



ADDENDUM:

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE
SR 26/ROXANA ROAD COMMERCIAL AREA
WIDENING, SUSSEX COUNTY, DELAWARE**

Parent Agreement 1650, Task 3

DRAFT

by

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Prepared for

Delaware Department of Transportation

Prepared by

DOVETAIL
CULTURAL RESOURCE GROUP

April 2014



**Addendum: Phase I Archaeological Survey of the SR 26
Roxana Road Commercial Area Widening, Sussex County,
Delaware**

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ABSTRACT

In March of 2014, Dovetail Cultural Resource Group (Dovetail) conducted archaeological survey and testing at the request of the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) for the Commercial Area Road Widening at the State Route (SR)-26/Roxana Road Intersection near Millville in Sussex County, Delaware. This project is being done as part of the greater SR 26 widening project, for which a Phase I archaeological survey and Phase II archaeological testing were completed in 2003 and 2004 (Gundy and Sams 2003; Gundy et al. 2004; McCormick, Taylor & Associates 2003). Although the undertaking received a determination of no adverse effect for the widening project, it was recently determined that additional cultural resource services were required at a location along the corridor, namely a newly proposed commercial development entry at the intersection of SR 26 and Roxana Road. The limits of construction, as outlined within the preliminary construction plans furnished by DelDOT and Century Engineering, defined the project's area of potential effect (APE). The present investigations and resultant data are therefore to be taken as only a part of a larger body of data collected for the SR 26 project.

The current Phase I work included limited archival research, conducted in February 2014, at numerous repositories to identify historical patterns of ownership and land use within the project area. Fieldwork was conducted from March 5 to 7, 2014, and consisted of a pedestrian and subsurface survey within all portions of the APE with the exception of a portion of the far eastern end of the project area which was known to be disturbed. It was decided in consultation with DelDOT that this area did not warrant subsurface testing.

One potential archaeological site, Artifact Concentration 1, was identified during Dovetail's survey. More intensive testing was conducted at the locus to provide additional information regarding site function, boundaries, and archaeological integrity. Intensive subsurface testing consisted of close-interval shovel testing as well as the excavation of a test unit (TU). This artifact concentration appears to represent the remains of a twentieth century domestic complex and nearby commercial building and associated refuse and debris. Dovetail **recommends that Artifact Concentration 1 is an archaeological site dating to the early-twentieth century that warrants an archaeological site number.** However, the site has been disturbed and is **recommended as not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).** No additional archaeological work is recommended. Paperwork associated with Dovetail's investigations at the site will be curated at the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office.

An extant inlet for a culvertized drainage ditch was also identified in the project area. This ditch appears in a 1954 aerial photograph and continues to be a functional feature. Because this feature remains a functional component of infrastructure, it is not considered to represent an archaeological site and, as such, is **recommended as not eligible for the NRHP.**

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INTRODUCTION

Dovetail Cultural Resource Group (Dovetail) conducted reconnaissance-level archaeological survey and testing at the request of the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) for the Commercial Area Road Widening at the State Route (SR) 26/Roxana Road Intersection near Millville in Sussex County, Delaware. The field survey was supplemented by archival research on the history of ownership and use of the project area. This project is being conducted as part of the greater SR 26 widening project, for which a Phase I archaeological survey and Phase II archaeological testing were completed in 2003 and 2004 (Gundy and Sams 2003; Gundy et al. 2004; McCormick, Taylor & Associates 2003). Although the undertaking received a determination of no adverse effect for the widening project, subsequent to this agreement, it was determined that additional cultural resource services were required at a location along the corridor, namely a newly proposed commercial development entry at the intersection of SR 26 and Roxana Road. The present investigations and resultant data are therefore to be taken as only a part of a larger body of data collected for the SR 26 project.

The present document details the additional archaeological survey undertaken for the SR 26 project on a previously unsurveyed area along the corridor which has been identified by DelDOT as possibly threatened with disturbance related to the SR 26 widening project. The report serves as an addendum to the previously submitted archaeological survey report prepared for the SR 26 project. The previous work identified 22 areas that warranted archaeological investigations, and resulted in the identification of one new archaeological site, the Parsons' Store site (7S-K-143) (Gundy et al. 2004). The current project area is located just north of the original survey's Area of Potential Effect (APE). The earlier reports (Gundy et al. 2004; McCormick, Taylor & Associates 2003) should be consulted for more detailed information on environmental and historic context on the general area in which the project area is located.

The fieldwork was conducted from March 5–7, 2014. The fieldwork was conducted by Dovetail Project Archaeologist Joseph Blondino and field technician Katie O'Toole. Kerri Barile served as Principal Investigator for the entire project. Dr. Barile meets or exceeds the standards established for Archaeologist by the Secretary of the Interior (SOI).

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PROJECT AREA DESCRIPTION

The project area is located immediately north of the intersection of SR 17 (Roxana Road) with SR 26 in southeastern Sussex County, west of the town of Millville (Figure 1). The limits of construction, as outlined within the preliminary construction plans furnished by DelDOT and Century Engineering in February 2014, defined the project's APE. The relatively narrow survey area follows the curve of SR 26 in this area, with a short spur to the northeast. The entire survey area is currently an open field with a short gravel driveway leading into it (Photo 1, p. 4). Aerial photos show a house in this location until at least 2002. The aerials, as well as other photos taken in 1998, show at least one outbuilding present behind, (north of) the house, and another building which housed a series of businesses, was located just to the east along SR 26. These buildings were previously recorded during an architectural resource survey and determined not eligible for the NRHP (Griffitts 1999). The buildings are now razed, although a cinder block-lined cellar hole likely associated with the business east of the dwelling house is still apparent. A small copse of trees at the north end of the "spur" conceals a hole lined with large, uncut stones. This appears to be an inlet for a system of ditches—probably straightened and culvertized natural drainages— which drain the area. The eastern end of the project area, along SR 26, was fenced-off at the time of the survey and contained what appeared to be access points for buried utilities (Photo 2, p. 4). This area was not subjected to subsurface investigation, as decided in consultation with DelDOT staff.

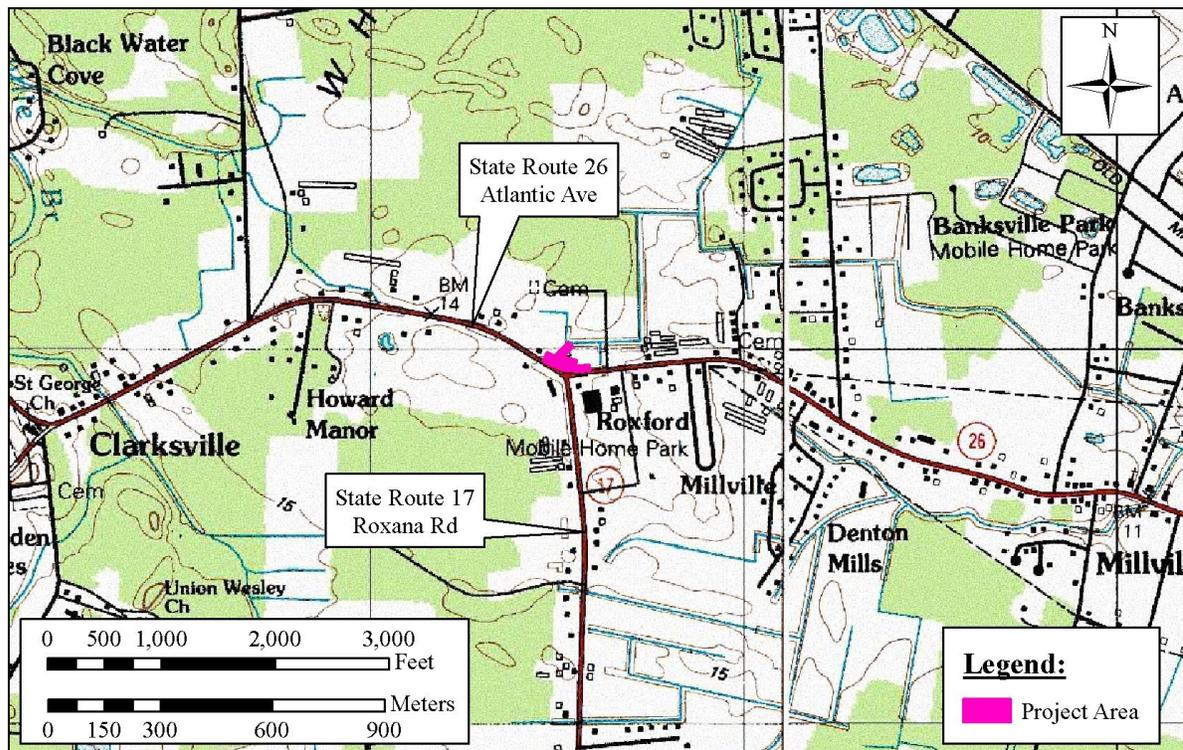


Figure 1: Location of Project Area on the 7.5-Minute Digital Raster Graphic Mosaic of Sussex, Delaware (United States Department of Agriculture [USDA] 2001).



