

## Chapter 6

# CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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### A. REVIEW

The purpose of this Phase I archaeological cultural resources survey has been to establish, through a reasonable and good faith effort, the presence or absence of archaeological resources that meet, or have the potential to meet, the threshold of eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. This chapter summarizes the archaeological data, provides preliminary discussion of potentially significant resources and makes recommendations for Phase II work. The latter is designed to establish the boundaries and integrity of identified resources, and to determine their significance within the framework of the Delaware State Historic Preservation Plan framework.

As detailed in Chapters 1 through 4, background and contextual information predicted a fairly low probability of recovering archaeological evidence of substantial past human activity in the surveyed area, except in the areas of Ramps A and B where the Shockley property is shown on the 1868 map. Generally accepted predictive models do not suggest that anything other than low-density prehistoric lithic scatters would be anticipated in the topographic and pedological setting of the survey. In retrospect it can be seen that the change in the design to include proposed Ramps A and B, connecting SR 1 and SR 30/Cedar Creek Road, brought a more archaeologically sensitive zone within the scope of the project.

### B. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Surveyed areas 1 (Intersection of SR 30/Cedar Creek Road and State Route 206/Wilkins Road) and 3 (Proposed Overpass and Ramps C and D Connecting

SR 1 and State Route 206/Cedar Neck Road) do not contain archaeological sites are not considered to merit further investigation. Area 1 produced evidence of filling and disturbance activities less than 50 years old, and a modest number of overwhelmingly modern artifacts. Area 3 yielded very few artifacts, all modern and without any patterning or association. It is concluded that these areas retain no potential to yield significant archaeological cultural resources and are not archaeological sites.

Further work, to the Phase II (evaluation of significance) level is however considered to be required in Area 2 (Proposed Ramps A and B Connecting SR 1 and SR 30/Cedar Creek Road, CRS 10315, 7S-C-100). Artifacts, soils and topographic features combine to indicate that there are potentially significant archaeological cultural resources on the western half of the proposed ramp corridor. The historic component can be linked to the locally prominent Shockley family (Reamy and Reamy 2007). The area of archaeological sensitivity directly impacted by the proposed road alignment is shown in Figure 6.1 and extends 600 feet east from the proposed intersection with SR 30/Cedar Neck Road, in a zone 75 feet wide (the limits of construction as currently proposed). The area of proposed Phase II work is roughly 45,000 square feet (just over one acre, or about 4,200 square meters).

**C. PHASE II WORK OBJECTIVES IN AREA 2 PROPOSED RAMPS A AND B CONNECTING STATE ROUTE 1 AND STATE ROUTE 30/CEDAR CREEK ROAD.**

The archaeological evidence from Area 2 indicates the presence of two components forming site 7S-C-100 (CRS S10315).

The first is a prehistoric assemblage of less than a dozen items, but including thermally altered rock and a probable Woodland I projectile point of broadspear affinity. Comparison with the material from Barkers Landing (7K-D-13) and the Taylor Cedar Creek (7S-C-17) sites should be considered. This lithic scatter is probably associated with the south-flowing relict stream visible on the project aerial photographs.

The objective of Phase II investigations here will be to determine the horizontal and vertical extent of the prehistoric component, to establish if sub-plowzone features are present, and to research additional artifacts by date, function, petrology and cultural affiliation. At this stage of knowledge a detailed context framework is not appropriate, but the following predictive statements can be tested to some extent:

1. The site will show evidence of multiple and repeated low intensity use over long periods of time.
2. Lithics will show a pattern of procurement using both local cobble exposures and quarry resources in northern Delaware and adjacent portions of Maryland.
3. Tool manufacture and curation will both be identifiable.
4. Plowzone artifact patterns will reflect actual prehistoric activity areas expressed as sub-plowzone features (although these are considered unlikely).

5. The site will show affinities with the Barkers Landing material.

The historic component is represented by 18th- and 19th-century artifacts and two subsurface features. The larger of the two features appears to be expressed as a terrace-like feature coincident with a dark horizon in ST 37 and from augering, south of the direct impact area. The second feature, apparently filled in after the late 18th or early 19th century, was identified in ST 57.

The ceramics, which form the greater portion of the artifacts recovered, certainly extend well back into the 18th century (e.g. Delftware from SC 92). The stylistically pre-Georgian metal finial (SC 18) also suggests an occupation or activity here from considerably before 1750, as do some of the tobacco pipe stems (see above, Chapter 5). Iron kettle fragments also seem more likely to be from the 18th century rather than later. Creamware, pearlware, whiteware and ironstone pieces extend the chronology into the 19th century. Redware and handmade brick are not readily datable at this level of survey.

Given the current research focus on 17th- and early 18th-century archaeological sites in Delaware, further investigation of this limited but suggestive data appears to be justified. The material will be evaluated in reference to the chronological and thematic framework of the Delaware historic preservation plan:

1630-1730± Exploration and Frontier Settlement

Research Domains: Domestic Economy, Landscape

1730-1770± Intensified and Durable Occupation

Research Domains: Domestic Economy, Landscape

1770-1830± Early Industrialization

1830-1880± Industrialization and Early Suburbanization

The investigation will focus on the Research Domains of Domestic Economy and Landscape on the Lower Peninsula (De Cunzo and Catts 1990:16-23).

#### **D. PROPOSED PHASE II INVESTIGATIONS**

In order to support these objectives, the following are proposed:

##### **1. Supplementary Historical Research**

Property deeds, road returns and any wills or inventories relating to the land on which the historic site is located, with a particular research focus of the Shockley holdings, will be identified and analyzed through research at the Delaware State Archives.

##### **2. Field Investigations: Excavation Units and Plowzone Stripping**

Within the area of direct impact in Area 2 (Figure 6.1), a twofold approach is proposed. Firstly, the plowzone will be excavated from 60 five-foot square units located within six zones. This will provide comparative data to the surface collection and shovel testing, and will also test to establish if high artifact densities reflect the presence of subsurface features.

Each of these zones will then be mechanically stripped of the plowzone in ten-foot wide swaths, each 75 feet north to south (the width of the proposed road), laid through the identified artifact clusters. This would constitute 10% sampling of the cluster area. The primary objective of this effort will be to locate subsurface features and to compare their presence to the Phase I surface collection and shovel test data.

##### **3. Evaluation of Significance**

The archaeological data will be analyzed firstly to establish the degree of integrity of the site. Specifically, this will address the degree of survival of coherent stratigraphy directly associated with artifacts, with the range of information represented. In the case of the prehistoric material, comparisons with the Barkers Landing (7K-D-13) and the Taylor Cedar Creek (7S-C-17) assemblages may be considered if sufficient artifacts are recovered. If the site is considered to demonstrate integrity, then the site evidence, both archaeological and historical, will be considered in relation to the National Register Criteria (36CFR 60.4) and a professional recommendation made regarding the National Register eligibility of any identified properties. The eligibility statement will reference all appropriate developed state historic contexts and management plans

#### **E. ARTIFACTS AND RECORDS**

All records and artifacts from this investigation are currently (2010) held at the Hunter Research offices in Trenton, New Jersey. Curation in the Delaware State Museum is anticipated.