

FIELD, LAB, AND ARCHIVAL METHODS

The Phase II archaeological field methods included a mixture of shovel test pitting and the excavation of 3'x 3' test units within and around areas defined as historic archaeological sites by the Phase I Survey (Bachman et al. 1988). Testing was concentrated, but not confined to the limits of the proposed right-of-way as one of the primary goals of the Phase II survey was to determine site limits.

The standard excavation procedure to determine site limits and gather initial archaeological data was to place shovel test pits at intervals of 20 feet in a grid pattern over the site. The interval was reduced to 10 feet in areas of high artifact density or areas with a high potential for historic features. The goal of shovel testing was to gather data on artifact distributions, site stratigraphy, and the stratigraphic context of artifacts and features. Special emphasis was placed on the detection of cultural features and the identification of intact, artifact-bearing stratigraphic contexts.

Shovel test pits were laid out and described according to grid coordinates established by transit. All soils excavated were passed through 1/4-inch mesh and all cultural materials recovered were bagged according to the individual test unit and the arbitrary or natural excavation level. Stratigraphic soil data and a record of all cultural materials found were kept for each shovel test on standardized log sheets.

Measured 3' x 3' and 5' x 5' test units were excavated in areas of high artifact density or atop historic features identified by archaeological testing. All of the test units were

excavated to sterile soil unless large historic features were encountered. Small historic features such as postmolds were completely excavated while larger features such as wells and cellar holes were sampled. All excavated soil was screened through 1/4-inch mesh and detailed stratigraphic and historic feature records were kept on standardized forms. All subsurface excavations were excavated according to natural soil levels or systematic arbitrary levels. All feature soils were excavated and screened separately. Mean ceramic dates were calculated using mean ceramic date values based on South (1977) and Brown (1982) and given in Appendix I.

Test units were located and described by the coordinates of their southwest corner as determined by the same transit grid as the Phase II shovel tests pits. All subsurface tests were mapped on 1/600th scale, one-foot contour field maps (scale: 1 inch equals 50 feet) provided by the Division of Highways. These highly accurate maps were keyed to the centerline surveyors stations (STA) and allowed for the accurate placement of finds made during the Phase II Survey.

Prior to a detailed artifact analysis, the standard artifact processing procedures of the Delaware Bureau of Museums were applied to all artifacts recovered from the Phase II excavations. All artifacts were cleaned in the lab with plain water, or, in the case of deteriorating bone, shell, or metal, damp-or dry-brushed. Bone and shell were then placed in labeled bags. All other artifacts were labeled with the site number and a three digit provenience number. Artifacts were sorted in categories

for cataloging based on their material composition. The total artifact count and basic description for each site is provided in Appendix II.

Archival research methods included the detailed reconstructions of individual site histories based on deed research and other archival sources. Historic atlases of Kent County showing individual structures, specifically Byles' 1859 and Beers' 1868 atlases, were also used. The goal of deed research was to identify the occupants of a site through time and to reconstruct the local historic landscape. Once deed research was completed, occupants of individual sites were traced through a variety of historical records. Tax assessments, particularly detailed lists made between 1797 and 1828, provided important historical data, including evidence of the relative socio-economic status of site occupants. Various national censuses, particularly population censuses taken after 1790 and agricultural censuses taken after 1850, provided both site-specific and local data. Local government records, specifically Orphan's Court and probate records, provided critical site-specific information for many sites. Genealogical data from both published and unpublished sources at the Delaware State Archives in Dover were also used.

PHASE II SURVEY RESULTS

BUCHANAN-SAVIN FARM SITE

The Buchanan-Savin Farm Site is located approximately two miles north of Smyrna at the junction of Route 13 and Duck Creek Road (Kent 486) (Figure 3). Archival research has identified the