

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS  
AND MONITORING OF  
CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES  
AT HISTORIC ELK LANDING (18CE60),  
ELKTON, MARYLAND**

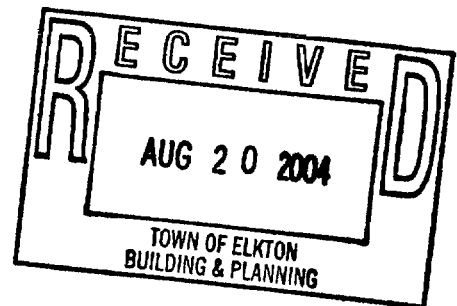
Submitted to:

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August 2004

## MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

Archaeological excavations and monitoring of construction activities at Historic Elk Landing (18CE60) in Elkton, Maryland was commissioned by the Historic Elk Landing Foundation, Inc. in consultation with the Maryland Historical Trust for the purpose of mitigating any adverse affects from the construction of a handicap ramp behind the Hollingsworth House and the digging of trenches for electrical lines and drains.

A total of five 50 x 50 cm (20 x 20 inches) square test units were excavated on the north side of the Hollingsworth House where postholes for a handicap ramp will be placed. This resulted in the discovery of the original ground surface, which was sealed by a layer of clay that was deposited when the cellar for the Hollingsworth House was being dug. The buried surface contained prehistoric and historic artifacts. The presence of historic artifacts in a stratum that predates the construction of the Hollingsworth House around the 1780s suggests that someone may have been living at the site prior to the building of the house. However, plain whiteware, which dates at the earliest to the second quarter of the nineteenth century, was found in the buried surface during current and previous excavations. This is puzzling since this stratum predates the construction of the house, but given the presence of numerous groundhog holes and trees along with renovations to the house there is no doubt that disturbances have occurred. This throws into question whether or not there was an historic occupation in this area prior to the construction of the Hollingsworth House.

Above the clay layer from the digging of the cellar was a layer that represents refuse deposited during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries when the Hollingsworth House was being used. The heaviest concentration of artifacts, which consisted largely of redwares and creamwares, was near the east wing of the house. That wing might have been the location of the original kitchen.

A utility trench for electric lines was dug along the east side of the driveway leading into Elk Landing. This paralleled gas and water lines and thus disturbances were noted. Two features were discovered in subsoil just north of the entrance gate. One of the features appeared to have been the location of a utility pole since it closely matched the size of poles that lined the street in this area. The second feature was a round posthole that contained no artifacts. It was probably a twentieth century fence post based on information from a former resident. An additional two trenches were mechanically excavated off the northwest and southwest corners of the Hollingsworth House for the purpose of laying drainpipes. No features were observed in either trench and only a few artifacts were recovered.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

This project benefited from the assistance of a number of individuals. Jeanne Minner, Town planner of the Town of Elkton, was very helpful in coordinating efforts between the Town, the Historic Elk Landing Foundation, Inc., and the archaeologists. Members of the Historic Elk Landing Foundation, Inc. were also very helpful. In particular Robert Bryson, Michael Dixon, Pat and Doug Howe as well as Gary and Debbie Storke shared their knowledge and enthusiasm with us. Their help was much appreciated. Also Eric Mease who wrote updates on the excavations for the Elk Landing website and newsletter.

The Principal Investigator for this project was Dwayne W. Pickett who washed, cataloged, and analyzed the artifacts as well as prepared the graphics,. Mr. Pickett was assisted by Keith Heinrich.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

This report documents the results of archaeological excavations and monitoring of construction activities at Historic Elk Landing (18CE60) in Elkton, Maryland. The fieldwork was conducted from July 19 to July 22, 2004 and was commissioned by the Historic Elk Landing Foundation, Inc. in consultation with the Maryland Historical Trust, which has a historic easement on sections of the property.

The Historic Elk Landing Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization that has a 99-year renewable lease with the Town of Elkton to operate the site as an interpretive living history museum, is in the process of restoring two historic structures on the property, the Hollingsworth House and the Stone House. As part of the restoration efforts a handicap ramp will be constructed on the north side of the Hollingsworth House and electricity restored to both structures. In order to mitigate any adverse affects these activities would have on the archaeological resources, excavations were undertaken in the area where the handicap ramp would go and the mechanical digging of postholes, a utility trench, and drains was monitored in order to observe and record any archaeological findings as well as to prevent the destruction of any significant archaeological resources.

## **PROJECT SETTING**

Elk Landing is located in Cecil County, Maryland within the Town of Elkton (Figure 1). It is situated on 42 acres of land at the confluence of the Little and Big Elk Creeks. This area contains both floodplain and terrace settings along with open plowed fields and wooded areas along the banks of the creeks. Also present are two historic houses, the Hollingsworth House and a stone house that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as the John Hanson Steelman House (18CE132). Dendrochronology puts the construction of the stone, Steelman House at 1783<sup>1</sup>, which appears to be around the same date that the Hollingsworth House was constructed. In 1848 a fire gutted the original Hollingsworth House causing it to be remodeled to its present Greek-Revival style. To the east of that house are various farm outbuildings, which date from the late nineteenth century to the first half of the twentieth century.

## **PHYSIOGRAPHY AND HYDROLOGY**

Maryland is part of five distinct physiographic provinces; the Coastal Plain, the Piedmont, the Blue Ridge, the Valley and Ridge, and the Appalachian Plateau Provinces. These extend in belts of varying width along the eastern edge of the North American continent from Newfoundland to the Gulf of Mexico.

Elk Landing lies within the Coastal Plain Province but is close to the eastern section of the Piedmont Province. The Coastal Plain Province is underlain by a wedge of unconsolidated sediments including gravel, sand, silt, and clay that overlap the rocks of the eastern Piedmont along an irregular line of contact known as the Fall Zone. Eastward, this wedge of sediments thickens to more than 2,438 m (8,000 feet) at the Atlantic coastline. Beyond this line is the Continental Shelf, the submerged continuation of the Coastal Plain, which extends eastward for at least another 121 km (75 miles) where the sediments attain a maximum thickness of about 12,192 m (40,000 feet).

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<sup>1</sup> Since the Steelman House was built about 73 years after Steelman moved from the area it will be referred to in this report as the Stone House.

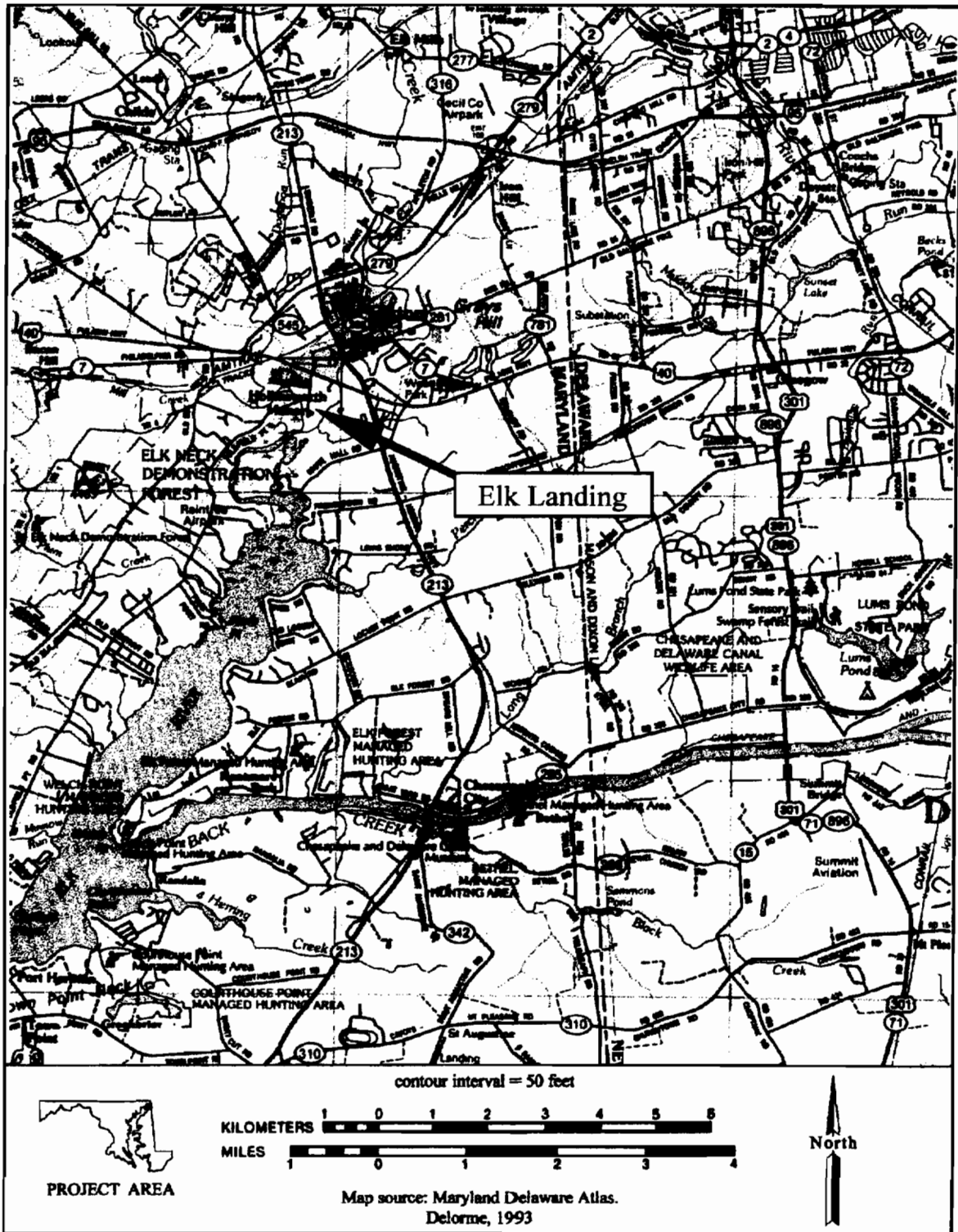


Figure 1. Project Location

The sediments of the Coastal Plain dip eastward at a low angle, generally less than one degree, and range in age from Triassic (245–208 mya) to Quaternary (1.6 mya–present). The younger formations crop out successively to the southeast across Southern Maryland and the Eastern Shore. A thin layer of Quaternary gravel and sand covers the older formations throughout much of the area.

Mineral resources of the Coastal Plain are chiefly sand and gravel, and are used as aggregate materials by the construction industry. Clay for brick and other ceramic uses are also important and small deposits of iron ore are of historical interest. Plentiful supplies of ground water are available from a number of aquifers throughout much of this region.

The project area is drained by both the Little and Big Elk Creeks. These branches flow south into the Elk River, which drains into the Chesapeake Bay, which in turn empties into the Atlantic Ocean. Elevations for the project area average 45 feet AMSL.

