designated Stratum B during the excavations (Figure 75). A few artifacts were recovered from the B-horizon, beneath the E-horizon, to a depth of 40 centimeters, but this stratum is ancient, and these artifacts must have moved down through root or rodent action (see Appendix H).

4. Summary

The Drawyer Creek South Site was a procurement station or microband base camp dating to the Woodland II period, possibly a processing station for plants found in the nearby wetlands. The site had never been plowed, and had not been logged in this century, so it retained a very high degree of integrity. Almost all of the artifacts were recovered from an intact Stratum E. Preliminary testing identified at least two distinct activity areas. A concentration of ceramic fragments was found very close to the current shoreline. A few meters further inland, a workshop was identified where the occupants made tools from locally available cobbles.

F. SITE 7NC-F-73, THE LOCUST GROVE SITE

1. Site Description

The Locust Grove Site consisted of archaeological deposits associated with Locust Grove, a standing nineteenth-century house located on Middletown Road (SR 299) approximately one kilometer (three-quarters of a mile) west of Odessa (see Figures 33 and 34). The Locust Grove house has been determined eligible for listing in the NRHP as a contributing resource to the *Rebuilding St. Georges Hundred (1830-1899)* thematic nomination (Kiso, Franks & Straw 1994). The house was built in two sections. The earlier portion is a simple, two-story frame structure, facing east, that dates to approximately 1840. What is now the front section of the house, facing Middletown Road, is a two-and-one-half story Second Empire Gothic house with a slate mansard roof and a full-length porch, much larger and more impressive than the original structure (Plate 14). This addition was probably constructed in the 1870s. The front section is substantially wider than the older, rear section, giving the house an "L" shape. The house is situated in a landscaped yard measuring approximately 85 meters (275 feet) east to west and 110 meters (350 feet) north to south (Figure 76). The only historic outbuilding on the property is a nineteenth-century smokehouse located about 5 meters northeast of the house. Several structures built in the mid-twentieth century are also present. Adjacent to the house on the northwest, within the crook of the "L," is a swimming pool, set into a concrete patio. Northeast of the house is a large machine shed. This structure was related to the business of the last private owner, who operated a trucking company. A large gravel pad, apparently used for parking trucks, lies beyond this shed to the north. Two small frame sheds, one probably a former chicken coop, are still standing north of the house.

Since the presence of a nineteenth-century house on the Locust Grove lot was obvious, Phase I testing around the house was directed toward locating intact yard deposits and features (Bedell 1995a). Shovel tests were excavated around the house at 10-meter intervals on all sides. An intact midden deposit, containing shell, bones, and large pieces of redware, was located in the side yard, off the southwestern corner of the house. Two features were also located during

