## Phase II and Phase III Archeological Database and Inventory

### Site Number: 18WC68  
Site Name: Miller  
Other name(s): Tyaskin, Maryland

### Brief Description:
Early and Late Woodland shell midden and 18th century scatter

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Location and Environmental Data:</th>
<th>Maryland Archeological Research Unit No. 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Latitude: 38.3208</td>
<td>SCS soil &amp; sediment code: Tm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longitude: -75.8893</td>
<td>Terrestrial site: ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elevation: 0 m</td>
<td>Underwater site: ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site slope: 0-5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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

### Ethnobotany profile available: ✓  
Maritime site: unknown

#### Topography
- Floodplain: ✓  
- Hilltop/bluff:  
- Interior flat:  
- Upland flat:  
- Ridgetop:  
- Terrace:  
- Low terrace: 

#### Ownership
- Private: ✓  
- Federal: ✓  
- State of MD:  
- Regional/county/city: unknown

#### Nearest Surface Water
- Name (if any): Nanticoke River  
- Saltwater: Freshwater
- Ocean:  
- Estuary/tidal river: ✓  
- Tidewater/marsh:  
- Swamp:  
- Lake or pond:  
- Spring:  
- Minimum distance to water is 0 m

### Site Function Contextual Data:

#### Prehistoric
- Multi-component: ✓  
- Village:  
- Hamlet:  
- Base camp:  
- Rockshelter/cave: ✓  
- Earthen mound:  
- Cairn:  
- Burial area:  
- Other context:  

#### Domestic
- Homestead:  
- Farmstead:  
- Mansion:  
- Plantation:  
- Row/townhome:  
- Cellar:  
- Privy:  

#### Industrial
- Mining-related:  
- Quarry-related:  
- Mill:  
- Black/metalsmith:  

#### Urban/Rural?
- Rural: ✓  

#### Transportation
- Canal-related:  
- Road/railroad:  
- Wharf/landing:  
- Maritime-related:  
- Bridge:  
- Ford:  

#### Educational
- Commercial:  
- Trading post:  
- Store:  
- Tavern/inn:  

#### Historic
- Furnace/forge:  
- Other: ✓  
- Fortification:  
- Encampment:  
- Church/mtg house:  
- Ch support bldg:  
- Cemetery:  
- Sepulchre:  
- Isolated burial:  

#### Military
- Battlefield:  
- 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:
- Flotation samples taken: Y  
- Other samples taken:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prehistoric context samples</th>
<th>Soil samples taken</th>
<th>Historic context samples</th>
<th>Soil samples taken</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flotation samples taken: Y</td>
<td>Other samples taken</td>
<td>Flotation samples taken: Y</td>
<td>Other samples taken</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Site Name: Miller
Other name(s): Tyaskin, Maryland

Brief Description: Early and Late Woodland shell midden and 18th century scatter

### Diagnostic Artifact Data:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Projectile Point Types</th>
<th>Koen-Crispin</th>
<th>Perkiomen</th>
<th>Clovis</th>
<th>Hardaway-Dalton</th>
<th>Palmer</th>
<th>Kirk (notch)</th>
<th>Kirk (stem)</th>
<th>Le Croy</th>
<th>Morrow Mtn</th>
<th>Guilford</th>
<th>Brewerton</th>
<th>Otter Creek</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

### Prehistoric Sherd Types:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marcy Creek</th>
<th>Popes Creek</th>
<th>Townsend</th>
<th>Sheppard</th>
<th>Keyser</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dames Qtr</th>
<th>Coulbourn</th>
<th>Minguannan</th>
<th>Monongahela</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selden Island</th>
<th>Watson</th>
<th>Sullivan Cove</th>
<th>Susquehannock</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accokeek</th>
<th>Mockley</th>
<th>Shenks Ferry</th>
<th>Moyaone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wolfe Neck</th>
<th>Clemson Island</th>
<th>Potomac Cr</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Historic Sherd Types:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ironstone</th>
<th>Staffordshire</th>
<th>Tin Glazed</th>
<th>Whiteware</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asbury</th>
<th>Jackfield</th>
<th>Mn Mottled</th>
<th>Porcelain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Borderware</th>
<th>North Devon</th>
<th>Pearlware</th>
<th>Creamware</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Historic Artifacts & Feature Types:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mound(s)</th>
<th>Storage/trash pit</th>
<th>Midden</th>
<th>Shell midden</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shell midden</th>
<th>Burial(s)</th>
<th>Ossuary</th>
<th>Postholes/molds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>House pattern(s)</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Lithic reduc area</th>
<th>Palisade(s)</th>
<th>Hearth(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Lithic Material:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fer quartzite</th>
<th>Sil sandstone</th>
<th>European flint</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jasper</th>
<th>Chalcedony</th>
<th>Ironstone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rhyolite</th>
<th>Argilite</th>
<th>Quartz</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quartzite</th>
<th>Sandstone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### 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

Late Woodland shell midden based on preponderance of Townsend sherds.
The Miller Site (18WC68) is a prehistoric shell midden with Early and Late Woodland components on the lower reaches of the Nanticoke River in Wicomico County. The site is situated near Bivalve Harbor on the southernmost rise of a sand hummock overlooking the Nanticoke, west of Salisbury. The landscape surrounding the site is forested shoreline with a number of low dunes or hummocks interspersed throughout. Most of the vegetation is fairly young Loblolly Pine. During the 19th and 20th centuries, the area appears to have been harvested of its oaks and sweetgum stands. Soils at the site are primarily Evesboro loamy sands and sands of the Runclint-Cedartown complex.

The site was first recorded by J.T. Ducatel (the Maryland State Geologist) in 1836. Ducatel simply reports the presence of a prehistoric shell midden along the lower Nanticoke in the vicinity of Bivalve, Maryland. No documented archeological work is known to have occurred at the site until the 1980s.

