



Archaeological Resources on Fort Lee

An Introduction

A service provided by the Fort Lee Archaeological Curation Facility located in Building 5222

Fort Lee Regional Archaeological Curation Facility (RACF)

In Commemoration of Virginia Archaeology Month 2010, RACF staff created this presentation to help inform those working on the Installation about the vast amount of historic resources that lie beneath the surface of Fort Lee.

If you see examples of any of the following or notice anything unusual while working on the Installation please notify RACF staff immediately. If you are interested in learning more about the history of Fort Lee feel free to visit the RACF located in Building 5222 at the corner of 22nd and Shop Road, right behind the Quartermaster's Museum.



Cultural Resource Manager
804.734.4434

Staff Archaeologist
804.765.7026

Curator/Archaeological Technician
804.734.4436

Email

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Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA)

In 1979 Congress passed the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA), which serves to protect irreplaceable archaeological resources on federal, public and Indian lands. Violation of this act can result in fines and jail time.

Fort Lee is federal land and therefore all archaeological resources and sites on the base are protected under this law.



If you come across what you may think is an archaeological resource please don't hesitate to notify your supervisor or the Cultural Resources staff on the installation.

We will promptly respond and visit the site.
Our number is 804-734-4434 or 804-400-8936.

This presentation is intended to be an aid for those unfamiliar with typical artifacts that may be unearthed during routine excavation. These images are only a small example of the hundreds of different types of artifacts that could be encountered. Please use this guide as an aid only and not as a comprehensive list. Just because an artifact is not listed in this guide does not exempt an individual of his/her contractual and/or legal requirements regarding an inadvertent archaeological discovery.

If an artifact or feature is encountered please **leave it in place and call the numbers above.**

Commonly Found Artifacts



Prehistoric



Ceramics



Metal



Bone



Glass



Tobacco Pipes



Other



Features

Prehistoric



Re-worked Projectile Point



Quartzite biface



Cord-marked pottery



Cord-marked pottery

What may seem like an ordinary rock may actually be a projectile point (arrowhead) or other tool made by Native Americans. Remember that not all prehistoric lithic tools look like arrowheads. They could be large bifaces (like the one above which could be used as a knife), or tiny flakes of rock which are formed when striking a rock to make a tool. Prehistoric pottery often looks like flat pieces of clay but look for etching or any other form of decoration as a way to identify this artifact. If you find a rock with sharp edges or an unusual shape notify your supervisor, commander or COR as this could be an indication of a Native American settlement or camp.

Ceramics



Ironstone ca 1900



Stoneware ca 1550-1767



Stoneware ca 1860



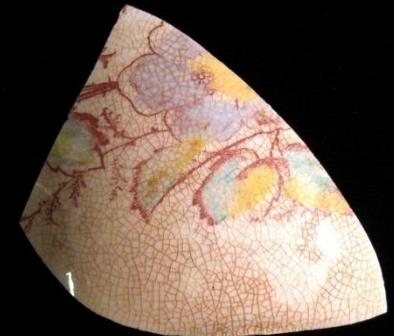
Creamware cup handle ca 1780



Green shell-edged pearlware ca 1820



Porcelain



Polychrome transfer printed earthenware ca 1900

Tiny sherds of ceramic may seem insignificant but ceramics are an important tool for helping to date a site and determine the lifestyle of the people who left it behind. Even if you think they may be broken pieces of a modern plate, it is best not to disregard the fragments you may find.

Metal



Buckle



Mortar shell fragment

Sometimes pieces of metal can be mistaken for rocks as they are typically very corroded. Conservationists are able to transform the almost unrecognizable metal into what it looked like when it was used. Be sure to look out for metal as it could also be unexploded ordnance (UXO).

Bone

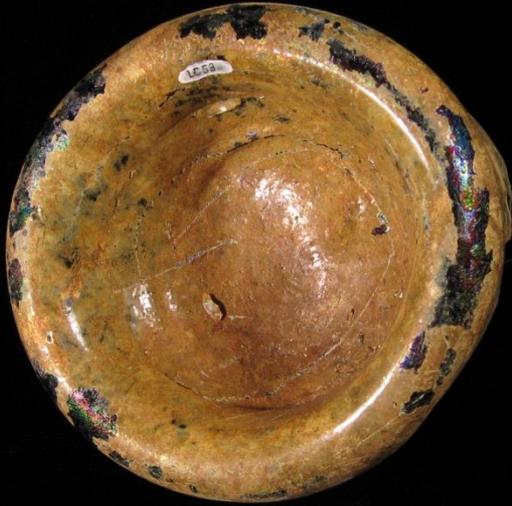


Various animal remains including pig and cow

Bone handled utensils

Animal bones are not an unfamiliar sight in the many wooded areas of Fort Lee, but if you notice an unusual cluster of bones in the ground be sure to notify someone. If the bones are of animals consumed by humans you can sometimes see butcher marks or they may be burned. Bone was also used to make both prehistoric and historic tools. **When in doubt stop and call 804-734-4434.**

Glass



Base of wine bottle ca 1800



Cheesebrough Vaseline bottle ca 1900



"Black" glass wine bottle fragment

Glass is easy to identify but how can you tell that it's not just an old beer bottle? One way to tell is if the glass is iridescent in color or seems to be peeling or flaking away. This could be an old wine bottle from as long ago as the 1600's.

Pipes



White ball clay tobacco pipe stem and bowl fragments



Locally made clay tobacco pipes



Imported white ball clay tobacco pipes



Tobacco pipe fragments are also common artifacts found in this region. Typically you will find either the stems or the bowls of pipes. Locally made tobacco pipes range in color from light tan to red and imported pipes are usually white.

Other Artifacts



Various buttons



Civil War Minieballs



Oyster shell



Bone toothbrush

Keep in mind that this is only a brief overview of some of the many kinds of artifacts that may be encountered. Buttons, bullets, bricks or anything that may have been discarded by the people of the past are possible artifacts that can be found on Fort Lee.

Features



Rectangular mortar pit filled with sand



Remnants of a historic building foundation



Midden (trash pit) from 18th century context



Well dating to 1900

Features are essentially non-portable artifacts often evidenced by dark stains in the soil. Wells, trash piles, hearths, and post holes leave features behind and are very useful to archaeologists in helping to understand how the land was used. **Remember not to disturb features or artifacts any further when you discover them. Stop and call 804-734-4434.**

Regional Archaeological Curation Facility

Fort Lee, Virginia



History



Archaeology



Preservation



Outreach

Open to the Public

Monday to Friday from 0800 – 1630 or by Appointment

The Regional Archaeological Curation Facility meets all Federal curation standards under 36 CFR 79 and offers:

- Curation services with a full-time curator
- Artifact collection processing and cataloging
- Artifact conservation services
- Mobile shelving with over 1600 square feet of storage space
- State-of-the art humidity and temperature control alarm system
- 24-hour military police and fire emergency monitoring

Artifact Storage Room



Display Room



For more information, please contact:

Archaeologist/
Collections Manager (804) 734-4434
or Curator (804) 734-4436
e-mail: leeecrm@conus.army.mil
Regional Archaeological Curation Facility
Building 5222
1816 Shop Road
Fort Lee, VA 23801

Call 804.734.4436 to schedule an appointment or to learn about outreach opportunities
For current details on the fee schedule, artifact curation, and other information, please visit our web site at:
www.ima.lee.army.mil/sites/dpwl/curation.asp



PROTECTING THE LAND WE DEFEND



ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT OFFICE
FORT LEE