Sussex County Community College Anthropology Program

Occasional Paper No. 3

Further Archaeological Investigations of the Walnut Grove Farm Site (28Sx483)

Hampton and Frankford Townships,

Sussex County, New Jersey

The 2015 Sussex County Community College Archaeological Field School

By

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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

The 2015 Sussex County Community College (SCCC) Archaeological Field School carried out a second season of shovel testing and excavation of test units at the Walnut Grove Farm (WGF) Site in Hampton and Frankford Townships, Sussex County, New Jersey.

This is the third in a series of reports on the Walnut Grove Farm Precontact archaeological site. The first report analyzed the farmers' surface collection of stone tools, including projectile points. It showed that the site was occupied from the late Middle Archaic period (5000 BC) to the Late Woodland period (1600 AD). This time range came from well dated projectile points, including Brewerton Side-Notched, Poplar Island, Lackawaxen, Bare Island, Fishtail variants, Rossville, Fox Creek, Eshback, and Late Woodland triangle points. Partially completed bifaces show that chipped stone tool manufacture took place. Projectile points used to kill game, and scrapers often used to process animal hides, show hunting was a major site activity. Other tools were a core, scrapers, and cobble artifacts, including a mortar, a pestle, a muller, a grinding stone, and a pitted pounding stone.

The second report contained the results of background research carried out at the New Jersey State Museum (NJSM), including a review of registered archaeological sites within a one-mile radius of WGF. There was only one such site, the Branchville South Site 28Sx 421, located nearly one mile to the north. A variety of lithics including an untyped stemmed argillite point, cores, and fire-cracked rock (FCR) was recovered there. In addition, Hampton Township Historian Randy Pittenger disclosed an unregistered rockshelter site, Price's Rockshelter, located just over one-mile northeast of WGF. Registering archaeological sites is an important part of modern archaeology. A NJSM- Bureau of Archaeology Site Registration Program Form was completed for WGF and it was assigned NJSM Site Number 28Sx483. A form for Price's Rockshelter was completed in 2015, it was assigned Site Number 28Sx484, and is attached.

The second WGF report documented the substantial amount of testing completed over much of the eastern part of the farm. Spearpoints from the plowzone included Poplar Island and Fishtail types. West of the shovel tested area, a cluster of 3 units were opened on a sandy knoll, to expose a feature. Feature 1 was a small pit filled with sand; it produced a single stone expedient tool/utilized flake.

The 2015 Archaeological Field School once again used the same tools, paperwork, and methods as cultural resource management professionals. Field testing in 2015 included moving the grid further west by completing rows of shovel tests in a 15m (50 ft) grid pattern. One productive area had the ST interval decreased to 7.5m (25 ft). There were 25 tests completed (ST33 through ST57). Four of these STs produced Precontact artifacts, most notably an endscraper from Level 2B of ST40. In addition, two adjacent 1m square excavation units (EU12 and 13) were completed. Feature 2, an irregular ovoid pit in these squares was excavated. It produced fire-cracked rock, two hammerstones, and a knife. The vertical orientation of fire-cracked rock indicated the pit had been filled rapidly.

Fieldtrips to noteworthy archaeological sites in Sussex County are an important part of the field school. Four important sites were visited in 2015: Price's Rockshelter (Hampton Twp.), Dark Moon (Green Twp.), Black Creek (Vernon), and Minisink (Sandyston Twp.). Future field schools should include field trips; they not only inform students, but also set the stage for future Cultural Heritage Tourism in Sussex County.

Future fieldwork at the Walnut Grove Farm Site should further expand the shovel test (ST) grid so that the rest of the farm will be tested and the site borders determined. Further excavation in the vicinity of Features 1 and 2 could locate additional features and hopefully provide evidence of their age and function.

The 2015 Sussex County Community College Archaeological Field School continues a new tradition of research at Walnut Grove Farm. Les and Deb Guile not only provide a productive place to dig, but also an on-site classroom and wet lab. The field school has resulted in a better understanding of the long and rich heritage of Sussex County.

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INTRODUCTION

Sussex County Community College (SCCC) has a Community Archaeology Program (CAP) intended to foster research and education centered on the vast and rich cultural heritage throughout Sussex County, New Jersey. The program includes open communication with local experts in history and archaeology. One such expert in both subjects is Hampton Township Historian Randy Pittenger. Pittenger has visited archaeological sites throughout Hampton Township and surrounding communities; he has surface collected many of them. He recommended the Walnut Grove Farm Site for archaeological testing.

Owned since 1981 by Les and Deb Guile, the farm covers 10 acres (Figures 1 and 2). During the day to day operation of this organic vegetable and Christmas tree farm, they have amassed a considerable collection of stone tools. The Guiles generously allowed the use of their buildings for use as a classroom and lab.

In 2015, Sussex County Community College (SCCC) conducted our second archaeological field school at Walnut Grove Farm (WGF). The field school was led by William Sandy, Adjunct Professor of Anthropology at SCCC. Sandy conducted the labwork and wrote this report. SCCC Professor James Kotcho previously analyzed the Precontact stone tools collected over the years by the farmers on Walnut Grove Farm and produced a report (Kotcho 2015). Head of the SCCC Anthropology Dr. Anthony "Tony" Balzano assisted the field effort in a variety of ways. The SCCC field school investigated WGF between July 21 and August 20, 2015.

The 2015 SCCC archaeological field school included visits to other important archaeological sites in Sussex County and other activities. Walt Godek gave an unforgettable tour of the Dark Moon Site (28Sx429) (Hartzell 1975, 1982). His remarkable dioramas helped students conceptualize how everyday village activities would translate into archaeological features (Photos 1 and 2).

Hampton Township Historian and avocational archaeologist Randy Pittenger visited the investigations and gave the research team the benefit of his decades of research into Sussex County archaeological sites. Pittinger gave the WGF team a tour of an unregistered rockshelter site, Price's Rockshelter, located just over one-mile northeast of WGF (Photo 3). Registering archaeological sites is an important part of modern archaeology. A NJSM- Bureau of Archaeology Site Registration Program Forms was completed for WGF and it was assigned NJSM Site Number 28Sx483. A form for Price's Rockshelter was completed in 2015 and the State Museum assigned it Site Number 28Sx484 Appendix C). Sussex County is among the New Jersey counties with the most registered archaeological sites. Each registered site is a building block with which we construct a better understanding of the past.

Montclair State University (MSU) Professor Chris Matthews visited the field school and discussed his recent investigations of a Long Island historic site. SCCC and MSU students used a flotation device in an attempt to recover small bones, artifacts, and/or plant remains. Paleoethnobotany is an archaeological specialty of growing import worldwide, and familiarity with recovery techniques can be a valued skill (Sandy 2007). Historical Perspectives, Inc. of Westport, Connecticut provided field equipment, encouragement, and excavation record forms.

SCCC students taking place in the field school included Andrei Burul, Connie Bufalmente, Robert Cunningham, and Avery Rappa. Their understanding and commitment during a time when a heat wave baked the soils of WGF is much appreciated. Penny Steyer edited this report. All errors and omissions are the responsibility of the author.

GEOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Walnut Grove Farm is in the Kittatinny Valley, in the east central portion of the Valley and Ridge Physiographic Province. The Valley and Ridge is located in northwestern New Jersey, contains 530 square miles, and is located between the Delaware River and the New Jersey Highlands. Geologic processes created an area of long linear valleys and ridges which gives the province its name. The province consists of three distinctive physiographic regions, the Delaware Valley, the Kittatinny Mountain and the Kittatinny Valley (Kotcho 2015; Wolfe 1977; Sandy and Kotcho 2015: Figure 3).

The Kittatinny Valley, which includes the Paulins Kill river valley, is underlain by soluble dolomite and limestone formations. The Paulins Kill, a tributary of the Delaware River, flows to the southwest, and its bed is scoured through the dolomite and limestone formations. Relief can be as much as 200 feet with many rocky outcrops. This results in a rugged terrain with small rocky knolls and ridges, sinkholes and streamless valleys. Springs are fairly common throughout the Kittatinny Valley. Large irregular glacial depressions or karst basins cover portions of the valley. The largest of these basins are Swartswood, Newton Meadows, and Great Meadows. Glacial processes of scouring and dissolution of the dolomite and limestone bedrock produced these karst basins. During the last glacial episode, deposits of silt, clay, sand, and gravel from glacial lakes were deposited in the basins, as well as other portions of the valley. Slate, siltstone and sandstone belts, running in a generally northeastern direction, underlie the higher portions of the Kittatinny Valley. The preceding discussion of the geology was adapted from *The Geology and Landscapes of New Jersey* (Wolfe 1977; Sandy and Kotcho 2015).

There are two soil types present on Walnut Grove Farm, Hazen-Hoosic complex, very stony, with 3 to 8 percent slopes (HdxBb on Sandy and Kotcho 2015: Figure 4), and RnfD—Rock outcrop-Farmington-Galway complex with 15 to 35 percent slopes (RnfD on Sandy and Kotcho 2015: Figure 4) (Shaw and Schoenagel 2007). The second report in this series contains more information on the soils of the farm, including typical profiles from the county soils book (Sandy and Kotcho 2015:6-7).

PRECONTACT BACKGROUND

Introduction

Because of a paucity of information, it is difficult to place the Walnut Grove Farm Site in a Sussex County-wide perspective. There has never been a systematic, scientific, archaeological survey of the County. In fact, the only County-wide site survey was conducted more than 100 years ago (Schrabisch 1915). This was before the advent of the projectile point typologies and radiocarbon dating that are now used to date sites (e.g. Ritchie 1971; Fogelman 1988; Justice 1995). Schrabisch documented sites that were revealed to him by artifact collectors and he specialized in rockshelters (Lenik 1998). He did not explore areas where sites had not been previously reported. He appeared to concentrate his work in locations relatively close to train stations. Clearly, the results of these pioneering studies are not reflective of the actual distribution of sites in Sussex County.

