

BULLETIN
OF THE
ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OF CONNECTICUT

NUMBER 28



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YALE PEABODY MUSEUM, NEW HAVEN

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CURVILINEAR DESIGN ELEMENTS IN THE NEW YORK COASTAL AREA

by Julius Lopez

INTRODUCTION

While aboriginal pottery in the northeastern United States appears to be decorated almost exclusively with straight-line designs, there is a little known exception to this rule in southern New England and particularly the coastal region of New York State.

In 1909, Alanson Skinner¹ mentioned the presence of sherds with curvilinear decorations from New York City but stated that they were "exceedingly rare," and that there was not enough material to show the designs. He thought, however, that they were possibly "scrolls of some form." The same year Reginald P. Bolton² sketched one of these sherds, reproduced in Figure 1 below. To judge by the illustration the several curved lines, all closely spaced, had been incised but by a process combining this technique with that often called "stab-and-drag." It was not until 1950 that

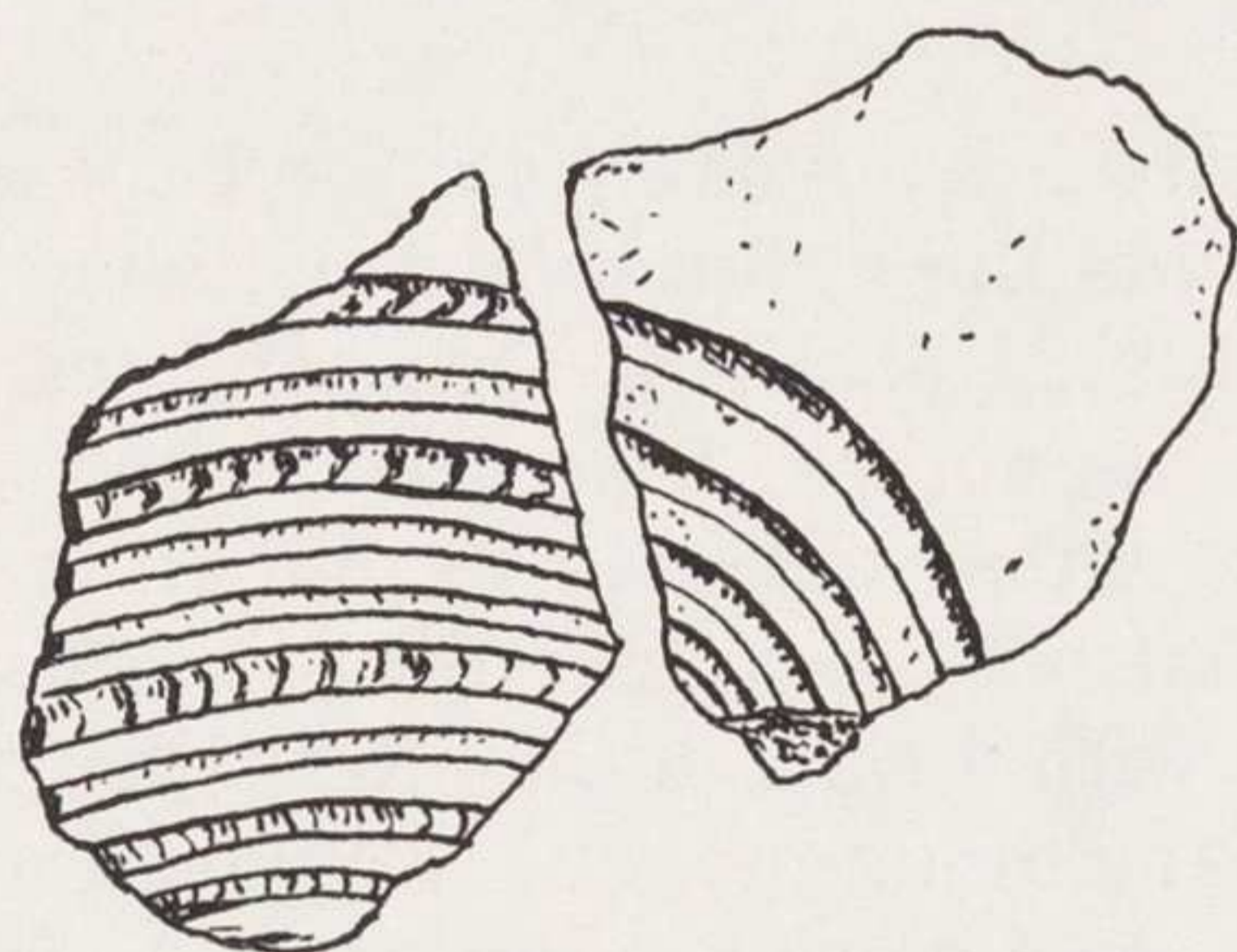


Fig. 1. Curvilinear decoration
from New York City, after Bolton.

anything further was said on the subject. Dr. Carlyle S. Smith³ established a tentative pottery type, Matinecock Point Incised, based on a new find in western Long Island. His description reads:

Curvilinear lines of crude incising accomplished by stabbing and dragging a blunt instrument in the clay. Concentric polygons are typical.

¹Skinner, 1909a, p. 227.

²Bolton, 1909, p. 90, and Fig. 9b.

³Smith, 1950, pp. 196-97.

To this category he ascribed the previously found curvilinear-decorated sherds, and assigned them to the North Beach focus, Windsor aspect. This is the earliest known ceramic horizon in lower New York State and Connecticut.

Unfortunately, all the sherds were few and aggravatingly small. It was not until several years ago that a series of events combined to throw more light on this rare pottery. The first of these occurred at the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation, when I came across the vessel shown in Plate 1: 1. This remarkable example of a curvilinear decoration was identified as coming from Pelham Bay Park, Bronx County. Further inquiries disclosed that it had come from a grave located on a knoll which, archeologically speaking, had long since been destroyed. The second incident took place two years later when, with the permission of the Park Department, an excavation was started by the author, in collaboration with Stanley Wisniewski and Julius Diosi, on another knoll across the road from the one just mentioned. Here we encountered additional instances of sherds with curvilinear designs from two separate vessels (Pl. 1: 2, 3a, 3b), and other pottery fragments which, by their position and the peculiarities to be described, indicated that they were culturally related. Thus, there appeared for the first time, and in more manifest form, possible clues to the identity of the cultural group responsible for this ware.

THE SITE

The Pelham Boulder site, as it is called, lies on a knoll sloping gently down to a salt meadow. A shell midden covers the slope intermittently, ranging from a thin layer of trampled shell at its edges to central portions composed of whole and broken shell capped with humus, together almost 2 feet in thickness.

Happily, the site escaped the ravages of time. During the American Revolution the knoll figured in the Battle of Pell's Point in 1776. On that occasion the American forces stretched a defensive line across it to delay the British and thus permit

General Washington to escape so that he might engage the enemy again elsewhere. No harm resulted to the site since the action was evidently hardly more than a skirmish as disclosed by one grapeshot found in the humus. The knoll was never plowed and, furthermore, was bypassed during the construction and landscaping of the park, with its roads, golf course, parking lots, archery range, foot and bridle paths, and beach. In brief, the site is in an excellent state of preservation.

The only previous work done on it was a very small-scale excavation by M. R. Harrington in the year 1899. A few projectile points including lozenge and fishtail forms, and 436 sherds were recovered, together with such items as splinter awls and rough stone artifacts. This collection was studied years later by Smith, who placed the site in the North Beach focus.⁴

When our excavation was started, our objectives were to learn more about the Pelham Boulder site, and particularly, to gain more data about the little understood North Beach manifestation which shares interior cord-marked pottery with the Point Peninsula focus in up-State New York. Thus far, we have excavated over 1500 square feet and have located various hearths, post-moulds, and pits most of which were shallow. The greater part of our dig is still ahead of us. Nevertheless, our work has already established that more than one occupation took place. From the lowest third of the midden we recovered four distinct varieties of interior cord-marked pottery, including one type with exterior decorations and another, represented by one vessel, which has a mammiform appendage reminiscent of some Orient and Adena pottery.⁵ We also retrieved from the same layer sherds with dentate stamping, net impressions, and fabric markings, all with early Windsor paste characteristics.

The ceramic inventory from the upper two-thirds consists of material belonging to the Clasons Point focus, East River aspect: Clasons Point Stamped, Van Cortlandt Stamped, Bowmans Brook Incised, East River Corded Collar, and East River Punctated Collar.⁶ The bulk of this

came actually from the top third of the deposit. Interestingly, one of the last developments on the site was the discovery of new pottery types recently announced by Dr. Dorothy Cross from her work at the Abbott Farm site, two miles below Trenton on the Delaware River bluffs. The types found are Abbott Zoned Incised, Abbott Zoned Dentate, and Abbott Zoned Net-Impressed.⁷ The appearance of these is the first indication that Abbott culture extended into Bronx County in coastal New York.

As for projectile points, two major types occurred in the upper two-thirds of the midden with most concentrated in the top third. The first is triangular with the points of quartz and flint; the second, more numerous by far, is a broad-bladed spear point. Some of the latter are stemmed while others are lanceolate with concave bases. The material of these missile heads, chiefly argillite, is not native stone. It is common, however, in parts of New Jersey and Pennsylvania.⁸ Chipped stone from the lowest third of the shell overburden is rare, thus far consisting of only two side-notched points.

Other materials recovered are two mortars, a pestle fragment, unpitted hammerstones, various rubbing stones, large amorphous pieces of mica, a fragment of a highly polished stone tube, and clay pipe pieces including a bowl with a spur-like base.

The site is unusually rich in bone artifacts. Awls include the splinter and polished types, some with side notches. One awl, and a basal fragment of another, have convex bases and are engraved. Other articles are an antler needle with its flattened head perforated, a hairpin (?) fragment with a flat, diamond-shaped head, and some other unique pieces. Worked and unworked sting-ray tails were also retrieved. These tails are armed along each edge with a procession of tiny barbs and might have been used to spear fish. They came from the bottom layer, as did the more unusual bone items.

It is the pottery with the curvilinear designs, and some of the sherds found with it, which concern us at present. Five vessels are involved, represented by numerous fragments. Stratigraph-

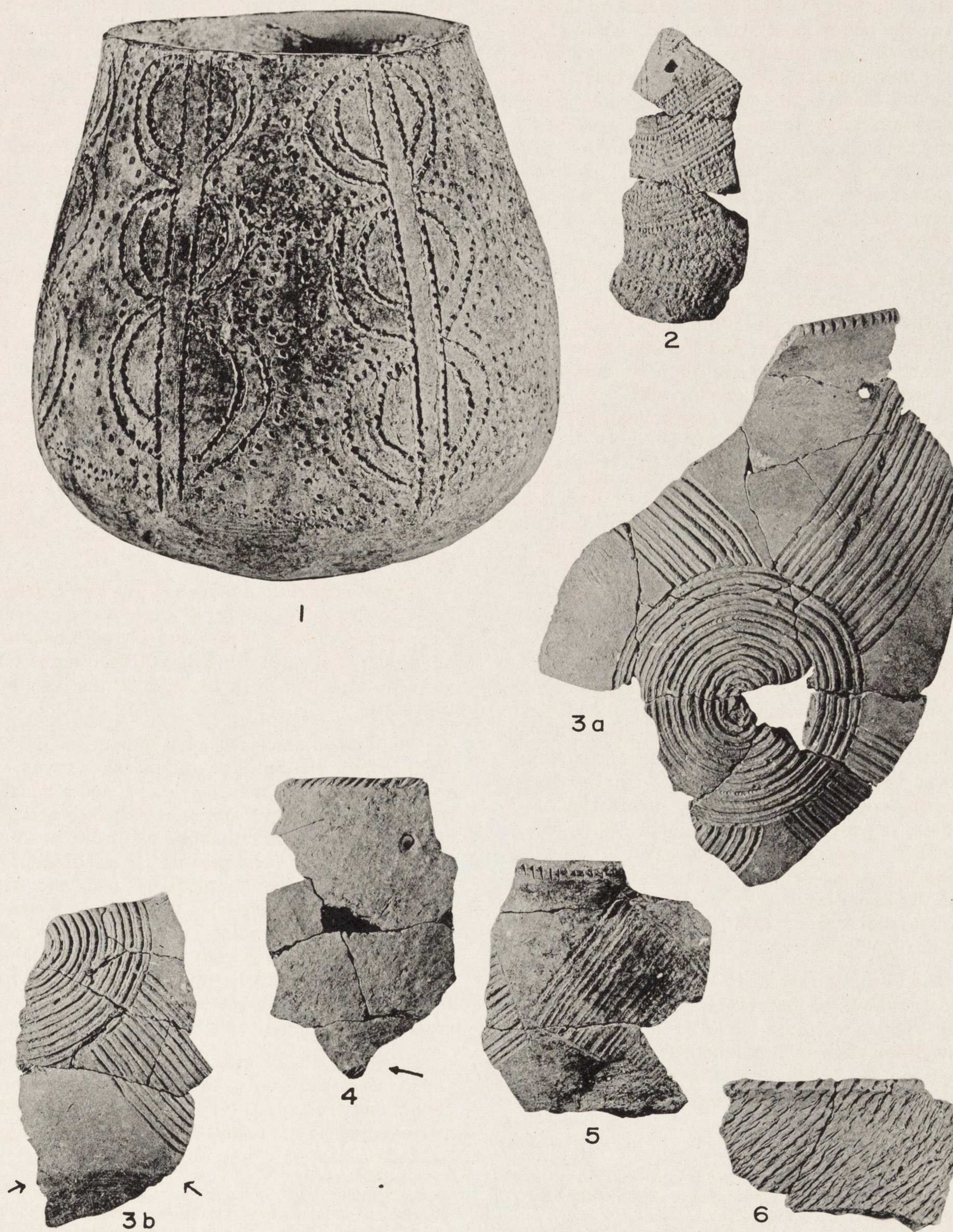
⁴Smith, 1950, pp. 139, 185-86.

⁵Data about the four types of interior cord-marked pottery will appear shortly in a forthcoming Bulletin of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology.

⁶The last two types are new pottery styles identified by the author. Both are grit-tempered, collared, and covered with cord impressions, sometimes partly smoothed over. The first has no decorations; the other has horizontal rows of punctates or "stick jabs." Specimens are known from various late sites on the coast and in New Jersey.

⁷Cross, 1956, pp. 144-47.

⁸Points similar in form, and of the same stones, are not uncommon on some sites in the lower Hudson region. At the Schurz site (Bronx County) they comprised 26% of all chipped stone artifacts; they are also numerous in the Ryder's Pond (Kings County) collection as per the author's unpublished notes. Skinner (1909b, p. 113), stated that points made of argillite were "not infrequent" in Manhattan.



Curvilinear and other distinctive pottery decoration from the Pelham Boulder and near-by sites. No. 1 belongs to the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation. Scale: 1, 2/3; 3a, 1/2; others, 2/5.

ically, sherds from these pots, and of one in particular (Pl. 1: 6), were found below the midden embedded a few inches in the subsoil; they were scattered at that depth over an area of approximately 100 square feet. Most, however, were dispersed within the lowest third of the midden, but never higher. Also to be noted is that several sherds from each of the five pots were found in intimate association at the bottom of a shallow pit under the midden. The pit penetrated nine inches into the clean subsoil across a two-foot width. Only three sherds were located beyond the side limits of the pit, but these were underneath the midden.

POTTERY

Descriptions

In discussing the pottery it seems proper to include the vessel already mentioned from the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation, since it is obviously related:

First vessel (Pl. 1: 1). The decoration is composed of a series of opposing half circles flanking pairs of vertical lines which run from the rim almost to the bottom. The central motif was made with a pointed implement, stab-and-drag fashion. Following this, more curved elements were added to fill the intervening areas, by pricking dots into the clay.

