

STAGE 1B ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE MANEE AVENUE PROJECT STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK

CEQR #95DEP214R

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Prepared for:
Hastings Development Corporation
DBA Townbridge Homes
467 Fanning Street
Staten Island, New York 10314

Prepared by: Greenhouse Consultants Incorporated 40 Exchange Place, 13th Floor New York, New York 10005

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LIST OF PERSONNEL

William I. Roberts IV, S.O.P.A.

Principal Investigator

Author

Kenneth Richter

Field Technician

Paula M. Crowley

Laboratory Directory Co-Author

Editor

Word Processor



INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Stage 1B Archaeological Survey is to document the presence or absence of potential prehistoric and/or historic archaeological resources within the Manee Avenue development project area in southwestern Staten Island, Richmond County, New York through the use of physical testing techniques.

The Manee Avenue Development project area is located in southwestern Staten Island. The project area consists of approximately 3.5 acres which is located to the southeast of the Pleasant Plains Station. See Figure 1 for the location of the project area. The Stage 1A Archaeological/Historical Sensitivity Evaluation Report on this development concluded that this parcel could preserve evidence from the prehistoric period. A Stage 1B survey consisting of shovel tests on a 50 foot grid pattern was recommended for all of the project area that remains undisturbed and will be impacted by the proposed construction (Greenhouse Consultants 1995:17).



Figure 1 Project area location shown on portion of U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute series Arthur Kill quadrangle, 1966, photorevised 1981.