Subsequent investigations by archaeologists were primarily the result of cultural resource management (CRM) studies of areas slated for construction. Most of what is known about Sussex County sites comes from investigations along the Delaware River. In the 1960s, this area was set to be flooded by the proposed (now defunct) Tocks Island Dam (e.g. Kinsey 1972; Kraft 1975, 1978; Marchiando 1972). Later studies funded by the New Jersey Department of Transportation focused on improving existing roadways.

Schrabisch (1915) recorded many Precontact (prehistoric) sites in the Paulins Kill drainage. The overwhelming majority of those sites were well to the southwest of Walnut Grove Farm. An unusually large concentration of sites was west of Newton, in the vicinity of Swartswood Lake.

A survey of registered Precontact sites at the New Jersey State Museum (NJSM) located only one site within a one-mile radius of Walnut Grove Farm. The Branchville South Site (assigned site number 28Sx421 by NJSM) is located in Frankford, on the south side of Route 206 and nearly one mile north of WGF. It was investigated between 2003 and 2009 for a proposed wastewater treatment plant. There were 164 Shovel Tests (STs) and 5 3-foot excavation units. In total, 144 lithic artifacts were found; the vast majority were chert flakes. An untyped stemmed argillite point, cores, and fire-cracked rock (FCR) were also recovered. Soils were similar to those at WGF, Hazen gravelly loam with slopes of 3 to 5 percent (New Jersey State Museum n.d).

Two other registered sites are located more than one-mile northeast of WGF. Site 28Sx210 is located in Frankford, while Site 28Sx209 is located further east in Lafayette. Hampton Township Historian Randy Pittenger reported a possible rockshelter, just registered with NJSM as Price's Rockshelter (28Sx484), a little over one-mile northeast of Walnut Grove Farm.

Previous Investigations

The owners and operators of Walnut Grove Farm have collected stone artifacts found during their cultivation of the property since 1980. Recently, these artifacts were analyzed and photographed, and a report generated (Kotcho 2015). Analysis showed that the site was occupied from the late Middle Archaic period (5000 BC) through to the Late Woodland period (1600 AD). This time range came from well dated projectile points identified in the collection. These include Brewerton Side-Notched, Poplar Island, Lackawaxen, Bare Island, Fishtail variants, Rossville, Fox Creek, Eshback, and Late Woodland triangle points (Fogelman 1988; Kraft 1975; Ritchie 1989). Preliminary excavations at WGF produced and a Fishtail variant. However, some of the non-projectile point artifacts were of types utilized from the Paleo-Indian period (circa 10,000 BC) through the Late Woodland period, but are not diagnostic of any one cultural period. Especially intriguing are the prismatic-type blade and reamer, which resemble types found at Paleo-Indian sites in the Northeast (Gramly 1996). Partially completed bifaces from the collection strongly suggest that chipped stone tool manufacture took place on the site. Projectile points used to kill game and scrapers often used to process animal hides, point to hunting as a major site activity. A core was used to supply flakes, and these flakes could be made into tools. One such core was used as a chopper. Scrapers could have been used to work wood, bone, and hides (Kotcho 2015).

Excavated artifacts included utilized flakes used for cutting or scraping, a flake blade used for cutting, core fragments, and flakes were excavated. Ground stone excavated included an abrader and a pitted stone (Sandy and Kotcho 2015:14-16).

Some of the cobble artifacts surface collected, including a mortar, a pestle, a muller, a grinding stone, and a pitted pounding stone indicate that site inhabitants processed plant materials for food, such as nuts, seeds or maize. All of this is consistent with well documented activities in the region (Kinsey 1972; Kraft 1975). The heavy non-transportable mortar suggests that the site may have been revisited over time (Kotcho 2015).

It highly likely that the black chert, from which the large majority of the artifacts were made, came from sources in the region, including local outcrops in the Paulins Kill drainage. Within the Valley and Ridge Province over 200 prehistoric chert quarries have been documented in the Wallkill River Valley of northern New Jersey and southern New York (LaPorta 1994). The Wallkill River drainage, which flows north from Sparta, New Jersey to New Paltz, New York, is just a few minutes walk north of WGF.

It is likely that the cobble tools were derived from locations near the Paulins Kill, which flows approximately 600 meters west of the site. Chert outcrops along the Paulins Kill were found approximately 850 meters southwest of the Walnut Grove Farm site. Some of the utilized tool stone found in the surface collection, such as argillite, could be from formations in the Middle Delaware River Valley, although there are said to be argillite outcrops in Vernon. Several examples of non-local chert are also noted. These exotic materials were either brought to WGF by foraging groups, traded, or collected by the local inhabitants from their source. However, it could be that they were derived from cobble sources of cherts that were deposited throughout the area during the last glaciations (Kotcho 2015).

FIELD RESULTS

Methods

The archaeological fieldwork at the Walnut Grove Farm Site generally followed the standard methods of Cultural Resource Management (CRM) professionals in New Jersey and New York. Measurements used the metric system. Each excavation was assigned a North and West coordinate (e.g. N30W15). Two types of excavations were carried out, shovel tests and excavations.

Shovel tests (STs) measured about 0.37m (1.25 ft) in plan. Each test was excavated into culturally sterile subsoil. Soil stratigraphy, including colors and textures, were recorded on pre-printed sheets. Soil colors were determined with a Munsell Soil Color Chart. Textures were determined using a flow diagram. All excavated material was sifted through one-quarter inch mesh (6mm) hardware cloth. Shovel tests were excavated at 15m (50 ft) intervals.

Excavation Units (Units) measured 1m square in plan. Unit contexts were determined by natural changes in soil color and/or texture. The topsoil (A horizon) was typically excavated as a single context (1A). Arbitrary contexts were used to subdivide the subsoil (B horizon) when natural strata are absent. These arbitrary levels of the B horizon were typically 20cm (0.67 ft) thick. Excavations continued into culturally sterile subsoil, usually a gravelly C horizon. Precontact features were exposed in plan, then one- half of the anomaly was dug, profiles were drawn, and the second half excavated

Appendix A is the Artifact Inventory. Appendix B is the summary Record of Excavations, which provides Shovel Test and excavation Unit profiles and other information. Appendix C is the NJSM Site Registration Form for Price's Rockshelter. Table 1 summarizes the artifacts recovered. Figure 2 is the current site map; it shows which excavations produced Precontact artifacts. Figure 3 shows the map of previous investigations at WGF.

Results

The Precontact era has been called the *Stone Age*, but many of the artifacts were bone, wood, or string. Due to the acid soils in New Jersey, these perishable materials rarely survive, except at sites such as flooded areas, shell middens, rockshelters, and caves (Funk and Steadman 1994; Sandy 2009). The near absence of Precontact organic remains at WGF must be considered when relating the exclusively lithic artifact inventory to the activities that occurred. The lithic artifacts recovered from the investigations show that specific activities took place in specific locations, and at specific times during the long occupation of the Walnut Grove Farm Site.

There were 25 shovel tests (STs) added in 2015 (ST33 -ST57 (Figure 2, Appendix A and B). The first 19 STs (ST33 – ST51) expanded the previously completed 15m (50 ft) shovel test grid another 30m (100 ft) to the west so that it now extends west for 90m (300 ft) (ie. W90). The final 6 STs (ST52 – ST57) were placed further west (W97.5 to W120) at a sandy knoll where Feature 1 was previously investigated. In total, about 14,000 square meters of WGF has been surveyed.

Four of the 2017 STs (16 percent) produced Precontact artifacts (Figure 2). All but one of the finds, an endscraper from Level 2B in ST40, came from the plowzone (Level 1A). The plowzone finds were 2 flakes a core fragment, and a bipitted stone.

There were 5 basic profiles of these shovel tests. The most common profile, which was found in 12 STs, had 3 strata, A, B, and C horizons, like ST 52 .

ST 52	N150 W97.5			
Depth	**Soil type**	**Color**	**Artifacts**	**Interpretations**
0-32cm	Loam	brown	NCM	Ap
-56cm	Loam	dark yellow brown	NCM	B
-89	Gravelly loam	yellow brown	NCM	C

In tests with this type of profile, the plowzone ranged from 20 to 37cm thick, and was usually gravelly loam or loam, rarely clay loam or silt loam. The B horizon was yellowish brown or dark yellowish

brown and was usually gravelly sandy loam or gravelly loam. The STs on the western knoll had a B horizon of silt loam or loam. The B ranged in thickness from 10 to 29cm. The basal C horizon texture was usually gravelly loamy sand. A few STs had loamy sand, gravelly loam or sandy loam. These tests ranged in total depth from 45 to 89cm.

The second most common profile was present in 10 STs. It had only 2 strata, an A horizon/plowzone over a B horizon. An example is ST51 (Photos 4 and 5).

ST 51	N195 W90			
Depth	**Soil type**	**Color**	**Artifacts**	**Interpretations**
0-37cm	Gravelly loam	brown	NCM	Ap
-62cm	Gravelly loam	light yellowish brown	NCM	B

The plowzone in these STs was between 25 and 38cm of brown gravelly loam. The B horizon texture was usually gravelly loam; two were loam. Colors included dark yellowish brown, light yellowish brown, brownish yellow and yellowish brown. Total depth ranged from 44 to 68cm.

One ST had A and C horizons, with a missing B. One test had an A horizon, a B horizon, and two distinct C horizons. Finally, one ST had a disturbed profile. Artifacts from the STs and Units, broken down into Processing Tools, Debris, and Other classes, are discussed below.

There were two 1m square excavation Units completed on the western knoll (Units 12 and 13 on Figure 2). Located near a patch of Christmas trees, they are about 7m (23 ft) northeast of the cluster of Units 8, 10, and 11 (and Feature 1). The plowzone (Level 1A) was between 31cm and 35cm of brown loam. This plowzone had a sherd of whiteware and a nail fragment in Unit 12, and a piece of fire-cracked rock and a fragment of slag or coal ash in Unit 13. An apparent feature (Feature 2) was delineated in the south half of Unit 12 and the north end of Unit 13. It appeared at the A/B horizon interface as a slightly different shade of dark yellowish brown loam with dispersed fragments of charcoal. At this interface it appeared oval, about 40cm wide (east/west) and 80cm long. Upon excavation, it proved to be irregular ovoid in shape, and was about 60 cm wide (Figures 4a and Photo 7). Feature 2 Level 1 was within Unit 12 and comprised the northern two-thirds of west half of the feature; four pieces of fire-cracked hearth rock were found. The hearth rock was oriented with the long axis vertical, which shows that this feature was backfilled in a single brief episode. Level 2, in the southwest corner of the feature held 4 more pieces of fire-cracked rock. Finally, Level 3, comprising the east half of Feature 2 was excavated. In addition to 3 more pieces of fire-cracked rock, it also yielded two hammerstones and a knife. Feature 2 is an ovoid backfilled pit about 60cm (2.0 ft) to 80cm (2.7 ft) in diameter. It extends about 35cm (1.2 ft) into the subsoil.

