CHAPTER IV

CAMP SITE ARCHAEOLOGY, 38CH964, 38CH965, 38CH966

INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the archaeological investigations at three sites, 38CH964, 38CH965, 38CH966, investigated during Phase II and Phase III (Figure 1.2). These sites have been identified as loci within the greater project area that was within the 1863-1864 winter camp for many Union soldiers during the siege of Charleston. The original boundaries of these three sites were delineated by shovel tests (Drucker and Jackson 1988). In reality the sites, as defined by these boundaries, were merely denser artifact loci or activity areas within the much larger Civil War period site. However, as the site designations have entered the literature, and as they provide convenient spatial divisions within the tract, they have been retained in this chapter with modifications as noted.

SITE 38CH964

Introduction

Site 38CH964 was the area most heavily investigated by SCIAA during the 1988 field efforts (Phases II & III). Carolina Archaeological Services, Inc., archaeologists originally identified 38CH964 on the basis of surface artifacts discovered in the newly-graded cut of Road “B” (Figure 4.1), near its intersection with the Hudson Avenue extension cut (Drucker and Jackson 1988: 31-34.) Subsequent shovel testing revealed that the site extended some 100 m east of the road-cut, along the crest of a narrow, east-west dune line that runs parallel to Hudson Avenue West. (It will be seen that this same east-west, relict dune line also includes 38CH965 and Locus A of 38CH966.) On the basis of surface artifacts and four (of 11) positive shovel tests, CAS described 38CH964 as “...characterized by a scatter of kitchen midden containing butchered animal bone, metal, stoneware bottle fragments, container glass fragments, and a cut nail,” probably associated with the Union Army occupation of Folly Island (Drucker and Jackson 1988: 31-32). They recommended the site as being eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The Institute conducted data recovery at 38CH964 in June and July of 1988 (Phase II), and the positive findings of that work led to the additional field work by SCIAA in October and November 1988 (Phase III).

Phase III excavations at 38CH964 were essentially a continuation of Phase II work, and all SCIAA excavations are discussed herein as a single effort. It should be noted that Excavation Units (EUs) 1 through 8 and Features 1-9 were excavated during Phase II. Excavation Units 9-17 and Features 9-16 were excavated during Phase III. Shovel testing was confined to Phase II, while a controlled metal detector survey (CMDs) and all backhoe excavations were conducted during Phase III. These excavations constituted the major effort to understand and evaluate the archaeological remains of the Civil War encampment in the 42-acre development tract.

The nature and integrity of 38CH964 were poorly understood when excavations began. Initial excavations consisted of systematic shovel testing intended to explore site stratigraphy and integrity. Later, as the site became better known, excavations focused on suspected features which usually first appeared as surface depressions.

A grid system, established during Phase II excavations, was tied to temporary markers along Hudson Avenue. This system proved inadequate for the larger scale Phase III excavations on the densely wooded site. Therefore, all work at 38CH964 was mapped relative to a permanent datum established at a concrete manhole plate at the intersection of Hudson Avenue West and Road “B” (Figure 4.1). The two systems were later consolidated during the analysis phase. Generally, excavations followed the methods discussed in Chapter I. Specific changes in these methods are described in the appropriate sections below.

38CH964 Stratigraphy

The upper 30-50 cm of the site, both on the slope and crest of the dune, appeared to consist of an extensively mixed loose sand “A” horizon. The very dense root system here has mixed these soils, leaving them much like a plow-zone. This “A” horizon was typically a gray to grayish-brown (10YR5/1-5/2) sand near the surface, becoming somewhat more brown with depth (10YR5/3-5/4), before fading into the light yellowish-brown (10YR6/4) subsoils (dune sands). At 1 to 1.5 m below the surface, the subsoil...
became neutral or light gray (10YR7/1-7/2) and was finely lensed with bands of dark gray sand (10YR4/1) typical of wind or beach sand deposits. Features in the upper soils were usually impossible to distinguish, and often were not discovered until seen in contrast to the surrounding subsoils. This subsoil was compact, gritty, quite distinct; allowing for precise excavation of deep features. The water table was encountered at varying depths across the site. At the water table the sand appeared blue, or gray (7.5YRN5/-N6) in color (Figure 4.2).

38CH964 Excavation Results

SHOVEL TESTING

The Institute’s investigations at 38CH964 began with a systematic shovel testing program designed to guide the placement of block excavations. Earlier shovel testing by CAS had suggested that no substantial Civil War-era midden was present. The Institute’s shovel testing seemed to confirm CAS’s understanding of the site. After 66 shovel tests at 5 m intervals had been excavated across the site’s western half, only 18 were found to contain cultural material. None of the shovel tests revealed dense cultural deposits or features except where they encountered Feature 9, which was already apparent as a surface depression. The artifact assemblage recovered during testing was identical to that reported by CAS and included chiefly bottle fragments and nails. This information was of little value in the placement of excavation units and suggested that 38CH964 was either a very low-density site, or that artifacts were confined primarily to discrete features. The analysis of shovel testing and re-examination of the site surface resulted in the development of a new strategy: placement of excavation units directly on suspected surface features. This strategy was used throughout the rest of the archaeological investigations at 38CH964.

EXCAVATION UNITS 2 & 5

Still, two 2 x 2 m units, EU 2 and EU 5, were placed without regard to specific surface features, but adjacent to positive shovel tests (Figure 4.1). The artifacts and matrix of these units helped to confirm the misleading site interpretations that were made when shovel testing alone was used at Folly Island.

Excavation Unit 2 was excavated on the crest of the site dune. A cultural “A” horizon of gray, loamy sand was found to a depth of 30 to 50 cm below surface, overlying sterile, yellow sand subsoil (Figure 4.3). While no soil feature was encountered in EU 2, a surprising quantity of 570 artifacts was recovered; 506 of these were machine cut nails and nail fragments. Sixty glass fragments also were found, including 53 light olive-green fragments, one dark olive-green fragment, five clear fragments, and one aqua fragment. Three unfired U.S. .577/.58 cal. bullets were the only military artifacts from the unit. Also recovered were one blue transfer-printed whiteware sherd, three brass nails, and three strap iron fragments. Small pieces of brick and mortar also were present.

No feature was seen in this unit and it is difficult to explain the concentration of material in EU 2. Artifact density suggests an unrecognized, shallow feature or surface deposit. The topsoil zone elsewhere on the site typically yielded far less material, even in the vicinity of major features.

Excavation Unit 5 (2 x 2 m) was placed about eight meters southwest of EU 2 to test the southern slope of the dune line (Figure 4.1). Excavation revealed a cultural zone of gray and brown loamy sand to a depth of 45-48 cm below surface, overlying sterile yellow sand. No features were encountered in EU 5. Two hundred machine cut nails and nail fragments, two strap iron fragments, three clear glass fragments, one clay smoking pipe fragment, and one iron bit chain were recovered from the unit. Unlike EU 2, the density of material found within this 2 x 2 m area was typical of the entire site (see EUs 10 and 11).

THE “5 x 6 M BLOCK” (EUs 1, 3, 4, 6, 7; FEATURES: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8.)

A 5 x 6 m block excavation, designated by its maximum east-west/north-south dimensions, was the largest area opened on 38CH964 (Figures 4.1, 4.4). Excavation of this area was extremely complex because of the very ambiguous, poorly defined, and highly disturbed features. The block consisted of five excavation units, including EUs 1, 3, & 4, (each 2 x 2 m), EU 6 (2 x 4 m), and EU 7, (1 x 2 m). In the field, seven feature numbers were assigned (Features 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8). For the purposes of this discussion, the “5 x 6 m Block” is considered as a single unit, subsuming all of the more particular excavation proveniences.

The excavation block was placed on the northern slope of the east-west dune, about 5 m east of Road “B” that cut perpendicularly through the dune. At this location, an irregular, shallow depression encompassing several square meters showed signs of extensive modern disturbance. Faunal material, container glass fragments, and other artifacts were scattered on the depression’s surface, and a collector informant suggested that the “feature” was possibly a tent site, excavated and backfilled by other collectors. During excavations, the first 2 x 2 m unit was found to embrace only a portion of the entire disturbance, and the other units were opened to define the original feature and the collector’s pot hole (Figure 4.4).

The 5 x 6 m block ultimately revealed a complex of refuse-laden Civil War features that had been substantially disturbed by bottle collectors, rather than by collectors seeking military artifacts. The most dramatic evidence of their activities was a back-filled pot hole more than two meters in diameter and over 1.20 m in depth. Fill
Figure 4.1: Site 38CH964, General Site Map.
consisted of very loose, mottled gray and brown sand. Cigarette butts, modern glass and plastic soft-drink bottles were found throughout the fill, as were large quantities of Civil War-era faunal material, bottle glass, minie balls, and uniform buttons. Portions of two relatively undisturbed features were found to the west of the large pot hole. These features appear to have originally been similar, rectangular pits, measuring one meter north-south, 1.30 to 1.35 m east-west, and .45 to .60 m in depth (Figure 4.4). Both pits contained Civil War artifacts.

The original configuration and function of this feature complex remains unknown. It is clear from the magnitude of the bottle hunter's digging and the density of material in their back-filled spoil that the most important portion of the 5 x 6 m Block and feature complex was destroyed. Too little of the features remained to allow positive identification, but the original Civil War feature may well have been a latrine.

Whatever the primary function of the Civil War feature, the secondary function was clearly refuse disposal. Despite the removal of an unknown quantity and variety of artifacts by collectors, the 5 x 6 m block excavation yielded a very large and diverse artifact collection that included both faunal and military material. More than 1,880 artifacts and faunal specimens were recovered from the 5 x 6 m block excavation. Faunal material included 307 specimens of identifiable faunal material and 70 oyster shells and shell fragments. Artifacts included approximately 300 sheet iron can fragments and 1211 artifacts of all other kinds. Also in this total were nine nonedible molluscan shells.

Glass and ceramic container fragments numbered 907, not including fragments of a modern, clear glass bottle which were also found. Many of these container fragments, like those from EU 2, were finely broken and badly abraded, as if they had been crushed before being deposited in the feature. Perhaps they had been policed from a road-bed or horse corral (see 38CH964: Interpretations). Others exhibited normal breakage and no signs of abrasion, and two vessels (both inkwells) were undamaged. The container fragments were mended in the lab, resulting in reconstruction of seven full-profiles and a minimum vessel count of 24 (see Chapter IV).

