4.2.3 7NC-J-199/200

Site Description. Site 7NC-J-199/200 is located in the central portion of the 5-mile-long project corridor, on the south side of Sandom Branch and immediately adjacent and to the west of U.S. Route 13 (Figure 1-1). During a 1992 survey of the SR1 corridor conducted by UDCAR, sites 7NC-J-199 and 7NC-J-200 were first recorded, and interpreted as the possible location of a nineteenth century school (Bedell and Busby 1997). The shovel testing by UDCAR was conducted along three parallel transects spaced 45 m (150 ft) apart, with shovel test pits (STPs) excavated at 40-ft intervals along the transects. LBA later conducted additional testing within the corridor, which included 5 STPs at 7NC-J-199 and 4 STPs at 7NC-J-200 (Bedell and Jacoby 1998).

Site 7NC-J-199 contains a shed, and 7NC-J-200 contains a one-story dwelling with cellar; because the two structures are located only 15 m apart, both sites were tested as a single unit and are discussed collectively. The site is located on a gently sloping cleared knoll measuring approximately 60 m north/south by 35 m east/west in the south, widening slightly to 50 m east/west in the north. The road trace delineating Old Route 13 parallels U.S. Route 13 and borders the east side of the site, while a swamp/wetland marks the west boundary and a recently plowed field delimits the south boundary. Ground surface visibility at the time of field investigation was poor, with grass covering the knoll and mixed hardwood/pine forest and a dense green briar understory surrounding the base of the knoll.

Archival Research. In January 1857, Ann Weldon (also Whildin), widow of Benton Weldon of New Castle County, owned the parcel containing Site 7NC-J-199/200. At that time, it was part of a 92-acre parcel, with 91.5 acres north of Sandom Branch and the one-half acre containing Site 7NC-J-199/200 south of Sandom Branch (Figure 4-51). The portion of the property north of Sandom Branch contained the school house for School District 69 by the 1840s and archaeological site 7NC-J-195A. The ownership history for the 92-acre parcel before 1857 is discussed in Section 4.2.2 for Site 7NC-J-195A, and the development of School District 69 is described in Section 6.0 (Historic Land Use). A chain of title for the tract containing Site 7NC-J-199/200 is provided in Table 4-33.

Ann Weldon sold a half-acre, triangular-shaped lot to the School Committee of School District 69 for $20.00 in January 1857 (NCCDB 1857a). The lot was located on the west side of the State Road leading from Blackbird to Smyrna, south of Sandom Branch, and north of land of William Allston. The triangular lot is the present location of Site 7NC-J-199/200.

The new school was constructed and in operation by 1860. A February 1860 deed for the remainder of the 92-acre parcel mentions that the one-half acre "with a new School House thereon erected" was excepted from the conveyance (NCCDB 1860a). The school appears on the 1868 Beers map on the south side of Sandom Branch (Figure 4-52; Beers 1868). The school building was depicted in this same location in 1881 (Figure 4-53; Hopkins 1881).