## **GEOLOGY AND PEDOLOGY**

The parent material in which the soils of Cecil County formed is made from two different geological materials. The Piedmont soils in the Northern section of the county formed in material weathered in place from hard igneous and metamorphic crystalline rocks of Precambrian age (4.6 bya–570 mya). Metamorphic crystalline rock is the most extensive single formation in the Piedmont.

The soils in the southern part of the County, where Elk Landing is located, formed in the soft, unconsolidated, water-lain Cretaceous (146–65 mya) and Pleistocene (1.65 mya–10,000 ya) sediment of the Atlantic Coastal Plain. Old Cretaceous series sediments are exposed in the northern part of the Coastal Plain and form the backbone of Elk Neck. Pleistocene sediment continuously deposited east of the Elk River formed a discontinuous rim of low marine terraces with irregular widths. Such a terrace is present at Elk Landing. The soil in this area is brown to yellowish-brown, medium acid, Wicomico formation silt of the Pleistocene. The silt material is underlain by sand and gravel with glauconitic sand of the Upper Cretaceous being present beneath it. These sands are often called “green sands” and crop out as a discontinuous fringe around many necks of land south of the Chesapeake Bay and Delaware Canal.

The general soil association for the project area is the Elsinboro and Hatboro series. The Elsinboro series consists of deep well drained nearly level to moderately sloping soils on terraces above floodplains along major waterways. They formed in old alluvium and generally contain considerable fine mica flakes. These soils are easy to work, warm quickly in spring, and are very suitable for normal farming activities. Of the Elsinboro series the Elsinboro Silt Loam 0-2% slope (EoA) and the Elsinboro Silt Loam 2-5% slope (EoB2) are present at Elk Landing on the terrace above the creeks. The Hatboro series, on the other hand, consists of deep, wet, loamy soils along floodplains. This soil formed in material washed from areas of micaceous rocks, and is prone to flooding. Of the Hatboro series the Hatboro Silt Loam (Ha) is present at Elk Landing in the low-lying areas at the junction of the Little and Big Elk Creeks. Also present along the Little Elk Creek is a band of soil classified as Made Land Gently Sloping (MaB). This soil extends from just south of the Stone House and follows the floodplain north out of the project area (Andersen and Matthews 1973) (Figure 2).





Figure 2. Soil Location Map (1"=1/4 mile)

## PREHISTORIC OVERVIEW

Native Americans arrived in North America no later than 14,000 years ago by crossing over from Asia to Alaska via the Bering Land Bridge. This Land Bridge was formed when water in the Bering Strait froze over during the last ice age. After arriving in North America these people and their descendants began crossing the continent, reaching the Middle Atlantic region of the United States by at least 10,000 B.C. Following their arrival in the Middle Atlantic area numerous cultural systems were developed and modified due to climatic changes. These changes caused prehistoric groups to alter their culture and adapt to new environments. This system of cultural adaptation created a culture history composed of a succession of distinctive adaptive phases. The phases for the Middle Atlantic region began with the Paleoindian period, followed by the Archaic period and ending with the Woodland period.

### The Paleoindian Period (ca. 10,000–8,000 B.C.)

The first extensive human occupation of the Middle Atlantic region, for which there is evidence occurs, around 10,000 B.C. The environment at the time of the late Pleistocene epoch was dictated in part by the presence of glaciers in northern Pennsylvania. Temperatures were cooler than today and large game animals such as the mammoth, mastodon, and bison roamed over vast grasslands.

The traditional view of Paleoindian life in the east characterizes them as highly nomadic, specialized hunters of large game. Due to poor preservation, however, evidence for Paleoindian exploitation of animals of any kind in the east is lacking. Although large game animals are assumed to have been hunted during the early part of the Paleoindian period, it is highly likely that during the latter part of the period a

more diversified subsistence strategy, that included the exploitation of plant as well as marine and/or river resources, was in place (Davidson 1981:12).

Fluted projectile points are diagnostic to this period and over 100 have been reported from Maryland but few sites of this period contain extensive artifact assemblages (Anderson 1990). One reason for this is that most Paleoindian sites are probably located in the Chesapeake Bay. Bathymetric research indicates that Pleistocene lands now submerged in the Chesapeake Bay are likely to contain Paleoindian sites (Blanton 1996). Tidal forces upon such submerged sites may explain why the coastline along Tangier Sound and the interior drainage of the middle Pocomoke River are the two main areas from which Paleoindian points have been reported (Davidson 1981:11).

### **The Archaic Period (ca. 8,000–1,000 B.C.)**

The Archaic period has been divided into three sub-periods; the Early, Middle, and Late Archaic. In general, the Archaic was a relatively long and successful period in which subsistence was based on hunting, fishing, and the collection of wild plant resources.

The Early Archaic (ca. 8,000–6,500 B.C.) can be viewed as a continuation of the later Paleoindian period with cultural adaptations altered by environmental changes brought on by the Holocene epoch. As warmer weather caused the glaciers to retreat to the north, sea levels began to rise, causing the formation of the Chesapeake Bay. Boreal forests, which contained deciduous trees such as oak, hickory, and chestnut, began to replace the grasslands. Large game either became extinct or migrated north following the retreat of the glaciers. As a result, smaller game such as deer began to inhabit the new forests. Also, with the formation of the Chesapeake Bay, marine resources such as shellfish, anadromous fish, and migratory waterfowl began to be exploited. This change in subsistence caused Early Archaic people to switch from using fluted projectile points to notched and sometimes serrated points (Carbone 1976; Custer 1984).

During the Middle Archaic (ca. 6,500–3,000 B.C.) along the Middle Atlantic coast, the cooler, dryer conditions of the Early Holocene gave way to the warmer, wetter climate of the Middle Holocene. Subsistence became more diversified as new resources were being exploited seasonally (Custer 1989). Archaeologically, the transition from the Early Archaic to the Middle Archaic is characterized by the appearance of stemmed rather than notched projectile points (Custer 1989).

Throughout the Late Archaic period (ca. 3,000–1,000 B.C.) regional populations appear to have grown substantially and to have concentrated along waterways. Climatic conditions were warm and dry, and by the end of this period an essentially modern environment had emerged. Sea levels appear to have been relatively stable, with only minor fluctuations (Carbone 1976; Tanner 1993). Grinding implements, polished stone tools, and carved soapstone bowls become fairly common, suggesting increased use of plant resources and possibly changes in subsistence strategies and cooking technologies. Although evidence is minimal, the first experiments with horticulture probably occurred at this time, with the cultivation of plants such as squash, sunflower, and chenopodium (Cowan 1985; Ford 1981). Settlements appear to have shifted from swampy upper reaches of inland streams to the mouths of major streams and rivers (Davidson 1981:14). They also seem to have been occupied for longer periods of time than in earlier periods, and the existence of formal residential base camps occupied seasonally or longer is inferred, together with a range of smaller, resource exploitation sites such as hunting, fishing, or plant-collecting stations (Gardner 1987).

### **The Woodland Period (ca. 1000 B.C.–A.D. 1600)**

The more sedentary way of life that began in the Late Archaic period continued in the Woodland period as populations reached their height. In the Early Woodland Period (1000 –700 B.C.) settlements were now beginning to favor river settings. As a result of this increasingly sedentary lifestyle, cooking and storage vessels began to be developed from local clays. This pottery replaced earlier soapstone bowls and signifies a greater emphasis on the exploitation of natural resources. Also at this time, a limited number of plant species were possibly being cultivated.

The earliest ceramic type in the Middle Atlantic area appears to be a ware known as Marcey Creek. Marcey Creek ware is heavily tempered with crushed pieces of steatite, has a flat bottom, and is molded. This ware appears to have developed into a coiled ceramic with a coned shaped base known as Seldon Island. During a later period of intense experimentation by potters (800–600 B.C.) ceramics were dispersed throughout the Middle Atlantic as well as the Northeast in a variety of forms. Ceramics were refined and regional differentiations, particularly with respect to surface decoration, paste, and temper, were evident during this period (Evans 1955; Mouer 1991).

The Middle Woodland period (ca. 700 B.C.–A.D. 800) is marked by a change in pottery production, with net-impressed types tending to replace the earlier cord-marked ceramics. The period is also characterized by a rise in long-distance trading. Horticulture is thought to have increased and the cultivation of maize may have begun at this time, although it was not widely grown until the Late Woodland period. Sand tempered, net impressed Popes Creek ceramics and Rossville projectile points are characteristic of the earlier part of this period (ca. 400 B.C.–A.D. 200) (Stephenson and Ferguson 1963:92–96, 145). Later Middle Woodland components are identified by coarse shell-tempered Mockley net impressed, cord marked, and plain pottery as well as by Selby Bay knives (Stephenson and Ferguson 1963:103–109; Steponaitis 1986:30–31). Numerous large and small sites have been found dating to this period, suggesting that Native Americans at this time were using seasonal villages and/or base camps (Gardner 1982).

The Late Woodland period (ca. A.D. 800–1600) saw the emergence of sedentary villages, an increased reliance on maize as well as the development of complex political associations. An indication of this political complexity might have been reflected in the ceramics used, which increasingly contained stylistic decorations. Also at this time the bow and arrow was introduced. Before its introduction either thrusting or throwing spears were used (Nassaney and Pyle 1998).

Sites dating to the earlier part of the Late Woodland period (ca. A.D. 800–1250) are identified by Rappahannock incised and fabric impressed pottery along with Jacks Reef pentagonal and corner-notched points (Blaker 1963:17–18; Steponaitis 1986:31–32). Later Late Woodland occupations are characterized by a continuance of Rappahannock pottery, along with Potomac Creek, Mayone, Townsend, and Sullivan type ceramics together with Madison small triangular projectile points (Steponaitis 1986:32–35).

During the latter part of the Late Woodland period (A.D. 1350–1600), populations declined and social organization changed. Closely aggregated villages fortified with stockades replaced once-dispersed settlements. Around A.D. 1500, shell-tempered Keyser wares appeared in the area. Other artifacts diagnostic of this time period include small triangular projectile points and ceramic wares tempered with crushed limestone. (Gardner 1986:89).

The arrival of Europeans brought an end to the Late Woodland way of life, although certain aspects of it continued into the eighteenth century. Research in Delaware has shown that although Native Americans disappeared from official records in the eighteenth century, their culture continued in an underground fashion and remains very much intact to the present (Cunningham 1998).

## HISTORIC OVERVIEW

The Massawomekes, Susquehannocks, and Tockwoghs, were the main Native-American tribes occupying what would become Cecil County when John Smith and a party of 12 Englishmen explored the area in 1608. It was during this trip that Smith gave the Elk River its name when he supposedly saw a herd of American Elk along the river's edge. It was not until 1632 that Cecilius Calvert was granted a charter from King Charles I of England to settle Maryland, which took place two years later in 1634 at St. Mary's in Southern Maryland.

