

PHASE I ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY
OF THE STADIUM ROAD STUDENT HOUSING
SITE, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA

Written by:

Alison T. de la Haba
John J. Rice

Submitted by:

Stephen Plog
Mark Catlin

Department of Anthropology
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Virginia
804-924-3549

Written for:

Planning Department of the University of Virginia
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Virginia
804-924-3718

March 17, 1982

ABSTRACT

A Phase I archaeological survey of the 16.3 acre Stadium Road student housing project site revealed some evidence of past occupation. The survey, conducted by students from the Department of Anthropology at the University of Virginia for the Planning Department of the University of Virginia, covered 100% of the project area. Over 160 shovel test pits were placed in the project area. In addition to the field work, records of land ownership were examined so that any past occupation of the area could be documented.

Two late nineteenth to early twentieth century house sites were identified along the western edge of the survey area. Although one of the sites has been destroyed, neither site will be directly or indirectly impacted by the construction of student housing. The remaining site will be used by the University of Virginia for faculty or staff housing.

The Phase I survey did not provide adequate information on the sites for making any recommendations for the National Register. However, since the sites will not be directly or indirectly impacted we do not recommend a Phase II survey at this time. If future construction does take place near the sites we do recommend that the area of the sites be fenced in order to protect them.

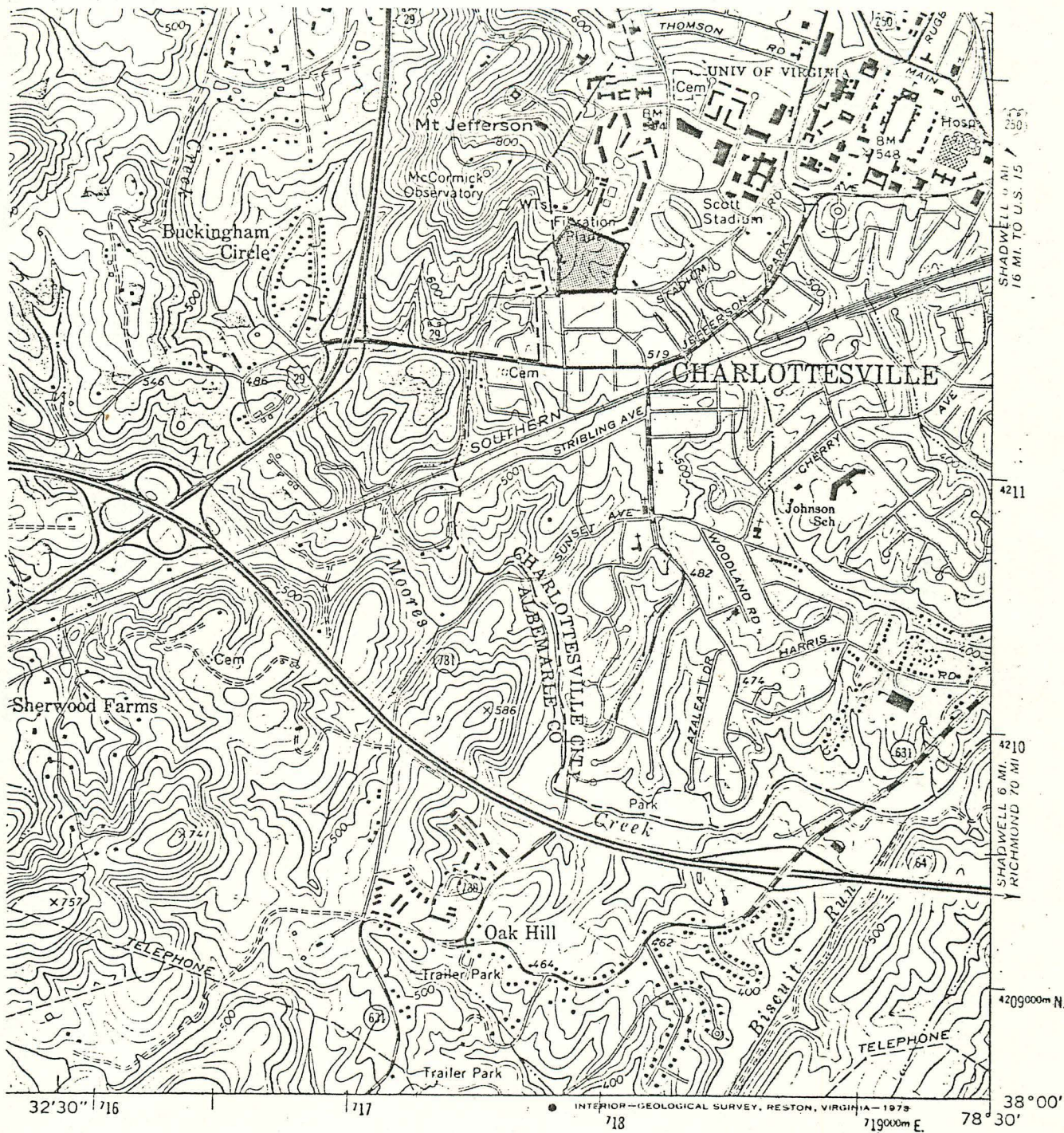
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We owe special thanks to Thomas S. Barnes, Robert G. Jahrsdoerfer, Sally Kraine, Pamela A. Maack, and Donald N. Roland Jr. for their time and effort spent carrying out the fieldwork for the survey. Lynn Rush of the Planning Department of the University of Virginia was very helpful in providing all of the information relating to the proposed Stadium Road student housing project. We would also like to thank all of the informants contacted in Appendix I and the members of the local governmental agencies we contacted. Their assistance enabled us to obtain the historical background necessary for this report. Finally, we are grateful to Lindsay Catlin for the graphic work included in this report and Nancy Ammerman for typing the final copy.


