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AN ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE WALNUT COVE LIONS CLUB PARK SITE STOKES COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

by

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Report submitted to the Stokes County Recreation Department, Danbury, North Carolina; and to the Archeology Section of the Division of Archives and History, Department of Cultural Resources, Raleigh, North Carolina.

ABSTRACT

In May 1976 an archeological reconnaissance was carried out in the area to be affected by the construction of the Walnut Cove Lions Club Park. The survey located four archeological sites that might be affected by this project, none of which were deemed worthy of additional work. Two of the prehistoric components consisted of single projectile points; one of these, identified as Halifax, can be dated to the Late Archaic period (circa 3500-3000 B.C.). The remaining two sites each yielded only two nondiagnostic artifacts, suggesting single brief episodes of prehistoric activity.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This archeological survey was aided by contributions from several individuals. We would like to thank Mr. Frank Plunkett, chairman of the Walnut Cove Lions Club Park Committee, and the Stokes County Soil Conservation Office for helping us obtain an aerial photo and a soil survey map of the park area. Mr. Plunkett also provided information about the local history and pointed out specific features of the park site. Maps of the park layout were provided by Ms. Kathy White, Recreation Director for Stokes County. We are grateful to all the above for facilitating our work.

K.B.
D.G.

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INTRODUCTION

In April 1976 the Archeology Laboratories of the Museum of Man were contacted by Ms. Kathy White, Director of Recreation for Stokes County, concerning an archeological survey of the 62.09 acre Walnut Cove Lions Club Park Site. The application for federal funds to aid in the park construction made such a survey necessary.

A budgeted proposal was prepared and its acceptance confirmed in early May. The fieldwork was carried out during the third week of May by Karen Barnette and Diana Gorin, under the direction of Dr. J. Ned Woodall. Approximately 10 acres, running diagonally northeast from the southwest corner of the park site, had previously been graded and some soil movement accomplished prior to the survey crew's arrival, and leveling with heavy ...y continued that week. Some evidence of aboriginal activity was ...ent in the graded area. A description of that material and of three other prehistoric sites located within the park boundaries, along with an assessment of the significance of each, is the purpose of this report.

THE AREA

The park site is approximately 1.6 kilometers northeast of the town of Walnut Cove, in the northwestern sector of the North Carolina Piedmont. The site is in Stokes County, a section of the Piedmont plateau characterized by high, rolling hills; altitudes vary from 180 to 390 meters above mean sea level. Elevations near the park site, in the southeastern portion of Stokes County, range between 190 and 231 meters; within the 62.09 acres of the site proper, elevations vary between 200 and 213 meters. The only mountain range of note in Stokes County is the Sauratown Mountains, an eroded spur of the Blue Ridge Mountain range.

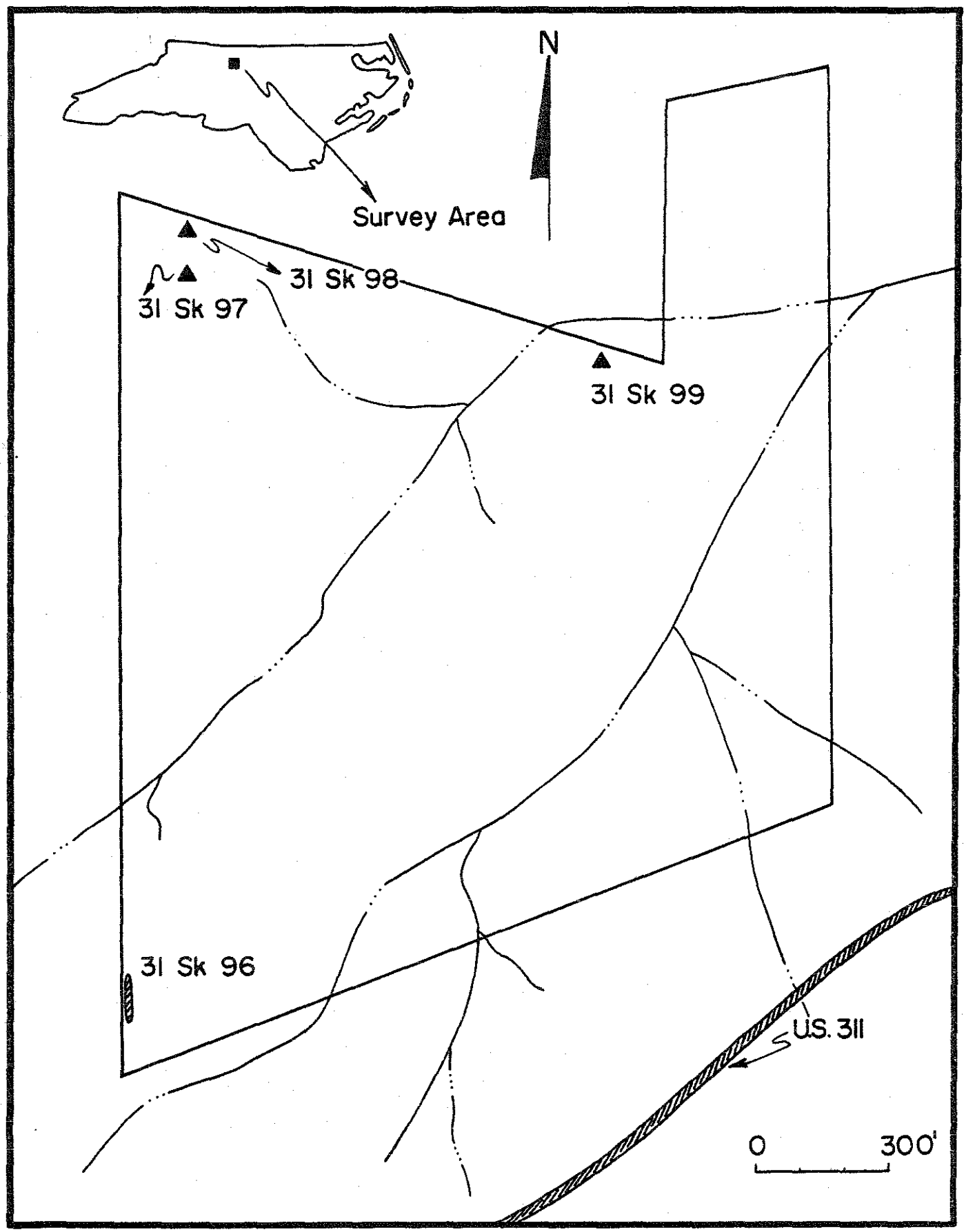
The park site is dominated by a prominant ridge running northeast-southwest, roughly bisecting the park. A small tributary of the Dan River is split by this ridge, and numerous other small streams within the boundaries of the park feed into these branches. The Dan River is approximately [illegible]meters east of the park site, and a major tributary, Town Fork Creek, [illegible].5 kilometers due south.

The igneous and metamorphic rocks which form the geologic base of the Piedmont consist primarily of light and dark colored gneisses and porphyritic granites. Generally, these are decomposed to strata of hard red clayey subsoils overlain by horizons of sandy loams, especially marked on ridges and knolls. In the immediate Stokes County area the chief rocks are quartzite, mica schist, and quartz-mica schist. A thin strip of Triassic sandstone extends through Germanton, Walnut Cove and Pine Hall in the southeastern part of the county, and seams of coal and highly carbonaceous shales

are also found near the park location (Sharpe 1948).

The flora of Stokes County is characterized by agricultural crops such as tobacco, corn and soybeans and secondary stands of deciduous and coniferous trees; fallow fields are common, with several being located within the park boundaries. The hardwood climax forests consisted of oak, poplar, hickory, maple, dogwood and sourwood, which have now been replaced by secondary hardwoods, pines and cedars. Many edible berries and grasses in the area form a third component of the local flora, one which would have occupied an important place in the diet of any aboriginal populations. The fauna associated with such an environment is representative of the Piedmont as a whole, with white-tailed deer, raccoon, opossum, rabbit, squirrels, turkey, quail and a variety of smaller wild birds, lizards, snakes and turtles being included. Several fish species can be found in the larger streams. While present populations can be no more than a fraction the faunal biomass extant during prehistoric times, ethnographic studies such as Lefler (1967) indicate this listing to be a fairly accurate qualitative statement of the once-abundant resources.

Located in the southern portion of the temperate zone, the North Carolina Piedmont is effectively protected from major storm masses moving from the west by the Appalachian Mountain range. Severe coastal storms tend to be dissipated before reaching the inland Piedmont. The result is mild weather, with a growing season of 182 days recorded for Stokes County. The mean annual temperature is 13.8° C. and precipitation averages 115 cm. annually.



Walnut Cove Lions Club Park Site

SURVEY METHOD

The entire park site was surveyed on foot searching for evidence of prehistoric occupation such as stone flakes, tools, or charcoal. In the area where grading already had taken place the backdirt piled along the periphery was carefully searched. When it appeared that a portion of the original topsoil had been located this was screened through a 1/4" mesh screen to check for traces of aboriginal activity. Since a large portion of the park site is wooded and ground visibility poor, crew members walked transects 25 meters apart in these sections, testing at approximately 25 meter intervals. This testing was accomplished by clearing an area 50 cm. square and troweling down the soil to 10 cm. below the humus layer. It proved necessary to use this same method--in effect setting up a square

urvey the cleared fields present within the park boundaries,

dense weeds and grasses had taken over these fields in the absence of cultivation. We were aided at times by bald areas and drainage ditches which allowed an unobstructed view of the ground surface.

When indications of a site were encountered in areas with minimal ground visibility, testing was carried out as described above, but at 5 meter intervals, along lines extending in the cardinal directions from the original findspot. This procedure would allow determination of site size as well as enlarging the artifact collection.

The location of each site was plotted in the field on a Soil Conservation Service Aerial Photo and subsequently on the USGS 7.5 Minute Topographic Series, Walnut Cove, North Carolina, Quadrangle and the North

Carolina State Highway Map for Stokes County, Eastern Sector. Field notes were taken on the natural environment, soil type, erosion damage and other pertinent data. These data, along with the artifacts, were returned to the Archeology Laboratories at Wake Forest University for processing, analysis and storage.

THE SITES

Four sites were located within the park boundaries. Each of these is discussed separately below with a description of its location, general condition and the artifacts encountered, followed by comments and recommendations. The projectile point type names are taken from Joffre Coe's 1964 monograph The Formative Cultures of the Carolina Piedmont. The lithic material is described by the general geologic categories of felsite and quartz; a more specific description would require microscopic analysis and is not relevant to this study.

31Sk96

Location and Description

This site, located in the southwestern corner of the park, rests on the crest of a long ridge running northeast-southwest and is approximately 61 meters north-northwest of a feeder branch of the Dan River. At the time of the survey the site environment consisted of a sub-triangular stand of trees graded on all sides. The two artifacts were recovered from the eroded road bank along the western edge of the island of trees. A test probe in the woods revealed a 20 cm. stratum of light yellowish brown sandy loam resting on basal yellowish red clay.

Artifacts

A gray felsite stemmed drill was found, possibly reworked from a projectile point. It is broken at both the base and the distal tip. In addition

an unaltered flake of coarse yellow-gray felsite was recovered.

Comments and Recommendations

Although no diagnostic artifacts were found, the absence of ceramics suggests an Archaic component. Small test pits placed at 5 meter intervals throughout the wooded area to the east did not yield additional artifacts, and since the remaining boundaries of the site area had been badly disturbed by an access road and by grading no further archeological work at the site is warranted.

31Sk97

Location and Description

This site is located in the far northwestern corner of the park on the apron of a broad gently sloping ridge, the crest of which is approximately [illegible]ters northwest of the site area. A tributary of the Dan River is [illegible]ately 161 meters southeast of the site. When surveyed this area was a fallow field, plowed 4-5 years previous but presently in low grasses and weeds with a sparse scattering of young pines. The soil is Mayodan with a depth sample showing 18 cm. of light brown sandy loam underlain by a red sandy clay.

Artifact

The distal tip of a dark gray felsite (probably rhyolite) projectile point was recovered. Although the diagnostic base is missing, the very thin triangular tip with its pressure flaking and straight sides roughly suggests a point of the Yadkin, Uwharrie, or Caraway traditions which span

the years A.D. 1200 to 1700.

Comments and Recommendations

The survey of this field, which was relatively clear of dense ground cover, failed to turn up additional specimens other than another isolated projectile point designated 31Sk98. An adjacent plowed field northwest of this area and outside the park boundary also was surveyed but failed to yield artifacts. The paucity of artifacts here, coupled with past disturbance due to cultivation, make it unlikely that Sk97 will yield additional information. No further work is necessary.

31Sk98

Location and Description

[illegible]he same field as Sk97 an isolated projectile point was found [illegible]ately 31 meters north-northwest of Sk97 and on the northern edge of the park site, approximately 52 meters southeast of the northwest corner. The terrain and ground cover is the same as Sk97, and the soil is Mayodan--18 cm. of light brown sandy loam underlain by red clay. Although Sk97 and Sk98 are not far apart they are considered separate sites due to the lack of artifacts in the intervening area.

Artifact

The projectile point found on this site is identified as Halifax (circa 3500-3000 B.C.). The raw material used is quartz and the dimensions are as follows: length, 3.3 cm.; maximum width, 1.7 cm.; thickness, .5 cm.

Comments and Recommendations

Since careful examination of the immediate area of both Sk97 and Sk98 failed to produce further data and since the area had been disturbed by previous cultivation additional work is not recommended.

31Sk99

Location and Description

Two artifacts were recovered in the northernmost corner of the graded area, in topsoil moved by bulldozers during the initial clearing. Presently 1.5-3 meters of fill cover the original ground surface where this soil was obtained. The graded 10 acres conforms to the crest of a long prominent ...ke ridge running northeast-southwest at an elevation of 213-219 ... above mean sea level. The ridge is almost encompassed by a tributary of the Dan River; only the southwestern end is not bordered by a creek. This level, well-drained area had been under cultivation for many years, and in comparison to the remaining park land it would have been the most likely area for habitation by aboriginal groups.

Artifacts

The artifacts recovered were 2 small unaltered flakes of a gray felsitic material.

Comments and Recommendations

Very little can be said of the origin or extent of this site because of its highly disturbed context. Remnants of bulldozed topsoil were screened and adjacent areas were randomly tested but yielded no additional artifacts.

It is most likely that the site has been buried under fill dirt and has been severely altered, so further testing is not merited.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The archeological survey of the area to be impacted by construction of the Walnut Cove Lions Club Park revealed the presence of four archeological sites. The aboriginal components at two of the sites, 31Sk97 and 31Sk98, consisted of isolated projectile points, and the two other sites yielded only two artifacts each. At none of these sites was there evidence of long-term occupation, and it seems certain, particularly in the cases of Sk96, Sk97 and Sk98, that a single episode of prehistoric activity is represented. As previously stated, grading and filling activities at Sk99 have prevented an accurate assessment of prehistoric context and disturbance of the site precludes any further investigation. In summary, no additional work is recommended at these sites.

While evidence of prehistoric activities at the park site was sparse, this in itself raises interesting questions about aboriginal settlement in this section of the Northwestern North Carolina Piedmont. Although little archeological work done in Stokes County has been reported previously, a survey at the King Park Site (Snavely and Woodall 1975) revealed a possible clustering of sites near an important natural resource, namely lithic materials, used for tool manufacture. As further survey, testing and excavation is carried out and results of such work made available, the sites reported above will be better understood as part of a total settlement system.

ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT THE KING PARK SITE, STOKES COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

by

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May 4, 1975

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Report submitted to the Lions Club of King, North Carolina; and to the Archeology Section of the Division of Archives and History, Department of Cultural Resources, Raleigh, North Carolina.