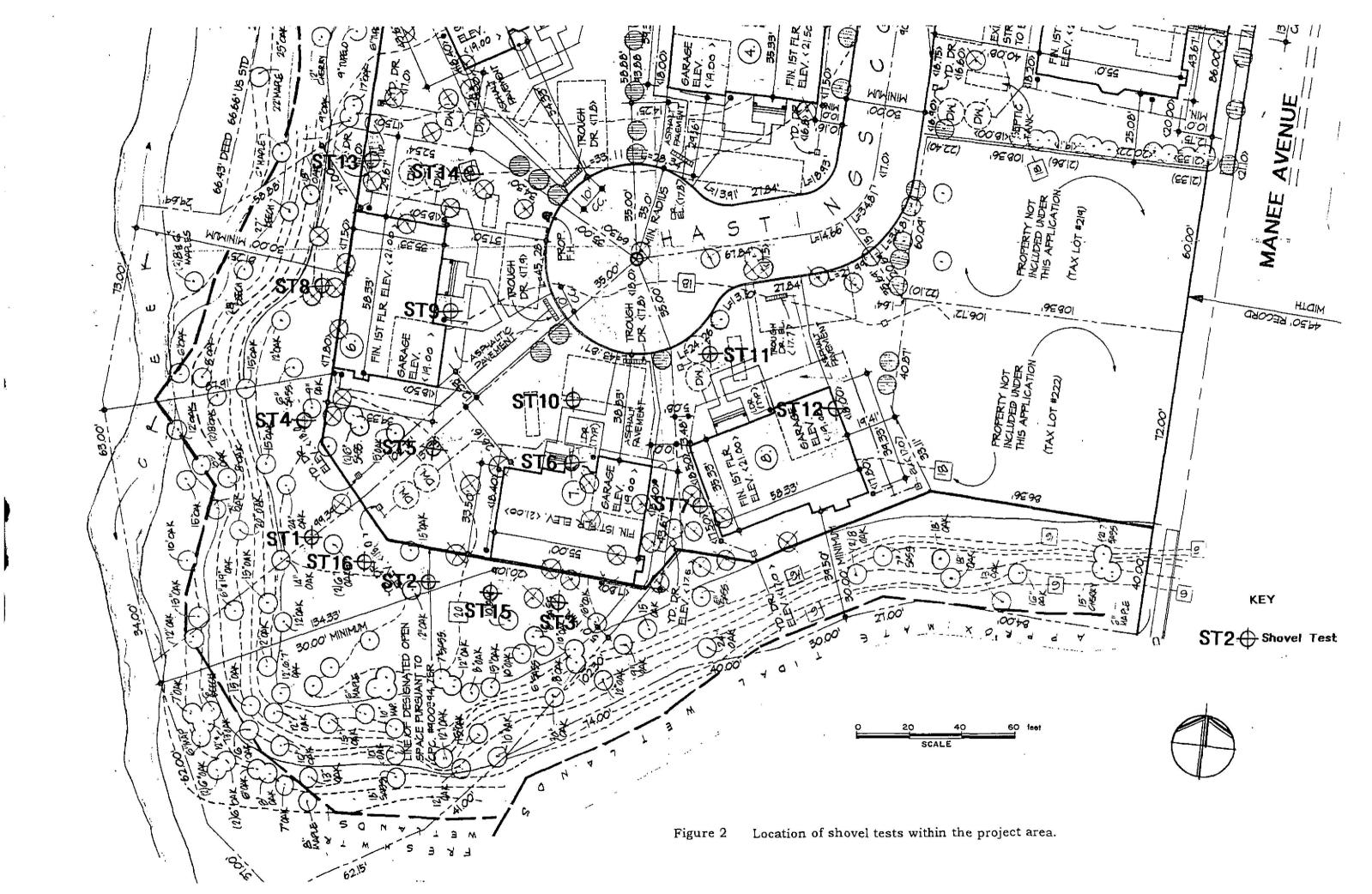


FIELD TESTING

The Stage 1B testing of the Manee Avenue project area took place on June 2, 1995. This parcel of approximately 3.5 acres was investigated by excavating shovel tests located on a 50 foot grid pattern or as close as possible to the grid intersections. During the Stage 1B testing of the project area, sixteen shovel tests were excavated. Fourteen of these tests were on or near grid locations. Two more tests were excavated at 25 foot intervals along the transect closest to the edge of the southern bluff above Lemon Creek. Obstacles encountered were piles of rubble and/or fill, occasionally boulders, trees and their roots. Brambles and other dense undergrowth were encountered especially in the south center of the project area, but these conditions did not require the abandonment of any tests. See Figure 2 for the location of the shovel tests.

The methodology employed for the shovel tests was straight forward. Roughly square tests approximately 1.5 feet across were excavated until 0.5 feet of the subsoil was explored, or until the test was impeded by excessive ground water or by other obstacles. All soils from the shovel tests were screened through 1/4-inch mesh for the recovery of artifacts. Soils were excavated and recorded by natural stratigraphic deposits. For all of the shovel tests, the strata encountered were measured, described, and recorded in terms of texture, inclusions and Munsell colors. See Appendix 1 for the original survey record forms.

Surface inspection was used in areas of good surface visibility to supplement the shovel testing. No artifacts were recovered from the Manee Avenue surface collecting, although this procedure did confirm the disturbed nature of the central portion of the project area.





SUMMARY OF STRATIGRAPHY

Three or four layers were identified in the sixteen shovel tests excavated within the Manee Avenue project area. Fifteen of the tests had three layers, and the other test had four layers.

The top layer was described as humus with root mat in three-fourths of the shovel tests. In one case it was described as silt with root mat and in two cases as turf or turf with silty loam. The color of this layer generally ranged from very dark greyish brown through very dark brown to dark brown. Very dark brown predominated. The exception was Shovel Test 10 where the top layer was a brown to dark brown silt with pebbles. This was the only test where pebbles were noted in the top layer, and the only location where this layer had a Munsell color in the 7.5YR range. Thickness of the top layer ranged from 0.1 to 0.3 feet, averaging 0.2 feet thick. The top layer was interpreted as topsoil with the exception of Shovel Test 10 where the actual topsoil appears to have been removed and replaced by a thin deposit of silt and pebbles. The second layer in Shovel Test 10 was a dark yellowish brown silty loam which is similar to that in surrounding tests.

