

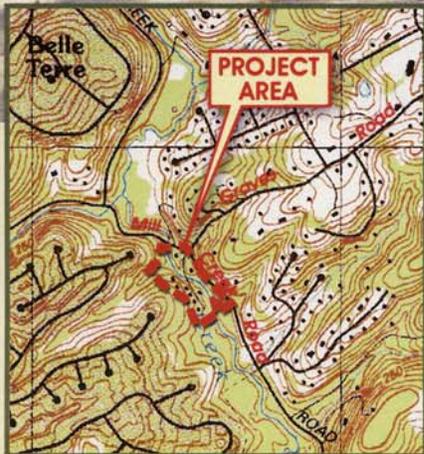
October 2006

Cultural Resources Survey of

Camp Wright,

Mill Creek Hundred,

New Castle County, DE



Prepared for:

New Castle County

Department of Special Services

Engineering and Environmental Services Division

McCormick
Engineers & Planners
Since 1946 **Taylor**

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CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY
OF
CAMP WRIGHT
NEW CASTLE COUNTY, MILL CREEK HUNDRED,
DELAWARE

PREPARED BY

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ABSTRACT

This report presents the results of a Cultural Resource Survey conducted for Camp Wright, which is located in Mill Creek Hundred, in New Castle County, Delaware. This survey entailed Phase IA archaeological assessment and a historic architectural survey. McCormick Taylor, Inc. performed the Cultural Resource Survey in October 2006 for New Castle County, Division of Special Services, Engineering and Environmental Division.

The results of the Phase IA archaeological assessment indicate that the APE has been subjected to extensive subsurface disturbance. Based on the dearth of recovered cultural material of any historic interest, the questionable origins of the recovered artifacts (i.e. from alluvial soils), the lack of any discrete artifact concentrations within the lands bounded by the APE, and the absence of any intact cultural deposits, it has been concluded that the Camp Wright Project APE is devoid of any significant archaeological resource. No further archaeological work is warranted within the current limits of the Camp Wright Project APE.

For the historic architectural survey, the aboveground structures of Camp Wright and the property as a whole were evaluated according to the criteria set forth in *National Register Bulletin 15: "How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation."* Camp Wright is recommended as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Camp Wright is significant under Criterion A as a good example of an early twentieth century recreational resident camp established for the benefit of inner city youth. The camp site was acquired in 1921 with the support of Associated Charities, the leading community supported charitable aid society in Delaware, and was intended to provide summer excursions for inner city youth. The camp was created as a result of the Fresh Air movement of the mid nineteenth century. The program was precursor to the YMCA and similar summer camp organizations of the mid twentieth century. Camp Wright serves as a distinctive example of the transition from the country week programs established during the 1870s and the growth of commercial recreational camping programs of the post World War II era. Camp Wright is among the earliest remaining camp sites organized in Delaware. Camp Wright retains a strong degree of integrity and sufficiently conveys design concepts of early twentieth century recreational summer camps. Camp Wright is not recommended eligible due to any association with any individuals of local, state, or national significance. Camp Wright has not experienced the introduction of modern camp structures. Evaluated under Criterion C, the structures constituting Camp Wright lack overall architectural distinction.

In conclusion, Camp Wright is recommended eligible for listing in the Nation Register of Historic Places as a good example of an early twentieth century recreational resident camp (Criterion A). The historic architectural survey to date involved detailed inventorying and photographing of the historic characteristics of Camp Wright. It is recommended that consultation amongst New Castle County and Delaware State agencies be conducted in order to examine the relationship of Camp Wright in regard to future park planning activities and also to ascertain if additional historic studies are necessary.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>page</u>
Abstract	i
Table of Contents	ii
List of Figures	iv
List of Tables	iv
List of Plates	Appendix III
I. Introduction.....	1
A. Project Description.....	1
B. Establishment of the Project Area of Potential Effect (APE).....	3
II. Environmental Setting	4
A. Geologic Setting.....	4
B. Soil Stratigraphy	6
C. Project Setting.....	6
III. Regional Precontact Native American History.....	9
A. Paleo-Indian Period (ca. 12,000 B.C. - 6,500 B.C.)	9
B. Archaic Period (6500 B.C. - 3000 B.C.).....	12
C. Woodland I Period (3000 B.C. - A.D. 1000)	13
D. Woodland II Period (A.D. 1000- A.D. 1650)	15
E. Contact Period (A.D. 1650 - A.D. 1750)	16
IV. Regional Postcontact History.....	17
A. Exploration and Frontier Settlement (A.D. 1630 - A.D. 1730)	17
B. Intensified and Durable Occupation (A.D. 1730 - A.D. 1770).....	20
C. Early Industrialization (A.D. 1770 - A.D. 1830)	21
D. Industrialization and Capitalization: 1830 to 1880.....	22
E. Urbanization and Suburbanization: 1880 to 1940	24
F. Suburbanization and Early Ex-Urbanization Period (1940 to 1960).....	24
V. Background Research	26
VI. Standard Research Design and Methodology	28
A. Overall Project Goals.....	28
B. Documentary Research	28
C. Historic Architectural Research Design and Methods.....	29
D. Phase IA Archaeological Assessment Research Design and Methods.....	29
VII. Historic Context of Camp Wright.....	33
A. Charities Associated With Camp Wright.....	34
1. Associated Charities.....	36

LIST OF FIGURES

	<u>page</u>
Figure 1: Project Location Map.....	2
Figure 2: Area of Potential Effect (APE)	pocket
Figure 3: Physiographic Zones of the Project Area.....	5
Figure 4: Environmental Setting of the Project Area	8
Figure 5: Historic Maps of the Project Area (1849 To 1893)	25
Figure 6: Previously Documented Cultural Resources	27
Figure 7: Flyer for Camp Fright at Camp Wright	43
Figure 8: Newspaper Ad for Camp Fright at Camp Wright.....	44
Figure 9: Historic Map of the Project Area (1904)	49
Figure 10: Historic Map of the Project Area (1937)	50
Figure 11: Historic Map of the Project Area (1954)	51
Figure 12: Historic Map of the Project Area (1961)	52
Figure 13: Historic Map of the Project Area (1968)	53
Figure 14: Shovel Test Pit (STPs) Locations	pocket
Figure 15: Shovel Test Pit (STPs) Profiles.....	56

List of Tables

	<u>page</u>
Table 1: Name Changes Associated with Associated Charities.....	37
Table 2: Name Changes Associated with West End Neighborhood House.....	37
Table 3: Summary Chain-of-Title.....	48
Table 4: Camp Wright Related Artifacts	58