

PHASE I SURVEY

Background Research and Methodology

The initial steps of the survey included a search of published literature and site records to determine if known prehistoric and historic sites were located in the project area. Historic maps were also examined for indications of the locations of standing structures or historic archeological remains. The only known prehistoric find was reported in Thomas' 1980 survey, discussed previously.

In order to determine the potential for finding historic sites in the project area, it was necessary to superimpose the New Churchman's Road right-of-way as constructed in 1953, onto the older maps. Rea & Price's 1849 Map of New Castle County (Map 3) indicates that Routes 4 and 7 have followed their present courses since at least that time, and shows three sites as having the potential of lying in the proposed right-of-way: "J. Alrichs" and "R. Hawthorn" along Rt. 4 and "Hawthorn" along Rt. 7. Beers' 1868 Atlas of New Castle County (Map 4) shows three sites as having the potential for lying in the later New Churchman's Road right-of-way: "Mrs. Alrich" and "R. Hawthorn" along Rt. 4 and "W. M. Hawthorn" along Rt. 7. Baist's 1893 Atlas (Map 5) shows sites in similar positions "Jas. Morrison", "T. Hawthorn" and "A. Naudain". Thus, it was felt that there was strong potential for locating historic archeological remains in the proposed right-of-way.

For management efficiency, the New Churchman's Road alignment was divided into four areas on the basis of natural and cultural features (Map 6). Area "A" is comprised of an upland ridge top and slope extending southeastward from Route 4 to an unnamed, intermittent tributary to the White Clay Creek. Area "B" extends from the southeastern margin of area "A" to a power line right-of-way and is comprised of agricultural fields, poorly drained areas, and dense woodlots. Area "C" lies between the power line and a treeline and consists of vacant land and cultivated fields. Area "D" extends from the southeastern margin of area "C" to

the eastern terminus of the project area, and is composed of developed commercial land on the north side of the road at the eastern end, and forested and fallow areas elsewhere.

A pedestrian reconnaissance of the entire corridor was undertaken to examine all of these areas for extant structural remains and surface artifact deposits, and to determine whether any large scale disturbance of the landscape had occurred. Following the walkover, each area was subjected to subsurface testing to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains. Investigations in area "A" included four 3 ft. by 3 ft. test squares (Test Pit 5 through 8), ten shovel/postholer tests (ST 1 through 10), and two streambank strata cuts (Map 6). Test squares 5 and 7 were located on the southwest side of New Churchman's Road in an upland area in the vicinity of an extant barn (out of right-of-way) where additional structures may have stood. The purpose was to determine the extent and integrity of the historic period occupation of this area. The ten shovel/postholer tests were systematically excavated at sixteen foot intervals in a line southwest of New Churchman's Road. Test squares 6 and 8 and strata cuts 1 and 2 were located on the northeast side of the road and were designed to locate evidence of prehistoric occupation which is suggested by the proximity of this well drained upland to the aforementioned intermittent stream.

Subsurface testing in area "B" consisted of four test units (Test Pits 1 through 4) and 37 shovel/postholer tests (ST 11 through 47), all on the southwest side of the road (Map 6). The test units were located on the top of a knoll, while the shovel/postholer tests were excavated in two lines extending away and downslope from the test pits, at sixteen foot intervals, approximately 40 feet from the road.

Test pits 9 and 10 were the only subsurface excavations conducted in area "C" (Map 6). Both units were located on a low rise and were designed to recover cultural evidence associated with a nearby wetland area.

Excavations in area "D" consisted of four 3 x 3 ft. test squares (TP 11 through 14), 30 shovel/postholer tests (ST 48-77), and the systematic excavation of a circular, brick-lined feature (Maps 7 & 8). All of this testing was done on the south side of the road on a small wooded rise and was designed to test various cultural features discovered during the pedestrian survey.

All test squares and shovel/postholer tests were excavated in 0.4 ft. arbitrary levels within natural stratigraphic levels, and excavation was continued until culturally sterile, pedologically in place soils were encountered. All soil was sifted through 3/8 inch wire mesh screen. Profiles of all test units were drawn and described using both textural and Munsell color descriptions. Photographs were taken of structural features, test units, and the natural setting of the project area. Recovered artifacts were washed and sorted according to type: ceramics, glass, metal, bone, tobacco pipes, flora, and miscellaneous. Artifacts were individually marked with provenience data and bagged according to attributes and provenience information.