The second layer of soil was described as silty loam in thirteen shovel tests, as silt in one test, and as slightly sandy silt in another test. Inclusions were few. Color was consistently dark yellowish brown. The only exception was Shovel Test 12 where the second layer was a compact silt with cobbles and pebbles. The color was a mottled mixture of dark yellowish brown, dark greyish brown, and yellowish red. Thickness of the second layer ranged from 0.4 to 1.0 feet, averaging 0.7 feet thick. The second layer was interpreted as a probable plowzone, with the exception of that in Shovel Test 12, which may have been fill. Shovel Test 3 had another layer of dark yellowish brown silt beneath its second layer. This layer differentiated by a slight difference in color and less organic material. This layer was 1.4 feet thick. It was also interpreted as a probable plow zone.

The bottom layer encountered during the shovel testing ranged in texture from silt through sandy silt to silty sand. Silt predominated. Inclusions noted were pebbles in five tests and cobbles in two. Color ranged from brown and dark brown, through strong brown, to dark yellowish brown. Strong brown was most common. The top of this layer was found from 0.6 to 2.1 feet below grade, averaging 1.0 feet below grade. The bottom layer was interpreted as subsoil.



ARTIFACT PROCESSING AND ANALYSIS

A total of 15 artifacts from six shovel tests were brought to the Greenhouse Laboratory for processing and analysis. Artifacts were washed in lukewarm water and then air-dried on screens at room temperature. After drying, artifacts were labeled with their context provenance in India ink and bagged in context labeled resealable polyethylene bags. Artifacts were identified and coded as to their functional group, class and material. This information was recorded on tyvek labels and placed within the bags with the artifacts.

Fourteen artifacts from five shovel tests were from the historic period. None had any datable diagnostic technological attributes. Fragments of ironstone ceramics, bottle glass, brick, oyster shell and flat glass were the objects found in Shovel Tests 6, 9, 10, 12 and 15.

One prehistoric artifact was found in Shovel Test 16. The distal end of a secondary flake made on a grey chert came from the second level. The quality of the chert was fine. Secondary flakes result from the stone tool manufacturing process. Once a tool maker removes the cortex flakes from the core and starts to shape the tool, secondary flakes are discarded as the tool is shaped.

See Appendix 2 for the complete artifact inventory and coding information.



RESULTS

One prehistoric artifact was recovered from Shovel Test 16. None of the other fifteen shovel tests produced prehistoric remains. This artifact is a chert flake, a waste product produced during the manufacture or modification of a stone tool.

A total of fourteen artifacts from the historic period were recovered from Shovel Tests 6, 9, 10, 12 and 15. All are relatively small fragments probably derived from agricultural use of this land during the nineteenth or twentieth centuries. The 1910 Topographical Survey shows this location as a meadow (Greenhouse Consultants 1995: Figure 7).



CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This final report documents the procedures and results of the Stage 1B archaeological testing of the Manee Avenue Development project in Staten Island, New York. Based on this objective ground testing, it can be concluded that only one prehistoric resource is present within the Manee Avenue project area. This small site, represented by one chert flake, is located outside of the present impact area. It is situated on the edge of the bluff overlooking Lemon Creek to the south. This location is surrounded by a fence which will serve to keep all construction vehicles out of this zone adjacent to the creek. Since the prehistoric site at this location will not be impacted by the proposed housing construction, it is our recommendation that no further archaeological work is necessary here. We recommend that this location be cleared for construction activities.

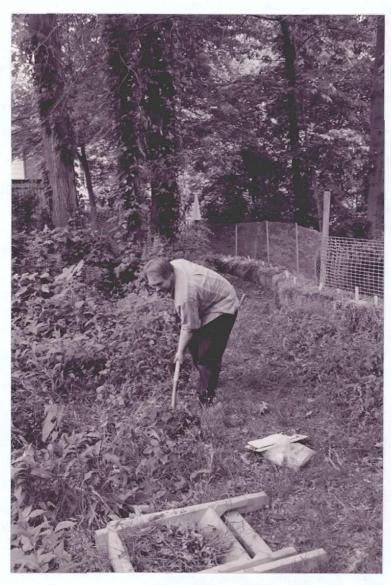


Plate 1 Excavation in progress, Shovel Test 12, looking east.