Photo 1: General View of Project Area, Facing North from Near Intersection of SR 26 with Roxana Road. Small copse of trees to right of truck conceals inlet to series of culvertized drainage ditches.



Photo 2: Fenced-off Eastern Portion of APE Which Was Not Subjected to Subsurface Testing, Facing East.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project area is located immediately north of the intersection of SR 17 (Roxana Road) with SR 26 in southeastern Sussex County, west of the town of Millville (Figure 1, p. 3). Despite its proximity to the nearby beach towns of Bethany Beach, Dewey Beach, Rehoboth, and Ocean City, Maryland, the area today remains largely rural, with sod farming and other agricultural enterprises dominating much of the landscape. The current project area is no exception, being situated in an open field.

Geology and Topography

Physiographically, the project area lies in the outer Coastal Plain province. This region is underlain by unconsolidated sediments, dating mainly to the Quaternary Period, lying unconformably over Late Jurassic to Early Cretaceous sedimentary rocks. The Coastal Plain sediments represent material deposited by ancient streams draining the adjacent Piedmont physiographic province to the west. The sediments directly underlying the Roxana Road project area belong to the Ironshire Formation. The coarse sands of the Ironshire represent a Late Pleistocene shoreline and associated near-shore deposits laid down during a period of shoreline progradation (land-building) resulting from an influx of sediment which outpaced sea-level rise (Tomlinson et al. 2013).

Hydrology

The Roxana Road project area is drained by a series of mostly culvertized ditches that direct water into White Creek (Figure 5, p. 17). These ditches likely represent the straightening and culvertization of naturally occurring ephemeral drainages and low-order streams. White Creek flows north into Indian River Bay, which is connected to the Atlantic Ocean via the inlet spanned by the C.W. Cullen Bridge on SR 1. Lands lying just west and north of the project area are drained by first-order tributaries to Clarksville Branch, which flows north to meet Blackwater Creek, which also feeds Indian River Bay.

Soils

Fertile, well-drained soils attracted both humans and game over millennia. Moreover, the wild grasses, fruits, and seeds consumed by people both before and after the adoption of agriculture flourished in such settings. As a consequence, numerous archaeologists have cited the correlation between the distribution of level to gently sloping, well-drained, fertile soils and archaeological sites (e.g., Lukezic 1990; Potter 1993; Turner 1976; Ward 1965). Soil scientists classify soils according to natural and artificial fertility and the threat posed by erosion and flooding, among other attributes. Soil Classes 1 and 2 represent the most fertile soils, those best suited for not only agriculture but for a wide range of uses. Of course, soil productivity must be considered in relation to the productivity of the surrounding soils as well.

Soils in the project area are classified as Pepperbox loamy sand. These moderately well-drained soils consist of wind-deposited sands overlying older fluvial marine sediments. They occur on flat coastal landscapes (0–2 percent slopes) and are considered Class 2 soils in terms of agricultural productivity, and are prime farmland if irrigated (Soil Survey Staff 2013). Excavations within the project area showed that the upper stratum of soil had been subjected to deep plowing, affirming the usefulness of these soils for agriculture.

RESEARCH DESIGN AND PROJECT METHODOLOGY

The goal of the archaeological survey was to identify any archaeological sites within the APE and make preliminary recommendations on their eligibility for the NRHP. The survey methodology employed to meet this goal was chosen with regard to the project's scope (i.e., the project's potential to affect significant resources, should they be present), the potential of the project area to contain significant archaeological resources, and local field conditions. Based on the proximity of the project area to major roads, as well as to resources available in Indian River Bay, the project area was judged to have high potential for historic resources and moderate potential for prehistoric resources.

Archival Research

Archival research conducted in association with this project gathered primary and secondary sources to learn more about the history of the project area, and cultural resources within it, to inform and support Phase I archaeological investigations. In February of 2014, Dovetail staff reviewed historic maps and aerial images of the project area to locate areas with any potential to contain historic materials. Relevant tax assessments and deed records were also consulted to obtain data on the history of ownership of the project area.

Field Survey Methodology

The archaeological survey consisted of both a pedestrian survey and subsurface testing. The pedestrian survey was performed to identify disturbed and untestable portions of the project area and any cultural features with surface visibility, such as foundation walls, wells, cemeteries, or historic road traces.

Subsurface testing involved the excavation of shovel test pits (STPs) at 50-foot (15.2-m) intervals within the APE in areas with testable soil deposits. Shovel tests were not excavated in areas of known disturbance, excessive slope, standing water, or exposed bedrock. Shovel tests were named using a binomial system consisting of a lettered transect designation followed by a sequential STP number (i.e., STP B-2 is the second STP on transect B). STPs measured approximately 15 inches (38.1 cm) in diameter and were excavated to penetrate at least 4 inches (10 cm) into sterile subsoil where possible. Shovel test radials were excavated at 25-foot (7.6-m) intervals in cardinal directions from shovel tests that produced cultural materials.

All soils excavated from shovel test pits were passed through 0.25-inch (0.64-cm) hardware mesh cloth. Each natural stratum was given a numerical stratum designation in order to delineate strata relationships. All artifacts were recovered and bagged by stratum. The shovel test numeric designation, level, excavator, date and material recovered were recorded on field tags for each level. Soil conditions, weather information, and notations on disturbances were recorded within field notes, and color photographs were taken to document the general environmental conditions of the APE and the shovel testing areas.

One Test Unit (TU) was excavated in an area of the site identified as having the potential to contain intact subsurface deposits or features. The test unit measured 3 feet by 3 feet (0.91 by 0.91 m) square. Where natural strata exceeded 0.3 feet (9.1 cm) in depth, arbitrary 0.3-foot (9.1-cm) levels were excavated to provide vertical control of the recovered artifact assemblage. All soils were screened through 0.25-inch (0.64-cm) mesh. All cultural material recovered during the investigation was collected and bagged according to provenience. Profile photographs were taken and scaled drawings made of one wall of the unit to provide a representative soil profile.

Laboratory Methodology

All recovered artifacts were washed with water and a soft brush in groups according to provenience. Once cleaned, artifacts were cataloged according to type, field tags were replaced with more stable and legible tags, and provenience information was recorded on diagnostic artifacts using polyvinyl acetate and an archival acid-free ink pen. The artifact catalog recorded provenience information and quantity for each artifact type. Artifacts were broken into three general categories: historic, prehistoric, or natural. Artifact type was assigned according to a variety of generally accepted systems.

Historic artifacts were divided into functional or material categories [*Architectural* (ARC), *Arms and Ammunition* (ARM), *Ceramic* (CER), *Glass* (GLS), *Metal* (MET), *Organic* (ORG), *Other* (OTH), and *Personal* (PER)] for basic analysis. The artifacts were then identified as to specific wares or manufacturing techniques. If found, *architectural* artifacts generally included any item that was used in the construction of a building such as nails, window glass, brick, cut stone, mortar, plaster, roofing slate, etc. Specifically, nails were recorded as hand-wrought, machine cut with wrought heads, machine cut with machine cut heads, and wire (galvanized and ungalvanized) (Adams 2002; Nelson 1968). Window glass would be identified by color, and brick was defined as either hand-made or machine-made. The *Arms and Ammunition* category would include flints, bullets, bayonets, sabers, mortar shells, etc. that were used during battle or for personal use such as hunting.

