

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The improvements to the storm drainage system on Eden, Pollock and George streets involved replacing the existing 10-inch clay pipe with 15-inch concrete pipe. The depth of installation for the new pipe ranged from 3-7 feet below surface. In addition, 8-inch diameter PVC pipe to place electrical lines underground was installed alongside the new storm drain. NCDOT Division 2, District 2, performed this work under the supervision of Aaron Everett, district engineer, and Joe Crawford, transportation supervisor.

Archaeological participation during this construction project began on April 10, 1995, and ended on June 9, 1995. During these nine weeks, ground-disturbing activities associated with the construction project were monitored. This work consisted of inspecting and documenting subsurface features and strata in the trench profiles. John Clauser, SHPO archaeologist; Anna Gray, Deborah Joy and Megan O’Connell, NCDOT archaeologists; and John Green, curator of archaeology for Tryon Palace coordinated archaeological monitoring.

A total of 940 linear feet of trenching was excavated by backhoe during this project (Figure 2). Work started along the east edge of pavement at the intersection of Eden Street and Tryon Palace Drive (datum point 1). The backhoe excavated a 5.5-foot wide trench that extended 680 feet northward toward the intersection of Eden and Pollock streets (datum point 2). Mechanical excavation was then directed eastward along the southern edge of the pavement on Pollock Street for 118 feet (datum point 3). Then the trench was re-oriented north to cross the 32-foot width of Pollock Street and converge with the storm drain. At this point the trench width was expanded approximately 10 feet to the east in order to expose and reconstruct the drain box and catch basin. Trench excavation continued northward for 100 feet along the western curb of George Street. This final section of the street improvement project involved the removal of concrete pavement. Unlike the asphalt pavement that covered the other streets, concrete required a jackhammer to assist with removal. Consequently, the width of this trench was constricted to a width of 3 feet to avoid or limit difficulties that may have been encountered during the removal of concrete paving.

