PA-08

THE CULLERS SITE
44PA128
PAGE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Keith T. Egloff
Mary Ellen Norrisey Hodges

TECHNICAL REPORT SERIES NO. 2

1989

Department of Conservation and Historic Resources
Division of Historic Landmarks
221 Governor Street
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INTRODUCTION

The Cullers Site (44PA128), named for the property's owner, Jack Cullers, is located along the south bank of Hawksbill Creek in Page County, Virginia (Figure 1). It was first reported by William Boyer in May 1978. On 9 August 1978, personnel from the Division of Historic Landmarks undertook two weeks of rescue excavations on that portion of the site threatened by the widening of Route 648.

The site consisted of a historic cabin's stone foundation dated to ca. 1790-1893 (Figure 2). Adjacent to the foundation, stratified layers of historic flood deposits and historic topsoil contained artifacts dating from the last decade of the eighteenth century through the first half of the nineteenth century. These historic levels overlay a prehistoric midden radio-carbon dated to A.D. 1000±60 (U Ga-2546). The English system of feet and tenths of feet was used during the excavation while the metric system was employed during artifact analysis.

The prehistoric ceramic assemblage consisted of crushed rock-tempered and limestone-tempered wares and a small amount of

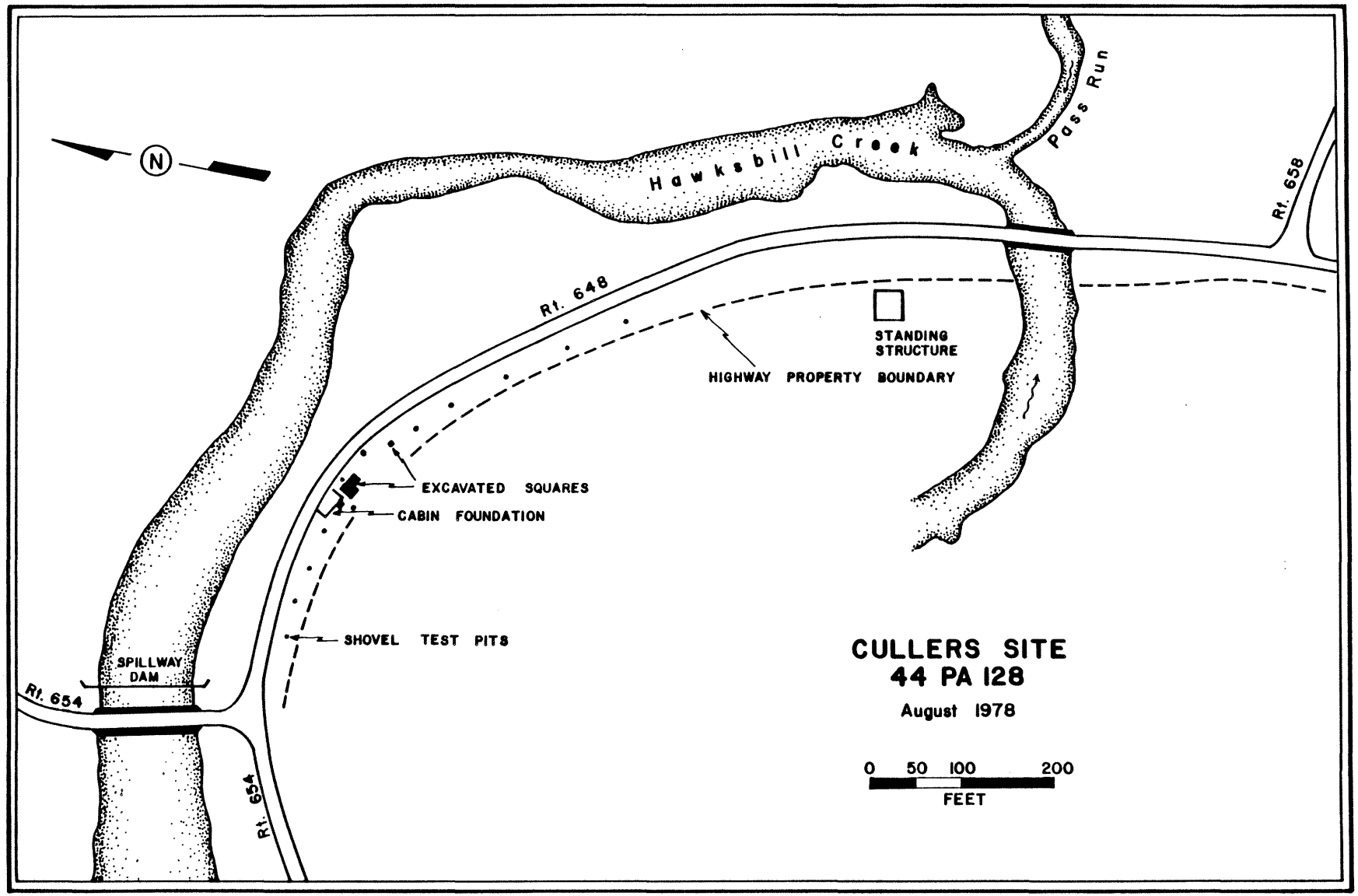

Figure 1. Hawksbill Creek Vicinity Map.

