

4. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The Phase I archaeological research associated with the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) Contract Number: T201120003 and Federal Aid Project Number: ETEA-2011(14) indicates that there are no significant archaeological resources in the proposed Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvement Path construction area. The results of the shovel testing indicate extensive landscape disturbance, grading, and infilling have occurred throughout the 20th century. In the area between STP#4 and STP#38, the plowed landscape documented in the 1937 aerial photograph (see Figure 4.1) was buried as a result of the marked landscape infilling through the mid 20th century (see Figure 4.2). In the area between STP#1 and STP#3, former plowed surfaces were removed, which suggests a substantial re-grading of natural floodplains and terraces. The former stream that was located west of the areas adjacent to transect between STP#8 to STP#38 was channelized and straightened in the first few decades of the 20th century (altered in the 1937 aerial imagery in Figure 4.1, but not evident in earlier plat maps). More recent and extensive infilling was noted in the area between STP#39 and STP#95. The infilling appears to be a byproduct of the southern encroachment of housing in this region (see Figures 4.2 and 4.3) and the northern expansion of the railroad (see Figures 4.2, 4.3, and 4.4) over the period between 1954 and 1970. Within this same area, more recent landscape alterations, grading, and infilling are also evident on the 2002 aerial photograph (see Figure 4.5). The mounded fill area associated with STP#86, STP#87, STP#88, and STP#89 (see Figure 3.11) likely represents recent landscape modifications noted in Figure 4.5.

In summary, the extensive alterations to the project area over the past 60 years would have destroyed most, if not all, of archaeological resources that pre-date the middle 20th century. Our investigation concludes that the sidewalk and/or bicycle path construction project will not impact any archaeological resources.



Figure 4.1. The photograph shows a 1937 aerial view of the project area.



Figure 4.2. The photograph shows a 1954 aerial view of the project area.