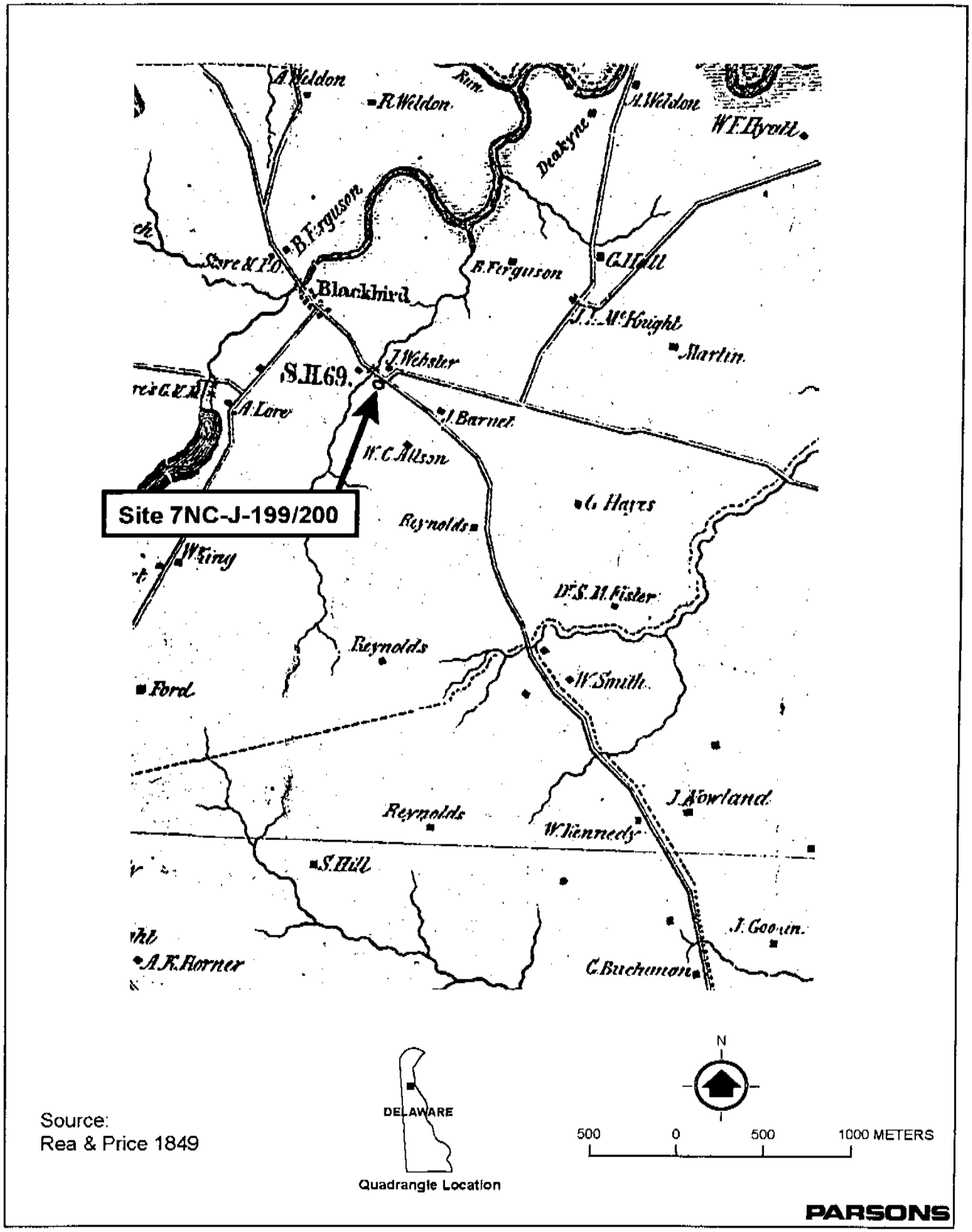

Figure 4-51. The Site 7NC-J-199/200 Area in 1849 (Rea & Price 1849)

Table 4-33. Chain of Title for Site 7NC-J-199/-200 (see Table 4-26 Site 7NC-J-195A for pre-1857 owners)

Instrument Date	Grantor	Grantee	New Castle Co. Book (Volume): Page	Acres	Price	Land Description/ Comments
January 16, 1857	Ann Weldon (or Whildin) (widow of Benton Weldon)	School Committee of School District (S.D.) 69 in New C. Co.: Benjamin W. Shawn, Jacob Hill, & Rayworth Weldon	Deed X (24): 24-26	½ acre	$20.00	Triangular-shaped parcel on W side of State Rd. from Blackbird to Smyrna; bounded on S by land of Wm. C. Allston. Came out of 92- acre parcel of Ann Weldon; see Site 7NC-J-195A for pre-1857.
April 16, 1886	School Committee of S.D. 69 in New C. Co.: David Keen, John Ferguson, & Mortimer Records	Vincent O. Hill	Deed X (24): 26-29	½ acre	$50.00	On Public Rd. from Blkbd. to Smyrna, bounded by lands of Donald Beath, Heirs of Rbt. Gaston. Act of Delaware General Assembly Apr. 18, 1885 authorizing sale at auction of lot of land & bldg. thereon.
October 9, 1910	Vincent O. Hill	Hester and Susan Hill (nieces of Vincent)	Will (2 versions in same year)	½ acre [plus 12 acres]	None: bequest	½ acre school house lot and 12 A. in Blackbird. Will recorded on April 2, 1912. Court case – settled in 1914 in favor of his nieces, Hester and Susan Hill of Smyrna.
January 28, 1924	Hester J. Hill and Susan O. Hill (both single)	Pearl Morris, widow	Deed N (32): 536-538	½ acre	$100.00	
[died 1964]	Pearl Cahall (former Pearl Morris) (widow of Roland Cahill)	Leonard Morris, Beatrice Webert, Earl Morris, David Morris, Pearl Daniels, Ralph Cahall, Roland Cahall, Lewis Cahall, Dorothy Reed, Edith Morris, Goe. Cahall, Glen Cahall, & Na omi Daniels (heirs of Pearl Cahall)			None: inheritance	Roland Cahall died May 1, 1963. Pearl Cahall died intestate Aug. 18, 1964. Land descended to her heirs under the intestate laws of Delaware.

Table 4-33. Chain of Title for Site 7NC-J-199/-200 (see Table 4-26 Site 7NC-J-195A for pre-1857 owners) (Continued)

Instrument Date	Grantor	Grantee	New Castle Co. Book (Volume): Page	Acres	Price	Land Description/ Comments
February 5, 1966	Leonard Morris & wife, Sally & others (heirs of Pearl Morris)	Naomi Daniels (heir of Pearl Morris) & husband, Harry	Deed S (78): 345	½ acre	$2,000.00	Their interest in the parcel.
June 1, 1970	Naomi Daniels, widow	William C. Daniels	Deed W (99): 226	½ acre	$1.00	By the public road from Blackbird toward Smyrna, more recently closed insofar as being a through road and being a dead end, the property lying on the W side of this old road. Naomi's husband, Harry, died May 10, 1970.
December 18, 1990	William Daniels	State of Delaware	Deed 1121: 127	½ acre	$97,000.00	Parcel No. OR-161. Bounded by lands of/formerly of Donald Beith, heirs of Robert Gaston, deceased, & by the old public rd. from Blackbird to Smyrna.

