

5.0 FIELD RESULTS

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The CSX Railroad splits the project APE into north/west and south/east investigation areas. This chapter presents the results of the investigations in each of those areas of the APE.

5.1 APE South of the CSX Corridor/Northeast Quadrant

This portion of the APE is located south of the CSX railroad corridor, on the edge of the property owned by the Delmarva Power & Light Company and on the edge of the adjacent 1419 Newport Road property owned by Dempsey and Phyllis Faulkner, Jr. (Figure 2; Photographs 3 and 4). In relation to grid north, this portion of the APE is located in the northeast quadrant of the CSX-Newport Road intersection. Six STPs were excavated in this quadrant: two were located on the Delmarva Power & Light Company property, and four STPs were located on the Faulkner property. A total of 325 artifacts were recovered from STP excavations in this portion of the APE (Appendix A). The cultural materials are chronologically mixed and originate from contexts that lack depositional integrity, namely a mid-to-late twentieth century landscape layer and a buried plowzone. This lack of temporal and stratigraphic integrity (i.e., archaeological integrity) indicates that these cultural materials do not constitute an archaeological site.

The most common STP profile was encountered in STPs 1 to 3; it consisted of three layers (Figure 12). The uppermost layer was identified as a 10- to 20-centimeter-deep landscape layer that was characterized by dark grayish brown to dark brown silty loam or clay loam. This layer was present in all six STPs, and it contained coal; coal slag; colorless, amber, olive green, and cobalt blue bottle glass fragments and a window glass fragment; whiteware sherds, one with a blue spongeware pattern decoration, one salmon-colored, and two with a blue transfer-print decoration; a yellowware sherd; a porcelain sherd; a creamware sherd; an asbestos tile fragment; a brick fragment; a plastic fragment; a bone fragment; an oyster and clam shell fragment; cut nail fragments; and a single roofing nail fragment.

These materials are chronologically mixed because they generally date to the late nineteenth to mid-twentieth centuries. The bulk of these materials likely represent domestic refuse associated



Photograph 3: View showing northeast quadrant test area, facing southeast (October 2008).



Photograph 4: View showing northeast quadrant test area, facing north (October 2008).

