

Archaeological
Surveys in Two Black
Communities, 1998:
Surveying
the Tracadie Area
and Testing two sites
in Birchtown

By Stephen Powell and Laird Niven



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History Section
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C U R A T O R I A L R E P O R T S

The Curatorial Reports of the Nova Scotia Museum make technical information on museum collections, programs, procedures and research accessible to interested readers.

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**"Archaeological Testing of AkDi-6, Birchtown
Shelburne County"**

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Artifact photos by Roger Lloyd, NS Dept. of Education
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**"Archaeological Survey of Tracadie and Surrounding Area
Antigonish and Guysborough Counties"**

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except plate four, stoneware blacking bottle, by Roger Lloyd
NS Dept. of Ed. Learning Resources and Technology**

**Figures: Figure 1: Crown land map, highlighted by
Carmelita Robertson and Ruth Whitehead**

Figure 2: Stephen Powell

**Archaeological Surveys in Two Black Communities, 1998:
Surveying the Tracadie Area and Testing in Birchtown.
Nova Scotia Museum Curatorial Report No. 92**

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PREFACE

The Project: *Remembering Black Loyalists, Black Communities*

The history of the Black citizens of Nova Scotia is a rich and varied one. This diverse matrix – African slaves and freedmen, Black Loyalists from the United States, the Nova Scotian colonists of Sierra Leone, the Maroons from Jamaica, the refugees of the War of 1812 – is a fascinating addition to Canadian multiculturalism, yet it has been largely overlooked.

Beginning in 1991, the Nova Scotia Museum (NSM) began to redress this lack through undertaking research into African Nova Scotian heritage and developing a collection of data on Black cultural heritage. By 1997, our attention had become focused on the earliest group to emigrate to the province: the Black Loyalists. In particular, we were interested in knowing more about Birchtown – at one time the largest community of free Blacks anywhere in the New World – and Tracadie, one of the oldest continuously Black communities in Canada.

The result was the two-year project *Remembering Black Loyalists, Black Communities*, undertaken by the History Section of the Nova Scotia Museum, in partnership with the communities of Birchtown / South Nova (through the Black Loyalist Heritage Society) and Tracadie / Guysborough (through the Brownspriggs Historical Committee), as well as the Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia, and the Learning Resources Technology Division and the African Canadian Services Division of the Nova Scotia Department of Education.

This project was funded by the Multiculturalism Programme of the Department of Canadian Heritage and by the History Section of the Nova Scotia Museum.

Project Description

Remembering Black Loyalists, Black Communities consisted of three components: research, public education, and community development. A team composed of Nova Scotia Museum staff and project staff worked with an Advisory Group to plan, coordinate, implement, monitor and evaluate all aspects of the project from its commencement in late January 1998 to its completion in late January 2000.

Members of the Advisory Group included representatives from the two communities: Gloria Desmond, Pat Skinner, Sharon Clyde-Oliver, later replaced by Marjorie Turner-Bailey, and Richard Gallion; a representative from the Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia, Henry Bishop; Robert Upshaw, later replaced by Patrick Kakembo, from the African-Canadian Services Division of the Department of Education; David States from Parks Canada Atlantic Regional Office, and Gilbert Daye from the Department of Canadian Heritage Multiculturalism.

Historical Research

Historical research involved two principal streams: research aimed at better understanding the circumstances and connections of Black Loyalists prior to their removal to Nova Scotia, and research focussing on the experience of Black Loyalists once they arrived in the province.

Research on the pre-Nova Scotian context was undertaken by the NSM's ethnologist, Ruth Holmes Whitehead, who focussed on sources that provided information on the conditions from which the Black Loyalists came - principally slavery - and the reason for their migration, the American Revolution. Because many of those who emigrated to Nova Scotia came from South Carolina, emphasis was put on researching South Carolina sources, such as wills and inventories, maps, diaries, contemporary narratives and runaway slave ads, to determine exactly where individual Black Loyalists had worked and lived, their genealogies, and history of ownership if enslaved.

Working under Ruth Whitehead's direction, research on the Nova Scotian context was undertaken by Project Historian Carmelita Robertson, a Black Loyalist descendant. Importantly, the Project Historian's work included training and coordinating local researchers in each of the two Black Loyalist communities: in Birchtown, Marjorie Turner-Bailey, Gary Jacklin and David Hartley, who are all descendants of Black Loyalists, and in Tracadie, Monica Kennedy. Training workshops held with local researchers included hands-on instruction in conducting oral interviews, locating and accessing research sources, and collecting and recording historical data.

Copies of the following historical research data will be maintained and made available by the History Section of the Nova Scotia Museum, with copies provided to community partners:

- Oral interviews (tapes and transcripts)
- Family genealogies (Birchtown/Shelburne only)
- Historic photographs
- Wills (abstracts & copies if available)
- Cemetery inventories
- Land papers (abstracts & copies if available)
- Inventory site forms for buildings associated with Black Loyalists and their descendants
- Miscellaneous material, including church records, newspaper survey (Shelburne papers), diaries, contemporary narratives, and ledger books.

Archaeological Research

Working under the direction of NSM archaeologist David Christianson, Project Archaeologist Stephen Powell oversaw the Tracadie field work during May and early June 1998, while Project Archaeologist Laird Niven led the field work in Birchtown from early June to late August 1998. Field work in both locations was supported by Field Assistants Katie Cottreau-Robins and Sharain Jones, a Black Loyalist descendant. Additional field support in Tracadie was provided

by volunteer James Desmond, and in Birchtown by three individuals hired by the Black Loyalist Heritage Society: Corey Guye, Amanda Page, and Stanley Bower.

Tracadie

Since there had been no survey of Black Loyalist settlement features in the Tracadie area, the main focus of the Tracadie archaeology was to locate and document sites associated with early Black Loyalist settlers in the 1787 Brownspriggs-grant area of Antigonish and Guysborough Counties.

Sixteen areas of archaeological interest were recorded during the course of the survey. Based on a small artifact sample, evidence found at one site located within the 1787 grant area suggests it may have been the home of one of the first Black families in the East Tracadie area. Many of the other sites found during the survey can be directly associated with the descendants of Black Loyalist families. While more work is required to record settlement features and cemetery sites in greater detail, this preliminary archaeological study increases the awareness and knowledge of Black Loyalist sites within eastern Nova Scotia.

Birchtown

In contrast, archaeological work in Birchtown began in 1993 and has continued every year since that time, revealing the location of a number of features associated with Black Loyalist settlement. As a result, the principal objective of the Birchtown archaeology was to gain a deeper understanding of the community through more detailed archaeological investigation of selected settlement features.

The field work was designed in three phases:

(i) *Surveying of the Goulden and Acker properties, land suspected of having belonged to Col. Stephen Blucke, the man who led the Black Loyalists in Birchtown.* This survey led to a decision to carry out a detailed excavation on the site, in search of a house formerly on the property. As stated in Laird Niven's report, "The testing and excavation revealed the cellar of a relatively substantial building that appears to have been abandoned by the end of the eighteenth century. The artifacts recovered were exceptional for what we know of the Black Loyalist period in Birchtown, not only because of their quantity but their quality as well."

(ii) *Testing of a probable Black Loyalist dwelling, north of the town, to confirm that it dated to the eighteenth century.* The presence of several diagnostic artifacts at this site suggested a date of 1783 to before the 1790s, and that the occupation is almost certainly Black Loyalist. The single stone wall found indicates a very rudimentary structure, which appears to represent a more typical Black Loyalist dwelling and stands in contrast to the relative wealth of the Acker site.

(iii) *Bisection of a selected rock mound (one of a series of 22 mounds), in the hopes of recovering stratigraphic and artifactual data that would answer questions regarding the age of the mound, cultural affiliation, and/or function.* Although excavation revealed that the mound

was deliberately constructed, and does not appear to be the result of standard field clearing as we understand it, no features or artifacts were encountered to suggest age, cultural affiliation or function.

Results of archaeological investigation that are available to community partners, as well as other interested parties, include:

- Approximately 16,000 recovered artifacts, and associated documentation, at the History Section, NSM
- Photographic documentation of the fieldwork undertaken, particularly extensive for Birchtown
- Documentation of seventeen sites associated with Black Loyalists, using the Maritime Archaeology Resource Inventory (MARI) form

Public Education

The public education component of *Remembering Black Loyalists, Black Communities* involved the development and delivery of a variety of products and activities designed to increase awareness and understanding about the story of Nova Scotia's Black Loyalists to a wide range of audiences. These ranged from community meetings and newsletters, to press releases and presentations, participation in the filming of *Loyalties* (an award-winning documentary about the NSM's research on Nova Scotia's Black Loyalists), publications and exhibits.

Results from the historical and archaeological research are available in four reports: *Tracing the History of Tracadie Loyalists, 1776-1787*. NSM Curatorial Report No. 91, by Carmelita Robertson, features short biographies of people who arrived in 1783 in Port Mouton, Nova Scotia, as listed in the *Book of Negroes*, many of whom relocated to Guysborough after fire burned Port Mouton to the ground in 1784. It also includes information found in the *Loyalist Muster Roll of Chedabucto Negroes, 1776 -1785*, and in the Tracadie land grant (more commonly known as the Brownspriggs grant) which gave 3000 acres to seventy-four Black Loyalist families in 1787. 146 pages, 8 illustrations.

Archaeological Surveys in Two Black Communities, 1998: Surveying the Tracadie Area and Testing Two Sites in Birchtown. NSM Curatorial Report No. 92 Stephen Powell describes the project to locate and document settlement features associated with early Black Loyalist settlers in the 1787 Brownspriggs grant area of Antigonish and Guysborough Counties. Laird Niven describes the formal testing of a house cellar at AkDi-6 and the bisection of an enigmatic rock mound at Ak-Di-21 in Shelburne County. 57 pages, 20 illustrations.

Was this the home of Stephen Blucke?: The excavation of AkDi-23, Birchtown, Shelburne County. NSM Curatorial Report No. 93. Laird Niven describes the house feature and the exceptional artifacts recovered during the 1998 archaeological investigation at this late 18th-century site. 80 pages, 47 illustrations.

The Shelburne/Birchtown Black Loyalists. NSM Curatorial Report No. 94. Ruth Holmes Whitehead presents short biographies of all Black individuals emigrating to Shelburne County, Nova Scotia in 1783, after the American Revolution, excerpted from a copy of the *Book of Negroes* in the collection of the Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management, Halifax, NS, with some additional information. 294 pages, 7 illustrations.

Led by Manager of Interpretation Sheila Stevenson, an exhibit team (designer Grant Murray, Ruth Holmes Whitehead, Carmelita Robertson, Henry Bishop, David States, Kevin Thomas, John Tate, and Deborah Scott) produced the travelling exhibition *Remembering Black Loyalists, Black Communities*. It consisted of thirty-six running feet of text and graphics, including panels with the names of all known Black Loyalists, and three cases of archaeological artifacts.

The exhibit opened at the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History in Halifax on January 26, 2000, in time for African Heritage Month. Its itinerary for the period June 2000 to late 2003 includes the Black Cultural Centre, Birchtown Community Centre, the Shelburne County Museum, the Antigonish Heritage Museum, the Queens County Museum, the Cumberland County Museum, the Museum of Industry (all in Nova Scotia) and the New Brunswick Museum.

The education program accompanying the exhibition was developed to engage the school audience in active learning.

The exhibit content was expanded and produced in two Nova Scotia Museum Info sheets, *Remembering Black Loyalists, Black Communities, Part One* and *Part Two*.

The exhibit, education program, and Info material provided the content for a virtual exhibit produced by the History Section of the Nova Scotia Museum and contracted by the Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN), to be part of Canada's Virtual Museum for a five-year period from 2001 to 2005. The URL is <http://www.museum.gov.ns.ca/BlackLoyalists>.

Community Development

Developing community capacity with respect to heritage preservation and presentation and the associated benefits which it was hoped would accrue, were key elements of *Remembering Black Loyalists, Black Communities*. This goal was accomplished in a variety of ways through working with individuals and organizations in both communities.

Through direct experience, community researchers and archaeology field assistants increased their understanding of sources, materials, and methodologies associated with historical research and archaeology, and developed their skills in these areas.

By sharing information and ideas, and making the views, interests and needs of their communities known, Advisory Group members influenced the development and outcomes of the project, and furthered their knowledge of various aspects of heritage work. Museum staff also

learned from the knowledge and experience that the Advisory Group members contributed during this exchange.

