

Buttons (Plate 30) - Thirty-two buttons were found during Phase II excavations and approximately one-half were from Feature 1 contexts.

Flat disc buttons were found with seven examples collected from feature contexts. Four of these are tin-plated, and the blackened faces of one of these may be indicative of silver-plating (Noel-Hume 1985), and two were too heavily corroded to be identified. The tin-plated forms are all gilded to some extent (superfine, treble, best quality, standard). Two large and five small buttons of this type were represented. All date to the nineteenth century.

Two small, domed backless buttons were also found. The shanks of these are attached to the hollow back side of the buttons. A similar, slightly larger domed item has no evidence of a shank on its inside.

A total of four small buttons were noted. Two small cast, round white metal buttons with raised, but flat crowns were located. Both were decorated, one with a heart decoration characteristic of several forms in Calver and Bolton (1950), and one with the initials V (?) I. This latter type is likely a military button issued to a New Castle County militia unit. Two large, slightly domed, cast buttons, both decorated were identified. One, which contained a casting spur similar to that of Type 6 of Noel-Hume (1985) exhibited a figure in action and the inscription FIRE above the head. The other contained a geometric design prevalent on late eighteenth century forms (Noel-Hume 1969). One wood and two bone buttons were among the forms recovered from nineteenth century contexts. The bone buttons, 4-hole types with centering holes, are identical to Noel-Hume's Type 19 (Noel-Hume 1985). A total of eight glass buttons, six of white glass and two black glass were also identified. One of the black glass forms exhibited a pressed decoration, characteristic of the nineteenth century.

Cuff Links - A total of six cuff links were noted within the assemblage. One semi-intact pair of cuff links was recovered from Feature 1. It consists of two buttons with copper alloy backs into which black, faceted ebony inlays have been set with the two pieces linked by a brass wire. One other cuff link button with a round black glass inlay with engraved intaglio designs was also recovered. The design is of an eight-pointed star. One pewter cuff link with a geometric design impressed on a flat crown was noted. Two cast brass round domed forms with back and eye missing were identified. All are round-shaped, a characteristic common through the first half of the eighteenth century (Noel-Hume 1985).

Personal Group

Several chronologically diagnostic artifact types were noted from within this group. Approximately .29% of the assemblage was

represented by coins and personal items including wig curlers, slate pencils, and a spectacle lens.

Coins - Sixteen identifiable coins were found in the course of data-recovery excavations (Table 11, Plate 31). A total of three coin-like discs without visible decoration were also noted. All of these are copper, and it cannot be identified as both surfaces are highly worn and no detail is discernible. As noted, both the 1862 cent and the 1946 cent were found in disturbed contexts.

TABLE 11

JOHN RUTH INN SITE (7NC-D-126) - COINS

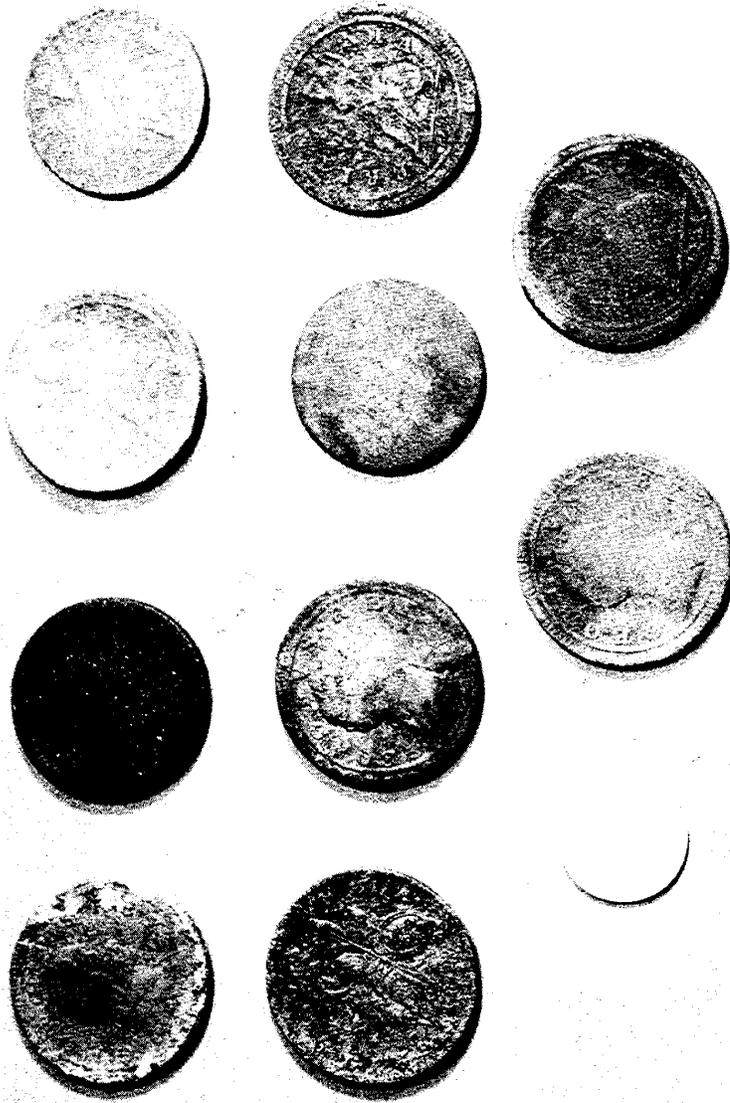
1	Unit 18, Pipe Trench	- 1720 George I
2	Unit 23, Level 7	- 1721 George I
3	Unit 25, Level 4	- 1723 Irish "Nood" 1/2 cent
4	Unit 29, Level 2	- 1722 George I
5	Unit 20, Feature 13	- 1770-75 1/2p or farthing
6	Unit 14, Level 6	- 1723 George I
7	Unit 40, Level 5	- 1723 George Rex
8	Unit 23, Level 5	- 1723 George I
9	Unit 34, Level 7	- 1724 George I
10	Unit 17, Level 7	- 1729 George II, 1/2p
11	Unit 17, Level 5	- date and type obscured
12	Unit 22, subsoil/Fea. 1 intermix	- date and type obscured
13	Unit 17, Level 4	- date and type obscured
14	Unit 34 & 24 Pipe Trench fill	- date and type obscured
15	Unit 34 & 24 Pipe Trench fill	- date and type obscured
16	Unit 19, Level 4	- 1862 Indian Head