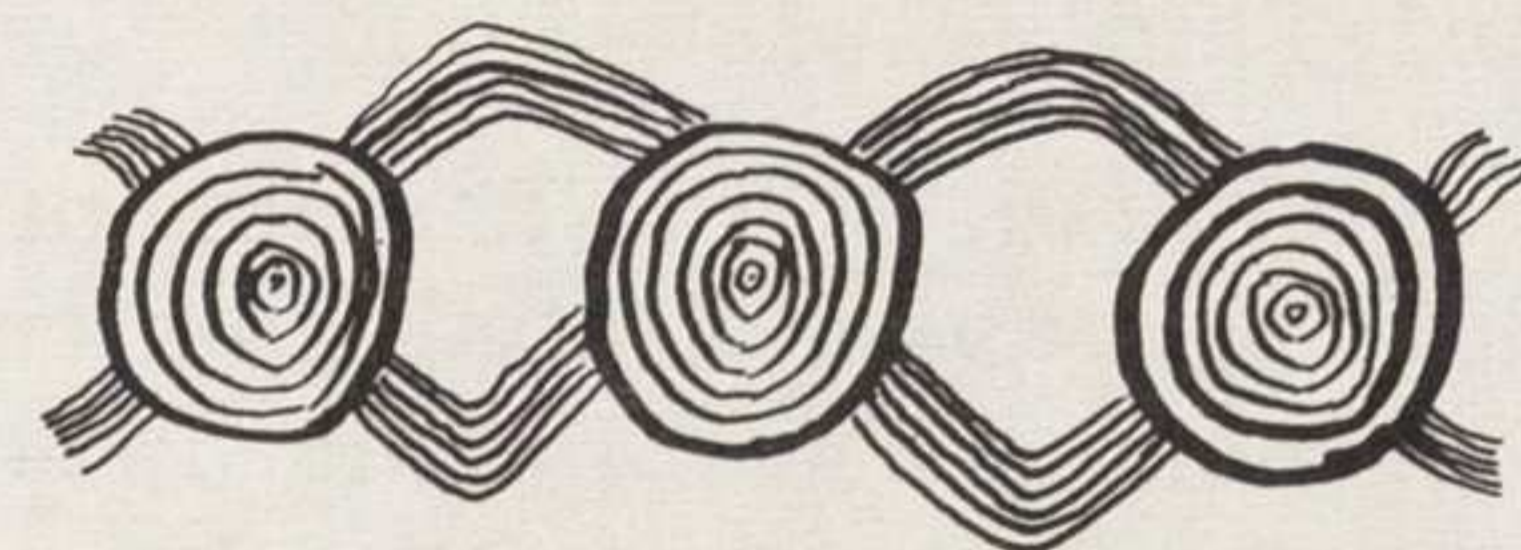
Form: The body shape is rather uncommon for this region. It has a saucer-like base, and sides which slope inward towards the mouth so that the vessel's diameter is narrowest there. Thickness: 5-6mm.

Second vessel (Pl. 1: 2). The design consists of curved bands of closely spaced linear dentations. The upper portion of the sherd gives the impression that there is one wide band. Actually, there are three. The solitary one near the bottom gives a better idea of their width and true nature. Each is 1.5 cm. wide and consists of seven rows of dentates. These vary individually in size from 1.5 mm. square to a rectangle 1.5 x 2 mm.

The method of execution is difficult to determine. Basically, it is dentate stamping but there is some dragging and overlapping. It looks as though the implement was a stamp made from a piece of wood, or bone, into which dentates had been cut on one of its flat, rectangular surfaces. Evidently the tool was placed on the clay, and rocked from side to side so that deeper impres-

sions were made along the edges of the band. Next, to extend the design, the tool was lifted and placed alongside the earlier imprint with a slight overlap. The procedure was then repeated until the band was complete. An occasional dragging of the tool might have been carelessness, or an arbitrary way of hastening the task. Form: unknown. Thickness: 5 mm.

Third vessel (Pl. 1: 3a, 3b). This is the most exotic recovery from our excavation. The decoration consists of large "bull's-eyes," or sets of concentric circles, from which broad bands radiate to connect with similar central elements. The number of bull's-eyes is uncertain. There were at least two, and perhaps there were as many as five. The pattern suggested is approximately as follows:



The technique of execution was similar to that used for the first vessel, and for Matinecock Point Incised, namely a combination of incising and stab-and-drag. In this case, however, a comb-like instrument was employed. The illustration does not show the technique clearly. It gives the impression of true incising but only because the tool bit deeply into the soft clay. Betraying the method used to execute the design are the numerous stab-and-drag tracks, which, on the sherds, can be seen to run throughout the lengths of the incised channels.

The entire effect can be reproduced experimentally on plasticene with an ordinary comb having the right number of teeth properly spaced. The procedure is to hold the comb's teeth on the plasticene at about a 45° angle, and then gradually rotate the tool by a series of short jerks — about 1/8 inch at a time — to describe a full circle. The motion amounts to a continuous, but slow, flickering of the wrist to produce short, spasmodic shifts of pressure which first drag the comb teeth and then stab them into the clay. In this fashion, a set of nested circles can be formed which may look incised, but which will be complete with stab-and-drag tracks.⁹

Form: Only upper portions of this vessel are

⁹If the comb's teeth are of slightly uneven lengths, the shorter ones will produce either faint stab-and-drag tracks or none at all. This may explain some of the incised lines in Figures 1, 3a, and 3b, in contrast to Figure 2, which show the tracks in all channels.

known. In profile, there is a sharp out-turning rim above a globular body section (Pl. 1: 3a), while at the bottom there is a pronounced bend inward (Pl. 1: 3b, arrows). This last bend might mark a possible shoulder, or might conceivably have led to a saucer-like base similar to the first vessel. Thickness: 4-5mm.

Fourth vessel (P. 1: 4). The rim of this sherd bears incisions on the outer edge of the lip. In profile the sherd is almost straight, but just at its base occurs an inward bend at a 45° angle. At this point (arrow) there are incisions not unlike the notching of the rim above. Here again we have an angular body feature similar to the previous vessel described, but this specimen suggests a bowl of some sort with the lower incised lines encircling it where the wall turns to form the bottom. Thickness: 7-8 mm.

Fifth vessel (Pl. 1: 5). The design consists of rectanguloid figures separated from one another as zoned elements. The filled-in lines have stab-and-drag tracks in the channels. Thus we have this technique in a straight line motif as well. Form: Unknown. Thickness: 7 mm.

Sixth vessel (Pl. 1: 6). This pot is undecorated except for an outer-edge lip notching. It is one of the four varieties of interior cord-marked pottery previously mentioned, and has been designated Modified Interior Cord Marked. Unlike Vinette 1, which has both surfaces *completely* covered with cord imprints, the Modified variety invariably reveals attempts to remove the interior cord marks by wiping or scraping while the clay was still damp. Why this was done is not known, but it seems to indicate a trend towards plain interiors. This ceramic form occurs, according to the writer's research, on various components of the Windsor aspect. It is also found in New Jersey, but not in central New York.

The exterior is deeply cord-marked. The individual cords, as disclosed by their imprints, were about 2 mm. wide and apparently consisted of two S-twisted strands. Form: Uncertain. However, a basal fragment with a flat narrow bottom was recovered from the midden; in thickness, color, and paste characteristics it matches this vessel and may have been its base. Such bottoms are virtually unknown in coastal New York but are not uncommon in New Jersey. Thickness: Mostly 8 mm., but with a range up to 10 mm.

Additional data (6 vessels). The five pots from our excavation have outer-edge lip notching and rims which slope outward in varying degrees. Color: The complete vessel and our bull's-eye

specimen are red; the rest are tan or a grayish tan. Temper: Two vessels (Pl. 1: 4, 6), are shell-tempered; the first has sparsely distributed fragments up to 2 mm. in diameter; the second, has a rather liberal amount of shell in miscellaneous sizes up to 6 mm., but with an average of 3 mm. The rest are grit-tempered; particle sizes vary somewhat with the vessel; but, on the whole, they are 1.5 mm. and less, with occasional fragments up to 2 mm. Texture: The Heye and bull's-eye vessels are close-grained, exceptionally well compacted, and hard. The rest are slightly gritty and contorted in texture; compaction is moderate. Cores are dark to black. Coil construction is evident as far as the five vessels are concerned. Interiors: All show fine parallel striations as from wiping or scraping. As we have seen, it was done in one instance to eliminate interior cord markings.

Summarized Traits. While there are some differences in details of paste and thicknesses, they are subordinate to the traits which link the vessels as a cultural assemblage. All are collarless. Five of the pots have exterior lip notching. Furthermore, the rims of all five are everted, but to different degrees. Three vessels have curvilinear decoration. There are also three instances of the stab-and-drag technique including one straight-line application. Zoning occurs in three instances (Pl. 1: 2, 3a, 3b, 5). By zoning is meant a decorative scheme which is not continuous, as in a band encircling a rim, but rather sets of major design elements with intervening plain areas isolated between them. The Heye specimen can also be considered as having a zoned decoration except that dots were pricked into the clay to fill the blank spaces. Another linkage appears to be odd body features. Dentate stamping appears on only one of the six pots, but it can safely be considered part of this culture's tradition since the bottom of the midden yielded additional dentate sherds similar in paste and temper.

RELATIONSHIPS

Geographical Range

Examples of curvilinear expressions were previously known only from Manhattan Island and western Long Island. The range now extends further into Bronx County, on the Pelham Boulder site as this paper discloses. From the same county comes a small sherd (Fig. 2) which appears to belong to the pottery group under discussion. It was found at the Schurz site.

Other examples include two sherds which Roy Latham very obligingly sent to me for my inspection (Fig. 3: a, b). These, seemingly from the same pot, are from the Smith site, Shelter Island, New York, and exhibit execution by the stab-and-drag technique. The "tracks" from the stabbing and dragging are faint in contrast to the fragment from the Schurz site, which shows the marks very clearly. Another sherd which Latham kindly sent me comes from the Hands Creek site, Three Mile Harbor, and shows various curved lines composed of dentates. This makes two sites from far eastern Long Island which have produced this interesting class of sherds.

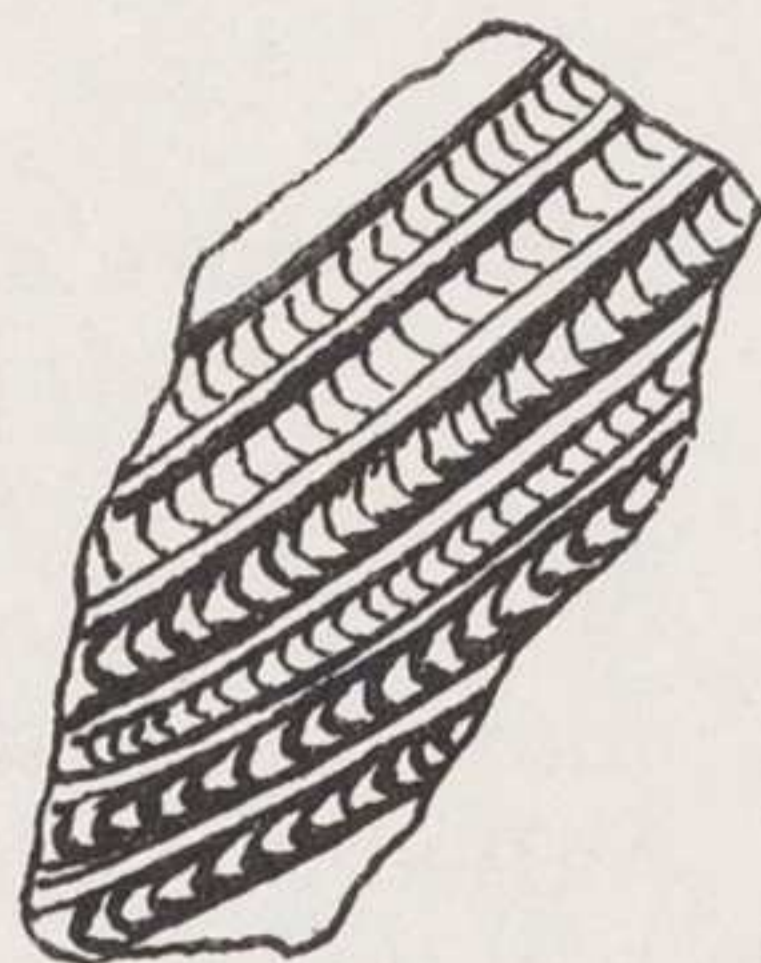


Fig. 2.
Schurz site,
the Bronx.

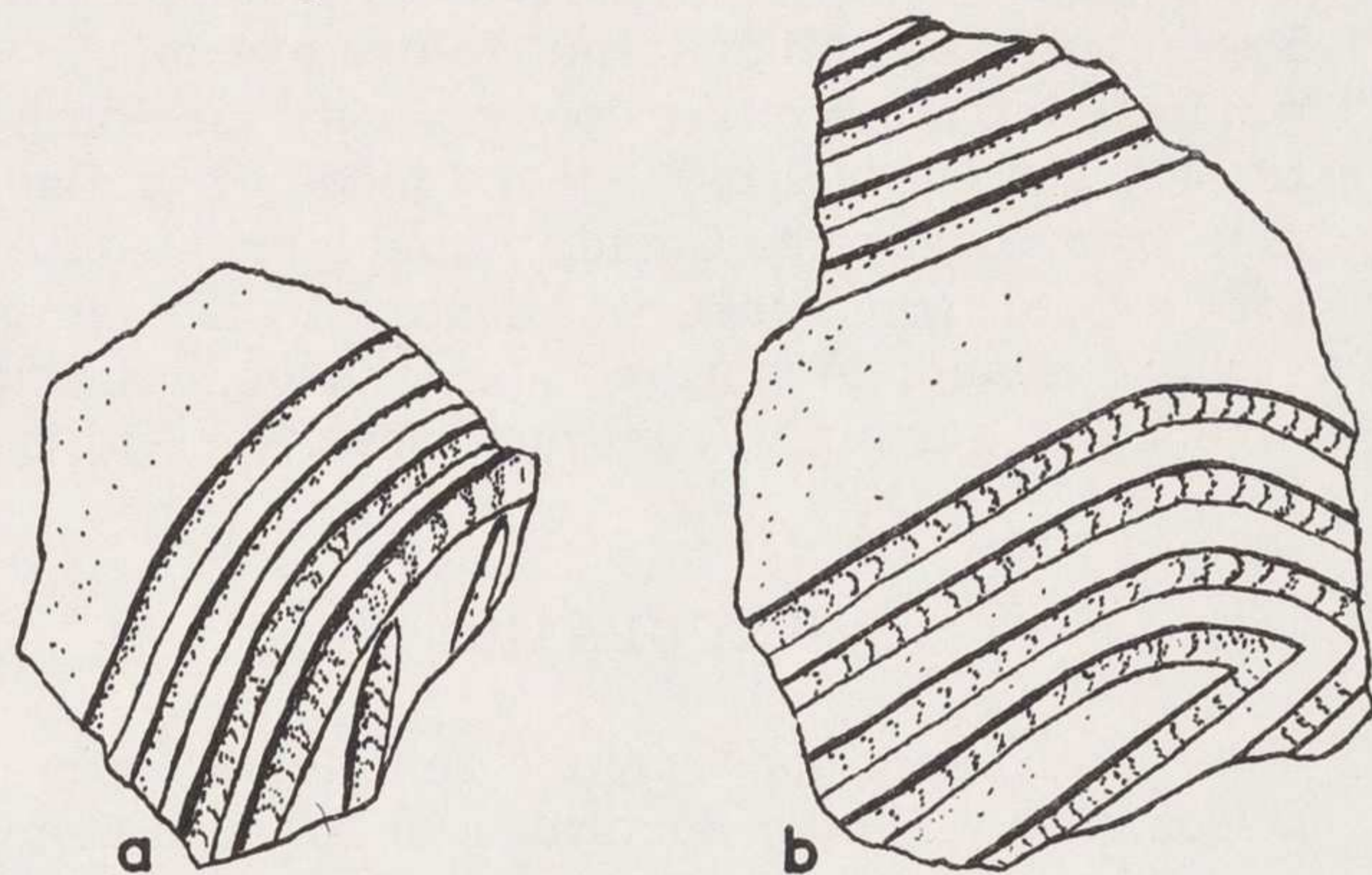


Fig. 3. Curvilinear decoration
from Shelter Island, N. Y.

