ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF A PORTION OF THE PROPOSED BLACK ROAD PARK ON HIGH ROCK LAKE, ROWAN COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

by

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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

In November 2000, archaeologists from the Research Laboratories of Archaeology (RLA) of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill surveyed the exposed shoreline of High Rock Lake at the proposed Black Road Park in the southeastern corner of Rowan County, North Carolina. The purpose of this study, undertaken at the request of the Aluminum Company of America, was to identify and assess prehistoric and historic archaeological resources which might be affected by proposed park development. Systematic assessment was limited to Alcoa property along and 100 ft inland from the lake's shoreline. The project area includes some six kilometers of shoreline within approximately four square kilometers at the southwest edge of High Rock Lake.

Survey consisted of examining the broad, well-exposed beach and wooded areas flanking the high-water line. Areas designated for the creation of a canoe access, observation blind, overlook, and homesite were specifically examined. Thirteen prehistoric Native American sites and one historic site were found. The prehistoric sites consist of surface scatters or isolated finds of stone artifacts. Eight of these were located along the former ridge paralleling the northern bank of Panther Creek, at the point within the study area closest to the course of the Yadkin River before the dam was built. Diagnostic artifacts from five of the 13 sites date to the Archaic period (8,000 to 1000 B.C.). The historic site represents a European American house and consists of a brick chimney foundation and scattered artifacts. These artifacts indicate that it dates to the late nineteenth or twentieth centuries. Neither the prehistoric sites nor the historic site are considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Collections and records from these sites are valuable contributions to the ever-growing body of archaeological data about ancient Native American and European American settlement and lifeways in piedmont North Carolina. Alcoa should continue monitoring the status of these and other cultural resources along High Rock Lake but need not take further action in the Black Road Park tract at this time.

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INTRODUCTION

In November 2000, archaeologists from the Research Laboratories of Archaeology (RLA) of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill surveyed the exposed shoreline of High Rock Lake at the proposed Black Road Park in the southeastern corner of Rowan County, North Carolina (Figure 1). The study area is located at the northeast corner of the Gold Hill 7.5-minute USGS topographic quadrangle (Figure 2) and is about three kilometers northwest of High Rock Dam. The purpose of this study, undertaken at the request of the Aluminum Company of America, was to identify and assess prehistoric and historic archaeological resources which might be affected by proposed park development. Systematic assessment was limited to Alcoa property along and 100 ft inland from the lake's shoreline. The project area includes some six kilometers of shoreline within approximately four square kilometers at the southwest edge of High Rock Lake.

Survey was conducted over two days by Chris Rodning, Steve Davis, Trawick Ward, and Tony Boudreaux and consisted of examining the broad, well-exposed beach and wooded areas flanking the high-water line. Areas designated for the creation of a canoe access, observation blind, overlook, and homesite were specifically examined. Thirteen prehistoric Native American sites and one historic site were found. The prehistoric sites consist of surface scatters or isolated finds of stone artifacts. Eight of these were located along the former ridge paralleling the northern bank of Panther Creek, at the point within the study area closest to the course of the Yadkin River before the dam was built. Diagnostic artifacts from five of the 13 sites date to the Archaic period (8,000 to 1000 B.C.). The historic site represents a European American house and consists of a brick chimney foundation and scattered artifacts. These artifacts indicate that it dates to the late nineteenth or twentieth centuries. Neither the prehistoric sites nor the historic site are considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The goals of the Black Road Park archaeological survey were to identify prehistoric and historic cultural resources which might be impacted by the development of trails and lake access points within the proposed park and to assess their significance based on criteria for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The areas investigated are shown in Figure 3 and consist of a zone within 100 ft of the shoreline, four specific lake access points (i.e., a canoe access, an observation blind, and two overlooks), and a previously identified abandoned homesite.

The entire shoreline and adjacent beach was examined (Figures 4 and 5). Because the lake level was usually low, the area examined between shoreline and water ranged from 100 to 200 meters in width. The woods adjacent to the shoreline also were inspected, particularly for above-ground historic features. Because of the excellent surface visibility along the shoreline,

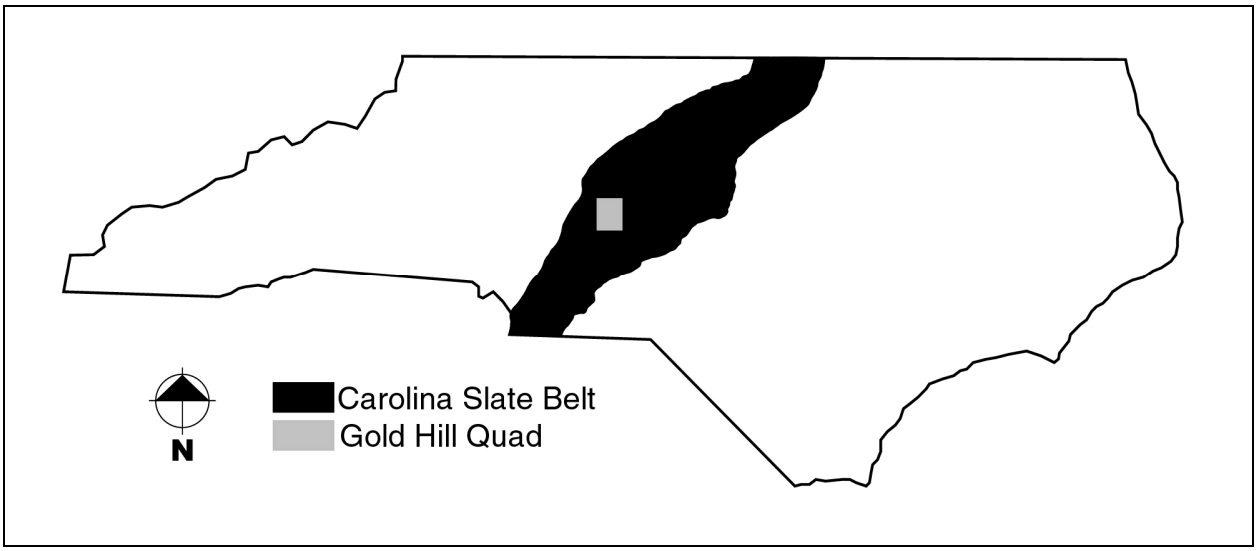

Figure 1. Survey location within the Carolina Slate Belt, with the gray rectangle representing the Gold Hill 7.5-minute USGS topographic quadrangle. The Carolina Slate Belt is bounded on the west by the western Piedmont, on the northeast by other landforms in the Piedmont, and on the southeast by the coastal plain province.

