



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18WO229

Site Name: St. Martin's Church

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Mid 18th-20th century church and possible Mid-Late 18th century cemetery

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 1

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 38.3974

Longitude -75.1997

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

Ownership

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

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Church Branch

- | Saltwater | | Freshwater | |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------|
| Ocean <input type="checkbox"/> | Estuary/tidal river <input type="checkbox"/> | Stream/river <input checked="" 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 150 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 Y
- ca. 1675 - 1720 Y
- ca. 1720 - 1780 Y
- ca. 1780 - 1820 Y
- Unknown historic context
- Unknown context

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

- Native American
- African American
- Anglo-American Y
- 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? Rural

Domestic

- Homestead
- Farmstead
- Mansion
- Plantation
- Row/townhome
- Cellar
- Privy

Industrial

- Mining-related
- Quarry-related
- Mill
- Black/metalsmith
- Furnace/forge
- Other

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

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken

N

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input checked="" 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



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Description:

Mid 18th-20th century church and possible Mid-Late 18th century cemetery

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The St. Martin's Church Site (18WO229) is the archeological remains associated with a standing mid 18th-20th century church and a possible associated mid-late 18th century cemetery near the town of Showell in rural Worcester County. The site occupies the crest of a moderately elevated ridge/terrace that borders the headwaters of a tributary of the St. Martin's River. The site includes the grounds, graveyard, and renovated brick structure of the c. 1757 St. Martin's Parish Anglican Church (MIHP# WO-23). The graveyard contains only two stones--one dates to 1928, and the other is a memorial stone erected in the mid-20th century. Numerous depressions to the north and the east of the church suggest unmarked burials. The surrounding landscape is wooded on all sides, except to the east where old US Highway 113 is situated, an area that is largely grass and colonizing weed species. Moderately eroded Sassafras sandy loam is the prevailing soil type within the site.

The Anglican Parish of Snow Hill (later renamed All Hallows') formed in 1692 and originally encompassed the Bogertermorton and Mattapony Hundreds, which extended from the Maryland-Delaware line south to the Virginia boundary and east from the Pocomoke River to the Atlantic Ocean. The parent church for All Hallows' Parish was located at Snow Hill (well south of the site). However, a so-called "chapel of ease" and a cemetery had apparently been established at or near the St. Martin's property no later than 1703, when Roger Thomas, one of the parishioners, requested that he be buried "in the Church Yard at St. Martin's" in that year.

Worcester Parish was created as a subdivision of All Hallows' Parish in 1753. The first vestry of record for Worcester agreed in that year to replace the former 'frame' chapel of ease with a new brick church. However, acquisition of the church property and actual construction did not begin for several years after this decision. In the meantime, because the geographic extent of their authority extended across what is now the Maryland state boundary, the vestry proceeded with plans to build a second church, known as Saint George's Chapel, in what is now Delaware.

In 1756, the Vestry Men of Worcester Parish purchased two acres of land from James Mumford on which to erect the new church. This property originally had been part of a larger 350 acre patent called "Vermin Dran'd" that was obtained by William Stevens in 1683. Stevens' heirs George and Elizabeth Sayfold sold the property to Thomas Mumford in 1694, who eventually passed it on to his son James Mumford. James Johnson was contracted to build the new chapel "whare the Chapell now stands in Worcester Parish". How close the footprints of the early and later church buildings actually were to each other is not known. If the two buildings did not occupy the same footprint and were merely 'near' one another, the location of the older building is of some concern. Any burials that took place at St. Martins Church between 1703 and 1757 would have been clustered around the old wooden chapel rather than the extant brick structure. This divergence suggests that another, earlier, cemetery could be located somewhere near 18WO229. One can be sure of the locations of only three burials from this period: Rev. William Macclenachan, Rev. Dingle, and Rev. Samuel Tingley. All three of these early rectors of St. Martin's are buried beneath the floor of the church itself.

The surviving minutes of Worcester Parish vestry meetings during the last half of the 18th century are extremely fragmentary, but they do give some indication of the range of diverse responsibilities that parish vestries were expected to fulfill. Vestry members managed the subscriptions that supported the various rectors hired to preach at the churches in the parish. They allocated church pews, kept lists of communicants, collected tax monies from residents of the parish (including the bachelors), they appointed tax inspectors for the various ports in the parish, and they tried to control the manners and morals of their parishioners. However, not until the Maryland General Assembly passed Section 19 of the Vestry Act of 1798 were parish vestries required by law to record, in a separate register, all "baptisms, marriages, and funerals of free persons in the parish" by any minister. Hence, no researcher of church history is likely to find a true register that systematically lists interments at St. Martin's or any other church prior to 1798.

By 1800, vestry minutes intimate that the St. Martin's congregation had begun to decline. Although the church building continued to function sporadically as a meetinghouse through the early 19th century, attendance became thinner as the center of population in the area moved to Berlin. This created financial problems for the parish. At its August 1801 meeting, for example, the vestry talked seriously about uniting with Saint George's Parish in Delaware to support a minister. By about 1806, the duties of traveling Anglican clergymen apparently had been split between two churches, St. Martin's and All Hallows'. By 1816, many meetings of the Worcester Parish vestry were being held in Berlin, and indications are that the physical fabric of St. Martin's was becoming unstable. At a meeting of the vestry on May 3, 1824, in Berlin, the group discussed undertaking repairs at St. Martin's, but also "took into consideration the propriety of building a new church in the neighborhood of Berlin". They determined unanimously "that a church be built, if a sum of money can be raised sufficient for that purpose and suitable ground obtained for the same...". By 1825, the official Anglican church for Worcester Parish had been relocated to St. Paul's Church in Berlin and, for all intents and purposes, St. Martin's Church had been abandoned as a house of worship.