Members of the Black Loyalist Heritage Society and the Brownspriggs Historical Committee accessed local financial support and hired temporary staff to undertake heritage-based activities. Societies now have access to the foundation of knowledge, artifacts, and support materials needed to develop interpretive centres or museums that tell the Black Loyalist story, and to undertake related initiatives, such as applying for historic site designation.

New knowledge about Black Loyalist heritage, combined with increased profile through media coverage and interpretive products such as the travelling exhibit, has the potential to result in a strengthened sense of community identity and pride. While this outcome is particularly meaningful for individuals with Black Loyalist roots, it has the potential to positively impact communities as a whole, and lead to increased economic well-being through the development of cultural tourism facilities and activities.

Finally, the project brought together two communities with a common heritage, and forged relations between the communities and the provincial museum. In the process of bringing together those interested in the story of Nova Scotia's Black Loyalists, understandings and relationships were developed that, if properly nurtured, will continue to help transcend barriers between Black and White, and establish the trust and respect needed to improve inter-racial relations in the long term.

More about the Black Cultural Heritage Data Collection: 1991-1997

By the time work on *Remembering Black Loyalists, Black Communities* began in 1998, the Nova Scotia Museum had already compiled a collection of information on Nova Scotia's Black heritage that includes primary research, archaeological investigations, oral histories, and historical photographs and illustrations.

More specifically, the collection contains the following material:

Newspaper Survey

A total of 682 historical newspapers in the Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management collection, Halifax, have been surveyed for mentions of Black persons; 229 contained Black material yielding a total of 2500 references. Skeletal data from all references has been recorded; the complete text of some references has also been recorded. This information is available on a disk at Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management, and in hard copy with the History Section of the Nova Scotia Museum.

Newspapers surveyed include:

Acadian Recorder, 1840-41

Halifax Journal, 1790-1800, 1812, 1813, 1840-41

Halifax Gazette, 1752-1765

Halifax Gazette or Weekly Advertiser, 1765-1766
Halifax Morning Post & Parliamentary Reporter, 1841
Nova Scotia Gazette, 1766-1770
Nova Scotia Gazette & Weekly Chronicle, 1771-1774
Nova Scotia Magazine, 1790-1792
Nova Scotia Royal Gazette, 1840
Royal Gazette & the Nova Scotia Advertiser, 1790-1799
Times, 1841
Weekly Chronicle, 1790-1800, 1812-13

Archaeology Permit Reports

"Archaeological Survey of AkDi-5 to 15, Birchtown, Nova Scotia", Laird Niven, 1993 (Permit No. A1993NS18).

"Archaeological Fieldschool at AkDi-12, Birchtown, Shelburne County", Nova Scotia, Laird Niven and Stephen David, 1994 (Permit No. A1994NS14).

"Archaeology Survey of AkDi-16, Turner Property, Birchtown, Nova Scotia", Laird Niven, 1995 (Permit No. A1995NS21).

"Archaeological Survey of AkDi-17 to 22, Birchtown, Nova Scotia", Laird Niven, 1995 (Permit No. A1995NS29).

"Archaeological Survey of AkDi-21, Birchtown, Nova Scotia", Laird Niven, 1996 (Permit No. A1996NS58).

Unpublished Research Reports

"Black Loyalists and the Tracadie Land Grant", Carmelita Robertson and Ruth Holmes Whitehead, 1997.

"Tracadie Oral Interviews" (edited transcripts), Carmelita Robertson, 1997.

"Looking for Connections: A Search for Black Genealogies and Possible Mi'kmaq Inter-marriage in Southern Nova Scotia", Sharain Jones, 1997.

Oral History Interviews

With selected elders in the Tracadie area, collected 1996-1997.

Photographs

Copies of historic photos from families in the Tracadie area and from the Guysborough Museum collection, as well as documentary photos of sites associated with Black Loyalists in the Tracadie area, such as buildings and cemeteries.

Videotape version of the slide show *Escape to Nova Scotia*.

The Nova Scotia Museum would like to acknowledge a number of individuals and programs that contributed over time to the development of this collection, including Rachael Colley Whynot, Affirmative Action student (1992); Tammy Poirier, Nova Scotia Community College work-placement student (1995); Jemal Abawajy, Graduate student born in Oromia, East Africa (1995); Carmelita Robertson (a Black Loyalist descendant), Graduate Student (1995), Volunteer

Carmelita Robertson (a Black Loyalist descendant), Graduate Student (1995), Volunteer (1995-96), NSM Black History Research Grant Recipient (1996), Arts Apprentice, Department of Canadian Heritage Multiculturalism Program (1997); Christine Hobin, Volunteer (1997-98); Elizabeth Peirce, Volunteer (1997-98), and Sharain Jones (a Black Loyalist descendant), NSM Black History Research Grant Recipient (1997).

The Museum also wishes to acknowledge the individual who twice made it financially possible to undertake some of this research, and who prefers to remain anonymous.

Deborah Scott, Project Manager/ Manager of Collections
History Section Nova Scotia Museum

Archaeological Testing of AkDi-6 and AkDi-21, Birchtown, Shelburne County

Laird Niven
Project Archaeologist
Nova Scotia Museum

Introduction

Birchtown, Nova Scotia (Figure 1), was founded by Black Loyalists¹ in 1783 and was the largest and most significant settlement of free Blacks in North America. Although its population grew rapidly, Birchtown did not thrive. The discrimination and inequity the Black Loyalists had hoped to escape followed them to Nova Scotia. In 1791 their discontent led half of Birchtown's population to join the exodus for Sierra Leone in West Africa, an event from which the settlement would never recover.

The archaeological study of the Birchtown area began in 1993 and has continued every year since that time. The objectives of the 1998 project were three-fold: the excavation of AkDi-23, thought to be the home of Stephen Blucke; formal testing of AkDi-6 to confirm that it dated to the eighteenth century; and, the bisection of an enigmatic rock mound, one of a series of 22, at AkDi-21. The latter two projects are the subject of this report.

The 1998 Birchtown Archaeology project consisted of 12 weeks of fieldwork followed by 40 weeks of artifact analysis and report writing.

AkDi-6

Introduction and Objectives

This site was first identified in 1992 and the artifacts recovered from testing suggested it dated to the late eighteenth century. It was assumed at the time that such a date would mean the occupant was a Black Loyalist, since there were no documented historic

¹ For the purposes of this report, Black Loyalist refers to all African-Americans who emigrated to Nova Scotia in the wake of the American Revolution. This includes the free, the freed, the indentured, as well as the slaves many White Loyalists continued to possess.

occupations before that time. The 1998 project was designed to conduct more formal, although still limited, testing hoping to refine the occupation date of the site.

Site Description

AkDi-6 is located along a small path approximately 354 metres northwest of Highway 103 and about 1280 metres southwest of the bridge over Birchtown Brook on Highway 3 (Figure 2). The only site feature is a fairly deep depression that was not rock-lined. The depression sits on a small knoll that is covered with large glacial erratics. There are no other settlement features on the site. The nearest identified archaeological site to AkDi-6 is a wall complex (#1) first recorded in 1993 (Niven 1994).

Previous Archaeology

This site was first identified by Stephen Powell in 1992 and was tested in 1993 by the author. It was identified during a survey of the area when it was noted that there were artifacts eroding from one wall of the depression. Two test pits were excavated at that time and a total of 19 artifacts were recovered. Unfortunately, none of the artifacts were diagnostic, although the presence of a mottled brown stoneware suggested it was eighteenth century (Niven 1994, 10-11).

Archaeology 1998

The sub-surface testing in 1998 consisted of two test pits, TP3 and TP4, which were placed on the exterior of the depression, one to the southwest and one to the east (Figure 3). While the data recovered was minimal, the units did yield diagnostic materials.

TP3 was expanded to a 1 x 8-metre trench that ran diagonally through the depression, from northeast to southwest (Plate 1). The objective of this unit was to recover information on the construction and possible function of the depression (Figure 4).

There are two obvious features in this unit: the depression and a small exterior foundation wall to the southwest. The depression is approximately four metres wide and 140 centimetres deep (Figure 5). Excavation revealed very little about the depression apart from the fact that it contained a number of rocks, likely collapse from the west wall. A large burned root at the bottom of the depression was likely related to the initial clearing of the site.

The west wall was crudely constructed from granite fieldstones, perhaps from the

digging of the depression. The wall appears to measure one metre wide and is approximately 50 centimetres thick. Interestingly, no wall was found on the east side of the depression.

TP4 was adjacent to the depression's southeast corner (Plate 2). It was hoped that this 1 x 2-metre excavation would provide information on the south wall of the structure.

There were no features uncovered in this unit. There may have been a midden in the vicinity because eighteenth-century artifacts were present immediately under the sod.

The stratigraphic sequence may have been as follows:

- Lot 17 - Humus and leaf mat, artifacts - post-occupation
- Lot 18 - reddish-yellow, sandy soil, re-deposited sterile - construction
- Lot 19 - Gray-black, sandy soil, artifacts - post-occupation?
- Lot 22 - Brown, sandy soil, orange and organic mottling, artifacts - construction/occupation
- Lot 23 - Orange-yellow, sandy soil, sterile sub-soil - natural, pre-occupation
- Lot 25 - Stone wall, construction

The cellar hole was excavated, redepositing soils, including sterile, on the exterior (Lot 18). A stone wall was built on the west side of the structure (Lot 25). Lot 22 would have formed during the occupation of the site. Lot 19 appears to have formed after the site was abandoned. Finally, the site was covered with organic matter, Lot 17, after abandonment.

Material Culture

Although the 1998 testing of AkDi-6 was more extensive than in 1993, there were still very few diagnostic artifacts recovered. Ceramics such as Anglo-American coarse earthenwares and gray-bodied stonewares are extremely difficult to date with precision. The few fragments of clay pipes recovered were too fragmentary to be useful.

One of the diagnostic artifacts was a single finish from an English 'wine' bottle (AkDi-6, 82, Vessel #10) that dates between 1770 and 1790. The most diagnostic artifact was a creamware vessel (AkDi-6, 25, Vessel #3). Creamware was developed by Wedgwood in 1762 and continued to be popular until the 1820s (Noël Hume 1982, 125; Lange 1985, 104). Creamware's popularity was supplanted by the development of pearlware in 1780, although they existed side-by-side for quite some time. In general, the presence of creamware and absence of pearlware in Birchtown suggests a period from 1783 to 1790.

Conclusion

AkDi-6 appears to represent a typical Black Loyalist occupation and stands in contrast to the relative wealth of AkDi-23. The site appears to be either on the northern boundary of the original land grant or just outside.

The structure over the cellar would have been very rudimentary as only a single stone wall was found. This is a similar situation to another eighteenth-century site, AkDi-12. The lack of artifacts beyond the 1790s may be an indication that the occupants were part of the group who emigrated to Sierra Leone.

AkDi-21

Introduction

In 1995 the author encountered a series of 22 rock features during an archaeological survey. These features were unusual because they were quite well made and closely spaced. Since that time a number of archaeologists have examined the features but have not been able to determine the origin or function. The objective of the 1998 work was to bisect one of these mounds in order to determine how they were constructed and perhaps conclude who constructed them.

Site Description

The rock mounds at AkDi-21 are located just north of Highway 3 in Birchtown, approximately 100 metres west of Birchtown Brook (Figure 2). The mounds are found in three distinct locations covering an area of approximately 150 square metres. A large quantity of fill was brought into the area in the past 20 years and covered an unspecified number of these mounds. The introduction of the fill may also have changed the drainage pattern, making the area around the mounds relatively wet. The forest cover is thin and quite young, perhaps no more than 40 years old. A single cellar has been recorded north of the mounds but shovel tests around the feature produced no further evidence.

Previous Archaeology

The mounds were first noted in 1995 during a survey for the Shelburne County Cultural Awareness Society. In 1996, more detailed recording of the mounds took place and 22 rock features were mapped using compass and tape (Niven 1998). There was no oral history about this area or the features. It was assumed at the time that they were quite old and represented a significant expenditure of energy by a number of people. It was further assumed that the cultural group most likely to have both the desire and the personnel necessary for such an undertaking in Birchtown was the Black Loyalists.

In 1996, Dr. Stephen Davis of Saint Mary's University brought to the author's attention a newspaper article about similar mounds in Connecticut, under study by Dr. Warren Perry of Central Connecticut State University. Dr. Perry suspected he was dealing with slave burials. Testing of the mounds was not scheduled to take place until the summer of 1999.