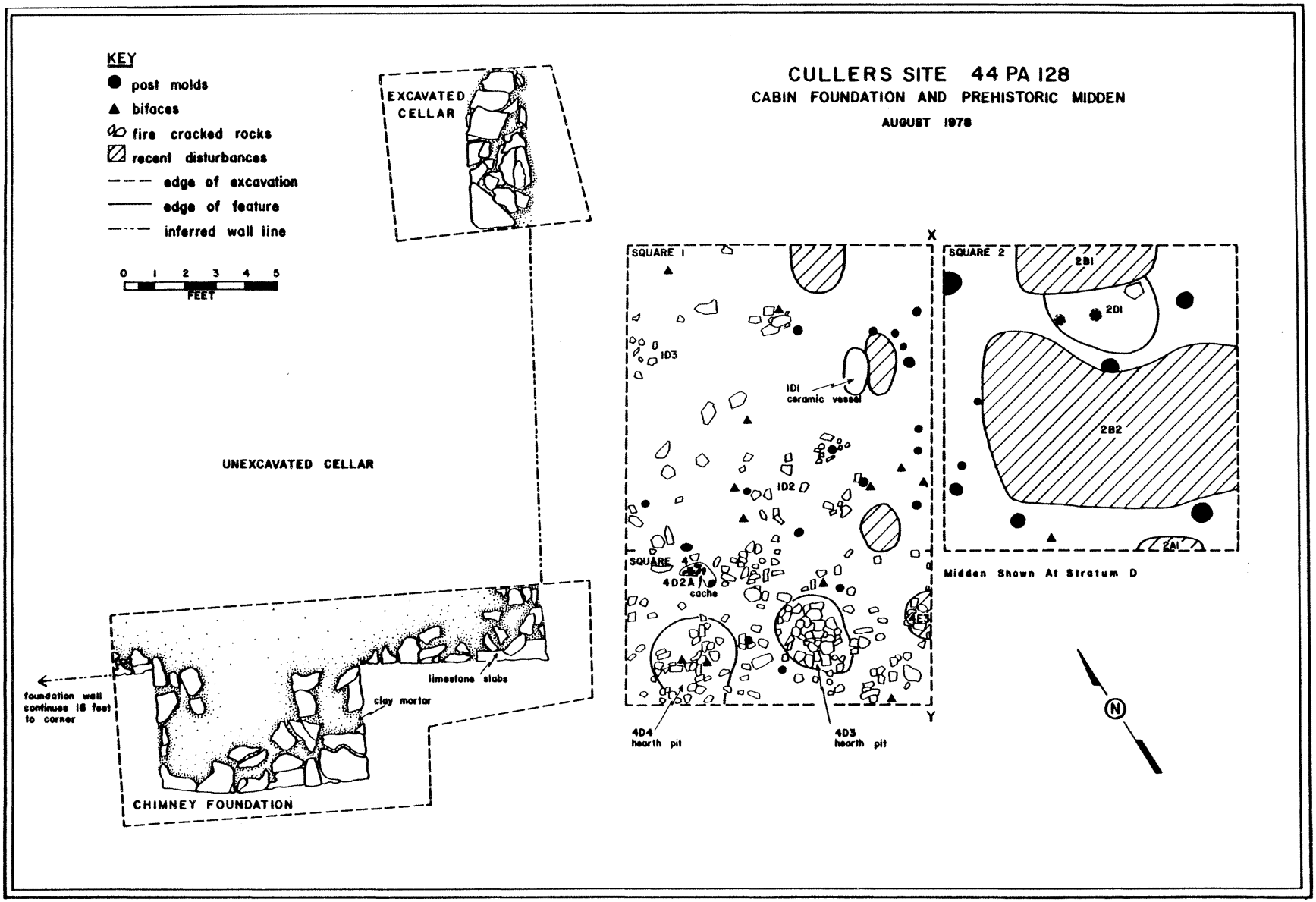

Figure 2. Cullers Site Map.

shell-tempered pottery. The surface treatment of the pottery consisted mainly of impressions of a wicker or simple plaited fabric of medium width with some cord-marked sherds. Preliminary analysis of the crushed rock-tempered wares revealed a remarkable diversity of tempering materials. Chert, quartzite, and quartz respectively were used most frequently, but these materials also were used in combination and with other igneous and sedimentary rocks.

A large number of prehistoric lithic artifacts of all categories -- various sizes of triangular projectile points, bifaces, utilized and retouched flakes, hammerstones, cores, and debitage -- were recovered from the site. The lithic assemblage suggests that intense hunting and lithic reduction activities occurred at the site.

EXCAVATION UNITS

A series of shovel test pits placed approximately every 50 feet was excavated along the 20-foot wide strip of land acquired by the Virginia Department of Highways and Transportation (VDHT) for the widening of Route 648 (Figure 1). The test pits and one 2-foot test square revealed that the major artifact concentration and sole area of preserved stratigraphy occurred adjacent to the cabin's stone foundation. Evidently, the area adjacent to the cabin had never been plowed or disturbed by major farming activities. In all other areas tested, the stratigraphy

consisted of a plow zone directly on top of a featureless loose yellow sand and gravel subsoil.

Five squares were excavated: two exposed portions of the cabin foundation and three through the prehistoric midden (Figures 1 and 2). The first two contiguous 10′ X 10′ squares were excavated east of the cabin foundation. Then, in order to retrieve a larger sample of the midden, a 5′ X 10′ test unit was removed south of Square 1. The east profile of Square 2 showed no existing midden 23 feet east of the cabin foundation. Thus, Squares 1, 2 and 4, comprising a total of 250 square feet, probably contained 90 percent of the site's preserved midden that had escaped the construction of the cabin and of Route 648 and the plowing of the adjacent field. All soil was sifted through 1/4" mesh hardware cloth.

Two irregular shaped squares were placed over the semi-exposed stone chimney base and cellar foundation of the cabin (Figure 2). Soil was not sifted, although artifacts were saved when encountered. Shovel test holes and probing revealed the dimensions of that portion of the foundation that had escaped the construction of Route 648.

In Squares 1, 2, and 4 selected strata were further sub-divided into quadrants (5′ X 5′ squares) to gain better horizontal control over the distribution of artifacts. In Square 1, Stratum D was divided into excavated units 1D4-1D7, and Stratum E was divided into 1E1-1E4. In Square 2, Strata A and B were divided

into 2A2-2A5 and 2B3-2B6, while in Square 4 Strata D and E were divided into 4D1-4D2 and 4E1-4E2.

Thorough records were maintained of the excavation. All strata and features were not only drawn in plan and profile, but also were recorded with black and white photographs and color slides. Charcoal, soil, and 1/16" water-screen samples were recovered from selected strata and features.

STRATIGRAPHY

As mentioned previously, all areas tested for stratigraphy, except the area just east of the cabin foundation, consisted of a plow zone on top of a featureless loose yellow sand and gravel subsoil. Directly east of the cabin foundation was a section of prehistoric midden.

The stratigraphy of the site was best revealed in the 15′ profile along the east side of Squares 1 and 4 (Figures 3 and 4). There, a light brown, sandy topsoil (Stratum A, about .2′ to .4′ thick) covered a loose, tan, sandy soil with lensing (Stratum B), about .3′ to .5′ thick, that may represent the 1983 flood that floated the wood-framed cabin structure off its stone foundation and down Hawksbill Creek (Culler 1978: personal communication). Below Stratum B, a medium brown, sandy soil (Stratum C), about .2′ to .3′ thick, probably represents the 1790-1893 historic occupation of the cabin. The thin prehistoric midden, Stratum D, varying from .2′ to .4′ in thickness, underlaid the historic occupation.

The midden was the remnant of an old humus topsoil that overlaid Stratum E, a loose yellow sand and gravel subsoil. This layer grades into Stratum F, which was coarser and contained more gravel and cobble-size rocks.

PREHISTORIC FEATURES

Notable prehistoric features uncovered at the Cullers Site can be divided into five types: 1) half of a ceramic vessel (1D1); 2) quartzite biface cache (4D2A); 3) basin-shaped pit (2D1) and hearth pits (4D3, 4D4); 4)fire-cracked rock concentrations (1D2, 1D3); and 5) post molds.

Half of a crushed chert-tempered, wicker-fabric-impressed vessel (Figure 5) was revealed in an unusually whole state of preservation lying on the midden, Stratum D. This suggests that the vessel may date from the last period of occupation at the site. The vessel is an excellent representation of one of the predominant ceramic types found at the Cullers Site.