ABSTRACT

Preliminary field survey and artifact analysis undertaken as the first phase of archeological investigations at the Lions Club park site suggested that further study of the project area was necessary. Most of the additional study focused on Site 31Sk54, where several cultural features were interpreted as special activity loci for the preparation and manufacture of tools. This interpretation was supported by evidence of quarrying at Feature F. The poor quality of raw materials present at these features made identification of distinct tool types difficult. At the same time the discrete cultural context of these crude fragments may provide data useful in defining tool assemblages difficult to discern in the archeological record.

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ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT THE KING PARK SITE

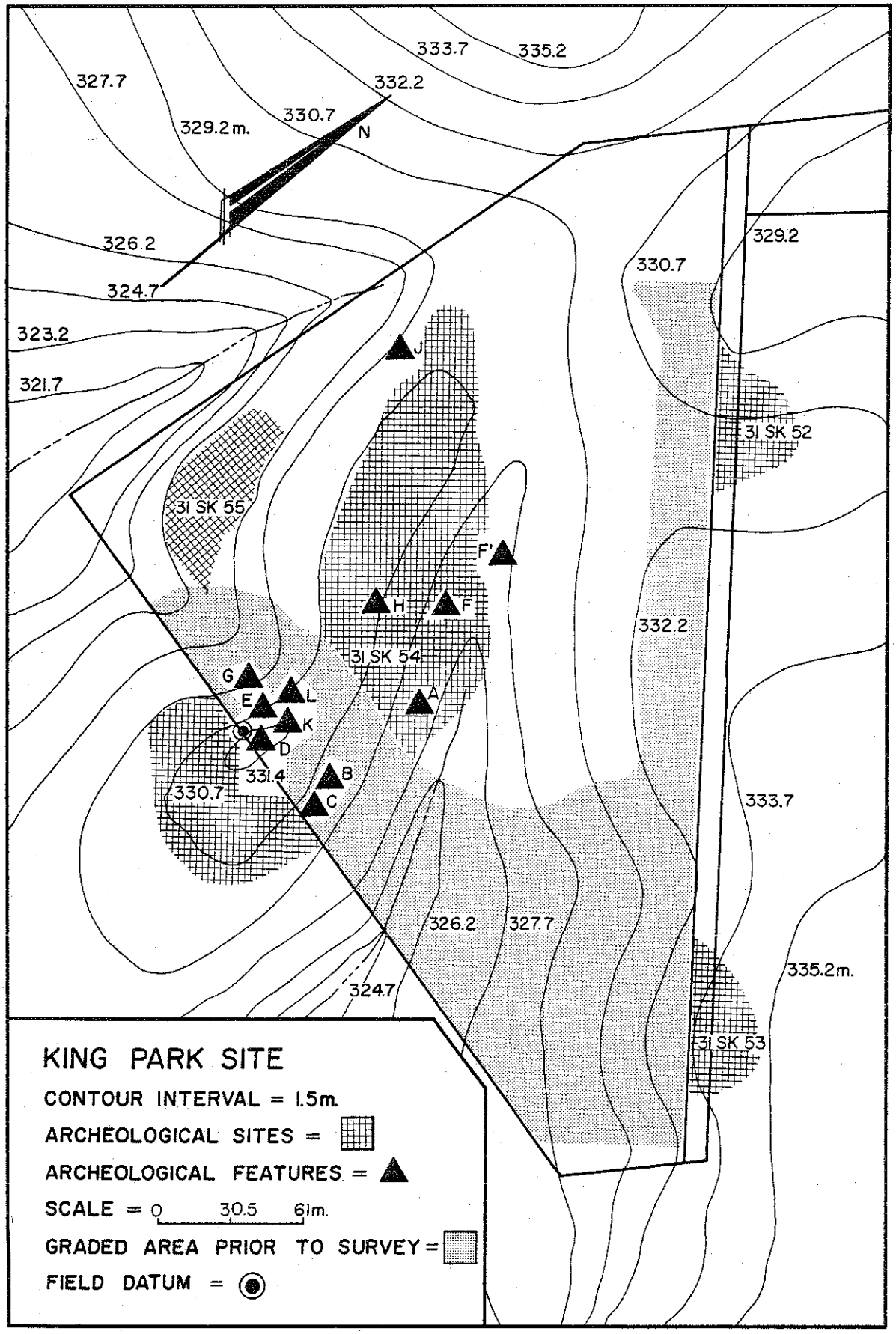
STOKES COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

INTRODUCTION

The development of a community park by the Lions Club of King, North Carolina, will ecologically alter 17.3 acres of land. One of the resources impacted by construction of park facilities will be archeological sites located within the 17.3 acres. The use of a matching-funds federal grant for the project made filing of an Environmental Impact Statement necessary. Hence, an archeological reconnaissance was conducted of the park acreage to assess the significance of any archeological materials present. This study recommended some additional field work necessary to mitigate the destruction of this part of the prehistoric record.

The preliminary survey of the park recorded four prehistoric sites. Three of the sites -- 31Sk52, 31Sk53, and 31Sk55 -- were small surface sites with little cultural material. Survey of the fourth site, 31Sk54, suggested the presence of several special activity loci as well as sub-surface cultural features. The significance of this site is further increased by the fact that its age has been assigned to the Middle Archaic period. For these reasons, additional investigation of this site was recommended. This report will present the data gathered from these four sites and the conclusions drawn from analysis of those data.

Adequate investigation of the archeological resources at the Lions Club site would not have been possible without the help and cooperation of several individuals. Joe Matthews of the Northwest Economic Development Commission notified the Museum of Man of the need for survey of the impacted area.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SCALE = 0 30.5 61m.
GRADED AREA PRIOR TO SURVEY =
FIELD DATUM =

The following Lions Club members aided in adjusting the construction timetable so that site 31Sk54 could be thoroughly studied: David Sloan, Dr. Frank Fowler, and John Burwell. Special recognition is due John Henry Spainhour, Robert Spainhour, Larry Spainhour, Norman Venable and other men of Spainhour grading and paving for their much appreciated efforts in avoiding work in areas of archeological significance until the data from those areas could be gathered.

Bill Rasch assisted in all phases of field survey and analysis, undeterred in the field by large grading machinery often looming over his shoulder. The site map accompanying this report was also drawn by him. Elizabeth Shattuck assisted in all phases of the laboratory work.

ENVIRONMENT

The park acreage lies approximately 1 kilometer west-northwest of the town of King, in the northwestern sector of the North Carolina Piedmont. Characterized by gently rolling hills, the Piedmont plateau ranges in elevation from 80 to 450 meters, with elevations near the park site ranging from 300 to 340 meters. Elevations in the 17.3 acres proper vary from 325 to 331 meters.

The project area is dominated by a prominant north-south ridge which bisects the park. This ridge creates two branches of Crooked Run Creek, both flowing to the south. The western branch forms the western boundary of the park. The eastern branch is important in that during its formation it has exposed seams of quartz and quartzite on the eastern side of the ridge, and this stone apparently served as sources of raw material for prehistoric inhabitants. Crooked Run Creek is itself a tributary of the Little Yadkin River, the major drainage system for the southwestern corner of Stokes County.

The igneous and metamorphic rocks which form the geologic base of the Piedmont consist primarily of light and dark colored gneisses and prophyritic granites. These are generally decomposed to strata of hard red clayey subsoils which are overlain by horizons of sandy loams, especially marked on ridges and knolls.

The flora of the area is characteristically either agricultural crops or secondary stands of deciduous and coniferous trees. The crops are primarily tobacco, corn and soybeans, with fallow fields common. The secondary forest growth is the result of two hundred years of land clearing practices. The climax decidious forests of oak, hickory, maple, and dogwood have consequently been replaced by pines and cedars which are frequently harvested for pulpwood before full growth. The many berries and edible grasses which form a third component of the local flora were obviously important factors in the subsistence patterns of prehistoric populations.

Although faunal biomass is today only a fraction of that extant during aboriginal times, the use of ethnographic sources (e.g. Lefler 1967) provides a fairly accurate qualitative statement about the once abundant faunal resources. Bear, deer, turkey, and numerous riverine species including both fishes and waterfowl are frequently mentioned. Small mammalian genera such as opossum, squirrel and rabbit appear to have been commonly exploited.

The North Carolina Piedmont is located in the southern portion of the temperate zone. The Appalachian Mountain range of western North Carolina effectively buffers major storm masses moving from the west. Severe coastal storms are dissipated before reaching the inland Piedmont. The combined effect produces mild weather and allows a frost-free period of approximately 180 days in Stokes County. The mean annual temperature is 58° F. Rainfall

averages 120 centimeters annually, and is equally divided between winter snows, spring rains, and summer thundershowers. This climatological profile was important in that it allowed the adoption of an agricultural subsistence pattern by aboriginal populations around 0 A.D.

ARCHEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Prior to 1972 very little professional archeological research had been conducted in North Carolina, particularly in the Piedmont section. The major exception to this generalization is Joffre Coe's Formative Cultures of the Carolina Piedmont (1964). Since 1972, the tempo of archeological research has increased significantly, with both state agencies and individual universities conducting archeological surveys, excavations, and salvage projects. As a result of these recent studies, 51 sites have been recorded for Stokes County, with test excavations at one site, 31Sk13 (Snavely and Gorin 1972). However, as evidenced by more extensive work in other parts of the Piedmont (e.g. Woodall and Claggett 1975), these 51 sites represent only a small fraction of the archeological record of Stokes County. In other words, only 51 sites have been recorded for Stokes County. Consequently, the broad outline of prehistoric Indian cultures that is applied to the northwestern Piedmont has been extrapolated from archeological research from across the Southeastern and Middle Atlantic states. Data such as that gathered at the King Park Site is only now just beginning to bring into focus the finer details of local and regional variations of generalized prehistoric cultural trends.

These broad cultural trends from across the southeast which are applicable to the King Park Site data might be characterized as follows: the first cultures to appear in North Carolina around 900 B.C. were those whose subsistence

activities were oriented toward the exploitation of the megafauna still extant immediately following the end of the Wisconson glaciation. Changing environmental conditions between 7000 and 6000 B.C. forced the small band societies to undergo a gradual transition in subsistence activities as new faunal and floral species emerged and became dominant. The Archaic "tradition" that emerged around 6000 B.C. had as a central theme the efficient and specialized exploitation of local resources by transient hunters and gatherers. It seems reasonable to assume some form of seasonal scheduling for these small bands, and this will ideally be reflected in the type and distribution of activity and habitation loci which constitute archeological settlement patterns.

For reasons that are as yet unexplained, a major "cultural discontinuity" occurred around 0 A.D. in Piedmont North Carolina. The latest Archaic cultural "tradition", Savannah River, is rather abruptly terminated by the appearance of pottery, small triangular projectile points, and shifts in both subsistence and settlement patterns. The former shift appears to indicate a sudden full-scale adoption of agricultural practices; the resultant settlement shift to large villages located in alluvial floodplains is concomitant. This shift occurred throughout the Southeast; however, some transitional phases are usually reflected in the archeological record. The questions that must be answered are obvious: why did this shift occur when it did? What was the true nature of the shift; i.e., what were the primary causal factors that led to this major sociocultural system change? Why did this shift occur at all, since the Archaic is generally characterized as a period of cultural stability (e.g. Caldwell's Primary Forest Efficiency 1958)? Finally, such questions as the following must be asked: what are the implications of this kind of systemic

transformation for an understanding of cultural processes?

Only by gathering what little data that remain in the archeological record is there any hope of answering these questions.

METHODS

The limited amount of archeological research conducted in Stokes County dictated that no a priori survey strategies could be employed in the reconnaissance. However, intensive surveys in adjacent Forsyth County and other areas of the Piedmont (Snavely and Gorin 1972; 1974 a,b) have indicated that careful, methodical foot survey is the only viable technique for recovering the small Archaic sites characteristically situated upon inland knolls and ridges. Thus, the impacted area as defined by Lions Club project maps was carefully covered on foot, recording and collecting areas that yielded archeological materials. There were only two factors which influenced the structure of the foot survey. The first factor was the explicit attempt to reconnoiter the impacted area according to distinct landforms such as ridges and knolls. It was felt that this technique would facilitate identification of sites from the perspective of their spatial distribution. Transect survey often makes delineation of small Archaic sites difficult because of the scattering of cultural material by repeated plowing. The second factor was that the northeastern side and part of the southern side of the project area had been graded prior to this survey. This made it necessary to investigate undisturbed areas immediately adjacent to these bulldozed sections. Two of the four archeological sites recorded by this survey, 31Sk52 and 31Sk53, would have been overlooked had this technique not been employed.

A major methodological problem which always confronts survey efforts has to do with the criteria used to define a site. This problem is especially

relevant for a study of an area such as the King Park Site for two reasons -- the paucity of archeological material characteristically occurring at an Archaic site, and the difficulty in distinguishing cultural material from naturally occurring lithic materials. The general lack of artifactual material in a southeastern Archaic site often means that the status of a potential site must be determined on the basis of only a few flakes. When this situation arises other factors must be brought into consideration, such as the soil characteristics of the potential site, the density and distribution of the material collected, and general ecological aspects of topography and hydrology. Another important factor often ignored is the brief investigation of adjacent tracts of land for comparative purposes. Thus, a site is never defined on the basis of a few lithic fragments that may or may not have had a cultural origin.

The second problem of distinguishing natural lithic material from cultural debris/debitage can be a particular problem in Piedmont North Carolina. The two primary factors defining this problem are 1) the general lack of exotic lithic materials that were utilized by the aboriginal inhabitants of the area, and 2) the fracture properties of higher quality specimens of quartz and quartzite. That the Indians utilized these two materials is evidenced by the quartz and quartzite artifacts commonly recovered from archeological sites. The problem arises from the high degree of similarity between the debitage produced in tool manufacture and those fragments which occur naturally. The distinction can only be made by polythetically defining an artifact by consideration of those attributes usually studied in any lithic analysis: wear pattern, use or intentional retouch, conchoidal fracture, pressure scars, presence of a working edge/face, etc. Comparison with quartz and quartzite

artifacts from excavation context provides additional data for classification decisions. Again, however, there must be some independent criteria for defining a site.

When a site such as 31Sk52 was defined in the field, a sample of the cultural material was collected. If the sites were small, as in the case of 31Sk52 and 31Sk53, and would be completely destroyed by construction activity, attempts were made to obtain a 100% sample. For larger sites such as 31Sk54, as large a sample as was feasible was recovered, as there would be no chance to re-investigate the site. Every site was assigned a unique designation of the following format: 31Sk52. This standardized trinomial system indicates that the site is located in North Carolina (31), in Stokes County (Sk), and is the fifty-second site recorded in that county. The exact location of each site was plotted on large-scale road maps of Stokes County, as well as on USGS 7.5 minute topographic maps. In addition, site survey forms were completed for each site, to be filed at the Museum of Man, Wake Forest University, with copies sent to the Archeology Section, Division of Archives and History, in Raleigh.

All relevant data was recorded for any cultural features encountered such as midden-filled pits and concentrations of lithic materials. Soil samples of the former were taken, and subjected to flotation analysis. All such features were also photographed and carefully mapped.

