



Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs
State Historic Preservation Office
21 The Green
Dover, DE 19901
302-736-7400
302-739-5660 (fax)

Archaeological Survey Report Form

(For use when NO archaeological sites were identified; see *Guidelines and Instructions*.)

- 1. Report title:** Archaeological Survey of Mill Creek Road and Stoney Batter Road, New Castle County, Delaware
- 2. Date:** 5/18/2011
- 3. Author(s):** Mackenzie Caldwell Rohm, Laurie Paonessa, Eric Griffiths
- 4. Consulting firm name and address:** Versar, 6850 Versar Center, Springfield, VA 20181
- 5. Client agency:** Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT)

LOCATION

- 6. County (check as many as apply):** New Castle Kent Sussex
- 7. Nearest town(s):** Pike Creek, at the intersection of Mill Creek, Stoney Batter, and along Nob Hill Roads
- 8. Physiographic and geographic zone(s):** Piedmont and Fall Line, Piedmont (Mill Creek Hundred)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- 9. Dates of fieldwork:** May 9-May 12
- 10. Size of area covered: unit used:** acres hectares
project area: 7.25 **surveyed area:** 4.75
- 11. Project description (describe location and nature of project):** The investigations documented on this form involve Phase I archaeological survey of an approximately 5-acre parcel to determine the presence of archaeological sites and potentially significant cultural resources. The work was completed for the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT)

by Versar, Inc. (Versar), under Agreement Number 1539 (Task 1). DeIDOT 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; United 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.