The assemblage of 24 mended vessels was dominated by ale bottles, including five stoneware ale bottles (two shouldered and two unshouldered) and four dark olive-green glass ale bottles. Another type, probably also an ale bottle, was represented by a single sherd of alkaline-glaze stoneware. The dominance of the ale bottle artifacts in relation to other artifact types in this excavation unit was typical of most Folly Island proveniences. Six light olive-green “champagne” style wine bottles were represented, as were two whiskey bottles, one amber and one dark brown. The amber whiskey bore an “Ellenville Glass Works” base plate mark (see Switzer 1974: 32, 71-72). Two medicine bottles (probable) were present. Both were aqua glass, unembossed, panel bottles. A cylindrical condiment bottle was the only food bottle represented.
Figure 4.3: Site 38CH964, EU2, profile of north wall.

Figure 4.4: Site 38CH964, 5 x 6 m excavation block, plan.
Finally, three inkwells were present, including one undamaged aqua "umbrella" style inkwell, and one complete and one fragmentary aqua "igloo" inkwell. Many of these artifacts are illustrated in Chapter V.

Tinned iron cans, probably ration cans, were represented by more than 300 fragments. Unfortunately these were so badly broken and decomposed that reconstructive measurements and minimum vessel counts were impossible. It is likely that these cans were similar to the measurable specimens recovered elsewhere (See Feature 1, 38CH965, and Chapter V).

Faunal material from this the 5 x 6 m block included 307 pig and cow elements that were substantial enough for identification (see Appendix B). The faunal collection from the 5 x 6 m block was one of two collections from the project area that was chosen for formal faunal analysis. Seventy oyster shells and fragments were recovered, and a sample of these was included in the oyster shell analysis (Appendix C). Whelks, oyster drills, and cockles accounted for nine shellfish specimens that were unlikely to have been used for food. Beach combing by soldiers is a more likely explanation for the presence of these shells and the historical documents support this conclusion (see Chapter II).

Fifty-five clothing-related artifacts were recovered from the 5 x 6 m block. These included 11 U.S. "eagle" buttons, two New York buttons, one civilian brass button, 18 four-hole glass buttons, 18 four-hole iron buttons, one forage cap buckle, one company letter "F" insignia, and two rubber blanket grommets. Also recovered, but not quantified, were badly decomposed fragments of at least two shoes. Clothing represented by this material include U.S. and New York uniform coats, uniform trousers, a forage cap, drawers, a rubber blanket, suspenders, and shoes.

Military arms were represented in 5 x 6 m block by 65 U.S. .577/.58 bullets, 23 musket percussion caps, and a fragmented cartridge box tin. All of the bullets were unfired, and most probably represent the discard of spoiled paper cartridges. An undisturbed cluster of 13 bullets was found in an intact remnant of feature fill, along with a dense, black stain from their black powder charges (Figure 4.5). Two bullets had been whittled, including one that was formed into a fishing sinker.

Other artifacts recovered were a U.S. M1858 canteen, fragments of a mess fork, two steel pen-tips, a hard rubber finger ring, several brick specimens, and 170 machine cut nails and fragments.

Since the integrity of this feature complex was essentially destroyed by collectors, SCIAA was unable to interpret its depositional history. Thus, the artifact collection from the 5 x 6 m block excavation constitutes the only good evidence available for feature interpretation. Based on the artifacts it contained, the feature appears to have

Figure 4.5: Site 38CH964, 5 x 6 m excavation block, bullets in situ.
Figure 4.6: Site 38CH964, Feature 9, plan.
been a latrine complex that would have been created in response to "General Order No. 40" (reproduced Appendix D). This order details camp regulations including the use of latrines for refuse disposal. The large and diverse collection from this excavation block clearly does not represent primary habitation refuse such as a tent site. Instead, the artifacts probably were dumped into this feature as trash and garbage collected elsewhere. In fact, two disposal patterns were indicated. First was the immediate dumping of bulk trash and garbage, such as damaged equipment and meal refuse into the latrine. Second, was the policing of surface trash, also deposited in the latrine. This second type of artifact collection was clearly suggested by the abraded bottle fragments.

**EU 8 AND 9, BACKHOE CUT #1, FEATURE 9**

Feature 9, indicated by a shallow linear depression in the forest floor on the north slope of the east/west dune line, was recorded during Phase II (Figures 4.1, 4.6 through 4.9). As the depression appeared undisturbed and quite old, it was chosen for investigation. The depression ran eight meters south/southwest from the northern base of the dune slope to a termination near the dune crest. The feature’s width for most of this distance was approximately 1.5 m, but at its southern end, near the crest of the dune, it expanded to about two meters. Eventually, Feature 9 was identified as a Civil War period well complex, including an approach trench leading into the dune, a round well chamber, the remnants of a wood well head, and a well shaft consisting of a barrel and fill.

Feature 9 was the first of three Civil War period wells investigated at 38CH964. It was revealed by excavation of EU 8 and 9 (both 2 x 2 m) and Backhoe Cut 1. The Feature was discovered and partially excavated during Phase II. At that time the feature was believed to be a trench. Excavation of the feature was completed in Phase III and its identity as a well became clear at that time. The feature was large and complex, and three feature numbers (Features 7, 9, and 10) were assigned to portions of it before it became obvious that all were inter-related as part of the larger well feature. The original Features 7 and 9 were subsequently combined as Feature 9A, and the former Feature 10 became 9B. Table 4.1 records the various proveniences involved in the excavation of Feature 9.

During Phase II, EU 8, a 2 x 2 m unit, was placed near the northern end of a surface depression. From 0-40 cm the soil was the same grayish-brown "A" horizon seen across the site and containing a variety of artifacts. This material included 19 bottle fragments, 11 sheet iron fragments, ten machine-cut nails or nail fragments, two unfired U.S. .577/.58 cal. bullets, one forage cap buckle, and one New York button back. These artifacts may represent slope-wash prior to re-forestation, but the depth of the "A" horizon here was no greater that that seen at the crest of the dune.
Figure 4.8: Site 38CH964, Feature 9, south end of well approach trench before excavation.

Figure 4.9: Site 38CH964, Feature 9, south end of well approach trench and well chamber after excavation.
At 40 cm below the surface in EU 8, Feature 9 became apparent. It appeared as a trench running with the surface depression. Excavation Unit 8 bisected the feature (Figure 4.6, 4.7). Excavation revealed that the trench bottom was nearly level, with its overall depth below the surface increasing southward as the trench intruded farther into the dune. The trench was neatly dug by the original Civil War period excavators, and the north profile of EU 8 displayed zones of grayish-brown sand fill, suggesting deliberate backfilling (Figure 4.7). The original excavation was thus well-preserved. Within this trench was a substantial refuse deposit (Feature 9A) and a small pit or post hole (Feature 9B) containing bottle glass.

Feature 9A, the refuse deposit, lay in an irregular heap on the floor of the Civil War excavation. Additional artifacts were later found scattered along the entire length of Feature 9, but the deposit within EU 8 was dense and discrete, and thus it was designated Feature 9A and analyzed separately. This material totaled 702 artifacts, 679 of which were bottle fragments. These fragments were mended to arrive at a minimum vessel count of 17 bottles. Thirteen of these bottles were probably ale bottles including three dark olive-green glass bottles, six brown and white bristol-glazed stoneware bottles, and four "alkaline-glazed" stoneware bottles. The latter are an unidentified type resembling alkaline-glazed wares of the American Southeast (see Chapter V). Also present in this feature were one champagne style wine bottle, one brown whiskey bottle, one aqua condiment bottle, and one small aqua bottle embossed "F. Brown's Ess. of Jamaica Ginger Philada" (Figure 5.15, Chapter V). Fragments of this bottle were also found in the well complex, Feature 9, south of this concentration. Two crushed, but substantially complete, ration cans also were recovered.

Also within Feature 9A were three eagle buttons, one eye from a hook and eye set, and fragments of shoe leather. A single percussion cap was the only arms-related artifact found in this feature. Finally, Feature 9A included 18 machine cut nails and fragments, a fragment of copper wire, and large fragments of an iron barrel band.

Feature 9B (Figure 4.6) was a small round stain underneath Feature 9A. The feature was 20 cm in diameter and 8 cm in depth and may have been a post-hole. Twenty-

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<th>Designation</th>
<th>Horizontal Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>EU 8 (2 x 2 m)</td>
<td>&quot;A&quot; horizon, above Fea. 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feature 9A</td>
<td>EU 8</td>
<td>Dense refuse deposit at north end of Fea. 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feature 9B</td>
<td>EU 8</td>
<td>Small pit or post hole underlying Fea. 9A</td>
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<tr>
<td>EU 9</td>
<td>EU 9 (2 x 2 m)</td>
<td>&quot;A&quot; horizon, above Fea. 9</td>
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<td>EU 9, Zone I</td>
<td>EU 9</td>
<td>Well chamber fill</td>
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<td>EU 9, Zone II</td>
<td>EU 9</td>
<td>Below &quot;A&quot; horizon, outside well chamber</td>
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<td>Well approach fill</td>
<td>Backhoe Cut 1</td>
<td>Portion of well approach path between EUs 8,9 exposed by Backhoe</td>
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<td>Path</td>
<td>Backhoe Cut 1 and EU 9</td>
<td>Lens of compacted soil, discolored at base of well approach</td>
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<td>Well head frame stain</td>
<td>EU 9</td>
<td>Stain of wood frame at well head</td>
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<tr>
<td>Well barrel fill</td>
<td>EU 9</td>
<td>Contents of well barrel and shaft</td>
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four glass fragments were recovered from Feature 9B, including dark olive-green, light olive-green, and brown bottle glass fragments.

The excavation of EU 8 confirmed that a large, undisturbed Civil War feature lay beneath the as-yet unexcavated depression running south up the dune slope. To further investigate the depression, EU 9 (2 x 2 m) was excavated at the depression’s south end (Figure 4.6). The “A” horizon in EU 9 was also 40 cm in thickness. Few artifacts were recovered here. These included one four-hole iron button, one brown glass bottle fragment, eight brown and white stoneware ale bottle fragments, and nine machine cut nails or fragments. At the base of this level, Feature 9 clearly contrasted against the culturally sterile subsoil.

Excavation of Feature 9, in EU 9, continued to a depth of 1.7 m. This essentially defined the upper portion of what turned out to be the well chamber. Further, time constraints did not permit the formal excavation of six to eight square meters of “A” horizon that obscured the remainder of the feature between EU 8 and 9. Instead, a backhoe was used (Backhoe Cut 1) to expose this area. This allowed the entire feature to be exposed in plan (Figure 4.6). With the entire feature exposed, hand excavation of feature fill proceeded from north to south, up the well approach trench, concluding with the removal of the remainder of the well chamber fill. A second profile of the approach trench (the first being the south wall of EU 8) was recorded during this work (Figure 4.7, 4.8).

