

CURRITUCK BAYS

Twiddy-Saunders Site



This excavation unit shows the depth of the various soil layers encountered during testing. The dark soil layer at the bottom of the unit is an old land surface now covered by dune sand.

Below the surface, archaeologists exposed a living surface including post holes from a circular structure, a fired clay hearth with charcoal, pottery sherds and stone tools. The net-impressed, cord-marked and plain pottery sherds appear to be from the region's Middle Woodland period, known as the Mount Pleasant phase (300 B.C. to A.D. 800).

Digging the Past

Cultural materials including several large pit-like features were found in a deeply buried paleosol, or land surface, 65–120 cm below the surface. The projectile points found in association with the Mount Pleasant series pottery include a substantial number made of locally available jasper. They vary somewhat in shape and size, suggesting a less structured reduction process than earlier knapping technologies. Prominent in this number of stone artifacts is a projectile point type not previously described for the region. The specimens are small, crudely worked triangular points shaped like a leaf.



This leaf shaped point was made from a type of rock called jasper. This type of stone is only found in the eroding Pleistocene stream beds along the beaches of northeast North Carolina.

Jasper tools found during excavations at Twiddy-Saunders. The larger object is a scraper used for many tasks.

