

The Elkins A & B Sites

SLIDE 2

The Elkins A & B sites were identified by Archaeological and Historical Consultants, Inc. (A&HC) during the Phase I survey conducted in 2009 for the new alignment for U.S. Route 301 in southern New Castle County, Delaware. A single Delaware Cultural Resource Number N14524 was assigned to two loci, identified as A and B, located around the headwaters of a north-flowing tributary of the Scott Run.

SLIDE 3

A historic aerial photograph of the area shows that by 1937 any traces of the site were no longer evident.

SLIDE 4

A plot of properties along the project corridor show that by 1684 the property was part of a 525 acre parcel owned by Amos Nichols and a house was present by 1686. By 1707 John Greenwater had acquired the property and had evidently built a house on the property by 1739 as referenced by an adjacent deed stating The parcel was located “at the head of a valley and before John Greenwater’s door”.

SLIDE 5

Locus B, extending over 2.1 acres, had a low artifact density. The site plan on the Cultural Resource Survey Form from the Phase I report shows a light cluster of 18th-century ceramics on the western side of the interfluvium on which the locus lies.

SLIDE 6

Limited shovel testing shown in red was unsuccessful in locating subsurface features. Test units were not employed in this area at that time.

SLIDE 7

Phase II excavations conducted by Hunter Research, Inc. in the spring of 2011 consisted of a metal detector survey coupled with a brief surface collection and series of 2 ½ by 10 foot excavation units. The second excavation unit was successful in locating a post in ground structure with a cellar hole dating to the early 18th century.

SLIDE 8

A cross trench positioned to better understand the stratigraphy of the feature. The feature proved to be a treasure trove of early 18th century artifacts capped off by a redware storage jar found in situ in the corner of the cell resting on the floor!

SLIDE 9

Below the redware storage vessel were a series of circular sockets cut into the floor. They appear to have been used to keep similar storage vessel securely upright. How cool is that!

SLIDE 10

Other artifacts recovered from this unit include these finds! Including Robert Tipett II or III pipes. The Tipett family was reported to no longer be in business by 1730 but Tipett pipes were recovered from the wreck of the Machault in 1760. The artifacts recovered from the cellar hole however the other artifacts fall within the earlier range. This from an area once referred to as a backwater or buffer zone where nothing took place. Considering the amount of illicit trade/smuggling that took place in this zone maybe they wanted to keep it quiet.

SLIDE 11

Redware vessels (13 in all) of special note were originally thought to be early post medieval English but after consulting with Rebecca White & George Cress of URS I feel secure in saying they were made by the Hillegas brothers in Philadelphia from the late 1720s to 1746. This pottery was located behind Betsy Ross' house and was excavated in the early 1990s by Hunter Research, Inc.

Note different vessels. Decoration combinations such as the green wave around lip, cut foot rings, and low profiles.

Similar vessels shown here from the nearby Scott Run Historic Site 2 are also likely to be from the Hillegas pottery.

SLIDE 12

Other redware vessels thought to be of Hillegas manufacture are these wares. Note the exterior rolled rims (thick and thin), the angled profile of the porringer with tooled annular bands, and the incised wavy line on the butter pot which appears on the redware milkpan. The next step is XRF testing proposed for these vessels in the up-coming Data Recovery this spring.

SLIDE 15

Located 100 yards to the east was the Elkins A site shown here by a dense cluster of mid 18th century artifacts was also identified by A&HC during the Phase I.

SLIDE 14

Photos taken from the Phase I report show what they believed to be an "L" shaped alignment suggestive of a foundation. A shovel test in this area revealed brick and stone rubble immediately below the plowzone. No units were excavated at this time.

SLIDE 15

A preliminary metal detector survey located a number of key artifacts such as a door pintel, a meat hook, sleeve links and a cast iron cauldron. The location of wrought iron nails helped narrow in on locations to place Phase II units and find....

SLIDE 16

The survey paid off immediately locating a root-cellar in the first unit! A second cross trench was positioned to define the limits of the feature.

SLIDE 17

The feature was excavated along one axis exposing cobble lined walls of a root cellar to another post-in-ground structure.

SLIDE 18

Selected ceramics recovered from this feature help to date this cellar hole to between 1740 and 1780. The latest artifact from this feature was a beaded creamware tankard/can.

SLIDE 19

Other artifacts of note from the feature are olive green mallet bottles, a case bottle, a clear glass faceted sleeve link insert, gunflints, and a lead flint wrap.

SLIDE 20

A special find from the cellar hole was this rare white salt-glazed stoneware mustard pot which was one of two represented from the site. A poor backwater ... I think not!

SLIDE 21

A refuse pit located through one-inch diameter split-spoon probing was located immediately west of the root-cellar. This feature was deflated to about four inches, but produced a wealth of material culture including these red earthenware vessels.

