

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Historical archaeological investigations at Lisbon followed the guidelines for research suggested by the **Management Plan for Delaware's Historical Archaeological Resources** (De Cunzo and Catts 1990). The Lisbon Tract was occupied during all of the time periods established by the **Plan**, from circa 1680 to 1970. Research domains suggested by the **Plan** that could serve to guide investigations at sites located within the tract include domestic economy, landscape, and social group interaction and behavior (De Cunzo and Catts 1990:16-23). Each of these themes could be studied diachronically and synchronically. Specifically, artifacts such as ceramics, glass, and bone, along with larger features, can be analyzed to observe changing domestic and subsistence strategies of the site's occupants over time. However, investigation of these research questions can be undertaken only if sites with the appropriate data are present in the tract.

Based on the historic background research, it is expected that a historic farmstead from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries may be present in the tract. Initial reconnaissance of the tract revealed the presence of several foundations in the tract (Plate 1), and these foundations probably relate to the farmstead noted on the historical atlases (Figures 4 and 5). Identification and testing of this potential farmstead was the main goal of this project because proposed construction was focused in that portion of the tract.

The research plan guiding Delaware's prehistoric sites (Custer 1986a) places the Lisbon tract within the Mid-Drainage Zone for the Woodland I Study Unit. Prehistoric resources in the zone are considered to be of medium to high significance, contain medium data quality, and around Dover are located in an area with significant development pressure. Overall, prehistoric resources located at Lisbon may be useful in studying changing settlement patterns and subsistence strategies, particularly in relation to the large Woodland I prehistoric sites (7K-D-1, 7K-D-3) located nearby. The expected prehistoric site types for the tract include base camps and procurement sites of all time periods.

METHODS

The main goal of the field research was to locate and identify the historic farmstead on the tract and determine its significance and eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The survey also sought to identify other prehistoric and historic archaeological sites on the tract. However, because proposed construction was focused on the area near the farmstead, Phase II testing was not undertaken at sites not in the vicinity of the historic farmstead.

For the Phase I and II investigations by UDCAR, subsurface testing on the site consisted of shovel test pits (STPs) and 3- x 3-foot gridded test units placed in order to determine the presence of any archaeological deposits and the extent and integrity of those deposits. Daily field notes were kept of the progress of the investigation, and representative subsurface test units were recorded with photographs, profiles, and plan views. Artifacts collected were bagged by provenience units and stratigraphic levels. Soils were dry screened through 1/4-inch wire mesh. The above-ground architectural features present at the site were measured and mapped, and field maps showing the locations of all test units, features, landmarks, and cardinal directions were created. Artifacts were processed according to the guidelines established by the Delaware Bureau of Museums and Historic Properties.