

Phase II and Phase III Project Cover Sheet

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REPORT INFORMATION:

2005 Otter, E.
The Archaeological Investigation and Recovery of an American Indian Ossuary Burial at the Harbor Point Site (18WC23), Wicomico County, Maryland.
Submitted to the Maryland Historical Trust

Research Firm/Institution:

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Sites examined:

18WC23

Project Details:

Phase I

Project Justification:

This report describes salvage archeology at the previously identified Harbor Point site. On February 10th, 2004, MHT personnel received a call from the Salisbury Police Department, reporting the recovery of bones during construction of a footer trench for a new home at the site. MHT archeologists visited the site the following day and discovered that large amounts of human remains had already been excavated by police (who initially thought they were investigating a crime scene). The MHT archeologists explained to the builder that the construction appeared to have disturbed a prehistoric ossuary and outlined the various options for dealing with the remains. Ultimately, the developer and homeowner opted to have the remains excavated by an archeologist for reburial elsewhere.

Phase II

Project Objectives:

-Locate and document all human remains within the exposed feature at 18WC23.

Phase III



-Remove all human remains for eventual reburial in another location.

Research Potential:

Based on the discoveries at 18WC23, it would appear highly likely that the site contains additional intact features and archeological deposits. Due to the lack of access, the site is poorly documented, its extent is not well-known, and its potential is difficult to determine. The site is in private hands and now that it serves a residential function (with multiple owners involved) the potential for future research appears rather limited.