In 1997 the mounds in Shelburne County were surveyed using a Total Station, a joint project of the Nova Scotia Museum and Parks Canada (Niven 1998).

Archaeology 1998

The objective of the 1998 project was to bisect a selected rock mound in the hope of recovering stratigraphic and artifactual data that would answer questions regarding the age of the mound, cultural affiliation, and/or function.

A baseline was set over the selected mound (Feature #16) running roughly east to west (Plate 3; Figure 6). The mound was photographed using a tripod and the rocks were drawn in plan view. The rocks on the north side of the line were removed and the major ones were drawn and numbered. After the first day it was evident that the mound was constructed by first outlining the desired shape with rocks up to 80 centimetres in diameter and then filling the centre with smaller rocks (10-30 centimetres in diameter) (Plate 4; Figure 7). This was continued until the original forest floor was encountered. The soil below the mound was excavated to a depth of approximately 10 centimetres.

The mound was covered by a leaf mat roughly three centimetres thick (Figure 8). Below the rocks was what I believe to be buried sod, a rich, black humus containing fine, degraded granite, approximately four centimetres thick. This was evidence that the soil was not disturbed before the mound was constructed and that the rocks were simply placed on top of the forest floor. Below this level was a dense, wet, grey sand interpreted as the sterile sub-soil. This was excavated to a depth of approximately three centimetres.

No features or artifacts were encountered during the excavation of this mound.

Conclusion

Although the rocks of the mound were deliberately constructed and do not appear to be standard field clearing as we understand it, no information was recovered to suggest age, cultural affiliation, or function. A cursory study of the lichen on the mounds concluded that the rocks have remained undisturbed for at least 100 years. The consensus of the archaeologists who have seen the mounds is that they are very well made and possibly unique to the Birchtown area. While we appear no closer to an answer, a dialogue has been set up with Dr. Warren Perry of Central Connecticut State University who is studying similar formations. Included below is a list of possible functions for the rock features and opinions as to how likely these possibilities may be. They are not listed in any particular order.

Function 1 - Field clearing: This is the immediate explanation from most people. Although a popular opinion, these mounds do not resemble field clearing as we understand it in Nova Scotia. The rocks are obviously deliberately placed and shaped. The mounds also occupy space and have been placed directly on the most desirable land in the immediate area.

Function 2 - Alternative/communal agriculture: The mounds may be part of an agricultural strategy which was imported into Nova Scotia, perhaps by the Black Loyalists, and which we do not understand today and, therefore, cannot interpret. This is an important possibility and one into which more research must be directed.

Function 3 - Black Loyalist burials: While there is a tradition of African-Nova Scotians using mound burials in the late eighteenth century, specifically the Maroons, several factors seemed to preclude this as a possibility for the Birchtown mounds. Firstly, the mounds did not have artifacts on top of them, as African (and Maroon) tradition would have dictated. Secondly, there is no oral tradition of a burial in this location. As a matter of fact, tradition has the 'burying ground' in a location adjacent to the shores of Birchtown Bay. The 1996 fieldwork ended without having answered any of the initial questions posed.

Function 4 - Pre-contact caches: Dr. Warren Perry has been told by indigenous peoples in the Connecticut area that the mounds were 'wolf stones', known to archaeologists as food caches. Another popular question about the Birchtown mounds is whether they could have been made by the Mi'kmaq. The pre-contact archaeologists in both Connecticut and Nova Scotia agree that this type of feature is not at all typical of the natives in either area. There is certainly no precedent in Nova Scotia.

Function 5 - Houses: Another opinion elicited mainly by non-archaeologists is that the mounds were footings for a unique style of house. The high rock footings are seen as keeping the living area dry. This is an extremely unlikely function for a variety of reasons: the mounds are either too small for a living space or too widely spread to be piers for a floor; some of the mounds are very much off-level; buildings built on the mounds would be very close together; and no artifacts have been encountered in the area, which would suggest a domestic function for the mounds.

Function 6: Military exercise: Birchtown had a local militia and it is not beyond the realm of possibility that the mounds represent some sort of militia exercise. The Black Loyalists, for the most part, served the British military in a 'pioneering,' i.e., engineering, capacity. They were the builders of roads, wharves, and other official buildings and the mounds may have been practice samples for some sort of construction project. Although this scenario is quite unlikely, it is interesting to consider.

Function 7: The eccentric individual: It has been suggested that the mounds could represent the work of a single eccentric individual who constructed them with no function in mind (David Christianson, pers. comm.). If this were the case, the mounds would have taken a considerable expenditure of both time and energy by that individual.

While this possibility cannot be discounted, it seems more likely that the mounds were a communal effort.

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Acknowledgments

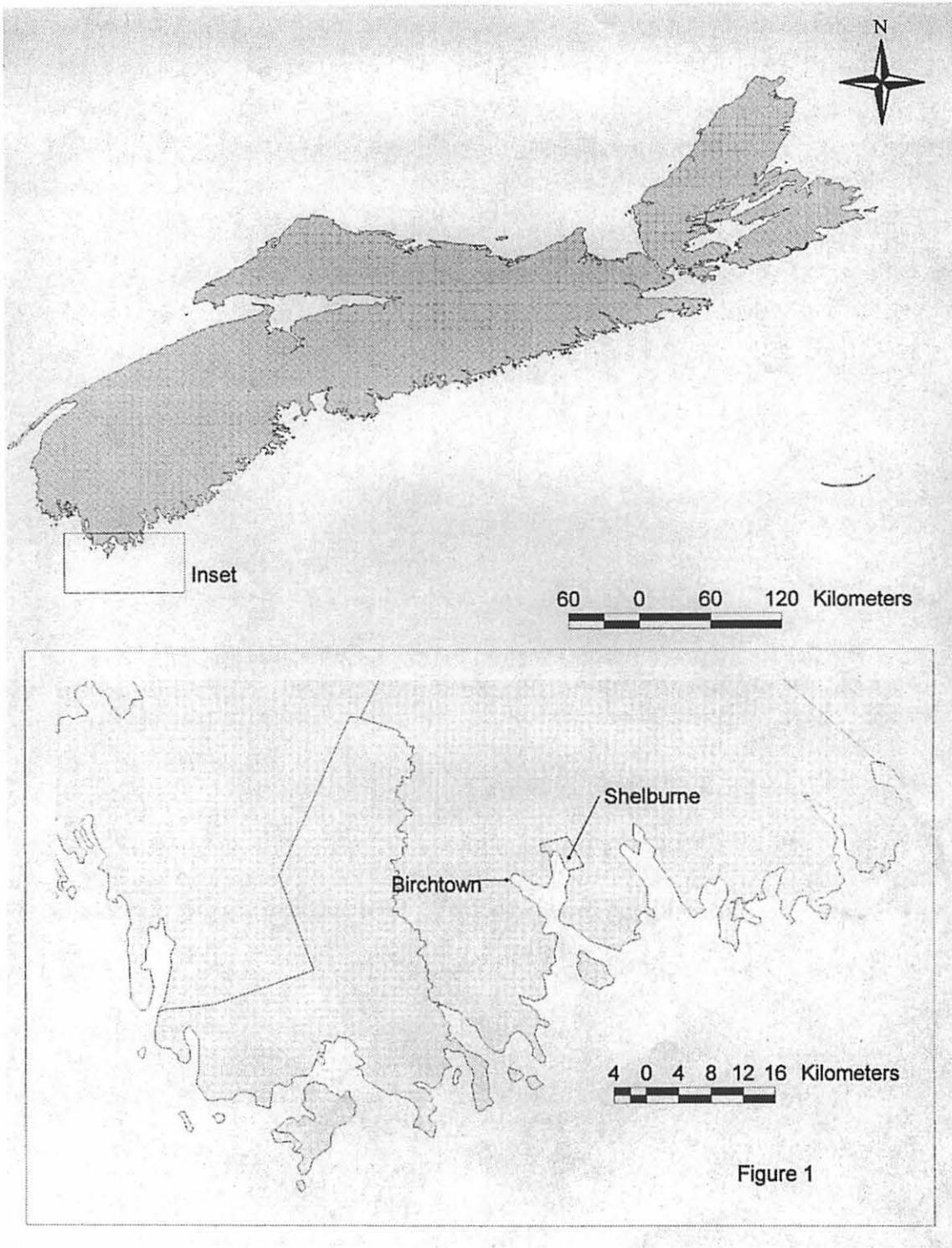
This project was made possible through a grant to the Nova Scotia Museum from the Multiculturalism Programme of the Department of Canadian Heritage.

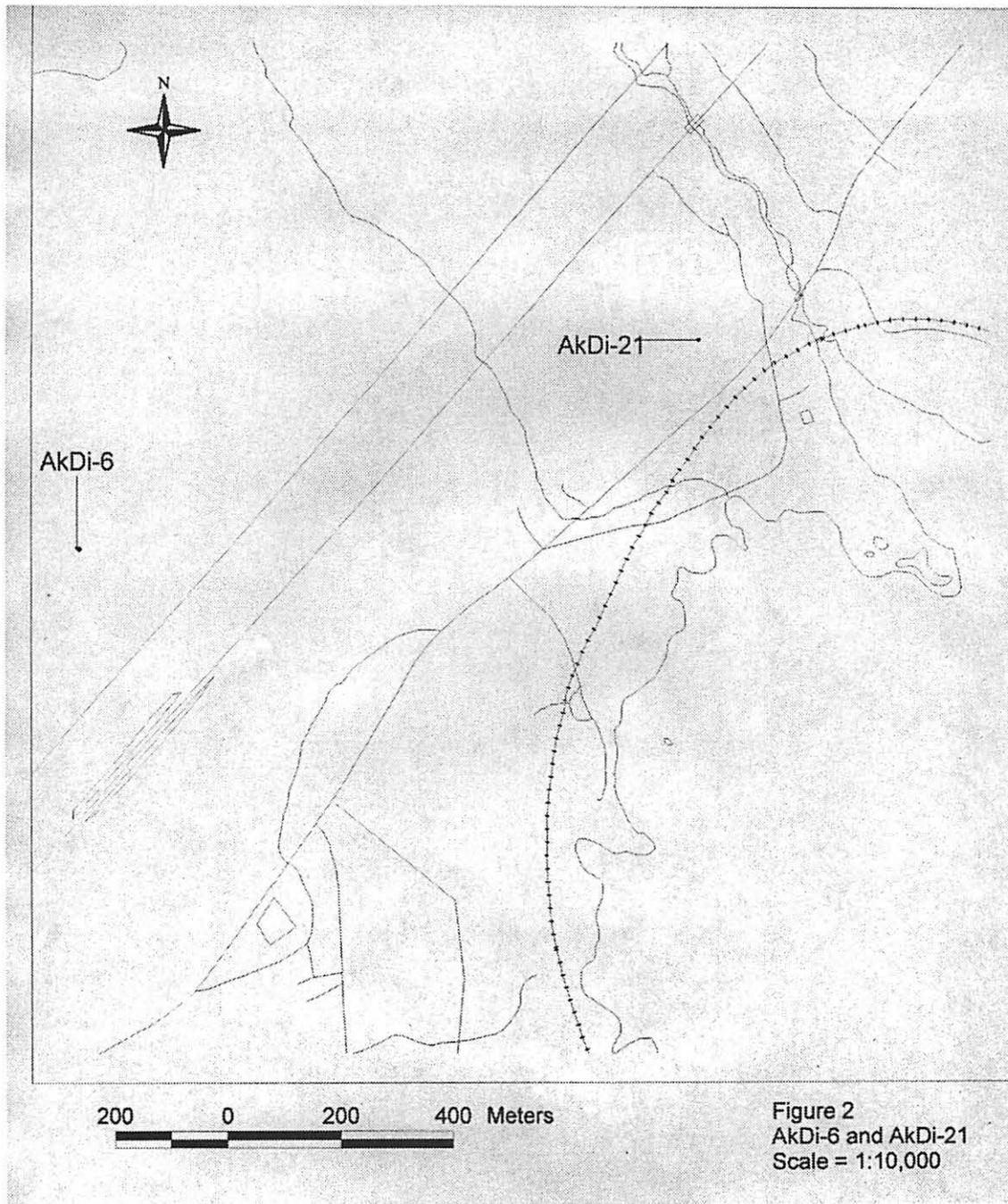
There has been an archaeology project in the Birchtown area every year since 1993. These projects were the direct result of the efforts of the Black Loyalist Heritage Society², a group dedicated to saving and reclaiming the Black Loyalist heritage of Shelburne County. Their dedication and support was a major factor in any success the archaeology projects have enjoyed.