INTRODUCTION

This report is a summary of Phase I archaeological survey of the proposed 16.3 acre Stadium Road student housing site. The project area is located on the Charlottesville West quadrangle map in the U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute topographic series (see Figure 1). The survey was done for the Department of Planning of the University of Virginia. Work that might disturb existing archaeological sites within the area includes: (1) clearing the area of vegetation for the purposes of construction, (2) construction of the student housing facilities, and (3) building of accompanying support systems (sewage removal, electricity, water, etc.) for these facilities.

The field work was conducted by students from the Department of Anthropology at the University of Virginia and was supervised by Stephen E. Plog and Mark Catlin. The field work was conducted over a period extending from February 27, 1982 to March 11, 1982. It entailed the excavation of over 160 shovel test pits placed at 20 meter intervals along fifteen transects within the area to be impacted. The field methods will be discussed in greater detail below. In addition to the field work, the deeds of land ownership were examined in order to gain background information pertaining to the archaeological sites discovered. Also, informants who had occupied these sites at one time or another were contacted for the same purpose. All artifacts, survey forms, maps and other records relating to the investigation are available in the Archaeology Laboratory of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Virginia.

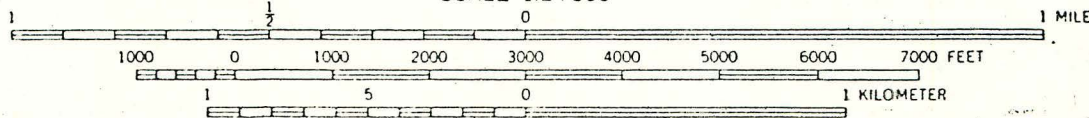


CHARLOTTESVILLE WEST, VA.
 N3800—W7830/7.5

 - PROJECT AREA

1973
 PHOTOREVISED 1978
 AMS 5260 II SE—SERIES V834

SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

Figure 1. Location of Project Area.

