

### 3.0 PREHISTORIC CULTURAL CONTEXT

The prehistory of the Delmarva Peninsula is divided into five chronological periods: Paleoindian (13,000-6500 B.C.), Archaic (6500-3000 B.C.), Woodland I (3000 B.C.-A.D. 1000), Woodland II (A.D. 1000-1650), and the Contact Period (A.D. 1650-1750). This division is based on perceived broad cultural differences between successive periods and relative cultural continuity within each period.

#### 3.1 *Paleoindian Period (13,000-6500 B.C.)*

The earliest generally accepted period of human occupation in the Western Hemisphere is the Paleoindian Period. The period dates from the Late Pleistocene-Early Holocene transition and coincides with the retreat of continental glaciers from the middle latitudes of the Northern Hemisphere. The emergent environment can be characterized as a mosaic of deciduous, boreal, and grassland biomes with a uniformly cold and alternately wet and dry climate. Human social organization at the time is believed to have been in small, mobile bands of hunter-gatherers, and the movements of these bands were scheduled seasonally to exploit different localized environments and resources within each band's territory. Site patterning seems to indicate a preference for riverine environments with sites located on high terraces or knolls overlooking rivers or streams (Leslie 1973; Marshall 1982; Custer 1989).

Central Delaware is thought to have contained a wide variety of resources attractive to its Paleoindian inhabitants. Custer (1984: 52-3) suggests that the mobile lifestyle, with its emphasis on hunting, would leave its mark on the landscape in the form of base camps, base camp maintenance sites, hunting sites, and quarry-related locations. The majority of Paleoindian sites in central Delaware and the Midpeninsular Drainage Divide Zone have taken the form of isolated point and tool finds on the surface (Custer 1984, 1989). Although there are no reported Paleoindian sites within the current project's study area, it is thought that the swamps and bogs present along the drainage divide and the bay/basin features of the Mid-drainage Zone would have been particularly attractive to Paleoindian groups, (Kellogg 1993; Custer 1984; Custer et al. 1983). The Hughes Early Man Complex in central Kent County, Delaware (7K-E-10, -24, -33) is an example of a set of sites from the period located in a similar topographic setting to that of the

current project's study area. The complex includes six Paleoindian artifact concentrations/surface finds located on well-drained knolls adjacent to a large freshwater swamp and several poorly-drained areas (Custer 1989: 105). A Clovis point, a Mid-Paleo point, Kirk and Palmer notched points, and numerous bifacial and flake tools were recovered from these sites (Custer 1984: 58).

While Paleoindian tool kits were once interpreted as being primarily intended for game procurement and processing, recent studies have indicated a more diverse subsistence strategy. Custer and Stewart (1990) suggest, based on analogies with recent sub-Arctic people's experience, that Paleoindian people were "generalized foragers, hunters, and fishermen in a boreal forest environment" (pg. 314). Excavations at the Shawnee-Minisink Site (36MR0043), which is located near the confluence of Brodhead Creek and the Delaware River just to the north of where that river breaks through the first (southernmost) range of the Appalachian Mountains, yielded evidence of the use of both local plant and animal resources by Paleoindian people (Dent and Kaufman 1985). Storck and Tomenchuk (1990) interpret a cache of informal tools from a Paleoindian site in Ontario as having been used to work wood, possibly to make line for lashings or for weaving baskets.

Paleoindian tools often display a high degree of maintenance and reworking, indicative of extensive curation. This is consistent with proposals that groups were highly mobile, exploiting relatively large territories that incorporated within them sources of high-quality lithic raw materials such as chert, jasper, and chalcedony (Custer et al. 1983; Custer and Stewart 1990; Gardner 1989; Goodyear 1989). The earliest diagnostic tool forms include fluted points (i.e., Clovis, Mid-Paleo, and Dalton), while later forms include notched (and often serrated) points (i.e., Palmer, Amos, and Kirk). Jasper and chalcedony from the Delaware Chalcedony Complex, located north of the study area in the northwest corner of the state, are believed to have been an important lithic source for the early inhabitants of this region. Researchers have identified a cluster of fluted point finds associated with the Delaware Chalcedony Complex in northwestern New Castle County, Delaware and northeastern Cecil County, Maryland (Custer and Galasso 1980; Custer, Ward, and Watson 1986; Custer 1989: 103). The trend towards the nearly exclusive selection of high quality lithic materials began to attenuate during the later portion of the Paleoindian Period. Numerous Kirk and Palmer notched points manufactured from coarser

materials, including quartz, quartzite and rhyolite, have been found in Delaware (Custer 1989: 59).