Results and Interpretations of Phase I Survey

A high percentage of area "A", "B", and "C" afforded good surface visibility; all were recently plowed or under cultivation at the time the reconnaissance was made. However, the pedestrian survey and the subsurface testing located only 24 artifacts in areas "A", "B", and "C" (22 historic, 2 prehistoric). (See Appendices 1, 2, and 3 for this and all subsequent artifact counts). No concentrations of artifacts were found, either surface or subsurface. Of the 24 artifacts, 11 were found on the surface and the other 13 in the plow zones of the various test units (Figs. 1, 2, & 3). One of the two prehistoric artifacts was a broken quartz projectile point of the Woodland Period found in the plow zone of Test Pit 1, area "B". The excavation did not reveal any buried horizons or other soil anomalies which might have indicated the presence of buried cultural deposits. No historic features were located within

the right-of-way in areas "A", "B", and "C". Thus, further testing of these three areas was deemed unnecessary.

In area "D", the pedestrian survey revealed a stone springhouse on the north side of the road just out of the right-of-way. This structure, abandoned and in a state of disrepair, was cleared of vegetation, measured, sketched, and photographed. On the south side of the road, opposite the springhouse, several historic features were visible in the proposed right-of-way or within 50 feet of it. A circular, brick-lined subsurface feature approximately 38 inches in diameter was tentatively identified as a well. Thirty feet to the southwest a rubble pile containing brick, mortar, window glass, and asphalt shingles was found and thought to be the remains of a structure. Thirty feet to the west of the rubble pile lay a small, raised area with a surface scatter of with 19th-century ceramics and glass. A three-sided, 20 ft. by 40 ft. cement block foundation was located approximately 100 feet southeast of the rubble pile and approximately 75 feet south of the right-of-way. In addition, a circular brick foundation was found about 300 feet south of the rubble pile or well out of the right-of-way. Due to its distance from the right-of-way, this last feature was not investigated.

The circular brick-lined feature, the rubble pile, and the 19th-century artifact surface scatter were all located within an area approximately 85 ft. by 85 ft., and preliminary analysis suggested that these features might represent the remains of a dwelling or farmstead, probably the "W. M. Hawthorn" shown on the 1868 Beers Atlas (Map 4) referred to above. The cement block foundation to the southeast was thought to be a utility building associated with the farmstead.

Phase I subsurface testing in area "D" included the excavation of Test Pits 11 through 14, shovel/postholer tests (ST) 48 to 76, and the removal of the contents of the circular, brick-lined feature (Map 6, 7, & 8). Test pits 11 and 12, 3 ft. by 3 ft. squares, were placed in the rubble pile thought to be a former dwelling. Test Pit