Thus exposed, Feature 9 was revealed to be a large, walk-in well excavation, identical to wells described in historical documents (see 38CH964: Interpretations). A level approach was excavated into the dune slope, allowing access to a round well chamber with a barrel-lined well shaft centered in the chamber’s floor. The Institute’s re-excavation of the feature was facilitated by the appearance of clearly lensed Holocene dune deposits approximately one meter below the dune surface. These soils were more dry, gritty and compacted in comparison to feature fill and allowed for precise definition of the Civil War period excavation (Figure 4.9).

As seen in EU 8, the well approach was very neatly dug, and showed no evidence of erosion. It had clearly been backfilled, after a scatter of refuse was discarded along its length. A compacted lens of well-trod subsoil, one to three centimeters in depth, was seen on the floor of the approach trench. This lens was excavated separately (Figure 4.6), and contained 19 bottle fragments, 51 machine cut nails and fragments, and 41 sheet iron fragments. All of these artifacts were heavily abraded, probably the result of foot traffic. Five different bottles were represented, including one light olive-green, one dark olive-green, one amber bottle, one essence of Jamaica Ginger bottle (see Figure 5.16, Chapter V), and one brown and white stoneware ale bottle. The ginger bottle fragments mended with those from Feature 9A and the approach trench fill. The stoneware bottle fragments mended with a nearly complete bottle recovered from the well barrel.

These mends indicate that probably two disposal patterns occurred at this well. First was bottle breakage and disposal during the well’s construction and use. These fragments being walked on and broken into small abraded fragments. The well was later abandoned and backfilled, and more refuse probably thrown in at that time.

A total of 112 artifacts were recovered from the fill of the well approach trench between EU 8 and its southern termination at the well chamber (Figure 4.6). Some 43 bottle fragments were present, representing at least three whole bottles. These were the Jamaica Ginger bottle discussed above, a brown whiskey bottle, and a brown and white stoneware ale bottle. The brown whiskey bottle fragments mended to form the complete lower half of a bottle which was neatly scored and cut, probably to serve as a drinking tumbler (see Chapter V).

One unfired .577/.58 cal. bullet was the only arms-related item in the approach trench fill. Clothing-related items included three four-hole iron buttons, three eagle buttons, a large, civilian, flat brass button, and a silver bar pin (see Chapter V). Three poorly preserved ration cans were found, one of which had been converted for use as a small bucket by adding bail holes at the top. Fragments of a rectangular sheet iron vessel resembling a biscuit pan were recovered. A sheet iron mess cup handle, a wrought iron wheel hub, and 53 machine cut nails and fragments made up the rest of the metal artifact assemblage in this feature. Faunal materials included unidentified bone fragments, one clam shell, and nine oyster shell fragments.

The well chamber backfill contained few artifacts. However, one brown glass fragment, eight brown and white stoneware ale bottle fragments, one percussion cap, one four-hole iron button, and nine machine cut nails and nail fragments were recovered. The stoneware fragments mended to form a nearly complete bottle.

At approximately 1.90 m below the surface, the original working floor of the circular well chamber was revealed. At this level, the stain of a timber framework was found, surrounding a circular stain representing the well shaft (Figures 4.6, 4.7). At the level of the timber frame, and between it and the end of the approach trench, was found a eye glass or locket lens.

After the timber stain was recorded, it was excavated and found to be only six to eight centimeters in depth. Nine machine cut nails were recovered from the stain. The original Civil War period well-chamber excavation extended an undetermined depth beneath the working floor. Apparently, after the barrel liners were in place, the chamber was backfilled to the level of the approach trench, and the well-head installed. At about 35 cm below
the working surface, the water table was encountered and excavations ceased. At least two wicker-bound barrels were used in the well shaft. At the time of the Institute’s investigations, the upper barrel was almost entirely decomposed, and its upper 35 cm were visible only as a soil stain. At the water table, this barrel was defined by a ring of rotten wood. The archaeologists investigated below the water level by feeling-about, as deeply as possible, in the mud. This revealed the presence of, but not the exact dimensions of an additional barrel. This inexact procedure at least suggested that the lower barrel, and probably both barrels, were similar in size to the barrel recovered in Feature 11, another well (Figure 5.24). The barrels were not recovered.

A steel probe and “hand” excavation was used to recover an artifact deposit below the water table and more than a meter below well chamber’s working floor. This deposit included four stoneware ale bottles; all virtually complete, ten machine cut nails, and the remains of a ration can. One of the ale bottles was of a previously unidentified alkaline-glazed variety like those found in EU 8. The other three examples were brown and white stonewares, including the bottle that mended with fragments from the well approach trench fill.

The overall length of Feature 9, measured from the north wall of EU 8, was 7.60 m. The diameter of the well chamber below the “A” horizon was about 1.80 m, and it narrowed to approximately 1.25 m at the well-head/working floor level, which was 1.90 m below the surface (top of dune). The approach trench was consistently 1.30 m wide (Figure 4.6).

EU 10, BACKHOE CUT #5, FEATURE 10

Like Feature 9, Feature 10 was discovered during the investigation of an old, shallow surface depression along the dune. This depression was basin-shaped, about 1.5 m in diameter, and located eight meters south of Feature 9, on the southern dune face. Excavation revealed Feature 10 to be the second of three Civil War period wells found at 38CH964 (Figure 4.1, 4.10, 4.11). While identical in design to Feature 9, Feature 10’s surface expression did not include a linear trench depression. Only a basin-shaped depression was visible at the surface. However, during excavation of Feature 10, an approach trench, identical to the one found in Feature 9, was discovered.

Feature 10 was revealed through the excavation of EU 10 (2 x 2 m) placed directly over the surface depression. When it became obvious that a single 2 x 2 m unit would be insufficient for understanding Feature 10, Backhoe Cut 5 was excavated to strip the “A” horizon from the top of the feature. Feature 10 proveniences are noted in Table 4.2.

Excavation Unit 10 and Backhoe Cut 5 were excavated to a depth clearly defining Feature 10 was against the culturally sterile subsoil. This level averaged 50-55 cm below the surface. The general “A” horizon in EU 10 contained a light scatter of small artifacts totaling 42 specimens. These included 23 glass and stoneware bottle fragments, one eagle button, 17 machine cut nails and fragments, one whetstone, and an unidentified bone fragment.

Monitoring of backhoe stripping, both visually and with a metal detector, recovered an additional 124 artifacts. These included 60 glass and stoneware bottle fragments, one eagle button, one iron four-hole button, three unfired .577/.58 bullets, 43 machine cut nails and fragments, five iron barrel-hoop fragments, and an iron pintle. Tiny, completely corroded, sheet iron can fragments were also noted, but only a sample were collected.

Feature 10 was remarkably similar to Feature 9 in both design and placement (Figure 4.10). Both exhibited long approach trenches beginning near the base of the dune slope and cutting deeply into the slope. In both cases, the floor of these approach trenches remained level, causing the trench to deepen as it intruded into the dune slope. Both trenches terminated with an enlarged circular well chamber with well shafts centered in the floor and lined with wooden barrels.

Both well complexes were also deliberately backfilled. Like Feature 9, there was no evidence of slumping or erosion in Feature 10, which would have surely occurred had the wells been simply abandoned. The fill of Feature 10 was consistently pale brownish-gray sand, often only slightly stained relative to the pale yellow-brown sand surrounding subsoils. The major difference between Features 9 and 10 was in the refuse seen in each. Artifacts from Feature 10 were smaller and more evenly distributed throughout the feature fill than they were in Feature 9. Most of Feature 10 artifacts were probably incidental inclusions, rather than a deliberate act of disposal as evidenced in Feature 9.

Materials from the Feature 10 approach trench fill and the well chamber fill were collected separately in the field as they appear to represent a single episode of backfilling, they are combined in this discussion. A total of 158 artifacts was recovered from this backfill. Some 85 glass and stoneware ale bottle fragments dominated the assemblage. Most of these fragments were quite small, and there were virtually no mendable fragments. This pattern provided further evidence that the artifacts within the fill were secondary deposits rather than primary disposal.

In contrast to the artifacts in the fill, two complete, undamaged bottles were found near the bottom of the well chamber at a depth of nearly two meters below the surface. These probably represent primary refuse disposal during backfilling (a behavioral pattern that was unconsciously re-enacted by the archaeologists depositing soda cans,
during the backfilling of SCIAA’s excavations). These two bottles were a brown and white stoneware bottle and an olive-green free-blown wine bottle (see Chapter V). Clothing-related artifacts included one four-hole bone button, one four-hole glass button, and a brass enlisted man’s shoulder scale fragment (see Chapter V). Three unfired .577/.58 bullets and 63 machine cut nails or fragments were included in the collection. A large, round-nosed shovel blade was found in the same context as the whole bottles, discarded in the well chamber near the initial act of backfilling. This shovel blade, found near the water table, was badly deteriorated and could not be conserved. Finally a brass bit chain was also recovered, and was identical to two other chains recovered during the Controlled Metal Detector Survey.

Like the well chamber at Feature 9, the well chamber at Feature 10 was composed of three distinct types of fill. These were the chamber’s backfill, the backfill beneath the chamber floor which surrounded the well casings, and the barrel’s fill. Again, the depth of the well shaft could not be determined, as it extended into the water table and was not fully excavated. Probing suggested that the cultural fill extended at least 30 cm below the top of the well shaft. Sampling the well shaft fill yielded one unfired .577/.58 cal. bullet and five bottle fragments. Intensive probing did not locate any substantial refuse deposits beneath the chamber floor.

The water table was encountered at about 2.30 m below the surface, and at this level the stain of a decomposed barrel well liner was visible. At about 2.4 m below the surface the barrel liner was seen as a ring of intact but rotten wood, 55 cm in diameter (Figure 4.10, 4.11). Additional formal excavation was precluded at this point by the water table. As at Feature 9, the contents of the well shaft at Feature 10 was explored using a probe and by hand. Two brown and white stoneware bottle fragments and a quantity of fragmented oyster shells were recovered in this manner. Only one barrel was indicated and it appeared to be similar in size and construction to those seen in Feature 9 and Feature 11. The well shaft was at least 60 cm in depth (probing and hand excavation could not reach below that depth).

The overall length of Feature 10 was not determined because the southern extremity of the approach trench was not excavated. The excavated portion was 4.2 m in length. The well chamber was approximately 2.15 m in diameter, both at the base of the “A” horizon and at the water table, as the walls were roughly vertical. The approach trench was 1.05 m in width.

