by Versar, Inc. (Versar), under Agreement Number 1539 (Task 1). DelDOT desires to make improvements to the intersection of Mill Creek and Stoney Batter Roads. Located in northern New Castle County, approximately nine miles northeast of Newark, the Limits of Construction (LOC) serve as the project area. The project area includes a right-of-way, road intersection, and an adjacent field for staging and stockpiling (see attachments). Work was performed in accordance with the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the Advisory Council's Guidelines set forth in 36CFR800 for the Protection of Historical and Cultural Properties, the Delaware State Management Plans for Prehistoric Resources, and the Guidelines for Architectural and Archaeological Surveys in Delaware. Vegetation consists of a mixture of grass species (in the fallow field proposed for staging/stockpiling and yards) to immature forest, briars, and other early successional species along the roadways. Soils in the project area, including the area along Mill Creek Road right-of-way, and the staging area, belong to the Gaila loam unit. Associated with hillslope and ridge landforms, the soil is well drained with no frequency of flooding or ponding. Soils along the Stoney Batter right-of-way are composed of the Hatboro-Codorus complex. Associated with floodplain landforms, the soil is poorly drained with frequent flooding and ponding. (USDA, NRCS, WSS 2011).

RESEARCH DESIGN

12. Survey objectives: To employ pedestrian reconnaissance and systematic shovel testing to determine the presence of archaeological sites within the project area.

13. Survey methods (describe both field and background research methods): Prior to the start of archaeological fieldwork, a health and safety plan was developed. Prior to initiating fieldwork, background research was conducted at the following repositories: New Castle County Recorder of Deeds, Wilmington, DE; Library of Congress, Maps and Cartography Division, Washington DC; Untied States Geological Survey, Reston VA; and the State Historic Preservation Office; Dover DE. In addition online repositories were consulted including the Delaware CHRIS electronic database and the Delaware Geological Survey DataMIL. Background research consisted of researching chain-of-title, historic maps, aerial photographs, CRM reports, NHRP files, DHCA site files, and historic and prehistoric contexts. Fieldwork consisted of pedestrian reconnaissance and systematic shovel testing. Shovel testing was conducted on a 15 meter grid interval across the staging/stockpiling field and along a 15 meter transect paralleling the existing right-of-ways as possible. Shovel tests were excavated by natural stratigraphy and at least 10 cm into subsoil (sterile soil below the A/B horizon interface). Measurements were recorded in metric units. Each shovel test was recorded using a form to ensure standardization (e.g., depth, color, texture, transition, inclusion, presence of cultural material). Soil was screened through one-quarter-inch mesh hardware cloth to standardize artifact recovery, and recovered artifacts were provenienced by shovel test and stratigraphic level. The location of each shovel test was recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver and confirmed with measurements from known landmarks using compass and tape. Photographs were taken of the general conditions of the project area.

14. Expected site types for this area (cite earlier surveys & known nearby resources, information from historic maps or research): The historical sensitivity of the project area is moderate given the presence of historical resources within 1/2 mile of the project area. Historical scatter or possible outbuildings associated with either N01610 (circa 1850 Yearsely House noted as being near the site of the Stewart House) and/or the R. Stewart House (noted on Beers 1868) may exist. However, Mill Creek and Stoney Batter Road existed historically and aerial photography suggests that the staging/stockpiling area was historically used as an agricultural field. Prehistoric potential for the project area is low to moderate. Though the project area is located adjacent to Mill Creek, it does not occupy any upland landforms. The only prehistoric site located within 1/2 mile of the project area is (N05299), recorded as a procurement scatter located on the headland overlooking Mill Creek. See Attachment B for a map of all cultural resources within 1/2 mile of the project area and an associated list and description in table form.

RESULTS and RECOMMENDATIONS

15. Fieldwork (describe survey; add maps as needed): In total, 96 shovel tests were excavated across the project area. A single positive test, A-4, was located in the eastern edge of the staging/stockpiling area. Radial shovel tests excavated at a 5 meter interval at the cardinal directions did not result in the recovery of additional material. For further detail see Attachments C and F.

16. Artifacts (describe any found; identify location; explain why determined not to be a site): One small, weathered artifact was found in Shovel Test A-4, Stratum A (plowzone). The artifact is a spalled sherd of blue decorated pearlware (0.7 grams). Only a small spot of the decorated portion is present. As such, it is not clear whether the decoration is printed or painted. Without being able to determine this diagnostic distinction, the sherd may have been manufactured anywhere between 1775 and 1830 (Miller 1987). Radial shovel tests did not result in the recovery of additional artifacts. The artifact is interpreted as an isolated find from the plowzone along an old dirt two-track road.

17. Recommendations: As no archaeological sites or in context archaeological material was discovered as a result of this work, no further archaeological work for the project area is recommended. The single artifact is interpreted as an isolated find/find spot and given its location, secondary context, and condition, curation is not recommended.

ATTACHMENTS

18. Attachments checklist:

- **a.** ☒ **bibliography**
- **b.** ☒ **location map (USGS or equivalent)**
- **c.** ☒ **detailed map(s) (project plans and/or field survey map)**
- **d.** ☒ **historic map(s) (list)** 1868 Beers, 1904 15'Topo, 1937 Aerial, 1954 Aerial
- **e.** ☒ **photographs of general project/surveyed area**