LEWIS-E SITE

The Lewis-E Site (K-6385, 7K-C-362) is located in a plowed field northeast of Dover along the north side of Lewis Drive (Kent 332) (Figure 56). Most of the site is located within the proposed right-of-way and will be adversely affected by proposed construction. The site is the remains of an agricultural tenancy occupied in the third quarter of the eighteenth century. The site does not appear on any known historic maps including Byles' (1859) and Beers' (1868) historic atlases.

The Lewis-E Site was identified by a Phase I pedestrian survey and shovel tests as summarized in Bachman et al. (1988). The site was initially identified as a prehistoric site, but subsequent Phase II testing failed to locate any significant prehistoric remains. The remains of a mid-to-late eighteenth century agricultural tenancy, however, were identified. Phase II testing identified the limits of the historic component and determined that this component is eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

The limits of the site are shown in Figure 57. No intact structurally-related archaeological features were located, but historic artifacts and features including the well were identified in undisturbed contexts. Furthermore, the potential for additional intact features and artifact deposits was determined to be high and further work is recommended if the site cannot be avoided. Following is a discussion of the history of the site and the results of the Phase II survey.

FIGURE 56

Location of the Lewis-E Site and the H. Wilson-Lewis Tenant Farm Site and Proposed Right-of-Way

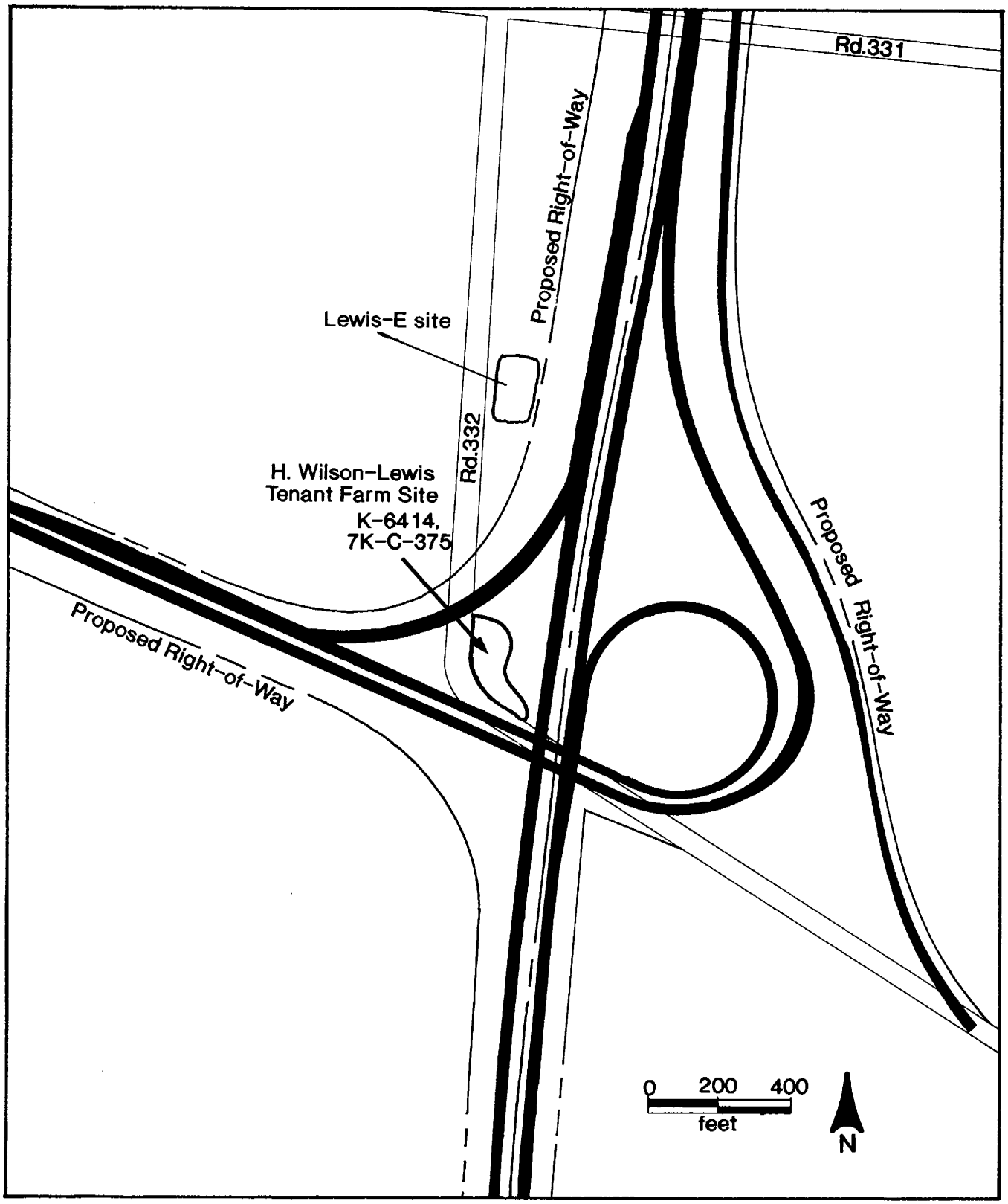
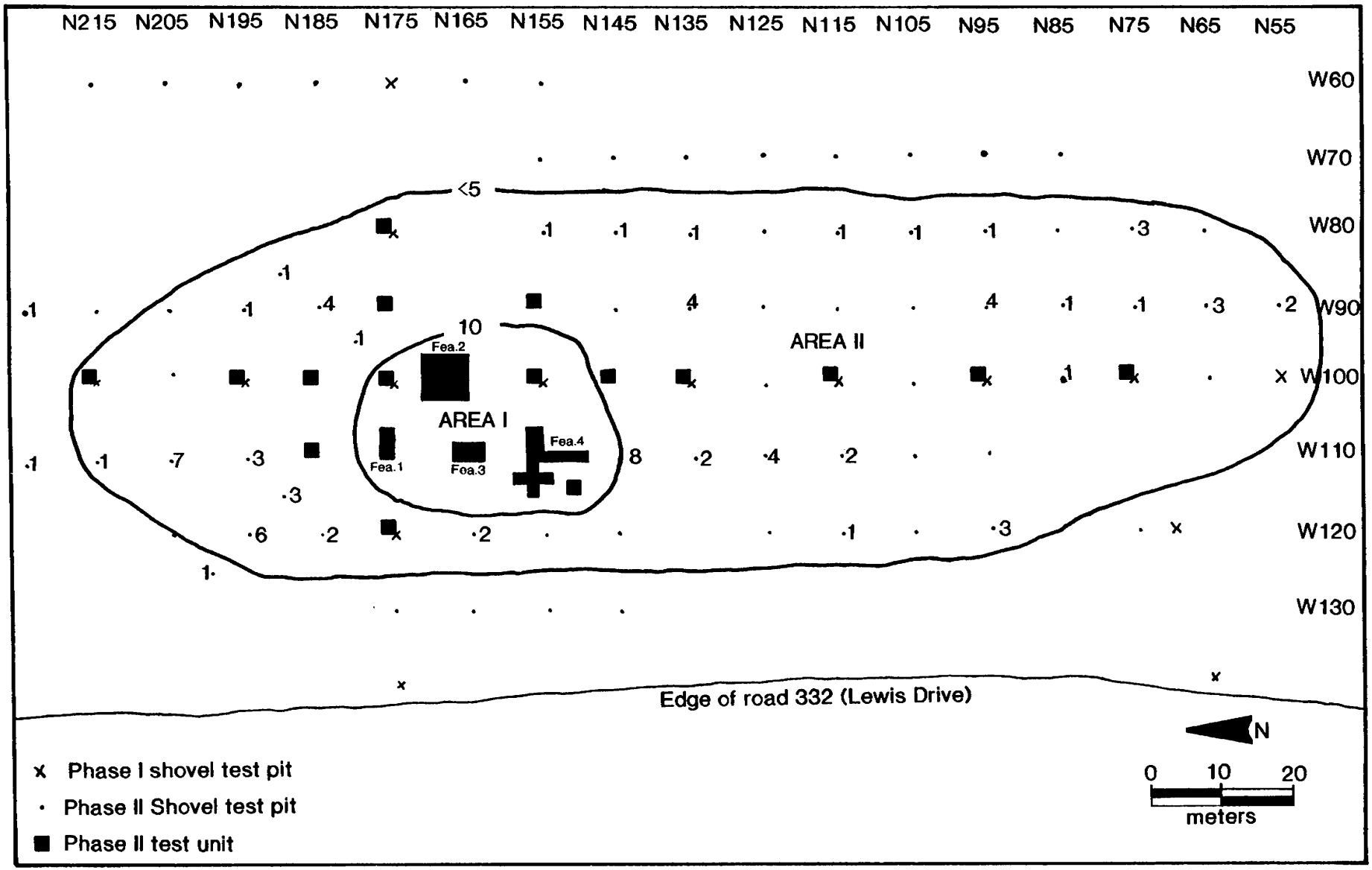