Processing of Feature 2 soil in a flotation device was done in an attempt to increase recovery of small artifacts and ecofacts like bone, charcoal and seeds. Flotation separates the matrix into a lighter than water *light fraction* and a heavier than water *heavy fraction* (Sandy 2007). All the soil from Feature 2 Levels 2 and 3 was processed in the flotation device. Both heavy fractions were examined; no artifacts and little charcoal were recovered. The light fractions were not examined but remain available for future ethnobotanical analysis.

Following the removal of Feature 2, about 24cm of the remaining yellowish brown and dark yellowish brown loam and sandy loam matrix of B horizon was removed in two levels in Unit 12. No artifacts were found. Unit 13 was also dug with two levels of B horizon. Level 2 held two cores, one of shale and one of quartzite. Level 3 was culturally sterile. A 20cm (0.7 ft) diameter drill hole full of very sandy loam, thought to be from a Christmas tree planting, was observed near the southeast corner of Unit 13.

PROCESSING TOOLS

Processing tools were used to prepare foods or to create finished products from raw materials such as stone, bone and wood.

An **endscraper** of gray chert came from Level 2B of ST40 (Table 1). It has an acute edge along the latitudinal end. Endscrapers are assumed to have been used for woodworking (Hranicky 2004:225). No endscrapers were among the scrapers from the surface collection from WGF (Kotcho 2015:26).

A **bipitted stone** of sandstone was found in the plowzone of ST53 (Photo 10). This stone is unusual because it has 2 pits on one side and one on the other. It could be called a tripitted stone, since one side has two pits. Pitted stones could have at least three possible functions. Some were used in nutting and or grinding, like those previously identified at Walnut Grove Farm (Kotcho 2015:37-38; Kraft 2001:117-118). Because of the small size of the pits in the excavated specimen, it may have been used as a nutting stone and/or as an anvil when working on small lithics.

TABLE 1: 2015 ARTIFACT SUMMARY

	ST38	ST40	ST42	ST53	U12 F2 L1	U13 L1A	U13 L2B	U13 F2 L2	U12& U13 F2 L3	TOTAL
Endscraper	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Bipitted stone	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Hammerstone	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Knife	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Core	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Core fragment	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Flakes	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
FCR	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	4	3	12
TOTAL	1	2	1	1	4	1	2	4	6	22

A small **knife** of brown siltstone and two **hammerstones** came from Feature 2 Level 3. (Photo 11) Showing only a little use ware, the hammerstones were used briefly then discarded.

DEBRIS

Two **cores** were found in Unit 13 Level 2B (Table 1). One was of brown/green shale while the other was brown/gray quartzite. These pieces of fine-grained rock were sources of flakes and eventually the tools made from flakes.

Core Fragments are broken pieces of a knappable stone formerly used for removing flakes (Hranicky 2004:186). A core fragment came from the plowzone of ST42.

Flakes are the most common find at WGF and most other sites. In the 2013 dig, 40 percent of the artifacts recovered were flakes (Sandy and Kotcho 2015: Table 1). Flakes are removed from stone during the manufacture of artifacts. Harder lithics like chert typically produce flakes with bulbs of percussion, from which emanate concentric circles. Both the flakes from WGF this year are from local black chert. One is primary, that is complete with outer rind. The secondary flake has no sign of the outside of the cobble from which it came.

Fire-cracked rock (FCR) fragments are broken cobbles with angular breaks. They sometimes display reddish discoloration. Selecting the correct rocks for a campfire is important; the wrong rock can explode when heated. There were 12 pieces of fire-cracked rock found; most of it came from Feature 2 (Table 1, Photo 12).

OTHER OBJECTS

Historic debris included a **brick** fragment, a **nail**, a piece of **iron**, **slag** or coal ash, and a piece of **whiteware**.

VISITS TO OTHER SITES

Visits to other important archaeological sites in Sussex County were integral and important parts of the SCCC Archaeological Field School experience. The 2015 visited four sites: Black Creek, Dark Moon, Minisink, and Price's Rockshelter. The Black Creek site (28Sx297) in Vernon is part of Wawayanda State Park, is a National Register Listed Precontact site and was previously investigated by a 2010 SCCC field class, among others (e.g. Sandy 2012a, 2012b).

The Dark Moon Site (28Sx429) is a preserved Woodland Period archaeological site in a natural setting that is open to the public (deVries 1991; Staats *et al.* 1986; Staats and Hartzell 1986; Hartzell 1975, 1982). The experience at Dark Moon was greatly enhanced by the contributions of Walt Godek. Walt has studied the site for years and created models of the house previously excavated at the site (Photos 1 and 2). He toured the site with the class and showed us chert sources there.

The class also toured the Minisink Site and the Bell Browning Site within the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, in Sandyston (New Jersey State Museum 2012; Kraft 1978; Marchiando 1972).

The previous WGF site report documented the distribution of New Jersey State Museum registered archaeological sites within a one-mile radius of Walnut Grove (Sandy and Kotcho 2015:9). Local historian Randy Pittenger took the class on a tour of an unregistered rockshelter about one-mile north of WGF. Pittinger, Professor Sandy and the students then worked up a New Jersey State Museum site registration form for Price's Rockshelter, now also called 28Sx484 (Photo 3; Appendix C).

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2015 Sussex County Community College (SCCC) Archaeological Field School carried out a second round of shovel testing and excavation of test units at the Walnut Grove Farm (WGF) Site in Hampton and Frankford Townships, Sussex County, New Jersey. This report contains the results of the excavations.

Since 1980, the owners of the farm have amassed a surface collection of stone tools, including projectile points. An analysis of that collection identified the artifacts and dated these points. The initial report showed that the site was occupied from the late Middle Archaic period (5000 BC) to the Late Woodland period (1600 AD). This time range came from well dated projectile points, including Brewerton Side-Notched, Poplar Island, Lackawaxen, Bare Island, Fishtail variants, Rossville, Fox Creek, Eshback, and Late Woodland triangle points. Also in the collection, a prismatic-type blade and reamer resemble types found at Paleo-Indian sites in the Northeast. Partially completed bifaces from the collection show that chipped stone tool manufacture took place on the site. Projectile points used to kill game, and scrapers often used to process animal hides, show hunting was a major site activity. A core was used to supply flakes, and these flakes could be made into tools. Scrapers could also have been used to work wood, bone, and hides. Some of the cobble artifacts, including a mortar, a pestle, a muller, a grinding stone, and a pitted pounding stone indicate that site inhabitants processed plant materials for food, such as nuts, seeds or maize (Kotcho 2015).

Previous research at the New Jersey State Museum reviewed registered archaeological sites within a one-mile radius of WGF. There was only one such site, the Branchville South Site 28Sx 421, located nearly one mile to the north. Chert flakes, an untyped stemmed argillite point, cores, and fire-cracked rock (FCR) were recovered. Soils were similar to those at WGF. Hampton Township Historian Randy Pittenger reports a rockshelter site is located a little more than one-mile northeast of WGF. It was partially excavated years ago by local farmers; no report was completed. A New Jersey State Museum- Bureau of Archaeology Site Registration Program Form was completed by the class for this site, called Price's Rockshelter. It was sent to the State Museum which assigned Site Number 28Sx484; a version of the form (with redacted location information is attached as Appendix C.

Testing in 2013 covered the east side of the site with 32 Shovel Tests (STs) completed in a 15m (50 ft) grid. Eleven one-meter square excavation units were opened. A cluster of 3 units were opened on a sandy knoll in the west, in order to expose a feature. Feature 1 was a small pit filled with a sandy matrix; it produced a single stone expedient tool/utilized flake. Other finds in 2013 included a Poplar Island spearpoint from ST1, and a fishtail-like point from Unit 2. Both were found in the plowzone. The Poplar Island point was used from the Middle Archaic through the Middle Woodland (5000 BC–500 AD). The fishtail-like point is thought to date to the end of the Late Archaic, around 1230 BC to 763 BC) (Sandy and Kotcho 2015).

The 2015 Archaeological Field School once again used the same tools, paperwork, and methods as the cultural resource management professionals working in the area. That work typically commences with 15m grid shovel testing to find sites and 7.5m grid tests to examine the site and define site boundaries. These same methods were used at WGF. The 2015 investigations completed 25 STs; the western boundary of the area tested was advanced 45m (150 ft). Part of the site area on the north side of the western knoll got 7.5m interval STs. The artifacts recovered included 2 flakes, a core fragment, an endscaper, a bipitted stone, and two stone cores. A knife, 2 hammerstones, and 12 pieces of fire cracked rock (FCR) came from Feature 2, an ovoid small pit on a sandy knoll on the west side of the property.

Future fieldwork at the Walnut Grove Farm Site should expand the shovel test grid to the west and south so that most of the farm will be tested. Then the site boundaries can be determined. Feature 1 could be re-exposed and the north half excavated. A soil sample from the feature should be retained for possible flotation processing. This and the light fractions from Feature 2 should be subjected to ethnobotanical analysis. Additional shovel testing should expand the area with STs dug at the closer grid intervals of 7.5m. Clusters of tests around a positive STs, should be used to both

define the site and train students. These methods, used in cultural resource management today, will get the students ready to explore Sussex County's exciting past.

