

VIII. PHASE IA ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

The following discussion presents the results of field investigations and data analysis of the Phase IA archaeological assessment survey of the Camp Wright project APE conducted September 2006.

Prior to the initiation of subsurface testing, a thorough pedestrian inspection of the project APE was conducted. This effort was conducted with the intent:

- to identify any surface evidence suggestive of archaeological deposits;
- to acquire a comprehensive overview of the environmental setting of the APE;
- to ascertain the extent of past subsurface disturbance; and
- to identify any archaeological priority areas within the APE.

During the pedestrian survey, it became quite evident there are three distinct geographical areas. They are the floodplain, the steep hillside, and the tops of the hill.

A. Field Investigations

After a through pedestrian survey of the APE, twenty-four Shovel Test Pits (STPs) were excavated within the Camp Wright APE. Two of the STPs were excavated on the top of the hill. No STPs were excavated on the steep hillside. The remainder (twenty-two) STPs were excavated on the floodplain. The locations of these STPs are presented in **Figure 14**. Representative soil profiles of the STPs are presented in **Figure 15**. Summary catalog of the artifacts recovered by STP are presented in **Appendix II**.

Most of the soils encountered on the floodplain exhibited alluvial properties. In several of the STPs, a thicker than usual sod/humus had developed. Directly below the sod/humus were various examples of alluvial deposits. The soils ranged in color from brown, dark brown, tan, orange, and yellow. Most of the soils were loamy silts with high concentrations of mica. Most of the soils also had lens and/or pockets of other soils. All of the soils are redeposited from their previous locations up-stream. In several of the STPs, the stream cobble bed was encountered. Excavation stopped at the stream cobble bed.

The two STPs excavated on the top of the hill on either side of Bunkhouse #2 had different profiles. These profiles exhibit a relatively uniform stratigraphy composed of surface soils atop the upper depths of decaying bedrock. STP 9's soil profile was a gray brown silt loam (surface to 0.9 feet) over a brownish gray silt loam with mica and rocks with depth (0.9 feet to 2.3 feet); while STP 10's soil profile was a medium brown silt loam from the surface to two feet. At two feet, yellow decaying bedrock was encountered.