The 1998 field crew included field assistants Katie Cottreau-Robins and Sharain Jones. Katie and Sharain supervised the field crew of Corey Guye, Amanda Page, and Stanley Bower. Their patience and experience made the project a truly enjoyable one.

The Nova Scotia Museum contributed invaluable support in the form of the Total Station, photography and video services, lab space, and office space. The dedication of the Nova Scotia Museum staff to the project was inspiring and certainly made one proud to be a part of such a wonderful group. Of course, the project would not be the same without the contribution of David Christianson, provincial archaeologist, who provided timely intellectual nudges and encouragement.

² Previously the Shelburne County Cultural Awareness Society





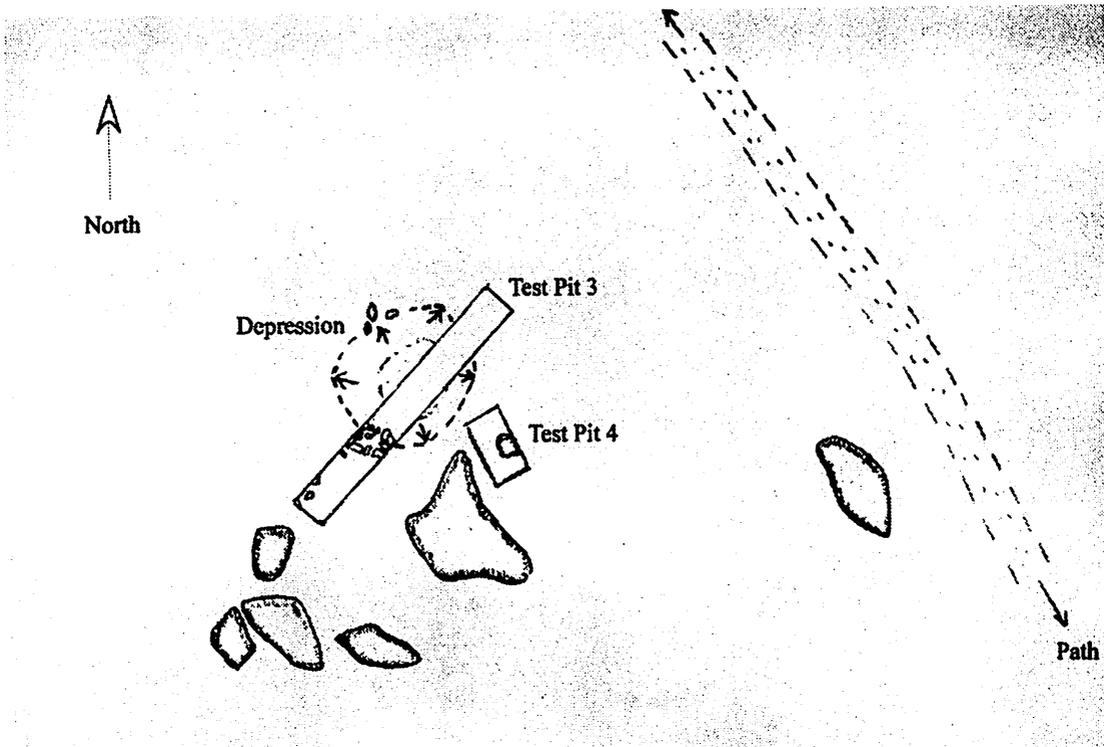


Figure 3: AkDi-6
Site Plan
July 16, 1998

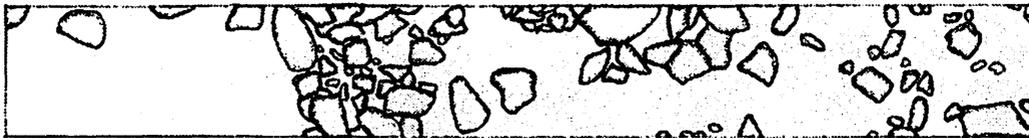


Figure 4: AkDi-6
Test Pit 3, Plan View
July 1, 1998

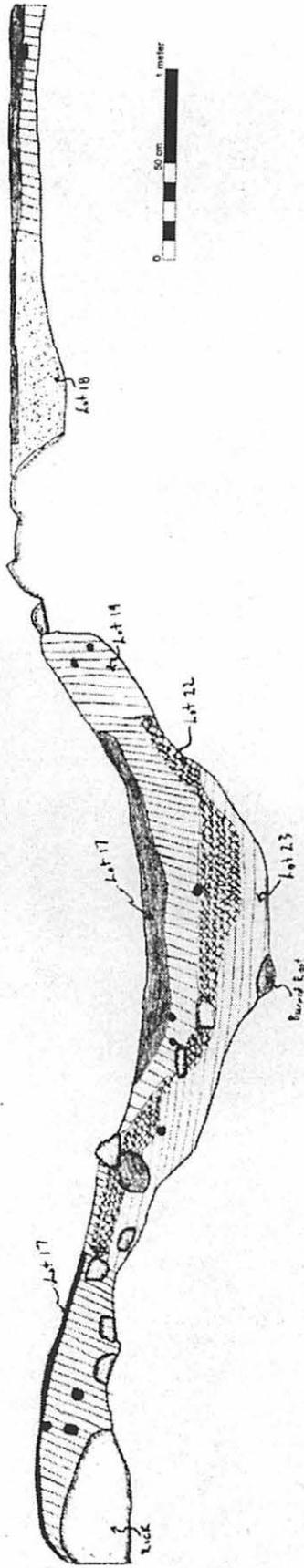
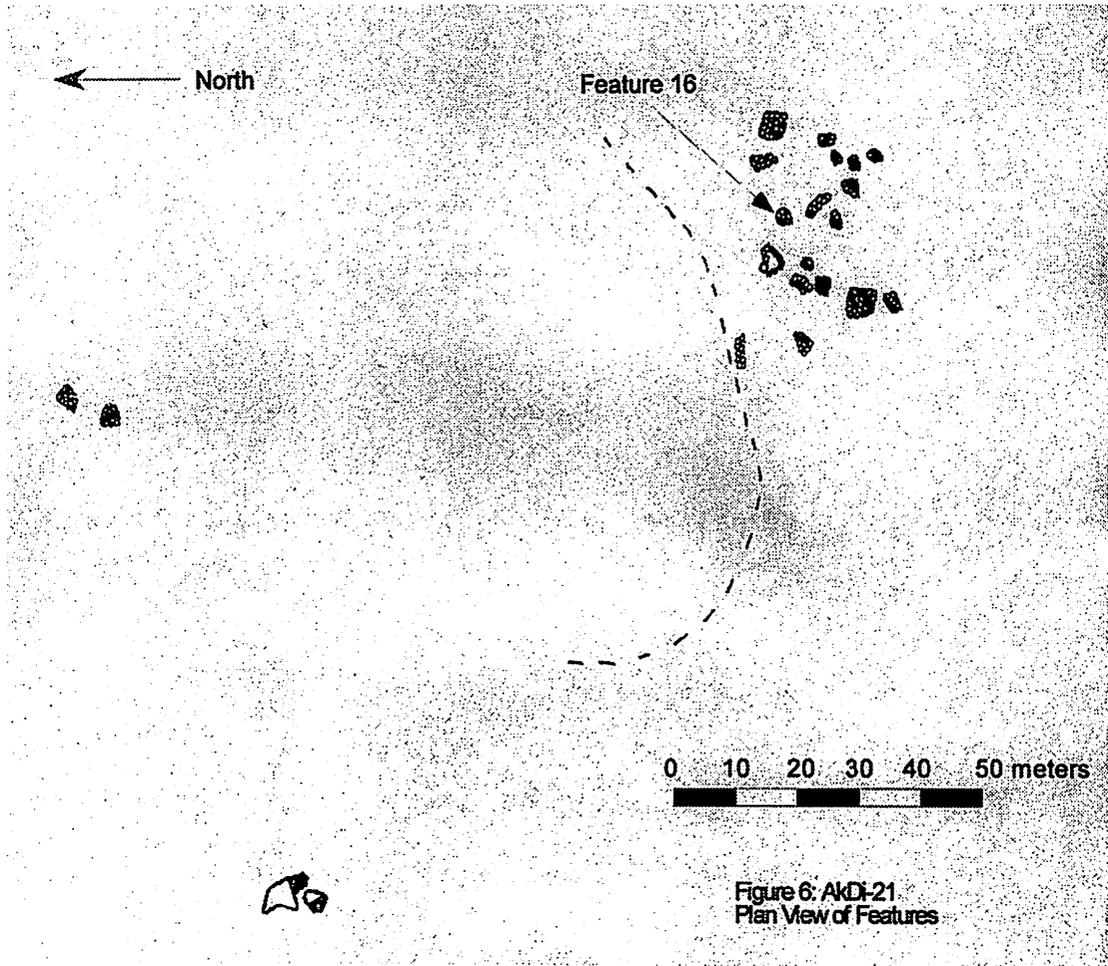


Figure 5: AkDi-6
 Test Pit 3 - South Wall Profile
 July 16, 1998



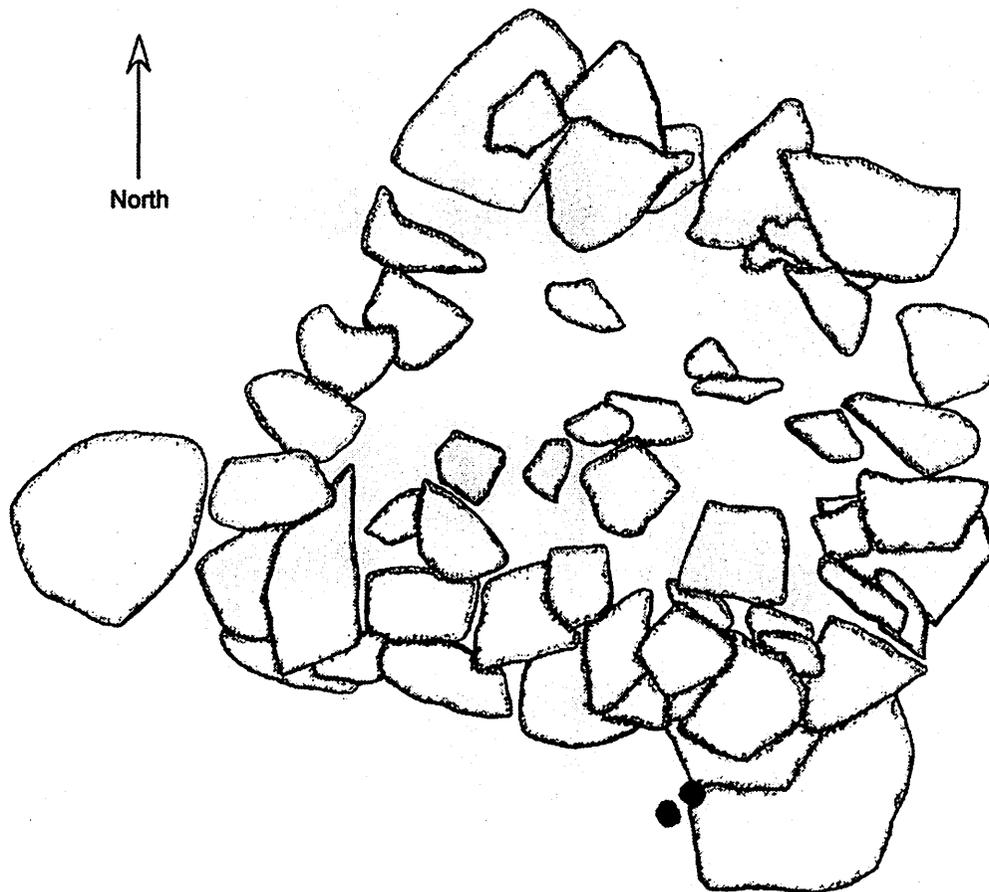
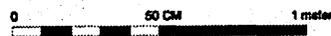


Figure 7: AkDi-21
Feature 16
Level 2 - Plan View
July 10, 1998
L.N.