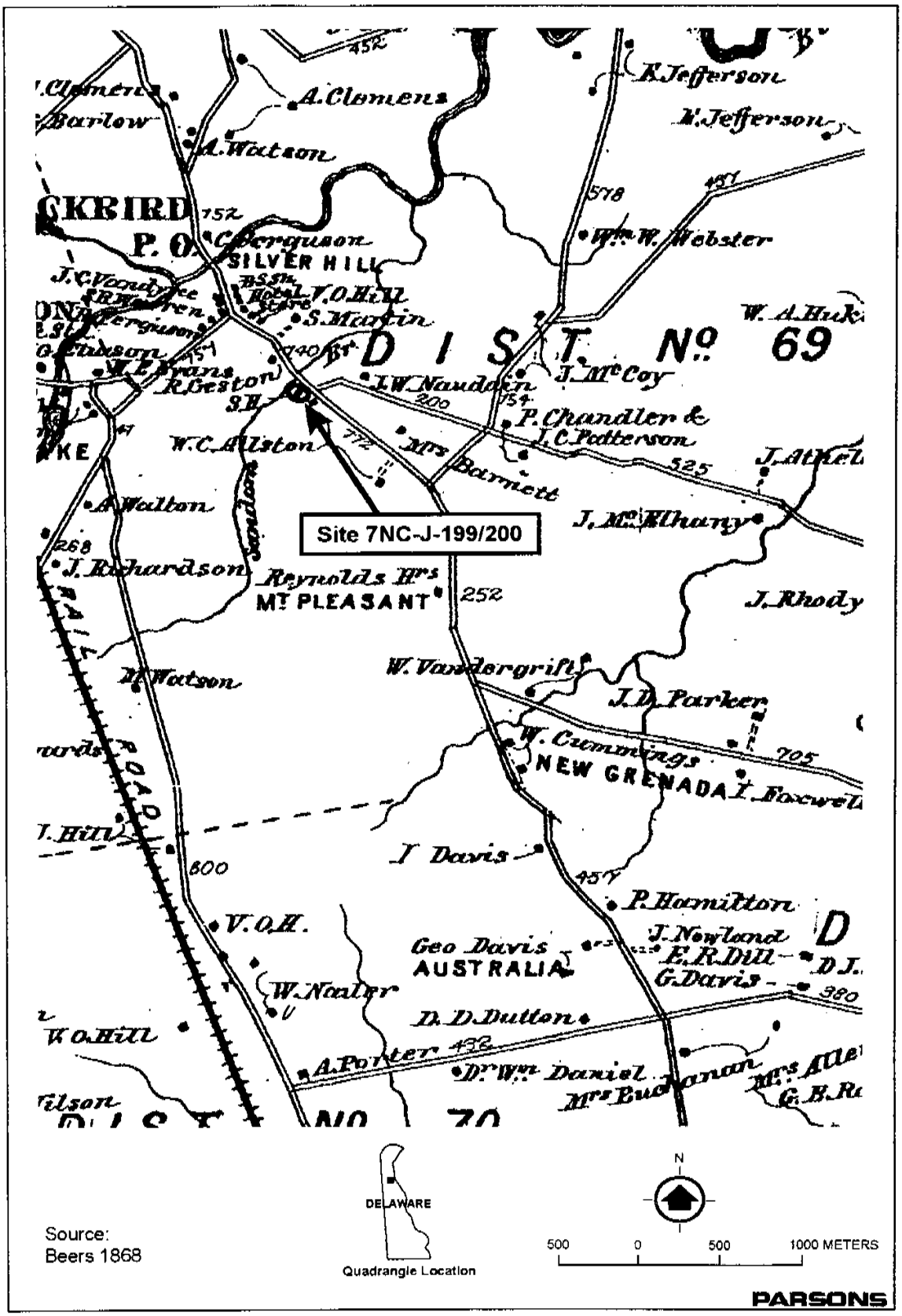

Figure 4-52. The Sites 7NC-J-199/200 Area in 1868 (Beers 1868)

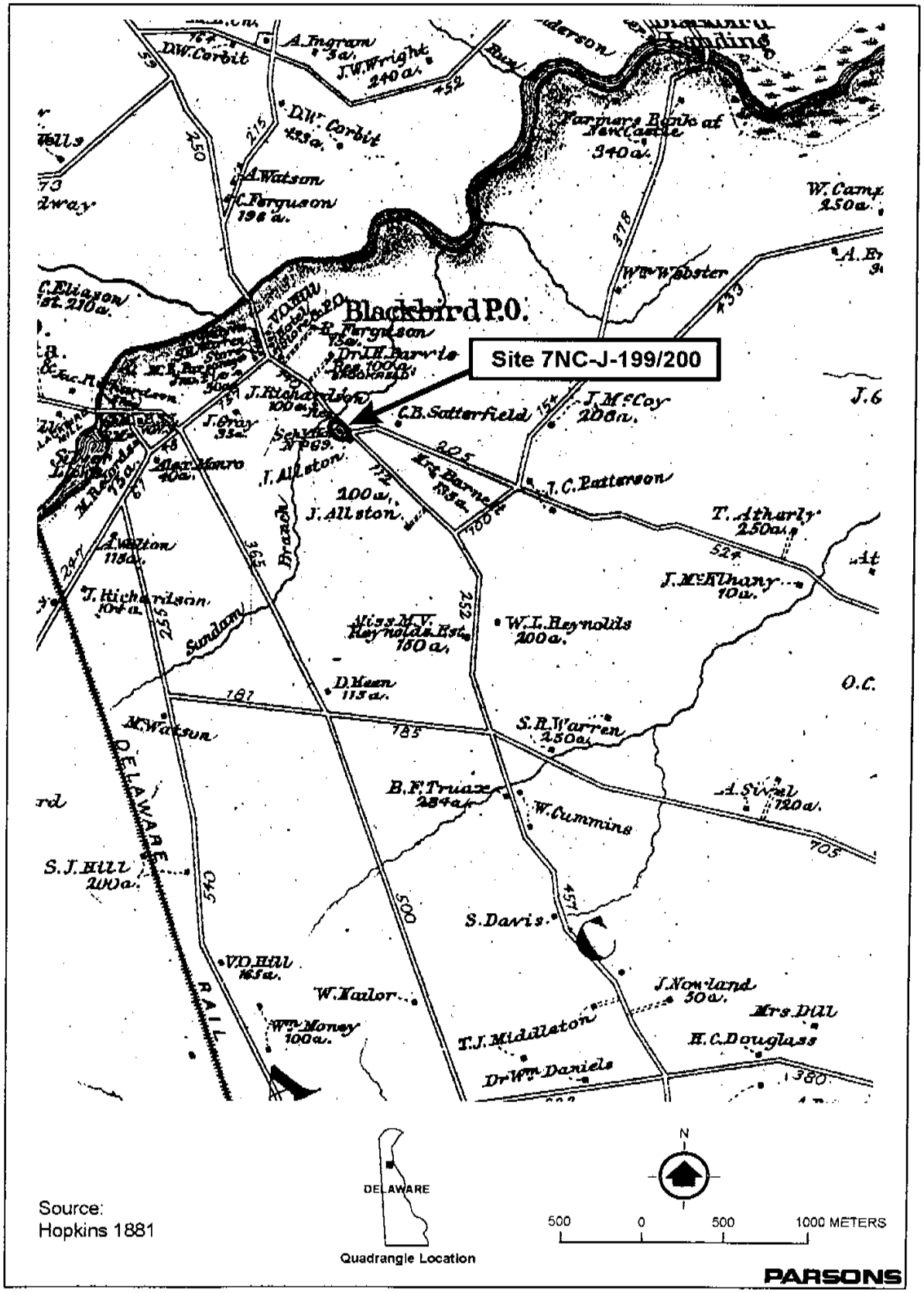

Figure 4-53. The Sites 7NC-J-199/200 Area in 1881 (Hopkins 1881)

