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Archaeological Investigations of the Scott's Run Project Area,
the Route 72/13 Intersection Improvements Project Area, and the
Woodville Grave Site (7NC-E-98A), State Route 1 Corridor,
New Castle County, Delaware

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Delaware Department of Transportation Archaeology Series No. 147

Eugene E. Abbott
Director of Planning



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS OF THE SCOTT'S RUN PROJECT AREA, THE
ROUTE 72/13 INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT AREA, AND THE
WOODVILLE GRAVE SITE (7NC-E-98A), STATE ROUTE 1 CORRIDOR,
NEW CASTLE COUNTY, DELAWARE**

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and

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(Continued on back cover)

ABSTRACT

Phase I and II archaeological investigations were conducted on three project areas in the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Section of the State Route I Corridor, New Castle County, Delaware: The Scott's Run Project area, approximately one mile south of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal; the Route 72/13 Intersection Improvements project area, approximately two miles north of the canal; and the Woodville Grave Site (7NC-E-98A), three miles north of the canal. The first two projects were undertaken to investigate the nature of any archaeological resources that were to be impacted by construction of and resulting modifications of existing roads in conjunction with the State Route I. Mitigation of the Woodville Grave Site was conducted when construction of the State Route 1 Corridor uncovered a previously unknown and unmarked cemetery.

Phase I and II archaeological testing of the Scott's Run Project area revealed four prehistoric sites and three historical sites. The prehistoric sites (7NC-G-111, 113, 114, and 115) were small and heavily disturbed by plowing and recent bulldozing activities. Diagnostic artifacts recovered from the four prehistoric sites are consistent with those from the Woodland I cultural period (3000 B.C.- A.D. 1000), stemmed and teardrop points, a pestle fragment, and a fragment of a steatite bowl. The small size and limited types of artifacts indicate that these sites were either procurement camps or small base camps possibly associated with a larger base camp, the Snapp Site (7NC-G-101), located about half a mile north of Scott's Run.

Also identified within the Scott's Run Project Area was the Bennett-Thomas Mill Site (7NC-G-111), a late eighteenth to mid-nineteenth century mill complex that concentrated at various times on fulling, sawing, and processing clover seeds. This is the earliest and one of the few mills located in St. Georges Hundred. A test comparing the data retrieval from 3- x 3-foot test units as opposed to 5- x 5-foot test units was conducted within the disturbed plow zone soils of the Bennett-Thomas Mill Site. The results of which show that at least for plow zone sampling of historical sites there is no appreciable difference in artifact distribution. The G. W. Townsend Farm Site (7NC-G-112) was a mid-nineteenth through mid-twentieth century agricultural complex. The Phase I and Phase II investigations revealed the farm house foundations, a well, icehouse, garage, barn, chicken coops, fence lines, and sheds. Excavations were also conducted to locate one of two tenancies (the G. W. Tenancy Site - 7NC-G-112A) associated with the G. W. Townsend agricultural complex, but these excavations revealed that the tenancy site was highly disturbed if not destroyed by earlier road construction.

Phase I and II testing of the Route 72/13 Intersection Improvements and associated Eastern Shore Natural Gas pipeline identified one prehistoric and two historical sites within the project area. Investigations of the Jones House Site (7NC-E-103) revealed the archaeological remains of two early twentieth century foundations, a nineteenth century fence line, and a portion of a nineteenth century blacksmith shop owned by Alexander Bowers. The twentieth century house foundations have significantly impacted the earlier nineteenth century portions of the site. Investigations of the Thomas Williams Site (7NC-E-104) identified a small prehistoric lithic scatter and historical artifacts relating to an eighteenth century farmstead occupation located outside the project area.

The salvage excavations of the Woodville Grave Site (7NC-E-98A) were conducted to delimit, record, and remove what remained of the unmarked nineteenth century cemetery after it had been located and disturbed by earth moving activities. The size and limited documentation of the Woodville Grave Site suggests that the unmarked cemetery probably functioned as a small family graveyard. Archival research did not reveal the identity of the family or the dates in which the cemetery was in use. Artifacts associated with the grave features suggest that the graves were dug between 1790 and 1880. A total of thirteen graves or portions of graves were recorded as well as several post holes and one prehistoric feature. The analysis of the remains identified eleven individuals, both male and female, that varied from newborn through old age.

DelDOT Archaeological Series Index Information

This form is intended to provide information on the contents of this volume for indexing. It is also intended for researchers to use to check the research methods and topics included in this volume.

Report Title: **ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS OF THE SCOTT'S RUN PROJECT AREA, THE ROUTE 72/13 INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT AREA, AND THE WOODVILLE GRAVE SITE (7NC-E-98A), STATE ROUTE 1 CORRIDOR, NEW CASTLE COUNTY, DELAWARE**

DelDOT Report Number: **147**

Level of Investigations: [Phase I, II, III, Planning Survey, Specialized Study]

Phase I, II, and III

Basic Time Periods Covered:

- All prehistoric
- Mainly prehistoric, some historic
- Equal coverage of prehistoric and historic
- Mainly historic, some prehistoric
- All historic

Site Contexts:

	Prehistoric	Historic
Plow zone/disturbed surface soils	X	X
Intact features		X
Buried artifact-bearing strata		

List up to five major time periods or site types

- 1. EIGHTEENTH - TWENTIETH CENTURIES**
- 2. FARMSTEAD - AGRICULTURAL COMPLEX**
- 3. TENANT FARM**
- 4. BLACKSMITH SHOP**
- 5. HISTORICAL CEMETARY**
- 6. PREHISTORIC PROCUREMENT/SMALL BASE CAMPS, WOODLAND I**

List up to eight major topics covered in Conclusions and Discussions of Results

1. **GRAVE CLUSTERS**
2. **GRAVE ORIENTATION**
3. **SKELETAL ANALYSIS**
4. **YARD PROXEMICS**

Specialized Analyses Undertaken

Prehistoric

Historic

Blood Residue

Ceramic Chronology

Ceramic Vessel Surface Alterations

Cordage Twists from Ceramic Impressions

Faunal Analysis

Flake Attributes

Floral Analysis

Flotation

Geomorphology and Pedology

Glass Analysis

HABS Documentation

HAER Documentation

Historic Architecture

Informant Interviews

Leather Analysis

Miller Ceramic Index

Mortar Analysis

Palynology

Projectile Point Chronology

Projectile Point Function

Radiocarbon Dates

Soil Chemistry

Spatial Distribution of Artifacts

Stone Tool Functional Analysis

Wood Identification

X

List up to 5 other specialized analyses not listed above:

SKELETAL ANALYSES

Geographic Area Covered

- New Castle County
- Kent County
- Sussex County

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Curation Note: All artifacts, site records, analytical data, photographs, slides, and video tapes from the Scott's Run, Route 72/13 Intersection Improvements, and the Woodville Grave Site project areas are curated at the University of Delaware Center for Archaeological Research, Newark, Delaware 19716. For further information contact Jay F. Custer, University of Delaware (302-831-2821) or Kevin Cunningham, Delaware Department of Transportation (302-739-3826).

Cover Illustration: The cover illustration depicts the greater part of a stencil cut in thin copper sheet that once said St. Georges. Del. The stencil was recovered from the G. W. Townsend Farm Site.

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