EU 11, FEATURE 11

Feature 11 was the third Civil War period well excavated at 38CH964 (Figure 4.1, 4.12 through 4.14). Like Features 9 and 10, this feature was suggested by the presence of an old, shallow depression in the forest floor. This surface depression, about one meter in diameter, was observed on the south slope of the dune.

Feature 11 was probably quite similar in design to Features 9 and 10, but only that portion of Feature 11, contained in a single 2 x 2 m excavation unit (EU 11), was hand investigated. This included much, but not all of the well chamber. No portion of a well approach trench was seen (Figure 4.12). Proveniences assigned during the excavation of Feature 11 are listed in Table 4.3.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Horizontal Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EU 10</td>
<td>EU 10</td>
<td>“A” horizon above feature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feature 10, well approach</td>
<td>EU 10, Backhoe Cut 5</td>
<td>Feature 10 fill of well approach trench and well chamber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>trench, well chamber</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backhoe Cut 5</td>
<td>Backhoe Cut 5 stripping</td>
<td>Material collected during</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feature 10, well Chamber</td>
<td>EU 10, Backhoe Cut 5</td>
<td>Well chamber fill below working floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bottom</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feature 10, well barrel</td>
<td>EU 10</td>
<td>Contents of barrel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fill</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Unexcavated

Backhoe Cut 5
Subsoil

Figure 4.10: Site 38CH964, Feature 10, plan.

Site 38CH964, Feature 10
Plan

Well Shaft and Water table (2.30 cm b.s.)

Shovel

Ale bottle

Wine bottle

Unexcavated

Subsoil
(50 cm b.s.)

EU 10

22.8N/27E

40 CM

MN

"THE BEST EVER OCCUPIED"
At this well, the "A" horizon in EU 11 averaged only 30 cm in depth. Below this level, Feature 11 was revealed against the culturally sterile subsoil. The "A" horizon yielded only 18 artifacts, including a brass pocket knife fragment, seven glass bottle fragments, and 10 machine cut nail fragments.

The excavation of Feature 11 proceeded differently from that of the other two well features. Initially, the depression was investigated using a 2 x 2 m excavation unit (EU 11). These excavations were conducted simultaneously with those of Feature's 9 and 10, and only after the recognition of those two features as wells, did it become apparent that Feature 11 was also a well. Much more of Feature 11 than the other two features had been excavated vertically before this identification was made. However, eventually Feature 11 was recognized, and in the interests of time and to attempt to recover a barrel from this well, a backhoe cut was made beginning south and down slope of EU 11, to expose Feature 11.

Excavation of Feature 11 revealed a well chamber and a barrel-lined well shaft very similar to that seen in Features 9 and 10. Feature 11 also had been deliberately backfilled, but not as thoroughly as the other well chambers. This resulted in a plainly visible, conical slump of humic material toward the center of the well chamber (Figure 4.13). The slumped area contrasted markedly with the historic backfill of the feature. The slump material was dark gray, heavily organic, and minutely lensed, while the remainder of the chamber fill was pale yellow sand, differing only slightly from the subsoil. The slump contained no artifacts, while the deliberately backfilled matrix contained small numbers of artifacts throughout. Three large artifacts, a ration can, a horseshoe, and a nearly complete brown and white stoneware ale bottle, rested on the backfill, at the interface of the lower backfill and upper, lensed humic matter. This indicated that the chamber had been roughly backfilled, perhaps by pushing adjacent spoil into the chamber from the sides. Afterward, the three artifacts were discarded in the remaining hole, and the well was abandoned. Much later, after enough time for humus to develop, the well chamber sides slumped in naturally. This complex scenario was apparent in the north wall of EU 11 (Figure 4.13).

Like the well chambers of Features 9 and 10, the backfill in Feature 11 contained no large deposits of refuse. What artifacts were present (excepting the three discussed above) were mixed throughout the backfill, as if incidentally included in the available soil for backfill. The backfill assemblage totaled 127 artifacts. Twenty-three glass and stoneware bottle fragments were recovered. These did not mend, and were too few and too small to permit derivation of a minimum vessel count. Clothing-related materials consisted of two four-hole iron buttons

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**Table 4.3: Feature 11 Proveniences, 38CH964**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Horizontal Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EU 11</td>
<td>EU 11</td>
<td>&quot;A&quot; horizon above feature definition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feature 11, well chamber</td>
<td>EU 11</td>
<td>Well chamber fill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backhoe Cut 3</td>
<td>Backhoe Cut 3</td>
<td>Material recovered during stripping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feature 11 well barrel fill</td>
<td>EU 11</td>
<td>Contents of well barrels</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
and one infantry officer’s eagle button. A single percussion cap was the only arms-related artifacts found. Two fragments of a brass pocket knife were recovered, possibly from the same knife as the knife fragments found in the “A” horizon. A large civilian serving spoon was found in two fragments, separated vertically by approximately one meter of fill. Perhaps the most interesting artifact in this assemblage was a fragment of sheet iron, possibly a flattened can body, that was perforated for use as a strainer. This artifact could not be conserved due to its deteriorated condition. One iron staple and 84 machine cut nails or fragments also were recovered.

While the upper perimeter of Feature 11 was not revealed, the base of the well chamber (1.75 m in diameter) was entirely exposed in EU 11 and in an extension cut into the north wall (Figure 4.12, 4.14). This definition occurred very near the water table, and like the original chamber excavations in Features 9 and 10, its full depth could not be determined.

Initial investigation of the well shaft in Feature 11 revealed the bottom portion of one barrel in place over the top of a second, and apparently complete, barrel. The upper barrel was badly decomposed; but even allowing for the disappearance of its uppermost portion, if it were a complete barrel of equal size to the lower barrel, it would have protruded above the water table. This may have been the case, or it may have been sawed in half before its insertion into the well shaft.

The lower barrel seemed to be in excellent condition, and an attempt was made to recover it. Extraction of the barrel presented a difficult challenge. However, two other wells (Features 9 and 10) were being excavated simultaneously, and both contained poorly preserved barrels. The three wells were already providing redundant data, but recovery of a barrel would provide new information unavailable from the other two wells. Thus the possibility of obtaining a barrel seemed to be worth the time and effort necessary for its recovery.

Removing the barrel intact proved to be impossible. The upper barrel remnant, which was preserved below the water table, was mapped and removed with little difficulty. The lower barrel was completely beneath the water table. Every effort at excavation around the barrel resulted in the immediate filling of the void created by a mixture consisting of water and the surrounding wall sand. A pump was employed, but water pumping only hastened the collapse of the wet sand walls surrounding the barrel. Slowly the moisture-laden walls would slump, followed by a more dramatic collapse of the drier upper chamber walls. The backhoe was used to remove the dangerous vertical walls above the work area, and timber shoring was begun. When this proved unworkable, a 55 gallon drum casing was driven into place around the barrel. This was a failure also. In a final effort to recover the barrel, the interior barrel fill was rapidly and completely excavated, and the barrel staves were mapped, labeled and removed.

Figure 4.12: Site 38CH964, Feature 11, plan of portion excavated.
Figure 4.13: Site 38CH964, Feature 11, profile, north wall of EU11.

Figure 4.14: Site 38CH964, Feature 11, well chamber and shaft near water table.
individually for re-assembly at the SCIAA Conservation Facility.

The well shaft below the water table in Feature 11 exhibited excellent preservation. Masses of leaves, pine needles, and wood fragments were found perfectly preserved. Unfortunately, little cultural material was found in the saturated environment excavated. However, the preservation of organic material here indicates that the potential still exists for excellent artifact preservation in similar features elsewhere in the project area. Six artifacts were recovered in Feature 11 below the water table, including two bottle fragments, three machine cut nails, and a U.S. M1858 canteen stopper with the cork completely preserved (see Chapter V).

A number of artifacts were observed or found with a metal detector in the large amount of earth moved by the backhoe during the attempted barrel excavation. They were certainly part of Feature 11, but their exact provenience was lost. These artifacts included three bottle fragments, one canteen stopper pull-ring, one unfired .577/.58 cal. bullet, one iron watering bit fragment, eight machine cut nails and fragments, and one very large iron "S" hook (see Chapter V).

**EU 12 (2 x 2 m)**

An area, very poorly defined, in the eastern portion of 38CH964 (Figure 4.1) was tested to locate a possible blacksmith forge. An informant reported that the area contained a heavy iron-oxide metal anomaly which discouraged relic collecting with metal detectors (Robert Bohm, personal communication 1988). This anomaly was relocated, and was found to be a vaguely defined area, 20 x 30 m (east/west) along the dune (Figure 4.1). Several horseshoes, obviously placed by collectors, were found hanging in trees in the vicinity of the anomaly. The ground in the area contained a number of depressions. The Institute selected one depression in this area for investigation using a 2 x 2 m unit, EU 12.

The unit did not yield the kinds of information anticipated. The surface depression was revealed as a shallow disturbance caused by a tree fall. The "A" horizon at EU 12 consisted of a light gray sand and was 20 to 30 cm in depth. Below this was culturally sterile subsoils. Materials recovered included two small glass fragments (one aqua and one olive-green), two machine cut nail fragments, one iron chain link, three small bone fragments, and four small oyster shell fragments. Excavation Unit 12 provided little information other than the artifacts discussed above. Due to time limitations this area was not explored further. However, the horseshoes found in the trees in this area, along with horse-related artifacts found throughout 38CH964 during the Controlled Metal Detector Survey, provide supporting evidence for the location of a stable nearby (see 38CH964: Interpretations).

**EU 13 (1 x 1 m), FEATURE 13**

Feature 13 was discovered during a preliminary metal detector scan of 38CH964, which was conducted to locate large anomalies like the suspected blacksmith forge described above. This feature produced a strong reading on the metal detector and the area indicated was selected for investigation.

While the area surrounding this anomaly was being cleared for excavation, a pothole was found about 20 cm in diameter and 30 cm deep. Apparently this feature, like so many others within the project area, had been 'investigated' before SCIAA's arrival. A portion of a large iron barrel band was present in the pothole. The Institute's archaeologists hoped that this barrel band would prove to be the remains of a barrel-lined latrine.

Excavation of EU 13 (1 x 1 m) revealed not one but two complete barrel bands, one inside the other, lying flat at the interface of the "A" horizon and the culturally sterile yellow-sand subsoil, at a depth of 30 cm (Figure 4.15). The larger band was 52 cm in diameter and the smaller 46 cm in diameter. Each was approximately five centimeters in width. No feature was present beyond the barrel bands. It is possible that originally this feature consisted of a single barrel that decomposed, leaving its remaining bands aligned on the ground surface.