In 1885, an act was passed in the General Assembly at Dover that authorized the School Committee of School District 69 to sell, at private or public sale, the school lot and building. The committee was authorized to find another lot of land to construct a new building for a schoolhouse (State of Delaware 1883-1885). In April 1886, the School Committee (David Keen, Colin Ferguson, and Mortimer Records) sold the half-acre lot and the existing building at public auction. Vincent O. Hill of Blackbird was the highest bidder for the lot and building at $50.00 (NCCDB 1886b). Hill and his wife, Nancy, operated a store and hotel in the village of Blackbird. It is not known if Hill made any use of the school building, or whether the building remained on the one-half acre parcel during Hill's ownership.

According to Pryor (1975:48), the new school was constructed on the east side of the old King's road in 1886 and was in operation until 1928. However, an 1893 map still shows the school at the original location on the west side of the old King's Road (Baist 1893). A map of schools for white children in the county in 1921 depicts a single-teacher school for School District 69 on the east side of the old King's road.

In 1910, Hill wrote two separate wills in which he devised the half-acre lot known as the "School house lot," as well as 12 acres of land in Blackbird, to two different sets of heirs. After his death, a long court case ensued in which the heirs of each will tried to claim their rights. The case was settled in 1914 in favor of his two nieces, Hester Hill and Susan Hill of Smyrna, the daughters of his deceased brother Henry. At that time, the property was valued at $1,225.00 (New Castle County Probate Court Files [NCC Probate] 1910-1914).

In January 1924, Hester J. Hill and Susan O. Hill, both single, sold the half-acre lot for $100.00 to Pearl Morris, a widow living in Blackbird Hundred (NCCDB 1924). The Hills were both residents of the Town of Smyrna, and therefore did not reside on the half-acre tract. A dwelling was present on the property by 1926, within a triangular-shaped clearing bordered by woods to the west and south (Figure 4-54; Army Air Corps 1926). A driveway led from the curving, former alignment of U.S. Route 13 to the house. Pearl Morris remarried during this period, to Roland Cahall. Mr. Cahall died May 1963, and Pearl Cahall died intestate August 1964. Under the intestate laws of the State of Delaware, the land descended to Pearl's heirs: Leonard, Earl, David, and Edith Morris; Beatrice Webert; Pearl and Naomi Daniels; Ralph, Roland, Lewis, George, and Glen Cahall; and Dorothy Reed.

In February 1966, the lot was purchased by one of the Pearl Cahall heirs, Naomi Daniels, for $2,000.00 (NCCDB 1966). Naomi and her husband, Harry, were living in Middletown, New Castle County, while the heirs were residents of Clayton in Kent County, Maryland. Therefore, it appears none of the heirs were residing on the tract in 1966. The widowed Naomi Daniels transferred the lot to William C. Daniels for $1.00 in June 1970, soon after her husband's death (NCCDB 1970). The lot was described as being on the west side of the old road from Blackbird to Smyrna, "more recently closed insofar as being a through road and being a dead end." In December 1990, William Daniels sold the lot to the State of Delaware for $97,000.00 (NCCDB 1990).

Figure 4-54. Aerial Photograph of the Site 7NC-J-199/200 Area in 1926 (Army Air Corps 1926)

Test Results. Parsons excavated a total of 27 STPs on 7NC-J-199/200 (Figure 4-55). Two planned tests were not excavated, one due to standing water and the other due to roots from an adjacent red maple tree.

Stratigraphy varied across the site but a representative sequence was observed in STP N110/E190 (Figure 4-56). Topsoil consisted of a brown (10YR4/3) sandy loam extending to approximately 15 cm below surface. The upper stratum was underlain by a dark grayish brown (10YR4/2) sandy loam mottled with light gray, and extending to 25 cm below surface. The third stratum consisted of a light matrix ranging between a light gray (10YR7/1) silty loam mottled with brownish yellow (10YR6/8). Several tests recorded gleyed soils and the water table was occasionally reached.

Artifacts recovered from 7NC-J-199/200 were recovered from the surface as well as all three stratigraphic units (Table 4-34;Figure 4-57). The only Native American artifact, a Bare Island projectile point, was recovered from the surface. Stratum A contained the majority of artifacts; temporally diagnostic items include machine-made bottle glass, solarized amethyst glass, a 1916-1929 glass maker's mark, decal-decorated whiteware, an aluminum pull tab can, cut nails, and wire nails representing a late nineteenth through early twentieth century assemblage. Fewer artifacts were recovered from Stratum B and include machine-made bottle glass, a 1916 Coke bottle fragment, a white salt-glazed stoneware sherd dating to the eighteenth century appeared in the middle stratum, solarized amethyst glass, a post-1915 shoe heel, cut nails and wire nails. With the exception of the white salt-glazed stoneware sherd dating to the early to mid-eighteenth century (which may represent a heirloom item), the Stratum B assemblage was similar to Stratum A, dating to the late nineteenth through early twentieth century. The third stratum contained only seven artifacts and included a wire nail and the phonograph record fragment, as well as unidentified fruit jar and window glass indicating a late nineteenth to early twentieth century deposition. Overall, the artifact assemblage represents a late nineteenth through early twentieth century deposit; however, the juxtaposition of an early artifact at the surface (i.e. the Bare Island point) and a later artifact at depth (e.g., the phonograph record) indicate stratigraphic mixing with little or no physical integrity.