the presence or absence of artifacts there was seen as a reliable indicator of their likely presence or absence in the adjacent woods. The shallow, exposed shale bedrock at the lake's edge indicated further that the presence of buried archaeological features was very unlikely. Our survey recorded 13 prehistoric Native American sites and one historic European American home site (Figure 6). These are described following a discussion of the project area's natural environment and a review of the region's culture history.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The environment of central North Carolina is characterized by gently rolling woods and farmlands as well as moderately rugged landforms such as the Uwharrie Mountains in Montgomery, Stanly, and southern Rowan and Davidson counties (Hardison and Brinkley 1917; Hardison and Jurney 1915; Jurney and Davis 1918; Jurney and Perkins 1933; Ward 1983:53–57; Ward and Davis 1999:36–46). Rowan and neighboring Davidson counties receive an average of almost 50 inches of precipitation per year, most of it falling during the spring and summer months. These and surrounding areas of the Piedmont tend to have growing seasons that last almost 200 days out of every year, from April through part of October. This particular project area and other parts of southern Rowan and Davidson counties are covered with silt and gravel loams referable to the Alamance and Georgeville series. The rest of Rowan County is covered primarily by Cecil series soils. As observed during the survey, the thin soils of the Black Road Park area are immediately underlain by shale bedrock.

Central North Carolina is part of the Piedmont Plateau. This landscape is dissected by many creeks and rivers that create narrow bands of alluvium. Spring freshets can cover large land areas with water, and this pattern must have affected aboriginal settlement patterns in significant ways. Upland soils in this environment are created through the weathering of parent material. Upland areas certainly can support and have supported farming, although floodplains

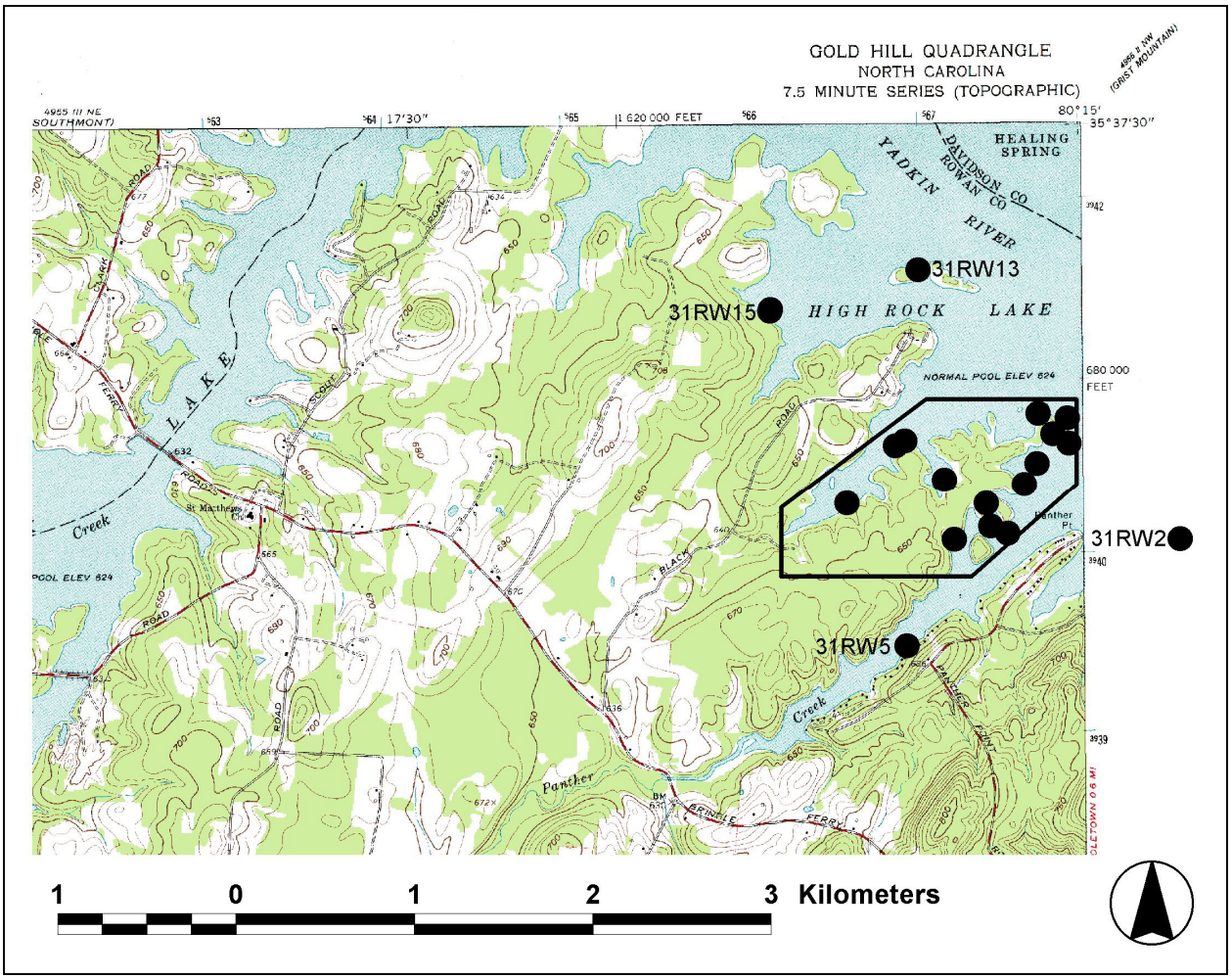

Figure 2. Survey location beside High Rock Lake, as shown in the northeastern corner of the Gold Hill 7.5-minute USGS topographic quadrangle. The Black Road Park locality is outlined in black, and the dots schematically represent the locations of previously recorded archaeological sites near the study area and newly recorded sites within the study area.

themselves are arguably an even richer farming resource. Late prehistoric villages are commonly found in spots across the Piedmont where floodplains are broader than normal (Rights 1989; Ward 1983).

