

window glass, and large quantities of redware and brick. A single coin, a battered silver piece tentatively identified as a Spanish real, was recovered.

In addition, at least three historic cultural features were located on the site. Feature 1 was a large (approximately 6x6 meters), deep (at least 1.5 meters) pit containing a variety of fills, all of them yielding historic artifacts similar to those from the remainder of the site. The feature appeared to be a well or a cellar hole. Feature 2 appeared to be some sort of construction feature, possibly a large, structural posthole. Feature 3, identified as a pit of unknown function, is now thought to be an old ravine filled in by slopewash.

## 5. *Summary*

The prehistoric component of the site had two elements. The broad, thin lithic scatter extending across and beyond the site probably represents infrequent, low-level procurement activity along the Appoquinimink River in the Woodland I period. The concentration of artifacts at the South Locus, which occupied an area measuring approximately 20 by 30 meters, seemed to represent a procurement camp occupied during the earlier Woodland I (Late Archaic) period. This locus may represent a single episode, or several different uses of the same site. No intact strata or prehistoric features were encountered during the testing, and all of the artifacts were recovered from plowed contexts.

The historic component of the Appoquinimink North Site was a farm dating to the 1780 to 1820 period. At that time the property belonged to wealthy families of local prominence, and the records suggest that in 1816, a "good" frame house and several outbuildings stood on the site.

## I. SITE 7NC-G-141, THE APPOQUINIMINK SOUTH SITE

### 1. *Site Description*

The Appoquinimink South Site (Site 7NC-G-141) was a prehistoric site located in the yards of five standing houses on a narrow strip of land between U.S. Route 13 and the Appoquinimink River (see Figure 39; Figure 84). The site measured approximately 180 meters north to south and 120 meters east to west (600x400 feet). It was bounded on the west by the Appoquinimink River and a tidal tributary, on the east by U.S. Route 13, and on the south by a small ravine (Plates 15 and 16).

Site 7NC-G-141 was located during the Phase I survey of the Pine Tree Corners to Drawyer Creek segment of the SR 1 corridor (Bedell 1995a). The Phase I survey of the Appoquinimink South Site consisted of shovel testing at 10- and 20-meter intervals. Numerous prehistoric artifacts were recovered, including projectile points, prehistoric ceramics, and lithic flakes, up to 12 artifacts per shovel test. Minguannan sherds indicate occupation in the Woodland II period, and side-notched projectile points were recovered that appear to date to the early Woodland I period.

## 2. *Environmental Setting*

The Appoquinimink South Site occupied the western half of a peninsula formed by a bend in the Appoquinimink River. Tributary streams flow into the river on either side of the bend, reinforcing the peninsular nature of the location. Southwest of the site was a mudflat more than 100 meters across. The entire peninsula probably once contained prehistoric sites, but the remainder had been disturbed by the construction of U.S. Route 13 and the excavation of a large borrow pit east of the highway. The southern 20 percent of the site was wooded, but the remainder consisted of landscaped yards. The highest elevations on the site were along its eastern edge, along U.S. Route 13, and it generally sloped downward to the west. Paleographic studies indicate that tidal water reached the vicinity of the site around 5,000 years ago (Kraft 1977).

## 3. *Phase II Testing*

The Phase II evaluation consisted of the completion of the 10-meter shovel testing grid and the excavation of 19 test units. A total of 1,011 prehistoric lithic artifacts and 78 prehistoric ceramic artifacts were recovered during Phase I and II investigations at the site (Table 23; Plate 17). The majority of the artifacts from the site were recovered from two distinct areas, designated the North Locus and the Southwest Locus. These loci had been identified in the Phase I survey, and the additional Phase II shovel testing located no additional artifact concentrations.

The North Locus was essentially congruent with the front yard of a small white house, the third from the northern end of the row (Figure 85). This area was relatively low-lying and has been subjected to extensive filling. Before modern construction it was a gently-sloping ravine leading down to the current boat landing. Nine test units were excavated in this locus. The units excavated within the upper reaches of the ravine (1, 2, 10, 11, and 17) encountered a deep plowzone, up to 60 centimeters thick, that had been reinforced by slopewash from higher ground to the east and south (Figure 86). This thick plowzone contained large quantities of artifacts, more than 200 in one unit and more than 100 in three others. Of the 77 sherds of prehistoric ceramics recovered from this locus, 67 were from a hard, thin, crushed quartz-tempered variety identified as Minguannan, a Woodland II variety (Custer 1989). Surface treatment on these sherds included both cordmarking and net impressions. Eight sand-tempered sherds were recovered, as well as one shell-tempered sherd and one tiny sherd that may have been tempered with crushed chert. The stone artifacts included small triangular projectile points, unifacial scrapers, and large numbers of lithic flakes, most of them small thinning flakes of jasper or black chert. Below the plowzone, the soil was completely sterile. The artifacts from the ravine suggest a base camp of the Woodland II period.

