
**Previous Cultural Resource Surveys and Cultural Resources
Identified in the Project Area**

CHAPTER THREE

PREVIOUS CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEYS AND CULTURAL RESOURCES IDENTIFIED IN THE PROJECT AREA

3.1 CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEYS

A. Route 202 Survey

In the late 1970s the first of a series of cultural resource assessments related to Route 202 and its ancillary roads was undertaken (Figure 13). The survey was conducted by Mid-Atlantic Archeological Research, Inc. (MAAR) along the proposed U.S. Route 202 improvements project area from I-95 to the Pennsylvania-Delaware state line (Thomas et al. 1980). The purpose of the assessment was to determine the historical and architectural significance and the archeological potential of seven historic properties situated along Concord Pike. Of the seven properties, only three were located within the Blue Ball Master Plan project area: the site of the Blue Ball Tavern (7NC-B-22/N-542), the Du Pont Dairy (N-4048), and the Weldin-Husbands Property (N-4049), also known as the Husbands Property (Killinger Kise Franks & Straw 1988).

Phase I and II archeological investigations at the Blue Ball Tavern resulted in the identification of artifacts and structural remains associated with the eighteenth and nineteenth-century tavern as well as the nineteenth and twentieth-century domestic occupation of the site (Thomas et al. 1980:II-33). The site was recommended as eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) (Thomas et al. 1980:III-2).

The architectural assessment of the Du Pont, or Blue Ball, Dairy concluded that the "late construction date of the dairy barn and milk house, the lack of connection with any historical utilization of the property, and the fact that [it] has little, if any, architectural significance, that a recommendation that the DuPont Dairy not be further considered as a significant cultural resource" (Thomas et al. 1980:III-2). Subsequent investigations of the Blue Ball Barn reversed this initial assessment.

As with the barn, the architectural assessment of the Weldin-Husbands House (Husbands Property) concluded that the structure retained little, if any, historical significance. "Architecturally, the structure is an 'ill-conceived' conglomeration of architectural styles that cannot be considered as significant" (Thomas et al. 1980:III-2). The report did note, however, that the associated outbuildings and the surviving interior detailing could make the structure eligible for NRHP listing (Thomas et al. 1980:III-2).

B. Route 141 Survey

In the mid-to-late 1980s two related cultural resources surveys were conducted within the project area. As part of the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) proposed improvements for the Route 141 Corridor between Route

100 and Route 202, architectural assessments of several properties were prepared (Figure 13). In contrast to the conclusions reached during the earlier Route 202 assessment, the Blue Ball Barn (N-4048) and the Weldin House (also called the Philip Husbands House, N-4049) were found to be significant architectural resources eligible for listing in the NRHP (Thompson 1986). The Blue Ball Barn was considered to be a contributing resource to the Nemours Historic District, while the Weldin-Husbands House was nominated for individual listing. Other cultural properties situated within the Blue Ball Master Plan project area were included as contributing resources in the architectural assessment of the Nemours Historic District, including the Bird-Husbands House (7NC-B-16/N-494) and the William Murphy House (7NC-B-17/N-544) (Thompson 1986).

Thunderbird Archeological Associates, Inc. (TAA) conducted a Phase I archeological survey of the proposed Route 141 Corridor in 1985 and 1986 in conjunction with the architectural assessment (Taylor et al. 1989). Termed "preliminary" and "extended" Phase I surveys, these studies encompassed much of the Blue Ball Master Plan project area. The AstraZeneca Triangle Property (Parcel C) was examined through an "aerial" reconnaissance which resulted in the identification of one historic dump (trash) site and two Native American sites, the Alapocas Run site (7NC-B-13/N-10941) and the Concord Pike site (7NC-B-12/N-10940). Artifacts recovered from the Phase I survey of the Alapocas Run site consisted of non-diagnostic lithics, but an Early Archaic projectile point was recovered at the Concord Pike site. Additional site reconnaissance at the latter site, conducted at the request of DelDOT, failed to recover any further archeological remains. Further archeological testing at either prehistoric site was not recommended (Taylor et al. 1989:298). Along the Concord Pike side of the AstraZeneca Triangle Property, two potential historic sites were identified through archival sources, but archeological investigations determined that previous road construction had destroyed the W.H. Bird House and the DuPont Office (Taylor et al. 1989:298).