The Piedmont Plateau is underlain by the Carolina Slate Belt. This geological formation contributes to the reddish cast of the clay and silty loams present in this region. Outcrops of shale are present in some places in the Carolina Slate Belt, as are veins of quartzite. Rhyolite outcrops are less common in Piedmont North Carolina, concentrated primarily in semi-mountainous Stanly and Montgomery counties. Early native groups in the Piedmont quarried rhyolite extensively in these areas (Coe 1964; Daniel 1998).

Centuries ago, the Piedmont was covered with mast forests and the fields created within them by native farmers. These woodlands would have offered abundant nuts, firewood, and wild grasses to native residents in the ancient past (Gardner 1997; Gremillion 1993; Hammett 1992,

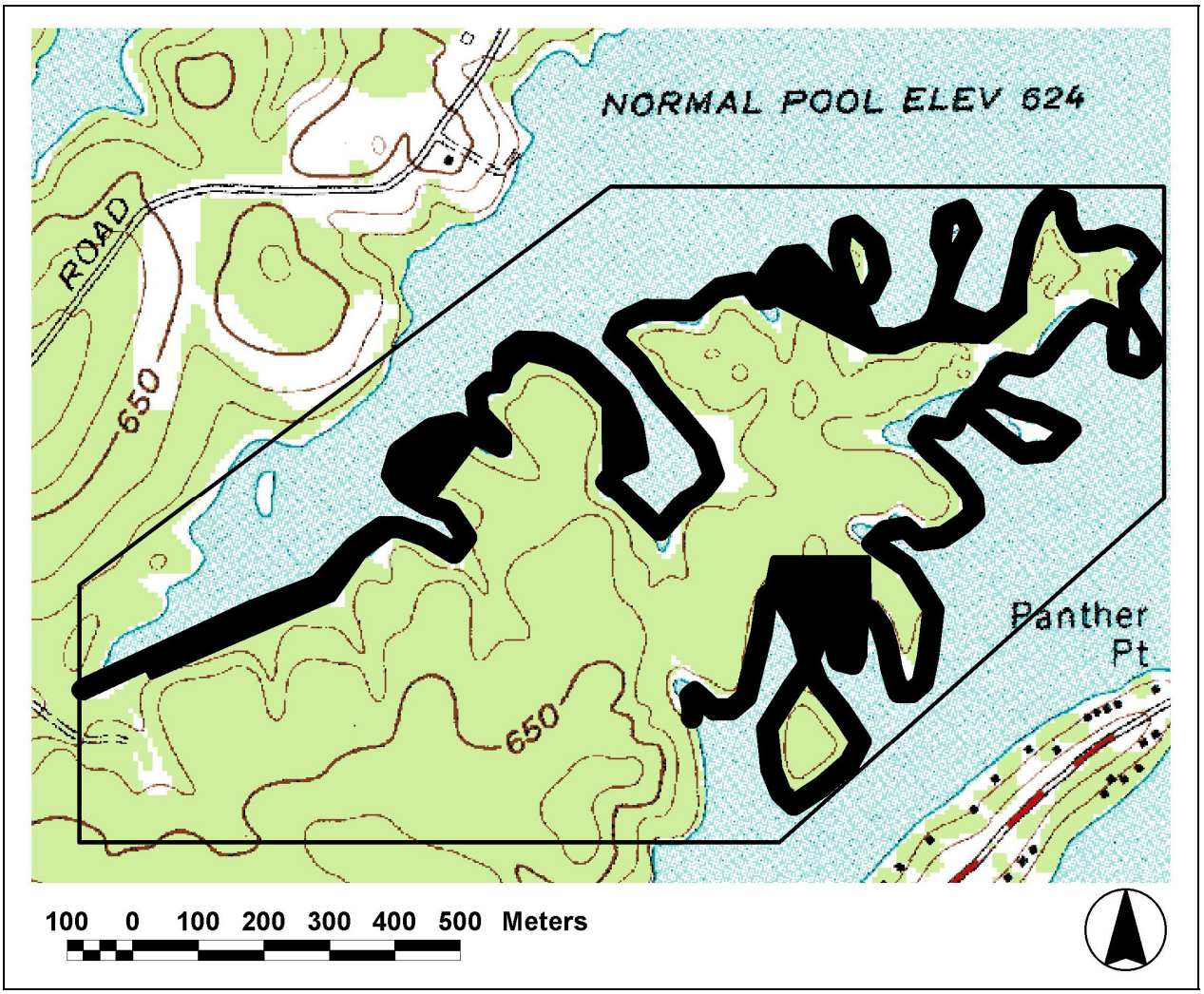

Figure 3. Areas surveyed at the Black Road Park tract on High Rock Lake (depicted in black).

1997). In addition, native people could have hunted deer, squirrel, bear, turkey, and many other mammals and birds (Waselkov 1978, 1997).

During the twentieth century, the Piedmont environment was dramatically altered by logging and farming practices and the construction of dams along the Yadkin River and other waterways. High Rock Lake is not far upstream from lakes Badin and Tillery. These, and lakes along the Catawba River to the west, have been built to create hydroelectric power for much of central and western North Carolina.