Artifact Description. One Native American artifact was recovered from 7NC-J-199/200: a white quartz Bare Island projectile point (#35-1). The projectile point is complete and measures 30.1 mm long, 17.6 mm wide, and 7.6 mm thick (Figure 4-58). The blade edge angles are both 59 degrees and bifacially worked. No use wear, alternate beveling (indications of resharpening on the haft) or facial polish (evidence of hafting) are present. This point is diagnostic to the Woodland I period however; its recovery in an area otherwise void of other Native American artifacts suggests possible scavenging by later groups (including historical occupants) or loss during use or transport.

A total of 352 historical artifacts were recovered from 7NC-J-199/200 (Table 4-35). Site 7NC-J-199/200 yielded relatively few architectural artifacts. The architectural remains recovered consist primarily of brick, nails, and window glass with some asphalt paving materials, tar roof paper, and asbestos tile. Bottle glass constitutes the majority of the domestic collection; ceramics are only marginally represented. One non-roofing slate fragment was recovered. This artifact is possibly a piece of a writing slate (Figure 4-59).

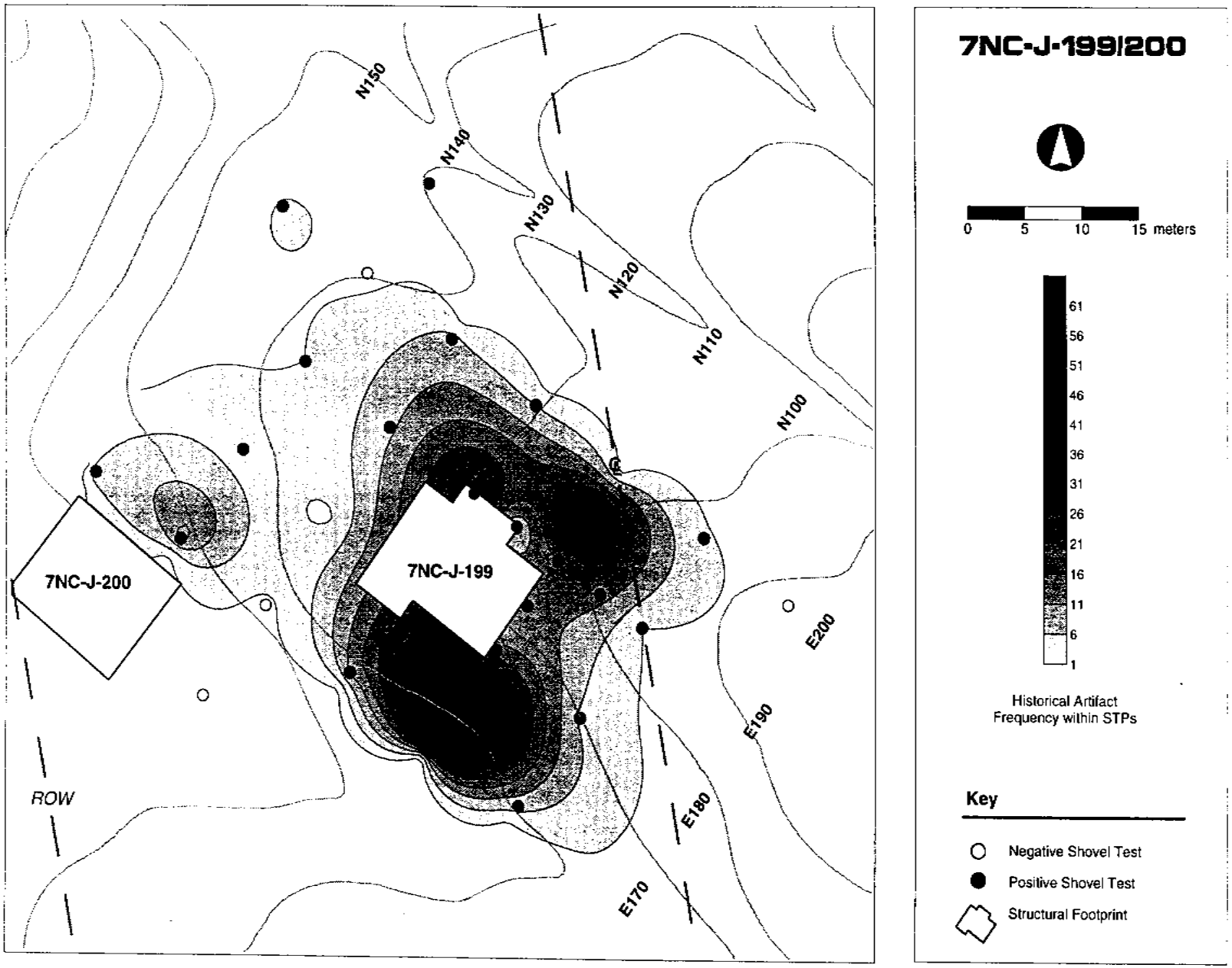

Figure 4-55. Site 7NC-J-199/200 Excavation Units

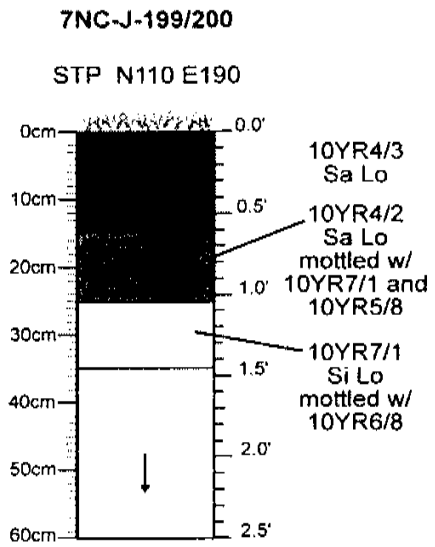

Figure 4-56. Representative Stratigraphic Profile from Site 7NC-J-199/200.

