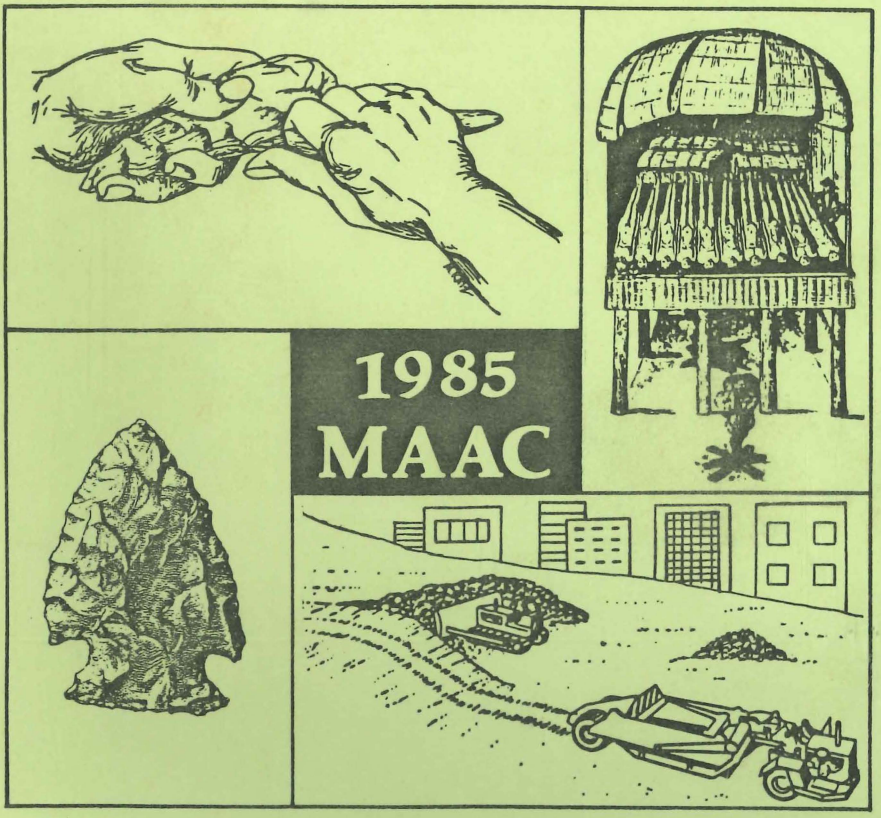
MIDDLE ATLANTIC ARCHEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE



Rehoboth Beach, Delaware

MIDDLE ATLANTIC ARCHEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

PROGRAM & ABSTRACTS

DENNIS C. CURRY
Program Chairman

12-14 April 1985
Rehoboth Beach, Delaware

PROGRAM

FRIDAY MORNING - 12 APRIL 1985

11:00-4:00 **REGISTRATION**

FRIDAY AFTERNOON - 12 APRIL 1985

1:00-1:10 **WELCOMING REMARKS**
June Evans, President

*** * * * GENERAL SESSION * * * ***
Carmen A. Weber, Chairperson

1:10 **Identification of Prehistoric Blood Residues and Other Organics on Stone Tools: An Instrument for Determining Function** -- Edward J. Flanagan (Engineering-Science)

1:30 **Cross-Mending Burned Chert Artifacts to Evaluate Postdepositional Disturbance in an Archeological Deposit** -- Thomas R. Whyte (University of Tennessee)

1:50 **The Horse Heaven Road Site (44Wy40): A Quartzite Related Reduction Station in Wythe County, Virginia** -- Michael B. Barber (Jefferson National Forest)

2:10 **Prehistoric Use of Bay/Basin Features on the Delmarva Peninsula** -- David C. Bachman and Jay F. Custer (University of Delaware)

2:30 Break

This workshop will consist of a round-table discussion designed to bring together archeologists interested in the archeology of the city. Topics to be discussed include: (1) existing city programs; (2) site protection; (3) community support; (4) current research; and (5) future directions for city archeology. All persons interested in city archeology are invited to participate.