The cultural material recovered from the sites has been preliminarily analyzed in order to provide some information regarding the cultural significance of the sites. Analysis of the lithic artifacts proceeded along two lines. The first was a study of the functional and/or morphological attributes of the artifacts, in order to identify distinct tool types and to yield data

on the temporal and perhaps functional dimensions of the sites. The difficulty discussed earlier in distinguishing cultural material from naturally occurring quartz and quartzite fragments again becomes relevant. Even after a lithic specimen has been classified as an artifact, the fracture properties of all but the highest quality quartz and quartzite make common tool forms difficult to ~~derive~~ discern. Retouch along the edges and faces of these artifacts is also difficult to detect because of the macrocrystalline structures of these materials. A detailed classification of these lithic specimens is further compounded by their context. Feature E of 31Sk54 perhaps best illustrates this problem. This feature has been interpreted as a midden-filled pit. Of the over two hundred quartzite fragments recovered from this feature, several are clearly tools. Other specimens, because of the problems discussed above, spanned the range from probable artifacts to chunks that were of the same material as the artifacts. It was felt that, at the minimum, these specimens were manuports. The result of the above factors dictated that for the scope of analysis undertaken for this impact report, the category of core fragments/debitage was appropriate.

Projectile points, which are especially valuable in defining the chronological parameters of a site, were assigned to the types described by Coe (1964). The second line of lithic analysis was concerned with the classification of the different raw materials utilized by the Indians. Any such analysis is from the start almost completely open-ended, as the increasingly sophisticated procedures of thin-sectioning, chemical analysis, and X-ray diffraction are employed. For this reason, some statement must make explicit the choice of lithic categories. For the purpose of this initial analysis of the King Park Site materials, the broadest categories that still meaningfully differentiated

Preliminary Cultural Classification:
Multicomponent: Middle Archaic, Formative

31Sk53

Location:
Approximately 370 meters east-southeast of intersection of SR 1107 and Ohio Street (unopened).

Material Collected:
Felsite: 1 broken unidentified projectile point
Quartz: 2 core fragments/debitage; 4 flakes

Remarks:
Located on the southeastern portion of a ridge, this site is defined by a small area of sandy loam. The southern half of this site had already been graded prior to this survey. This site did not merit further investigation following the initial surface survey.

Preliminary Cultural Classification:
Lack of pottery and ground stone implements suggest an Archaic site, although no diagnostic artifacts were obtained.

31Sk54

Location:
Along ridge running parallel to Ohio Street (unopened). Approximately 245 meters southeast of intersection of SR 1107 and Ohio Street (unopened).

Material Collected and Provenience:
General Surface Collection:
Felsite: 3 Stanly projectile points; 1 retouched blade; 1 core fragment; 7 flakes
Quartzite: 1 core; 1 grinding stone
Quartz: 1 bifacially worked blade; 161 core fragments/debitage; 85 flakes
Feature A:
Quartzite: 1 core
Quartz: 4 cores; 63 core fragments/debitage; 21 flakes
Feature F:
Felsite: 3 flakes; 1 nodule
Quartzite: 4 cores; 3 core fragments
Quartz: 11 burins; 1 blade; 1 bifacial tool; 1 large crude adze-like implement; 3 cores; 236 core fragments/debitage; 25 flakes
Feature F':
Quartz: 5 core fragments/debitage; 1 flake
Quartzite: 3 cores; 8 core fragments/debitage; 1 grinding stone
Feature G:
Quartz: 2 burins; 8 core fragments/debitage
Feature J:
Quartz: 5 cores; 145 core fragments/debitage; 55 flakes

Remarks:

The spatial extent of cultural material at what appears to be a single component Archaic site is rather unusual. Three areas with very high densities of lithic-debitage suggest the possibility of special activity areas, which are rarely identified in Archaic sites. Several subsurface cultural features were discerned at this site when the plow zone was removed by grading equipment.

Preliminary Classification:

Middle Archaic

31Sk55

Location:

Approximately 150 meters south of intersection of SR 1107 and Ohio Street (unopened)

Material Collected:

Felsite: 2 flakes
Quartzite: 1 Savannah River projectile point
Quartz: 3 burins; 6 retouched bifaces; 3 cores; 141 fragments/debitage; 50 flakes

Remarks:

This site is located on the southern end of the low eastern terrace running parallel to a branch of Crooked Run Creek. The concentration of lithic debris/debitage noted during preliminary survey at the northern end of this terrace was later discerned to be spatially discrete from the material occurring at the southern end. Further investigation suggested the probability that this lithic concentration was associated with 31Sk54. Since this area had been designated a distinct feature of 31Sk55, the artifacts from this area were collected separately. Thus, the artifact inventory for 31Sk55 should contain little material from 31Sk54-Feature J.

Preliminary Classification:

Late Archaic

A discussion of sites 31Sk52 and 31Sk53 need not extend much beyong the synopses presented for those sites. These sites can perhaps best be interpreted as temporary campsites for transient Archaic hunters and gatherers. No cultural features were present at either site.

31Sk54, on the other hand, merits much more consideration and discussion. This large Archaic site extended for over 180 meters along the north-south ridge bisecting the park acreage; the site averaged 80 meters in width.

Four surface features could be discerned at the site, averaging 14 x 9 meters in size. These were defined by areas of grayish sandy loam with very high densities of lithic material in the form of cobbles and cobble fragments. The predominant materials were quartz and quartzite, with specimens exhibiting a full range of purity. The largest fragments averaged 20 cm. in diameter. The number of retouched fragments, as well as more diagnostic tool types, suggested a cultural interpretation for these features. A tentative hypothesis is that these concentrations represent areas of tool preparation and manufacture. The relatively small percentage of small finishing flakes would further suggest that only the preliminary stages of tool manufacture were undertaken at these areas. This interpretation is further supported by the quality of lithic material relative to that recovered from several exposed seams in the project area.

Only one of the four features, Feature F, provided any other significant data about these areas. Whereas the other three features -- A, F', and J -- extended only to the depth of the plow zone topsoil (approximately 30 cm.), Feature F measured almost 75 cm. in depth. Removal of the plow zone by grading equipment revealed a dark brown circular midden area approximately 10 meters in diameter. Perhaps most significant was that this midden area was centered around a seam of very pure, very translucent quartz. The immediate interpretation is that Feature F was the focus of quarrying activities. Before suggesting tentative broader behavioral models involving these special activity loci, the other features of 31Sk54 will be described.

The removal of the plow zone topsoil by grading equipment exposed several small features, defined by the sharp contrast of their grayish midden color against the bright red sterile clay. Closer examination determined some of these features to be burned and/or rotted tree stumps, along with the associated

discolored soil. Others of these features proved to be very localized areas of decomposed dark schist. This phenomenon can at times be almost indistinguishable from cultural midden stain. However, seven of these areas could best be explained as cultural features. Screening of soil samples from these pits confirmed this view in that several definitive tools were recovered. (The problem of discerning all artifacts contained in these features has been discussed earlier.) Averaging 80 by 67 centimeters in size, and approximately 20 cm. in depth below the plow zone, these features -- Features B, C, D, E, H, K, and L -- were concentrated on a north-south line along the crest of the prominant ridge at the park site. The small amount of charcoal recovered from flotation of the soil samples taken from these features suggests that they were not hearths, but were perhaps instead midden-filled pits. Only one of the features, Feature L, exhibited a very hard reddish-orange clay surrounding the pit and suggestive of burning.

Feature G is different from the other features previously discussed. It is defined as a concentration (approximately 1 meter square) of quartz artifacts/debitage. Its distinctiveness is that this small concentration was exposed by grading, at the same depth the pits were defined.

Summarizing, 31Sk54 is a very unusual and potentially very informative site. The presence of several cultural features at a site assigned to the Middle Archaic (three Stanly projectile points imply a date of roughly 5000 B.C.) is quite significant. That functional explanations can be suggested for several of the features is of great heuristic value in developing models of prehistoric sociocultural systems. Some of these will be pursued in the last section of this report.

The fourth site recorded by this survey, 31Sk55, lies in the southwestern

corner of the project area, on the southern end of a low terrace. The spatial extent of this site is more difficult to discern, because of some erosion and scattering of cultural material from plowing. The number of artifacts recovered from this site indicate that 31Sk55 was occupied for longer periods of time than smaller campsites such as 31Sk52 and 31Sk53. Two models that might be suggested are 1) that the site served as a semi-permanent base for hunting and gathering groups, or 2) the site was occupied permanently for a whole season (s), but not for the entire year.

DISCUSSION, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The field work and preliminary artifact analysis that were undertaken as the first phase of archeological investigations at the 17.3 acre Lions Club park project suggested that additional study of the area was necessary to satisfactorily mitigate the adverse effects upon the archeological record by planned construction activities. Subsequent field work focused primarily on 31Sk54 and the features discernable at this site. The tentative interpretation that this site was a "major" area of tool preparation and manufacture is supported by evidence of quarrying activities at Feature F.

An informal reconnaissance of approximately 25 acres lying west of the project area recorded 10 archeological sites. These sites are of interest for several reasons. First is the high density of sites per acre for this area. The proximity of this large number of sites to 31Sk54 where quarrying and tool manufacturing has been hypothesized seems significant. The sites are of further interest in that the poor quality quartzite littering 31Sk54 appears at the sites, but in smaller fragments. It seems reasonable to suggest that a more detailed analysis of the lithic material at 31Sk54, combined

with study of these 10 sites, might yield data on tool assemblages previously unrecognized in the archeological record.

Further, these 10 sites appear to be only a few of those in the vicinity of 31Sk54. It would be very informative for an areal study to establish the densities of sites, especially those of Middle Archaic age, near 31Sk54. Hopefully some gradient of distribution would emerge as distance from 31Sk54 increased. A study of this kind would be fairly straightforward, yet would have the potential of yielding data as yet almost non-existent for the prehistoric cultures of North Carolina.

Although this report is technically concerned with only those archeological resources at the Lions Club park site, it is important to remember that no archeological site exists without context. Every site is a part of a settlement system. For this reason, some data at a site may be understood only in the context of the other sites functioning in that system.

The growth of a housing development to the east and south of the Lions Club park site will eventually destroy much of the context of 31Sk54. Except under special circumstances, there is presently no legislation or local ordinances that encourage or force developers to allow professional archeologists the opportunity to gather data from threatened areas. Consequently, this report recommends that some arrangements be made, perhaps through the Chamber of Commerce of King or the Lions Club of King, that the Museum of Man at Wake Forest University be notified of any planned expansions of this housing development. This will allow archeologists the chance to investigate this area before it is destroyed forever. At the same time, the public will benefit by an increased knowledge about the prehistoric cultures of North Carolina.

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THE ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES OF THE JOANIE MOSER PARK SITE

by

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July 1, 1976

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Report submitted to the Forsyth County Recreation Coordinator, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and to the Archeology Section of the Division of Archives and History, Department of Cultural Resources, Raleigh, North Carolina.

ABSTRACT

In March 1976 an archeological reconnaissance was carried out at the Joanie Moser Park Site. Five archeological sites were located, two of which have been recommended for testing (Step II mitigation). The sites represent intermittant occupations from the Middle Archaic through the Early Woodland period, a time span of approximately 5000 years.

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INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In March 1976 the Archeology Laboratories of the Museum of Man were contacted by Mr. Mark Serosky, Forsyth County Recreation Coordinator, concerning an archeological survey of the Joanie Moser Park site. A budgeted proposal was prepared and its acceptance confirmed 22 March 1976, with the understanding that necessary funds would be included in the budget for the fiscal year beginning 1 July 1976. The field work was carried out on the 13th and 14th of May, 1976 by Karen Barnette and Judith A. Newkirk, under the direction of Dr. J. Ned Woodall.

The Joanie Moser Park site is a 20-acre tract of land on the northern side of the Lewisville-Clemmons Road between Shallowford Road and U.S. 421 in Forsyth County, North Carolina. Much of the park site is composed of an abandoned farm, and remnants of structures as well as fallow fields were encountered throughout the survey. Five archeological sites were discovered, and a description of these with recommendations for mitigation is the purpose of this report.

We would like to thank Mr. Serosky for providing the detailed maps of the park site, without which our survey would have been much more difficult.

K.B.
J.N.

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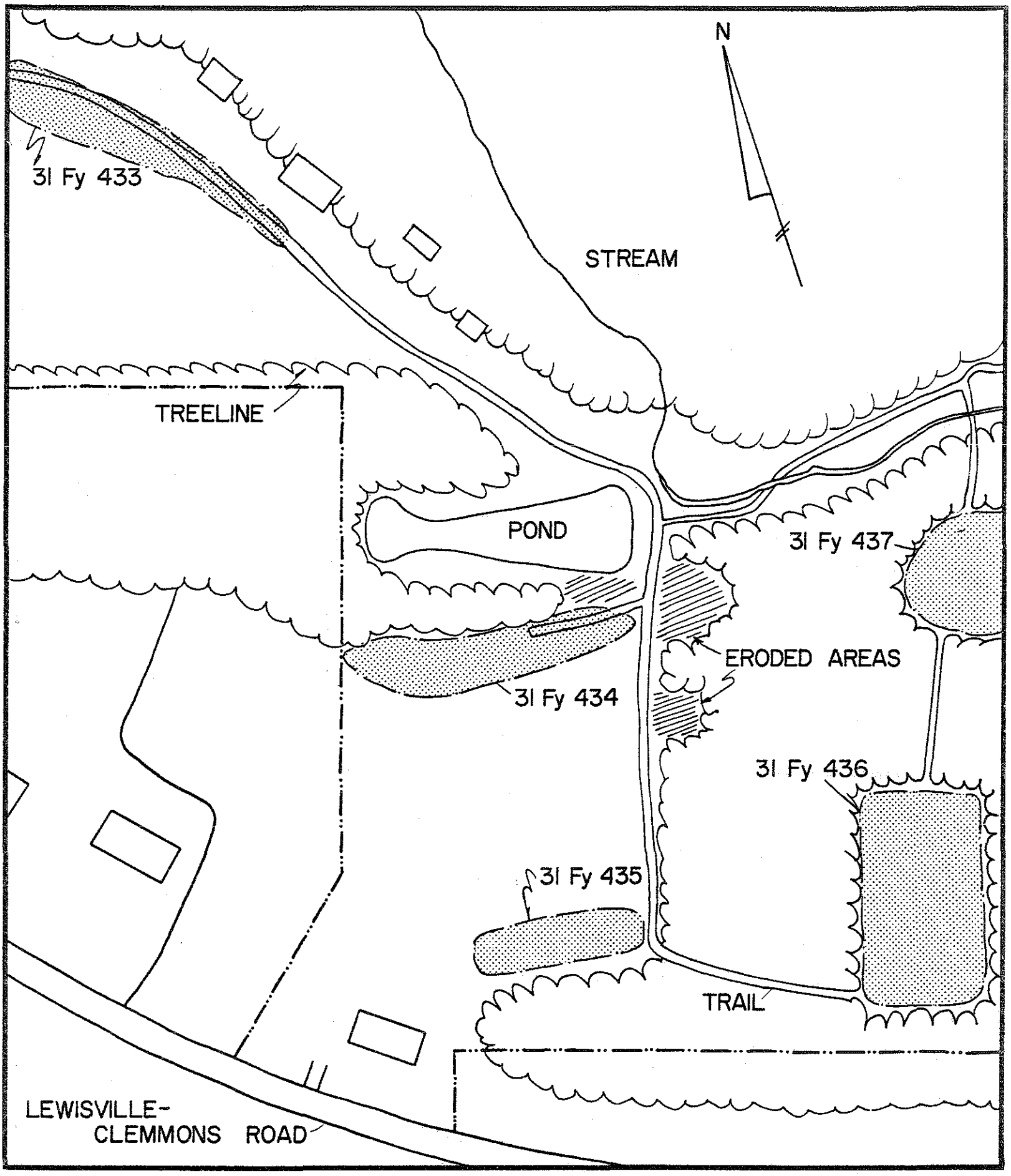

FIG. 1: JOANNIE MOSER PARK SITE

THE AREA

Forsyth County is located in the northwestern Piedmont region of North Carolina, an area characterized by gently rolling hills which mark the transition from the Blue Ridge Mountains of western North Carolina to the Atlantic Coastal Plain to the east.

