6. PHASE I FIELD INVESTIGATIONS

PREVIOUS WORK in the immediate vicinity of the project area has included several surveys by the University of Delaware Center for Archæological Research, as well as the present author's earlier work on other proposed alignments of Denney's Road. Only one recorded survey has been executed in the actual area of the current project, and it was limited in scope.

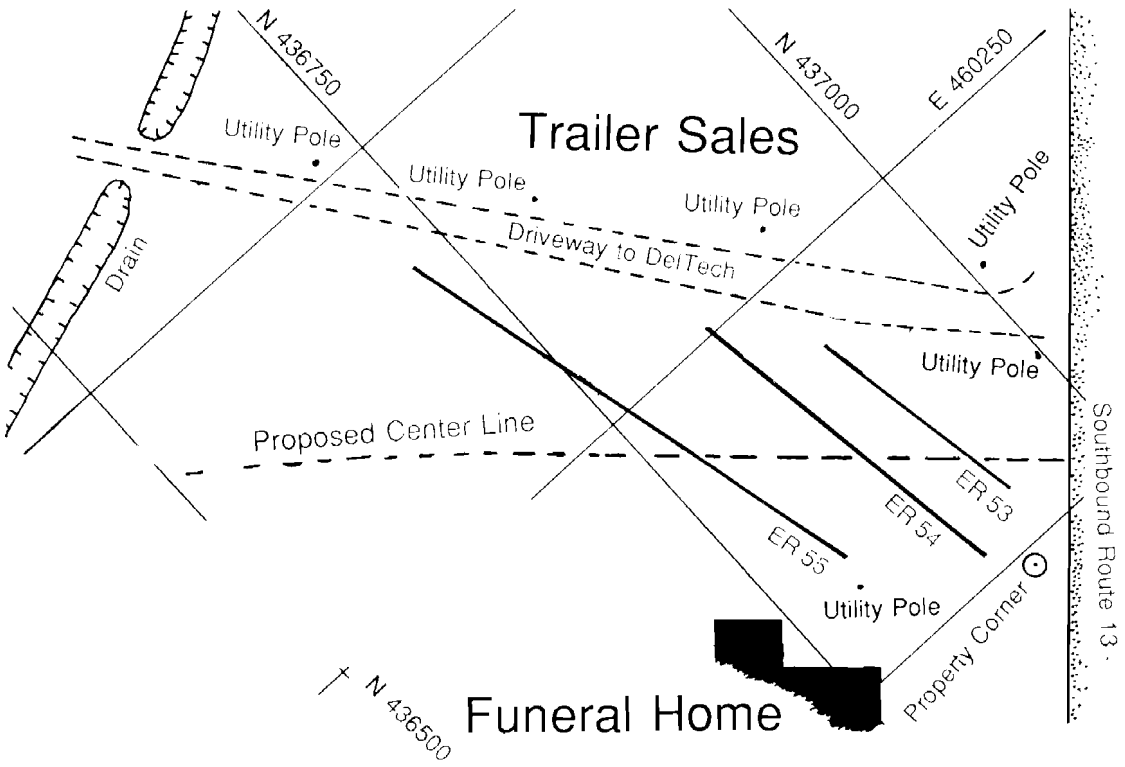
Since much of the Ford farm is under cultivation, it was possible to cover some of the likeliest sites by fieldwalking. Edward Voshell, who works the farm, cooperated in the project. On the DelTech side, the test areas are in old-field succession and under the athletic field. John Donato, the college physical plant supervisor, arranged for mowing part of the property.

Collections were catalogued according to the Excavation Register (ER) system, in which each unit bears a whole number and each layer is lettered (Noël Hume 1969:89). A "unit," for purposes of the excavation register, may be a square or a surface collection, or any other group of artifacts with a definable provenience. These excavation register numbers, with a prefix (90.23.) assigned by the Curator of Archæology, become the Island Field accession number, allowing direct reference to artifacts from the site without reference to any intermediate catalogue.

Figure 11
Sample of the Excavation Register

Excavation Register Number	*Site Name, CRS Number and Site Number*	*Description of the unit and soil type symbol*	*List of Artifacts Recovered*
2	White Marsh K-6455 7K-C-390	Three-foot square test 17 feet south of ER 1, revealed subsurface marks that are evidently moldboard plow scars. SaB	1 pitted stone 1 chunk white quartz 1 flint cortex flake, <2 cm.
56	Athletic Field K 6453 7K-C-388	Machine-cut east-west test trench across the athletic field north of the basketball courts, 155 feet from the beginning stake to the end at the zero point on ER 57. A paved walkway separates ER 56 from ER 57 SaA	No artifacts
63	Beiser Site 7K - C -391 K-6485	Level 1 (plowzone, 0 to 20 cm below surface) of unit located southeast of centerline stake #8 + 50, on east slope of ridge.	1 jasper flake, <2 cm 1 clear glass fragment
63a	Beiser Site 7K - C -391 K-6485	Level 2 (20 to 40 cm below surface) of unit located southeast of centerline stake #8 + 50, on east slope of ridge. Bottom of level corresponds to top of C horizon.	No artifacts

Figure 12
Locations of machine-cut trenches in trailer sales area
(Details of the trenches are mapped in the discussion of agricultural features)



TESTS AT TRAILER SALES SITE (7K-C-392)

The easternmost end of the project area has been part of the College property since the campus was established. It serves as a rear entrance and a right-of-way for utilities. Until the fall of 1990, it was also occupied as part of the adjacent trailer sales lot.

Near the highway, the lot is mapped as Sassafras, even though it is heavy with clay.

A house is shown on the 1828 plot (FIGURE 7) in the approximate location of the Larry's Homes office. This house, identified as the Boyer residence, would have stood on a slight ridge east of Simon's Savannah. The current right-of-way is situated on the same tract. Since the northbound lane of the modern Route 13 is the original state road, a considerable amount of frontage has been removed from this site to create the widened roadway.

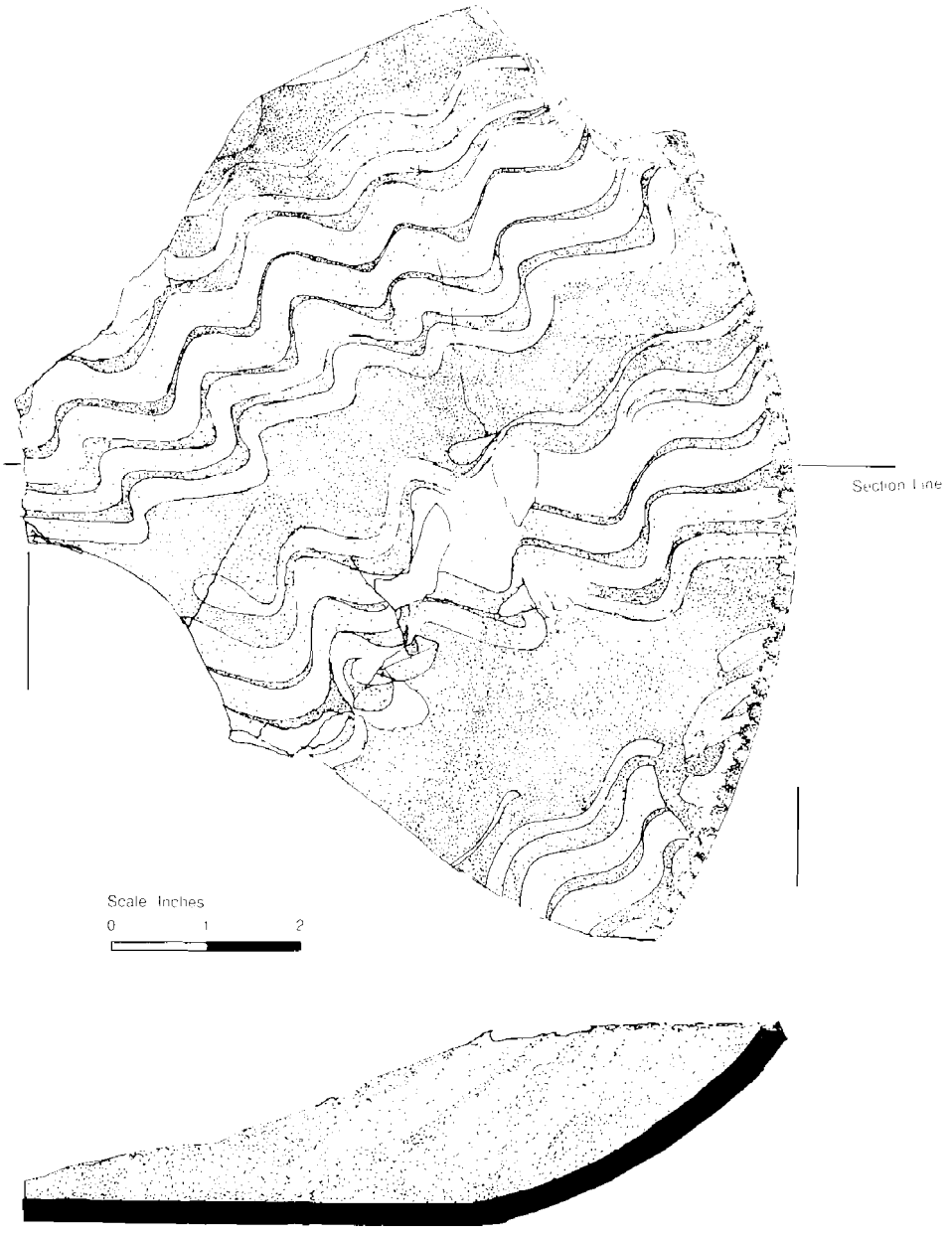
Three trenches were cut through this area with a Gradall, and numbered ER 53, 54, 55. The trenches were located to cross the centerline and cover most of the well-drained soil, as mapped (FIGURE 3). The trenches were cut to the bottom of the plowzone (FIGURE 12).

In the west end of the last trench, the soil changed to a grey color characteristic of wetlands. The only well-drained portion was the area at the east side, near the highway.

The three trenches were recorded by measuring along an arbitrary baseline, east to west. Detailed diagrams of the trenches will be found in the chapter on archæology of agriculture, below, pages 84-87.

