

**A PHASE I ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
DELAWARE STATE ROUTE 7 INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS  
AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT SCHEMES AT S.R. 72,  
BRACKENVILLE ROAD, AND VALLEY ROAD,  
NEW CASTLE COUNTY, DELAWARE  
DELDOT PROJECT 91-101-02 DELDOT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERIES NO. \*\*  
FHWA FEDERAL AID PROJECT \*\***

**By**

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**Submitted To**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
Federal Highway Administration**

**and**

**DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs  
State Historic Preservation Office**

**Prepared For**

**DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
Division of Planning  
Location and Environmental Studies Office**

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**1997**

## ABSTRACT

Archaeological testing was carried out at three locations along Delaware State Route 7 where intersection improvements are proposed for State Route 72, Brackenville Road, and Valley Road. This work supplemented earlier studies. Background research concentrated on the history of the Tweed's Tavern site, and a detailed chain of title was established for this late 18th and 19th century resource.

Archaeological testing recovered prehistoric materials from the Brackenville and Valley Road intersection areas. In the former case the artifacts include a fluted item which may have Paleo-Indian affinities. It is deduced that the materials may have reached the tested areas at this location through slopewash from outside the project area. Artifacts from the Valley Road intersection were all from disturbed contexts and were found in association with historic materials. No testing was undertaken at the Tweed's Tavern Site as access was refused by the owner.

None of the resources identified appears to be potentially significant, although it is recommended that care be taken not to disturb potentially intact prehistoric resources adjacent to the Brackenville intersection. Testing should be undertaken at the Tweed's Tavern Site when access can be arranged.

**PHASE I ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
STATE ROUTE 7 INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS  
AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT SCHEMES  
AT STATE ROUTE 72, BRACKENVILLE ROAD AND VALLEY ROAD  
NEW CASTLE COUNTY, DELAWARE**

**MANAGEMENT SUMMARY**

**A. Introduction**

This report describes a Phase I archaeological survey undertaken in connection with the proposed State Route 7 intersection improvements and stormwater management schemes at State Route 72 (Area 1), Brackenville Road (Area 2) and Valley Road (Area 3) intersections in Mill Creek Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware (Figures 1, 2 and 8). Area 1, to the southeast of intersection S.R. 7 and S.R. 72, consists of a mostly wooded area approximately 260 by 165 feet. Area 2, southwest of the intersection of S.R. 7 and Brackenville Road, was divided into two locations. Location 1 is an area approximately 320 by 240 feet located directly south of Little Baltimore Pike/Brackenville Road. Location 2 is directly south southwest of locus 1 and is approximately 400 by 200 feet of mostly grass. Area 3 lies at the intersection of S.R. 7 and Valley Road, consisting of a corridor extending about 610 linear feet adjacent to and northwest of Valley Road on the northwest side of S.R. 7. Also included in the survey was a corridor extending 1,060 linear feet along S.R. 7, northeast of the intersection, and an area of approximately 600 by 100 feet on the northwest side of the intersection. Two areas of the project site at the S.R. 7 and Valley Road intersection could not be tested due to the owner's refusal to permit access: a 210 by 200 foot section located west of Tweed's Tavern and a second area in the immediate vicinity of the tavern. Fieldwork was undertaken between August 10th and October 9th, 1996.

**B. Background and Previous Research**

The University of Delaware Center for Archaeological Research (UDCAR) conducted Phase I & II Archaeological Investigations of the State Route 7 North Corridor from Milltown to the Pennsylvania state line in 1986 for the Delaware Department of Transportation (Catts et al. 1986). The background research for these investigations included a review of the Delaware Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation site files, historic maps, state and county histories, deeds, survey records and county orphan's court records. This report identified eligible and potentially eligible structures and resources along the corridor. No historic structures or resources were identified within or directly neighboring Areas 1 and 2. Fieldwork at the Brackenville Road intersection by UDCAR on the south side of Little Baltimore Road entailed testing for a distance extending 500 feet west from S.R. 7. Within Area 3, at the intersection of S.R. 7 and Valley

Road, UDCAR identified a structure once known as Tweed's Tavern or the Gutherie-Giacomelli House (N-1101) [7NC-A-18]. Phase I & II research and archaeological investigations were conducted for this property by UDCAR, who excavated seven test units in the western angle of the intersection (two within the so-called Tweed tavern and five in the yard to the southwest and northwest) and two in the southern angle of the intersection. Historical archaeological deposits of potential interest were encountered in these areas, although much of the yard appears to have been landscaped

The background research for the present survey reviewed the 1986 UDCAR report and re-examined the historic maps, state and county histories, deeds, survey records and county orphan's court records, focusing largely on the Tweed's Tavern property. The history of this resource is briefly outlined below.