In the summer of 1983, personnel from Salisbury State College visited the site on behalf of MHT to conduct some preliminary reconnaissance prior to a US Army Corps of Engineers project that would be taking place in the area. It appears that the site visit was geared specifically towards re-locating the site, the location of which was only very generally known. Approximately 76 m of shell midden was observed in the A and B soil horizons, eroding out of the river bank. Several prehistoric shell-tempered ceramic sherds were seen and collected from the top of the exposed bank.

In December of 1983, and continuing into the spring of 1984, the US Army Corps of Engineers (COE) conducted field investigations of nearly 360 m of shoreline. The field investigation was undertaken as a result of a letter from the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) to the Baltimore District of the COE which indicated that a proposed permit action for grading and riprap (later modified to a prefab concrete bulkhead construction) might impact the potentially significant prehistoric shell midden recorded as 18WC68. The investigation was required to comply with the Department of the Army regulations for the protection of cultural resources permit actions in waters of the United States.

The 1983-1984 investigations consisted of a surface reconnaissance, the excavations of shovel test pits (STPs) on a 10 m interval, and the excavation of formal 1 and 2 m test squares in areas of artifact concentration. A total of 17 STPs and 14 formal test units were excavated within the bounds of 18WC68. STPs and test units were excavated in arbitrary 4 cm levels to sterile subsoil. All soil was screened through hardware cloth. All test units and STPs were plotted by transit from a single survey triangle. A sample of oyster shell (to be analyzed to potentially determine site seasonality) was recovered from approximately 50% of the test pits.

Many of the STPs and test units revealed disturbed soils as a result of plowing, logging activity, or land clearing, however, on one hummock, adjacent to the riverbank edge, an intact intact shell lens was located approximately 10 m in length and 10 cm in thickness. The intact shell lens appeared to have been truncated on the north side by an erosion cut. This is where the majority of the 1 and 2 meter test units were placed: to determine the shell midden’s condition and significance.

A total of 486 historic artifacts and 320 prehistoric artifacts (exclusive of the shell sample) were recovered from the site during the 1983-1984 project. In addition, oyster shell samples from the intermittent midden, and two flotation samples were taken from the main excavation area. The historic artifact sample provides little but chronological information indicating a late 17th to 20th century historic occupation of the property. The 20th century artifacts were all of recent origins and were attributed to periodic campers and campfires. No structural remains were encountered during the excavation, however, a nearby cemetery (which dates back to the period of the original land grants in the area) is likely related to the historic component at the site.

The historic assemblage consisted of 9 activity items, 130 architectural artifacts, 153 kitchen-related items, 11 tobacco-related artifacts, 6 arms objects, and 177 miscellaneous objects. The activity items were 5 pieces of wire and 4 pieces of barbed wire. The architectural items were 1 piece of slate, 6 roofing paper fragments, 19 brick fragments, 93 window glass fragments, 6 square nails, and 5 wire nails. The kitchen assemblage consisted of 3 coarse earthenware sherds, 13 yellowware sherds, 6 whiteware sherds, 16 stoneware sherds, 59 container/bottle glass fragments, 37 bottle caps, 2 tin can tops, and 17 zip top lids. The tobacco-related artifacts were all kaolin pipe fragments: 8 stems and 3 bowls. The arms objects were 2 lead shot fragments and four .22 shells. The miscellaneous objects were 8 pieces of metal and 2 pieces of plastic, and 167 pieces of coal.

Intermittent remains of a shallow, primarily Late Woodland shell midden were the major component of the site. The prehistoric artifacts recovered evidence a post AD 1285 occupation camp from which oysters were exploited and small game hunted in the vicinity. Some earlier materials were identified from the site as well, but not from secure contexts.

The main problem with interpretation of the site is a complete lack of features aside from the shell lens. Even the integrity of the shell lens as an undisturbed feature is suspect because of 1) the loose, sandy soil context, and 2) the impression that the lens was held together by tree roots, implying that it may be a secondary deposit. The sample of artifacts recovered was primarily from what would have been the interior edge of the site, further from the shoreline of the Nanticoke River. This suggests that the Miller Site has, for the most part, been washed away. It was estimated that about 90% of the site now lies in the Nanticoke River after several hundred years of severe riverbank erosion, coupled with a gradual rise in sea level.

The prehistoric assemblage consisted of 67 flaked stone objects, 9 other lithics (sandstone objects), 228 ceramic sherds, 1,053 faunal remains, and 1 nut fragment. The flaked stone objects were 29 quartz flakes, 5 quartzite flakes, 6 chert flakes, 2 jasper flakes, 1 other flake, 4 worked quartz cobbles, 8 quartz cores, and 2 quartzite cores. The ceramic assemblage consisted of 3 Wolfe Neck sherds, 2 Potomac Creek sherds, 60 Rappahannock sherds, 161 other Townsend sherds, and 2 Sullivan Cove sherds (1 rim). The faunal assemblage included a sample of 1,028 shells and shell fragments, 2 bird bones, 23 animal and bones and teeth.

The intensive testing of the Miller Site (18WC68) did not provide sufficient data for National Register eligibility. The small collection from the site is, however, a good study collection for the Lower Nanticoke River Basin. No further work on the site was considered necessary as additional data would probably not have provided enough information to alter the basic interpretation of the site. The COE project moved forward and the site was likely impacted heavily by the construction of bulkheading.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Number: 18WC68</th>
<th>Site Name: Miller</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other name(s): Tyaskin, Maryland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Brief Description:**

Early and Late Woodland shell midden and 18th century scatter

**External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):**

| Site Files, 00005108 |