Figure 13

Slip-decorated bowl from a ditch in the Trailer Sales area, ER 53 B



The first, and most significant, cultural remains were two ditches, encountered in ER 53 and ER 54, parallel to the modern highway. The only dating evidence for these ditches is an artifact found in the top of the fill of the eastern ditch (ER 53b), that may date from the early nineteenth century.

This slip-decorated red earthenware bowl (FIGURE 13, PREVIOUS PAGE) was found in the uppermost fill of the ditch, immediately under the plowzone. It was struck by the Gradall blade during the stripping and was later hand excavated. All the sherds were lying face-down in a small area, some overlapping, in the brown soil. No other sherds of this bowl were found in the excavation, nor was any other trash that might have come from the same deposit.

A single basal sherd of a free-blown cylindrical green beverage bottle was found in the spoil nearby, but there were no other early artifacts in the entire trailer sale area.

The most reasonable expanation for this deposit is a children's game of some sort, deposited after the trench had been abandoned but before its outline was destroyed by later activities. The child evidently took some sherds of a bowl and for some childish reason interred them in the ditchline.

The bowl shows no wear marks, and its glaze is incomplete, indicating that it may have been a waster or a decorative piece, possibly from a local potter. It was made no later than the early nineteenth century and could be earlier.

Plate 6
Drainage ditch, ER 53b, exposed and sectioned.
The stick is graduated in ten-centimeter intervals

The ditches were hand-dug, and were filled with dense silt. In the eastern ditch, distinct layering of sediments was apparent, indicating that water stood in the ditch.

Other features uncovered in the trenching included stump holes, round postmolds, and linear features that could have been planting beds.

A deep recent hole, ER 55c, apparently dates from the most recent occupation of the site.

The back end of the trailer sales yard, in the right-of-way, is low-lying ground that probably was wetlands before the Simon's Savannah ditch was cut (FIGURE 15).

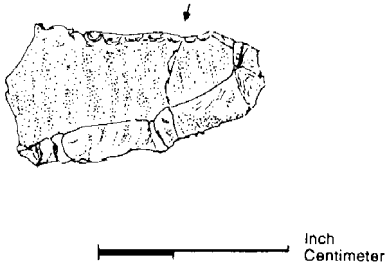


Figure 14

Black flint flake knife (refitted) from level 6, Simon's Savannah, Island Field catalogue number 90-23-12c

SIMON'S SAVANNAH SITE (7K-C-387)

Between the DelTech athletic field and Simon's Savannah is a long sandy ridge, extending from the college building area to the vicinity of the Bennie Smith Funeral Home, athwart the proposed right-of-way. Predictive models suggest that such ridges adjacent to bay/basin features possess a 90% likelihood of containing sites occupied from the Archaic Period forward. The Delaware Management Plan for Prehistoric Cultural Resources (Custer 1983:134-5) states that the identification of Archaic sites is a priority research issue.

The College is currently developing the western extremity of this ridge, and the eastern end is occupied by mobile home storage. In order to sample the site, a test location was chosen on a state-owned right-of-way just north of the proposed highway alignment. Since the entire ridge is a single environmental unit, a test anywhere on the ridge can be considered a valid test for Phase I purposes. This test, ER 7, was sited on state property at a location that appeared to be relatively undisturbed (FIGURE 16).

The plowsoil was 9.5 inches deep, a light brown sand, devoid of pebbles, but containing some brick fragments. Below the plowsoil was an orange sand layer. The soil is extremely fine; whatever did not pass through the quarter-inch screen was an artifact. The topsoil yielded a total of seventeen prehistoric stone artifacts and one historic-period sherd of white earthenware. The prehistoric materials include chips of quartz, chert, and sandstone, some of which show use marks.

As a result of this test, it was determined that more testing in Simon's Savannah would be in order, to define its integrity, affiliation, and depth. This was accomplished in 1990 (ER 12-16).

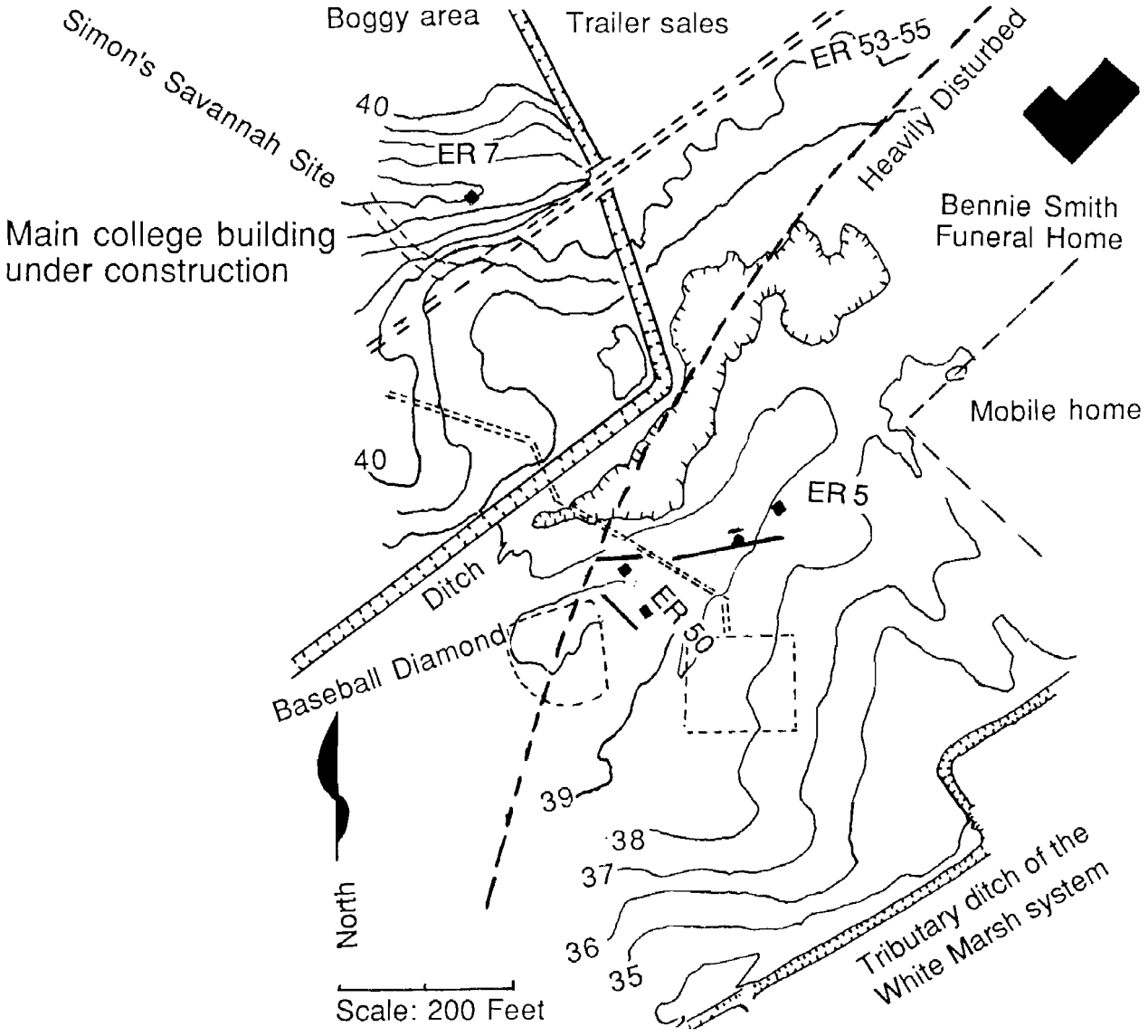
On August 4, 1990, the authors were joined by volunteers from the Kent County Archæological Society for further tests into the Simon's Savannah site, near the location of ER 7. Five units were sunk into the site (7K-C-387) along a line somewhat south of the original test (FIGURE 16).

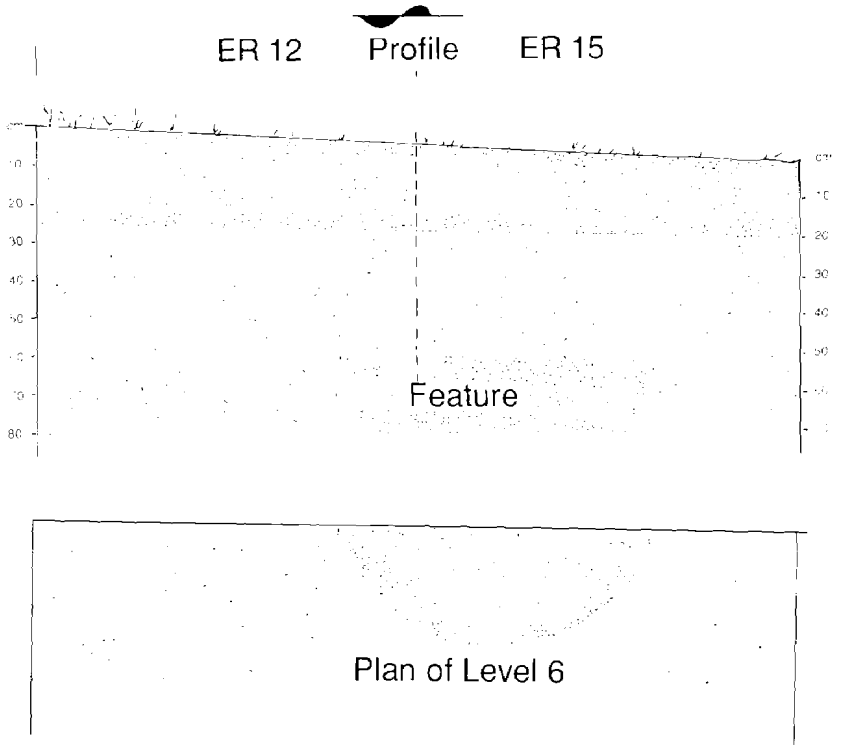
The units were arranged along a line roughly parallel to the property line at ten-meter intervals. All soil was shovelled and sifted through a quarter-inch hardware cloth screen.

Each unit was excavated in arbitrary ten-centimeter levels. At the first location, ER 12 and ER 15 were taken down in six levels to about seventy centimeters. Cultural material was recovered from all but the deepest level. The C-horizon was encountered at about sixty centimeters below the surface.