SLIDE 22

The plate on the top is bat molded with a raised central ring and decorated with white slip splashed with copper oxide. The porringer, tankards and creamer were likely produced by local potters. Proposed XRF reading on these vessels should help to build a useful data base

SLIDE 23

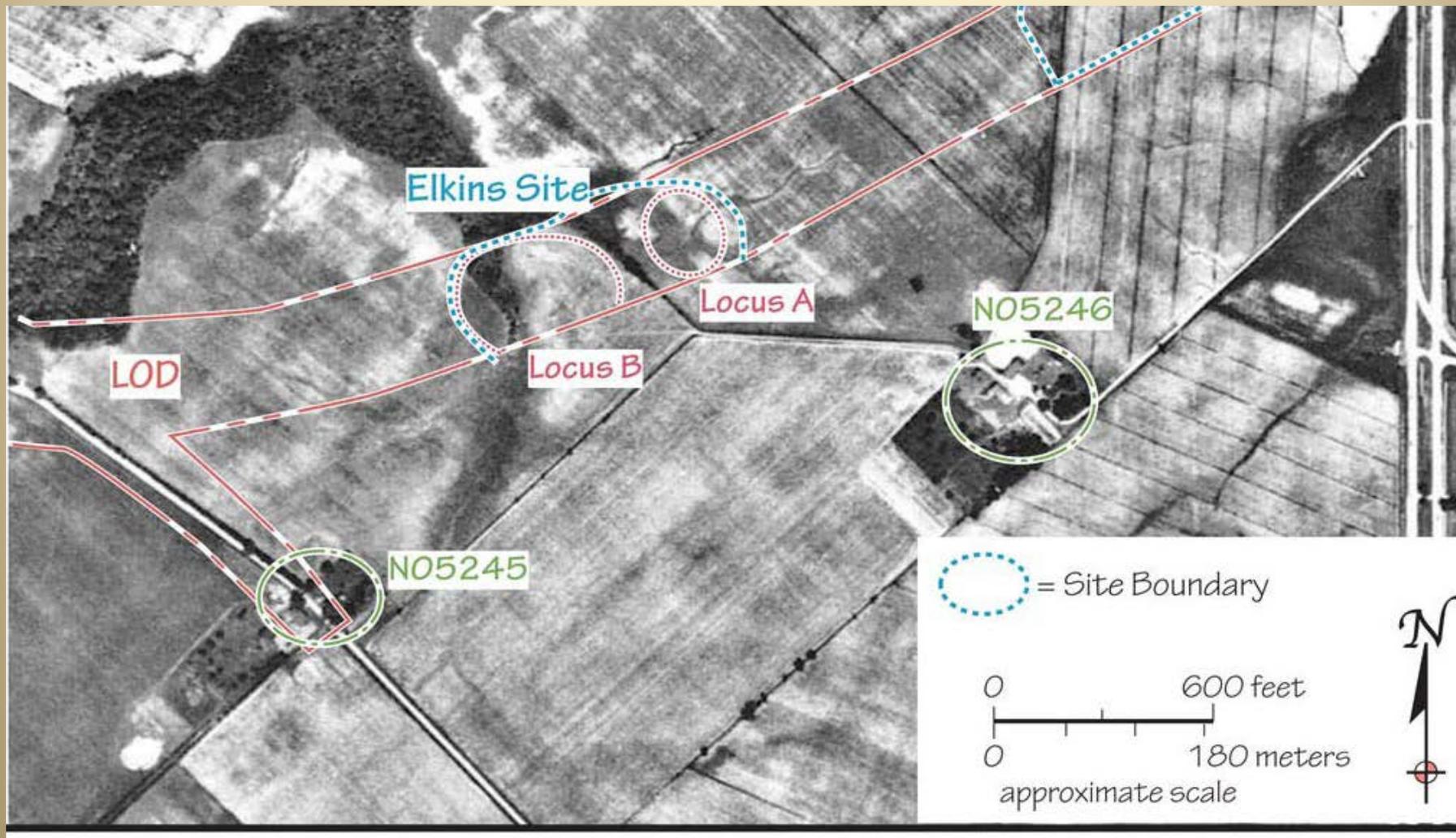
Not to exaggerate but the site was this big!

