APPENDIX VII

GLOSSARY

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Aboriginal - Prehistoric peoples in North America.

Alluvium - Deposits of gravel, sand, and soil that are caused by flowing water.

Artifact - Any object shaped or modified by man, or as a result of human activity.

Archaeology - The study of the people of the past through the recovery and analysis of the artifacts they left behind.

Assemblage - The array of contemporary objects and associations found at an archaeological site.

Auger - A large tool for boring holes deep in the ground.

Basecamp - A prehistoric dwelling site for hunter-gatherers from which resource procurement forays are made.

Biface - A stone tool that has been flaked on both sides.

Bifurcate - The dominant projectile point (6500 B.C.) is a small point with a notched base.

Cache - A collection of artifacts and/or ecofacts which has been deliberately stored for future use.

Cobble - Frequent lithic tool resource for prehistoric peoples.

Core - A piece of stone from which other pieces of stone are flaked off to make artifacts.

Cortex - Weathered exterior of a piece of lithic material,may be either vein or water-worn cortex.

Cryptocrystalline - Indistinctly crystalline; having an indistinguishable crystalline structure.

Culture - The non-biological mechanism of human adaptation.

Debitage - Waste material from the manufacture of stone tools.

Detritus - Particles of rock or other material worn or broken away from a mass, as by the action of water or glacial ice; any disintegrated material; debris.

Direct Percussion - Part of the lithic reduction process, a percussor is directly applied to the worked material with a sharp blow.

Feature - Any soil disturbance or discoloration that reflects human activity. Also, an artifact that, being too large to remove from a site, normally is recorded only; for example, house, storage pits, etc.

Flake - A piece of waste material from the manufacture of stone tools, caused by percussion or pressure applied to the object by an external agent (e.g. hammerstone, antler pressure flaker); flake itself may be further utilized as a tool (see "Debitage").

Historic - The time period after the appearance of written records. In the New World, this generally refers to the time period after the beginning of European settlement at approximately 1600 A.D.

Holocene - The latest division of the Quarternary period, which commenced around 12,000 B.P.

Hundred - A subdivision of some English and American counties.

Indirect Percussion - In the lithic reduction process,a punch is held against the worked material and the punch is struck a sharp blow with a percussor.

Intestate - A person whodieswithout making a will.

Interface - A surface regarded as the common boundary of two bodies or spaces.

Lithic - Pertaining to or consisting of stone.

Loam - A loose soil composed of clay and sand, especially a kind containing organic matter and of great fertility.

Locus - A predicted archaeological site locality.

Macro-band Base Camp - For a hunter-gatherer society, an archaeological site one hectare or larger in area characterized by a wide variety of tool types, abundant ceramics, semi-subterranean house structures, storage pit features, and abundant debitage from tool manufacture and reduction.

Micro-band - A component of macroband, perhaps one or two extended families, which periodically operates independently of the macro-band group.

Orphans Court Records - The County Court responsible for the welfare of orphans when a father died without a will. Orphans Court watched over the estate until the children (if any) reached majority. A guardian was appointed by the Court, who was to make periodic returns of the estate to the Court. When the youngest heir came of age, then the property could be divided among the heirs. These court

records are filled with information regarding income property, education, repairs of houses and outbuildings, contracts, and other useful material about eighteenth and nineteenth century life.

Pleistocene - A division of the geologic Quarternary Period, which began around 2.3 to 3 million years ago and is associated with rapid homonid evolution from Australipithicinae to Homo sapiens sapiens.

Plowzone - In a plowed field, the upper layer of organic soil which is continually reworked by the plow. In the Middle Atlantic region this is about 8-12 inches.

Posthole - A hole dug in the ground into which a post is placed.

Postmold - The organic stain in the ground which is left by a decayed wooden post. Postmold stain may occur inside of posthole stain on an archaeological site.

Prehistoric - The time period before the appearance of written records. In the New World this generally refers to indigenous, pre-Contact societies.

Probate - The official proving of a will as authentic or valid.

Projectile Point - Strictly speaking, a biface attached to the head of an airborne item of weaponry, like an arrow or a thrown dart; frequently used indiscriminately when referring to any biface.

Ranked Society - A society in which there is unequal access to the higher status categories; many people who are qualified for high status positions are unable to achieve them.

Soil Horizon - Soils are divided in 3 horizons, which reflect different kinds of chemical and physical processes that have resulted from changing climatic conditions.

Stratigraphy - The examination of the soil layering on an archaeological site; the characteristics of each individual stratum and its relationship to others in the sequence is critical to understanding the temporal and spatial characteristics of the site.

Strata - The various layers of human or geological origin which comprise archaeological sites.

Subsurface - Below the surface, not visible from the surface.

Transect Sampling - A means of archaeological research design in which the sampling element is a square or rectangular grid.

Uniface - A stone tool that has been flaked only on one side.