

PART TWO

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MATERIALS FROM THE GOLDEN EAGLE SITE

INTRODUCTION

Part Two contains reports prepared by a number of authors on the materials recovered during the 1979 excavations at the Golden Eagle site. These reports are organized primarily by material, rather than by functional categories. Buttons and clay tobacco pipes form an obvious exception to this procedure. In the future, when functional attributes of artifact classes are more clearly defined, the classification of materials by function rather than by composition may be the more rewarding route to chronological and behavioral interpretation of artifacts from archaeological excavations.

The analysts were asked to explore the potential of each artifact type toward the elucidation of site chronology and function and of the occupants' demographic and behavioral characteristics. Analysts sought to define those variables within their types which changed through time, indicated particular activities, or were related to social variables such as economic status or ethnicity. Each analyst sought to explore the nature of the high status clearly attributed to the hotel by the historical record: to define the material correlates of such an establishment and to support this correlation through the use of intersite comparison and historical research.

The presence of artifact associations from a number of businesses of different characteristics gave many Golden Eagle analysts the opportunity to distinguish aspects of each type of establishment and to suggest variables which may typically correlate with each. The validity of these propositions awaits support from other archaeological assemblages. In the meantime, the Golden Eagle collection has increased the productivity of future historical archaeological projects by providing a tightly dated association of materials from particular establishments for the purpose of intersite comparison.