A cache of seven worked quartzite chunks was uncovered in the midden of Square 4. None of the chunks was flaked into tools, but they do exhibit retouched and utilized edges that represent simplistic unifacial and bifacial tools. Other retouched and utilized flakes and chunks of jasper, quartz, and quartzite were found in Stratum D. Many of the notable lithic tools were mapped <u>in situ</u> (Figure 2). The scope of the present report includes a

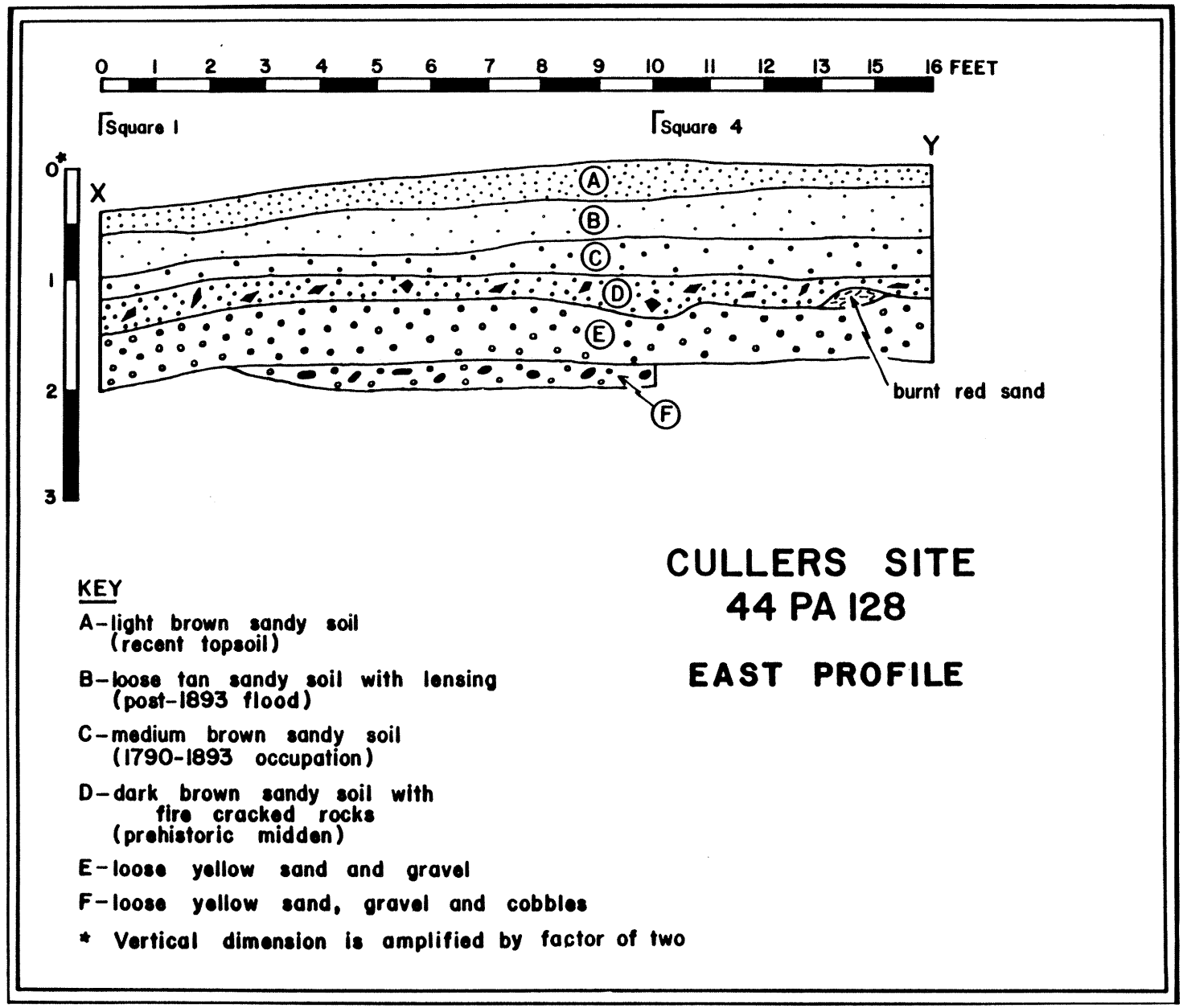

Figure 3. Drawing of East Profile of Square 1 and 4.

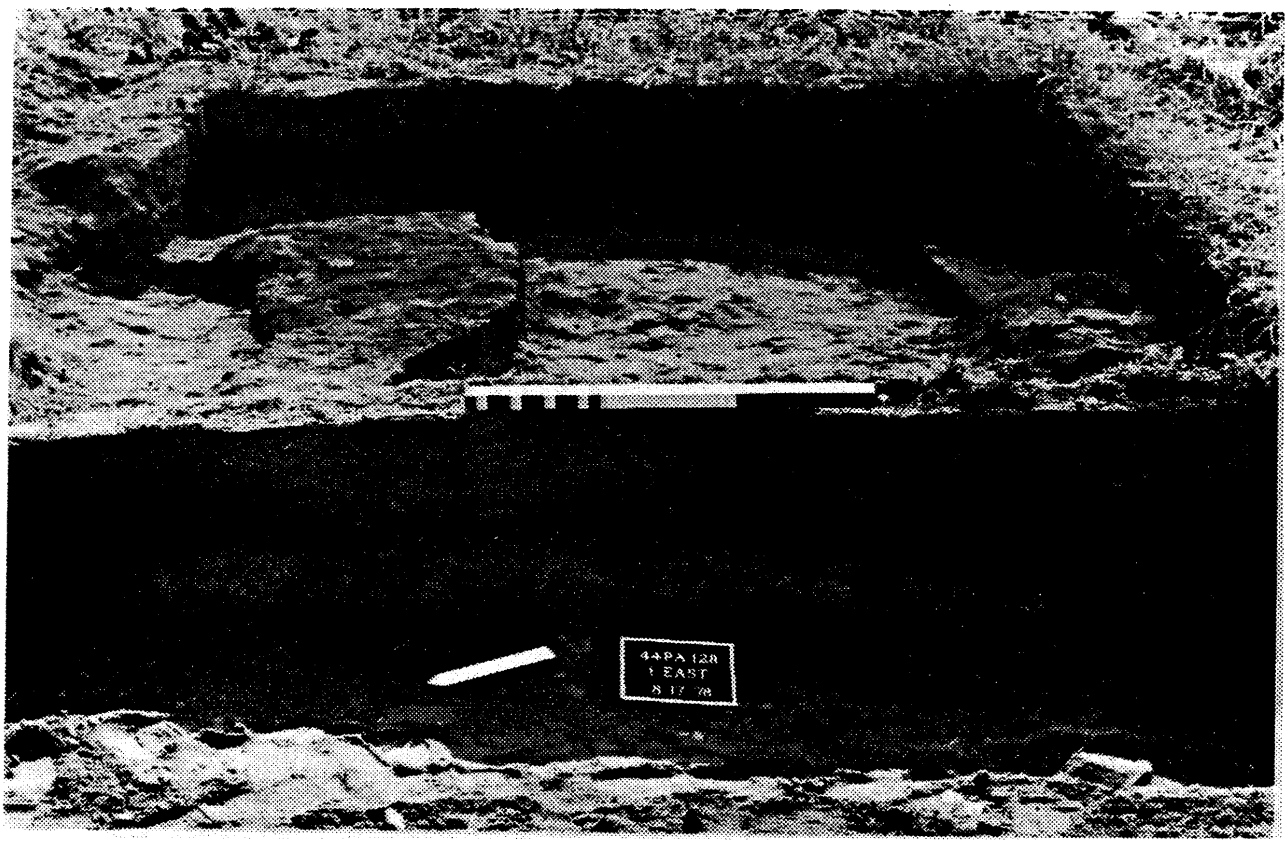

Figure 4. East profile of Square 1. Note Stratum D, a dark midden, on top of loose yellow sand and gravel subsoil (Stratum E). Square 2 with horse burial pit (2B2) in background. Facing east.

detailed study of the types and distribution of the lithic artifacts by square and level.

