

INTRODUCTION

During the survey of the proposed Argo's Corner Bypass, the Taylor Cedar Creek site was located. It is situated on the south side of Cedar Creek approximately five miles upstream from the Delaware Bay and four miles southeast of Milford. The site was named after Mr. William Taylor, an artifact collector who operates the nearby Taylor Marine Center.

When the site was found and its boundaries established, contact was made with James Julian Inc., the construction firm slated to build the highway. Arrangements were made to have two large pans strip the top soil within the right of way, under the supervision of the Section of Archeology. Inspection of the exposed subsoil revealed the presence of at least thirty sub-surface features. At this point, an agreement was made with James Julian Inc. for the salvage of the site. James Julian Inc. agreed to pay for a crew of six experienced excavators and agreed to place them under the supervision of the Section of Archeology. The Section of Archeology agreed to provide all the necessary tools and to supervise the excavations. The Section of Archeology personnel consisted of Ronald A. Thomas, Daniel R. Griffith, Richard E. Artusy, Faye L. Stocum and Cara L. Wise. Volunteer assistance was received from Mr. John Harris of the Archaeological Society of Delaware, Mr. Thomas Hughes of the Kent County Archeological Society, and an archeological class from Milford High School under the supervision of Mr. John Wonderly. Special thanks should be extended to Mr. Joseph Julian of James Julian Inc. for his cooperation and interest. Thanks should also be given to the Julian road crews and to the various staff members of the Department of Transportation who assisted in the project.

After the initial striping of the right of way, a Datum was established and tied into one of the survey stakes delineating the highway right of way. A north-south base line was surveyed in with a transit and the site was then grided into blocks of 100 square meters (ten meters on a side). Each of the ten meter blocks was then carefully flat shoveled and all the sub-surface features within the blocks were mapped. This procedure resulted in the location of an additional eighteen features making a total of forty eight features.

Before the excavation of a feature begins, the ten meter blocks described above are subdivided into twenty five units, each of which is two meters on a side. Each feature is then mapped on one or more unit sheets depending on its location and size. The feature is then cross sectioned so that it is excavated in halves. This provides the excavator with a cross section so that the feature fill can be removed in levels corresponding to their original deposition. At each stage of excavation, photographs are taken and field notes are kept on the method of excavation, the types of artifacts recovered and the internal or external stratification of the feature. It should be

noted that the features at this site were very difficult to discern due to the leaching of the organics from the feature fill. All the feature fill was screened through standard three to the inch rat wire. Levels within a feature, where discernable, were catalogued separately. Soil samples from each level were retained for flotation.

MATERIAL CULTURE

The artifacts at the Taylor Cedar Creek site, can be divided into three classes of artifacts; ceramics, lithics and bone. Of the 312 sherds recovered only 134 are of sufficient size to be analyzed and compared to established types defined for the Delmarva Peninsula. The lithics include 57 bifaces, 2 unifaces, 21 utilized flakes, 6 hammerstones, 3 pitted stones, 1 celt, 16 pebble cores, 1456 heat altered rocks, and 1777 flakes. Only a few pieces of bone were recovered all of which came from a small shell midden.

CERAMICS

The 134 ceramic and soapstone sherds found at Taylor Cedar-Creek includes most of the known ceramic types found in southern Delaware (Artusy 1976:1-15). Seven wares are represented including 12 types. Soapstone vessel fragments are also included in the following description.

Soapstone (9 fragments)

Body fragments - 7 Ring fragments - 2
Exterior treatment - chisely
Interior treatment - smooth

Soapstone vessels are found throughout the Middle Atlantic and are associated with the latter part of the Broadspear tradition (Witthoft 1953:4-31). Recent dates temporally place the manufacturing and utilization of soapstone bowls to the period 1700 B.C. to 1000 B.C. (Marcy Creek) (Draft 1970).

