

RESULTS OF THE FIELDWORK

Methodology

The field investigations varied according to the type of terrain and vegetation encountered. Pedestrian surveys were carried out in plowed agricultural fields where surface visibility was good; transects were walked at intervals of 15 to 25 feet in order to look for surface concentrations of artifacts. This was followed by shovel testing both in areas where artifact concentrations were discovered and on level landforms. The shovel tests were either 2.5 feet square (referred to as test units, or TUs) or 15 inch diameter shovel test pits (STPs). The remainder of the project area was covered in thick brush and high weeds of the type found in overgrown fields. Where areas of high probability were identified, shovel testing consisted of 2.5 foot square test units at approximately 50 foot intervals. Other areas were tested at greater intervals. STPs were used to supplement the units in order to investigate specific finds.

The testing methodology for each portion of the project area is described in more detail within each section. The locations of the transects and test units were plotted on the project maps provided by DelDOT. Testing was done by natural soil levels, and artifacts recovered were bagged by the area, shovel test number and soil horizon. All soil was screened through 1/4 inch mesh hardware cloth screens. Soil information including depth, texture and color of the horizons was recorded for each shovel test. Soil profiles were drawn of representative units and the soil colors were described using the Munsell Soil Color Charts. Representative photographs of the physical surroundings, architectural features, collection areas and of the shovel tests were taken.

Following completion of field investigations, the artifacts were washed and labeled with state catalog and accession numbers. All artifacts were cleaned with plain water except fragile materials such as bone, shell or metal, which were dry-brushed. The artifacts were catalogued according to material composition, such as glass, ceramic, brick, etc. Standard typological and functional categories were employed in the analysis.

Historic ceramics were identified as to ware type and method of decoration and separated into established types. All glass was examined for color, method of manufacture, function, etc., and dated primarily on the basis of method of manufacture when this could be determined. Metal and miscellaneous artifacts were generally described; the determination of a beginning date is sometimes possible, as in the case of nails.

The prehistoric artifacts were classified by cultural historical and functional types (points, bifaces, scrapers, knives, etc.) and by lithic material. Debitage was studied for the presence of striking platforms and cortex, wholeness, number of flaking scars, signs of thermal alteration, size, and presence or absence of use. Chunks are fragments of lithicdebitage which, although they appear to be culturally modified, do not exhibit clear flake or core morphology.

The artifact inventory is organized by area and can be found in Appendix IV.