

**APPENDIX B:**  
**HISTORICAL COMPONENT**

## **HISTORICAL COMPONENT**

The historical component of the Black Diamond site was not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) because it lacked intact historical features and cultural material that would contribute to research questions. Archival records of land use and the resultant material record were valuable, however, for aiding in the interpretation of the impacts to the Native American components of the site. The level of effort for archival research was considerably less for the Black Diamond site than for NRHP-eligible historical sites, but a record of land ownership from the late 1760s to the present was compiled to provide background information for the evaluation of the historical artifact assemblage. Records at the Delaware Public Archives, New Castle County Courthouse, the Historical Society of Delaware, and the New Castle County Soil Conservation Service, Department of Agriculture New Castle County Extension Office, were utilized. Aerial photographs from 1926 and 1937 were compared to historical maps from 1849, 1868, 1881, 1893, and 1931 for correlation to the archival record.

### **Historic Overview**

The Black Diamond site was located in the Blackbird Hundred, situated in the southern portion of New Castle County, Delaware. Blackbird Hundred, bounded by Duck Creek on the south and by Blackbird Creek on the north, was created from the Appoquinimink Hundred in 1875 (Conrad 1908:565, 571). Appoquinimink Hundred, founded in 1682, is bounded on the north by the creek bearing the same name. The Blackbird Hundred region was densely wooded until the mid- to late 1800s and, historically has been referred to as the Forest of the Appoquinimink.

Henry Hudson sailed up the Delaware River into the Delaware Bay during a voyage in 1609 on his way to discovering the Hudson River to the north. Soon afterwards, colonists began arriving in the peninsula and establishing a permanent presence. Dutch Captain Cornelis Hendricksen visited Delaware many times from 1614 to 1629, and in 1629, Patroons began to colonize near Cape Henlopen (Doherty 1997:3). The region of Delaware south of Bombay Hook was called Swaanendael (or Zwaanendael) and an attempted settlement by Dutch in 1631 failed (Heite and Heite 1985:5). Swedish immigrants erected Fort Christina on the Upper Peninsula to the north in 1638, and the Dutch established a settlement at Fort Casimir on the Delaware River near modern-day New Castle to block a Swedish advance into the rest of Delaware (De Cunzo and Catts 1990:9).

New Amstel (New Castle) became the county seat under Dutch rule in 1654, and a Dutch military presence forced the Swedes to relinquish power to them in 1655, although many of the Swedish and Finnish settlers remained. The Dutch were soon inundated by English settlers, and tension between the two factions flared for many years. As early as 1669, proprietors were encouraging settlers from northern New Castle County and eastern Maryland to come to the Apoquemini (Appoquinimink) region (Scharf 1888:1015).

In 1669, Lord Charles Calvert I, third baron of Baltimore, created Durham County as part of Maryland encompassing much of present-day Delaware, creating a hostile atmosphere

between Maryland and Pennsylvania (Doherty 1997:51; Demars and Richards 1980:4-5). The Dutch began to regain control of the area and New Castle County (originally titled New Amstel) was organized in 1673, extending from Christina Creek to near Leipsic Creek (Long 1996:13). However, Holland ceded many of its possessions extending from New York to Delaware to the English in 1676, when Delaware was placed under the jurisdiction of the Duke of York, with the top seat of government in New York (Harbeson 1992:17).

The Duke of York, James Stuart (also a brother to Charles II), granted a large tract of the Delmarva peninsula to William Penn in 1682, which Penn referred to as the lower three counties of Pennsylvania (Doherty 1997:3-4; Custer et al. 1987:43). Penn divided Delaware into townships that would contain 100 families, each of which contained approximately ten members. The townships were referred to as “hundreds”, a political designation originating in the Roman Empire over 1000 years ago, and have remained intact in Delaware to modern times (Zippe 1968:2). Appoquinimink Hundred, named after a Native American term *Appoquinimi*, meaning wounded duck, and Duck Creek Hundred were two of the 12 original hundreds created for Delaware; presently there are 33 hundreds in the State (Doherty 1997:5; Conrad 1908:565).

Both Penn and Lord Baltimore claimed the Blackbird area (Bedell 1996:5-6). Dispute over control of Delaware between Pennsylvania and Maryland clouded the regional land patents for many years, and as a result, the south and west portions of Delaware were granted many Maryland patents (Russ 1966:12-13). Baltimore’s grants were contested by Pennsylvania authorities well into the 18<sup>th</sup> century, by which time Lord Baltimore’s son lost the claims (Demars and Richards 1980:4).

Mechaeksit, *sachem* for the local Native Americans, sold land to many early settlers that came to the Appoquinimink area prior to the Penn family land sales (Conrad 1908:571-572). It is assumed these land tracts were honored by Penn and the local governments, as a few of the identified men, such as Morris Liston of Liston’s Point on the Delaware River, were prominent local citizens in the late 1600s (Conrad 1908:572). The land grants issued in the Delaware prior to the 1750s, were mainly the result of the influx of the Swedish and English immigrants in the upper Delaware and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania region (De Cunzo and Catts 1990:11-12).

Present-day Odessa was originally settled in the 1660s when Augustine Hermann constructed the famous “Hermann’s Cart-Road” (Schwartz 1980:20). The tiny village was originally referred to as Apoquemene, Appoquinimink, and Appoquinimink Bridge (Schwartz 1974:6-7). Richard Cantwell, son of the first High Sheriff of New Castle County Edmund Cantwell, was given permission to construct a ferry across the Appoquinimink Creek in 1731 and charge a toll, and the name Cantwell’s Bridge was coined, lasting until 1855 (Schwartz 1974:9). The road connecting Cantwell’s Bridge (Odessa) on the Appoquinimink River north of Blackbird to Bohemia to the west, was constructed in the 1660s, the first major road in the region, and this created an opportunity for immigration from that region to Appoquinimink Hundred (Passmore 1978:10). Blackbird, the only large settlement in the Forest of Appoquinimink, was founded around 1738 where the King’s Road crossed Blackbird Creek (Bedell 1996:6). Two roads came into the Blackbird community from the

north, one from Newark and Glasgow, and one left Blackbird (the King's Road) for Smyrna on Duck Creek and Dover on the St. Jones River.

Edward Fitz Randolph, an officer in the French and Indian War, was one of the first residents of the Blackbird Community (Pryor 1975:24). Benjamin Donoho constructed a hotel on the east side of the King's Road, which became a stagecoach stop and unofficial post office (Pryor 1975:24). Patrick Lyons built a dam across Blackbird Creek and operated a grist and saw mill west of town, later owned by Auly Lore from New Jersey and known as Lore's Mill and recognized for a high quality of white corn meal (Pryor 1975:25). The mill dam was destroyed in a 1937 flood, but has been rebuilt by the residents as a pond (Pryor 1975:25). Bassett Ferguson purchased the hotel from a grandson of Benjamin Donoho, and became Blackbird's first postmaster in 1838 (Conrad 1908:574; Pryor 1975:24). Ferguson was a State Senator in 1849, and two sons, Richard and Colen, were members of the General Assembly, as were members of the Garret Hart family (Pryor 1975:24).