The 2015 Sussex County Community College Archaeological Field School was important for several reasons. It marked the second field effort as part of on an ongoing investigation of an important Sussex County archaeological site. Walnut Grove farmers Les and Deb Guile's strong support for the project, including providing an on-site classroom and wet lab, showed that research of this type is desired by the community. Because of this project, SCCC researchers and students are exchanging information with researchers at the Hampton Township Historical Society, and the New Jersey State Museum. Because of this exchange, the SCCC team was able to register, and hopefully protect a Sussex County rockshelter site. The class also met the expert and toured the preserved Dark Moon Site, and also toured two National Register listed archaeological sites in Sussex County. This free-flowing information exchange will benefit SCCC students and the community, and hopefully result in a better understanding of the rich heritage of Sussex County.

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PHOTOS

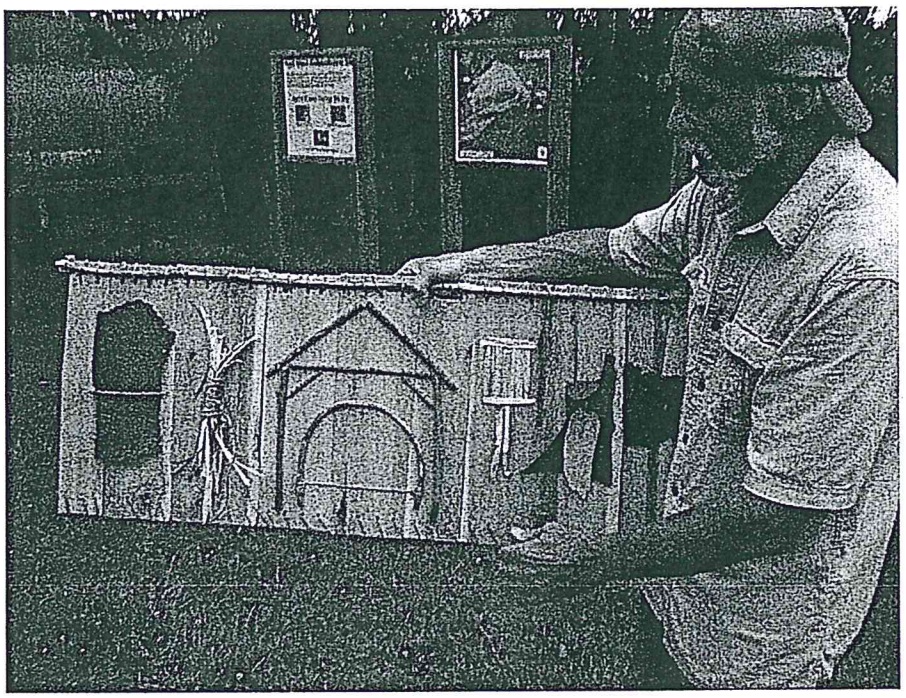


Photo 1. Avocational archaeologist Walt Godek with his board showing details of construction of the houses excavated at the Dark Moon Site.

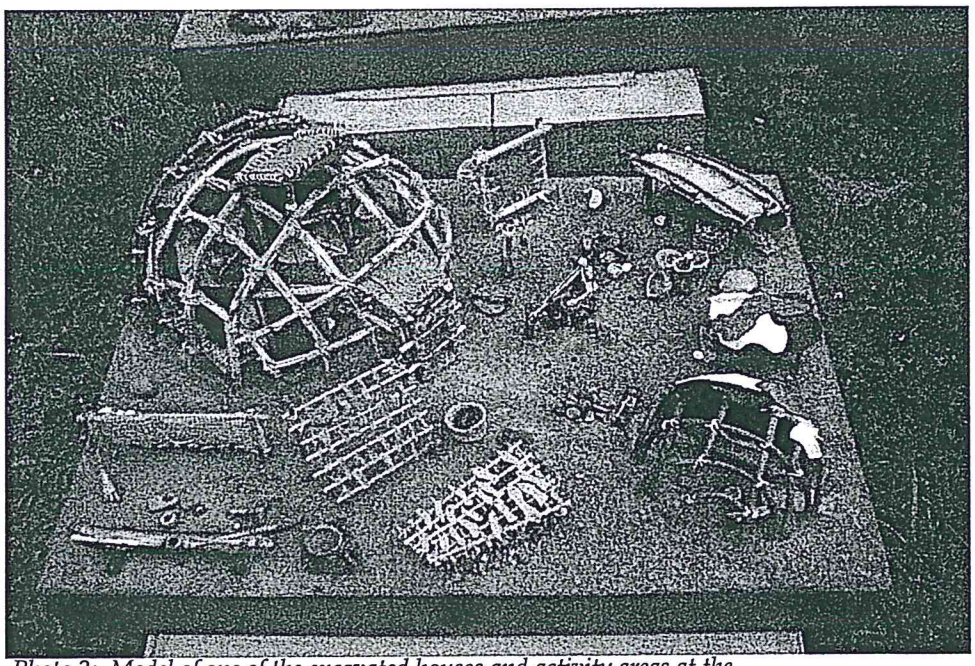


Photo 2: Model of one of the excavated houses and activity areas at the Dark Moon Site

Photo 3: Class with Hampton Township Historian Randy Pittenger at the Price's Rockshelter

Photo 4. View looking north at ST51 on the edge of WGF.

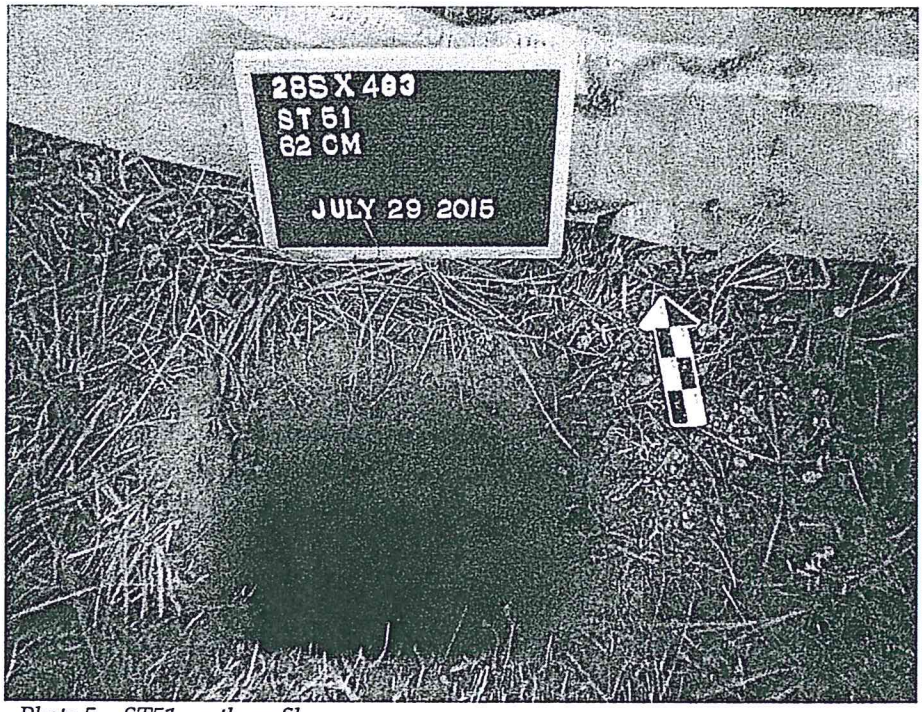


Photo 5. ST51 north profile

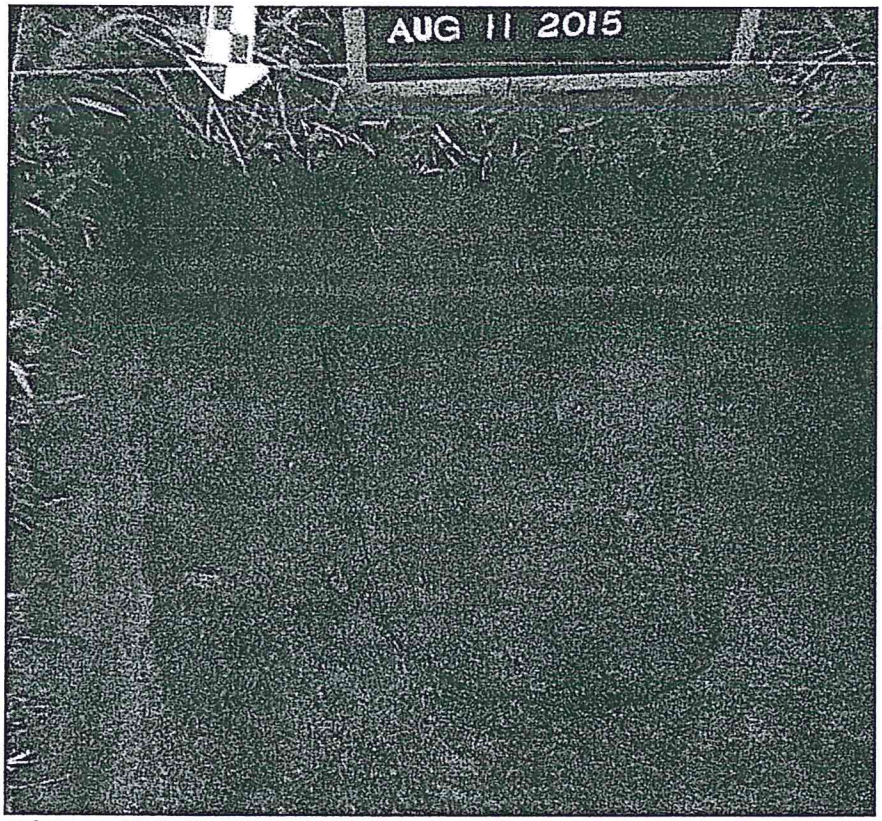


Photo 6. Unit 12 at 50cm showing the top of Feature 2.

Photo 7. Units 12 and 13 with Feature 2 east profile.

