
Methods

CHAPTER ONE

METHODS

1.1 RESEARCH METHODS

JMA archeologists and historians collected information concerning the history, prehistory, and environment of the project area, focusing on factors that affect the nature, distribution, and condition of historic and prehistoric archeological resources. The purpose of the research was multi-faceted. Historical records were examined to compile a project area land use chronology and settlement history (for both prehistoric and historic resources). Numerous existing cultural resources reports, documenting the presence of above and below-ground resources, were examined to determine the locations within the project area of previous cultural resource investigations, the results of those investigations, to identify those areas (if any) that possess the potential for the presence of cultural resources, and to provide appropriate recommendations for same.

Background research focused on the history and development of the project area in order to provide an understanding of the project area's place within the state's historic and prehistoric contextual frameworks. The historical and prehistoric contexts developed for the project are related to the framework provided by the *Delaware State Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan* (Ames et al. 1987) and Delaware's management plans for prehistoric and historical archaeological resources respectively (Custer 1986a; De Cunzo and Catts 1990). The Delaware Cultural Resource Survey (CRS) Inventory and National Register files in Dover were examined to collect data on previously recorded sites in the vicinity of the project area, and relevant secondary and readily available primary source material on the prehistory and history of the project area were compiled. Maps, plats, historic photographs, and aerial images of the project area were of particular value for the survey, and were examined to provide data relating to the historical use and development of the project area.

The principal archival repositories consulted include the Historical Society of Delaware; the Wilmington Public Library; various New Castle County offices in Wilmington; the Delaware Public Archives in Dover; the library of the University of Delaware in Newark; the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia; and the Library at Hagley Museum in Wilmington. Materials from JMA's in-house library were also consulted. Among the principal record groups utilized in the preparation of this report were local histories and genealogies, deed records, probate records, manuscript surveys, atlases, and tax records.

1.2 FIELD METHODS

As part of the background research, a field visit was undertaken in March 2000 by JMA personnel to familiarize themselves with the project areas (Parcels A and D), and to locate and identify historic and/or cultural landscape features. The field reconnaissance provided JMA archeologists with physical evidence of several archeological sites, notably the Weldin Plantation Site (7NC-B-11) and the

Augustine Cutoff Site (7NC-B-49). Manuscript notes, and black-and-white and color photographs, were compiled to record the nature and condition of the project area, identify any surface evidence of past cultural activity, and to identify likely areas of prior disturbance. Pertinent information compiled during the reconnaissance was recorded on a detailed map of the area.