

INTRODUCTION

Dovetail Cultural Resource Group I, Inc. (Dovetail) conducted a Phase I archaeological survey, Phase II archaeological testing, and an architectural analysis of the Burnham House site for the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT). The project, completed between February and March 2011, included archaeological investigations on DelDOT-owned property in New Castle County, Delaware. Kerri Barile served as the Principle Investigator for this project. Dr. Barile meets or exceeds the standards established for Archaeologist and Architectural Historian by the Secretary of the Interior. Field crews were under the direction of Dr. Barile and Project Archaeologist Emily Calhoun.

The Burnham House site, situated on a parcel historically known as “Noxon’s Adventure,” is located midway along the northwestern Route 301 Spur Road in project Segment P of the larger Route 301 DelDOT undertaking. Specifically, it is located between station marks 140 and 155, approximately 3 miles (4.8 km) northeast of Middletown, Delaware. The entire project area encompasses approximately 10 acres (4 ha). Phase I-level survey included 5.6 acres (2.3 ha) while Phase II-level investigations were completed on the remaining 4.4 acres (1.8 ha).

The Burnham House site (CRS # N-5151) was first recorded by A. D. Marble during their 2006 Phase IA cultural resource study of the Route 301 corridor and subsequently re-examined by Skelly and Loy in 2009 (Baublitz et al. 2006; Gundy and Kuncio 2009). The larger project included a reconnaissance investigation of a 275-foot (83.8-m) wide corridor through St. Georges, Pencader, and Appoquinimink Hundreds in New Castle County, Delaware. As recorded by A.D. Marble, the site included the ruins of a brick dwelling, a timber-frame shed, a second outbuilding, and a well, all within a copse of trees. No subsurface investigations were completed as part of the Phase IA work, but a detailed plan of the building remains was created showing the general structural plan and surrounding landscape. Also, specific architectural analysis of the remains was not conducted due to the preliminary level of this investigation.

The current project builds on this previously conducted work and includes three phases of investigation: an intensive architectural evaluation of the extant structural remains across the property to complete a tectonic analysis of the remains, establish a chronological development sequence of the main house and outbuildings, and tie the above-ground remains with the subsurface findings; a Phase I archaeological investigation of the areas to the north and south of the known site to identify additional resources that may be associated with the Burnham House site; and Phase II archaeological testing within the known site boundaries to determine the integrity of the subsurface archaeological remains and explore the site’s data potential. These three phases resulted in the refinement of the Burnham House site boundary and a recommendation on National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) potential.

This page was intentionally left blank.