Although the English explored the area around Elk Landing they did not immediately settle there. In 1638, thirty years after Smith's exploration of the area, the Swedes setup a colony on the west bank of the Delaware River where Wilmington is now located. In 1655 the Susquehannocks gave the Governor of New Sweden, John Claudius Rising, land along the Elk River called Chakakitque along with other lands so he would establish a trading post in the area. The Susquehannocks not only gave land to the Swedes but also ceded land located between the Susquehanna and North East Rivers to the English in 1652. Some Susquehannocks still occupied this area until 1675, but were driven off by the Senecas. In 1674 Governor Charles Calvert of Maryland proclaimed Cecil a county, which included Kent County to the south. These two counties were divided in 1706 and it was not until Mason and Dixon surveyed the area between 1764 and 1767 that the Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Delaware borders were decided (NRHP 1983).

The land that would become Elk Landing was originally part of two early patents. Price's Venture (or Adventure) was surveyed for William Price on August 29, 1672 and consisted of 250 acres located on the north side of the Elk River on a point by a marsh. A tract called Successor was surveyed for John Browning and Richard Nash on February 8, 1679, which according to the deed contained 500 acres in the fork of the Elk River<sup>2</sup>. Sometime after that date three men of Finnish descent, Simon Johnson Jr., Mathias Mathiason (alias Freeman), and Clement Clementson each occupied 100 acres of the Successor tract to the north and a Swedish man named John Hanson Steelman occupied 200 acres to the south. Sometime between 1687 and 1693 Steelman established a trading post on this acreage at a Swedish and Finnish community called Sahakitko (the Finnish version of Chakakitque) located in the vicinity of the junction of the Big and Little Elk Creeks. According to historian George Johnston (1881), Elk Landing was the probable location of Steelman's trading post, which is said to have been a log structure located along the north side of the Stone House that was razed in 1917 and replaced with a porch (Figures 3 and 4). Steelman, who was naturalized by Maryland in 1695, appears to have operated his trading post in the Elk Landing area until about 1710 when he and his family moved to a second trading post further west on Octoraro Creek. Despite this move he appears to have retained title to his part of the Successor tract (NRHP 1983).

After 1700 many of the Swedes and Finns in this area either sold or lost their land to English settlers. In 1681 Nicholas Painter patented a 1400-acre parcel called Friendship located on the west side of the northeast branch of the Elk River adjoining Successor at a place called "Ye Sweeds Town" (NRHP 1983). Painter gave three Finns 50 acres each in exchange for building a mill on his other lands. On May 7, 1711 Henry Hollingsworth of Chester County, Pennsylvania purchased one of those 50-acre tracts from one of the Finns.

On December 8, 1715 Henry Hollingsworth acquired 15 acres of a 100-acre parcel of the Successor tract from the son of Clement Clementson and the remaining 85 acres in 1721. The deed described the land as being bounded to the southeast by John Hanson Steelman's plantation. In 1727 Henry's son Zebulon

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<sup>2</sup> When mapped out the acreage is actually 600 acres.



Figure 3. Circa 1905 Watercolor of Stone House with Attached Log Structure Looking South

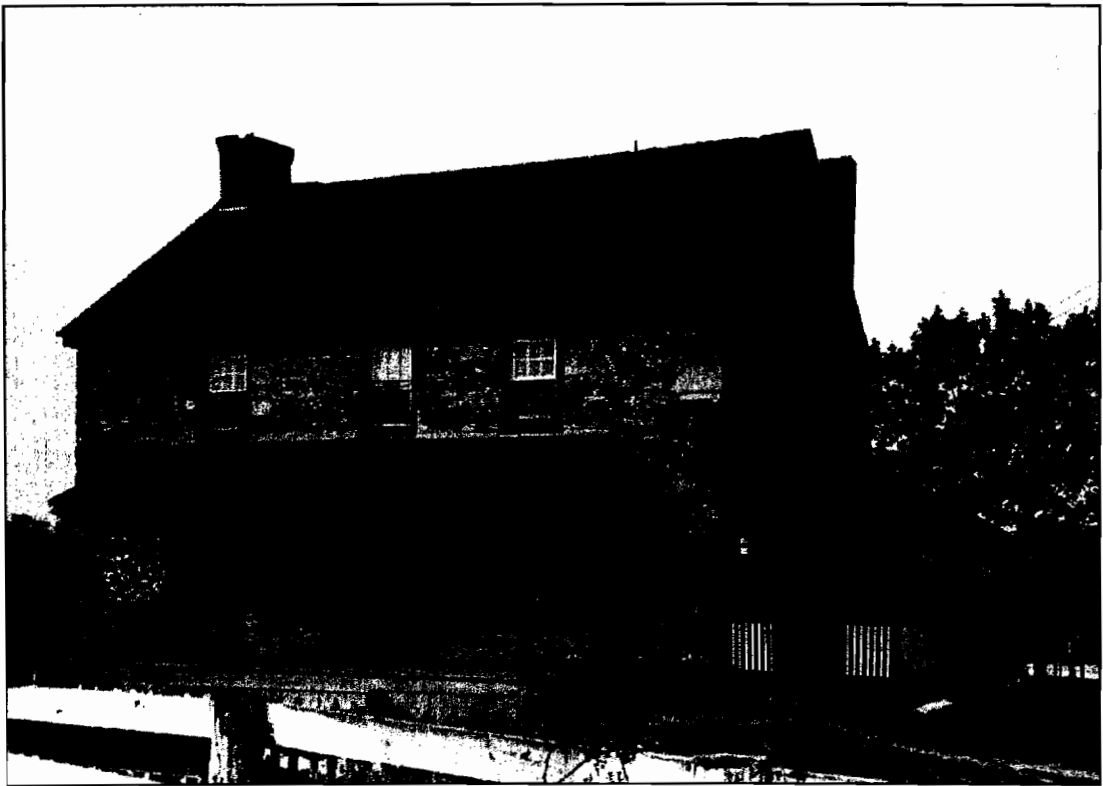


Figure 4. 1936 Historic American Building Survey Photo of Stone House Looking West

acquired 100 acres of the Friendship parcel from one of the Finns. It is not exactly clear how the Hollingsworths acquired Steelman's land but it appears a court clerk named John Campbell found that 75 acres of Steelman's tract was part of the earlier Price's Venture tract, which was surveyed for William Price in 1672. Campbell purchased the acreage and sold it to Zebulon Hollingsworth on November 20, 1735. Since the patent for Price's Venture predated the patent for the Successor tract it would have prevailed in any disagreement. The deed listed Zebulon's occupation as Gentleman and made no reference to the presence of structures. In 1742 he purchased a 200-acre tract called Clements' Venture, which was located at the head of the Elk River. In this deed Zebulon's occupation is listed as "Innholder" but he also served as a vestryman between 1743 and 1749. In 1752 he purchased a 35-acre tract called Jacob's Chance on the west side of the Elk River just below where it forks, which was described as a "piece or parcel of Swamp Tide Marsh or Cripple" (Deed 1752). A year later he purchased a 50-acre tract of the Friendship parcel from one of the Finns. This section of the Friendship parcel was described as having "pastures, houses, gardens, orchards, property, commodities [and] advantages" (Peddicord 2001).

Zebulon Hollingsworth Sr. died on August 8, 1763 and in his will divided his land among four of his sons. He left Zebulon Jr. and Levi Hollingsworth part of Price's Venture as well as part of the Successor tract and all of Jacob's Chance while Henry received the Friendship parcel. Jacob received his fathers "now dwelling house the remaining part of my now dwelling plantation also the remaining part of the wood land below Dogwood from that is not already willed away out of the tract of land called Friendship". This indicates that Zebulon Sr. was not residing at Elk Landing at the time of his death since that land was deeded to Zebulon Jr. and Levi Hollingsworth. Also, at the time of his death, Zebulon Hollingsworth Sr. owned seven slaves who ranged in age from nine to thirty six. Two of those slaves, Jen and Pegg, were left to his wife Mary but his will makes no mention of the others, just that his movable estate, which would have included slaves, be divided equally among his children (Peddicord 2001).

Throughout the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, the Elkton area was becoming an important transportation center for goods and people since it provided a convenient link between the Chesapeake Bay and the Delaware River. During the Revolutionary War the British moved between 15,000 and 18,000 troops along with supplies through the area on their way to capture the Capitol in Philadelphia in 1777. Goods and passengers were transported overland from either the Elk or Delaware Rivers and then placed on ships where they could be transported by water to Philadelphia or Baltimore. An advertisement in *The Pennsylvania Gazette* dated April 2, 1767 commissioned by Zebulon Hollingsworth Jr. demonstrates how this system worked.

*The subscribers, having erected Stages for the transportation of passengers and goods from Philadelphia to Baltimore Town, take this method of acquainting the public, that they have two shallops which ply from Hollingsworth and Rudolphstore, in Philadelphia....every Wednesday and Saturday, for Christiana Bridge, where goods, &c. will be received....From thence Tobias Rudolph and Zebulon Hollingsworth waggons [sic] immediately carry them to the Head of Elk, where they have good stores for their reception. From thence Isaac Greiststage vessel sets out for Baltimore town every Saturday; and as the cartage is as short a distance, if not shorter, than any now made use of from Delaware to Chesapeak Bay, we flatter ourselves we shall be able to give quick dispatch, and general satisfaction, to all gentlemen that will please to favour us with their custom....N.B. There are good houses of entertainment at Christian Bridge, and the Head of Elk. (Peddicord 2001).*

By 1767 there appears to be "good stores" and "houses of entertainment" at the Head of Elk, which would be incorporated into the Town of Elkton in 1787. These "stores" and "houses of entertainment" might have been established after 1742 when Zebulon Sr. purchased 200 acres at the Head of Elk and was listed as an innkeeper.

It appears that Zebulon's brother Levi Hollingsworth was the Hollingsworth in Philadelphia. The July 19, 1788 editions of *The Pennsylvania Mercury* and *Universal Advertiser* state that he was a resident of Philadelphia and was offering for sale Russian sail-cloth, blubber, beef, salmon, grindstones, along with various other items. Since Levi Hollingsworth was residing in Philadelphia at the time of his father's death he sold his portion of his inheritance to Zebulon Jr. whose occupation is listed as a yeoman farmer.

According to dendrochronology, the Stone House was constructed in 1783 during the ownership of Zebulon Jr. (Cook and Callahan 2001). However, the log structure to the north depicted in Figure 3 appears to have been the first building at Elk Landing. According to a 1917 boundary map the log structure was the upper storehouse of Zebulon Hollingsworth Jr. in 1775 (Figure 5). By that year Zebulon Jr. had established at least one storehouse for goods at Elk Landing but it is possible that the log structure was Steelman's 1690s trading post and was used later by the Hollingsworths as a storehouse.