Table 4-34. Artifact Distribution by Stratum from Site 7NC-J-199/200

Stratum	Native American Artifact	Historical Artifact	Other*	Total
Surface	1	0	0	1
A	0	237	4	241
B	0	103	1	104
C	0	7	0	7
Total	**1**	**347**	**5**	**353**

*includes faunal remains

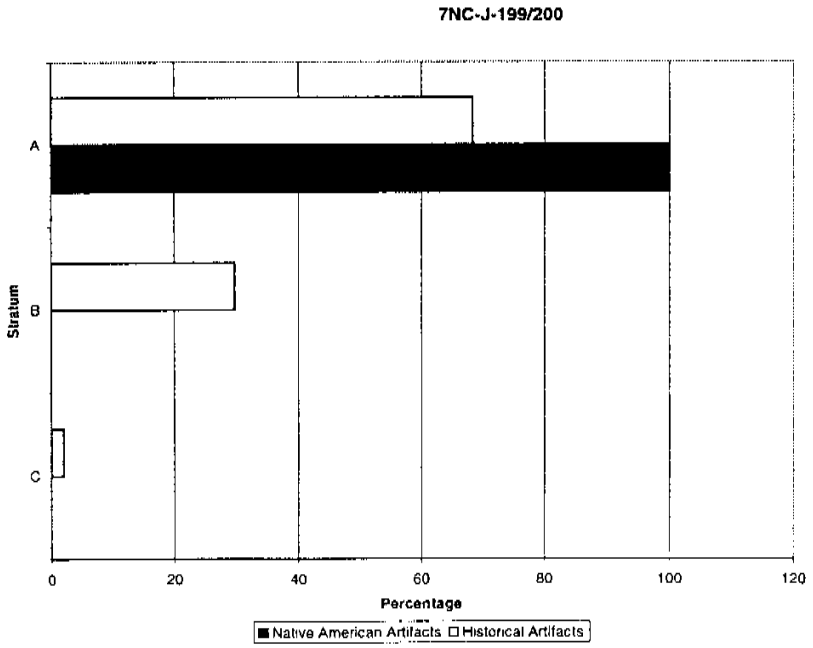

Figure 4-57. Artifact Frequency Distribution with Depth at 7NC-J-199/200

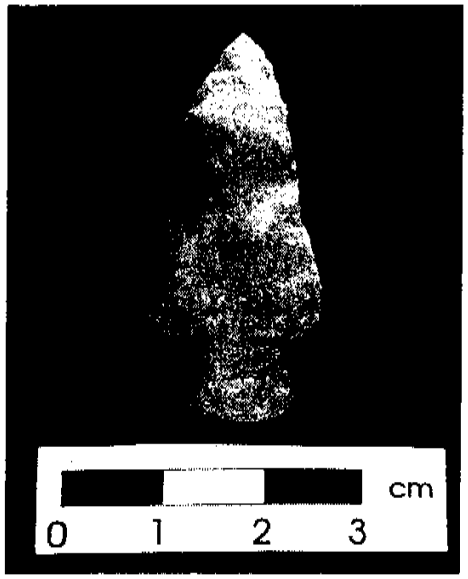

Figure 4-58. Projectile Point (#35-1) from Site 7NC-J-199/200

Table 4-35. Artifacts Recovered from Site 7NC-J-199/200

GROUP	ARTIFACT	COUNT
Activity	Flowerpot sherd	1
	Hardware (wire, bolt/nut, washer, etc.)	5
	Drill/ ratchet brace	1
Architectural	Window glass fragment	50
	Wire nail/spike	38
	Cut nail	6
	Unidentified nail	16
	Screw	1
	Brick fragment	12
	Asbestos tile fragment	6
	Tar paper roofing shingle fragment	3
	Asphalt pavement fragment	1
Clothing	Leather shoe fragment	1
	Rubber shoe sole fragments	2
Domestic	Glass bottle/ vessel sherd	109
	Glass fruit jar/ lid liner sherd	14
	Other glass vessel sherds	24
	Ceramic vessel sherd	17
	Aluminum can fragment	3
Electricity	Light bulb fragments	4
Fauna	Mammal bone fragment	3
	Oyster shell fragment	2
Fuel	Clinker	1
Personal	Plastic comb fragment	1
	Phonograph record (2-sided) fragment	1
Unidentified	Metal fragment	22
	Slate fragment (poss. school slate)	1
	Unid. plastic and other materials	7
Native American	Jasper Bare Island Point	1
TOTAL		**353**

Figure 4-59. Possible Writing Slate Fragment from Site 7NC-J-199/200

Temporally diagnostic artifacts include an aluminum can, ceramics, glass, a glass maker's mark, nails, a shoe heel and a phonograph record (Table 4-36). One sherd of white salt-glazed stoneware represents the earliest diagnostic historical artifact, dating to the Colonial period, and is temporally anomalous within the collection. This item may represent an heirloom artifact that was maintained for a long period of time and eventually broken and discarded. The majority of ceramics consist of whitewares and ironstones with lengthy manufacturing dates. All glass identifiable for manufacturing technique is machine-made; no blown-in-mold or free-blown examples were recovered. Six of the glass sherds contain manganese and are solarized, indicating production between 1880 and 1915, the period when manganese was used to decolorize glass (Munsey 1970). One glass vessel base contains a mark used by the Illinois Glass Company from 1916 to 1929 (Toulouse 1971). Similarly, of the 60 nails recovered, 38 are wire, 6 are machine-cut, and 16 are unidentifiable. A rubber shoe heel contains a patent date of 1915. One double-sided shellac phonograph record fragment was identified. The historical artifact collection indicates a late nineteenth through early twentieth century occupation (1880s-1920s).