U.S. ROUTE 301, DELAWARE
THE ELKINS A & B SITES
PHASE II INVESTIGATIONS
OF
TWO EARLY SINGLE COMPONENT
HISTORIC SITES

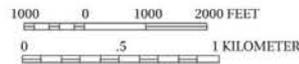
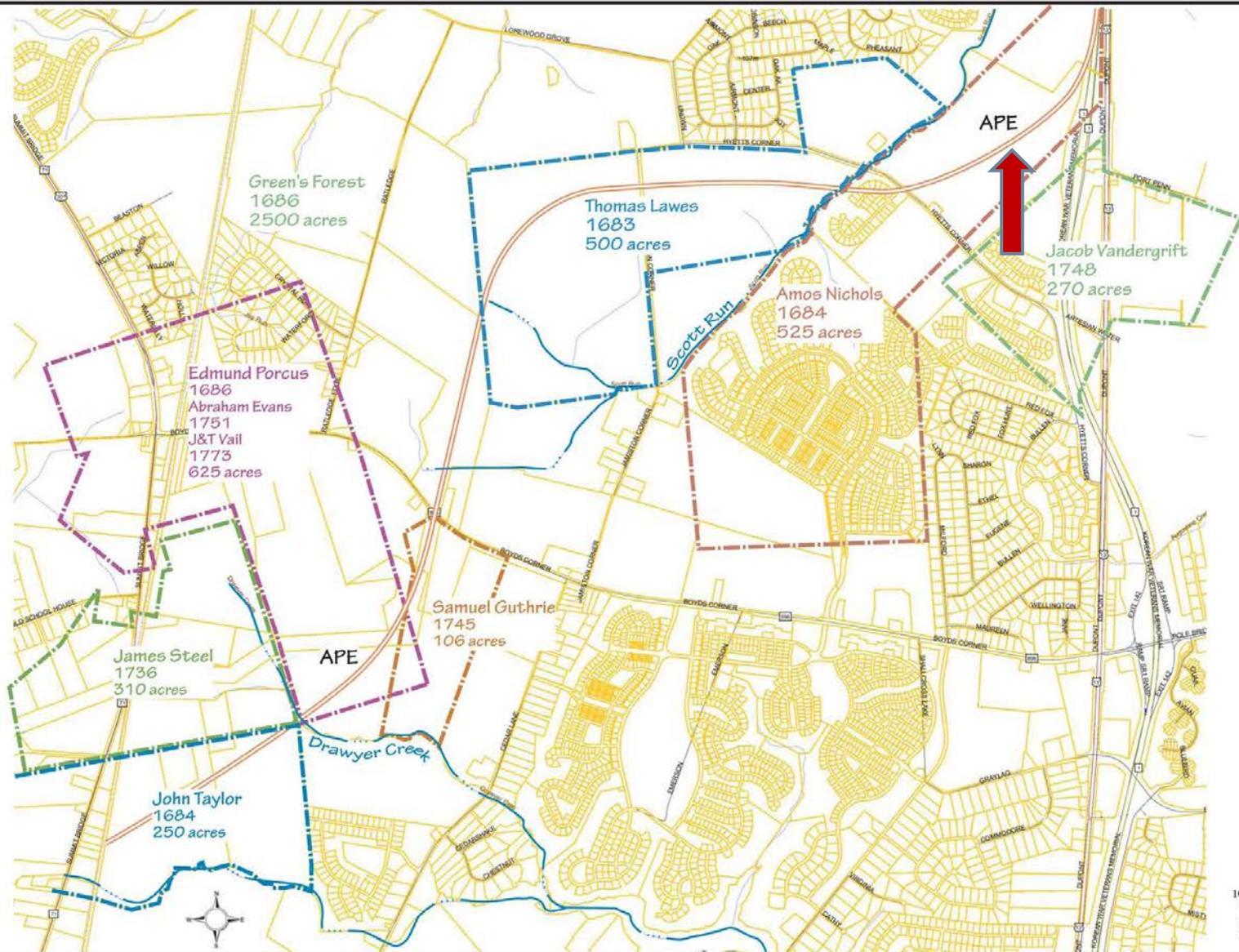
William B. Liebeknecht, MA, RPA

Hunter Research, Inc.

Trenton, NJ



1937 HISTORIC AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH OF THE ELKINS SITE



-  = No Further Survey
-  = Shovel Test
-  = Test with Artifacts
-  = Test Unit
-  = Site Boundary

