

## APPENDIX B

### Blueprint for Action

## "Blueprint for Action": Procedure for Field Investigations

The Scope of Work and the Research Proposal for archaeological investigations at the Delaware Park Site (7NC-E-41) both call for the development of a detailed research design and an action plan for investigation. The research design prepared by Mid-Atlantic Archaeological Research, Inc. was approved with the proviso that further work will be done under Task 1 of the project schedule. The following discussion addresses the specific field procedures to be used in the excavation of the Delaware Park Site.

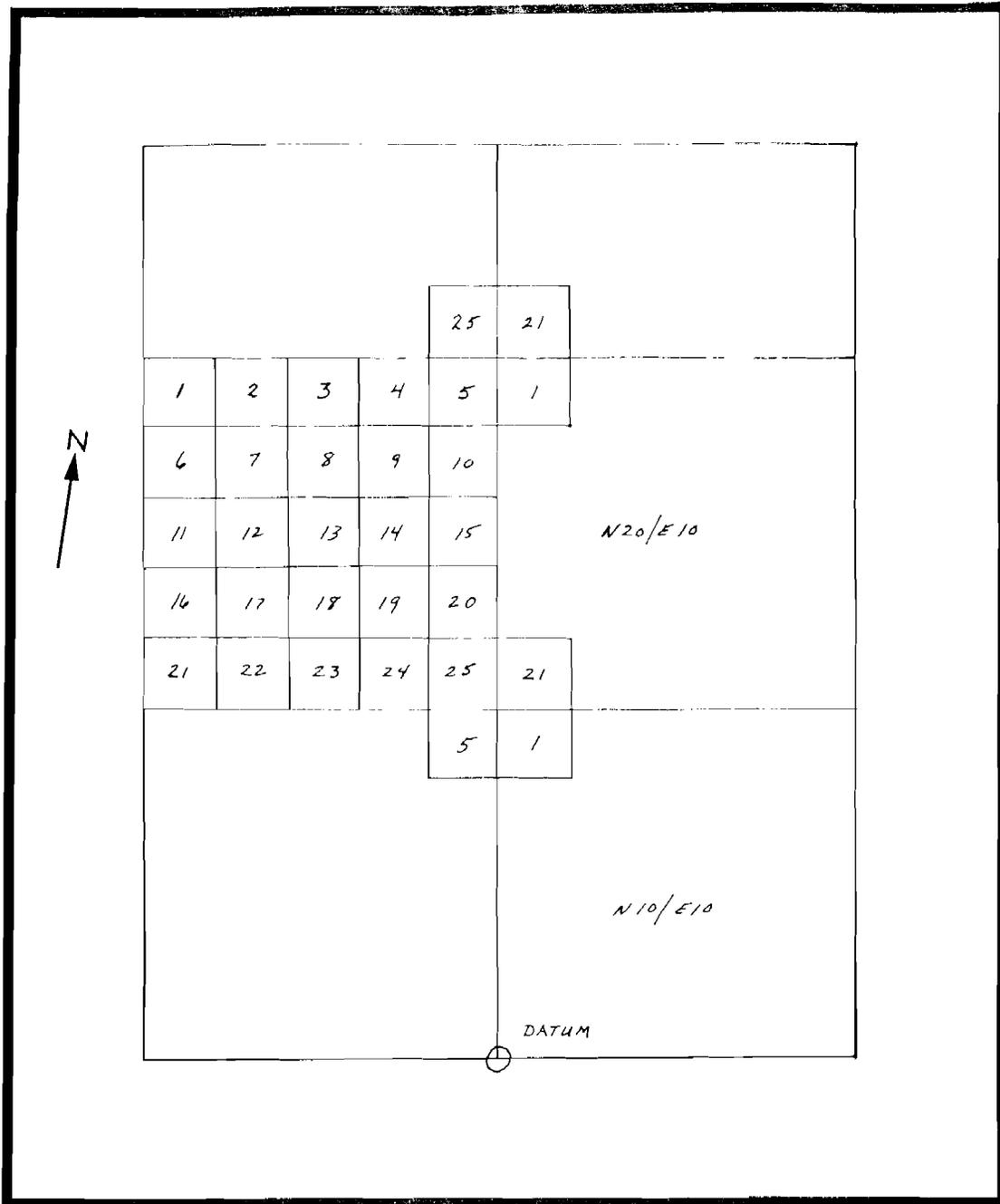
The instructions and plans included in this discussion are to be followed exactly unless modified through discussions with all personnel involved in the conducting and review of the project. Field personnel are to carefully review this discussion and are expected to adhere to its specific details. The purpose of requiring strict adherence is to assure that data collection procedures and the data itself can be compared within the site and so that reviewers can be sure that the "blueprint" was representative of the actual performance of the data recoverers.