One Paleoindian site, 7NC-D-23, is reported to have been found to the northwest of Glasgow. The site was identified on the basis of the recovery of a single fluted point. Another possible Late Paleoindian site was discovered during the Phase I survey for the Route 896 project. That site, 7NC-D-113, the Jarmon Site Areas A & B, was identified during the course of a pedestrian survey in an area to the north of the New Castle and Frenchtown Railroad right-of-way, south of Glasgow. In addition to a number of Woodland I projectile points, a single corner notched stemmed jasper point possibly attributable to the Late Paleoindian Period was recovered (Lothrop et al. 1987).

### 3.2 *Archaic Period (6500-3000 B.C.)*

By 6500 B.C., the climate of the Middle Atlantic region had begun to approximate that of modern times. Warmer, moister conditions prevailed, with the associated disappearance of spruce-dominated boreal forests and the expansion of mixed hemlock-oak forests into the region (Custer 1990: 9). Mast-bearing tree species provided food for small game animals, especially deer and turkey. The marked rise in sea level that occurred during the early Holocene had a profound effect on the Delmarva Peninsula. Flooding of coastal lowland areas and inundation of river systems brought about the development of complex estuary systems. Numerous interior swamps were also created. These changes caused a net increase in the variety and density of floral and faunal resources available to indigenous groups.

The increase in the range of food resources available to the population engendered a broadening of the subsistence base. Archaic people's use of a wider variety of plant and animal resources is evidenced in the associated increase in the variety of tools found in the tool kits from the period. The projectile points include bifurcates and a wide variety of stemmed and notched forms. In addition, an assortment of ground stone tools appears for the first time, presumably used for processing plant materials (Custer 1989; Stewart and Cavallo 1991).

The increase in the number of ecological settings within the Delmarva Peninsula and the associated increase in the variety of available subsistence resources led to a change in the settlement pattern from that previously seen during the Paleoindian Period. Custer (1984; 1989) suggests that this settlement system would have included the following site types: (1) Macroband base camps would have been located in areas with access to a variety of high-value subsistence resources, such as on terraces of major drainage systems and along the edges of interior swamps. These loci would have supported the seasonal aggregation of multiple families during peak periods of resource availability. Activities at these sites would have likely reified the social bonds among families through a variety of communal activities, including the arrangement of marriages. (2) Microband base camps would have been located in areas with generally lower carrying capacity than those chosen for the larger macroband base camps. These smaller base camps would likely have been used by single families during the less productive periods of the year, distributing the population over a larger area and thereby reducing the stress these groups would have placed on the subsistence resources in particular settings. These camps would likely have been located in sheltered areas with access to marshes along smaller drainages or other settings that would have provided relatively concentrated subsistence resources during the colder months of the year. (3) Procurement camps would have been small, relatively ephemeral sites where activities focused on the exploitation of a specific set of locally available resources, such as gathering berries or hunting deer. The locations of these sites would have been dependent on the resources being exploited and the environmental niches in which they could be found (Custer 1984: 67-74; 1989: 129-130).

Five sites within the project area are reported to either be attributable to the Archaic Period or to contain an Archaic component. One, 7NC-F-39, which lies along Joy Run, is characterized on its CRS form as a possible microband base camp, although the number of artifacts recovered during the surface collection is in fact relatively small (29 pieces of debitage, one hammerstone, and three projectile points). An Archaic component was identified at the Lums Pond Site (7NC-F-18), which is located just to the north of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal (Petraglia et al. 1998). Another site with an Archaic component, 7NC-F-2, was identified to the northwest of Lums Pond along Walter Run. The Augustine Creek South Site (7NC-G-145) is reported to have yielded a LeCroy bifurcate, attributable to the Archaic (Bedell et al. 2001). The fifth Archaic site

was identified during the Route 896 survey on the basis of a bifurcate point recovered by the owner of the property on which the Clarksdale Tenancy Site #2 (7NC-D-115) is located (Lothrop et al 1987).