FIGURE 57

Lewis-E Site, Site Limits, Locations of Areas I and II and Total Artifact Density



Site History

The Lewis-E Site is located on a 180 acre parcel on the northwest side of the Dover to Leipsic road (present Kent 331). The site is approximately 900' northwest of the H. Wilson-Lewis Tenant Farm Site (K-6414, 7K-C-375). Both sites are located on the same parcel but are neither contiguous nor represent contemporary occupations.

The Lewis-E Site parcel was originally part of a larger 568 acre tract called "Wheel of Fortune." A summary of the chain of title for the Lewis-E Site is given in Table 8. This tract was first warranted to Richard Wilson and Richard Williams in 1687, but reverted back to the provincial government of Pennsylvania after both men died without heirs. John Housman then warranted and received title to the land in 1735. Housman apparently lived in the area as he appears as a witness and administrator of a number of local wills and estates. Housman, however, also owned a number of other properties in the area and it is not known if he was residing on the Wheel of Fortune tract.

John Housman died in 1754. According to his will made earlier that year, Housman left all of his real and personal property to Benjamin Chew, the administrator of his will. Chew, a noted local landowner who later moved to Philadelphia, divided the Wheel of Fortune tract in 1765 when he sold 337 acres to Andrew Lackey (the Elder). This 337 acre parcel from the western portion of Wheel of Fortune included both the Lewis-E Site and the H. Wilson-Lewis Tenant Farm Site. The area of the Lackey parcel and the original boundaries of the Wheel of Fortune tract according to a 1743 survey commissioned by John Housman appears

TABLE 8

CHAIN OF TITLE FOR THE LEWIS-E SITE (K-6385; 7K-C-362) AND THE H. WILSON-LEWIS TENANT FARM SITE (K-6414, 7K-C-375)

Transaction	Size (acres)	Date	Deed
From the Farmer's Bank to John E. and Doris Lewis	180	9/29/1937	B-15-312
From William G. Bush, Sheriff to the Farmer's Bank	180	5/4/1935	Q-14-280
From the Farmer's Bank to Mary C. Unruh	180	3/10/1926	W-12-326
From Alburn C. Moran, exec. of Pauline Moran to the Farmer's Bank	180	1/16/1926	A-13-68
From Samuel W. and Mary Unruh to Pauline Moran	180	12/1/1920	Y-11-90
From Joseph P. and Allie P. Moore to Samuel W. Unruh	180	10/3/1912	I-10-137
From J. Denny and Mary Moore to Joseph P. Moore	180	8/31/1910	X-9-442
From John T. and Margaret B. Denny to J. Denny Moore	180	12/4/1907	L-9-323
From Lucinda Wilson, admr. for Henry L. Wilson to John Denny by order of the Kent County Orphans Court	180	3/19/1890	F-7-63
From Gustave Wilson to Henry L. Wilson by order of the Kent County Orphans Court	180	1852	S-156 (Orphans Ct.)
From Andrew Lackey (the Elder) to Gustave Wilson via Lackey's will	291	1840	P-3-241 KC Will M-1-89
From Benjamin Chew, adm. of John Housman to Andrew Lackey (the Elder)	337	1/1/1765	W-1-22
From John Housman to Benjamin Chew, adm.		3/7/1754	KC Will K-1-98

TABLE 8 (cont.)