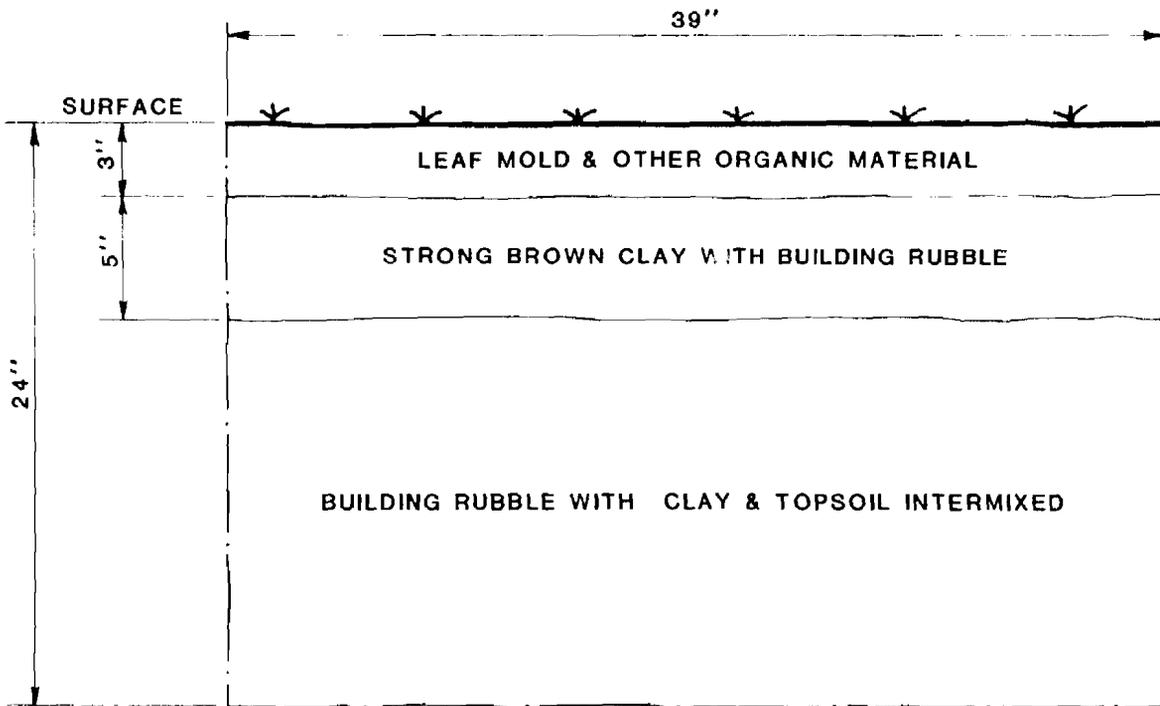
11 (Fig. 4) was located near the west edge of the rubble pile. Excavated material included 19th- and 20th-century ceramics, table glassware, several household tools, door hinge and hook fragments, nails, window glass, 19th- and 20th-century bottle and storage glass fragments, and asbestos shingle fragments. Test Pit 12 was placed approximately 30 feet northeast of Test Pit 11 and contained similar artifacts although in much different proportions. Test Pit 12 contained far less bottle and storage glass and greater numbers of nails than Test Pit 11. This suggests that Test Pit 11 may have been located in the kitchen/food storage area of the house.

Test Pit 13 (Fig. 5) was excavated in the center of a circular mound of earth in an area where 19th-century artifacts had been found on the surface. A total of 189 artifacts were taken from the upper 15 inches of this 39-inch-deep unit. Although eleven sherds of pearlware (1780-1830) were included in this amount, the presence of whiteware, late 19th-century bottle glass, and cut and wire nails indicates that the use of this feature continued into the 1890s. Most likely it was a trash dump for the inhabitants of the dwelling. Test Pit 14 was located approximately 30 feet to the northwest of Test Pit 13 and yielded a total of only 8 artifacts, mostly glass and ceramics. The results were inconclusive.

The brick-lined circular structure tentatively identified as a well was completely excavated, with a total of 92 artifacts being recovered from all levels of the fill (Fig. 6). The brick lining extended to a depth of 41 inches below the surface where a 1-inch thick layer of plaster or sheetrock was encountered. Porous yellow sand extended to a depth of 78 inches below the surface and was devoid of cultural material. At 12 inches below the surface an Orangeburg asbestos drainfield pipe (J. Marsett, pers. comm. 1981) protruded through the southwest side of the bricks and was oriented towards the rubble pile less than 40 feet away. This