The identification of 7NC-F-39 as a (Middle) Archaic site was based on the characterization of a triangular point recovered from a surface reconnaissance. Recent excavations, most notably those undertaken at the direction of Dr. Michael Stewart at the Area D Site (28ME1-D) at the Abbott Farm National Landmark near Trenton, New Jersey in the 1980s, have recovered triangular projectile points from securely dated (Middle) Archaic contexts in the Middle Atlantic region (Stewart 1998). Greg Katz, one of Dr. Stewart's students at Temple University, undertook a study of projectile points from the Archaic and Woodland II periods to determine if there were any morphological characteristics that distinguished the artifacts from each period. He found no statistical correlation between period of attribution and morphology for any of the characteristics he examined, according to Dr. Stewart. The excavations at the Area D Site that yielded Archaic triangles actually postdate the characterization of the artifact from 7NC-F-39 by two years, suggesting to Dr. Stewart that the person who characterized the triangle as an Archaic artifact was referring to a typology that predates this discussion. He noted, as he had in his paper (1998), that triangles attributable to the Archaic and early Woodland I periods had been recognized in New England as early as the 1970s (Stewart, personal communication, 2005).

### *3.3 Woodland I (3000 B.C.-A.D. 1000)*

The Woodland I Period is marked by changes in the subsistence strategies of the groups living on the Delmarva Peninsula and associated changes in their settlement system. During this period, sea level rise slowed, allowing the formation of large estuarine settings, which would have been richer and more diverse in their complement of plant and animal species than freshwater wetlands. Riverine environments also stabilized. These changes in turn facilitated an increase in shellfish and anadromous fish populations and an expansion of their ranges. A more diverse set of plants would also have been associated with these new ecological settings. This increase in the variety and density of subsistence resources in particular environmental settings in turn led to a higher degree of sedentism, as Native American groups focused more of their hunting and collecting activities on a smaller set of ecological settings. This sedentism was further facilitated

by innovations in food storage and cooking, through the introduction of initially steatite and later ceramic containers, and through the use of storage pits. The first evidence of house structures is found at these Woodland I Period sites. The increase in the number of sites associated with the period is interpreted as an indication of population growth, presumably facilitated by the increase in available food resources (Custer 1984; 1989; 1994).

Interestingly, the increased study of sites of this period, specifically the Snapp (Custer and Silber 1995), Leipsic (Custer, Riley, and Mellin 1996), and Pollack (Custer et al. 1995) sites, all in association with the S.R. 1 Corridor project, suggests that what Custer (1984; 1989) had previously called macroband base camps may instead represent the overlap of deposits associated with repeated use of a location by single families or small groups composed of a few families (Custer 1994; Petraglia et al. 2002). With respect to these large sites, Custer et al. (1996) has suggested that a more appropriate characterization might be “repeatedly reused base camps”, and that the smaller microband base camps might be referred to as “individual base camps”. However, the report does qualify this proposal by suggesting that the issue should be clarified before completely abandoning the former characterization of the sites in the settlement system. Petraglia et al. (2002: Figure 18.22) includes a graphic representation of how the patterning of deposits associated with each of these site types might appear in the field, thereby suggesting a method to distinguish between single-use and repeated-use sites.

Because this question has yet to resolved, in this report Woodland I and II macroband/repeatedly reused base camps will be referred to simply as large base camps, and microband/individual base camps will be characterized as small base camps, since size seems to be the most prominent criterion for distinguishing between the two. The literature does not yet include a review of the patterning of the deposits found at all of the sites from these periods, nor is it clear that the macroband-microband-procurement site settlement system model is entirely without utility in characterizing sites of the Woodland I and II. (To the best of this authors’ ability to determine, the discussion about site characterization has not formally extended back to sites of the Archaic and Paleoindian Periods, and as a consequence, this document retains the site characterizations for those periods used by Custer in his earlier work [1984; 1989]. Further study may indicate that the site classifications from these periods may require reconsideration as well.)

Changes in the exploitation of lithic resources also occurred during the Woodland I Period. Whereas cryptocrystallines had been heavily favored during the Paleoindian and Archaic Periods, groups inhabiting the Middle Atlantic region during the Woodland I Period greatly expanded their use of lithic raw materials to include quartz, quartzite, argillite, and rhyolite (Kinsey 1977; Stewart 1984; Custer 1992). Custer (1992: 42) has suggested that the use of more varied materials reflects a decrease in band territory size. However, wide distribution of non-local lithic materials, such as South Mountain rhyolite from south central Pennsylvania, also suggests the development of long-distance exchange networks.