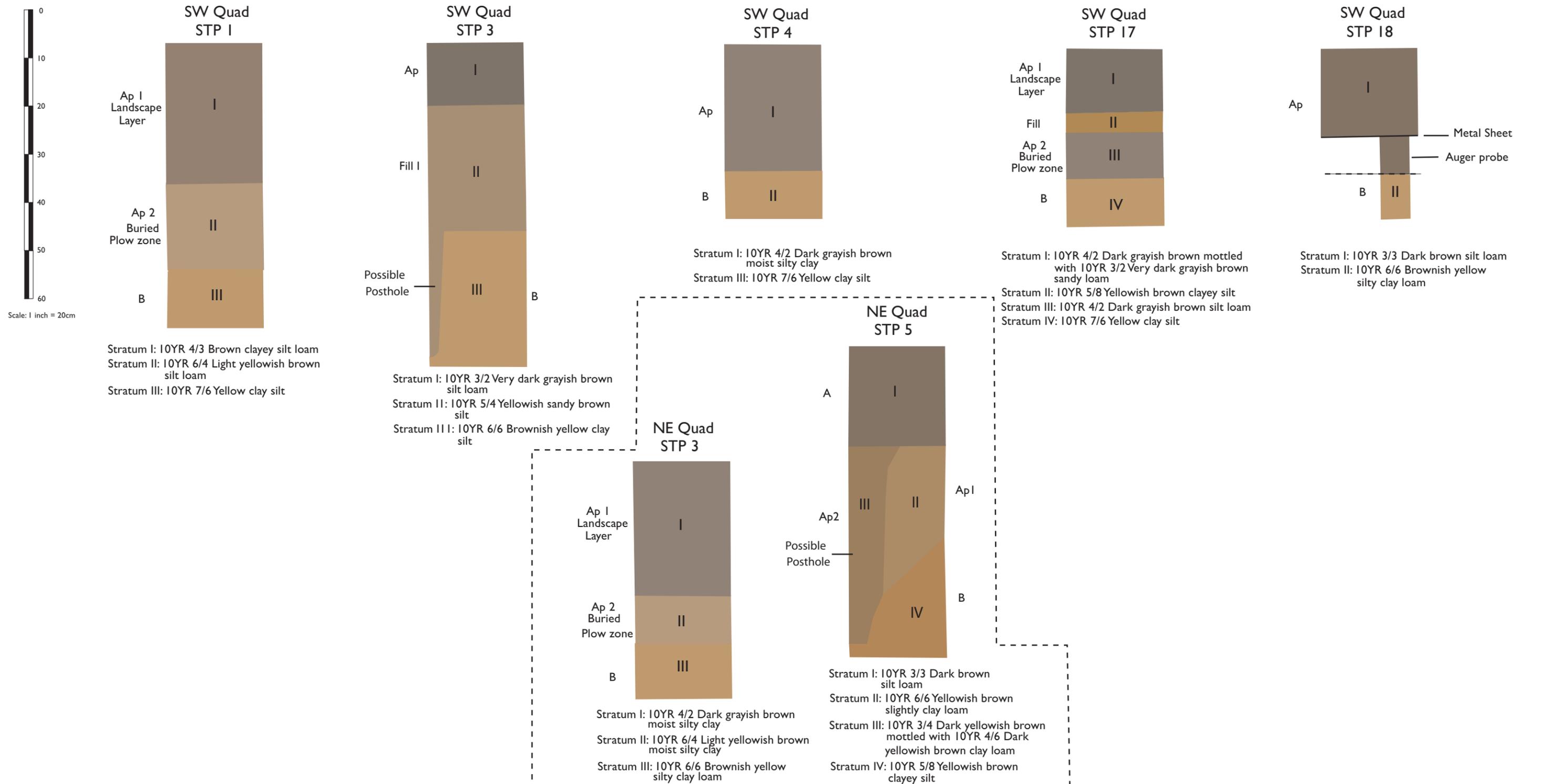


Figure 12
Representative Shovel Test Pit Profiles
 Bridge I-651 on Newport Road over CSX
 Christiana Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware

with the occupation of the former (late nineteenth/early twentieth century) and current dwellings at 1419 Newport Road. It is possible that some of these materials (i.e., the potentially early-to-mid-nineteenth-century creamware sherd) may have been deposited at this locus as a result of the practice of field manuring when the properties were used as an agricultural field. These artifacts may have become temporally mixed as a result of dwelling construction and subsequent landscaping events. Thus, this layer lacks archaeological integrity; none of the materials can be associated with any specific occupations that took place at this location.

The layer identified below the landscape layer and in STPs 1 to 3 and 5 is believed to have served as a plowzone. In STPs 1 to 3, this layer was a brown or yellowish brown silty loam or silt clay loam; in STP 5, this layer was a yellow brown clay loam. It ranged from 20 to 30 centimeters in depth. STPs 4 and 6 did not contain this buried plowzone.

The buried plowzone was also characterized by a temporally mixed artifact assemblage. It contained coal; coal slag; colorless, amber, olive green, aqua, and green bottle glass fragments; aqua glass canning jar fragments; undecorated whiteware sherds; unglazed redware; ironstone sherds; cut nails; wire nails; a bone fragment; a light amber automobile tail or head light cover; and a brass-based shotgun shell. The cultural materials recovered from the plowzone deposit lack temporal integrity and can not be associated with any specific historic occupations that took place at this location. A B-horizon was typically identified lying beneath the buried plowzone. It contained no cultural materials.