FIGURE 4

AREA "D" - TEST PIT 11 NORTH WALL PROFILE



NOTE: ARTIFACTS WERE RECOVERED THROUGHOUT & A STERILE LAYER WAS NOT REACHED



FIGURE 5

AREA "D" - TEST PIT 13 NORTH WALL PROFILE

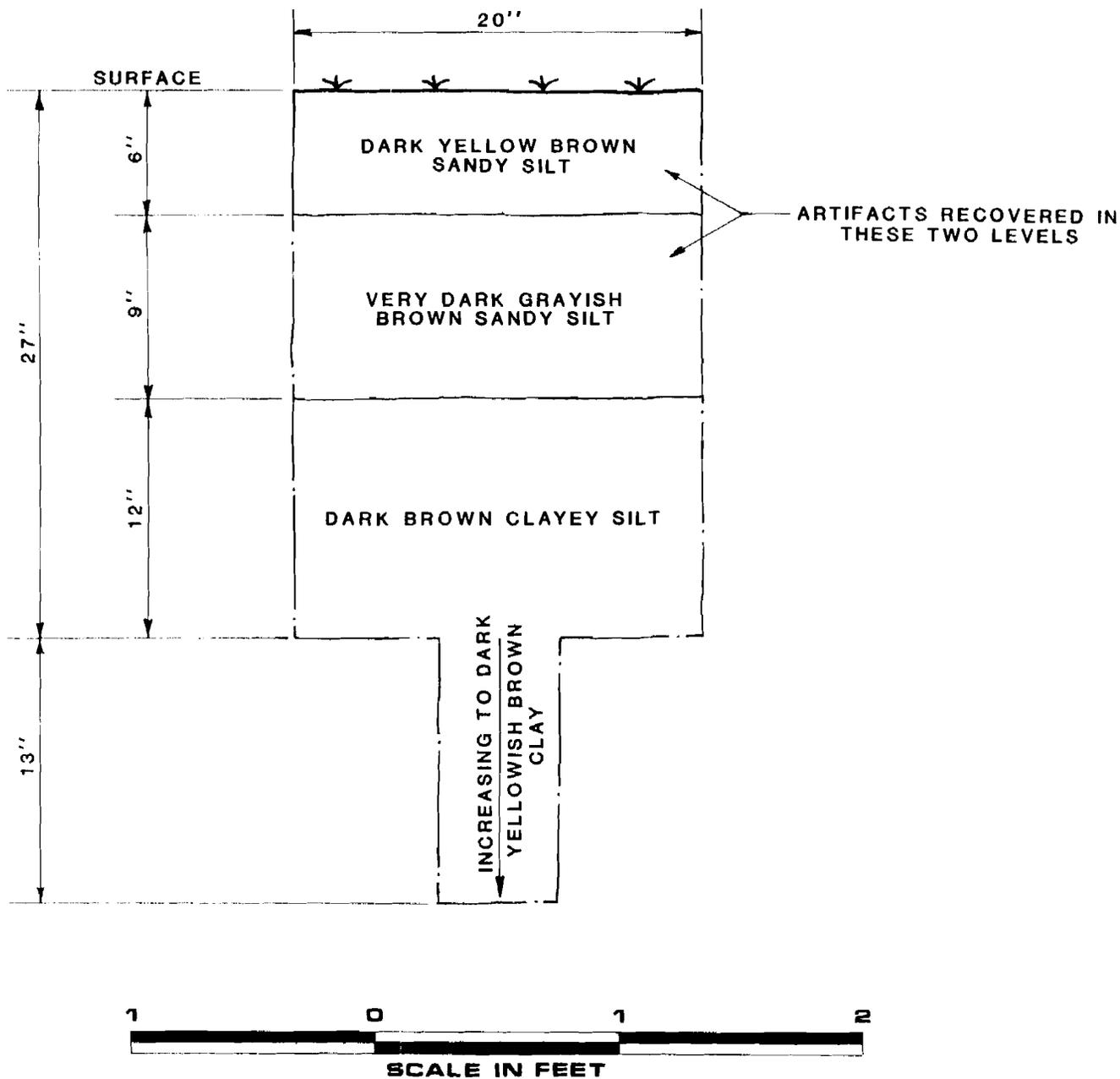
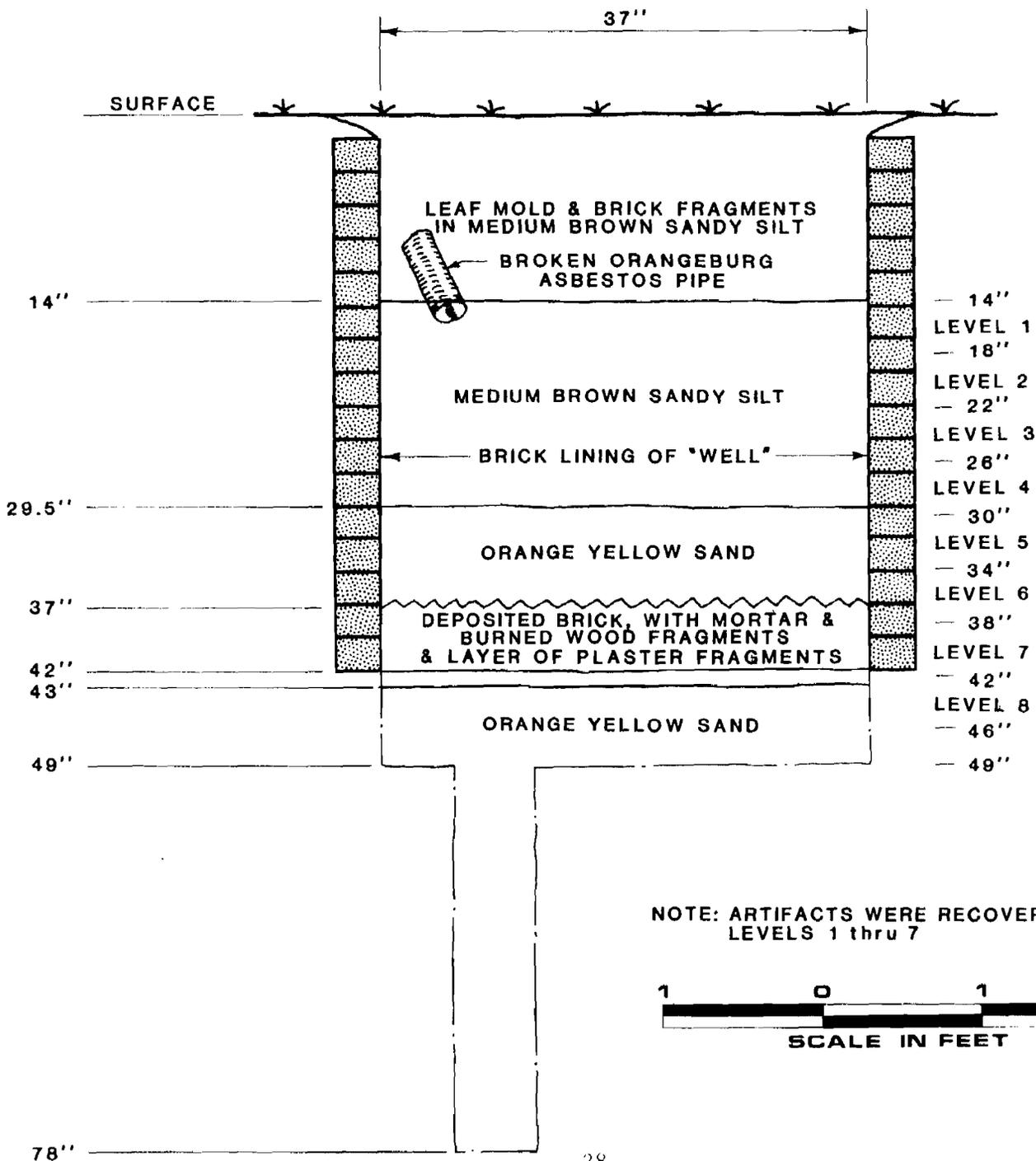