Since it seemed unlikely that the prehistoric inhabitants had lived in the ravine, excavations were extended toward higher ground on the east and southwest. However, the units excavated on higher ground (9, 14, 16, and 18) yielded far less material, no more than 34 artifacts. Close to U.S. Route 13, which runs down the spine of the peninsula on which the site is located, very little material was recovered. Attempts to investigate the soils further down the ravine were complicated by deep fill. (Phase I Shovel Test Pit 12d had not penetrated this fill.) The buried

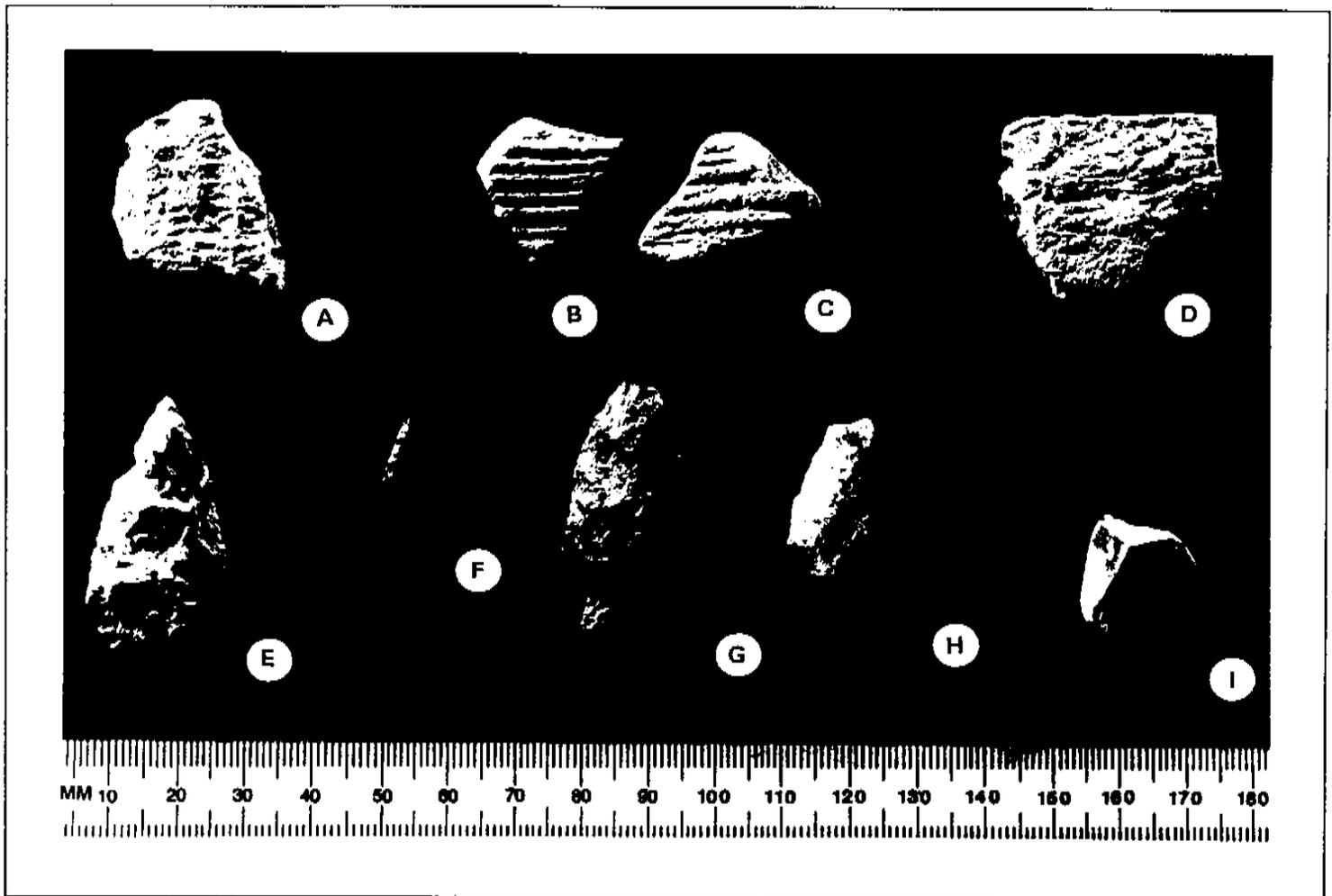


PLATE 17: Prehistoric Artifacts from the Appoquinimink South Site, 7NC-G-141

- A) Cordmarked Minguannan Sherd from Test Unit 11, Stratum C (96/20/211)
- B, C) Incised Minguannan Sherds from Test Unit 10, Stratum B (96/20/210)
- D) Cordmarked Smoothed Sherd with Quartz and Sand Temper from STP 12 (95/11/149)
- E) Chert Projectile Point from STP 6 (95/11/137)
- F) Chert Projectile Point from STP 48 (95/11/185)
- G) Jasper Side-notched Projectile Point from Test Unit 6, Stratum B (96/20/81)
- H) Quartz Biface from STP 12 (95/11/149)
- I) Jasper Uniface from STP 11 (95/11/146)

TABLE 23

SUMMARY OF PREHISTORIC LITHIC ASSEMBLAGE  
SITE 7NC-G-141

ARTIFACT TYPE	RAW MATERIAL										TOTAL
	Chert	Jasp	Rhy	Arg	Qrt	Qtz	Chal	Meta	Ind.	Not Assg*	
<b>Bifaces</b>											
Projectile Points	7	4	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	12
Early-Stage Biface	.	1	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	2