Three prehistoric pit features were uncovered during excavation. A basin-shaped pit (2D1), intruded by a historic feature on its northern side was 3.7′ E-W by 2.0′ N-S with a depth of 1.0′. Two hearth pits (4D3, 4D4) originated from within Stratum D and continued down into subsoil (Figure 6). Hearth pit 4D3 was 2.2′ in diameter by .9′ in depth, while hearth pit 4D4 was 2.4′ E-W by 3.4′ N-S with a depth of 1.1′ (Figure 7). Both contained dark brown, sandy loam, numerous fire-cracked rocks, and some whole river cobbles. All the soil from both features was sifted through 1/4" mesh screen, and three gallons of soil from 4D3 and six gallons from 4D4 was water-screened through 1/16" mesh. The recovery technique revealed sherds and lithic artifacts, as well as some animal bone, charred seeds, and wood. Charred wood from hearth pit 4D3 was dated to A.D. 1000±60 (U Ga-2546).

A number of fire-cracked rock concentrations were associated with Stratum D. Two of the concentrations, 1D2 and 1D3, were designated separately along with the associated artifacts. One fire-cracked rock concentration (4E3), recently had been disturbed, perhaps by a rodent. Scattered fire-cracked rock appears to be more concentrated adjacent to and above the two hearth pits (4D3, 4D4).

A number of post molds were sectioned during the project, revealing their profiles in the subsoil. This excavation

Figure 5. Crushed chert-tempered, wicker-fabric-impressed vessel (1D1)

technique distinguished the post molds from rodent and root disturbances. It also displayed more clearly the post mold's true diameter, shape, and depth. Unfortunately, the post molds were not arranged in any discernable pattern.

Figure 6. Excavated surface of midden (Stratum D) in Square 4, revealing fire-cracked rock concentration. Facing south.

Figure 7. Excavated hearth pit, 4D4. Facing east.

PREHISTORIC CERAMICS

The prehistoric ceramic assemblage generally consisted of crushed stone-tempered wares and a small amount of shell-tempered wares. Surface treatment of the pottery included mainly impressions of wicker or a simple-plaited fabric of medium width as well as some cord-marked sherds (Figures 5, 8, and 9). Due to the recently disturbed nature of Square 2 (over 50 percent disturbed) and its lack of a midden deposit across the entire square, the ceramic analysis included only feature pit 2D1 from Square 2, and all sherds from Square 1 and 4. The latter two squares were relatively undisturbed by historic pit features and contained the best examples of stratigraphy and preserved midden. The temper, surface treatment, and provenance of the analyzed sherds are presented in Tables 1 and 2.

In the first stage of analysis sherds were subdivided into groups on the basis of temper. Identification of temper was conducted as accurately and completely as was visually feasible, thus creating the rather lengthy and cumbersome listing of 18 temper subseries presented in Table 1. The original groups were later combined to form the seven temper series in Table 2.

The crushed granite-temper series is a compilation of five subseries: granite, granite-chert, granite-quartz, granite-chert-quartz, and granite-quartzite. The rationale behind the combining of the subseries is that they all contained granite as

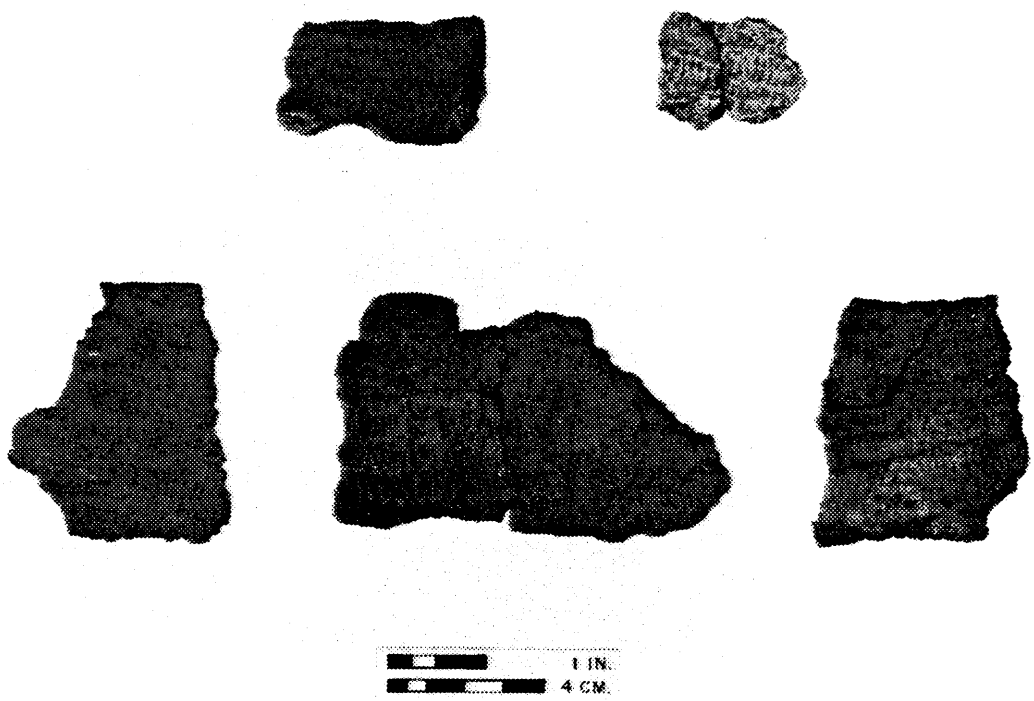

Figure 8. Wicker-fabric-impressed sherds.

Figure 9. Cord-marked sherds.

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Ceramics

Temper	G		G-C		G-Qt	G-C-Qt		G-Qtz	Qtz			Qtz-Qt		Qt			Qt-B		Qt-Msc
Surface Treatment	f	u	f	u	f	f	u	f	f	c	u	f	u	f	c	u	c	u	f
1 Stratum A						1													
1B Stratum B			1						6		1			2	1	4			
1C Stratum C	2	1	3			2			2		2	1		16	1	8			1
1D, 1D4-1D7 Stratum D	7	1	2			5	1		14		4	1	1	26	3	14			1
1E, 1E1-1E4 Stratum E	1										1	1				1			
2D1 Pit			1						11		6			17		1			
4A Stratum A																			
4B Stratum B	1	1	1						3		2			1					
4C Stratum C	1				1			1	9	1	2	3	2	2		1			1
4D1, 4D2 Stratum D	12	5		1					72		29	10	1	30	1	7		1	1
4D3 Pit									9			3				1			
4D4 Pit	1								4		1			1	1		1		
4E2 Stratum E	2								1				2						
Sub-total	27	8	8	1	1	8	1	1	131	1	48	19	6	95	7	37	1	1	4
Total	35		9		1	9		1	180			25		139			2		4

Temper

B	Basalt	Qt	Quartz
C	Chert	Qtz	Quartzite
G	Granite	Sa	Sand
H	Hematite	S	Shale
L	Limestone	Sh	Shell
MSc	Mica Schist	U	Unidentified