Figure 15

Map of the eastern portion of the project area





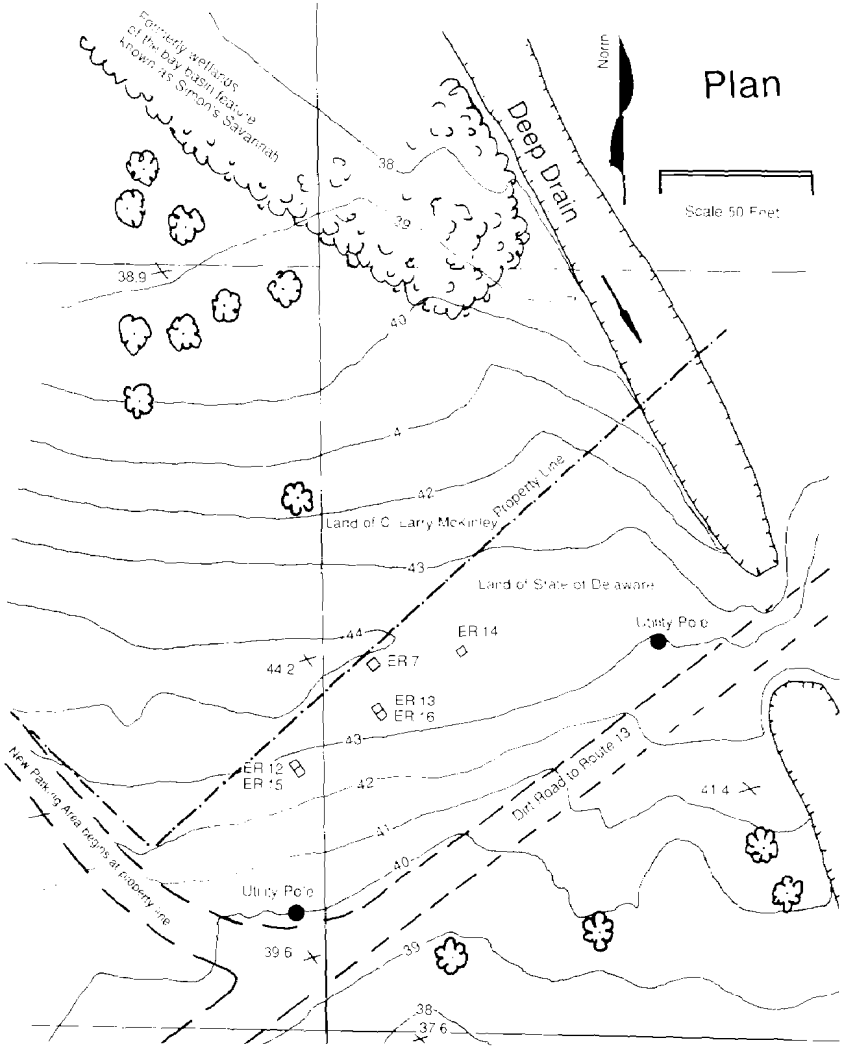


Figure 16
Tests at Simon's Savannah

A shallow circular feature beginning about fifty-five centimeters below the surface intruded into the C-horizon (FIGURE 16). No artifacts were recovered from the feature.

Ten meters away, ER 13 and ER 16 were excavated to sixty centimeters. Very few artifacts were recovered below Level 3 (20 - 30 cm.).

Ten meters from these units, ER 14 was excavated to what appeared to be a C-horizon at forty centimeters. Fewer prehistoric artifacts were recovered from this unit than from the other units excavated at this site, suggesting that this unit was located nearer the edge of the site.

Although prehistoric cultural material was recovered from all five excavation units to depths of forty centimeters or more, no temporally diagnostic artifacts were found. The stone debitage recovered suggests that tool refurbishing was a major activity.

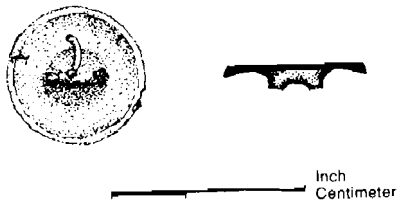


Figure 17

Brass button, South's Type 10, eighteenth century, from a test on the athletic field, Island Field catalogue number 90-23-50

ATHLETIC FIELD (7K-C-388)

The Del Tech athletic field, a high level tract south of the main campus, is a high probability area for both historic and prehistoric sites. There is a moderately high likelihood that a well-drained high point in this area would contain a family burial ground of the historic period.

Three hand-dug test pits were opened in this vicinity, on well-drained ground. Each was a shovel test pit, three feet square (FIGURE 15). All soils were sifted through quarter-inch hardware cloth.

The first of these, ER5, was opened on a high sandy knoll near a DelDOT survey hub, south of the center line and on the edge of the athletic field. The soil was dark brown and very sandy. The topsoil, 10 inches deep, contained part of a cut nail, three pieces of white earthenware, a piece of clear glass, brick fragments, and one sherd of thin European porcelain.

All the sherds showed evidence of secondary battering, indicating that they were not in their primary deposit.

ER 6, in the vicinity of the backstop, yielded some cut nail fragments, brick fragments, and one piece of clear decorated vessel glass. The soil was also loose and dark brown, 11 inches deep over an orange subsoil. A depression in the northeast corner proved to be a shallow dish-shaped feature, consistent with a planting hole. This area was probably an orchard during the nineteenth century, and planting holes should be expected.

Another test, ER 50, was ten feet long and eighteen inches wide, close to the fenced basketball courts. In this test, an eighteenth-century button and a modern glass marble were among the plowzone artifacts.

The presence of a large number of historic-period artifacts in the topsoil led to the conclusion that this field might have been close to a house site.

The soil, mapped as Sassafras, contains considerable clay, causing it to be hard in dry weather and sticky when wet. A first attempt to cut a machine-dug trench through the site, late in the summer of 1990, failed because the soil was too dry to show any color differences.

After the fall rains, color returned to the soil and a backhoe with a four-foot toothless blade was used to cut three trenches through the site.The first of these, ER56, began at the high point on the field, in the vicinity most likely to contain a cemetery.

The first visible feature was a linear excavation oriented roughly east-west. The backfill was full of distinct clods, indicating that the hole had been filled soon after it was dug. A hand-dug trench into the feature proved to be quite deep. One side was straight and the other was slanted At the bottom, the trench contained a glazed ceramic pipe. Clearly this was a relatively recent agricultural drainage or sanitary plumbing project. The shape of the ditch indicated that it was hand-dug.

The backhoe returned and uncovered a further section of the trench, which proved to be pointed directly toward the elbow in the trench that drains Simon's Savannah. This location indicates that the tile was laid in connection with this trench, which apparently is less than fifty years old.

A cut, ER 59, was opened across the trench and pieces of a draintile were recovered for deposit at Island Field Museum.

Trenches 57 and 58 (FIGURES 18 AND 19)contained very few features. Notable among the features in the athletic field were several perfectly round or perfectly square holes, evidently planting holes. Some contained visible root channels running off them, and all were filled with the same soil as the topsoil in their immediate area. Toward the west, where the soil contains more clay, there was an appreciable amount of charcoal in the fill, indicating that this material had been intentionally applied.