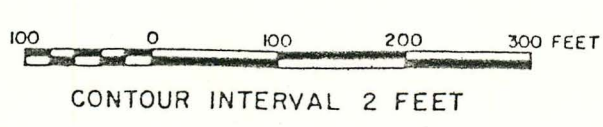
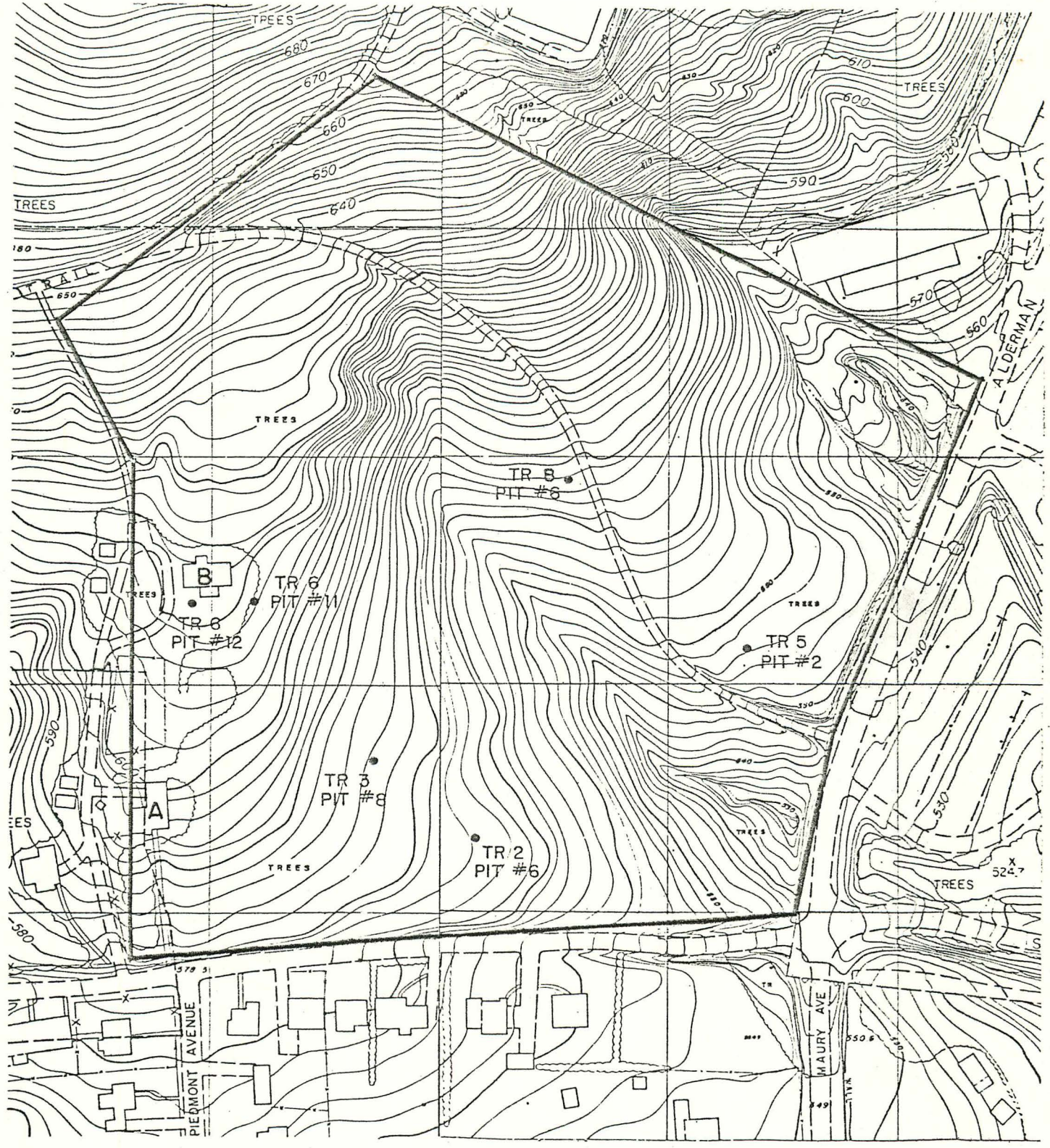
SIMEONI
 5259 N.W.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The University of Virginia, located in Charlottesville, lies within the Piedmont province of western Virginia. The project area is located within the University and is bounded along the southern and eastern edges by Stadium and Alderman Roads respectively (see Figures 1 and 2).

The general vegetation zone can be characterized as an oak-hickory pine forest (Kuchler 1964). This forest environment would have offered a number of resources to prehistoric populations. These would have included a wide variety of animals and birds (Collins 1959) as well as edible wild plants (Medsger 1939, Fernald and Kinsey 1943).