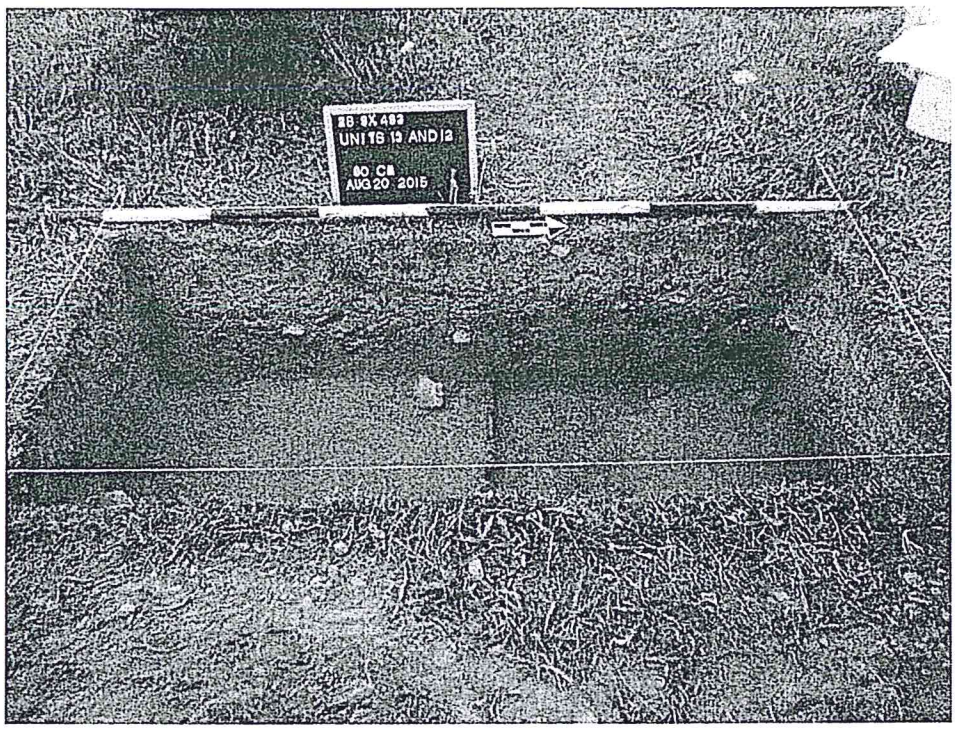


Photo 8. Units 12 and 13 with Feature 2 excavated.

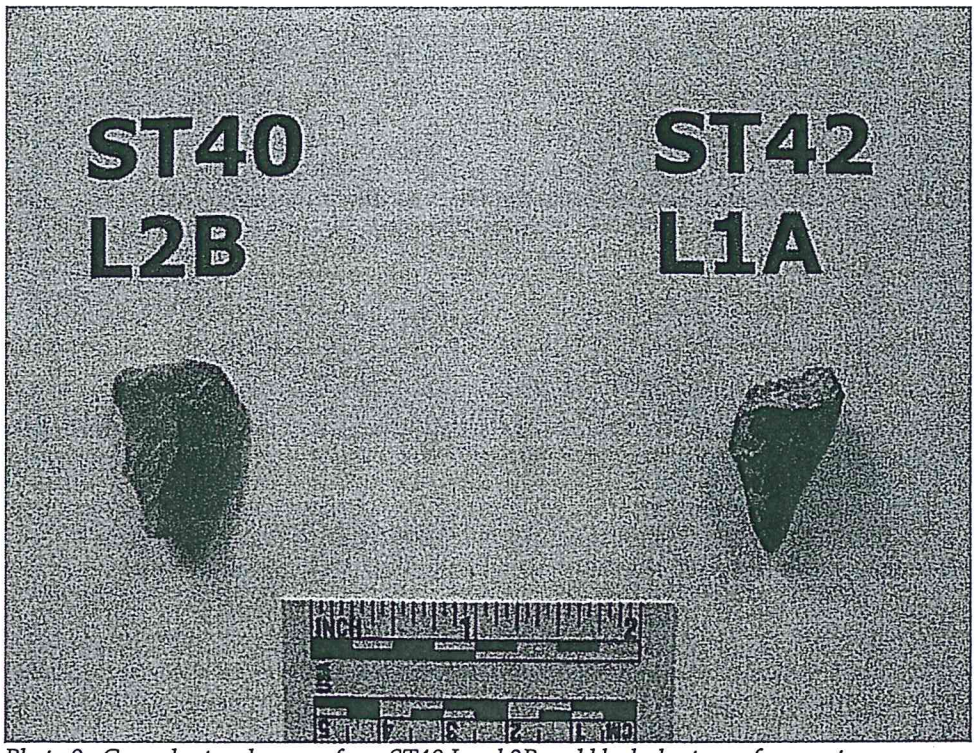


Photo 9. Gray chert endscraper from ST40 Level 2B and black chert core fragment from ST42 Level 1A.

Photo 10. Bipitted stone of sandstone from ST53 Level 1A.

Photo 11. Knife and hammerstones from Units 12 and 13 Feature 2 Level 3.

Photo 12. Fire-cracked rock from Units 12 and 13 Feature 2 Level 3

FIGURES

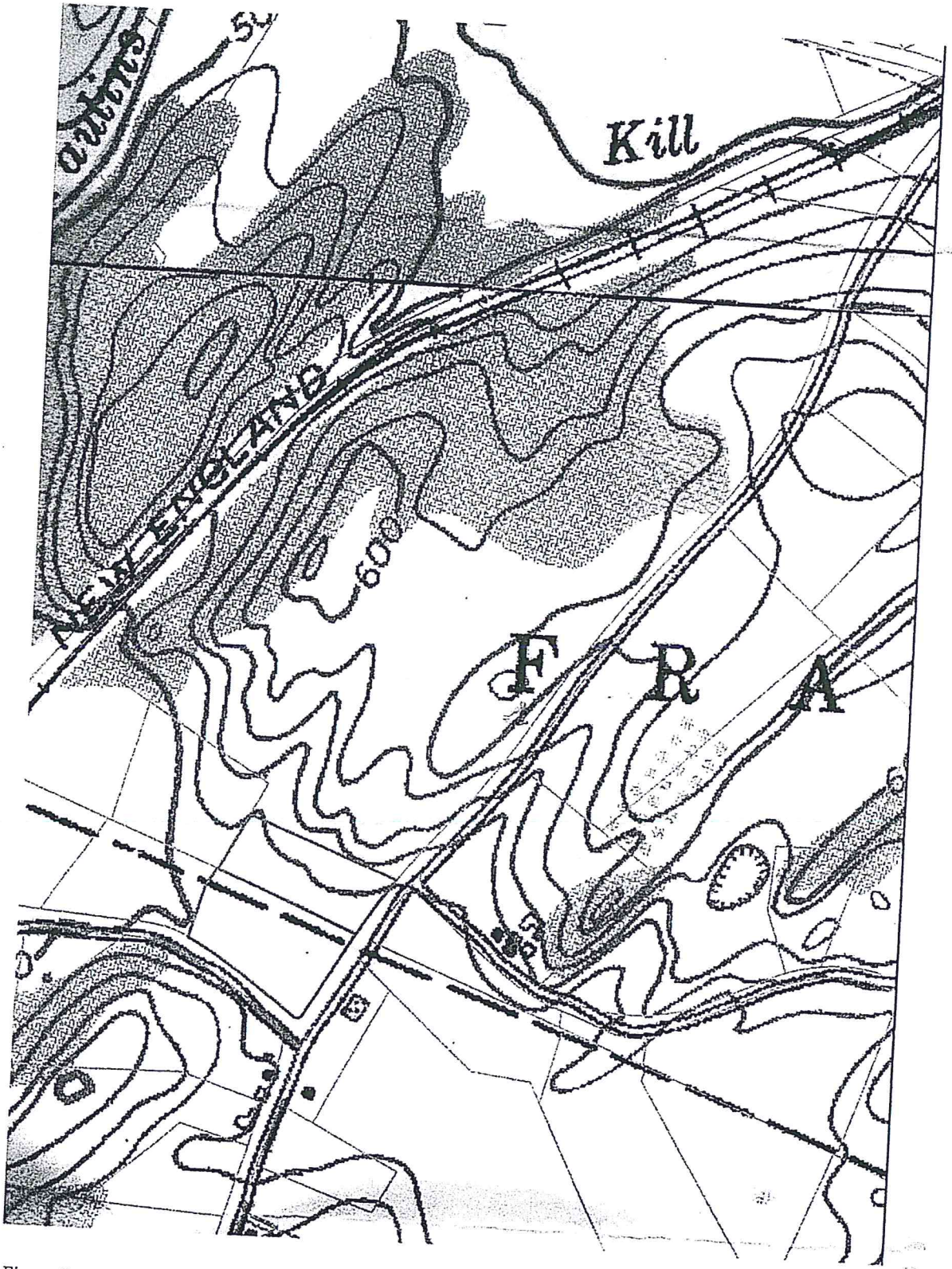


Figure 1 *Part of the USGS Newton East (1964) Branchville (1954) Quadrangles showing the location of the Walnut Grove Farm Site, marked with a blue line (Provided by Les & Deb Guile).*