It appears that it was not until after the Revolutionary War that Zebulon Jr. decided to build dwelling houses at Elk Landing. This move might have been dictated in part by damage done to other family holdings by the constant presence of troops in the area during the Revolutionary War. It has been noted that Cecil County suffered the affects of looting more than any other county in Maryland during the Revolution (Chapelle et al. 1986:73).

On March 24, 1812 Zebulon Jr. died and left Elk Landing to his wife Mary and after her death to their sons Robert and William. Zebulon Jr. also left behind five slaves named Pat, Jack, Hannah, Sam, and Dick although the 1810 census indicates that he owned 14 slaves. Mary died on April 27, 1814 at which time Robert and William inherited the Elk Landing acreage. Out of the two brothers only William appears as a resident of Cecil County (Peddicord 2001).

During Mary's brief ownership, the British successfully attacked numerous towns along the Chesapeake Bay at the onset of the War of 1812. This included nearby Frenchtown, which was burned by British marines on April 29, 1813. After burning Frenchtown, the British then moved up the Elk River in their barges to take Elkton but were driven off by militia at Fort Defiance. While the British barges were being turned back, a land force was marching towards Elkton. This force marched up to Elk Landing, but left after an exchange of gunfire with Fort Hollingsworth. According to George Johnston (1881), Elk Landing was the site of a defensive earthwork and boom across the Elk River. There was "a small earth-work or redoubt, mounted with a few pieces of small cannon, and stood a few yards southeast of the old stone house now standing near the wharf" (Johnston 1881:410 and 414). Having failed to take Elkton the British then turn their attention to the west and south raiding Havre de Grace as well as Fredericktown and Georgetown. In July of 1814 the British tried a second time to take Elkton but were driven off once again.

By the middle of the nineteenth century shipping had declined at Elk Landing. The construction of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal in 1829, the New Castle and Frenchtown Railroad in 1831 as well as the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Railroad in 1837, provided faster and cheaper transportation. The July 19, 1851 edition of the *Cecil Whig* published a descriptive account of Elk Landing, which described it before and after the canal and railroads were built.

*...several fine dwellings and warehouses give it quite a village-like appearance, while the fertile and well cultivated fields and lots which crowd in around it, still make it "in the country." Such is a tame picture of Elk Landing in these quiet days; once, before the digging of the canal or the building of the rail roads, it was a busy bustling place. Hundreds of heavy teams were there daily to transport merchandize across to the Delaware, and all was stir and activity (Peddicord 2001).*

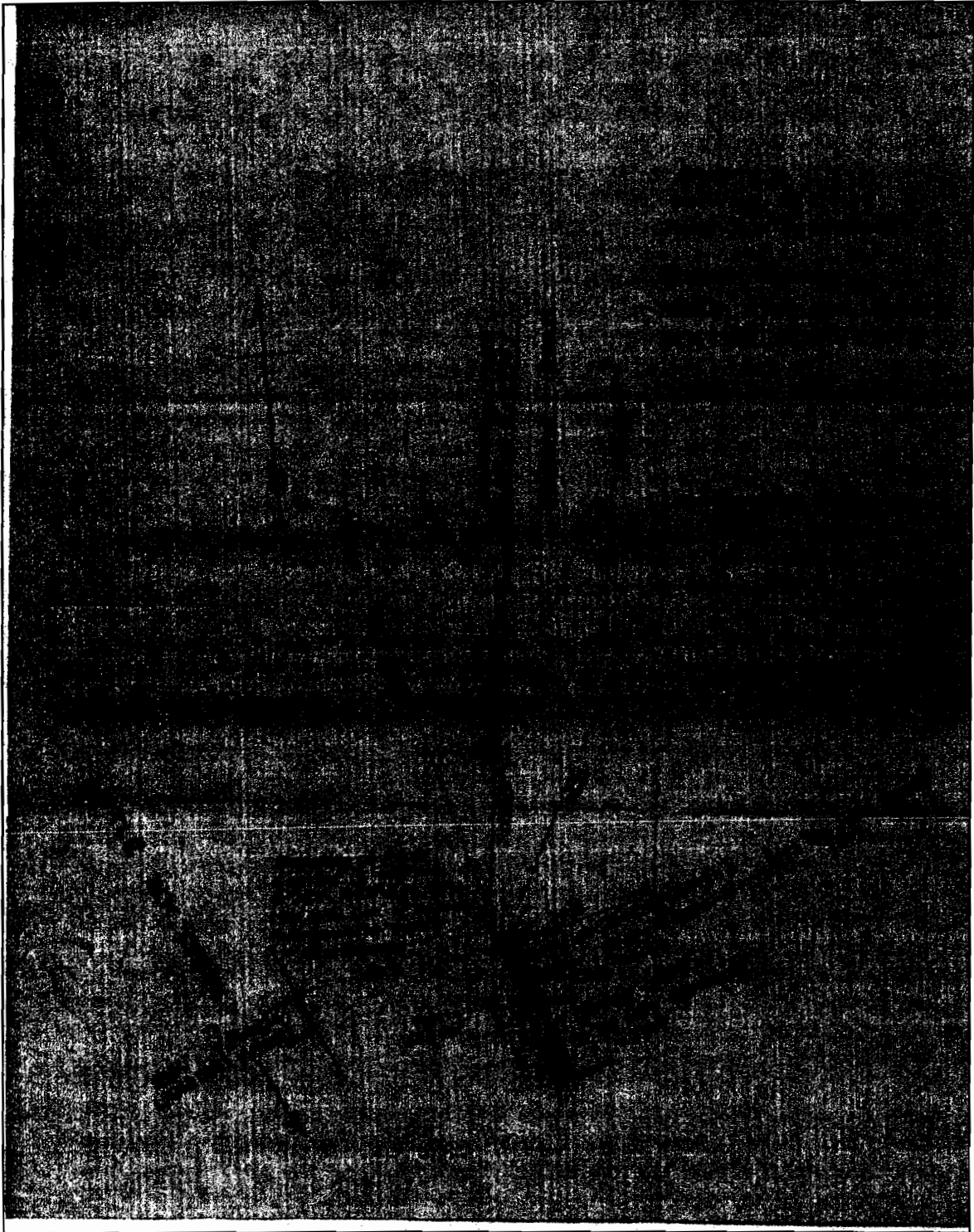


Figure 5. 1917 Boundary Sketch of Elk Landing



William Hollingsworth died in 1844 and left the Elk Landing property to his wife Mary E. Hollingsworth who owned it until her death in 1871. In February 1848 the Hollingsworth House was gutted by fire, which resulted in it being remodeled to its present Greek-Revival style (Figure 6). During renovations a pitched roof, low third story, front porch, and possibly the east wing were added. At the same time, the entire exterior of the house and east wing were covered in stucco. Sometime after the renovations the dining room and bedroom above the east wing were expanded about 1.5 m (5 feet) to the north. The original house was most likely constructed shortly after the Stone House was completed in 1783 and at that time was two stories in height, three bays in length, and constructed of brick laid in Flemish bond. Based on the configuration of the cellar beneath the dining room in the east wing, another structure might have existed in this location but was replaced by the east wing presently attached to the house (Wollon 2000).

An 1857 map of the area shows the Stone House and the Hollingsworth House, but it also depicts two other structures to the south that are labeled "wharf" (Figure 7). These two depictions might have been wharfs with warehouses located on them. On an undated map, probably of late nineteenth century origin, three buildings are depicted around the Stone House, which could also be warehouses (Figure 8). These buildings do not appear on a 1917 boundary map of Elk Landing (Figure 5) suggesting that by this time they were no longer standing.

While Elk Landing was no longer a major transportation center for goods and people, the waterways were still busy in the second half of the nineteenth century. Industrial development in Elkton had caused an increase in water traffic along the Big Elk Creek but silting was making it hard to navigate. In 1874, Congress allocated funds for the removal of sediment from the Big Elk Creek and continued to provide funding until 1917. Not only was sediment removed but also wooden dikes so that the banks of the creek could be shored up. The high expense of maintaining a permanent channel in the Big Elk Creek that benefited only a few industries caused the government to cease its funding. As a result many industries began leaving the area. One such business that was forced to move was the Deibert & Brothers Barge Building Company, which had established boat yards on the Little Elk Creek in 1887. The Lower yard of this company was located on Hollingsworth property where canal boats and barges were built and launched into the creek (Figure 9). In 1910 silting of the Little Elk creek became so bad that the company was forced to move to Chesapeake City (Dixon 2002).

From 1871 until recently, various Hollingsworth descendants continued to occupy Elk Landing. On January 17, 2000 the Town of Elkton and the Historic Elk Landing Foundation Inc., signed a renewable 99-year lease for the restoration, management, and operation of the site as a living history museum.



Figure 6. Hollingsworth House Looking North



Figure 7. 1857 Map of Elkton Area (1"=1 mile)