There is also a sherd with a curvilinear treatment from southwestern Connecticut shown me by Robert Suggs,¹⁰ one from central New England sketched by Fowler,¹¹ and another depicted by him from Rhode Island. The last one combines both straight and curved lines of dentates. Cross also informs me that curvilinear decoration is now appearing for the first time in New Jersey at a new site under study.

Cultural and Chronological Positions

The low stratigraphic position of the sophisticated pottery in the midden implies an early age, as does its presence in the same zone with Windsor pottery. If we first set the vessels aside and examine the rest of the sherds from the lowest third of the midden, we find that most qualify as

early material. This is based on a paste which is generally soft, porous, gritty, and usually tempered with crushed stone, mostly quartz, in particle sizes ranging from medium fine to fairly coarse. Some of the sherds embody the same traits as found on the six vessels. For example, there are instances of stab-and-drag incising, outer-edge lip notching, and numerous cases of scraping or wiping to remove interior cord marks. Thus, a relationship is implied; but the six pots have a marked improvement in paste, and also resemble, and to a much closer degree, some of the Abbott pottery types from the Delaware River Valley. This becomes apparent when we consider that Abbott features dentates, zoning, outer-edge lip notching, filled-in rhomboids, flattened bases, and, if it can be considered a trait, highly imaginative artwork. A further relationship is indicated by some actual Abbott sherds taken from the lowest third of the midden in our site. Another possible tie-in is that various types of interior cord-marked pottery were found at the New Jersey site. Some of these also display attempts to erase the interior cord corrugations.

Temporally, according to Dr. Cross, the Abbott manifestation in New Jersey was of long duration. However, in discussing this, she has indicated that Abbott originated some time prior to the East River aspect. This would place Abbott in a position coeval with part of the Windsor aspect in New York, presumably with its intermediate or late stages. What we might have in our six vessels, then, is evidence of an Abbott, or Abbott-like, manifestation, which may either have entered the area or have influenced the Windsor culture from a distance.

It is necessary to add the qualification "Abbott-like," even though the pottery might actually be Abbott, because there is no evidence thus far that the latter culture had curvilinear decoration and the stab-and-drag incising. No instances of these turned up among the 29,585 sherds recovered from the Abbott Farm site. This is a large sampling. Yet the absence of these traits at the site may have been fortuitous. In contrast we have examples of curved-line elements and the peculiar incising, not only from our excavation, but from other coastal collections, mostly very small, representing this and various neighboring counties. In view of this, we have to allow that the six vessels might be, if not Abbott, then part of another manifestation which was Abbott-like. Under no circumstances can they be classed as East River ceramics of the aspect bearing that name.

¹⁰Suggs' site report, with comments on curvilinear decoration, is scheduled for the next issue of this *Bulletin*. His interest in the subject appears to have originated in our discussion of the Pelham collection at the time I was showing it to him.

¹¹Personal communication, 12/8/55.

Regarding the adjacent areas where curvilinear decorations have been reported, data are lacking to indicate what the connections are, if any, with coastal New York. It is likely that they are related in some way. There are indications that they are also early. Roy Latham informs me that the Shelter Island site seemed early, and the example from Connecticut came from a site with a Windsor component. That from Rhode Island depicted by Fowler¹² was placed by him in his Stage 2 pottery, which is early in his ceramic sequence. Cross¹³ suspects that those now being found in New Jersey will turn out to be "pre-Owasco and pre-East River."

In the next section we shall briefly examine the pottery of other areas where designs embodying various curvatures may imply some broader connections.

Curvilinear Decorations in Other Areas

We have noted local occurrences of ceramics with curved-line artwork in adjoining areas which form a pocket in the Northeast. To the west and south this pocket appears to be bordered by a zone consisting of parts of New Jersey and Pennsylvania, and also of Delaware and Maryland, where no such pottery has been found. However, crossing this strip we reach the true home of curvilinear stylistics where scrolls, meanders, and circles are common over a vast area covering the upper Mississippi drainage, and stretching from the vicinity of the Potomac River southward to the Florida Gulf Coast and the lower Mississippi. This expanse was dominated by the Hopewell culture and by a configuration of other complexes, some as earlier phases, which did not fully share its attributes, but which still appear to have been related to classic Hopewell during what has been termed the "General Hopewellian Period."

True Hopewell pottery as made by the "mound-builders" in the central Ohio and Illinois Valleys, and in contiguous areas to the west, was frequently covered with meandering zones or bands, set off by incised lines. At times they were filled in with dentate stamping. In the lower Mississippi Valley, decorations on Marksville pottery are closely parallel except that rocker-stamped dentates, rather than plain stamped dentates, seem to be more frequently associated with curvilinear motifs.

In the Georgia-Florida area a very popular and distinctive decorative tradition involved designs

which were carved in wooden paddles, and from them transferred in relief onto the surface of the wet clay. Concentric circles, or bull's-eyes, are one of the numerous design forms employed in the more intricate patterns of this pottery in the type called complicated stamped. To be sure, not all the designs are curvilinear. Some, even earlier in origin and known as check-stamped, consist of a grill of straight ridged lines intersecting at right angles. From the Georgia-Florida area, the tradition of stamping in relief apparently spread northward into Virginia and eastern Tennessee. It also reached the Ohio Hopewell in small percentages. A complicated stamped sherd has also been found in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania,¹⁴ and a check-stamped sherd at Inwood Hill, New York City.¹⁵ These may have been trade pieces. Parenthetically, other items "close to home" which illustrate similar contacts with the South are a fragment of a bird's head modeled in clay, also from Lancaster County,¹⁶ and a crested bird's head from Fisher's Island, off the east end of Long Island. According to Ferguson,¹⁷ this last object was certainly from the Tennessee Valley.

SPECULATION

The problem posed by the restricted distribution of curvilinear decoration in an area dominated by straight-line forms is, of course, that of its origin. Naturally, the simplest answer to the question would be that our pottery designs may have developed entirely spontaneously among a few related tribes along the coast. This might very well be. However, it does not take into consideration that little is known today about (1) early coastal ceramics; (2) the transitional period from Early to Middle Woodland times, not only here, but in the eastern Pennsylvania-New Jersey-Delaware-Maryland area; and (3) influences which may have emanated from the mid-continental Hopewellian domain into the moundless areas just mentioned, during the transitional period. Until more data are accumulated it cannot be ruled out completely that the concept of curvilinear decoration may have reached our coastal corner from a Hopewellian district at some time during the development of the general Hopewellian phase, either through trade or via an intermediary group.

It is axiomatic that trade offers opportunities for an exchange of ideas and for the introduction

¹²Fowler, 1956, p. 18.

¹³Cross, personal communication.

¹⁴Wren, 1914, p. 81 and Plate 20:12.

¹⁵This sherd is in the collection of the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation.

¹⁶Wren, 1914, p. 81 and Plate 20:11

¹⁷Ferguson, 1935, pp. 19-20.

of innovations. Commerce undoubtedly helped to spread Hopewellian socio-religious and other concepts, as well as some of the culture's material traits. These are found from Michigan and Wisconsin to the lower Mississippi Valley and the Florida Gulf Coast, and from Kansas to western New York (New York focus, Hopewellian phase). Even today it is astonishing to realize the distances traversed to supply the Hopewell craftsmen: Copper and silver came down from Lake Superior, obsidian and grizzly bear teeth from the Rockies, and from the Gulf Coast, alligator and shark teeth, tortoise shell, and the shells of the tropical conchs. Discrete cultural groups marginal to the Hopewellian realm might well have received some stimuli from trading activities. Conceivably, some concepts like curvilinear motifs, zoning, and certain styles of dentate stamping, may have pulsated further afield from neighbor to neighbor until they reached the coast.

Lamentably, evidence is lacking just where it is most urgently needed—in the blank zone separating our area from the mound-building regions. Perhaps further work there will reveal a few connecting links. In the meantime, there is a suggestion that a linkage may exist somewhere in that area; for a Hopewellian-like cast seems to characterize both the Pelham assemblage and the zoned varieties of Abbott pottery from the Delaware Valley south of Trenton. Whether Abbott originated there, or further west and nearer to the Hopewellian threshold, is not known. Cross¹⁸ feels that it developed locally, but under the stimulus of a Hopewellian influence. As we said, though, the Abbott station yielded no curvilinear decoration. This might indicate that there is still another cultural entity awaiting discovery which combined some Abbott traits with curvilinear motifs, and that it was from this group that Pelham acquired its interesting decorative work.

CONCLUSIONS

In the Northeast, some sherds decorated with curved lines have been found in southern New England; but to date, most have come from coastal New York. This artistry, however, was not much in vogue. Nowhere in the area does it predominate over other types of decoration.

The designs are on uncollared vessels and are either dentate, or more commonly, incised by the

stab-and-drag method, sometimes with a comb-like implement. There is only one sherd from coastal New York which was executed with a cord-wrapped stick. This sherd, found at the Van Cortlandt site, New York City, and illustrated by Skinner,¹⁹ was omitted from our discussions because the design is on a collared rim and is consequently unrelated to our pottery. The design, furthermore, is made of short, straight lines connected to form crescentic elements. The effect is clever, but not truly curvilinear. Finally, it is the only collared specimen from our area known to possess a curvilinear design. It seems to be, therefore, not a cultural trait, but the unique and crowning achievement of a single talented potter.

Culturally the Pelham vessels share some traits with Windsor pottery, but there is a much closer correlation with some of the Abbott ceramics from the Delaware River Valley. Consequently, they may be Abbott. Granted that Abbott does not possess curvilinear decoration; but it appears significant that in some places where curvilinear decoration has been found, Abbott, or Abbott-like, materials also occur. We have this situation at Pelham. The Schurz site, which produced Figure 2, also has traces of Abbott pottery, and similarly the Shelter Island site, from which came Figures 3a and 3b.²⁰

The Pelham vessels seem to indicate that an Abbott, or Abbott-like, culture either entered coastal New York or strongly influenced the last stages of the Windsor culture. From here, though perhaps in feebler form, influences may have extended into adjacent areas. This is implied by the less fluid and imaginative styles of the curvilinear decorations previously cited from those areas.

It is hoped that when our work at the site is completed, we shall be able to elaborate on the significance of our intriguing ceramics and help solve some of the archeological problems of coastal New York.

¹⁹Skinner, 1909b, 118.

²⁰Abbott pottery is also present in collections from the Tottenville site, Staten Island, and from the Sebonac site on eastern Long Island, excavated by Harrington. In his report (Harrington 1924, p. 273 and Figs. 30, 31f) he mentions two sherds which "so closely" resembled the pottery found "near Trenton, New Jersey." One is Abbott Zoned Incised, the other an Abbott dentate. At the Sweet's Knoll site, Massachusetts, a sherd was found which looks like Abbott Zoned Incised (Personal communication and photograph from Maurice Robbins, 11/7/56). All these sherds have the characteristic exterior lip notching.

¹⁸Cross, 1956, p. 195.

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Flushing, L. I., N. Y.
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PRELIMINARY REPORT ON A SOUTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT SITE

by Bernard W. Powell

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FOREWORD

The general problem. It has been postulated that the ceramics and other cultural traits of aborigines who dwelt in southwestern Connecticut should diverge, at some point in time, from an early, dominant Windsor culture (aspect) and should evidence instead addition of, or replacement by, the East River culture, defined by Smith¹ and others. This hypothesis rests on evidence obtained during the archeological investigations in areas adjacent to this region. From such material, Rouse² predicted an extension of Smith's boundary which bisects culture areas of Long Island into eastern and western divisions. Rouse's boundary extension across Long Island Sound should enter Connecticut and run northward somewhere in Fairfield County. Establishment of this boundary between the two culture areas on the mainland would be desirable. However, lack of controlled excavation or of any methodical recording of aboriginal finds in this region, as noted by Rouse³, Pope⁴, Smith⁵, and others, has kept this part of Connecticut archeologically unknown.

In the summer of 1953, I located a site in this region which showed evidences of aboriginal occupation. In the intervening 3 years, enough material has been recovered to justify a report on it and permit at least a partial attempt to reconstruct events here and relate them to the larger problem outlined above. Large-scale road building is even now destroying part of the site. A final report will be attempted at a later date after many features and deposits have been obliterated and there is little likelihood of further significant finds.

THE SITE

Location. The site, hereinafter designated the IF (Indian Field) site, is on the west side of Cos Cob Harbor in the town of Greenwich, Fairfield County, Connecticut (Fig. 1). It extends about 1670 yards north from the harbor entrance to the region of the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad tracks, and inland about 500 yards west. The rather large area so delineated (in excess of 150 acres) contains, with one exception, all aboriginal deposits noted by me. Another site, rather small, which I shall call the IP (Indian Point) Site, lies on an extreme outer point of land on the opposite shore of the harbor. IP is about 1830 yards

¹C. S. Smith, 1947, p. 3; 1950, p. 106ff.

²Rouse, 1947, p. 18.

³*Ibid.*, p. 18.

⁴Pope, 1953, p. 8.

⁵C. S. Smith, 1950, p. 156.

south-southeast of my datum point at IF, and is included here because of apparent temporal and spatial relationships to IF. Both localities can be found from my datum point at the approximate intersection of 41°01'45" latitude and 73°36'00" longitude on U. S. Geological Survey Map, Stamford Quadrangle, 7.5 minute series.

Environment

Geological. The milieu of the IF site is typical of the Connecticut littoral. A point extends southward into Long Island Sound and shelters along the eastern margin a narrow tidal cove. A freshwater river, the Mianus, drains into the upper reaches of this cove. Like other streams hereabouts, the Mianus heads inland in a region of rock outcrops and long parallel ridges. This land blends imperceptibly northward into the Taconic Highlands of upper Connecticut and the Hudson River Valley. Evidences of continental glaciation abound throughout the area. Surface formations are mainly Pleistocene in origin, and include drumlins, kame terraces, and deposits of glacial till. Striations and potholes mark many water-courses.⁶ Compared to the rough interior, the immediate area of the site is rolling and reasonably smooth. Shoreline environment is varied and ranges from a sandy beach near the outer extremity of the point, to muddy, exposed flats in the harbor, and eelgrass marshes in the more protected recesses. Islets near the harbor opening and along the shore are typical of tidewater coves in this region. Maximum height of the point is about 40 feet. The aboriginal material occurs mainly along the first and second rises of land bordering the harbor. In places along the shore, the complex, metamorphosed bedrock of the area creates steep banks. The beach strip presents a very heterogenous collection of stones and minerals. The water-worn, rounded cobbles include chert, quartz, quartzite, and other species. Intrusive dikes in the bedrock contain mica, hornblende, tourmaline, garnet, feldspar and quartz. To peoples who were "lithic-oriented," the region offers a profusion of workable material. Near the periphery of the site, fortuitous deposition of glacial erratics created a few cramped rock shelters and overhangs. Though much disturbed in the interim, they harbor evidences of aboriginal use. The predominant yellow loam on the site is overlain by black, rich, organic humus. Much of this is

⁶Glaciation was marked along the southern Connecticut shore. The terminal boundary lies across the Sound on Long Island — furthest extent of the ice in this region.

