



## KARELL ARCHEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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24 July 1993

Dr. Frank Farmer  
NASA Langley Research Center  
Hampton, VA 23665

Re: Phase I Archeological Survey of the COLTS (Combined Loading Test System) Site at NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia.

Dear Dr. Farmer:

On 22 July 1993 this organization conducted an archeological survey of the project area for the proposed COLTS Site. The territory investigated consisted of the 0.7 acre COLTS project area and an associated trench alignment (400 feet in length). They are illustrated on the enclosed maps (Figure 1).

The field work consisted of surface inspection and the excavation of subsurface shovel test pits (STPs) at intervals not greater than sixty feet. The STPs were one foot in diameter and were excavated to the depth of culturally sterile subsoil. The soil excavated from the STPs was screened through a one-quarter inch mesh to facilitate the recovery of any artifacts. STP data forms were filled out to record the soil stratigraphy.

After the STPs were marked in the field the distribution was inspected by representatives of the Facilities Management Office to ensure that they did not intrude on any existing utility lines. The locations of three STPs were subsequently shifted three to five feet to avoid buried utility lines.

A total of twenty-seven (27) STPs were excavated. Their locations are shown in Figure 2. The initial STPs excavated in the COLTS project area were excavated in a grid pattern using a 60-foot sampling interval (STPs # 1 to # 17 in Figure 2). In addition, ten supplementary STPs were excavated using a 30-foot sampling interval to further investigate areas where artifacts were found in the initial STPs. The locations of the supplementary STPs are also shown in Figure 2 (STPs # 18 to # 27).