Figure 2 provides a detailed map of the project area. In general, the area is dominated by an overall gradual slope, which begins at the southeastern corner of the plot and then rises in a northwesterly direction. The land along the western edge of the study area, in the general vicinity of the two sites that were located, is fairly level and cleared. The project area is traversed by two secondary drainages. One is located in the northeastern corner of the study area and contains a small perennial stream. The sides of this drainage are extremely steep. The gully formed by the action of the stream cutting down is about 4 to 7 meters deep and 5 to 8 meters wide. The other drainage runs from the approximate center of the project area to the southeastern boundary near the junction of Alderman and Stadium Roads. This drainage is much broader (8 to 12 meters) with less steeply sloping sides than the other drainage. A small stream is located in the lower southeastern section of this drainage. Although this stream is not visible in the upper northwestern half of the drainage, shovel test pits dug in the area determined the depth of the water table to be about 25 centi-



TR 1 - TRANSECT NUMBER
PIT 1 - TEST PIT
A - SITE

Figure 2. Project Area with location of sites and shovel test pits containing artifacts (adopted from University of Virginia, Charlottesville Planning Department - Sheet F2).

meters below the ground surface.

The land use patterns in the study area fall into two main categories: commercial and residential/recreational. From the several old cut stumps it is apparent that lumbering or fire wood cutting was carried out on a non-extensive scale (probably on an individual level rather than as a large-scale commercial operation).

According to a plat of this land tract dated September 6, 1948, there was once an old quarry within the survey area. It probably had commercial value. However, the field crews were unable to detect anything resembling a quarry in its supposed location. Informants were unaware of its existence and were unable to provide clues to the quarry's whereabouts.

The entire survey universe is criss-crossed by several trails and roads. The major road, indicated on the map in figure 2, is an overgrown fire trail that begins at Alderman Road and cuts across the study area in a northwesterly direction. Numerous deep holes of consistent diameter were found in the survey area, indicating that core sampling was done. These holes occur in or near recently cleared roadways, suggesting that the roads were created for the coring operations. Due to the proximity of student housing, the remainder of the paths are most likely foot paths utilized by students and residents in the area. In fact, during the fieldwork many people were observed on these paths.

The stratigraphic profiles in the shovel test pits were useful for understanding the local process of soil erosion. Despite the aforementioned land use patterns, which tend to increase the process of soil erosion, the actual erosion of the survey universe is minimal. The vast majority of shovel test pits contain two distinct soil layers. The A horizon is relatively thick (10 to 20 cms.) and overlies a red clay-based B horizon. If

extensive erosion had occurred, then the area would have been stripped of its topsoil-A horizon, leaving only the red clay base. This soil structure suggests that if archaeological sites are present then they are likely to have survived intact.

Most of the rock material in the area consists of degenerated, cloudy quartz and various micaceous rocks typical of the Piedmont province.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND DATA

A search through the files of the Virginia Research Center for Archaeology and the Archaeology Laboratory at the University of Virginia did not produce any records of archaeological sites in the study area. Also, there were no sites found on the National Register of Historic Places that were located within the area of survey.

The deeds of land ownership were checked at the Charlottesville City Court House in order to obtain information on the age of the two sites that were discovered. The Charlottesville City Assessor's history file was also utilized for the same purpose.

In addition to the above local governmental agencies, several informants were contacted. Their addresses are listed in Appendix I. These informants include: Dean Chester R. Titus of the University of Virginia, who used to live in the house labeled site A (Figure 2) during the years 1968 and 1969. Dean Titus was able to refer us to Professor John L. Longley, Jr. of the University of Virginia. Professor Longley had lived in the house labeled site B (Figure 2) during the same time period as Dean Titus resided at site A. Also, we contacted Fred S. Landness, the attorney who had drawn up the deed of land ownership when the project area was purchased by the University

of Virginia. All of these informants provided us with the names of further informants who might be useful in obtaining a more extensive historical background of the survey area. Their addresses are also listed in Appendix I. Due to time constraints we were unable to communicate with these people. If the area ever requires a Phase II survey, it is recommended that these individuals be contacted.

FIELD METHODS AND TECHNIQUES

The archaeological survey of the project area was undertaken by a crew of six individuals. A 100% survey of the area was completed. In some Phase I surveys it is not feasible to complete a 100% survey. In this case, because of the relatively small size of the survey universe a total examination was possible. Due to the thick ground cover in the project area, it was decided that a surface survey would be non-productive. In order to overcome this problem, we employed a subsurface testing strategy to discover any existing sites.