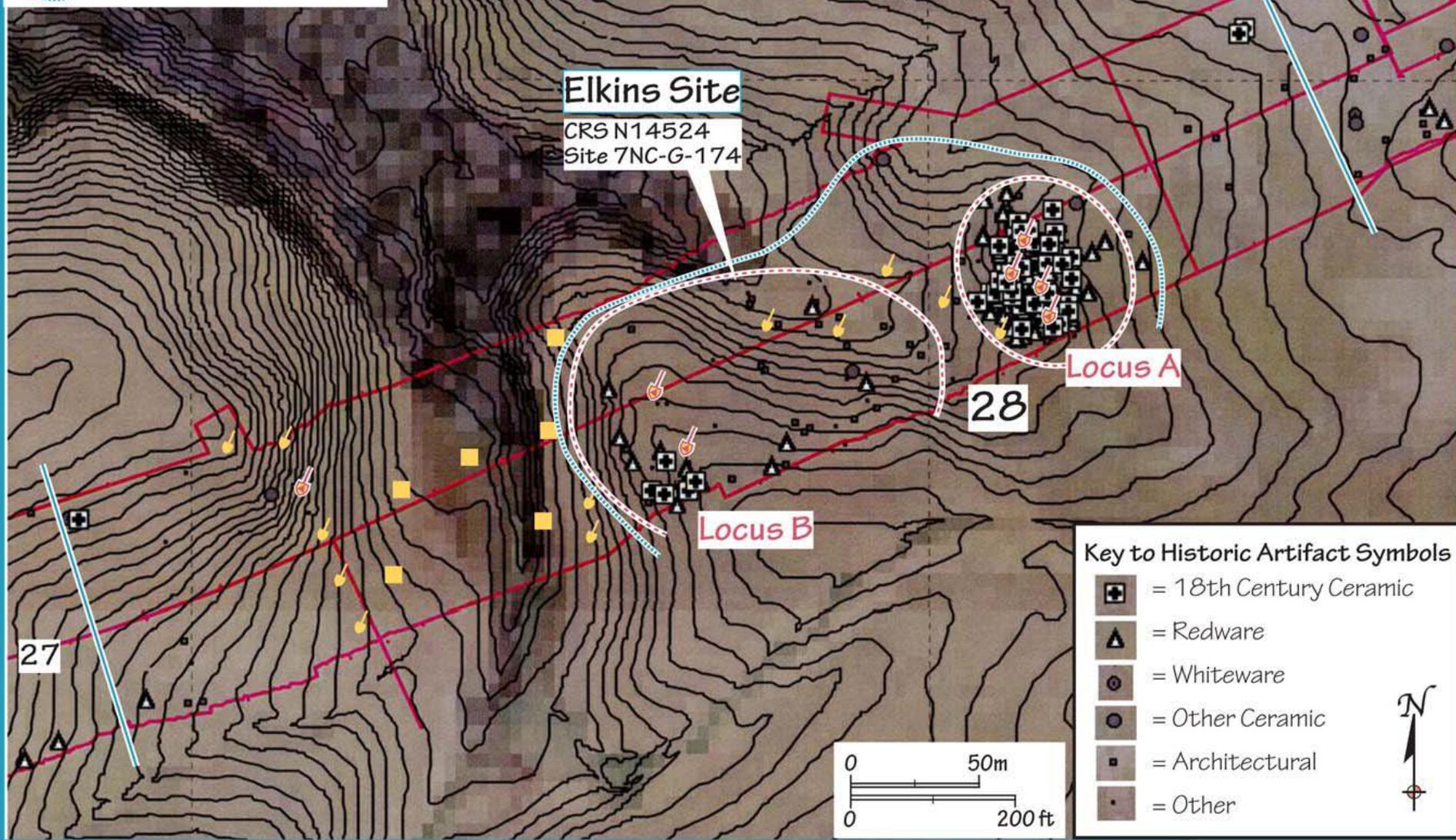
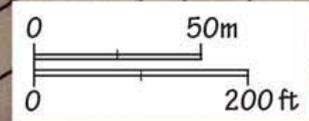
Elkins Site
 CRS N14524
 Site 7NC-G-174