**EUs 14 THROUGH 17 (4 x 4 m BLOCK), FEATURES 14 & 15**

As has been previously described, old, apparently cultural depressions in the ground surface guided the placement of excavation units across the project area, after shovel testing proved to be an insufficient methodology. Except for EU 12 and Features 14 and 15, this methodology was consistently very rewarding. The surface expression of Features 14 and 15 were similar to surface depressions throughout the project area. Each were also indicated by a heavy, but sharply defined, iron-oxide metal detector anomaly. A 4 x 4 m block excavation unit was used to investigate Features 14 and 15. The unit was placed west of Road Cut B (Figures 1.2, 4.1), on the south side of the same dune ridge that ran parallel to Hudson Avenue. Farther west of the 4 x 4 m block, numerous other depressions are present today. A collector reported that this area was and is rich in artifacts.

Removal of the cultural topsoil "A" horizon (25-30 cm in depth) in this 4 x 4 m block revealed Features 14 and 15 and recovered large numbers of machine cut nails and fragments, small brick fragments, and tabby mortar fragments. The features were very amorphous, but each were about 1.75 m² in area, and their fills were identical. This fill consisted of primarily black charcoal, brick and mortar. Upon excavation, both features appeared to be thoroughly robbed hearths or fire boxes separated by about 65
The inexplicable aspect of these features was the absence of any artifacts clearly associated with the Civil War. All fill was thoroughly screened through 1/4 in mesh, but beyond the machine cut nails and brick rubble, only a fragment of sheet iron and an iron rod (not a ramrod) were found in the features. Given the proximity of these features to the rest of the site it seems odd that no diagnostic artifacts were found. Even more puzzling was the lack of glass fragments (even melted), buttons, or stoneware fragments, that seem to be part of the clearly established artifact assemblage at the Civil War camp features found elsewhere in the project area.

The cultural affiliation and function of Features 14 and 15 remain unknown. Obviously, they were the result of a burning episode and probably date to the 19th century (as evidenced by the machine cut nails). They may precede or post-date the Civil War occupation. The features were probably part of some architectural feature, like a hearth. It is unlikely, but still possible, that the features were part of a firebox for a Civil War tent site, the nails being the result of burning nail-laden wood in the firebox.

No further excavations were conducted in this area of the site. On the opposite side of the dune ridge (north) was a large surface depression, located 10 m north of Features 14 and 15. The size, shape and configuration of this depression clearly identified it as another well. It had the characteristic “light-bulb” shape of the other wells, and intruded into the dune in an identical manner. With time restricted and three other wells already excavated, a decision was made not to investigate this feature.

FEATURE 16, BACKHOE CUT #4

Feature 16 (Figures 4.1, 4.16) was located by backhoe stripping in an area of the site that contained recent collector disturbance. Although no depressions were visible on the surface, bottle glass and machine cut nails were scattered about, and a scan with the metal detector indicated an anomaly 1.5 m in diameter. Unlike most of the project area, this particular locality had no large trees, and it therefore represented a rare opportunity to strip a large open area in an attempt to find multiple features. The area stripped was at the northern base of the dune ridge.

Backhoe Cut 4 ultimately exposed approximately 24 m² stripped to the interface between the “A” horizon, 35 to 50 cm in thickness, and the subsoil. Stripping was conducted carefully in vertical increments of about 10 cm. This was done to determine if features could be found at the level of their suspected origin within the “A” horizon. Up to this point in SCIAA’s excavations, features had not been defined until they contrasted against the culturally sterile subsoil. After each pass, artifacts were recovered through backhoe monitoring and metal detecting of the stripped soil. The materials collected in this manner were bagged as “Backhoe Cut 4.” When Feature 16 was exposed in the cut, the artifacts from this area were bagged.

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**38CH964 EU 13**

**Plan and Profile**

21.2N/5W

Joint

Barrel Hoops

North Wall, (with barrel hoops projected)

Barrel Hoops A topsoil

--- 10 CM

B subsoil

A 10YR5/1 gray sand

B 10YR6/4 yellowish brown sand

Figure 4.15: Site 38CH964, Feature 13, plan and profile.
The material in "loose association" with Feature 16 totaled 226 artifacts, including 43 faunal specimens. Sixty-seven bottle fragments were recovered, representing at least six different bottles. These included one dark olive-green ale bottle, one brown and white stoneware ale bottle, one "champagne style" wine bottle, one brown whiskey bottle, one possible aqua panel bottle, and one aqua food bottle or jar. Military material consisted of six unfired U.S. .577/58 cal. bullets, one of which was carved. Clothing artifacts included three iron four-hole buttons and one white glass four-hole button. Sheet iron totaled 28 fragments. There were 61 machine cut nails and fragments, an iron "S" hook, and five iron barrel band fragments. Twelve barbed-wire fence fragments were also recovered. These metal artifacts probably accounted for the anomaly indicated by the metal detector.

The faunal assemblage included 38 fragments of pig and cow (some burned), three oyster shells, and a whelk shell. An unidentified mammalian long bone was found. It had been carefully carved to a fine point, and may be a prehistoric bone awl.

After stripping, Backhoe Cut 4 was shovel-skimmed and troweled to maximize feature visibility. A number of possible features were initially defined, but with one exception, all were eliminated as tree disturbances or intrusive patches of the "A" horizon. The remaining stain, Feature 16, was obviously cultural in origin.

Feature 16 appeared as a nearly square (1.3 m east-west x 1.2 m north-south) dark gray stain, with slightly rounded corners. The sides were squared to the cardinal directions. The northeastern corner of the feature has been disturbed by collectors. Their backfilled pothole was entirely removed before the remainder of the feature was excavated. Thus Feature 16 includes both "pothole" and "undisturbed" proveniences (Figure 4.16).

A total of 112 artifacts, plus 38 faunal specimens, was removed from the pothole. This was probably the most dense deposit of material in Feature 16. At least five bottles were represented by the 37 bottle fragments recovered. These included two free-blown wine bottles, one brown and white stoneware ale bottle, one brown whiskey bottle, and one aqua food bottle or jar. Several of the wine bottle fragments mended to form most of the top half of a single bottle, scored and cut in two (see Chapter V). Three iron four-hole buttons were recovered. Other iron included 14 machine cut nails and fragments, and 58 sheet iron fragments. Faunal material consisted of 35 fragments of cow and pig bone and three oyster shell fragments. Like the bone in loose association, several specimens showed signs of burning. Several modern cigarette filters were noted in the disturbance.

With the pothole removed, the undisturbed portion of Feature 16 was excavated. This original backfill was undifferentiated, dark gray sand, except for some root molds and a gradual color change to blue gray as the excavation neared the water table. Artifacts were not bedded in the bottom of the feature, but rather appeared to be randomly distributed throughout the fill. While the fill and random location of the artifacts in the fill was similar to that seen elsewhere in well backfill, the artifacts in this feature were larger in size than those from wells, making it more likely that Feature 16 fill was primary refuse rather than secondary policed trash. The feature was a neatly dug square pit, with well defined corners and a flat floor. Maximum depth, which coincided with the water table, was 1.15 m below the original ground surface (Figure 4.16).

The artifact assemblage from this undisturbed feature portion was consistent with the other areas. Sixteen bottle fragments, representing at least six bottles were recovered. These vessels were one dark olive-green ale bottle, one brown and white stoneware bottle, one brown whiskey bottle, one free-blown wine bottle, an unidentified aqua bottle, and an unidentified clear glass bottle. The wine bottle was represented by the entire bottom half of a bottle, neatly cut like the whiskey bottle from Feature 9 and the wine bottle top from the Feature 16 pothole. Arms-related artifacts included three percussion caps and three unfired .577/58 cal. bullets. Clothing-related artifacts included a four-hole white glass button, an iron four-hole button, and a silver officer's regimental hat number "8" (see Chapter V). Seven machine cut nail fragments were recovered. Two completely intact but badly decomposed ration cans were found, as well as 12 fragments. Five brick fragments were recovered.

Faunal materials included 132 bone fragments dominated by cow and pig, but at least two bird bones also were present in this assemblage.

Feature 16 probably was a possible latrine. The backfilling and refuse disposal behavior indicated by the artifacts within the feature fill was consistent with that required by General Orders No. 40 (see 38CH964: Interpretations and Appendix D).

CONTROLLED METAL DETECTOR SURVEY

A controlled metal detector survey (CDMS) was conducted across the site to determine if an artifact distribution pattern could be discerned, and to locate undisturbed features. Although the site was carefully searched, no patterns were observable, and the resulting collection must be considered only a small sample of the metallic artifacts contained within the upper soil of the site.

The inability to observe a Civil War period distribution pattern from the CDMS was due to several elements. One was the great depth of the "A" horizon, often as thick as 40 to 50 cm. This placed many small bullet or button sized artifacts beyond the range of the metal detector,
which generally would detect small objects only to about 30 cm below the surface. Another reason was that artifacts were scarce in relatively open areas of the forest floor, but they were more common in densely vegetated portions of the site where the use of a metal detector was difficult. This distribution probably was the result of some 20 years of selective collection of easily accessible areas by relic collectors. Finally, the SCIAA collection was purposely selective in that the metal detector was "tuned" to not indicate the presence of small iron objects, such as nails and fragments. Such artifacts probably number in the thousands within 38CH964, and their excavation would have made the survey impractical without adding appreciably to the collection of diagnostic artifacts already available.

The method for the survey was simple. The site was transect searched and when a non-ferrous or large ferrous reading was encountered, the artifact was immediately excavated and bagged, and its location was fixed with a pin flag. The bag and pin flag were marked with the same sequential CMDS number, and the numbered flags were mapped by transit. Only 32 artifacts were recovered in this manner, and their distribution, upon analysis, had little meaning considering the unknown amount of material previously removed by collectors. However, several artifacts recovered were not previously represented in the 39CH964 assemblage, and the equestrian and artillery-related objects aided in the overall interpretation of the site (see Interpretations).

The artifacts recovered in the CDMS survey are listed below by provenience (Table 4.4), and these proveniences are mapped in Figure 4.1.