The Black Road Park tract lies within one kilometer of the former course of the Yadkin River. Flat Swamp Mountain is visible on the far side of the lake at this point close to High Rock Dam. These areas beside the lake are currently covered with young pines and hardwoods. The present shorelines and small islands represent what would have been some of the highest points of land overlooking the river and its tributaries in the past.

Figure 4. Exposed lakebed in the proposed Black Road Park

CULTURAL HISTORY

People have lived in North Carolina and surrounding areas of eastern North America for at least 10,000 years (Coe 1964; Daniel 1998; Oliver 1985; Ward 2000). Archaeologists have outlined several different periods within the cultural history of this region, each represented at archaeological sites by specific forms of architecture and other artifacts. The following reviews some of the major characteristics of Native American and European American cultures at these different points in the past, as they are currently understood by archaeologists.

During the Paleoindian period (9500–7900 B.C.), native North Carolinians lived as mobile bands of hunters and gatherers who probably moved from one seasonal camp to another within annual settlement cycles covering vast geographic territories and perhaps many different environmental zones (see Anderson 1990; Daniel 1998; Ward and Davis 1999:32–46). Material remnants of their activities include a form of stone spear point bearing a groove, or flute, on both sides near its base, diagnostic of the earliest known settlers in eastern North America. Several fluted points and other contemporary stone artifacts have been found in different parts of North Carolina. Unfortunately, archaeologists have not found any intact, stratigraphically sealed

Figure 5. Walking the exposed shoreline of High Rock Lake.

Paleoindian sites in North Carolina, although Paleoindian artifacts have been found at Hardaway and other sites (Oliver 1985:197–200; Ward and Davis 1999:1–2).

During the Archaic period (8000–1000 B.C.), native North Carolinians tailored their lifestyles more and more closely to the sources of specific natural resources, and people developed ever more intimate knowledge of their surrounding environments and how to harvest resources from them (see Daniel 1998; Sassaman 1993; Ward and Davis 1999:2–3). Small bands of hunters and gatherers moved from one seasonal settlement to another, probably meeting with other related bands for social and ritual activities at widely known localities, during specific times within their annual calendars. By the end of this period, native people were quarrying soapstone to make bowls and were even experimenting with forms of clay pottery, which became much more common in later centuries. Sites such as Hardaway offer artifactual evidence of many different kinds of activities that were part of the daily lives of people during this period (Daniel 1998:144–146), including axes and adzes for cutting wood, scrapers for working deer hides, stone slabs for grinding nuts, and different forms of spear points and other accoutrements of the spear throwers that were part of hunting toolkits. Recent archaeological research has demonstrated that these groups often revisited certain spots within the Piedmont