A division of cultural complexes within the Delmarva Peninsula has been proposed for the early Woodland I Period (3000-500 B.C.). The Barker's Landing Complex is associated with both the Low Coastal Plain and the High Coastal Plain (Custer 1994: 20). The type site, the Barker's Landing Site (7K-D-13), is a large (reused?) base camp located in the Mid-drainage Zone of the St. Jones River. Ceramic forms recovered at the site included Marcy Creek, Dames Quarter, and Ware Plain, while projectile points were represented by stemmed and broadspear forms. The Coverdale Site (7K-F-38) on the Murderkill River is another large (reused?) Barker's Landing Complex base camp, again located within the Mid-drainage Zone. Its artifact assemblage is similar to that found at the Barker's Landing Site, and in addition it includes large argillite bifaces that Custer (1984: 109) interprets as representing the form in which argillite was produced for transport and exchange. The Hickory Bluff Site (7K-C-411), located along the St. Jones River, included a Barker's Landing Complex component. Excavations at the site recovered Marcy Creek and other ceramics from securely dated contexts, along with a wealth of other data (Petraglia et al. 2002). A number of smaller (single use?) Barker's Landing base camps have been identified along the St. Jones and Murderkill drainages, located in areas that would have been particularly good for gathering and/or hunting (Custer 1984).

The early Woodland I cultural complex associated with the Piedmont and areas in its near vicinity in the Interior Swamp Zone and High Coastal Plain is the Clyde Farm Complex (Custer 1994: 20). The type site, the Clyde Farm Site (7NC-E-6), is located near the confluence of White Clay Creek and Churchman's Marsh within the Interior Swamp Zone in northern New Castle

County. It is a large multicomponent site datable to both the Archaic and Woodland I Periods. The marsh with which it is associated would likely have been a freshwater swamp during the Archaic Period and would have subsequently become a tidal marsh during the middle of the third millennium B.C., due to the rise in the mean sea level. The site is very large (two kilometers by 0.5 kilometer), with a number of dense artifact concentrations. It has produced a wide variety of lithic artifact types, made both from locally available cobbles and from non-local material, and has yielded Marcey Creek and Dames Quarter ceramics. Custer (1984:100) interprets it as representing “a series of periodically revisited camp sites” that suggests a population density much greater than that seen in the area during the Archaic Period. Other large Clyde Farm Complex base camps include the Delaware Park Site (7NC-E-41), located along White Clay Creek, and several sites within the Delaware Shore Zone, on floodplains and upper terraces associated with confluences of the Delaware River and its higher-order tributaries. Sites of this latter group include the Crane Hook Site (7NC-E-18). Smaller base camps of the Clyde Farm Complex have been identified in a number of environmental settings, including the Lums Pond Site (7NC-F-18), where the Clyde Farm component is the predominant deposit at the site. Studies at Lums Pond yielded evidence of the exploitation of hickory nuts and acorns and the butchering of deer. Lithic artifacts from the site included both ones made from locally available cobble material and jasper from Iron Hill (Petraglia et al 1998). Although no procurement sites of the Woodland I Period have been identified within the current project’s study area, Custer (1984: 104) reports that elsewhere within the Midpeninsular Drainage Divide Zone several such sites have been identified.

As originally proposed, the Barker’s Landing and Clyde Farm Complexes characterized a relatively long time period (2500 years) in Delaware prehistory. The lack of finer chronological resolution within the periods was criticized in light of the evident cultural changes seen in other parts of the Middle Atlantic region during the period (comparable in these other areas to the traditional Late Archaic through Early Woodland Periods). Subsequently, these two complexes were subdivided into three subperiods (I through III) based on projectile point seriation analyses and ceramic types. Distinctive subperiod II projectile points include broadspears, and those of subperiod III include fishtails (Custer 1994: 24-45).

Around 500 B.C. these early Woodland I cultural complexes were succeeded regionally by others that evidenced clear continuity with their predecessors. Within the area that includes the current project's study area, the Clyde Farm Complex was followed by a phase previously referred to as the Wolfe Neck Complex (Custer 1984, 1989). Recent work suggests that this complex represents an extension of the Black Rock Complex identified in southeastern Pennsylvania (Custer 1994: 24; Petraglia et al 1998). The Black Rock Complex lasted from about 500 B.C. to 0 B.C. While the archaeological remains from the early and middle Woodland I evidence a similar biosocial adaptation, the two do differ in the characteristic artifacts associated with each. Ceramics from the Black Rock Complex are grit-tempered and cord- and net-marked and are referred to as Wolfe Neck or Susquehanna pottery. The characteristic projectile points of the period are Rossville or other stemmed varieties. Food gathering appears to have intensified during the period, along with the exploitation of estuaries (Custer 1984: 113).