A systematic unaligned sampling design was chosen to carry out the subsurface testing. For a 100% survey this sampling design insures the even distribution of shovel test pits over the entire survey universe. Also, an unaligned design has the added feature of eliminating the problem of periodicity. Previous research (Plog, Plog and Wait 1978:390-393) has determined that there exists a direct relationship between survey intensity or the comprehensiveness with which an area is investigated and the number of sites that are found. Additional research within the Piedmont province of western Virginia (Word et al. 1981) has shown that intervals of 20 to 25 meters between shovel test pits will yield a large sample of the small sites in a project area.

It is for this reason that the shovel test pits were dug at 20 meter intervals along the transect lines. The transect lines were placed at 20 meter intervals and oriented at an angle of 93° from Alderman Road. This orientation caused the transect lines to be parallel to the straight southern boundary of the survey area, adjacent to Stadium Road. Fifteen transect lines were needed to cover the entire project site.

Other surveys have shown (Chartkoff 1978) for maximum survey efficiency and site discovery, a volume of 25 liters of soil from the shovel test pits is optimal. The validity of taking 25 liters from the shovel test pits has also been supported in another archaeological survey of the Piedmont region Virginia (Word et al. 1981). In this same survey, it was determined that shovel test pits dug to a depth of approximately 40 centimeters proved to be sufficient for discovering any buried sites. This depth insures that the excavations are below the disturbed plow zone level, which can extend 20 to 30 centimeters from the ground surface. All the soil excavated was screened using 1/4 inch mesh.

To keep an accurate record of the changes in the soil types and color, Munsell soil color tests were done every four to five shovel test pits. They were also performed if a drastically different type of soil was observed in the shovel test pit.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS OF MATERIALS RECOVERED

The types of artifactual materials discovered in the survey area are listed in Table 1. The shovel test pits in which these artifacts were found are marked on the map in Figure 2. Most of the artifacts were recovered in the southern section of the project area. The artifacts were fair-

TABLE 1 LIST OF ARTIFACTS RECOVERED FROM PROJECT AREA

TRANSECT	SHOVEL TEST PIT	ITEM	TEMPORAL AFFILIATION
2	6	1 ornamental handle	recent (within last 50 years)
3	8	1 piece porcelain	1850+
		1 piece whiteware (plate)	1850+
		1 piece whiteware (bowl)	1850+
		1 piece pottery with translucent green glaze	1850+
5	2	1 white quartz flake, unworked	possibly prehistoric
6	11	1 piece glass	recent
6	12	1 piece porcelain	recent
		1 piece Chinese porcelain	recent
		2 pieces whiteware	recent
		2 pieces glass	recent
8	6	1 piece whiteware	recent
		6 pieces bathroom tile	recent

ly dispersed, except for those that occurred in conjunction with site B. Different types of historic ceramics were the most common form of material recovered.

The focus of the laboratory analysis was to identify the artifacts and decide upon the appropriate general temporal contexts for them. All of the artifacts and other field data are available in the Archaeology Laboratory of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia 22903.

INVENTORY OF RESOURCES

The historic artifacts not found in the immediate vicinity of the two houses designated as sites A and B (those artifacts found along transects 2, 3, and 8--see Figure 2) were discovered in locations void of other artifacts within a 20 meter radius. While these locations could represent historic sites having small site areas, we are of the strong opinion that they are more likely isolated trash areas associated with sites A and B. The location of these artifacts directly down slope from the house sites and the general time span of the dateable artifacts are consistent with this opinion.

The unworked white quartz flake discovered along transect 5 is considered an isolated find rather than a prehistoric site. We are unable to determine whether this flake is an actual artifact or geofact. The interesting point to note is that this is the only piece of good quality white quartz that was turned up in the entire survey area. As previously mentioned in the section relating to the environmental setting, all other pieces of quartz were degenerated and cloudy--too poor a quality to be

suitable for working.

The two houses, labeled sites A and B, are situated in clearings along the fairly flat western boundary of the project area. Because this was a Phase I survey, we were mainly concerned with identifying the sites and did not collect such information on them as site size or artifact density. However, we were able to gather some historical data on them.