Transaction	Size (acres)	Date	Deed
From the Province of Pennsylvania to John Houseman	400	6/25/1735	KC Warrant H-4-128
From William Penn to Richard Wilson and Richard Williams	400	1687	KC Warrant

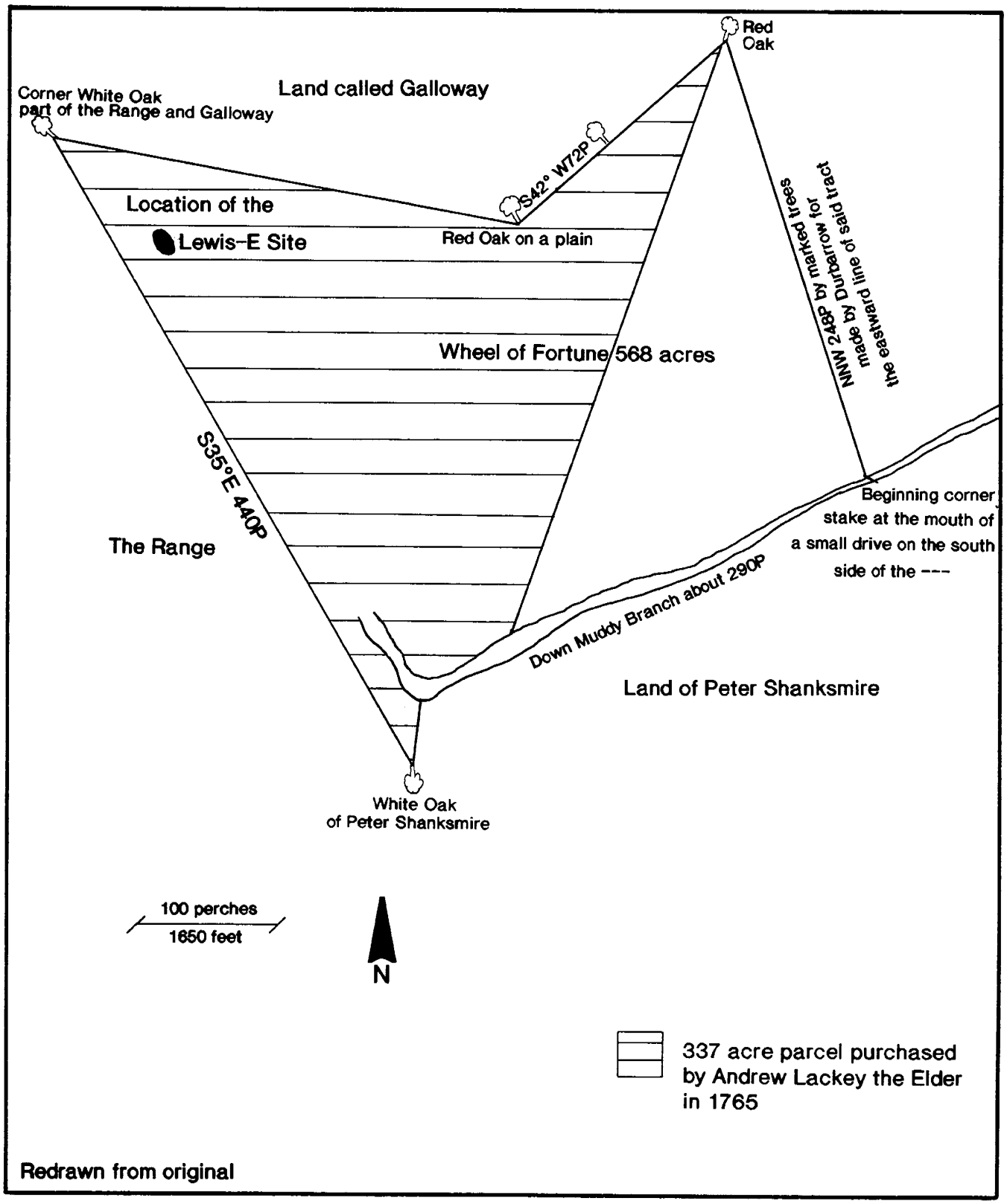
in Figure 58. No structures are shown on the Wheel of Fortune property in the 1743 survey. The lack of any structures, however, should not be interpreted as concrete evidence that no houses existed as surveys from this period typically do not show structures.

The 337 acre parcel purchased by Andrew Lackey in 1765 remained in the Lackey-Wilson family until the end of the nineteenth century. Andrew Lackey (the Elder) died in 1787 and willed 208 acres to his son Andrew Lackey (the Younger) on the condition that if his son should die without legal heirs, the property should go to his grandson Gustave (Gustavus) Wilson. Gustave Wilson was the son of Lackey's daughter Mary and her husband Samuel Wilson. Mary Wilson, and Lackey's other daughter, Ann Wills, each received one half of an adjacent 170 acres. According to Lackey's 1787 will, each of the two 85 acre parcels contained tenant farms; Mary received the land where John McCalups lived and Ann received the property where "Charles Chadwick now lives."

