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Lowery, Darrin

1992 The Distribution and Function of Prehistoric Sites within the Lower Bay Hundred District, Talbot County, Maryland. *Journal for Middle Atlantic Archaeology* 8:11-40.

Lowery presents an analysis and description of artifact assemblages accumulated over 13 years of collecting on 25 eroding prehistoric sites in the lower Bay Hundred district in Talbot County. This region of the Eastern Shore encompasses Tilghman Island and the quickly eroding Poplar Island in the Chesapeake Bay. He divides the sites into five functional types: micro-band base camps, macro-band base camps, hunting/procurement sites, cobble quarry sites, and cache sites.

An overview of regional prehistory is presented, and the Middle Woodland period is divided into two diagnostic complexes: the Carey complex (2000 – 1400 B.P.), defined by increased oyster use, Fox Creek points, and shell-tempered ceramics, and the Webb complex (1400 – 1000 B.P.), defined by Jack's Reef pentagonal points and increased sedentism along with incipient ranked societies.

Of the 25 sites, 15 have Carey complex components (eight hunting/procurement, three micro-band camps, one macro-band camp, and three cache sites), while only six have components dating to the Webb complex (five hunting/procurement sites and one micro-band base camp). The author states that the inequality in Middle Woodland sites is dependent on degrees of social complexity. During times of high complexity, this hinterland area is less populated (the later Middle Woodland). However, when complexity declines (as in the earlier Middle Woodland), the hinterlands are more aggressively populated. Environmental factors affected this waxing and waning of populations, and therefore, social complexity “seems to be dependent on times of aggregation and dispersal” (p. 33).