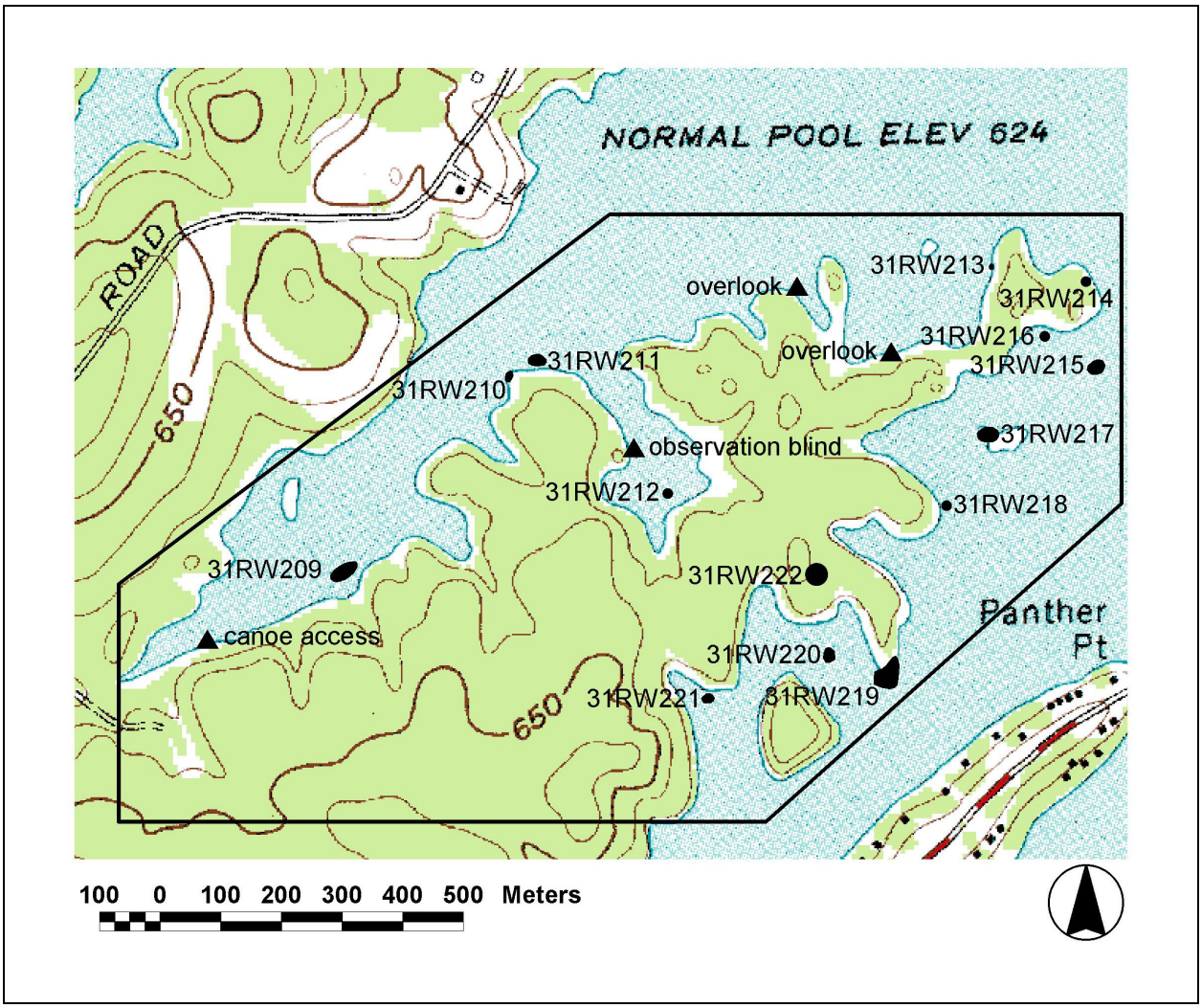

Figure 6. Sites recorded during archaeological survey of the Black Road Park shoreline. Triangles represent the locations of proposed park access points.

landscape to quarry rhyolite, an excellent raw material for making many kinds of stone tools (Daniel 1998:202–204). Archaeologists should continue to study the role of natural resources such as rhyolite and soapstone as determinants of settlement patterns of Archaic peoples in and around central North Carolina, as well as the kinds of toolkits they created from these and other raw materials (Daniel 1998; Ward and Davis 1999:55–67).

During the Woodland period (1000 B.C.–A.D. 1540), many if not most native North Carolinians blended foraging and fishing with farming and gardening, eventually living in sedentary villages and in some cases formally planned towns (see Coe 1952; Cumming 1958; Davis and Ward 1991; Dickens 1985; Reid 1985; Rights 1947; Ward 1985; Ward and Davis 1988, 1993, 1999:76–137; Waselkov 1978; Wilson 1985). Some people certainly would have lived in rural hamlets or farmsteads between villages, amid gardens and woodlands where both wild and domesticated resources were abundant. Native people developed the bow and arrow during this period, an innovation in hunting gear probably associated with different patterns of hunting than the earlier reliance on spears and spear throwers. The regional landscape of the

Piedmont seems to have become more and more densely settled, and in some cases the creation of palisaded villages indicates competition for the valued resource of farmland (Davis and Ward 1991:48). Traces of wooden houses and clay pottery are abundant at some Piedmont archaeological sites, and specific characteristics of this material culture demonstrate ancestral relationships between Woodland-period groups and some historically known Siouan-speaking tribes in this region (Ward and Davis 1999:99). Native peoples in the North Carolina and southern Virginia Piedmont contributed to what is known as the "Piedmont Village Tradition" (A.D. 1000–1700), a cultural tradition in which egalitarian communities built and periodically relocated and reformed their villages at select localities within the landscape of the Piedmont (Cumming 1958:111–126; Dickens et al. 1987; Rights 1931:411–412; Ward 1983:70–76; Ward and Davis 1999:78–79). Groups near Town Creek Indian Mound in Montgomery County and further west in the Appalachian Summit province are characterized by archaeologists as part of "South Appalachian Mississippianism" (A.D. 1000–1500), a widespread tradition of hierarchically ranked societies whose communities were centered around earthen mounds that are still visible in many parts of the Southeast (Anderson 1994; Anderson et al. 1986; Blitz 1999; Coe 1995; Ward and Davis 1999:119–134). Woodland-period peoples of the Yadkin watershed are much less well known than their contemporaries in other Piedmont areas.

From the sixteenth through early eighteenth centuries, the Piedmont was home to several groups of native people who spoke Siouan languages distinct from the Algonkian languages of coastal plain communities and the Cherokee language spoken in native communities of southern Appalachia (Booker et al. 1992; Cumming 1958:111–113; Dickens et al. 1987; Phelps 1983:36–37; Ward and Davis 1999:233–254). Piedmont residents lived in sedentary villages, although they may have lived part of each year in hunting camps dispersed across upland landscapes. They grew several different crops in gardens and fields surrounding their villages, and they almost certainly harvested nuts and wild grasses common across most of the region. Several trading paths across the Piedmont became avenues for cultural contact and interaction between European colonists and native peoples, including the Great Trading Path that crossed the Yadkin River near what is now Salisbury and connected Virginia traders with Catawba villages and Cherokee towns in southern Appalachia (Merrell 1987, 1989; Rights 1947, 1989). This interaction had a significant impact upon the social composition and geography of Siouan villages in the Piedmont region, and it encouraged the formation of multiethnic communities in southern Virginia and central North Carolina (Davis and Ward 1991; Ward and Davis 1988, 1993:407–432, 1999:233–260). The most likely areas to find archaeological remnants of these and other native villages in the Piedmont are the floodplains and first terraces along major rivers.

During the middle of the eighteenth century, groups of Moravian Protestants became the first European Americans to settle what is now Rowan County (Hardison and Jurney 1915:6–8). The early farming practices of these early settlers concentrated on dairying and subsistence farming, as well as the cultivation of some grains for market. Cotton became a significant crop during the early nineteenth century, and tobacco replaced it as the major cash crop of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Dams built along several rivers in the western and central Piedmont beginning in the twentieth century have dramatically changed the natural and cultural landscape of the region.

Archaeologists have recorded several hundred archaeological sites in Rowan and Davidson counties, although there have been few major excavation projects near the study area (Abbott 1984; Baker 1983; Davis and Ward 1984a, 1984b; Hargrove 1990a, 1990b). These artifacts document 10,000 years of native cultural history before and after the arrival of European

colonists, and the history of Rowan County settlement by European Americans beginning more than 200 years ago. Surface collections from several sites beside or beneath High Rock Lake include chipped-stone spear points and arrowheads, scrapers, axes, soapstone sherds, ceramic potsherds, and flintknapping debris. One kilometer north of the study area is 31RW13, a site where archaeologists have found prehistoric pottery, a stone netsinker, a hammerstone, a celt, a soapstone sherd, and several chipped-stone projectile points dating from the Early Archaic through Early Woodland periods. Another site, 31RW15, is just west of this site (see Figure 2). One kilometer southeast of the project area is site 31RW2, where archaeologists have recovered pottery, a bannerstone (or atlatl weight), a scraper, and several chipped-stone projectile points dating from the Archaic through Woodland periods. Site 31RW5 is less than one kilometer to the west (see Figure 2).