If recovered, *ceramics* were subdivided into refined and coarse earthenware, refined and coarse stoneware, porcelain, and semi-porcelain. Decoration, such as applied paint, transfer print, and molding, were also noted, and each fragment was examined to determine specific vessel aspect (i.e., body, base, handle, rim). Specific ware types and manufacture dates were identified using Noel-Hume (1991), South (1977), Bartoviks (1980), Pittman et al. (1987), Greer (1970), and the Digital Archaeological Archive of Comparative Slavery (DAACS). *Glass* included all domestic glass which were catalogued by manufacturing techniques, as well as color, use, attribute, and decoration (Jones and Sullivan 1985; Madden and Hardison 2002). This category was broken down by vessel and bottle glass distinctions to help identify their possible use without seeing the actual artifact, for example a piece of glass representing a candy dish versus a wine bottle.

Metal is a material category and generally includes flat pressed metal or unidentifiable metal fragments. An attempt was made to place other metal items in a function category to aid in analysis. *Organic* included shell, bone, and any other culturally but naturally occurring object. If recovered, the *Other* category would include items that were not placed into a

more specific category, such as ceramic insulators and porcelain toilet fragments. Although these items are technically ceramic they are placed within the *Other* category because they are not of a specific domestic use like a plate or bowl. *Personal* items consist of buttons, pipe fragments, military accoutrements, jewelry, etc.

Research Design

This cultural resource survey was conducted with the Delaware Statewide Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan in mind (Ames et al. 1989). The state's Historic Preservation Plan identifies six historic periods:

- a. 1630–1730: Exploration and Frontier Settlement
- b. 1730–1770: Intensification and Durable Occupation
- c. 1770–1830: Early Industrialization
- d. 1830–1880: Industrialization and Early Urbanization
- e. 1880–1940: Urbanization and Early Suburbanization
- f. 1940–1960: Suburbanization and Early Ex-urbanization Period

Based on the location of the project area and the previously recorded sites in the vicinity, it appears that the periods dating from 1770 to 1940 are the most relevant based on the occupation history of the region. Data from the known archaeological sites near the APE suggests that many of the historic resources identified in the APE would likely date to the late-eighteenth to early-twentieth centuries and could have the potential to provide new information on changes in agricultural practice in this historically agricultural area of Delaware during the Early Industrialization Period, the Industrialization and Early Urbanization Period, and the Urbanization and Early Suburbanization Period. There also appears to be a somewhat lesser potential for historic sites dating from 1630 to 1730, during the Exploration and Frontier Settlement Period.

Dovetail also conducted the survey in light of the Management Plan for Delaware's Prehistoric Resources (Custer 1986), which created models for the likely presence of prehistoric sites from various temporal affiliations in various Delaware locations based on the results of previous work in these locations. The project area is located within the Atlantic Coast Management Unit, which, due to its coastal setting, falls within different Study Units of the Plan depending on environmental conditions during each temporal period addressed. Few Paleoindian sites are known in the region, likely as a result of Late Pleistocene/Early Holocene sea level rise and the dearth of lithic resources available in the area, and the probability of locating Paleoindian sites in the area is low. During the Archaic Period, the present APE falls within the Major Drainage Study Unit, for which the data quality at the time of Custer's study was considered poor; however, procurement sites are known for the Archaic Period in the area, and there is a moderate probability for locating them. During the Woodland I Period, Custer considers the project area vicinity to belong to the Embayed Drainages Study Unit, for which good data quality exists. Micro-band base camps and procurement sites may occur along tidal marshes such as those which were likely present along the margins of Indian River Bay, just north of the present APE. During the Woodland II Period, both macro- and micro-band base camps, as well as procurement sites, have a high probability of occurring. Data quality for the European Contact period is poor, and the

probability of locating sites dating to this period is difficult to assess, although it is considered moderate to high. As yet unidentified Woodland I and Woodland II Period sites, as well as Contact Period sites, are considered likely to add valuable additional information (Custer 1983).

ARCHIVAL RESEARCH

Prior to conducting fieldwork, the project area's potential to contain significant archaeological resources was assessed by conducting archival research at the Delaware Public Archives in Dover, Delaware, as well as by using various resources available online. Because the present report serves as an addendum to previous reports which contain more general historical context for the area, the historical background which follows is specific to the property under investigation. A review of previous cultural resource surveys and previously recorded archaeological sites and architectural properties in the area was not conducted because this data is presented in previous cultural resource reports on the SR 26 project (Gundy and Sams 2003; Gundy et al. 2004; McCormick, Taylor & Associates 2003).

The land within the project area was once part of a tract of land owned by John Townsend. He was born on March 14, 1782 in Sussex County, Delaware to Littleton and Elizabeth Whorton Townsend (Find a Grave 2014a). As an adult, John owned approximately 80 acres (32.4 ha) of land in the Baltimore Hundred of Sussex County and worked as a farmer (Sussex County Tax Assessment 1860; United States Federal Census [U.S. Census] 1850, 1860). In 1808 he married Hester Maull and together they had seven children (U.S. Census 1840, 1850, 1860). He owned the land until his death on July 18, 1870, at which time his heirs sold off portions of the land (Find a Grave 2014a; Sussex County Deed Book [SCDB] 82:267). They sold 20 acres (8.1 ha) of John Townsend's tract to their youngest sister, Lovey Townsend.

Lovey was born on February 3, 1835 and, at age 12, married another Baltimore Hundred native, David Aydelotte, on February 2, 1848 (Find a Grave 2014b). David and Lovey owned between 60 and 80 acres (24.3 and 32.4 ha) of land before they acquired the 20-acre (8.1-ha) tract from John Townsend's estate (Sussex County Tax Assessment 1868, 1872). Following David's death in February 20, 1894, the majority of their land was sold; however, Lovey continued to own and live on the land she received following her father's death (Delaware Death Records 1894; Sussex County Tax Assessment 1901–1904, 1906, 1913). When she died on January 3, 1918, the 20-acre (8.1-ha) tract went to her heirs (Find a Grave 2014b). On July 5, 1918, the children of David and Lovey Aydelotte and their spouses sold the tract to their cousin, Elmer Smith Murray for \$2,000.00 (SCDB 218:42).

Elmer Smith Murray was the son of Joshua Smith and Elizabeth C. Derrickson Murray, grandson of Benjamin Evans and Nancy Townsend Derrickson, and great-grandson of John and Hattie Maull Townsend (U.S. Census 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, and 1910). He was born on August 31, 1881 in or near Clarksville, Delaware and worked as an engineer for tug boats and ships (U.S. Census 1910, 1920, 1930; United States World War I Registration Card 1917). He and his first wife, Ella, and their children lived in a house that dated to the late-nineteenth century adjacent to the 20-acre (8.1-ha) Lovey Townsend lot (Sussex County Tax Assessment 1888–1915). It is likely that Elmer built a house on the lot he acquired from Lovey Townsend in 1918. According to a 1999 survey, the two-and-a-half story house that once stood on the lots (CRS #S-2478) did not appear on topographic maps until 1918, suggesting it was built around this time (Griffitts 1999:24–25) (Figure 3, p. 12). It appears

that Elmer, his children, and his second wife, Laura B., resided on the property until they sold it in 1931 to his cousin, Charles Henry Aydelotte.

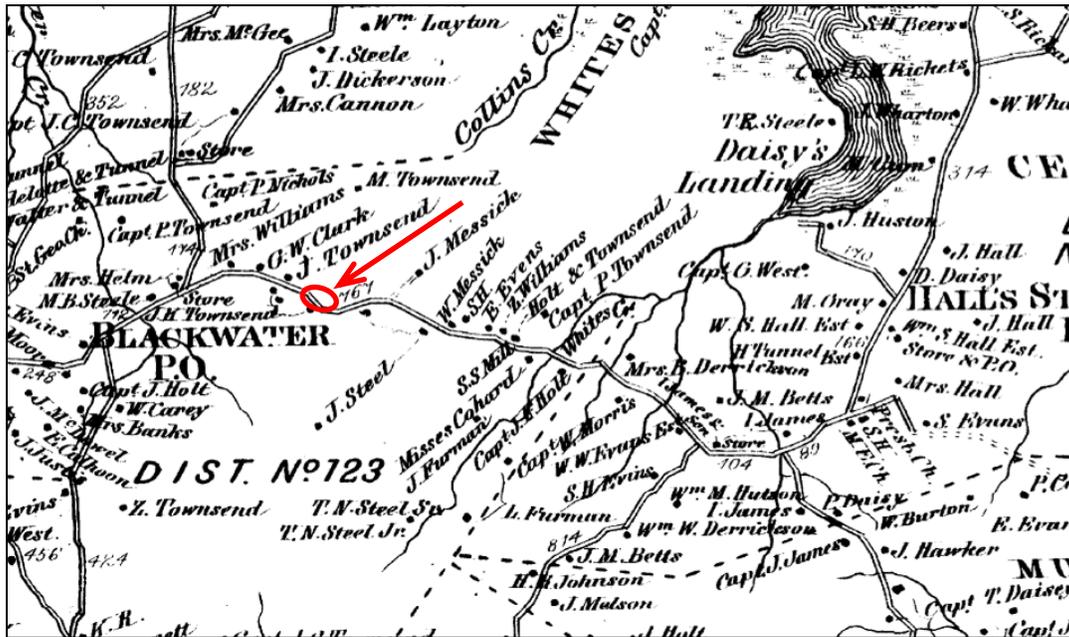


Figure 2: 1868 Map Showing Project Area Vicinity, Indicated by Red Circle (Pomeroy and Beers 1868).



