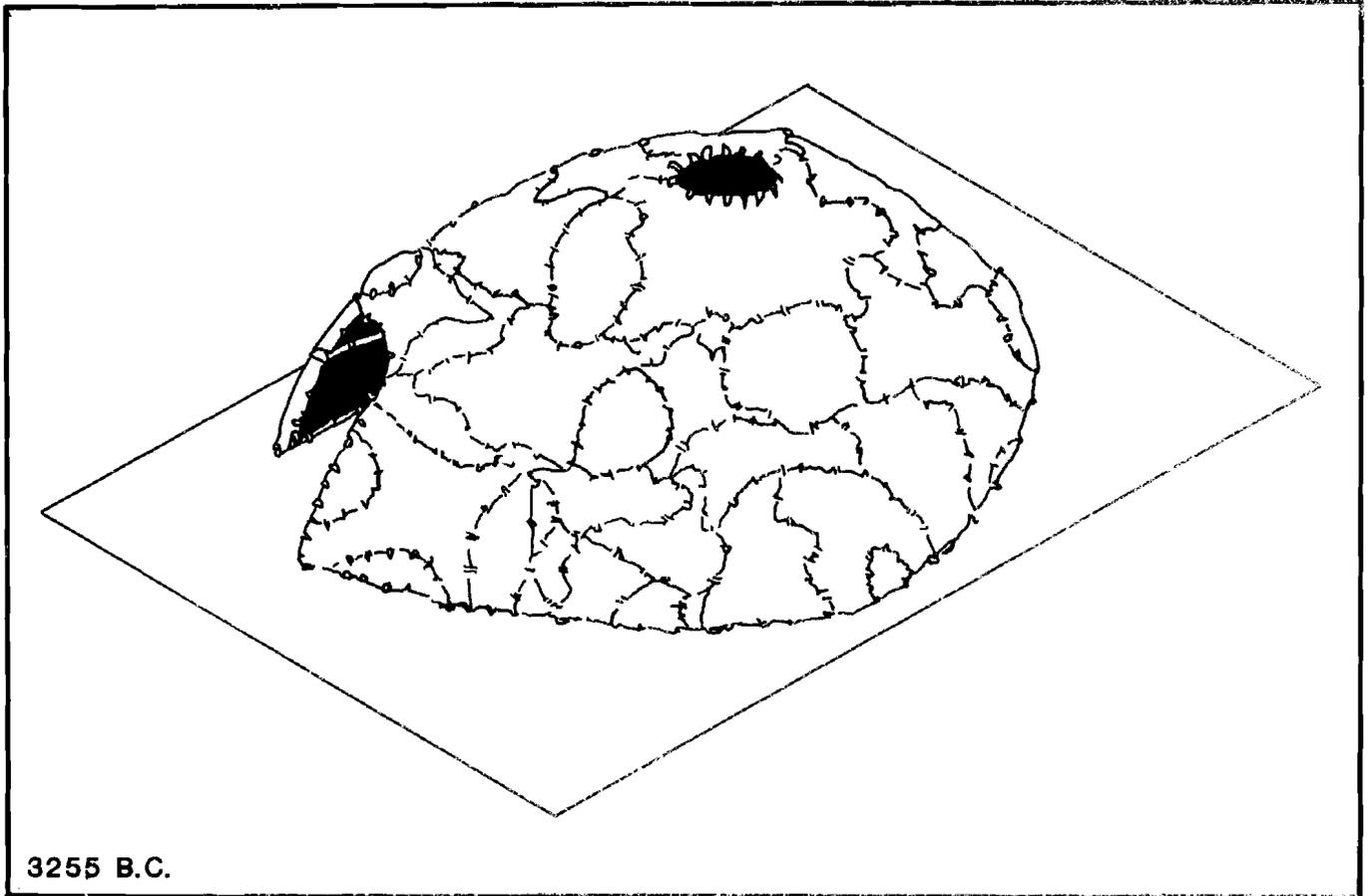


**Final Archaeological Investigations
at the Hockessin Valley Site (7NC-A-17),
New Castle County, Delaware**



by
Jay F. Custer and Jay Hodny

**UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE
Department of Anthropology
Center for Archaeological Research**

Delaware Department of Transportation Archaeology Series No. 75



Delaware Department
of Transportation

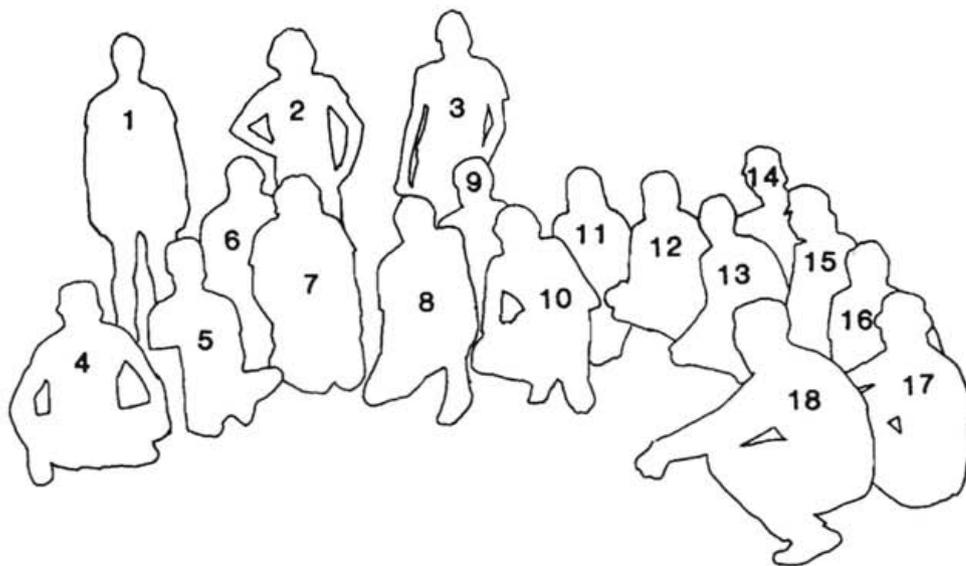
**John T. Davis
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NEW CASTLE COUNTY, DELAWARE

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ABSTRACT

Final archaeological investigations at the Hockessin Valley Site (7NC-A-17), which had been determined to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, were conducted to recover important archaeological data that would contribute to a better understanding of the prehistoric occupation of the site and its placement within regional settlement patterns. Final Phase III excavations consisted of 133 contiguous 1m x 1m test units. Twenty-eight features were identified during the final investigations; however, no diagnostic stone tools or ceramics were recovered. Eight of the features were defined as prehistoric postmolds which defined a prehistoric house pattern. A central hearth within the house pattern yielded a radiocarbon date of 5205 B.P. \pm 70 years. A comparison is made between this house pattern and each of thirteen other prehistoric house patterns from the Mid-Atlantic region. A high percentage of the artifacts recovered were of a number of different types of high quality cryptocrystalline lithic materials along with lesser quality quartz lithic material. The Hockessin Valley Site probably represents a small base camp or procurement staging site similar to the nearby Mitchell Farm (7NC-A-2) and Hawthorn (7NC-E-46) sites.

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