Surface Treatment

c	cord
f	fabric
n	net
u	unidentified

Table 1

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CERAMICS

Temper	C			C-Qt			C-Qtz		C-H	S	Sa		Sh		L			U	Total
Surface Treatment	f	c	u	f	c	u	f	u	f	c	f	n	f	u	f	c	u		
1 Stratum A																			1
1B Stratum B	2		1				2								3		3		26
1C Stratum C	8		9		1	5	3	1		1				1	1	7			76
1D, 1D4-1D7 Stratum D	20	5	34	4		2			1	5	1				9	30	10	3	204
1E, 1E1-1E4 Stratum E	1											1							6
2D1 Pit	2	1	1										4	5		3	1		53
4A Stratum A																			0
4B Stratum B	2			1												1	1		14
4C Stratum C	7		8			2			1							1			43
4D1, 4D2 Stratum D	32	23	29	14		11	2	1		6					5	8	6	1	308
4D3 Pit	2	1					2			1									19
4D4 Pit		1	1			1	1			1						1			15
4E2 Stratum E	1		1	1						1					2	1			12
sub-total	77	31	84	20	1	21	10	2	2	15	1	1	4	6	20	52	21	4	
Total	192			42			12		2	15	2		10		93			4	777

Temper

B	Basalt	Qt	Quartz
C	Chert	Qtz	Quartzite
G	Granite	Sa	Sand
H	Hematite	S	Shale
L	Limestone	Sh	Shell
MSc	Mica Schist	U	Unidentified

Surface Treatment

c	cord
f	fabric
n	net
u	unidentified

Table 1 continued

44PA128

CERAMICS

Temper	G		Qt, Qtz			C			S	Sa		Sh		L			U	Total
Surface Treatment	f	u	f	c	u	f	c	u	c	f	n	f	u	f	c	u		
1 Stratum A	1																	1
1B Stratum B	1		8	1	5	4		1						3		3		26
1C Stratum C	7	1	19	1	11	11	1	15	1				1	1	7			76
1D, 1D4-1D7 Stratum D	14	2	41	3	20	25	5	36	5	1				9	30	10	3	204
1E, 1E1-1E4 Stratum E	1		1		2	1					1							6
2D1 Pit	1		28		7	2	1	1				4	5		3	1		53
4A Stratum A																		0
4B Stratum B	2	1	6			3									1	1		14
4C Stratum C	3		14	1	6	8		10							1			43
4D1, 4D2 Stratum D	12	6	113	1	38	48	23	41	6					5	8	6	1	308
4D3 Pit			12		1	4	1		1									19
4D4 Pit	1		5	2	1	1	1	2	1						1			15
4E2 Stratum E	2		1		2	2		1	1					2	1			12
Sub-total	45	10	248	9	93	109	32	107	15	1	1	4	6	20	52	21	4	777
Sub - %	6	1	32	1	12	14	4	14	2	-	-	-	1	3	7	3	-	100
Total	55		350			248			15	2		10		93			4	777
Total %	7		45			32			2	-		1		12			-	99

Temper:

C	Chert	Sa	Sand
G	Granite	S	Shale
L	Limestone	Sh	Shell
Qt	Quartz	U	Unidentified
Qtz	Quartzite		

Surface Treatment:

c	cord
f	fabric
n	net
u	unidentified

Table 2

a temper, and all had a plaited fabric-impressed surface treatment only.

The quartz-quartzite-temper series was formed by combining five temper subseries: quartzite, quartzite-quartz, quartz, quartz-basalt, and quartz-mica schist. The rationale was to combine those tempers containing quartz and quartzite. The chert-temper series combined four subseries: chert, chert-quartz, chert-quartzite, and chert-hematite. The chert-temper is crushed chert, and not minute debitage flakes from tool production. Both the quartz-quartzite and chert-temper series sherds have a plaited fabric-and cord-impressed surface treatments and could be seen as representing the same ware.

Four initially identified temper series were not combined further. Shale-tempered sherds were left by themselves because they exhibited a cord-marked surface treatment only. The 15 sherds could, however, represent just one vessel. Only one example of net-impressed surface treatment was found at the site and that on a sand-tempered sherd. Thus, sand-temper remained a discrete series. Both the shell and limestone-tempered sherds are viewed as discrete temper series because they never contained any other class of crushed rock.

In general, the crushed-rock temper ranged in size from 1 to 8 mm. in diameter, with the majority of the temper appearing rather large, ca. 5 mm. in diameter. The warp of the impressions of the wicker fabric ranged from 7 to 8 mm. in diameter.

The wicker fabric and cord surface impressions, the large crushed-rock, temper, vertical and straight rims, and the lack of any decorations place the bulk of the ceramics from the Cullers Site in the last half of the Middle Woodland period.

However, the radiocarbon date of A.D. 1000 ± 60 from feature 4D3 places the ceramics at the beginning of the Late Woodland Period. Gardner placed the Cullers Site in his Late Woodland I Period (A.D. 900 - 1100) (Synder 1984:14). At the Cabin Run complex in Warren County a series of seven radiocarbon dates placed similar ceramics within the period A.D. 920-1320(Snyder 1984:224).

The quartz-quartzite-temper series (45%) would be placed by some researchers in the Albemarle Series, a widely varied quartz-tempered series defined by Evans (1955:39-44). The Albemarle Series, in order to remain a tool for discerning cultural processes, needs to be restricted in surface treatment, time, and space far more than it is at present. Perhaps the series could be restricted to the Middle Woodland period in the Piedmont of Virginia north of, and including, the James River (vicinity of Albemarle County). Thus, the quartz-quartzite-temper series from the Cullers Site and other examples found in the Shenandoah Valley should be identified as something other than the Albemarle Series.

The limestone-tempered Page and Radford Series have been used by some researchers to identify limestone-tempered ceramics in the Shenandoah Valley. The Page Series originally defined by Griffin

(Manson 1944:405-406) from the Keyser Site in Page County has a cord-marked surface treatment only, and strips forming collared rims, vertical to slightly flaring rims, and decorations which included punctuation, incising, and cording. The Page Series is dated to the Late Woodland period and is obviously distinct from the earlier fabric-and cord-impressed limestone-tempered ceramics at 44PA128.

The Radford Series originally defined by Evans (1955:64-68) and further described by Holland (1970:64-67) contained cord, net, plain, and fabric-impressed sherds. Evans viewed the Page Series as a variant within the Radford Series whose differences are almost wholly limited to certain rim decoration and appliques. However, this is not the case. The Page Series, with a close relationship to the Sheppard Series found to the north along the Potomac River and not with southwest Virginia, is cord-marked only while Radford contains cord, net, plain, and fabric makings. The Sheppard Series, dated ca. A.D. 900-1300, was radiocarbon dated to A.D. 1050 $\pm$ 70 (S.I.535) at the Kerns Site (44CK3) in Clarke County. Further examples of Sheppard ceramics were identified in Shenandoah and Rockingham counties. (Egloff 1986:14). Furthermore, fabric-impressed ceramics should not be placed within the Radford Series. Evans illustrated two Radford fabric-impressed sherds in Plate 16 (k-1). One sherd was corncob-impressed, the other was looped net. Holland in his survey of 119 sites in southwest Virginia retained the term Radford Fabric-Impressed, although his total tabulation for the type was only 33 sherds. Thus, the heart and core of the Late

Woodland Radford Series is net-and cord-impressed with some plain surfaced vessels. In very late Radford ceramics (after A.D. 1550) the plain type increased dramatically and corncob-impressed vessels made their appearance. (Egloff 1987:40). Benthall (1975:49-55) has demonstrated at Daugherty's Cave in Russell County that limestone-tempered, wicker-fabric-impressed sherds (Long Branch Fabric-Marked) were associated with the Middle Woodland period, and have been dated in northern Alabama and eastern Tennessee to 250-150 B.C. Therefore, any wicker-fabric-impressed, limestone-tempered sherds found in Southwest Virginia or in the Shenandoah Valley are probably of the Middle Woodland period, and are not part of the Radford or Page series of the Late Woodland Period.