The property on which Tweed's Tavern was constructed was part of a 15,500 acre parcel of land "on the south side of Brandywine Creek" given to Letitia Penn by her father, William in 1701. The tract was known popularly as "Letitia Manor" (Scharf 1888). As early as the next year, 1702, properties from the "Manor" began to be sold by the Penn family's representatives. No early deeds for this property have yet been identified. After Letitia Penn's ownership, the chain of title (Table 1) for the Tweed's Tavern property remains a mystery until 1790 when the property was part of a larger tract sold by John Gregg to Stephen Foulk (New Castle County Deed Y-2 146). Foulk remained in possession of the property for the rest of his life. Although the earliest mention of a "tavern house" on this property occurs in the Orphan's Court records of 1801, dealing with the dispersal of Foulk's estate (New Castle County Orphan's Court Record I-1 109), a 1796 legal document gave John Crow, a known New Castle City innkeep, a one year tenancy of the property (New Castle County Deed P-2 351; Scharf 1888). This would seem to suggest that a tavern had already been constructed by that date.

In 1801, the administrators for Stephen Foulk's estate sold 10 and 3/4 acres of this land to James Harvey "of Whitepen Township, Montgomery County, in the state of Pennsylvania" for the sum of \$905 (New Castle County Deed Y-2 146). In a tavern license petition, Harvey noted that the property had "for many years past been considered as a necessary tavern for the accommodation of travelers and others." He also stated that the tavern had previously been occupied by Ezekiel Reece (Catts et al. 1986). Harvey only held the property for one year and four months. In September of 1802, James Harvey, "of Mill Creek Hundred and County of New Castle, in the State of Delaware, Innkeeper" sold the 10.75 acre tract of land to John Tweed "of Bart Township, Lancaster County and State of Pennsylvania, House Carpenter." The sale price was \$1733.33 (New Castle County Deed Y-2 260).

**Table 1: Tweed Tavern Property - Sequence of Ownership**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Grantor, Grantee and Size - Price of Property</b>	<b>Acquisition Citation</b>
5/1/1790	John and Merab Gregg to Stephen Foulk	Unrecorded
4/11/1801	William and Hannah Foulk to James Harvey 10 acres 3/4 and 5 perches - \$905	New Castle Co. Deed Y-2 146
9/1/1802	James Harvey to John Tweed 10 acres 3/4 and 5 perches - \$1,733.35	New Castle Co. Deed Y-2 260
8/1/1804	John Tweed to Jane McKinley (widow) 10 acres 3/4 and 5 perches + 23 and 1/2 acres - \$600	New Castle Co. Deed B-3 466
9/13/1824	David Wilson (Sheriff) to Joseph and Rebecca Roman 36 acres + 1/2 interest in 100 acres - \$1335	New Castle Co. Deed B-4 137
1/10/1825	Joseph and Rebecca Roman to Elizabeth Tweed (Widow of John Tweed), Curtis Tweed and James Tweed 34 acres - \$630	New Castle Co. Deed I-4 44
1/28/1830	Elizabeth Tweed to Curtis Tweed and James Tweed 1/3 share of 34 acres - \$100	New Castle Co. Deed K-4 295
3/24/1831	Curtis and Mary Tweed and James and Rachel Tweed to Rofs W. Dixon 34 acres + 33 acres, 1 rood and 29 perches - \$917	New Castle Co. Deed M-4 420
3/4/1834	Josher H. Dixon (Admin. Of Rofs W. Dixon) to Dr. Andrew Murphy 34 acres + 33 acres, 1 rood and 29 perches	New Castle Co. Deed R-4 371
3/5/1834	Dr. Andrew Murphy to Thomas Baldwin 67 acres, 1 rood and 29 perches - \$2,760	New Castle Co. Deed S-4 315
3/21/1873	George Klair, exec. of Thomas Baldwin to Mary Jane Baldwin and Thomas J. Baldwin 34 acres + 33 acres, 1 rood and 29 perches - \$6,700	New Castle Co. Deed X-9 71
2/15/1902	Samuel McDaniel (Sheriff) to Thomas Hewitt 34 acres + 33 acres, 1 rood and 29 perches - \$3,500	New Castle Co. Deed W-18 261
1/20/1913	Thomas and Josephine Hewitt to Ida M. Lewis 34 acres + 33 acres, 1 rood and 29 perches - \$4,500	New Castle Co. Deed F-24 162
3/8/1918	Theodore W. Frances (Sheriff) to Security Trust & Safe Deposit Co. 34 acres + 33 acres, 1 rood and 29 perches - \$4,050	New Castle Co. Deed O-27 273
5/15/1929	Colonial Trust to Joseph and Frances Baccino 34 acres + 33 acres, 1 rood and 29 perches (reserving 19 acres) - \$5.00	New Castle Co. Deed 36 127
7/12/1934	Joseph and Frances Baccino to Alfred and Catherine Giacomelli 34 acres	New Castle Co. Deeds C-38 332 and D-39 473
2/4/1957	Alfred and Catherine Giacomelli to Virginia Ann Dennison 35.8 acres - \$10.00	New Castle Co. Deed P-59 34
2/4/1957	Virginia Ann Dennison to Alfred and Catherine Giacomelli 35.8 acres - \$10.00	New Castle Co. Deed P-59 32
8/29/1974	Catherine Giacomelli to Thomas R. And Joan N. McVaugh \$56,000	New Castle Co. Deed V-89 411
11/9/1989	Thomas R. And Joan N. McVaugh to M. A. Zeccola & Sons, Inc. 30.92 acres - \$1,841,760	New Castle Co. Deed 954 325
7/30/1994	M. A. Zeccola & Sons, Inc. to Hampton Pointe Corporation 7.6 acres	New Castle Co. Deed 1788 219