Figure 18
Locations of machine-cut trenches
in the athletic field

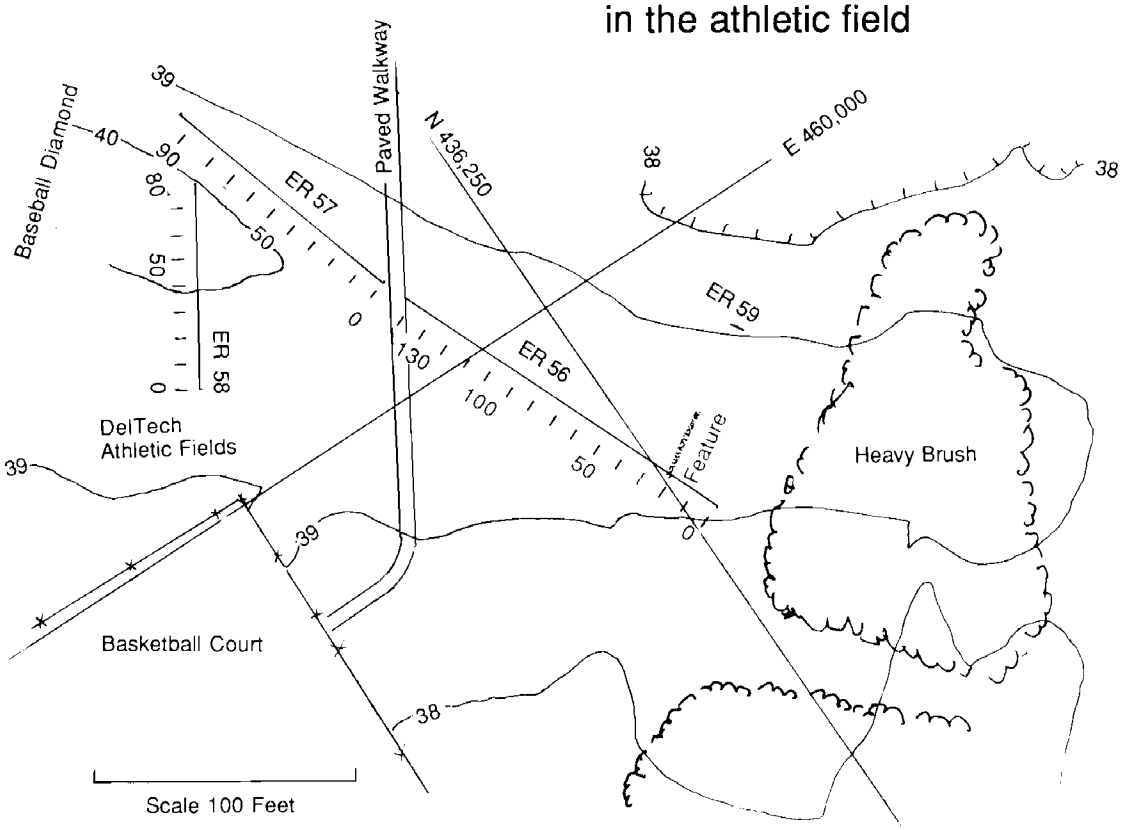
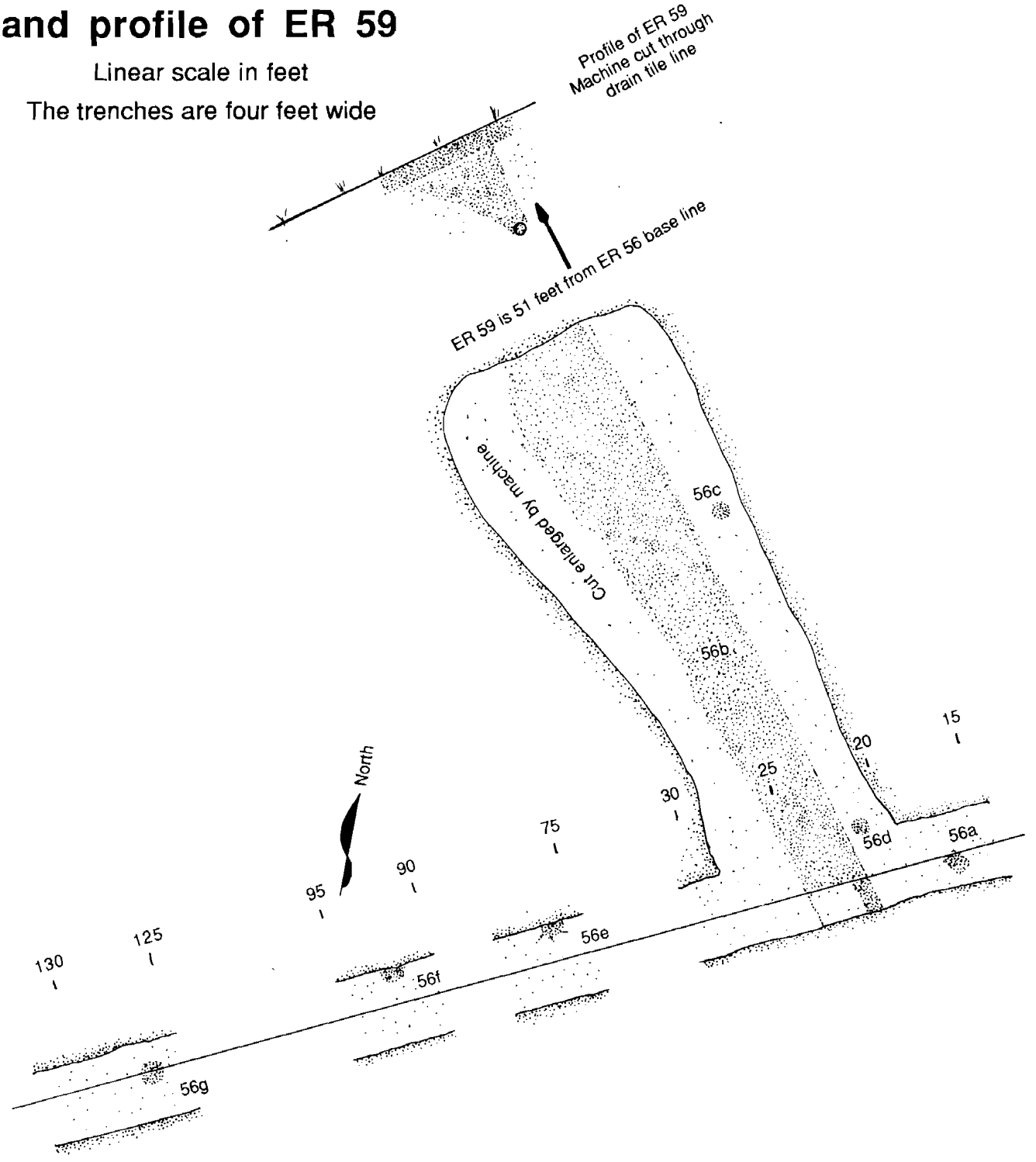


Figure 19

Athletic field site, plan of ER 56 and profile of ER 59

Linear scale in feet

The trenches are four feet wide



WHITE MARSH BRANCH (7K-C-390)

Near the mouth of White Marsh Branch is part of the DelTech campus that is undergoing old-field succession (FIGURE 21). This spur of well-drained sandy Sassafras soil is a low ridge, surrounded on all sides by ditches or poorly-drained soil.

Well-drained soil at the confluence of two streams is generally regarded as a likely site for prehistoric activity. No historic structures are known to have existed here. The first investigations concentrated on the impact area of the south alignment

Three tests, all three feet square and numbered 1, 2, and 4, were sunk into the hill, the first two along the centerline and the third 125 feet away. In all cases, the soil was a uniform brown sandy loam with few pebbles, the plowzone averaging 9 inches deep over sandy yellow subsoil. Each test was shovelled and the soil was passed through a quarter-inch hardware-cloth sifter.

When the plowsoil was removed from ER 1, a linear feature was apparent. It was flat bottomed. The feature, which was very shallow, passed through the middle of the unit. To the east there were no marks on the subsoil. To the west, the subsoil was pockmarked with a linear pattern of brown root stains, indicating an area that had been planted. The test was taken to 18 inches below grade.

A black flint flake was found in the yellow soil below the brown disturbed soil. Another was found in the plowsoil.

The feature could be interpreted as an agricultural feature, typically recorded and dismissed under the general heading of plowscar. A second shovelled 3-foot test unit, ER 2, was opened 14 feet south. Here again was the distinct line of brown soil, but it merged into the disturbance to the west without the distinct margin that had occurred in ER 1.

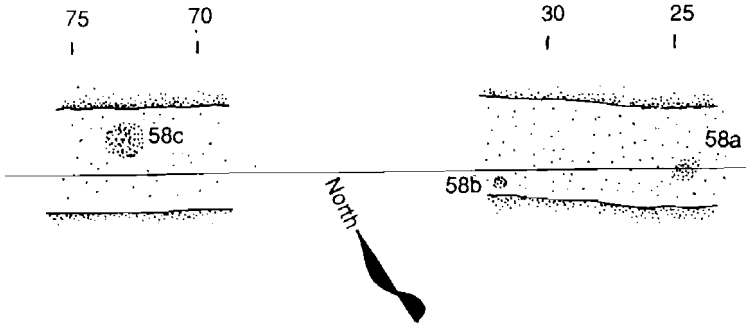


Figure 20
Athletic Field,
Plans of ER 57 and ER 58,
machine cut trenches
Linear scale in feet
The trenches are four feet wide

