

1880-1940: Suburbanization

At the beginning of the twentieth century New Castle County had 59% of Delaware's population, the majority (nearly 70%) living in Wilmington. Many were recent immigrants from Eastern and Central Europe (Hoffecker 1974a). Between 1870 and 1900, the percentage of Delawareans employed in agriculture declined from 39.5% to 26%, while the percentage of persons engaged in industry and manufacturing rose from 23.5% to over 31%. The number of people engaged in trades rose from 8.5% of the total state population to 14% during this period (Reed 1947). The value of manufactured products exceeded agricultural products by an increasing amount, with most of the wealth concentrated in the Piedmont region around Wilmington.

Beginning in the later nineteenth century and lasting into the twentieth, farmers in Delaware focused on the production of perishable crops, and de-emphasized staple crops. A diversity of crops, including tomatoes, apples, potatoes, and truck produce were grown for the markets in New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and other cities. Further improvements in transportation throughout the state contributed to the importance of truck crops and dairy products in the late nineteenth century. Growth in truck farming was greatest between 1879 and 1899, when the value of truck and small fruit products rose from \$167,000 to \$1,231,000, a 457.2% increase in value (Shannon 1945:260). In the Piedmont region farmers still grew cereal crops, but not for export or widespread consumption.

There was a noticeable decline in the size of farms, and total farm acreage (Bausman 1933, 1940, 1941a, 1941b), suggesting that there was a period of farm abandonment and/or readaptation in the beginning of the twentieth century, coinciding with the beginnings of suburbanization in New Castle and Kent counties. Many nineteenth century farmsteads became archaeological sites during this period.

Tenant farming, which had been common throughout all of the preceding periods, became even more prevalent during the late nineteenth century. Large land owners, who increased their holdings during the hard times of the 1820's, leased their lands to tenants. One author likened the farm situation in Delaware in the second half of the nineteenth century to that of the antebellum southern aristocracy. Large farm owners did little labor themselves and required the hired labor to render personal services. "They lived on their farms and personally directed their farm businesses. Some of them owned additional farms which they either 'carried on' or rented to tenants" (Bausman 1933:165). By 1900 over 50% of all the farmers in Delaware were tenants or share croppers. Between 1880 and 1900 this figure represents almost an 8% increase in farm tenancy (Shannon 1945:418). Farm tenancy remained common into the twentieth century.

The pattern and density of settlement in Delaware have been strongly influenced by several factors throughout its history: 1) an agrarian economy; 2) the commodity demands of large markets, first Europe and the West Indies, and then domestic commercial-industrial centers, and 3) transportation facilities. The Dupont Highway, which opened in 1923, linked northern and southern Delaware and helped to complete the shift in agricultural production towards non-local markets and open new areas to productive agriculture. Improved transportation in the twentieth century also brought a decline in the importance of the many small crossroad and "corner" communities, such as Jesterville (Summit) and Bowersville (Kirkwood), that had sprung up in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. These have been replaced by commercial and industrial "strip" development along the major transportation routes throughout the state.

EXISTING DATA BASE

The major source of information on cultural resources used in this study is files and maps maintained by the Delaware Bureau of Archives and Historic Preservation (BAHP). The BAHP files contain data primarily on standing structures, but also include information on both prehistoric and historic archaeological sites. However, these files do not contain information on all historic properties, and the information on archaeological sites is largely from earlier cultural resource management studies of limited coverage (Figure 22 and Table 1).

Previous archaeological studies, inventories, surveys, testing programs, and excavations in and around the Route 301 study area are shown on Figure 22 and listed in Table 1. A portion of the Route 301 study area was covered in the Route 13 study by Custer et al. (1984). The methods and procedures used in this study are based on that

TABLE 1

PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN NORTHERN DELAWARE

#* Reference	#* Reference
1 Custer 1980 Custer et al. 1981	10 Custer et al. 1982 Custer 1982c Custer and Watson 1985 Custer et al. 1987
2 Wise 1985	
3 Wise 1986	11 Catts et al. 1988
4 Catts et al. 1986 Custer and Hodny 1989	12 Lothrop et al. 1987
5 Thompson 1984	13 Catts et al. 1989b
6 Taylor et al. 1987	14 Shaffer et al. 1988
7 Barse 1985	15 Custer et al. 1990
8 Custer et al. 1986b Custer and Galasso 1980	16 Brown et al. 1990
9 Thomas 1980 Thomas 1981 O'Conner et al. 1983 Bachman and Custer 1983 Catts et al. 1983 Coleman et al. 1983 Coleman et al. 1984 Coleman et al. 1985 Coleman et al. 1987 Custer et al. 1988 Catts and Custer 1990 Coleman et al. 1990 Hoseth et al. 1990	17 Hodny et al. 1989
	18 Wise 1983
	19 Custer et al. 1984
	20 Gardner and Stewart 1978
	21 Varisco and Custer 1992

* Numbers refer to locations and areas of research shown on Figure 22.

pioneering effort, as well as more recent reconnaissance and planning studies such as that of Catts et al. (1991) for the Route 404 corridor in Sussex County, Delaware.