Spatial Distribution. Archival research suggested sites 7NC-J-199/200 as the possible location of a school building dating from the first quarter of the nineteenth century that remained in use until the third. However, the artifacts recovered indicate a late nineteenth through early twentieth century deposition. One sherd of white salt-glazed stoneware provided the only exception however, this artifact pre-dates the school. Regardless, distribution maps were generated for all historical artifacts, domestic artifacts, and architectural artifacts. Distributions of all historical artifacts and domestic artifacts aimed to illustrate any concentrations anomalous to the extant domestic complex. The architectural distribution attempted to expose any structural evidence.

The distribution of all historical artifacts and that of domestic artifacts indicated the greatest material concentrations approximately ten meters west-southwest of the standing primary house structure, built post-1924 (7NC-J-199) (Figure 4-60). This placement suggests deposition resulting from refuse disposal from the existing structure. The architectural distribution generally encircles the current structure with minor occurrences associated with the outbuilding

Table 4-36. Temporally Diagnostic Artifacts by Type for Site 7NC-J-199/200

Artifact	Type	Manufacturer/Place	Manufacturing Dates	Terminus Post Quem (TPQ)	Reference
Aluminum	Pull tab	USA	1962-Present	1962	Busch 1981: 103
Ceramic	Ironstone, plain	England, USA	1800-Present	1800	Price 1979:11; Noel Hume 1969: 131
Ceramic	Whiteware, Decal		1890-Present	1890	Stelle 2001
Ceramic	White Salt Glazed Stoneware	England	1700-1775	1700	MAC-Lab 2002
Glass	Vessel Maker's Mark	Illinois Glass Company Alton, Illinois	1916-1929	1916	Toulouse 1971: 265
Glass	Coca-Cola Hobbleskirt/Mae West Form		1916+	1916	Petretti 1997:343; Trager 1992:721
Glass	Applied Color Label		1934+	1934	Riley 1958:145
Glass	Solarized amethyst (Manganese)	USA	1880-1914	1880	Kendrick 1971:55
Glass	Machine Made	USA	1903-Present	1903	Jones and Sullivan 1989
Glass	White, Mason Jar lid liner	USA	1870-	1870	Stelle 2001
Nail	Cut	England, France, USA	ca. 1795-present	1795	Edwards and Wells 1993
Nail	Wire	USA	ca. 1880-present	1880	Edwards and Wells 1993:16
Rubber	Shoe Heel Maker's Mark	Goodyear	1915+	1915	U.S. Patent June 1, 1915/X-9844
Shellac	2-Sided Phonograph Record	USA	1887-1930	1887	www.45rpm.org.uk 2003

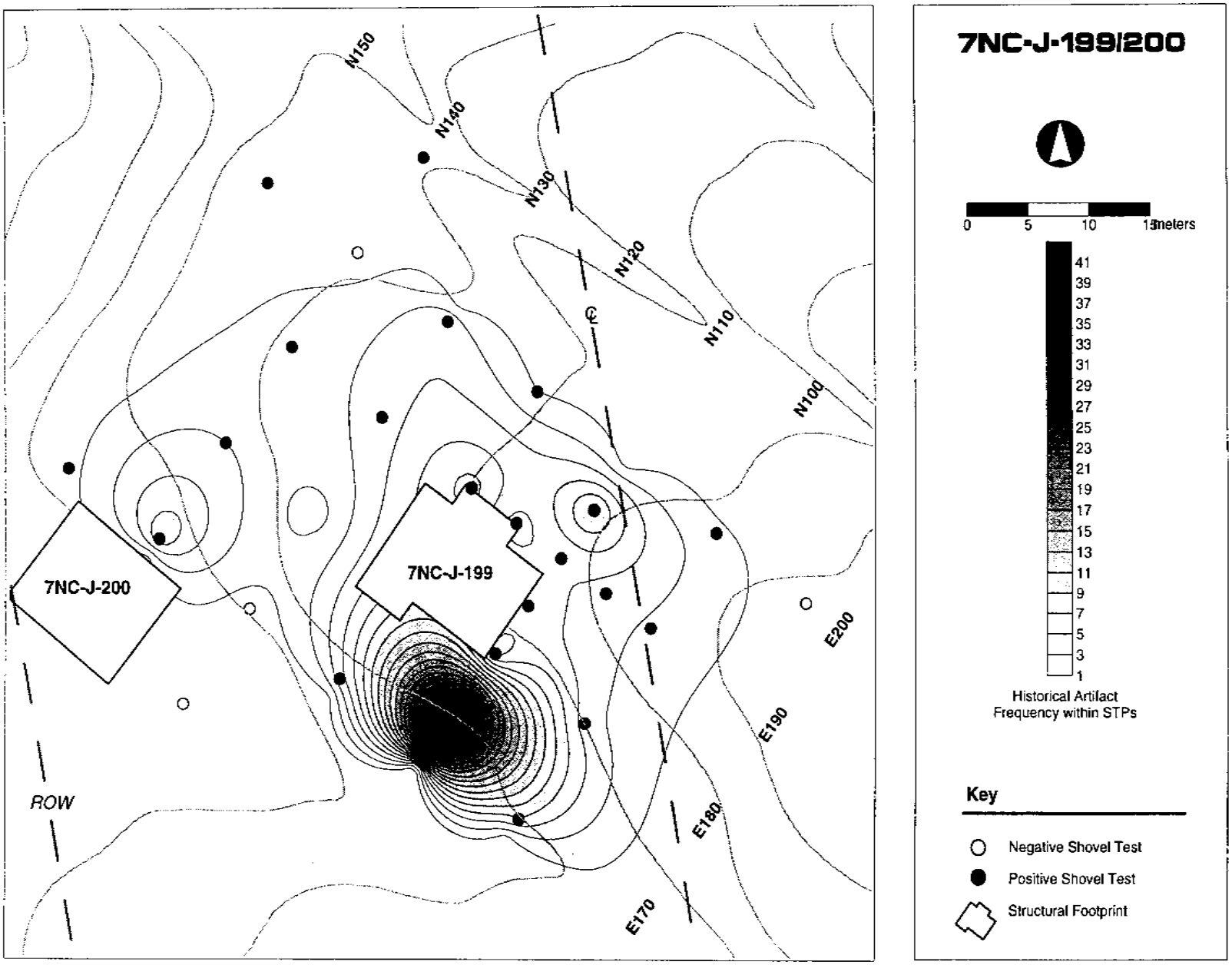

Figure 4-60. Distribution of Historical Domestic Artifacts from STPs, Site 7NC-J-199/200

