artifacts such as brick, glass, and peach pits were not always clearly stated, therefore, the totals given here for those artifacts are estimated based on a standardized system. Undisclosed numbers of shell were discarded. All artifacts recovered from the Phase II excavation including those from the 2 pit features include 100 clam and oyster shell fragments, 1 snail shell fragment, 4 clam shell hammers used to open shells, 8 fire-cracked rocks, 16 flakes, 3 pieces of debitage, 59 ceramic sherds, 3 Mockely sherds dated to the Middle Woodland period, 3 bone fragments, 1 nut shell, 1 uncommon object (possible fire-hardened wood point), and 24 peach pits. Two historic architectural items were also found (1 brick fragment and 1 glass shard).

It should also be noted that a number of artifacts have been collected by individuals in the areas that comprise Locus III and Locus VI (18WO167). These include a nutting stone, a black chert fishtail variant knife, an incomplete fishtail or bifurcate point (these items were photographed and the photos are with the collection at the MAC lab), a reworked point, a red jasper projectile point, and more.

The presence of an abundance of shell suggests that the Woodcock Farm Shell Middens Site (18WO165) was a shellfish procurement site utilized intermittently or seasonal over a long period of time. Studying the shell deposits in pits of different periods may lead to new information about changes in the mollusk population and procurement strategies. In responds to investigative findings, the proposed plans for construction were altered in order to avoid any impact on the midden complex in Locus III. The impact to the midden in Locus VI is minimal to none. Therefore, this site still has the potential to provide valuable information about prehistory.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00005084, 00005085

MARYLAND
HISTORICAL



TRUST

Phase II and Phase III Archeological Database and Inventory

Site Number:

Site Name:

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief
Description:

Unknown