

CAMDEN:

a postcontact Indian site in Caroline County

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The Camden Site (44 Ce 3) lies on the right (south) bank of the Rappahannock River, 2.6 miles east-southeast of the bridge over the river at Port Royal. (Figure 1) The site lies in pasture lands nine-tenths of a mile east of the historic plantation house, Camden (built ca. 1770; rebuilt 1859) (Waterman, 1945). Camden has been owned by the Pratt family since the eighteenth century, and the present owner is Mr. Richard T. Pratt, to whom we are indebted for permission to make the excavations described in this report.

The site, measuring only 30' x 50', is on the north edge of an extensive terrace, at an elevation of twenty feet above mean sea level. The Rappahannock River at the site is tidal, with a tide range of about three feet. Between the foot of the terrace and the open river is a marsh about a thousand feet wide. This marsh undoubtedly results from silting of the river in historic times and the subsequent establishment of typical marsh vegetation, including trees. No source of potable water is found near the site, but river-bank springs probably existed in earlier times, or could have been developed with little effort.

The soil at the site is loose sand, overlying deposits of clay and gravel. While most of the terrace has been pasture in recent years, it had been under cultivation at some time in the past. The site proper was covered with a sparse growth of young trees when excavated. Mr. Pratt was in the process of having the land cleared for pasture improvement, when the site was first noticed.

MacCord:Camden

QUARTERLY BULLETIN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA
1969 VOL. 24 No. 1 pp. 1-55
RICHMOND

STONE ARTIFACTS

Nine gunflints were found. These are square, rectangular, circular or oval, and the largest is less than 25 mm across, at the longest dimension. Most are smaller than 20 mm long. All are roughly flaked, and it is likely that they were made, or at least re-worked, by the user at the site. All show one or more abraded edges, the result of repeated striking of the flint against the battery or frizzen of a firearm. The type of firearm available to the occupant of the site was probably that known as the snaphance, as evidenced by the finding of two iron parts, identified as the buffer and the powder pan (311a 92 & 43 respectively) of a snaphance, (Peterson, 1956). Two of the flints are shown in Figure 10.

GLASS ARTIFACTS

One triangular arrowpoint (311 a 195) was found in Level 1 of Square-2F. The point is about 15mm long and 6mm wide at the base. It is made of clear, transparent glass. At Mr. Pratt's request, the point was presented to the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond, where it is displayed with other objects from the Camden Site.

One spiral bead (311 a 17) made of translucent green glass was found in Level 1 of Square 1G. It is 28mm long and it 4.5 mm in diameter. The twist shows four facets, probably resulting from the gentle twisting of a square, extruded ribbon of molten glass. The perforation is about 1.5mm in diameter and is straight from one end of the bead to the other. Since the ends of the bead had been broken, its original length cannot be determined. See Figure 11F.

Eleven small fragments of thin green glass are probably fragments of so-called "Dutch gin bottles". No piece is large enough to show shape or size of the original object, and no piece of either the neck or the base is in the collection. Several pieces have a blistered surface, possibly resulting from having been burned. Five other fragments of dark-green, almost-black glass are probably parts of wine bottles. Again, no fragment is large enough to show the original shape or size.

GLAZED EARTHENWARE

Compared with the quantities of native-made pottery at the site, the use of European-made dishes, jars, and so on was quite limited. A total of twenty-four miscellaneous fragments were found, in addition to most of the fragments of a Bellarmine bottle (Figure 12) of Rhenish stoneware. The miscellaneous fragments found show the following types:

Majolica	12 fragments
Salt-glaze stoneware	8 fragments

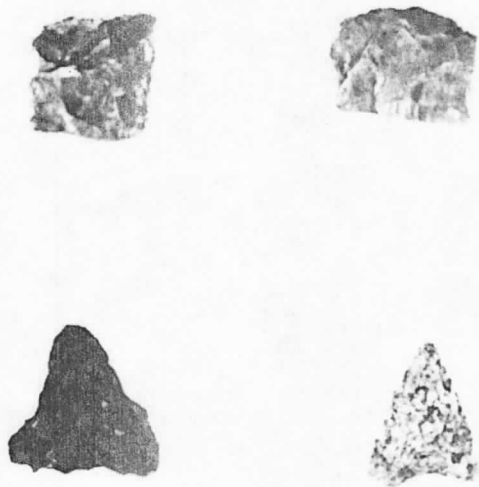
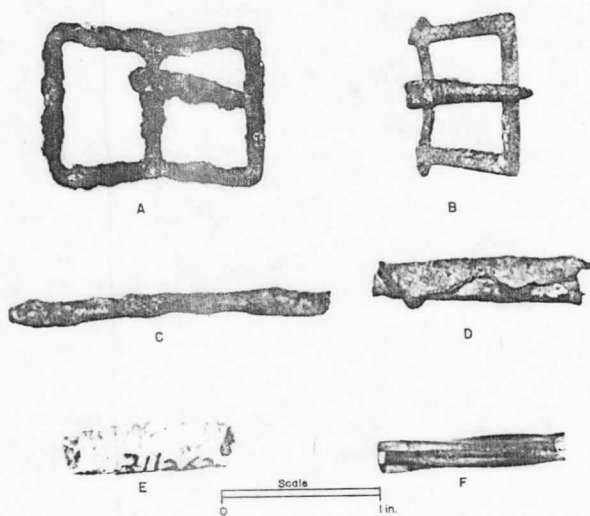


Figure Ten: Gunflints and triangular points, same size
 Figure Eleven (below) Beads and buckles, reduced



The other fourteen pipestem fragments show the following stemhole diameters (all are from Level 1):

<u>ACCESSION#</u>	<u>SQUARE</u>	<u>DIAMETER IN 64THS</u>
311 a 7	4D	7
15	1E	7
18	1G	7
22	-1D	7
60	4G	6
69	2F	9
77	-4E	9
89	-1C	8
104	1F	7
113	3G	6
131	4F	7
131	4F	7
138	3E	7
191	3D	8
		<u>102</u> -average 7. 3/64ths