

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA RECOVERY INVESTIGATIONS
7NC-B-11, THE WELDIN PLANTATION SITE
BLUE BALL PROPERTIES AREA TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
BRANDYWINE HUNDRED, NEW CASTLE COUNTY, DELAWARE**

Volume I: Text

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Division of Transportation Solutions
Environmental Studies Office**

**Shailen Bhatt
Secretary of the Department of Transportation**

Prepared By:

**Barbara J. Shaffer, MA
Brenda L. Weller, MA
Robert H. Eiswert, MA
Richard L. White, MA
Jerry A. Clouse, MA
Francine F. Arnold
Kevin J. Simons, MA
Charles A. Richmond, MA
Keith R. Doms**

**McCORMICK TAYLOR, INC.
Newark, Delaware**

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Abstract

McCormick Taylor, Inc. completed Phase III archaeological data recovery excavations at the Weldin Plantation Site (7NC-B-11) for the Blue Ball Properties Area Transportation Improvement Project, Brandywine Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware, the results of which are presented in this report. The archaeological investigations were performed by McCormick Taylor for the Delaware Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control.

The project involves improvements to the Route 202 (Concord Pike) corridor between the Interstate 95 interchange and the project's northern terminus at the AstraZeneca corporate entrance, just north of Delaware Route 141. The proposed project includes the construction of a new alignment for Delaware 141 between the existing Astra Zeneca plant and Rockland Road to a new end at the interchange with U.S. 202 and Delaware 261. Proposed West Park Road will travel between Augustine Cut-off and Delaware 141 to the west of U.S. 202 and proposed East Park Road will be built between Augustine Cut-Off and Weldin Road to the east of U.S. 202. New overpasses are planned for Concord Pike over relocated Delaware 141 and relocated Delaware 261 (Foulk Road). The proposed project also includes the creation of active and passive recreational areas.

The Federal Highway Administration determined that the project would have an adverse effect on the Weldin Plantation Archaeological Site, 7NC-B-11, an eighteenth through mid-twentieth century farmstead which contains above ground ruins. The site is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D for the information it contains about historic lifeways in Delaware. Mitigation for the adverse effect included Phase III archaeological data recovery excavations as well as an extensive public outreach program. McCormick Taylor excavated a total of 89 test units during the Phase III excavations. These included 14 test units placed in the basement of the foundation; three additional units in the west yard; 15 test units in the south yard; 12 test units in the east yard; and 48 test units in the north yard. Specialized analyses included mortar analysis, soil sample analysis, and botanical analysis. Significant information about farmstead layout and how it reflected changing trends in the region and about the socioeconomic status of tenant versus owner occupant dairy farmers in the nineteenth century was gained during the investigations.

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