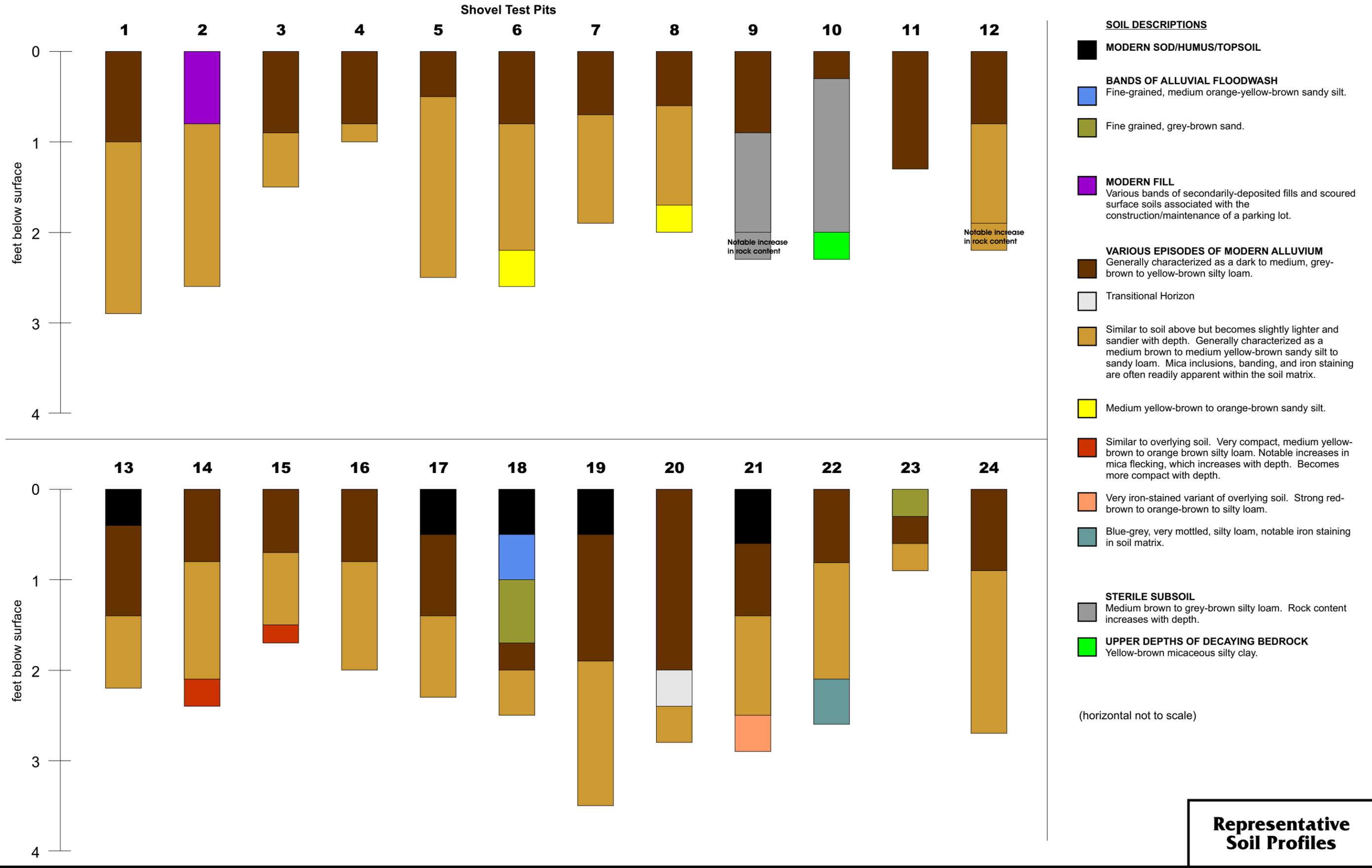


FIGURE 15

During the pedestrian survey of Camp Wright, a fifteen-foot by thirty-foot concrete pad was encountered within the APE. The concrete pad is located on the west side of Mill Creek, across from the Swimming Pool, on a small peninsula. There are no bridges to connect the main part of Camp Wright to this pad; however, a Driveway, identified on **Figures 2 and 15**, is located in close proximity to the concrete pad. Given the concrete pad's orientation, namely its proximity to the Driveway and its isolation from Camp Wright, the concrete pad is most likely associated with the Driveway and not Camp Wright.

Whatever overlying structure was on the pad has been razed and some of the demolition material has been strewn about the area. Several notable observations about the concrete pad are as follows.

- There are anchors protruding from the concrete near the edges of the pad.
- Green plastic corrugated roofing was observed near the pad.
- An enameled sink was found on the pad.
- Wires between the remains of the structure and a utility pole across Mill Creek imply that the former structure had electrical service.

One STP (STP 24) was excavated in the general vicinity of the concrete pad. No artifacts were recovered from the excavation. Numerous twentieth century bottles and other forms of refuse were encountered in the general area.

On the last day in the field, a recent utility trench two feet deep and over thirty feet long was examined in the floodplain of Camp Wright. The trench was excavated by others to hook up a utility line from one of the manholes in the floodplain to the stone house along Mill Creek Road (**Appendix III: Plate 36**). The stratigraphy of the trench is indicative of the soils identified in the STPs. There is a sod/humus, thicker in some places above various alluvial deposits. Throughout the trench there was no uniform soil. There were pocket and lenses of various soils throughout the profile. High mica content was also observed (**Appendix III: Plate 37**). The entire floodplain down to the cobble bed is alluvium of an indeterminate age.

B. Artifact Analysis

A total of sixty-nine historic and three Native American artifacts (**Appendix II**) were recovered from fourteen of the twenty-four shovel test pits (STPs) executed at Camp Wright. One historic artifact was recovered from the surface at Camp Wright during the archaeological testing. Slightly over half (fifty one percent) of the recovered artifacts are from the top soil level. The highest artifact counts are from three STPs, 1 (n=19), 2 (n= 13), and 8 (n=12). The remainder of the STPs have seven or fewer artifacts.