Wig Curlers - A total of 35 wig curlers or fragments were identified from within the assemblage. Of this total, one was intact, 15 contained only an end, and 19 consisted of mid-sections with no end (Plate 32). The thickness of the curlers ranged from 1/4" to 1/2", a difference that Noel-Hume (1985) attributes to functioning to produce curls of differing size and tightness. No cross-mends could be made, but generally the curlers were 2 1/2" to 3" long and dumbbell-shaped as indicated by the intact example. Only one of the curlers contains a mark, and that is a WB under a crown identical to example #1, page 322 in Noel-Hume (1985). All forms have been noted on sites dating between ca. 1700 and 1780.

Graphite - Three fragments of graphite pencil "leads" were found in both Feature 1 and nineteenth and twentieth century contexts.

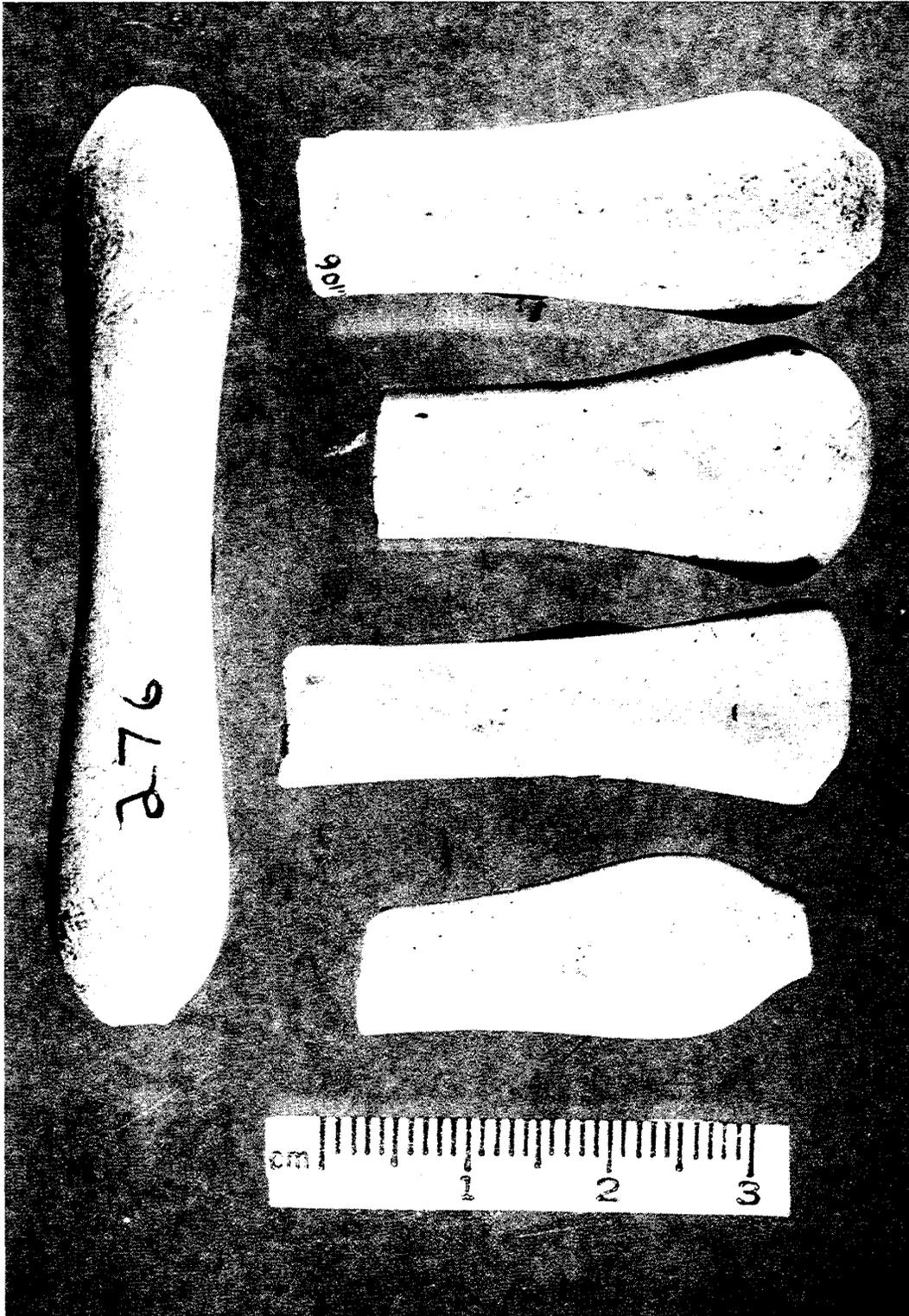
Jewelry - Two wire-wound glass beads were found in the flotation sample. Both of these beads are round with highly visible circumferential striations. One is of blue color and the other

PLATE 31
Coins



TOP ROW (left to right): George Rex (1723), George I (1720), George I (1721), and Irish "Wood" 1/2 cent (1723)
MIDDLE ROW (left to right): George II 1/2 cent (1729), George I (1722), George III (1770-1775) farthing, and George I (1723)
BOTTOM ROW (left to right): Spanish dime?, George I (1723) and George I (1724)

PLATE 32
Wig Curlers



an aqua color. Both are probably necklace beads (Stone 1974). Kent (1984) places both of these in the 1690-1750 date range. One diagnostic bone bead was also recovered from the flotation sample. Stones from what may be three additional pieces of jewelry were also found. One of these is a black stone, probably ebony, with a faceted decoration. The metal piece to which they were attached was not located. A blue glass form, turned into the shape of a bee hive with a central hole was noted, as was a nineteenth century molded blue pendant shaped stone. Both probably functioned as earrings.