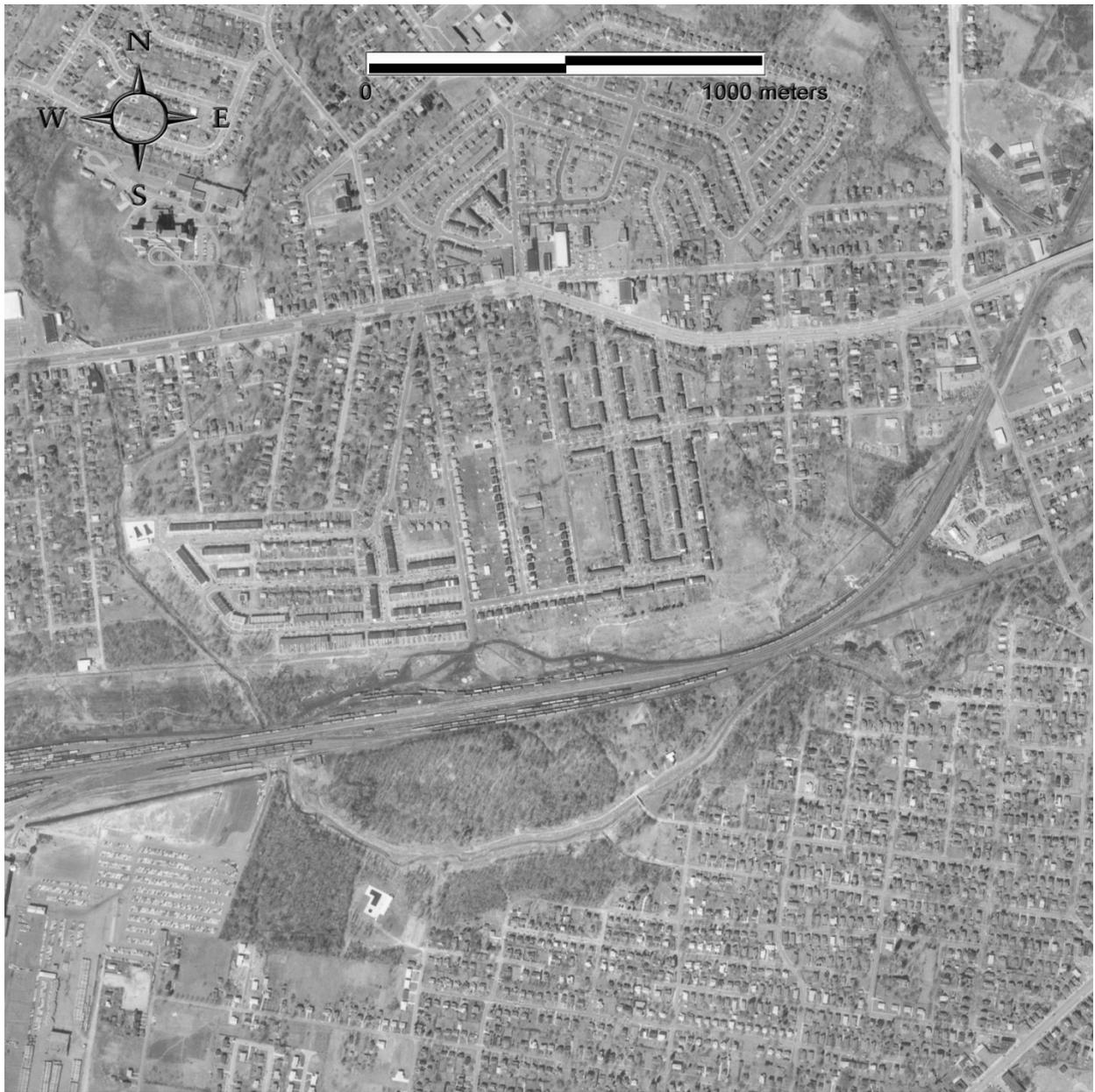


Figure 4.3. The photograph shows a 1964 aerial view of the project area.



Figure 4.4. The photograph shows a 1970 aerial view of the project area.

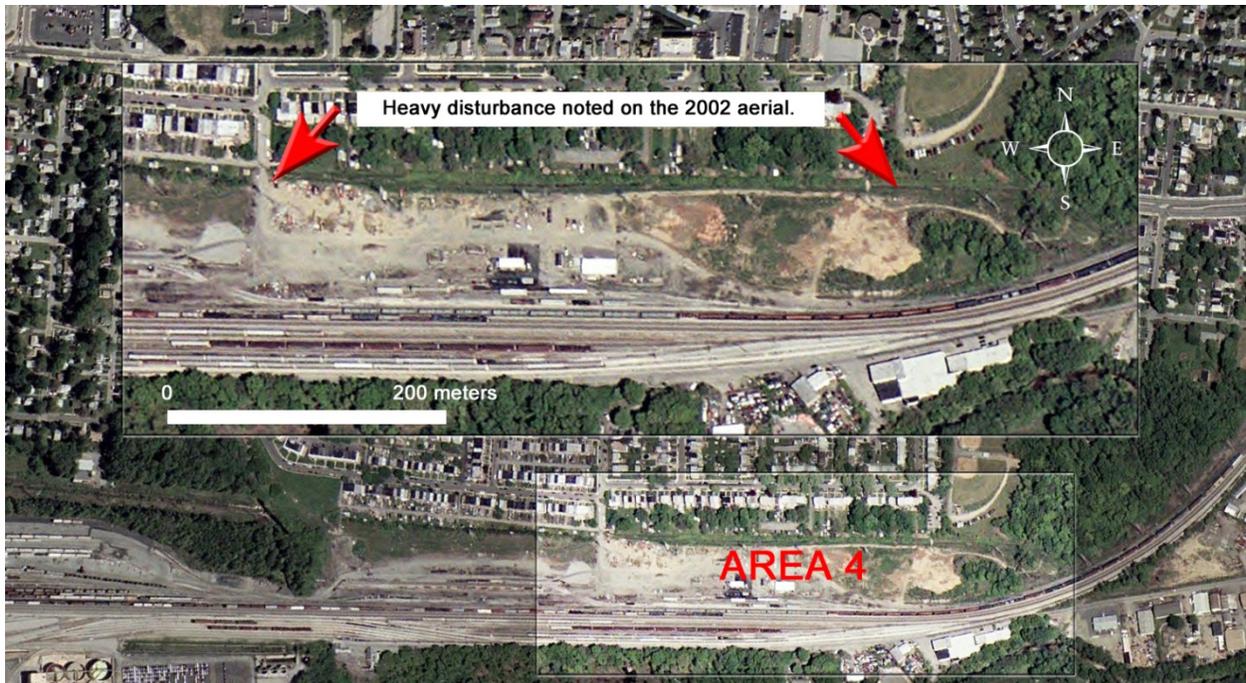


Figure 4.5. A 2002 aerial image showing the eastern section of the project area. The enlarged section of the image clearly illustrates heavy surface disturbance (i.e., grading and filling) within Area 4 (see Figures 3.1 and 3.5).