

## **D. Analysis of Cultural Materials**

### **1. Historic Features**

Shovel Test 64 located a number of historic artifacts below the plowzone, including two hand wrought nails, in the area identified as a potential trash midden. Possible postholes were encountered in Shovel Tests 70 and 75. No evidence of foundations or shaft features, such as wells and privies, were noted.

### **2. Historic Artifacts**

The historic artifact assemblage from Locus A displays traits typical of the Frontier Artifact Pattern, showing a high proportion of artifacts (41%) from the architecture group in relation to items from the kitchen group (9%) (Figure 7) (South 1977:146-164). This would seem to indicate that a frontier existence still prevailed in the central portion of Delaware along the Murderkill River at the time this domestic site was occupied.

Architectural materials found at the site consist chiefly of brick (705 fragments weighing 109.3 lbs), with smaller quantities of flat window glass (11 fragments [three of which date to the 19th century]) and hand wrought nails (13 specimens). The brick fragments are most likely the remains of a chimney or hearth, or may be from the nogging used to fill in the spaces in a wooden timber frame. Since building stone is absent, any dwelling at Locus A was most likely a small post-and-beam frame structure, perhaps with a chimney located either in the center or at one end of the building. A structure of this type might well have resembled the hole-set frame dwellings that have been identified in recent years in early settled parts of the Chesapeake region (Carson 1988:121). The paucity of nails also suggests a type of wood frame construction that relied on mortise-and-tenon and dovetail joints. The likely dimensions of the hypothesized dwelling structure could not be ascertained from the Phase I fieldwork. However, based on the spread of artifacts on the surface over an area measuring 40 by 50 feet, and allowing for the fact that the field has been under cultivation for over 100 years, the plan of the house might represent perhaps half of that area (e.g., 20 by 25 feet).

Artifacts associated with kitchen activities comprise mostly ceramics (142 sherds) with some glass (18 fragments), with both types of material being broadly datable to between 1700 and 1750. The glass items are mostly fragments of free blown wine bottles, although three pieces clearly date to the mid-19th century. The ceramics are dominated by utilitarian redware (109 sherds) and stoneware (8 sherds) storage and serving vessels with only a few sherds of refined wares. Later 18th and 19th century ceramics from the site, such as creamware (5 sherds), pearlware (5 sherds) and whiteware (4 sherds) may be related to the occupation of the nearby Lofland House Site and could have been dispersed into Locus A through plowing.