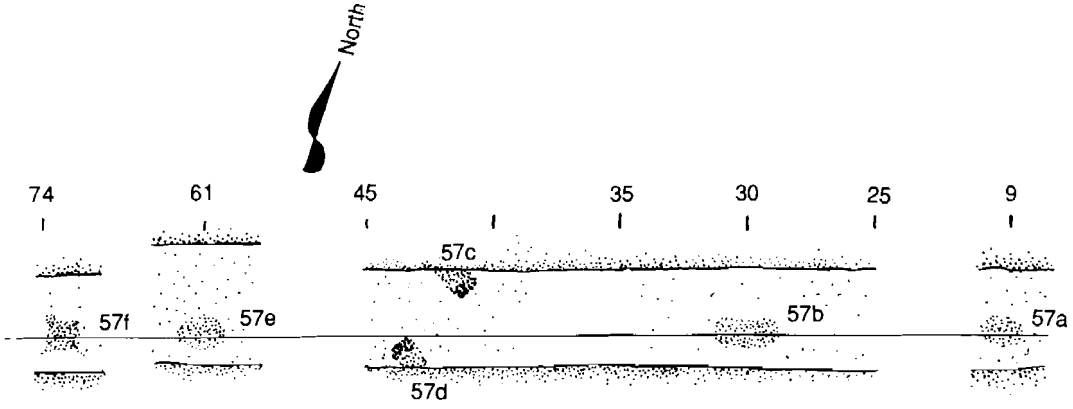


Figure 21
White Marsh Site Overall

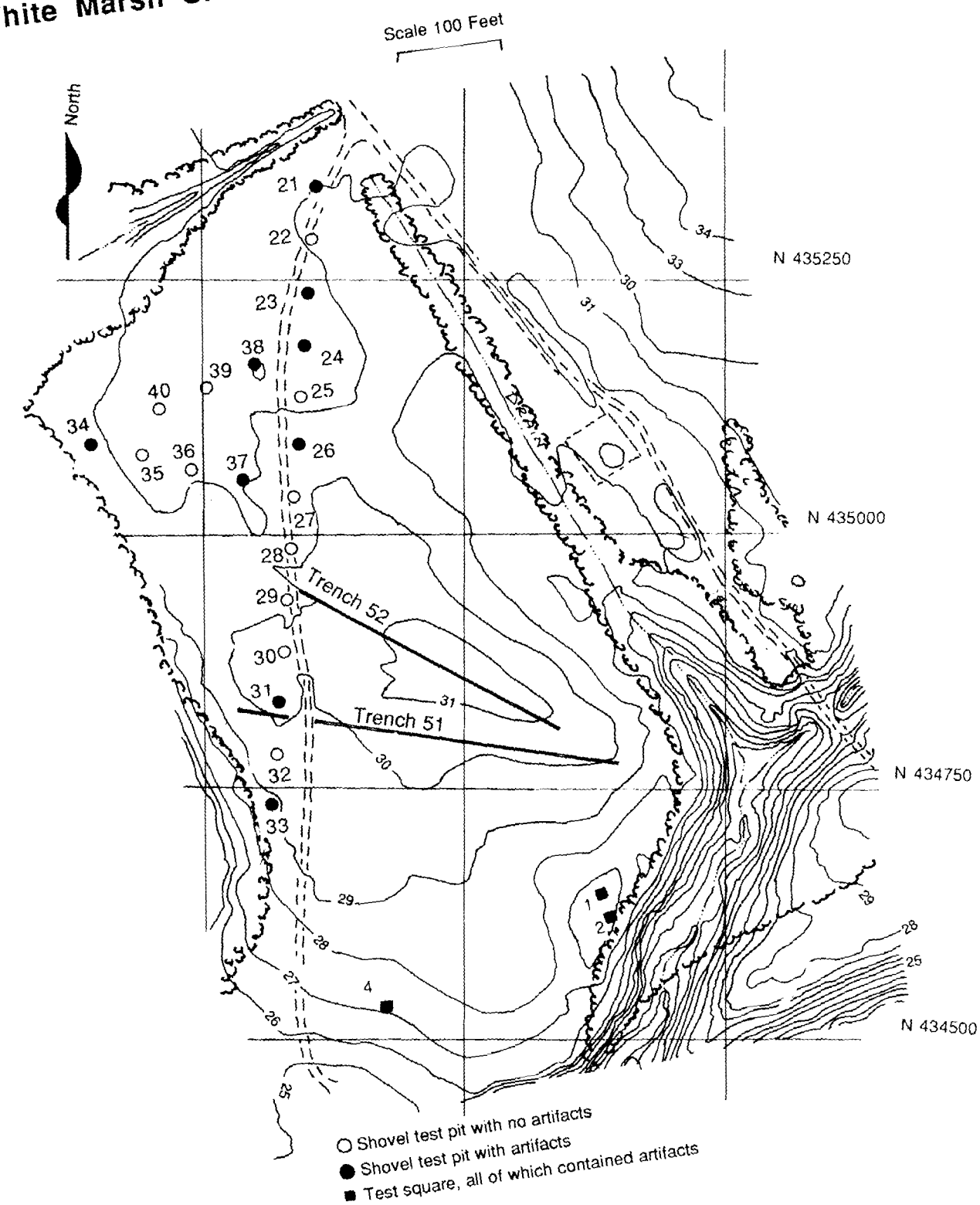
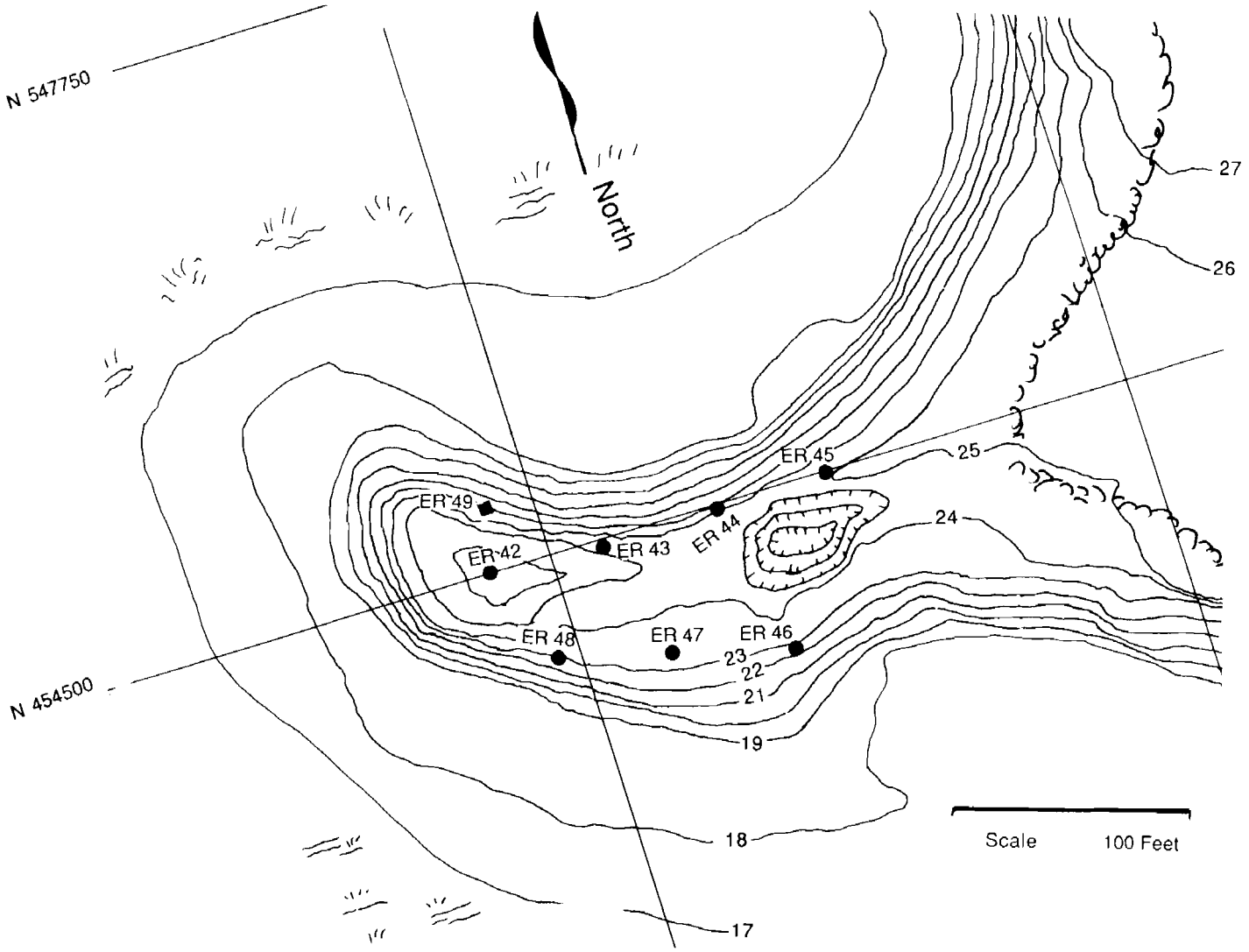


Figure 22

Plan of tests in the west part of the White Marsh site



A black flint flake and an irregular white quartz chunk were found in the topsoil. The test was not dug below discolored soil.

A third test, 125 feet to the west, ER 4, was dug in the same fashion, to the yellow soil. There was a mottled layer at the same depth, and a vague linear arrangement to the soil stains, but no distinct feature like the one found in the earlier tests. This test pit yielded two pieces of refined white earthenware and three stone flakes.

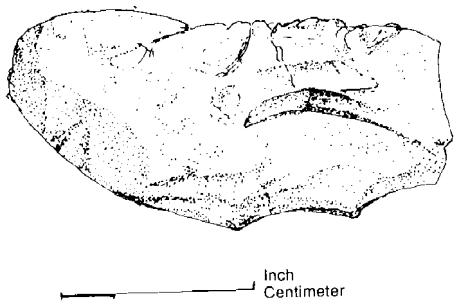


Figure 23

Quartz bifacial chopping tool from White Marsh, Island Field catalogue 90-23-51

These pits were all sited in the southern alternative route, which would cross White Marsh Branch at its mouth. The small number of prehistoric artifacts found in the three units excavated within this alignment indicate that settlement in this part of the site was not at all intense. Further tests, along the northern alignment (ER 21-49), delimited the extent of the site to the north and west.

NORTH END, WHITE MARSH BRANCH SITE

All alignments called for the new road to cross the field between White Marsh Branch and the unnamed ditch that drains the athletic field area. In order to define any concentrations of material that might be found in the field, a line of shovel test pits, ER 21-33, was sunk at intervals of 50 feet across the field (FIGURE 21). Near the north end, where a few artifacts were found, some additional tests were sunk (ER 34-40), for a total of twenty units. This testing revealed two ill-defined concentrations of scattered artifacts, both on slight rises in the hill and near the edge of the bluff.

The small number of prehistoric artifacts suggests that this part of the White Marsh site was not intensively occupied during prehistoric times. The shovel tests provided no evidence of buried elements.

Because of its distance from known tofts, this well-drained field was evaluated as having a low probability of containing a cemetery. However, its topography would have been ideally suited for a cemetery if there happened to be an undetected toft nearby.

Agricultural features had been identified in the first tests to the south, indicating that this field might contain useful information about the interaction of agricultural activities and the ground.

For these reasons, two machine-cut trenches, ER 51 and 52, were opened on a roughly east-west line across the field at its highest point. Backdirt from the trenches, after being scoured by rain, yielded several more prehistoric artifacts.

Perhaps significantly, no historic period artifacts were found in these trenches through high, sandy, well-drained ground. All the historic period artifacts identified on the field came from shovel test pits into the poorly-drained soil near the north end of the field, or the low-lying part near the mouth of the branch. These artifacts consisted of tiny sherds and flecks of brick, indicating a probable origin in domestic trash or compost piles.

The trenches revealed considerable evidence for agricultural activity, which is discussed in a separate chapter on the archæology of agriculture, below.

WEST END, WHITE MARSH BRANCH SITE

Extending into the floodplain of Dover River [Fork Branch] is a spur or peninsula of sandy high ground, nominally Sassafras soil but much more sandy than the

surrounding fields. A large pit, a smaller pit, and a road trace, testified to the quality of this borrow. Across the river, the Fred Bell bricklaying firm maintained a sand pit for three generations.

Upon reconnaissance it appeared that the south bank of the spur had been disturbed, but the tip and the north bank contained apparently undisturbed ground (FIGURE 22).

A line of four test holes, ER 42-45, at 50-foot intervals along the spur, confirmed this judgment. Three tests on the south side of the spur, ER 46-48, showed evidence of disturbance.

Figure 24

Chert bifacial tool from White Marsh, Island Field catalogue 90-23-41

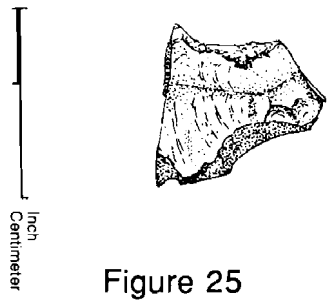


Figure 25

Jasper non-cortex flake, utilized along two sides, found in White Marsh site along the traverse of test pits, Island Field catalogue 90-23-26

To complete the reconnaissance of the spur, a shovelled test pit 3' by 3', ER 49, was opened near the brink of the apparently undisturbed landform. This test pit was taken to a depth of 40 cm., and cultural material was recovered from all levels. The shallow A horizon (less than 10 cm.) suggests that little or no cultivation has taken place here.

The large number of prehistoric artifacts recovered from both the shovel tests and the single 3 ft. square test pit indicate that settlement along this narrow neck was much more intense than in other parts of the White Marsh site. The vertical distribution of cultural material suggests that this part of the site includes buried components.

