Phase II and Phase III Project Cover Sheet

All information contained within the individual site database and inventory sheets is solely the work of the researchers and authors noted below. The data provided has been culled from the original site reports noted below and in many cases has been lifted directly from them with little or no editing. The database and inventory sheets are meant to serve as a synopsis of the report findings and a finding aid and are not intended to replace or republish the research of the authors noted below.

REPORT INFORMATION:

1972  
McMillan, B.A.  
An Archeological Survey of St. Mary's County, Maryland.  
Submitted to Faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences of the American University

Sites examined:

18ST53  
NRHP Eligible: Y

Project Details:

Phase I  
Project Justification:  
The Abell's Wharf site (18ST53) was first identified by archeologist Dr. B. McMillan during her extensive 1972 survey of St. Mary's County. The major aim of that survey, which was submitted as a Master's thesis, was to collect information on the nature and extent of prehistoric settlement in that portion of St. Mary's County along the Potomac drainage system.

Phase II  

Phase III  

Project Objectives:

- Locate archeological resources situated within the St. Mary's County portion of the Potomac drainage.
- Establish a testable hypothesis regarding the movement of people and changes in resource procurement.
- Relate those findings to the general Middle Atlantic prehistoric sequence.

Research Potential:

See below for remaining research questions at 18ST53.

REPORT INFORMATION:

1976  
Humphries, M.E.  
Abell's Wharf: A Study in Archaeological Conservation Problems in the Field and an Archaeological Survey of St. Mary's County, Maryland.  
Submitted to The Maryland Historical Trust

Sites examined:

18ST53  
NRHP Eligible: Y

Project Details:

Phase I  
Project Justification:  
In 1974, the landowner was developing plans for gravel mining a large area including the site. He received permission to begin the mining operations with the caveat that all sites of archeological significance were to be excavated before any earth moving activities were conducted. The owner arranged to have the site exempted from any mining activities and leased the land to the St. Clement's Island and Potomac River Museum for 189 years. Two separate reports were written up detailing the 1975 investigations (1 by the state archeologist and 1 by the county archeologist).

Phase II  

Phase III  

Project Objectives:

- Evaluate the nature and significance of the site.
- Encourage its preservation.
- Determine what procedures should be used to minimize the loss of significant information.

Research Potential:

See below for remaining research questions at 18ST53.

REPORT INFORMATION:

1976  
Peck, D.W.  
Submitted to The Maryland Historic Trust

Research Firm/Institution:

Maryland Geological Survey  
2300 St. Paul Street  
Baltimore, MD 21218
In 1974, the current landowner was developing plans for gravel mining a large area including the site. He received permission to begin the mining operations with the caveat that all sites of archeological significance were to be excavated before any earth moving activities were conducted. The owner arranged to have the site exempted from any mining activities and leased the land to the St. Clement's Island and Potomac River Museum for 189 years. Two separate reports were written up detailing the 1975 investigations (1 by the state archeologist and 1 by the county archeologist).

### Project Details:

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| Phase II | | |
| Phase III | | |

### Research Potential:

See below for remaining research questions at 18ST53.
An intensive Phase I survey was conducted in 1995 of a large parcel that adjoins site 18ST53. The Phase I survey was initiated ahead of proposed mining operations in that project area. In the original report, the authors stated that the Abell’s Wharf site name and number were applied to all the artifacts collected and to the project area. It was determined by State archaeologists that the 1995 survey area represented a continuation of site 18ST53. The northwest portion of the 1995 study area (Area 1) buts up against the 1975/76 study area and probably forms a continuation of the core site area identified in the 1970’s. All that separates the 1975/6 and 1995 survey areas is a property boundary fence.

Research Potential:

See below for remaining research questions at 18ST53.

REPORT INFORMATION:

1995 Hopkisn, J.W. and N.A. Baumgartner-Wagner
Phase II Archeological Investigation of the Arundel Corporation Proposed Sand and Gravel Mining Adjacent to the Abell’s Wharf Site, 18ST53 in St. Mary’s County, Maryland.
Submitted To The Arundel Corporation

Library ID No: 00006520 Catalog/Shelving ID: ST 137

Sites examined:
18ST53
NRHP Eligible: Y

Excavations at Abell’s Wharf (18ST53) revealed an extensive, multi-component prehistoric and historic site. It included features associated with a prehistoric camp with components from Early Archaic through Woodland times. The best represented, and most intensive, prehistoric periods were the Early and Middle Woodland phases of occupation. This is significant because it provides information on the shift from hunting and foraging to intensive oyster exploitation. The historic period resources are associated with a colonial homestead, and date from ca. AD 1690 to 1740. This provides an important source of information about 17th and 18th century building traditions and settlement and subsistence patterns in Southern Maryland. The Abell’s Wharf Archeological Site was determined eligible for listing in the Maryland Register of Historic Places in 1986.