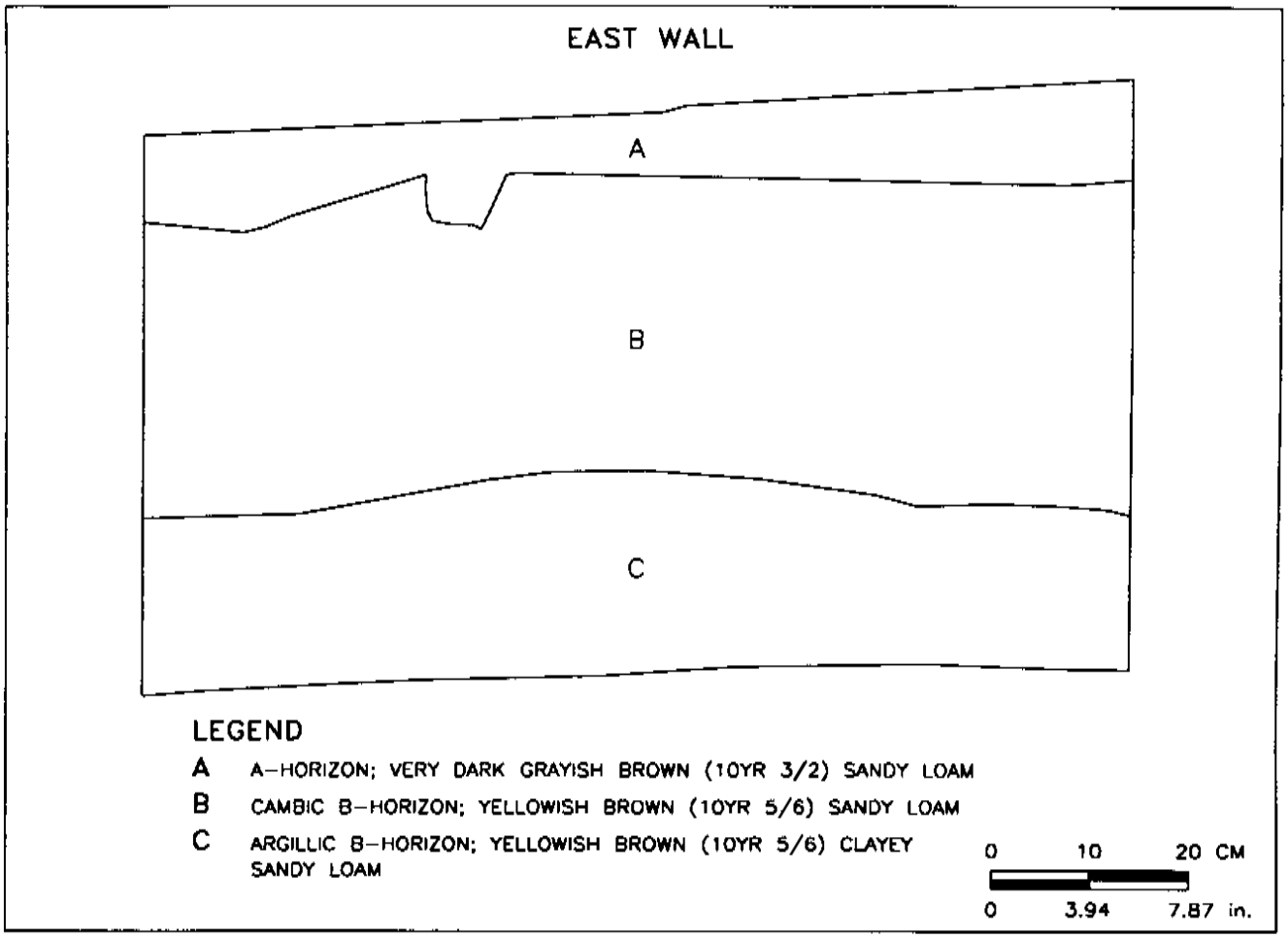

FIGURE 75: Drawyer Creek South (7NC-G-143), Stratigraphic Profile of Test Unit 3

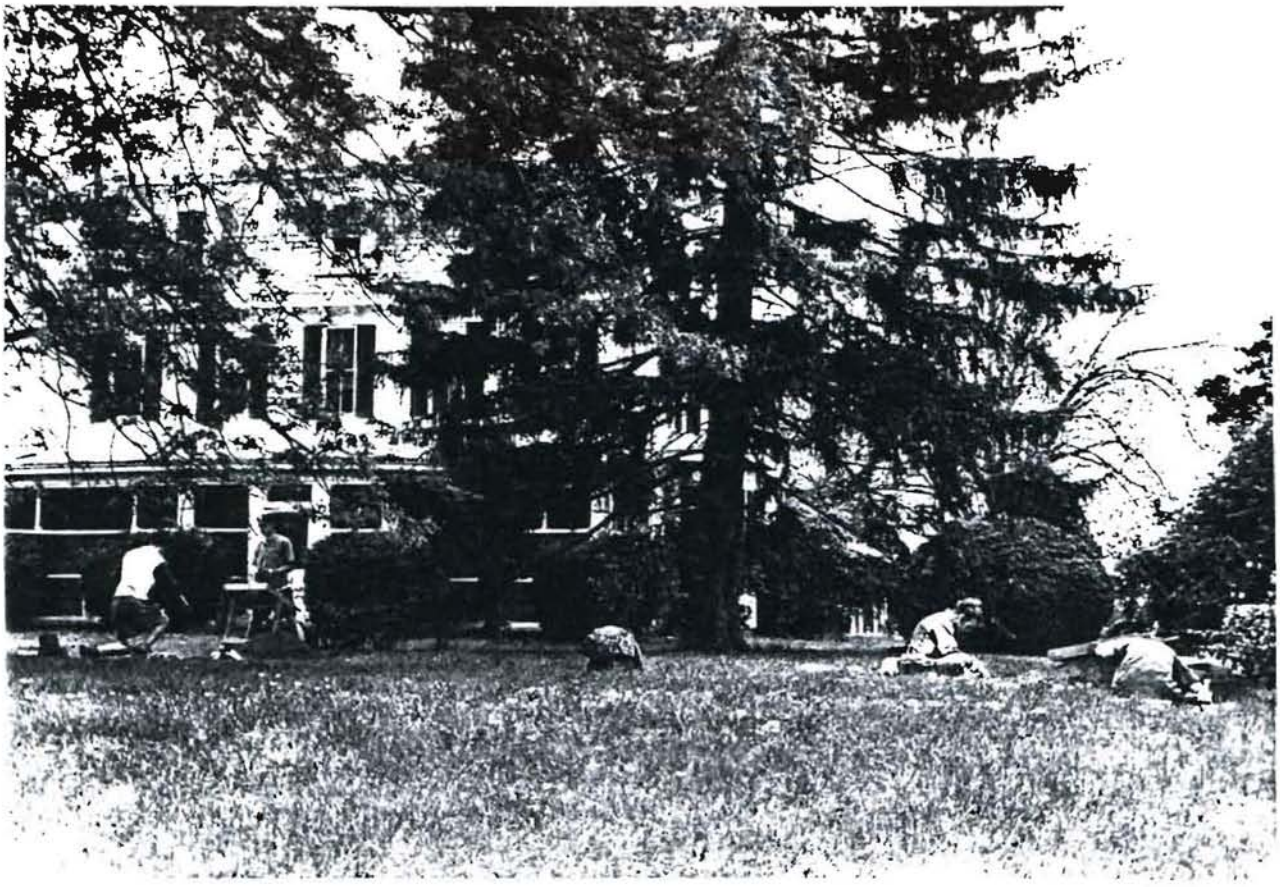

PLATE 14: Test Unit Excavations in the Front Yard of Locust Grove, Site 7NC-F-73

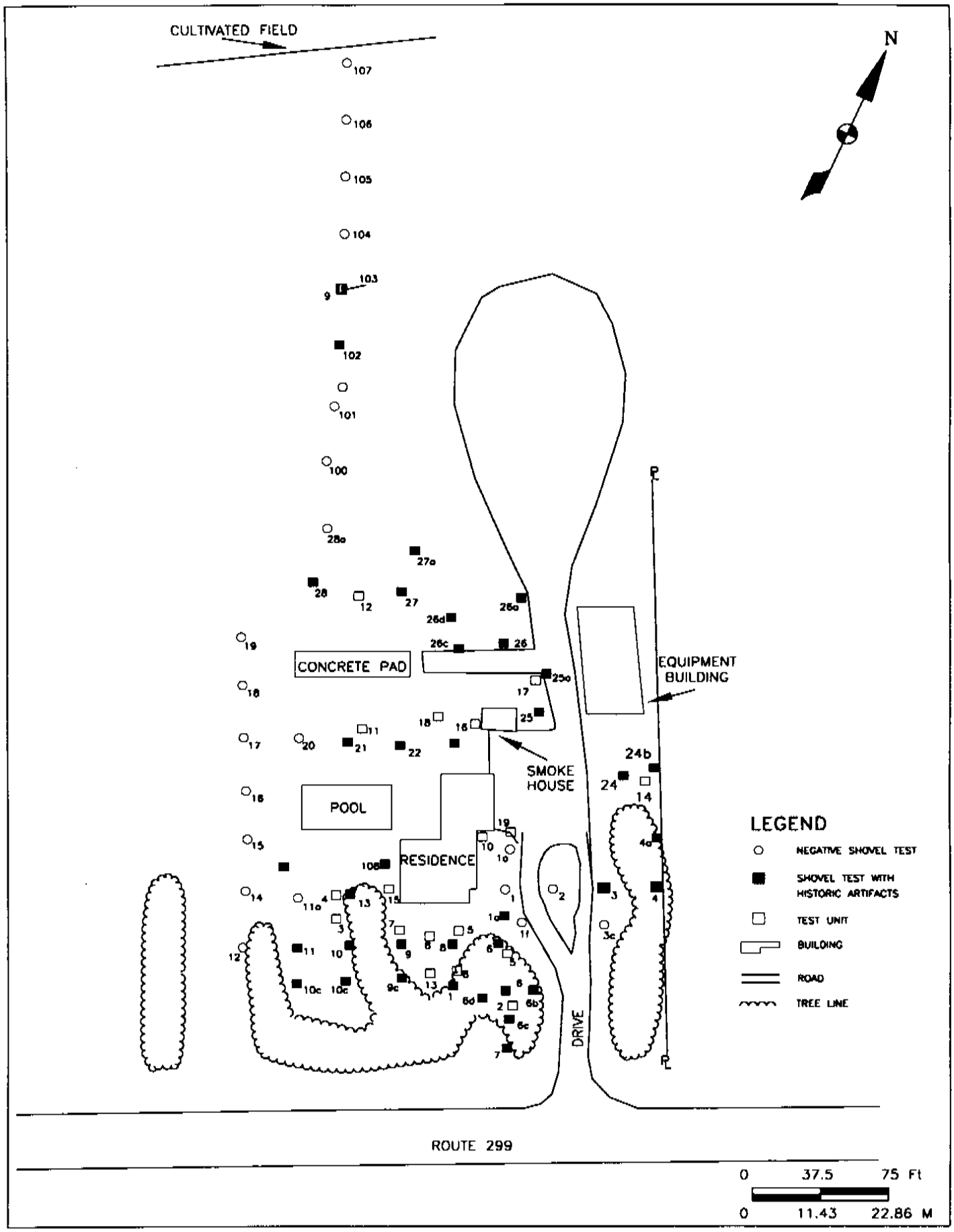

FIGURE 76: Locust Grove (7NC-F-73) Site Plan

testing. Feature 1, a brick walkway, was encountered in a shovel test excavated southwest of the house. It was determined by probing that this walkway connected the front door of the house with the driveway to the east. Feature 2 was a deposit of rubble and sand, up to 50 centimeters deep, located by Shovel Test Pit 8 in the front yard of the house. It was thought that this might represent the foundation ruins of an earlier house on the site.

2. Environmental Setting

Locust Grove was located about 1,200 meters (4,000 feet) west of Odessa along Middletown Road, established in the seventeenth century as the Bohemia Cart Road and one of the oldest roads in Delaware. Middletown was approximately 3,200 meters (2 miles) to the west of the site. The house was built on a low rise that was the highest point on the property, a substantial distance from any stream or other surface water source.