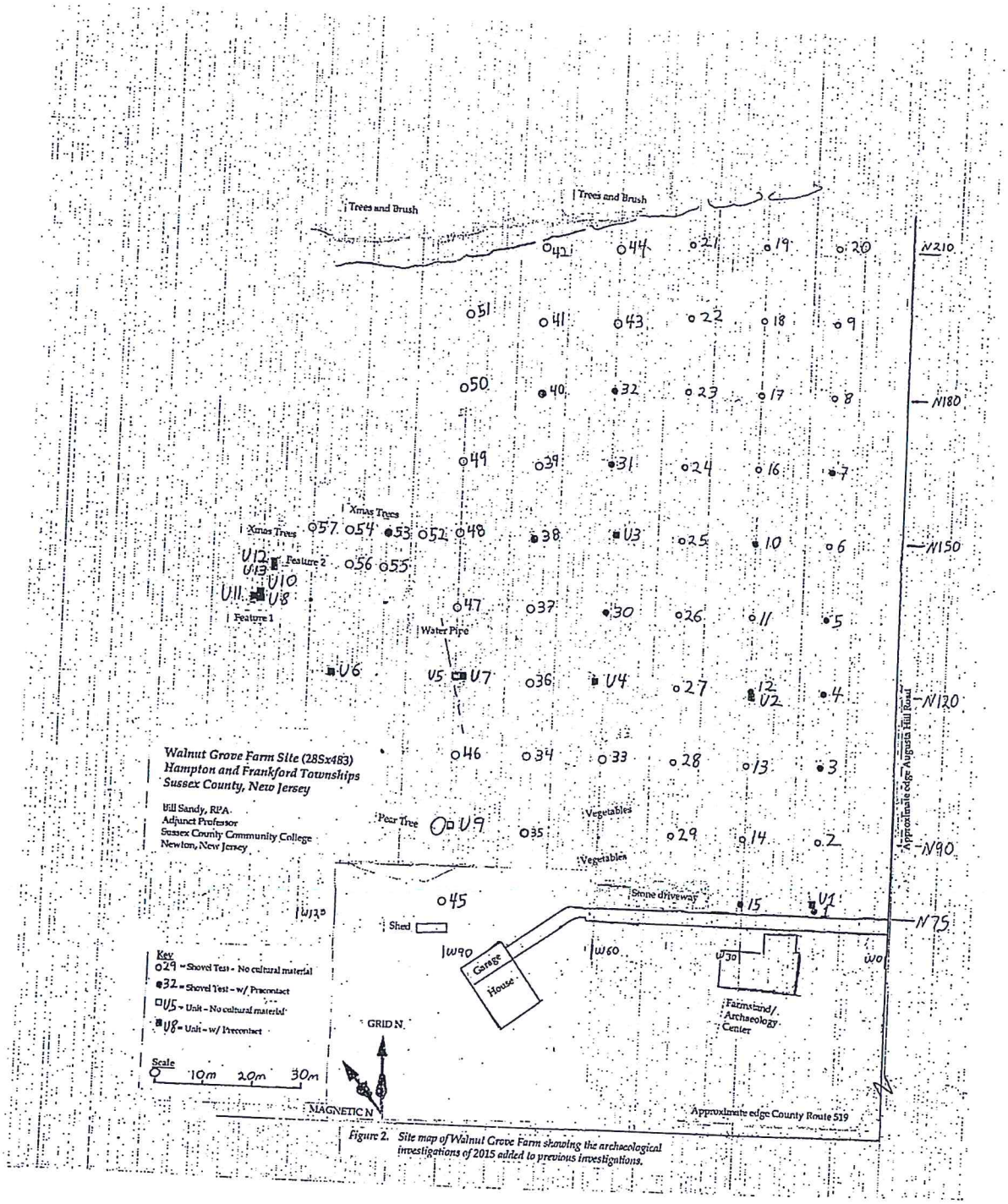


Figure 2. Site map of Walnut Grove Farm showing the archaeological investigations of 2015 added to previous investigations.

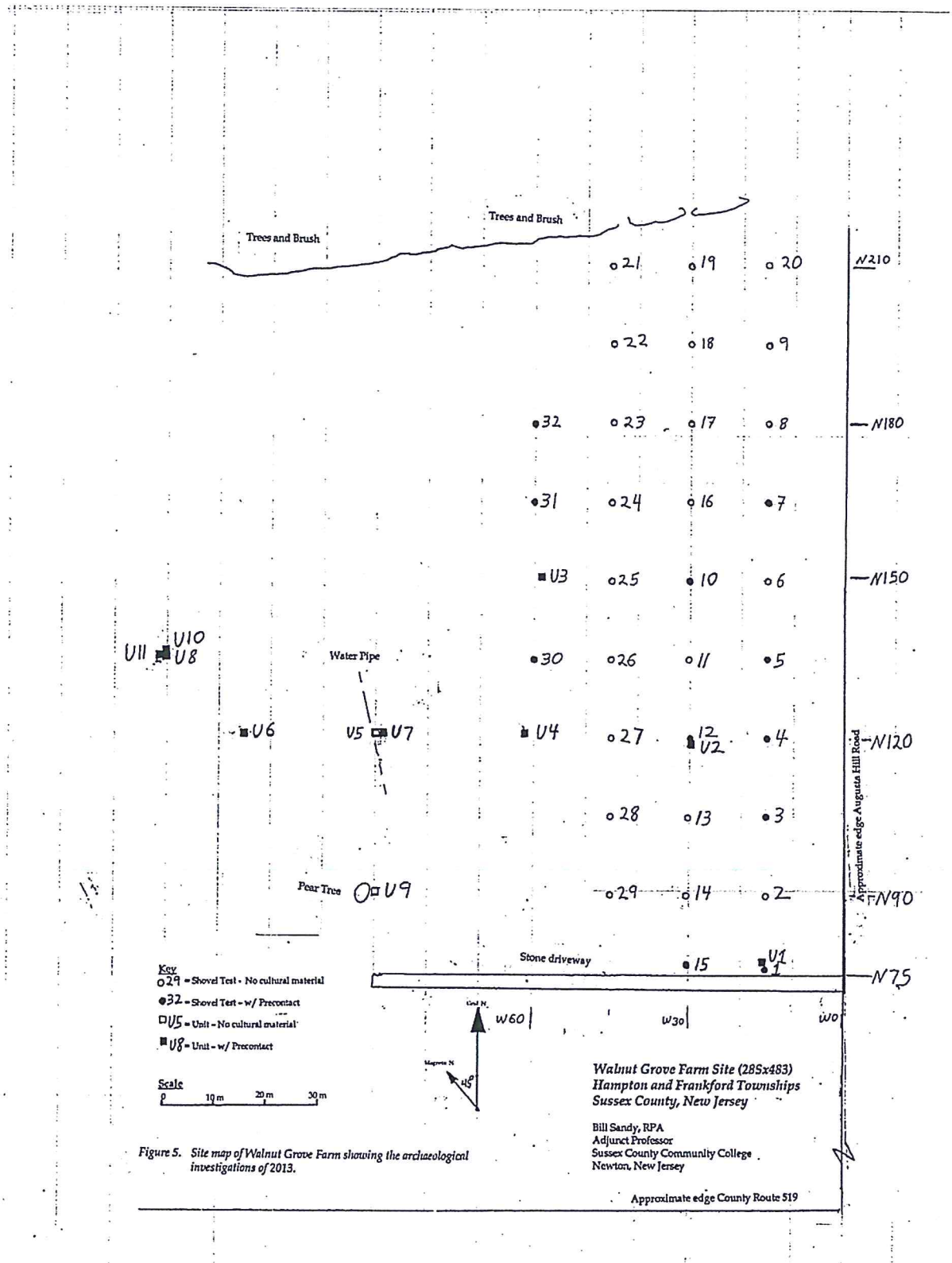


Figure 5. Site map of Walnut Grove Farm showing the archaeological investigations of 2013.

Figure 3. *Site map of Walnut Grove Farm showing the archaeological investigations of 2013.*

KEY

SOILS
A = dark yellowish brown loam w/ charcoal bits
B = dark yellowish brown loam w/ charcoal bits
C = light yellowish brown loam
D = dark yellowish brown sandy loam
E = brownish yellow loam
F - yellowish brown loam

42 = depth (cm below datum)
--- = arbitrary level
R = Rock

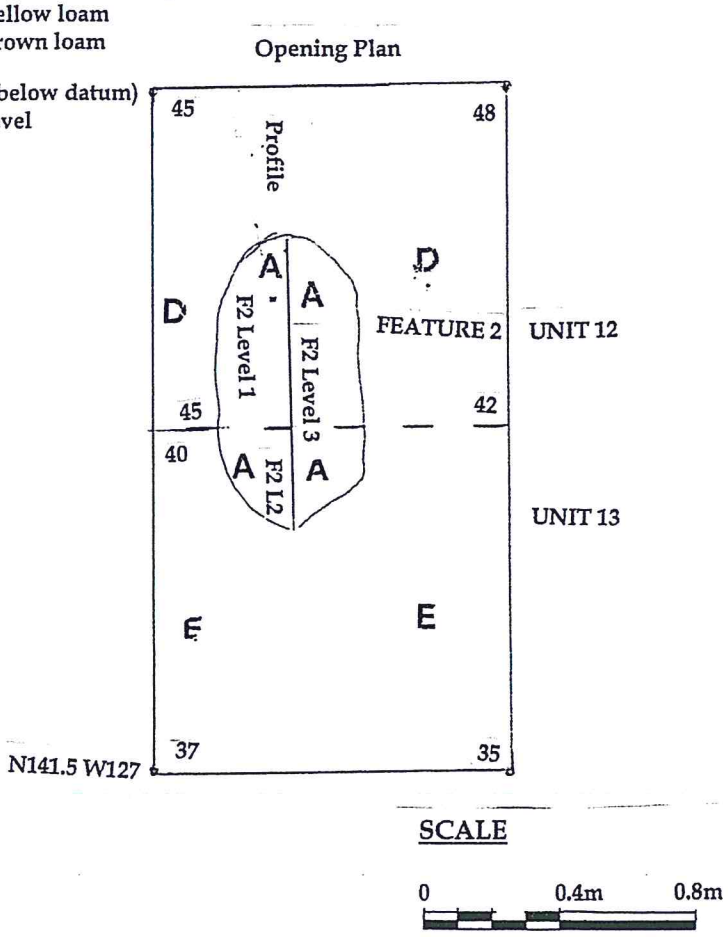


Figure 4a. Opening Plan of Feature 2 in Units 12 and 13.