The shell-tempered Keyser and New River series have been used to identify shell-tempered ceramics in the Valley. The Keyser Series originally defined by Griffin (Manson 1944:402-405) from the Keyser Site only has a cord-marked surface treatment, vertical to slightly flaring rims, loop handles, and "pseudo-lugs," and decorations that include punctuation, incising, and cording. The Keyser Series dates to the Late Woodland Period and is obviously distinct from the fabric-impressed, shell-tempered ceramics from 44PA128. Evans viewed the Keyser Series as a variant within the New River Series of Southwest Virginia. We disagree. The Keyser Series, whose relationship is to the Monongahela Wares in western Pennsylvania, is cord-marked only while the New River, according to Evans, has cord, net, plain, and fabric markings. Furthermore, fabric-impressed ceramics

should not be placed within the New River Series. Evans tabulated three sherds and Holland only two sherds from Southwest Virginia that were shell-tempered and fabric-impressed. Neither of them illustrated examples in their publications.

Only tentative suggestions can be made concerning the relationships between the variously tempered ceramics at the Cullers Site. Shell-tempered ceramics were restricted to the basin-shaped pit, 2D1. The feature also included a wide selection of other temper types suggesting that it may be one of the latest features at the site. Hearth pits 4D3 and 4D4 contained predominately quartz-quartzite and chert tempered ceramics with only one sherd exhibiting a limestone temper. This suggests that the quartz-quartzite and chert-tempered sherds are culturally associated, while limestone-tempered sherds may be of a different time period or cultural group. In general the bulk of the ceramics from the Cullers Site represent the indigenous people of the Shenandoah Valley during the very beginning of the Late Woodland period (A.D. 900-1100).

PREHISTORIC LITHICS

Numerous lithic artifacts of all categories--various sizes of triangular projectile points, bifaces, retouched flakes, hammerstones, cores and debitage--were recovered from the Cullers Site. The lithic assemblage suggests that intense lithic reduction and hunting activities occurred at the site. The following analysis, except where noted, does not include 1/16 inch water-screened samples.

Projectile Points

The 67 triangular points recovered from the site are listed in Table 3 (Figures 10 and 11). Although points were made from chalcedony (1), quartz (3), chert (12), and jasper (15), the preferred material was quartzite (36). This is puzzling, because chert and jasper with finer grain lithologies (presumably the preferred material for flaking tools) are readily available in the Valley region.

Of the 26 whole and broken triangular points that were measured (Table 4), quartzite triangular points exhibited a greater range in size. Seven large quartzite points with basal measurements of 30 mm. or greater were tabulated separately from the rest of the sample. Their bases ranged from 30 to 44 mm. wide (N=7), and their sides from 35 to 65 mm. long (N=2), with average measurement of 36 mm. by 50 mm. Due to their large size they may have functioned as knives.

The average dimension of the remaining 19 points were 22 mm. (N=19) by 28 mm. (N=16). When average dimensions were calculated for each lithic type the following resulted: quartzite 22 mm. (N=8) by 29 mm. (N=6); chert 23 mm. (N=3) by 28 mm. (N=3); and jasper 23 mm. (N=7) by 29 mm. (N=6).

Seven projectile points need to be described in greater detail. One yellow jasper, pentagonal point was uncovered in Square 1C (Figure 11). Two points also served as drills. The first is a grey chert retouched triangular point (1B), and the second is a long, thick yellow jasper drill (1D) (Figure 11). One quartzite

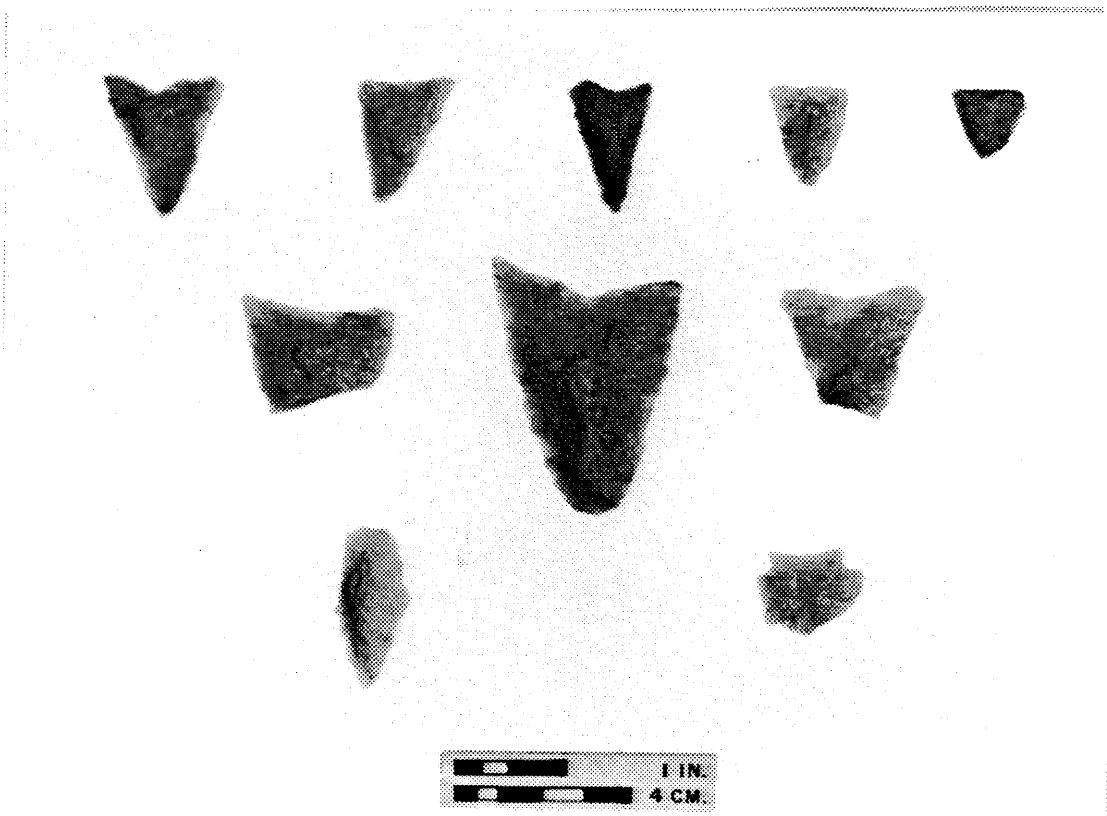

Figure 10. Quartzite projectile points.

Figure 11. Yellow jasper and dark chert projectile points.