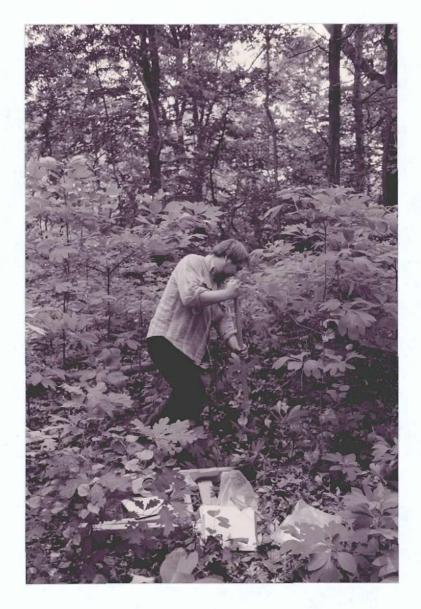


Plate 2 Excavation in progress, Shovel Test 16, looking west.



APPENDIX 1

FIELD RECORD FORMS
CONTEXT NUMBERING AND PROVENIENCE LABELING



APPENDIX 1 CONTEXT NUMBERING AND PROVENIENCE LABELING

A field recording system which encompasses a variety of conditions and situations is optimal for any archaeological project. Among these situations are the size of the project, the number of different field techniques and the number of expected artifacts. The field recording system used was developed by Greenhouse Consultants and was based on modifications of other accepted systems.

All contexts are numbered in the field and these numbers are applied to the artifacts. The format for numbering is XX-9999.99 where X is alphanumeric and 9 is numeric. The alphanumeric characters to the left of the hyphen are the prefix. The two digits to the right of the decimal point are used only when it is necessary to refer to strata within a context. The four digits between the prefix and decimal subdivision may be called the base code.

The prefix is a two character designation of the project parcel. The four digit numeric base code can be divided into two parts; the first digit being separate from the last three. The first numeric digit indicates the type of field technique used. The codes are as follows:

- unprovenienced surface collection
- 2. provenienced surface collection
- shovel testing
- 4. trenching
- excavation units
- 6. feature excavation

The three digits following the technique code are unique for each location and are assigned sequentially. Decimal subdivisions may be used for techniques three through six to indicate specific strata. For example, 01-3001.02 refers to Area 1 (01), shovel test (3), number 1 (001), at the second layer (.02).

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APPENDIX 2

COMPLETE ARTIFACT INVENTORY

TABLES FOR CODING MATERIAL CULTURE

- A. Table for National Park Service Material Culture Data Base Coding Chart: Groups, Classes and Material
- B. Table for Data Base Coding Chart: Groups and Classes
- C. Table for Data Base Coding Chart: Prehistoric Artifacts Class and Morphology
- D. Table for Data Base Coding Chart: Ambiguous Items of Material Culture

APPENDIX 2 A. Table for National Park Service Material Culture Data Base Coding Chart: Groups, Classes and Materials

INORGANIC MATERIALS

GROUPS AND CLASSES

10

01	KITCHENGROUP 01 Dishes 02 Containers 03 Tableware 04 Kitchenware
02	FAUNAL/FLORAL GROUP 01 Mammalia 02 Ares 03 Reptilia 04 Amphibia 05 Pisces 09 Ethnofaunal/Zoological 16 Ethnobotanical
03	ARCH/TECTURAL GROUP 01 Window glass 02 Nails 03 Spikes 04 Door& Window hardware 05 Other structural hardware 06 Construction materials
04	FURNITURE GROUP 01 Hardware 02 Materials 03 Lighting device 04 Decorative furnishings
05	ARMS GROUP 01 Projectiles 02 Cartridge case 03 Arms accessories 04 Gun parts
06	CLOTHING GROUP 01 Apparel 02 Ornamentation 03 Making and repair 04 Fasteners
07	PERSONAL GROUP 01 Coins 02 Kays 03 Writing paraphernalia 04 Grooming and hygiene 05 Personal ornamentation 06 Other personal items
08	TOBACCO PIPE GROUP 01 Kaolin pipe class 02 Nonkaolin pipe 03 Smoking accessories