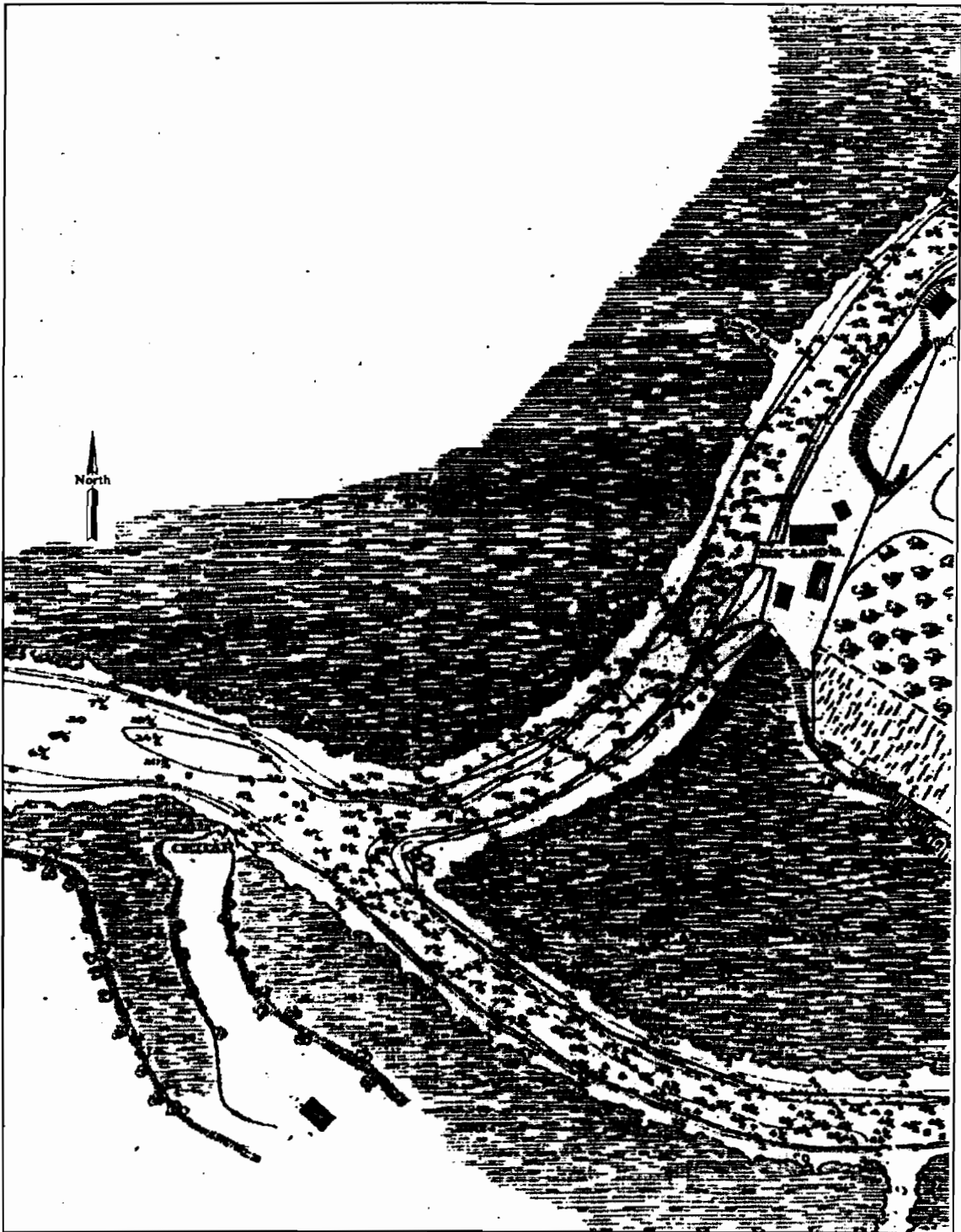


Figure 8. Probable Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century Map of Elk Landing (No Scale Available)



Figure 9. 1907 View of Deibert Boatyard Looking East

## PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

In 1981, Phase III archaeological excavations were conducted at site 18CE29 in advance of construction activities associated with a correctional facility that borders Elk Landing to the northeast. Excavations indicated a semi-sedentary prehistoric base camp containing finished stone tools, ceramics, and features including postholes, possible storage pits, and small pits, which might have been hearths and/or earth ovens. One of the features excavated turned out to be a burial, which contained an adult female. The material recovered spanned the Late Archaic through Late Woodland time periods with some historic items being present as well (Thomas and Payne 1981).

In 1984, archaeologists with the University of Delaware Center for Archaeological Research conducted excavations around the Stone House. The excavations were limited and proved to be inconclusive although disturbances were noted around the house (Ward 1984).

During the winter and spring of 2000, archaeologists with Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum conducted excavations at Elk Landing as part of an assessment of Maryland's War of 1812 battlefield sites, which was made possible by a grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP). A limited metal detector survey was conducted in an area just southeast of the Stone House, which was the supposed location of Fort Hollingsworth. A three-pound cannonball was recovered from this location but no other military artifacts were found. Other artifacts encountered were mixed, with late eighteenth and early nineteenth century ceramics being observed in with modern material. The shovel tests excavated closer to the Stone House contained a thin band of oyster shells, which might represent undisturbed soil (Pickett 2000; Pickett and Heinrich 2001).

In December of 2000, excavations were performed underneath the porch of the Hollingsworth House. These excavations revealed the presence of a buried, original ground surface dating to the Late Woodland time period (A.D. 800–1600) that was sealed by a clay layer most likely deposited on top of the prehistoric layer when the cellar for the Hollingsworth House was being dug. Above this stratum was a

layer that contained brick and mortar rubble, which may have represented construction debris associated with the building of the house. This layer also contained a number of ceramics dating mainly from the 1790s to around 1830, suggesting a late eighteenth or early nineteenth century construction date for the house. The layer above this one contained brick and mortar rubble as well, and artifacts dating from the early to mid nineteenth century. The rubble in this layer is most likely associated with renovations to the house after the 1848 fire (Pickett 2002a).

In the spring of 2002, a Phase I survey and limited testing was conducted at Elk Landing. This resulted in the discovery of a Native-American presence at Elk Landing beginning in the Late Archaic period (ca. 3,000–1,000 B.C.) and continuing through the Woodland period (ca. 1,000 B.C.–A.D. 1600). Prehistoric artifacts were concentrated along the southern section of a terrace overlooking the floodplain of the Big Elk Creek, which appears to have been an area that Native-Americans used to refine their stone tools before heading out along the floodplains to hunt and fish.

Historic artifacts found at the site date from the late eighteenth century through the first half of the twentieth century. These artifacts tended to cluster around both the Stone House and on the north side of the Hollingsworth House. A test unit excavated behind the Hollingsworth House at the junction of the dining room and its northern addition revealed the presence of a trench containing several flat stones. These stones might represent a former wing, which might have been replaced when the present wing was constructed after the 1848 fire. Also discovered was a possible robber's trench dug in order to "rob" stones from the earlier foundation (Pickett Heinrich and Groben 2002).

In the fall of 2002, five test units were excavated within the foundation of the log structure located on the north side of the Stone House. The purpose of the excavations was to determine whether the area inside the foundation was disturbed and to find out if there was any evidence to support the notion that a Swede named John Hanson Steelman used the log structure as a trading post in the 1690s. These units revealed the presence of intact stratigraphy as well as artifacts dating from the second half of the eighteenth century to around the mid twentieth century. The first layer contained modern artifacts and covered a thick layer of building rubble, which represents the dismantling of the building in 1917. This layer contained a mix of late eighteenth through early twentieth century artifacts. Underneath this level was a thin layer that contained no rubble and appears to have been a layer of dirt that accumulated on top of the cellar floor, which was underneath and consisted of hard packed clay. Most of the artifacts that date to the eighteenth century were found in the bottom two layers. Nothing was found that dates to Steelman's time period, which could be due to the fact that the current project missed all evidence of his occupation. However, it is also possible that Zebulon Jr. constructed the log structure in the third quarter of the eighteenth century and used it as a storehouse until he began to further develop the property after 1783 (Pickett 2002b).

In the summer of 2003 Gibb Archaeological Consulting conducted excavations on the north side of the Hollingsworth House in anticipation of the construction of the handicap ramp and pad for climate control units. Thirteen shovel test pits and five test units were excavated on the north side of the house. The shovel tests revealed a concentration of artifacts previously identified during the Phase I survey of the property. Out of the five test units laid out only one was excavated in an area that was going to be impacted. These units revealed a buried ground surface that was sealed by clay from the digging of the Hollingsworth House cellar and therefore predates the construction of the house. This same ground surface was also discovered underneath the porch on the south side of the house during excavations in 2000. Prehistoric and historic artifacts were found in the layers sealed by the clay on the north side of the house as well as a small posthole (Gibb 2003).

## METHODS

A background literature search was performed at the Maryland Historical Trust in Crownsville and the Historic Elk Landing Foundation provided information in the form of documents and maps. These materials were examined to gain an understanding of both prehistoric and historic occupations in, and adjacent to, the project area as well as the region in general.

The fieldwork included the excavation of five 50 x 50 cm (20 x 20 inches) square test units. These units were located where five of the ten postholes for the handicap ramp will go. The other five holes were dug by a mechanical auger and were monitored by the Principal Investigator.

Each test unit was excavated by natural stratigraphy or by arbitrary levels within natural levels and were excavated to sterile subsoil or a depth of at least 65 cm (2.1 feet). All removed soil was screened through one-quarter-inch mesh hardware cloth to ensure uniform artifact recovery. The depth, stratigraphy, artifact recovery, and the texture as well as the Munsell soil color of all soils was recorded and a profile drawing of each test unit was prepared. Each test unit was also numbered, and its location placed on the project map.

The monitoring of the auguring, utility trench, and drains entailed the collection of artifacts disturbed by the construction along with the recording of representative profiles, including soil texture as well as the Munsell soil color. Both the sidewalls and bottom of all trenches and auger holes were scrapped down in order to located features. Any features observed were avoided if possible, but if they were not avoidable then they were excavated and recorded before construction continued. The location of each test unit, auger hole, the utility trench, and drains were recorded on a project map. All artifacts recovered were placed in clearly labeled zippered plastic bags by relative provenience within each test unit or area and processed on site. Digital photographs were taken of the project area as well as of the test units, auger holes, utility trench, and drains.

The artifacts were cleaned and catalogued, and the artifact collection was studied to determine the date or dates of occupations present and the range of activities carried out. The vertical and horizontal distribution of the material was studied so that the nature and extent of the site could be better understood. All artifacts, records, photographs, and project materials will be returned to the Historic Elk Landing Foundation Inc. for permanent curation.

## RESULTS

### *Test Units and Auger Monitoring*

A total of five 50 x 50 cm (20 x 20 inches) square test units were excavated on the north side of the Hollingsworth House where postholes for a handicap ramp will be placed (Figure 10). Test units 22, 23, and 24 all exhibited the same stratigraphic profiles, which consisted of four levels (Figure 11). The first level was a dark brown (10YR 3/3) clay loam that measured 8-15 cm (3-6 inches) thick. Artifacts recovered from this level were few and dated at the earliest to the second half of the nineteenth century. The second level was a dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/4) clay loam that was 6-9 cm (2.3-3.5 inches) in thickness. Artifacts from this stratum represent refuse deposited during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries when the Hollingsworth House was being used. Beneath this stratum was level 3, which contained a dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) clay that was deposited when the cellar of the Hollingsworth House was being dug. This level measured 17-30 cm (6.7-11.8 inches) thick, with its thickness being greatest closest to the house. Level 3 sealed the original ground surface in this area, which was level 4. Level 4 was a dark brown (10YR 3/3) clay loam that measured 11-22 cm (4.3-8.6 inches)

