

GENERAL RESEARCH AND FIELD METHODS

Phase I research consisted of two steps: 1) background and archival research, and 2) field reconnaissance. Background and archival research consisted of consultation with the staff of the Delaware Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (BAHP), review of all inventories of prehistoric and historic cultural resources maintained by the BAHP, review of historic atlases and maps, interviews with local landowners and experts in local history, review of archive materials such as deeds, tax assessments, probate records, road books and petitions, and other court records. Documentary research was focused in the time period prior to 1850, because historic atlases and maps published after this date contained basic information regarding site location and ownership necessary for the completion of a Phase I Survey. Earlier time periods, on the other hand, have no such readily accessible sources, and more effort was devoted to these periods. The background research for prehistoric sites included the review of prehistoric archaeological literature on applicable predictive models (Custer 1983, 1984; Custer and Wallace 1982; Custer and DeSantis 1985b; Gardner 1978).

Field survey methods of the Phase I Field Reconnaissance survey included a pedestrian survey of the entire ROW. Augering was carried out to identify areas of undisturbed soils. Surface collections were carried out where there was sufficient surface exposure. In areas where surface visibility was low, and where there was a potential for undisturbed buried landscapes, 1m test units and shovel test pits were excavated. All excavated soils were screened through 1/4" mesh, and test units were excavated to

a sufficient depth to reach soils too old to contain artifacts.

Phase II location and identification/intensive survey testing was carried out to determine the National Register eligibility of any sites discovered during the Phase I survey. Phase II testing consisted of the systematic excavation of 1m test units to determine the contextual integrity and limits of sites. In floodplain areas, Phase II testing specifically considered the depositional integrity of overlying soils and included preparation of geological cross sections.