

The artifact-bearing strata at Whitby Branch extended from the surface to approximately 40-50 centimeters below ground surface. The West Locus occupied the shallow end of this continuum, with the East Locus tending toward the deeper end. The generally less compact soil matrix in the East Locus may have allowed for the downward transport of some artifacts. Test Unit 3 (N=3) and Test Unit 8 (N=3) were located on the steepest portion of the westward slope, and represented an intermediate zone between the East and West loci. Low artifact frequencies were matched by the shallow recovery (less than 30 cm. below surface) of each unit sample.

Soils of the Whitby Branch Site were variable. Soil at higher elevations of the site (to the east) was classified as a Rumford series, gravelly phase soil (Figure 89). This eastern portion of the site had only been plowed a few times. Gravel deposits in this soil have made tree growth precarious. Substantial deciduous trees with large leaf sails often uproot in these soils. It would therefore be expected to encounter the occasional disturbed area in site profiles. Soil in lower elevations of the site (to the west) was classified as a Sassafras sandy loam. This portion of the site had never been plowed, and the natural profile was completely intact. It had received little slope wash. The profile showed some mottling, evidence of ground water entry (Figure 90). Both profiles indicated that the site surface has been intact over the last 15,000 to 20,000 years (see Appendix H).

4. Summary

The Whitby Branch Site appeared to represent what Delaware archaeologists refer to as a Woodland I period (3000 BC to AD 1000) procurement site, or possibly even a microband base camp (Custer 1994). In other chronological frameworks, commonly used in the eastern woodlands, it would fall within the Late Archaic and Early to Middle Woodland subperiods. The majority of the artifacts recovered were excavated from two portions of the site, designated the East Locus and West Locus. Both loci measured approximately 20 by 25 meters. The East Locus had been minimally plowed, and the West Locus had never been plowed. The East Locus was situated on higher ground in the eastern portion of the site, above the 3.5-meter contour. The West Locus was situated on lower ground, between the 2- and 2.5-meter contours. The six test units in the West Locus yielded approximately 70 percent of the FCR and debitage from the site and nearly 60 percent of the tools. These two loci were separated by two test units that yielded only three artifacts each.

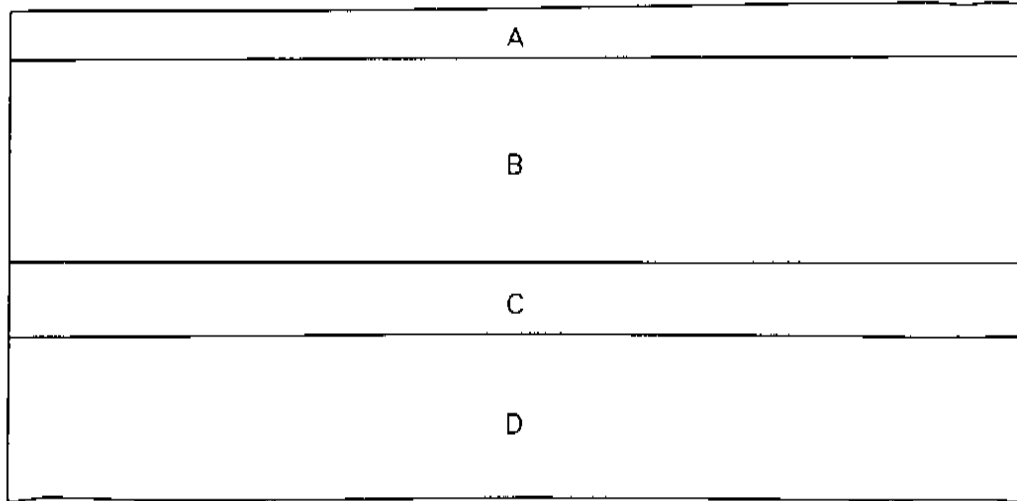
In addition to the heavier concentration of artifacts in the West Locus, two features were identified in this portion of the site—Feature 1 in Test Unit 5, and Feature 2 in Test Unit 10. Both features are FCR clusters and may represent remnant surface hearths.

K. SITE 7NC-G-139, THE PINE CIRCLE SITE

1. Site Description

The Pine Circle Site (Site 7NC-G-139) was a small prehistoric site located east of U.S. Route 13, 1,500 meters (1 mile) south of Odessa. The site measured approximately 20 meters north-south

WEST WALL



LEGEND

- A A-HORIZON; VERY DARK GRAYISH BROWN (10YR 3/2) HUMUS
- B FEATURE 2; BROWNISH YELLOW (10YR 6/6) LOAMY SAND
- C CAMBRIC B-HORIZON; BROWNISH YELLOW (10YR 6/6) CLAYEY SAND
- D ARGILLIC B-HORIZON; YELLOWISH BROWN (10YR 5/8) SANDY CLAY WITH GRAVELS