### CONTROL SYSTEM

The purpose of a control system is to provide for the exact recording of the provenience of all archaeological data in terms of horizontal distance from a standard datum point and vertical distance from a standard datum plane. The system to be used at the Delaware Park Site is a grid system with a datum point to be set up outside of the site proper. This datum point is to serve as the 0-0 point on a north-south and east-west grid. The major portion of the site will be situated in the northwest quadrant of this grid system. The datum point is to be marked by an iron pipe and is to be exactly tied in to the mapping system being used for the construction of the overpass bridge of the DOT. The following page is a schematic of the grid system to be used. All grid lines are to be measured in metric units. Ten meter BLOCKS are to be established and designated by the distance of that corner of the block which is the furthest from the datum point. Thus, BLOCK N20/W20 is that block whose northwest corner measures 20 meters north and 20 meters west of the 0-0 point (datum).

Each 10 meter BLOCK is to be divided into 25 two meter UNITS for purposes of either excavation or measurement or both. Units are to be the mapping tool of measurement when individual aboriginal features are being recorded and excavated. The UNIT is to be designated as shown on the following schematic drawing. Each unit will be given a separate catalog number. Features are to be considered separate from units except for purposes of provenience recording.

FEATURES are individual aboriginal phenomenon which occur on the site. They are to be given numerical designations beginning with 1 and continuing in the order in which they are found, regardless of what part of the site they are located in. Thus, Feature 26 may be located in the northwest quadrant, within BLOCK N20/W40 - Unit 22. Each FEATURE will be given a separate catalog number and that number will be used for each level or stratum within the feature (79/160/26-A or 79/160/26-C).



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BLOCK AND UNIT DESIGNATION PLAN

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CATALOG NUMBERS are to be considered as "bag lots" and they are to be designated by the system utilized by the Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, State of Delaware. The entire site 7NC-E-41 has been given the catalog number 79/160. This number is to be placed on each "bag lot". A third number is to refer to unit or block or feature (provenience unit of the "bag lot"). Additional numbers and/or letters can be added as necessary to refer to levels, strata, sections, etc.

The vertical control system is to work as follows. A standard Datum Plane is to be established at a height which is above all portions of the site to be excavated. Secondary datum points are to be established within each excavation area, as needed, and that point (ground level) is to be expressed in terms of its distance below the datum plane. Measurements within the actual excavation areas are to be measured and recorded in terms of centimeters below the secondary datum points. As this is intended to work, all recorded artifacts and strata, etc., will be measured below the ground surface (secondary datum point) at one corner of the unit in which it is located. They can not be compared in terms of relative vertical position except by reference to the distance of the secondary datum point (ground level) below the imaginary Datum Plane.

