ABSTRACT

The Warwick Site (18CE371) is located in southeastern Cecil County, Maryland, near the watershed divide between Delaware Bay and the Chesapeake Bay, in Maryland Archaeological Research Unit 6. The site was identified during Phase I survey associated with proposed improvements to U.S. 301. Following Phase II evaluation, the Maryland Historical Trust, in consultation with the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT), determined the Warwick Site eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D for its ability to reveal information about the prehistory of the northern Delmarva Peninsula. Dovetail Cultural Resource Group (Dovetail) conducted a Phase III archaeological data recovery for DelDOT. The project, completed between March and August 2013, included archaeological investigation of a DelDOT-owned property in Cecil County, Maryland. The Phase III archaeological investigation built upon the Phase II excavation by expanding the excavation to create a large block within the core of the site, by collecting a broad range of data, and by examining the history of landscape alteration at the site.

The Warwick Site is a small, near-surface concentration of stemmed points, primarily the Lamoka type as well as one Bare Island and one Teardrop point, other stone tools, debitage, and fire-cracked rock dating to the Late Archaic and, perhaps, the Early Woodland Period(s). Small, low-density accumulation of tools, debitage, and fired-rock dating to the Late Archaic and Early Woodland periods are common throughout the northern Delmarva Peninsula and the circum-Chesapeake Region in general. Interpretations of such sites, particularly those conducted at the Phase I and Phase II levels, seldom extend beyond establishing an occupation date based on diagnostic artifacts and classifying the site by reference to commonly used settlement types. Phase III excavation and analysis attempted to provide a richer interpretation of the Warwick Site by examining the artifacts and site structure in detail, and by comparing the Warwick Site with a sample of the Phase III excavations of Late Archaic-Early Woodland/Woodland I sites in the northern Delmarva Peninsula.

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