Locus A

Locus B

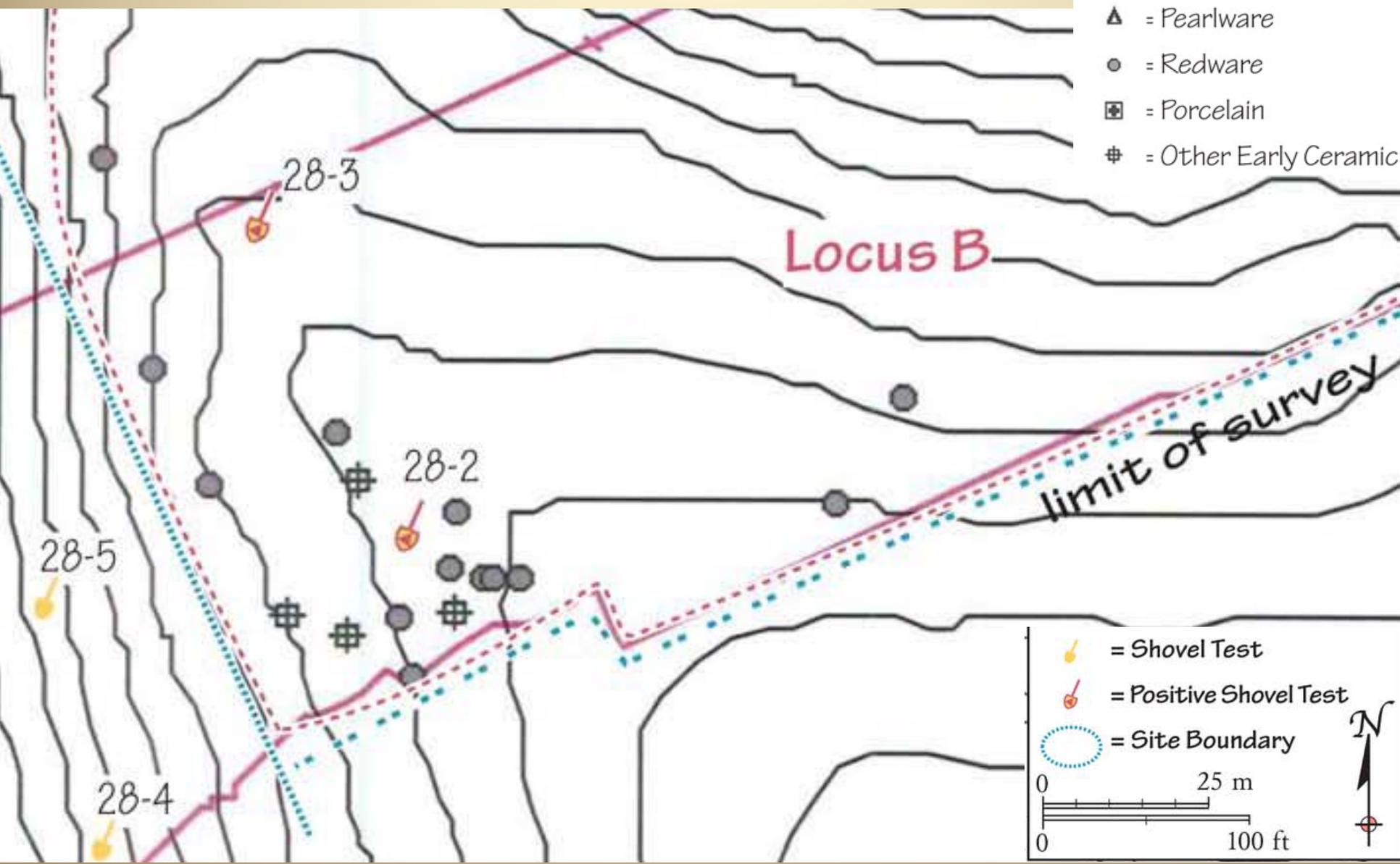
Key to Historic Artifact Symbols

-  = 18th Century Ceramic
-  = Redware
-  = Whiteware
-  = Other Ceramic
-  = Architectural
-  = Other



Early Ceramic Artifacts

- ⊙ = Creamware
- ▲ = Pearlware
- = Redware
- ⊞ = Porcelain
- ⊞ = Other Early Ceramic



- = Shovel Test
 - = Positive Shovel Test
 - = Site Boundary
- 0 25 m
0 100 ft
- N



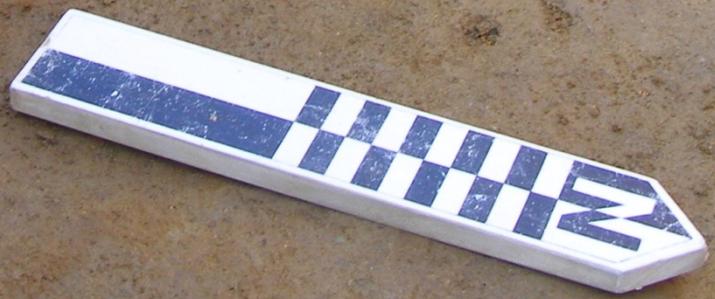
**Phase II Investigations
The Elkins B Site
Early to Mid 18th Century
Cellar Hole**

Phase II Investigations At The Elkins B Site
Early to Mid 18th Century Cellar Hole
With a Redware Storage Vessel in situ



Sockets Cut Into the Floor to Hold Storage Vessels Upright

Phase II Investigations
The Elkins B Site
Early to Mid 18th Century
Cellar Hole

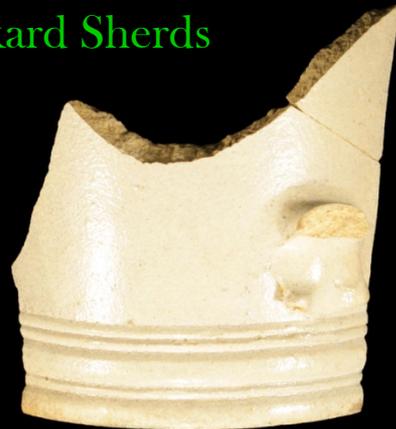


Artifacts From the Cellar Hole at The Elkins B Site

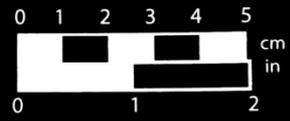
Dating From the Early to Mid 18th Century