3. Historical Background

Locust Grove was situated on 120 acres of land held in 1801 by Dr. Joseph Meldrum (Table 20). Meldrum died that year, leaving personal property valued at $2,682.42, a respectable sum (Kiso, Franks & Straw 1994; NCC Probate Records: Meldrum 1801-1807). The property passed to his three sisters, Rebecca Penington, Elizabeth Flintham, and Christianna Meldrum. Rebecca Penington and her husband, Samuel Penington, then purchased the shares of the other two sisters (NCC Deed Book W-2:441). The Peningtons purchased two additional parcels adjacent to the first in 1805 and 1811, bringing the total size of the holding to 314 acres (NCC Deed Books D-3:113, I-3:432). During Samuel Penington, Sr.'s, tenure, the property continued to be known as the Meldrum Farm.

In the 1816 New Castle County tax lists, Samuel Penington was assessed on 180 acres of improved and 100 acres of unimproved land, as well as a house, a barn, other unspecified farm buildings, a rented house and lot, livestock worth $252, and a female slave, for a total value of $5,699. Samuel Penington, Sr., died in 1823, leaving farms in both Appoquinimink and St. Georges hundreds, as well as town lots in both Odessa and Middletown, to be divided among his four children (NCC Will Book S-1:9). Samuel Penington, Jr., received his father's residence, still known as Meldrum Farm, and 250 acres of land. Since Samuel Penington, Jr., was under age, his lands were administered by the Orphans' Court until he reached his majority in 1836. In 1830, the court found that the Penington residence, a one-and-a-half story log house, was in disrepair, and they allowed $100 for improvements. The farm was said to consist of 150 acres of arable land, 30 acres of woodland, and 120 acres of marsh and waste. Besides the log house, the structures included a smokehouse, a barn, and a granary with a wagon house and corn crib attached (NCC Orphans' Court Records 1830). It is not known where this log house was located.

The 1850 agricultural census records a much higher value for the farm than the 1830 Orphans' Court assessment, $15,000 as opposed to $300, indicating that Samuel Penington, Jr., had made substantial improvements. It seems likely that Penington had constructed the first stage of Locust Grove in the 1836 to 1850 period. The timing is noteworthy, since during the mid- and late

TABLE 20 LIST OF PROPERTY OWNERS
SITE 7NC-F-73

DATE	TRANSACTION
1993	State of Delaware, from Wallace I. Harris, Jr., and Ruth L. Harris (NCC Deed Book 1604:97)
1980	Wallace I. Harris, Jr., and Ruth L. Harris, from Walter C. Guseman, Jr., and Lavina Guseman (NCC Deed Book 109:83)
1968	Walter C. Guseman, Jr., and Lavina Guseman, from Walter C. Guseman, Sr., and Thelma M. Guseman (NCC Deed Book U-81:128)
1939	Walter C. Guseman, Sr., and Thelma M. Guseman, from William Lee Penington, et al. (NCC Deed Book D-41:551)
1926	William Lee Penington et al., inherited from Franklin Penington (NCC Deed Book B-5:493)
1899	Franklin Penington, inherited from Samuel Penington, Jr. (NCC Deed Book B-5:493)
1823	Samuel Penington, Jr., from Samuel Penington, Sr. (NCC Deed Book S-1:9)
1801	Samuel Penington, Sr., from Benjamin Flintham et al. (NCC Deed Book W-2:441)

nineteenth century, agriculture in St. Georges Hundred was highly profitable, first in grains and then in peaches. The economic success bred an intensive rebuilding effort. Locust Grove is one of several surviving houses that attest to this rebuilding.

Samuel Penington, Jr., lived until 1899, so he also superintended the construction of the second, grander phase of Locust Grove (a name attested by 1881 [see Figure 11]). During the Civil War, Penington served a nine-month stint as a captain in the 5th Regiment, Delaware Volunteers, and after the war he held various governmental and corporate offices in the region (Scharf 1888). The scale of the rebuilding of Locust Grove attests to his continued success. The interior arrangement of the house, such as its center hall plan and separated service areas, shows that he shared the attitudes of other wealthy Victorians toward domestic space relationships (Herman 1987; Herman et al. 1989). On his death, the house passed to his son, Franklin Penington, and it remained in the Penington family until 1939.

The 1953 USGS Middletown quadrangle shows a large barn, now destroyed, located behind the house, which archaeological evidence (below) suggests was constructed around 1900.

In 1939, the house was purchased by Walter and Thelma Guseman (NCC Deed Book D-41:551). The Gusemans owned the house until 1980, when it was purchased by Wallace and Ruth Harris (NCC Deed Book 109:83). The Harrises operated a trucking firm and used the rear portion of the farm as a truck park. The office of the firm was located in the original section of the house.

The Harrises constructed the equipment shed northeast of the house and the swimming pool. They sold the house to the State of Delaware in 1993 (NCC Deed Book 1604:97).