The King's Road was the main thoroughfare between Dover and the northern portions of the state. The road was already established by the 1750s, as shown in a petition for improvements to a 40 foot-wide road from southern New Castle County through Kent County to Lewes presented to the Delaware Congress in 1752 and 1761 (Custer et al. 1987:44-45). A review of the land tracts between Blackbird Creek and Smyrna Creek Landing indicates that the term "King's Road" was used predominately throughout the 1700s. The label of "Great Road" or "Main Road" were used sporadically in the latter half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and State Road or Public Road was utilized during the entire 19<sup>th</sup> century. After the road was improved for modern traffic use, it was referred to as DuPont Boulevard or Dual State Highway, and is now known as State Route 13.

The 1750 Duck Creek Hundred population was sparsely scattered across the region, but they had access to both the Wilmington and Philadelphia markets, with lesser interaction with the Chesapeake Bay markets (Catts et al. 1995:106). Delaware had a population estimated at 25,000 in 1770, which more than doubled by 1790 to 59,046, but did not double again until 1860 (Unknown 1989:6, 57). The Blackbird community claimed a population of 50 in 1865, which was probably one of its peak years (Talbot 1866:59). By 1900, Rhode Island had a population of more than three times that of Delaware, even though the latter was almost twice as large in area, another indicator of the slow economic and population growth of Delaware (Unknown 1989:57).

In 1682, a canal was cut across the upper portion of Bombay Hook to allow Duck Creek to flow directly into the Delaware River instead of curving south for 12-13 miles (Pippin 1995:70). The waterway made Bombay Hook an island instead of a peninsula and has been named Bombay Hook Island ever since that time (Scharf 1888:1030). The water transportation routes from the Duck Creek and Smyrna landings to the Delaware River, as well as the King's Road, allowed the farmers on either side of Duck Creek to participate in the growing agricultural economic growth in the region. Several plausible canals were proposed to connect the Chesapeake Bay to the Delaware Bay around 1800, including one to connect the Chester River in Maryland to the Appoquinimink Creek just east of Cantwell's

Bridge, but only the Delaware Canal was ever constructed across the entire state (Munroe 1986:Figure 1).

The rise of agriculture in Delaware was encouraged in that each farmstead could be located within twelve miles of a navigable river or creek (Munroe 1954:27). Much of southern New Castle County has been continuously cultivated for over 300 years (Passmore 1978:8). According to contemporary periodical advertisements, Kent County and New Castle County farmers in the early to mid 18<sup>th</sup> century cleared an average of 30 percent of their land parcels; the rest of the tract was left in marsh, meadow or woods (Catts et al. 1995:98). Many farms were owned by absentee landowners and the houses on the land were rented or leased to tenants. Advertisements appeared in the local paper to rent entire farms with descriptions of the land and buildings (Hancock 1987:46-47).

Most of the residents of New Castle County in the 1700s were farmers, growing corn, rye, and wheat as principal crops. Grist mills were some of the earliest industries in the area, and many became the hub of small hamlets or towns as early as 1658 in New Castle (O'Connor et al. 1985:13-14; Shaffer et al. 1988:15). The first recorded mill in the Appoquinimink Hundred was at Noxontown prior to 1736 (Scharf 1888:1022). The farms were successful and slowly the northern part of Kent and New Castle counties were able to shift from a subsistence oriented economy to a market-based economy by the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The grist and flour mills of Brandywine Hundred near Wilmington, in particular the Thomas Lea and Joseph Tatnall families, helped to bring financial growth to northern Kent and southern New Castle Counties in the mid-1700s, and are credited with helping establish milling interests in the United States (Welsh 1973:79; Scharf 1886:786-787). Early mills were first constructed on the Brandywine in 1729, but it was not until Lea and Tatnall's attempts in the 1760s, that the waters of the river could be fully utilized for mill works (Conrad 1908:563-564). The mills controlled most of the exports to the West Indies and other places in the late 1700s, as a result of stiffer regulations and taxes in Pennsylvania and Philadelphia (Scharf 1886:787).

Cantwell's Bridge received local grains and other products for export from a twelve to fifteen mile radius (Schwartz 1980:32; Kushela n.d.:7). Six granaries with a total capacity of over 30,000 bushels were along the Appoquinimink Creek by 1825, and between 1820 and 1840, over 400,000 bushels of wheat were shipped through the community (Schwartz 1980:32). The harvested grains from the Blackbird community were shipped to Cantwell's Bridge on the Appoquinimink Creek five miles to the north, as well as to Duck Creek Landing and Smyrna Landing on Duck Creek, five to eight miles to the south, respectively.

Iron deposits in New Castle County were discovered in the mid-1700s, and soon processing sites were established (Harbeson 1992:18-19; Heite 1974:18). Samuel James established a forge in the New Castle County in 1723, supposedly the first in the mid-Atlantic (Shaffer et al. 1988:21). The forges required an immense amount of fuel, and since coal was not locally available, the primary forests were harvested to produce charcoal (Passmore 1978:14). Mine owners either purchased thousands of acres outright or at least the rights to work the land solely for the harvest of the timber.

Farmers learned in the early 1700s to rotate crops and tobacco was grown on freshly cleared ground while grains, such as wheat, corn, and rye, were grown mainly on previously tilled ground (Passmore 1978:22). However, farming practices in Delaware had quickly leached the sandy soils of the major nutrients and led to the almost complete destruction of the topsoils by the 1830s (Passmore 1978:16). James C. Booth's "*Geological Survey of Delaware*" provided wonderful insight to the Delaware farmers to reconstitute their soils. Booth correctly identified that the nutrients in the soils of the entire Delmarva peninsula were being depleted and he encouraged farmers to add burned and crushed oyster shell and marl to their fields (Passmore 1978:17). Marl, a compact clay-sand deposit containing ancient sea shells, had been discovered in New Castle County while dredging canals. From the early 1840s to the Civil War, marl increased crop productivity on almost all areas of application, sometimes as much as 400 percent (Passmore 1978:17). By the 1880s, other fertilizers, such as improved lime and ground crab, were used, and modern technological advancements in crop rotations and nitrogen fertilizers helped bring Delaware into the world agricultural markets (Passmore 1978:7-19).

The coming of the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Railroad through Blackbird in the 1856 enabled the non-coastal central regions of Delaware to be settled (Figure B-1; Passmore 1978:7; Zippe 1968:83-84). The smaller towns in rural central Delaware were then able to send their goods directly to interstate markets by train rather than by wagon and carts via the nearby seaports, such as New Castle and Wilmington. The railroad allowed all industries to expand at a fast growth rate (Harbeson 1992:21).