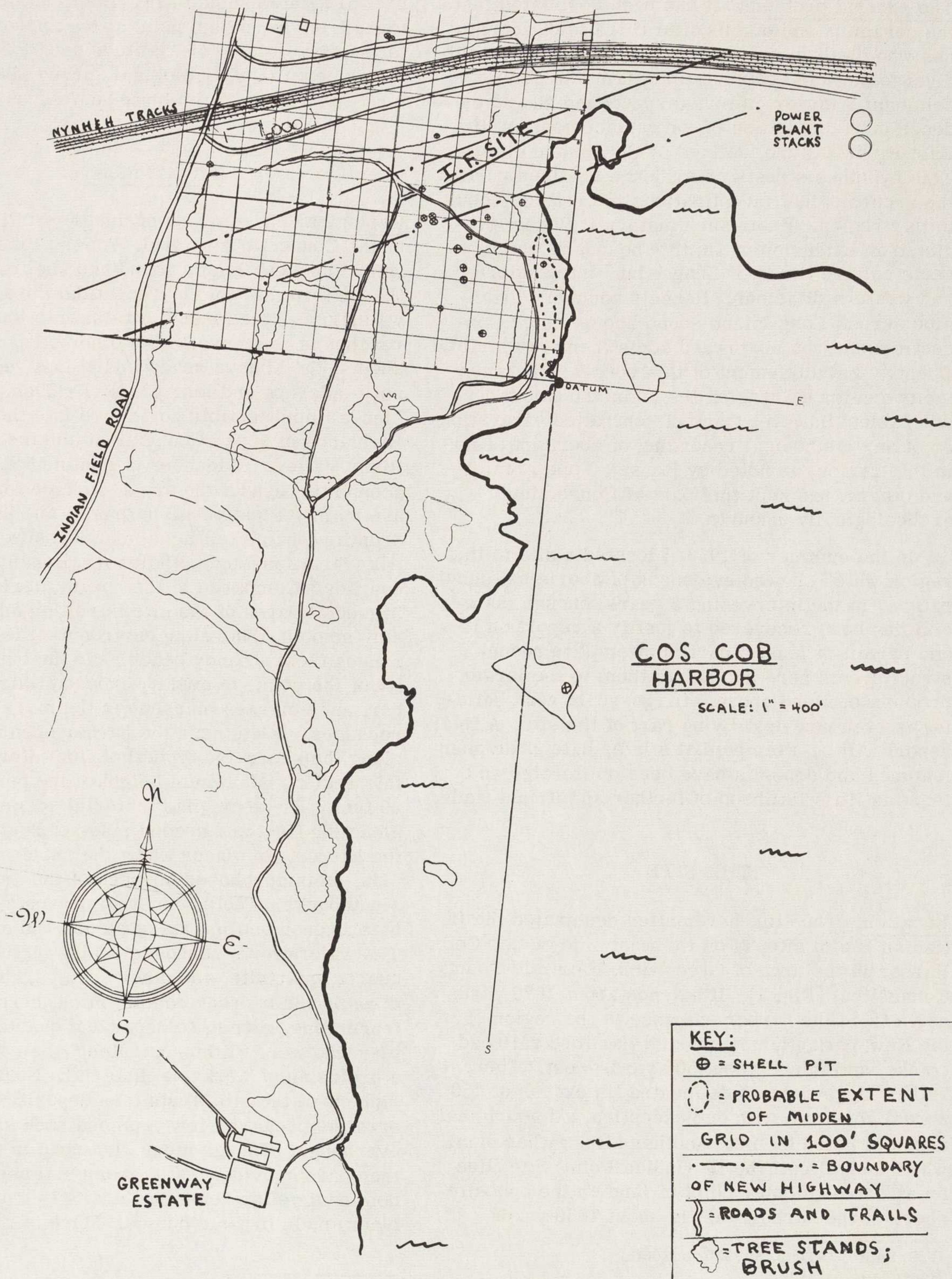


Fig. 1. Indian Field site with relation to Cos Cob Harbor.

charged at random with marine shell fragments, pieces of mammal bone, and stone chips and spalls. This humus layer varies in thickness from nothing to as much as 10 inches. The porous nature of the soil and imperviousness of the bedrock are favorable to the occurrence of springs. Several perennial springs occur at the site now, and may more undoubtedly flowed in the past before farming and other practices greatly disturbed the drainage. Dried courses support this conclusion.

Botanical. Today the site is mainly crop and pasture land for a large shore estate. Second growth hardwoods and stands of set pines occur everywhere throughout the area. Criss-crossing stone fences of colonial origin ramble over the site. Where the land is not plowed or grazed, extensive thickets of poison ivy (*Rhus toxicodendron*), honeysuckle (*Lonicera dioica*), and other obnoxious plants blanket much of the surface and make archeological survey both difficult and tiring. It is doubtful if any of these plants grew here during aboriginal times.⁷ Located within the Eastern Deciduous Province of the primeval northern sylvia defined by Peattie⁸, the site must originally have supported a stand of oak, tuliptree, gum, sassafras, butternut, and related types. Some of these species are still present, but it is obvious that the land was overcut from much of its original stand; indeed, the historic Indians themselves may have been responsible for initiating this practice.⁹ While much of the site is altered from its appearance in former times, it seems reasonable to suppose that the lack of building and construction has preserved some of the original character of the land intact.

Zoological. The usual complement of northeastern mammal, bird, and fish life is assumed to have been present at the site in aboriginal times. No longer extant, but known by direct skeletal evidence from the refuse deposits, are deer (*Odocoileus*), beaver (*Castoridae*), migratory sturgeon (*Acipenser*), scallop (*Pecten*), and possibly elk (*Cervus*). Species living in the area today, and represented also in the refuse deposits, include grey fox (*Urocyon*), racoon (*Procyonidae*), eel (*Anguilla rostrata*), crab (*Callinectes sapidus*), clam (*Mercenaria mercenaria*), mussel (*Mytilus edulis* and *Volsella demissa*), oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*), whelk (*Busycon*), marine snail (*Littorina*), blackfish (*Tautoga onitis*), cunner (a Wrasse), other fishes, shark, and various birds.

Not identified as such in the refuse material, but surely known to the Indians, would have been bear (*Euarctos*), turkey (*Meleagris*), squirrel (*Sciurus*), rabbit (*Sylvilagus*), otter (*Lutra*), muskrat (*Crice-tidae*), lesser voles and rodentia, and the ubiquitous dog, (*Canis*). Animal life still maintaining itself is reduced to those forms than can live in the precarious balance dictated by reduced cover and the presence of man and domestic animals.

METHODS

Maps, records, photography. Because of the projected highway grading and the destruction already attending cultivation of an annual corn crop, my initial decision concerning the IF Site was to survey the entire region for any deposits threatened by these agencies. The deposits were then excavated mainly in the order in which they seemed to be threatened. Emphasis was naturally accorded undisturbed stratigraphic deposits. However, complete salvage of material wherever encountered was elected, and extensive surface hunting on disturbed ground was also undertaken.¹⁰ To record adequately the location of all features removed, a map (Fig. 1) was prepared using low-altitude aerial photos of the site. This map was laid out on a very large scale: 1 inch to 100 feet. A datum point was selected and was thought originally to be well outside the suspected area; subsequently it has proven to be well within it. This datum point may be located as a red-painted circled "X" chiseled in bedrock at a shore outcrop. With this as a referent, a grid was laid out on 100-foot intervals. That is, it was laid out on the map, not by stakes in the field, as this would have interfered extensively with the local agriculture. Such a large grid obviously did not serve as a guide for quadrant-by-quadrant excavation! Its purpose was to permit entering features on the map in some approximation to their *relative* occurrence at the site. Base lines on the map were measured by 100-foot steel tape. Compilation of a vertical cross section through the site with a hand sighting level was abandoned as not worth the effort and not contributive of essential information. General estimates of contours were obtained from a Geological Survey map. Notes and sketches made in the field were later transposed for permanent records. Color slides (35mm) recorded many phases of the work and appearance of some artifacts *in situ* in the field; slides of the collection are presently being made.

⁷W. F. Smith, 1946, p. 16.

⁸D. C. Peattie, 1950, end papers.

⁹Holland and Leaf, 1935, p. 25.

¹⁰Heizer, 1953, p. 26.

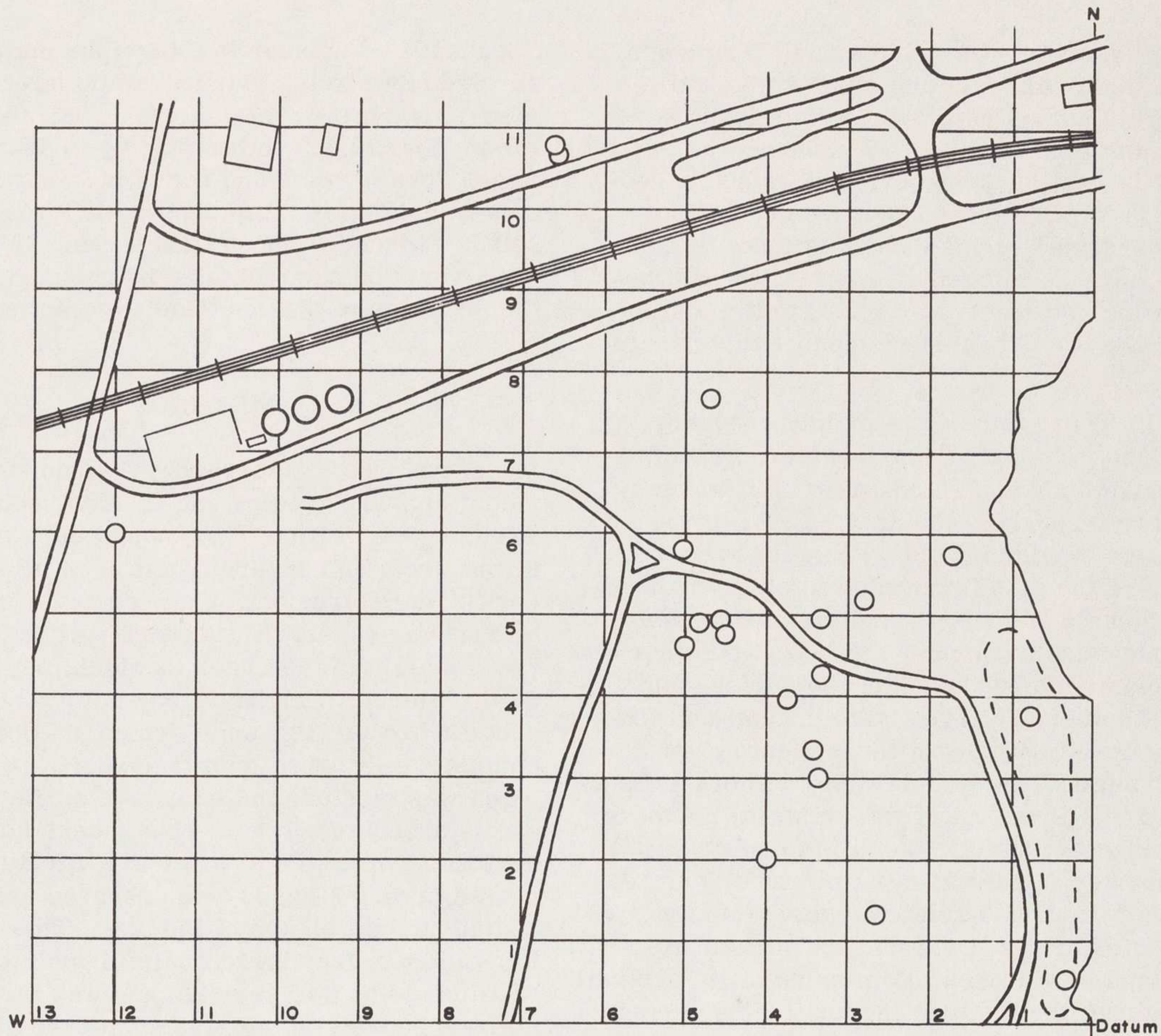


Fig. 2. Major concentration of features, Indian Field site. Grid interval 100 feet.

Excavation. Test holing, limited trenching in suspected areas, and vertical and horizontal excavation of obvious features were all employed. Specimens from different levels were collected separately; in many cases pieces of bone, pottery, and other artifacts, which matched along break lines came from tops and bottoms of pits and appear to obviate stratigraphy. It is the author's opinion that many refuse pits contain material deposited nearly simultaneously and not over any extended period of time. This appears to be true far more often than does definite stratigraphic difference. When a pit was located, the ground surface was usually cleaned back for some distance beyond its margins to check for the presence of post moulds. None have been recorded to date. All excavations were backfilled according to an agreement with the various landowners concerned.

In the search for subsurface features, a special tool I devised proved most helpful. It is an earth augur about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, widely used by tree surgeons to feed roots. I welded this to a cross-T pipe handle. With it, I was able to

bore to a depth of about 3 feet and bring up samples of soil from beneath the surface. Shell layers and pits were revealed by relatively higher proportions of shell fragments in material so removed. Originally I intended to bore at every intersection of the grid but settled, finally, for specific areas most likely to harbor pits. Several completely hidden features were located in this manner. The main drawback with the method was the time and effort required to survey even a relatively small area.

Treatment of specimens. All material not too fragile to handle was carefully washed to remove loose soil. Projectile points, scrapers, and small stone tools were catalogued and placed in standard Riker display mounts such as are used for entomological and other biological specimens. Large, bulky items were filed in a steel-drawer cabinet. Pottery was washed, glued along break lines where these could be matched, and mounted in Riker mounts. Bone artifacts, animal jaws, and significant animal bones were washed, dried and impregnated with Alvar 7/70 vinyl resin. Such

bone specimens are then easily handled without fear of breaking. Where feasible, these have been displayed in standard Riker mounts. Burned organic material was treated in a similar way, with the exception that some charcoal specimens were wrapped in foil and stored in airtight jars. Several professional archeologists suggested this as a precaution to permit a future C-14 test. The collection is freely accessible to those doing study in this region. Eventually all material will be given to the Archeological Society of Connecticut for its disposal.

EVIDENCE OF ABORIGINAL OCCUPATION

Historic References

Several writers place Indians on or near this site at the time of Contact. To quote a few pertinent passages: "Some small clans seem to have inhabited the coast from Greenwich to Fairfield, but so feeble and insignificant, that not even their names have been preserved from oblivion."¹¹ This same author concedes that aboriginal population in the region increased around 1643 by an influx of Indians from the *Long Island* (western?) and *Hudson River tribes* on whom the Dutch were exerting pressure (italics mine).¹² Not necessarily contradictory (if we allow sufficient time lapse) is a statement that land near the confluence of Strickland Brook and the Mianus River had been thickly settled prior to Contact.¹³ This is the locus described by Trumbull¹⁴ for the village of "Petuckquapaen," and often referred to in passages relating to the early history of Greenwich. He also states¹⁵: "A village of the Siwanoy tribe was situated above the Westchester Path (Post Road), near what is now Cos Cob. It was called Petuquapaen (sic) and the chief was Mayn Mayano or Myanos."¹⁶ The spot is less than a mile north of the IF site. Petuquapaen had a record of harboring Indian malefactors from the *Hudson River tribes* who fled Dutch justice under governor Kieft in New Amsterdam¹⁷ (italics mine). It was this flouting of white law, plus numerous quarrels with fur traders and settlers, that led to the events of February, 1644, when a combined force of Dutch and English soldiers marched on Petuquapaen and destroyed it during the Battle of Strickland Plains.

¹¹De Forest, 1852, p. 49.

¹²*Ibid.*, p. 49.

¹³Mead, 1911, p. 1 ff.

¹⁴Trumbull, 1881, p. 51.

¹⁵*Ibid.*, p. 29.

¹⁶Stirling (1955, p. 56) provides an interesting comment on the role of "chief" among democratic village tribes of eastern America.

¹⁷Mead, 1911, p. 11.

