

Phase II and Phase III Project Cover Sheet

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REPORT INFORMATION:

1990 Irion, J.B.
Combined Phase I and II Survey for the Deep Trough Dredge Disposal Area, Kent Island,
Maryland.
Submitted to the Maryland Port Administration

Library ID No: 00000812 Catalog/Shelving ID: QU 16

Research Firm/Institution:

GAI Consultants, Inc.
570 Beatty Road
Monroeville, PA 15146

Sites examined:

18QU241 18QU242

Project Details:

Phase I

Phase II

Phase III

Project Justification:

This report describes Phase I and Phase II underwater archaeological work conducted over the Deep Trough Dredge Disposal Area in April of 1990 on behalf of the Maryland Port Administration (MPA). The MPA was (at the time) considering the feasibility of using the Deep Trough area of the Chesapeake Bay (off the western shore of Kent Island) as a disposal site for dredged sediments from bay channels leading to Baltimore Harbor. Over 2 million cubic yards of sediment would be dredged from the channels and redeposited at Deep Trough. The US Army Corps of Engineers, at the permitting agency, has the responsibility as an agency of the federal government to protect and preserve cultural resources. Their obligations under a number of pieces of federal legislation necessitated the study under question.

Project Objectives:

-Locate and characterize potential submerged resources in the Deep Trough Dredge Disposal Area.

Research Potential:

The Maxwell is representative of a type of vessel which played a key role in the development of modern industrial America and was, thus, considered to be potentially eligible to the National Register of Historic Places. Due to the prospect of the wreck's fragile hull being crushed if buried in dredged spoils, avoidance of Site 18QU241 was recommended as the best option in the Deep Trough Dredge Disposal project report. It should be noted that the site was re-located in 2012 by the Institute of Maritime History via side-scan sonar, but no diving on the vessel by archeologists has occurred. The shipwreck should still be considered a significant archeological resource.

The preservation of this late 19th century vessel appears to be excellent and since it does not seem to be known to the local diving community, it is likely to contain intact artifact deposits. The vessel was considered to be potentially to the National Register of Historic Places. Due to the prospect of the wreck's fragile hull being crushed if buried in dredged spoils, avoidance of Site 18QU242 was recommended as the best option in the Deep Trough Dredge Disposal project report. It should be noted that the site was re-located in 2012 by the Institute of Maritime History via side-scan sonar, but no diving on the vessel by archeologists has occurred. The shipwreck should still be considered a significant archeological resource.