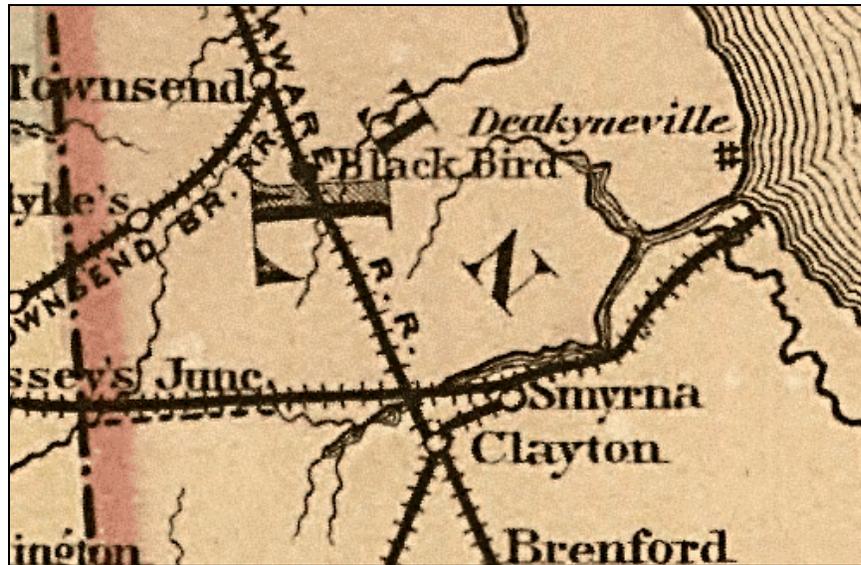


Figure B-1. 1876 map showing the railroads near Blackbird, Delaware.  
(Gray 1876)

Since the early settlements, residents of the State of Delaware have desired to drain the low lying swampy regions and expand the agricultural prospects of the region. As early as 1680, Delawareans have constructed drainage systems to accommodate the wet areas (Passmore 1978:19). Many of the ditch systems constructed in the 1700s and early 1800s were deepened and cleaned out in the 1930s by the Work Projects Administration (WPA)

(Passmore 1978:19). Marshes and swamps still covered more than 50 percent of Blackbird Hundred by 1875 (Zippe 1968:73). By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, draining the numerous marshes to reclaim the land for producing grain products was one of the most important aspects of the Hundred (Scharf 1888:1023-1024). In the 1930s, more drainage ditches were cleaned and fixed (Passmore 1978:20).

Wheat was the main agricultural crop in New Castle County during the colonial period, but as early as 1839, it was beginning to be replaced by the fruit industry (Passmore 1978:24; Schwartz 1980:32). The center for the peach industry was primarily in New Castle County, but by the 1880s, blight was destroying the industry (Zippe 1968:78). Kent County was known for apples, and the berry industry became popular in Sussex County. Sussex County grew more strawberries in 1902 than any other county in the country (Passmore 1978:72-73). People immigrated to Delaware for the new agricultural industry from as far away as Forest, Ontario, including many Irish (McGrath 1999). Richard Brockson operated a peach dryer at Blackbird, which employed over 30 people during the height of the peach picking time (Pryor 1975:25). Migrant workers, referred to as Peach Plucks, harvested the fruits for 75 cents a day with meals and a place to sleep, usually on a haystack or in a barn. The Just Right Canning Company operated to the northeast of Blackbird at Blackbird's Station, and another cannery was located to the southwest of town near Greenspring. Tomato blight and competition after World War II ended the large scale fruit industries in the community (Pryor 1975:25).

In the 1920s and 1930s the famous Delmarva broiler chicken industry in southern Delaware developed, which, since 1934, has produced over half of the farm income for Delaware farmers (Passmore 1978:58). The success of the chicken industry has been credited for helping the local farmers, even in New Castle County, to weather the Great Depression as the poultry industry relied on the grains produced in the region to thrive, keeping the grain producers financially afloat. The Soil Conservation Service established districts in Sussex County in 1944, and most farmers then had farm plans on file with the district, greatly enhancing their yields, making Delaware known as one of the agricultural centers of the central Atlantic seaboard (Passmore 1978:108).

Central and southern Delaware farmsteads contained several tenant dwellings to house the hired hands directly on the farm tracts; many times, these tenements were in close proximity to the main farm house (Passmore 1978:8). The thick Delaware forests provided timber for log and frame houses, and were also logged to clear the land for farming. Forests were still plentiful in the mid-1700s, but the true effects of deforestation were being felt in Delaware in the early 1800s (Catts et al. 1995:100). In reviewing deed transcriptions, the use of corner-marked trees in the late 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries was replaced by the presence of stumps and saplings by 1800, which were in turn replaced by stakes and stones, or references to where a particular corner-marked was formerly located in a field (Catts et al. 1995:100). The deed descriptions can be utilized to identify trees types as well as document the advent of deforestation for almost 200 years. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, many of the early colonial farms had been reclaimed by the forests and had reached maturity to provide another phase of timber industry (Passmore 1978:10).

## **Historic Land Use**

John Pennell, a yeoman from Southwark, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, and his wife Martha, were the earliest owners located for the property. The Pennells sold a 248-acre tract on the west side of the old King's Road, and 127 acres on the east side for 225 pounds to John Mifflin, a merchant of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1766 (New Castle County Deed Book [NCCDB] 1766). The Black Diamond site was situated near the southern boundary of the western tract. The transaction contained no mention of standing structures. The transaction secured a debt of 450 pounds owed by Pennell to Mifflin. A payment of 225 pounds plus interest was due in June 1767. Payment of the debt would make the deed null and void. Pennell apparently did not fully satisfy the debt, since Mifflin retained ownership of the tracts. A chain of title for the land containing the Black Diamond site is provided in Table B-1.

**Table B-1. Chain of Title for the Black Diamond Site, 7NC-J-225**

<b>Instrument Date</b>	<b>Grantor</b>	<b>Grantee</b>	<b>New Castle Co. Book (Vol): Page</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Price</b>	<b>Land Description/Comments</b>
June 24, 1766	John Pennell and wife, Martha	John Mifflin	Deed X (1): 688	248 + 127 = 375 acres	225 pounds	248 acres on West side of the old King's Road; 127 acres on East side of road.
January 1, 1779	John Mifflin	William and Raworth Weldon	Deed D (2): 81	375 acres: 248 acres + 127 acres	363 pounds	
November 2, 1791	William and Raworth Weldon	Jesse Nash	None found	Two tracts	Unknown	Two adjoining tracts; mentioned in 1794 deed.
November 5, 1794	<i>Jesse Nash</i>	Evan Thomas Webster	Deed N (2): 262	200 acres	350 pounds	Part of the two tracts conveyed to Nash in 1791 by Weldon. On Sandom Branch. Borders Wm. Raworth, Edward Knotts, John Farmer, Charles Hunt.
January 15, 1805	Evan T. Webster [Sr.]	Evan Webster [Jr.] (son of Evan T.)	Will Q (1): 69	Not stated	None: bequeath	Leaves this plantation in Appoquinimink Hundred on the main state road leading from Duck Creek to Blackbird <u>on which "John Brockson now lives"</u> to his son, Evan Webster [Jr.].
By 1837	Evan Webster [Jr.]	Ann Webster (widow of Evan Jr.); Eliza Webster, Ann C. Webster, & Jonathan Webster (children of Evan Jr.)	None	Not stated	None: inheritance	Evan Webster ([Jr.] died intestate by 1837. His estate passed to his heirs, his widow and children.
September 1837	Ann Webster (widow of Evan Webster [Jr.]	Eliza (nee Webster) (Mrs. William C. Allston); Ann C. Webster, & Jonathan Webster (children of Ann & Evan Webster Jr.)	Will T (1): 330	Not stated	None: bequeath	Will written June 1837, recorded by September 1837. Each of the 3 children received a 1/3 share of their mother's lands in Appoquinimink Hundred.

