

steaks and roasts, ham roasts, and mutton chops. A second sample, block 1192, Lots 18 & 19, feature 1, showed a preponderance of beef roasts and stewing cuts with some mutton roasts while a third sample, block 1184, Lot 7, feature 1 and Lot 13, feature 1, included beef steaks and roasts and a high proportion of mutton. Although the contexts of the finds are not good enough to match these diets with specific individuals, the faunal data clearly show different diets which may be associated with varied socio-economic or ethnic groups. The possibility of studying these kinds of differences, from a purely archaeological perspective, enhances the significance of the few intact deposits discovered. Also, these data suggest that a fruitful focus for future research would be controlled comparisons of faunal remains for archaeological contexts of known socio-economic and ethnic affiliation.

The results of excavations in the Wilmington Boulevard project area indicate the presence of intact and significant cultural resources in Block 1191 Lot 10, Block 1192 Lots 31 and 32, and Block 1184 Lot 58 (Map 2). The remaining survey area does not contain significant cultural resources.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A preliminary cultural resource assessment was conducted within portions of the five city block area of the proposed Wilmington Boulevard widening and new alignment project, Front and King through Fourth and Walnut Streets, Wilmington, Delaware. The cultural resource assessment was designed to evaluate the extent, significance, function, chronology and contextual

integrity of the archaeological remains within a portion of the Wilmington Boulevard National Register Historic District. Background information and archival research was divided into historic and contemporary sources. Field investigations consisted of the re-excavation of previously looted features, backhoe trenching and controlled excavations. The excavations resulted in the verification of three areas completely outside of the proposed roadway which have been recommended for preservation in place. All other areas within the survey limits including the proposed Wilmington Boulevard from King and Front Streets to Fourth and Walnut Streets are clear of any impact as far as significant cultural resources are concerned. Likewise, all areas within the survey area, besides those three areas which should be preserved, are not eligible for listing as individual sites on the National Register of Historic Places.

Artifact analysis was structured to leave the excavated materials for future questions concerning, among other things, the socio and techno-economic system of the occupants within the project area from both a synchronic and diachronic perspective and within a cultural historic framework. The preliminary data compilation and preliminary research is only a beginning and has generated a data base from which a whole host of questions and hypotheses can be addressed.

An overriding factor, which is also a basis of the recommendations forwarded, is the extent and amount of severe demolition and looted features which were encountered in the survey area. The informants, who were responsible for much of the unprofessional excavations, detailed and supplied us with the date range of artifacts as well as information on the

construction methods and total depth of the forty five plus features which they looted within the five blocks studied (Maps 10, 13, 16, 19, 22). Of note is the accuracy of information with which they supplied us. The four privy/wells we re-excavated, one in Block 1192 between Lots 8 & 19, two others in Block 1184 lot 7 and 13, and the fourth in block 1183 lot 55 were accurately described prior to re-excavation. Their information throughout the five blocks was for the most part accurate and reliable. Unfortunately, the looted features contain a very biased sample of artifacts, thus disrupting any stratigraphy which may have existed. This disturbance makes cross-mending difficult and most importantly in terms of future research, limits the ability to assess changes through time in the given area. Of note is the fact that this looting is as extensive throughout the rest of the Wilmington Boulevard Historic District and surrounding areas.

The other factor, demolition, was responsible for completely eradicating most of the significant cultural resources in the project area. All areas excluding those three being recommended for preservation, and two small, non-artifact bearing levels located on the extreme western boundary of the survey limit within Block 1184 in the rear of Lots 14 and 62 and the other within Block 1183 Lot 55 have been cut below the historic soil levels.

Recommendations

1. Prior to any future mitigation plans which may become necessary within the three areas which have been recommended for preservation in place, it is suggested

that these three areas be evaluated in light of all archaeological assessments which have taken place within the Wilmington Boulevard, Front and Monroe Streets to Fourth and Walnut Streets, as well as all other work accomplished within the city. To better illustrate, the one whole block and eleven half blocks, Front and Monroe to Fourth and Walnut Streets which comprise the Wilmington Boulevard, and ninety nine percent of the Wilmington Boulevard Historic District, have had four preliminary archaeological surveys, one major archaeological mitigation, and several historical and architectural inventories and/or recordations since 1976. Based upon these facts it is strongly recommended that the DelDOT in concert with the Bureau of Archaeology & Historic Preservation prepare a future city plan based upon all the accumulated data and information from the Wilmington Boulevard.

2. It is recommended that the remaining looted features within the survey limits be left buried. The artifacts which remain are minimally five feet below ground level and are secured and preserved by either select fill and/or demolition fill.
3. If the proposed roadway is constructed, the proposed areas of preservation within Blocks 1191 and 1192 should not be impacted. The surface area may be used for parking or storage. On Block 1184 however, the preserved area should be off limits for parking and

storage. The preliminary design & landscape plans illustrate all areas recommended for cultural resource preservation as being planted with grass and containing ornamental vegetation.

4. When it can be scheduled, the persons responsible for the looting of the features should be contacted and a meeting arranged so that the artifacts which they have from the survey area can be inventoried and photographed.