44PA128

Unit	Flakes							Cores			Chunks					
	Qt	Qtz	C	J	Ch	B	Total	Qtz	J	Total	Qt	Qtz	C	J	Ch	Total
1A Stratum A	4	33	6	10		1	54			0	1					1
1B Stratum B	16	34	37	57			144			0	1		2			3
1C Stratum C	32	741	61	103	2	35	974			0				1		1
1D, 1D4-1D7 Stratum D	39	1266	104	307	3	58	1777	2		2	3	1	1		1	6
1E-1E4 Stratum E	1	44	9	14			68			0						0
2A2-2A5 Stratum A	2	48	4	3			57			0	1		1			2
2B, 2B1-2B6 Stratum B	15	400	73	53	3		544	1		1			1			1
2C Stratum C	9	454	30	43	2	4	542			0	6		1			7
2D Stratum D	3	100	2	9			114			0						0
2D1 Pit	8	314	49	32	8	1	412			0						0
4A Stratum A		2		2			4			0			1			1
4B Stratum B	4	92	17	12			125			0						0
4C Stratum C	4	336	236	85			661			0			12	3		15
4D1-4D2 Stratum D	47	1491	1079	318	5	52	2992	2	2	4			1		1	2
4D3 Pit	1	30	4	4		2	41			0						0
4D4 Pit	6	149	28	68	4	2	257			0						0
4E1-4E2 Stratum E	7	70	45	39	3	4	168	1		1						0
Total	198	5604	1784	1159	30	159	8934	6	2	8	12	1	20	4	2	39
Percentage	2.2	62.7	20.0	13.0	0.3	1.8	100	75	25	100	30.8	2.6	51.3	10.3	5.1	100.1

B Basalt
Ch Chalcedony
C Chert
J Jasper
Qt Quartz
Qtz Quartzite

Table 3

44PA128

Unit	Projectile Points						Bifaces						Retouched Flakes					
	Qt	Qtz	C	J	Ch	TOTAL	Qt	Qtz	C	J	B	Total	Qt	Qtz	C	J	B	Total
1A Stratum A		1				1		2				2			1	3		4
1B Stratum B		3	2			5	1	3	1			5	1		1	6		8
1C Stratum C	1	6	3	4		14	2	4		3	1	10	1	5	1	10	2	19
1D, 1D4-1D7 Stratum D		8	2	5	1	16	1	11		2	1	15		3		6		9
1E - 1E4 Stratum E						0						0						0
2A2-2A5 Stratum A			1			1		4				4	1	1	1			3
2B, 2B1-2B6 Stratum B	1	1	1			3		4	3	2		9		2		2	1	5
2C Stratum C		5				5		1		1		2		3	2	5		10
2D Stratum D						0			1			1	1		1		1	3
2D1 Pit		2				2		1				1					1	1
4A Stratum A						0						0					1	1
4B Stratum B			1	1		2		1	1	1		3						0
4C Stratum C	1	2				3		3	1	2		6		1	1			2
4D1-4D2 Stratum D		5	1	5		11	3	1	1	4		9	1	21	3	4		29
4D3 Pit		1				1						0		1				1
4D4 Pit		2				2		1		2		3		2				2
4E1-4E2 Stratum E			1			1						0		1			1	2
Total	3	36	12	15	1	67	7	36	8	17	2	70	5	40	11	36	7	99
Percentage	4.5	53.7	17.9	22.4	1.5	100	10	51.4	11.4	24.3	2.9	100	5.1	40.4	11.1	36.4	7.1	100.1

B Basalt
Ch Chalcedony
C Chert
J Jasper
Qt Quartz
Qtz Quartzite

Table 3

44PA128

Triangular Points Measured in Millimeters

Unit	Size	Lithic
1B	*44 X 65	Qtz
	20 X 28	Qtz
	23 X 30	Qtz
1C	23 X 23	J
	19 X 25	Qtz
	21 X 27	Qtz
	25 X 30	C
	21 X 26	J
	19 X 20	Qtz
	*40 X ?	Qtz
1D6	22 X 32	C
	20 X 27	J
	20 X 32	Qtz
1D7	21 X 27	J
	26 X ?	Qtz
2A3	21 X 21	C
2C	*35 X ?	Qtz
	*36 X ?	Qtz
2D1	24 X ?	Qtz
4B	27 X 40	J
4D1	21 X 29	J
	27 X ?	J
4D2	*32 X ?	Qtz
4D3	*33 X ?	Qtz
4D4	*30 X 35	Qtz
	21 X 36	Qtz

C Chert
J Jasper
Qtz Quartzite

* Possible quartzite knives

Table 4

Potts point, probably dated to the last half of the Middle Woodland period, was found in Square 1B (Figure 10). Two points probably represent Middle Woodland point styles: a small, constricted-stem quartzite point (Figure 10) uncovered in Square 4D4, and a large grey chert, slightly side-notched point (Figure 11) found in Square 4E1. In general all of the triangular projectile points certainly could date from ca. A.D. 1000. However, a few Middle Woodland points also are represented in the collection.

Other Lithics

As indicated by the triangular projectile points, quartzite was the preferred lithic material at the site from which to make tools. Of the 59 bifaces, 36 were made from quartzite. The same preference for quartzite is indicated by the tabulation of flakes, retouched flakes, and cores (Table 3).

A refined analysis of flakes from hearth pit 4D4 further emphasized preferences for lithic materials, while it noted the percentage of flakes with cortex. The results of the analysis also suggest how mesh size (sampling strategy) can influence interpretation. All the soil from feature 4D4 was waterscreened through 1/4 inch mesh, except for a sample of six gallons of soil that was screened through 1/16 inch mesh. The results of the flake analysis from the two sampling strategies are listed in Tables 5 and 6.

44PA128
Feature 4D4
Entire Feature Water-Screened Through ¼" mesh
Lithic Type

Square Millimeters	Qt		Qtz		C		J		Ch		B		Total	
< 10	-		-		-		-		-		-		-	
Cx		-		-		-		-		-		-		-
10-49	-		3		-		-		-		-		3 1.1%	
Cx		-		1		1		1		-		-		1.1% 3
50-149	4		96		21		42		1		-		164 60.7%	
Cx		1		11		4		4		-		-		7.4% 20
150-249	2		14		-		8		-		-		24 8.9%	
Cx		1		3		2		5		-		-		4.1% 11
250-499	1		18		2		6		-		-		27 10.0%	
Cx		-		6		1		2		-		-		3.3% 9
500-1000	-		3		-		-		-		-		3 1.1%	
Cx		-		2		1		1		1		-		1.9% 5
> 1000	-		1		-		-		-		-		1 0.4%	
Cx		-		-		-		-		-		-		-
Sub-Total	7 2.6%	2 0.7%	135 50.0%	23 8.5%	23 8.5%	9 3.3%	56 20.7%	13 4.8%	1 0.4%	1 0.4%	-	-	222 82.2%	48 17.8%
Total	9 3.3%		158 58.5%		32 11.9%		69 25.6%		2 0.7%		-		270 100.0%	

B Basalt Ch Chalcedony Qt Quartz
C Chert Cx Cortex Qtz Quartzite

TABLE 5

44PA128
Feature 4D4
6 gallons of soil water-screened through 1/16" mesh
Lithic Type