Figure 3: Portion of 1918 USGS Rebooth 15-Minute Quadrangle (USGS 1918). Arrow indicates house that once stood in the project area.

Charles Aydelotte was born to David Henry Aydelotte, son of David and Lovey Townsend Aydelotte, and Mary Sally West Ayelotte on July 8, 1885 in Millville, Delaware. By the age of 14 he worked as farm laborer, likely with his farther and younger brother, George, who were also farm laborers (U.S. Census 1900). In December of 1907, Charles married Elizabeth Holt who was born November 25, 1888 to Lemuel and Mary Holt in Sussex County, Delaware. The two were married in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where Charles worked as a marine engineer on a steam ship (U.S. Census 1920, 1930). Initially, they rented a house on North Lindenwood Street and later purchased a house at 109 59th Street in the same city (U.S. Census 1920, 1930). They lived in Philadelphia until they acquired the land from Elmer S. Murray, at which time they moved to the house on SR 26. In 1931, tax records show that Charles and Elizabeth made \$2,000.00 of improvements to the approximately 24-acre (9.7-ha) lot (Sussex County Tax Assessment 1930, 1931). It is likely that this is when the one-story, wood-frame gas station that once sat on this lot (CRS #S-9148) was built (Figure 4). This building would later function as restaurant, liquor store, and an auto dealership (Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs 1999). The 1940 U.S. Census record shows that Charles and Elizabeth lived with or near Aldon Murray, nephew of Elmer S. Murray, and his family. Charles owned the property and Aldon, a truck driver for his own company, was a renter (U.S. Census 1940). This record suggests that Aldon Murray operated the business started by Elmer and possibly lived in the store situated adjacent to the larger house, all of which were owned by Charles and Elizabeth (U.S. Census 1940). In addition to the house, outbuildings, and the commercial building, a cemetery was located on this lot, northwest of where the house stood. It is no longer associated with the property; however, its location is still marked by a small grove of trees.

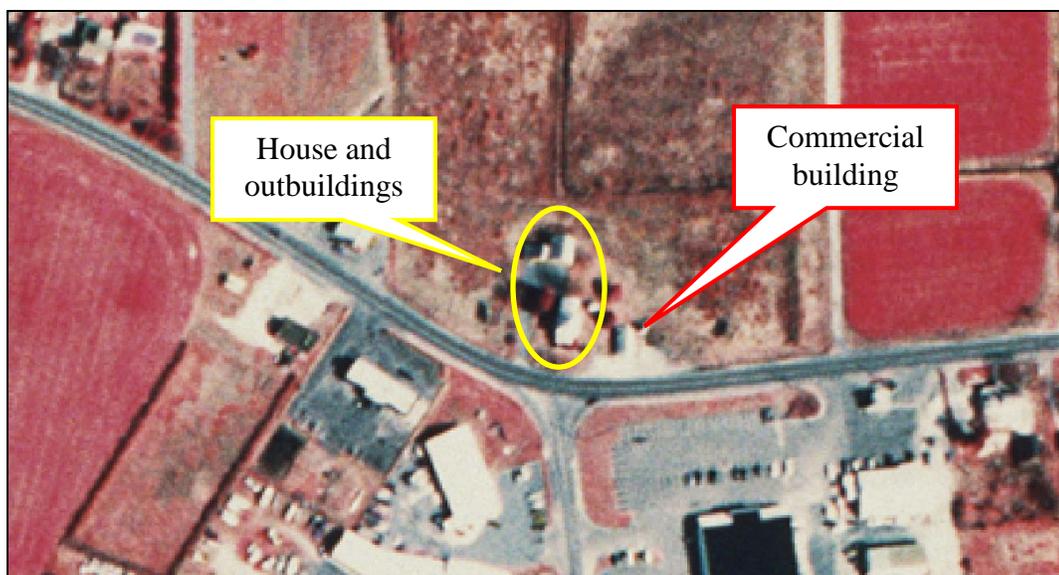


Figure 4: 1992 Aerial of the Intersection of Roxana Road and SR 26. The house built by Elmer S. Murray and the neighboring commercial building are noted (Sussex County GIS 2014).

Elizabeth Aydelotte died on January 16, 1966 and her interest in the land passed to Charles. He continued to own the land until his own death on December 9, 1971 (SCDB 1343:34). As laid out in his will, the land transferred to Charles's nephew, Lemuel and Ruth Holt (Sussex County Will Book [SCWB] 72:144). Lemuel was born on May 10, 1910 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Ebe and Mary Holt. Ebe was an older brother of Elizabeth Holt Aydelotte. Lemuel and his wife, Clara Ruth Brown Holt lived in Pennsylvania throughout a majority of the twentieth century; it is possible that they moved to the Clarksville vicinity when they acquired Charles Aydelotte's land in 1971. It was during his ownership that the tract was subdivided into "Holt Acres," which was composed of five tracts of land surrounding a road, Holt Land, terminating in a cul-de-sac (Sussex County Plat Book [SCPB] 20:6). The house, associated outbuildings, and commercial building were situated on Lots 4 and 5, located on the west side of Holt Lane. It is likely that the goal of this subdivision was to develop the lots; however, this never transpired (SCPB 20:6).

On May 30, 1985, Lemuel and Ruth Holt sold Lots 4 and 5 to a group of three people for \$215,000.00: William D. Dolan of Arlington, Virginia, Richard E. Palmer of Alexandria, Virginia, and Jackie Hickman of Bethany Beach, Delaware (SCDB 1343:34). The two tracts of land were bought and sold several times over the next few years until 1989 when they conveyed by a quitclaim deed to the Bamberger-Spinelli Partnership, made up of Ronald L. Bamberger and John S. Spinelli (SCDB 1648:161). In 2002, three parcels (making up all of what was formerly known as Lots 4 and 5 of Holt Acres) were sold to P.H. Millville for \$892,500.00, a limited liability corporation (SCDB 2683:42). Soon after this transaction, the house and outbuildings were demolished, with the exception of the commercial building. Aerial photography suggests that building remained extant until after 2007 (Sussex County Online Mapping 2014). P.H. Millville is the current owner of the property, which is now void of any building or above-ground structure.

RESULTS OF FIELDWORK

The current project APE encompasses a total of approximately 1.07 acres (0.43 ha) lying on the north side of SR 26 at the intersection with SR 17 (Roxana Road) near Millville in Sussex County, Delaware (Figure 1, p. 3). A total of 19 STPs were excavated during the field survey, and two surface features were noted. One potential archaeological site was identified. The results of the fieldwork are discussed below.

Pedestrian Survey

The majority of the project area comprises an open field with a gravel driveway leading into it from SR 26, just northwest of the intersection with SR 17. This driveway served the former house in this location, although it may have been improved during the planned construction of modern development on the property. Two surface features were noted during the course of the survey.

The first surface feature noted was just north of the fenced-off area near the east end of the APE. This feature consisted of a partially exposed cellar hole lined with a cinder block foundation (Photo 3). This cellar is likely associated with the former building in this location, which served at various times as a gas station, liquor store, restaurant, and auto dealership (Photo 4, p. 16). Because only a small portion of this feature was exposed, it is difficult to ascribe a function to it, or even to discern its total size. It may represent a partially exposed full cellar beneath the former building, or a smaller feature such as a maintenance pit associated with the former gas station.



Photo 3: Cellar Hole Lined with Cinder Block.



Photo 4: Commercial Building Formerly Located in Eastern Portion of APE as Photographed in 1998. Photo courtesy of DelDOT.