The tavern is depicted on an 1804 road plat of Mill Creek Hundred (not illustrated) which labels the building the "new tavern called Mudfort Tavern." Catts et. al.'s review of New Castle County Tax records show that at this date Tweed's property contained "a log house, a kitchen and sheds valued at \$150." A second road plat (Figure 3), made four years later shows the tavern as being "John Tweeds Tavern" (New Castle County Road Papers RG. 2805). Tax records from 1816 show that by this date the tract included "a large log dwelling house and 'cookery' [the tavern], a frame barn and stables, and a 36 year old female slave with two years to serve." The assessor valued the property at \$3,220 (Catts et al. 1986). Over time, John expanded the size of the tavern property to almost 37 acres, but numerous legal transactions record that he was continually plagued by excessive debt.

Following John Tweed's death, all of his lands were seized to satisfy his debtors and, in 1824, the tavern property was sold to Joseph Roman (New Castle County Deed B-4 137). The next year, Elizabeth Tweed (John's widow), Curtis Tweed and James Tweed (presumably John's sons) purchased back the tavern and 34 acres (New Castle County Deed I-4 44). The three Tweeds held the property jointly until 1830 when Elizabeth sold her share to Curtis and James for \$100 (New Castle County Deed K-4 295). During their period of ownership, Curtis and James Tweed had added an adjacent 33 acre parcel to the tavern tract but apparently fared little better than had John in terms of debt. In 1831, they were forced to sell the tavern, now encumbered by three separate liens, to Rofs W. Dixon (New Castle County Deed M-4 420). Dixon died not long after he purchased the property and in December of 1833, Rofs' executors were forced to sell the property to satisfy debts. This time the purchaser was a Dr. Andrews Murphy, who held the property for two months before selling it to Thomas Baldwin (New Castle County Deed R-4 731 and S-4 315). The Rea and Price map of New Castle County in 1849 (Figure 4) shows the property labeled T. Baldwin. Thomas Baldwin would hold the property for the rest of his life. His will, dated 1841, dictated that the property was to remain in the possession of his wife, Lydia Baldwin until her own demise (New Castle County Deed X-9 71).