New Castle County, Delaware is covered by increasingly detailed maps beginning with a map by Augustine Herman in 1673 (Figure 13), and Peter Lindestrom in 1654. The earliest maps show important transportation features, such as streams and major roads, but are often severely distorted. In the mid-nineteenth century detailed atlases of the individual states in the U.S. began to be published. The earliest that includes the study area, published by Rea and Price in 1849, shows New Castle County in great detail. Individual houses are shown with the names of their owners, as well as locations of public buildings, schools, churches, cemeteries, brick works, mills, taverns, and other items of interest. Rea and Price published a map of the entire state of Delaware in 1850 that also shows structures. Beers' Atlas of the State of Delaware (1868) provides the next look at the development of New Castle County clearly showing specific building locations and the names of their owners. Another detailed map was published by Hopkins in 1881, and yet another by Baist in 1893. Finally the U.S. Geological Survey published its first 15' quadrangle in 1906 covering the northern half of the Route 301 study area. Thus, excellent map coverage of the study area exists for the last 140 years.

Another important source of information on historic structures are Road Papers for New Castle County held by the Delaware State Archives in Dover. These documents are petitions for road improvements and detailed surveys of road placements. The surveys include mention of property owners and landmarks of the time. The surveys often show houses in a pictorial form (Figures 23 and 24). These documents show the growth of the overland transportation network in detail beginning in the first quarter of the eighteenth century.

All prehistoric and historic archaeological sites within the Route 301 study area were transferred from the BAHF maps onto United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5' quadrangle maps (see Attachments). Data on the sites were recorded from the BAHF site forms and entered into a microcomputer data base system. Historic standing structures from the BAHF files, potential standing structures, and potential historic archaeological sites were also plotted on quadrangle maps included as Attachments to this report. These data bases are discussed in detail below.

PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

Appendix I lists the known prehistoric sites within the project area boundaries. Attachment I shows the locations of the sites. Archaeological sites are locations where material remains of past human activities are concentrated. Some research oriented archaeological survey for prehistoric sites has been carried out in the project area (eg., Custer et al. 1986b). Other sites have been reported by amateur archaeologists, members of the Archaeological Society of Delaware, or other interested parties, as well as, documented by previous cultural resource management projects. The archaeological sites recorded in the BAHF files comprise only a small sample of the archaeological record of the study area.

HISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

Appendix II lists data for historic locales that have been assigned Delaware state archaeological site numbers. Historic sites have been either tested or excavated in previous cultural resource management projects. No standing structures are present at these locations and most of the sites have been destroyed by subsequent construction. Historic archaeological site locations are shown on Attachment I. Information recorded from the BAHF files and listed in Appendices I and II includes:

- 1) Delaware Site Number.
- 2) Delaware Cultural Resources Survey (CRS) Number.
- 3) Quad: The USGS 7.5' quadrangle map on which the site is located.
- 4) Date: The time period of site occupation.
- 5) Site functional type.
- 6) Significance: The cultural or historical significance of the locality.

- 7) Potential: The potential for the site to yield significant archaeological information.
- 8) References. Published and unpublished sources of site information.

Complete descriptions of the variables and coding are given in Appendix I and II.

INVENTORIED HISTORIC STANDING STRUCTURES

Appendix III lists the historic standing structures within the project area documented in the BAHF files. Locations are shown on Attachment II. Standing structures, unless they have been moved from their original location, will have associated archaeological remains in the immediate vicinity. The appendix gives relevant data on the historical and architectural interpretation of the standing structures, and addresses the archaeological potential and historic significance of any associated remains. Data recorded for each standing structure and included in Appendix III include:

- 1) Delaware Cultural Resource Survey (CRS) Number.
- 2) Description and/or material. (The construction material of the structure.)
- 3) Quad: The USGS 7.5' quadrangle map where the structure is located.
- 4) Hun: the Hundred political subdivision of the location.
- 5) Date Range: The time period of initial construction from DeCunzo and Catts (1991).
- 6) Function: The primary historic function of the structure.
- 7) Significance: The historical significance of the structure in relation to other historic standing structures in the area.
- 8) Potential: The potential archaeological significance of the structure.
- 9) References