Spectacle Lens - A single fragment of a spectacle lens was noted. The artifact consists of one-half of an oval-shaped form of light green glass. The form probably dates to the nineteenth century.

Activities Group

This group contains the widest variety of artifacts interpreted to have resulted from both human and animal activities. Specific artifact types discussed were a single toy and horse furniture including horseshoes and harness equipment.

Toys - A single artifact that could be identified as a toy was recovered from the excavation. Although heavily oxidized, the overall form is representative of a miniature pistol. Based on the heavy oxidation it was probably manufactured from iron, although pewter or brass was a more common material (Noel-Hume 1985). Based on the form and context its manufacture most likely dates to the first half of the eighteenth century.

Horseshoes - Two complete horseshoes were noted within the assemblage. One is similar to the form #4 pictured in Noel-Hume (1985:238). This is dated to ca. 1730. The other is similar to form #5 and is dated to ca. 1750. Five horseshoe fragments, two large and three medium sized were interpreted to be shoes manufactured for oxen. These shoes are not datable based on form or style.

Bone Group

Faunal Analysis - The faunal analysis was completed using identification guides (Gilbert 1980; Gilbert, Martin and Savage 1981; Sisson and Grossman 1964) and a type collection consisting primarily of domestic animals (Appendix VII). The principle goal of the analysis was to identify the range of animal species present within the Feature 1 faunal assemblage. While the faunal assemblage contains a significant number of specimens (1756), species identification for a large percentage of the bones was not possible due to the highly fragmented nature of the faunal assemblage. However, a minimum number of individuals per species was completed on the small percentage of identifiable bone (Table 12).