4. Phase II Testing

Phase II testing of the Locust Grove Site consisted of the excavation of 19 test units and eight shovel test pits (Figure 77). The shovel test pits were excavated in a line running north from the site at 10-meter intervals to search for barns or other outbuildings in the field behind the house. Shovel Test Pit 103, 90 meters (300 feet) north of the house, encountered a fill deposit, and Test Unit 9 was placed in this area. The test unit was widened to 1x2 meters to expose a stone foundation wall. Within the wall was a deep deposit of building debris, including roofing metal, burned boards, building stone, and wire nails. This deposit, which was interpreted as the remains of an early twentieth-century barn, was capped by a deposit of clay fill mixed with debris that appeared to indicate that the barn had been destroyed by bulldozing. The soil outside the foundation, as shown in both the test units and the shovel tests, also consisted of mixed fill, without a clear topsoil layer. The absence of a distinct topsoil suggested that the area had been repeatedly disturbed, perhaps churned up by trucks during its use as a parking lot. This fill yielded numerous nails and bits of roofing metal, but few domestic artifacts. Although barn remains were clearly present behind the house, they were disturbed, and no intact ground surface was located in the surrounding area.

The remainder of the test units were deployed closer to the house. Test Units 1 through 8, 13, and 15 were excavated in the front yard. Test Units 3 and 4 relocated an intact domestic midden deposit southwest of the house that had been originally encountered in Phase I Shovel Test Pit 13. This midden, buried under 20 centimeters of soil, included quantities of bone, oyster shell, and ceramics; the latter are mostly redware and whiteware, but include fragments of ironstone "hotel ware" that suggest a late nineteenth-century date. Test Unit 5, south of the house, relocated a deposit of rubble and sand that had been originally encountered in Phase I Shovel Test Pit 8 and had been interpreted as a possible foundation (Figure 78). Phase II testing failed to locate any foundations in this area; instead, the profile of Test Unit 5 showed that the deposit, which consisted of stone and brick rubble, sand, and greenish clay that must have been dug from some distance underground, had been dumped on top of earlier domestic deposits. This deposit was certainly related to some building project, probably the construction of the new front section of the house in the 1870s. The domestic midden sealed beneath this deposit contained large sherds of ceramics and well-preserved animal bones. A small trash pit was also found beneath the rubble. The artifacts in this midden appeared to date to the mid-nineteenth century, which would support the view that the rubble deposit in the front yard derived from the rebuilding of the house in the 1870s. Intact deposits containing quantities of domestic material were thus present in the front yard in at least two places. One of these deposits almost certainly dated to the mid-1800s, the other to the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

Test Unit 10 was excavated against the eastern wall of the older, rear section of the house to investigate its builder's trench and any adjacent deposits (Figure 79). No domestic deposits were encountered in this area, and the builder's trench was completely sterile. The absence of artifacts