FIGURE 6

CROSS SECTION/PROFILE (LOOKING NORTH) DRAIN EXCAVATION - AREA "D"



brick feature was subsequently interpreted as a 19th-century drain which was filled sometime in the 20th century with building demolition rubble.

To better ascertain the nature and limits of the historic deposits, 30 shovel/postholer tests (ST) were laid out in a grid at 10 foot intervals (Maps 7 & 8, Fig. 7). The grid was positioned so as to cover the rubble pile and its immediate surroundings and to search for other subsurface features associated with the rubble pile. The postholer tests yielded a scatter of predominantly post-1830 artifacts, including redware, whiteware, porcelain, clear bottle glass, cut and wire nails, window glass, and asbestos shingle tile fragments. Occasional pearlware sherds were encountered, but these were far outnumbered by the later 19th-century materials.

Three subsurface historic features were located during the excavation of the postholer test grid. A rubble and mortar feature was found by ST 76 at a depth of just 3 inches below the surface. No associated artifacts were found in the test unit and the age and context of the feature remained undetermined. ST 63 located a stone foundation (Fig. 4) directly beneath the humus zone and the top of this feature was followed for several feet in either direction. It eventually was revealed to form an "L" shape, 8 feet long on one side and 16 feet on the other. ST 57 located a layer of mortar about 6 inches below the surface. Artifacts recovered from the excavated soil included mid- to late 19th-century ceramics, glass, cut nails, and a horseshoe fragment.