SATURDAY MORNING - 13 APRIL 1985

8:00-4:00 **REGISTRATION**

8:30-9:00 **COFFEE & DANISH**

*** * * EXPLORING ASPECTS OF URBAN ARCHEOLOGY * * * IN THE MIDDLE ATLANTIC**

D. Katharine Beidleman, Chairperson

9:00 **The Urban Waterfront: Lifeblood of Our Cities** -- Janice G. Artemel (Engineering-Science)

9:20 **General Taylor Never Surrenders: Urban Archaeology and the Dangers of Ahistorical Inferencing** -- Cara L. Wise (Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation)

9:40 **The Waterfront Project at Fells Point, Baltimore** -- Ethel R. Eaton (Maryland Historical Trust)

10:00 **Philadelphia Privies and Their Fills: Some Consideration of Their Interpretative Value** -- John P. McCarthy, Betty Cosans-Zebooker, and William R. Henry, Jr. (John Milner Associates)

10:20 Break

2:50 Break

3:10 **Flaked Stone Debitage: Analysis and Interpretation** -- Jeffrey Kalin

3:30 **Biface Functions, Debitage Distributions, and Activity Areas at the Hawthorn Site, New Castle County, Delaware** -- Jay F. Custer (University of Delaware)

3:50 **Systematic Flotation and Debitage Analysis: A Paleo-Indian Example** -- Roger W. Moeller (Archaeological Services)

4:10 Discussion

SATURDAY EVENING - 13 APRIL 1985

8:00-9:00 **ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THE MIDDLE ATLANTIC ARCHEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE**
June Evans, President

SUNDAY MORNING - 14 APRIL 1985

8:30-9:00 **COFFEE**

*** * * * MORTUARY CUSTOMS SESSION * * * ***
Ronald A. Thomas, Chairperson

9:00 **Comparison of Iroquoian/Tuscarora and Algonquin Mortuary Practices** -- David Phelps (East Carolina University)

9:20 **Late Woodland Period Mortuary Practices in the Virginia Coastal Plain** -- E. Randolph Turner (Virginia Research Center for Archaeology)

ABSTRACTS

ARTEMEL, Janice G. **The Urban Waterfront: Lifeblood of Our Cities.**
Most American cities developed from a residential/commercial core located on waterways. The maritime orientation of these towns developed in intensity through the eighteenth century after which it either declined or increased. These nuclei have often been protected by urbanization activities and remain as valuable archeological sites. With current development projects planned or being undertaken on waterfronts, it is important that archeologists recognize the importance of these sites to our knowledge of urban development. Current research in Washington, D.C., Alexandria, Virginia, Wilmington, Delaware, and other locations is used to illustrate this subject.

BACHMAN, David C., and CUSTER, Jay F. **Prehistoric Use of Bay/Basin Features on the Delmarva Peninsula.**
Recent research funded by the Delaware Department of Transportation has included an intensive and extensive survey of bay/basin features in central Delaware. Initial utilization of these features begins circa 7500-6500 B.C. and peaks circa 3000-2000 B.C. There is a decline in frequency and duration of these features' use through the Woodland period. Pedological and palynological data do not support the hypothesis of a periglacial origin of these features in Delaware, and suggest that there are dramatic changes in the size of individual bay/basin features through time.

BARBER, Michael B. **The Horse Heaven Road Site (44Wy40): A Quartzite Related Reduction Station in Wythe County, Virginia.**
In the summer of 1984, a field school sponsored by the Jefferson National Forest and Radford University conducted Phase II tests on a quartzite quar-

material from the Fifty site (44Wr50). This site is part of the Flint Run Paleoindian Complex and has been defined as a base camp maintenance station. The preliminary results of this analysis provide a good description of the types of lithic reduction which occurred at this type of site. The distribution of refitted flakes is being plotted and a series of maps are being developed to aid in the definition of activity areas and community patterning. Generally, the results support Gardner's model of continuity during the Paleoindian and Early Archaic time span. Potentially this type of analysis could lead to a better understanding of social organization and a more specific definition of the Fifty site's role within the Paleoindian/Early Archaic exploitative pattern.

CATTS, Wade C., and BEIDLEMAN, D. Katharine. **Artifacts and Documents: The Lawrence Curry Site, Block 1191, Wilmington, Delaware.**
While historical documents illuminate the character of a site's occupation at certain times, excavated artifacts can lead documentary research in new and unexpected directions. Research at the Lawrence Curry site, Block 1191, in Wilmington, Delaware, illustrates this two-way interaction between information gained from excavation and from archival sources. A comparison of the documentary evidence relating to the site with the archeological evidence collected from features found there shows how material remains bring new insights to bear on nineteenth century Wilmington.