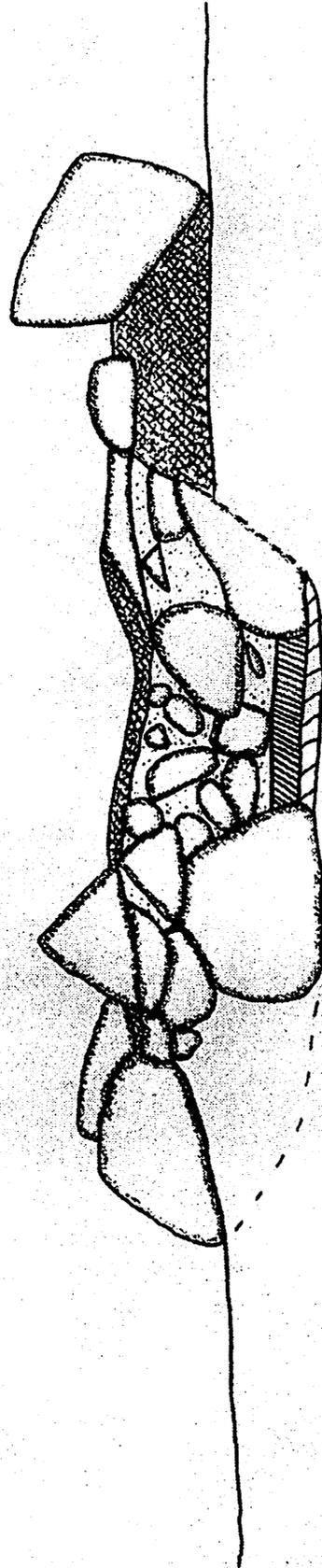


Figure 8: AkDi-21
Feature 16 - South Wall Profile
July 20, 1998
L.N.

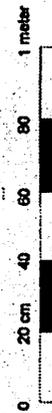




Plate 1: Katie Cottreau-Robins in TP4, next to the west wall



Plate 2: Sharian Jones excavating TP3, looking southeast



Plate 3: Feature 16 in 1997, looking southwest



Plate 4: Feature 16, bipod shot, leaf mat removed

Appendix 1:

AkDi-6: Vessels

Ceramics

Type: Coarse Earthenware, Anglo-American

In general, these wares are in very poor condition. The bodies are very soft and only a few fragments retain traces of white slip and/or a light brownish-green glaze.

Vessel #1 (AkDi-23: 71, 100, 69)

Base, indet. Vessel (storage jar?), flat base, body slightly waisted at base, iron oxide wash on exterior. Very tiny fragment of glaze on interior. Soft, light red body, fine sandy temper (quartz inclusions?).

Vessel #2 (AkDi-23: 40, 70)

Base, indet vessel, roughly finished, 'rippled' effect on base exterior, smooth interior, fragment of white slip on interior. Soft, light red body, fine, sandy fabric.

Type: Creamware

Vessel #3 (AkDi-6: 25)

Creamware, indet. vessel, body fragment.

Type: Stoneware, brown, English

Vessel #4 (AkDi-6: 36, 37)

Body fragment, indet.vessel.

Type: Stoneware, indeterminate, gray body

Vessel #5 (AkDi-6: 48)

Base, indet. vessel, flat base, body waisted at base, light green-brown, mottled glaze.

Vessel #6 (Akdi-6: 20, 21)

Base, indet. vessel, light brown mottled glaze, slightly tapering body, tooled ridges at base/body juncture, light gray body, striated pink and black.

Vessel #7 (AkDi-6: 22)

Foot?, indet. vessel, light gray-brown mottled glaze

Clay Pipes

Vessel #8 (AkDi-6: 15, 16, 41)

Bowl, stamped cartouche "IO"

Vessel #9 (AkDi-6: 52, 107)

Bowl, plain. Interior of #52 is heat spalled.

'Wine' bottles, English

Vessel #10 (AkDi-6: 75, 82)

These two pieces are a base and finish from a cylindrical bottle and most likely come from the same vessel. The finish is in very poor condition due to heavy crazing. The finish has a cracked-off lip and a poorly applied, rounded, string rim. The base has a moderate conical push-up and a glass-tipped pontil mark. The cracked-off lip tends to date to the second half of the eighteenth century although this style was being replaced by a tooling of the cracked-off surface in the 1780s (Jones 1996: 42).

Vessel #11 (AkDi-6: 29, 90)

These represent the base and finish of a square case bottle. The finish is slightly crazed and has a cracked-off lip and a string rim that is applied level with the lip. The string rim is flattened and down-tooled and has been burned. The base fragment consists of a corner and is in very good condition. There is heavy use-wear on the corner, suggesting the bottle was used for a relatively long time.

Note: Much of the bottle glass has been subject to a great deal of heat that deformed many of the critical element and made reconstruction impossible.

Other Artifacts:

- some burned lithics and shell

AkDi-6: 78 - this is a piece of wire that appears to have been fashioned into a handle.

Nails

A total of 26 nails were recovered. Of these, 13 were identified as hand wrought and five were indeterminate heads. Eight of the nails were undiagnostic shanks.

**Archaeological Survey of
Tracadie and Surrounding Area
Antigonish and Guysborough Counties**

Stephen Powell
Project Archaeologist
Nova Scotia Museum

Introduction

In 1787, Thomas Brownspriggs and 73 other Black Loyalists received a crown land grant of 3000 acres (1200 hectares) in what is now Antigonish County (Figure 1). The grant encompassed the present-day area of East Tracadie, Monastery, Rear Monastery, and part of Highway 16. Interior areas, such as Upper Big Tracadie and Lincolnville, were also settled by Black Loyalist families. During the eighteenth century, all of these communities were referred to under the placename Tracadie (Robertson and Whitehead, 1997). The interior areas became known as the Tracadie Backlands. Many descendants of the original Black Loyalists still live in the area today.

The goal of this project was to determine if Black Loyalist archaeological sites survived within the 1787 land grant and surrounding area. Emphasis was placed on locating, identifying and documenting settlement features associated with early Black Loyalists and their descendants. This archaeological survey was the first step in the preservation of Black Loyalist sites in accordance with archaeological resource-protection legislation.

Field work was conducted under Heritage Research Permit #A1998NS10 held by the author and spanned a course of 4 weeks from May 11 to June 5, 1998.

Methodology

The archaeological survey focussed on specific areas known to have been settled by Black Loyalists. Areas were chosen for investigation based on historical data, such as land grant documents, maps, and information received from local community members.

A foot reconnaissance survey of specific locations within the study area was conducted to locate early settlement features with the primary focus placed on house/dwelling locations. Subsurface testing was conducted to collect information on the age of archaeological features encountered. Testing methods included excavation of shovel test pits along baselines and on occasion, hand excavation of 1 x 1 metre squares. The baselines, established using a hand compass and metric tape, provide a reference point to allow the placement of test pits and site features on scale drawings.

The location of each site found was placed on a 1:10 000 scale base map. Each recorded site was assigned a Borden number, for example, *BjCj-18*. The national Borden number system is used by the Nova Scotia Museum to designate and manage archaeological sites in the province.

Detailed recording of each site was accomplished through the production of scale drawings, fieldnotes and photography. All site documentation, including an artifact

catalogue, was deposited with the Nova Scotia Museum.

Site Summaries

Sixteen areas of archaeological interest were recorded during the course of the survey. The main locations investigated were East Tracadie, Rear Monastery, Upper Big Tracadie, areas adjacent to Highway 16, Lincolnville, and Birchtown. East Tracadie, Rear Monastery, and part of Highway 16 are located within the 1787 Brownspriggs land grant. Archaeological information gathered at each location is summarized in the following section of the report.

East Tracadie

BjCj-17

This area is located north of Highway 104 and west of the East Tracadie/Barrío Beach Road, on the property of Alfred Cotie. An old trail runs west of the East Tracadie/Barrío Beach Road and through the study area. The area contains evidence of past land use in the form of numerous stone piles and stone walls. Based on oral tradition (Tony Cotie, pers. comm.), the area is thought to contain a burial ground for Black Loyalists. The reported burial ground is located in a stand of healthy birch trees on a rise which slopes down to the shore. The area stands out from the surrounding vegetation. No distinct burial markers were noted at this location.

Shovel tests were excavated on two adjacent stone concentrations that had the appearance of settlement features. Feature 1 is a small rectangular stone pile measuring 3.5 x 3 metres. Seven shovel test pits were dug along a 20-metre north-northeast--south-southwest baseline bisecting the feature. All tests were located on the feature exterior. No structural material or other artifacts were found. This feature may be a natural depression infilled with field stones. Excavation within the stone feature would be necessary to confirm this.

Feature 2 is a stone pile located approximately 9 metres west of Feature 1. This feature is built into the slope at its north end and mounded (to level) at the southern end (downslope). The stone concentration measures approximately 4.5 x 5 metres. Four shovel tests were excavated along a 13-metre north-south baseline and 3 other tests were dug in the general vicinity of the feature. As with Feature 1, no cultural material was found. Although Feature 2 resembles a stone footing for a small wooden building, this identification was not confirmed by the sub-surface testing.

A large sandstone slab was found approximately 9 metres downslope of Feature 2. A

second sandstone slab was found 8.5 metres southeast of the first. Tony Cotie (pers. comm.) mentioned that Alex Borden, who was born in a house (BjCj-24) across the road from the study area and is now in his eighties, remembered sandstone slabs being used as grave markers. Both slabs at BjCj-17 are lying flat and have no visible inscription on them. The large size of the slabs suggests that they are not burial markers. Slab 1 measures 1.3 x 1.05 metres. Slab 2 measures 95 x 90 centimetres. Slab 2 appears to be set into (or covering) a small circular depression. The function of these stones, if any, remains unknown.

Although no definable physical evidence was found supporting the presence of burials at BjCj-17, this possibility still remains based on the previously noted oral tradition. Extensive archaeological excavation would be necessary to determine whether this area contains human burials.

BjCj-18

A rectangular field-stone foundation feature was found north-northeast of Angus Cotie's trailer and driveway, in a wooded area at the edge of the treeline. A garden plot is located just southwest of the feature. The foundation walls are constructed from mounded earth and stone. No visible root cellar depression is present. A stone concentration in the central portion of the feature may be the remains of a central chimney. The west and southwest portion of the foundation are poorly defined and overgrown. Modern-day garbage covers the south end of the foundation. A stone-lined well is located 6.5 metres, north of the foundation. The well is 1.7 metres in diameter. The remains of an old road, running east-west, can be seen adjacent to the north side of the foundation leading to the East Tracadie Road. This road probably was the original access route to the site.

A total of 9 shovel-and-trowel test pits were excavated along a 10-metre east-west baseline located adjacent to the north wall of the foundation (Figure 2). A 1 x 1-metre test unit, located between the 8 metre and 9 metre points on the baseline, was also excavated. Artifacts recovered include ceramics, bottle glass, animal bone and teeth, and fragments of European flint. Structural material, such as hand-wrought nails, window glass, and brick fragments were also found.

The most diagnostic artifacts found were rim sherds from a shell-edged pearlware dinner plate. Pearlware was produced during the period 1780-1840. Shell-edge was one of the first patterns used to decorate pearlware and continued to be produced in great quantities during the early nineteenth century (Sussman 1977,106). The plate has a scalloped rim with deep wavy grooves filled with green pigment (Plate 1, top right). The green colouring appears to be applied laterally around the edge of the rim rather than brushed inward. The glaze has a blue/green tinge. The plate was likely manufactured in England during the period 1790-1830. Another shell-edged rim,

painted in blue and with a whiter body, was also recovered (Plate 1, bottom right).

One small undecorated sherd found during test excavations may possibly be late creamware. An English potter, Josiah Wedgwood, perfected his creamware formula around 1762 (Noël Hume 1970,125). Creamware became a popular tableware during the second half of the eighteenth century. It continued to be produced, in decreasing frequency, until c. 1820. The glaze has a lighter yellow appearance than earlier creamwares and is similar to some late eighteenth-century specimens present in the Central Trust collection in Halifax. It cannot be said for certain that the body sherd is creamware as late examples are difficult to distinguish from pearlware.

Based on a small sample, material culture evidence found at BjCj-18 suggests an initial occupation date range of c.1780-1820. If occupied by Black Loyalists, BjCj-18 may be the home of one of the first Black families in the East Tracadie area.

A map by A.F. Church, published in 1878, shows no buildings directly in the location of BjCj-18. This suggests that the site was abandoned prior to this date.