#### EXCAVATION PROCEDURE

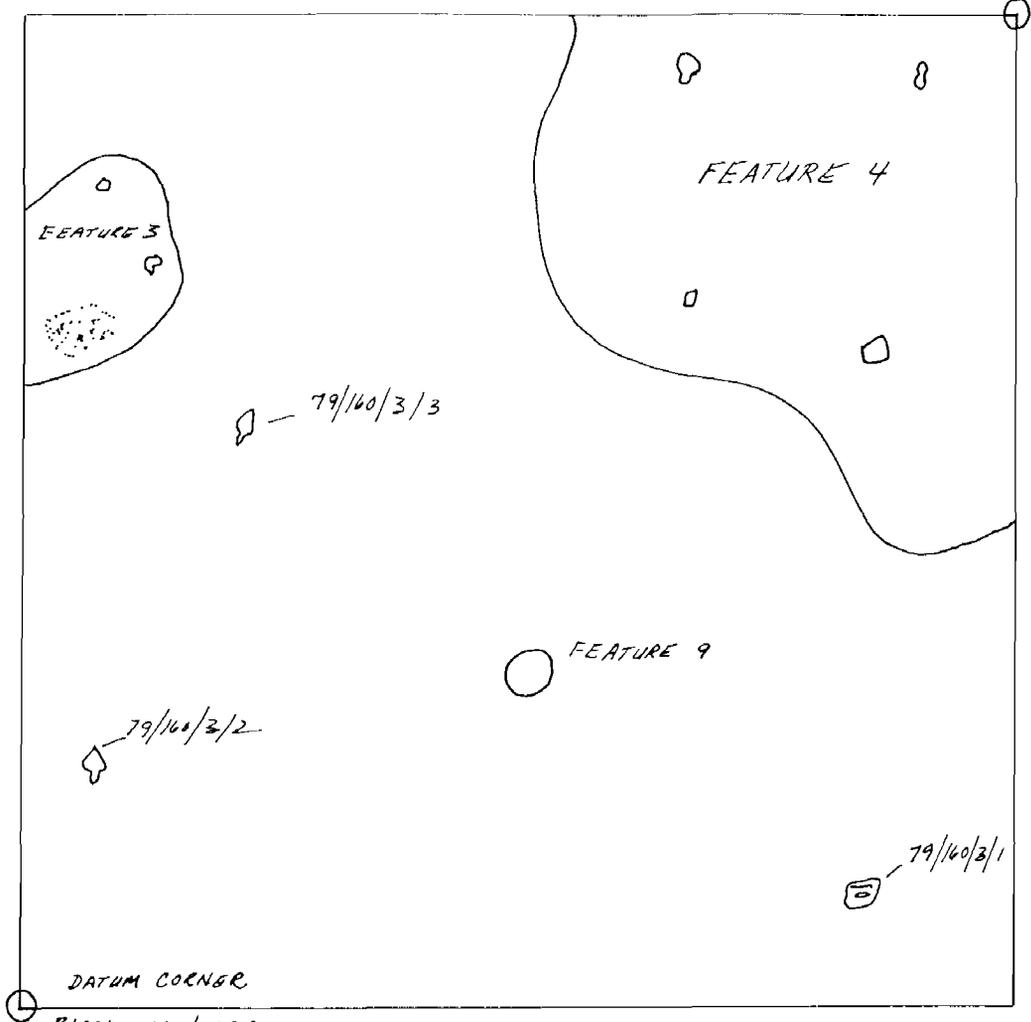
Excavation of subsoil features will not begin until the grid control system has been established and activated in the specific area of proposed excavation. Following the mechanical or hand stripping of the top soil, and the removal of dirt from the immediate area, the exposing of subsoil will proceed. Exposure will be by flat shovel and then by trowel. Once an area has been exposed it will be kept clean by the covering of unexcavated areas by plastic sheeting and by the limiting of any activity in the area (walking).

Following the exposure of a large area, the control grid system will be staked out. Block corner stakes will be placed at each block corner that falls within an exposed area. These corners will be marked by special colored flags on metal stakes. Each exposed area will then be subdivided into excavation units. These units will not necessarily be excavated but will serve primarily as units of measurement. Each subsoil aboriginal and historic feature will be mapped on individual unit record sheets. A unit sheet may have several features or portions thereof within its limits as well as areas of apparent undisturbed sterile soil.

Two-meter units will only be excavated when it is determined that stratified natural deposition has or may have taken place during periods of aboriginal occupation. Features, however, will all be excavated (as described below). It is necessary to excavate each unit to a depth of ten centimeters below the subsoil surface - this should be followed by the recording of any additional features found. Level 2 excavation of two-meter units can only be undertaken after the completion of excavation of all features located within a particular unit.