FORD FARM PREHISTORIC SITE (7K-C-386)

Where the southern alternative course of the road would cross the valley of Fork Branch is a high ridge that drops abruptly down to the swampy river valley. The location is readily identified as a likely site, since it lies on the high ground nearest the confluence of two principal branches of the river (FIGURE 26).

The test location lies within the right-of-way, on the highest knoll along a ridge that runs east-west. A single shovel test pit, three feet square and a foot deep, yielded a half-pound (250 grams) of worked stone. There is no evidence that the site has ever been cultivated, but there are several stump holes and borrow pits in the vicinity. There are no naturally-occurring pebbles; everything that would not pass through the quarter-inch screen was an artifact. Six quartz cortex flakes, five quartz non-cortex flakes, and a quartz chopping tool all appear to have been produced from a single core. There were also 23 fragments of various cryptocrystalline silicates.

FORD FARM OPEN FIELD LOCI (7K-C-386)

In the plowed fields between the woods and Fork Branch, three loci were identified. The field east of the railroad includes a high ridge and a relatively steep westward-facing slope that overlooks a bay/basin feature that now is west of the railroad.

Figure 26
North Part of the Ford Farm

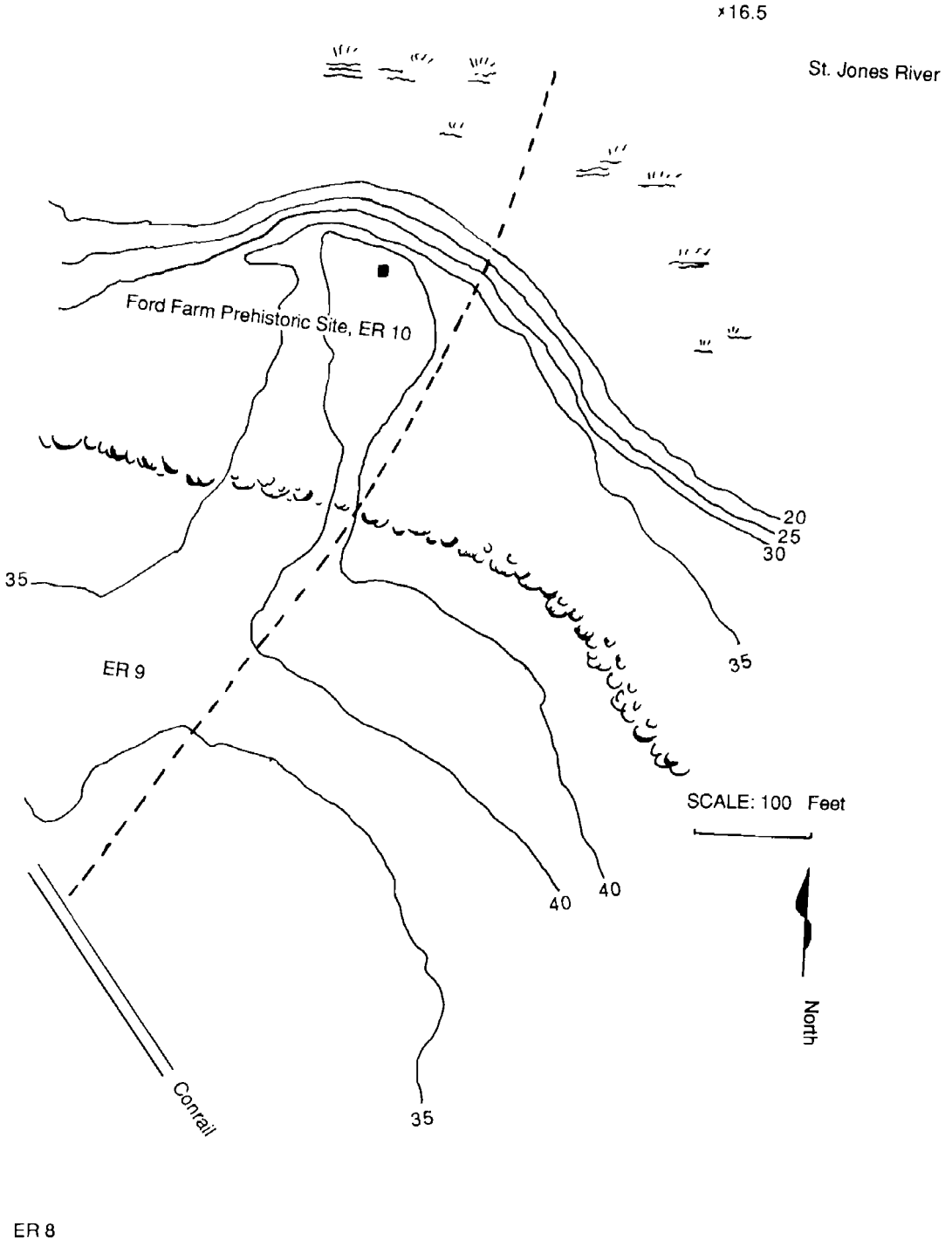
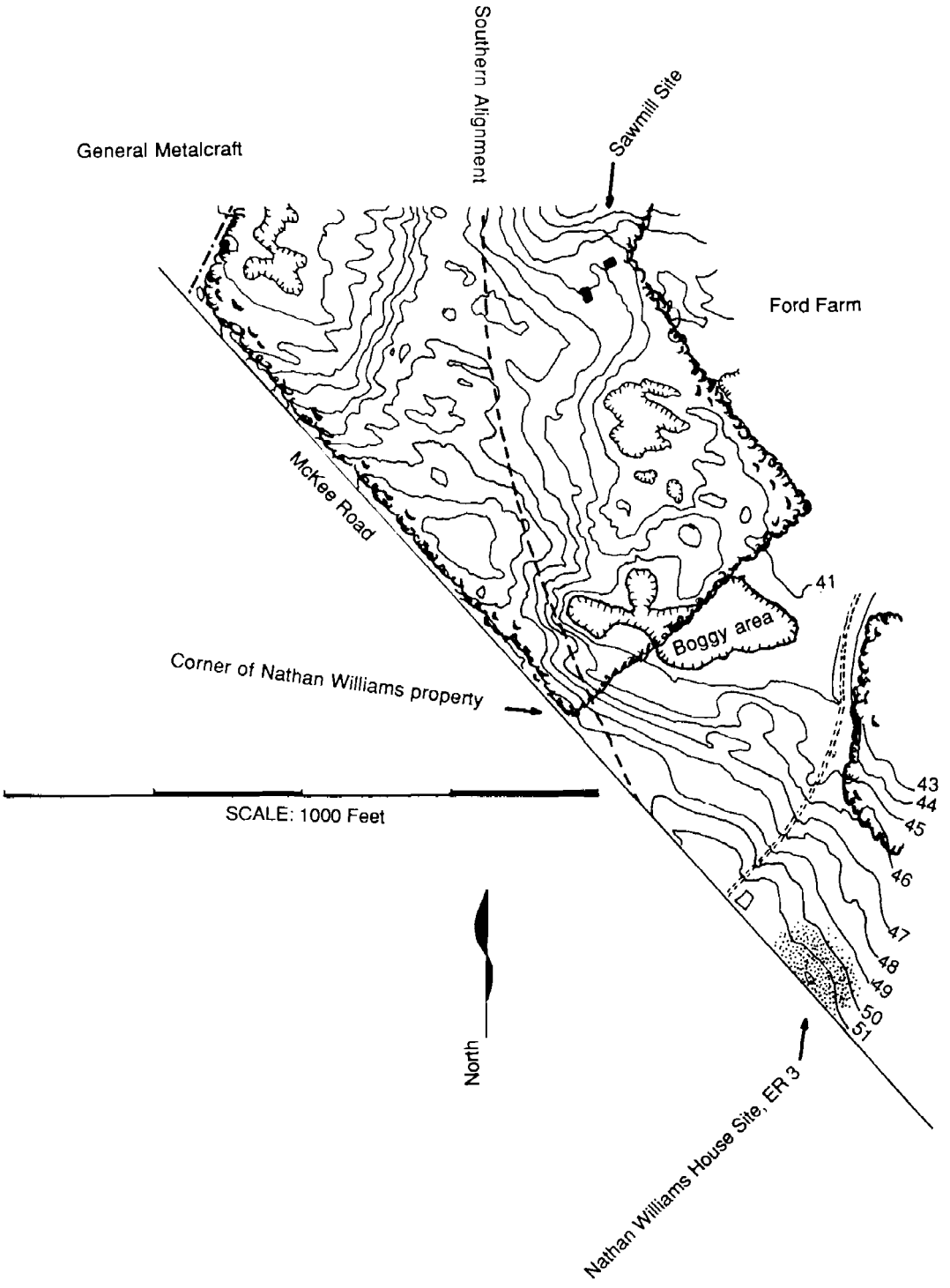


Figure 27
Ford Farm near McKee Road



This field, ER 9, was planted in winter wheat, and was walked after a rain. A single stone chip, a piece of grey stoneware, and a sherd of lead-glazed yellow earthenware, were picked up during a thorough survey under excellent viewing conditions.

Just west of the railroad, and on the south side of the proposed southern alternative right-of-way, is a small ridge that had been harvested but not cultivated in the fall of 1989. Visibility was about forty per cent between the soybean stubble. The collection, ER 8, contains four pieces of prehistoric chipped stone, as well as pearlware, glass Mason jar liners, black glazed red earthenware, and other materials typical of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Near the woods, on the extreme west end of the field, under conditions similar to those in ER 8, was a light scattering of artifacts across the hilltop. A chip of slate and a chip of quartz, together with three sherds of white tableware, were recovered after a fieldwalk. These were collected under ER 11.

Although traces of prehistoric settlement were recovered from the cultivated fields designated ER 8, ER 9, and ER 11, the small number of artifacts recovered suggests that these areas were only sporadically occupied.

SAWMILL SITE

The woods near McKee Road, through which the right-of-way passes, have never been cultivated. The father of the present owners harvested timber from this poorly-drained land and kept a sawmill in the woods here (FIGURE 2, FIGURE 27) Most of the mill's woodwork has rotted away, but two buildings associated with it are still standing. Metal parts of the mill still lie in place, and the timber structure can still be discerned. The proposed southern alternative right-of-way would graze the sawmill site and certainly would cause dislocation of the remains.