The 208 acres that Andrew Lackey (the Elder) left to his son and grandson included one dwelling, the house in which he then

FIGURE 58

1743 Survey of the Wheel of Fortune Tract



dwelled. This structure was of unknown construction, but judging from Andrew Lackey's inventory it included an entryway, parlor, "little back room," "common room," kitchen, and two rooms over the parlor and common room. This description describes a building much larger and more substantial than that indicated at the Lewis-E Site. Lackey's estate was substantial (valued at £451 in 1788) and he owned eight slaves, of which one named Moses was manumitted at Lackey's death. The exact location of the structure described by Lackey's 1788 inventory is not known but appears to be at or near the site of K-2070 approximately 2900 feet to the east of the Lewis-E Site.

Andrew Lackey (the Younger) died shortly after his father and the land passed to Gustave Wilson. In 1797 Gustave Wilson, still a minor, was assessed for two thirds (138 acres) of the 208 acre parcel. The remaining 170 acres of the original 337 acre tract was in the hands of Mary Wilson and Ann Wills. In 1797 the 208 acre Lackey-Wilson farm consisted of 120 acres of cleared land and 83 acres of swamp and woodland. At least two dwellings are indicated on the property: one "tolerable wooden" house in the tenure of Benjamin Winn and another such house in the tenure of a widow, Rachel Chicken. Rachel Chicken was also the widow of both William Strickland and Thomas Cahoon and at one time occupied the Mannee-Cahoon Site (7K-A-117, K-6446) near Smyrna. One of these houses appears to have been the seven room house in which Andrew Lackey lived and which is described in his 1788 inventory.

The two adjacent 85 acre parcels, the remaining 170 acres of the original 337 acre Lackey tract, also contained houses in

1797. The 85 acre farm of Mary Wilson, the mother of Gustave Wilson, contained three log houses. These houses were in the tenure of William Bennett, Moses Simmons, a black man, and Stephen Sparkman, a mulatto. Ann Will's 85 acre farm is not listed in the 1797 census, but probably still had a tenant house on the property.

The Lewis-E Site appears to be one of five wooden tenant houses described in the Andrew Lackey's 1778 will and the 1797 tax list. At least one of these structures is the house and dates to at least 1765 when Andrew Lackey (the Elder) purchased the property. This same structure is probably the substantial, seven room house where in Lackey lived at the time of his 1788 inventory. This structure is probably located at the site of K-2070 and is not the Lewis-E Site.

The Lewis-E Site is probably the remains of one of the four wooden tenant structures on either one of the two 85 acre farms or the 208 Gustave Wilson farm. No historic maps showing the division of the 337 farm into the three parcels or the location of any of the five houses on the property has been located. Furthermore, Gustave Wilson eventually inherits parts of all three parcels obscuring any subsequent deed references to the Lewis-E Site. Seven different eighteenth century tenants are known for the Lackey property: Benjamin Winn on Gustave Wilson's 208 acres; Charles Chadwick on Ann Will's 85 acres; and William Bennett, Moses Simmons, and Stephen Sparkman on Mary Wilson's 85 acres.

Few diagnostic nineteenth century ceramics have been found at the Lewis-E Site and the site does not appear to have been

occupied into the nineteenth century. No structure is listed in the 1803 assessment of Gustave Wilson. By 1803, Wilson was 23 years old and had claimed his two-thirds share of his grandfather's 208 acre parcel. By 1810 Gustave received a portion of the widow's remaining third as he was assessed for 198 acres of land. Wilson's farm included one "old farm house in bad repair." This house is probably not the Lewis-E Site and was probably K-2070 located on the adjoining widow's portion he obtained after 1803.

Gustave Wilson formally received his mother's 85 acres in 1840, but was paying taxes on both of their lands as early as 1822. In that year Wilson was assessed for 281 acres of land worth $15 dollars an acre, a rate almost double that of the $7 rate used in 1803 and the $8 per acre rate of 1810. Part of this increase may have been due to improved structures on the farm--the 1822 tax list describes a "frame dwelling, log stables and c." in the tenure of a tenant named Shaw. This house described in 1822 appears to be K-2070. It is likely that Wilson himself was also living on the property with Shaw as a number of livestock, silver plate, and one 21 year old male slave that Wilson owned as well as his own personal tax were also included in the assessment.

Gustave Wilson owned the 180 acre Lewis-E Site parcel until his death sometime between 1850 and 1852. After his death, the Kent County Orphan's Court awarded the parcel to his son Henry L. Wilson in 1852 when he turned 16 years of age. It was Henry L. Wilson who subsequently built the small tenant house comprising

the nearby H. Wilson-Lewis Tenant Farm Site. The subsequent history of the parcel after 1852 is summarized in the site history of the H. Wilson-Lewis Tenant Farm Site and Table 8.

Phase I Survey Results

The Phase I survey of the site conducted in November 1987 initially identified the site as a prehistoric site on the basis of three fire-cracked rock fragments, two cryptocrystalline flakes, and one black chert stemmed point basal fragment. A total of 23 shovel tests were excavated in the Phase I survey. Eighteen of these 23 shovel tests, however, also contained historic artifacts, including redwares, coal, and brick fragments. Further sub-surface testing during Phase II testing found little additional evidence of a prehistoric occupation, but identified significant concentrations of historic artifacts missed by Phase I testing. Thus, although the Lewis-E Site was initially identified as a prehistoric site, the primary occupation of the site is historic and Phase II testing was conducted as if the site was historic. No prehistoric features were identified by Phase I or II testing.

Phase II Survey Results

Phase II testing identified the limits of the site and located two intact sub-surface historic features. The limits of the site were determined by shovel tests excavated along a ten meter grid. Shovel tests were excavated in all directions from the core of the site until artifact densities fell below one artifact per shovel test.

Phase II testing also identified two distinct areas within the site on the basis of artifact density and the presence of sub-surface features. The location of these two areas in relation to the proposed right-of-way is shown in Figure 57. The total artifact density used to define the areas is also shown in Figure 57.