CAVALLO, John A., and KONDRUP, Shari L. **Replicative Experiments with "Fire-Cracked" Rock Features.**
Scatters and clusters of modified and unmodified pebbles and cobbles are among the most ubiquitous residues of prehistoric human activities in Middle Atlantic archeological sites. Depending upon their physical characteristics, quantities, arrangements, and associations, these remains are

the widespread use of "specialized technologies" and facilities (i.e., broad-blade points, steatite vessels, heavy woodworking implements, and large platform hearths), a pronounced riverine-estuarine subsistence-settlement focus, human population growth, and increased regional exchange networks. They contend that these shifts were adaptive responses to marked changes in the distributions of natural resources resulting from a mid-postglacial xerothermic climatic episode (circa 2700 to 200 B.C.) (Custer 1978:2; 1984:90) and the stabilization of estuarine settings. This paper will evaluate these models in light of recent archeological and paleoenvironmental data. These data indicate that while many of the proposed shifts can be documented for the southeastern Coastal Plain during that time, these patterns cannot be extrapolated to areas north and northwest of the Potomac River. Furthermore, recent paleoenvironmental data from the Eastern United States conflict with the hypothesized mid-Holocene xerothermic interval. It is suggested that explanatory models should view cultural and environmental changes during the Late Archaic as time-transgressive phenomena that did not occur synchronically or uniformly throughout the Middle Atlantic region and contiguous areas.

CUSTER, Jay F. **Biface Functions, Debitage Distributions, and Activity Areas at the Hawthorn Site, New Castle County, Delaware.**
The Hawthorn site is a Clyde Farm Complex (Late Archaic/Early Woodland) staging/processing site in the Delaware Fall Line zone. Use wear analysis of bifaces shows the following correlation of use wear categories and raw materials: projectile points--jasper and argillite; primary butchering biface tools--ironstone; secondary butchering biface tools--quartz; and generalized multifunction biface tools--quartzite. Distribution of debitage size categories shows only flake production and edge maintenance activities taking place in direct association with butchering. A spatial

stone tools recovered during the Barney Circle project in Washington, D.C. Most of these artifacts initially appeared to have been various types of unused debitage. This paper discusses the implications of using such data in regard to tool function and morphology.

KALIN, Jeffrey. **Flaked Stone Debitage: Analysis and Interpretation.**
Analysis of flaked stone debitage, one of the most commonly recovered prehistoric materials, is often limited due to the lack of concrete comparative models. This study illustrates how experimental replication can be used to develop a data base which may be useful in the interpretation of different manufacturing activities and the identification of different types of diagnostic flake debitage. The application of this technique provides the archeologist with a comparative model which may be used to facilitate and enhance the interpretation of archeologically recovered flaked stone debitage.

LeeDECKER, Charles H., KLEIN, Terry H., HOLT, Cheryl A., and FRIEDLANDER, Amy. **A Study in Nineteenth Century Households in Wilmington, Delaware.**
Louis Berger and Associates, Inc., has recently completed an archeological investigation of a block in downtown Wilmington, Delaware. The predominant resource type was the privy-well which usually contained artifact-bearing fills and night soils. Twelve features were completely excavated, producing more than 50,000 artifacts and 100,000 floral and faunal specimens, all dating from 1790 to 1890. Historical research on the lots containing these features provided information regarding the composition, socio-economic status, and income strategies of the households that occupied these properties. Most of the households were headed by small-scale entrepreneurs who operated shops or service establishments at the same or nearby address as that occupied by the household. Nearly all of the households included a number of unre-

terials in the hypocaust fill kept dry by the surrounding house. The paper considers these in terms of preservation, and then considers a question of particular concern on urban sites: the origin of the recovered trash. Efforts to determine whether the assemblage is from a single or multiple household, and our ideas on the analysis of complex urban deposits not tied to households, will be detailed. This relates, in turn, to reconstruction of the butchery patterns and the seasonality revealed through the faunal analysis. It also relates to the formal analysis of the ceramics which include a wide variety of wares and functional classes, suggesting the curation of early Chinese porcelains, and the use of a larger number of coarseware vessels in an apparently elite 18th century household.

