

## 4.0 PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

As the preceding prehistoric and historical background sections demonstrate, the record of Native American and European occupation in Delaware and the Middle Atlantic region is extensive. Settlements and activity over the course of millennia have led to the formation of numerous archaeological sites. To provide a comparative basis for evaluating cultural resources in the Bridge 2-210A project area, the results of previous archaeological investigations conducted in the area were reviewed.

Historical background information on the project area was obtained at the Delaware State Archives in Dover, and the U.S. Geological Survey Library in Reston, Virginia. Cultural resource survey site files were searched at the DeSHPO. Previously identified archaeological or architectural resources in the vicinity of the project area were located on the appropriate 7.5 minute topographic map (Marydel, DEL-MD quad). Resources within roughly one mile of the project area were noted, as well as resources within two miles that were located near drainages. This site search strategy was chosen in consultation with the DeSHPO to find sites located in ecological environments similar to those of the project area. A site search of resources nearby in Maryland was not conducted due to time constraints.

### 4.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

Eighteen prehistoric archaeological sites are listed in the DeSHPO's CRS files as having been recorded within one mile of the project area, or within two miles along drainages. Details of these sites are presented in Table 4-1, and their locations are shown relative to the Bridge 2-210A project area in Figure 4-1. Many of the sites were recorded in the mid-1960s, and the site forms provide little information other than the site number and location. Based on the recording techniques noted on the forms and on the type of archaeological survey that was conducted in the region at that period, the sites listed without age designation were presumed to be prehistoric. All of the prehistoric sites listing diagnostic artifact types appeared to date to the Early or Middle Woodland subperiods.

The sites are discussed briefly below, and are grouped geographically, moving outward from the Bridge 2-210A project area.

#### *Culbreth Marsh Ditch*

Four sites have been recorded near Culbreth Marsh Ditch (the former Tanner Branch). Three are surface-collected sites of unknown age. The fourth is the eastern section of the current site, 7K-E-91, Locus A. Among the artifacts documented at Locus A were ceramic sherds identified as Wolfe Neck cord-marked.

#### *Mud Millpond*

Three sites were recorded near Mud Millpond, southwest of the project area. They include two surface-collected sites of unknown age, and a third surface-collected site, Mud Mill Landing (7K-E-65), approximately 1,700 feet southwest of Bridge 2-210A, at which sherds identified as Wolfe Neck cord-marked were recovered.

**Table 4-1. Previously Identified Archaeological Sites within One Mile of the Project Area, or within Two Miles along Drainages (ordered by CRS number).**

CRS No.	Site No.	Cultural Affiliation/Time Period	Method	Diagnostic Artifacts	Nearest Water Source	Distance from Bridge 2-210A
K-524	7K-E-39	unknown	Surface Collection	n/a	Mudmill Pond	< 1 mile
K-525	7K-E-80	unknown	Unknown	n/a	Mudmill Pond	< 1 mile
K-526	7K-E-65	Woodland	Surface Collection	Wolfe Neck cord-marked ceramics	Mud Millpond	< 1 mile
K-527	7K-E-91	Woodland	Surface Collection	Wolfe Neck cord-marked ceramics	Culbreth Marsh Ditch	< 1 mile
K-528	7K-E-73	unknown	Unknown	n/a	Culbreth Marsh Ditch	< 1 mile
K-529	7K-E-79	unknown	Unknown	n/a	Culbreth Marsh Ditch	< 1 mile
K-530	7K-E-51	unknown	Surface Collection	n/a	Culbreth Marsh Ditch	> 1 mile
K-531	7K-E-41	unknown	Unknown	n/a	Culbreth Marsh Ditch	> 1 mile
K-535	7K-E-89	unknown	Surface Collection	n/a	Choptank River	< 1 mile
K-536	7K-E-87	Woodland	Surface Collection & Excavation	Coulbourn net-impressed and cord-marked ceramics	Choptank River	< 1 mile
K-537	7K-E-42	unknown	Surface Collection	n/a	Choptank River	> 1 mile
K-538	7K-E-78	unknown	Surface Collection	n/a	Choptank River	> 1 mile
K-539	7K-E-88	Woodland	Surface Collection	Mockley net-impressed ceramics	Choptank River	> 1 mile
K-540	7K-E-15	unknown	Surface Collection	n/a	Choptank River	> 1 mile
K-542	7K-E-44	Woodland	Surface Collection	Wolfe Neck net-impressed and cord-marked and Mockley net-impressed ceramics	Cow Marsh	> 1 mile
K-543	7K-E-74	unknown	Surface Collection	n/a	Cow Marsh	> 1 mile
K-544	7K-E-76	unknown	Surface Collection & Excavation	n/a	Choptank River	> 1 mile
K-1420	7K-E-133	unknown	Surface Collection	n/a	Choptank River	> 1 mile

### *Choptank River*

Eight archaeological sites have been recorded along the Choptank River within the two-mile area examined in the study. They include six surface-collected sites of unknown age, and a surface-collected site (7K-E-88), located about 7,000 feet south of Bridge 2-210A, from which ceramics identified as Mockley net-impressed were recovered. The final site is the Webb Choptank Site (7K-E-87), located approximately 4,300 feet south of Bridge 2-210A. Surface collection and limited excavation at the site recovered ceramics identified as Coulbourn net-impressed and cord-marked as well as Mockley net-impressed.