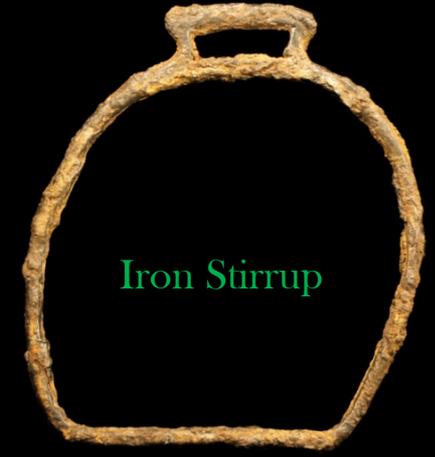
English Brown Stoneware
Tankard Sherds



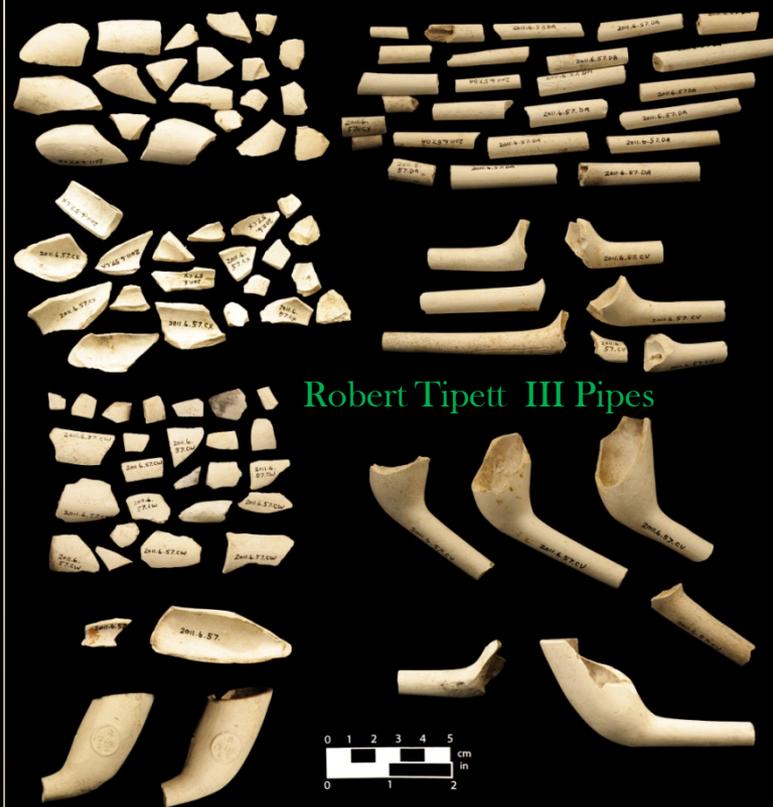
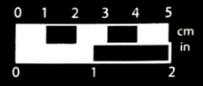
Cobalt Blue Decorated
Westerwald Stoneware



Midlands Mottled



Iron Stirrup



Robert Tipett III Pipes

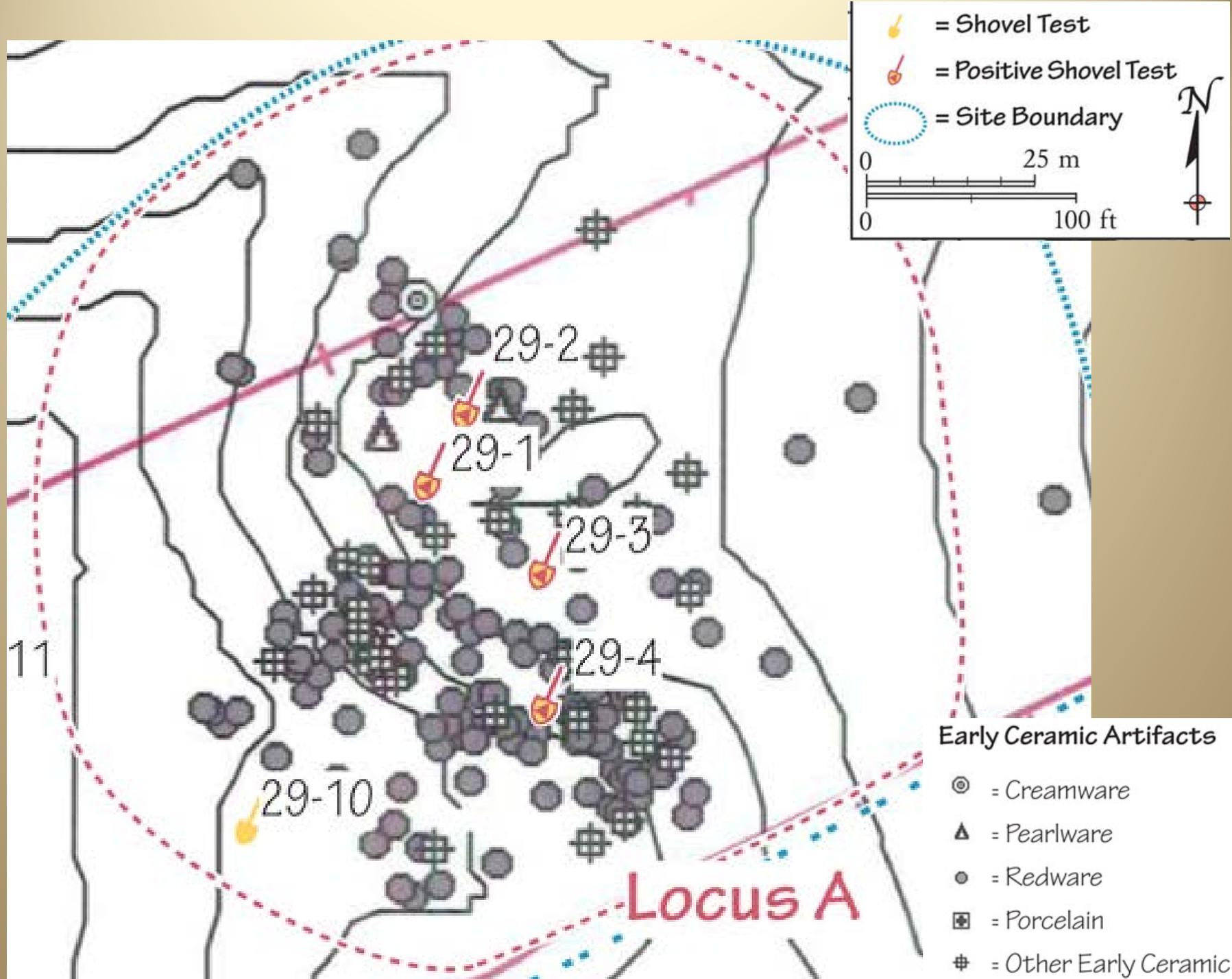


Wheel-thrown red earthenware vessels with folded and tooled rims thought to be made in Philadelphia by the Hillegas Brothers from the late 1720s to 1746