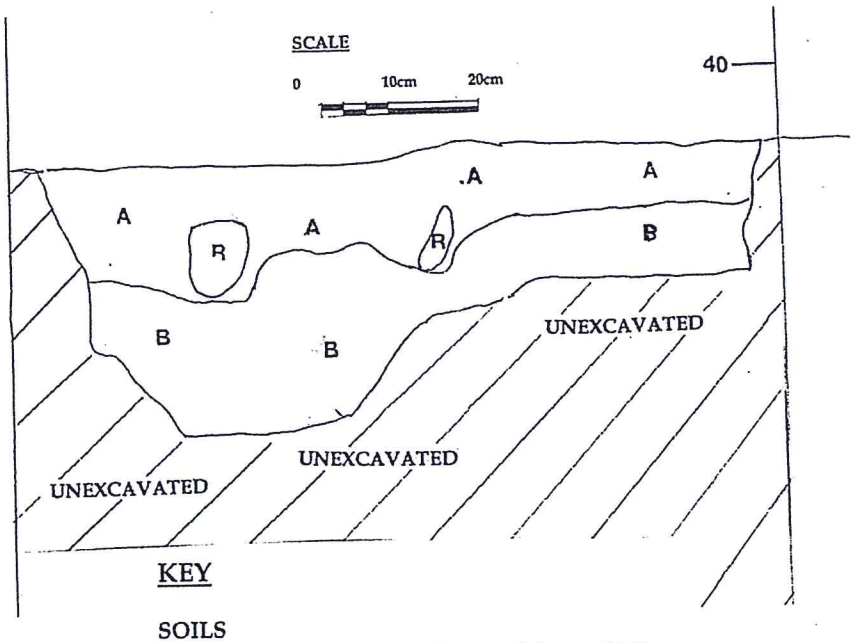


Figure 4b. Profile of Feature 2.

KEY

SOILS
A = dark yellowish brown loam w/ charcoal bits
B = dark yellowish brown loam w/ charcoal bits
C = light yellowish brown loam
D = dark yellowish brown sandy loam
E = brownish yellow loam
F - yellowish brown loam

42 = depth (cm below datum)
--- = arbitrary level
R = Rock

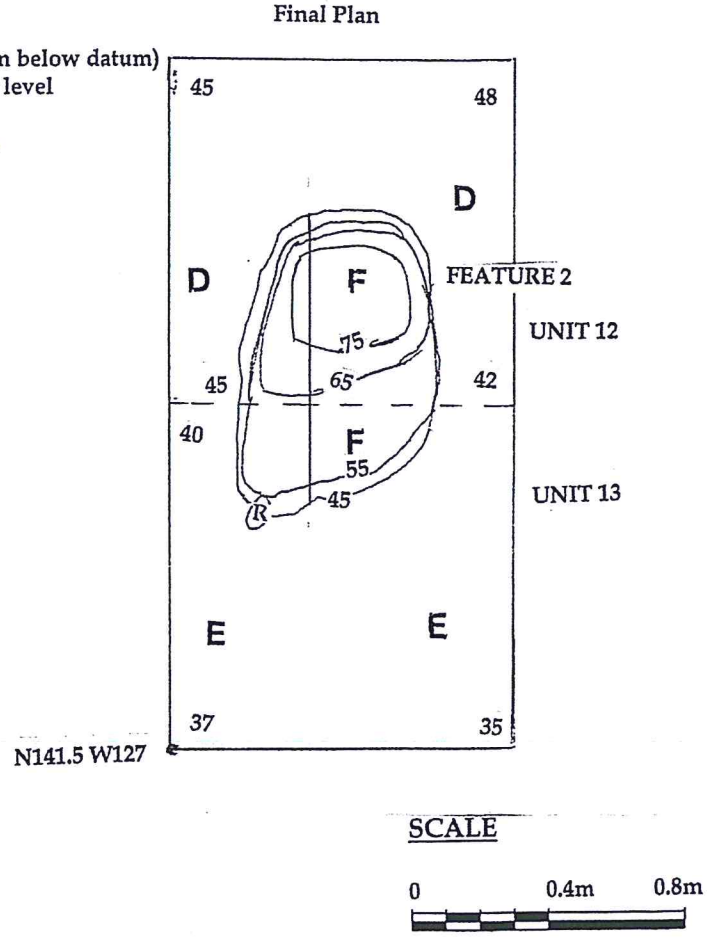


Figure 4c. Final Plan of Feature 2

APPENDIX A

2015 ARTIFACT INVENTORY

Cat. #		
1		ST34 Level 2B
	1	charcoal sample – trace - <0.1g
2		ST35 Level 2 Fill
	1	brick fragment
3		ST38 Level 1A
	1	flake, black chert, secondary
4		ST40 Level 1A
	1	flake, black chert, primary
	1	whiteware
5		ST40 Level 2B
	1	endscraper, grey chert
6		ST42 Level 1A
	1	core fragment, black chert
7		ST53 Level 1A
	1	bipitted stone, sandstone
	1	unidentified iron
8		Unit 12 Level 1A
	1	whiteware
	1	nail fragment
9		Unit 13 Level 1A
	1	fire-cracked rock
	1	slag
10		Unit 13 Level 2B
	1	core, brown/green shale
	1	core, brown/grey quartzite
11		Unit 12, Feature 2 Level 1
	1	fire-cracked rock
12		Unit 12, Feature 2 Level 1- Artifact #1
	1	fire-cracked rock
13		Unit 12, Feature 2 Level 1- Artifact #2
	1	fire-cracked rock
14		Unit 12, Feature 2 Level 1 Artifact #3
	1	fire-cracked rock
15		Unit 13, Feature 2 Level 2
	4	fire-cracked rock

16		Units 12 and 13, Feature 2 Level 3
	2	hammerstones
	1	knife, brown siltstone
	3	fire-cracked rock
17		Feature 2 Level 2- Flotation Heavy Fraction
	1	charcoal sample, trace - <0.1g
18		Feature 2 Level 3- Flotation Heavy Fraction
	1	charcoal sample, trace - <0.1g
	2	seeds, unidentified
19		Feature 2 Level 2- Flotation Light Fraction
20		Feature 2 Level 2- Flotation Light Fraction

APPENDIX B

2015 Record of Excavations

ST or EU	# & Grid Coordinates.	Level	Strata	Depth cmbs	Soil Color	Soil Description	Cultural Material
ST	33 N105W60	1	A	0-31	10YR4/3	GrLo	NCM
ST	33 N105W60	2	B	31-56	10YR5/4	Gr Sa Lo	NCM
ST	33 N105W60	3	C	56-65	10YR5/6	Gr Lo Sa	NCM
ST	34 N105W75	1	A	0-26	10YR4/3	Gr Lo	NCM
ST	34 N105W75	2	B	26-45	10YR5/4	Gr Sa Lo	Charcoal
ST	34 N105W75	3	C	45-58	10YR5/6	Gr Lo Sa	NCM
ST	35 N90W75	1	A	0-35	10YR4/3	Gr Lo	glass*, fabric*
ST	35 N90W75	2	Fill	35-51	10YR4/3 mixed w/ 10YR5/4	Gr Sa Lo	Brick
ST	36 N120W75	1	A	0-37	10YR4/3	Gr Lo	Plastic*
ST	36 N120W75	2	B	37-47	10YR 5/4	Gr Sa Lo	NCM
ST	36 N120W75	3	C	47-63	10YR5/6	GR Lo Sa	NCM
ST	37 N135W75	1	A	0-32	10YR4/3	Gr Lo	NCM
ST	37 N135W75	2	B	32-44	10YR5/4	Gr Lo	NCM
ST	37 N135W753	3	C	44-62	10YR4/4	Gr Lo Sa	NCM
ST	38 N150W75	1	A	0-34	10YR4/3	Gr Lo	Flake, plastic*
ST	38 N150W75	2	B	34-46	10YR 5/4	Gr Lo	NCM
ST	38 N150W75	3	C	46-56	10YR4/4	Gr Lo Sa	NCM
ST	39 N165W75	1	A	0-26	10YR4/3	Gr Lo	NCM
ST	39 N165W75	2	B	26-50	10YR5/4	Gr Lo	NCM
ST	39 N165W75	3	C	50-59	10YR5/3	Gr Lo Sa	NCM
ST	40 N180W75	1	A	0-34	10YR4/3	Gr Lo	1 flake, 1 whiteware
ST	40 N180W75	2	B	34-58	10YR6/4	Gr Lo	1 endscraper
ST	41 N195W75	1	A	0-25	10YR4/3	Gr Lo	NCM
ST	41 N195W75	2	B	25-65	10YR6/6	Gr Lo	NCM
ST	42 N210W75	1	A	0-23	10YR4/4	Gr Lo Sa	1 core frag.

ST	42 N210W75	2	C	23-44	10YR 5/4	Gr Sa Lo	NCM
ST	43N195W60	1	A	0-35	10YR4/3	Gr Lo	NCM
ST	43 N195W60	2	B	35-59	10YR6/6	Gr Lo	NCM
ST	44 N210W60	1	A	0-29	10YR4/3	Gr Lo	NCM
ST	44 N210W60	2	B	29-56	10YR5/6	Gr Lo	NCM
ST	45 N75W90	1	A	0-34	10YR4/3	Gr Lo	NCM
ST	45 N75W90	2	B	34-52	10YR4/6	Gr Lo	NCM
ST	45 N75W90	3	C	52-56	10YR5/6	Gr Lo Sa	NCM
ST	46 N105 W90	1	A	0-28	10YR4/3	Gr Lo	NCM
ST	46 N105 W90	3	B	28-40	10YR4/4	Gr Lo	NCM
ST	47 N135 W90	1	A	0-37	10YR4/3	Gr Lo	NCM
ST	47 N135 W90	2	B	37-60	10YR5/6	Gr Lo	NCM
ST	48 N150W90	1	A	0-29	10YR3/4	Lo	NCM
ST	48 N150W90	2	B	29-58	10YR4/6	Sa Lo	NCM
ST	48 N150W90	3	C	58-70	10YR3/6	Lo Sa	NCM
ST	49 N165W90	1	A	32	10YR4/3	Gr Lo	NCM
ST	49 N165W90	2	B	32-44	10YR4/6	Gr Lo	NCM
ST	50 N180W90	1	A	0-30	10YR4/3	Gr Lo	NCM
ST	50 N180W90	2	B	30-56	10YR6/4	Lo	NCM
ST	51 N195W90	1	A	0-37	10YR 4/3	Gr Lo	NCM
ST	51 N195W90	2	B	37-62	10YR6/4	Gr Lo	NCM
ST	52 N150W97.5	1	A	0-32	10YR4/3	Lo	NCM
ST	52 N150W97.5	2	B	32-56	10YR4/6	Lo	NCM
ST	52 N150W97.5	3	C	56-89	10YR5/6	Gr Lo	NCM
ST	53 N150W105	1	A	0-38	10YR4/3	Lo	1 iron unident, 1 pitted stone
ST	53 N150W105	2	B	38-68	10YR6/4	Lo	NCM
ST	53 N150W105	3	C	68-74	10YR6/6	Lo	NCM
ST	54 N150W112.5	1	A	0-33	10YR4/3	Lo	NCM
ST	54 N150W112.5	2	B	33-49	10YR6/4	Lo	Coal*
ST	54 N150W112.5	3	C	49-55	10YR6/6	Lo Sa	NCM
ST	54 N150W112.5	4	C	55-68	10YR5/6	Gr Lo	NCM
ST	55 N142.5W105	1	A	0-34	10YR3/6	Si Lo	NCM
ST	55 N142.5W105	2	B	34-52	10YR4/6	Si Lo	NCM

