



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18WO238

Site Name: NI-39

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Winter Quarter Wreck Assateague Survey

Historic

Brief Description:

Late 19th or early 20th century schooner wreck

Unknown

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 1

SCS soil & sediment code sand

Latitude 38.1282

Longitude -75.1762

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  submerged

### Ownership

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

### Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Atlantic Ocean

- | Saltwater                                 |                                       | Freshwater                                   |                                |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Ocean <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Stream/river <input type="checkbox"/> | Estuary/tidal 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
- ca. 1860 - 1900  Y
- ca. 1900 - 1930  Y
- Post 1930
- ca. 1630 - 1675
- ca. 1675 - 1720
- ca. 1720 - 1780
- ca. 1780 - 1820
- Unknown historic context
- Unknown context

### Ethnic Associations (historic only)

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

vessel

## Interpretive Sampling Data:

### Prehistoric context samples

Soil samples taken

Flotation samples taken

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 Crk	<input type="checkbox"/>		

### Historic Sherd Types

<b>Earthenware</b>		Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Stoneware</b>	
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"/>	<b>Porcelain</b>	<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"/>	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"/>	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"/>
		European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Late 19th/early 20th century sunken vessel.

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"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	vessel	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Hearth/chimney	<input type="checkbox"/>	Planting feature	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<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 19th or early 20th century schooner wreck

Unknown

## External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

Site 18WO238 appears to be the remnants of a late 19th or early 20th century schooner wreck near Winter Quarter in the Maryland waters off Assateague Island. The wreck lies in 3.66-5.18 m (12-17 ft) of water and only stands 36 cm (1.2 ft) proud of the seabed.

The site was first documented by the Maryland Maritime Archeology Program (part of MHT) during a 2002 survey of the waters surrounding Assateague Island. The 2002 survey by MHT was undertaken on behalf of the National Park Service's Systemwide Archeological Inventory Program (SAIP). As steward of the lands and waters within the Assateague Island National Seashore, the NPS is obliged to conduct a program of research to identify and evaluate the seashore's cultural resources and appropriately to interpret, preserve, and protect them for public enjoyment. These initial remote sensing surveys identified 6 targets for further investigation: 5 thought to be potential shipwreck sites and 1 a possible ballast pile. Site 18WO238 was not identified in the field, but was recognized during post-processing of the remote sensing data as a likely shipwreck.

In 2004, MHT researchers returned to Assateague Island to re-locate and assess these 6 targets in terms of their National Register eligibility. The work was undertaken for the US Department of the Interior, National Park Service (NPS), the State of Maryland, and the Commonwealth of Virginia's Department of Historic Resources (VDHR), pursuant to Amendment No. 2 of Cooperative Agreement CA45060A0054. Both remote sensing and diver investigations were used to examine the sites. Remote sensing methods included side scan sonar and a magnetometer, the former to re-acquire the targets and to examine them in more detail, and the latter to measure the strength of any magnetic signal in order to determine approximately the amount of metal associated with the shipwreck. Because of the extremely low visibility of these coastal waters, these tools provided clear images to aid divers in establish the orientation, dimensions and characteristics of the wrecks, which in turn facilitated their understanding of the vessels' physical position while submerged on a wreck and what features they might anticipate encountering in any given direction.

Survey lanes were pre-plotted onto NOAA navigational charts. For this survey, the lane spacing was considerably reduced to 56 m from the 84 meters that had been used in the previous study which located the aforementioned targets. Due to a generally rolling sea state with .9-1.2m (3-4 ft) seas being the norm, sites were surveyed carefully and lines repeated until a satisfactory smooth result (100% coverage) was achieved. Sites were also repeatedly surveyed from different angles until the optimum image was achieved.

