

## **5.0 DISCUSSION AND MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

From the results of background research, no historical sites associated with cultures of agriculture, as discussed by De Cunzo (2004) were anticipated in the project area. The land was almost certainly in cultivation from early on, comprising farm land for the brick, Federal-style, Starl House (N01492) constructed circa 1810. The project area was bisected in the mid-nineteenth century to allow interiorly located Levi Clarke access to the State Road – now US 13. The land transfer between Clarke and his neighbor Vanhikle (then owner of the Starl House and farm), suggests that the road may also have been used for running livestock (NCCDB X(4):362). The presence of diffuse historical artifacts throughout the plowzone of the APE was not surprising. Plowzones are rarely free of artifacts and in this particular instance; there is a variety of potential sources which to attribute the artifact scatter.

Field manuring was commonly practiced throughout most of the mid-Atlantic by early in the nineteenth century. For example, in Washington DC, an act was passed in 1820 that allowed scavengers to remove garbage and dead animals from the streets and to clean out residential privies at the cost of the owners. Scavengers were then allowed to sell this “night soil” (i.e., privy contents) to farmers as fertilizer (Board of the Aldermen and Board of the Common Council of Washington, D.C.; 1832: 13-15; Crane 2000). In more rural areas, this manure minimally included all of the trash and garbage from the farm but may also have included night soil brought in from more urban locations. By the mid-nineteenth century, cities such as New York, Boston, and Philadelphia had regulations and systems in place for turning human waste into fertilizer for agricultural use (Geismar 1993). This practice was generally embraced later in Delaware than the surrounding states, however, it is associated with nineteenth- and early twentieth-century farming practices. As such, it is common to find a light scatter of nineteenth-century artifacts over agricultural fields (DE SHPO 1993:45). In some cases this artifact scatter maintains enough density and character to be easily associated with the households of nearby farm complexes (see W.C. Fountain Site; A.D. Marble and Company 2012). In the present case, however, considering the light density, small size, and generally non-diagnostic nature of the artifacts, it is believed that the field scatter actually represents a combination of nineteenth- and early twentieth-century fertilizing associated with the Starl farmhouse, road debris associated with US 13/DuPont Highway, and other cast off debris associated with the Yard Waste Demonstration Site (though technically established for the disposal of yard waste, in practice a good deal of garbage was observed dumped at the site). Following guidance by the DE SHPO, while this is, partially at least, evidence of a kind of farming practice and should be noted, it does not constitute a site within the State’s present definition” (1993:45).

As a result of Phase I survey, Silver Run Prehistoric 7NC-G-181 (CRS N07483), is interpreted as an extremely diffuse (n=5 acres), low density (n=21), non-diagnostic prehistoric lithic scatter. The site is situated on a terrace above Silver Run. Though micro topography illustrates the ground sloping gently upward east into the Yard Waste Demonstration Site, this area has experienced an unknown degree of disturbance from extensive dumping and use of heavy mechanical equipment (e.g., a wheeled dozer with

14 ft bucket and large wood tub grinder were witnessed during field work). Field testing shows that the site is contained completely within the plowzone; no cultural subsurface features were located as a result of shovel testing.

It has been demonstrated, in recent large-scale survey efforts undertaken by DelDOT as part of the US 301 Project, and elsewhere throughout the mid-Atlantic, that walkover survey is the most successful method for identifying archaeological sites in agricultural fields. Unfortunately, conditions at the Mid-County DMV did not allow this method to be employed. Shovel testing was the only field method that could be systematically applied to the project area. Strips of land lightly tracked from farm use did provide an opportunity to selectively conduct surface survey in portions of the field. These areas were most apparent west of the Yard Waste Demonstration Site, within the limits of Silver Run Prehistoric. The DE SHPO has identified that, "Often concentrations that appear discontinuous on the surface are found to be connected during subsurface testing" (1993:45). In the case of Silver Run Prehistoric, it is believed that an acceptable representative sample was investigated through shovel testing, radial shovel testing, judgmental tight interval shovel testing, and opportunistic walk-over survey. It is not believed that further work would result in the recovery of additional data that could either significantly alter/refine the current site interpretation or be capable of lending itself to research applications.

*During the Phase II Archaeological Discoveries in the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Section of the State Route 1 Corridor, New Castle County, Delaware*, nine prehistoric sites were evaluated. Of these, four small sites revealed no more information than had been recorded at the Phase I level. Furthermore, small, low density artifact scatters are generally interpreted as representing hunting and gathering procurement sites occupied during short forays away from larger base camps (e.g., Wrangle Hill North 7NC-G-105; N12127), and these sites are very common in the region (Kellogg et al. 1994:57-58).

Though Silver Run Prehistoric does display a range of raw material, including limonite, this is not unexpected. The glacial gravels of the Columbia formation, underlying much of the region, provide a source of chert, jasper, quartz, and quartzite. While it was once believed that limonite was traded into the region in the form of biface preforms (Ward 1985) it has since been demonstrated that limonite was a locally available material commonly utilized by prehistoric people (see Kellogg et al. 1994:60-65). This localized use of limonite has been supported and refined by recent Phase II excavations undertaken by DelDOT as part of the US 301 Project (see for example Sandy Branch Prehistoric 7NC-F-122; Caldwell Rohm et al. 2012).

The investigation documented in this technical report was designed to address Phase I archaeological resources identification-level concerns. It is believed, however, that the results allow statements of NRHP eligibility to be made regarding Silver Run Prehistoric 7NC-G-181 (CRS N07483) under the National Park Service's *Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Archaeological Properties* (Little et al. 2000) and NRHP Criterion (d), the ability to yield important information about prehistoric use of the area.

The *Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Archeological Properties* (Little et al. 2000) define seven qualities of property integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Several of these are directly applicable to evaluating this prehistoric site. Silver Run Prehistoric exhibits some integrity at the most basic level for location since it is situated essentially in its original locale; however, it lacks stratigraphic integrity since it is contained within the plowzone. Its current setting in an agricultural field is inconsistent with the wooded setting anticipated during the site's use. Furthermore, the non-diagnostic assemblage is so diffuse that no patterning or meaningful concentrations can be discerned, contributing to a lack of feeling and association.

Considering NRHP Criterion (d), the lack of subsurface features, coupled with the diffuse, low density, non-diagnostic nature of the artifact collection, precludes the exploration of any meaningful research themes. Furthermore, it suggests that the site was used ephemerally and is unlikely to include (distinguishable) multiple components. The data from Silver Run Prehistoric cannot be expected to provide important information on the site itself, or within the larger context of prehistoric cultural dynamics in Delaware. The data's only potential for contributing to prehistoric use of the area is through settlement patterning, achieved by the site's recordation at the Phase I level. As such, Silver Run Prehistoric is recommended not eligible for inclusion in the NRHP.

No further work for Silver Run Prehistoric 7NC-G-181 (CRS N07483) or within the APE is recommended.