ACTIVITIES GROUP 01 Construction tools 02 Farm tools 03 Leisure activities 04 Fishing gear 05 07 Pottery class 08 Storage items 09 10 Stable and barn 11 Miscellaneous hardware 12 Specialized activities 13 Military objects 14 Housekeeping 15 Public services
PREHISTORIC GROUP 01 Hunting and fishing activities 02 Domestic activities 03 Stone working 04 Woodworking 05 Digging tools 06 Other fabricating or processing tools 07 Other generaturility tools 08 Ceremonial & ornamental
SAMPLES Charcoal samples for radiocarbon dating Flotation samples

11 SAMPLES -- Charcoal samples for radiocarb dating -- Flotation samples -- light fraction -- heavy fraction -- Soltsamples 98 UNSPECIFIED GROUP

MATERIALS - COMMON LIST (CLASSIFIED)

ORGANIC MATERIALS

	TOTAL MILLEUNED	SHOWING INVIERNACE
001 002 003 004	AMIC Porcelain Stoneware Earthenware Whiteware/ironstone/granite Undifferentiated ceramic	CELLULOSIC 115 Bark 108 Burlap 128 Charcoal 092 Cork 087 Cotton 131 Fiberboard/masonite
062	r Clay Kaolin Red clay	085 Hemp 011 Paper 006 Wood 121 Celluloseseeds/ seed covering
069 071 070	STRUCTION Brick Cement Mortar Plaster	CONSTRUCTION 093 Asphalt 125 Formica 101 Lincleum 102 Tar paper
078	SS Milkglass Glass Slag and clinker	WAX 076 Wax
MET 005 019	ALS Tin Silver	GUM/RESIN Q10 Rubber, elastic 909 Rubber, hard
021 026 028 029 032	Gold Cuprous metal Ferrous alloy Aluminum Steel Lead Chrome Mercury	PETROCHEMICALS 073 Carbon 095 Coal 048 Graphite 116 Tar
034 035 096 136	Lead Chrome Mercury Undifferentiated metal	PROTEIN 118 Chitin (arthropod, exoskeleton) 105 Felt 122 Flesh
133 052	Agate Asbestos Chalk Chert	122 Flesh 016 Halr 117 Kcratin(horns/fingernail/claws) 015 Leather 107 Slik 090 Sponge, natural 105 Wool
038 041 049 058	Granite Gravei Jet Limestone Marble Mica Obsidian	COMBINATION MATERIALS 017 Bone 132 Ivory 067 Pearl 089 Shell
057 068 053 054 039 044 040 060	Ochre Precious stone Cuartz Cuartzite Sandstone Shale Slate Steatite Schist	SYNTHETIC MATERIALS 103 Celluloid 088 Nyion 008 Plastic 077 Soap 091 Sponge, synthetic 104 Synthetic
043 126	Schist Undifferentiated stone	TEXTILE 151 Undifferentiated textile