The second surface feature noted was located in the small copse of trees at the northern end of the “spur” of the APE. The feature consists of a pit roughly 4 feet (1.2 m) deep by approximately 15 feet (4.6 m) in diameter at the ground surface (Photo 5). The bottom of this pit was filled with approximately 8 inches (20.3 cm) of water at the time of the survey. Although this was initially thought to represent the filled-in cellar of one of the former buildings on the site, historic topographic maps reveal that the pit is located at the “elbow” where a now-buried artificial drainage channel makes a 90-degree turn to the east (Figure 5, p. 17). This system of drainage ditches is also shown on a 1954 aerial photograph. The pit seems to be an inlet into this culvertized drainage, and as such, is unrelated to the former residential complex on the property.



Photo 5: Inlet to Culvertized Drainage Ditch.

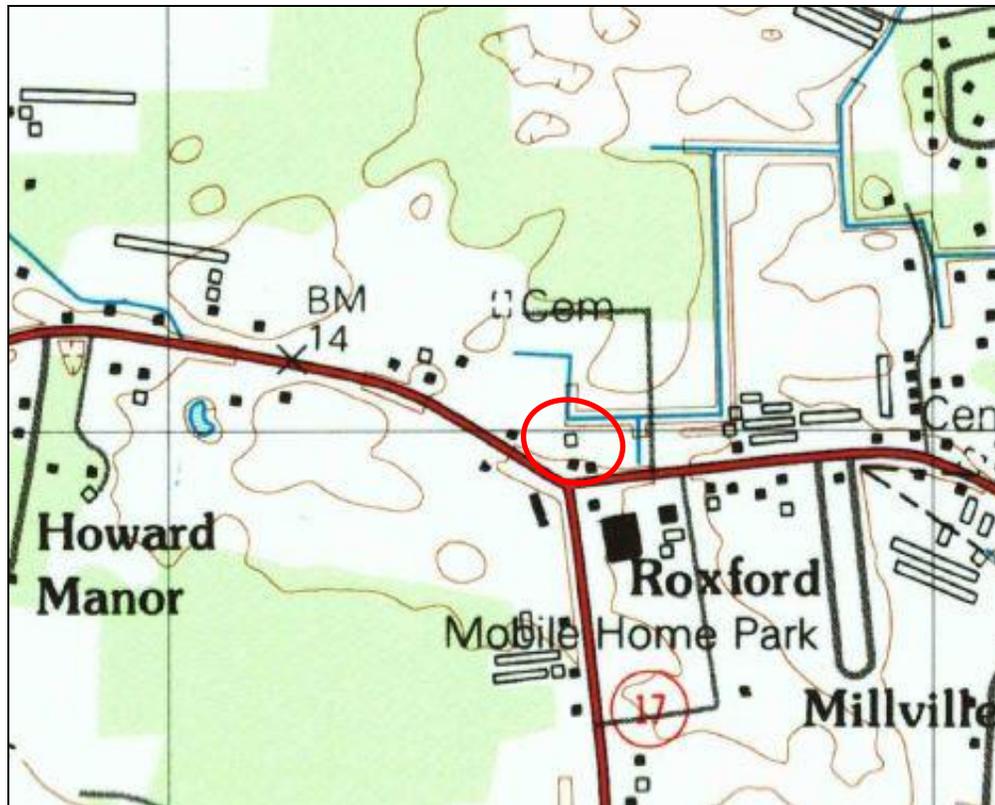


Figure 5: Portion of 1984 USGS Frankford 7.5-Minute Quadrangle, Showing House and Associated Outbuilding, Commercial Building, and System of Drainage Ditches. Red oval shows general area of APE (USGS 1984).

Shovel Testing

A total of 21 STPs were laid out in the project area (Figure 6, p. 18). This includes nine shovel tests dug along the two transects that represent the primary testing grid, as well as an additional 12 radial STPs around positive shovel tests in order to define site or artifact deposit boundaries. Two of the radial shovel tests were laid in, but not dug. STP A-1-South was not excavated because it, like the other “south” radials which would have fallen around the positive STPs along Transect A, fell along a corridor where buried utilities were indicated by access panels. STP A-3-East was also not excavated because it fell within the gravel driveway leading into the property.

Shovel tests ranged in depth from 1.5 feet (45.7 cm; STPs A-1, B-1, and B-4) to 2.3 feet (70.1 cm; STP A-5). The average shovel test depth was 1.8 feet (54.9 cm). Soils in the project area comprised approximately 1 foot (30.5 cm) of olive brown (2.5Y 4/3) sand overlying light olive brown (2.5Y 5/6) sandy subsoil (Figure 7, p. 18). A few shovel tests contained additional soil strata that represent overburden lying above original surfaces buried during post-occupational activities at the site (Figure 8, p. 19).

Six of the STPs excavated along the primary testing grid were positive for cultural materials. Three of the radial STPs excavated to delineate the boundaries of the artifact concentration

were also positive. All of the artifacts recovered dated to the historic period and indicate the possible presence of an archaeological site dating to the late-nineteenth or early-twentieth century. Because all of the artifacts recovered during the survey are considered to be part of the same potential site, they will be discussed in the treatment of that site below.

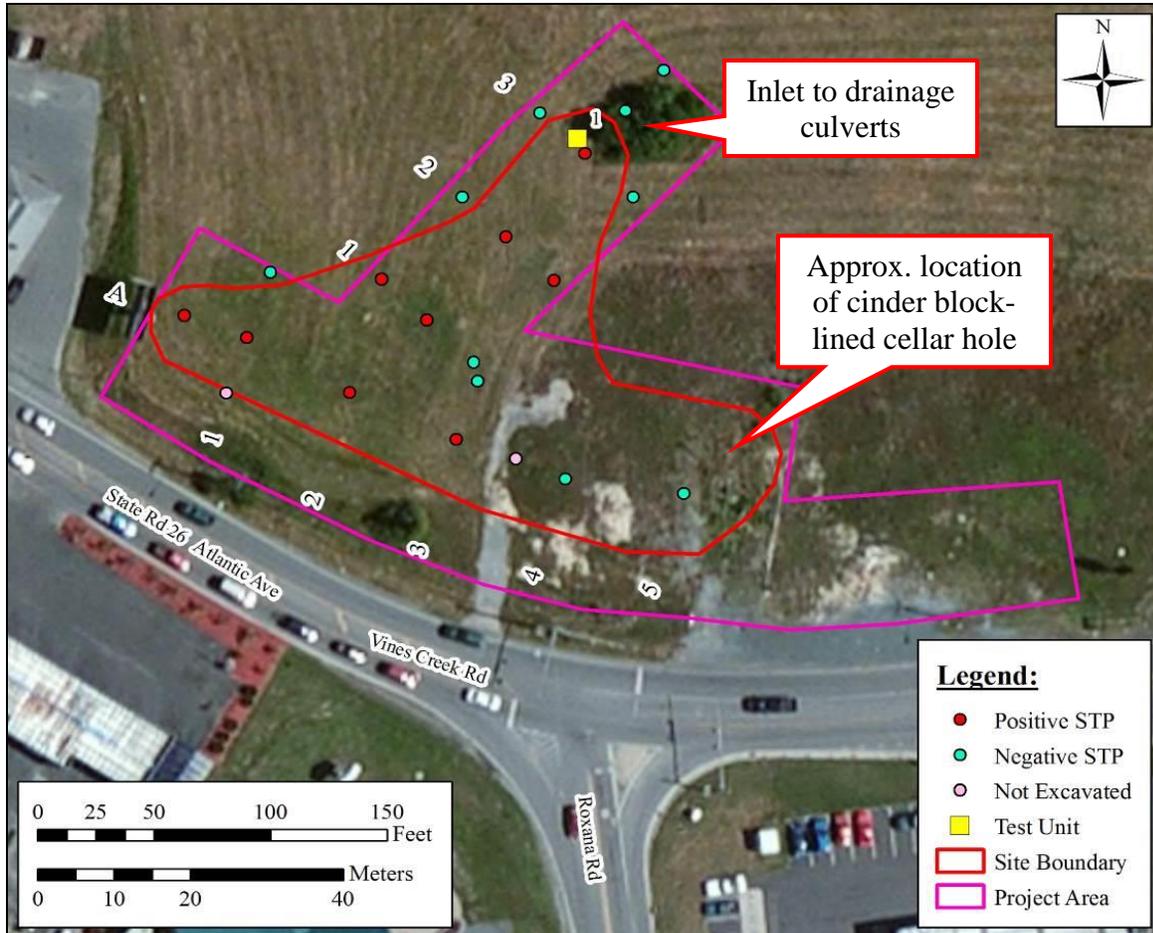


Figure 6: Plan Map of Features and Excavations in APE.

