

6.0 INTERPRETATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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The Phase IB archaeological survey conducted for the Bridge 1-651 on Newport Road over CSX project revealed evidence for historic-era occupation in the two investigated loci of the APE. The northeast quadrant was examined via the excavation of six STPs. This area contained a chronologically mixed assemblage of historic and recent artifacts that were dominated by domestic and architectural materials that were recovered from landscape fill and buried plowzone contexts. The materials generally dated from the late nineteenth to early twentieth centuries but could not be assigned to a specific occupational origin.

The southwest quadrant (1500 Newport Road property) was examined via 18 STPs, 17 of which were excavated. The field team identified an historic-domestic archaeological site, 7NC-E-185, the DiMatteo Site, on the 1500 Newport Road property. Similar to the portion of the APE located on the opposite side of the railroad, this area contained a temporal mix of cultural materials dating generally to the early and middle twentieth century. The materials originated from contexts lacking depositional integrity, but nonetheless, based on their overwhelmingly domestic character, they are strongly believed to be associated with the early-to-mid-twentieth-century occupation of the adjacent dwelling.

DeCunzo and Catts (1990:182) note that Delaware's *Priority Needs* include the development of historic contexts relevant to the state's historic archaeological resources. It is the opinion of A.D. Marble & Company that 7NC-E-185 did not yield information that would help supplement any of the historic contexts those authors list. The site lacks archaeological integrity (temporal and physical integrity), as specified by DeCunzo and Catts (1990:194-195). The site does represent an owner-occupied domestic archaeological site but, given its lack of archaeological integrity, it is impossible to correlate the record of the material culture recovered at that location to a specific owner or stage of historic occupation. The site is also unable to yield significant research data relative to the research questions DeCunzo and Catts (1990) have outlined in their management plan of historic archaeological resources in Delaware.

It is the opinion of A.D. Marble & Company archaeology staff that the APE contains no significant archaeological resources and that the APE will not likely offer any new information on the history of the project area. No further work is recommended.