Portable sawmills of this type are still in use. Nearby, in Cheswold, a collector of antique machinery, the late Edward Evans, restored and preserved a similar machine (PLATE 2, PAGE 10) in a more permanent type of structure.

NATHAN WILLIAMS SITE (7K-C-389)

Nathan Williams, a Free Negro, lived on eleven acres of the Pleasanton property before it was divided in 1840. By 1881, when the present McKee Road was laid out, the Nathan Williams allotment was owned by the estate of a Pleasanton heir, Mary DuHamel (FIGURE 8). The road was built west of the house, which was indicated on the return of the commissioners.

During a recent reconstruction of McKee Road, the right-of-way was widened 35 feet on this side. It is not known if the house site survived the widening, since nineteenth-century tenant houses typically were quite near roads

After the field adjacent to the road was plowed, planted, and washed by rain, it was walked. A concentration of surface materials, ER 3, was noted on the knoll adjacent to the road south of the present farm driveway, in the vicinity of the documented house site.

Nineteenth-century ceramics include refined white earthenware with blue shell edge decoration and moulded wheat pattern; black glazed red earthenware, green and clear vessel glass, and blue-decorated grey stoneware.

Even if the actual house site is gone, there is ample material in the field to demonstrate the existence of the toft. Any site associated with a documented antebellum free black is potentially significant.

TEST AT BLUEBERRY HILL, 7K-C-107

Somewhat upstream, at the confluence of Fork Branch with a major tributary on the adjacent property, is a known prehistoric site (7K-C-107) in the northern alternative right-of-way. Like the Ford Farm site, this site is located on a high ridge above the stream. The western end of the ridge has been cut by a railroad right-of-way. A dirt

trail paralleling the railroad embankment has become a popular route for all-terrain vehicles. The ground disturbance caused by these vehicles has further disturbed the site. Nonetheless, a substantial part of the ridge is intact.

Site 7K-C-107, now called Blueberry Hill, had been listed by Custer and Galasso (1983) as a procurement site of unknown affiliation. Prehistoric artifacts, notably fire-broken rocks, are abundant on the surface of the many cuts through the site.

At first glance, this sand hill would seem an improbable place to find a well-preserved site. The railroad cuts through it, and dirt bike trails thread through the woods. Dumping, target practice, and junk-vehicle salvage have been major recent cultural activities, for which ample evidence was present.

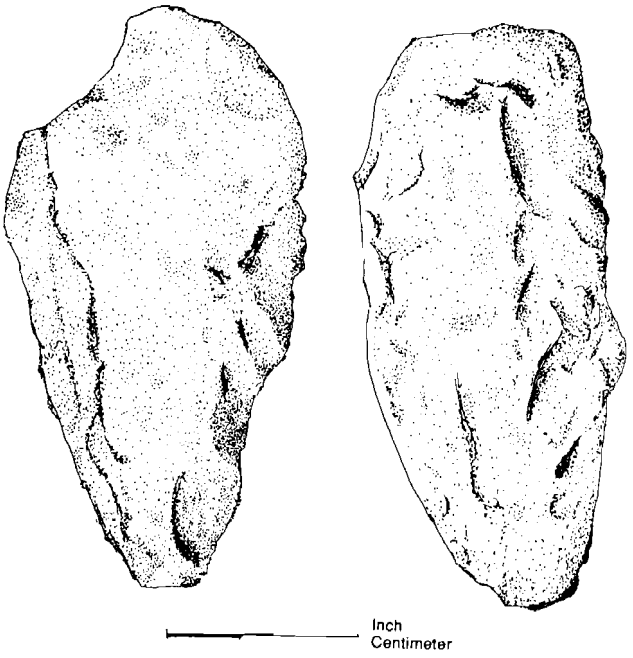


Figure 28

Quartz bifaces found on the Blueberry Hill site, Island Field catalogue number 90-23-18a

At the critical location, from an archæological point of view, the site has remained relatively undisturbed. The portion of the site on the crest of the ridge facing the confluence survived as a band, about 25 feet wide, of scrub woodland.

A 3' by 3' test unit in this surviving fringe, ER 19, was opened August 21 and finished August 27, 1990 (FIGURE 31).

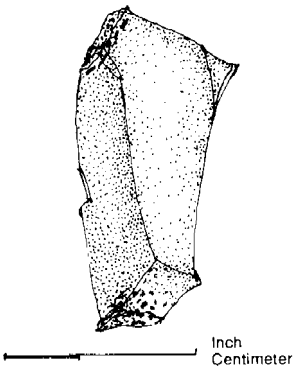


Figure 29

Jasper flake used as a graver, from the first test at Blueberry Hill, Island Field catalogue number 90-23-19b

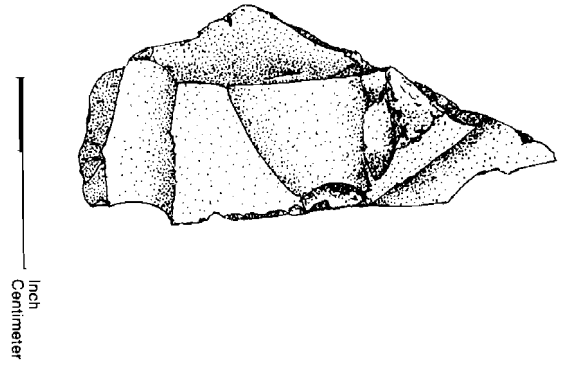
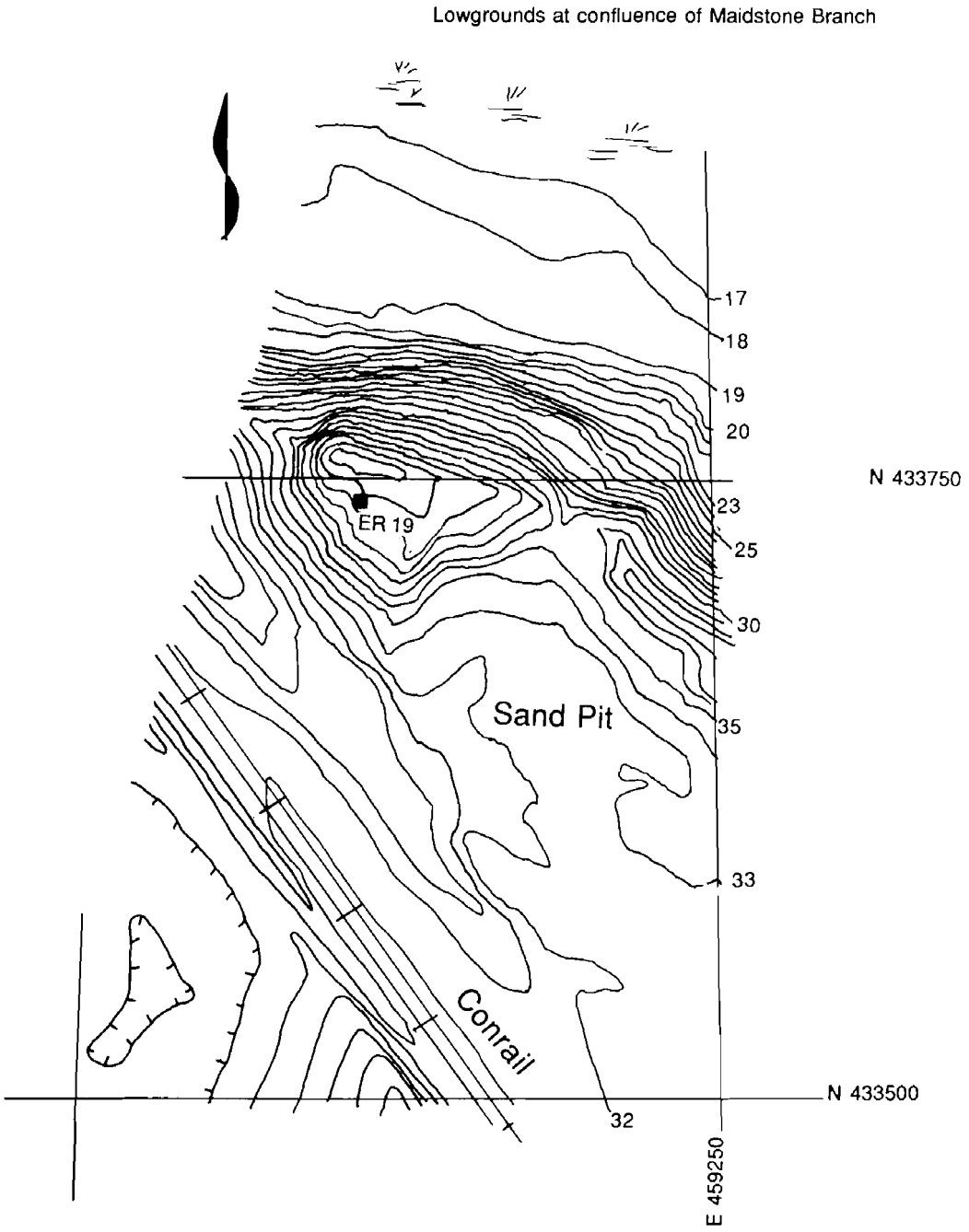


Figure 30

Jasper flake used as a strike-a-light, found in the initial test at Blueberry Hill. Island Field catalogue number 90-23-19b

Figure 31

Plan of 7K C 107 Blueberry Hill



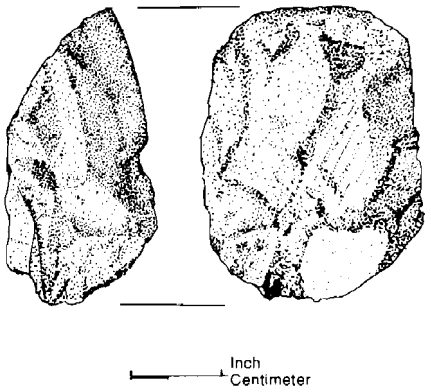


Figure 32

Quartz chopping tool found in an exposed bank on the Blueberry Hill site, Island Field catalogue 90-23-18

The edge of a dirt bike track was first cleaned back to make a straight edge, to a depth of about forty centimeters. This uncontrolled test was designated ER 18. During this cleaning, two ovate quartzite preforms (FIGURE 28)were found at a depth of thirty centimeters below grade, slightly below the plowzone (ER 18a).