Area I consists of the core of the site and contains both of the intact historic features identified at the site. The location of these features, Features 2 and 4, is shown in Figure 59. Area I also consists of the core of the domestic areas of the site. Area I contains not only the area of greatest total artifact density (greater than 10 artifacts per shovel test pit), but also the greatest densities of historic ceramics, bottle glass, glass tableware, and other domestically-related artifacts (Figure 59). Similarly, Area I also contained the greatest density of brick fragments, nails, window glass, and other structurally-related artifacts (Figure 60).

Area II consists of a large area of low artifact density surrounding Area I (Figure 57). Artifact density in this area was less than five artifacts per shovel test. No historic features or concentrations of historic artifacts were located in this area.

Phase II testing consisted of the excavation of a total of 113 shovel test pits and 31 1 x 1 meter test units. Most of the test units (18) were excavated in area I. In addition, trenches through the plowzone were excavated in Area I to define the limits of features identified during test unit excavation. All of the soils excavated during trenching were screened.

FIGURE 59

Lewis-E Site, Location of Features 1-4 and the Distribution of Historic Ceramics and Domestically Related Artifacts

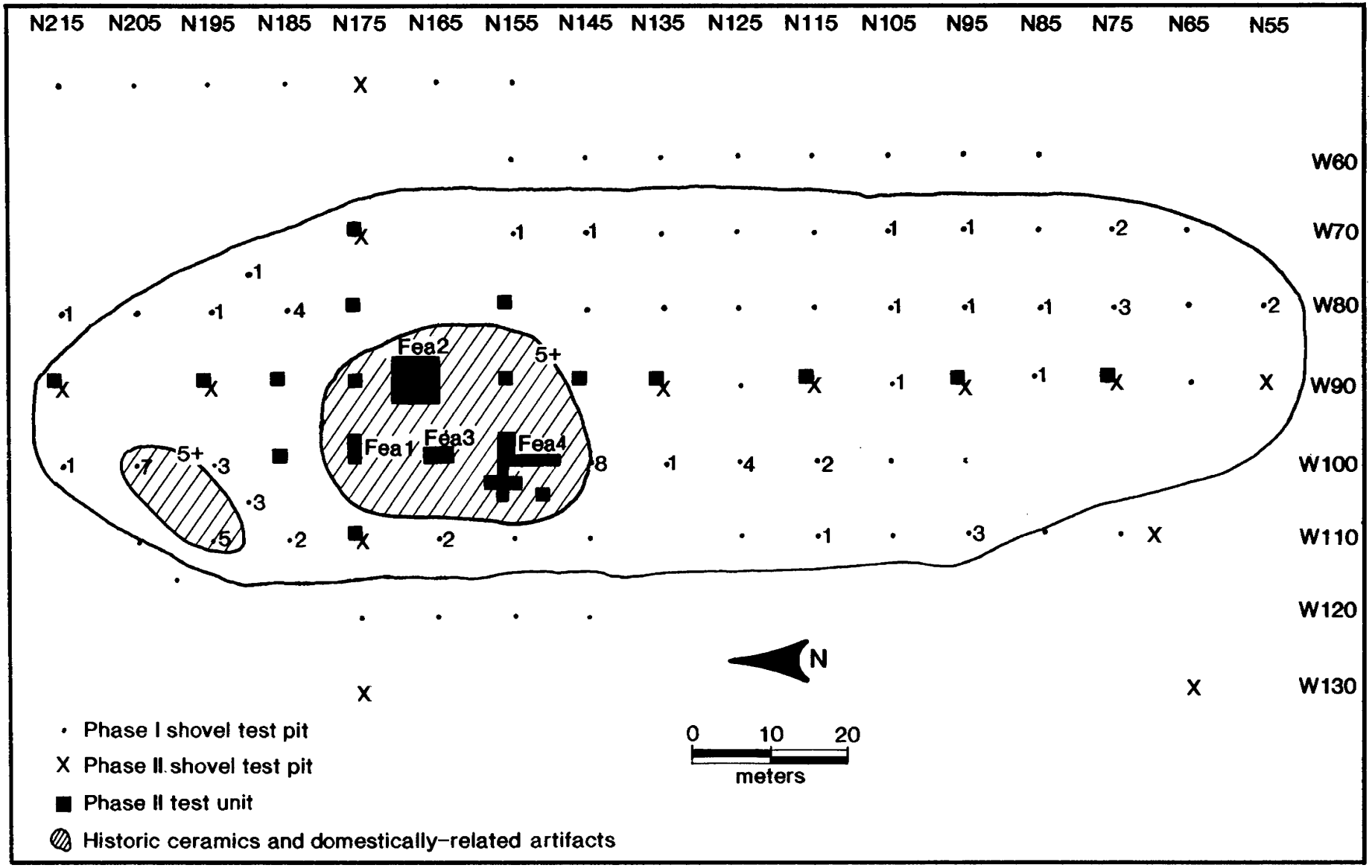
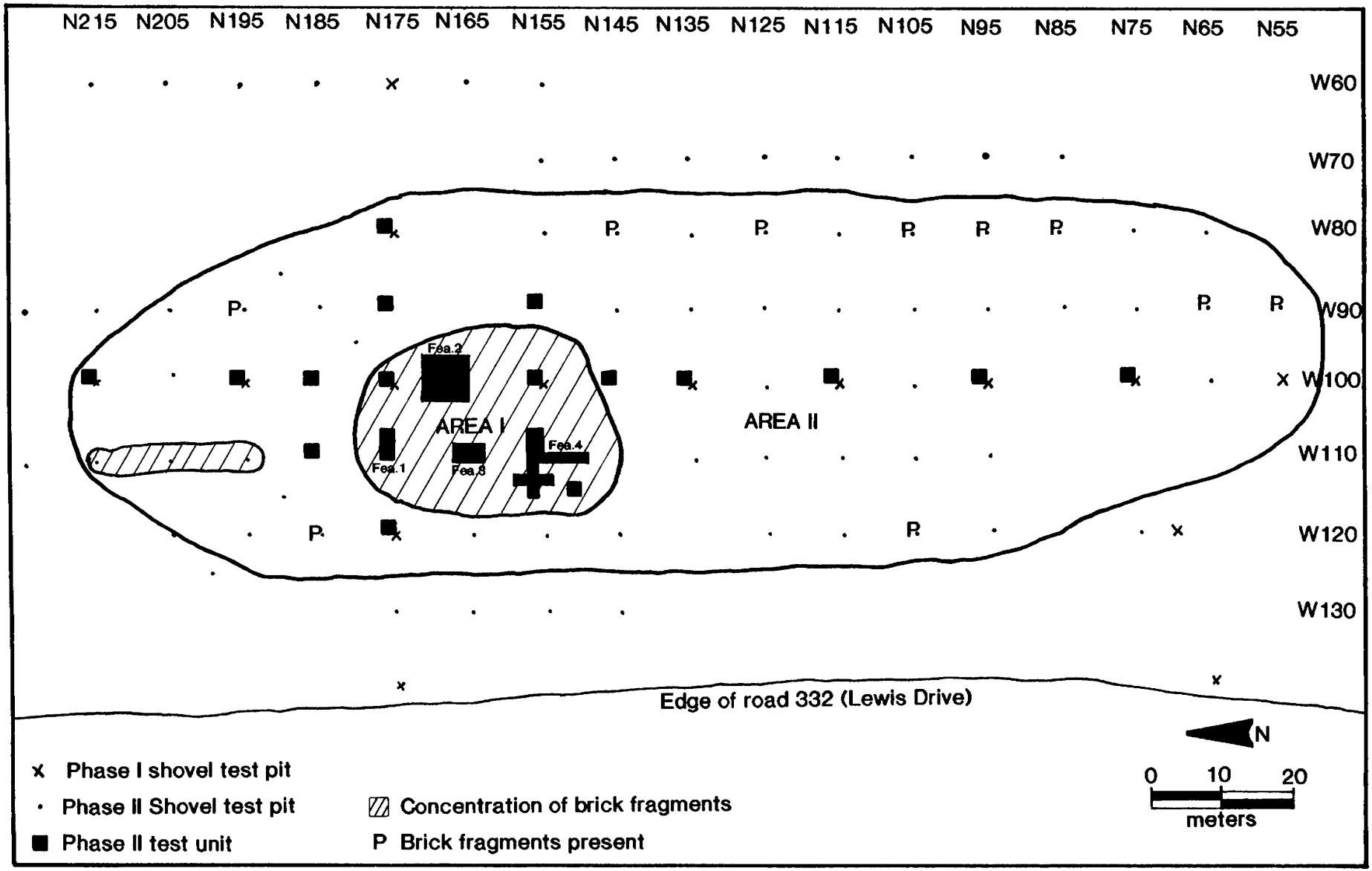