In 1844, at the urging of Rev. Bishop W. Rollinson Whittingham, repairs were undertaken at the old church, and it subsequently was utilized during the summer for services. The sporadic use of the church for "special events" apparently continued through the 19th century. For example, five documented baptisms were performed at St. Martin's between 1878 and 1891. Burials between 1856 and 1864 are believed to have largely taken place in Berlin, and documents clearly show that burials did not take place at St. Martin's from the 1870s to the 1890s.

The only documented archeological work at 18WO229 occurred in 2001 and 2002. The project was geared specifically towards identifying any burials associated with St. Martin's that might be located within the impact area for proposed improvements to US Highway 113. Proposed impacts to the church property included construction of an entry road, a parking area/turnaround, walkways, fencing, landscaping, and the installation of utilities. The work was carried out on behalf of the Maryland State Highway Administration due to a historic easement on the property held by MHT and the use of public funds for the improvements.

The original Scope of Work (SOW) for the SHA project approved by the Maryland Historical Trust included archival research, Phase I shovel testing and reconnaissance, and remote sensing within a small area of the St. Martin's churchyard. A modification to that SOW included additional remote sensing in an expanded portion of the churchyard. The remote sensing effort included the use of a cesium gradiometer, and EM-38 conductivity meter, and ground penetrating radar. According to this revised SOW, no clearing of brush was to take place, and no subsurface testing was to be carried out in any area suspected of containing burials. No ground-truthing excavations were to take place, and no additional subsurface probing was to be carried out.

After an initial surface reconnaissance of the site in the spring of 2001, the site was shovel tested at 5 and 20 m intervals. The closer interval shovel test pits (STPs) were concentrated in the southern portion of the MHT easement on the property, while the 20 m interval was used in further removed areas (including



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on adjoining properties) which would be impacted by the project and where burials could potentially be located. All STPs measured 40 cm in diameter, and were excavated a minimum of 10 cm into sterile subsoil. All excavated soils were screened through hardware mesh. Standard recordation methods were used for each excavated shovel test. Records included notations on the soil, stratigraphy, recovered or noted artifacts, and adjacent topographic and landscape features.

Of the 97 shovel tests excavated, only 21 contained cultural material. Materials from 11 of these STPs were simply noted and then discarded in the field. They consisted solely of plastic and other modern debris. Cultural materials were retained from 10 STPs. The 39 recovered artifacts included 10 lamp glass fragments, 5 pieces of window glass, 9 brick fragments, 4 cut nails, 4 machine-made bottle glass fragments, 5 pieces of shell, 1 unidentified iron fragment, and 1 chert flake. Distribution of these materials was limited primarily to the relatively disturbed south yard area, adjacent to US Route 113, and to the dirt road leading to the western side of the property.

Remote sensing was carried out in June and July of 2001. A grid was established across the project area, and it was divided into 9 separate survey blocks. Investigations were carried out over these 9 areas using a combination of earth conductivity and magnetic susceptibility survey (using a Geonics Limited EM-38B ground conductivity meter), magnetometer survey (with a Geometrics G-858 cesium gradiometer), and a ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey (using a RAMAC GPR digital system with a 500 MHz shielded antenna).

This remote sensing work eventually led to the identification of anomalies within the path of the proposed access road south of the church property. Identification of these anomalies as graves was uncertain, so it was deemed judicious to test the area to determine if graves were indeed present there. The revised contract was agreed to in which additional fieldwork would be completed to include mechanical stripping and unit excavation of this anomalous area. A total of approximately 248 m² was stripped in roughly 15 cm arbitrary levels. Excavation continued until the interface of subsoil and the upper, disturbed A_o horizon was reached (between roughly 20-34 cm below surface). Immediately after removal of the A_p horizon, the subsoil surface was cleaned by hand scraping and any potential features or soil stains were noted and marked. Four excavation units, each measuring 1 X 1 m, were then completed to assist in the identification of potential features. All unit and feature excavation proceeded using natural and cultural stratigraphy. All soils were screened through hardware cloth and standardized forms were used to document the excavations. All excavation units were recorded with measured profile and plan drawings, and excavations were photo-documented using both color and black and white film.

This fieldwork was able to identify a number of the anomalous areas located through remote sensing as natural or modern disturbances. No graves were identified in the area of the access road and no clearly pre-modern artifacts were encountered. Periodic deposits of relatively modern materials were encountered. A local informant described episodes of periodic filling in the area during the 20th century, due to flooding and puddling in the locale. Other anomalous areas of the site that would not be impacted by road construction or other activities were not ground-truthed.

The ground-truthing excavations at 18WO229 did not identify any archeologically significant features or burials. The work that was conducted within the project area of impact did little to reveal anything about the archeological potential of the remainder of the site. While attempts were made to identify with certainty those areas likely to contain unmarked burials based on remote sensing and other data, until ground-truthing excavations can verify those conclusions, caution is urged during any activity that could cause sub-surface disturbance in the churchyard. Site 18WO229 should continue to be considered a potentially significant resource.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

97001739