Table 4.4: CMDS Artifact Collection, 38CH964

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Artillery friction primer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Officer's shoulder straps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>U.S. .577/.58 bullet, unfired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Artillery Rosette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Brass bit chain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>U.S. .577/.58 bullet, unfired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Horse shoe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>U.S. .577/.58 bullet, unfired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>U.S. .577/.58 bullet, unfired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>U.S. .577/.58 bullet, fired?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Iron washer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>2 U.S. .577/.58 bullets, unfired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Large enlisted man's eagle button</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>U.S. .69 bullet, carved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>U.S. .577/.58 bullet, unfired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Enlisted man's epaulette scale</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>U.S. .577/.58 bullet, unfired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Large New York button</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Shovel shank, (fits with #21)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>U.S. cartridge box plate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Square shovel blade, (fits with #19)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Two-hole pewter button</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Two-hole pewter button</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>U.S. .577/.58 bullet, unfired</td>
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<td>U.S. .577/.58 bullet, unfired</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>U.S. .577/.58 bullet, unfired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Large eagle button back</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Brass bit chain</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 4.16: Site 38CH964, Feature 16, plan and profile.
38CH964: Interpretations

SITE USE

Site 38CH964 was a complex Civil War site. It was probably occupied at least twice, and also used by several different military units during each of those occupations. Probably no single, complete, occupation fell entirely within the site boundaries excavated, much less was any one occupation completely investigated. All that SCIAA was able to accomplish was to sample a number of features which probably were part of at least two overlapping components. Except for the unidentified Features 14 and 15, all features investigated by SCIAA definitely dated to the Civil War period. Major activities tied directly to the site by artifacts and historic documents include collecting fresh water, blacksmithing, stabling horses (probably not for cavalry troops as there was only one Union cavalry unit in the entire campaign), refuse disposal, and latrine use.

The list of military units which might have occupied the site is extensive. A large number of Union Army units were part of the 1863-1864 winter encampment and a few other units may have used it earlier that fall. The units included in the Folly Island winter encampment were Alford’s brigade, Foster’s Brigade, Wild’s African Brigade, and Gordon’s entire Division. It is not physically possible that all of these units occupied 38CH964 or even camped within the project area. The Institute has identified the camp location of the 55th Massachusetts, which was part of Wild’s African Brigade. The 55th Massachusetts and the rest of Wild’s African Brigade (1st North Carolina, see Chapter II, III), were nearby, north, and slightly east, of 38CH964.

Only one specific unit can be definitely tied to the 38CH964 site limits by the historic documents. This unit, Battery E of the 3rd U.S. Artillery Regiment, is depicted on the Becker map of October 5, 1863 (Figure 2.2). The artifacts from 38CH964 support Battery E’s presence. Artifacts related to artillery include a cannon friction primer and a U.S. Artillery bit rosette (see Chapter V). The stables of this battery were also depicted on the map, and are probably the explanation for the horse-related artifacts discovered, and the possible blacksmith area discussed. As no habitation sites were identified, the campsite location for Battery “E” remains unknown.

Other than the artillery, a strong infantry presence also was indicated by the archaeological finds at 38CH964. Practically every excavation unit and feature contained various numbers of infantry rifle-musket bullets, and two infantry officers buttons also were recovered. At least one New York unit was suggested by the recovery of three New York coat buttons. This unit could be the 89th New York which was part of Alford’s Brigade. The Institute recovered an officer’s regimental hat-numeral “8.” Relic collectors have found regimental hat-numerals “8” and “9” (Robert Bohrn, personal communication June 1, 1989) in the site area. Beyond these possibilities it would be necessary to conduct an extensive archival search to discover which other units were present in the immediate area.

The multiple unit use of the site probably was both sequential and contemporaneous. The best interpretation of the sequence of occupation is that sometime during the late summer of 1863, Battery E, U.S. Artillery, moved into the area. At that time the stables were created, and a blacksmith began work there. During the winter of 1863 many troops moved into the interior portion of Folly Island. Wild’s brigade, for instance, camped just northeast of the 38CH964. An unknown number of these units used the area for obtaining fresh water. The site was probably not used after that winter, as the troops remaining on the island would have moved to the beaches for the warmer weather. Only a few troops were on the island the following winter.

Both the wells and latrines were dug and abandoned sometime after the artillery battery arrived, based on the presence of horseshoes and horse bits found in these features’ fill. Bullets in this same fill indicate that the features were still in use during the time when infantry units occupied the surrounding area. As two New York buttons were found in the 5 x 6 m block, this latrine complex was definitely used and/or abandoned after the arrival of the New York unit. The proximity of the latrines to the wells is curious, and it is doubtful they were used simultaneously. Based on regulations (see Appendix D) and sanitary considerations, one could speculate that the wells were used and abandoned before the latrines were built. Perhaps the infantry units filled-in the wells and dug the latrines. No artillery-related artifacts were found in the latrines, although horse-related artifacts were. These artifacts could have been left by the artillery, and policed and disposed of by the infantry.

WELLS

Three fresh water wells (Features 9, 10, 11) were excavated. The shortage of non-brackish drinking water was a severe problem for the soldiers occupying Folly Island and Morris Island. Many historical documents relate the problems of poor quality water (see Chapter II). The camp map of the 55th Massachusetts (see Figure 2.4, Chapter II), to the northeast of 38CH964, indicates a series of wells placed in an area that is now marsh. The water obtained in such areas was only marginally potable. The hydrology of the barrier islands, however, provided an alternative in the large, ancient dune lines that exist. Underlying such landforms are columns of fresh water reaching depths several times the height of the dune (Douglas Green, personal communication May 1989). This natural attribute may have been known by the soldiers or accidentally discovered. A historian of the 157th
New York recalled:

All the water used on the island [Folly] was obtained by digging below tide-mark and curbing with barrels. The finest and best protected well in camp was made by cutting into a sand dune and making a windings passage to the water, thus placing the water continually in the shade and protecting it from dust and dirt blowing around the camp (Barlow 1899: 158).

This passage, which very accurately describes the wells excavated by SCIAA, implies that the soldiers may have not been aware of the hydrologic qualities of the dunes but were simply trying to keep the water cool and clean.

The three wells at 38CH964 were carefully dug, and their walls were preserved below the “A” horizon. This suggests that the subsoil was compact enough to support the excavation walls during the life of the wells. The procedure used to place the barrels and form the well shafts was not determined. None of the three well chambers was re-excavated to its original depth because of the water table. However, the soldiers excavating the wells originally must have encountered the same problems with collapsing walls as did SCIAA, so the original well shafts probably did not extend much farther down than SCIAA was able to excavate. Certainly the depth of the soldiers’ excavations was less than that of the barrels. It would have been extremely difficult to dig deep enough to place the barrels upright in a hole. More likely, the soldiers worked a barrel gradually into the muck by removing fill from the its interior. In all three excavated examples, shaft feature stains were visible several centimeters above the level of saturation. This method of construction allowed for maintenance of a dry working floor around the finished well head, and the upper portion of the barrel probably protruded above the floor. Feature 9 was the only well head exhibiting any type of supplemental platform or framework. It is possible that the wells were protected overhead by some configuration of tent cloth, rubber blankets, or timbers, but no evidence of stakes or post holes in support of this interpretation was observed.

Each of the three wells at 38CH964 appeared to have been deliberately backfilled, and Feature 9 saw secondary use during backfilling as a refuse pit. No evidence was recovered which would explain what caused the wells to be abandoned and backfilled. Perhaps the wells were abandoned as units moved, or, in other cases, simply to eliminate the hazard of a contaminated or abandoned well.

LATRINES

Feature 16 and the destroyed feature complex in the 5 x 6 m block were pits containing substantial deposits of refuse. General Orders No. 40 (Appendix D) pertained to the entire Department of the South, including the camps on Folly Island. Among many other interesting details, these orders required that each camp be policed daily, and the collected refuse discarded in the sinks (latrines). This implies that trash pits, as such, were not usually dug, as latrines served both functions. Examination of several detailed regimental camp maps (see for example, Figure 2.4), consistently revealed latrine locations but no formally planned trash pits or dumps. The 1861 U.S. Army Regulations for camps (Appendix D) also depict “sinks” only. Based on this information, it seems likely that Feature 16 was a latrine. The identity of the 5 x 6 m block feature complex is less certain than Feature 16 because of the massive collector disturbance, but it also could have been a latrine. Obviously, other types of features were used as refuse pits, as was seen at Feature 9, the first well.

SITE 38CH965

38CH965: Introduction

Site 38CH965 was interpreted as simply a locus of refuse or latrine pits within the large winter camp of 1863-64. It was located approximately 100 m east of Site 38CH964, on the crest of a knoll on the same east-west relict dune formation (Figures 1.2, 4.17). The designation of this locality as a discrete archaeological site was based on shovel tests by CAS. While, in reality, it was part of the larger winter camp, it did exhibit a small, denser locus of Civil War material relative to that in the surrounding lower areas. The site proper was an oval area, oriented east/west, approximately 5 x 15 m, with a thin scatter material extending further west and south (Figure 4.17). Upon discovery, the most obvious indications of Civil War features in this area were an array of large, recent, back-filled potholes and a scatter of artifacts discarded by relic or bottle collectors. Also present, however, were several older depressions that suggested that intact Civil War features or portions of features might remain (Drucker and Jackson 1988: 34-35; Smith & O’Steen 1988: 13).

Drucker and Jackson (1988: 36) recommended that this site was eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places and the SHPO agreed. Based on CAS’s findings, data recovery goals in Phase II were to more precisely delineate site boundaries, to determine if intact subsurface features were present, and to recover a representative sample of artifacts. A total of 43 screened shovel tests and three formal excavation units totaling 6 m² was excavated by SCIAA. A metal detector survey was also conducted.

Stratigraphy And Results

Stratigraphy at 38CH965 was identical to 38CH964,
consisting of 20-50 cm of mixed grayish-brown (10YR5/2) sand "A" horizon above a very pale yellow (10YR7/4) sand subsoil which contained features. The Institute's shovel testing of 38CH965 indicated very low artifact density beyond the immediate vicinity of the recent pitholes. Of 43 shovel tests placed at five meter intervals across the site, only four contained artifacts. A metal detector survey located no buried artifacts. This absence of artifacts is probably as much a result of intensive relic collecting as it is an indication of an original low artifact density.

Excavation Units 1, 2, and 3 were placed adjacent to potted areas in the hope of recovering intact portions of features (Figure 4.17). Excavation Unit 1 (1 x 2 m) yielded 12 small iron fragments and four oyster shell fragments, all within 20 cm of ground surface. No features or substantial midden were present. A similar lack of material characterized EU 3 (1 x 1 m) which contained one nail fragment, one unfired U.S. .577/.58 cal. rifle-musket bullet, and two oyster shell fragments. The bullet was the only example in the entire bullet assemblage bearing the mark of an extraction screw, a tool used for unloading muzzleloading firearms.