FIGURE 60

Lewis-E Site, Distribution of Brick and Architecturally Related Artifacts



A total of four subsurface features were identified by Phase II testing. Two of the features, Features 1 and 3, proved to be non-cultural. Features 2 and 4, however, proved to be intact historic features. Feature 2, first located in Test Unit N165W100 (Figure 59), has been identified as the remains of a well. Feature 2 is approximately 7.5' in diameter. The plowzone from eight additional contiguous test units was then excavated and Feature 2 entirely exposed.

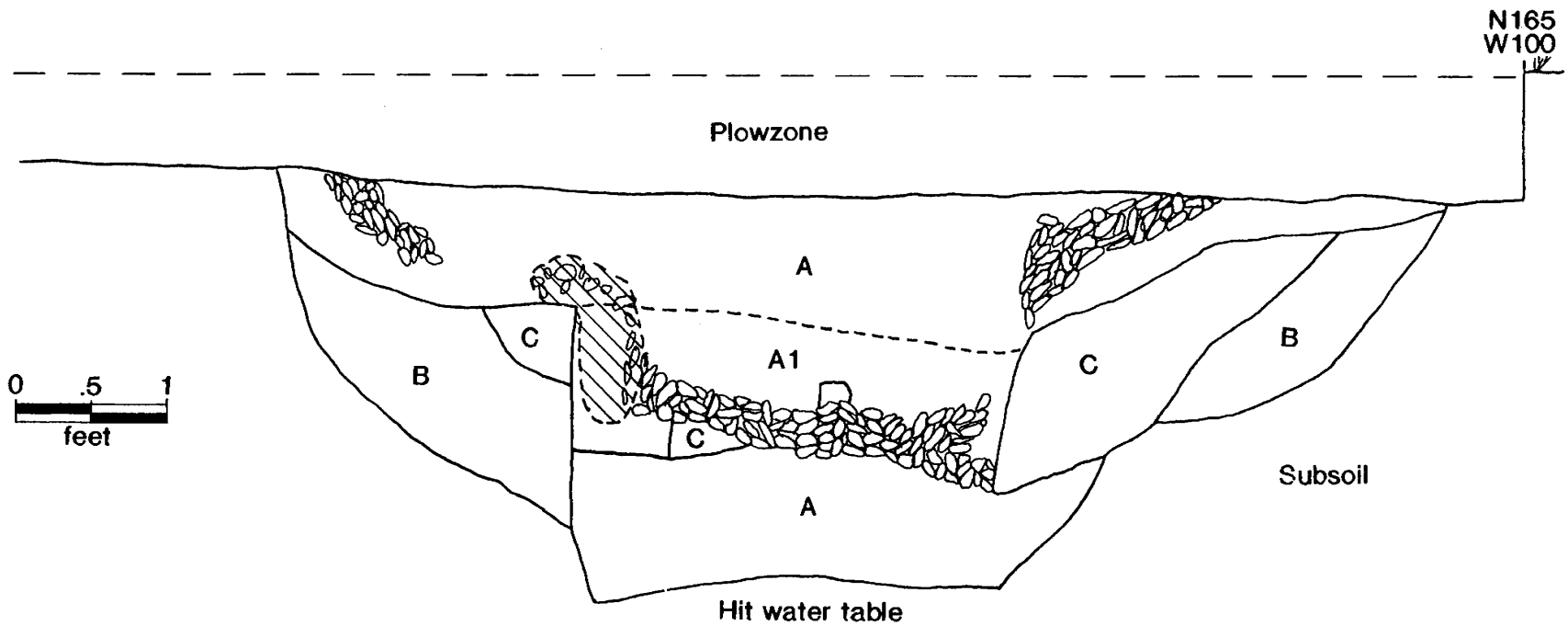
Numerous whole oyster shells and fragments of redwares, bricks, animal bone and charcoal were visible in the surface of Feature 2. The artifacts were located within a distinctive dark brown (10YR 3/3) sandy loam feature fill. This artifact-bearing feature fill appeared to be undisturbed and the subsequent excavation of the western half of Feature 2 determined that the feature was intact. No prehistoric artifacts were recovered from Feature 2.