In parts of Delaware the Barker's Landing Complex was succeeded by the Delmarva Adena Complex, a cultural phase that derives its name from finds of exotic materials and ceremonial goods at its associated sites similar to those of the Ohio Valley Adena culture (Custer 1984). These exotic artifacts, recovered for the most part from major and minor mortuaries, include gorgets, pendants, tubular pipes, bifaces made from Flint Ridge chert, and native copper beads. Custer has suggested a *big-man* social organization for this complex (1989: 268-9). The most distinctive sites associated with this cultural phase are cemeteries, and no large settlement sites have yet to be identified. The Delmarva Adena Complex is also represented by smaller base camps, exchange sites, cache sites, and isolated finds. Ceramic wares associated with this complex include Wilgus, Coulbourn, and Nassawango. The area within which the current project's study area lies falls outside of the area within which this cultural phase is thought to have been active.

The disappearance of mortuary centers around 0 B.C. marks the end of the Delmarva Adena Complex and the beginning of the Carey Complex (0 B.C. to A.D. 500) on the Low and High Coastal Plains and a continuation of the Black Rock Complex (subperiod II) in the Piedmont and neighboring areas (Custer 1994). The settlement and subsistence patterns of the Carey Complex generally conformed to those seen in earlier Woodland I phases: large base camps (the Clyde

Farm Site [7NC-E-6], the Delaware Park Site [7NC-E-41], and the Carey Farm Site [7K-D-3]); smaller base camps (the Green Valley Sites [7NC-E-54, 7NC-D-55, and 7NC-D-62] and Wolfe Neck Midden Site [7NC-D-10], among others); and presumably procurement sites, although Custer (1984: 132) reports none definitively associated with the period. In general, Carey Complex sites are characterized by the presence of large triangular, Rossville, and Fox Creek projectile points and shell-tempered Mockley pottery.

In the late Woodland I Period (A.D. 500 to A.D. 1000), Carey Complex sites are succeeded by Webb Complex sites on the High Coastal Plain and by Late Carey Complex sites on the Low Coastal Plain. Delaware Park Complex sites succeeded the Black Rock II Complex in the Piedmont and neighboring areas (Custer 1994). These complexes are usually associated with Jack's Reef projectile points and grit- and crushed-rock-tempered Hell Island ceramics. Tool kits include non-local materials, such as argillite, rhyolite and steatite, as well as a wide range of ground stone tools.

Collectively, the sites from this period indicate a more intensive exploitation of plant resources. The Webb Complex sites exhibit additional evidence of complex mortuary practices that incorporate various special grave goods, such as carved platform pipes, bone and antler tools, and a variety of projectile points, celts, and pestles (Custer 1984: 136; 1989: 293). The distribution of Webb Complex sites generally are found from the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal south to the Mispillion and Choptank drainages (Custer 1989: 291). Small base camp sites associated with the complex are the predominant site type identified along river floodplains and estuarine marshes. Large base camp sites in the Webb Complex include the Hell Island Site (7NC-F-7) (Custer 1989). Procurement sites are found short distances from base camps (Kellogg et al. 1994). Significant components from this period have also been excavated at the Lums Pond Site (7NC-F-18) (Custer and Silber 1995; Petraglia et al. 1998).

Eighteen Woodland I sites have been reported within the project area. Ten of these are reported as being single component sites: 7NC-F-14, a site west of Mount Pleasant along Back Creek; 7NC-D-92, near Muddy Run to the northeast of Glasgow; the Washington Site (7NC-H-12), located to the east of Townsend and associated with two bay/basin features; Carter-A (7NC-H-