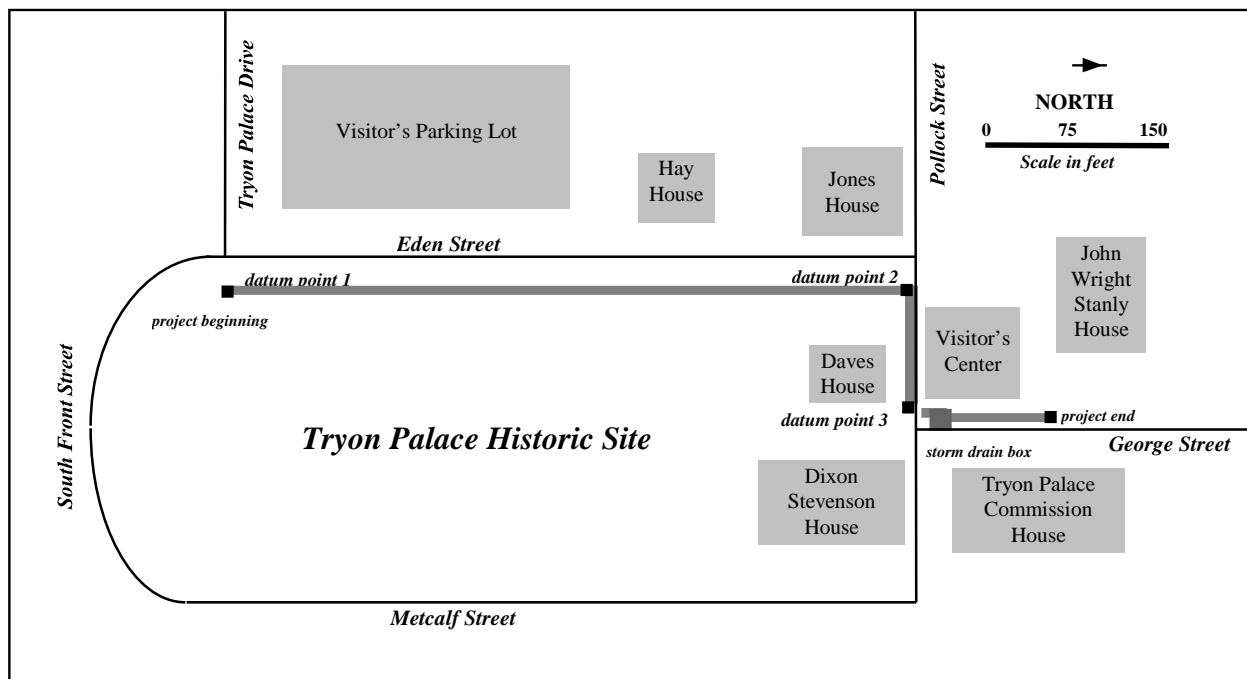


Figure 2. Study area.

III. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Craven County is located in the easternmost region of the Coastal Plain of North Carolina. The topography is a "distinctive combination of broad, gently undulating plains separated by sounds" (Daniels et al. 1984:20). Agricultural fields, upland forests, flooded bottomlands and the marshes of estuaries, rivers, streams and creeks characterize the flat topography of the Coastal Plain. The Neuse River and its tributaries drain Craven County. New Bern is situated at the confluence of the Trent and Neuse rivers.

The study area is contained within the Lower Coastal Plain: Wicomico-Talbot system (Daniels et al. 1984). The surface materials consist of Pleistocene sand, sandy loam and clay formed from material brought down from the Piedmont plateau and Appalachian Mountain regions (Bullock Clark et al. 1912). These soils overlie marine Pleistocene sands and shell marls.

The urban New Bern area is contained within the Tarboro-Seabrook-Araphoe soil system of the Lower Coastal Plain. The Lower Coastal Plain has wide, flat relief with large areas of poorly drained soil. General soil associations in the study area are: Seabrook-Urban land and Tarboro-Urban Land complexes (Goodwin 1989). These are described as follows.

- Seabrook-Urban land complex (Sc): the Seabrook soil is nearly level and moderately well drained. It is found in slightly convex areas on stream terraces of the Neuse and Trent rivers. Typically, Seabrook soil has a dark brown loamy sand surface layer six inches thick. The underlying material is light yellowish brown loamy sand, very pale brown sand with light gray mottles and light gray sand to a depth of 80 inches.
- Tarboro-Urban land complex (TuB): the Tarboro soil is on gently undulating low ridges on stream terraces of the Neuse and Trent rivers. Tarboro soil has a dark grayish brown sand surface layer about five inches thick. The underlying material is brownish yellow and yellow sand to a depth of 80 inches.

IV. PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The earliest prehistoric occupation of North Carolina began about 12,000 years ago and is referred to as the Paleo-Indian period. Available information suggests that Paleo-Indian period sites were situated near rivers or streams and that access to lithic material was an important consideration. There is presently no evidence to indicate that these sites were located along the coast of North Carolina. Evidence of occupation during this period is generally scarce, usually consisting of surface finds of fluted projectile points, the temporal marker for the period. According to the North Carolina Archaeological Site File, there are no reported Paleo-Indian period sites in Craven County.

The Archaic period (8000-1000 BC) began with climatic warming which resulted in an environmental change that altered and diversified the flora and fauna in the region. It is generally thought that in the Archaic period there was a continuation of hunting and gathering with seasonal movements between base camps and hunting camps. The pine-birch-hemlock forests that had replaced the boreal forests at the beginning of the Archaic period were gradually replaced by oak-hickory forests around 6000 BC (Phelps 1983).

During the early Archaic period (8000-5000 BC) these changes were probably accompanied by an increase in population, as indicated by the greater number of recorded sites with Archaic period components (Phelps 1983). In general, Archaic period sites are defined by the presence of corner-notched projectile points (Coe 1964).