Table B-1. Chain of Title for the Black Diamond Site, 7NC-J-225

Instrument Date	Grantor	Grantee	New Castle Co. Book (Vol): Page	Acres	Price	Land Description/Comments
June 2, 1840	John W. Garrison (husband of Ann C. [nee Webster])	William C. Allston (husband of Eliza, nee Webster)	Deed F (5): 4	Not stated	\$1.00	Sold in trust for benefit of Ann C., his wife. Parcels near the Village of Black Bird and now bounded by lands of James Reynolds, Dennis McCredy, deceased, Ann Weldon, Bassett Ferguson, and the heirs of William Weldon, deceased
June 17, 1840	John W. Garrison ("Garrettson") & wife, Ann (nee Webster)	Edward Records	Deed F (5): 532	280 acres	\$400.00	On both sides of State Road "Farmlands and premises." Records was a merchant.
June 25, 1842	Edward Records & wife, Rachel C.	William C. Allston	Deed L (5): 94	330 acres	\$660.00	Land is in Appoquinimink Hundred adjacent lands of James Reynolds, heirs of William Weldon, and others.
May 29, 1847	Jonathan Webster/ Appoquinimink Hundred	William Allston & wife, Elizabeth	Deed W (5): 304-305	185 acres	\$1.00	His interest in the property. Land in Appoquinimink Hundred on South side of Public road from Black Bird to Smyrna. Adjoins lands and heirs of Dennis McCredy. Also in 1847, Allston and wife sold their interest in 135A on North side of road to J. Webster for \$1.00 (NCCDB 1847b).
March 15, 1875	William C. Allston & wife, Eliza (nee Webster)	Administrators of John Allston, deceased: Lydia C. Allston & William P. Norris	Mortgage Book T (3): 204	200 acres	Mortgage: \$600.00+ debt owed by Wm. C.	William Allston owed debt of \$1,200.00 plus interest to John Allston from December 1858. Begins on the West side of Sandom Branch; borders Edward Knotts, Charles Hewit, County Road from New Castle to Duck Creek, Wm. and Rayworth Weldon.
December 21, 1876	Isaac Grubb, Sheriff of New Castle County	John Allston (younger)	Deed V (10): 456	200 acres	\$1,160.00	Same description as 1875 deed above. In May 1876, Superior Court ordered property sold to pay debt of William Allston.
December 6, 1881	John Allston & wife, Flora M	Donald Beith	Deed D (12): 112	200 acres	\$6,000.00	Farm, or tract of land and premises.

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Ca.1889	Donald Beith	Barbara Beith (wife of Donald)	Will		None: bequeath	Donald Beith died 1889.
Ca.1916	Barbara Beith	Charles, James, & John Beith (sons of Barbara)			None: inheritance	Barbara Beith died intestate 1916. Each heir received equal shares.
1935	James Beith	Eva T. Beith (wife of James)	Will Book Z (5): 294		None: bequeath	James Beith died December 12, 1935. Will dated May 16, 1924. No children. Widow, Eva T., is only heir.
1936	John Beith	Charles Beith (brother of John)			None: inheritance	John Beith died intestate 1936. No heirs except brother, Charles. Charles now owned 2/3 interest.
1950	Eva T. Beith (widow)	Lewis Schafer Jr.	Deed D (50): 114	200 acres	\$5.00	Same land Donald Beith bought in 1881. Eva had owned 1/3 interest.
Ca.1948	Charles Beith	Lewis Schafer Jr.	Will Book X (7): 85		None: bequeath	Lands and premises. Same land Eva deeded to Schafer 1950. Will dated January 15, 1948. Charles had owned 2/3 interest.
October 27, 1959	Lewis Schafer Jr., single/ Blackbird Hundred	State of Delaware	Deed Z (64): 84	0.118 acres		Part of State Highway – duPont Highway/US Rt. 13 to be widened and resurfaced. The “present old county road now occupies 0.067 acre, leaving a net area of 0.051 acre.”
November 27, 1994	Lewis Schafer, Jr.	Heirs of Lewis Schafer Jr.	Will Record 108796			Parcel 1501000047, S. duPont Hwy, Townsend, DE 19734
May 27, 1999	Franklin Schafer, Nellie Foreman, Arthur James Carlisle Jr., Margaret Schofield, Mildred T. Schafer, Carolyn S. Davis, George H. Schafer Jr., & Mildred A. Mitchell (heirs of Lewis Shafer Jr.)	State of Delaware	Deed 2650: 324			Parcel 1501000047 is currently 169.91 A., wooded lot, with structures assessed at \$0.00, and land at \$169,900.00.

John Mifflin was a successful merchant, and was related to Thomas Mifflin, famous Philadelphia politician and first governor of the State of Pennsylvania (Wright 1999:172-173). In 1779, John Mifflin sold both tracts to William and Raworth Weldon for 363 pounds (NCCDB 1779). The transaction also contained no mention of standing structures.

Jesse Nash bought both tracts in 1791, and conveyed 200 acres of the properties to Evan Thomas Webster in 1794 for 350 pounds (NCCDB 1794). Evan Webster was in the Blackbird area as early as 1782 (Hancock 1983:19). Webster married a woman named Ann and their children were named Elizabeth, Mary, Evan, Dickerson, and Joseph Webster. The elder Webster willed the property to his son, Evan (Jr.) in 1805 (New Castle County Will Book [NCCWB] 1805). The plantation was described in the will as the land “on which John Brockson now lives”. If Evan (Jr.) was to die without legal heirs, his sister, Elizabeth Brockson, would inherit the plantation. Therefore, it appears that Evan Webster, Sr.’s son-in-law and daughter were living on the property in 1805. The elder Webster’s will provides several clues to the Webster lifestyle. Evan Sr. may have been a blacksmith, since his son, Dickerson, inherited his father’s “smiths tools.” In addition, he owned active farmland, since Evan Jr. inherited the crops of corn and wheat. The elder Webster was a slaveowner. He freed one male slave in his will, and left other slaves to Evan Jr. and Mary (wife of Joseph Griffing) to be freed when they reached their twenties.

The 1817 tax assessments for Appoquinimink Hundred revealed that Evan Webster (Jr.)’s property included:

110 acres improved with one log dwelling, 90 acres of woodland and swamp, another 75 acres improved with one small log dwelling, 25 acres of swamp land, 1 male slave aged 23 years named Henry to serve four years, one male slave for life aged 17 years named Perry, one female slave for life aged 16 years named Beek, and livestock. NCC Appoquinimink Hundred Tax Lists 1817

The total value of Evan Webster’s property was \$3,811.00 in 1817. The first two entries add up to 200 acres valued at \$2,120.00 and presumably describe the tract containing the Black Diamond site. The 110 improved acres were assessed at \$7.00 per acre, while the woodland and swamp was worth \$15.00 per acre. The former location of the log dwelling on the property is unknown. The latter tracts, of 75 and 25 acres, appear to be the land on the east side of the old King’s Road (now State Route 13) that contained the Buckson Site (7NC-J-207; Bupp et al. 2003).