BjCj-24

This site, shown to us by Tony Cotie, consists of a stone-lined cellar depression and nearby (associated?) settlement features. The cellar, now filled with modern-day garbage, is located across the East Tracadie/Barrio Beach Road (east side) from the Alfred Cotie property. A modern concrete foundation from a house that burned in the late 1980s is located to the west of the cellar towards the road.

The site is believed to be the home of Stanley Borden who was a deacon (Tony Cotie, pers. comm.). The A.F. Church map for the area (1878) shows an A. Bowden living in this general location. The surname "Bowden" is a variant of the surname "Borden" (Carmelita Robertson, pers. comm.). Elsie Elms, long time resident of Rear Monastery, remembers that Stanley's father was named Alexander (Robertson 1996/97,56). The A. Bowden on the Church map may be Alexander Bowden, Stanley's father. If this interpretation is correct, the site dates back to at least the 1870s. The Nova Scotia Directory for Antigonish County dated 1896 (1896, 583) lists Alex Bowden as a farmer. The 1907 Directory (1907,1195) lists Mrs. Alex Bowden as a widow and Stanley (son) as a farmer. Stanley is listed again in the 1914 Directory (1914, 849) as a farmer, but this time without his mother, who may have passed on by this date. It is interesting to note that Stanley's surname has changed from "Bowden" to "Borden" in the 1914 Directory. It is unclear when Stanley Borden became a deacon. Time limitations did not allow for subsurface testing of the Borden family cellar.

Other settlement features located near the Borden cellar feature include a well located in the field to the southeast. Another well, covered with large stones, is located in the

field south of the cellar. A stone footing for a large building (probably a barn) and a depression, which might have been the site of an outbuilding or dwelling, are located near the edge of the field, south of the cellar.

Rear Monastery

BjCj-19

This is a large cellar/foundation located approximately 700 metres southwest of Mrs. Elsie Elms's house on the Old Ash Road. The Old Ash Road is the main access route into the Rear Monastery area. The site can be reached by following the old farm road behind Mrs. Elms's house to where it intersects Old Government Road. It is situated on an elevated point of land just above Old Government Road, northwest of the powerline. The cellar is one of three shown to the field crew by Gerald Elms, Mrs. Elms's son. "People lived all up around the powerline, up on the ridge" (Gerald Elms, pers. comm.).

The house was occupied by Johnson Elms, Gerald's grandfather (Gerald Elms, pers. comm.). The stone-lined cellar depression (Plate 2) measures approximately 4 x 6 metres and is 1.2 metres deep (8 stone courses high). A cellar entrance is located adjacent to the southeast corner of the foundation. A rectangular stone chimney base is located adjacent to the north cellar wall. The overall foundation measurements (including cellar) are approximately 10 x 10 metres. Other features associated with the cellar/foundation are a barn outline, 10.5 metres to the north and a small depression, possibly an outhouse, to the northwest.

Four shovel tests were excavated along a north-south baseline extending 11 metres on the east side of the foundation. Two additional shovel tests were also excavated, one on the north side of the foundation and another on the south side. Very few diagnostic artifacts were recovered.

A bottle neck/finish was found in Test Pit 3, Level 1. The mould seam on the neck portion of the bottle terminates at the lip suggesting a date of manufacture of 1880-1900. The mould seam is obscured, almost erased near the neck/lip junction. This suggests the use of a finishing tool to form the bottle lip. As finishing tools were not in use after the 1920s (Jones and Sullivan 1985, 43) the overall date range for the manufacture of this bottle is c. 1880-1930.

The A.F. Church map, published in 1878, shows a J. Elms near the end of a now overgrown trail, in the same general location as the foundation. It is unclear, due to cartographic distortion associated with the Church map, if this is the same J. Elms associated with BjCj-19.

The cellar is tentatively dated to the period c. 1870-1940.

BjCj-20

This site was the second shown to us by Gerald Elms, who states that this location was once occupied by a family with the surname Fee. The Church map, published in 1878, does show a J. Fee in the general area, adjacent to the road (now an overgrown trail) leading to the Old Ash Road. The site is located in a spruce and poplar stand, on a short branch road (trail) leading from the main trail to the second large field behind Elsie Elms's house.

The site consists of a small water-filled depression and an associated trench, perhaps for drainage. To facilitate archaeological testing, a 10-metre east-west baseline was established adjacent to the northwestern side of the depression. A total of 4 shovel tests were excavated. No cultural material was recovered. A second east-west baseline, 6 metres in length, was situated on the south side of the depression. Four additional shovel tests were excavated here. Again, no cultural material was found.

The lack of artifacts found in association with BjCj-20 raises some doubt as to its function. If a cellar, two possible explanations for the lack of artifacts can be presented. One possibility is that the cellar was dug but a house was never completed, possibly due to drainage problems. Another scenario is that the site was occupied for a short period of time, and abandoned. Once again, this could be due to obvious drainage problems at this location.

The most likely function for the depression was as a house cellar. Similar drainage trenches have been noted in association with identified house cellars recorded elsewhere during the survey. Structural and domestic artifacts may be present in untested areas on the site. Further testing is necessary to confirm the function of BjCj-20.

BjCj-21

This cellar, the third feature shown to us by Gerald Elms, is located in an open grassy area on a rise just north of Elsie Elms's house. The site was occupied by Charlie Borden and included a hen house and a barn in the 1940s (Gerald Elms, pers. comm.). Elsie Elms (pers. comm.) remembers a Borden family living there when she arrived on the property in 1928. The Church map shows a C. Bowden (Borden) living in the area by at least 1878, but the house location is too far west to be the same as BjCj-21. As no Bowdens are indicated on the Church map in the area of the BjCj-21 cellar, the site may post-date 1878.

The cellar depression measures approximately 5 x 4.5 metres with an entrance located

on the east side. The cellar is approximately 1.25 metres deep and the walls consist of 8 to 9 courses of stone. Features noted in the vicinity of the cellar include a possible well depression, a midden, and a drainage trench similar to the one noted at BjCj-20.

Five shovel tests were excavated along a 19 metre north-south baseline placed over the cellar (Plate 3). Two additional test pits were also excavated: one adjacent to the southeast corner of the cellar, and another in the midden area 21.5 metres south of the cellar.

Test pits on the south and east sides of the cellar produced mostly modern artifacts such as wire nails and glass, reflecting the most recent occupation of the site.

A surface collection from the midden area produced several diagnostic artifacts including sherds from a Wheat Pattern ironstone plate. This pattern, also known as Ceres Shape, has a production range from 1859 to present with a peak occurring during the 1870s and 1880s (Sussman 1985, 7,10). Also found in the midden area were sherds from a coarse stoneware storage container. The sherds have a clear, glossy glaze over a gray fabric on the exterior and a dark brown slip/glaze on the interior surface. This type of stoneware was produced in North America. Such wares were produced throughout the nineteenth century by American potteries and in Canada during the period 1840 - 1900.

Fragments of press-moulded "solarized" glassware were also present in the midden area. The glass, due to the addition of manganese as a clearing agent, develops a purple tint after prolonged exposure to sunlight. "Solarized" glass was common during the last quarter of the nineteenth century until around the beginning of the First World War (1914).

Based on available information, BjCj-21 is assigned a tentative date range of late 1800s to 1940+.

Upper Big Tracadie

BjCj-22

This cellar/foundation was shown to us by Russell Elms and is situated in an open, grassy area on top of a hill with a superb view of the surrounding landscape. The hill is near the end of the dirt road which branches off (first left) the main Upper Big Tracadie Road. The site was occupied by Deacon Elms, the father of Russell and George who reside across the road from the site area. A standing twentieth-century house, now abandoned, is located on the hill slope, southwest of the Deacon Elms house cellar. The house was formerly occupied by Jim Ash (Russell Elms, pers. comm.).

The Deacon Elms cellar depression is stone-lined, measures approximately 5 x 7 metres and has an entrance way (with steps) on the south side. The cellar depth is approximately 1.25 metres below surface. The overall dimensions of the building imprint, including the cellar and porch, are 10 x 12 metres. The southern portion of the foundation is now overgrown with apple trees.

A series of 5 shovel tests were dug along a 16-metre north-south baseline adjacent to the east side (front) of the cellar/foundation. One additional shovel test was dug on the west side (rear) of the cellar/foundation. The shovel tests revealed very little information as to the cellar's age. Artifacts found were, for the most part, relatively modern porcelains, white refined earthenwares, machine-cut and wire nails, and modern glass. The earliest diagnostic artifacts found are rim/body sherds from a coarse earthenware bowl. The bowl has white slip-trailed decoration under a transparent glaze. Similar "Maritime Ware" bowls have been recovered during 1970 excavations at the Prince Edward Island Pottery site (c. 1880-95).

Material culture evidence suggests that BjCj-22 was occupied during the early twentieth century and onward. The presence of the "Maritime Ware" bowl may indicate a late nineteenth century occupation, but bowls such as this could have still been present in the household during the early twentieth century.

BjCj-23

In a wooded area on the high ground southwest (behind) of BjCj-22, a second cellar depression was found. Recent clear-cutting is evident in the general area surrounding the cellar. This was the home of Russell and George Elms's grandmother (George Elms, pers. comm.).

The cellar depression is small, overgrown with spruce trees, and measures approximately 4.5 x 4.5 metres. The remains of the old access road can still be seen to the south of the cellar. An 8-metre northwest-southeast baseline was placed in the grassy area adjacent to the southern side of the cellar. A total of 5 shovel tests were excavated along the baseline.

A small sample of artifacts was recovered. These include white refined earthenwares, banded yellow ware, window glass and a relatively modern wire nail. The white refined earthenware specimens recovered from BjCj-23 probably all post-date c. 1820. Included in the whiteware category, except with vitrified bodies, are two sherds with transfer-printed "flow blue" decoration. This decorative technique, giving the transfer-print a blurred appearance, was introduced during the 1840s (Miller 1991, 9) and continued on into the second half of the nineteenth century. The banded yellow ware sherd likely post-dates c. 1850. Yellow ware had a peak of popularity from 1870 to 1900 and is still produced today.

The artifact sample from BjCj-23 suggests the possibility that the site was occupied during the second half of the nineteenth century. It should be noted however, that much of the material found, can also occur on later sites.

The geological map for the area, dated 1893, does show two structures in the general area of BjCj-22 and BjCj-23. It cannot be confirmed at present if either or both structures shown on the map are the same as the sites recorded during the survey.

Highway 16

BjCj-25

This cellar/foundation, shown to the survey crew by James Desmond, is located in a field on the west side of Highway 16, south of the Tracadie Baptist Church. The field is located approximately 200 metres northwest of the Antigonish/Guysborough County line. The house was once occupied by Alex Williams and burned to the ground in c. 1967 (James Desmond, pers. comm.).

The cellar is stone-lined and has an entrance on the west side. The overall dimensions of the cellar, including the connected foundation, are 7 x 7.7 metres. Other features located in the vicinity of the cellar are a well and the footing for an outbuilding.

A total of six shovel tests were excavated along a 13-metre east-west baseline located adjacent to the northern side of the cellar. One additional test was dug 5.5 metres south of the baseline 12-metre mark. Artifacts recovered include white refined earthenwares, ironstones, modern glass and a plastic button. One rim sherd from a "Maritime Ware" utility bowl and a small sherd of a Rockingham type ware were also found. Both the Maritime and Rockingham wares could have been produced during the second half of the nineteenth century.

The "Maritime Ware" bowl probably does not post-date 1900. During the late nineteenth century, Maritime earthenware potteries were suffering due to direct competition with cheaper imported wares and none are known to have survived after 1900 (Webster 1971, 94).

The Church map, published in 1878, shows R. Gearo living in the general area of BjCj-25. It is unclear if this is the same dwelling recorded during the survey. Again, the geological map for the area dated 1893 shows a structure just northwest of the county line near the main road. The location shown on the map appears too close to the county line to be the same as BjCj-25.

Based on a small artifact sample, the cellar is tentatively dated to the period c. 1890 -

1967.

BjCj-26

Another cellar depression was found adjacent to the northern side of the old road which exits the field behind (southwest of) BjCj-25. The old access road passes directly south of the site. The cellar depression is stone-lined, measures approximately 6 x 5 metres and is heavily overgrown with spruce trees. The cellar walls, now in a state of collapse, are constructed of large stone slabs. A gap adjacent to the northeast corner may have been the cellar entrance.