Middle-Stage Biface	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Late-Stage Biface	2	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	3
Ind. Biface Fragment	.	4	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	5
<b>Unifaces</b>											
Retouched Flakes	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Utilized Flakes	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
<b>Cores</b>											
Freehand Core	2	1	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	4
Bipolar Core	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
Tested Cobble	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
<b>Debitage</b>											
Flake Fragments	106	134	5	1	41	48	5	.	.	.	340
Flake Shatter	.	4	.	.	1	3	.	.	.	.	8
Block Shatter	26	22	1	.	30	3	.	.	.	.	82
Decortication Flakes	17	32	2	.	4	5	.	2	.	.	62
Early Reduction Flakes	110	154	6	1	32	54	3	2	1	.	363
Biface Reduction Flakes	28	34	6	.	2	9	.	.	.	.	79
Other Flake Types	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Fire-Cracked Rock	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	41	.	41
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>1,011</b>

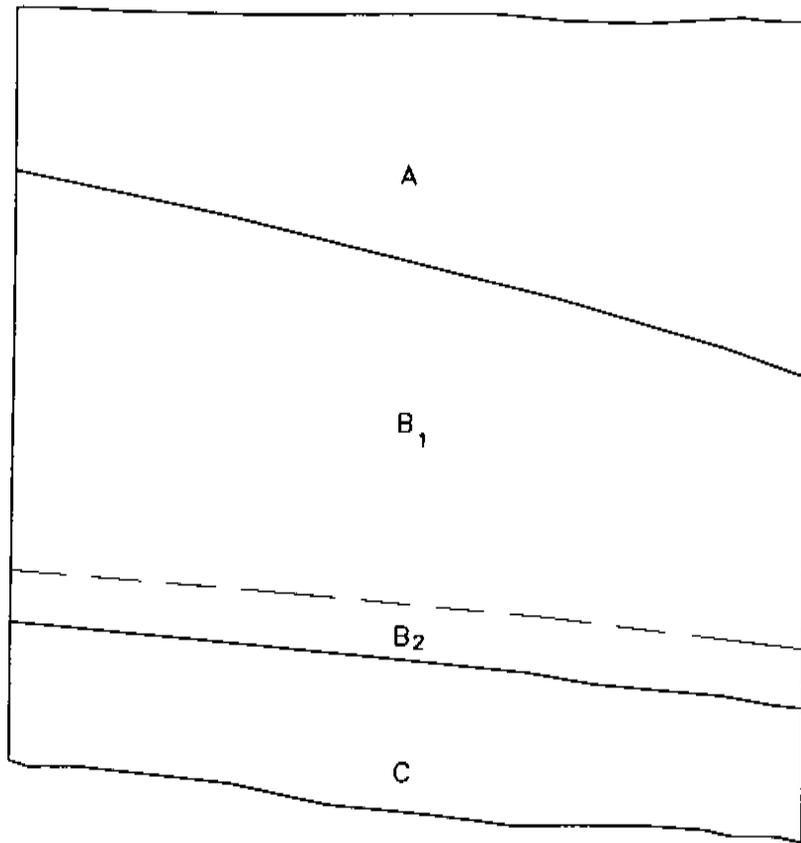
\*Not Assigned; usually refers to fire-cracked rock; Ind = indeterminate, Jasp = Jasper, Rhy = Rhyolite, Arg = Argillite, Qrt = Quartz, Qtz = Quartzite, Chal = Chalcedony, Meta = Metasedimentary

ground surface was reached by augering in Shovel Test Pit 103, beneath 120 centimeters of fill. However, the buried Stratum A appeared to be plowed slopewash, and no artifacts were recovered from it.