Evan Webster (Jr.) died by 1837 intestate, leaving a widow, Ann, and three children. The widow, Ann, died in 1837, and left her estate to her children, Eliza (Mrs. William C. Allston), Ann C. Webster, and Jonathan Webster (NCCWB 1837). Each child received one-third share in their mother’s real estate in Appoquinimink Hundred. Each child also received a portion of Ann’s real estate in St. Georges Hundred. The daughters each received one slave, for the remainder of her time of servitude, and Ann C. and Jonathan received beds and bed clothing.

Ann C. Webster married John W. Garrison by 1840. Garrison sold his interest in the Webster estate lands to William C. Allston in 1840 for \$1.00 (NCCDB 1840a). The sale was in trust, for the benefit of his wife, Ann C. Garrison. This transaction would protect Ann from losing the

property she had inherited if her husband was to go into debt. Several weeks later, John and Ann Garrison sold the 280 acres of “farmlands and premises” to Edward Records for \$400.00 (NCCDB 1840b). Records was a merchant from Kent County, Maryland, and the Garrisons were residents of Appoquinimink Hundred.

When Edward Records and his wife, Rachel, sold the property in 1842, they were still residents of Kent County, Maryland, and therefore do not appear to have lived on the tract. The new owner was William C. Allston, who paid \$660.00 for 330 acres (NCCDB 1842). William was the husband of “Eliza” (Elizabeth), one of the three Webster heirs from 1837. It is not known where the additional 50 acres were located. Allston and his wife, Elizabeth, purchased Jonathan Webster’s interest in the 185 acres on the south side of the main road in 1847 for \$1.00 (NCCDB 1847a). Jonathan was Elizabeth’s brother, and another of the Webster heirs from 1837. In that same year, the Allstons sold their interest in land on the north side of the main road, containing 135 acres, to Jonathan Webster for \$1.00 (NCCDB 1847b).

The 1845 tax list for William C. Allston included 200 acres with a one-story log dwelling, three out houses (outbuildings), and livestock valued at \$2,000.00 total (NCC Appoquinimink Hundred Tax Lists 1845). One main dwelling was shown on the Allston property west of the main road on an 1849 map (Figure B-2). The house was set back from the main road and was roughly 1,600 feet north-northeast of the Black Diamond site. The farmhouse was still standing in the 1990s although abandoned, east of the SR1 project corridor, and was designated Cultural Resource Survey (CRS) No. 5938. A surface collection of a field near the house identified historical archaeological site 7NC-J-198 (Bedell and Busby 1997:14). Also notable on the 1849 map is the presence of a dwelling owned by “J Webster” on the northeast side of the main road, south of Sandom Branch. It is possible that these houses were the two log dwellings that Evan Webster Jr. owned in 1817 (Ackerman nd:64). The “J. Webster” house may be an “old Log house” on 100 acres owned by William C. Allston in 1845 (NCC Appoquinimink Hundred Tax Lists 1845). Presumably, this is part of the 135 acres on the north side of the main road that Allston sold to Jonathan Webster in 1847 (NCCDB 1847b).

William Allston became indebted to John Allston in 1858 for \$1,200.00. William failed to pay the debt, and John received a judgment against William in the Superior Court of Delaware (Delaware Superior Court 1859). After John Allston’s death, his estate’s administrators were made parties plaintiffs. In 1875, William Allston mortgaged the 200-acre tract to the administrators of the late John Allston, Lydia C. Allston and William P. Norris, for \$600.00 plus interest (NCC Mortgage Book 1875). The payment was not made within a year, and the Superior Court ordered that William Allston’s property be sold to pay the debt. The 200-acre tract was sold at public auction in 1876 to another John Allston for \$1,160.00 (NCCDB 1876). It is unclear how the three Allston men were related to one another.

Perhaps William Allston’s debt in 1858 stemmed in part from the costs of building an additional house on his property. By 1868, he is shown as the owner of two houses on the west side of the main road: the house shown on the 1849 map, and a newer one, further north (Figure B-3). The second house’s location has not been determined, but it appears to have been standing until the 1890s and gone by 1926 (Baist 1893; Army Air Corps 1926). The second house was built closer to the main road than the first, and was situated near the new school house built in the 1860s on

the adjoining ½-acre lot to the north. The ½-acre lot contained the archaeological sites 7NC- J-199 and 7NC-J-200 (Bupp et al. 2003). Perhaps the new house was intended to house the schoolmaster. The second house is the closest known dwelling built on the same land parcel as the Sandom Branch Site Complex (Site 7NC-J-227/228; Bupp et al. 2003).

Curiously, the tax list for 1873 to 1877 lists William C. Allston as owning 180 acres with only one main dwelling: 100 acres with a frame house and frame barn, 60 acres of swamp, and 20 acres of bush, worth \$3,400.00 total (NCC South Appoquinimink Hundred Tax Lists 1873-1877). He also owned livestock valued at \$370.00.

John Allston owned both dwellings south of the main road on the 200 acres in 1881 (Figure B-4: Hopkins 1881). He and his wife, Flora, sold the entire parcel to Donald Beith late in 1881 for \$6,000.00 (NCCDB 1881). Both parties to the deed were residents of Blackbird Hundred.

The Beith family retained ownership of the 200-acre farm for almost 70 years. Donald Beith died in 1889, leaving the farm to his wife, Barbara. The widow, Barbara, was a housewife living on the 200 acres in 1914 (Farm Journal 1914:22). Her sons, Charles and John, were both farmers and boarded with their mother in 1914 (Farm Journal 1914:22). Barbara died intestate in 1916, and each of her three sons, Charles, James, and John, received equal shares.

Aerial photographs from 1926 and 1937 depict the Black Diamond site area as cleared land that appears to have a grassy ground cover (Figure B-5). This portion of the farm appears to be fenced on three sides and bounded by a wooded stream on the northeast. The land shows no apparent crop use in the 1926 photograph and presumably was pasture land or fallow cropland. The northern portion of the fenced area, north of the Black Diamond site, shows evidence of plowing or clearing in the 1937 photograph.

James Beith died in 1935, leaving his one-third interest to his wife, Eva T. (NCCWB 1935). John died intestate in 1936, and his brother, Charles, inherited his share. Eva T. Beith sold her one-third share to Lewis Schafer, Jr. in 1950 for \$5.00 (NCCDB 1950). Charles Beith bequeathed his two-thirds share to Schafer in his will dated 1948 (NCCWB 1948).

Lewis Schafer, Jr., died ca. 1994 (NCC Will Record 1994), and his heirs sold the land to the State of Delaware in 1999 (NCCDB 1999:324). The tract was designated Parcel 1501000047 and contained roughly 170 acres. The land was assessed at \$169,900.00, structures at \$0.00, and the homesite at \$500.00 (NCC Deeds 2002).

### **Archaeological Investigations**

The site was initially identified during a 1997 survey of portions of the SR1 corridor conducted by the Cultural Resource Group of Louis Berger and Associates, Inc. (LBA) (Bedell and Jacoby 1998). The site was located approximately 70 meters from a swampy stream in a wooded area in the south-central portion of the SR 1 corridor. The site boundaries were defined on the basis of ten positive shovel test pits (STPs) containing a total of 17 quartz, quartzite and jasper flakes recovered from subsoil contexts. The Parsons field investigations at the Black Diamond Site were conducted in two phases: Phase II site evaluation and Phase III data recovery that focused on the National Register of Historic Places-eligible prehistoric component. During investigation of the prehistoric occupation (s), historical artifacts were recovered from 23 STPs and 138 test units. No historical features were recorded.

