



USAG Fort Lee
Cultural Resources

Fort Lee Cultural Resources

The primary objective of Department of Defense Cultural Resource Programs is to support military training and readiness while preserving cultural heritage.

The Cultural Resource Program at USAG Fort Lee is attached to the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Management Division and executed by the Regional Archaeological Curation Facility (RACF) in Building 5222 at the corner of 22nd Street and Shop Road, right behind the Quartermaster Museum.



Please contact us via telephone at 734-4434, 734-4436 or 765-7026 with any questions you may have or to arrange a visit to the curation facility.

In accordance with the **Archaeological Resources Protection Act** (ARPA) of 1979, as a Federal agency, USAG Fort Lee recognizes that archaeological resources are an irreplaceable part of America's heritage which are increasingly endangered.

This law was enacted to “secure, for the present and future benefit of the American people, the protection of archaeological resources and sites which are on public lands and Indian lands, and to foster increased cooperation and exchange of information between governmental authorities, the professional archaeological community, and private individuals.”

Violation of the law will result in fines and/or jail time. If you see examples of any of the items on the followings slides or notice anything unusual while on the installation please notify Directorate of Public Works (DPW) staff immediately at 734-4434 or 765-7026.

The types of cultural resources commonly found at Fort Lee include broken pieces of ceramic, such as those shown in the photo below, which were left behind by the Native Americans who originally settled the area.

This is just one example of the hundreds of different types of artifacts that may be unearthed during routine maintenance work or construction at Fort Lee, even in areas which have been previously developed. If in doubt please call!



Other Types of Commonly Found Artifacts



Prehistoric
Stone Tools



Ceramics



Metal



Bone



Glass Bottles



Tobacco Pipes



Other

Prehistoric



Re-worked Projectile Point



Quartzite Biface



Cord-marked Pottery Fragment



Cord-marked Pottery Fragment

What may seem like an ordinary rock may actually be a projectile point (arrowhead) or other stone tool made by Native Americans. Not prehistoric tools look like arrowheads. It could be something which was modified on both sides, also known as a “biface” or a partially formed tool, known as a “preform” (such as the Quartzite biface above), or one of the tiny flakes of rock (“debitage”) formed when striking a rock to make a tool.

Prehistoric pottery often looks like flat pieces of clay and can have impressions of some kind like the examples above. If you see something that could be one of these types of artifacts, stop working in the area and immediately notify your supervisor.

Ceramics



Ironstone ca 1900



Stoneware ca 1550-1767



Stoneware ca 1860



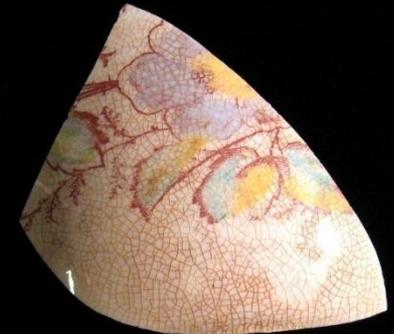
Creamware cup handle ca 1780



Green shell-edged pearlware ca 1820



Porcelain



Polychrome transfer printed earthenware ca 1900

Broken pieces of ceramic may seem insignificant but 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 to report it just incase.

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. Always be cautious around metal, as it could also be unexploded military ordnance (UXO).

Bone

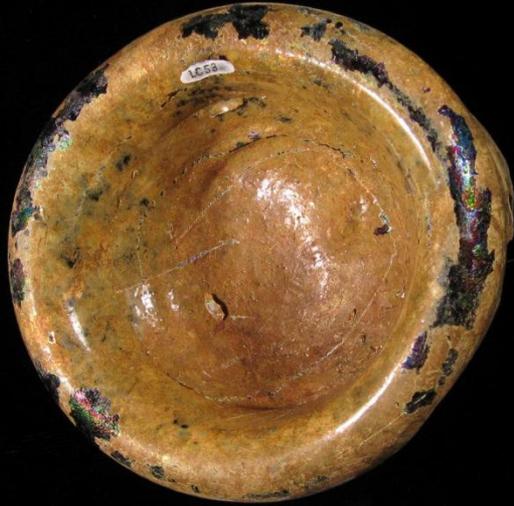


Various animal remains including pig and cow

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. Always notify a supervisor and/or call DPW staff (734-4434/765-7026) when in doubt.

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 the M 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

Evidence of previous soil disturbance, often evidenced by dark stains, is also important in archaeology because it provides clues useful in determining how an area was used in the past. Such stains, known as “features” are left by areas used as wells, trash piles, hearths, post holes and building foundations. As with artifacts, if you find one, do not disturb it, notify your supervisor and contact DPW staff at 734-4434 or 765-7026.