With the environmental warming came new artifact types of the middle Archaic period (5000-1000 BC). Morrow Mountain and Guilford points are suspected of having been introduced from the west, and the Halifax projectile point that appeared around 4000 BC suggests a northern influence (Coe 1964). During the late Archaic period, sites from the Savannah River phase (3000-1000 BC) are larger and contain steatite bowls, burials and prepared hearths. These cultural characteristics suggest a settled lifestyle (Phelps 1983; Ward 1983).

The emergence of regional differences in the Coastal Plain region of North Carolina occurred near the end of the Late Archaic period, around 2000 BC, and became distinct around 1000 BC, at the beginning of the Woodland period (1000 BC-AD 1650). Based on cultural differences reflected in the material assemblages, the Coastal Plain has been divided into northern and southern regions (Figure 3).

dates	period	sub-period	regional phases		
			NORTH COASTAL REGION		SOUTH COASTAL REGION
			sub-regional phases		
			TIDEWATER	INNER COASTAL PLAIN	
1715	HISTORIC	Colonial	<i>Carolina Algonkians</i>	<i>Tuscarora/Meherrin</i>	Waccamaw
1650			Mattamuskeet	Indian Woods	Oak Island
	WOODLAND	Late	Colington	Cashie	
800 AD			Middle		Mockley
300 BC		Early Late			Deep Creek
1000				Croaker Landing	Stallings
2000	ARCHAIC	Middle		Savannah River	
3000			Halifax	Stanly	Guilford
5000	PALEO-INDIAN	Early Late			Morrow Mountain
8000				Kirk	
10,000				Palmer - Hardaway	
12,000		Early		Hardaway - Dalton	
				Clovis	

Figure 3. Cultural sequence of the North Carolina Coastal Plain (Phelps 1983, revised).

Using Phelps's (1983) mapping of physiographic and cultural divisions, New Bern is located in the tidewater area of the north coastal region, although in close proximity to both the inner coastal plain and the south coastal region (Figure 4).

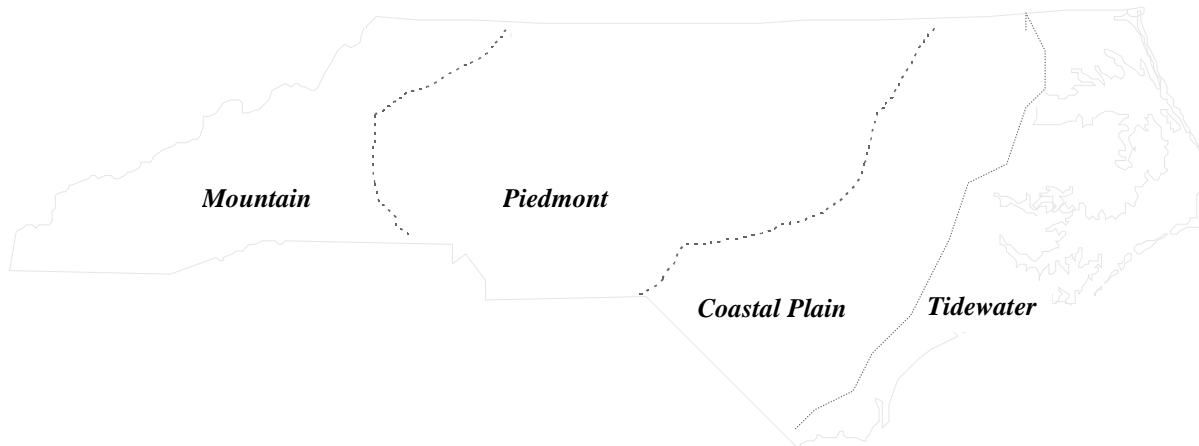


Figure 4. Physiographic and cultural divisions of North Carolina (adapted from Phelps 1983).