Elevation ranges between 240 to 305 meters above sea level. The Appalachian Mountains tend to moderate the cold air intrusions as they cross and descend to this area. Precipitation averages 113 cm. per year, with a frost-free growing season of approximately 200 days.

An important factor, especially during aboriginal times, is the extensive drainage basins in the county. The northeastern corner is drained northward by tributaries of the Roanoke River, and a small section in the eastern part of the county is drained eastward by tributaries of the Cape Fear River. The majority of the county drains southwest to its western boundary, the Yadkin River. A branch of Reynolds Creek runs through the northeast section of the survey area. This creek flows southeast into Muddy Creek, an important tributary of the Yadkin River and heavily occupied by transient hunters and gatherers for several thousand years.

The Piedmont region is underlain by a complex series of igneous and metamorphic rocks, folded, faulted and metamorphosed by pressure and heat. It is composed primarily of light and dark colored gneisses, prophyritic granite, and small amounts of sandstone and shale. Generally the soils of Forsyth County are sandy loam or clay loam layers over firm clay subsoils. Specifically from the survey area they include Cecil sandy loam; Pacolet fine sandy loam; Cecil clay loam, eroded; and Vance sandy loam.

A mixture of deciduous and conifereous forests characterize the flora present. The principal varieties include oak, hickory, shortleaf pine, Virginia pine, with smaller amounts of dogwood and other species. Other important flora (especially during aboriginal times) are wild food plants, especially the many berry crops, cattails, sunflower, and numerous others. Before colonial settlement in this area there was an extensive variety and quantity of game resources. These were exploited considerably by the Indian populations and included black bear, white-tailed deer, turkey, fresh-water mussels and fish.

SURVEY METHOD

The entire park site was surveyed on foot, searching for surface evidence of prehistoric occupation such as stone flakes, tools, or charcoal. In the cleared areas this is a fairly easy procedure; for example sites often were initially located along trails or in eroded areas and then found to extend into stands of trees or densely overgrown fields. A different survey method was used in the wooded sections of the park site. In such situations the surveyors walked transects approximately 25 meters apart, testing at 25 meter intervals by clearing a 50 cm. square area and troweling the soil down to 10 cm. below the humus layer. The accumulated soil and the cleared ground surface were then carefully scrutinized to determine if evidence of aboriginal activity was present.

At each site a control sample was taken to allow a calculation of the relative amounts of debris at the site. This was accomplished by the two meter "dog leash" method, in which a line two meters long is attached to a surveyor and to a stake and all materials within the circle described by that line are collected.

Each site was plotted in the field on a schematic map of the park site and subsequently on sheets C8 and C9 of the Forsyth County Topographic Series, 1"=400', and on the small-scale City-County Planning Board map. Field notes were taken on natural environment, soil type, erosion damage and other pertinent data. These data, along with the artifacts, were returned to the Archeology Laboratories at Wake Forest University for processing, analysis and storage.

THE SITES

The archeological survey of the Joanie Moser Park site resulted in the recording of five prehistoric sites. Sporadic occupation appears to have taken place at these sites from the Middle Archaic period into the Woodland period, a time span of 4500 years. Projectile point names are according to Coe (1964), and the general geologic terms felsite, chert and quartz are used to describe lithic materials.

31Fy433

LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

This site is located on and adjacent to the access road of the abandoned farm which makes up much of the park area. At this point the road follows a finger of a northwest/southeast ridge which slopes gradually to the southeast. The site begins just outside the park site boundary and extends along the ridge for 125 meters; it varies in width from approximately 25 meters where the ridge broadens at the park boundary to 5 meters at its southeastern terminus. An old farmhouse, barn and other outbuildings are just east of the site. A feeder of Reynolds Creek, which flows into Muddy

Creek, and then into the Yadkin River, is 60 meters to the northeast. The original soil here was Cecil fine sandy loam; road construction has removed the topsoil and the present surface soil is red clay.

MATERIAL REMAINS

BIFACIAL TOOLS

Projectile Points (4 specimens)

Four projectile points were recovered, all of felsic material. They are identified as follows:

Morrow Mountain I (1 specimen. Fig. 2b)

Savannah River (1 specimen. Fig. 2d)

Unidentified (2 specimens. Figs. 2a,f)

The second unidentified specimen (Fig. 2a) is similar in outline to a Guilford point, but a broken base and distal tip prevent classification. The width of this point is 1.9 cm. and thickness is .8 cm.

Rectangular Bifaces (2 specimens)

These two felsite specimens are thick (10 cm. each) and crudely percussion-flaked. There is no evidence of pressure flaking, and the artifacts most likely represent unfinished projectile points.

Broken Bifaces (2 specimens)

Both specimens are of felsite. They represent the distal tip and the base of different projectile points.

UNIFACIAL TOOLS

Scraper (1 specimen)

This specimen (Fig. 2c) is classified as a side scraper. It was made from a large, wedge-shaped felsite flake, and the working edge is rounded and curved back with sharp, irregular retouch. Signs of use retouch appear on the dorsal side of the working edge.

Retouched Flakes (15 specimens)

Fifteen felsite flakes show varying amounts of pressure retouch. They range in color from creamy white to dark gray. One flake shows retouch on the ventral side of one edge and the dorsal side of the opposing edge.

DEBITAGE

Flakes (97 specimens)

Ninety-four unaltered flakes of felsite and 3 of quartz were recovered.

HISTORIC ARTIFACTS (2 specimens)

One sherd of brown salt-glazed stoneware and a silver-plated spoon (patent date January 14, 1908) were collected. Both are assumed to be associated with the farm buildings adjacent to the site.

GLASS (1 specimen)

One rim sherd from a modern glass was recovered.

CONTROL SAMPLE

A two-meter dog leash sample yielded two quartz flakes, seven felsite flakes, one piece of modern glass and 109 small stones.

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The diagnostic artifacts collected indicate at least two aboriginal occupations at this site, and it is more likely that there were repeated visits between the end of the Middle Archaic period and the termination of the Late Archaic (a period of approximately 4500 years). The presence of artifacts representing several stages of tool manufacture and the large quantity of debitage point toward tool production as one activity that was carried on here. The disturbed nature of the site, which was confined almost entirely to the road, makes further work unnecessary.

31Fy434

LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

This site is situated on the apron of a high knoll whose crest is located approximately 245 meters east of the site at an elevation of 282 meters above sea level. Elevations at the site vary between 272 meters and 266 meters. To the north the ground slopes off sharply toward a small farm pond. Initially the site was found along the trail marking its northern boundary; testing showed it to extend south just inside a broomsedge field. It measures 30 meters along an east/west axis, touching the park boundary on the west. Maximum width is about 20 meters at the center of the site. The soil here is a hard-packed orange-brown sandy loam of the Pacolet series, underlain by red clay 15 cm. below surface.

MATERIAL REMAINS

UNIFACIAL TOOLS

Retouched Flakes (2 specimens)

Two felsite flakes showing very small amounts of pressure retouch

were recovered.

DEBITAGE

Flakes (26 specimens)

Unaltered flakes recovered were as follows: felsite, 24; quartz, 1; and chert, 1.

CONTROL SAMPLE

Five of the felsite flakes, the quartz flake and 51 small stones were recovered from a two-meter dog leash collection, taken at the approximate site center.

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In the absence of diagnostic artifacts, no date can as ascribed to the occupation at this site. However, the sparse distribution of artifacts, even in the cleared areas, and the absence of pottery suggest that this is a single-component Archaic camp site. No additional work is recommended.

31Fy435

LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

A second small campsite was discovered 135 meters due south of 31Fy434, in the southeastern corner of the broomsedge field. This site occupies a section of the same apron as Fy434, and the topography is similar. A feeder of Reynolds Creek flows 265 meters northeast of the site. A major portion of the site has suffered severe erosion and is at present completely denuded. The original topsoil was a Pacolet fine sandy loam, but now only the underlying red clay remains.

MATERIAL REMAINS

BIFACIAL TOOL

Projectile Point (1 specimen)

The projectile point recovered is the proximal portion of a Savannah River point (Fig. 2e).

DEBITAGE

Flakes (10 specimens)

Ten unaltered felsite flakes were recovered.

CERAMICS (2 specimens)

Two aboriginal potsherds were collected. Each is tempered with large amounts of crushed quartz and sand. One is orange and shows fabric impressions on the exterior surface (Fig. 2g); the other is dark brown with a roughened exterior.

CONTROL SAMPLE

A two-meter dog leash sample yielded three felsite flakes, 1 potsherd, 1 piece of modern glass and 31 small stones.

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Savannah River projectile point and the two potsherds are evidence of activity at this site during the terminal Archaic and Woodland periods, within the time span 2000 B.C.-A.D. 1600. The scarcity of artifacts and disturbance of the site by erosion make further work unnecessary.

me Hillam Jr & archaeology for 3600 years

31Fy436

LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

This site is located on a broad knoll which slopes away sharply toward the north, east and west. A small feeder of Reynolds Creek is 60 meters west, and Reynolds Creek itself is approximately 220 meters north. A primitive trail runs along the western, eastern and southern sides of the broomsedge field containing the major portion of the site. The first artifacts were located along the trail, and the site was subsequently found to extend over the field and into the woods at the northeast corner. The dimensions are 88 meters north/south by 48 meters east/west. The soil here is a light brown sandy loam which changes to red-orange clay 18 cm. below surface.

MATERIAL REMAINS

BIFACIAL TOOLS

Projectile Points (4 specimens)

Four specimens, all of felsite, were recovered. The Morrow Mountain points indicate an occupation in the late Middle Archaic (circa 4500 B.C.) while the Savannah River point is evidence of a second occupation near the end of the Late Archaic (circa 2000 B.C.-0 A.D.). The points are identified as follows:

Morrow Mountain I (1 specimen. Fig. 2n)

Morrow Mountain II (1 specimen. Fig. 2l)

Savannah River (1 specimen. Fig. 2h)

Unidentified (1 specimen. Fig. 2k)

UNIFACIAL TOOLS

Retouched Flakes (10 specimens)

All the retouched flakes are of felsite; they show small amounts of pressure retouch on one or more sides.

DEBITAGE

Flakes (63 specimens)

Unaltered flakes were recovered as follows: felsite, 59; quartz, four.

CONTROL SAMPLE

The Morrow Mountain I projectile point, two retouched felsite flakes, six unaltered felsite flakes and 16 miscellaneous stones were collected from a two-meter dog leash circle near the site's southeastern corner.

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

31Fy436 is a multicomponent site occupied from the end of the Middle Archaic stage through the Late Archaic, terminating with the Savannah River occupation -- a period of roughly 5000 years. The site occupies an extensive area and a minimum amount of testing is needed to fully assess its potential. This recommendation is based partly on its strategic knoll location with easy access to Reynolds Creek and one of its branches, and also the sizeable artifact collection, especially the amount of debitage present. The presence of tools and the comparable amount of debitage indicate a base camp where tool production was carried on. Four man-days is recommended to complete test excavations.

31Fy437

LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

This site is located in a broomsedge field, nearly adjacent to a mixed pine-hardwood forest at the site's southern end. It is on a fringe apron of the knoll whose crest is occupied by 31Fy436 180 meters to the south. The area between the two sites is steeply sloped, but the gradient becomes much more gradual as it nears a small feeder of Reynolds Creek at the northern and eastern boundaries of Fy437. A second small feeder stream is located 35 meters west of the site. The soil here is a reddish-brown sandy loam of the Vance series; it changes to basal red clay 10 cm. below surface. Artifacts were recovered in all sections of the field, with concentrations noted at the northeastern corner and at a spot midway along the western boundary. Two 2-meter dog leashes were taken in these concentrations.

MATERIAL REMAINS

BIFACIAL TOOLS

Projectile Points (2 specimens)

Badin (Fig. 2j).

Unidentified (Fig. 2m).

Broken Biface (1 specimen)

This specimen may represent the distal portion of a large Archaic dart point or knife (Fig. 20). It is made of felsite, and pressure retouch has been applied to one side, the other showing only crude percussion flaking.

UNIFACIAL TOOLS

Retouched Flakes (4 specimens)

Two flakes of quartz and two of felsite have been irregularly pressure-flaked along one edge.

DEBITAGE

Flakes (30 specimens)

Thirty unaltered flakes were recovered. The raw materials used were as follows: 21 felsite; seven quartz; and two chert.

CERAMICS (7 specimens)

Seven aboriginal sherds were recovered; they were badly weathered and none show any signs of exterior surface treatment. The sherds range in surface color from orange to tan to brown. Six are tempered with varying amounts of crushed quartz and sand; the seventh is notable for the large quantity of crushed hornblende included with crushed quartz as a tempering agent (Fig. 2i). All except one of the sherds has been fully oxidized, the exception showing partial oxidation from the exterior. Of the two rim sherds, one is straight in profile with a flattened lip and an outside bevel, while the second is also straight in profile and has a rounded lip.

CONTROL SAMPLES

Three felsite flakes, two quartz flakes, two potsherds, and nine miscellaneous stones were recovered from two-meter dog leash #1, taken along the site's western boundary. Four felsite flakes, one quartz flake, one chert flake, two potsherds and 16 stones were collected from the second two-meter dog leash at the site's northeast corner.

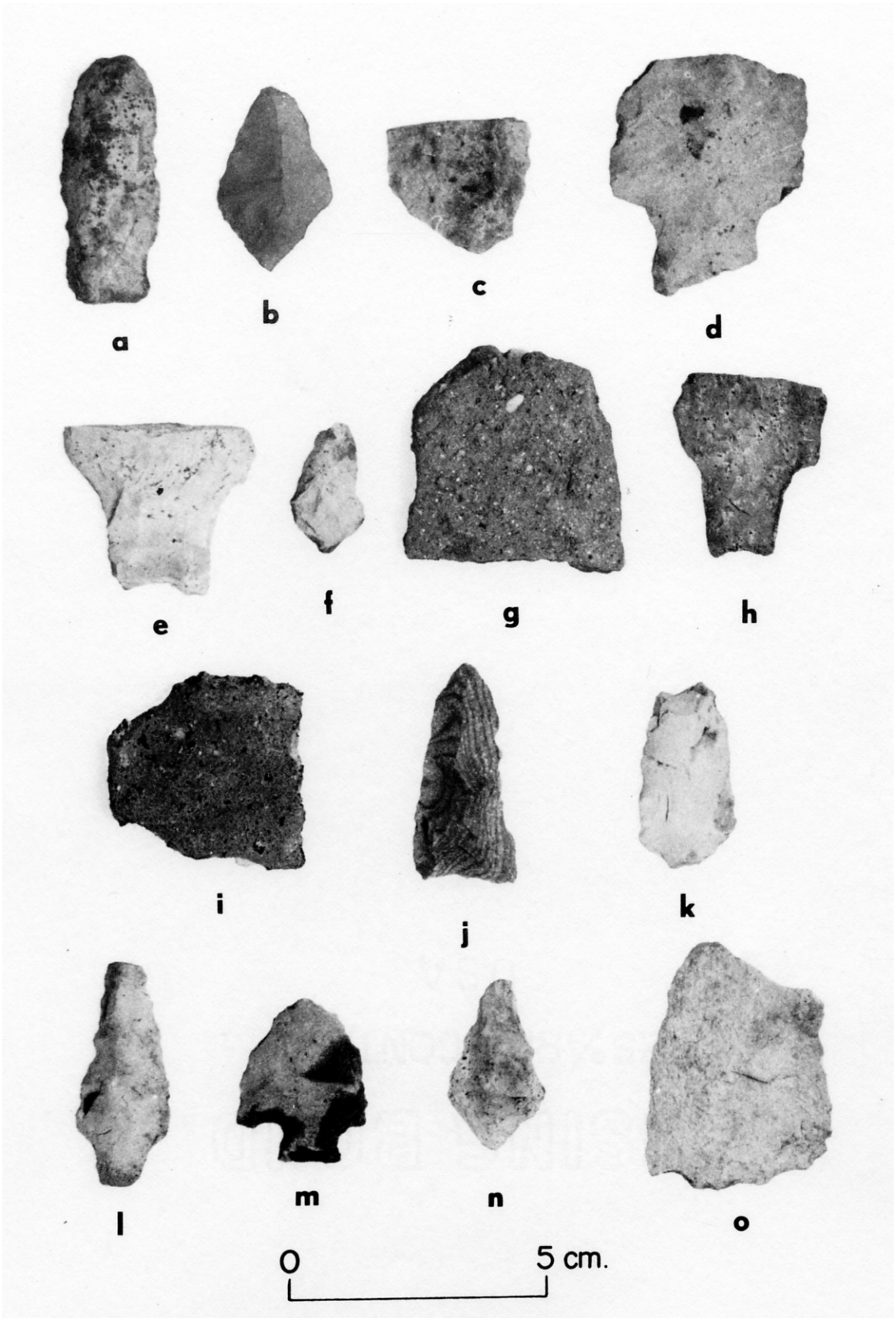

FIG. 2: 31Fy433, a, b, c, d, f; 31Fy435, e, g; 31Fy436, h, k, l, n; 31Fy437, j, m, o.