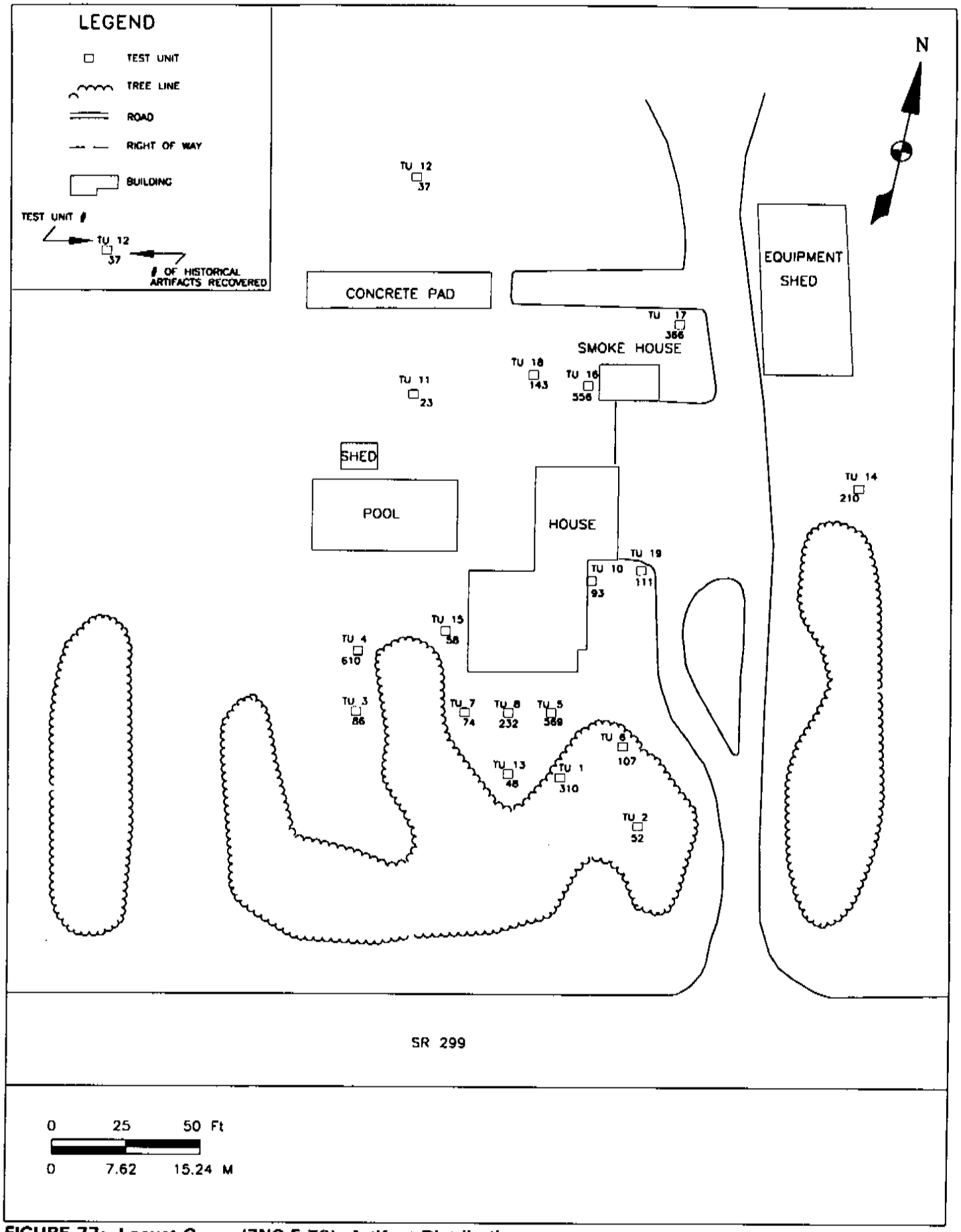

FIGURE 77: Locust Grove (7NC-F-73), Artifact Distribution

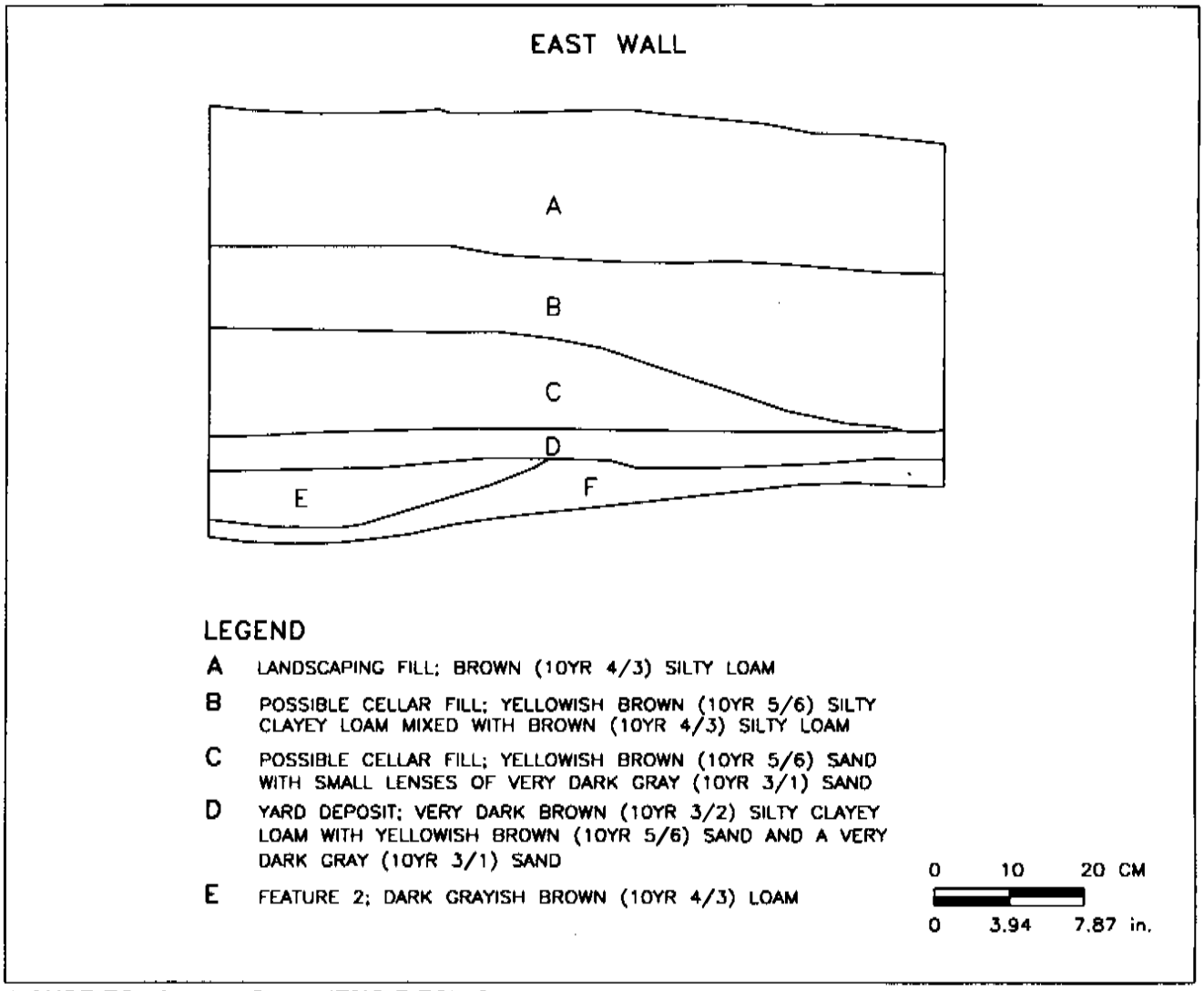

FIGURE 78: Locust Grove (7NC-F-73), Stratigraphic Profile of Test Unit 5

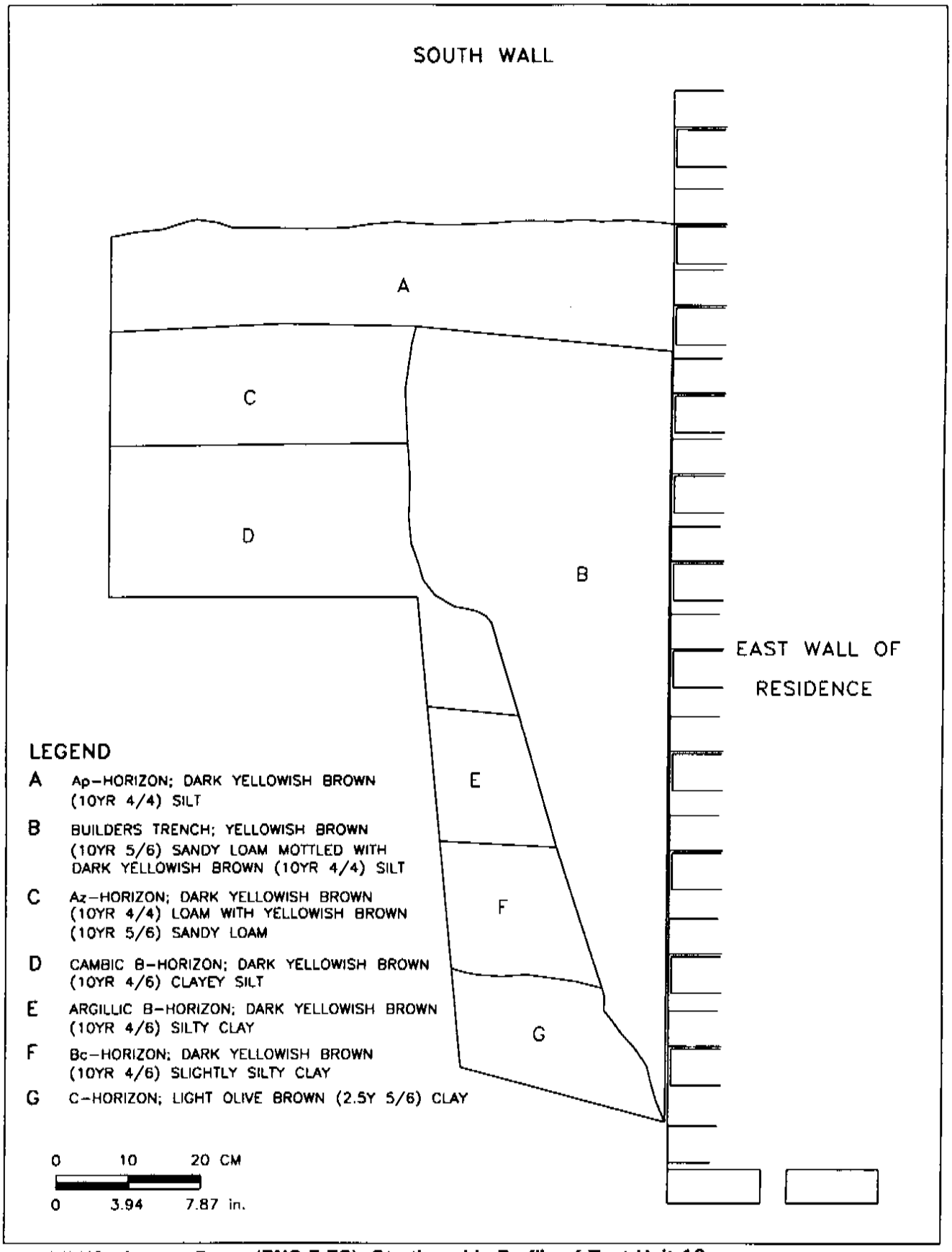

FIGURE 79: Locust Grove (7NC-F-73), Stratigraphic Profile of Test Unit 10

in the builder's trench of the 1830s house, coupled with the lack of artifacts from the site dating to earlier periods, strongly argues that this was the first house on the site. Test Unit 19 was excavated 4 meters east of Test Unit 10. It encountered a layer of redeposited subsoil from the cellar of the 1830s house, but this was nearly sterile and rested on subsoil.

Test Unit 14 was excavated 30 meters east of the house, in front of the equipment shed. This unit encountered a recent asphalt driveway. A substantial number of artifacts (more than 200) were recovered from a dark loamy soil next to the driveway, but they included large amounts of machine-made bottle glass, and the deposit appeared to be predominantly post-World War II in date.

The remaining test units were excavated in the rear of the house. Test Unit 11, northwest of the house, encountered a brick walkway immediately below the surface, probably of recent date. Test Unit 12, located 30 meters north of the house, was nearly sterile. Test Units 16, 17, and 18, excavated near the nineteenth-century smokehouse, encountered an artifact-rich deposit of black loam, immediately below the surface and up to 30 centimeters deep. The material recovered from this stratum included whiteware and cut nails, but this material also included pieces of plastic and aluminum foil and appeared to date predominantly from the twentieth century.