ST	55 N142.5W105	3	C	52-78	10YR5/6	Lo Sa	NCM
ST	56 N142.5W112.5	1	A	0-33	10YR4/3	Lo	NCM
ST	56 N142.5W112.5	2	B	33-46	10YR5/8	Lo	NCM
ST	56 N142.5W112.5	3	C	46-62	10YR5/4	Sa Lo	NCM
ST	57 N150W120	1	A	0-20	10YR4/3	Cl Lo	NCM
ST	57 N150W120	2	B	20-40	10YR4/4	Lo	NCM
ST	57 N150W120	3	C	40-45	10YR4/4	Gr Lo	NCM
EU	12 N142.5W127	1	A	10-50	10YR4/3	Lo	2 nails, 1 whiteware
EU	12 N142.5W127	2	B	46-64	10YR3/4	Sa Lo	NCM
EU	12 N142.5W127	3	B	57-73	10YR4/6 & 10YR5/6	Lo & Sa Lo	NCM
EU	13 N141.5W127	1	A	6-42	10YR4/3	Lo	1 FCR, 1 slag
EU	13 N141.5W127	2	B	38-55	10YR6/6	Lo	2 cores
EU	13 N141.5W127	3	B	49-65	10YR5/6	Gr Lo	NCM
EU	2 N142.5W127	1	B	48-80	10YR4/4 & 10YR4/6	Lo	4 FCR
EU	2 N142.5W127	2	B	46-62	10YR4/4 & 10YR4/6	Lo	4 FCR
EU	2 N141.5W127	3	B	42-77	10YR4/4 & 10YR4/6	Lo	3FCR, 2 hammers, 1 knife

NCM = NO CULTURAL MATERIAL
Lo = Loam
Gr = Gravel
Sa = Sand
Si = Silt
Cl=Clay
Ch=Channery
EU=Excavation Unit
ST=Shovel Test
FE=Feature
FCR= Fire-Cracked Rock

Appendix C. New Jersey State Museum Site Registration Form- Price's Rockshelter 28Sx484

NEW JERSEY STATE MUSEUM

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE REGISTRATION PROGRAM

BUREAU OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND ETHNOLOGY

P.O. BOX 530, TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0530
Phone (609) 292-8594; Fax (609) 292-7636

Site Name: Price's Rockshelter **SITE #:** 28-Sx-

☒ Check this box if you prefer to have this site information restricted to professional archaeologists, academics and environmental researchers conducting project background research. If so, this form will be considered donated information according to New Jersey State Law.

Date: Aug. 7, 2015

NJ State Plane Coordinates:

USGS 7.5 Minute Series Quad.: Newton East

State Plane Coordinates:

UTM Coordinates (required): E523200 N4652000

County: Sussex **Township:** Frankford

Location (descriptive): East of the trail that leads northeast from Prices Road and about 50 feet (7.5m) below the top of the ridge.

Survey Methodology **Academic Research** – Sussex Co. Community College Archaeological Field School

Period of Site:

Undetermined Precontact

Cultural Affiliation(s) (if known): Unknown

Owner's (Tenant's) Name: Kittatiny Valley State Park
P.O. Box 1100 Andover, NJ 07821-0621

Address

Phone: 973-786-6445

Attitude Toward Preservation: Unaware. Sussex Branch Trail.

Surface Features: Prominent overhang.

Prominent Landmarks: At the NE end of the ridge that runs from the Prices Road trailhead. Near mowed field.

Vegetation Cover: Forest.

Nearest Water Source: Paulins Kill **Distance:** 500 ft (150m)

Soil Type: Nassau- Rock Outcrop Complex (NfE) 25 - 45% slope **Erosion:** Little

Stratified (if known):

Threat of Destruction (if known): Looting/unauthorized excavation.

Previous Work and References (list below):

Name	Date	Reference (n/a if unpublished)

1.	Pittenger, Randy	2015	Conversation between Hampton Twp. Historian and farmer Robert Price.
2.			
3.			

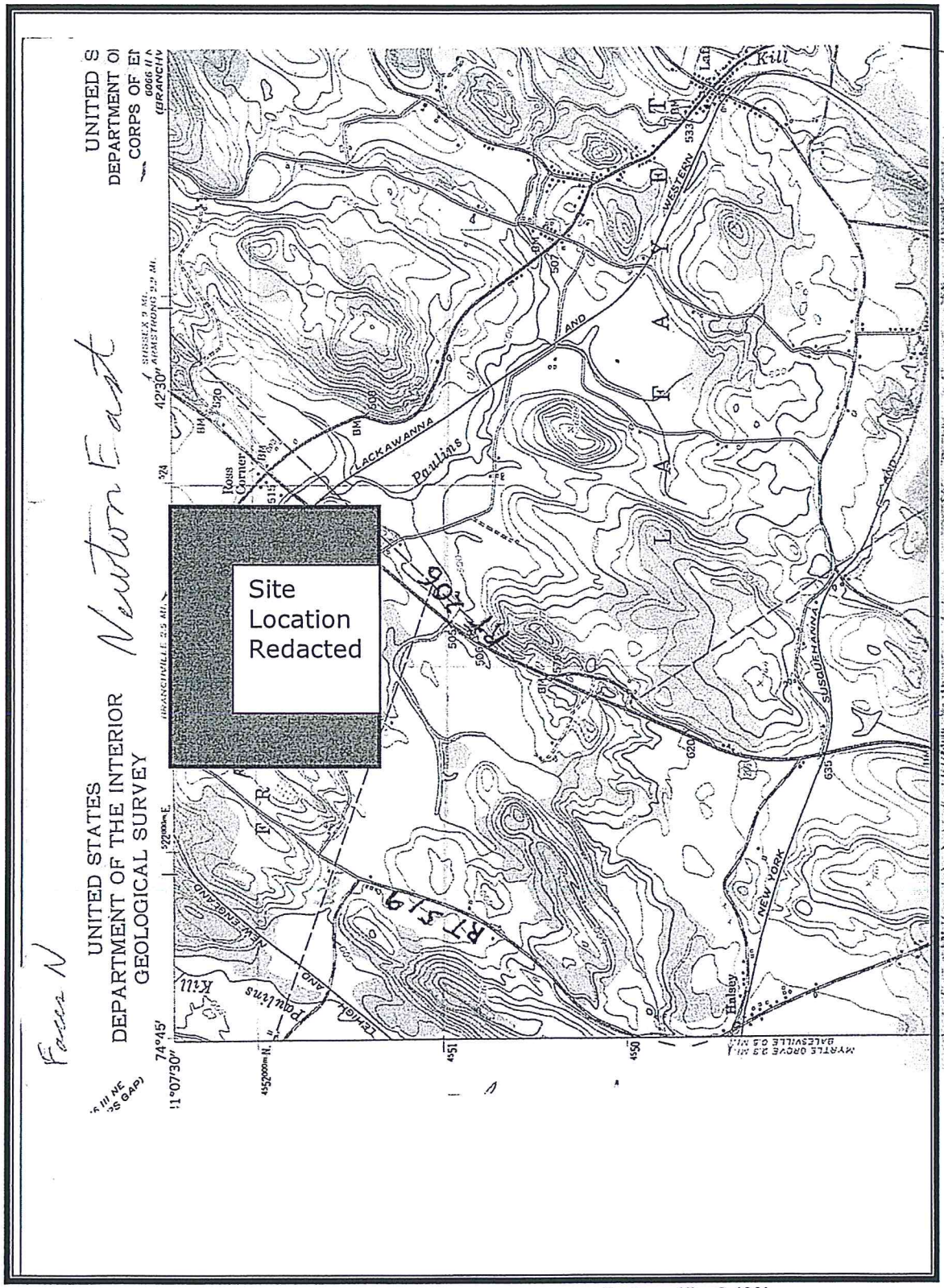
Collections:

	Name	Date	Collection Stored	Previous Designation
1.	None			

Sketch Map of the Site:

Indicate the chief topological features, such as streams, swamps, shorelines, and elevations (approximate). Also show buildings and roads. Indicate the site location by enclosing the site area with a dotted line. Use a scale (approximate) to indicate distance and dimensions.

East



Scale: 1" = 2,400'

Observations, Remarks, or Recommendations:

Price's Rockshelter is west of the trail that runs along the ridge north of the trailhead on Prices Road. It is about XXXX ft (XXXm) northeast of the Road. According to local farmer Robert Price, the rockshelter was partially excavated by unidentified railroad workers ca 1950s. What they recovered and its whereabouts are unknown. The rockshelter measures 5.5m (18 ft) wide, 3.25m (10.7 ft) deep and 1.4m (4.6 ft) high, and faces north. It overlooks the Paulins Kill to the northeast, as well as the old DL&W Railroad, now the Sussex Branch Trail.
LOCATION INFORMATION REDACTED

Recorder's Name (Company):	William Sandy, Adjunt Prof. SCCC	Randy Pittenger
Address:	2403 Co. Rt. 1 Westtown, NY 10998-2704	78 Highview Dr. Newton, NJ 07860
Phone:	845-726-0956	973-670-7764
Date Recorder at Site:	July, 2015	**Revised 2007**