

**5.0 INTERPRETATIONS AND  
RECOMMENDATIONS**



## 5.0 INTERPRETATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Phase IB Archaeological Survey of the SR 1/SR 9 Interchange project APE identified a project setting impacted by historic roadway construction, military base development, and agricultural land-use activities. A total of 43 shovel test pits, four 1.0 meter by 1.0 meter (3.3 by 3.3 ft) test units, and a controlled surface collection were conducted within different sections of the APE. Despite the visible signs of landscape alteration and the road widening improvements to SR 1, the APE produced archaeological remains in a disturbed context.

In general, the section of the APE including the Dover Air Force Base (DAFB) and the intersection infield between SR 1, SR 9, and Kitts Hummock Road exhibited the greatest evidence of landscaping activities, with little of the original topsoil/subsoil stratification present. Exposed B-horizon soils were noted on the surface in a small portion of the DAFB property APE, indicating where the overlying topsoil was stripped away during the landscaping process and redeposited elsewhere across the property. Similarly, the intersection infield area contained numerous levels of fill along the roadways, but less fill activity within the center of the infield. The sparse amount of cultural debris found in the intersection infield area is representative of roadside refuse, and is not associated with the historic structure noted on the 1961 aerial photograph of the project area. No significant cultural materials or features were encountered on these two properties. No further archaeological investigations are recommended in these two areas.

Archaeological testing in the section of the APE encompassing the plowed Tilcon property suggests that the landscape, other than surface impacts from plowing, has remained relatively undisturbed over time. Soil profiles in the APE documented a suite of well-weathered, 70.0 to 80.0 centimeters-thick (27.5 to 31.5 in) B-horizon subsoils overlain by a 26.0 to 40.0 centimeters-thick (10.2 to 15.7 in) plowzone (Ap) horizon. Ferric stains, manganese flecks, and mottled soils found 65.0 centimeters (25.6 in) below surface and deeper in the soil profile of the Tilcon property are interpreted as evidence of

fluctuating groundwater levels. Interestingly, the 1993 USGS topographic map of the project area shows that the portion of the APE found on the Tilcon property overlies what is interpreted to be the head of an ephemeral drainage (Figure 1). It is likely that the ferric stains, manganese flecks, and mottled horizon are associated with a remnant groundwater table or drainage system that has since become inactive.

A diverse assortment (n=294) of cultural materials recovered from the plowzone horizon of the APE in the Tilcon property indicates the presence of Native American and Euroamerican activities in the project area. The small number of prehistoric artifacts (n=25), including ceramics, tools, and debitage, suggests that a camp site was possibly present in the APE. The recovery of a Bare Island point (3000 B.C. - A.D. 500) and four ceramic sherds attributable to Mockley wares (A.D. 200 - 400), dating from the Woodland I Period (3000 B.C-1000 A.D.), provide a general temporal association for the prehistoric occupation of the site. However, plowing activities have disturbed any intact artifact-bearing horizons, as evidenced by the remnant of a thin E/B-horizon and sterile B-horizon subsoil below the plowzone in the test unit excavations. The scattered horizontal distribution of the prehistoric artifacts offers little evidence for potential site locations.

The larger historic artifact assemblage (n=241) recovered in the APE can be associated with the adjacent G.G. Logan Farm (Cultural Resources number K-902) resource (Figure 1). The mid-nineteenth to twentieth century date of the historic artifact collection, including ceramics, vessel and bottle glass, and architectural debris, corresponds to the general time frame of the Logan Farm occupation. Common ceramic body forms, such as cup rims, plate rims and bases, and decorations, including transfer-print and slipped wares, are representative of household tableware found in farm houses in the mid-nineteenth to twentieth century.

No subsurface cultural features were encountered in the Tilcon property section of the SR 1/SR 9 Interchange APE, and all artifacts were recovered from the plowzone context of

the APE. No further archaeological investigations are recommended for the Tilcon property section of the APE.

A.D. Marble & Company recommends no further archaeological investigations of the SR 1/SR 9 Interchange project APE. No cultural features were encountered in the Phase IB testing of the APE. While prehistoric diagnostic materials were recovered from the plowzone horizon of the Tilcon property in the APE, the diffuse horizontal distribution of the prehistoric assemblage, a severely deflated/absent E/B horizon associated with impacts from repeated plowing of the field, and the absence of any prehistoric cultural remains recovered from the subsoil suggests that the APE offers low potential for the preservation of intact significant prehistoric deposits.