The destruction of the village "... marked extermination of the Siwanoy."¹⁸ Varying accounts place the number of native men, women, and children slain between 500 and 700 persons. What interests us here is a reference to the presence of 25 *Wappingers* in the village on the eve of the battle: "... they had gathered together to celebrate one of their festivals."¹⁹ Generally descriptive of the unsettled times is the following account of the sequel to the massacre at Petuquapaen: "More than fifteen hundred warriors, rallied from the confederacy of eleven clans, to constitute this avenging army... From Manhattan to Stamford the coast was desolated, Dutch and English alike atoning to the inexorable spirit of Indian revenge for the needless injuries that had been heaped upon the Indian race."²⁰

Trumbull mentions several names relating to the immediate area of the site: "*Cos' cob*: a neck of land, in the s.e. part of Greenwich. The Mianus river flows into Coscob harbor, on the w. side of which is Coscob village. The name, denoting a 'high rock,' (comp. *Cassacubque*) was perhaps transferred from the bluff west of Strickland's brook, near the Indian village."²⁰ "*Mianus* river: in Greenwich and Stamford; and transferred to a village at the junction of this river with Coscob cove. For '*Mayanno's*,' — as the river and neck of land were called, from the Indian proprietor, *Mayanno* or *Mehanno*, who was killed by Capt. Patrick, in 1643. '*Mayanno's neck*' (Greenw. Records, 1664). '*Mayane*, a sachem residing... between Greenwich and Stamford.' N.Y. Col. Mss. i., 186. His name signifies 'He who gathers together.' "²¹

An incident pertaining directly to the site is recorded by Mead.²² I believe it to be the origin of the name "Indian Field" for this region. On February 1, 1686, Wesskum, identifying himself as a sagamore of Wapping, attested to the validity of a sale by six Indians of all land or lands between the Mianus River and the Byram River (later shown to be south of the Westchester Path). This sale was accorded seven English settlers, including two of Mead's forebears. In consideration for this, the Indians and "four papooses" related to them, received thirty acres of planting land within these same bounds. This land lay "... fenced in at Cos Cob Neck ye lower point." The description fits the IF site. On the death of the "four papooses" all land reverted to the town

¹⁸*Ibid.*, p. 19.

¹⁹*Ibid.*, p. 19.

²⁰Trumbull, 1881, p. 12. See also Mead, 1911, pp. 18, 48, 87.

²¹Trumbull, 1881, pp. 29-30.

²²Mead, 1911, pp. 31-33.

for its keeping. The four children named in the historic deed are almost surely the last representatives of their native group in point of time, and we may assume they disappear from the scene forever early in the eighteenth century. Hurd²³ is evidently referring to this incident when he writes, "In 1686 the Indians sold nearly their last acre of land in the town. These lands were on the western bank of the Myanos, near its mouth."²⁴

Analysis of the historic sources. First, it almost seems that De Forest might have been referring to events far antedating historic times; his tribes, "...so feeble and insignificant, that not even their names have been preserved from oblivion," could easily be taken to describe Windsor-tradition peoples absorbed or expelled from the area by the East River invaders around 700 A.D., or to the invaders themselves.²⁵ There are good references to places, persons, and events in historic times that permit us to say the Indians of that period were Siwanoy and therefore allied with the Wappinger Confederacy. Spiess says,²⁶ "It cannot be disputed that the Siwanogs (sic) were members of the Wappinger Confederacy in New York. Their territory extended into what is now Connecticut and includes the towns of Greenwich...tribal name seems derived from Sewan, shells, auk, ac, or og, place." These Siwanoy, from their name alone, would seem to be coastal members of the Confederacy;²⁷ Skinner felt they were the occupants of the historic village of Snakapins on the East River. This is tentatively linked to the Clasons Point site in the Borough of the Bronx—within easy travelling distance of the IF site.²⁸

From the literature emerges a picture of tribes in this southwestern corner of Connecticut being affiliated with Indians of the lower Hudson Valley and enjoying direct communication and allegiances with them. There is no documentary evidence that these Indians had much traffic with tribes to the east, — in the region of that "long tidal river" which has colored so much Connecticut Indian history. These local peoples seem, therefore, outside the pale of the Windsor and Shantok cultures upstate. As stated previously, this region is suspected to lie within the bounds of

²³Hurd, 1881, p. 368.

²⁴A landowner near here told me that an original deed of which he had knowledge pertained to his house and grounds and was secured from either Mianus or one of his sagamores.

²⁵C. S. Smith, 1950, p. 108.

²⁶Spiess, 1933, p. 31.

²⁷The Wappinger Confederacy extended from about Poughkeepsie on the Hudson to New York Bay and eastward to the lower Connecticut Valley. Editor.

²⁸C. S. Smith, 1950, p. 168.

the East River domain. The recovered artifacts tend to substantiate this hypothesis. Now I hope to have shown what scattered historic references have long implied: tribes of this culture were here in southwestern Connecticut at the time of Contact.

Today, the site is part of a secluded residential community. Extensive grounds may yet preserve many features intact. No prior controlled excavation is known for the actual site,²⁹ though surface finds have undoubtedly been made by chance walkers over the years.³⁰

Physical Remains

Occurrence. The major sources for early cultural material on this site are two: middens and shallow subsurface pits where *in situ* relations were occasionally noted, and the surface of the general area. Where possible, the depth of subsurface finds from present land surfaces was recorded. Artifacts from the beach were classed with surface finds; undoubtedly some surface finds had derived ultimately from features beneath the soil as a natural result of plowing and erosion. The list of artifacts found (Appendix, Table 1) makes plain the distinction between surface and subsurface finds. Surface finds were restricted entirely to artifacts of stone, shell, and pottery. About thirty subsurface features were found, but not all were distinct. Indeed, some were only shallow deposits of shells and blackened earth a few inches thick. Hardly defineable in shape or extent, they bespoke human origin but little else. They were usually devoid of cultural material.

General deposits. Recognizable deposits included a midden paralleling the shore along the first rise of land (Fig. 2). It lay adjacent to that portion of the site which has yielded the most material to date. Averaging perhaps less than 2 inches in thickness, this midden straggled along for upwards of 75 to 100 yards, with a width probably not in excess of 15 yards. Whole areas within these bounds, however, were almost destitute of artifacts; and only the trace of shell particles, fire-burned stones, and occasional animal bones justified the term "midden." Perhaps plowing very long ago had disturbed and scattered portions of the original deposit to give it this character. As stratification was not always sharply defined,

²⁹Contents of a shell pit excavated near here years back are on exhibit in the Bruce Museum, Greenwich, Conn.

³⁰Two stone gorgets found on or near this site are now in the Yale Peabody Museum (Accession 3529, Item 8449 and Accession 5752, Item 138223). Rouse, personal communication.

it was hard to decide if disturbance had actually occurred. Very little cultural material was recovered from excavation in this midden. A 4-foot square test pit in the southerly extremity was excavated to a depth of about 10 inches. Designated *Feature 13* (Fig. 2, .50N/.25W), it revealed a shell layer from 2 to 4 inches thick and overlain by about 5 inches of undisturbed topsoil. The layer extended in every direction to an undetermined limit. A quartz end scraper (Fig. 8, 26) was all that was recovered here; the exact depth was not noted. To date this has been one of the hardest portions of the site to work; more research on it is planned for the future.

In addition to the midden, a shell layer right on the water and at the far southern end of the site, deserves special mention. This has been designated *Feature 18* (shell layer at 26.58S/4.75W). An irregular layer from an inch to several inches thick; it lay just beneath the present surface and was apparently mostly undisturbed. Originally it must have covered an area about 60 square feet in extent but erosion had greatly reduced this when I first noticed it. No cultural material was recovered from the layer save as follows: A broken flake of greenish stone suggests working. Grains of charcoal and a few animal bones were intermingled with the shells and black, organic soil. At the northern extremity, the layer weathered out onto a bedrock outcrop right at the water's edge. Here reddened and friable stone evidenced former heating and burning. The outstanding find was a number of clam (*Mercenaria mercenaria*) shells all bearing notching along their outer perimeters. This notching occurred after several fashions. Some valves had notches at either end of the shell. These possibly suggest some form of hafting for the shell. Other valves had one or several notches anywhere along the outer rim. The range in width for these notches was quite large: from not more than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide up to 2 inches wide and over. All were rather symmetrical and showed definite wear or rubbing marks at the notch bases on the outer, curved backs of the valves. Quite a few of these shells were recovered both in this layer and in one similar on a nearby offshore island. Probably about 20 or so were reclaimed in all; three of which are illustrated (Fig. 3). It is known that gulls and other sea birds will drop clams on rock-strewn beaches to break the valves and get the animal inside. I have observed this curious habit myself, — indeed, at this very site. The symmetry and smoothness of the notching on the shells, however, eliminates any possibility that gulls might have been responsible. This was confirmed by a

check with an ornithologist.³¹ Consequently, a problematic artifact, to the best of my knowledge never before reported for the coastal Northeast, seems now to be established. One prominent archaeologist³² has suggested their use in "peeling poles." Smith³³ mentions "worn shell fragments" in his trait table for East River sites, but lists only four specimens as the total number recovered from nearly all components of the aspect taken together. This is at marked variance with the quantity in which I noted them at the IF site. It is my opinion that more than one type of tool is present here. The valves with the opposed notching (either end) usually have small notches and I have previously suggested hafting for these. Sometimes several small notches close together suggest multiple sinew dressers or shaft smoothers. The large-arc notches may be "pole-peelers" or shaft smoothers of some sort.

Pits. The other subsurface deposits consist of pits. These range from shallow features little more than mere depressions containing isolated bunches of shells and stones, to bowl-shaped pits usually about 4 feet in diameter and 3 feet deep. These latter correspond closely, except as to artifacts, to the second kind of pit described by Smith³⁴ for the Clasons Point focus as "containing stained soil, broken and whole shells, cracked stones and bones, and a wide variety of artifacts." These were common at the Clasons Point site west of here. The pits at the IF site occur near to the midden area and with decreasing frequency inland. Several of the more noteworthy to be excavated are described below. Their contents and the stratigraphic distributions of the latter are given where known.

Feature 1 (Fig. 2, 2N/4W). Approximately 3.5 feet in diameter and 20 inches deep, this deposit lay in a plowed field and was disturbed to a depth of about 7 inches. The pit was irregularly circular. It contained a heterogenous collection of marine shells, broken and split animal bones, small grains of charcoal, and several pieces of scraped and worked tortoise shell (Fig. 4), probably representing a broken carapace dish. This came from near the bottom. Just the tip of a quartz projectile point was recovered near the -12-inch level. We found no pottery, but there were some large stones, not reddened by fire. From its appearance it was never the site for a fire, though it did contain charcoal grains.

³¹E. T. Gilliard, personal communication.

³²J. Ford, personal communication.

³³C. S. Smith, 1950, p. 128.

³⁴*Ibid.*, p. 120.

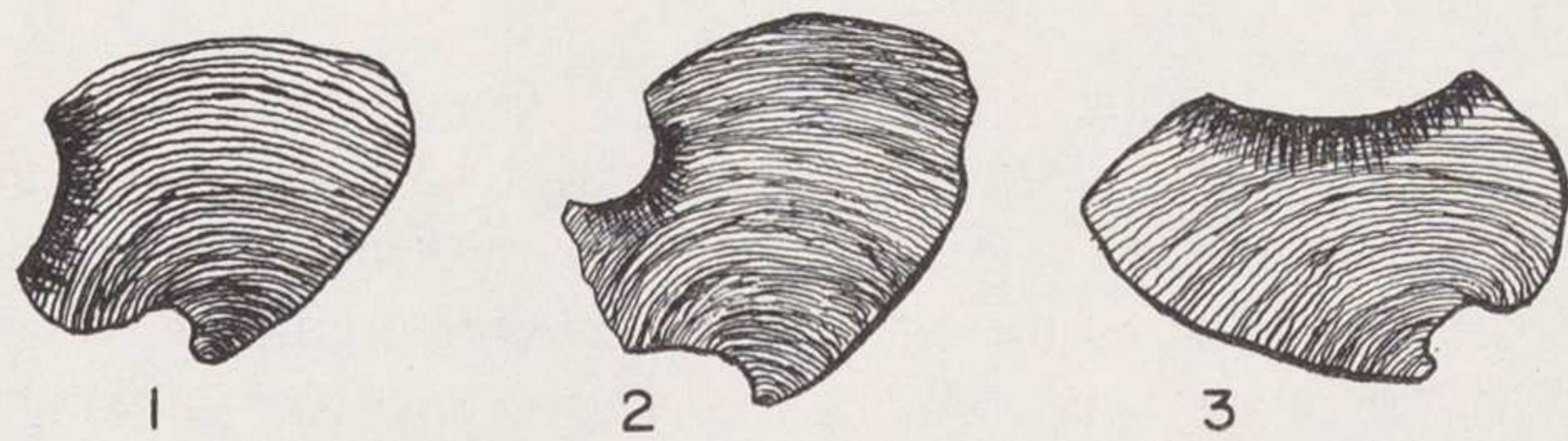


Fig. 3. Clam shell artifacts, Feature 18.

Feature 2 (Fig. 2, 5N/4.5W). About 3.5 feet in diameter and 30 inches deep, this pit also was disturbed by plowing to about 7 inches. Both broken and whole clam and oyster shells were present, along with scattered animal bone fragments and charcoal grains. Near the -12-inch level lay a pottery pipe fragment (Fig. 7, 1).

Feature 5 (Fig. 2, 4.75N/5W). This pit measured about 4 feet in diameter and was nearly 38 inches deep. It had a U-shaped, bowl-like vertical profile. The surface had been disturbed by plowing, and on it, before excavating, we noted a broken quartz flake. At the -9-inch level, 28 potsherds were removed near the northern edge of the pit. Of this group, we can identify 2 rim sherds of Van Cortlandt Stamped ware (Fig. 5, 11, 12) and 17 body sherds probably from the same vessel. These sherds had been cord-marked but later smoothing all but obliterated traces of the malleating tool. Also in this same group of sherds, were 7 body sherds of cord-marked pottery without pronounced later smoothing. Their paste is darker than in the other sherds and they probably represent another vessel. All sherds appear to be East River types. From -23 to -29 inches came fragments of deer jaws³⁵ with teeth intact, the lower jaw and teeth of a grey fox pup, and miscellaneous teeth and bone fragments of other animals, along with charcoal and organic material not yet identified but preserved through charring. Both reddened and non-reddened stones were haphazardly present in the lower portion of the pit. The soil beneath the pit bottom had a fired appearance.

Feature 8 (Fig. 2, 6N/12W). Rather elongate in a north-south direction, this pit was 5 feet in extent and about 18 inches deep. Broken valves of oyster, clam, and scallop were noted along with the usual charcoal grains, bone fragments, and quartz chips. Broken and unbroken field stones occurred at random in the pit. At -10 inches in the southerly end, we found a rather nice rim sherd of a Bowmans Brook Stamped vessel (Fig. 5, 10). The size of the sherd raised hopes that more of the vessel would be forthcoming but none was located. What makes it particularly interesting,

³⁵The zoologist examining the deer teeth was struck by the fact that so many were from "very mature to old" animals. Does this, perhaps, suggest something about the efficacy of bow and arrow?

even though it is but a single specimen, is the strong Owasco-like nature of the style. Near the other end of this deposit at this same level, was a reddish-orange sherd (Fig. 5, 9) which appears to be a portion of a collar and bears a design suggestive of Van Cortlandt Stamped. This sherd has diagonal rows of edge-paddle cord marks just below the lip inside the rim. A third sherd (Fig. 5, 13) bears traits indicative of Bowmans Brook Stamped and is possibly a variant. The lower half shows cord markings below the decoration.

Twelve fragmentary grit-tempered sherds show cord markings, and are otherwise similar to the preceding sherds. Two other body sherds are cord-marked, buff-colored, and similar to the first rim sherd in makeup. An amorphous lump of clay is probably accidentally fired waste. All sherds occurred mainly on a level with the diagnostic East River rim sherds described. A few occurred a little below this; but as they bear marked resemblance to the others, it seems clear they probably belong to one of two or three different vessels whose fragments occurred in this pit and share the same provenience.