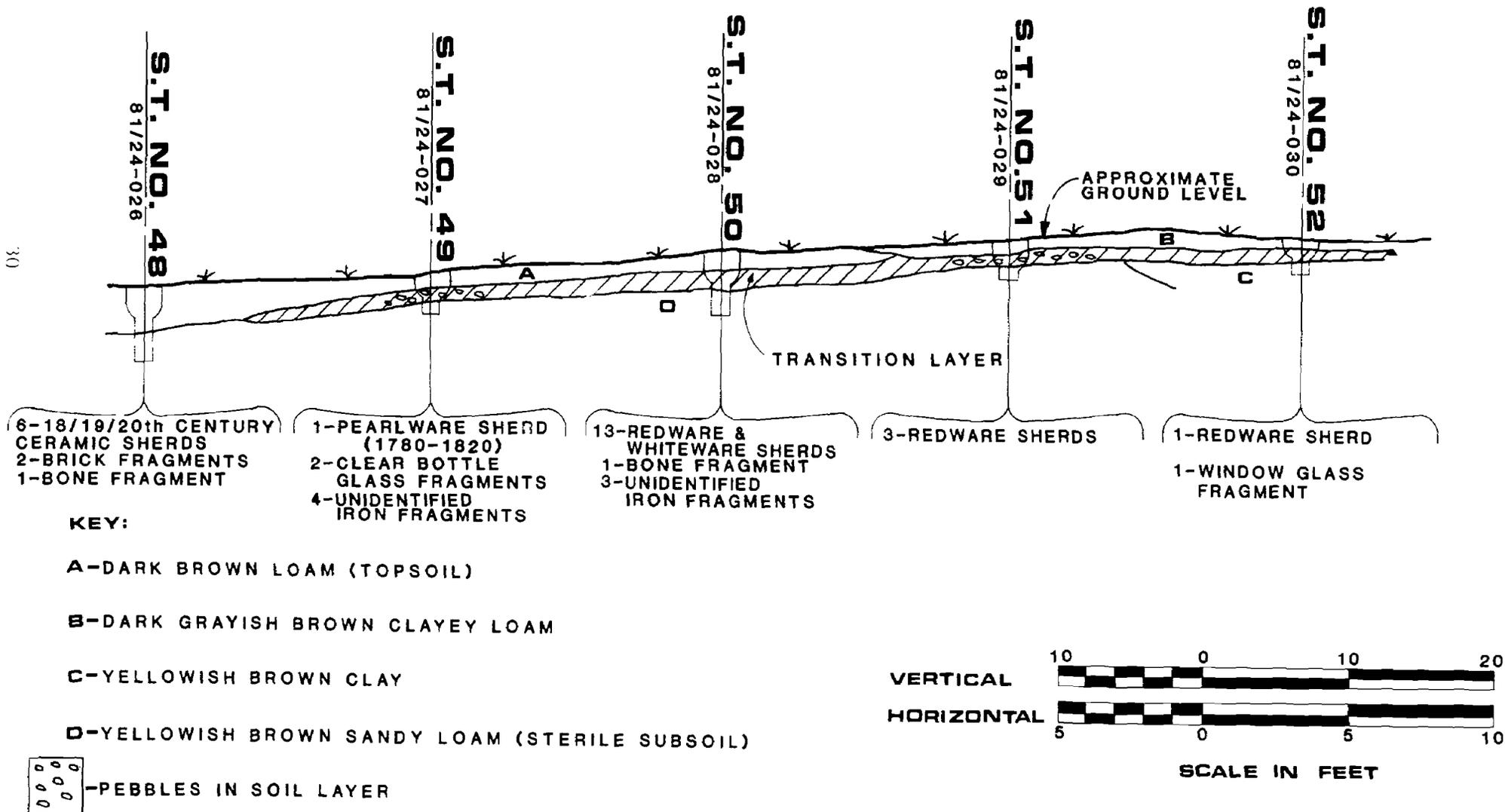
Conclusions of Phase I Survey

The Phase I survey of the New Churchman's Road reconstruction project provided information on the presence and location of cultural resources within the proposed right-of-way. Of the four geographically defined areas of investigation, "A", "B", and "C" were found to be devoid of substantial surface and subsurface cultural resources and no further testing is recommended for those areas. Area

FIGURE 7

PROFILE OF EAST - WEST LINE OF EXCAVATIONS, AREA "D"

SHOWING HYPOTHESIZED NATURAL STRATIGRAPHY AS DEVELOPED
FROM SHOVEL TEST NUMBERS 48 - 52 (81/24-026 to 030)



"D" yielded surface and subsurface historic features and artifacts which suggested the presence of a 19th- and 20th-century farmstead with outbuildings. A Phase II survey to determine the horizontal and vertical extent, chronology, integrity, significance and National Register eligibility of the site was recommended for the historic resources located in area "D". The results of these investigations are described below.