

**THE DRAWYER CREEK SOUTH SITE (7NC-G-143) EXCAVATIONS  
STATE ROUTE 1 CORRIDOR, ODESSA SEGMENT  
NEW CASTLE COUNTY, DELAWARE**



**By**

**Robert D. Wall, Lenore Santone, John C. Bedell, and Charles H. LeeDecker**

**THE CULTURAL RESOURCE GROUP  
LOUIS BERGER & ASSOCIATES, INC.  
East Orange, New Jersey**

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**Eugene E. Abbott  
Director of Planning**

**2001**



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**Cover Illustration: Aerial View of Drawyer Creek South Site, View to Northeast**



**Plate 1: Field Crew**

**Left to right: Earl Proper, Robert Shaw, Bruce Bourcy (kneeling), Robert Jacoby, Diane Rog, Jeffrey Rog, Joelle Browning, Paul Stansfield, Chris Marshall, and James Skocik**

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THE LOUIS BERGER GROUP, INC.  
East Orange, New Jersey

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## ABSTRACT

Phase III archaeological investigations on the Drawyer Creek South Site (7NC-G-143), a buried prehistoric archaeological site, have been completed by The Louis Berger Group, Inc. (Berger). The site lies partially within the proposed SR 1 corridor from Scott Run to Pine Tree Corners in New Castle County, Delaware. The Drawyer Creek South Site fits best into the category of a transient site, a site that was occupied for a very short period of time during travels between hunting, fishing, and wild plant food gathering areas. The site may have been used in this transient manner over a long period, from circa 2000 BC until just before the coming of European settlers to the region. A transient site can conceivably be defined as a prehistoric rest stop, and could also have been occupied during the course of periodic shifts between more established and long-term base camps.

What one sees in the artifact collections obtained from the site excavations are materials that did not necessarily come from the vicinity of the site, but are the remains of materials (including foods, ceramic containers, tools, and limited quantities of knapping-quality stone) that were obtained elsewhere; they are simply part of the baggage being transported from one camp to the next. The artifacts include the essentials, i.e., projectile points, cutting and scraping tools, staged bifaces and preforms, blocks or cores of stone for making new tools, and containers of food, medicines, and ritual items. All of these materials would have been needed during travel from camp to camp in the course of limited hunting, gathering, and fishing activities, as well as for the manufacturing and resharpening of tools that would have become necessary as essential implements were broken or wore out. What was left behind at the site by these transient visitors were the remains of a few meals, the discarded debris from manufacturing functional tools to replace those used over the course of the previous few days, and evidence of a few hearths that served to provide warmth, shelter, and the means to cook recently obtained fish and game.

Looking at the remains of the site has provided an excellent opportunity to study the behavior of small groups, perhaps as small as a nuclear family, in the context of their travels. In evidence are the remains of portable technology as used over a very long span of time as the prehistoric inhabitants of Delaware moved from one rich estuary to the next, taking advantage of this extremely productive environment. Evidence of the earliest visits to the site, around 2000 BC, is somewhat scarce. Such visits were probably very brief and were a minor part of a much broader settlement pattern in which small bands of hunters and gatherers explored almost every environmental zone in the region in their quest for food and essential raw materials. As patterns of land use became much more focused during Woodland II times (ca. AD 1200), sites such as Drawyer Creek South became convenient stopping points along regularly traveled routes in the Appoquinimink River system.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Invaluable assistance in the field for the Phase III investigation was provided by Site Supervisor Robert Jacoby and Crew Chief Earl Proper. The Phase III field crew consisted of Bruce Bourcy, Joelle Browning, Andrea DeNight, Dave Gilmour, Chris Marshall, Margaret Nash, Jeffery Rog, Diane Rog, Catherine Skocik, James Scocik, Robert Shaw, and Paul Stansfield. Logistical support was provided by Charles Dunton and Jack Goudsward. The fine efforts of the field crew in recovering the archaeological data, describing their findings in the field, carefully mapping features and artifact clusters, and contributing their perceptive observations and interpretations within each excavation unit are gratefully acknowledged. Without such efforts, presentation of the data in this report would not have been possible.

Site interpretations were greatly aided by Dr. Daniel Wagner, who provided in-field consultations and a written summary on the age and development of soils at the site.

Sharla Azizi, Laboratory Supervisor, was responsible for the overall direction of laboratory work. Preliminary lithic analyses were performed by Robert Jacoby. Final lithic analyses and ceramic analyses were completed by Robert Wall. Data entry was accomplished by Alex Ortiz.

Drafting for this project was conducted by Jacqueline Horsford. Rob Tucher produced the plates that appear in the report. Editing of the report was accomplished by Suzanne Szanto.

Beta-Analytic Inc., processed the radiocarbon samples submitted from the site. OCR samples were analyzed by Douglas Frink of Archaeology Consulting Team, Inc.; soil samples were processed for soil chemistry by A&L Eastern Agricultural Laboratories; and flotation samples were analyzed for the identification of botanical specimens by Kathryn Egan-Bruhy of Lake States Archaeological and Ecological Consulting.

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*Curation Note:* All artifacts, site records, analytical data, photographs, and slides from the Drawyer Creek South Site are being prepared for curation in accordance with Delaware State Museum standards. These materials are temporarily being curated at the Berger laboratory facilities in East Orange, New Jersey.

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