Feature 14 (Fig. 2, 10.75N/6.75W). This find was overlain by nearly 18 inches of black, organic topsoil thinly charged with shell fragments. There was no surface indication of a pit at this spot; the feature was discovered solely by chance drilling. While the overburden of topsoil was disturbed and included fragments of modern glassware and other trash, the pit itself was not disturbed. It had a peculiar vertical profile (Fig. 6) terminating at the top in a peak. The top inch or two of shells was reduced to very small pieces while the bulk of the shells in the pit were as usually noted in such features. The thickness of the overburden made the actual surface of the pit quite deep and was somewhat unusual.³⁶ The diameter of the pit was

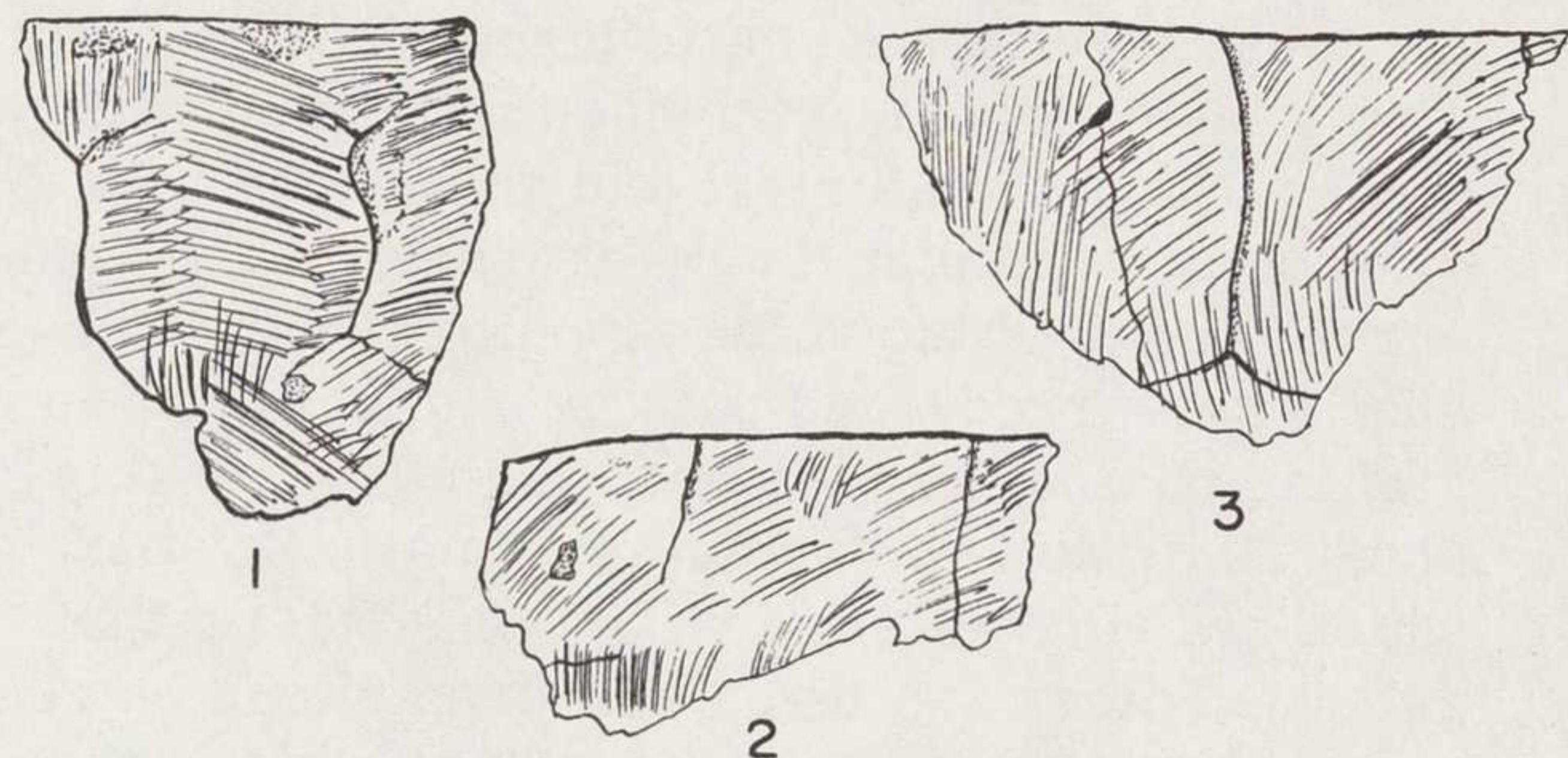


Fig. 4. Carapace dish fragments, Feature 4.

³⁶The ground here is flat; an informant told me that years ago the region was planted as a berry patch. This must have involved cultivation, and perhaps the soil and the rich blackness of it are partially the result of fertilizing during that period. A stand of pines now carpets the whole area very thickly with needles.

48 inches, the total depth 47 inches. Since, however, the overlying topsoil was 18 inches thick, the pit was actually some 29 inches deep. No pottery was recovered above -20 inches. Thirty-three cord-marked body sherds with "East River-like" paste were found between -20 and -37 inches. These sherds were fairly evenly distributed throughout this zone. All have smooth interiors and vary from grey to reddish; they give the impression of being from one vessel. One has been drilled for a lacing thong (Fig. 7, 4). Seven body sherds smooth on both interior and exterior surfaces are "East River-like" in paste. With one exception they are dark grey inside and light buff on the exterior. They also occurred in this same zone. Two sherds from this same level appear to be cord-marked, but under low magnification they show impressions that might have been left by a very loosely woven fabric with about a $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch mesh. At the intersections of this mesh, twined (or plaited) fibers in one strand seem to be spread to allow those running in the other direction to pass through the opening. There is no knotting at the intersections.³⁷ The two sherds — both body sherds — are reddish-buff, grit-tempered and compact. Another sherd from this zone is shell-tempered, shows the lighter hue of being fired in an oxidizing atmosphere, and has parallel markings from the edge of a cord-wrapped paddle. Whether the interior is brushed or merely wiped with a rough substance is hard to determine. A tiny rim sherd was found here showing two vertical, parallel markings from the edge of a cord-wrapped paddle. Another, reddish sherd is cord-marked on the exterior right up to the lip. That has impressions of the edge of a cord-wrapped paddle stamped at an angle across it. The lip flares slightly and is flattened. Seven sherds from this zone are too badly spalled and deteriorated to permit analysis. Near -32 inches, a triangular quartz projectile point (Fig. 8, 4) was found. Also recovered near the center of the pit were two splinter awls (Fig. 7, 24, 26), one with a polished tip; other projectile point fragments; an antler tine wedge tool (Fig. 7, 23); a worked scrap of bone (Fig. 7, 22); and noncultural material including fish bones, broken, charred, and whole mammal bones, charred nutshell fragments, the usual clam, oyster, and scallop valves, and shells of the not-too-common whelk, marine snail, mussel, and Arca.

Feature 15. This pit was located about 20 feet east and 8 feet south of the previous one (Fig. 2).

It was similar in size and content, though not situated quite so deep. Just beneath the surface three cord-marked body sherds were found. Near them was the end of a broken, polished celt (Fig. 8, 35). At the -18-inch level two unclassifiable sherds were found that have brushed interiors with parallel grooving (scallop shell dragging?). They are shell-tempered and evidence coiling in construction. They are very similar to the questionably "brushed" sherd from the previous feature. One is a cord-marked body sherd while the other is a rim sherd with an incised design. This includes a triangular plat formed by parallel incised lines containing horizontal rows of "stab-and-drag" marks. The upper ends of these marks all show a tiny V-groove when viewed under low magnification (Fig. 5, 4). I can closely approximate this mark in clay by using a fish spine from one of the pits. From this same zone comes a sherd with both interior and exterior brushed. Another body sherd has haphazard faint brush marks. Slightly beneath the cord-marked sherds, I recovered two small cylindrical pipe fragments with burned and charred interiors. Quartz chips and flakes, one near the top showing retouching and probable use as a scraper, were common throughout the pit. The usual complement of deer teeth, fish, and mammal bones was present. Charcoal grains and broken stones were common, though the pit did not show evidence of being used for a hearth or fireplace.

Feature 21 (Fig. 2, 5S/17W). This pit was exposed by a bulldozer during excavation for a house foundation. Four feet in diameter and 18 inches deep, it contained bone fragments, charcoal, quartz flakes, and scattered rather uniformly throughout, some 25 sherds of East River-like pottery. A rim sherd from this group (Fig. 5, 2) suggests Van Cortlandt Stamped, or the stamped rims of the Owasco aspect. Unfortunately, the specimen is small, but it does suggest a collar and the lip is rounded and treated in an unusual manner. That is, the outer portion has been depressed or

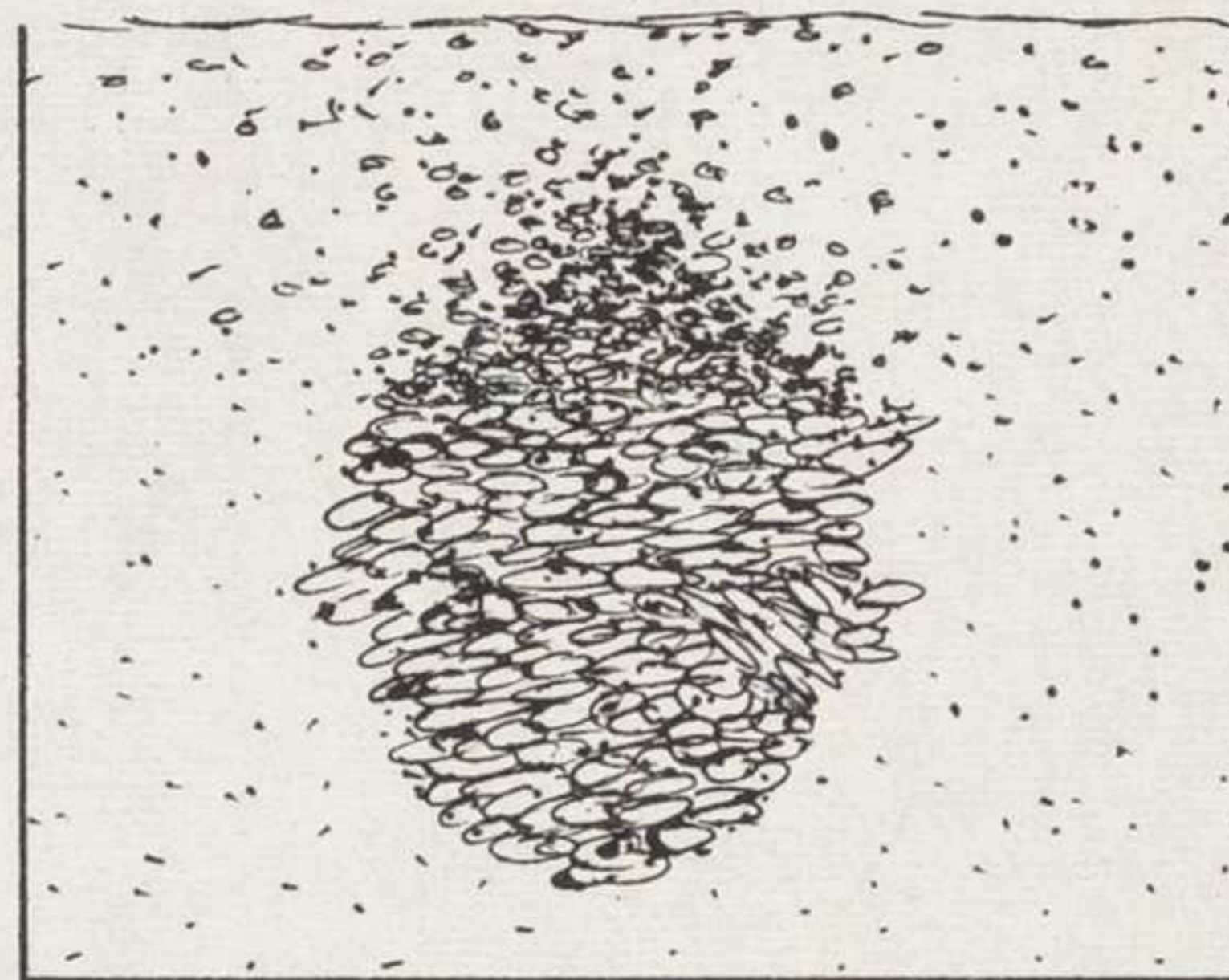


Fig. 6. Feature 14, north-south vertical section of shell pit surrounded by thinly scattered shell fragments (not to scale).

³⁷If some would consider these sherds "cord-marked," I suggest the term as now used embraces too great a variety of actual methods and poses good grounds for further research.

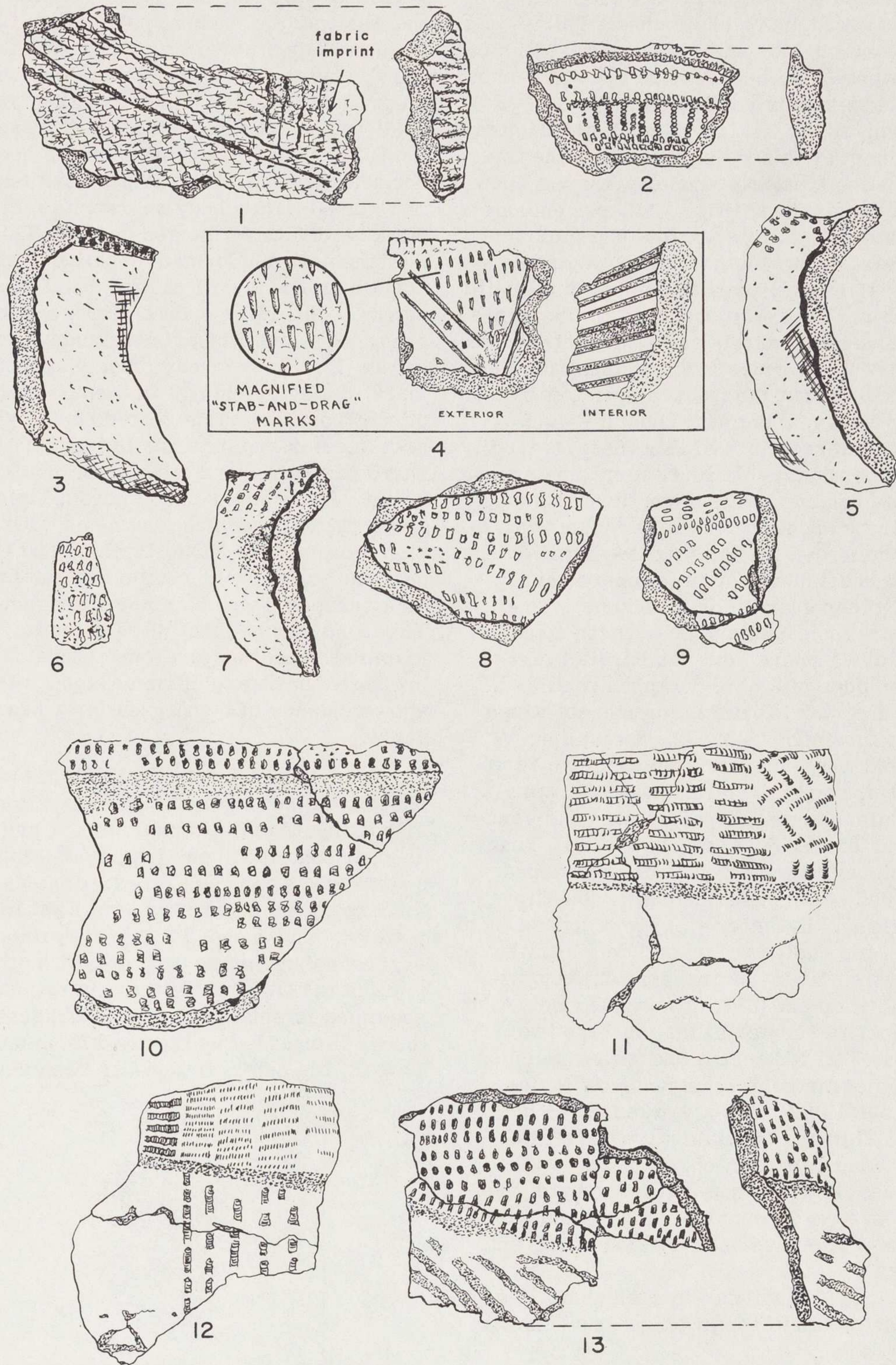


Fig. 5. Pottery from Indian Field site: 1, Fea. 14; 2, Fea. 21; 4, Fea. 15; 9, 10, 13, Fea. 8; 11, 12, Fea. 5.