Square Millimeters	Qt	Qtz	C	J	Ch	B	Total
<10	47	262	192	59	3	-	56.3 46.6%
Cx	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10-49	7	222	147	60	3	13	452 37.4%
Cx	4	25	19	22	-	-	5.8% 70
50-149	-	50	13	12	1	1	77 6.3%
Cx	-	4	5	4	-	-	1.1% 13
150-249	-	9	2	5	-	1	17 1.4%
Cx	-	3	1	-	-	-	0.3% 4%
250-499	-	10	-	1	-	-	11 0.9%
Cx	-	1	1	-	-	-	0.1% 2
500-1000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cx	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
>1000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cx	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sub Total	54 4 4.5% 0.3%	553 33 45.7% 2.7%	354 26 29.3% 2.2%	137 26 11.3% 2.2%	7 - 0.6% -	15 - 1.2%	1120 89 92.6 7.4%
Total	58 4.8%	586 48.4%	380 31.4%	163 13.5%	7 0.6%	15 1.2%	1209 100.0%

B Basalt Cx Cortex
C Chert Qt Quartz
Ch Chalcedony Qtz Quartzite

TABLE 6

When the results of flake analysis from across the site (computed in Table 3) are compared with the more refined analysis from feature 4D4 (Tables 5 and 6), a number of inconsistencies are noted. Although the percentage of quartzite flakes remains highest throughout the site, the percentage of chert and jasper flakes change greatly depending upon mesh size used for recovery and level or feature sampled. All that can be stated is that chert and jasper were less preferred as lithic materials than quartzite but were more frequently used than quartz, chalcedony, and basalt.

The analysis of the sample by flake size (Tables 5 and 6), revealed that large and small flakes of all utilized lithic raw material occurred at the site. This suggests that, among other activities, the site was used for intensive lithic reduction activities involving all types of lithic raw materials recovered. The occurrence of greater numbers of larger quartzite flakes may merely suggest that quartzite cobbles from Hawksbill Creek tend to be larger than either tabular chert chunks or cobbles of chert or jasper. Interestingly, 89 percent of the flakes recovered in the 1/16" mesh from feature 4D4 would have slipped through 1/4" mesh.

The analysis of flake cortex (Cx) further suggests that the initial phases of tool reduction were performed at the site (Tables 5 and 6). The figures from feature 4D4 of 7.4 percent and 17.8 percent of flakes with cortex indicate that initial

reduction of tabular chunks or cobbles, probably from Hawksbill Creek or another nearby source, was conducted at the site.

Several other artifact types were uncovered from the Cullers Site. One steatite pipe stem fragment was found in Square 2C. One quartzite bi-pitted pestle (1D4), one basalt anvil stone (1D7), and eight hammerstones were also uncovered from the site. Directly beneath the crushed ceramic vessel were found one greenstone basalt celt (1D1) and one greenstone basalt cobble (1D1) with a wear pattern that suggests use as an abrasive sharpening tool (Figure 12).

HISTORIC CABIN'S STONE FOUNDATION

The remains of a cabin's rubble limestone dry-laid foundation were uncovered directly west of Squares 2 and 4 (Figure 2). Excavation of two irregular-shaped squares, shovel test holes, and probing revealed a stone chimney foundation, cellar wall, and the dimensions of that portion of the foundation that had escaped the construction of Route 648. The stone chimney foundation with red clay mortar was 6.8′ by 4.0′ (Figure 13). The stone cellar wall, also mortared with clay, was 2.0′ wide (Figure 14). The cellar floor was 3.3′ beneath the surface of the ground. From exterior points on the stone foundation, the cabin measured 29.8′ E-W and 19.3′ from the south exterior wall to where Route 648 truncated the cabin's north side.

Figure 12. Worked cobble (1D1) and celt (1D1) made from greenstone basalt.

Figure 13. Slab limestone wall and chimney foundation to the nineteenth century cabin. Facing west.

Figure 14. Slab limestone cellar wall and destruction rubble in cellar stratigraphy. Facing south.

HISTORIC FEATURES

Although the most striking historic feature was the rubble-limestone cabin foundation, three animal burials were found and should be mentioned (Figure 2). The first, 2A1, is a deer burial in a pit 2.4′ long by 0.5′ (continues into unexcavated area). The second, 2B1, also a deer burial, is 4.5′ long by 2.5′ (truncated by Route 648). The third and largest pit, 2B2, was a horse burial 8.3 feet long (continues into unexcavated area) by 5.6′ wide. All three feature pits were recent, originating from either Stratum A or B. None of the three pits was entirely excavated, but enough bones were recovered to identify the animals. The three animal burials were placed in a north-south line 20′ east of the cabin foundation (Figure 2).

HISTORIC ARTIFACTS

The majority of the historic artifacts found at the Cullers Site would place the occupation of the cabin in the period 1840-1860, although some hand-painted polychrome pearl-ware would suggest that occupation may have begun as early as 1790. No artifacts were uncovered from construction features, i.e., from the clay mortar between the limestone slab foundation and chimney base. Only one sherd, a piece of undatable locally-made coarse earthenware, was found in an occupation context on the cellar floor. Artifacts found in disturbed soil when uncovering the stone foundation dated mainly to the period 1830-1850.

The cabin was occupied probably within the period from 1790 to 1893. The terminal date for possible occupation was obtained from the owner of the property, Jack Cullers (personal communication 1978), who related the story told to him by his father of watching the cabin being picked up and washed away by the flood of 1893.

CONCLUSION

The Cullers Site, situated along Hawksbill Creek in Page County, produced a large assemblage of crushed rock, limestone, and shell-tempered ceramics associated with triangular projectile points, other lithic artifacts, bone, and charred wood radiocarbon dated to A.D. 1000±60. The assemblage along with the post mold and hearth pits would suggest a permanent hamlet intensively engaged in lithic reduction and hunting activities.

The rubble-limestone cabin foundation 29.8′ E-W, and 19.3′ from the south exterior wall to where Route 648 truncated the cabin's north side, contained a stone chimney foundation 6.8′ by 4.0′ and a 3.3′ deep cellar under the east end. The cabin was occupied probably within the period from 1790-1893.

APPENDIX

DESCRIPTION AND PROVENIENCE OF ILLUSTRATED ARTIFACTS

Figure 8

(p. 15) Top row: (left to right) quartz-tempered (1C); shell-tempered (2D1).

Bottom row: granite-chert-quartz-tempered (2B); granite-chert-quartz-tempered (1); quartz-quartzite-tempered (1D6).

Figure 9

(p. 15) Top row: limestone-tempered (1C); limestone-tempered (1D5).

Bottom row: chert-tempered (1D); shale-tempered (1D); shale-tempered (1D6).

Figure 10

(p. 25) Top row: all triangular points (4D4, 1B, 1C, 1C).

Middle row: all triangular points (2C, 1B, 2C).

Bottom row: constricted stem point (4D4), Potts Point (1B).

Figure 11

(p. 25) Top row: pentagonal yellow jasper point (1C); rest are triangular points (1D6, 1C, 2A3).

Middle row: all triangular points (4B, 1C, 1D6, 1D7).

Bottom row: slightly side notched chert point (4E1); yellow jasper drill (1D); grey chert drill (1B).

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