Excavation Unit 2, originally a 1 x 2 m unit, was also largely devoid of artifacts, except along its northern wall. There it exposed the edge of a large, deep, backfilled pothole (Feature 1) that exhibited a very dense concentration of Civil War period material (Figure 4.18). The unit was expanded to define the extent of this feature and to remove its contents. It was hoped that an undisturbed remnant of the original feature might be encountered, but the fill was plainly disturbed throughout, with modern material including cigarette filters and modern soft drink bottles encountered at all levels. It seems probable, however, that the hole was backfilled with essentially its original contents, excluding those items such as unbroken bottles and military artifacts that were desirable to the collector. Thus the artifacts from the pothole were assumed to have originated in the disturbed pit, Feature 1.

In plan, Feature 1 was a rough oval, oriented east-west, and approximately 1 x 1.5 m in extent. The bottom of the feature was rounded, with a maximum depth of 1.40 m below surface. All indications were that the walls and floor of the feature were entirely modern, so that the original size and shape of the Civil War period excavation were impossible to determine. An informant suggested that the feature was typical of tent or hut sites in the area (Smith and O'Steen 1988: 13), but the considerable depth of the pothole makes this doubtful. In any event, the original excavation was back-filled with large quantities of mid-19th century refuse.

In spite of the disturbance of Feature 1 by collectors, the rich variety and large quantity of material recovered in its re-excavation comprise one of the most valuable components in the Folly Island assemblage. More than 1200 artifacts and faunal specimens were recovered but 665 of these were finely broken sheet iron fragments.

Glass and stoneware bottle fragments comprised the most significant artifact group. The 203 fragments from Feature 1 were exhaustively mended in the lab, with interesting results. A minimum vessel count of 30 was derived, and it was clear from the minor collection of un mendable fragments that remained that 30 vessels was very near the actual count. Eleven bottles were virtually complete, or at least exhibited full vessel profiles.

The 30 vessels represented included 24 alcoholic beverage bottles, four food bottles or jars, and two probable medicine bottles. The alcohol bottles exhibited considerable variety, including six dark olive-green ale bottles, 11 stoneware ale or "ginger beer" bottles, three light olive-green wine or champagne bottles, one light and one dark olive-green whiskey bottles. The light olive-green whiskey bottle was the only example in the project collection bearing the Rickett's mold "PATENT" mark on the shoulder. Also present were two variants of an unknown, dark olive-green bottle form that were probably large-capacity ale bottles (see Chapter V).

A minimum of four food bottles or jars were present. Two were light aqua-green, shouldered, wide mouthed forms typical of those that contained foods such as horseradish, pickles, and olives (Chapter V). Two mustard jars were also represented, including one of clear glass and one of milky white, but transparent, glass. Neither example was reconstructable. Probable medicine bottles were represented by a single fragment of cobalt blue glass, and two fragments of a small, multi-sided light aqua-green bottle.

As noted, sheet iron can fragments were abundant in Feature 1, totaling approximately 665 pieces. Unfortunately, little information could be derived from this collection, as the cans were heavily fragmented and mostly rusted. At best it could be ventured that at least a dozen or more food cans were represented. Also in evidence were five measurable examples of small (4-6 cm diameter) shallow (less than 1 cm) can bodies or lids that resemble those used for commercially distributed percussion caps. There were also many small rust-covered fragments of this type of can. No such caps were present, and the quantity and context of the cans suggest an alternate, unknown function.

Faunal material from Feature 1 included 102 oyster shells and fragments and approximately 230 specimens of cow, pig, and chicken bone (see Appendix B and C).

In addition to the artifacts above, Feature 1 yielded one undecorated whitemare sherd, one four-hole iron button, two four-hole white glass buttons, one large U.S. enlisted men's eagle button, one iron suspend buckle fragment, one small brick fragment, seven nail fragments,
Figure 4.17: Site 38CH965, General Site Map.
two fragments of an iron cooking fork, one bone mess fork handle, and a portion of a pewter canteen spout. The eagle button and the spout fragment (from a regulation U.S. M1858 canteen) were the only diagnostic military artifacts recovered from the feature.

38CH965: Interpretations

Feature 1 provided the only substantial material data from site 38CH965. Although only three diagnostic military artifacts were recovered from 38CH965, the overall make-up of the artifact collection was consistent with known military deposits elsewhere in the project area. The site was clearly part of the Union Army winter camp on Folly Island; however, evidence of intensive occupation was not present at the site. The primary function of the Feature 1 remains unknown, but it was probably a latrine, based on similar features at 38CH964, and General Order No. 40. Certainly its secondary function was refuse disposal. Based on excavations at Feature 1, it is believed that site 38CH965 consisted primarily of a small group of refuse pits, or latrines, back-filled with refuse. No further excavations were conducted at this site.

SITE 38CH966

Introduction

The site boundaries of 38CH966 as defined by CAS (Drucker and Jackson 1988) was subsumed by SCIAA within a much larger and more complex site that retains the original designation. This revision recognizes three internal components within Site 38CH966: Loci A, B, & C. The CAS site has been designated by SCIAA as Locus A (Figure 1.2, 4.19).

Site 38CH966, as enlarged by SCIAA, included a roughly square area about 100 x 100 m. The Institute's site limits represented an effort to combine an array of similar and possibly related features within a manageable spatial label. Loci A and C were extensive, dense deposits of Civil War material, consisting almost entirely of bottle fragments, originally deposited on or near the ground surface. Locus B was more arbitrarily defined. The entirety of 38CH966 was characterized by feature depressions, portholes, and surface scatters of artifacts discarded by collectors. A subjectively selected group of three such features in close proximity were investigated, and these comprise Locus B. Stratigraphy within these three loci was identical to the other sites, although in the low areas of Locus B, the very pale brown (10YR7/4) or yellowish-brown (10YR6/4) sand varied in thickness, changing to a gray or blue-gray (7YR5/0-5/2) saturated sand at the water table.

38CH966: Locus A

The center of Locus A of site 38CH966 was located 73 m west and 12 m north of the corner of 3rd Street West and Hudson Avenue West, 182 m east of site 38CH965.
Many decades ago, when logging activities exposed the surface and the backhoe cuts, SCIAA personnel excavated two formal excavation units totaling 6 m². A disturbed, redeposited zone approximately 25 cm in depth was found to rest on sterile subsoil. Systematic "mining" of the deposit around EU 1 was marked by small, discrete, back-filled potholes. These may represent the investigation of individual probe-rod "hits" by the relic hunters. Thus, portions of the cultural zone were undisturbed, but only because they bore no substantial material. A single dark olive-green ale bottle was found apparently broken in place, and its fragments were successfully mended in the laboratory (Chapter V).

Excavation Unit Two yielded 270 glass and stoneware ale bottle fragments, or only about 2.2% (by area) as much as EU 1. The EU 2 assemblage, however, was like that from EU 1. Fragments included dark olive-green (89.2%), lighter olive-green (1.1%), stoneware ale bottle fragments (chiefly necks and bases) was gathered from both the surface and the backhoe cuts.
SURFACE COLLECTION

The surface collection from Locus A also included material collected during backhoe explorations and backfilling. These two collections essentially came from the same provenience, as all material was derived from collectors’ spoil. No undisturbed features or midden deposits were located by backhoe stripping. All observed bottle necks were collected, as well as a sample of bases. An effort was made to include all varieties of bottle bases, including the full range of impressed initials on stoneware ale bottles. Body fragments were not collected, except for a sample of dark olive-green ale bottle necks embossed with the crown symbol, and other diagnostics including shouldered and unshouldered stoneware ale body fragments and a fragment of dark olive-green case bottle.

As all readily visible bottle necks were collected, they provide a rough measure of relative numbers of bottle types present at Locus A. A few other diagnostic fragments were also included in the collection. In Table 4.5 below, identifications of bottle types was based entirely on fragments, but these identifications are most likely correct, based knowledge gained from similar material in the project collection. The relative proportions of vessel types was similar to EU 1 and EU 2 (Table 4.6).

The miscellaneous bottle types found in the surface collection accounted for only 3.5% of the total. The three

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bottle Type</th>
<th>QTY</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dark olive-green ale</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>90.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light olive-green ale</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stoneware ale</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown whiskey</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shouldered wine</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Champagne” style wine</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>283</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“other” vessels represented in the excavation unit collections were two clear glass tumblers and a laboratory beaker. Dark olive-green and lighter olive-green ale bottles may be considered functionally identical containers, and it is probable that the stoneware ale bottles are properly added to this group. All would have contained an alcoholic beverage. Glass and stoneware ale bottles accounted for more than 97% of the vessels represented in the Locus A collection. Very little material other than container glass was collected or observed from 38CH966. Minor amounts of fragmented sheet iron, oyster shell, and faunal bone were present, and CAS (Drucker and Jackson 1988: 56-57) reported a grommet fragment and a clay pipestem. No diagnostic military material was recovered.
Locus A was clearly not a long-term campground or area for camp refuse. The high frequency of ale bottles in the Locus A collection differs significantly from what would be expected in general camp refuse. Examination of several provenanced, private collections from Federal camps in the Department of the South suggested that ale bottles more typically comprise a small percentage of container assemblages, which are dominated by food, medicine, wine, and whiskey bottles (Torrey McLean, James Ivers, and Brett Cullen, personal communications 1988). Further, few artifacts were found other than bottles. One would expect to find other kinds of artifacts if the area was occupied as a camp. Informants’ suggestions that Locus A was related to a sutler’s activities seems a reasonable possibility. The bottles could have been abandoned from a sutler’s operation. The isolation of Folly Island at the end of a long and expensive supply line may have ultimately precluded any profitable recycling efforts, resulting in the one-time abandonment of the bottles. As noted, one collector has reported complete bottles that were still sealed with corks and sealing wires, and he has collected a sutler’s token from the area (Robert Bohrn, personal communication 1988). The complete bottles might reflect the discard of spoiled merchandise, or possibly the underground caching of stock to prevent theft.

The wide variation among the glass and stoneware ale bottle types is interesting but unexplained. Many varieties of bottle necks and bases were seen among the dark olive-green bottles, and the stoneware ale bottles include several closure varieties, both shouldered and unshouldered bodies, and 14 different basal initials (see Chapter V). Obviously, the assemblage represents recycled, dumped bottles, or an accumulation of bottles from several dumping episodes.

**Locus B**

Locus B of site 38CH966 consisted of a cluster of three apparent Civil War features located in the low ground between Loci A and C (Figure 1.2). A backhoe was employed to examine this small sample of the numerous features visible throughout 38CH966, and, indeed, throughout the project area. Selection of these three particular features was primarily based on the backhoe’s ease of access in the dense woods. The discovered features were designated B1, B2, and B3. This work was conducted entirely during Phase III.