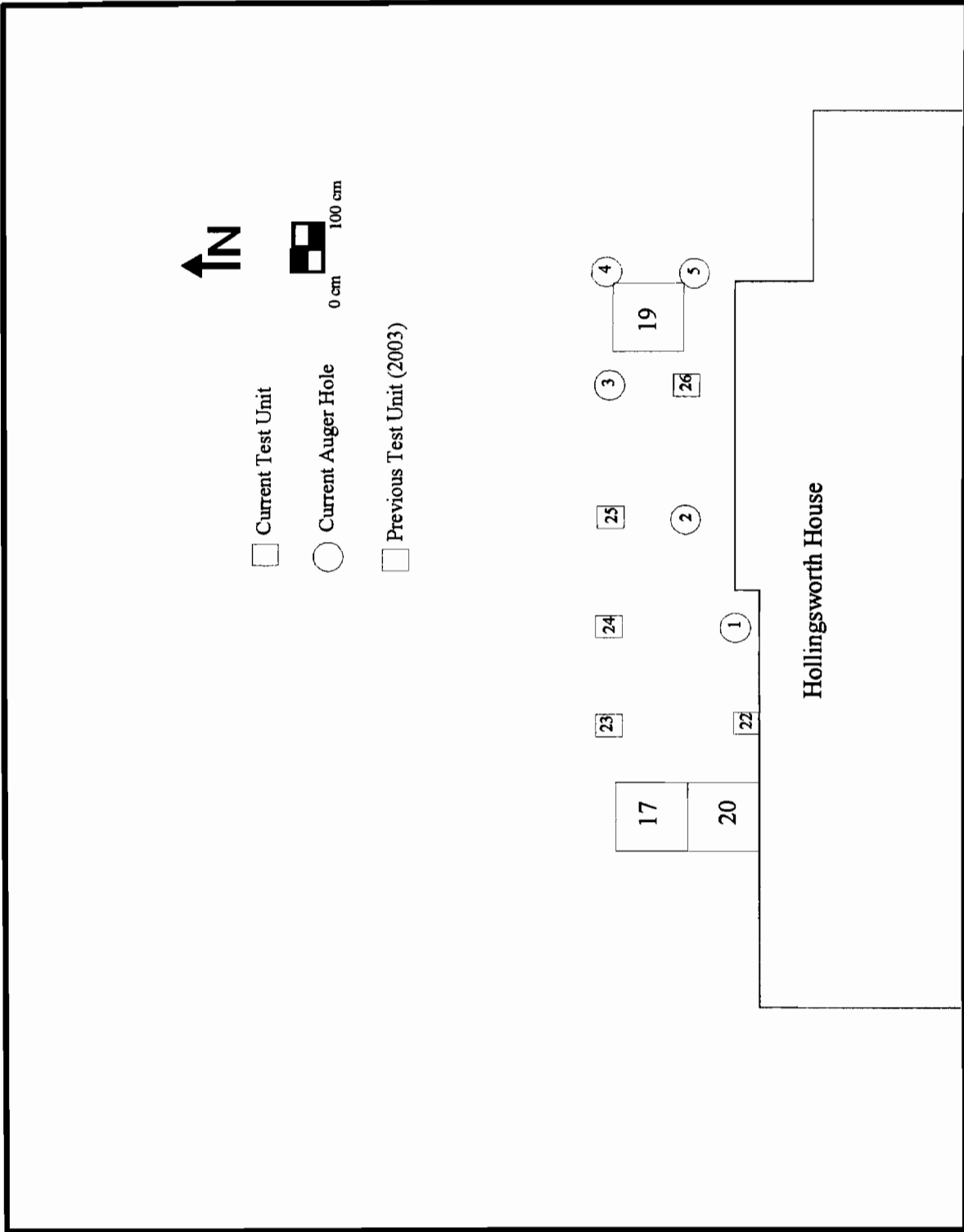


Figure 10. Location of Test Units

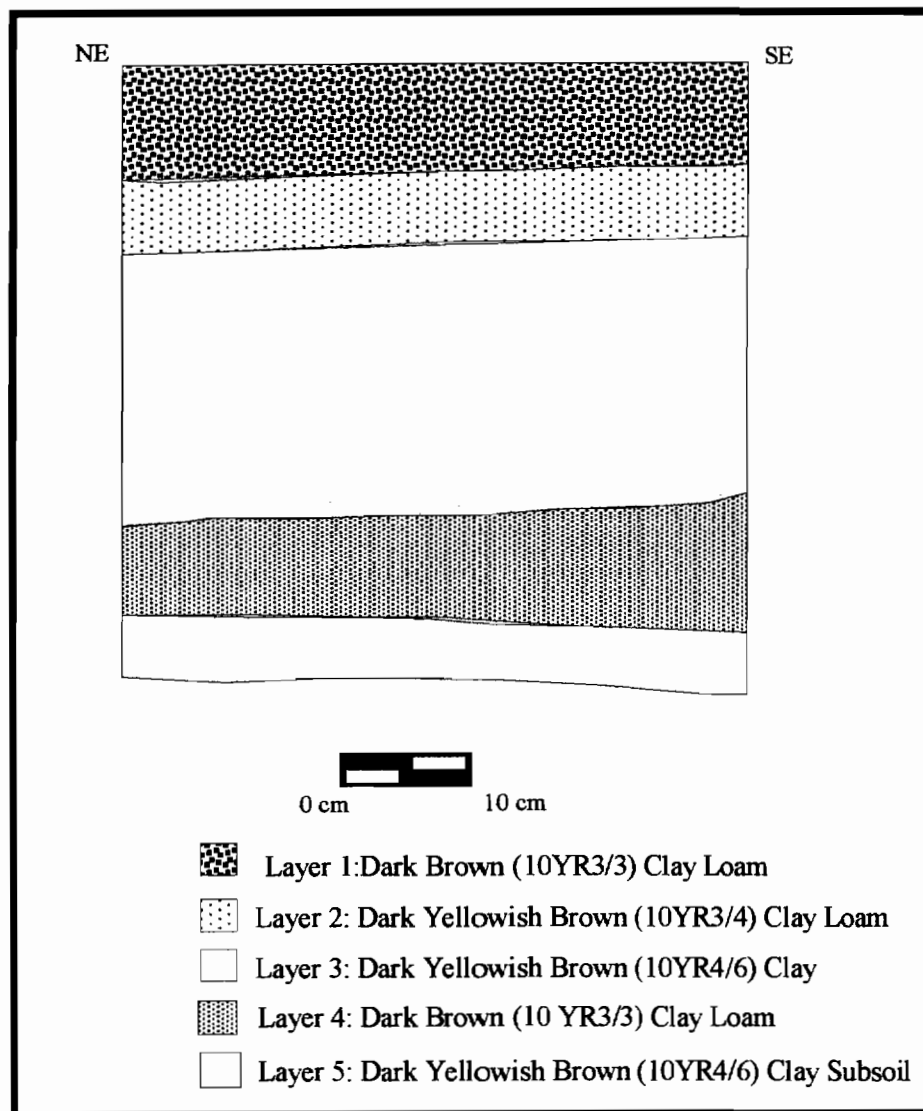


Figure 11. East Profile of Test



thick. All prehistoric artifacts recovered from these test units were found in this level. Those artifacts included fire-cracked rock, flakes, and a bi-face. Also found were a handful of historic artifacts, which were mainly redwares. This suggests that someone might have been living in this area before the Hollingsworth House was built.

Test unit 25 exhibited five stratigraphic levels instead of four. The difference being that level 1 was a 7 cm (2.7 inches) thick layer of fill. The rest of the levels matched up with those of test units 22-24 (Figure 12). Besides a layer of fill being present the other thing that was different about this test unit was that it contained a large number of artifacts. A total of 141 were recovered as compared to 103 for test units 22-24 combined. Most of these artifacts were found in levels 3 and 4. Redwares (n=34) and creamwares (n=29) combined to make up 45% of the artifact assemblage from this unit. High concentrations of artifacts were noted in this area during Phase I testing and the presence of such a large number is no doubt due to this area's proximity to the east wing of the Hollingsworth House which may have been the location of the original kitchen.

Level 5 in test unit 25 represents the buried, original ground surface. Only two artifacts were recovered from this level, one fragment of eroded redware and a fragment of undecorated whiteware. The presence of whiteware, which dates at the earliest to the second quarter of the nineteenth century, in a layer predating the construction of the Hollingsworth House around the 1780s is perplexing. However, a fragment of undecorated whiteware was also recovered from this stratum in nearby test unit 19 and in test unit 20 suggesting that artifacts from layers above have worked their way down into the buried ground surface. This seems plausible given the presence of numerous groundhog holes and trees along with renovations to the house. All this combined has no doubt brought about disturbances in the ground causing artifacts to become mixed. If artifacts from later time periods have worked their way down, this throws into doubt whether or not there was an historic occupation in this vicinity prior to the construction of the Hollingsworth House.

Test unit 26 contained four stratigraphic levels that showed some differences from the previous test units (Figure 13). Level 1 was a fill layer similar to the one discovered in test unit 25. The stratum beneath was 24 cm (9.4 inches) thick and contained a high concentration of gravel and pebbles similar to what was previously found in test unit 19. Level 3 was a 5 cm (2 inches) thick, clay layer from the digging of the Hollingsworth House cellar that contained no artifacts. Beneath this layer was level 4, which was the buried, original ground surface. This level was 15 cm (6 inches) thick and contained two prehistoric flakes and one fragment of light green bottle glass.

Monitoring of the mechanical excavation of the remaining five auger holes produced a layer of brick and mortar rubble in one of the holes not seen in the others. That hole was auger hole 4, which contained four stratigraphic layers (Figure 14). Level 1 was a 7 cm (2.7 inches) thick, olive brown (2.5Y4/4) silt loam that was similar to the fill in test units 25 and 26. The stratum beneath was level 2, which consisted of a dark brown (10YR3/3) clay loam that was 13 cm (5.1 inches) thick. Level 3 contained a heavy concentration of brick and mortar rubble. This dark brown, (10YR3/3) clay loam layer was 9 cm (3.5 inches) thick and corresponded to the clay layer deposited from the digging of the house cellar. The concentration of rubble in this layer could be the result of construction/renovation activities associated with the Hollingsworth House or one of its wings. Artifacts observed in the sidewall, but not collected, were creamwares, pearlwares, and redwares. Level 4 was the buried, original ground surface, which was a dark brown, (10YR3/3) clay loam that was 8 cm (3.1 inches) thick.