The William Murphy House (7NC-B-41/N-544) and the Bird-Husbands House (7NC-B-16/N-494) were included in preliminary Phase I investigations along Rockland Road. The Murphy House was still occupied at the time of the survey, preventing subsurface testing at the site. Phase I investigation at the site consisted of intensive archival research (Taylor et al. 1989:159-172), and archeological investigations were recommended at the site to determine if significant archeological remains were present (Taylor et al. 1989:297). Phase I and II archeological testing of the Murphy House yard was undertaken in the winter and spring of 1993 (Walker et al. 1997). Phase I investigations recovered artifacts associated with the agricultural small-holding and located a previously unidentified stone foundation. Phase II testing, directed at determining the NRHP eligibility of the site, concluded that the site lacked contextual integrity and was not likely to yield significant research information. No further archeological work was recommended (Walker et al. 1997:50).

Phase I investigations at the Bird-Husbands House included both field testing and intensive archival research. Field work focused on the immediate yard area to the east and south of the house. No intact archeological remains were located, and no further work was recommended (Taylor et al. 1989:181-194). Subsurface investigations were also conducted in the fallow fields east of the Bird-Husbands House, but no significant archeological remains were found (Taylor et al. 1989:270).

TAA archeologists conducted intensive archival research at the Blue Ball Tavern Site (7NC-B-22/N-542), although the site had already been investigated at the Phase I and II levels by MAAR (Taylor et al. 1989:298). No archeological research was undertaken in association with the Blue Ball Barn (DuPont Dairy, N-4048) due to the structure's relatively recent date of construction (circa 1914). No archeological field investigations were undertaken at the Weldin-Husbands House (N-4049), due to perceived disturbance to the yard (Taylor et al. 1989:203).

East of Concord Pike nearly opposite the Blue Ball Tavern site, TAA archeologists identified the Smithy Site (7NC-B-10/N-10939), the location of a nineteenth-to-twentieth-century blacksmith shop. Phase I investigations, consisting of archival research and limited subsurface testing, determined that the site lacked integrity and was disturbed from the construction of a twentieth-century gasoline station (Taylor et al. 1989:297). The site was illustrated by the middle of the nineteenth-century on historic maps of the project area, and was the smith and wheelwright shop of Charles A. Rothouse circa 1900 (Bell 1960).

Approximately 300-500 feet east of the intersection of Foulk and Weldin Roads, TAA archeologists located the remains of "Chestnut Hill," also known as the J.R. Weldin Plantation site (7NC-B-11/N-9453). The site consists of the stone foundations of at least five structures, including a bank barn, machine shed, and dwellings. Intensive archival research determined that the site was occupied from the first quarter of the eighteenth-century into the twentieth century. Phase I subsurface investigations identified intact features and recovered artifacts associated with the various families that historically occupied the site (Taylor et al. 1989:203-261). Phase II archeological investigations were recommended for the site, as the site "contains intact contexts and features which would provide valuable information on tenancies from the late 18th century through the last quarter of the nineteenth century In addition, the site provides a valuable opportunity to study owner occupied sites in the last part of the 19th century and contrast this to the tenant occupation" (Taylor et al. 1989:261).

Two prehistoric sites were discovered during the 1985 preliminary Phase I testing of the project area. The Matsons Run site (7NC-B-14/N-10942) was discovered in a fallow field north of Weldin Road and west of Matsons Run, and the Rock Manor site (7NC-B-15/N-10943) was situated in an area approximately 400 to 850 feet south of the intersection of Weldin Road and Carruthers Lane (Road 215A), west of Matsons Run (Taylor et al. 1989:204). Phase I testing at

the sites included a surface collection and subsurface investigations. Artifacts recovered from the Matsons Run site included non-diagnostic projectile points, a quartzite abraded milling stone, and approximately 100 other lithic artifacts. Artifacts recovered from the testing at the Rock Manor site were similar, but the number of artifacts was considerably fewer. Overall, TAA archeologists concluded that the artifact density at both sites was very low and the sites were interpreted as small, temporally limited occupations (Taylor et al. 1989:280). No Phase II evaluations were recommended for either of these sites (Taylor et al. 1989:283).