The Southwest Locus was located in the back yard of the southernmost house in the DelDOT right-of-way, on a gentle slope leading down to the river. A natural peninsula in this location has been extended into the river by filling. Four test units were excavated in this locus, three at

various points on the slope and one on level ground near the former shoreline. Only one ceramic sherd was recovered from this locus, and the two projectile points recovered, one stemmed and one side-notched, seemed to indicate occupation in the early Woodland I (Late Archaic) period. The lithic debitage was also different from that found in the North Locus. In the Southwest Locus, the material was largely rough flakes derived from cobble processing, and few small

SOUTH WALL



LEGEND

- A RECENT FILL
- B<sub>1</sub> PLOW ZONE; DARK BROWN (10YR 3/3) SANDY LOAM WITH SMALL ROUNDED PEBBLES
- B<sub>2</sub> TRANSITIONAL; BROWN/DARK BROWN (10YR 4/3) SANDY LOAM
- C SUBSOIL; YELLOWISH BROWN (10YR 5/4) LOAMY SAND WITH LARGE QUANTITY OF PEBBLES

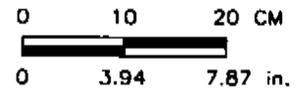


FIGURE 86: Appoquinimink South Site (7NC-G-141), Stratigraphic Profile of Test Unit 2

thinning flakes of the kind that dominated in the North Locus were recovered. The Southwest Locus also yielded a higher percentage of quartz. The most productive units in the Southwest Locus were Test Unit 3, in the center of the locus, which yielded 36 flakes and a quartz biface, and Test Unit 5, near the old shoreline, which yielded 33 flakes.

Most of the Southwest Locus had been plowed, but a small area along the lower slope and adjacent to the former shoreline had not. However, the unplowed portion of the slope, examined in Test Unit 12, had been severely eroded, and most of the artifacts recovered were near the surface. Although the area along the old shoreline appeared too flat for erosion to have been a significant problem, the soil was nevertheless deflated, and most of the prehistoric material in Test Unit 5 was recovered from the top 4 centimeters of the soil. Some flakes were recovered from beneath this thin A-horizon, but a wire nail was recovered from the depth of the deepest prehistoric artifacts. Test Units 3 and 15 were excavated in the plowed portion of the locus. In Test Unit 15, the subplowzone soils were sterile. In Test Unit 3, artifacts were recovered from the top 15 centimeters of the subplowzone strata. This soil, a yellowish brown silt, showed evidence of root disturbance (Figure 87). The area from which artifacts were recovered from below the plowzone, as defined in the shovel tests, was small, less than 10 meters across. Excavations in other parts of the site yielded little prehistoric material, no more than 16 artifacts per test unit.

A thin scatter of nineteenth-century material, such as whiteware, redware, and cut nails, was recovered from all the units near U.S. Route 13. This material, not sufficient to indicate a residence on the Appoquinimink South Site, probably represents a house site destroyed by the highway or by the excavation of the borrow pit on the northern side.

#### *4. Summary*

The Appoquinimink South Site appeared to represent a microband base camp occupied during at least the Woodland II period and possibly other periods. Substantial quantities of prehistoric lithics and ceramics—200 flakes and 13 ceramic sherds from one test unit—were recovered from the North Locus, a gently sloping ravine leading down to the river. The largest group of these ceramics has been identified as Minguannan, a Woodland II variety. However, all these artifacts were recovered from plowzone or slopewash soils. In the Southwest Locus, 70 meters away, no ceramics were recovered, and this locus may represent an earlier occupation. Most of the Southwest Locus had also been plowed. In addition, approximately half of the site had been destroyed by the construction of houses and driveways, associated grading, and the installation of gas lines and other utilities.

### J. SITE 7NC-G-151, THE WHITBY BRANCH SITE

#### *1. Site Description*

The Whitby Branch Site (7NC-G-151) was a prehistoric site located along a marshy tributary of the Appoquinimink River in New Castle County (see Figure 41; Figure 88). The site was