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

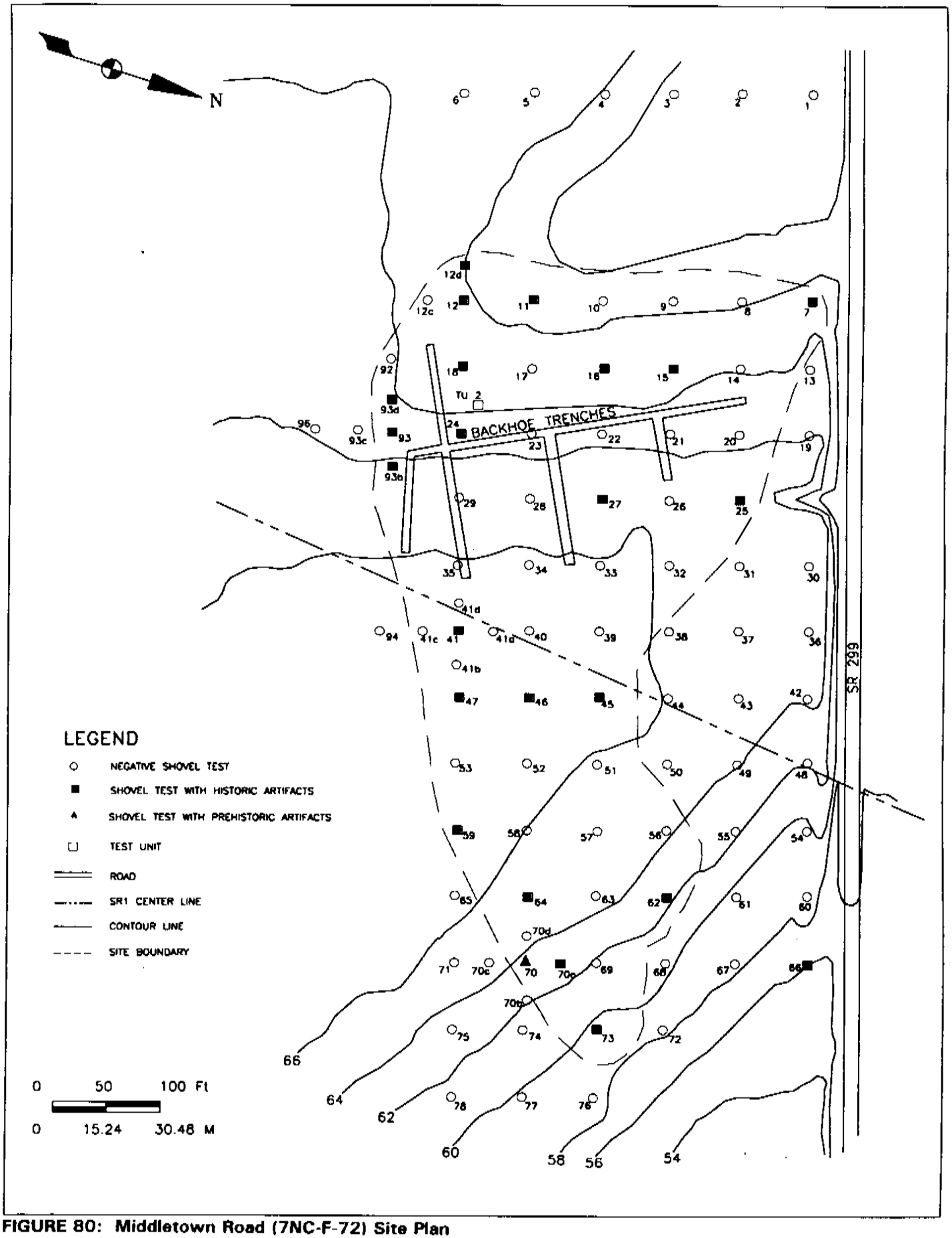

FIGURE 80: Middletown Road (7NC-F-72) Site Plan

therefore recommended to investigate the possibility of a short-occupation slave quarter or tenant farm.

2. Environmental Setting

The Middletown Road Site occupied a low hill with shallow drainages to both the east and west. The Appoquinimink River was 1,300 meters (4,200 feet) to the south. The soil was well-drained Sassafras loam. The site bordered on Middletown Road, approximately 1,200 meters (4,000 feet) west of Odessa and 3,200 meters (2 miles) east of Middletown. Locust Grove, a standing nineteenth-century house, was located directly across Middletown Road, and the site of Spring Valley, one of the nineteenth-century Cochran family farms, was located to the southwest.

3. Historical Background

The Middletown Road Site (Site 7NC-F-72) belonged historically to the same Cochran property as the Appoquinimink North Site (Site 7NC-F-13), which is discussed below. No record has been found of an occupation in the location of this site, and no known map shows a structure in this location.

4. Phase II Testing

The plowzone on the Middletown Road Site contained very few artifacts, too few to repay intensive archaeological study. Therefore, the Phase II evaluation of the Middletown Road Site was focused on the search for features. A backhoe with a 2.5-foot-wide smooth bucket was employed to remove the plowzone from the site in strips 1.5 meters (5 feet) wide. Five trenches with a combined length of 230 meters (750 feet) were excavated (see Figure 80). A single 1x1-meter test unit was dug by hand. A total of nine artifacts, consisting of whiteware, ironstone, porcelain, and clear bottle glass, were recovered from this test unit. The artifacts suggest a date in the late nineteenth century.

5. Summary

The Middletown Road Site appeared to represent a tenant dwelling occupied for a brief time during the mid- to late nineteenth century. Artifact density was very low, and the artifacts were confined to the plowzone. No cultural features were located during the plowzone stripping.

H. SITE 7NC-F-13, THE APPOQUINIMINK NORTH SITE

1. Site Description

The Appoquinimink North Site was located on a level hilltop approximately 300 meters north of the Appoquinimink River and on the gentle slope leading down from that hilltop to the riverbank (see Figures 37 and 38; Figure 81). The site had both historic and prehistoric components. The historic component, which measured approximately 100x100 meters (300x300 feet), was a scatter