"pushed down" — as can be seen in the cross-section or profile of the piece. Similarity in appearance and paste, and close spatial association in this small feature, in my opinion, argue that all sherds are from one vessel. The sherds are grit-tempered. No artifacts were recovered.

Indian Point sub-site, Feature 1. No coordinates are given as this shoreline midden lies beyond the extent of my grid system. The layer, perhaps 25 by 45 feet, occurred right at the shoreline and was partially sheltered by a low ridge of bedrock to the northwest. Noteworthy is the fact that many of the shells were clean and whole and intermingled with fire-reddened stones. Though cultural material was recovered from the layer here and there, I believe it to be mainly a cooking site where mollusks were perhaps steamed open. The layer varied in thickness from about 2 to 8 inches, and occurred at levels varying from weathering spots at the surface to a layer 8 to 10 inches beneath topsoil and sod. The feature had been badly disturbed in the past; so *in situ* finds were not anticipated and no record was kept for stratigraphy.³⁸ This outer point seems to be the sole aboriginal site for this side of the harbor entrance, and the absence of any other material here may support my contention that only a limited number of natives utilized it at infrequent intervals. Artifacts recovered include a fragment probably representing the end of a polished red slate pendant (Fig. 8, 36), the terminal end of a polished bone awl (Fig. 7, 25), a partially roughed out projectile point blank of black cherty material, the base of a side-notched point, two broken quartz points (one of which was probably triangular), and the tip of a brown jasper knife (Fig. 5, 22). Seven body sherds, mostly cord-marked, compact in paste, grit-tempered, and smooth on the interior, probably represent East River wares and complete the inventory here.

In closing this description of finds recorded at the IF site, I shall mention briefly some material turned up very recently during grading operations for the highway. I plan to treat such finds more fully at another time, but they seem worthy of mention now. Nine deer-antler-tine tools (Fig. 7, 13-21) were exposed by a roadgrader near the central portion of the site. Evidently a cached group, most had modified tips ranging from sharpened points to blunt wedges. Apparently the group was 9 to 12 inches below the surface and

³⁸A caretaker for a large estate whose bounds once encompassed this spot informs me that the transplanting of shrubs and trees years ago was the cause of the disturbed ground. He knew of no "Indian relics" picked up then, nor of any ever found elsewhere on the grounds.

near the western edge of a refuse pit. Another find exposed by grading constitutes the largest pottery find yet: some 200 pieces.³⁹ Unfortunately, this still does not include all the pieces of one vessel, but enough has been restored to give a rough idea of the vessel's semi-globular shape (Fig. 7, 7). The sherds are grit-tempered and compact in paste, and show a smooth interior. An everted lip with the exterior completely cord-malleated is flat and was carefully stamped with a cord-wrapped paddle around the rim. The interior just below the lip has no cord marks.⁴⁰ In all significant traits, the vessel is East River Cord Marked.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The cultural context of the southwestern part of Connecticut has long been archeologically unknown, though it seemed reasonable to assume that its makeup should embrace Windsor and East River manifestations. Progress has now been made towards a more complete understanding of what transpired in this region, and this understanding rests on more or less definite archeological assurances. Meager as the inventory is, we have found remains which give evidence of both cultures (Table 3). We still lack the material, however, to define the aboriginal phases of occupation with the requisite texture, depth, and solidity; but it is hoped that continued work on the site will contribute towards that end.

We know from documentary sources that the Siwanoy occupied portions of southwestern Connecticut and the general area of the site during the Contact period. The Eastern Incised pottery may belong to this era, but thus far the evidence is slim. For instance, we have no specimens of Clasons Point Stamped, which has been found on late sites in the greater New York City neighbor-

³⁹For some time I was puzzled as to a local source for the clay used in pottery making. No clay, or "clayey," outcrops occur in the region or near enough to the ground surface to have been accessible to the Indians. It was while watching offshore dredging operations that I suddenly realized where the clay source was: the harbor bottom. A uniform, clean, Pleistocene Blue Clay; the origin of this deposit is an interesting geological story — which space limitations prevent our entering here. I suggest that if others working in or near coastal sites check harbor and cove bottoms near them, they will find a ready source for clay, which is conspicuous by its absence on the mainland.

⁴⁰The inside of the largest rim sherd from this pot is crusted quite deeply with burned-on grease and food matter. Soaking in acrylic has permanently preserved this interesting deposit; just what the foodstuff was cannot be determined.

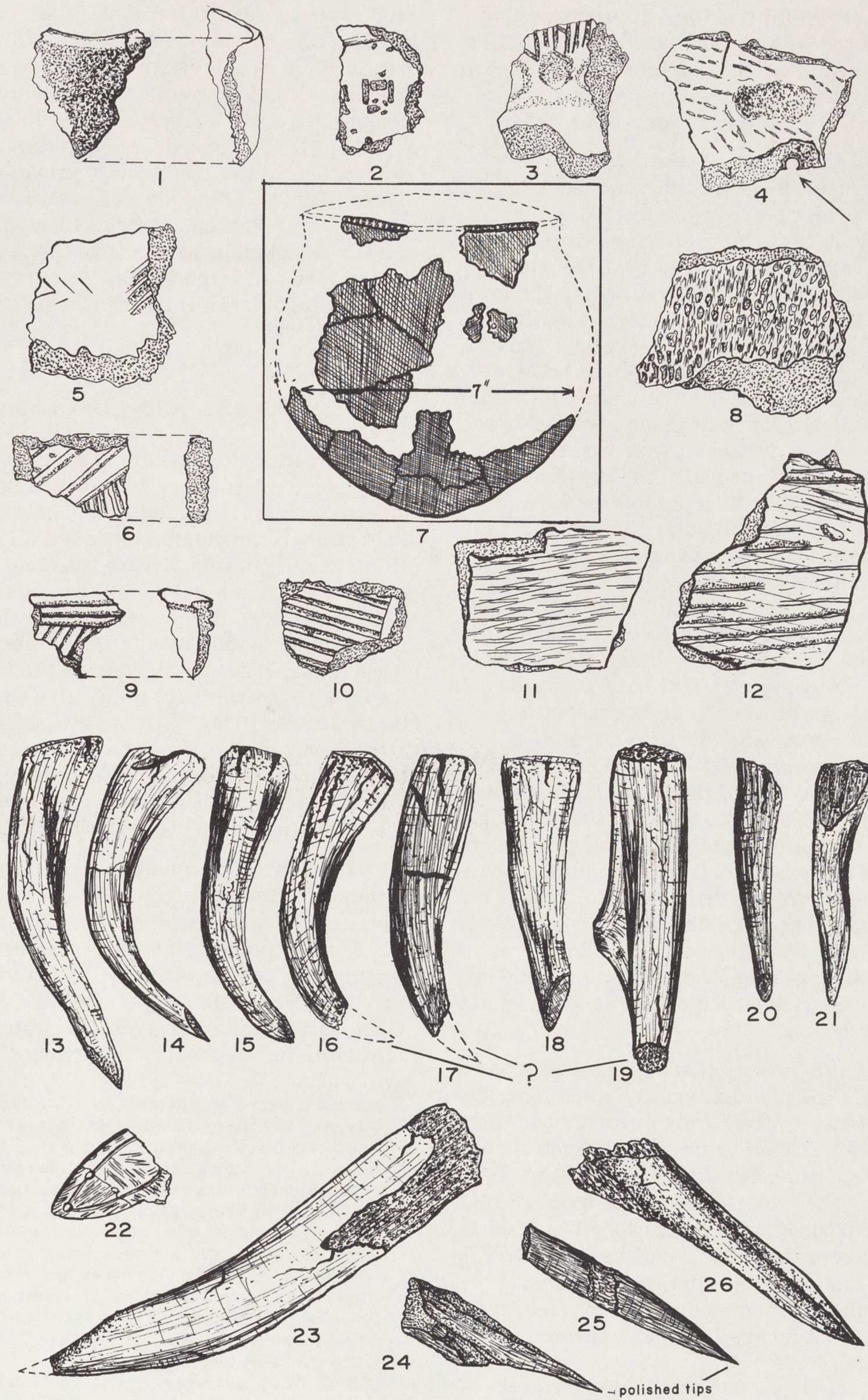


Fig. 7. Pottery and worked bone and antler: 1, Fea. 2; 4, 11, 12, 22-24, 26, Fea. 14; 7, Fea. 31; 13-21, Fea. 28; 25, IP, Fea. 1.

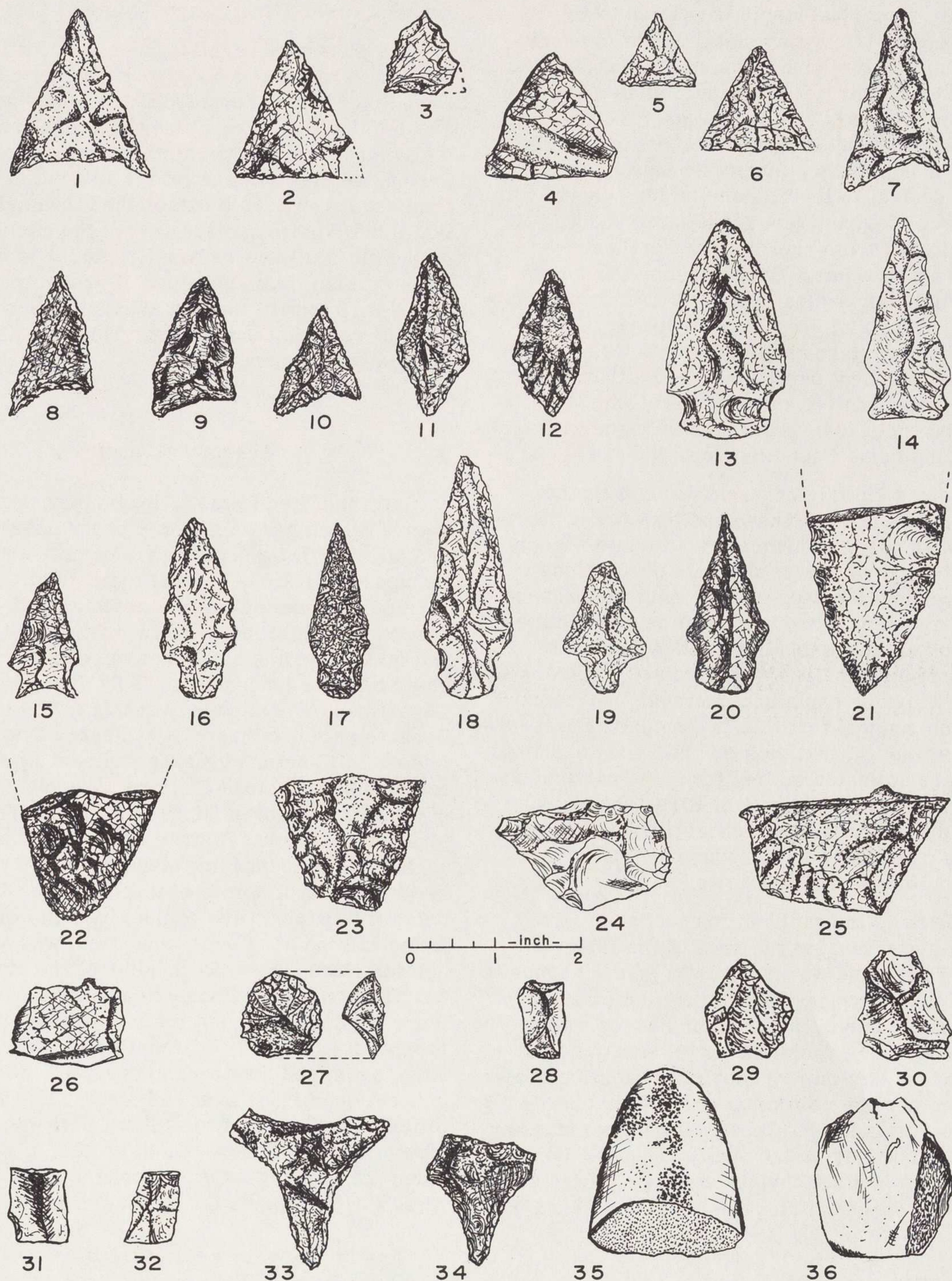


Fig. 8. Worked stone artifacts: Projectile points 1-6, triangular; 7-10, eared or corner-tanged; 11, 12, lozenge; 13-15, side-notched; 16-20, stemmed. Knives 21-25; scrapers 26-32; drills 33, 34; celt 35; fragment of pendant 36.

Nos. 1-3, 5-13, 15-17, 20, 21, 23-25, 34 are from the surface; 14, 19 from the beach; 4, Fea. 14; 18, Fea. 26; 22, 36, IP, Fea. 1; 26, Fea. 13; 35, Fea. 15.

hood, including some within the Siwanoy domain. Moreover, no contact items have been found, no glass beads or triangular metal points, no perforated thimbles for fringe ornaments and the like. Late material may yet be recovered as more work is done on the site. For the moment, however, all we can say is that the East River pottery retrieved belongs, if not to the historic Siwanoy, then to a group ancestral to them, more or less coeval with the Owasco of upper New York State. Indeed, some pottery forms such as Van Cortlandt Stamped and Bowmans Brook Stamped are quite similar in form, design, and other traits to certain Owasco pottery. A great deal of research will have to be undertaken before the interrelationship can be established, but it would seem that there was an interchange of ceramic ideas which left certain pottery types very much in vogue with the Owasco and some East River people.

Pottery definitely characteristic of the ceramic notions of the Windsor potters occurs on the site, though only as surface finds to date. It would be tempting to state that separate occupations by East River and Windsor people occurred because no pits have been found with definite clear-cut associations of both East River and Windsor sherds. Until certain anomalies,⁴¹ particularly in *Features 14 and 15*, can be explained, however, we can no more than suggest that this is the case at present. It is true, though, that most of the Windsor sherds found were collected mainly from one particular section of the site, while East River sherds have occurred widespread throughout the whole area. There is naturally some overlapping of these two localities for sherd occurrence.

While the Windsor tradition was short-lived, relatively speaking, in the area of the Lower Hudson Valley and New York Bay, just the opposite was the case in upper Connecticut and on eastern Long Island. One of the problems which we have here at the Indian Field Site is to determine how early or how late the Windsor manifestation really was. The present collection of Windsor sherds from the site is far too limited for us to make any claim now one way or the other. That the Windsor occupation might not have been very early is clear from the presence of only one Vinette 1 sherd⁴² in

the total recovered to date — and the general absence of other “first-stage” Windsor pottery.

If events here parallel those recorded in southeastern coastal New York, the intruding East River tribes replaced the Windsor people about 700 A.D. Though elsewhere in Connecticut, the Windsor culture persisted down to the Contact period, we may assume that it died out here when the East River people established themselves. While the Windsor pottery is not the earliest, neither is it as late as Niantic; and it is entirely distinct, also, from Shantok. It probably belongs, however, to one of the last Windsor clans to live in southwestern Connecticut. This was at about the time of the invasion.

Acknowledgment

I am indebted to the following persons for actions which have made this paper possible: Dr. and Mrs. J. C. Greenway gave permission to enter upon their land; and their caretaker, Mr. Seymour, rendered several assistances. Messrs. Joseph T. Buhler, R. Wheelwright, and T. Helprin and other landowners also gave permission to enter on their lands. Drs. J. T. Nichols of the Department of Ichthyology and Jas. A. Ford of the Department of Anthropology; George Goodwin, Associate Curator of the Department of Mammals; and E. Thomas Gilliard, Associate Curator of the Department of Birds — all of the American Museum of Natural History — provided invaluable assistance in identifying skeletal and other material and general comment on the finds. The comment of William Stiles of the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation, was likewise helpful. Messrs. W. T. Schuler of the State Highway Department of Connecticut and Samuel French, Inspector therefor, lent their assistance; and representatives of Peter Mitchell, Inc., construction firm, promised continued cooperation during the present operations at the IF site. The clerks and officials in the Greenwich Town Hall who were in charge of aerial surveys and photos of the region aided me in many ways. Thanks are also due to Mrs. Marie Popkins for typing the manuscript.