Additional red earthenwares thought to have been manufactured by the Hillegas Brothers from the late 1720s to 1746





-  = Shovel Test
-  = Positive Shovel Test
-  = Site Boundary

0 25 m
0 100 ft

N

Early Ceramic Artifacts

-  = Creamware
-  = Pearlware
-  = Redware
-  = Porcelain
-  = Other Early Ceramic

Locus A

11

29-2

29-1

29-3

29-4

29-10

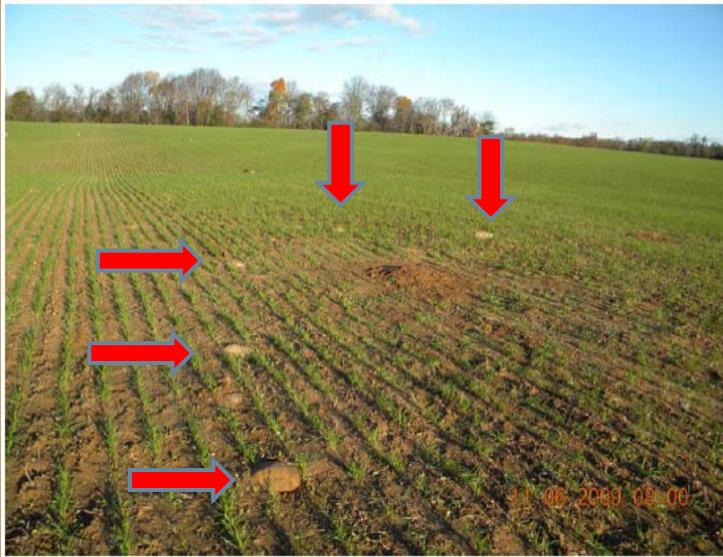
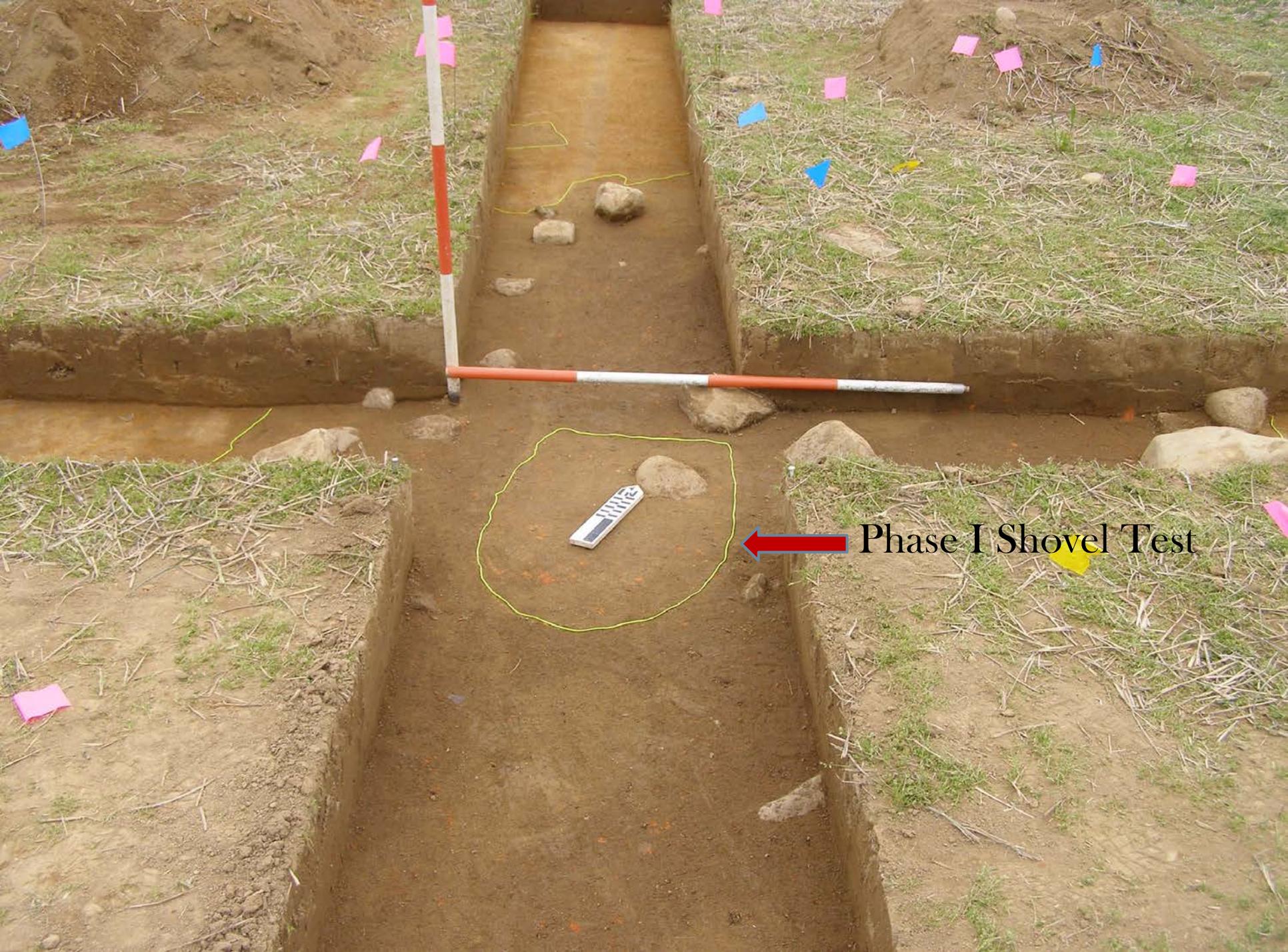


