

Phase II and Phase III Project Cover Sheet

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REPORT INFORMATION:

McNamara, J.

The Ames Oyster Midden (18TA203) Site Files.

Library ID No: 18TA203 SF Catalog/Shelving ID: Site Files

Research Firm/Institution:

Maryland Geological Survey, Division of
Archeology

Sites examined:

18TA203

Project Details:

Project Justification:

The Site Files contain the records of the Phase II excavations at 18TA203. Plans for shore erosion control along the Choptank River were reviewed by Maryland Historical Trust personnel in October 1982 followed by a field visit to the property. At that time, a previously unidentified shell midden (18TA203) was located in the project area. Proposed disturbance as a result of shoreline erosion control was to include landscaping and terracing to approximately 9.144 m back from the edge of the bank. Therefore, it was determined that a site examination should be conducted prior to work commencing. In April 1983, staff from the Maryland Geological Society, Division of Archeology, with volunteers from the Mid-Shore Chapter of the Archeology Society of Maryland, conducted test excavations at 18TA203.

MAC Accession: 1983.017, 1983.019

Project Objectives:

-Assess the site within the projected area of impact for periods of occupation, depth, intensity, distribution, and significance

Research Potential:

The Ames Oyster Midden (18TA203) represents a prehistoric shell midden and resource procurement site. Diagnostic artifacts recovered during Phase II excavations indicated utilization of the area in at least the Early and Late Woodland periods. A historic component, representing refuse disposal, was also identified. It is most likely related to early 19th century occupation in the location. Recent aerial photos of the site area indicate that revetment has been placed along the shoreline. While this may have had a slight impact on the oyster shell midden, the site was already in danger of destruction due to natural and aggressive shoreline erosional processes. At least of portion of site 18TA203 remains preserved along the river bank.