

VII. GLOSSARY

<i>archaeology</i>	The study of past human culture through the systematic recovery and analysis of the artifacts/material evidence left behind.
<i>archival research</i>	Research conducted in places where public or historical records, charters, and documents are stored and preserved.
<i>artifact</i>	Any object shaped or modified and produced by humans, or as a result of human activity. A stone tool, a house, and a four-lane highway could all be considered artifacts.
<i>assemblage</i>	A collection of persons or things: in archaeology, the collection of artifacts from a particular site, from a stratigraphic level or cultural component within the site, or of a particular artifact class, such as lithics or ceramics.
<i>broad glass</i>	Also called cylinder glass; window panes formed from a flattened glass cylinder.
<i>Census, U.S.</i>	An official count of the nation's population taken every 10 years, often including a collection of demographic information.
<i>chert</i>	A fine-grained, siliceous sedimentary rock, generally light-colored; an impure variety of chalcedony, resembling flint. Common in eastern North America and often used by prehistoric peoples to make stone tools.
<i>chronology</i>	Pertains to the basic temporal units of prehistory and the time span reflected in archaeological site stratigraphy.
<i>culture</i>	A uniquely human system of behavioral patterns, beliefs, habits, and customs acquired by man through a nonbiological, uninherited process, learned by his society.
<i>datum</i>	A point, line, or surface used as a reference, as in surveying.
<i>debitage</i>	Residual lithic material resulting from tool manufacture; represents intentional and unintentional breakage of artifacts through either manufacture or function;debitage flakes may represent the various stages of progress of the raw material from the original form to the finished tool.
<i>diagnostic</i>	An artifact that can clearly be dated and/or identified as to maker, date, place, or origin, etc.
<i>feature</i>	Any soil disturbance or discoloration that reflects human activity, or an artifact that is too large to be removed from a site and is just recorded — for example, a house or storage pits.

<i>grid</i>	The two-dimensional intersection network defining the squares in which archaeologists excavate.
<i>historic</i>	The time period after the appearance of written records. In the U.S. this generally refers to approximately 1600 AD, the period after the beginning of European settlement.
<i>historical archaeology</i>	The archaeology of the period from initial European settlement to today.
<i>hundred</i>	A historic term representing the administrative division of some American and English counties.
<i>jasper</i>	An opaque cryptocrystalline quartz of a variety of colors, usually yellowish brown to reddish brown, often used by prehistoric peoples to make stone tools.
<i>lithic</i>	Of, related to, or made of stone.
<i>loam</i>	A loose, fertile soil composed of a mixture of silt, clay, and sand containing organic matter.
<i>marsh</i>	A tract of soft, wet land usually characterized by grasses, cattails, and related vegetation, often forming a transition zone between water and land.
<i>material culture</i>	The segment of the physical environment that is purposely shaped by humans.
<i>Munsell Notation System</i>	A standard means of describing all color gradations along scales of value, hue, and color. Archaeologists use this system in describing and standardizing soil color descriptions. The Munsell system is usually used in association with a description of soil type.
<i>Orphans' Court Records</i>	The county court responsible for the welfare of orphans when a father died without a will. The Orphans' Court watched over the estate until the children (if any) reached majority. A guardian appointed by the court was to make periodic returns of the estate to the court. When the youngest heir came of age, the property could be divided among the heirs. These court records are filled with information regarding income property, education, repairs of houses and outbuildings, contracts, and other useful material about eighteenth- and nineteenth-century life. (Spelling variations of Orphans' Court include "Orphans Court" and "Orphan's Court.")
<i>outbuilding</i>	A building other than the principal building on a property — for example, on an eighteenth- or nineteenth-century farm: smokehouses, dairies, stables, and corncribs were typical outbuildings.
<i>pearlware</i>	A refined, nearly white ceramic used for plates, teacups, and other dishes, introduced by Josiah Wedgwood in about 1775 and common until about 1830.

<i>plowzone</i>	That part of the soil which has been repeatedly disturbed by plowing, usually the top eight to 10 inches.
<i>profile</i>	A side view of a feature or test unit.
<i>quartz</i>	Crystalline nonmetallic mineral consisting of silicon dioxide; typically occurs in hexagonal crystals or crystalline masses. Used by prehistoric peoples to make stone tools.
<i>sherd</i>	A piece of broken pottery or glass.
<i>stratigraphy</i>	The origin, composition, and succession of natural soil or rock or cultural layers.
<i>stratum</i>	(1) A mass of sedimentary deposits lying in a vertical sequence, and (2) a layer in which archaeological material (such as artifacts or dwelling remains) is found within a site.
<i>subsoil</i>	Sterile, naturally occurring soils not changed by human occupation.
<i>subsistence</i>	A source or means of obtaining those materials essential to the maintenance of life, such as food and shelter; in archaeology, subsistence deals primarily with dietary composition and food-procurement strategies.