C. Augustine Cutoff Survey

A Phase I archeological reconnaissance survey was conducted in the summer of 1998 by Thunderbird Archeological Associates, Inc. (TAA) in the areas proposed for highway improvements associated with Concord Pike, Rockland Road Connector, and Augustine Cutoff (Wholey et al. 1998, 2000). The 10 to 12-acre project area included an area selected for storm water management, a general soil stockpile area, and three wetlands mitigation areas (Figure 13). No significant cultural resources were identified within the wetland mitigation area south of Rockland Road and west of Alapocas Run. Field investigations during this survey also included parts of the fallow fields east of the Bird-Husbands House. A portion of the previously identified Alapocas Run prehistoric site (7NC-B-13/N-10941) was located within the wetland mitigation area north of Rockland Road. Phase I investigations in 1998 recovered Native American artifacts, including a Bare Island projectile point base (Woodland I period, *circa* 3000 B.C. - A.D. 500), and other lithic debitage. All artifacts were recovered from within plow zone soils, and no features were found. The Phase I testing in 1998 concluded that the artifacts located within the wetlands mitigation area were associated with the main portion of the Alapocas Run site located upslope from the survey area, and no further archeological investigations were recommended. However, it was recommended by TAA archeologists to fence-off the Alapocas Run Site during DelDOT construction (Wholey et al. 2000:31).

Two previously-recorded archeological sites were investigated by TAA archeologists during this survey. Previous Phase I testing had determined that the Smithy Site (7NC-B-1/N-10939), located on the southeast side of the intersection of Concord Pike and Foulk Road, was not significant due to recent construction (Taylor et al. 1989:203). TAA archeologists confirmed the results of the earlier survey in 1998, and no further work was recommended for this nineteenth-century blacksmith shop site (Wholey 2000:68). The Weldin Plantation Site (7NC-B-11/N-9453), the site of an extensive farmstead dating from the eighteenth through the twentieth centuries, was also initially identified in 1989 (see Section 3.2, above). Subsequent Phase I investigations by TAA in 1998 confirmed the significance of the site, and determined that once DelDOT construction plans were finalized and areas to be adversely affected were identified, then further archeological investigations may be necessary (Wholey et al. 2000:68).

A previously unidentified historic archeological site was located during the 1998 Phase I survey. Termed the Augustine Cutoff Site (7NC-B-49/N-13717), the site consists of a brick-lined cistern approximately 50 feet west of the Concord Pike, and concentrations of rock, brick, mortar, and artifacts. The occupants of the site are unknown and the site dates from the late nineteenth-to-early-twentieth century. TAA archeologists recommended Phase II archeological evaluation of 7NC-B-49 if portions of the site are situated in areas proposed for DeIDOT soil stockpiling, staging, or construction (Wholey et al. 2000:59).

D. AstraZeneca Triangle Property Survey

A Phase I archeological survey of the AstraZeneca Triangle Property (Parcel C) was undertaken by John Milner Associates, Inc. (JMA) in November 1999 (Figure 13). The survey was conducted in fifteen areas considered sensitive for archeological resources by the SHPO. Five archeological sites were identified in the project area. The Alapocas Run site (7NC-B-13/N-10941), initially identified by Taylor et al. (1989), and the twentieth-century DuPont Tenant Houses site (7NC-B-52/N-13783) lack archeological integrity and no further work is recommended at these locations. The two newly-documented prehistoric archeological sites, Prehistoric Site #1 (7NC-B-54/N-13785) and Prehistoric Site #2 (7NC-B-55/N-13786), are situated near the headwaters of an ephemeral tributary to Alapocas Run that drains the western uplands of the project area. The Triangle Woods site (7NC-B-53/N-13784) is a historic occupation dating between *circa* 1925 and 1935 of unknown purpose; oral history suggests that the site may have been a gypsy camp (Mariane 1992:76-78). Avoidance of all of the sites during construction activities was recommended as the preferred treatment (Catts and Kellogg 2000).

