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2000 Inferring Prehistoric Settlement Patterns Using Phase I Archaeological Data from the Naval Air Station, Patuxent River. *Maryland Archaeology* 36(2):1-10.

This article spatially analyzes artifact assemblage data gathered from three Phase I surveys conducted in 1997, 1998, and 1999 at the Naval Air Station, Patuxent River (NASPAX), located at the confluence of the Patuxent River and the Chesapeake Bay in St. Mary's County. A number of temporary resource procurement camp sites were identified along three drainages on NASPAX, where Native Americans were processing oysters and/or quarrying quartz and quartzite cobbles at natural outcroppings.

When the assemblage data was analyzed temporally, a decrease in Middle Woodland period sites relative to Early and Late Woodland site was noted. The author compared this data to the earlier work of Steponaitis (1981, 1983, 1986), who found a similar pattern in her study of the prehistory of the Patuxent River drainage. The author concurs that a drop in residential mobility partially due to highly developed broad-based exchange networks that occurred during the Middle Woodland period is probably the reason for fewer recorded sites in the vicinity. She goes on to speculate that the oyster harvesting sites on NASPAX could have been used for creating a surplus of dried oysters that were traded during the period.