MOELLER, Roger W. **Systematic Flotation and Debitage Analysis: A Paleo-Indian Example.**
To truly understand lithic debitage one must start with a sample of known biases. The highest quality data come from research designs relying upon systematic flotation samples drawn from all cultural contexts present in a single component. Interpretations are still possible from other samples, but one must realize the biases inherent in having recovered only a portion of the debitage spectrum. The example used to illustrate this is a single Paleo-Indian component excavated during two seasons with slightly different research hypotheses. The initial impression of vast differences between the two was based upon sampling biases in the debitage spectrum.

MOUER, L. Daniel. **Ceramics and Protohistoric Social Networks Near the Fall Line in Virginia.**
Analysis of protohistoric and post-contact period ceramics representing various Powhatan and Monacan groups living near the James River fall line provides insights into the development, and subsequent decline, of social networks among three regional populations. A phenomenon similar to the

STEPONAITIS, Laurie Cameron. **Assemblage Diversity and Settlement Patterns in the Lower Patuxent Drainage.**
Surface collections from prehistoric sites in the lower Patuxent drainage exhibit considerable variation in the number of artifacts types that are present. In this paper, a diversity measure developed by Kintigh (**American Antiquity** 49:44-54, 1983) will be applied to assemblages dating from the Late Archaic to the Late Woodland. This measure allows for comparison of assemblage diversity while controlling for the effects of differing sample sizes. The patterns evinced by this measure make it possible to monitor temporal changes in the relative frequency of multi-purpose and special-purpose sites. These results have important implications for interpreting the organization of subsistence and settlement activities in prehistoric times.

STEWART, R. Michael. **Inferences from Intra-Site Lithic Distributions: Lessons from the Abbott Farm.**
Recognizing and interpreting patterning at a variety of levels is basic archeological procedure. Difficulties arise on the site-specific level when dealing with multicomponent surface manifestations or buried, but shallow, deposits created through the repeated use of a location. This paper discusses the techniques and interpretations that resulted from the study of several buried, but shallow, upland sites in and near the Abbott Farm National Landmark in coastal New Jersey. Intra-site distributions of a variety of lithic artifacts are the basis of this exercise. Significant aspects of the analysis include: the use of rank sums of debitage for mapping artifact concentrations and delimiting individual activity areas; comparison of lithic preferences between activity areas; and the juxtaposition of artifact manufacturing/maintenance, use, and discard locations.

extent that the original depositional patterns were destroyed. The study reveals that artifact patterns on a site may have postdepositional origins.

WISE, Cara L. **General Taylor Never Surrenders: Urban Archaeology and the Dangers of Ahistorical Inferencing.**
Although the introduction of quantitative analytical tools appears to allow the development of detailed interpretations of artifact assemblages without considering the historical record, there are certain dangers inherent in such an ahistorical approach. These are well-illustrated by an analysis of the assemblages from two privies excavated in Wilmington, Delaware. These two privies were located on adjoining properties in a working class neighborhood on the near west side of the city. Cross-mend data indicate that the privies were filled at about the same time. The assemblages, however, are radically different. Feature 5 contained ceramic and glass items which date between about 1890 and 1920. Feature 6, on the other hand, contained no artifacts clearly attributable to the first quarter of the 20th century and a large number of ceramic and glass items which date to the middle of the nineteenth century. Rates of human waste accumulation derived from sanitation engineering studies indicates that long-term deposition in Feature 6 cannot be used to account for these differences. Documentary evidence, however, suggests that the occupants of the property associated with Feature 6 fit the profile of households identified by modern material culture studies as likely to rely on secondhand goods.

1985 MIDDLE ATLANTIC ARCHEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

Addendum: ABSTRACTS

TURNER, E. Randolph. **Late Woodland Period Mortuary Practices in the Virginia Coastal Plain.**
A review of available archeological documentation on mortuary practices in the Virginia Coastal Plain for the Late Woodland period is presented. Particularly evident is the absence of clear evidence for forms of ranking such as seen in ascribed statuses which are characteristic of chiefdoms. This is contrasted to extensive historical accounts for the region documenting the presence of a complex rank society known as the Powhatan Chiefdom and for which are available graphic descriptions of variations in mortuary practices according to status positions in the chiefdom. Various explanations for the differences between the archeological record and historical accounts are then discussed.