Lastly, my very great thanks to my wife, Jean, for much help in the field and preparation of many of the drawings, and to Julius Lopez of the Archeological Society of Connecticut and Dr. Irving Rouse of the Yale Peabody Museum for their assistance in ceramic analysis of the sherds and other artifacts, and their comments on original drafts of this paper.

⁴¹I quote directly from a personal letter written by I. Rouse: “. . . in a transitional site like yours, one finds sherds with Windsor paste and traits of East River shape and decoration, etc.”

⁴²According to J. Lopez, there is evidence of a late survival of Interior Corded in New Jersey and in the New York City area. It is also possible that Vinette-like pottery had a somewhat late survival — possibly into the Sebonac focus.

APPENDIX

Table 1. Artifacts Recovered

	Where found	Quantity
<u>Lithic</u>		
Pitted sandstone (fire drill holder?)	Surface	1
Elongate hammerstone, faint finger pits (?)	Surface	1
Rounded hammerstone, no finger pits	Fea. 18	1
Celt, polished, broken end	Fea. 15	1
Pendant, polished red slate, broken end	IP, Fea. 1	1
Paint stones		
Hematite fragments, abrading grooves	Surface	2
Limonite (yellow ocher) fragments	Surface	2
Limonite geode, fragment	Surface	1
Paint cup (hematite geode)	Surface	1
Projectile points (see Table 2)	Surface ^a	65
Blanks		9
Dubious projectile point forms		5
Chopper/flesher (?), quartz, large	Surface	1
Scraper/flaker (?), altered shale, rough-flaked	Fea. 20 (island)	1
Dressed core blanks or tools, quartz	Surface	6
Dressed core blanks or tools, quartz, small	Surface	5
Knives		
Tapered point, fossiliferous grey flint	Surface	1
Rounded point, 1 brown, 1 green jasper	Surface	2
Finger-held type, 2 white quartz, 1 dirty black chert	Surface	3
Drills		
Tri-point, slaty black stone	Fea. 17	1
Tapered uni-point, quartz	Surface	2
(Probable), quartz	Surface	1
Flakes/scrapers		
"Prismatic," struck from core, quartz, brown chalcedony, black chert	Surface	7
Amorphous, quartz, chert	Surface	15
Thumbnail, quartz	Surface	1
<u>Shell</u>		
Clam valves (<i>Mercenaria mercenaria</i>), variously notched	Varied	20 (approx.)
<u>Bone</u>		
Awls		
Whole bone, polished tip, small	Fea. 23	1
Whole bone, polished, small (terminal end only)	IP, Fea. 1	1
Splinter, 1 polished tip, 1 unpolished	Fea. 14	2
Splinter, (polished terminal end only)	Unknown	1
Ornament fragment, incised and drilled	Fea. 14	1
Antler tine wedge and pointed tools	Feas. 28, 14	10
Antler tine sections, smoothed	Varied	2
Turtle carapace dish (?), scraped fragments	Fea. 1	6

^a All surface finds except the following: 1 triangular, straight base, Fea. 14; 1 side-notched, IP, Fea. 1; 1 triangular/triangularoid, IP, Fea. 1; 3 unclassifiable, Feas. 1, 14, IP, Fea. 1. One stemmed point found in refuse layer associated with East River pottery.

Table 2. Form and Material of Stone Projectile Points

	Rock to milky quartz	Flint	Chert	Metamorphosed shales	Slate	Total
Form clearly defined						
Triangular, straight base	8			2		10
Triangular, concave base	1	1		1		3
Trianguloid	5					5
Stemmed	8				1	9
Side-notched	4			(1 red (2 black)		7
Side-notched (aberrant?)	1					1
Corner-notched			1 black			1
Eared or corner-tanged ^a	3	1 grey	1 black		1 grey	6
Lozenge	2					2
Identification uncertain						
Triangular/trianguloid	6					6
Side-notched	1					1
Stemmed (aberrant?)	1					1
Unclassifiable	11	(1 grey (1 cream)				13
Blanks	9					9
Total	60	4	2	6	2	74

^aNoted at the Bell-Philhower site in New Jersey. Some believe their asymmetrical appearance suggests use as a small harpoon. Possibly used to shoot fish with the bow.

Table 3. Provenience, Type, and Surface Finish of Pottery^a

	Where found ^b						Tradition	
	Fea. 5	Fea. 8	Fea. 14	Fea. 15	Fea. 21	IP, Fea. 1	Windsor	East River
Type								
Eastern Incised								4
Van Cortlandt Stamped	2	1	1		1			5
Bowmans Brook Stamped		2						2
East River Cord Marked								200 ^c
Finish								
Plain, interior and exterior							15	
Cord-marked	24	14	33	3	25	7	25	106
Fabric-marked			2				11	2
Brushed			(1?)	2			(2?) ^d	2
Interior corded							1	
Stamped								2
Edge-stamped with cord-wrapped paddle			1					6
Scallop shell-stamped								1
Incised (North Beach?)								1
Unknown								1
Unknown, red-yellow							7	
Unclassifiable (weathered, etc.)			8	2			19	114
Total sherds	26	17	46	7	26	7	80	446

^aNo whole or restorable vessels recovered. Pottery divided into those rim sherds identifiable as to type and the remainder, largely body sherds, where identification less positive and possibly quite subjective. Decorative techniques, paste, and appearance the basis for grouping by tradition.

^bAll surface finds except as noted.

^cAll sherds from single pot, disclosed by bulldozer after study completed.

^dThese the only sherds excavated which *may* be Windsor. Identification quite uncertain.

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A NATURALLY GROOVED BOULDER ON AN ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE
IN BAYSIDE, LONG ISLAND

by Ralph Solecki and Stanley Wisniewski

For about 25 years a large diorite boulder has been an enigma in the Annex of the Museum of the American Indian (Heye Foundation) in the Bronx. This boulder (Fig. 1), marked by several grooves around its circumference, is grey in color, and weighs about 400 pounds. It comes from the surface of an archeological site in Bayside, Long Island, where it was found and laboriously collected by Ralph Solecki and Stanley Wisniewski when they first became interested in archeology in 1932.

The stone was called to the attention of the late Mr. Leonidas Westervelt, of Douglaston, Long Island, who had it carted to the Museum of the American Indian. Recently, we have been able to make an examination of this puzzling stone to determine its true nature. At the time of discovery, we were not able to see it in its entirety since only a small bit of the stone and a single groove had been exposed on the surface.

The shape of the stone (Catalog No. $\frac{18}{4551}$) is roughly oblong. It measures $26\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, 25 inches wide at the maximum, and has a maximum thickness of a little less than 14 inches. Around its circumference are five distinct grooves, four of which are roughly parallel and run diagonally across the stone. The fifth groove at the extreme end of the stone is approximately parallel to that end. With the exception of a single groove branch joined to an end groove, none of the grooves are connected. The largest groove is 2 inches wide and $\frac{5}{8}$ inches deep at its maximum. The smallest groove is about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide and $\frac{3}{16}$ inches deep. A large section of the stone had been knocked off at one end.

The rounded and worn surface of the boulder displays considerable attrition, undoubtedly caused by glacial action, since this part of Long Island is a morainal till of the last glaciation. A close examination of the grooves shows that all of them have a very rough and extremely pitted surface. In our opinion this surface could not be duplicated by pecking with a stone hammer, and certainly not with modern tools — in other words, it was done not by the hand of man, but by nature. These intensely irregular and pock-marked surfaces must

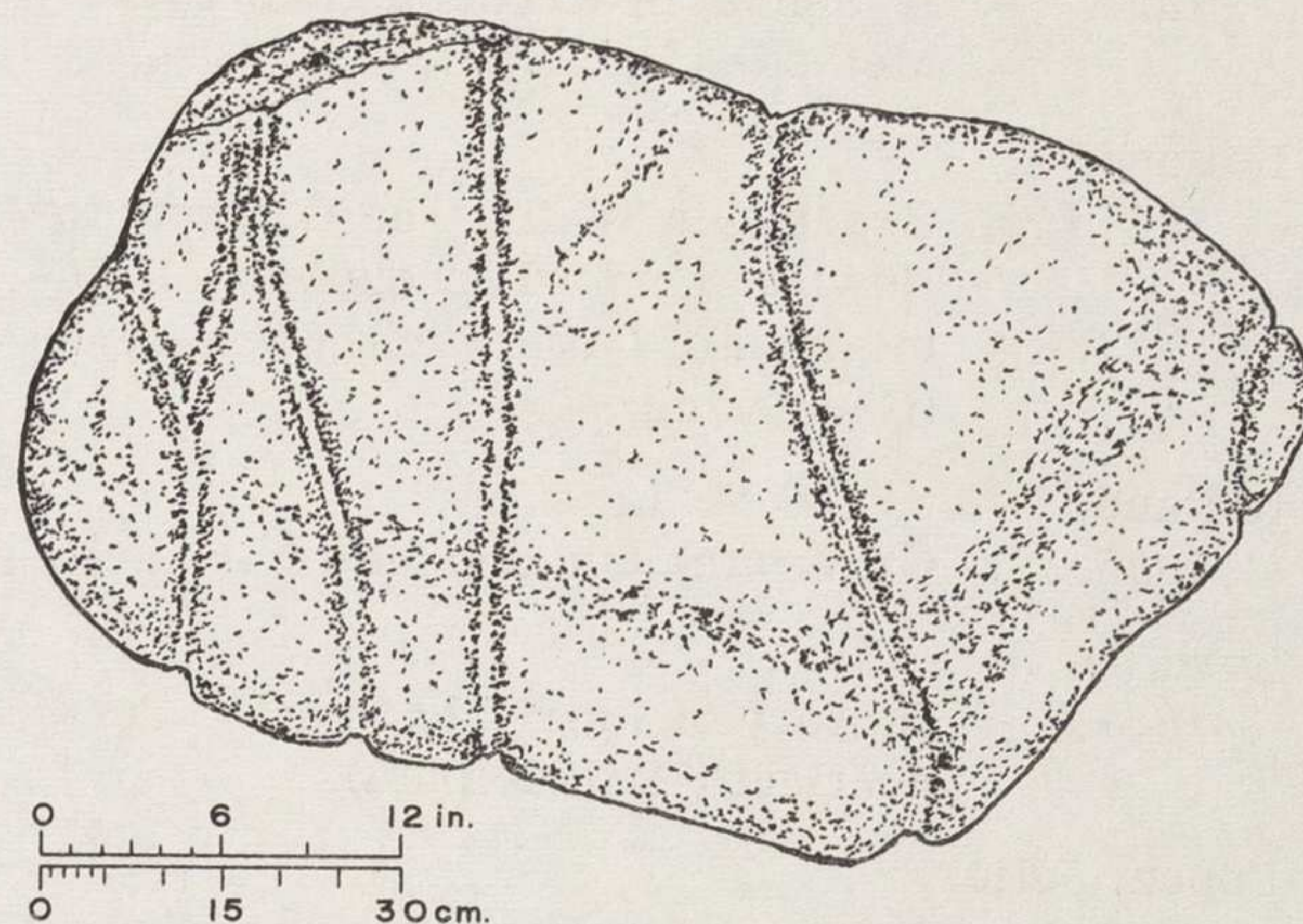


Fig. 1. Diorite boulder from Long Island.

have been made by differential weathering. One of our first impressions of one of the larger grooves was that it contained a line or ridge of hard stone extending its full length. This ridge measured $\frac{1}{32}$ inch wide and $\frac{1}{16}$ to $\frac{1}{8}$ inch high.

Our theory is that the boulder had been faulted and broken, then recemented while still in the country rock, and finally detached by erosion or other means and carried from the mainland to Long Island in the last glaciation. Here it was deposited as part of the terminal moraine on the site where it was found. The association of this find with an archeological site puts the stone in a very suggestive position. Very likely it attracted the attention of the aborigines, and may have formed a local curiosity to them. About this we cannot be sure, although the frequency in archeological excavations of odd-shaped stones, geodes, clay stones, etc., obviously out of their natural context, bargains favorably for this conjecture. Archeological collections are full of such natural inclusions which must have formed a part of prehistoric man's lore. We could not detect any signs of human work on the stone other than some scorings and heavy scratches which were presumably made by the plow.

A visit to the site of the find was made during the summer of 1955. It is encompassed within what is called in our records the Alley Pond Site and designated "Qn 1," an open bit of deserted

real estate about 350 feet north of Oakland Lake and some 265 feet south of Northern Boulevard. Unreported as yet, the materials recovered were mainly from the surface. We enlarged the excavation from which the boulder had been taken to a

depth of 24 inches, but we found no evidence relating to the stone which might be indicative of aboriginal association. We did find some fire remains; but these were of recent origin — made by boys in the area.

New York, N. Y.
April, 1956

REVIEW OF "BULLETIN NO. 1, NASSAU ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY"

by Frank Glynn

Bulletin of the Nassau Archeological Society. Volume 1, Number 1; Summer 1955. Edited by Lawrence Conant. Nassau Archeological Society, P. O. Box 1026, Sea Cliff, N. Y., 32 pp., 7 drawings, 1 table, 1 map. \$1.00.

Modern political boundaries sometimes introduce an artificial division into areas that are naturally one. Long Island Sound's shores are a case in point. The bulk of evidence from Indian as from modern times indicates that dwellers on the Sound's north and south shores have shared common blood and culture. The appearance of an archeological publication devoted to work on western Long Island and the greater New York City area cannot fail to be of interest to Connecticut archeologists.

Congratulations seem in order for all concerned with the preparation and publication of Bulletin No. 1 of the Nassau Archeological Society. Unified geographically, the material presented is interesting and well-balanced. Three papers deal with recent or continuing excavations, one with revised dates for a cultural synthesis of the region, one with physical anthropology, and a most valuable contribution with "TD" clay smoking pipes. The drawings are good, and the lithoprinting up to usual standards.

Edward D. Patterson leads off, in "Garvie Point - NAS Site 1," with a preliminary account of the discovery of the first pure pre-pottery site in western Long Island. Connecticut archeologists who have been finding similar implements on beach and coastal sites may especially welcome Patterson's brief discussion of Archaic stone digging tools.

Based on the first radiocarbon datings secured by William A. Ritchie for sites in central New York State, Carlyle S. Smith offers a "Revised Chronology for the Archeology of Coastal New York."

"Preliminary Report on the Schurz Site" by Julius Lopez deals with recent excavations by Harry Trowbridge and Geoge F. Younkheere on

the neck of land strategically located where Manhattan's East River enters the western end of Long Island Sound. After appropriate descriptions, which include previous excavations and collections, Lopez is able to demonstrate the presence of cultural materials stretching in typological sequence from the earliest pottery to historic rum bottles. The paper thus offers not only an account of a current excavation but a desirable resume of the materials and problems of the territory in which the Nassau Society is operating.

Richard S. Spooner reports concisely on "The Crabmeadow Site..." at Northport, Long Island. His evidence points toward a considerable settlement of people using pottery decorated, in part, in Bowmans Brook styles. Bowmans Brook, postulated as the earliest East River focus, was previously known from three smaller sites in the Greater New York City area. The Crabmeadow Site, thirty or so miles to the east, insofar as it may indicate an expanding, permanent settlement of people who had moved into the Sound through the East River gateway, would seem to be of first importance.

The remaining paper is one that many will want for their reference libraries. In "Concerning 'TD' Clay Pipes," H. Geiger Omwake proceeds from a consideration of a pipe bowl found by Edwin McCauley at Sea Cliff, Long Island, to an informed summary of available data on "TD" pipes.

In sum, members of the Nassau Archeological Society seem to be locating, excavating, and adequately reporting key sites within their area. It is to be hoped that Bulletin No. 1 may be only the first of many.

Clinton, Conn.
January, 1956

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