Two old collapsed camps are located in the general vicinity of the cellar. It is not known if these served as residences or were occupied on a seasonal basis.

Six shovel test pits were excavated at BjCj-26. Two tests were located along a 10-metre east-west baseline adjacent to the south side of the cellar. Three additional shovel tests were excavated on the east and west side of the cellar. The final shovel test was placed in the grassy area downslope of the cellar and south of the old access road.

Only a small sample of artifacts were recovered, revealing very little information relating to the age of the cellar. Two specimens are noteworthy. One is a rim sherd from a plain undecorated blue-grey "pearl ironstone" plate. Wares such as this became popular beginning in the 1850s and continued as dominant tableware until the end of the century (Miller 1991, 10). Similar wares are still produced today.

The second noteworthy item recovered from BjCj-26 is a glass base for a kerosene lamp chimney. It has an ornate beaded rim. Decorative lamp chimneys, with beaded or scalloped rims began to be produced during the 1880s (Alyluia 1979, 49). The kerosene lamp became less desirable during the 1920s when it had been substantially replaced by gas and electric lighting (Alyluia 1979, 49). It is unknown when electric lighting became available in the study area or if it was ever available at the BjCj-26 house site.

The 1893 geological map for the area shows two buildings well in from the main road in the same area as BjCj-26. It is likely that one of these buildings is the structure recorded during the survey.

Based on limited information BjCj-26 is tentatively dated to the period late 1800s to early 1900s.

Lincolnvile Area

BjCj-27

This cellar/foundation was shown to us by James Desmond and is located in the woods west of Highway 16, and northeast of Shepherd Lake. The site can be reached by following the old trail behind George Ash's house (#14305). The trail crosses a clear-cut, then continues through the woods. The site is located 65 metres south-southeast of the trail in a spruce stand. There is a large swamp east of the site, towards Highway 16.

The house was occupied by Jim and Annie Shepherd and was abandoned at least 65 years ago (James Desmond, pers. comm). The foundation, now overgrown with moss and trees, consists of 3 distinct compartments separated by earth and stone walls. Overall dimensions are 8.5 x 9.5 metres. The deepest portion of the foundation, probably the root cellar, measures 1.4 metres below surface.

A 14 metre long northwest-southeast baseline, roughly bisecting the foundation, was established to allow for controlled testing and recording. Five shovel tests were excavated, all on the southeastern side of the structure. This area yielded a high frequency of artifacts.

The majority of material recovered from the test pits post-date c. 1850. Artifacts included brown transfer-printed white refined earthenwares and vitrified earthenware. At least 2 pearlware sherds were found. The pearlware sherds, possibly from the same dinner plate or platter were found in Test Pits 2 and 3. One sherd exhibits a blue shell-edged decoration (Plate 1, bottom left). The edge painting is poorly executed, the glaze/body is almost white in colour, and the rim is thickly potted. These attributes suggest a late pearlware produced between 1810 and 1840. Blue shell-edge decoration remained commonly available on whiteware into the 1860s (Miller 1991, 6).

The second pearlware sherd, part of a flatware base, has an impressed maker's mark. Only a small portion of the mark can be seen. The visible portion of the mark resembles a variation of an asterisk (*) symbol. This may be the mark of the British Pottery, Mintons Limited. Minton used impressed cyphers to indicate production years. The asterisk was used for the year 1842 (Godden 1972, 95).

Several more artifacts were found just under the moss layer inside the southeastern portion of the foundation. Included in this group are 3 bottles. One is a complete brown stoneware blacking bottle (Plate 4). The bottle has a cylindrical body and a wide mouth. The bottle contents were used for treatment of boots, harnesses and other leather objects. In general, brown stoneware bottles containing blacking, ink, beer, etc. were in use during the period c. 1820-1910 (South 1977, 210). A complete clear-glass liquor bottle was also found. This bottle was produced in a turn mould and can be dated to the period c. 1870-1930 (Jones and Sullivan 1985, 31). The last bottle collected from the foundation interior is a small ink bottle with "CARTER'S MADE IN U.S.A."

embossed on the base. The bottle is machine-made, has a cork type closure and dates to the period c. 1904-1930.

Other artifacts recovered from the foundation interior were machine-cut nails (post c. 1840) and a horseshoe, date unknown.

The A.F. Church map for Guysborough County published in 1876 presents a distorted view of the Lincolnton/Shepherd Lake area. The position of Shepherd Lake on the Church map is incorrect when compared to modern maps. A building labelled "J. Shepherd" is shown close to the main road (now Highway 16) to the east of Shepherd Lake. As the lake position is erroneous, the Church map cannot be used as a reliable source to pinpoint the location of the Shepherd residence. It can be said, based on the map, that the Shepherds were living in the area by at least 1876.

The 1884 geological map presents a better view of the area, at least in terms of cartographic accuracy. This map shows no dwellings northeast of Shepherd Lake in the location of BjCj-27. Given the secluded location of BjCj-27, it is possible that it was missed during the original map survey. Another possible explanation for its absence on the 1884 map is that the house could have been temporarily abandoned and later reoccupied.

Artifacts recovered from BjCj-27 suggest a maximum occupation beginning c. 1840 and ending c. 1930. As very little pre-1850 material was found, the site may in fact date to the second half of the nineteenth century. Earlier material, such as pearlware plates, could have survived as useful household goods for many decades. Further testing would be necessary to better define the date range for BjCj-27.

BjCj-28

This cellar is the second in the Lincolnton area shown to the survey crew by James Desmond. The cellar is located off an old road located behind the home of Russell Morris (across from George Ash) on the northeast side of Highway 16. The road forks to the northeast just past Silvey Brook and then curves to the southeast. Just past the curve, an old overgrown trail leads northward off the main road uphill to the site area.

The cellar depression is situated on a grassy hillslope at the edge of a wooded area. The depression measures 3.50 x 2.50 metres and is approximately 85 centimetres deep. Surface indications reveal little information as to the overall size and shape of the structure. A slight depression directly west of the cellar may have formed part of the building.

A south-southwest-north-northeast baseline, 13 metres in length was placed adjacent to the northwest side of the cellar. A total of 5 shovel test pits were excavated along the

baseline. Directly below the sod in Test Pit 1, a black to dark brown cultural layer was encountered. The stratum contained charcoal fragments and numerous artifacts, some of which were burnt. As this location was deemed a possible midden area, a 1 x 1 metre test unit was opened to recover an artifact sample (Plate 5).

The majority of artifacts recovered are ceramic and comprise for the most part hand-painted, edged, and sponge decorated wares. Included in the hand-painted group is a tea cup or small bowl (teabowl ?) base with a pronounced foot ring. The base is clearly a pearlware example with an interior floral motif painted in blue. Blue painted tea wares with floral motifs became popular during the 1820s (Miller 1991, 8). The BjCj-28 specimen, having a pearlware body, can be dated to the period c. 1820-1840.

Several sponge decorated white refined earthenwares were also found. Colours present in the collection are blue, red, and purple. Sponging was popular, particularly on teawares and bowls, from c.1840 to c.1875. During this time, sponged wares were among the cheapest decorated ceramic types available (Miller 1991, 6).

A rim sherd from a green shell-edged dinner plate was found in Test Pit 1 (Plate 1, top left). The plate body is white in colour, thickly potted with rounded edges. The plate has a brilliant, glossy glaze with a slight bluish tinge. Traits such as these are common on pearlware after 1810 (Sussman 1977, 106). The lack of blueing in the glaze may suggest a better classification of this sherd as white refined earthenware. Shell-edge remained as a common decorative technique until the 1860s. Whether late pearlware or white refined earthenware, the plate was likely produced sometime between 1830 and 1870.

In summary, the presence of late pearlware along with numerous whitewares, including sponged ware, suggests that BjCj-28 was occupied during the period 1830 to 1880. As very little pearlware was found, the initial occupation of the site may be pushed ahead into the 1840s or 1850s. Pearlware was not commonly available after c. 1840, but some pearlware objects may have survived as useful items on into the second half of the century. Further excavation would be necessary to determine if a pre-1840 date can be assigned to BjCj-28.

Also found at BjCj-28 were a clay smoking pipe stem and bowl fragment. These were the only smoking pipes found during the entire survey. The stem bears a partial maker's mark "A COG" on one side and "OW" on the reverse (Plate 6, right). If complete, the mark would be "A COGHILL" / "GLASGOW". The firm A. Coghill were making pipes in Glasgow, Scotland from 1826 to 1899 and for one year in 1904 (Walker 1971, 25). In 1891, the United States made it mandatory for the county of origin to be placed on all imported items thus suggesting that the pipe was produced prior to that date (Walker 1971, 19).

The pipe bowl fragment (Plate 6, left) has a moulded "leaf" decoration. It is unknown if the bowl is associated with the Coghill stem. Heavily decorated pipe bowls were common during the nineteenth century.

The 1884 geological map of the area does show settlement in the general area of BjCj-28. The map labels the old road leading off the northeast side of present day Highway 16 as "a hilly bad road" and labels the area as a "Coloured Settlement." Eleven structures are shown along the road which reconnects with Highway 16 approximately 4 kilometres to the northwest. The 1884 map does show two buildings in the vicinity of BjCj-28. This area merits further field study as many more cellars are likely located along the course of the old road.

Interestingly, the Church map, published in 1876, does not show a road or structures in the BjCj-28 area. As mentioned before in this report, the Church map cannot always be considered a reliable source of information.

Finally, the location of a possible burial ground on the hill directly southeast of BjCj-28 was shown to the survey crew by James Desmond. Several protruding stones and small stone piles were observed on the hill. Further research and field work would be necessary to confirm if these are burial markers.

Birchtown (Guysborough County)

Although well outside the main focus area of the survey, the crew visited Birchtown on two occasions. The purpose of these visits was to gather general information on what remains of the original Black settlement at Birchtown and to determine its potential for future archaeological research. The results of the Birchtown study are not complete or conclusive.

BiCi-3

This designation includes 3 stone-lined cellar/foundation features recorded by Brian Preston in 1993 (M.A.R.I. Forms, on file:N.S.M.). Cellar #1 is located in the large field west of Birchtown Lake on the east side of the road. At present, a large spruce tree is growing in the centre of the cellar.

Cellar #2 (Plate 7) is located south of Cellar #1 in the same field. A midden with surface artifacts is located east of the cellar. Glass, machine parts, stove parts, and pieces of a North American stoneware jug (c. 1840-1900) are included in the surface scatter. A barn outline is visible just southeast of the cellar.

Cellar #3 is located in the field opposite #'s 1 and 2 on the west side of the road. This is a large cellar with a drainage ditch running off the west end.

The 1884 geological map depicting the Birchtown area shows a cluster of 6 buildings in the location of Cellars #1, 2 and 3. The Church map, published in 1876, shows 4 buildings in this area.

BiCi-5

This is the site of the Birchtown cemetery shown to us by Cecil Reddick, who cuts lumber in the area. The site is located off of a logging road south of Birchtown Lake. The logging road runs east off the main dirt road leading to Birchtown Lake. The cemetery is located on the hill north of the logging road in a clear-cut. Remains of an old wire fence can still be seen in places around the cemetery perimeter. At least six crude stone grave markers were noted. No visible markings are present on the stones. Several more markers are likely present but are obscured by a thick layer of moss covering the site. The cemetery was last used in the 1940s (Cecil Reddick, pers. comm.).

BiCi-6

A stone-lined cellar depression was found in a spruce stand southeast of the cemetery on a hill north of the logging road. Time constraints did not allow for detailed recording of this feature. Several more cellars are likely located in this general area. The 1884 geological map shows several buildings, including a school, east and southeast of BiCi-6, between the present day logging road and the Clam Harbour River.

Both the 1884 geological map and the 1876 Church map show roads and buildings south of Birchtown Lake, between the lake and the Clam Harbour River. This appears to be the main settlement area in Birchtown.

BiCi-7

This cellar depression is located near the beginning of the logging road adjacent to the southeast side. Cecil Reddick states that this was a church. As with BiCi-6, time did not allow for detailed recording of this feature.

Discussion and Recommendations

Many of the sites found during the preliminary archaeological study can be directly associated with Black Loyalist families. Surnames such as Berden (variant of

Borden/Bowden), Elmes (Elms), and Shepard (Shepherd) all appear on the 1787 land grant. Archaeological tests indicate that many of the house sites recorded were occupied sometime during the mid to late 1800s and onward into the 1900s (Table 1). Thus, the people who lived at these locations were likely descendants of the original grantees.