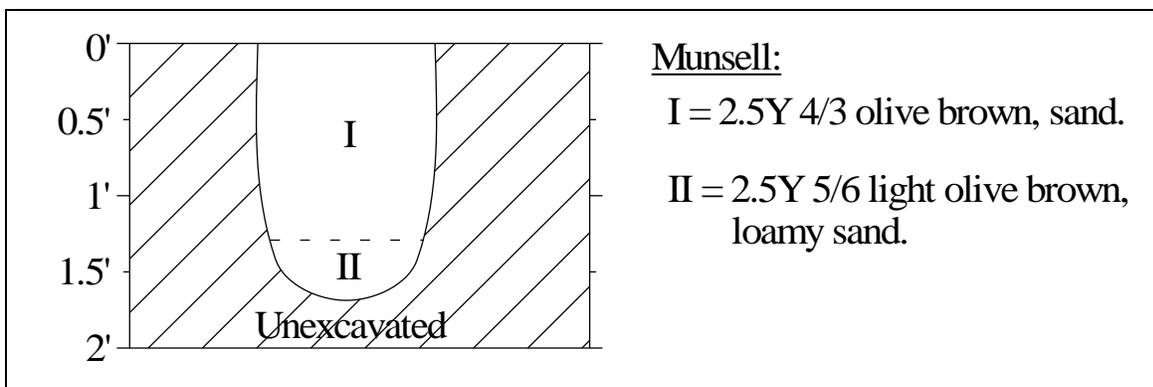


Figure 7: Profile of STP A-1.

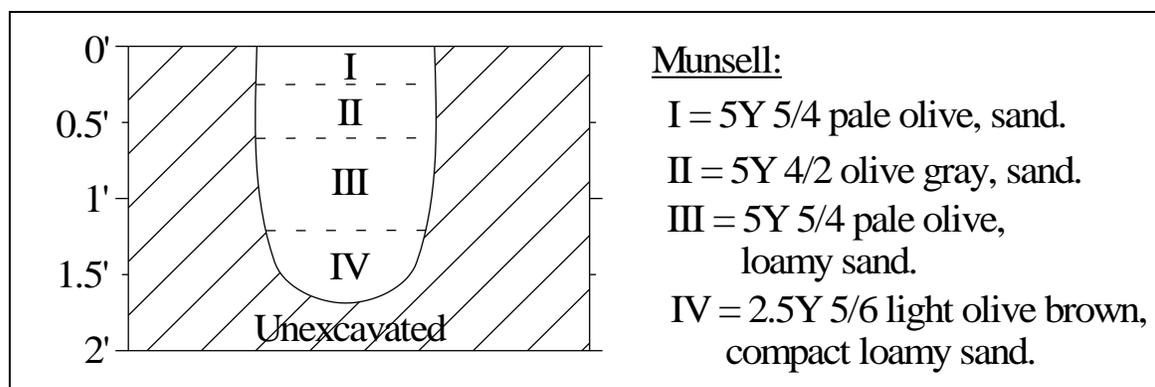


Figure 8: Profile of STP A-4.

Artifact Concentration 1

A total of 42 artifacts was recovered during the investigations within the project area. All of these are considered to be part of Artifact Concentration 1. Of these 42 artifacts, 37 were recovered from STPs, while the remaining five came from the one test unit excavated, TU 1.

Site Description

Artifact Concentration 1 encompasses roughly half of the project area, covering approximately 0.55 acres (0.22 ha). Site boundaries were determined by the locations of artifact-positive shovel tests and the location of the cinder block-lined cellar hole. All positive STPs dug within the project area were considered to be part of Artifact Concentration 1. The stratigraphy of STPs excavated within the site is essentially the same as for the majority of the shovels tests dug across the project area as described above. One Test Unit was excavated within the potential site in order to better assess stratigraphy and site preservation conditions. Artifacts recovered from the potential site included 11 nails (seven cut, two wire, two indeterminate), seven fragments of window glass, 16 pieces of bottle glass, one unidentifiable fragment of glass, two pieces of ceramic (one ironstone and one Albany-slip stoneware), three indeterminate metal fragments, one clam shell fragment, and a plastic bead.

Test Unit 1

TU 1 was excavated in the northern spur of the project area, just northwest of STP B-3 at the north end of Artifact Concentration 1 (see Figure 6, p. 18). This location was chosen due to the recovery of a nail from STP B-3, possibly indicating a building nearby, as well as for the proximity of this location to the stone-lined drainage inlet, which was thought at the time of the fieldwork to possibly be the remains of a partially filled-in cellar.

The soils in TU 1 comprised three distinct strata (Figure 9, p. 20; Photo 6, p. 21). Stratum I, which was approximately 1 foot (30.5 cm) in depth, consisted of a very dark grayish brown (2.5Y 3/2) loamy sand plowzone. All of the artifacts recovered from this unit originated in this stratum. Stratum II was a light yellowish brown (2.5Y 6/4) sand which appears to be a

transitional layer consisting of subsoil with some organic staining due to leaching of organics from the plowzone above. Stratum III was unmodified subsoil and comprised an olive yellow (2.5Y 6/6) loamy sand with mottled with yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) pockets of sandy loam. These mottles increased with depth and represent pockets of illuvial clay and iron translocated from the upper horizons. No intact buried surfaces or features were observed in the test unit. Only five artifacts were recovered from the Test Unit, all of them from Stratum I. They included two cut nails, one fragment of clear bottle glass, a sherd of Albany-slip stoneware, and an unidentifiable piece of ferrous metal.

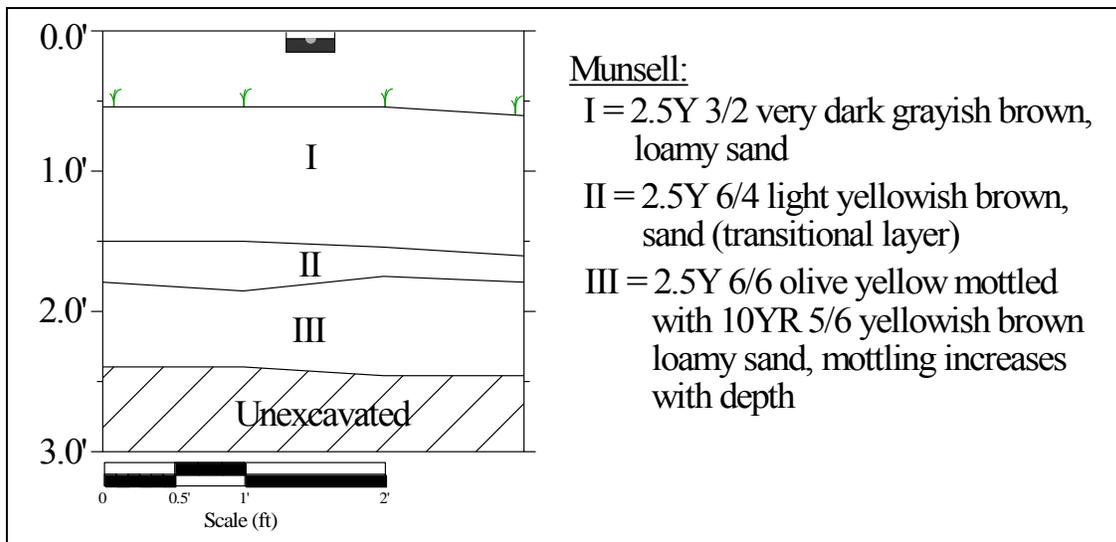


Figure 9: North Profile of TU 1.

Analysis and Discussion

Due to the relatively small size of the current project area and the known location of the former buildings there, all locations within the APE that yielded artifacts are considered part of Artifact Concentration 1. A total of 42 artifacts were recovered from the nine positive STPs and single test unit at the site. The assemblage from the site was dominated by artifacts belonging to the architectural category (43 percent, n=18) (Figure 10, p., 21). The majority of these artifacts were nails (n=11), while the remainder were fragments of window glass. Of the nine nails which were identifiable on the basis of manufacture technique, seven were cut nails, suggesting a pre-1890 construction date. However, dating of a demolished building based on the presence of cut nails is problematic due to the continued use of cut nails for fastening to masonry. This may be particularly true of early-twentieth century sites in rural areas where builders may have used older nails that were still available or on hand. In this case, cut nails could have been used for frame construction in addition to fastening to masonry.