### **Historical Artifact Assemblage**

The Black Diamond Site yielded 438 historical artifacts representing mostly architectural and domestic items (Table B-2). Approximately 98 percent (n=428) of the artifacts occurred in the plow zone (Table B-3). Seven of the remaining artifacts were recovered from the second stratum, one from the third stratum, and two from prehistoric features. The majority of the temporally diagnostic artifacts from the plow zone consist of pearlwares, whitewares, cut nails, and wrought nails indicating a late 18<sup>th</sup> to mid-19<sup>th</sup> century time frame; however, one machine made bottle fragment with an applied color label suggests an intrusive item dating post-1934.

Collectively, these artifacts suggest the earliest site occupation occurred during or after the last quarter of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and continued through at least the first or second quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**Table B-2. Historical Artifacts Recovered from 7NC-J-225**

Group	Artifact	Count
Activity	Gun Cartridge	4
Architecture	Brick	127
	Hand Wrought Nail	2
	Cut Nail	2
	Fence Staple	1
	Mortar	1
	Window Glass	4
Domestic	Chinese Porcelain	1
	American Stoneware	2
	Pearlware	7
	Redware	104
	Jackfield-Like	13
	Whiteware	7
	Unidentified Earthenware	5
	Machine-Made Bottle Glass	1
	Unidentified Bottle Glass	3
	Unidentified Vessel Glass	2
Fuel	Coal	34
	Clinker/Slag	111
Personal	Tobacco Pipe	1
Miscellaneous	Unidentified Cupric	1
	Unidentified Iron	5
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>438</b>

**Table B-3. Historical Artifact Distribution by Stratum from Site 7NC-J-225**

Stratum	Diagnostics	Stratigraphic Temporal Association	Total Historical Artifact Count
A	Pearlware, Whiteware, Cut nail, Wrought nail, Applied Color Label on Machine Made Bottle	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> to Mid 19 <sup>th</sup> Century Post-1934	428
B	Pearlware	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> to Early 19 <sup>th</sup> Century	7
C	None	Unknown	1
Feature	None	Unknown	2

The second and third strata yielded considerably fewer artifacts. One pearlware sherd constitutes the single diagnostic artifact from a sub plow zone context and occurred in the second stratum. In the absence of additional diagnostic materials, the second stratum most likely shares temporal association with the plow zone layer. The third layer contained only one brick fragment and prehistoric features contained only one piece of coal and one piece of clinker. Given the lack of diagnostic materials from these contexts, temporal association with overlying strata is assumed. The significant reduction between historical artifact counts from the plow zone and the

underlying strata may indicate natural transport, such as bioturbation, rather than temporally distinct deposits.

**Functional Analysis.** The 438 artifacts represented six general categories: activity, architecture, domestic, organic, personal and miscellaneous. Four shotgun shell cartridges were collected indicating historical hunting activity. A total of 137 architectural artifacts was recovered including four nails, four pieces of window glass, 121 brick fragments, one fence staple, and one mortar fragment. Combined, architectural elements account for about 30 percent of the total historical collection. The brick, mortar, and nail counts are too small to suggest close proximity to a substantial structure and most likely represent secondary discard. Domestic artifacts include Chinese porcelain, ceramics and glass. Of the ceramics recovered, redwares occur with the greatest frequency with 104 specimens collected. The majority of ceramics recovered occurred as spalls, likely indicating repeated fracture from mechanical disturbance, such as plowing. None of the redware fragments recovered exhibit decorative elements; most were merely spalls. The redware, Jackfield-like ceramics, and the American stoneware were defined as representing hollowware used for food storage and food preparation. Two pearlware sherds represent flatware and hollowware. One pearlware sherd exhibited shell edging another transfer-print decoration. None of the whiteware sherds was decorated. The clear, aqua and olive glass fragments represent bottle or vessel glass. The single personal item recovered was a ballclay tobacco pipe stem. Coal fragments, clinker/slag, and unidentified metal comprised the rest of the assemblage. Coal, slag, and clinker constitute a significant portion of the historical assemblage. Collectively, these artifacts account for 145 of the 438, or approximately one third, of all historical artifacts recovered. The disproportionate amount of coal, slag, and clinker may suggest proximity to a furnace, kiln, or stove or secondary discard from such a primary location.

**Temporal Analysis.** Temporally diagnostic artifacts recovered from the Black Diamond Site include shotgun shell cartridges with head stamps, ceramics, glass, and nails (Table B-4). The four shotgun shell cartridges post date 1864 with three exhibiting end dates in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Datable ceramics include pearlwares, American Gray stoneware and whiteware. Pearlwares date from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century through the first quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup>; whitewares date from approximately 1820 and varieties are still produced. Two fragments of American gray stoneware occur dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. One glass bottle fragment exhibited mold scars indicating machine manufacture and displayed an applied color label. Michael Owens patented the first fully automated glass-making machine in 1903, revolutionizing the industry. Applied color labels on glass bottles began in 1934 (Riley 1958). All four nails were diagnostic; two are hand-wrought (ca. pre-1790) and two are machine cut (ca. 1795).

**Table B-4. Temporally Diagnostic Historical Artifacts by Type for the Black Diamond Site (7NC-J-225)**

<b>Artifact</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Manufacturer/Place</b>	<b>Manufacturing Dates</b>	<b>Terminus Post Quem (TPQ)</b>	<b>Reference</b>
Arms	Shotgun Shell Cartridge Headstamp, "Remington Express/ 12 GA"	Remington Arms-Union Metallic Cartridge Company, Bridgeport, Connecticut	1870-present	1870	Hogg 1982; Steinhauer 2004
Arms	Shotgun Shell Cartridge Headstamp, "...O...Climax U.S."	U S Cartridge Company Lowell, Massachusetts	1864-1938	1864	Hogg 1982; Steinhauer 2004
Arms	Shotgun Shell Cartridge Headstamp, "Winchester/Made in USA/No 12/Super Speed"	Winchester Repeating Arms Company, New Haven, Connecticut	1866-1932	1866	Hogg 1982; Steinhauer 2004
Arms	Shotgun Shell Cartridge Headstamp, "U.M.C. Co Nitroclub/No 10"	Union Metallic Cartridge Company, Bridgeport, Connecticut	1867-1911	1867	Hogg 1982; Steinhauer 2004
Ceramic	Pearlware, plain	England	1770s-1830	1770	Price 1979:10; Noel Hume 1969: 128-129; Seidel 1990:93
Ceramic	Pearlware, blue or green shell-edged	England	ca.1780-1830	1780	Price 1979:10-11; Noel Hume 1969: 126-131
Ceramic	Pearlware, transfer print	England	1795-1830	1795	Miller 1980; South 1977
Ceramic	Stoneware, American Gray	USA	1730-1900s	1730	Noel Hume 1969: 101
Ceramic	Whiteware, plain	England, USA	1820-present	1820	Noel Hume 1969:130-131
Ceramic	Whiteware, transfer print	England	1830-1900	1830	Price 1979:19; Noel Hume 1969
Glass	Applied Color Label	USA	1934+	1934	Riley 1958:145
Glass	Automatic Bottle Machine	USA	1904-present	1904	Jones and Sullivan 1989; Ketz and Reimer 1990:48
Nail	Wrought	USA	Pre-ca. 1790	Pre-1790	Noel Hume 1969:253; Edwards and Wells 1993:6-16
Nail	Cut	USA	Ca. 1795-present	1795	Edwards and Wells 1993

## Historical Artifact Distribution

Several historical artifact distributions were generated for the Black Diamond Site. Only 43 artifacts were recovered from STPs; therefore, the distributions are based on test unit data exclusively. Maps depicting the location of domestic and architectural artifacts were generated as well as one based on the presence of coal, clinker, and slag.