In 1873, after Lydia's death, the tavern property was sold by George Klair (Thomas Baldwin's son-in-law and executor of his estate) to Mary Jane Baldwin and Thomas L. J. Baldwin (New Castle County deed X-9 71). The Beers Map of 1868 (Figure 5) and Hopkins map of 1881 (Figure 6) name T. L. J. Baldwin as the property owner, as does the Baist's map of 1893 (Figure 7) showing Baldwin to have owned 67 acres in total. In 1902, George Klair sued T.L.J. Baldwin and the estate of Mary Jane Baldwin for a \$3,355.00, arising from a mortgage on the property. The tavern property, described as "all those two certain parcels or tracts of land with a dwelling house, barn and outbuildings thereon erected..." was ordered sold at a sheriff's sale (New Castle County deed W-18 261).

The tavern's next owner was Thomas Hewitt who purchased the 67 acres with improvements for \$3,500. During the course of the 20th century the property had changed hands many times (see Table 1). It is not known at what date the property stopped functioning as a tavern.

In 1968, Mary Sam Ward included a short history of Tweed's Tavern in her master's thesis, entitled "Inns and taverns in Delaware (1800-1850)."

"About two-and-one half miles beyond the Mermaid stood Mud-Fort, or Mudford's as it was sometimes called. John Tweed built the log tavern at Baldwin's Corner and it became a favorite drinking spot. Alfred Giacomelli, the present owner, said that he enclosed the old log section when he remodeled the structure. Mrs. Edith McVaugh, Mill Creek Trailer Park, who sold to Giacomelli, moved there when she was six years old in 1896. The front porch was on Valley Road at the time and each room had an entrance off to the front. Mrs. Mc Vaugh remembers the big circular bar in the middle of the front room. A good supply of spring water flowed from the field down toward the house and road sometimes causing wagons to get stuck in the mud; this may account for the name Mud-Fort ... Tom Hewitt, Henry Clair and Tom Baldwin were other owners of this property" (Ward 1968).

It should be noted that the accuracy of the personal recollection of Edith McVaugh is somewhat suspect as Alfred Giacomeli did not acquire the property from Mrs. McVaugh as was stated but rather from Joseph and Frances Baccino (New Castle County Deed P-36 127). Furthermore, although a George Klair served as Thomas Baldwin's executor, there is no evidence of a Henry Clair ever owning this property (New Castle County Deed X-9 71).

In 1986, Tweed's Tavern was included within an architectural survey of the State Route 7 North Corridor. The core of the structure was found to be "two stories high and one room deep, with side gable orientation to the northeast. The exterior is stuccoed and trimmed with aluminum shutters and aluminum-covered box cornice. The windows are fitted with modern 6/6 sash " (Louis Berger and Associates in Bowers 1986). By this date, the original log structure had been completely engulfed by numerous enlargements and additions but was believed to survive, although gutted, on its original foundation within the larger structure.

## **C. Field Investigations**

### **1. Field Methods**

In Area 1 (intersection of S.R. 7 and S.R. 72) a total of 15 shovel tests were excavated in advance of the proposed retention pond and drainage structure (Figures 8 and 9). A testing interval of 50 feet was employed between shovel tests within the limits of construction.

In Area 2 (intersection of S.R. 7 and Brackenville Road) a total of 52 shovel tests and two one-meter-square excavation units excavated in advance of the proposed detention basin and berm (Figures 10 and 11). A testing interval of 50 feet was employed between shovel tests within the limits of construction. Two tests (ST#s 43 and 46) were located outside of the limits of construction.

In Area 3 (intersection of S.R. 7 and Valley Road) a total of 38 shovel tests were excavated in advance of the proposed intersection improvements, stormwater management schemes and gas pipeline alignment (Figures 12a-c). A testing interval of 50 feet was employed for ST#s 1-27 and a testing interval of 100 feet for ST#s 28-38. All tests were within the limits of construction.

All tests were excavated by hand with shovels and trowels and then screened through 1/4-inch mesh hardware mesh. Appendix A contains a summary of the stratigraphic and cultural information produced from the subsurface testing. Appendix B gives a detailed description of cultural materials located during this survey.

### **2. Prehistoric Resources**

Area 2 had minor clusters of lithic artifacts within the plowzone in two loci which suggests a possible occupation in the immediate vicinity. Both loci are on a slope along the easternmost edge of the project area and are approximately 80 feet apart (Figure 10). The area closest to Little Baltimore Road had artifacts in ST#s 10, 12, 13 and 50. To the south, the second location had a fluted biface fragment (ST 25) and lithic debitage in Shovel Tests 25, 26, 41- 43 and in EU#s 1 and 2. The two loci are probably connected with each other and may continue east and southeast up the slope onto higher ground. Two shovel tests (ST#s 1 and 6), located along Little Baltimore Road, had single non-diagnostic lithic artifacts in the plowzone.