The western half of Feature 2 was excavated by hand according to the natural stratigraphy of the feature. Arbitrary 10 centimeter levels were then excavated within each of the four natural strata encountered. The western half of Feature 2 was excavated to a depth of 3.5 feet below ground surface where the water table was encountered.

A profile of the east wall of Feature 2 is shown in Figure 61. The homogeneous dark brown sandy loam feature fill (Horizon A and A1) seen on the surface of Feature 2 was found to overlie two different intact feature soils (Horizons B and C). Large numbers of oyster shell within Horizon A following the contours

FIGURE 61

Lewis-E Site, Profile of the East Wall of Feature 2



A Homogeneous dark brown (10YR3/3) sandy loam

Al Dark brown (10YR3/3) sandy loam with occasional yellow brown clayey mottlings. Heavy concentrations of oyster shell, charcoal, and brick fragments, numerous historic artifacts.

B Dark brown (10YR3/3) sand loam mottled with yellow brown (10YR5/6) slightly clayey sand. More heavily with the yellow brown clayey sand than c

C Dark brown (10YR3/3) sandy loam mottled with yellow brown (10YR5/6) slightly clayey sand. Heavy concentrations of charcoal, brick mortar, and plaster. Numerous historic artifacts

Shell

Area disturbed by rodents

of Horizons B and C also show the intrusion of the dark brown (10 YR 3/3) sandy loam of Horizon A.

Feature 2, the well, contained three distinct depositional episodes. All of these episodes contained diagnostic mid-to-late eighteenth century artifacts indicating that the site was occupied for a relatively short period. The oldest and deepest deposit is Horizon B (Figure 61). Horizon B, a dark brown sandy loam heavily mottled with yellow brown (10 YR 5/6) clayey sand, is overlain by Horizon C. Horizon C was similar in composition and sand mottlings to Horizon B, but contained heavy concentrations of brick fragments, charcoal, mortar, and plaster. Included in this demolition debris were two fragments of combed, slip-trailed redwares and a small sherd of a scratch-blue white salt-glazed stoneware plate. One of the slip-decorated redwares also had a manganese glaze. Manganese-glazed redwares and scratch-blue decorated stonewares typically date from the second to third quarters of the eighteenth century. One small, unidentifiable animal bone fragment and 18 oyster shells were also recovered from Horizon C in the western half of Feature 2. Horizon B contained comparatively few artifacts and no diagnostic ceramics except for one small redware sherd, were recovered from it.

Horizon A overlies both Horizons B and C (Figure 61). Horizon A was typically a homogeneous dark brown (10 YR 3/3) sandy loam. One small fragment of yellowware, a common mid-nineteenth century ceramic type, was recovered near the surface of Horizon A. The excavated portion of Horizon A contained numerous historic artifacts, most notably over 400 complete

oyster shells in three distinct concentrations visible in the profile of the west wall of the feature. Artifact density increased near the interface with truncated Horizons B and C. This interface, Horizon A1, contained numerous oyster shells, brick fragments, three cut nails, one wrought nail, and 720 grams of charcoal and carbonized wood. These structurally-related artifacts were similar to those excavated from the surrounding undisturbed areas of Horizon C and probably originated in that deposit.

A more precise interpretation of the stratigraphy of Feature 2 is impossible because of rodent disturbance in Horizon A and A1. Rodent disturbance extended through the northern portion of Horizon A1 (Figure 61), but did not extend below the 0.5' thick layer of oyster shell encountered at the bottom of A1 at approximately 2.5 feet below ground surface. Below this layer of oyster shell, Horizon A was found to extend to 3.5 feet below ground surface (2.5 feet below the plowzone) where the water table was encountered and excavation halted. Artifact density, however, declined sharply below the oyster shells along the bottom of Horizon A1, and no historic ceramics or other diagnostic artifacts were recovered below 2.5 feet below ground surface. The potential for deeper deposits of artifacts, however, is high and further excavation of Feature 2 is warranted.

No evidence of well cribbing was identified in Feature 2. The density of brick fragments recovered indicates that at least part of the well was lined with bricks. Such construction is

typical of wells in central Delaware where bricks were used to stabilize the sandy soil near the top of the wells. The oyster shells and eighteenth century artifacts recovered from Horizons A-C indicate that the well was used and then filled with trash and refuse over a relatively short period during the last half of the eighteenth century. The date and the relatively short period of use of Feature 2 is consistent with the known occupation of the site determined by archival evidence.

Feature 4 first appeared in Test Unit N165W100 (Figure 59) as a large soil stain approximately 3.8' long and 3.25' wide. Feature 4 was not completely exposed, but appears to be the remains of a root cellar. No associated structural features such as postmolds or the remains of piers or sills, however, were identified. The feature fill was a dark brown sandy loam with numerous yellow sand mottlings and small brick fragments. The plowzone above Feature 4 yielded a partial white salt-glazed stoneware cup handle and fragments of slip-decorated redwares. Other diagnostic mid-to-late eighteenth century artifacts including fragments of creamwares, scratch-blue stonewares, and molded, handpainted polychrome porcelains were recovered in the plowzone near Feature 4 and throughout Area I.