Native American artifacts recovered from the archaeological survey of Camp Wright consist of two quartz and one chalcedony flakes. All three flakes are smaller than ten millimeters. One quartz flake was recovered in Level 1 of STP 6 along with seven historic artifacts. The other quartz flake and the chalcedony flake came from Level 2 of STPs 7 and 13 respectively, and are not associated with any historic artifacts. The three flakes are small and

were recovered from alluvial soil deposits. No diagnostic Native American artifacts were recovered.

Of the historic artifacts, the most numerous (n=25) are the whiteware sherds followed by unidentified plastic (n=7), unidentified nails (n=6), and window glass (n=5). All other representative historic artifact types are depicted by three or fewer items. The artifact categories, from greatest to least number are: ceramic (n=29); miscellaneous (n=16); architectural (n=15); glass (n=8); and metal (n=2). None of the historic artifacts have chronologically narrow time periods. Most of the artifacts have twentieth century dates of manufacture. Eleven of the plastic and vinyl artifacts have last half of the twentieth century manufacturing dates.

The most significant set of artifacts are the eight that relate to camp life (**Table 4**)(**Appendix III: Plate 38**). These artifacts include the following categories: toy and game related (*Lego* mini person, three Masonite disks and one small black marble); sport related (plastic arrow nock); and craft related (gray vinyl gimp and copper stencil of the capital letter B). Masonite began to be manufactured in 1929 (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Masonite>). Ethylene vinyl acetate was patented in 1960 (www.plastiquarian.com/ind3.htm). *Lego* mini people were introduced in 1978 (www.lego.com/eng/info/default.asp?page=timeline3). The plastic and vinyl artifacts are from the second half of the twentieth century.

TABLE 4:
Camp Wright Related Artifacts

Provenience	Artifact
Surface	Lego mini person
STP 4 Lv.1	Copper stencil "B"
STP 5 Fill	Vinyl gimp
STP 6 Lv. 1	Masonite disk
STP 13 Lv. 1	Plastic arrow nock
STP 18 Lv. 1	Small black glass marble
STP 20 Lv. 1	Masonite disk
STP 23 Lv. All	Masonite disk

The whiteware might be associated with dining at the camp but the pieces are too small to determine form and no information has come to light regarding the details of dining experience of the campers and staff. The nails and window glass are likely also to be associated with the structures of Camp Wright. All of the Camp Wright related artifacts are from the top level or from alluvial deposits.

Other historic artifacts, including four redware sherds, various unidentifiable fragments of plastic, pieces of vulcanized rubber, and miscellaneous non-descript glass fragments were also recovered throughout the project APE. Most of these artifacts were recovered from distinctly modern alluvial deposits. Given the irregular distribution of these artifacts across

the project APE, the environmental setting of the APE, and the frequency of flooding along Mill Creek, the depositional history and contexts of these artifacts are clearly questionable. The deposition of these artifacts within the project APE was likely results of alluvial actions or random litter deposited in the area.

C. Conclusions

The artifacts are small and fragmentary. Many of the artifacts are either related directly to or are most likely associated with the activities and structures of Camp Wright that operated from the 1920s to the 1990s. The low number of artifacts indicates a pattern of accidental dropping of artifacts across the relatively neatly kept grounds of Camp Wright. There is no evidence of established middens of any kind. The majority of Camp Wright occupies a floodplain that is characterized by alluvial soils. It is therefore reasonable to assume based on the topography of the area and the variable soils encountered in the STPs that the grounds of Camp Wright have been subjected to periodic flood scouring and deposits. Additional investigation is not likely to produce anything but limited additional small finds of camp related artifacts. The three small flakes without any additional diagnostic artifacts are from mixed and alluvial soils. It is concluded that there is no evidence for an intact significant Native American or post contact archaeological deposits at Camp Wright.

The concrete pad is most likely the result of twentieth century construction and was associated with the Driveway and not Camp Wright. Excavations around the concrete pad recovered no artifacts.

The results of the Phase IA archaeological assessment indicate that both humans and natural forces have subjected the APE to extensive subsurface disturbance. Based on the dearth of recovered cultural material of any historic interest, the questionable origins of the recovered artifacts (i.e. from alluvial soils), the lack of any discrete artifact concentrations within the lands bounded by the APE, and the absence of any intact cultural deposits, it has been concluded that the Camp Wright Project APE is devoid of any significant archaeological resources. No further work is warranted within the current limits of the Camp Wright Project APE.