

6 Discussion

A principal goal of any artifact analysis is to determine the occupational history and function of the sites from which the artifacts were recovered. In total, 2,068 artifacts (1 prehistoric, 2,058 historic, and 9 modern) were recovered during the investigation of the project area. The artifact density of the seven TUs was proportionate to the relative densities of nearby STPs; however, the majority of the artifact assemblage derived from Feature 1 and Feature 2. Shovel test excavations suggested the site was comprised of a series of discrete fill levels. However, data from the TU excavations shows these are not discrete levels separated by time, but instead represent two episodes of infilling.

Both the shovel tests and the test unit excavations yielded a mix of domestic and architectural artifacts. Domestic items include Albany slip stoneware, undecorated whiteware, decorated whiteware, porcelain, and a variety of colored and colorless table glass and bottle glass. Architectural items include aqua window glass and clear window glass, unidentified nail fragments, cut nail fragments, wire nail fragments, and hand mold made and machine-made brick fragments. Very few personal items (a coin, a mirror fragment, a possible face cream jar, and a Frozen Charlotte doll) were found during the excavation. Other artifact types, such as furniture-related items, were also sparse (a handful of lighting/chimney glass was found). The overall paucity of ceramic artifacts in the assemblage, along with the limited finds of artifact types other than architectural suggests that the structures were cleared out before being razed. This is perhaps more evident in Feature 1 fill deposits. Feature 2 fill deposits (from TU 5 and TU 6 and surrounding STPs) indicates that this structure, possibly an outbuilding such as a garage, exhibited a higher amount of metal hardware and tools suggesting that perhaps this area was not as clean when razed in the mid-twentieth century.

The artifact assemblage shows admixing of artifacts from all periods of site occupation. Several artifact types were consistently recovered from all horizontal proveniences across the site. These include whiteware ceramics which were manufactured starting in the early/mid-nineteenth century, lime and Portland cement, hand molded and machine made bricks, variable thickness flat glass, and cut and wire nails. This admixing attests to both a lack of horizontal and vertical integrity and also to multiple episodes of construction/remodeling of the dwelling and outbuildings through time.

In addition to the whiteware, mortar, brick, flat glass, and nails being found in all levels from the STPs and TUs, other artifact types recovered from across the project area provides further indication of admixing and a lack of integrity in the assemblage. Table 6-1 shows the distribution of late nineteenth century and early- to mid-twentieth century items found in all levels of the STPs and TUs.

Table 6-1. Horizontal distribution of nineteenth and twentieth century artifacts.

Centimeters below datum	Object	Date Range
10-20	Bristol stoneware	post-1890
15-25	bottle glass	modern
	aluminum foil	post-1910
20-40	ammunition shell	early twentieth century
	car battery	ca. post-1909
40-50	Congoleum pin	post-1911
	bottle	1935-1964
	aluminum foil	post-1910
46-95	bottle	post-1920
58-70	crown cap	post-1892
60-70	plastic	modern
70-90	telephone box	modern
	Polychrome whiteware	post-1940
	crown cap	post-1892
80-90	bottle	1930-1960
	Rossville-type point	Woodland I
93-102	bottle	1930-1990

These items were found in direct association with earlier nineteenth century artifacts, which reflect the earliest phase of occupation believed to have occurred on this part of Winsmore Farm.

The historic assemblage recovered from the Potter Estate Tenant Farmstead (7K-F-205) dates from the mid-late nineteenth to mid-twentieth centuries, indicating a long span of occupation at the location. This is further supported by the historic maps and documentary evidence researched for this investigation. There has been settlement near the project area since at least the seventeenth century; however, structures were not shown within the Phase II evaluation area until 1868. It is probable that the “old house at one time, used for small pox patients” located at Winsmore Farm is referring to the dwelling and summer kitchen closer to the Mispillion River and just southeast of the current project area as shown on the 1850 Orphan’s Court plot. The structures razed in the 1960s are more likely the ones built by the Andersons who took over the property in 1866 under an improvement-lease. We know that the lease stipulated construction of a dwelling house with brick wall and outbuildings. Those structures were most certainly modified through time and the presence of wire nails and cut nails, and hand mold made and a machine-made brick, in the same deposits supports the presence of both older and newer construction phases.