### *Cow Marsh*

Two archaeological sites were recorded near Cow Marsh, south of the project area. They include a surface-collected site of unknown age, and the Frazier Sand Pit Site (7K-E-44), located approximately 12,000 feet southeast of Bridge 2-210A. Surface collections at that site recovered ceramics identified as Wolfe Neck net-impressed and cord-marked, as well Mockley net-impressed.

One additional site, the Dill Farm Site (7K-E-12) is noted here, although it is situated beyond the two-mile limit imposed by the research approach. The Dill Farm Site is located on the south side of Cow Marsh Creek, approximately 3.5 miles southeast of the project area. The site is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. It has been informally surface collected for many years and has also undergone systematic surface collection and test excavations. The site appears to represent a long series of seasonal and/or transient hunter-gatherer camps, with intermittent occupations from 10,000 B.C. to A.D. 1500 (Thomas 1975). Features described as earth ovens and fire hearths have been documented, along with other, unidentified features. Diagnostic artifacts recorded include Wolfe Neck cord-marked and Coulbourn net-impressed and cord-marked ceramics.

## **4.2 ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES**

Bridge 2-210A was inventoried by the University of Delaware Civil Engineering Department in 1984 (CRS No. K-5672). This single-lane, steel stringer bridge had a span length of 29 feet and a deck width of 16 feet. The wearing surface of the bridge was wood plank. No construction date was given.

Other architectural resources identified within one mile of the project area include nine farmhouses dating from ca. 1850 to the mid-twentieth century, Choptank Mill dating to the late-nineteenth century, and one group of agricultural outbuildings (Table 4-2). The data for the previously identified architectural resources was collected mostly by the Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

## **4.3 SUMMARY**

The results of the background research presented here indicate that a number of cultural resources have been documented in the vicinity of Bridge 2-210A. These resources consist of both prehistoric and historical sites. The majority of the historical sites consist of nineteenth-

century farmsteads with standing structures; presumably, archaeological components are present as well, although to date, none have been documented. Little chronological data has been recovered from the prehistoric sites and most are of unknown age. Those that have been dated contained ceramic sherds characteristic of the Early or Middle Woodland subperiods.

**Table 4-2. Previously Identified Architectural Resources within One Mile of the Project Area**

CRS No.	Time Period	Site Type	Description	Comments
K-1135	Ca. 1880	Residential	A two-story frame residence with associated barn, sheds, and chicken house	Noted as undergoing extensive remodeling
K-1137	Ca. 1850–1865	Residential	A two-story frame residence	Noted as deteriorated and abandoned
K-1138	Ca. 1940–1950	Residential	A one-story frame residence	Noted in good condition
K-1140	Ca. 1850-1860 ca. 1900 (front addition)	Residential	A two-story frame residence with a front addition, associated sheds and chicken coops	Noted in good condition
K-1141	Ca. 1940	Residential	A two-story frame residence covered in asbestos siding with associated garage, shed, privy, and doghouse	Residence actually situated in Maryland
K-1682		Residential	A two-story frame residence covered in asphalt siding with an addition or wing	Deterioration noted
K-3592	Ca. 1930	Residential	A two-story frame residence covered in weatherboard, with associated shed and doghouse	Noted in good condition
K-3593	Ca. 1860–1870	Residential	A two-story frame residence covered in asphalt siding and associated frame barn with a chicken coop nearby	Noted in good condition. Above ground pool also on property.
K-3594	Ca. 1895	Mill	Choptank Mill with barns, sheds, a garage, and chicken coops	Agricultural Museum noted as caretaker of “old mill workings”
K-3595		Residential	A two-story frame residence with asphalt shingles, a one-story rear wing or addition; associated privy and chicken shed	Probably related to Choptank Mill
K-3607	Early twentieth century	Agricultural	Various outbuildings including a large frame barn, sheds, and silo with trailer nearby	Limited access noted

Few archaeological investigations undertaken in the area surrounding the Bridge 2-210A project area have been intensive: most of the documentation consists of data from informal surface collections. No information has been gathered through systematic data recovery projects. As a consequence, prehistoric and historical settlement and land use patterns are only beginning to be understood for the area. With this in mind, a research approach was developed for the current survey.