Figure 7

Locus A: Artifacts From All Contexts

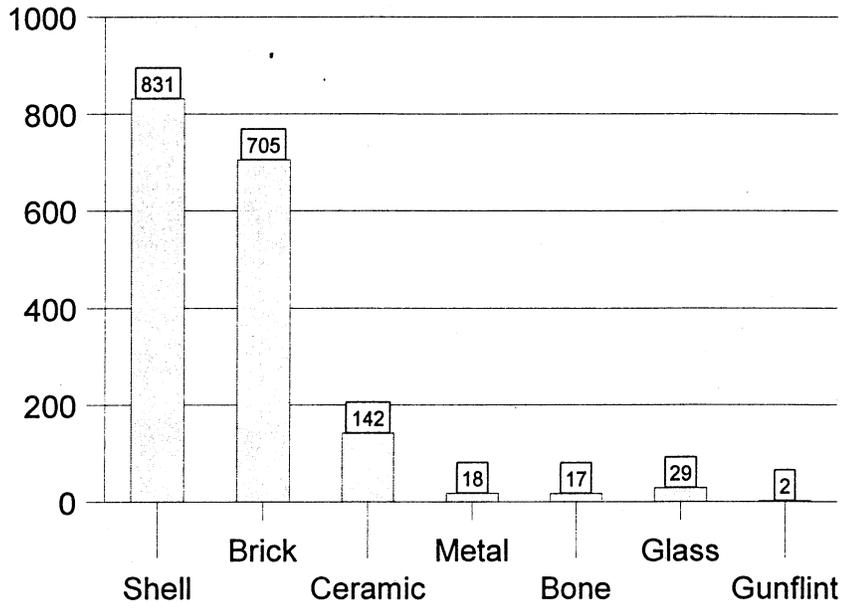
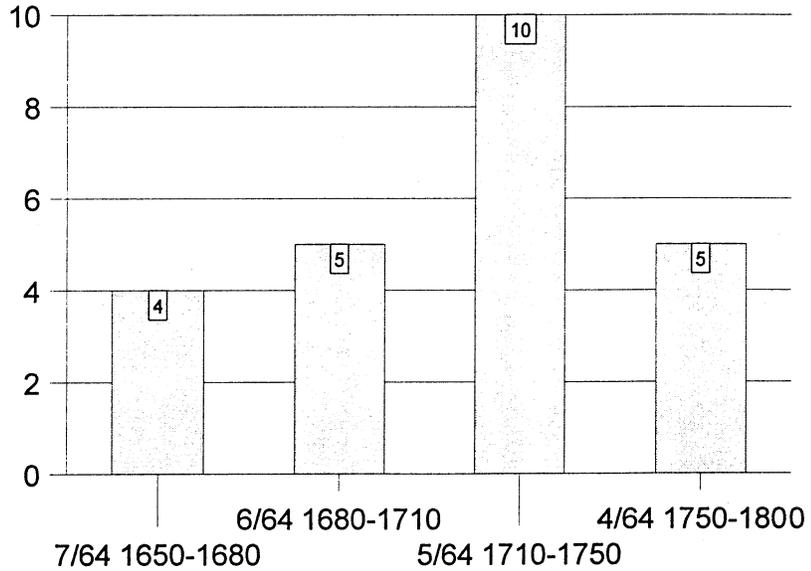


Figure 8

Locus A: Dates Based on Pipe Stem Diameters



South's arms artifact category is represented by two translucent light grey colored gunflint fragments of the wedge type. The source of this type of flint has been identified as Hampshire in southern England. One of the flint fragments has been further reduced through its use as a strike-a-light. Strike-a-lights are used in conjunction with steel strikers to produce sparks for lighting fires.

Recreational or personal artifacts are represented by 36 white ball clay tobacco pipe stem and bowl fragments. Based on the bore diameters of the pipe stems the occupation could be as early as 1650 and as late as 1800 with the main occupation of the site dating between 1710 and 1750 (Figure 8).

The only aboriginal trade item found during the Phase I survey was a small round layered glass bead that was recovered from context 2 in Shovel Test 80. The exterior is opaque redwood and the interior is clear apple green. Beads of this type (Kidd type IVa 5, Kent type A10) have been found on sites along the Susquehanna River in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, and are usually dated to between 1675 and 1750 (Kent 1982, 1984).

Faunal remains were scattered throughout the site. These remains were dominated by oyster shell (473 pieces) and clam shell (358 fragments), although a few unidentified large mammal bone fragments (17 pieces) were retrieved, most of which were too small for positive identification.

### **3. Prehistoric Features**

Possible prehistoric pit features were encountered in eight shovel tests (ST#s 1, 2, 5, 7, 15, 52, 89 and 90) (Figure 6). These features were recognized as discontinuities in the typical soil profile and in some cases extended as deep as 125 cm below the surface. The soil matrix within the potential features is slightly greyer than the natural B-horizon and contains specks of charcoal/carbon and burnt earth. Similar soil anomalies have been commonly associated with prehistoric "pit house" features elsewhere in Delaware (Custer 1995, 1996; Hunter Research, Inc. 1996).