Area II contains a low density of historic artifacts (less than five artifacts per shovel test). The distribution of brick fragments (Figure 60) and historic ceramics (Figure 59) is the result of simple plow scatter. No evidence of a structure was located although one slight concentration of brick fragments and historic ceramics were identified in three adjacent shovel test pits approximately 10 feet north of Area I (Figures 59 and 60).

Total artifact density for these three shovel test pits, however, remained relatively low at five to nine artifacts per shovel test pit. No historic features were identified by Phase I or II testing in the area. The potential for outbuildings in Area II, however, is significant and further work is recommended. Any further work should include the stripping of the plowzone to identify any features as artifact concentrations with any outbuildings or activity areas are expected to be low.

A total of 3,161 historic artifacts were recovered during Phase II testing at the Lewis-E Site. A summary of all the artifacts recovered at the site is given in Appendix II. Prehistoric artifacts (1.9 kilograms of fire-cracked rock and 39 flakes and non-diagnostic bifaces) accounted for less than 1% of all artifacts recovered. All of the prehistoric artifacts were recovered from disturbed, plowzone contexts.

The majority (36%) of the artifacts recovered were oyster shells and oyster shell fragments found in Area I in Feature 2. Window glass, nails, nail fragments, brick fragments and other architecturally-related artifacts accounted for 29% of all artifacts recovered. Historic ceramics accounted for a slightly larger percentage (31%) of all artifacts. Almost all (92%) of the diagnostic nails and nail fragments recovered were cut rather than wrought nails.

Late eighteenth century creamwares were the single most common diagnostic historic ceramic recovered at the Lewis-E Site. Almost two thirds (65%) of the 964 total historic ceramic sherds recovered were relatively non-diagnostic locally-produced

utilitarian redwares. In addition, almost all of the ceramics recovered from the site were small and heavily plow-damaged. Paste and glaze were often the only identifying features and little distinction between decoration, vessel form, and rim design was possible.

Of the 337 total diagnostic ceramic sherds identified, creamwares were the most common ceramic type. Undecorated creamwares (mean ceramic date 1791) accounted for 59% (N=198) of all diagnostic ceramics. Tin-glazed earthenwares and porcelains accounted for 6% of all diagnostic ceramics. Pearlwares (mean ceramic date of 1810) constituted 15% of all diagnostic historic ceramics recovered. Whitewares, yellowwares, and ironstones accounted for 9%, 4%, and 1% respectively of all diagnostic ceramics.

The sharp decrease in the percentage of pearlwares and in particular later nineteenth century whitewares and yellowwares is consistent with the end of occupation of the site by ca. 1810 indicated by archival research. The predominance of creamwares, including king's pattern rim fragments (mean ceramic date 1791) from undisturbed levels of the well Feature 2, is consistent with the known occupation of the site in the second and third quarters of the eighteenth century. Similarly, the overall mean ceramic date based on the sample of 337 diagnostic, non-redware artifacts for the Lewis-E Site is 1802.2. The mean ceramic date for the site including redwares (N=964, mean ceramic date 1800) is 1800.7. Both of these mean ceramic dates is consistent with the known occupation of the site.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Phase II archival research and archaeological testing has identified the Lewis-E Site as a small agricultural tenancy occupied during the third and fourth quarters of the eighteenth century. The site is the remains of one of five wooden, most likely log, tenant houses located on one of three parcels on Andrew Lackey's 337 acre farm. All of the site has been plowed, but historic artifacts were recovered from undisturbed contexts and intact subsurface historic features were located. These historic features contained historic artifacts.

Two distinct areas of the site were identified by Phase II testing. Area I consists of the core of the site and is the primary locus of domestic activity. All of the historic features identified at the site were located in Area I. Two historic features were identified: Feature 2, the remains of a well containing late-eighteenth century domestic and structural debris, and Feature 4, a small root cellar probably associated with a small outbuilding. With the exception of Feature 4, no evidence of structures were identified.

Area II consists of a large area of low artifact density. No historic features were identified in this area by Phase II testing. This area, however, has the potential for intact artifact-bearing deposits, particularly refuse pits, yard scatter deposits, and the remains of ancillary outbuildings.

The presence of intact subsurface features, undisturbed artifact bearing strata, and the association of the site with an eighteenth tenancy led to the determination that the site is eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic

Places. The applicable criterion is Criterion D--the site has yielded, and is likely to yield, further information important in history. Thus, avoidance is the recommended mitigation alternative. Should avoidance prove impossible due to the direct and indirect impacts of proposed construction, then data recovery would be the suggested alternative.

Recommended data recovery operations would concentrate on the excavation of Area I, the area of highest artifact density and the primary locus of domestic activity. Data recovery operations would concentrate on the identification of further intact land surfaces, additional subsurface features, and intact artifact deposits, including the complete excavation of Feature 2. The level of effort of excavation of any portion, or all of, Area II would be less than Area I.

H. WILSON-LEWIS TENANT FARM SITE

The H. Wilson-Lewis Tenant Farm Site (K-6414, 7K-C-375) is located in a plowed field northeast of Dover along the north side of Lewis Drive (Kent 332) (Figure 56). The site is approximately 800' north of the Lewis-E Site (K-6385, 7K-C-362). The entire site is located within the proposed right-of-way. The H. Wilson-Lewis Tenant Farm Site was first located on Byles' 1859 Atlas where the site appears as a structure associated with "H. Wilson" just north of the boundary of Little Creek and Dover hundreds (Figure 62). On Beers' 1868 Atlas, the structure appears with the same name. Further archival research identified the site as an early to late nineteenth century tenant and owner occupied farm complex.