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Occupation of 31Fy437 occurred during the Early Woodland as indicated by the Badin projectile point and the seven potsherds. Once again, based on the tool assemblage, this site probably served as a base camp. The close proximity of the two feeder streams and the preference of aborigines for alluvial areas indicate that additional testing should be carried out here. It is recommended that four man-days be allotted for this work.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The archeological survey of the Joanie Moser Park Site located and recorded five archeological sites, all suffering from varying degrees of erosional damage. Two sites, 31Fy436 and Fy437, have been recommended for testing (Step II mitigation) and eight man-days of work is required. Both of these have been described as base-camp type sites, yielding a variety of tool forms such as projectile points, retouched flakes, bifaces and large amounts of debitage. The range of projectile points from Morrow Mountain to Badin indicates intermittant occupation of the sites from the Middle Archaic through the Early Woodland, a span of approximately 4500 years. This type of site has been found quite often in the Piedmont of North Carolina, but our data have failed to produce correlations between the sites and natural features in the environment. This further testing should add to our data base and allow a more complete assessment of the sites' significance.

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ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT THE JOANIE MOSER PARK SITE: PHASE II

by

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1 November 1976

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Report submitted to the Forsyth County Recreation Coordinator, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and to the Archeology Section of the Division of Archives and History, Department of Cultural Resources, Raleigh, North Carolina.

ABSTRACT

In October 1976 test excavation was carried out at two sites located within the Joanie Moser Park Site in Forsyth County, North Carolina. Further investigation had been recommended for the two sites (31Fy436 and 31Fy437) as a result of the initial surface survey completed in May 1976.

No buried remains or other features worthy of further archeological work were discovered during the test excavations. However, excavation revealed evidence of a Woodland component not previously noted at Fy436, and both sites yielded material remains that can be used in testing previously constructed hypotheses about the prehistory of Forsyth County and its surrounding areas.

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INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In March 1976 the Archeology Laboratories of the Museum of Man were contacted by Mr. Mark Serosky, Forsyth County Recreation Coordinator, concerning a survey of the archeological resources of the Joanie Moser Park Site. Such a survey was conducted in May 1976 by Judith A. Newkirk and Karen Barnette under the general supervision of J. Ned Woodall.

Five archeological sites were recorded by the surface survey and it was concluded that two of these (31Fy436 and 31Fy437) required Phase II mitigation procedures (testing) for a better assessment of the archeological materials present. These recommendations were accepted by the Division of Archives and History, Archeology Section, Department of Cultural Resources; in September 1976 the Archeology Laboratories were once again contacted by Mr. Serosky concerning a proposal for Phase II mitigation at the park site. A proposal was submitted by the authors of this report and accepted by Forsyth County in late September. Field work was carried out during the first and second weeks of October 1976, with intermittent rain accounting for several lapses in our schedule.

The permanent field party consisted of Judith Newkirk and Karen Barnette. We were aided on short notice several times by William G. Rasch and Frank Carter. We are extremely grateful to the following volunteers from anthropology classes at Wake Forest University who spent a Saturday excavating at 31Fy437 with Dr. Woodall and the authors: Kirk Proctor, Richard Hoffman, Keith Phillips, and David Foulke. Two other volunteers, Leslie Garber and Danny Atkins, took part in the torturous clearing activities at that site. The assistance of volunteers made it possible for our scope of

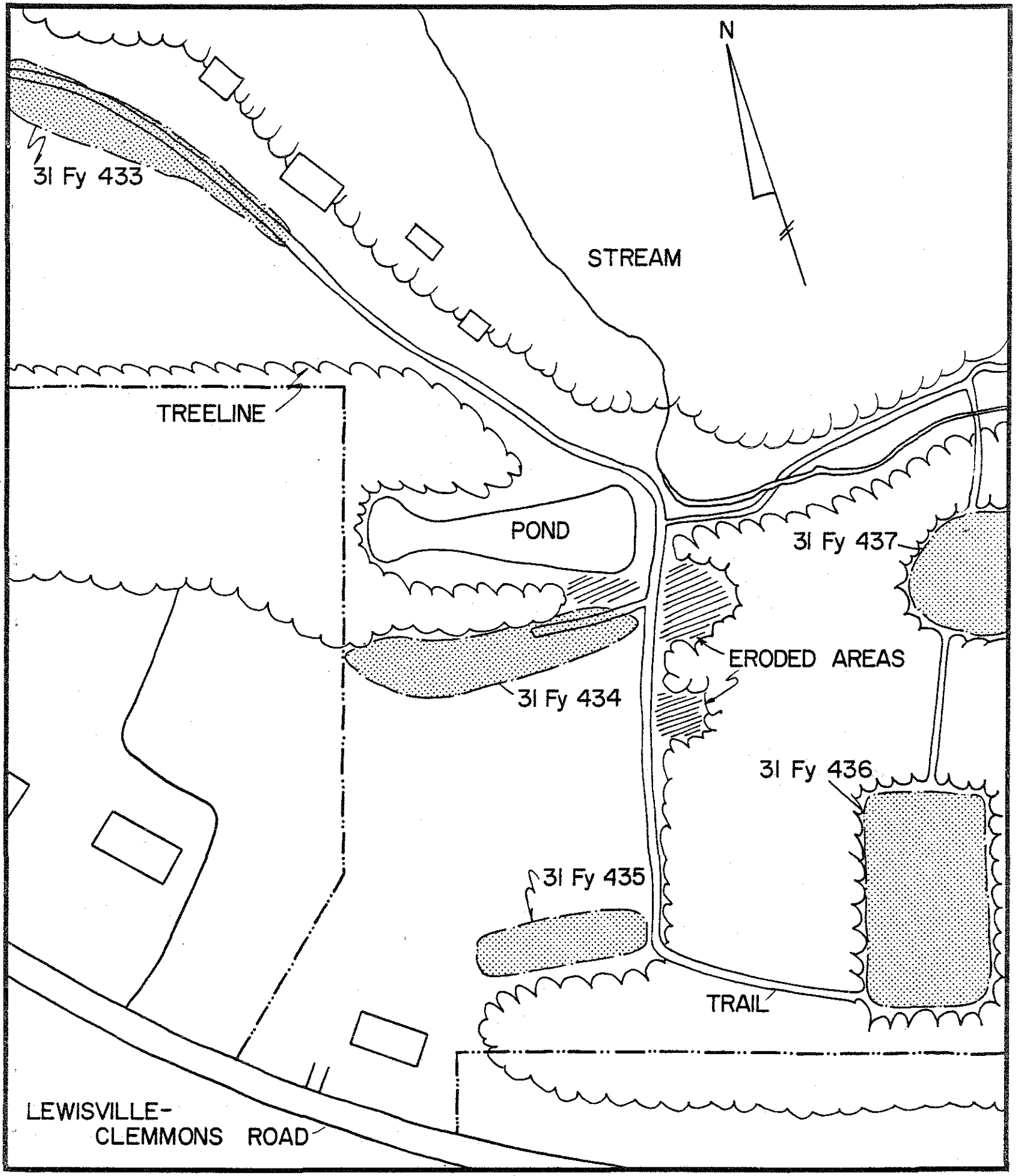


FIG. 1: JOANNIE MOSER PARK SITE

work in testing these two sites to be broadened and we thank each of these persons.

The following report is an account of the test excavations at Fy436 and Fy437.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

LOCATION AND PHYSIOGRAPHY

Forsyth County is located in the northwestern Piedmont region of North Carolina, an area characterized by gently rolling hills which mark the transition from the Blue Ridge Mountains of western North Carolina to the Atlantic Coastal Plain to the east.

Elevation ranges between 240 to 305 meters above sea level. The Appalachian Mountains tend to moderate the cold air intrusions as they cross and descend to this area, producing a mild, temperate climate. Precipitation averages 113 cm. per year, with a frost-free growing season of approximately 200 days. Forsyth County has neither a rainy season nor severe droughts, with rains depositing nearly the same amount of water each month.

Generally the soils of Forsyth County are sandy loam or clay loam layers over firm clay subsoils. At the testing area specifically they include Cecil clay loam, eroded, and Vance sandy loam.

A mixture of deciduous and coniferous forests characterize the flora present. The principal varieties include oak, hickory, shortleaf pine, Virginia pine, and smaller amounts of dogwood and other species. Other important flora (especially during aboriginal times) are wild food plants, particularly the many berry crops, cattails, sunflower, and numerous others. Before colonial settlement in this area there was an extensive variety and quantity of game resources. These were exploited by the Indian populations and included black bear, white-tailed deer, turkey, fresh-water mussels and fish.

An important factor, especially during aboriginal times, is the extensive drainage basins in the county. The northeastern corner is drained northward by tributaries of the Roanoke River, and a small section in the eastern part of the county is drained eastward by tributaries of the Cape Fear River. The majority of the county, including the survey area, drains southwest to the Yadkin River. A branch of Reynolds Creek runs through the northeast section of the survey area. This creek flows southeast into Muddy Creek, and thence into the Yadkin River, where floodplains and surrounding upland areas have been heavily occupied by transient hunters and gatherers for several thousand years.

GEOLOGIC SETTING

The geologic history of the Piedmont region is still not well known. It is thought to have been a part of the Appalachian geosyncline rather than a source region of the sediments that accumulated during Paleozoic time (Thornbury 1965). It is underlain by a complex series of igneous and metamorphic rocks, folded, faulted and metamorphosed by pressure and heat. Some areas of tuffs and other volcanic materials also were altered.

In Forsyth County the two main geologic units which compose the bedrock are gneiss and porphyritic granite. Approximately 86% of the county is underlain by gneiss, a crystalline rock characterized by parallel bands and layers composed of its component minerals such as quartz, mica, feldspar or hornblende. This unit forms a broad belt trending northeast-southwest across the county.

The porphyritic granite is found predominantly in the southeast corner of the county. Small outcrops are located at Lewisville and west of Bellews

Creek. These igneous rocks are believed to have been formed during the late Paleozoic era, making them younger than the gneiss. ..

The Carolina Slate Belt, located along the eastern half of the Piedmont Plateau and extending into the Coastal Plain, is composed of 50% felsic volcanic rocks. These consist largely of materials of volcanic flow or fragmental origin. Most of the flows are rhyolite or related stone, dense and indistinctly porphyritic rock with a dark gray to bluish color showing a greasy luster. The aboriginal use of this material is demonstrated in the artifacts from 31Fy436 and Fy437.

Since the Triassic Age the Piedmont has not undergone any tectonic deformation, but it has been uplifted to some extent. This uplifted region was eroded down to a surface known as the Schooley peneplain. The peneplain was covered by a thick layer of residual clay and soil due to in-place weathering of the underlying igneous and metamorphic rocks. This surface allowed the streams to meander at will without much interference from the rock structure. Some time during the Miocene period, another rejuvenation of the area occurred on this uplift that had a great effect on the river systems. Most of the major streams were able to maintain their courses across the harder rocks, but the smaller streams had to adjust to belts of resistant rocks forming ridges across which the major streams flowed (Stuckey 1965:201).

This continuous cycle of uplift and erosion, which was so influential in the Piedmont region, ultimately formed the three major topographic divisions of North Carolina: the Coastal Plain, the Piedmont Plateau, and the Blue Ridge Mountains.

METHODS

The recommendations for testing Fy436 and Fy437 were based on the relative abundance and distribution of surface finds, the location of the sites, the probability of locating undisturbed buried remains, and the potential value of the sites in interpreting the region's prehistory. Four man-days had been recommended for work at each site; the aid of volunteers enabled us to spend more time at each site and to employ tactics other than simple test excavations at Fy437.

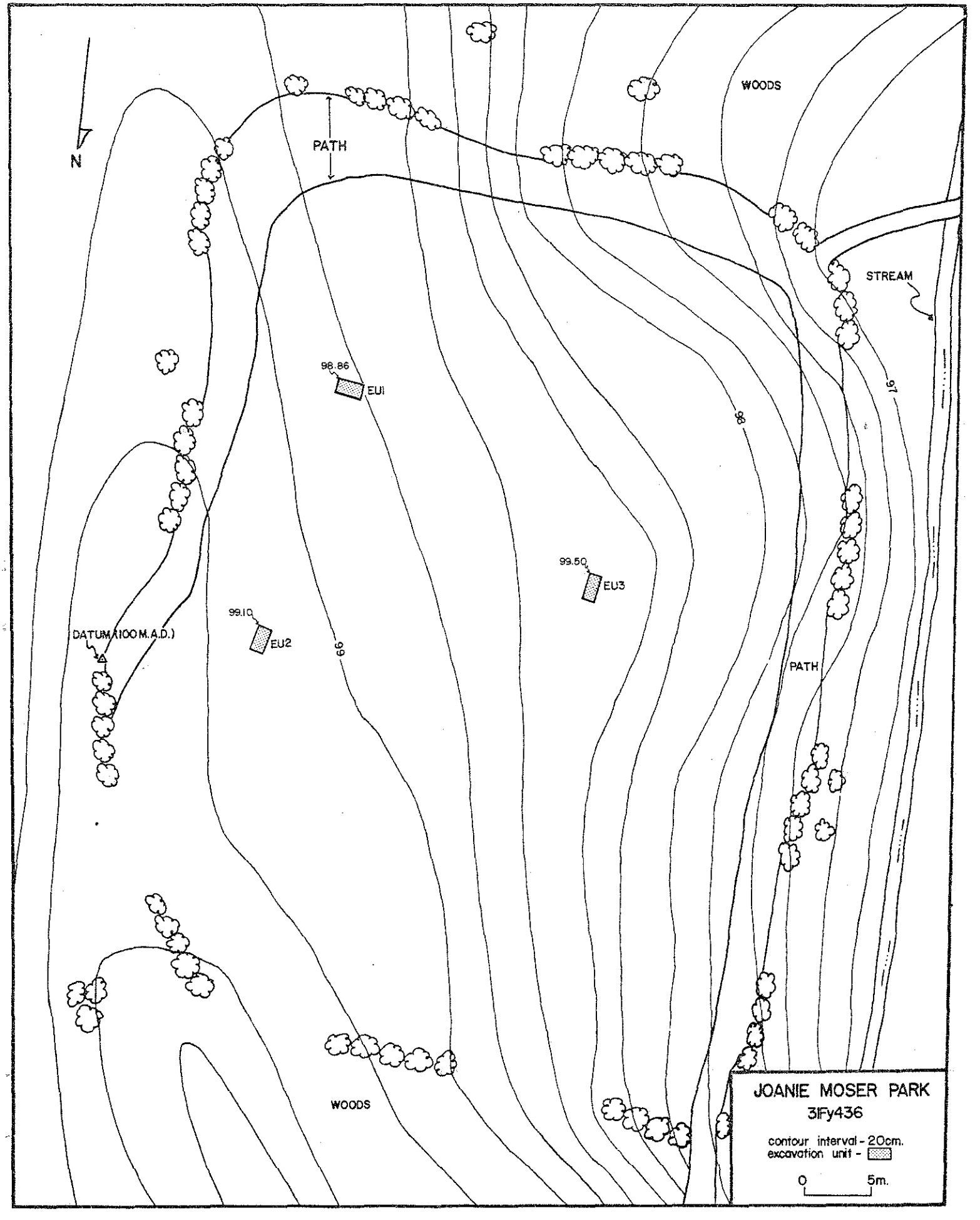
We had long been curious as to what portion of the cultural materials present was actually observable by surface survey at sites where ground cover obscured visibility over large portions of the site. At Fy437 a considerable amount of time was spent completely clearing the dense weeds and grasses covering approximately 75% of the site. Our original intention was to grid the entire site and perform a systematic surface collection for comparison with material collected during the original survey and to aid in the location of test excavation units. After clearing the site we were convinced that the very meager surface scatter would yield small return for the above strategy. Either cultural materials were indeed sparse in the area we had cleared or the dense vegetation had for a number of years protected such materials from natural erosive forces.