LEVEL 2 PLAN VIEW  
(SUB-SOIL)

DATUM CORNER



BLOCK N20/E20  
UNIT 7  
FEA. 3, 4, 9

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UNIT RECORDING PROCEDURE  
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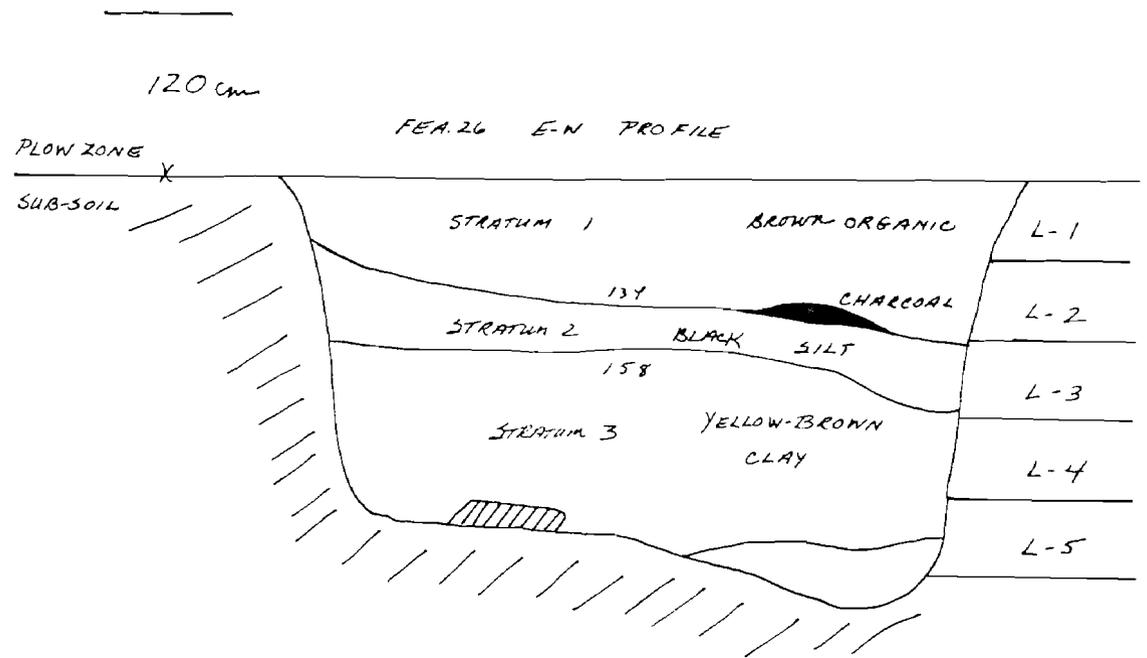
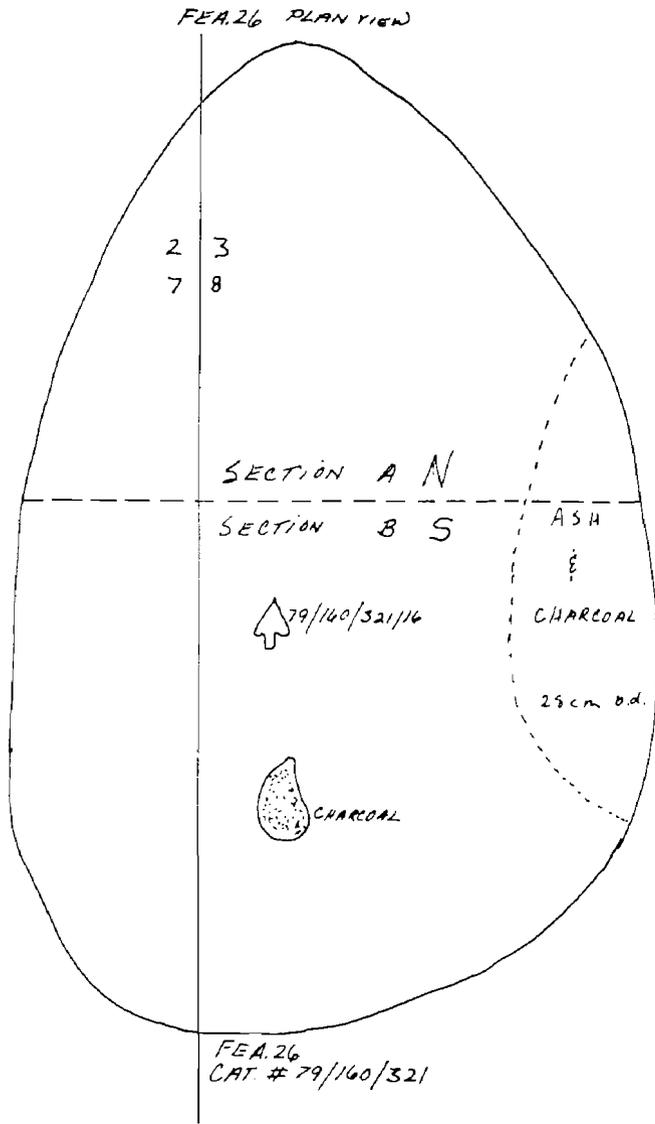
Soil Samples are to be taken for the purpose of chemical tests. These soil samples are to be randomly selected when subsoil exposure does not result in the discovery of subsurface features. These samples are to be taken from the top ten centimeters of the subsoil level. Following excavation of a unit, it may be necessary to again remove a soil sample. Soil samples are also to be taken from all subsurface features of an aboriginal derivation. Random sampling of non-feature subsoil levels is to be done by taking a sample from the center area (outside of recognized features) of each fifteenth recorded unit from the catalog master list. These samples are to be taken prior to the removal of the top 10 centimeter level of the subsoil.