The side scan sensor was deployed by a small crane on the starboard stern quarter of the research vessel and maintained at a depth of 3.7 m (12 ft). The side scan sonar employs an EG&G 272-TD towfish sensor and an Edgetech topside computer running Triton Isis software. The magnetometer used was a Geometrics 881 cesium gas model (an industry standard). Because this magnetometer sensor was much lighter than that of the side scan sonar, it was deployed by hand from the port stern quarter of the vessel. Hypack Max survey software was used to run the magnetometer and both software systems were integrated and calibrated to GPS and the vessel's navigation system. Because of the possibility of interference between the cables for these two pieces of equipment, the cables were run along opposite sides of the vessel. To avoid interference from the boat's motor and generator, the magnetometer was towed 15 m (50 ft) behind the survey vessel.

Neither the ballast pile, nor the faintest of the possible 5 shipwreck targets could be relocated in 2004. This may have been due to changes in the seabed precipitated by tropical storm Isabel in September of 2003, or the images detected in post-processing the 2002 side scan sonar data may have been artifacts of the process and not actual targets. The other 4 shipwreck sites were re-located and documented further using both the remote sensing techniques and by diving on the wrecks.

Largely because of the shallowness of the sites, generally less than 10.7 m (35 ft), there was considerable tidal action and surge on these sites. Combined with relatively choppy weather on all but one day, the divers had to make a concerted effort to stay on the sites. Concomitantly, there was virtually no visibility on any of the sites and, hence, no photography. Divers had to descend feet first and tentatively to ensure that they would not impale themselves on protruding structure. Because of the surge and lack of visibility, divers often tangled or broke tape measures. Therefore, measurements were repeated and checked against the side scan for corroboration.

Site 18WO238 is one of 2 investigated sites which was situated within Maryland Waters (see also synopsis report for 18WO237). The sunken vessel is situated near the portion of Assateague Island known as Winter Quarter. As mentioned previously, the wreck is quite shallow lying in only 3.66-5.18 m (12-17 ft) of water and the strong surge has heavily impacted the remains. The vessel only stands 36 cm (1.2 ft) proud of the seabed. It was measured as 26.9 m (88.3 ft) long with a breadth of 4.45 m (15.6 ft). It was determined to be of wood (plank on frame) construction.

Between the 17th century and the 20th century, 50 vessels were lost in this area. The majority are merely described as being lost "off Maryland" or "on Assateague Island". Only 11 were referenced by approximate locations and these are known from US Life Saving Services (USLSS) records and therefore date after 1871 when USLSS was established. While this does not preclude the remains being from an earlier vessel, the general construction observed in the field supports a late 19th or early 20th century origin. These 11 vessels include 7 schooners, 2 barks, and 2 gas yachts. Two schooners (the Helena and the P.E. Warton), and a bark (the Admiral), are the vessels which were lost in closest proximity to the site. However, the USLSS records are not accurate enough to rule out or support any particular candidate with certainty. The most that can be stated is that it appears to be a schooner based on size and construction, although most steps could not be located to determine the nature of the rigging. The amount of metal detected (through magnetometry) is consistent with the hardware of a sailing vessel as opposed to a steamship. Evidence that recreational divers visit this site took the form of sisal mooring lines at various points on the wreck.

A strong magnetometer signal was encountered on one of the survey runs with 510 gammas observed over a 57 second duration. It then became apparent that two clusters were actually being averaged by the instruments: one reading of 662 gammas over 38 seconds, and a smaller reading of 166 gammas over 12 seconds. In trying to maintain a grasp on the wreck in considerable surge, a diver brought up a short metal rod that had come loose in his hand. Although it seems the right weight, it is rather short for a drift pin. The diver stated that he felt what he believed to be a row of these under a timber joining it to the ones beneath it, so it was likely a fastener. Analysis suggested that the pin was Muntz metal or possibly forging brass.

Ultimately, the sunken vessel at 18WO238 was determined not to have sufficient integrity to be considered eligible for the National Register or to have

MARYLAND  
HISTORICAL



TRUST

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**Brief  
Description:**

Late 19th or early 20th century schooner wreck

Unknown

significant research potential. However, despite ineligibility for the NR, resources within a National Park unit should be protected and managed for the enjoyment of the public.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

97002268