### **4. Prehistoric Artifacts**

A total of 43 prehistoric artifacts were recovered from within and immediately around Locus A. Lithic artifacts consist of fire-cracked rocks (35 pieces), lithic debitage (4), jasper flakes (3), a jasper drill tip (1 quartzite), an argillite uniface and the butt end fragment of a grooved axe. Two aboriginal ceramic sherds were recovered. One was too small for typological identification. The other sherd is quartz and mica tempered and exterior cord marked, and can be categorized as being of Hell Island type and datable to between A.D. 600 and 1000 within the Webb Complex (Custer 1989:176).

A total of 49 prehistoric artifacts were also surface collected from Locus G. The types of raw material represented are dominated by argillite (78%). Recognizable artifacts include five cores, four biface fragments, one broadspear, one spokeshave and 27 flakes. Small amounts of quartz (3 pieces), chert (3), jasper (2), steatite (2) and shale (1) were also recovered. Diagnostic artifacts consist of two steatite bowl fragments, a Koens-Crispin type broadspear and a narrow-bladed stemmed (Type "D") projectile point (Mounier 1974:18-19) (Custer 1994:25). No ceramics were found within Locus G. Although ceramics were not found, the assemblage would still appear to be related to a single component Woodland I period occupation of Clyde Farm II type (circa 4,000-3,200 BP) (Custer 1994:45). Based on the lithics recovered, this assemblage differs from the assemblage found on the knoll within the 200-foot-square core area of Locus A; these two loci (A and G) most likely represent two temporally separate components within the Woodland I period.

#### **D. Conclusions and Recommendations**

Phase I archaeological survey has succeeded in delimiting the boundaries of Locus A of Site 7K-F-163. This particular locus contains the plowed-out remains of an early to mid-18th century domestic site which are spread over an area measuring 450 feet east-west by 600 feet north-south. A 200-foot-square core area with heavier concentrations of artifacts is contained within this larger zone (see Figures 2 and 5). Based on the types of artifacts present, possible subsoil features and local geographic considerations, the site probably includes a house, outbuilding, midden and landing dating to circa 1700-1750. Within this site there is also a Woodland I, Webb Complex prehistoric component dating to between A.D. 600 and 1000 with possible associated subsoil pit features. On the basis of the archaeological investigations conducted to date, Locus A of Site 7K-F-163 is very likely eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D as an archaeological resource that has the potential to yield information important in local and regional history and prehistory.

Locus G is a single component prehistoric site which was identified on the basis of a surface collection. This area measures 700 feet east-west by 300 feet north-south (see Figure 2). Based on the artifacts, occupation of this locus is assigned to the Woodland I period and includes a Clyde Farm II activity area datable to circa 4,000-3,200 BP. No subsurface testing was conducted in this area. If Locus G is to be impacted by any future activities in this area, further archaeological investigation would be necessary to fully evaluate this resource.

Since potentially significant archaeological resources have been identified on the Soulie Gray property close to a proposed buffer area, it is recommended that this buffer zone be expanded slightly to include Loci A and G. If possible, plowing of these loci should be prohibited, although vegetation should be periodically mown, so that a tree cover with disruptive root systems does not develop. In this manner, adverse effects to these archaeological resources can for the most part be avoided. If unavoidable encroachments into the buffer zone are contemplated in the future, further archaeological evaluation (and probably also mitigation through data recovery) is recommended.

Finally, although not technically included within the work scope for the current survey, brief mention should also be made of the Lofland House Site (Locus D at Site 7K-F-163), located approximately 1,000 feet northwest of Locus A (Figure 2). This 19th-century domestic site has important historical associations as the home of the Hon. James R. Lofland, a prominent Delaware public figure, and retains some archaeological expression within the Soulie Gray farm property. If adverse effects on this portion of the property are envisaged, it is recommended that the Lofland House Site be subjected to formal archaeological survey as a potentially significant historic resource. Other resources identified as lying within the State-owned Soulie Gray property (Locus B - Historic/Prehistoric, Loci E and F - both Prehistoric, and Cultural Resource Site K-835 [Historic]) are all located closer to U.S. Route 113 in the western part of the tract and have not been evaluated as part of this survey.