The other artifact class dominating the assemblage was glass (Figure 10, p., 21). Of the 17 pieces of glass recovered, 16 were from bottles, and those which possessed datable attributes such as embossing and machine manufacture using multi-part molds, indicate manufacture in the late-nineteenth century or later. Glass bottles are a ubiquitous artifact type for this time

period and are found on many types of sites, from roadside refuse scatters to former dwellings. As such, they can give clues to site function only when viewed within the context of the rest of the assemblage. The basic function of Artifact Concentration 1 is known to be domestic based on photographs taken of the house and possible agricultural outbuildings prior to their demolition (Photo 7, p. 22). Because we know this to be a domestic site, we can consider the other artifact types expected to occur on such a site, such as ceramics. However, only two pieces of ceramic were recovered during the survey (one ironstone and one stoneware), far less than expected for a domestic site. In this light, it would appear that bottle glass may be over-represented in the assemblage, suggesting that much of it was deposited either following the occupation of the house, or concurrently with its occupation, but unrelated (i.e., as roadside trash). As such, the assemblage from the site suggests post-occupational disturbance which has removed or displaced artifacts to a significant extent, as well as possibly post-occupational contamination with artifacts unrelated to the domestic site.

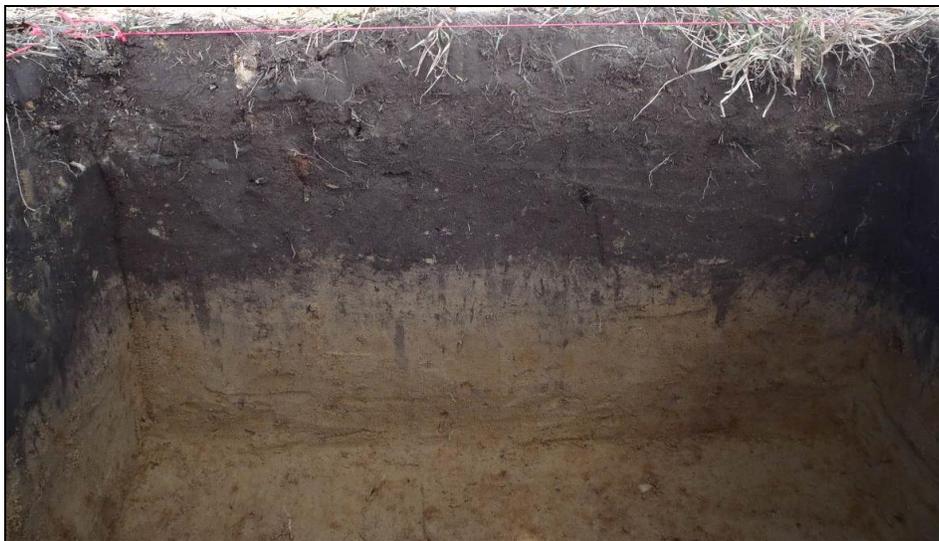


Photo 6: North Profile of TU 1.

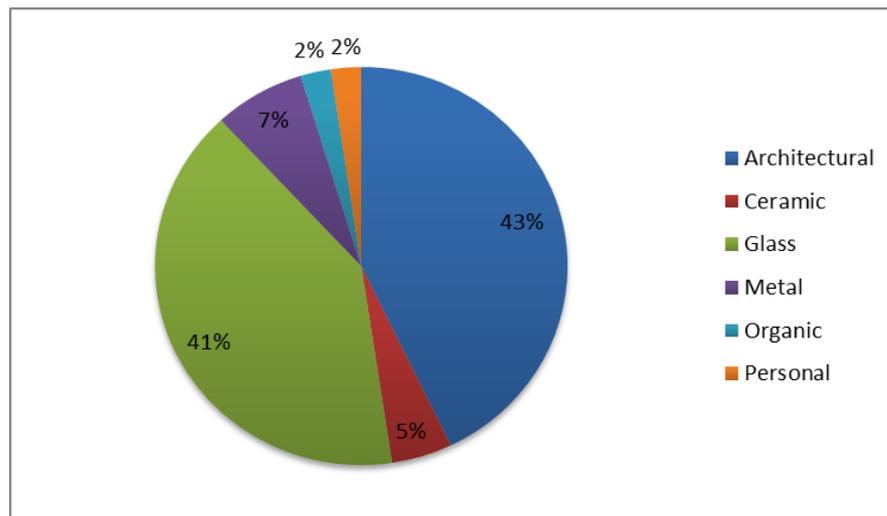


Figure 10: Summary of Artifacts Recovered from Artifact Concentration 1.

The archaeology and photographs of the former buildings at Artifact Concentration 1 indicate that the site represents the remains of a late-nineteenth or early-twentieth century house. Documentary and map research (covered in the previous section of this report) indicates that this house was likely constructed by Elmer Murray in or around 1918. The barn and adjacent smaller outbuilding seen behind the house in photos (Photo 7) were likely constructed about the same time (Griffitts 1999). The house and outbuildings were demolished in 2002.



Photo 7: Murray House and Outbuildings as Photographed in 1998.
Photo courtesy of DelDOT.

The site boundaries have been drawn to also include the foundation/cellar hole associated with the commercial building located just east of the Elmer Murray house because the demolition of the buildings has smeared the archaeological traces of both buildings together such that it is not possible to differentiate between the two “sub-sites” on the basis of artifacts alone. This commercial building was constructed circa-1930 as a one-story, wood-frame gas station (Griffitts 1999) (Photo 4, p. 4). This building would later function as restaurant, liquor store, and an auto dealership (Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs 1999). It was demolished sometime in or after 2007.

Evaluation and Significance

The significance of the Artifact Concentration 1 was evaluated in relation to the NRHP eligibility criteria. The site was evaluated in regards to Criterion A, for its association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; Criterion B, for association with the lives of persons significant in our past; Criterion C, for its embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of a style; and Criterion D, for its potential to yield information important in history. Artifact Concentration 1 has no known associations with important events in American history (Criterion A). Background research revealed no information about the site that indicates association with significant persons (Criterion B). Because there are no standing buildings or evidence of intact subsurface architecture, it also

does not have a unique architectural style or association with an important architect (Criterion C). The nature and small size of the artifact assemblage and evidence for disturbance of the site make it unlikely that additional archaeological investigations there would provide significant historical data (Criterion D). Therefore, **the site is recommended as not eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A, B, C, or D.**

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SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In March of 2014, Dovetail conducted archaeological survey and testing at the request of the DelDOT for the Commercial Area Road Widening at the SR 26/Roxana Road Intersection in near Millville in Sussex County, Delaware. This project is being done as part of the greater SR 26 widening project, for which a Phase I archaeological survey and Phase II archaeological testing were completed in 2003 and 2004 (Gundy and Sams 2003; Gundy et al. 2004; McCormick, Taylor & Associates 2003). Although the undertaking received a determination of no adverse effect for the widening project, it was recently determined that additional cultural resource services were required at a location along the corridor, namely a newly proposed commercial development entry at the intersection of SR 26 and Roxana Road. The limits of construction, as outlined within the preliminary construction plans furnished by DelDOT and Century Engineering, defined the project's APE. The present investigations and resultant data are therefore to be taken as only a part of a larger body of data collected for the SR 26 project.

The current Phase I work included limited archival research to identify historical patterns of ownership and land use within the project area. Fieldwork was conducted from March 5 to 7, 2014, and consisted of a pedestrian and subsurface survey within all portions of the APE with the exception of a portion at the far eastern end of the project area which was known to be disturbed. It was decided in consultation with DelDOT that this area did not warrant subsurface testing.

One possible archaeological site, the Artifact Concentration 1, was identified during Dovetail's survey. More intensive testing was conducted at the potential site to provide additional information regarding site function, boundaries, and archaeological integrity. Intensive subsurface testing consisted of close interval shovel testing as well as the excavation of a TU. This site represents the remains of a house and associated outbuildings constructed circa-1918. The site also includes a foundation associated with a commercial building constructed around 1930. Dovetail **recommends that Artifact Concentration 1 is an archaeological site dating to the early-twentieth century that warrants an archaeological site number.** However, the site has been significantly disturbed and is **recommended as not eligible for the NRHP.** No additional archaeological work is recommended.