Excavation of test units, each one by two meters, was subsequently carried out at both Fy436 and Fy437. A vertical datum was established at each site and a contour map of the site constructed using an alidade and plane table. The horizontal extent of the surface scatter and the location of the test pits was then mapped using the alidade. Typically the plow

VIEW OF EXCAVATION AT 31Fy436, EU 2

zone was excavated as a single unit, with subsequent excavation by arbitrary levels. In only one case was excavation of a visible stratum other than the plow zone possible. Cultural debris generally occurred only in the plow zone, which was almost always underlain by B horizon clays. Soil was screened through quarter-inch mesh. Soil profiles of each excavation unit were drawn, photographs were taken and field notes compiled. Artifacts were bagged by excavation unit and level number, washed and labeled. The floor and walls of each level were troweled and examined for evidence of post molds, burial pits or other cultural features. Such features were totally absent at Fy436 and Fy437.

should have been determined prior to digging — explained —


N
PATH
WOODS
STREAM
98.86
EU1
97
98
99.50
EU3
99.10
EU2
DATUM (100 M.A.D.)
99
PATH
WOODS
JOANIE MOSER PARK
31Fy436
contour interval - 20cm.
excavation unit -
0
5m.

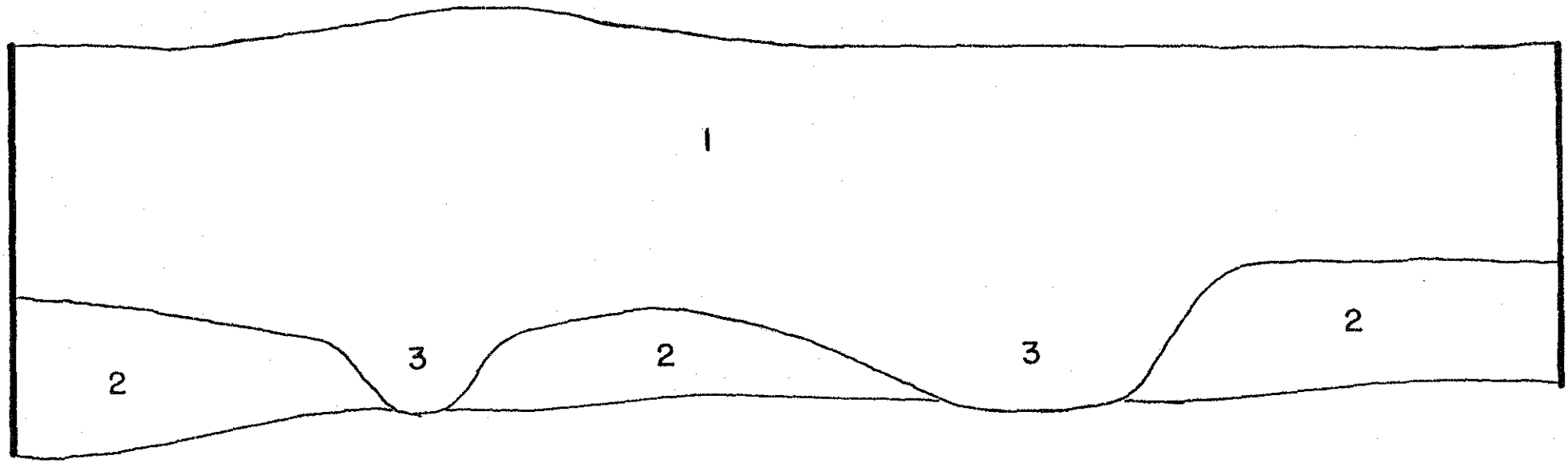
THE SITES

No attempt was made to classify the pottery recovered as specific "types". Little is known at present about ceramics from this region, and we prefer to present detailed description using the Munsell Soil Color Charts for consistency in color identification. Projectile point names are given according to Coe (1964) as a means of identifying the approximate chronologic periods involved. The general geologic terms felsite and quartz are felt to suffice in identification of lithic materials.

31Fy436

Located on a high, broad knoll in the park site's southeastern corner, Fy436 covers a roughly rectangular area 70 meters long and 50 meters wide. The site is separated from Lewisville-Clemmons Road by a 12-meter wide stand of mixed pines and hardwoods. The ground slopes sharply from the site boundary toward a small feeder of Reynolds Creek 60 meters to the west and to the north and northeast toward Fy437. The site lies in a clearing used for agriculture approximately 10 years previous, but presently covered with dense weeds and grasses.

The majority of surface finds were made on a cleared trail which surrounds the field on its eastern, western and southern sides. A large portion of the site's northwestern quadrant was also devoid of the heaviest weeds and the topsoil in that area had been completely eroded, revealing a red clay loam stratum. No test pits were placed here. Two 1x2 meter test pits were placed at points inside the heavy vegetation along the eastern boundary where surface scatter on the cleared trail had been abundant.



1=BROWN SANDY LOAM MOTTLED WITH RED CLAY

2=RED CLAY

3= PLOW FURROWS

PROFILE NORTH WALL:
WEST HALF EU 1
31Fy436
0 10cm.

FIG. 4

A third was located approximately 18 meters east from the site's western edge at a nearly central point along the north/south axis.

In the two more easterly pits the soil profile consisted of two strata, an upper 15-20 cm. of medium brown Cecil sandy loam mottled with red clay and a layer of red Cecil clay loam extending to an unknown depth. Plow furrows running roughly north/south and cutting into the clay up to seven centimeters at some points were easily visible in excavation unit (EU) 1. Furrows running roughly east/west were present at EU 2, but were not as easily visible cutting into the clay subsoil. At EU 3 the profile revealed 15 cm. of a darker brown sandy loam topsoil underlain by a yellowish brown clay.

With the exception of two potsherds and a single felsite flake all cultural material from the excavation was recovered from the plow zones of the test pits. At both EU 1 and EU 2 the red clay substratum yielded a single potsherd. The flake came from the clay layer at EU 3. Although an attempt was made to include all soil from the plow furrows with the plow zone material, the lack of other artifacts in the clay levels and their depth make it extremely likely that the potsherds and the flake became misplaced through plowing activity.

MATERIAL REMAINS

CERAMICS (4 specimens)

The four sherds recovered are heavily weathered and surface treatment cannot be discerned. Three have medium brown exterior and interior surfaces (Munsell 10YR 6/4) while the fourth is orange-brown in color (Munsell 2.5YR 6/8).

The sherds have a compact paste tempered with abundant small particles of crushed quartz.

Provenience: Surface - 1 specimen; plow zone - 1 specimen; 16-26 cm. below surface - 2 specimens.

TOOLS

Bifacial Tool Fragments (2 specimens. Figs. 7b,f)

One broken felsite flake exhibits a row of irregular flake scars on both faces of one edge (Fig. 7b). A second specimen is the distal tip of a large Archaic dart point or knife with primary bifacial retouch along both sides (Fig. 7f). The raw material is felsite. Neither specimen shows evidence of secondary retouch.

Provenience: The flake fragment was recovered from the plow zone while the second tool fragment was discovered on the surface.

DEBITAGE

Flakes (82 specimens)

Unaltered flakes from Fy436 range from small thinning spalls to large thick flakes. Seventy-eight are of felsite and four of white quartz. The felsite flakes vary widely in color and exhibit a variety of inclusions. No primary flakes (flakes with cortex present) were recovered.

Provenience: Surface - 22 specimens; plow zone - 59 specimens; 15-27 cm. below surface - 1 specimen.

Blades (6 specimens. Figs. 7g,h,i,j)

These felsite blades all were struck from specially prepared polyhedral cores.

Provenience: Surface - 2 specimens; plow zone - 4 specimens.

MISCELLANEOUS (1 specimen)

One piece of fire-cracked rock (quartzite) was recovered from the plow zone.

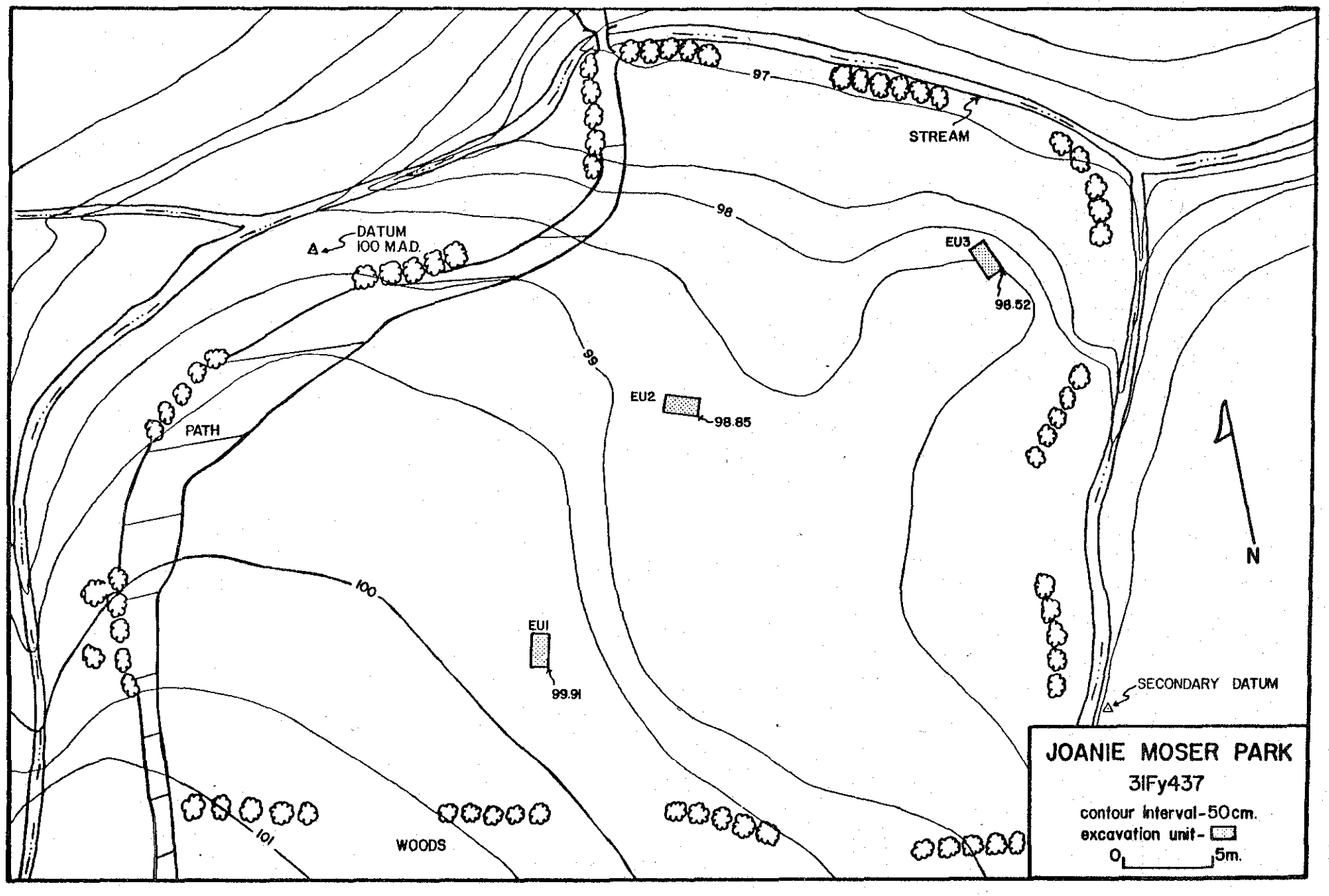
COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Excavation at Fy436 reinforced the results of the original surface survey on at least one count while providing additional information about occupation at this site. As was noted from the original survey, felsite debitage far outnumbers the quartz debitage recovered. However, while no pottery was recovered during the surface survey, excavation and additional surface collection yielded four sherds. The pottery indicates a Woodland occupation in addition to the earlier Archaic components (two Morrow Mountain and one Savannah River projectile points were recovered during the surface survey). Also of note is the high ratio of blades to other debitage (3.9% of the debitage from the original surface survey and excavations was accounted for by blades), a factor that had been observed previously at a number of Woodland sites on the Yadkin River floodplain (Woodall and Newkirk 1976:73).

The shallow cultural deposits at Fy436 and the lack of undisturbed remains make further investigations unnecessary.

31Fy437

Site Fy437 is situated in the northeast sector of the park area on a fringe apron of the knoll whose crest is occupied by Fy436 180 meters to the south. Its dimensions are 51 meters east-west by 42 meters north-south. Bounded by a mixed pine-hardwood forest at its southern terminus and a small

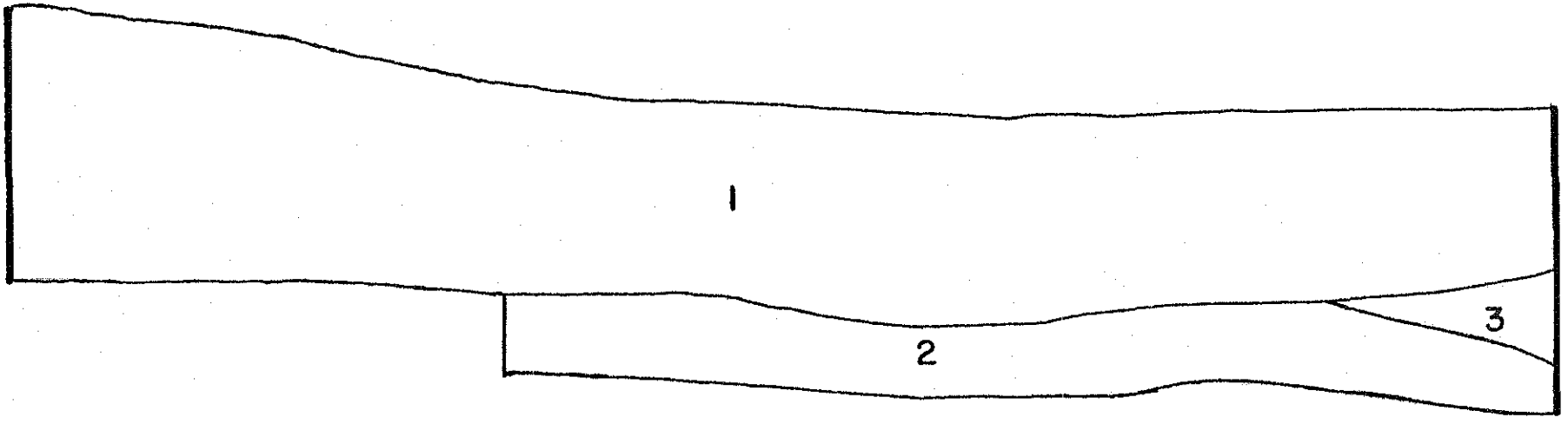

97
STREAM
98
DATUM
100 M.A.D.
EU3
98.52
99
EU2
98.85
PATH
100
EU1
99.91
N
SECONDARY DATUM
101
WOODS
JOANIE MOSER PARK
31Fy437
contour interval-50cm.
excavation unit-
0
5m.

feeder of Reynolds Creek at the northern, eastern, and western boundaries, Fy437 is an "ideal" location for aboriginal habitation. Situated in an ecotone environment, it allowed the Indians to exploit three separate ecozones: the clay uplands, the marshy swamps and the floodplain region. This circumscribed environment could have supported a population throughout most of the year.