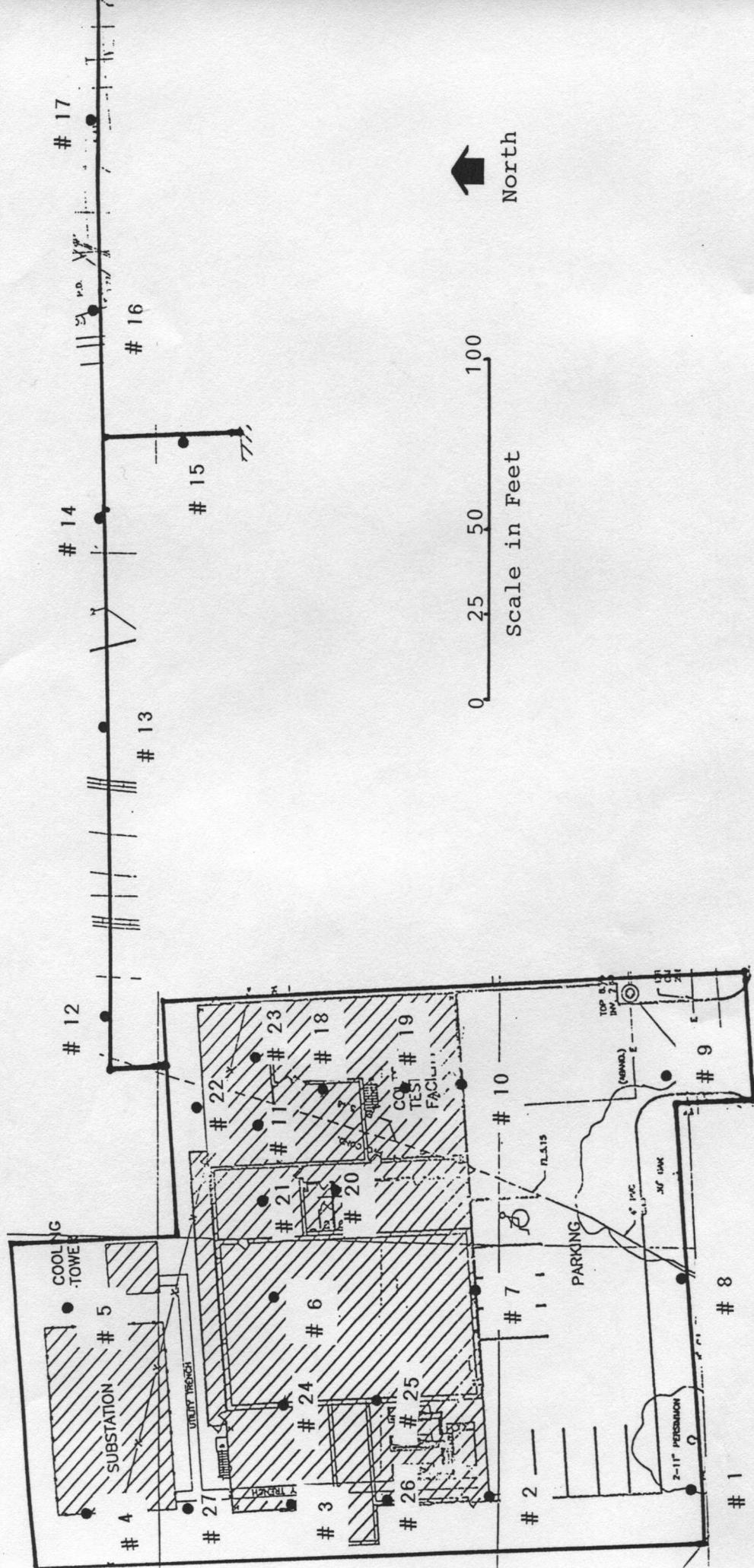


FIGURE 2: SHOVEL TEST PITS IN THE COLTS PROJECT AREA

The field survey showed that much of the project area and utility trench alignment has been graded or disturbed by recent construction associated with the adjacent transfer station, transfer track, and Building 1262. The terrain west of the transfer station is the proposed site for the COLTS Facility. That parcel had been the least disturbed. However, it is almost perfectly level and the soil stratigraphy there shows the presence of fill soil in several locations. A former plow zone soil stratum was also encountered, indicating agricultural cultivation in the past.

Artifact finds at two locations in the COLTS project area indicated the possible presence of cultural properties that could be of archeological interest. Both locations were further investigated with supplementary STPs to test for the presence of additional cultural materials.

One of these locations was in the vicinity of STP # 3. That STP produced a single quartzite secondary flake that appears to be of prehistoric cultural association. An oyster shell fragment was also recovered from an adjacent STP (# 2). As a consequence, four supplementary STPs were excavated around STP # 3 (see Figure 2). These were STPs # 24, 25, 26, and 27. None of the supplementary STPs contained artifacts of prehistoric cultural association. As a consequence, the artifact find from STP # 3 is interpreted to be an isolated find. This portion of the COLTS site was found to contain a former plow zone soil stratum.

The other location of potential archeological interest was in the vicinity of STPs # 10, 11, and 12. STP # 10 produced a large wrought iron spike that appeared to be of pre-20th century origin. STP # 11 produced an unglazed body sherd of coarse earthenware, along with a fragment of clear bottle glass, a steel washer, and two charcoal fragments. STP # 12 produced one very small fragment of handmade brick.

Six supplementary STPs were excavated in this area using a sampling interval of 30-feet (STPs # 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22 in Figure 2). Of these, three STPs produced additional artifacts. These were the following: STP # 18 (2 cinder fragments, 2 charcoal fragments, 2 asphalt fragments), STP # 19 (1 mortar fragment, 1 concrete fragment), and STP # 21 (7 asphalt fragments). No cultural property of potential archeological significance was encountered. This portion of the project area has soil strata composed of fill containing artifacts.

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No cultural properties of potential archeological significance were found to be located in the terrain investigated. No cultural features were observed at the bottom of the shovel test pit holes.

The investigation of the proposed COLTS Site did not encounter evidence showing the presence in the project area of any cultural property of archeological interest. The proposed construction will not affect any archeological site that could be considered potentially eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

The proposed project will not affect any cultural property of potential historical significance. As a consequence, no further archeological investigation of the project area is recommended prior to the proposed construction.

Enclosed with this letter report is a catalog of the artifacts recovered during the field investigation. The original field notes, project plan map, and the artifacts recovered will be sent to you for disposition. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

*Daniel Koski-Karell*

Daniel Koski-Karell  
President

Enclosures

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Phase I Archeological Survey of the COLTS (Combined Loading Test System) Site at NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, VA.

STP NUMBER	Amount	Description
STP # 1	2	Charcoal fragments.
STP # 2	1	Oyster shell fragment.
STP # 3	1	Quartzite secondary flake.
STP # 6	1	Oyster shell fragment.
STP # 7	1	Bottle glass fragment, green, 20th cent.
STP # 9	1	Charcoal fragment.
STP # 10	1	Wrought iron spike, large.
	1	Asphalt fragment.
STP # 11	1	Coarse earthenware body sherd, unglazed.
	1	Bottle glass fragment, clear.
	1	Steel washer.
	2	Charcoal fragments.
STP # 12	1	Brick fragment, handmade, small.
STP # 17	10	Brick fragments, machine-made.
	1	Corroded iron chunk.
STP # 18	2	Cinder fragments.
	2	Charcoal fragments.
	2	Asphalt fragments.
STP # 19	1	Mortar fragment.
	1	Concrete fragment.
STP # 21	7	Asphalt fragments.
STP # 24	1	Window glass fragment.
STP # 25	1	Plastic fragment, clear.