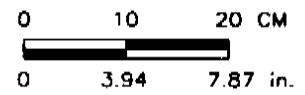
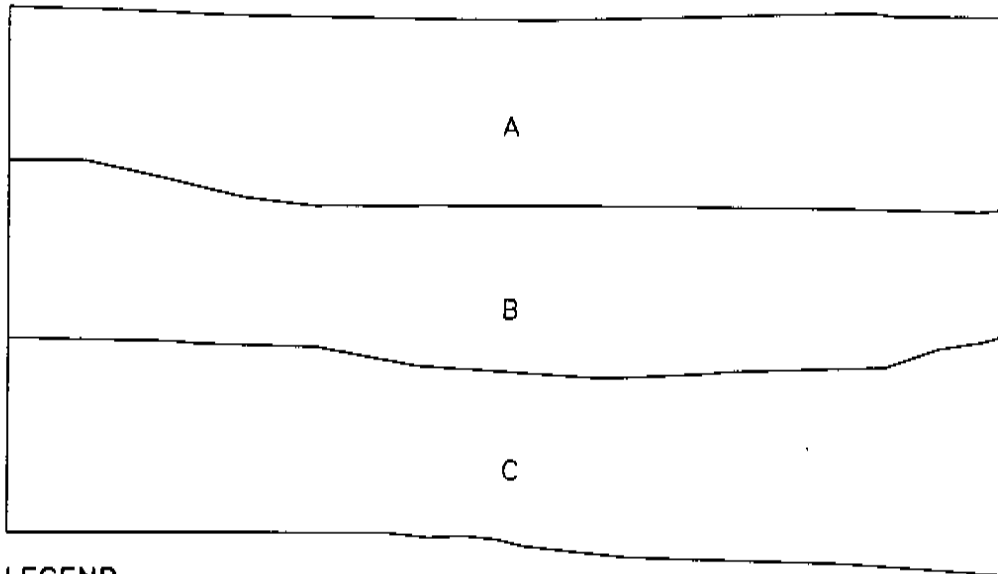


FIGURE 89: Whitby Branch (7NC-G-151) Site, Stratigraphic Profile of Test Unit 10, West Locus

WEST WALL



LEGEND

- A A-HORIZON; VERY DARK GRAYISH BROWN (10YR 3/2) SILTY SAND WITH GRAVEL
- B CAMBRIC B-HORIZON; YELLOWISH (10YR 5/6) SANDY LOAM WITH GRAVELS
- C ARGILIC B-HORIZON; YELLOWISH BROWN (10YR 5/6) CLAYEY SAND GRADING INTO STRONG BROWN (7.5YR 5/6) CLAYEY SAND WITH INCREASING GRAVELS AND COBBLES

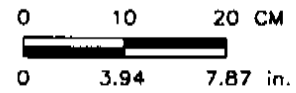


FIGURE 90: Whitby Branch (7NC-G-151) Site, Stratigraphic Profile of Test Unit 2, East Locus

by 30 meters east-west (less than 0.2 acres) (see Figure 42; Figure 91). The site was in a wooded area, and the soils initially did not appear to have been disturbed by plowing.

The Pine Circle Site was located during the Phase I survey of the Pine Tree Corners to Drawyer Creek segment of the SR 1 corridor (Bedell 1995a). The location of the site, not predicted by the model employed during the survey, was identified as having high potential for prehistoric sites during the initial Phase I visual inspection of the project corridor. Three lithic flakes and a possible FCR fragment were recovered from three shovel tests in a 20x30-meter area. Since the site did not appear to have been plowed, Phase II significance evaluation was recommended.

2. Environmental Setting

The Pine Circle Site was located in a wooded area adjacent to a ravine with steeply sloping sides, approximately 6 meters (20 feet) deep. The ravine drained west, across U.S. Route 13, to Whitby Branch, a marshy tributary of the Appoquinimink River. The river was approximately 800 meters away. At the time of testing, the ravine held a small pond created by an earthen dam, but it probably contained an intermittent stream prior to construction of the dam.

3. Phase II Testing

The Phase II testing of the Pine Circle Site consisted of the excavation of four test units. The testing failed to locate a definite plowzone, but the soil did appear to have been deflated, probably by a combination of logging and erosion (Figure 92). A total of nine prehistoric artifacts were recovered from the four test units, all quartz, quartzite, chert, or rhyolite flakes.

4. Summary

The Pine Circle Site represents a small procurement station of unknown cultural affiliation overlooking an intermittent stream. The small number of artifacts recovered suggests that the site was used only sporadically, or perhaps only once, by people hunting or gathering along the stream. The soil had been disturbed by modern activity.

L. SITE 7NC-G-137, THE HUTCHINSON/WELDIN STORE SITE

1. Site Description

Site 7NC-G-137 was a nineteenth-century commercial and domestic site located in Fieldsboro, on the southwestern corner of the intersection of U.S. Route 13, Fieldsboro Road, and Noxontown Pond Road (see Figure 46; Figure 93). The site was named for residents listed on the 1868 Beers atlas of Delaware and the 1881 Hopkins map of New Castle County, both of which show a house and a store in this location (Figures 94 and 95). The site spanned two distinct properties. At the intersection, occupying the northern half of the site, was an abandoned antiques store and its associated parking lot. To the south was an active agricultural field. The site measured approximately 75 meters north to south and 25 meters east to west (250x80 feet).