Several sites clustered along Yadkin River east of the town of Spencer may represent native villages visited by Virginia and Carolina colonial traders and explorers during the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, traveling along the Great Trading Path that crossed the Yadkin River here at the Trading Ford (Cumming 1958:116; Lefler 1967:xiii; Rights 1929:35; Ward and Davis 1999:258). John Lederer purportedly visited a Sara village in this vicinity in 1670 (Cumming 1958:76–82, 122), and John Lawson found a Saponi settlement at this locality in 1701 (Lefler 1967:xiii, 50–55). Hudson (1990:23–50) has suggested that this also may be the location of the Indian town of Guatari, visited on multiple occasions by Spanish explorer Juan Pardo in the 1560s. Considerable quantities of artifacts have been found at several sites near the bend in the Yadkin some 15 km upstream from High Rock Dam in Davidson County. The major sites here are 31DV1 and 31DV2, located on the Davidson County side of the river. Others significant prehistoric sites, including 31RW17 and a site described by Howell and Dearborn (1953), are situated across the river in Rowan County.

SURVEY RESULTS

Our pedestrian walkover survey covered the exposed lakebed along the shoreline of the Black Road Park tract and the wooded areas adjacent to the shoreline itself. Visibility on the exposed lakebed was excellent, with water at near its lowest level of the year. Prehistoric archaeological sites occurred as concentrations of stone artifacts that stood out in visual contrast to the eroded shale and piles of pebbles that blanketed the lakebed surface. Ground visibility in the woods was poor, but it was not at all difficult to identify the historic house site and a modern deer hunting stand. We also visually inspected the woods along our survey path and looked carefully in areas where lake overlooks and canoe access points will be created. These areas are marked on Black Road Park planning maps. They and the proposed trails were easily visible from the pink flagging tape that marked their placement.

Some significant characteristics of the High Rock Lake landscape are worth noting. The first characteristic to note is the nature of the lakeshore in the survey area during the month of November. Because of the low water, the shoreline broad exposed beach was particularly conducive to the discovery and even excavation of significant archaeological sites (Gramly 1980, 1988; Howell and Dearborn 1953). It also allowed us to interpret the underlying geology and potential for buried sites in the adjacent woods. Much of this lakebed is characterized by eroded shale, and it is apparent from looking at the edges of the lakebed itself that this shale is present underneath wooded areas as well. Consequently, buried archaeological remains are not likely to be found here.

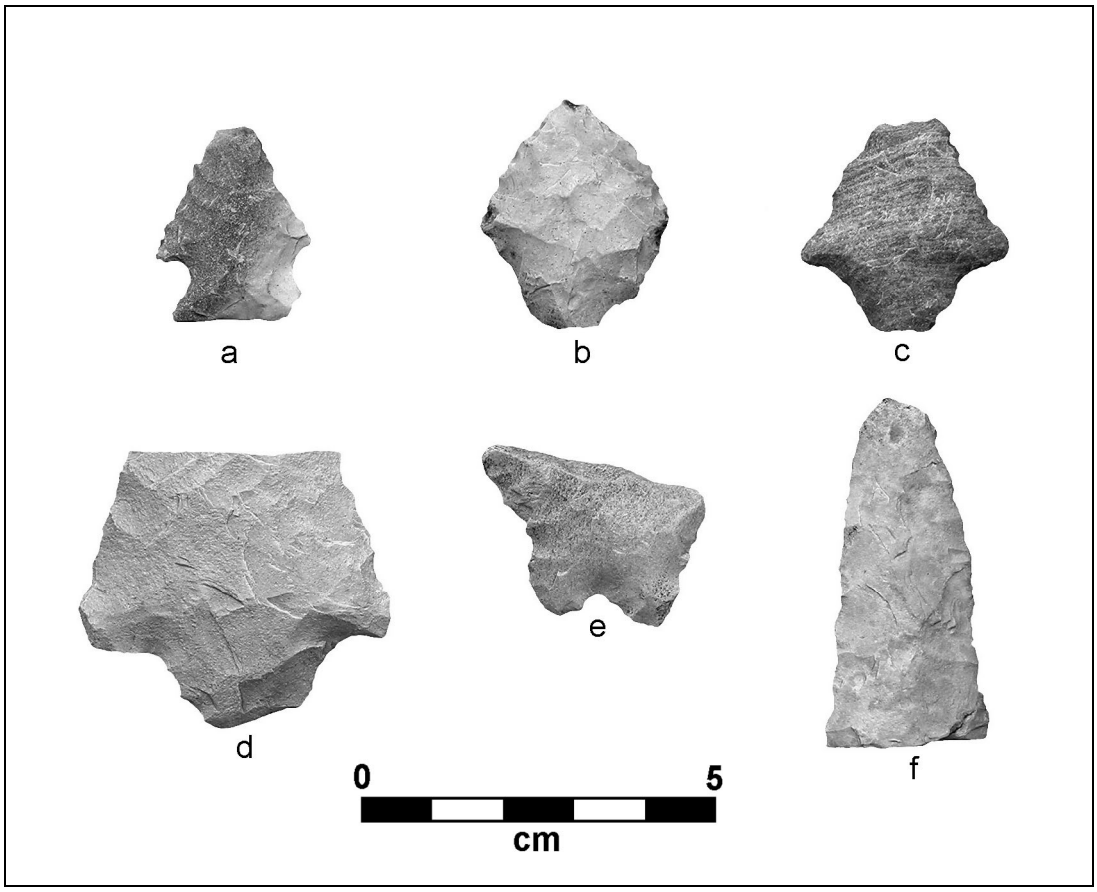

Figure 7. Diagnostic projectile points: (*a*) Palmer Corner-Notched (31RW216), (*b*) Morrow Mountain I Stemmed (31RW209), (*c*) Morrow Mountain II Stemmed (31RW210), (*d*) Savannah River Stemmed (31RW215), (*e*) Stanly Stemmed (31RW215), and (*f*) Guilford Lanceolate (31RW221).