Domestic artifacts concentrate in the central portion of the crescentic dune with isolated outliers occurring on the slopes to the east and to the west toward the small bay/basin (Figure B-6). Architectural artifacts distribute diagonally across the site from the northeast to the southwest (Figure B-7). Concentrations occurred on the slope on the southwestern edge of the site between the dune area and the small bay/basin. Coal, clinker, and slag cluster most intensely on the western edge of the crescentic dune on the slope toward the small bay/basin (Figure B-8). The architectural debris and the coal, clinker and slag have similar distributions. It is possible that this indicates the location of primary site activity, likely something involving a stove, furnace or kiln given the amount of waste material. However, the low quantity of architectural materials does not indicate a substantial structure of any kind and more likely represents secondary discard of architectural refuse.

## Site Summary

The results of the archaeological investigation of the historical component to 7NC-J-225 suggests either a possible primary location involving an ephemeral stove, furnace or kiln, or secondary refuse disposal. The proportion of coal, clinker, and slag to other artifacts on this site is unusual and may suggest an activity requiring a dedicated heat source, such cooking or possibly blacksmithing. Archival information suggests that Evan Webster, Sr., the owner of the property from the 1790s to 1805, was a blacksmith. His son, Evan Jr., who inherited the property in 1805, also was bequeathed his father's smith's tools. The temporally diagnostic artifacts indicate a late 18<sup>th</sup> to mid 19<sup>th</sup> century occupation(s) and could be associated with a number of landowners during that time. The intrusive machine made bottle with applied color label could be associated with the shotgun shells indicating transient hunting activities during the Beith family ownership (1881-1948).

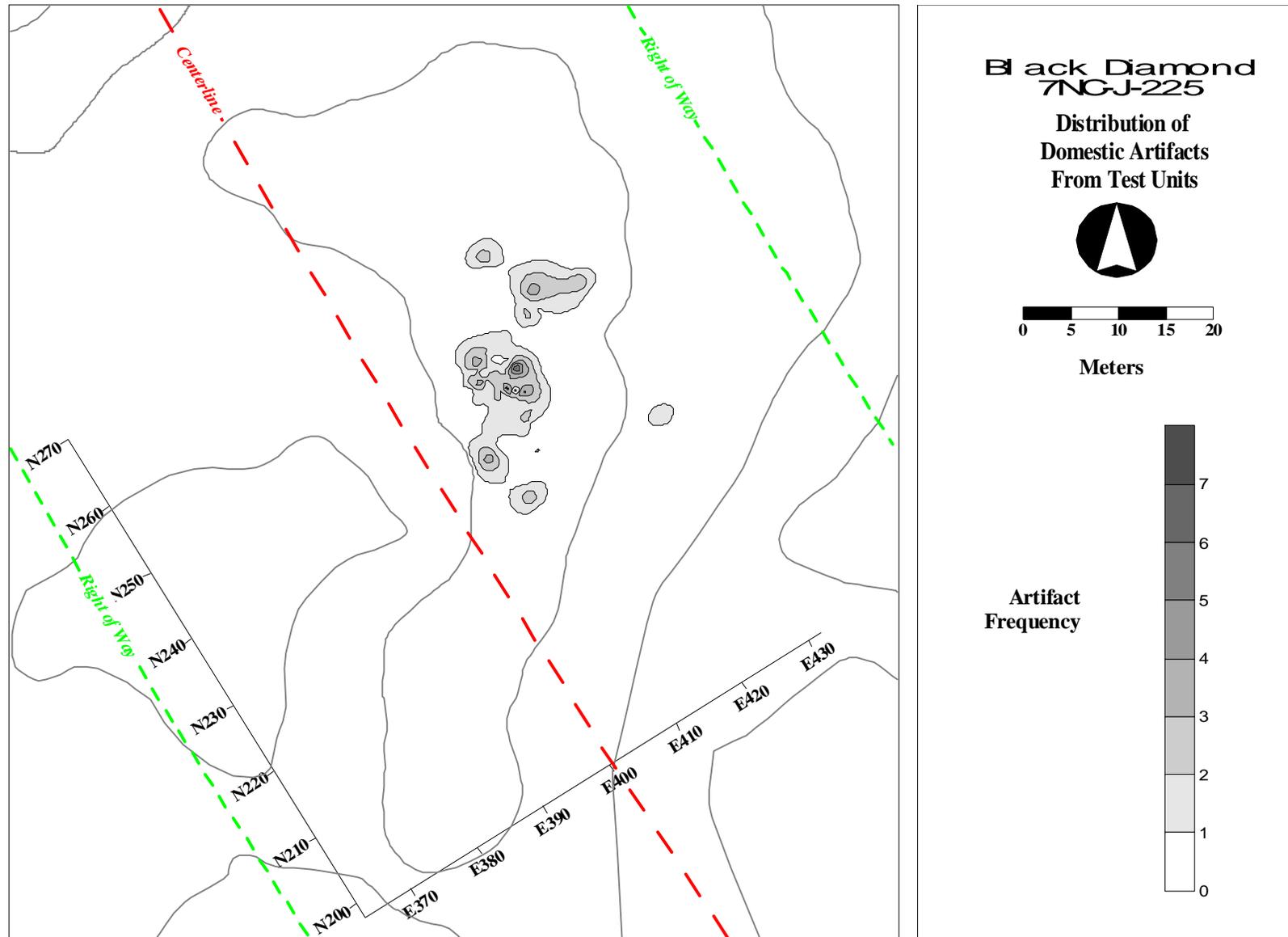


Figure B-6: Distribution of Domestic Artifacts at the Black Diamond Site, 7NC-J-225.

