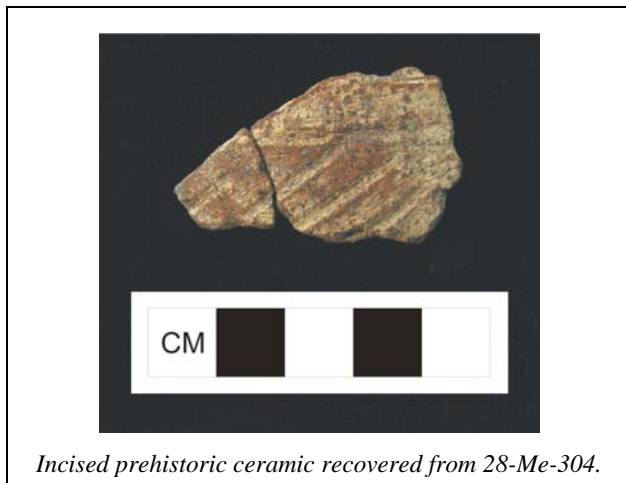




## Intersection Improvements at Great Road (CR 601) and Cherry Valley Road Cherry Valley Road Prehistoric Site (28-Me-304)

Richard Grubb & Associates (RGA) excavated portions of the Cherry Valley Road prehistoric site from August to December 2005. The site is located approximately 240 feet east of the Great Road and Cherry Valley Road intersection in Princeton Township, and was discovered during an earlier archaeological survey prior to intersection improvements. The site is adjacent to Cherry Run, a small stream in the Millstone River Basin.

Based on the initial findings, archaeologists identified the site as a probable camp, dating to 1000-400 years ago. Native American sites from this period remain poorly understood, particularly those within the Millstone River Basin. The site was determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, and an archaeological data recovery was performed to salvage pertinent data before construction.



*Incised prehistoric ceramic recovered from 28-Me-304.*

The archaeological data recovery included the excavation of 14 shovel test pits, 6 five-foot-square excavation units, and mechanical stripping of approximately 210 square feet. During the excavations, archaeologists recovered over 1,200 artifacts, including pottery, stone tools, and burnt animal bone. Stone tools included arrowheads, scrapers, and debris associated with stone tool production.

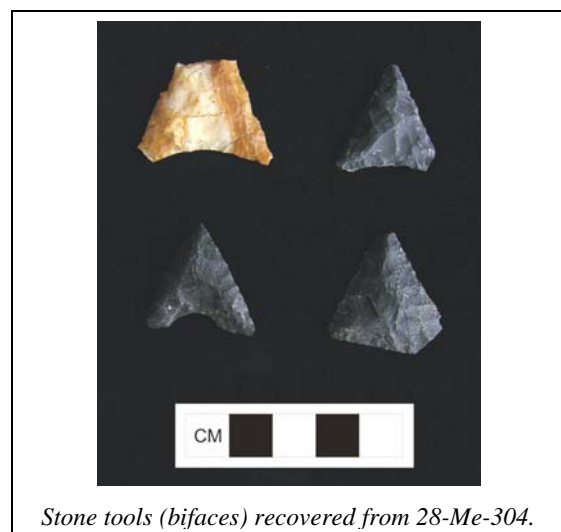
The material culture from the site offers a representative sample of past activity. A charcoal sample collected from a prehistoric hearth was submitted for radiocarbon dating. The sample yielded a date of AD 1160 to 1280, which falls firmly within the Late Woodland Period (1000-1600 A.D.). A paleobotanist identified numerous carbonized hickory nuts from this feature, and several fragments of carbonized hardwoods. These species undoubtedly served as an important source of food and firewood for the site's inhabitants.

A lithic (stone tool) analyst examined several stone tools with high-powered magnification to determine their function. By examining the tools' polish, the analyst determined that they came in contact with bone, meat, and animal hides. Edge wear analysis on the bifaces indicates that they were used in projection. These results provide evidence that 28-Me-304 functioned as a small hunting camp that probably had ties to larger encampments along the Millstone River and its major tributaries.



*Archaeologist collecting a soil sample from 28-Me-304.*

Archeologists recovered important archaeological data from 28-Me-304 that enabled us to reconstruct site activity. The site appears to represent a short-term Native American habitation, where the inhabitants hunted, manufactured stone tools, and prepared food. This investigation represents a significant contribution to the Millstone River's late prehistory.



*Stone tools (bifaces) recovered from 28-Me-304.*

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