The second point to emphasize relates to the environmental processes affecting the preservation of sites found along the shore and beneath High Rock Lake. Archaeological sites and artifacts certainly have been affected by the lacustrine environment here since High Rock Dam was built. Our survey indicated that artifacts were found in discrete concentrations. This clustering attaches some integrity to their current placement on the landscape. Nevertheless, the preservation of artifacts has been affected by cycles of exposure and submersion, and these artifacts most certainly have been moved around by wave action. Despite this, they probably have not been moved very far from their "original" setting.

The 13 prehistoric and one historic archaeological sites identified during survey are shown in Figure 6 and described below. Some of the artifacts found during the survey are chipped-stone projectile points whose designs or styles are chronologically sensitive; these are illustrated in Figure 7). Other stone artifacts include a scraper and several pieces of debris from the process of making tools out of stone (see Figure 8). Artifact collections are tabulated in Table 1.

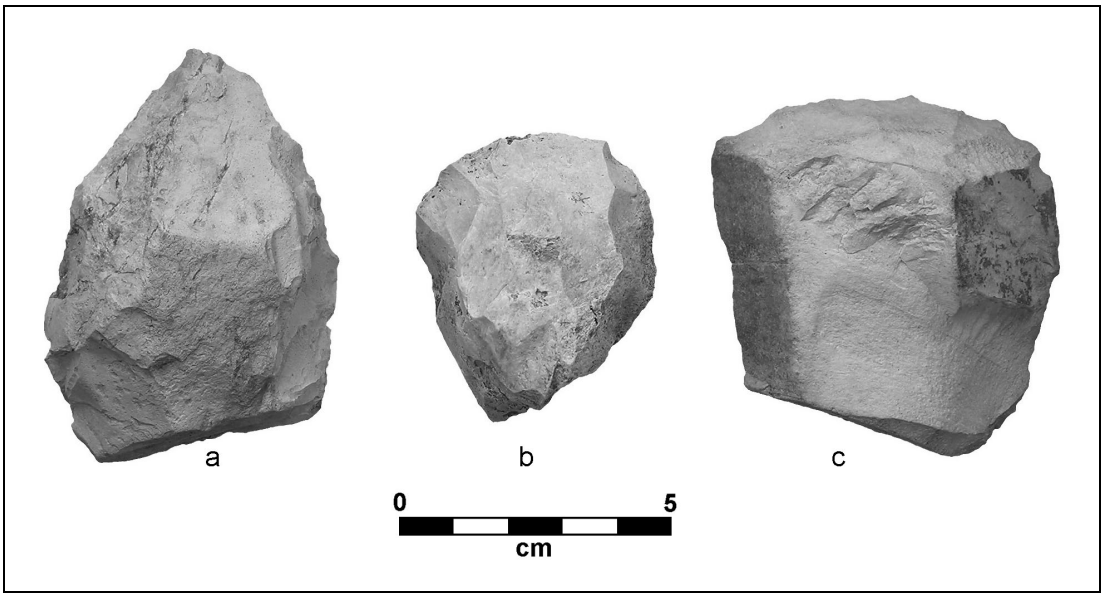

Figure 9. Other stone artifacts: (*a*) biface (31RW209), (*b*) core (31RW214), and (*c*) large end scraper (31RW212).

31RW209 (RLA-Rw51)

This site is a lithic scatter found on an eroded shale bed along one of the small bays in the study area. All visible artifacts were collected. We found four large metavolcanic bifaces (Figure 9a), one small metavolcanic flake, seven large metavolcanic flakes, and one Morrow Mountain I point made of metavolcanic stone (Figure 8*c*) at this site.

31RW210 (RLA-Rw52)

This site is a lithic scatter found on an eroded shale bed amidst piles of shale pebbles. We found two worked metavolcanic flakes, twosmall banded rhyolite flakes, five porphyritic rhyolite flakes, six small metavolcanic flakes, and one Morrow Mountain II point made out from porphyritic rhyolite (Figure 8*b*). All visible artifacts were collected.

31RW211 (RLA-Rw53)

This site is a lithic scatter found on an eroded shale bed with piles of shale pebbles covering some of the shale outcrop. We found a quartzite core, two quartzite flakes, 16 small metavolcanic flakes, 14 large metavolcanic flakes, and one lead bullet. All visible artifacts were collected.

31RW212 (RLA-Rw54)

This was an isolated artifact find which consisted of an end scraper made of metavolcanic stone (Figure 9*c*). It was found at the innermost reach of one of the small bays within the survey area.

Table 1. Prehistoric Artifacts from Sites Found in the Black Road Park Tract

Site Number	Chipped Stone Projectile Point	Flakes[1]				Other	Total
		MV[2]		PR[3]			
		small	large	small	large		
31RW209	1 Morrow Mountain I	1	7			4 bifaces	13
31RW210	1 Morrow Mountain II	6			5	2 worked flakes, 2 banded rhyolite flakes	16
31RW211		16	14			1 quartzite core, 2 small quartzite flakes	33
31RW212						1 scraper	1
31RW213		6	3	3	1		13
31RW214					2	1 core	3
31RW215	1 Stanly 1 Savannah	21	8	1	3	1 biface	36
31RW216	1 Palmer						1
31RW217			2				2
31RW218		3	6			1 core	10
31RW219		51	31	1	1	1 worked flake, 1 small quartzite flake	86
31RW220		10	18			1 core	29
31RW221	1 Guilford	4	4				9
31RW222						brick chimney	
total	6	118	93	5	12	16	252

[1] small flakes < 2 inches, large flakes > 2 inches

[2] metavolcanic stone

[3] porphyritic rhyolite

31RW213 (RLA-Rw55)

This site is a lithic scatter found on eroded shale. We found six small metavolcanic flakes, three large metavolcanic flakes, three small porphyritic rhyolite flakes, and one large porphyritic rhyolite flake. All visible artifacts were collected.