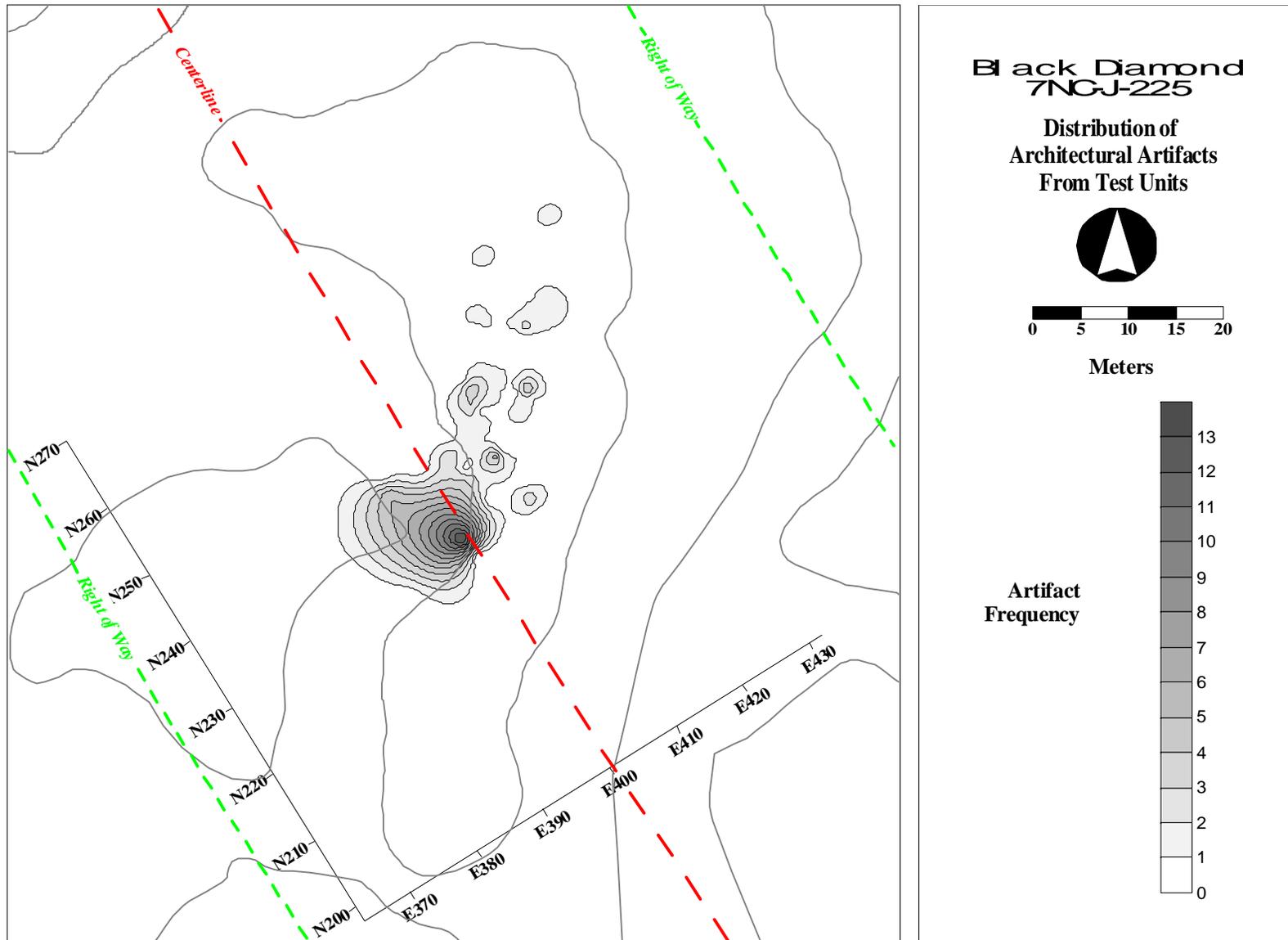


Figure B-7: Distribution of Architectural Artifacts at the Black Diamond Site, 7NC-J-225.

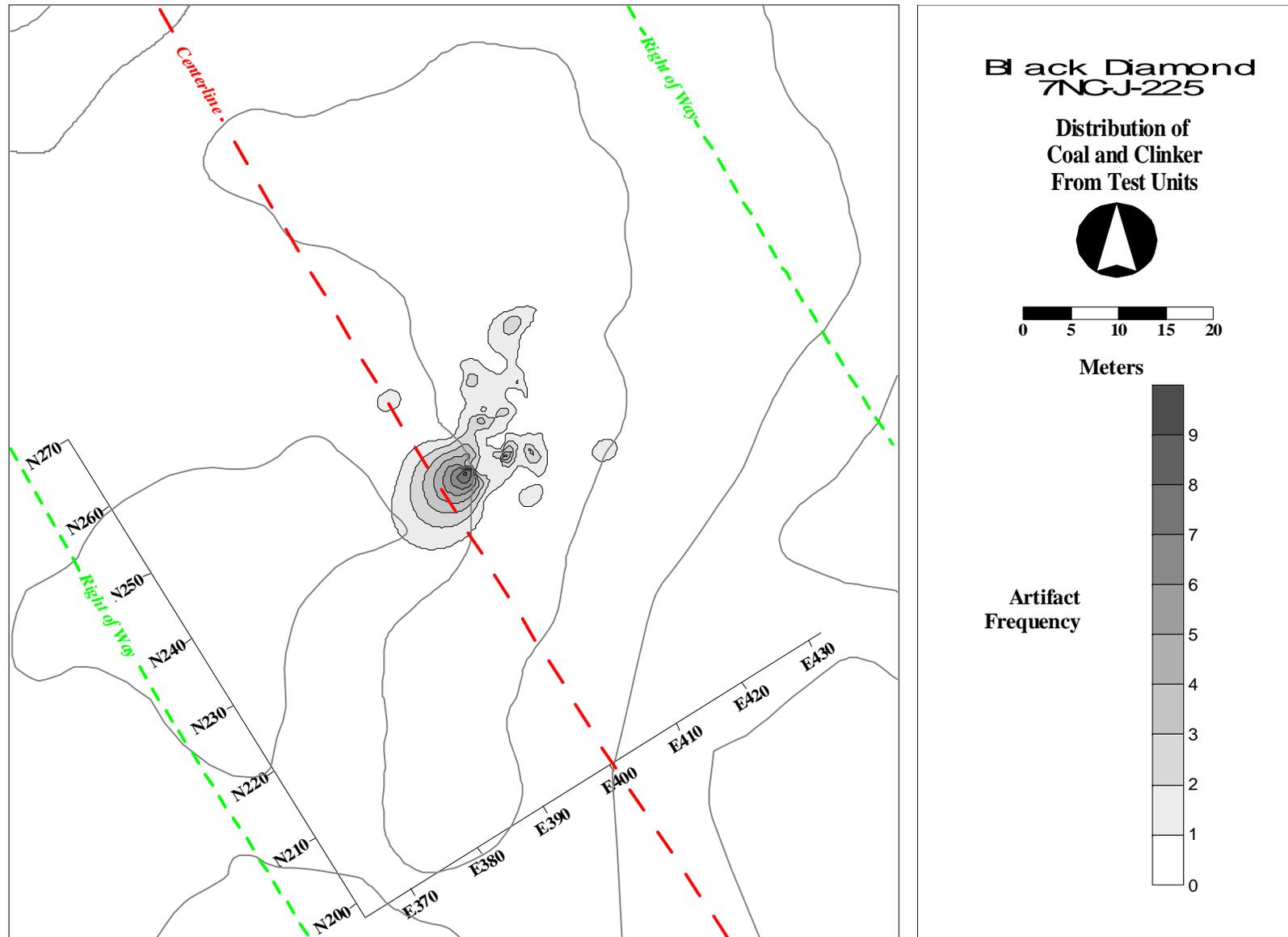


Figure B-8: Distribution of Coal, Clinker and Slag at the Black Diamond Site, 7NC-J-225.

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