

9.0 P H A S E I I
C O N C L U S I O N S A N D
R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S

9.0 PHASE II CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Phase II investigation of 7NC-E-175 produced mixed results. First, the excavations produced very low prehistoric artifact counts (n=43) from 16 one-meter test units. Only one temporally-diagnostic artifact was recovered. No pottery was found and no features were identified. Also, only one piece of FCR was recovered. Collectively, this indicates that the site was a fairly ephemeral procurement station, rather than an actual habitation or camp site.

The Phase II investigation determined that for the most part, the site has been disturbed. Much of the western portion of site had been plowed. The eastern portion of the site contained indications of fill deposits and other disturbances. As a result, the majority of the artifacts from the site were recovered from plow-disturbed soils or other historic deposits. Also, the majority of the site did not contain artifact-bearing subsoil deposits. In only one area, the vicinity of N210 E215 and N210 E230, were artifacts found in the subsoil (Figure 21). A total of 15 artifacts, or 27 percent of the total Phase I/II artifact count, were recovered from subsoil deposits.⁴ These artifact-bearing subsoil deposits appear to be the remaining intact, albeit truncated, remnants of the site.

Still, the Phase II investigation and artifact analysis did reveal interesting aspects about the site and the people who visited it. The site was used by people who had connections to the Coastal Plain, and likely were affiliated with large base camp sites along Churchman's Marsh and the Christina River. Some connections also existed between the people who created Site 7NC-E-175 and lithic sources (and perhaps other Native American groups) to the north in the Reading Prong section of eastern Pennsylvania.

The analysis of the prehistoric artifacts and their distribution strongly suggest that the site was a short-term, procurement/processing station, with a primary focus on game resources. It was probably visited many times during the course of the pre-Columbian Native American inhabitation of the region. Interestingly, an analysis of raw material distribution indicates that the areas around N210 E215 and N210 E230 represent two separate lithic reduction events, and

⁴ This includes two artifacts from the Ab/B interface in TU N210/E215.

likely two separate site occupations. Although this represents some indication of preserved horizontal stratigraphy within a portion of the site, unfortunately, these events cannot be dated and therefore cannot be placed within their correct cultural contexts.

While 7NC-E-175 represents the only recorded prehistoric site within the Little Mill Creek drainage and a portion of the site contains remnant intact subsoil deposits, it is the opinion of A.D. Marble & Company that Site 7NC-E-175 is not eligible for National Register inclusion under Criterion D, the ability of the site to provide new information concerning the prehistory of the area. This is primarily due to the lack of dateable contexts, such as features, the general absence of temporally-diagnostic artifacts, and the very low artifact density. Furthermore, it is the opinion of A.D. Marble & Company that further archaeological work is not likely to produce any new or significant information about the site. Therefore, no further work is recommended.