Photo 22. View of the Elkins Site Locus A, looking northeast. Note the series of large stones forming an L-shaped alignment suggestive of a foundation, with one shovel test excavated inside the alignment.



Photo 23. Elkins Site Locus A, showing the rubble of brick and stone encountered in an enlarged shovel test placed inside the alignment of stones.





← Phase I Shovel Test



**Route 301 Elkins A Site
From surface cluster to a
Mid 18th century Root Cellar**

Ceramic sherds
recovered from
the Elkins A
Root-cellar

Redware Milkpan

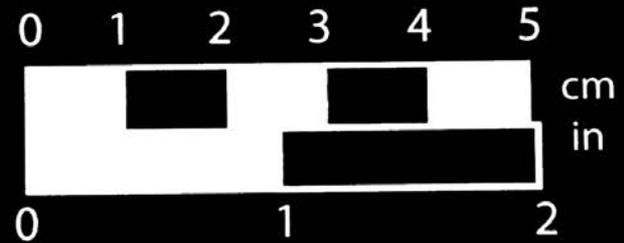


Creamware can

Scratch blue
white salt glazed
stoneware



Tin glazed
earthenware





Olive green
mallet bottle
bases



Olive green
case bottle base



Faceted glass
sleeve link
insert



Gunflints



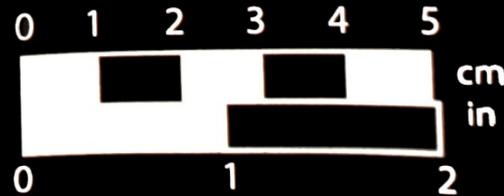
Lead flint wrap



Selected artifacts
recovered from
the Elkins A
Root-cellar

One of two
White salt-glazed
stoneware
mustard pots
Recovered from the
Elkins A Site
root-cellar

These vessels are
typically associated
with some degree
of wealth

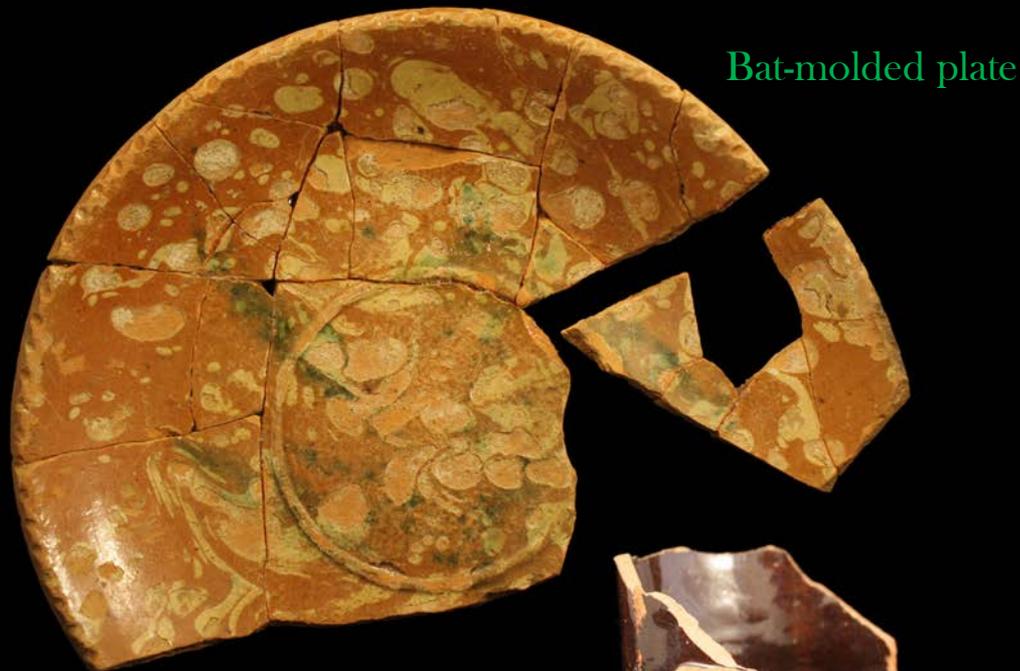


Refuse pit located
through
Split-spoon probing



Elkins A Site

Redware Vessels From a Refuse Pit



Bat-molded plate



Porringer



Tankards



Creamer



.....The Site Was This big.....

Thank You