northwest of the current farmhouse (Figure 4-61). Distributions produced the outcome expected given the depositional period suggested by diagnostic artifacts. None of the artifacts appear contemporaneous with the school occupation except for the writing slate fragment and the distributions suggest association with the structures currently standing on these sites.

Site Summary. It is likely that the house standing on the property in the 1990s was built during the ownership of Pearl Morris in 1924 or 1925. The house was situated near the old alignment of U.S. Route 13, as far south of Sandom Branch as the property boundary would allow. The schoolhouse shown in the 1868 and 1881 maps appear to be in the same location: near the main road, and set far south of Sandom Branch. This suggests that the house was built on the same portion of the tract where the school once stood. The house reportedly has a basement, which probably obscured any traces of a former foundation or piers supporting the former school building. The house was removed by DelDOT after the completion of fieldwork. Based on the technological artifact attributes and marks, the assemblage appeared to date primarily to the late nineteenth through early twentieth century and most likely associated with the Morris/Cahall occupation.

A single artifact may be associated with the former school. A small fragment of slate was recovered that may be a portion of a school slate. Although the fragment could be a roof or floor tile fragment, it is likely a school slate due to the presence of what appear to be hand scratch marks. Furthermore, no other slate fragments were recovered such as might be expected if an earlier structure had a slate roof.

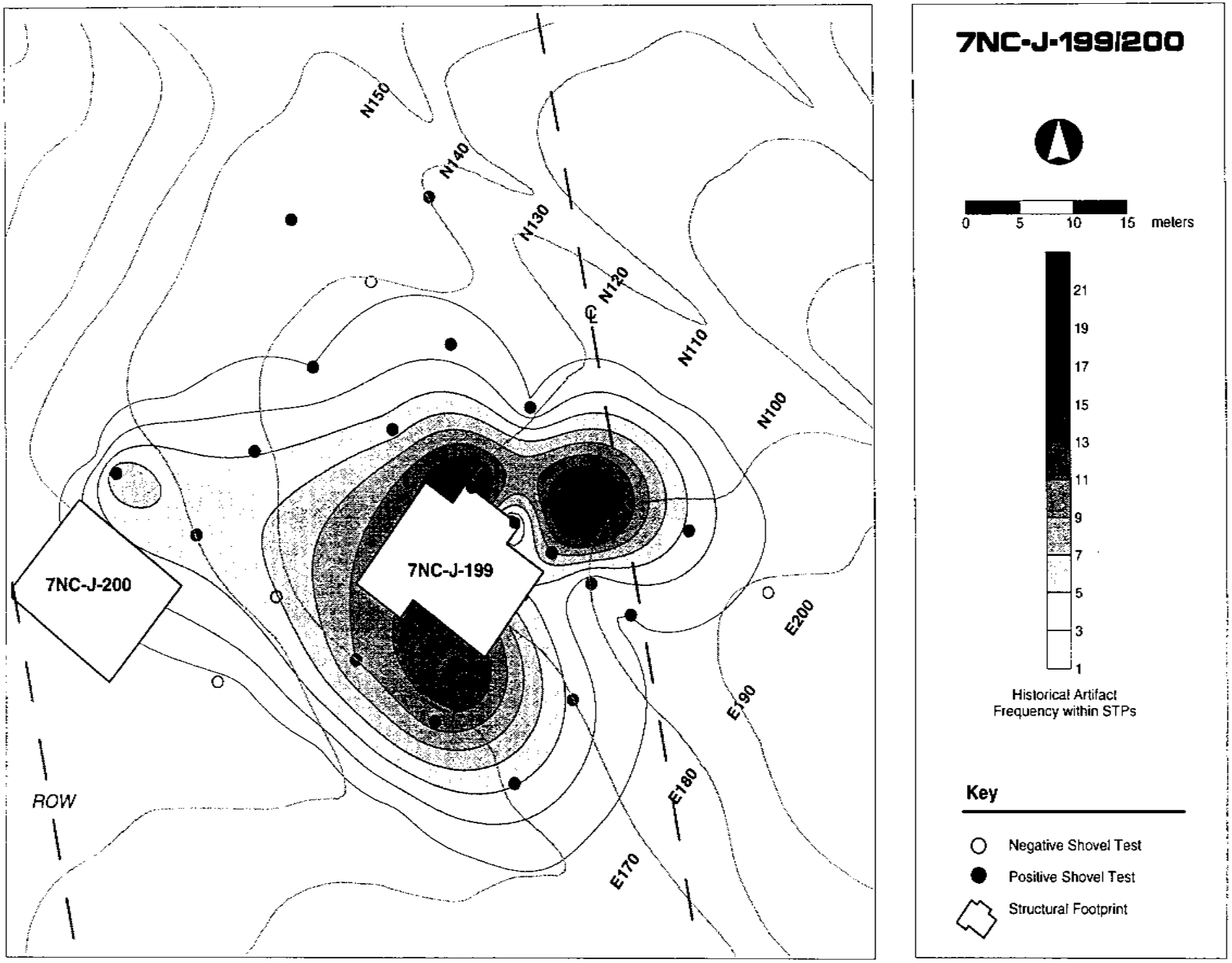

Figure 4-61. Distribution of Historical Architectural Artifacts from STPs, Site 7NC-J-199/200