Features B-1, B-2, B-3 were mapped relative to a stake tied into the elevation nail at 38CH920. The stake was located 36.02 m, 136’ from a random point on the dune ridge running along Indian Ave (Figure 1.2). This point was 60.56 m, 85’ east of the 38CH920 elevation nail. The center of Feature B-1 was 12.38 m from the stake and the center of Feature 3 was 6.25 m from the stake, both at 191’. The center of Feature B-2 was 13.34 m from the stake at 263’.

**FEATURE B-1**

Feature B-1 (Figure 1.2) was representative of a feature type readily found throughout the project tract. These were potted and backfilled Civil War pit features with discarded artifacts present on the surface. Feature B-1 was characterized by a sunken, disturbed surface area approximately one meter in diameter with faunal materials in association. Investigation of the feature was accomplished by backhoe excavation of a trench that removed the eastern half of the feature. This bisection revealed a round-bottomed pit approximately one meter in depth and one meter in diameter, 30 cm below the surface. Feature B-1 dimensions were based largely on soil texture and the recorded diameter at the surface, as the feature walls were largely obscured by the water table which saturated the feature matrix and surrounding subsoils to a consistent blue-gray (7YR5/0) color. Chunks of well-preserved humic

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| Table 4.6: Minimum Number of Vessels From EU 1 and 2, Locus A, 38CH966 |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| EU 1 (MNV)             | EU 2 (MNV)             | SURFACE (MNV)*          |
| QTY         | %          | QTY         | %          | QTY         | %          |
| Dark olive-green ale | 52  73.2    | 8   50.0    | 256  90.5   |
| Light olive-green ale| 3   4.2     | 1   6.25    | 1   .4      |
| Stoneware ale      | 14  19.7    | 6   37.5    | 16  5.6     |
| Other             | 2   2.8     | 1   6.25    | 10  3.5     |
|                   | 71  99.9    | 16  100     | 283 100     |
mat were encountered throughout the feature fill, and all of the fill had been disturbed by relic collectors. Material recovered included faunal materials and iron barrel band fragments that were recently broken (after oxidation/concretion). The function of Feature B-1 remains unknown. It is conceivable that a very shallow, single-barrel well was present. Alternate explanations include a latrine, trash pit, or a single excavation that served both of these functions.

FEATURE B-2
Feature B-2 was an irregular surface depression containing artifacts approximately 3 x 5 m, oriented northeast/southeast. Two questions concerning this feature were addressed by backhoe stripping. First, was Feature B-2 a sheet refuse deposit, or did it contain deep deposits? Second, was the feature thoroughly disturbed, or did intact portions remain? The area surrounding the feature was stripped to subsoil, approximately 20-25 cm below surface. No artifacts or soil stains were visible at that level, and no intact deposits of material were encountered during stripping. Feature B-2 was apparently a small surface dump that had been completely "mined" by collectors, who presumably removed all whole bottles and other desirable artifacts. A small sample of diagnostic artifacts was collected from Feature B-2. This collection included two stoneware ale bottle necks, two dark olive-green ale bottle necks, a clear, lead glass tumbler base, and the base of an aqua-green condiment bottle.

FEATURE B-3
Feature B-3 was seen originally as a very shallow, circular depression approximately two meters in diameter, which appeared to be quite old. Scanning with a metal detector revealed a strong iron-oxide anomaly that remained undisturbed by collectors. Initially, a block 3 x 3 m in extent was stripped to subsoil, approximately 30 cm below surface. This revealed a circular, yellowish brown feature stain 1.7 m in diameter, surrounded by an irregular band of gray soil that was very similar to topsoil (Figures 4.21, 4.22). This gray soil brought the total diameter of the feature to approximately 2.2 m. At this level (30 cm b.s.), several large fragments of iron barrel band were imbedded in the center of the feature, accounting for the iron-oxide metal detector anomaly. Here hand excavation of the western half of the feature began.

The stratigraphic relationship between the inner and outer soil components of Feature B-3 was not determined. Almost immediately after trowelling began, the appearance of both feature components and the surrounding subsoil took on a consistent blue-gray color typical of saturated sands at or near the water table. Soil distinctions

Figure 4.20: Site 38CH966, Locus A, EU1, profile, north wall.
were difficult to see, and initially it was believed that sterile subsoil had been encountered between 30 and 40 cm below surface. Probing was employed however, which revealed consistently softer soil within the outline of the interior feature stain to a depth of at least one meter below surface. Excavation was then continued, and an aqua glass ink bottle was recovered 65 cm below surface. Ground water intruded into the feature at this point and stopped additional excavation with hand tools. Using an iron probe, a large, upright, wooden barrel was identified, some 55 cm into the wet soil.

As manual excavation was precluded, and the feature stain was no longer distinguishable, the backhoe was employed to open a large excavation west of the barrel, in an effort to recover it intact. This was accomplished after a full day of difficult and precarious effort with the outcome consistently in doubt due to constant flooding of the excavation. Eventually, the barrel was removed in excellent condition, although fragile wicker bands had to be recovered separately, in fragments (Figure 5.25). Both the head and bottom of the barrel had been removed prior to placement in the feature. Large samples of barrel fill and feature fill were screened through 1/4" wire mesh during the excavation process. Only a single fragment of dark olive-green bottle glass was recovered from inside the barrel. Masses of well preserved organic matter were encountered inside the barrel also, including leaves, pine needles, and wood chips. A large portion of this material was recovered in several gallons of barrel fill and retained.

The feature was clearly another Civil War well, differing from those at 38CH966 in its placement in low, fairly level ground. Excavation suggested that the water table has risen substantially since the 1860s, as it would have been extremely difficult for workers with hand tools to have placed the well lining (barrel) as far below the water table as it was found in 1988. This suggestion was further supported by the historical record which clearly indicates that the marsh behind 38CH920 was a cotton field before the war and was used by the 55th Massachusetts as a parade ground during the encampment. No evidence for an entry passageway or ramp was associated with the well chamber feature, although such a detail may have been obscured by the general soil staining discussed above. Feature B-3 appears to have been deliberately backfilled after its usefulness as a well ended, and it was not used for refuse disposal. The vicinity of the well was apparently quite clear of artifacts at the time of backfilling, as very little material found its way into the chamber or barrel.

Locus C

Locus C of site 38CH966 was located 106 m, 270° west of the stake at Locus B (Figure 1.2). Like Locus B, Locus C was located well outside of the original boundaries of site 38CH966, and was not discovered during the 1987 survey (Drucker and Jackson 1988). The locus was
discovered and flagged during SCIAA Phase II investigations (Smith and O'Steen 1988), and it was investigated during Phase III.

Locus C looked much like Locus A, but it was only about 20% as large as Locus A. Bottle fragments and evidence of intensive collector digging covered a roughly oval area approximately 5 x 10 m in extent, oriented north/south. No shovel tests or formal excavation units were excavated at Locus C. Backhoe cuts were scattered across the locus in an effort to locate artifact concentrations, or other features, and a selective collection of artifacts was made from the surface and the backhoe cuts. Like the Locus A surface/backhoe collection, the Locus C collection included all bottle necks observed, and a representative sample of bottle bases and other diagnostic artifacts.

The backhoe cuts located no undisturbed deposits or features, nor any unbroken or reconstructable bottles. As at Locus A, the bottles at Locus C appear to have been densely deposited on or near the original ground surface, and accordingly the area had been systematically mined to subsoil (20-30 cm) by collectors. Consequently, the locus retained little research potential beyond the diagnostic and comparative value of the surface/backhoe collection.

In the Locus C collection 42 bottles are represented by tops, and a single brown whiskey bottle is represented by a base only. Vessel type counts by number and percentage of total for both Loci A and C are shown in Table 4.7.

Table 4.7: Minimum Number of Vessels From Locus A and C: 38CH966

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Locus C</th>
<th>Locus A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Qty</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Qty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dark olive-green ale</td>
<td>20 46.5</td>
<td>316 85.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light olive-green ale</td>
<td>0 0</td>
<td>5 1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stoneware ale</td>
<td>15 34.9</td>
<td>36 9.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>8 18.6</td>
<td>12 3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>43 100</td>
<td>370 100</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Ale bottles, both glass and ceramic, comprise 81.4% of the Locus C collection, as compared to 96.5% of the Locus A collection. Numerous closure and base variations were present among the dark olive-green ale bottles. The stoneware ale bottles included several closure varieties, shouldered and unshouldered body types, and nine different basal initials (see Chapter V). The six wine bottle closures from Locus C represent five shouldered and one "champagne" style bottle. One brown glass whiskey bottle was represented. An unidentified bottle type, probably an ale bottle, was represented by a single stoneware closure with off-white, feldspathic glaze. No other examples of this bottle type were present in the project assemblage (Chapter V). A rim sherd from a blue shell-edged white-ware plate was collected, and a few small sheet iron fragments were observed but not collected. No diagnostic military artifacts were recovered.

![Figure 4.22: Site 38CH966, Locus B, Feature B-3, conjectural profile of well.](image-url)
Like Locus A, the site appeared to be a bottle dump. Both Loci A and C contained very similar deposits, with size being the only important difference between the two.

**38CH966: Interpretations**

As identified by SCIAA, site 38CH966 was a large area that contained an abundance of potholes and depressions which were, usually, potted and disturbed Civil War period features. However, the disturbed, and the occasional undisturbed, depressions were archaeologically valuable. The Institute’s work at this site was intended to sample as many of these features as time permitted. The surface expressions of this site were clearly representative of the entire project area.

Locus A has been tentatively identified as a bottle dump, possibly created by a Civil War sutler. It also remains a remote possibility that the bottles were collected from all over the project area sometime after the Civil War, but this is considered unlikely. Excavation Unit 1 was clearly the site of an extremely dense deposit of Civil War period alcoholic beverage bottles, on or near the original surface. This artifact density resulted in the systematic mining of the deposit to subsoil by collectors, and presumably many unbroken bottles were removed prior to CAS and SCIAA investigations of the site.

Locus B consisted of a series of depressions, three of which were sampled. A Civil War period well was identified, dug by the soldiers in a low area of the island as contrasted with the dune ridge wells at 38CH964. There are most likely numerous examples of both well types throughout Folly Island and the project area. The function of the other two Locus B features was not determined but they were obviously part of the Civil War camp. Locus C appears to have been a dump or abandoned cache of bottles very similar to, but smaller than Locus A.