A total of 4,301 artifacts were recovered during the Phase I and Phase II testing of the Locust Grove Site (Table 21). This total included 1,079 nails (280 from Test Unit 4) and 1,581 sherds of ceramics. The most common ceramic was whiteware, which made up more than half the assemblage, followed by redware, ironstone, and pearlware, with small quantities of creamware, stoneware, Oriental porcelain, and yellowware. The assemblage appears to match the span of occupation, circa 1830 to the present, projected from written records.

TABLE 21 ARTIFACT PATTERN ANALYSIS SITE 7NC-F-73

ARTIFACT GROUP/CLASS	COUNT	PERCENTAGE
KITCHEN		
Ceramics	1,581	39.47%
Bottles	375	9.37%
Tumblers/Wine Glasses	13	0.32%
Misc. Glassware	13	0.32%
Kitchen-Other	359	8.97%
Kitchen Subtotal	2,341	58.48%
ARCHITECTURAL		
Nails, Spikes, etc.	1,079	26.95%
Window Glass	381	9.52%
Architectural Subtotal	1,460	36.47%

Table 21 (continued)

ARTIFACT GROUP/CLASS	COUNT	PERCENTAGE
FURNISHINGS		
Lighting Related	3	0.07%
Furniture Hardware and Pieces	1	0.02%
Furniture-Other	5	0.12%
Furnishings Subtotal	9	0.22%
ARMS		
Ammunition	6	0.15%
Arms Subtotal	6	0.15%
CLOTHING		
Clothing Fasteners	14	0.35%
Miscellaneous Clothing	1	0.02%
Clothing Subtotal	15	0.37%
PERSONAL		
Coins	2	0.05%
Hygiene/Personal Care	2	0.05%
Pharmaceutical/Medicine	7	0.17%
Personal-Other	2	0.05%
Personal Subtotal	13	0.32%
TOBACCO PIPES		
White Clay Pipes	1	0.02%
Pipes-Other Materials	1	0.02%
Tobacco Subtotal	2	0.05%
ACTIVITIES		
Household Related	53	1.32%
Machine Parts/Hardware	3	0.07%
Toys	4	0.10%
Hand Tools	4	0.10%
Sewing Related	1	0.02%
Livestock/Pet Related	2	0.05%
Activities, Other	90	2.25%
Activities Subtotal	157	3.92%
SITE TOTAL*	4,003	100.00%

*Does not include 162 faunal, 57 miscellaneous building materials, and 79 unidentified

5. Summary

Phase II testing at Locust Grove located intact, artifact-bearing deposits at three places in the yard of the house. The deposits in the rear of the house, centered on the nineteenth-century smokehouse, were dated to the twentieth century by finds of plastic and other recent material. The deposits in front of the house were sealed by a layer of construction debris that is probably associated with the construction of the major addition to the house in the 1870s. These deposits, which included large ceramic sherds and mammal bones, thus date to the mid-1800s. West of the house, a second domestic deposit was located that appears to date to late in the nineteenth century. Testing of the builder's trench to the older, 1830s portion of the house showed that it was sterile, strongly suggesting that this was the first house on the site.

G. SITE 7NC-F-72, THE MIDDLETOWN ROAD SITE

1. Site Description

The Middletown Road Site was a scatter of nineteenth-century artifacts in an active agricultural field along Middletown Road (SR 299), directly across from Locust Grove (see Figures 33 and 34; Figure 80). A notch cut into the bank along Middletown Road was once part of a road, shown on the 1906 USGS map, that ran across the center of the site before joining U.S. Route 13 just north of the Appoquinimink River. As defined by the Phase I shovel testing, the site measured approximately 250 meters east-west by 100 meters north-south (800x330 feet).

The location of Site 7NC-F-72 was considered to have high potential for historical archaeological sites because of its proximity to Middletown Road, known in the seventeenth century as the Bohemia Cart Road, and the oldest road in the Odessa vicinity. The area south of the road was an active agricultural field, and at the time of the survey it was planted in winter wheat. The survey was carried out in December when the wheat was still low, and surface visibility was approximately 25 percent (Bedell 1995a). The survey was therefore carried out by shovel testing at 20-meter intervals, but some artifacts were noted on the surface. A total of 96 shovel test pits were excavated on the 20-meter grid in the survey area, and of these, 19 yielded historic artifacts. An additional 13 close-interval shovel test pits were excavated, and of these, three were positive. Within the 250x100 meter site area defined by the shovel testing, 22 out of 56 shovel test pits yielded historic material. The artifact scatter was thin, with most shovel tests yielding only one to two artifacts, and very little material was visible on the surface. No significant concentrations of material were noted. The most common materials recovered were brick (more than 20 small pieces) and coal. The other materials constituted a fairly typical assemblage from the 1860 to 1900 period, including whiteware, ironstone, redware, cut nails, window glass, a porcelain doll's arm, and fragments from what appeared to be mold-blown glass bottles. Excluding brick and coal, 26 historic artifacts were recovered. Because architectural fragments (brick, nails, and window glass) made up a significant portion of the assemblage, the site seemed more likely to represent a dwelling site than trash dumping. Since the site was not shown on any known historic map, and also because of the small amount of material recovered, the occupation must have been rather ephemeral, perhaps a briefly occupied tenant house. Phase II evaluation was