Despite heavy ground cover, surface finds were recovered from all sections of the site, with concentrations at the northeastern corner and an area midway along the western boundary. After clearing procedures had been completed, the site's topography became more evident and three one by two meter test pits were begun. Two test pits were located in the central portion of the site area; EU 1 approximately eight meters from the southern edge on a slight rise and EU 2 approximately 20 meters from the northern boundary. EU 3 was placed in the northeast corner of the site.

In EU's 2 and 3 the soil profiles indicated basically two strata, an upper 20-25 cm. of brown Vance sandy loam topsoil mottled with yellow-brown clay and a lower stratum of yellow-brown firm sandy clay mottled with dark grayish-brown clay in EU 2's northeast corner.

At the southernmost test pit, EU 1, the soil profile was completely different. The first stratum, composed of red clay, extended to 37 cm. below surface. Below this was a stratum of dark brown Vance sandy loam with red clay mottling changing to a lighter brown sandy clay. This second half of stratum two, which continued to 61 cm. below surface, was only discerned in the wall profile after excavation was completed. The third stratum was composed of yellow-brown sandy clay.



1= BROWN SANDY LOAM MOTTLED WITH YELLOW-BROWN CLAY

2= RED CLAY

3= DARK GRAYISH-BROWN CLAY

PROFILE NORTH WALL
EU 2
31Fy437
0 20cm.

FIG. 6

As in Fy436, most of the cultural material was recovered from the plow zone. Exceptions were two small sherds and one flake from EU 2, level 2, and the only artifacts recovered at EU 1, two small sherds located in the top few centimeters of level two. The obvious disturbance at EU 1 makes it probable that this darker brown soil at the top of level two is equivalent to the plow zones at EUs 2 and 3.

MATERIAL REMAINS

CERAMICS

Net-Impressed (11 specimens. Figs. 7e,1)

Only two of these sherds have distinct net impressions, a seven millimeter and a 10 mm. mesh; the rest have been malleated or weathered so much as to obscure the weave of the net. Two exhibit a light orange exterior (Munsell 5YR 5/6), four are light yellowish-brown (Munsell 10YR 6/4) and five are dark grayish brown (Munsell 10YR 4/2). Four sherds are fully oxidized, four are reduced, two partially oxidized from the exterior, and one partially oxidized from the interior. A majority of the sherds are tempered with sand (seven), three have quartzite and hematite included, and one only quartzite. Thickness varies from six to eight millimeters.

Provenience: All 11 sherds are from the plow zone.

Cord-Marked (3 specimens)

All three sherds have been smoothed or weathered to an extent that the cord-twist is no longer visible. One specimen is a rim sherd with cord impressions approximately one to two millimeters in width applied diagonally to the right. The rim sherd has a dark gray exterior (Munsell 10YR 3/1)

fired in a reducing atmosphere. Temper is fine sand. Overall this rim sherd is thin (5 mm.) with a lip profile rounded and slightly thinned from the interior and exterior. The remaining two sherds are light orange in color (Munsell 5YR 6/4). One is fully oxidized and the other partially oxidized from the exterior. Parallel linear impressions ranging from one to two millimeters are present in both sherds. Each is seven millimeters thick and tempered with quartzite.

Provenience: Surface - 1 specimen; plow zone - 2 specimens.

Fabric-Impressed (2 specimens)

One sherd seven millimeters thick has a light brown exterior (Munsell 10YR 6/4), a fully oxidized core, and is tempered with quartzite. The second specimen measures six millimeters thick with a medium brown exterior (Munsell 7.5YR 5/2), partially oxidized from the exterior, and tempered with quartzite. Both have been impressed by a wicker-like fabric.

Provenience: Plow zone.

Brushed (1 specimen)

The brush strokes are approximately .5 mm. in width on this sherd and the width between strokes 1 mm. It measures nine mm. thick with a light orange exterior (Munsell 5YR 5/6). Oxidation is partial from the exterior and the tempering agent is quartzite.

Provenience: Surface.

Plain Ware (32 specimens)

Most of the sherds in this category are small fragments that are extremely weathered. Because of this a large portion of the specimens now

classified as Plain originally may have been surface treated. Twenty-two of these specimens exhibit a light orange to buff colored exterior (Munsell 5YR 5/6 and 10YR 6/4), while the remaining 10 sherds have medium brown to dark gray exteriors (Munsell 10YR 5/3 and 3/1). Twelve sherds are fully oxidized, nine are reduced, eight are partially oxidized from the exterior and three are partially oxidized from the interior. Temper consists of large quartizite particles in 16 cases, finer sand in ten cases, and quartzite mixed with hematite in the remaining six. Thicknesses range from six to nine mm. Included in this category are two rim sherds; one exhibits a rounded lip profile and the other is rounded and then thinned from the inside.

Provenience: Surface - 1 specimen; plow zone - 29 specimens; 25-35 cm. below surface - 2 specimens.

TOOLS

Projectile Points

Yadkin (1 specimen. Fig. 7k)

This point, missing its distal tip is made of a dense, gray felsite. Its shape is triangular with a concave base. Dimensions are as follows: length, 4.5 cm. (approximated); width, 2.7 cm.; and thickness, 7 mm.

Provenience: Plow zone.

Caraway (1 specimen. Fig. 7d)

This small triangular point is made of dark gray felsite. It has straight edges and a slightly concave base. Dimensions are: length, 2.4 cm.; width, 1.4 cm.; and thickness, 5 mm.

Provenience: Plow zone.

Drill (1 specimen. Fig. 7a)

A thick irregular flake of felsite exhibits fine bifacial pressure retouch along both edges. Measurements are 3.5 cm. in length, 1.7 cm. in width, and 1 cm. thick.

Provenience: Plow zone.

Bifacial Tool Fragment (1 specimen. Fig. 7c)

This specimen, made of white milky quartz probably represents the distal portion of a large projectile point or other pointed biface.

Provenience: Plow zone.

Scrapers (2 specimens)

Two scrapers were recovered from the excavation. One is a concave scraper made of felsite with steep unifacial retouch along one edge. The other is made of milky quartz with very fine unifacial retouch along one end. Both specimens have been broken.

Provenience: Surface - 1 specimen; plow zone - 1 specimen.

Retouched Flake (1 specimen)

One large quartzite flake measuring 7.7 cm. long, 6.1 cm. wide, and 1.9 cm. thick exhibits uneven unifacial retouch along one ventral edge.

Provenience: Plow zone.

DEBITAGE

Flakes (50 specimens)

Of the 50 flakes recovered, 33 are of felsite and 17 of quartz or

quartzite. The grade of felsite varies widely, and debitage includes one primary flake and one large, thick flake which was burned. Whether this burning was intentional or not is unknown.

Provenience: Surface - 10 specimens; plow zone - 40 specimens.

Cores (2 specimens)

Both cores are of coarse quartzite with flakes removed from several different angles.

Provenience: Plow zone - 2 specimens.

MISCELLANEOUS (1 specimen)

A badly corroded pocket knife with a wooden handle was recovered.

Provenience: Plow zone.

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The large amount of pottery and the two projectile points recovered from excavations at Fy437 reiterates the original survey conclusion that this site was occupied, probably intermittently, during the Woodland stage. The Yadkin and Caraway points indicate a longer time span for this site than was originally thought, based on the Badin point recovered from the surface survey. Its "ideal" location in an ecotone environment make it likely that occupation during at least three seasons would have been profitable. The lack of undisturbed remains and the shallow cultural deposits make additional work here unnecessary.

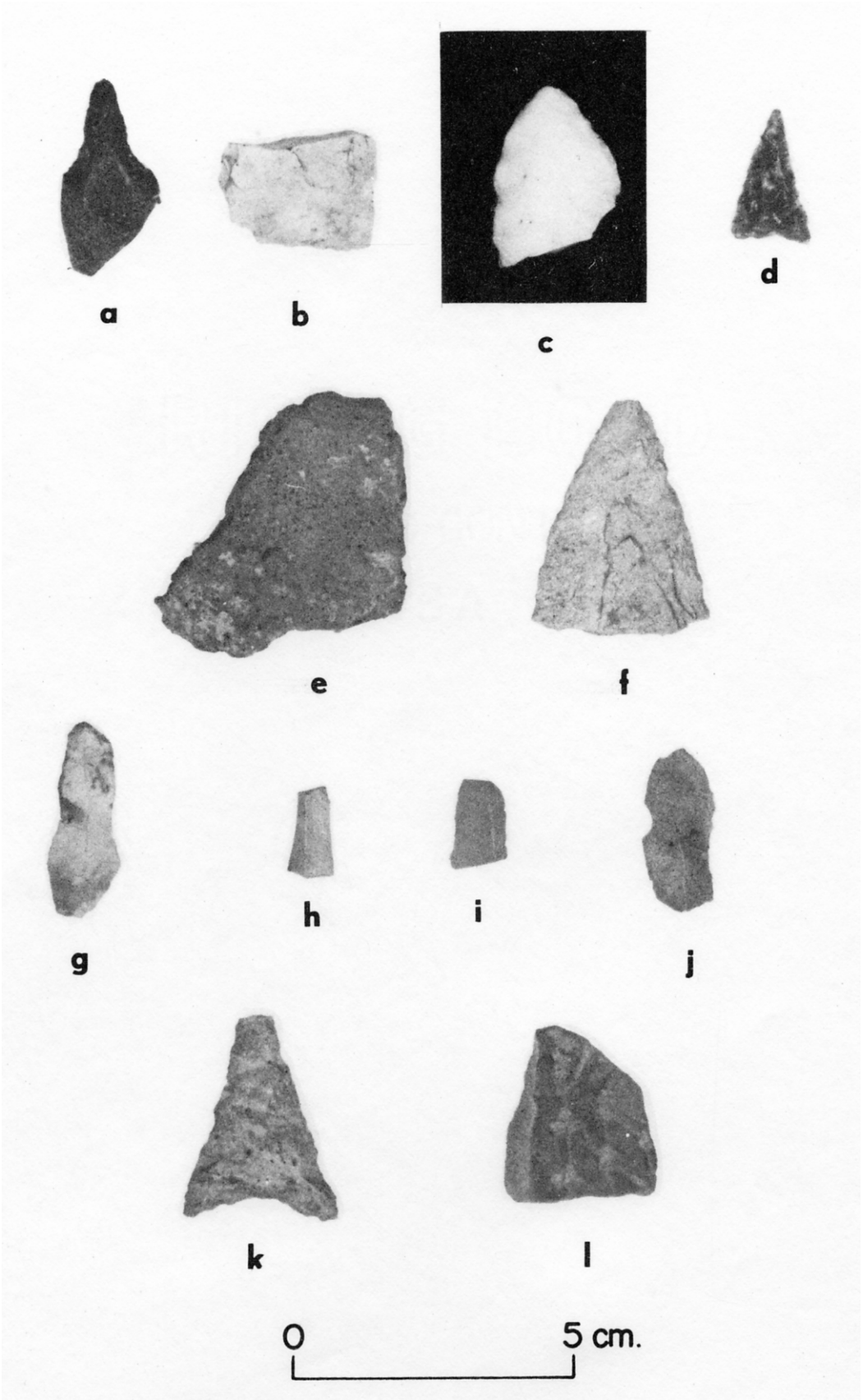


FIG. 7: 31Fy436, b, f, g, h, i; 31Fy437, a, c, d, e, l, k.

COMMENTS AND SPECULATIONS

To date professional archeological research in Forsyth County has consisted primarily of surface survey. Further, a major focus of the surface surveys reported thus far has been the floodplain area of the Yadkin River (Woodall and Claggett 1974; Woodall 1975). Test excavations at 31Fy436 and 31Fy437 provided an opportunity for analysis in a situation not previously encountered, an inland site where limited excavations had been carried out. As a result, comparisons to floodplain sites can be made and hypotheses -- formulated with regard to sites in other areas -- can be tested.

31Fy437 produced no projectile points dating earlier than 0 A.D. but the points that were recovered during survey and excavation (Badin, Yadkin, and Caraway) span a period of at least 1400 years. A variety of tool types and potsherds were recovered, yet the relatively low counts for material remains in the shallow cultural deposits did not indicate continuous long-term habitation. Fy437 seems to represent a hunting camp that was suitable for occupation during at least three seasons of the year. It is probable that the prime consideration in its habitation was its location in an ecotone, where a number of econiches were readily available for exploitation. Such an explanation collaborates research at two sites on the Yadkin River flood plain (the Parker Site in Davidson County and the Donnaha Site in Yadkin County) where excavation has made it clear that horticultural activities were supplemental to hunting and gathering in this area at this time period rather than vice versa (Woodall 1975:110).

Another observation that can be made concerns the presence of a small blade industry evidenced by the cultural materials recovered from 31Fy436.

Other Woodland sites surveyed in the Yadkin River floodplain area have produced surprisingly high ratios of small blades to other debitage (usually between two and three percent of the debitage is blades). Only two tools, both biface fragments, were recovered in addition to the projectile points and retouched flakes from the initial survey at Fy436, and no Woodland points were present. It seems reasonable to assert that the Woodland component at Fy436 (identified by the four potsherds and the small blade industry) represents a special activity site. Noting the exclusive use of felsite in manufacture of the blades, the interpretation of Fy436 as a special activity site might also explain the differences in the ratios of felsite to quartz debitage at Fy436 and Fy437.

Also noteworthy is the presence of a Savannah River projectile point at Fy436. Although it is entirely possible that the late Archaic Savannah River point does not date to the same habitation episode as the ceramics found here, there is a high correlation of occurrence throughout the Piedmont between these points and ceramics. Two hypotheses have been proposed by Woodall (1976:129) to account for this phenomenon: 1) Ceramics predate the arrival of the Badin point (and thus the Christian era and the bow and arrow); 2) the Savannah River point continued to be produced after 0 A.D. The evidence from Fy436 can provide support for neither hypothesis.