POTENTIAL STANDING STRUCTURES

Appendix IV contains a list of standing structures that are not listed in the BAHF files. The list was compiled by comparing published historic maps, manuscript surveys, road papers, and historical references to the latest USGS 7.5' quadrangle maps for the study area. For example, Beer's (1868) Atlas shows a structure and a structure is shown at the same map location on the latest USGS quadrangle map. Structures included in this appendix are, therefore, of potential historical **and/or** archaeological significance. The list differs from the previous two appendices in that these sites are presently not listed in the BAHF files and do not have CRS numbers. Little information is available concerning these structures. No field reconnaissance was undertaken. Potential standing structure locations are shown on Attachment III. Information included in Appendix IV is as follows:

- 1) Map Reference Number. An arbitrary designation to tie the data to the accompanying maps (Attachment III).
- 2) Hun: The Hundred in which the site is located.
- 3) Quad: The USGS 7.5' quadrangle map on which the site is located.
- 4) Site Type/Function: The primary functional use of the site based on interpretation of documentary sources and site setting.
- 5) Date: The first documented date for the structure.
- 6) Significance: The historical significance of the structure in relation to other historic standing structures in the area.
- 7) Potential: The potential archaeological significance of the structure.
- 8) References: The historic source which provided the earliest evidence of a site location.

POTENTIAL HISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

Appendix V contains a list of potential historic archaeological sites within the project area. These were determined in the same manner as Potential Standing Structures sites listed in Appendix IV by comparing historical sources with current maps. A potential archaeological site was recorded if no structure was shown on the quadrangle. None of these locations have been verified by field reconnaissance. This list supplements the BAHF site files because it identifies the locations of structures which are no longer extant but for which there is a potential for archaeological remains, and it updates and corrects omissions in the BAHF standing structure files. Appendix V lists the data for potential archaeological sites and assesses the archaeological potential and historic significance of the sites. The locations of the potential sites are shown on Attachment IV. The information contained in the appendix is as follows:

- 1) Map Reference Number. An arbitrary designation to tie the data to the accompanying maps (Attachment IV).
- 2) Hun: The Hundred in which the site is located.
- 3) Quad: The USGS 7.5' quadrangle map on which the site is located.
- 4) Site Type/Function: The primary functional use of the site based on interpretation of documentary sources and site setting.
- 5) Date: Earliest documented date for the site's occupation.
- 6) Significance: Evaluation of the historic significance of the site location.
- 7) Potential: Evaluation of the potential of the archaeological remains.
- 8) References: The historic source which provided the earliest evidence of a site location.

CULTURAL CONTEXT AND DATA QUALITY

The purpose of this section is to assess the quality of the data compiled in Appendices I - V, and to provide a brief discussion of the cultural contexts of the sites and relate the sites to the prehistoric and historic overviews and general trends discussed earlier. The quantity of the data is also summarized and discussed.

PREHISTORIC SITES

A summary of the known prehistoric sites found within the project area is given in Table 2, while Figure 25 shows their locations. One hundred seventy-eight prehistoric components are known from 144 different site locations. The four different time components are discussed individually below.

Large gaps exist in our knowledge of prehistoric settlement pattern and land use because the majority of the recorded sites are along previously studied highway corridors. In addition, the area south of the C&D Canal has received little or no archaeological attention. For example, only one prehistoric archaeological site has been recorded for the Middletown quadrangle, and only seven sites are known south of the C&D Canal within the entire Route 301 study area (4.9% of the prehistoric sites known for the entire study area). The lack of known sites in the southern portion of the study area, however, should not be construed as a lack of prehistoric occupation in the area. For example, intensive survey of approximately 30 acres within the proposed right of way for the Route 13 corridor south the C&D Canal found two Prehistoric sites (Hodny et al. 1989:41-48). On the other hand, a less intensive survey between Middletown and Odessa found only six prehistoric sites (Gardner and Stewart 1978). A dense cluster of sites is known along the Appoquinimink River near Odessa beyond the limits of study area.

The BAHF site files, from which the inventory in Appendix I was generated, record only the sites located in places where people have looked for archaeological sites. Therefore, the BAHF site files may provide a biased sample of all site locations within the project area. The numbers of recorded sites of different ages and types are only approximations of the total range of prehistoric cultural resources that may be found in the area. Nevertheless, the data from the site files can be used to develop models and generate testable hypotheses about prehistoric settlement in the region (eg., Custer and Galasso 1983; Custer and Wallace 1982).