#### Utility and Drain Trench Monitoring

A utility trench for electric lines was dug along the east side of the driveway leading into Elk Landing. This trench measured approximately 174 m (570 feet) in length, 61 cm (24 inches) wide and 76 cm (30

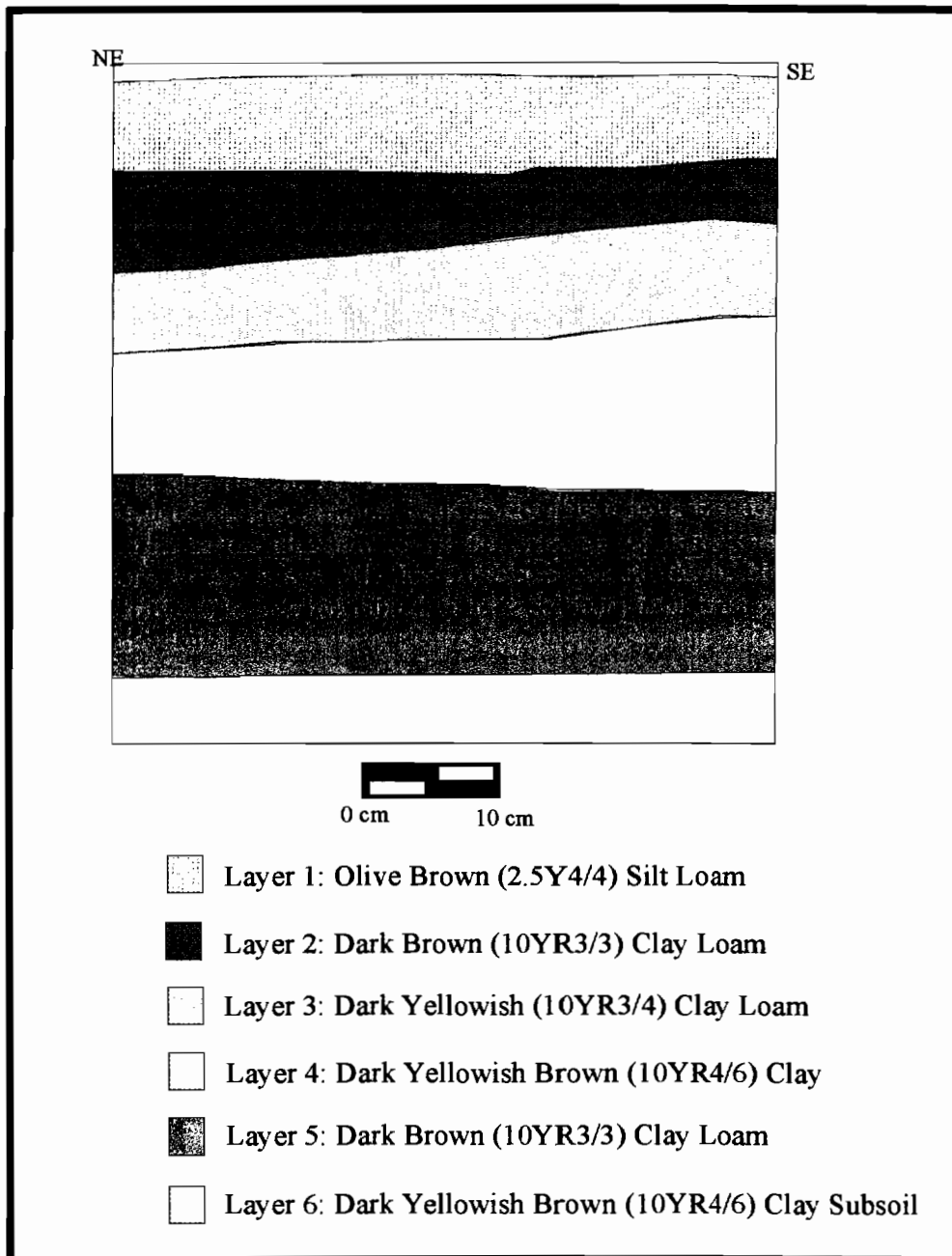


Figure 12. East Profile of Test Unit 25

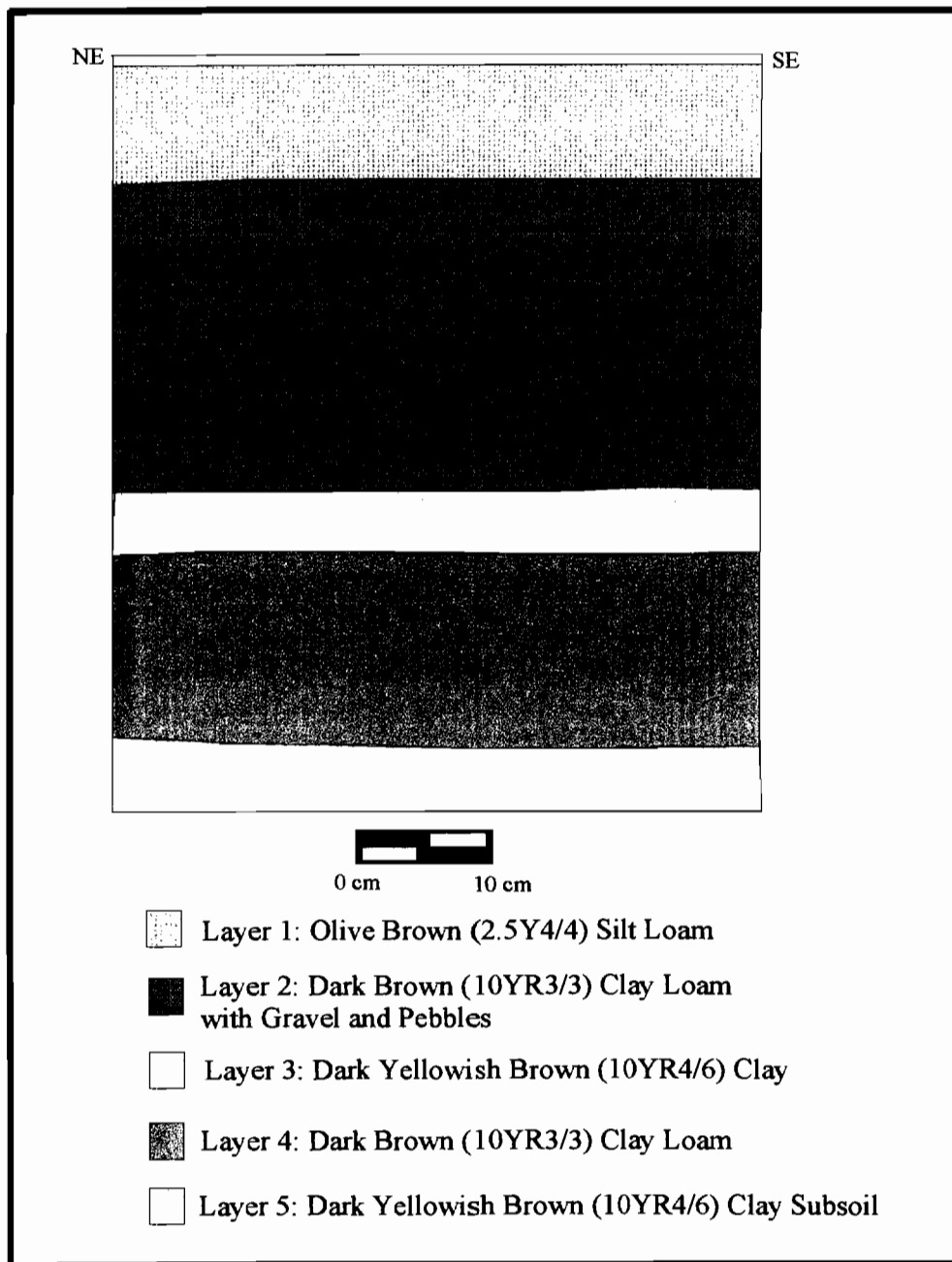


Figure 13. East Profile of Test Unit 26

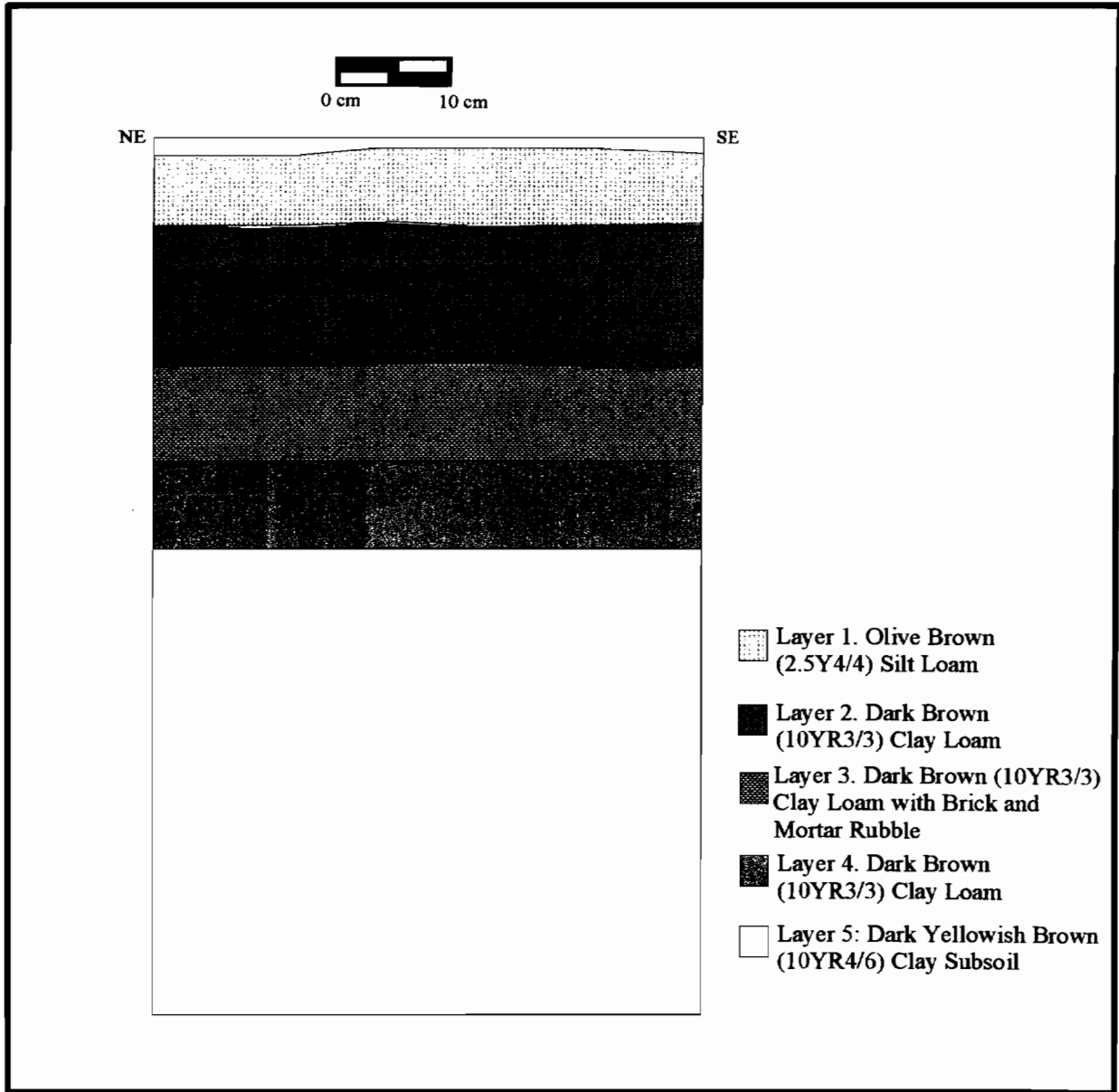


Figure 14. East Profile of Auger Hole 4

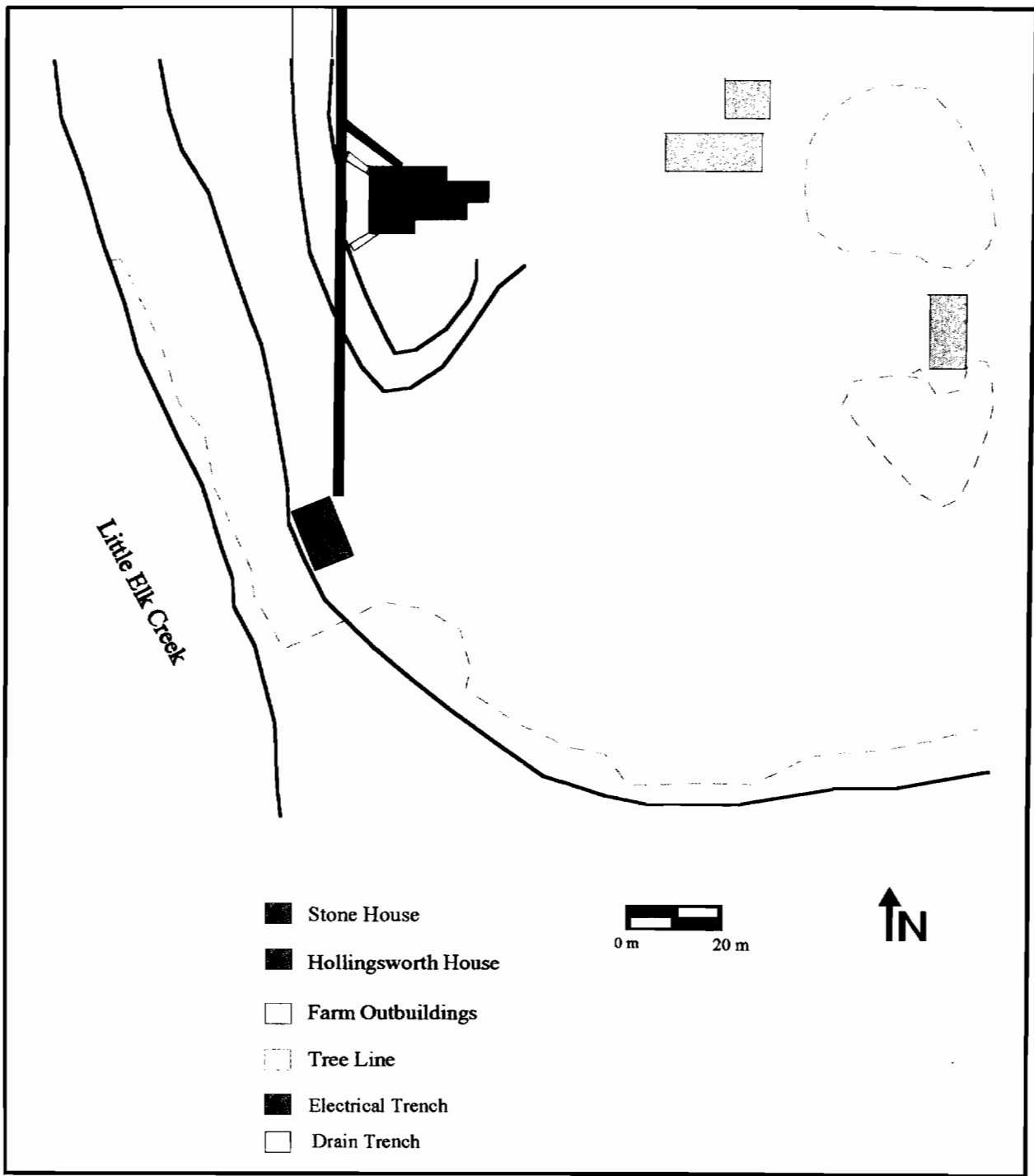


Figure 15. Location of Trenches

inches) deep (Figure 15). In order to provide electricity to the Hollingsworth House a trench had to be dug up to its foundation. An approximately 15.25 m (50 feet) long trench was mechanically excavated from the driveway to the north side of the House, entering the House where test units 17 and 20 were excavated. This trench was only excavated to a depth of 40 cm (16 inches) thus avoiding impacting the buried ground surface located in this area.

The main trench paralleled gas and water lines running along the east side of the driveway and thus disturbances were noted throughout the trench. Very few artifacts were observed but two features were discovered in a section of trench located just to the north of the entrance gate. One of the features appeared to have been the location of a utility pole since it closely matched the size of poles that lined the street in this area. The second feature was a round posthole that was discovered in subsoil. The hole measured 25 cm (10 inches) in diameter and was 6 cm (2.5 inches) deep. No artifacts were recovered but according to Robert Bryson, who resided on the property from 1927-1949, there was a fence that bordered the road and the driveway of Elk Landing when he lived there. Therefore it seems likely that the posthole discovered in the trench is a twentieth century fence post.

Two 61 cm (24 inch) wide, 20 cm (8 inch) deep trenches were mechanically excavated off the northwest and southwest corners of the Hollingsworth House for the purpose of laying drainpipes (Figure 15). No features were observed in either trench and only a few artifacts were recovered, which were three fragments of creamware, one pearlware fragment and one English bone china fragment.

## CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological excavations and monitoring of construction activities at Historic Elk Landing (18CE60) revealed the original ground surface, which was sealed by a layer of clay that was deposited when the cellar for the Hollingsworth House was being dug. The buried surface contained both prehistoric and historic artifacts. The existence of historic artifacts in a stratum that predates the construction of the Hollingsworth House around the 1780s suggests that someone may have occupied the site prior to the building of the house. However, plain whiteware, which dates at the earliest to the second quarter of the nineteenth century, was found in the buried surface during current and previous excavations. This is unusual since this stratum predates the construction of the house, but given the presence of numerous groundhog holes and trees along with renovations to the house there is no doubt that disturbances have occurred. This throws into question whether or not there was an historic occupation in this area prior to the construction of the Hollingsworth House.

Above the clay layer from the digging of the cellar was a layer that represents refuse deposited during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries when the Hollingsworth House was being used. The heaviest concentration of artifacts, which consisted largely of redwares and creamwares, was near the east wing of the house. That wing might have been the location of the original kitchen.