APPENDIX 2 B. Table for Data Base Coding Chart: Groups and Classes

GROUPS AND CLASSES

01	KITCHEN 01 Dishes 02 Containers 03 Tableware 04 Kitchenware	SAMPLE ARTIFACTS Plate, cup, salt cellar Bottle glass fragments Eating utensils Cooking utensils, pot, kettle
02	FAUNAL/FLORAL GROUP 01 Mammalia 02 Aves 03 Reptilia 04 Amphibia 05 Pisces 09 Other ethnofaunal/zoological 16 Ethnobotanical	Mammal Bird Repfile Amphibian Fish Oyster, crab, egg shells Seeds, nuts
03	ARCHITECTURAL GROUP 01 Window glass 02 Nails 03 Spikes 04 Door& Window hardware 05 Other Structural hardware 06 Construction materials	Window pane glass Nails Railroad spikes Doorknob, door hinge Pipe, fireplace tiles Brick, mortar, roofing
04	FURNITURE GROUP 01 Hardware 02 Materials 03 Lighting device 04 Decorative turnishings	Handle, drawer pull, latch Stoveparts, chair part, bedframe Candlestick, lamp base Flowerpot, clock parts, vase
05	ARMS GROUP 01 Projectiles 02 Cartridge case 03 Arms accessories 04 Gun parts	Shot, bullets Carridge Gun fiints, bullet molds, powderhorn Pistol barrel, flintlock assembly
06	CLOTHING GROUP 01 Apparel 02 Ornamentation 03 Making and Repair 04 Fasteners	Hat, coat, scarves, glove, shoe Beads, sequin, hatpin, feather Thimble, straightpin, scissors Buttons, snaps, buckles, cufflink
07	PERSONAL GROUP 01 Coins 02 Keys 03 Writing paraphernatia 04 Grooming & hygiene 05 Personal ornamentation 06 Other personal items	Coins Doorlockkeys, padlock keys Quill, fountainpen nib, graphite penca Hairbrush, razor, mirror, tweezers Jewelry, ribbon, ornamental comb Pocketwatch, key chain, pocketknife

GROUPS AND CLASSES

08	TOBACCO PIPE GROUP
	01 Kaolin pipe
	05 Nonkaolin pipe
	06 Smoking accessories

ACTIVITIES GROUP 01 Construction tools 02 Farm tools 03 Leisure activities 04 Fishing gear

05 ---06 ---07 Pottery class 08 Storage Items

10 Stable and barn
11 Miscellaneous hardware
12 Specialized activities

13 Military objects 14 Housekeeping 15 Public services

PREHISTORIC GROUP 01 Hunting and Fishing 02 Domestic 03 Stoneworking

04 Woodworking 05 Olgging Tools 06 Other fabricating or processing tools

07 Other general utility tools 08 Ceremonial & ornamental

09 Miscellaneous

Kaolin pipe Corncob pipe Snuff tin, cuspidor, tobacco tin, pipe cleaner

Axe head, drill bit, saw, paintbrush Hoe, rake, plowblade Marbles, jew's harp, doll parts Fish hooks, sinkers, crabtrap

Indian waterjar, effigy pot Crock, barrel staves, sacks

Stirrup, horseshoe, rein, harness belt Rope, bolts, nuts, washers, chain Button blanks, metallurgic debris, saggars Insignia, bayonets Broom, coathanger, washboard Sewer pipe, water pipe

Projectile point, ataltl hook Vessel, mortar, pestle Hammerstone, baton, flake, core Celt, grooved axe Hoe Drill, chisel, needle

Knife, prismatic blade, chopper Sheet, gorget, bead Function unknown





APPENDIX 2

C. Table for Data Base Coding Chart: Prehistoric Artifacts - Class and Morphology

Class 01: Hunting and Fishing Activities	Class 06: Other Fabricating or Processing Tools
01 - Projectile point	51 - Perforator
02 - Birdstone	52 - Drill
03 - Bannerstone	53 - Awl
04 - Boatstone	54 - Reamer
05 - Fish hook	55 - Chisel
06 - Netsinker	56 - Microperforator
07 - Atlati hook	57 - Needie
	58 - Graver
Class 02: Domestic Activities	
Sidd GE, Bollison Holling	Class 07: General Utility Tools
13 - vessel	,
14 - mortar	67 - Knife
15 - pestle	68 - Side scraper
16 - muller	69 - Core scraper
17 - groundstone fragment	70 - Stemmed end scraper
	71 - Other end scraper
	73 - Prismatic blade
Class 03: Stone Working	74 - Chapper
*	75 - Utilized/Retouched flake
21 - Hammerstone	76 - Pitted pebble
22 - Baton	77 - Gouge
23 - Tine	78 - Maul
24 - Splinter	79 - Abrader
25 - Drift or "punch"	80 - Whetstone
26 - Anvil	81 - Biface
27 - Flake, primary	82 - Adze
28 - Flake, secondary	83 - Distolateral scraper
29 - Bifacial thinning flake	84 - Bifacial end scraper
30 - Core	85 - Bifacial scraper
31 - Blank	
32 - Tested piece	
	Class 08: Ceremonial &
	Ornamental Objects
Class 04: Wood Working	
	85 - Angled pipe
37 - Celt	86 - Tube
38 - Grooved axe	87 - Platform pipe
39 - Spokeshave	88 - Cloud blower pipe
	89 - Sheet
	90 - Plates
Class 16: Ethnobotanical	91 - Comb
	92 - Bead
Seeds	93 - Gorget
Nuts	Hematite
	Ochre