14) and Carter-B (7NC-H-15), both located on a farm to the southeast of Townsend and both associated with bay/basin features; Carter-E (7NC-H-18), on the same farm as Carter-A and Carter-B and associated with a tributary of Barlow Branch; three sites identified during the Route 896 survey, the Brennan Site #3 (7NC-F-67), the Brennan Site #1 Areas "A" & "B" (7NC-F-61), and the Mary Johnson Site Areas "A" & "B" (7NC-F-63), one of which (the Brennan Site #1 Areas "A" & "B") was recommended eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places; and 7NC-D-197, located about one mile south of Glasgow on a rise between two wetlands. Multicomponent sites with Woodland I components include: 7NC-F-2, mentioned above in regard to its Archaic component; Clay-P (7NC-J-54), located to the east of Townsend and associated with bay/basin features; the Thomas Williams Site Area "B" (7NC-D-130), near Muddy Run along Route 896; the Jarmon Site Areas "A" & "B", mentioned above in regard to its possible Paleoindian component; the Clarksdale Tenancy Site #2 (7NC-D-115), noted above in regard to its Archaic component; the Pine Tree Corners (LBA Site #9) (7NC-J-208), identified in a farm field to the northwest of the Route 13/Pine Tree Corners Road intersection; the Augustine Creek North Site (7NC-G-144), located across Augustine Creek from the Augustine Creek South Site (7NC-G-145); and the Augustine Creek South Site itself.

### *3.4 Woodland II (A.D. 1000-1600)*

Throughout most of the Middle Atlantic region, the Woodland II (Late Woodland) Period is notable for the change in subsistence practices associated with the introduction of cultigens. This was accompanied by associated changes in the artifact assemblages of the period, which include tools associated with horticulture and the processing of plant materials, and by changes in the settlement systems in the region, with the establishment of villages in some areas and increased concentrations of populations within these larger settlements. However, on the Delmarva Peninsula, evidence for a shift to a predominantly agricultural subsistence system is sparse, suggesting to several researchers that cultivars never played a prominent role in prehistory on the peninsula. Others have suggested that poor preservation of organic material may be responsible for the paucity of evidence of the use of cultigens, or that cultigens did not facilitate the formation of village settlements, as they did in other parts of the Middle Atlantic.

Whatever the case, the Delmarva Peninsula evidences cultural continuity with the earlier Woodland I Period. Woodland II settlement patterns generally mirror those of the late Woodland I. Exchange networks appear to have been less robust during the Woodland II Period, presumably as a consequence of the shift to a more sedentary lifestyle elsewhere in the Middle Atlantic. This in turn limited the access residents of the Delmarva Peninsula had to non-local materials. Triangular points, which are interpreted as representing either arrow or dart tips, became the exclusive diagnostic projectile points of the period (Custer 1984; 1989; Petraglia et al. 1998).

Two cultural complexes are recognized in the Woodland II Period on the Delmarva Peninsula. The Minguannan Complex is found in northern portion of Delaware (including the current project's study area), northeastern Maryland, and portions of Chester County, Pennsylvania. Ceramics associated with the complex are sand, grit, or crushed quartz tempered and may include incised or cord-impressed designs. These wares show similarity in their distribution and composition to Hell Island ceramics, suggesting some cultural lineal affiliation. The subsistence activities appear to have been broadly similar to those of the Woodland I Period, with Minguannan components identified at many Black Rock sites, including the Clyde Farm (7NC-E-6) and Crane Hook (7NC-E-18) sites in New Castle County. Again, the hypothesized settlement system includes large and small base camps and procurement sites. As no large villages have been identified, sedentism is thought to have been no more pronounced than during the Woodland I Period (Custer 1984; 1989).

The Slaughter Creek Complex extended from the central peninsula south to Cape Charles, Virginia. The complex appears to evidence some continuity with the preceding Late Carey Complex, and Townsend Ware, the characteristic ceramics of the Slaughter Creek Complex, shares several characteristics with the Mockley pottery. Many Slaughter Creek Complex sites are quite extensive in their areal extent and therefore relatively easily identified. Perhaps because of this, and because of the relative richness of the archaeological deposits found at the sites, this phase in the prehistory of the Delmarva Peninsula has been studied more extensively than any other. Although domesticates appear not to have played a significant role in the diet of the period, settlement patterns were relatively sedentary, and storage features are prominent at many

sites. An early investigation of a Slaughter Creek site, 7S-C-1, located along Slaughter Creek itself, yielded faunal remains from bear, deer, and smaller mammals. Excavations at the Townsend Site (7S-G-2) recovered large quantities of shell from clams, oysters, mussels, and conch. Other sites of the period have yielded evidence of the exploitation of a variety of wild flora and fauna. Again, a settlement system composed of large and small base camps and procurement sites is proposed for the period (Custer 1984: 157-171; 1989: 316-331).