A final comment concerns the felsite and quartz debitage from the tested sites. A much higher percentage of both tools and debitage of quartz was recovered from Fy437 than from Fy436. Twenty-seven percent of the tools and a comparable thirty percent of the debitage at Fy437 was of quartz. At Fy436, no quartz tools were recovered and only six percent of the debitage

was of quartz. Elsewhere, the Great Bend surveys along the Yadkin River floodplains have produced significantly higher percentages of felsite debitage than quartz debitage in Woodland assemblages, while the opposite was true for Archaic sites. Woodall has suggested that this is due to differential tool production, wherein easy access to quartz deposits allowed production of quartz tools at living sites during the Archaic while felsite tools had to be at least roughed out at quarry sites (1975:112). During the Woodland period the greater availability of felsite due to increased communication could account for the larger amounts of felsite debitage present at habitation sites. There are two possible ways of interpreting the data from Fy436 and Fy437 in the light of Woodall's hypothesis:

1) If the debitage from Fy436 is considered to have association in part with the Archaic projectile points found there, then the felsite to quartz debitage ratios from the two sites are the reverse of what would have been expected based on Woodall's hypothesis;

2) If one assumes that the debitage from Fy436 is primarily associated with the Woodland component at that site (the four potsherds along with 58% of the debitage - 82 felsite flakes, 6 felsite blades and 4 quartz flakes - were recovered during excavation while all projectile points are from the surface) the hypothesis is neither supported nor rejected, but it becomes easier to explain the differences between Fy436 and Fy437. Under the above assumption, the interpretation of the Fy436 Woodland component as a special activity site could explain the high felsite to quartz debitage ratio.

The problems, questions, and possible answers discussed above are felt to represent the kinds of information available from the two sites

tested at the Joanie Moser Park. While no further work is justified by our test excavations, they are providing new data for interpreting the prehistory of Forsyth County and its place in the larger spectrum of prehistory in the North Carolina Piedmont.

GLOSSARY

Archaic--A cultural stage with an economy based on hunting and gathering modern wild plants and animals.

Biface (adj. Bifacial)--A stone tool with retouch applied to both sides.

Blade--A symmetrical flake resulting from a specially prepared core and systematic flaking technique which produces two longitudinal flake scars on the exterior surface; normally blade length is twice blade width.

Core--A nodule of stone from which flakes were removed.

Dart Point--A projectile point used to tip a javelin or spear.

Debitage--The waste accumulated during the manufacture of stone tools (flakes, broken cores, chips, etc.)

Flake--A thin piece of stone that has been struck from a core.

Retouch--The shaping of a tool (from a flake or blade) by removing small secondary flakes either by percussion or by pressure; also, the trace of the small flakes taken off in this fashion.

Scraper--A tool with a straight or curved beveled edge executed by unifacial retouch. The steep retouched edge may continue almost all the way around the tool or it may be restricted to one edge. Used for processing hides, wood or bone.

Spalls--See Flake.

Uniface (adj. Unifacial)--The retouch applied to one face of a tool.

Woodland Tradition--A series of archeological assemblages in the Eastern United States characterized by cord or fabric-impressed pottery, incipient horticulture, and (in some areas) burial mound construction.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT

Robeson County Recreation and Parks Commission requested an archaeological survey of fifteen small areas in Robeson County that are to be used for recreational purposes. These fifteen areas are named in the body of this report. With a crew of one senior archaeologist and seven assistants a survey was made of the area . Where ground was visible a simple walkover reconnaissance was made collecting surface samples. Where ground was covered the 50' x 50' technique was used. All areas and sites with the exception of Area 1, Site I (Meadow Road) were considered INSIGNIFICANT. Site 1 in Area 1 as designated on Map 1-Meadow Road will need mitigation either by salvage or leaving the small area involved unexcavated and designating it as an Indian Village Site. Politically,, I believe the latter would serve the best interest of the community. If salvage archaeology is requested, the archaeologist should endeavor to recruit all interested parties in that community to assist him in the excavation. With the exception of Site I in Area 1, that all other areas be considered as Insignificant. And that construction could begin whenever designated without damaging either Historical or Prehistorical sites.

INTRODUCTION:

Project Description:

Robeson County's Parks and Recreation Commission requested an archaeological survey of the following fifteen areas in Robeson County, N. C.

AREA

1. Meadow Road Bisected by Meadow Road (SR1945) and bound on the South by SR 1529 and on the North by SR 1946 containing approximately 65 acres. Twenty acres west of SR 1945 have until recently been under cultivation. The 45 acres on the east side of SR 1945 is wooded and most of the region could be considered swampy.
2. Maxton (Betty C. McLean property) bound on south by Cottingham St. On the north by Old Rockingham Road and on the East by Fourth St. Containing 13.76 acres. Area is flat and has been under cultivation for a good many years.
3. Pembroke Bound on E-SE by unpaved portion of Pine St, on W-NW side by property belonging to Pembroke Housing Authority, and on the N-NE side by a canal. Containing 5.5 acres. Low flat land under cultivation at present time. Black loamy soil.
4. Parkton Bound on the E-SE side by property belonging to Wright, Skinner, and Gillis, on W-NW side by SR 1715, containing 7 acres. Land flat, black sandy loam, small section on eastern side is wooded area, rest is open field and until very recently was under cultivation.

5. St. Pauls TC Bound on W-NW side by Highway U.S. 301 and bisected by an ungraded Bay Street. Contains approximately 1 acre.

6. Rowland-B Adjoining Seaboard Coast Line RR on E-SE side and on the other three sides by property belonging to Robeson County Board of Education. Contains 1.214 acres. Land has been previously used as an auxillary play ground for Rowland High School. Land flat with fill dirt covering original level.

7. Rowland-TC Bound on W-NW by Watson St., and on the other three sides by property belonging to Robeson County Board of Education. Contains 0.411 acres. Joins the baseball park.

8. Fairmont-D Bound on north by Morton St.-on South by run of drainage ditch and on west by Morro St. Contains 1.45 acres. Land was once swampy and used for a dump area. Ditch has recently been cleaned out and earth piled on area under consideration.

9. Fairmont-F An area between N. C. 130 (W side) and Linden St. (E) and Near Allison St. (S) Contains approximately 4 acres. On site is an abandoned water treatment plant. Field has been under cultivation up to and including this year.

10. Orrum Adjoining property on N, E, and West sides belonging to Robeson County Board of Education, and on the South by N. C. 130. Containing 0.33 acres. Land once wooded and swampy on southern side. Now cleared and bulldozed level.

11. Prospect Adjoining property on N & E sides belonging to Paul Locklear and on S side by property belonging to Rosa Lee Locklear, and on the W side by property belonging to Robeson County Board of Education. Contains 3 acres. Low flat land under cultivation, black loamy soil. Near Prospect School.

12. Proctorville Bound on W by Spruce St. SR2233 and N&E by property belonging to Robeson Co. Board of Education and on S side by property of Antioch Baptist Church. Contains 1.214. W side swampy. Area thickly wooded. Near Proctorville School

13. Red Springs Parallels SR 1327 on NW side and on SE side by property belonging to M. M. McManus Estate, on W-SW side by property belonging to Deering Milliken, Inc., and on the E-SE side by property of Robert Woodcock and Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses. Contains 5.15 acres. Area has previously been under cultivation, however in the last few years it has grown up in briars and small bushes.

14. St. Paul's-F Parallels Gilespie St. Extension and C.P. & L. Easement on the west side. Contains 3.76 acres. Area is very sandy and slopes to a swampy area.

15. Magnolia Bound on NW by property belonging to Robeson County Board of Education. on N.E. by US I-95, on SE by canal.. Contains 10 acres. Flat land previously swampy partially drained. Part under cultivation and rest in low bushes and briars. Near Magnolia High School.

Contracting Agencies;

St. Andrews College-David A. McLean, Archaeologist and Robeson County Recreation and Parks Commission by Stacy Wells.

Clearinghouse No. Sch. 77-0329

Personnel:

Dr. David A. McLean, Senior Archaeologist
Bill Mansfield, Assistant
Trudy Levenson "
Van Sampson "
Rudy Paul "
Thomas Taylor "
Chas. Halyburton "
John Rancke "

Dates of Inspection

Nov. 22, 23, Dec. 1, 5, 1976

* *

No. of Man Hours 10 @ 8 hrs. (Days)

Contract Specifications:

(See Technical Specification No. 125)

Scope of Work

Cultural assessment, prehistoric and historic archaeological survey.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Area 1, Meadow Road, as designated on map, Site I contained:

1 broken stem of Yadkin projectile point

1 broken Morrow Mt. projectile point

1 broken grinding stone

4 pieces of pottery (cord-marked)

5 chips of milky quartz

1 broken blade Uwharrie point

12 Rhyolite chips

3 pieces of glazed china-ware early 20th century

An area of 100 meters by 40 meters forming a low ridge running down into swampy area. Well drained, excellent place of an Indian village site. Mitigation advised in event that property is to be leveled or changed.

Important Site (See Glossary)

Site II, Area 1 contained

5 widely scattered rhyolite chips

4 early 20th century china ware pottery fragments

1 salt fired portion of a crock

Site II is considered insignificant and no mitigation necessary.

Area 2 Maxton, Site III, artifacts widely scattered over whole of area:

26 glazed china-ware fragments, early 20th century

1 salt fired stone ware fragment, late 19th century

54 fragments of chamber pot-late 19th century

1. Bent silver plated spoon with SCARBDALE, H.L. inscribed on handle

1 broken arm (porcelain) of doll, early 20th cent.

1 fragment of crock, outside unglazed, inside glazed circa 1870

3 pieces blue glazed (inside bowl) outside no glaze.

Area 7, Rowland - TC

Area disturbed by bulldozing--topsoil added, no artifacts found.. Area 7 is considered Insignificant.

Area 8, Fairmont-D

Area alongside drainage ditch, covered by several feet of dredged earth. Opposite drainage ditch area used for modern dump heap. Area 8 considered Insignificant.

Area 9, Fairmont F

Site VI contained six fragments of an Indian grinding stone. Dogleash technique produced no other artifacts. Site VI is Insignificant

Site VII contained one pottery sherd, grit tempered very thick possible dating to 2 century B.C.. No other fragments found. Site is Insignificant.

Area 10, Orrum

Area heavily bulldozed-top earth brought in from other regions. No artifacts found. Area 10 is considered insignificant.

Area 11, Prospect

Site VIII contained one fragment of modern china-ware. Site considered Insignificant.

Area 12, Proctorville

No artifacts recovered, Area 12 considered Insignificant

Area 13, Red Springs

No artifacts recovered, Area considered Insignificant.

Area 14, St. Pauls F

Site IX

1 pottery fragment, grit tempered, cord marked

1/4 inch thick

3 pieces of broken hammer stones

3 milky quartz chips

Site IX is considered Insignificant

Site X

2 pieces of broken shaving mug, with No. 2435 stamped on bottom

3 pieces of modern chinaware

Site X is considered Insignificant

Area 15 Magnolia

No artifacts recovered. Area considered Insignificant

CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT

The fifteen areas involved in this research has had known continuous occupation of Scottish descendants from the latter part of the 18th century to present. At the same time the area has been heavily occupied by the Lumbee Indians. Their origin is hidden in the dim past.

PREHISTORIC

Evidence from the Doerschuk Site on the upper Pee Dee River indicate that Indians were in this region

1 Coe, Joffre. Formative Cultures of the Carolina Piedmont.. 1964

as early as 7,000 B.C. and other evidence indicates that they have occupied the region into the historic period. Many different tribes have been in contact with the present day Lumbees and their anticeedents; the Creeks, Woocon, Tuscarora, Catawba, and Cherokee, and many smaller units from across the S. C. line. Projectile points, pottery sherds and other lithic materials are found in most regions of Robeson County. Many collections are in the hands of Indian Museum of the Carolinas and the Lumbee Museum in Pembroke State University.

SAMPLING PROCEDURE

In all areas one senior archaeologist and five to seven assistants surveyed the areas by either a simple walkover reconnaissance, where ground was not covered by undergwowth. Where soil covered the 50' x 50' technique was used. In swampy regions soil samples were taken only on areas above water and swampy land.

ANALYSIS

Location of Material All material recovered by St. Andrews Archaeologists is placed in the Indian Museum of the Carolinas. (unless other request made by owner of land)

All material is studied by the Sr. Archaeologist to determine value and antiquity. All material is first located at St. Andrews Lab for prelim. examination and analysis.

EVALUATION

With the exception of Site I in Area 1 all other areas require no further mitigation or salvage activity. However, it is my opinion that Site I in Area 1 contains adequate cultural material to merit further investigation. With the exception of Site I in Area 1 all other sites and areas are devoid of significant historic and prehistoric sites.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That all sites and areas in this report (with the exception of Site I, Area 1 be classified as INSIGNIFICANT. And that construction not be impeded. That Site I, Area 1 be further investigated by salvage mitigation, or that it remain undamaged and designated as an Indian Village Site. Should the area be needed for construction at some later date, then salvage archaeology should be carried out.

Dec. 17, 1976

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

No. 125

CONTRACT TITLE: Project BOR 15-500 DWCF (Fifteen Areas for Robeson County Recreation and Parks Commission.

PURPOSE:

This survey and the resulting report is to obtain an inventory and evaluation of archaeological or historical resources of cultural value on the land specified under contract title.

SCOPE:

This survey will be made along the proposed lines as presented in Contract proposal

to ascertain the existence of historical or archaeological data (including relics and specimens) which should be preserved in the public interest.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Determine if any sites, structures, objects, and districts significant in history, architecture, archaeology, or culture exists within the area specified.
2. If resources are found, record, identify, and appraise the significance of each resource.
3. Evaluate the impact of project installation on each resource.
4. Provide recommendations for mitigation of adverse impacts anticipated.
5. Provide estimate of costs required for mitigation, (salvage, protection, etc.)

METHODS OF SURVEY:

1. A walk-over reconnaissance survey will be made on land not covered by undergrowth, grass or planted crops.
2. On terrain covered by undergrowth etc., a 12 quart sample will be taken at intervals of 50 feet.
3. Where sites are indicated the dog-leash method will be employed.

REPORTS:

Phase I. A field report will consist of a narrative report setting forth techniques of field work as appropriate and the maps as necessary, to show location and type of significant responses found by field survey techniques. An original and one copy of this report will be submitted when completed.

Phase II. If significant sites are found, this Phase will consist of all work necessary to identify, appraise, and evaluate the significance of resources found or located by work in Phase I. Impacts of proposed project installation on each resource will be evaluated. Recommendations for mitigation of adverse impacts will be set forth and an estimate of costs required for salvage or protection, etc. A study report will be prepared in sufficient scope and detail to fully appraise potential projects impacts on historical and archaeological resources as required by the National Environmental Protection Act.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS USED

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Diagnostic Sites

Site: Where one or more artifacts are found

Insignificant Site: Where surface collection is adequate to document previous occupation or activities. No reason to impede construction or destruction of site.

Important Site: Where surface collection is inadequate to document previous occupation and indicate that there is more to be found underground, but not enough to be nominated to the National Registry, but enough to recommend salvage archaeology.

Significant Site: Site or sites with important artifacts that would indicate the need for careful excavation and preservation. Such a site would be recommended for nomination to the National Registry.

Methods of Surface Examination

Dogleash Technique: Where one end of a ten metre string is tied to the searcher and the other to a post in the center of the site. The searcher rotates in the site until string is wound up. This insures careful survey of site.

50' by 50' Technique: Where visibility of the ground is poor and recovery of artifacts by the walkover technique is poor or impossible, then samples of earth (12 qts.) are removed at 50' sq. intervals, sifted to recover artifacts.

Walkover reconnaissance technique: Where visibility of the ground or earth is good and artifact recovery is good, searcher covers the ground in approximately 10 ft. intervals collecting artifacts lying on top of ground.

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Salvage Archaeology: When survey indicates that mitigating action is necessary and a delay in construction is requested while rapid excavation is made to ascertain and recover as much information as possible before site is destroyed.