As far as we know from records and personal communications with informants, these houses were used only as residences. In general they date to the late nineteenth-early twentieth centuries. We do not know their exact ages, however. According to an early plat of the project area, both sites were present by November 1, 1907. Also, the Charlottesville City Assessor's history file has a record of the house labeled site A as existing as early as 1900. It is possible that these houses existed prior to 1900, because the original deed of land ownership was drawn up in 1875. The houses may have been constructed soon after this time, so for this reason we have placed them in the late nineteenth to early twentieth centuries.

At present only site A exists in what appears to be a good state of repair. The house has three levels and was constructed of rough-out stone. The structure has two fireplaces, which are located at the eastern and western ends of the house. There is a small porch with steps leading up to the house on the southern side. In addition, there is another porch on the northern side of the structure that is quite a bit larger than the porch located on the southern side. The floors of this structure are made of some type of hardwood.

The house labeled site B was leveled in the early 1970's. The destruction of this site has left us with only the records, information provided by the informants, and the artifacts discovered on which to base any interpre-

tations concerning the exact nature of this structure. From the deeds of land ownership and personal communications with Professor Longley and Dean Titus, we know that this was a frame house of wooden construction. Although site B was leveled, a very small part of the foundation made of rough-cut stone still remains. There is a great deal of surface debris strewn over this site, but due to time constraints and the vast amount of the debris we decided not to collect it. However, we were able to gain information concerning the distribution and types of artifacts present as two of our shovel test pits were dug on the site (see Table 1 and Figure 2). In both of these shovel test pits, the artifacts were found in the first 15 liters of soil dug, indicating that the artifacts do not exist any deeper than 20 to 30 centimeters below ground level.

According to Lynn Rush, an architect with the Planning Department of the University of Virginia, neither of these sites will be directly or indirectly impacted by the construction of the student housing project. In fact, the University of Virginia intends to use the house labeled site A for faculty or staff housing in the near future.

RECOMMENDATIONS

After completing the Phase I survey of the proposed Stadium Road student housing project area, we do not feel that we have sufficient information to make a recommendation concerning the eligibility of sites A and B for the National Register of Historic Places. We do not recommend any further investigation at this time as the sites will not be directly or indirectly impacted by the construction of the student housing project. If at any future time further work takes place close to the sites we do

suggest placing a fence around both areas in order to protect them. Also, if at any time in the future there is any direct or indirect impact on the site areas, we recommend that a Phase II survey be done.

REFERENCES

- Chartkoff, Joseph L.
1978 Transect Interval Sampling in Forests. American Antiquity
43:46-53.
- Collins, Henry H.
1959 Complete Field Guide to American Wildlife: East, Central,
and North. Harper, New York.
- Fernald, Merritt L. and Alfred C. Kinsey
1943 Edible Wild Plants of Eastern North America. Cornwall Press,
Cornwall, New York.
- Kuchler, A. W.
1964 Potential Natural Vegetation of the Coterminous United States.
National Geographical Society Special Publication No. 36, New
York.
- Medsger, Oliver P.
1939 Edible Wild Plants. Macmillan Co., New York.
- Plog, Stephen, Fred Plog, and Walter Wait
1978 Decision Making in Modern Surveys. Advances in Archaeological
Method and Theory 1:384-419.
- Word, Elizabeth S. et al
1981 Phase I and II Study of the Cultural Resources of the Proposed
Ridgeway Hydroelectric Project on the Smith River, near Martins-
ville, Henry County, Virginia. Manuscript on file, the Depart-
ment of Anthropology of the University of Virginia.

APPENDIX I NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF INFORMANTS

Informants contacted:

Fred S. Landes
258 Turkey Ridge Road
Charlottesville, Virginia

Professor John L. Longley, Jr.
Route 1, Box 6928
Charlottesville, Virginia 22906

Dean Chester R. Titus
138 West Park Drive
Charlottesville, Virginia 22901

Informants not contacted:

Alice H. Clark
2500 Stadium Road
Charlottesville, Virginia
former owner of part of the project area

Bernard P. Chamberlain
Midmont
office: 224 Court Square
Charlottesville, Virginia
local historian

Professor Joseph L. Vaughan
2109 Morris Road
Charlottesville, Virginia
local historian