APPENDIX 2

D. Table for Data Base Coding Chart: Ambiguous Items of Material Culture

Note: The items listed below may be ambiguous or hard to place in a taxonomic category, but as a convention, for inventory purposes, will be coded as follows:

Unidentified wood fragments Construction wood Pegs, Wood planks Twigs, branches Burned wood (partial) Charcoal and all small fragments	in the	commer	006 006 006 006 (above) and put "burnt wood" nts section
of completely burnt wood	Çode :	as charc	coal
Coal Slag, burned coal, vitrified metalworking or manufacturing	98	00	095
by-products	98	00	112
Pantiles	03	06	003
Delft fireplace tiles, wall skirting, etc. Porcelain bathroom tiles, other bathroom	04	04	003
furniture (tub, toilet, etc.)	03	05	001
Chamber pot	04	02	00-
Flowerpot	04	04 00	2 00-
Teeth	02		132
Fish scales	02	09	118
Coral	04	04	119
Eggshell	02	09	119
Seeds, seed covering	02	16	121
Schist (construction)	03	06	043
Schist (unidentified)	98	00	043
Red brick	03	06	169
Yellow brick	03	06	155
Linoleum	03	06	101
Metal hardware (probably construction)	03	06	()
Furniture hardware	04	01	()
Miscellaneous hardware (other and unidentified including screws, car parts)	09	11	()
Leather shoe parts	06	01	015
Unidentified leather scraps	98	00	015
Leather personal items	07	()	015
16s I E s			

Context: 3006.02									
	<u>Cat#</u>	Context	<u>Gp</u>	<u>ÇI</u>	<u>Mat</u>	Identity	Count Comments	Reference	Range
	1	3006.02	03	06 09	069 089	Brick Oyster shell	2 1		
	2	3006.02	02	UB	009	Subtotal =	a		
<u>Context</u> : 3009.02									
	Cat#	Context	<u>Gp</u>	<u>CI</u>	Mat	dentity	Count Comments	Reference	Range
	3	3009.02	01	02	078	Bottle glass	1 Neck		
						Subtotal =	1		
Context: 3010.02									
	Cat#	Context	<u>Gp</u>	<u>CI</u>	<u>Mat</u>	dentity	Count Comments	Reference	Range
	4	3010.02	01	01	004	Ironstone	4		
	5 6	3010.02 3010.02	<i>01</i> 01	<i>01</i> 02	004 078	Ironstone Bottle glass	Underglaze decorated blue Amber		
	7	3010.02	01	02	078	Bottle glass	1 Aqua		
	8	3010.02	03	Oi	078	Flat glass	1 &		
Subtotal = &									
<u>Con</u>	text: <u>30</u>	12.02							
	Cat#	Context	<u>Gр</u>	<u>Ct</u>	Mat	<u>ldentily</u>	Count Comments	Reference	Range
	9	3012.02	01	01	004	Ironstone	1 Blue tinted glaze		
						Subtotal =	1		
Context: 3015.02									
		Cantus	C-	CI	Mat	Jdentity	Count Comments	Reference	Range
	Cat#	Context	<u> Ср</u>	ᄗ	<u>Mat</u>			Section	140-044
	10	3015.02	01	ĊΊ	004	Iranstone	1 Rim		
						Subtotal =	1		
Context: 3016.02									
									_
	Cat#	Context	<u>Gp</u>	<u>CI</u>	<u>Mat</u>	Identity	Count Comments	Reference	Range
	11	3016.02	10	03	052	Secondary flake	1 Grey chert		
						Subtotal =	1		

Total = 15