



introduction

INTRODUCTION

The cultural resources assessment detailed in the following report was conducted by Mid-Atlantic Archaeological Research, Inc. (MAAR) of Newark, Delaware for the Delaware Department of Transportation (DOT). Its purpose was to survey the historical and architectural significance and the archaeological potential of seven properties located along the Concord Pike (Route 202) in New Castle County, Delaware. The study was authorized by the DOT as a result of its intentions "to perform certain construction and/or contract for certain construction for Delaware Route 202 from Interstate 95 to the Pennsylvania State line". The study is designed to assure compliance with Federal regulations pertaining to the preservation of cultural resources.

This cultural resources assessment deals with each of the seven subject properties from the viewpoint of its historicity, its architectural significance (when standing structures are to be involved), and its archaeological potential (in the case of a single identified historic archaeological site). Accordingly, the study was conducted under the direction of a Principal Investigator by specialists in the fields of historical documentation, historical architectural and historic sites archaeology.

Personnel

Principal Investigator for the assessment is Ronald A. Thomas, President of Mid-Atlantic Archaeological Research, Inc. and a member of the Society of Professional Archaeologists. Mr. Thomas has conducted historic site surveys and excavations in Delaware and in neighboring states. Historical documentation was conducted by Ms. Julia Colflesh of Folsom, Pennsylvania. Ms. Colflesh has done historical documentation in Delaware and Pennsylvania for MAAR and other historical agencies. The architectural assessment was done by Mr. John F. McCune III of McCune of McCune Associates - Architects. Mr. McCune has conducted historical restoration work throughout northern Delaware and has served in numerous historical architectural capacities. John McCarthy acted as Field Supervisor on the excavation at Blue Ball Tavern project. Mr. McCarthy has conducted historic sites excavations in Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and Pennsylvania.

Project Area

The following seven properties were selected for investigation by the DOT, Division of Highways, with the advise of the Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation of the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, State of Delaware. The research was limited to those properties and is basically a historical and architectural study. Only the Blue Ball Tavern site was scheduled for archaeological investigation.

Properties that were subjected to investigation were (Figure 1):

- # 1 Mousley Property (N-563)
- # 2 Woodlawn Trustees Property (N-564)
- # 3 Breger Property (N-553)
- # 4 Maroney Property (N-4053)
- # 5 Blue Ball Tavern (N-542)
- # 6 Dupont Dairy (N-4048)
- # 7 Husbands Property (N-4049)

Methodology

The methods used by the various investigators were designed to obtain the information required by the DOT as stated in the Agreement No. 190-4 between the State of Delaware, Department of Transportation and Mid-Atlantic Archaeological Research, Inc. Paragraph 3 of the Agreement states that DOT requires "the preparation of site-specific document research, architectural assessment of standing structures, preliminary testing of an historic archaeological site (Blue Ball Tavern" and an evaluation and recommendation for each property regarding National Register eligibility".

Site specific document research was conducted by Ms. Julia Colflesh who made contact with the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, conducted research in the library of the Historical Society of Delaware and utilized her own files and those of several libraries. The documentation is presented in narrative form and a chain of title report is given in Appendix I.

The architectural assessment of standing structures was conducted by Mr. John McCune who visited each site on several occasions. Interiors of most structures were examined by both Mr. McCune and Ms. Colflesh. The assessments made are incorporated in the following narrative sections of the report.

Preliminary archaeological testing of the Blue Ball Tavern site was conducted by a MAAR team under the supervision of Mr. John McCarthy. The objective of the testing was to determine the extent of the archaeological resources known to exist on the property and to determine the nature of their integrity. Emphasis was on discovering if any subsurface structural or cultural features existed and if they were relatively intact from a data reliability viewpoint.

The evaluation of each property in terms of its eligibility for the National Register was based on the information gathered by the three investigators. That evaluation consists of the opinion of the Principal Investigator as to the historical and/or architectural significance of the property. Finally, the recommendations made by MAAR concern the eligibility of each site and an assessment of what, if anything, should be done to assure the preservation of cultural resources due to the potential impact of the highway construction project.