Dames Quarter Black Stone Tempered (18 sherds)

Body sherds - 15 Rim sherds - 3
Temper - crushed black stone Thickness 7-12 mm
Exterior treatment - smooth uneven
Interior treatment - smooth uneven

Dames Quarter is found throughout the southern Delmarva Peninsula. It is one of the early experimental ceramic wares. The surface can be either smooth, cord marked, or fabric impressed and the bases can be either flat or conoidal. No radio carbon dates are known for this ware but it probably dates to the early part of the first ~~million~~ B.C. (1000 B.C. - 700 B.C.) (Wise 1975:23).

Milena

Marcey Creek (2 sherds)

Body sherds - 2
Temper - soapstone
Exterior treatment - smooth, uneven
Interior treatment - smooth, uneven

Ring sherds - 0
Thickness - 5-7 mm

Marcey Creek is a soapstone tempered, smooth exterior surface, flat bottomed ware. It is distributed over much of the Middle Atlantic region. A reasonable time range would be 1200 B.C. - 900 B.C. (Kraft 1970).

Wolfe Neck (36 sherds)

Wolfe Neck Net (5 sherds)
Body Sherds - 33
Temper - crushed quartz
Exterior treatment - cord or net marked
Interior treatment - scraped to smoothed over scraped

Wolfe Neck Cord (31 sherds)
Rim sherds - 3
Thickness - 6-14 mm

Wolfe Neck Ware is a coiled, conoidal ware with crushed quartz tempering and smooth or scraped interiors. The ware consists of two types Wolfe Neck Cord and Wolfe Neck Net. This ware is found on the Delmarva Peninsula while related types are found throughout the Middle Atlantic. This ware can be temporally placed between 700 B.C. and 400 B.C. (Griffith and Artusy 1977).

Coulbourn (7 sherds)

Body sherds - 7
Temper - crushed clay modules
Exterior treatment - cord or net marked
Interior treatment - scraped to smoothed over scraped

Rim sherds - 0
Thickness - 7-12 mm

Coulbourn Ware is a coiled, conoidal ware with crushed clay tempering and smooth to smoothed over scraped interiors. This ware consists of two types Coulbourn Cord and Coulbourn Net. Coulbourn Ware is seldom found outside of Kent or Sussex County, Delaware. This ware dates to a period from 400 B.C. to 100 B.C. (Griffith and Artusy 1977).

Mockley (23 sherds)

Body sherds - 22
Temper - crusher shell
Exterior treatment - cord or net marked
Interior treatment - smooth or scraped

Rim sherds - 1
Thickness - 5-10 mm

Mockley Ware is a coiled, conoidal ware with crushed, shell tempering and smooth or scraped interiors. This ware consists of two types Mockley Cord and Mockley Net. Mockley Ware is found throughout the Middle Atlantic region and is radiocarbon dated in Delaware from 100 A.D. to 400 A.D.

Hell Island (12 sherds)

Body sherds - 72 Rim sherds - 0
Temper - quartz and mica Thickness - 5-8 mm
Exterior treatment - cord or fabric marked
Interior treatment - smooth

Hell Island Ware is a coiled conoidal ware with crushed quartz and often mica as the tempering mediums. Similar wares occur throughout the Middle Atlantic region. A radio carbon date from the Taylor Cedar Creek site feature 48, for Hell Island Ware and two Jack's Reef Points, is 645 A.D. +/- (Uga-1441). This fits nicely into early range for the ceramic ware of 600 A.D. to 900 A.D. (Artusy 1976:6).

Townsend (27 sherds)

Body sherds - 27 Rim sherd - 0
Temper - crushed shell Thickness - 4-10 mm
Exterior treatment - Fabric marked
Interior treatment - smooth
Design - incising (2 sherds)

Townsend Series is a coiled, conoidal ware with crushed shell tempering and smooth interiors. The series consists of five types, two of which occur at the Taylor Cedar Creek site, Rappahanock Fabric Impressed and Rappahanock Incised. Both types are found on the Virginia and Maryland Coastal Plain and on the southern two thirds of the Delmarva Peninsula. The Rappahanock Fabric Impressed type has a temporal range from 900 A.D. to 1600 A.D. However the Rappahanock Incised occurs only in the earlier half of that range 900 A.D. to 1300 A.D. (Blaker 1963, Artusy 1976).