The introduction of the bow and arrow and the beginning of ceramic manufacture define the onset of the early Woodland period (1000-300 BC). Small triangular Roanoke projectile points and the New River ceramic phase are traits that define the beginning of the early Woodland period in the south coastal region. In the north coastal region, the most common ceramic type is a coarse-sand-tempered ware called Deep Creek; projectile points are small and triangular and carry on a tradition that began in the late Archaic period.

During the middle Woodland period (300 BC-AD 800) fewer sites were situated along the smaller streams as settlement increased along the major streams and estuaries. The north coastal region is represented by the Mount Pleasant ceramic type, which is tempered with sand and pebbles and decorated with fabric impressions or cord marking. The clay-tempered Hanover ware, also common in the south coastal region, is frequently found in the same context as Mount Pleasant ceramic types.

The late Woodland period (AD 800-1650) is the last prehistoric period in the Coastal Plain. Two separate and distinct cultural groups inhabited the north coastal region during this period (Figure 5). The Algonquians exploited the tidewater area and the inner coastal plain was the territory of the Tuscarora. The south coastal region is presumed to have been inhabited by Siouan groups.

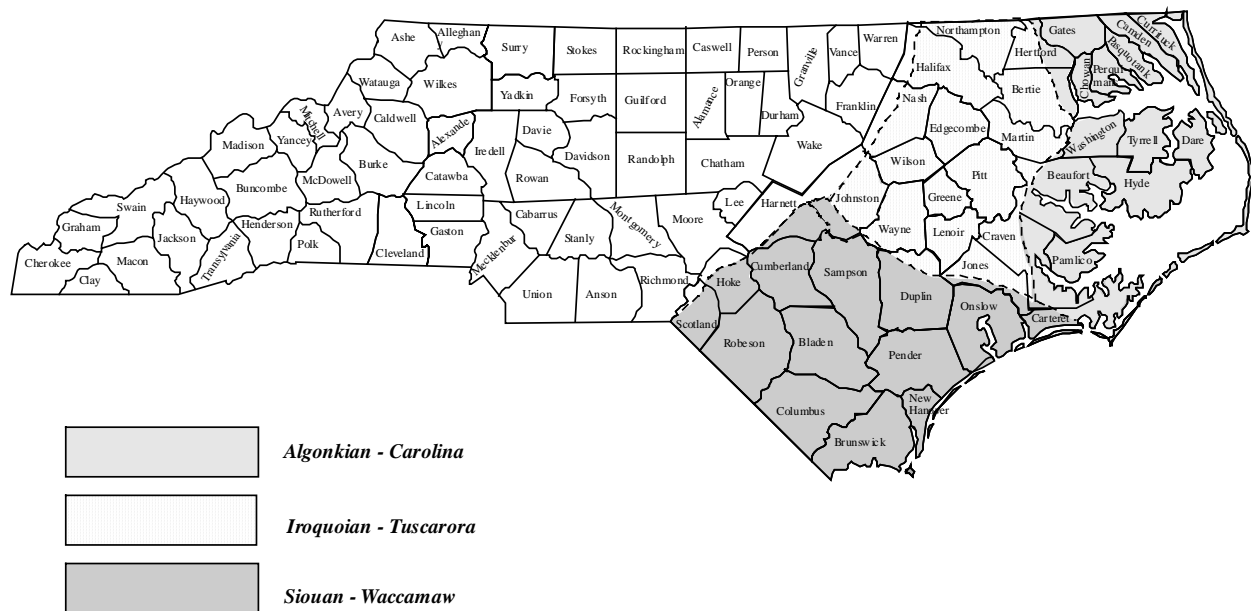


Figure 5. Distribution of linguistic groups in the North Carolina Coastal Plain (Phelps 1983).

The Algonquian artifact assemblage of the tidewater area is known as the Colington phase. The ceramic type is a shell-tempered ware, and the projectile points are small Roanoke triangles. Tools and beads made of shell and bone are also part of the assemblage. Sites that include base camps, seasonal villages and special activity camps are located along sounds, estuaries, major rivers and tributaries.