Seven sites within the project area have Woodland II components. Only one, the Brennan Site #2 (7NC-F-66), is characterized as being a single component site. It was identified to the west of Lums Pond during the course of the Route 896 survey on the basis of the recovery of one gray chert triangular projectile point and one piece of quartzite characterized as a possible core fragment (Lothrop et al. 1987). Multicomponent sites with Woodland II components include 7NC-F-2, mentioned above in regard to its Archaic and Woodland I components; Clay-P (7NC-J-54), mentioned above in regard to its Woodland I component; Site 1 (7NC-D-195), located approximately 1000 feet from Belltown Run along Route 896; the Hammond Site (7NC-G-138), north of Fieldsboro Road along U.S. 13; and the Augustine Creek North and Augustine Creek South Sites (7NC-G-144 and 7NC-G-145, respectively), both mentioned above.

### 3.5 *Contact Period (A.D. 1600-1750)*

The Contact Period in Delaware was marked by the establishment of European settlements, initially along the Delaware River and then later on the Delmarva Peninsula more generally. This precipitated a major disruption in the lives of the people already living on the peninsula. The European demand for furs shifted the economic orientation of Native American cultures, and metal and other European goods displaced stone and other traditional materials. The introduction of European diseases and the internecine conflict over control of the fur trade caused catastrophic social and political disruptions among indigenous peoples. By the end of the period, traditional lifeways were all but abandoned, and very few Native Americans survived on the Delmarva Peninsula.

The first Europeans to encounter the indigenous inhabitants of Delaware and other native tribes of the region encountered a complex social world of cross-cutting and competing interests,

alliances, trade relations, and warfare. The Iroquois, confederated as the Five (later Six) Nations under the covenant chain, were arguably the most powerful polity in the mid-Atlantic region throughout the seventeenth and the beginning of the eighteenth century. (Wallace [1969:42-46], Brandão [1997:36-44] and to a lesser extent Jennings [1968] have described the intra-societal dynamics of Iroquois political expansion and the nature of their political relations with neighboring tribes.) The development of the fur trade would eventually draw Iroquoian-speaking tribes seeking trading relations with Europeans and continued access to their trade goods into the territories of the Lenape and other tribes local to the Delmarva Peninsula. Through warfare, the Susquehannock would obtain access to European trading posts in Lenape territory (Jennings 1968, 1984).

The extent to which the Five Nations dominated the Lenape and their near neighbors is a matter of debate. For example, Jennings (1968:17-21; 1984:215) argues that the Susquehannock, one of the Iroquoian-speaking groups, did not hold political suzerainty over the Lenape, at least during the seventeenth century, as has been suggested generally by other authors. (See Custer 1984 and 1989, for example). However, whatever the character of political relations among the Native American groups actually was, by the later eighteenth century, colonial powers, particularly in the Pennsylvania colony, appeared to recognize Iroquois pretensions to territorial control and made treaties with them for lands in southeastern Pennsylvania (Thompson 1973).

By this time, a new period in the experience of Native Americans in Delaware had begun, the Refugee Complex, characterized by the migration west of indigenous people out of areas of European settlement toward areas still in Native American control (Custer 1984; 1996: 315; Kent 1989). Sites of this period/complex are virtually non-existent in Delaware; one possible Refugee Complex site, the Parkway Gravel Site (7NC-G-100), was identified in New Castle County as part of the State Route 1 (S.R. 1) Corridor study (Kellogg et al. 1994). By the mid 1700s, distinctively Native American cultural practices had for the most part disappeared from the Delmarva Peninsula.

Recent work (Heite and Heite, n.d.) has suggested that remnant, relatively small populations of Native Americans persisted on the peninsula beyond 1750. These descendants of the indigenous

inhabitants of Delaware adopted the cultural norms of the European settlers. They intermarried with European-Americans and African-Americans and were eventually assigned the social designation of “colored” or “mulatto”, further obscuring their lineal relationship to the area’s precontact indigenous inhabitants.

There are no reported Contact Period sites within the project area.