After the face was cleaned, a unit was laid out and shovelled at ten-centimeter levels, screened through quarter-inch hardware cloth. The top thirty centimeters of the test consisted of brown plowzone soil, in which were mixed prehistoric and historic artifacts.

At forty centimeters was a large cobble used as a mortar from which spalls had been removed; one of these lay nearby at the same level. A muller which may have been used with this mortar was also found.

The bottom level, between sixty and seventy centimeters, contained a fire-reddened quartzite pebble and a small quartz flake, evidence enough to recommend the site for Phase II testing.

LEWIS GEISER FARM TOFT

West of the railroad, the proposed northern alternative right-of-way passed through the farm known as the Louis Geiser farm, now owned by John T. And Janis W. Beiser. The south part of the farm was graded away to prepare the site of the General Metalcraft factory. More recently, the Atlantic Transfer terminal was built on the north side of the property, next to Maidstone Branch.

The historic toft is outside the proposed highway's impact area. A barn once stood on the edge of the bay/basin, northeast of the house. Its foundations were located outside the proposed right-of-way.

BEISER TENANT HOUSE, K-6486

The remaining portion of the farm, in the middle, still contains a bungalow built around 1938-1939 (K-6486) and the below-grade ruins of a barn and other outbuildings that were erected during the late nineteenth century when Geiser established the farm on a portion of the larger original tract.

The house stands on a high sand ridge that runs north-south across the property. Where this ridge meets Maidstone Branch is a known site, in danger from industrial development.

According to map evidence, there was a barn between the existing house and the bay/basin. This barn's foundations are not in the construction area, but they are visible on the north edge of the wetland.

Stripped of its outbuildings, the former farmhouse occupies a solitary position on a small knoll facing McKee Road to the west. It is typical of the bungalows of the period, with few embellishments. The portico on the front is supported by two columns, onto which benches are attached. A side door under a porch on the south facade gives access to both the kitchen and the cellar.

The toft is no longer intact, since only the house remains above ground. The house itself is typical of the many bungalows built in Delaware during the Depression, with scant trim. Many examples of this type exist in a better state of preservation, with intact original settings, throughout Kent County. It is not eligible for the Register

BEISER SITE (7K-C-391)

Next to the house, the ridge is defined by wetlands both east and west. A test, ER 20, was sunk into the summit of the ridge about forty feet from the General Metalcraft property line. The soil was sandy loam, with a plowzone between twenty and 25 centimeters deep.

Figure 33

Map of tests on the Beiser property west of Conrail along the north alignment

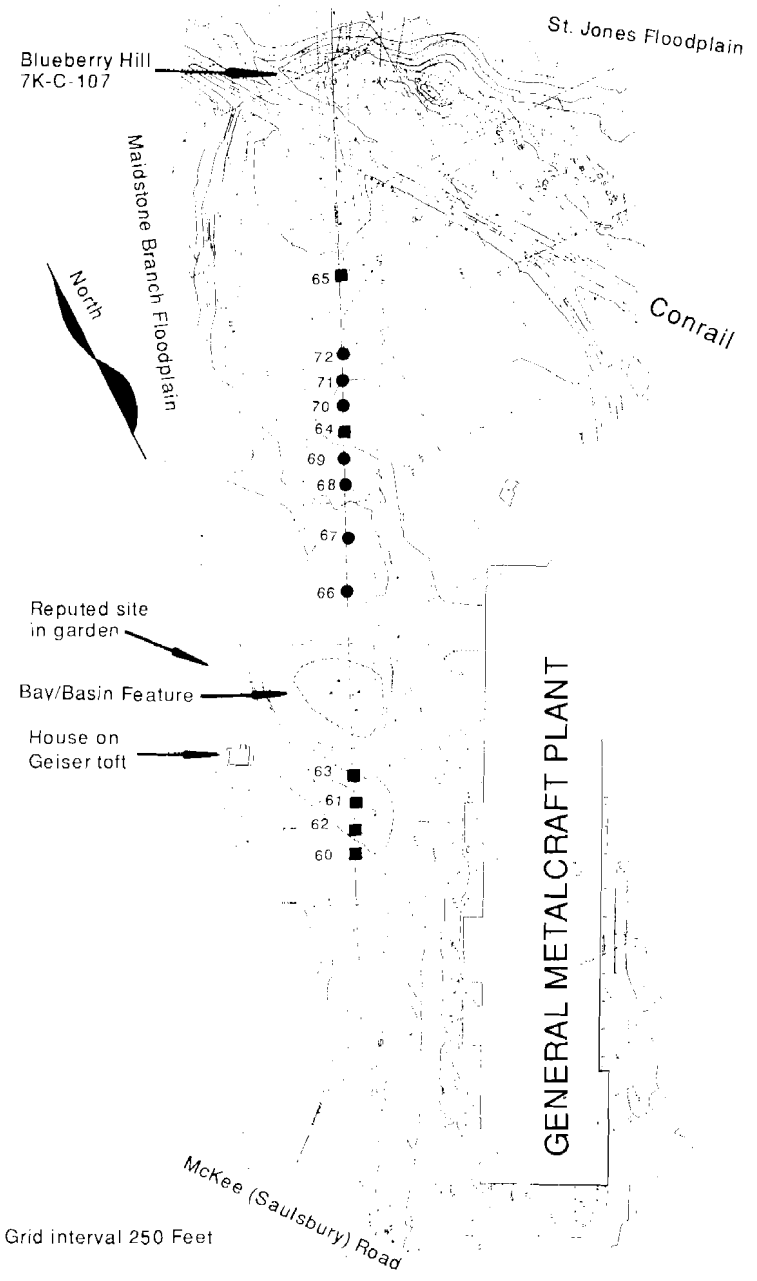


Plate 7

West [front] elevation, Tenant House, K-6486, the last farmhouse in the project area, built 1938-1939. See Plate 4, on page 13, for a south view of this house.

The material was shovelled through quarter-inch hardware cloth. Below the plowzone, the excavation was taken to a depth of forty centimeters.

Cultural materials were present, but only in very scanty quantities. Evidence was sufficient to prompt further testing at the Phase II level.

CENTERLINE TESTS

Between Saulsbury Road and the Conrail tracks, the northerly alignment crosses a bay/basin feature, a tract of wetlands, an area that appears to have been dug for borrow, and several ridges. These areas hold moderate promise for containing prehistoric remains. To test these probabilities, a centerline survey was undertaken.

As originally projected, the tests were to consist of shovel test pits at fifty-foot intervals along the centerline. Field conditions dictated several changes in these plans.

The purpose of the survey was to determine if any sites, potentially eligible for the National Register, existed along the route between the Geiser toft and the railroad. This area is occupied by wetlands, by plowed fields, and by an old borrow pit.

The first tests were meter-square pits situated on the highest points along the route (FIGURE 32). ER 64 was a test pit at 15+00, on the crest of a ridge. The topsoil, a brown sandy loam, was 25 centimeters deep. It yielded a chunk of quartz and a jasper flake.

The square was opened to 40 centimeters, and then an auger hole was sunk into the center. In the lower level was a single flake.

A second ridgetop, at 18+00, was also tested with a meter-square test pit, ER 65. The dark brown plowzone was 20 centimeters thick. It contained no artifacts. Half of the unit was dug to a depth of 30 centimeters with no results. Then an auger hole was sunk into the center of the unit to a depth of 100 centimeters, at which a gravelly layer, probably natural, was reached.

CENTERLINE THREE-FOOT-SQUARE UNITS

ER	Station	
64	15+00	1 quartz chunk 1 jasper flake
65	18+00	no artifacts

CENTERLINE SHOVEL TEST PIT UNITS

ER	Station	
66	12+00	no artifacts
67	13+00	no artifacts
68	14+00	3 quartzite chunks; topsoil has been altered
69	14+50	no artifacts
70	15+50	no artifacts
71	16+00	no artifacts
72	16+50	no artifacts

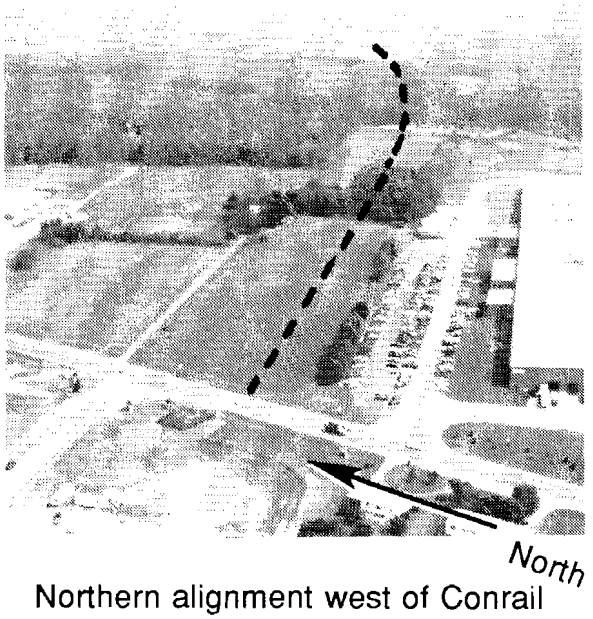
These two ridgetops were the places originally deemed most likely to contain sites, but they proved to be devoid of meaningful cultural remains.

Between 9+00 and 13+50, the center line passes through low and wet soils, including the bay/basin feature. Much of this area has been marked as wetlands, but some tests were sunk into higher locations within this zone.

East of station 18+00 was a depression that appeared to be a long-abandoned gravel pit, into which no tests were sunk.

By the time these tests were completed, it was obvious that the northern alignment west of the railroad would not impact any buried cultural resources. The bay/basin feature, however, was deemed potentially capable of yielding information.

Plate 8
Portico of the house



Northern alignment west of Conrail tracks, looking east from the air. The tenant house is in center; General Metalcraft is on the right.