Phase II archeological evaluations were conducted by archeologists with JMA in the spring of 2000 at Site #2 (7NC-B-55) and the Triangle Woods site (7NC-B-53). The goals of the Phase II archeological evaluations were to determine whether the sites are eligible to the National Register of Historic Places. Phase II evaluation of Prehistoric Site #2 (7NC-B-55) determined that the archeological deposits at the site were not disturbed by plowing, and the integrity of the site is excellent both in the horizontal and vertical dimensions. The site is probably the result of a single occupation or use event of an undetermined cultural period, possibly Archaic or earlier. JMA archeologists recommended the site as eligible for listing in the NRHP. The preliminary plans for the proposed construction project in the AstraZeneca Triangle Property indicate that the site will be adversely affected, so archeological data recovery excavations were recommended (Kellogg 2000).

Evaluation of the Triangle Woods Site (7NC-B-53) found that the site retained several of the aspects, or qualities, of integrity (location, setting, design, materials), but the crucial aspect of association is lacking: documentary records and oral histories do not provide definitive information about the occupants of the site and how the site functioned. While more artifacts are present at the surface of the site, additional archeological fieldwork would be redundant and only serve to retrieve a larger artifact sample. Determining direct association

with the historic occupants of the site is only possible through either oral histories or documentary sources, whether gypsy or otherwise. Without such an association, eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) is questionable. Since the site's historical association is currently problematic, the site does not appear to meet any of the criteria (A,B,C, or D) for NRHP listing. JMA archeologists did not recommend 7NC-B-53 as eligible for inclusion in the NRHP (Catts 2000).

E. Parcel E (Rockland Road) Storm Water Management Survey

In the late fall of 1999, archeologists with John Milner Associates, Inc. (JMA) conducted a Phase I archeological survey of the tract of land south of Rockland Road, east of the DelDOT retention basin, and bounded on the west and south by the limits of the Blue Ball Properties (Catts and Benedict 2000). A portion of the flood plain of Alapocas Run was included within the project area (Figure 13). The results of the Phase I survey revealed that two large spoils piles of dirt (approximately 5.5 acres in extent) were deposited on the tract between 1967 and 1982, and these cover the southwestern portion of the project area. Remnants of the foundation for the Nemours estate wall were discovered within the limits of the project area. While the estate wall foundations located within the project area are not of the glass-capped masonry type that encloses the more visible portions of the estate, the estate wall is listed in the National Register Nomination for the Nemours Historic District as a contributing element to the District (Thompson 1986). Therefore, JMA concluded that the portion of wall discovered within the project area is a contributing element to the District. Dressed stone walls situated along the southern boundary of Rockland Road are also contributing structures to the Nemours Historic District. A previous cultural resource investigation of the Route 100 and Route 92 intersection developed research issues related to the dressed stone walls found lining many of the rural roadways in Brandywine and Christiana Hundreds (Heite 1992:15-19). With the exception of the estate wall foundation, no archeological deposits were found within the limits of the project area during the Phase I survey.

3.2 IDENTIFIED CULTURAL RESOURCES

The following section summarizes the identified cultural resources within the Blue Ball Master Plan project area by individual resource. Standing structures, sites, and objects are included. Levels of investigation, determinations of significance, and recommendations for additional evaluation (if any) are provided for each resource when that information is available (Table 2, Figure 14).

A. Bird-Husbands House (N-494; 7NC-B-16)

The Bird-Husbands House is listed as a contributing cultural resource in the Nemours Historic District (Thompson 1986). Historic American Building Survey (HABS) documentation was prepared on the house in 1996 (Kise Franks & Straw 1996). A feasibility study for stabilization of the house has been prepared in conjunction with the Blue Ball Master Plan (Goodwin et al. 2000).

B. Blue Ball Tavern (N-542; 7NC-B-22)

As part of the Route 141 and Route 202 DelDOT road improvements, three phases of archeological investigation were conducted at the Blue Ball Tavern site (Thomas et al. 1980; Wholey et al. n.d.). Significant archeological remains were present that have provided information related to the history and development of Brandywine Hundred. Phase III data recovery investigations were undertaken in order to mitigate the adverse affects of DelDOT highway construction (Wholey et al. n.d.). The site is no longer extant.

C. William Murphy House (N-544;7NC-B-41)

The William Murphy House is listed as a contributing historic resource in the Nemours Historic District (Thompson 1986). HABS documentation was completed on the house in 1994 (Kise Franks & Straw 1994), and Phase I and II archeological survey and evaluation were conducted in 1993 (Walker et al. 1997). No further archeological work was recommended, as the archeological component of the property was deemed to lack integrity. A feasibility study for stabilization of the house has been completed in conjunction with the present study.