The cultural material assemblage of the Tuscarora, who occupied the inner coastal plain, is identified as the Cashie phase and is contemporaneous with the Algonquian Colington phase. Cashie ceramics are fabric-impressed, simple-stamped, incised or plain. A trading relationship between the Tuscarora and Algonquian groups is suggested by the presence of Cashie ware on Colington phase sites and Algonquian materials found in Cashie sites, as well as by the similarity of surface finishes that appear on Colington and Cashie ceramics (Phelps 1983:37, 44).

Coastal Algonquian tribes occupied the Craven-Pamlico region during the period of European exploration along the coast of North Carolina (Mobley 1981). One tribe, known as the *Secotan*, lived on the land between Albemarle and Pamlico sounds and on both sides of the Pamlico River. The English in 1584 (Figure 6) encountered these people on Roanoke Island. Thomas Harriot and John White recorded narrative and pictorial accounts of the Secotans during the late sixteenth century. Their work documented native dress, manners, language, village layouts and burial customs (Hulton 1972, 1984).



Figure 6. Theodorus DeBry's 1585 *Americai Pars, unc Virginia dicta*. (North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh).

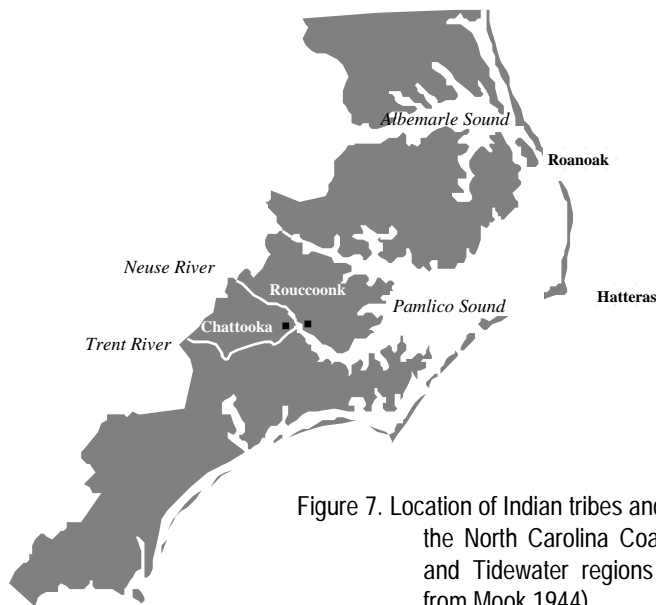


Figure 7. Location of Indian tribes and towns in the North Carolina Coastal Plain and Tidewater regions (adapted from Mook 1944).

Two Tuscarora towns were located in the New Bern vicinity; these were known as *Chattooka* and *Rouccoock* (Figure 7). John Lawson's ca. 1700 account of his journey into the Carolinas includes ethnographic descriptions of the "Natives of Carolina." He reported that "Indian-Trade might be carried on to great profit, because we lie as fairly for the Body of Indians, as any Settlement in English-America..." (Todd 1920:40).

In 1710, when Baron von Graffenreid and his colonists arrived in the area that was to become known as New Bern, a small tribe of 20 families was living there. Between 1711 and 1715 territorial conflict between the English colonists and the Tuscarora restricted European settlement of the area. The Tuscarora were defeated at Fort Neoheroka, northwest of New Bern, and eventually were removed from the region (Dill 1955:30; Rights 1957:39).

Ethnographic data for indigenous populations of the Coastal Plain has been summarized in two Swanton publications (1946, 1952). Studies of the Carolina Algonquians (Mook 1944) and the Tuscarora (Paschal 1953) used historical documents to trace the history of these populations from the time of European contact to the end of their presence as a distinct cultural groups in North Carolina.