The East Tracadie site designated BjCj-18 is the oldest site recorded during the survey. Artifacts suggest that the site was occupied during the early 1800s and possibly during the late 1700s. Although not confirmed, it seems likely that this site was occupied by a Black family. The site is located within the 1787 land grant and Black Loyalists and their descendants are known to have settled the surrounding area. A map by A. F. Church, published in 1878, shows a Bowden family living directly north of the BjCj-18 foundation. The same map shows another Bowden (Alexander) across the road and southeast of BjCj-18. As many Acadian families are also shown in the area, it is possible that the site was occupied by Acadians. Further archaeological excavation and historical research may answer the question of cultural affiliation.

East Tracadie, Upper Big Tracadie, Monastery, Rear Monastery and undisturbed areas adjacent to Highway 16 should be subjected to further archaeological survey to identify the location of other Black Loyalist sites. Particular attention should be placed on old roads and trails identified on historic maps of the study area. Some of these roads may date back to the early Black Loyalist period. Further archaeological research is also needed to learn more about the houses, settlement features, and cultural landscapes associated with early Black Loyalists and their descendants.

The area northeast of Highway 16 at Lincolnville, shown on the 1884 geological map as a Black settlement, should be revisited. Numerous settlement features, including house cellars, are probably located in this area. The house cellar designated BjCj-28 (Plate 6), located in the same area, would be a good candidate for further excavation. The site contains pre-1850 ceramics (late pearlware) and its location suggests that the occupants were Black Loyalist descendants.

The abandoned nineteenth-century Black settlement at Birchtown in Guysborough County was visited during the survey. An intense survey of this area would be necessary to record the many associated archaeological features. The Birchtown site represents an entire historic Black settlement and should be properly documented and preserved.

Cemetery sites reported during the survey require further attention. The exact location of the East Tracadie burial site remains unknown. Further research is needed to pinpoint the location of burials and to establish the overall dimensions of the site. The reported cemetery location east of Highway 16, adjacent to BjCj-28 in the Lincolnville area requires similar research. It should be noted that such research will only become

necessary if future plans are made to develop these areas. The Birchtown cemetery contains obvious stone burial markers and the remains of a wire fence can still be seen in places around the site perimeter. The fence line should be re-established with new fencing. As recent clearcutting has taken place on the site, the fence line would clearly delineate the cemetery boundaries, thus reducing further disturbance. Perhaps, work such as this could be conducted by local communities with the assistance of an archaeologist.

Table 1 - Tentative date ranges for archaeological sites recorded during survey.

Borden No.	Location	Early 19th C. c.1800-1840	Mid to Late 19th C. c.1840-1880	Late 19th C. / 20th C. c.1880-1900+	Unknown
BjCj-17	East Tracadie				♦
BjCj-18	East Tracadie	♦			
BjCj-19	Rear Monastery			♦	
BjCj-20	Rear Monastery				♦
BjCj-21	Rear Monastery			♦	
BjCj-22	U.B. Tracadie			♦	
BjCj-23	U.B. Tracadie		♦	♦	
BjCj-24	East Tracadie		♦	♦	
BjCj-25	Highway 16			♦	
BjCj-26	Highway 16			♦	
BjCj-27	Lincolntonville		♦	♦	
BjCj-28	Lincolntonville		♦		
BiCi-3	Birchtown			♦	
BiCi-5	Birchtown				♦
BiCi-6	Birchtown				♦
BiCi-7	Birchtown				♦

The results of this project can be considered the first step toward increasing awareness and knowledge of Black Loyalist sites within eastern Nova Scotia. All sites recorded during this project are considered to have cultural heritage and archaeological value. They represent a portion of the surviving physical evidence of the Black Loyalist presence in Nova Scotia, an important aspect of history to their descendants and to all Nova Scotians.

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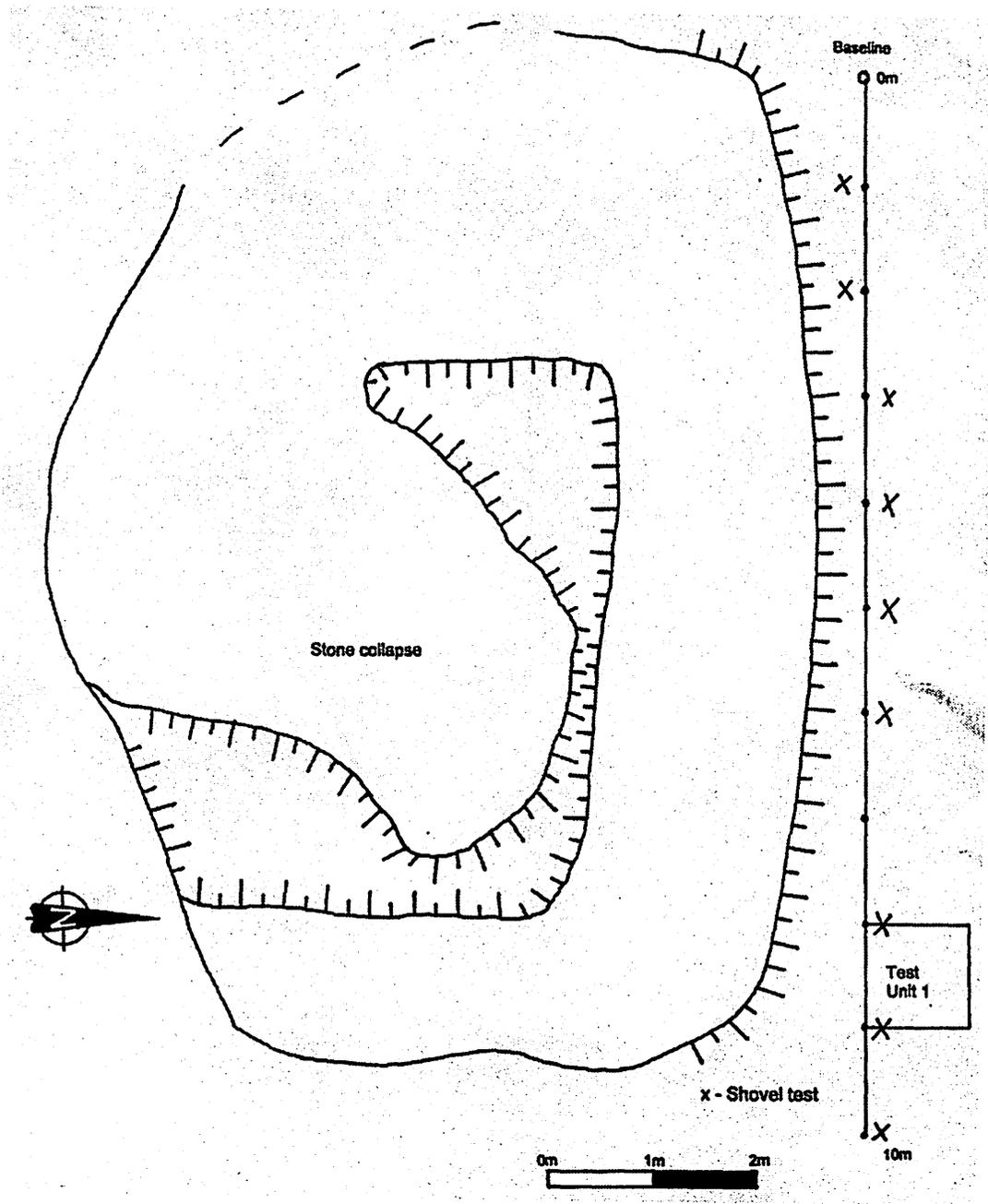


Figure 2 - Plan view showing outline of foundation feature BJCj-18, East Tracadie.

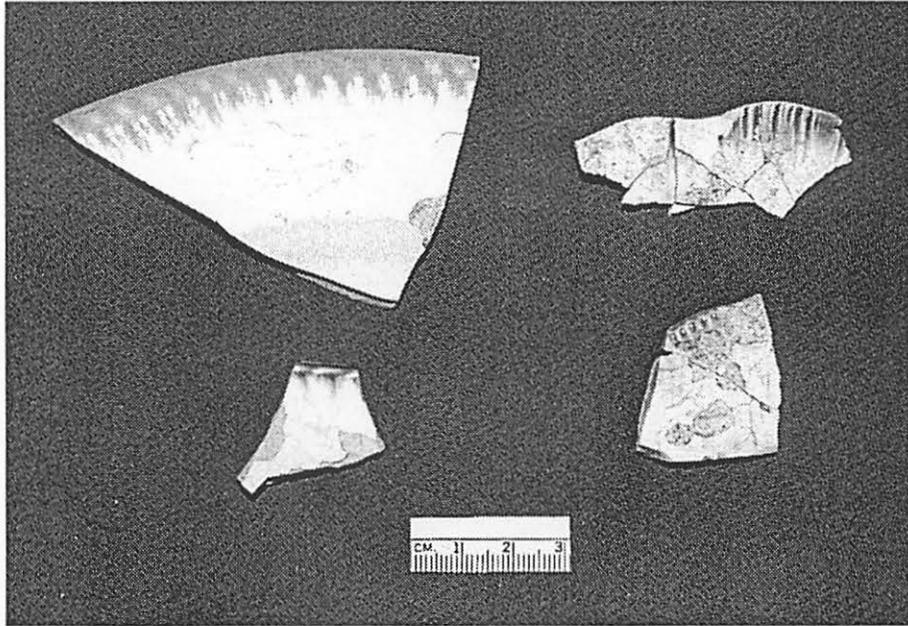


Plate 1 - Shell-edged dinner plate rim styles recovered during survey.
Top left - BjCj-28:1 Bottom left - BjCj-27:1
Top right - BjCj-18:19 Bottom right - BjCj-18:3



Plate 2 - Stone foundation wall, BjCj-19, Rear Monastery.



Plate 3 - Crew shovel testing cellar BjCj-21, Rear Monastery.



Plate 4 - Brown Stoneware Blacking Bottle, found at BJCj-27.



Plate 5 - Crew excavating a 1x1 meter test unit at site BJCj-28, Lincolnville area.

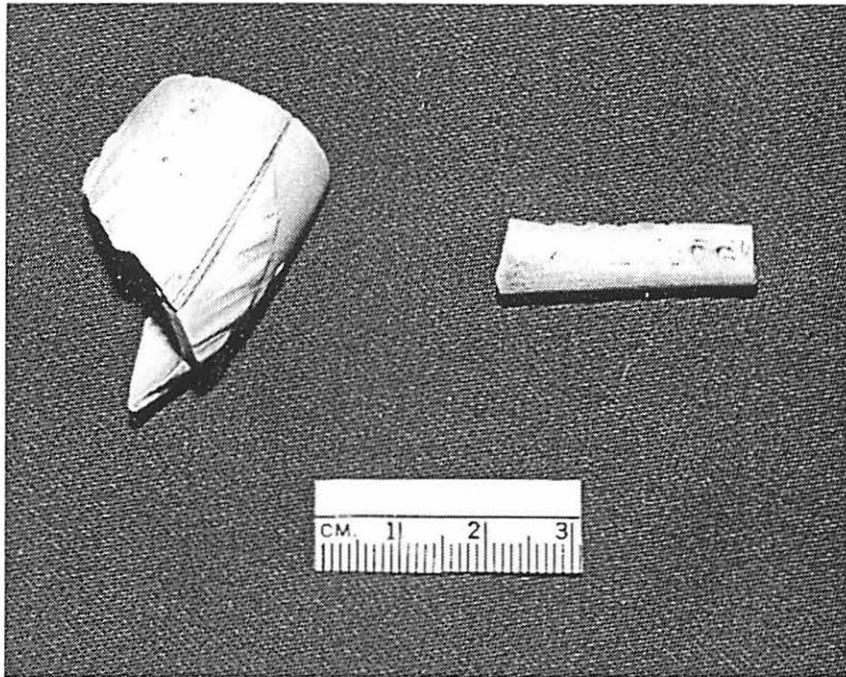


Plate 6 - Clay tobacco pipe bowl (left), BjCj-28:26, with "leaf" decoration and pipe stem (right), BjCj-28:27, with partial maker's mark "A COG..." (A COGHILL) and "...OW" (GLASGOW) on reverse.



Plate 7 - Cellar depression in field at Birchtown, Guysborough County, BiCi-3, #2.