D. DuPont Dairy (N-4048)

The DuPont Dairy (Blue Ball Barn) is listed as a contributing resource to the Nemours National Register Historic District (Thompson 1986). HABS documentation has been completed for the structure (Kise Franks & Straw 1994), and a feasibility study for stabilization of the barn has been prepared in conjunction with the present study.

E. J.R. Weldin Plantation (N-9453; 7NC-B-11)

Phase I archeological testing (preliminary and extended) were conducted at this site in 1985 and 1986 (Taylor et al. 1989), and the site was revisited in 1998 (Wholey et al. 2000). Additional archeological investigations were recommended if proposed construction affects the site.

F. Smithy Site (N-10939; 7NC-B-10):

Phase I archeological testing was undertaken at this site in 1985/1986. The site was deemed to lack archeological integrity at that time and no further evaluation was recommended (Taylor et al. 1989; Wholey et al. 2000). The site is no longer extant.

G. Concord Pike Site (N-10940; 7NC-B-12)

Phase I archeological testing determined that the site lacks integrity, and no further evaluation was recommended. The site is no longer extant (Taylor et al. 1989).

H. Alapocas Run Site (N-10941; 7NC-B-13)

Phase I archeological testing was conducted at this site in 1985/1986, 1998, and 1999 (Taylor et al. 1989; Wholey et al. 2000; Catts 2000). The site is not

considered eligible for National Register listing, and no further evaluation is recommended.

I. Matsons Run Site (N-10942; 7NC-B-14)

Phase I archeological testing at this prehistoric site determined that the site is not significant. No further archeological evaluation was recommended (Taylor et al. 1989).

J. Rock Manor Site (N-10943; 7NC-B-15)

Phase I archeological testing at this prehistoric site determined that the site is not significant. No further archeological evaluation was recommended (Taylor et al. 1989).

K. Bridge on Rockland Road (N-12559)

Bridge #19, a stone and concrete bridge crossing Alapocas Run on Rockland Road was inventoried in 1991 (Spero 1991:211). The single span concrete bridge was determined to be a poor architectural example of hybrid construction. Associated stone walls were identified in 1998, and recommended for recordation (Wholey et al. 2000).

L. Concord Pike Milestone (N-12684)

A milestone, situated on the west side of Route 202, approximately 0.7 miles north of Rockland Road, has had a Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) recordation prepared for it (Kise Franks & Straw 1996). It is considered to be a rare survivor of the nineteenth-century turnpike system radiating from Wilmington. The stone has a curved, rather than a pyramidal, top, which is a variation on the common design (Kise Franks & Straw 1996).

M. Augustine Cutoff Site (7NC-B-49/N-13717)

Phase I archeological testing identified this site in 1998 (Wholey et al. 2000). Phase II archeological evaluation was recommended if proposed DelDOT highway construction or other future construction would affect the site.

N. DuPont Tenant Houses (N-13783; 7NC-B-52)

Phase I archeological testing and historic research identified the location of several twentieth century tenant houses along Old Murphy Road (Catts and Benedict 2000). The site was found to lack integrity and no further archeological investigations were recommended.

O. Triangle Woods Site (N-13784; 7NC-B-53)

Phase I archeological investigations were conducted on this site in 1999 and the site was determined to warrant Phase II archeological evaluation (Catts and Kellogg 2000). Phase II evaluation was undertaken in the spring of 2000, and the results are pending (Catts 2000).

P. Prehistoric Site #1 (N-13785; 7NC-B-54)

Phase I archeological testing was conducted at this site in 1999, and Phase II evaluation was recommended if proposed construction would adversely affect it (Catts and Kellogg 2000).

Q. Prehistoric Site #2 (N-13786; 7NC-B-55)

Phase I testing was conducted on this prehistoric site in 1999 and the site was recommended for Phase II evaluation (Catts et al. 2000a). Phase II evaluation of the site suggests that the site possesses archeological integrity and is eligible for nomination to the NRHP (Kellogg 2000).

3.3 SUMMARY

In the last thirty years numerous cultural resource surveys have been conducted within or near the Blue Ball Master Plan project area. To date, seventeen individual cultural resources have been identified, including three standing structures, a bridge, a milestone, and twelve archeological sites.