Features will be excavated as outlined in the Research Proposal. Upon the recognition of a specific feature it will be completely outlined and all units into which it intrudes will be exposed (in their entirety). The features will then be photographed and drawn in a clean (and sterile) condition. Soil samples will be taken in the top ten centimeters of each for chemical testing. Prior to excavation of any feature it will be marked on the ground and instructions will be given to all excavators and site visitors to keep away from the features. No one is to walk on a feature in the process of excavation. Data Recorders will be asked to supervise the exposing and excavation of all features.

Features will be sectioned and each section will be treated in a different manner. Section S (for South) will be excavated first. All soil from Section S will be removed in arbitrary levels measuring 20 centimeters each. Level 1 of all features (Section S) will be that level beginning at the top of the subsoil and extending to a depth of 20 centimeters below the datum point. Level 2 will always begin at 20 centimeters below datum and will continue to a depth of 40 centimeters. All Section S excavations will follow this procedure.

Section N will be given a different treatment. Excavation in Section N (for North) will be by natural strata when these exist and by arbitrary levels when natural strata are not visible or are larger than 10 centimeters in depth. All material removed from Section N will be screened (as were Section S materials) and soil samples will be taken for further analysis. Following screening, all soil from Section N strata will be subjected to flotation [this was later modified to a 50 liter sample]. Normal excavation procedures will be followed if not otherwise stated here. Section N strata will be recorded as Stratum 1, Stratum 2, etc. and not as levels. If arbitrary sub-levels are excavated they will be designated Stratum 1a, 1b, etc.

No feature will be left exposed to the air during periods of inactivity. All features, during the course of excavation, will be covered by plastic film retained in a wood frame which completely covers the feature. All efforts will be made to assure that water damage does not occur and that accidental disturbance is minimized.



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FEATURE RECORDING PROCEDURE  
MARCH 1980 TASK 1

## DATA RECOVERY OBJECTIVES

The objective of the Delaware Park Site excavations is outlined in the research proposal which is available to all staff members. Basically, we are interested in recovery of all evidence of past human activity with an emphasis on items pertaining to chronology and subsistence and environmental adaptation. In order to assure maximum recovery and comparability, we must adhere to the excavation guidelines outlined above. Flotation will provide us with ecological data. This process, although time consuming, must be strictly followed. Soil samples must always be taken as outlined above. Especially important in an intensive program is the accurate and consistent recording of data provenience. Data Recorders must be especially cognizant of this need for accuracy.

All staff members will be kept informed of procedural changes and will be involved in modification decisions. Please do not hesitate to contact the Field Supervisor or Principal Investigator concerning any recommendations, comments or criticisms.

Submitted to Del-DOT, Bureau of Project  
Planning by Ronald A. Thomas, Principal  
Investigator. March 25, 1980