

II. EXISTING CULTURAL RESOURCE DOCUMENTATION AND SURVEY

In 1987, in association with improvements to Route 896, the University of Delaware Center for Archaeological Research (UDCAR) performed a Phase I and II archaeological investigation which included a small portion of the present project area (Lothrop et al. 1987). During that study, a total of 16 shovel test pits were excavated along the eastern edge of Route 896 just south of its intersection with Porter Road. The transect covered an approximately 1,000-foot-long strip. Cultural materials recovered consisted of historic ceramics only. These included two redware, two whiteware, one stoneware, and one unidentified ceramic sherd (Lothrop et al. 1987:56, figure 14). No site was designated by UDCAR in this area, and the artifacts are assumed to have come from the plowzone.

Prior to the present survey no archaeological sites had been recorded within the project area and only one site, designated 7NC-D-47, has been identified in the vicinity. Site 7NC-D-47, a prehistoric site, is located 75 yards north of Porter Road and approximately 0.6 miles east of State Route 896 on the western bank of Belltown Run (see Figure 1). All materials from the site were recovered through surface collection; they include one heat-altered rock, one flake, and two unifaces.

According to Custer (1986) and Custer and De Santis (1986), well-drained settings adjacent to small tributaries are often the location of micro-band base camps and procurement sites from the Archaic through the Woodland II periods. Because Belltown Run passes through the project area, providing the potential for well-drained settings, such portions of the project area were considered to have high potential for prehistoric archaeological resources.

In areas unaffected by recent development, moderate potential exists for encountering historic archaeological resources. Historical maps consulted depicted one structure possibly present in about 1893 within the proposed right-of-way in the vicinity of Stormwater Management Area 2 (Baist 1893; Beers 1869; Rea and Price 1849; United States Geological Survey 1909).