Area 3 had a few non-diagnostic lithic artifacts in three locations. The first was along the northwest side of Valley Road (ST#s 2 and 3) in disturbed soils (Figure 12a), the second lay to the west of S.R. 7 and north of the intersection (ST#s 10, 15, 16, 22 and 23) (Figures 12b and 12c). The third area, east of S.R. 7 and north of the intersection, had only one shovel test with a prehistoric artifact (ST# 33).

### **3. Historic Resources**

No historic cultural features were found within the tested portions of the three project areas. Area 2 had a few scattered historic artifacts which were all located in the plowzone.

Area 3 had a large concentration of historic artifacts found in Shovel Test 3 located along Valley Road. These artifacts were redeposited 20th-century demolition debris apparently from a location outside the limits of construction and no further testing was done.

### **D. Artifact Analysis**

#### **1. Prehistoric Artifacts**

Two of the three project areas had prehistoric artifacts.

Area 2 had a total of 117 prehistoric artifacts consisting of shatter (52), flakes (63), one quartz narrow bladed biface mid-section fragment and one fluted jasper biface. These artifacts were recovered from 11 shovel tests (ST#s 1, 6, 10, 12, 13, 25, 26, 41, 42, 43 and 50) and two excavation units (EU#s 1 and 2). No strongly diagnostic artifacts were recovered which would indicate a particular cultural or temporal period within the region. The absence of prehistoric ceramics suggests an early or pre-Woodland I occupation and the fluted jasper biface suggests a possible late Paleo Indian/Early Archaic occupation in this area. The materials used for manufacture of most of the artifacts were local raw materials such as quartz, quartzite, jasper and chert. Four artifacts were manufactured from Iron Hill jasper, the source of which is located a short distance to the south, and four artifacts were fashioned from argillite which is found to the north in Pennsylvania and northern New Jersey.

Area 3 had a total of 21 prehistoric non-diagnostic lithic artifacts consisting of shatter (2), flakes (14) and thermally fractured rock (2). These artifacts were recovered from seven shovel tests (ST#s 2, 10, 15, 16, 22, 23 and 33). With the exception of one small quartz flake, the prehistoric artifacts were recovered from mixed contexts containing both historic and prehistoric artifacts.

#### **2. Historic Artifacts**

The project area at S.R. 7 and S.R. 72 (Area 1) had only a few late 19th through mid-20th century artifacts, (windowlight and bottle glass, and a bakelite button) recovered from the plowzone (see Appendix B). Area 2 (S.R. 7 and Brackenville Road) had a scattering of artifacts recovered from the uppermost contexts of some of the shovel tests consisting mostly of 19th century ceramic sherds, curved vessel glass fragments, cut nails and tobacco pipe fragments. The third project area (S.R. 7 and Valley Road) had historic artifacts in less than half of the shovel tests excavated.

These artifacts consisted mostly of late 19th century curved vessel glass fragments, ceramic sherds and building materials all recovered from the upper contexts.

### **E. Conclusions and Recommendations**

No prehistoric and historic cultural resources were encountered in Area 1, the intersection of S.R. 7 and S.R. 72. No further archaeological fieldwork is proposed for this area.

These investigations have shown that there are prehistoric resources within Areas 2 & 3 of the proposed project locations. In both of these locations the resources were limited to plowzone or disturbed contexts. No further archaeological fieldwork is proposed in connection with the prehistoric resources for both of these areas. However, in Area 2 the upper elevations, south of the proposed bermed detention basin, should be excluded from any future consideration as a potential staging area during construction, as this area was not tested as part of these investigations and may contain important prehistoric resources.

The only historic resource within the three project locations is the Tweed's Tavern or the Guthrie-Giacomelli House (N-1101) [7NC-A-18] located at the intersection of S.R. 7 and Valley Road in Area 3. Archaeological testing at the Tweed's Tavern site was originally part of the proposed investigations for the three intersections. Access to the Tweed's Tavern property was denied by the landowner and as a result no fieldwork was conducted. The background research was completed as planned. When access to the Tweed's Tavern property is secured archaeological testing should be resumed.

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