A utility trench for electric lines was dug along the east side of the driveway leading into Elk Landing. This paralleled gas and water lines and thus disturbances were noted. Two features were discovered in subsoil just north of the entrance gate. One of the features appeared to have been the location of a utility pole. The second feature was a round posthole that contained no artifacts. It was probably a twentieth century fence post based on information from a former resident. An additional two trenches were mechanically excavated off the northwest and southwest corners of the Hollingsworth House for the purpose of laying drainpipes. No features were observed in either trench and only a few artifacts were recovered.

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## APPENDIX I: ARTIFACT INVENTORY

TU 22	1	Redware, clear lead glazed	TU 24	3	Window glass
Level 1	1	Redware, manganese glazed	Level 1	2	Wire nails
	2	Window glass		2	Cut nails
	1	Bottle glass, light green		3	Unidentified nail
	1	Cut nail			
	1	Unidentified nail	TU 24	2	Creamware
TU 22	5	Creamware	Level 2	3	Window glass
Level 2	1	Redware, unglazed		1	Bottle glass, dark green
	6	Window glass		3	Unidentified nail
	1	Unidentified nail		1	Key fragment, iron
TU 22	2	Creamware	TU 24	2	Creamware
Level 3	1	Redware, lead glazed	Level 3	1	Pearlware, purple transfer print
	1	Slipware		1	Redware, black glazed
	4	Window glass		4	Window glass
	1	Unidentified nail		1	Unidentified nail
TU 22	1	Chert flake, thinning	TU 24	1	Jasper, biface
Level 4	1	Jasper flake, thinning	Level 4	1	Chert flake, secondary
	1	FCR, discarded		1	Quartzite flake, thinning
	2	Redware, black glazed		1	Redware, manganese glazed
	1	Button, copper alloy, two piece	TU 25	2	Wire nails
TU 23	1	Redware, black glazed	Level 1	1	Tack, iron
Level 1	1	Redware, unglazed	TU 25	4	Creamware
	2	Window glass	Level 2	1	Redware, lead glazed
	1	Cut nail		1	Redware, unglazed
	1	Unidentified nail		7	Window glass
TU 23	2	Chinese porcelain, blue under glaze		1	Bottle glass, colorless
Level 2	1	Creamware		1	Bottle glass, olive green
	2	Redware, manganese glaze		2	Unidentified nail
	4	Window glass		1	Button, black plastic
	3	Cut nails	TU 25	1	Quartzite flake, primary
TU 23	1	Chinese porcelain, blue under glaze	Level 3	1	English bone china
Level 3	3	Creamware		1	Fulham-type brown stoneware
	1	Pearlware, blue shell edge		5	Creamware
	1	Pearlware, blue transfer		1	Pearlware, green shell edge
	1	Window glass		2	Pearlware, blue hand painted underglaze
	1	Cut nail		4	Redware, black glazed int/ lead glazed ext.
	1	Unknown copper alloy bar with eyehole at one end		3	Redware, lead glazed
TU 23	1	Quartzite flake, primary		1	Redware, clear lead glazed
Level 4	1	Redware, black glazed		3	Redware, slip trail
	1	Redware, manganese glazed		1	Redware, unglazed
	2	Slipware		7	Window glass
	1	Bottle glass, olive green		6	Bottle glass, colorless
	2	Unidentified nails		1	Bottle lip, colorless
				4	Bottle glass, dark green
				4	Bottle glass, olive green
				1	Cut nail
				3	Unidentified nails

TU 25	1	White salt- glazed stoneware
Level 4	20	Creamware
	1	Pearlware, blue underglaze
	1	Pearlware, polychrome
	5	Redware, black glazed int/ lead glazed ext.
	11	Redware, lead glazed
	1	Redware, manganese glazed
	1	Redware, slip trail
	1	Redware, unglazed
	9	Window glass
	5	Bottle glass, colorless
	7	Bottle glass, olive green
	3	Unidentified nails
	3	Faunal bone
TU 25	1	Whiteware
Level 5	1	Redware, eroded
TU 26	1	Creamware
Level 1	1	Bottle glass, colorless
	2	Bottle glass, light green
	1	Plastic sequin
TU 26	1	Quartz flake, primary
Level 2	8	Creamware
	2	Redware, lead glazed
	2	Window glass
	1	Bottle glass neck, colorless
	2	Wire nails
	2	Unidentified nails
TU 26		No artifacts
Level 3		
TU 26	1	Quartz flake, secondary
Level 4	1	Jasper flake, heat treated, secondary
	1	Bottle glass, light green
Drain trench I	1	English bone china
	3	Creamware
	1	Pearlware, blue hand painted underglaze