An extant inlet for a culvertized drainage ditch was also identified in the project area. This ditch appears in a 1954 aerial photograph and continues to be a functional feature. Because this feature remains a functional component of infrastructure, it is not considered to represent an archaeological site and, as such, is **recommended as not eligible for the NRHP.**

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APPENDIX A: SHOVEL TEST RECORD

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STP	Radial	Level	Start Depth	End Depth	Soil Description	Comments
A-01		I	0	1.2	2.5Y 4/3 olive brown sand	
A-01		II	1.2	1.65	2.5Y 5/6 light olive brown loamy sand	
A-02		I	0	1.3	2.5Y 4/3 olive brown sand	
A-02		II	1.3	1.7	2.5Y 5/6 light olive brown loamy sand	
A-03		I	0	1.4	2.5Y 4/4 olive brown sand	
A-03		II	1.4	1.8	5Y 5/4 pale olive sand	
A-04		I	0	0.25	5Y 5/4 pale olive sand	
A-04		II	0.25	0.6	5Y 4/2 olive gray sand	
A-04		III	0.6	1.2	5Y 5/4 pale olive loamy sand	
A-04		IV	1.2	1.7	2.5Y 5/6 light olive brown compact loamy sand	
A-05		I	0	0.45	5Y 5/4 pale olive sand with hydraulic cement	end of transect
A-05		II	0.45	0.85	5Y 3/2 dark olive gray sand	
A-05		III	0.85	1.3	5Y 4/6 olive sand	
A-05		IV	1.3	1.8	2.5Y 4/4 olive brown sand	
A-05		V	1.8	2.3	2.5Y 6/6 olive yellow sand	
B-01		I	0	1.1	2.5Y 4/3 olive brown sand	
B-01		II	1.1	1.55	2.5Y 5/6 light olive brown sand	
B-02		I	0	1.3	5Y 3/2 dark olive gray sand	
B-02		II	1.3	1.65	5Y 6/4 pale olive sand	
B-03		I	0	1	5Y 3/2 dark olive gray sand	
B-03		II	1	1.55	5Y 6/4 pale olive sand	
B-04		I	0	0.55	2.5Y 4/4 olive brown loamy sand	end of transect
B-04		II	0.55	1.1	2.5Y 3/2 very dark grayish brown loamy sand	
B-04		III	1.1	1.5	5Y 6/4 pale olive sand	
A-01	West	I	0	1.1	2.5Y 4/3 olive brown sand	
A-01	West	II	1.1	1.7	2.5Y 5/6 light olive brown loamy sand	
A-01	North	I	0	1.1	2.5Y 4/3 olive brown sand	
A-01	North	II	1.1	1.5	2.5Y 5/4 light olive brown loamy sand	
A-01	South				!!NO DIG!!	buried utilities
A-03	North	I	0	0.4	2.5Y 4/3 olive brown sand	
A-03	North	II	0.4	0.7	2.5Y 3/2 very dark grayish brown sand	
A-03	North	III	0.7	1.6	2.5Y 4/3 olive brown sand	
A-03	North	IV	1.6	2	2.5Y 6/6 olive yellow loamy sand	
A-03	East				!!NO DIG!!	in gravel drive
B-01	West	I	0	1.1	2.5Y 4/3 olive brown sand	
B-01	West	II	1.1	1.5	2.5Y 5/6 light olive brown loamy sand	
B-01	East	I	0	1.6	2.5Y 4/3 olive brown sand	
B-01	East	II	1.6	2	2.5Y 5/6 light olive brown loamy sand	
B-02	East	I	0	0.7	2.5Y 4/4 olive brown sand	
B-02	East	II	0.7	0.8	asphalt layer	
B-02	East	III	0.8	1.6	2.5Y 4/3 olive brown sand	
B-02	East	IV	1.6	2	2.5Y 5/6 light olive brown loamy sand	
B-02	West	I	0	1.3	2.5Y 4/3 olive brown sand	
B-02	West	II	1.3	1.7	2.5Y 5/6 light olive brown loamy sand	
B-03	West	I	0	1.1	2.5Y 4/3 olive brown sand	
B-03	West	II	1.1	1.4	2.5Y 5/6 light olive brown sand	
B-03	West	III	1.4	1.8	2.5Y 5/4 light olive brown loamy sand	
B-03	North	I	0	1.3	2.5Y 4/4 olive brown sand	
B-03	North	II	1.3	1.6	2.5Y 5/6 light olive brown mottled/ disturbed	
B-03	North	III	1.6	2	2.5Y 5/4 light olive brown loamy sand	
B-03	East	I	0	1.6	2.5Y 4/3 olive brown sand	

STP	Radial	Level	Start Depth	End Depth	Soil Description	Comments
B-03	East	II	1.6	2	2.5Y 5/6 light olive brown loamy sand	

APPENDIX B: ARTIFACT CATALOG

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Site	STP	Radial	Test Unit	Strat	Level	Cat	Type	Subtype	Form	Material	Decoration	Size/Comments	Count
Artifact Concentration 1	A1			I	1	Per	Bead			Plastic	Pink		1
Artifact Concentration 1	A1			I	1	Arc	Nail	Cut	No Head			Shaft	2
Artifact Concentration 1	A1	WEST		I	1	Arc	Nail	Ungalvanized Wire	Flat Head			Complete	1
Artifact Concentration 1	A2			I	1	Gls	Bottle	Light Aqua	Finish			Multi-Part Mold/Brandy Finish	1
Artifact Concentration 1	A2			I	1	Arc	Nail	Cut	No Head			Shaft	1
Artifact Concentration 1	A2			I	1	Arc	Nail	Unidentifiable	No Head			Shaft	1
Artifact Concentration 1	A2			I	1	Arc	Nail	Cut	Cut Head			Complete	1
Artifact Concentration 1	A3			I	1	Org	Clam Shell						1
Artifact Concentration 1	A3			I	1	Cer	Earthenware	Ironstone	Base		Free-Standing Round Footring	Crazed/Iron Conglomerate Attached	1
Artifact Concentration 1	A3			I	1	Gls	Bottle	Brown	Body				1
Artifact Concentration 1	A3			I	1	Arc	Window Glass	Aqua					2
Artifact Concentration 1	A3			I	1	Gls	Unidentifiable	Clear				Crizzled/Melted	1
Artifact Concentration 1	A3			I	1	Arc	Nail	Unidentifiable	Unidentifiable Head			Head And Shaft	1
Artifact Concentration 1	A3			I	1	Met	Unidentifiable			Iron Alloy		Flat/Curved/Possible Nail	1
Artifact Concentration 1	B1			I	1	Arc	Nail	Ungalvanized Wire	Flat Head			Complete	1
Artifact Concentration 1	B1	WEST		I	1	Gls	Bottle	Brown	Body				1
Artifact Concentration 1	B1	WEST		I	1	Gls	Bottle	Clear	Base		Embossed Banding	Multi-Part Mold	1
Artifact Concentration 1	B2	EAST		I	1	Met	Unidentifiable			Iron Alloy		Flat/Curved Metal	1
Artifact Concentration 1	B2	EAST		I	1	Arc	Window Glass	Clear					4
Artifact Concentration 1	B2	EAST		I	1	Arc	Window Glass	Light Aqua					1
Artifact Concentration 1	B2	EAST		I	1	Gls	Bottle	Clear	Body				6
Artifact Concentration 1	B2	EAST		I	1	Gls	Bottle	Clear	Body		Embossed Banding		3
Artifact Concentration 1	B2			I	1	Gls	Bottle	Clear	Body		Embossed		1
Artifact Concentration 1	B2			I	1	Gls	Bottle	Clear	Body				1
Artifact Concentration 1	B3			I	1	Arc	Nail	Cut	No Head			Shaft	1
Artifact Concentration 1			1	I	3	Met	Unidentifiable			Iron Alloy			1
Artifact Concentration 1			1	I	3	Arc	Nail	Cut	Unidentifiable Head			Head And Shaft	2
Artifact Concentration 1			1	I	3	Gls	Bottle	Clear	Base				1
Artifact Concentration 1			1	I	3	Cer	Stoneware	Refined	Body		Albany-Type Slip		1