### *3.6 Previously Reported Prehistoric Sites with No Period of Attribution*

The majority of previously reported sites with prehistoric components within the project area have no period of attribution. There are forty-one such sites (see Table 1 below). These vary from sites defined by the recovery of a single artifact (the Hearne Site [7NC-H-11] and the Rholetter Site [7NC-H-13]) to one (Clay-L [7NC-J-50]) from which a total of 118 artifacts and fire cracked rock (FCR) were recovered. Seventeen of these sites are reported to have yielded prehistoric artifacts, but no counts are given. Seven are characterized as being associated with bay/basin features. As shown in Table 1, seven others (SR1-SPTC LO-71, LO-28 and LO-29 [7NC-H-91 (A-C)], for example) are delineated by clustering two or more loci.

### *3.7 The Sites Along Choptank Road*

Among the set of prehistoric sites without period of attribution within the project area are seven (7NC-F-92, 7NC-F-95, 7NC-F-96, 7NC-F-97, 7NC-F-98, 7NC-F-102, and 7NC-F-103) identified by Kise, Straw & Kolodner during a survey the firm recently undertook along Choptank Road. All are characterized as relatively low-density lithic scatters on their CRS forms. Petar Glumac (personal communication, 2005), in a conversation with one of the authors (Baublitz), reported that none of these sites had yielded diagnostics or prehistoric pottery. Dr. Glumac did state that on two of the sites features had been discovered. He characterized one feature as being roughly 20 centimeters deep and filled with a variety of debitage derived from different lithic material. The other he characterized as being much deeper, roughly 1.5 meters at its maximum, and containing predominantly debitage consisting of one stone type, a gray material with which he was previously unfamiliar. Anvil stones had been found in association with the second feature. Neither feature yielded carbon samples, and no diagnostics were recovered from either. Because the project was still in suspension by DelDOT at the time of this

writing, Dr. Glumac's crew has been unable to continue studies on the sites to get a better idea of their structure and function.

Discussions with Dr. Glumac, Gwen Davis of the Delaware SHPO's office, and Dan Griffith of the Lewes Maritime Archaeological Project and among the archaeologists at A.D. Marble & Company led to consideration that these features may represent evidence of some sort of exploitation of locally available cobble lithic sources. Faye Stocum (personal communication, 2005) of the Delaware SHPO's office reported that she was familiar with instances of exploitation of cobble sources exposed in stream cuts, and she suggested that one of the authors (Baublitz) speak with Dr. Kelvin Ramsey of the Delaware Geological Survey.

Dr. Ramsey (personal communication, 2005) stated that the Columbia Formation was relatively near the surface in the area in which the finds had been made, and that a tree fall or some similar happenstance could conceivably expose underlying coarse cobble material. He reported that the composition of the cobble would mirror the source material from which it was derived, and that quartzes would predominate, followed by cherts and quartzites. Because of the quartzes' greater propensity to shatter, larger clasts would contain more cherts and quartzites. He was unable to speculate about the composition of the gray material identified by Dr. Glumac's crew.

Both Dr. Ramsey and Mr. Griffith recommended a paper by Nenad Spoljaric of the Delaware Geological Survey, *Pleistocene Channels of New Castle County, Delaware*. In this work Spoljaric (1967) describes a system of fluvial channels evident in the underlying Columbia Formation in New Castle County that represent the paleochannel system created by the rivers and streams that deposited the material during the Pleistocene. He characterizes these as predominantly straight channels to the north of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal and as a braided pattern to its south. The channels are mapped as relatively broad areas within parts of the current project's study area, and as the data used to construct the map is of relatively low resolution, fine detail relative to the location of the site identified by Dr. Glumac's survey is not possible.

In discussions about these sites with one of the authors (Baublitz), Dr. Jay Custer (personal communication, 2005) observed that he had noticed relatively high densities of cobbles and other course material near the surface in an area between the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal and Middletown during surveys undertaken by the University of Delaware Center for Archaeological Research (UDCAR). These cobbles had been brought up by historic and modern ground disturbances (a cemetery's grounds was one setting where he remembered cobbles littering the surface, for example). But he also observed that the lithic material available in the vicinity of Iron Hill in northern New Castle County was still relatively easily accessed from the area within which the Choptank sites lay, and he stated that the assemblages identified during the course of the Route 896 study (see below) had in fact been dominated by this material.

It is far from clear what activities these deposits represent. While the hypothesis that they are related to cobble exploitation appears tenable, further study of these and other similar sites (if such sites are identified) will be required to ascertain the value of this idea. In the interim, the Choptank Road survey suggests that other sites of this type may be present within the study area of the U.S. 301 Project Development.