

The soil stratigraphy of the site varied considerably. The variations occurred beneath the well-developed plowzone of brown to dark yellowish brown loamy sand in randomly-alternating test units across the site. In some test units, a more well-developed strong brown loamy to clayey sand was encountered immediately beneath the plowzone. In the other units, the initial subplowzone soil was yellowish brown, light olive brown, or pale brown sand to loamy sand of varying thickness. In a few cases, the strong brown clayey sand was found beneath the yellowish brown sand in the same test unit. These subplowzone variations may be indicative of past erosional activity on the landform, which formed troughs that eventually filled in.

Thirty-seven historic artifacts were also recovered (14 from Test Unit 2), all from the plowzone. They include many tiny brick fragments, clear vessel glass, and a few cut and wire nails. No evidence of intact or disturbed historic structural remains was observed. These artifacts are believed to be associated with the historic farm that was located along U.S. Route 13 east of the SR 1 right-of-way.

4. Summary

The relatively small number of artifacts recovered from Site 7NC-J-216 was somewhat surprising, since the surface survey was so promising. A summary of the prehistoric lithic assemblage recovered during Phase I and II investigations is provided in Table 33. Surface artifact density was greater than that of Site 7NC-J-212, yet fewer than half as many artifacts were recovered from the test units. Experience in the Virginia and Maryland Piedmont indicates that sites with large numbers of surface finds and relatively few subsurface artifacts have often been severely deflated, and although the sandy soils of the Osborne Wetland Replacement Area are quite different from the clay soils of the Piedmont, the same conclusion may apply. As described above in the discussion of Site 7NC-J-212, it seems from an analysis of all the cultural deposits around the Osborne pond that the sandy soils on these sites have been moving toward the south or southeast. This motion, which buried intact Archaic deposits at Site 7NC-J-212, would have deflated Site 7NC-J-216, leaving artifacts lying on the surface after their covering soils had been blown away.

The diagnostic artifacts recovered from Site 7NC-J-216 span most of Delaware prehistory, from the Archaic to the later Woodland I or Woodland II periods. The site appears to be a procurement station. A single subplowzone feature of unknown date and function was discovered; it may be a cultural pit of the kind discovered in quantities at other Delaware sites, or it may be natural.

R. SUMMARY OF PHASE II EVALUATIONS

Phase II evaluations of 17 archaeological sites in the SR 1 corridor and associated wetland areas have been carried out. Four of these sites were historic, 11 were prehistoric, and two had both historic and prehistoric components. Of the historic sites, Sites 7NC-G-144 and 7NC-G-145 were farm sites; Site 7NC-G-145 dated to the mid-eighteenth century, and Site 7NC-G-144 to the second half of the eighteenth century. Site 7NC-F-13 was a farm dating to the later eighteenth

and early nineteenth centuries, perhaps 1780 to 1830. Sites 7NC-F-73 and 7NC-J-209 were nineteenth-century farms; Site 7NC-F-73, located in the yard of Locust Grove, was the only site tested that was associated with a standing house. Site 7NC-F-72 appeared to be a rural tenant dwelling occupied for a brief period during the second half of the nineteenth century. Site 7NC-G-137, part of the crossroads town of Fieldsboro, included a farm and a town house, both of which later became stores, both dating to the nineteenth century.

Most of the prehistoric sites tested appeared to be what Custer (1994) calls procurement sites, locations used occasionally by prehistoric peoples during hunting and foraging expeditions for camping and processing activities. However, Site 7-NC-G-141, on the Appoquinimink River, and Site 7NC-J-212, in the Osborne wetland, may have been microband base camps, occupied for somewhat longer periods. Artifacts diagnostic of the Archaic period (6000 to 3000 BC) were recovered from Sites 7NC-J-212 and 7NC-J-216 in the Osborne Wetland Replacement Area. No Archaic period artifacts were recovered from the Appoquinimink River or Augustine Creek drainages. Artifacts diagnostic of the Woodland I period (3000 BC to 1000 AD) were recovered from Sites 7NC-G-150, 7NC-F-13, 7NC-G-141, and 7NC-G-151, associated with tidal wetlands along the Appoquinimink River and Drawyer Creek, and Sites 7NC-J-212, 7NC-J-214, and 7NC-J-216, in the Osborne wetland. Materials dating to the Woodland II period (AD 1000 to 1650) were recovered from Sites 7NC-G-145, 7NC-G-149, 7NC-G-150, 7NC-G-143, and 7NC-G-141, in the Appoquinimink drainage, and Site 7NC-J-212, in the Osborne wetland. No diagnostic material was recovered from Site 7NC-G-139.