31RW214 (RLA-Rw56)

Artifacts collected from this small lithic scatter consisted of a metavolcanic core (Figure 9*b*) and two large porphyritic rhyolite flakes. All visible artifacts were collected.

31RW215 (RLA-Rw57)

This dense lithic scatter was found amidst the eroded shale and embankments of pebbles piled up at the easternmost tip of land in the study area. We did not collect all the artifacts visible on the ground surface at this site. Fire-cracked rock was observed but not collected. Artifacts recovered the site include a Stanly Stemmed point base (Figure 8*e*), a Savannah River Stemmed point base (Figure 8*d*), a small porphyritic rhyolite flake, three large porphyritic rhyolite flakes, 21 small metavolcanic flakes, eight large metavolcanic flakes, and the midsection of an unidentifiable chipped-stone projectile point.

31RW216 (RLA-Rw58)

This was an isolate artifact find consisting of a nearly complete Palmer Corner-Notched point (Figure 8*a*) with characteristic serrated edges, corner notching, and basal grinding.

31RW217 (RLA-Rw59)

This site is a light lithic scatter found on an eroded shale bed atop a low rise normally submerged beneath High Rock Lake. We collected two large metavolcanic flakes at this site. All visible artifacts were collected.

31RW218 (RLA-Rw60)

This site is a light lithic scatter found on an eroded shale bed. We found six large flakes, three small flakes, and one core. All visible artifacts were collected.

31RW219 (RLA-Rw61)

This site is a dense lithic scatter found on an eroded shale bed atop a low rise normally submerged beneath High Rock Lake. All visible artifacts were collected. We collected one small quartzite flake, one large porphyritic rhyolite flake, three small porphyritic rhyolite flakes, 51 small metavolcanic flakes, 31 large metavolcanic flakes, and one worked metavolcanic flake.

31RW220 (RLA-Rw62)

This site is a dense lithic scatter found on an eroded shale bed atop a low rise normally submerged beneath High Rock Lake. All visible artifacts were collected. We collected 18 large unifacial flakes, 10 small unifacial flakes, one core, and one piece of whiteware ceramic most likely associated with the nearby historic house site. All of the stone artifacts from this site were made of some kind of metavolcanic stone.

Figure 9. Brick chimney foundation near High Rock Lake.

31RW221 (RLA-Rw63)

This site is a lithic scatter found on an eroded shale bed with scattered shale pebbles. All visible artifacts were collected. We recovered four large unifacial flakes, four small unifacial flakes, and the tip of a Guilford Lanceolate point (Figure 8*f*). All of these artifacts were made of metavolcanic stone.

Prehistoric Site Summary

The 13 prehistoric sites identified during the survey are probably all related to the seasonal encampment of native people on uplands at the western edge of the Yadkin River Valley during the Archaic period (see Daniel 1998:194–201; Ward 1983:65–68). All are light to moderate scatters of lithic artifacts and appear to represent only temporary encampments. Additionally, all have little probability of containing intact cultural deposits. Thus, it is unlikely that any are significant by National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility criteria.

It is interesting that these sites seem to cluster along the edge of the former flat hilltop here. This placement would have put them at the top of the slope leading down to Panther Creek or Yadkin River itself. I suspect that sites 31RW219, 31RW220, and 31RW221 are closely related to 31RW2 and 31RW5, both of which are located along the former course of Panther Creek. Sites 31RW213, 31RW214, 31RW215, 31RW216, 31RW217, and 31RW218 are close to 31RW13 and 31RW15, where archaeologists have noted artifacts that may date as early as the Early Archaic period.

31RW222 (The Historic Homeplace)

The only historic site recorded by our survey was a brick chimney foundation sitting on what would have been a hilltop west of the former course of Panther Creek and within view of High Rock Lake during the winter. Site 31RW222 is easily visible because of the large oak trees and an old clearing present at this wooded site (Figure 9). It is similar in this respect to nineteenth and early twentieth century homeplaces found in wooded areas throughout the Piedmont (Daniel and Ward 1993). We found one piece of whiteware pottery at nearby site 31RW220, and we also found a piece of iron sitting atop the jumble of bricks at 31RW222. Certainly, further fieldwork at 31RW222 could yield valuable information about what life was like for past residents of central North Carolina. However, nothing visible on the ground surface sets this site apart from other old house sites in the Carolina Piedmont. It is an interesting site, but probably not one that is significant by National Register of Historic Places eligibility criteria. Our impression is that park development will not adversely impact the site; however, the county may wish to use it as a means to interpret and present the history of European American settlement in southeastern Rowan County before the creation of High Rock Lake.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Of the 14 archaeological sites identified and described above, none are currently threatened by the creation of trails and lake access points in proposed Black Road Park, Rowan County, North Carolina. Given the thorough coverage that was permitted by favorable survey conditions, and the fact that none of the sites identified are deemed significant by NRHP eligibility criteria, it is our recommendation that no additional archaeological assessment is warranted.

Because this portion of the Yadkin River Valley was an important, but still poorly understood, area during prehistory, we encourage the Aluminum Company of America to continue systematic identification and assessment of cultural resources on its properties. Even when no significant finds are made, surveys such as this one are worthwhile because they help fill the gaps in our knowledge about ancient settlement and lifeways.

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