STP 4 contained two distinct fill layers below the landscape layer and above the B-horizon. The first Ap (fill/disturbed) layer below the landscape layer extended from 22 to 46 centimeters below ground surface. It was composed of dark brown sandy clay with pebbles, and it held a wide array of temporally mixed materials. These included colorless, amber, green, olive green bottle glass fragments; a Depression vessel glass fragment; whiteware sherds (one with blue feather decoration; one with a decal) ironstone sherds, a polychrome overglaze porcelain sherd; a pearlware sherd; a terra-cotta redware sherd; a redware sherd with manganese glaze; window glass; brick fragments; wire nails and cut nails; a grommet of copper alloy; a compressed paper fragment; a reinforced rubber tire fragment; a vinyl record fragment; a zinc jar lid fragment; an

asbestos tile fragment; an unidentified plastic fragment; a plastic toothbrush with nylon bristles; and a fragment of modern textile. The second fill layer in STP 4 was characterized as a yellow brown sandy clay, and it contained colorless and olive green bottle glass fragments and brick fragments. This STP is centrally located near the edge of the front lawn of the Faulkner residence. It seems reasonable to posit that the materials recovered in the STP originated in the plowzone and from the early-to-mid-twentieth-century occupation of the dwelling that formerly stood at this location. In sum, landscaping activities associated with the construction of the Faulkner house likely compromised any temporal integrity of the deposits at this location as well as the whole of the tested area.

STP 5 was similar to STPs 1 to 4, but it also contained a possible posthole feature underlying the landscape layer and cutting through the layer identified as the buried plowzone (Figure 12; Photograph 5). The feature fill consisted of a mix of brown and yellow brown clay loam that was possibly a combination of plowzone and B-horizon sediments. The possible posthole was identified at 22 centimeters below ground surface, and it extended to approximately 62 centimeters below ground surface. The STP was not widened to determine the plan of the post feature because it originated at the top of the plowzone and was therefore considered to be a recent feature. This feature may indicate the former location of a fence post that was associated with a fence that paralleled Newport Road. The fill of the possible posthole feature contained a piece of coal, a colorless bottle glass fragment, an aqua canning jar fragment, two cut nail fragments, and an undecorated whiteware rim sherd. These materials likely date to the late nineteenth and first half of the twentieth century. A small cobble was evident in the fill in the side wall of the STP. It is possible that rocks like these were used to stabilize the base of a fence post that may have stood at this location. The cut of the possible posthole feature terminated in the B-horizon, which was composed of yellowish brown clayey silt and contained no cultural materials.

Unlike STPs 1 to 5, STP 6 contained a profile consisting of only two layers: a 19-centimeter-deep landscape layer and a B-horizon that was excavated to 36 centimeters below ground surface. This STP was located adjacent to the Faulkner driveway (Photograph 6). The landscape layer contained colorless, amber, cobalt blue, and olive bottle glass fragments; a



Photograph 5: View of possible posthole feature in STP 5 in the northeast quadrant (October 2008).



Photograph 6: View showing location of STP 6 in the northeast quadrant (October 2008).

window glass fragment; a bone fragment; a creamware sherd; coal slag; two cut nail fragments; and a roofing nail fragment. These chronologically mixed materials may have been associated with the former and/or current dwelling at 1419 Newport Road and/or with the practice of field manuring that may have been related to the nineteenth-century agricultural use of the property. The B-horizon contained no archaeological materials.

It is the opinion of A.D. Marble & Company archaeology staff that the portion of the APE in the northeast quadrant of the CSX and Newport Road intersection contain no significant archaeological resources (i.e., archaeological sites). Artifacts recovered in this portion of the APE originated from contexts lacking depositional integrity, and the assemblages were characterized by a temporal mix of late-nineteenth- to early-to-mid-twentieth-century artifacts. No further archaeological study is recommended for this portion of the APE.

5.2 APE North of the CSX Corridor/Southwest Quadrant

This portion of the APE is located north of the CSX railroad corridor and is represented by the rhomboid-shaped 1500 Newport Road property currently owned by Wally and Flora Poindexter. In relation to grid north, this portion of the APE is located in the southwest quadrant of the CSX-Newport Road intersection (Figure 2). This portion of the APE is characterized by open residential yard area within approximately 100 feet of the dwelling, a tall grassy area extending from approximately 100 to 200 feet southwest of the dwelling, and a lightly wooded area extending from roughly 200 to 300 feet southwest of the dwelling (or to the end of the APE at this location) (Photographs 7 to 9). Eighteen STPs were laid in on two transects at 50-foot intervals within the Poindexter property. The transects were situated in a biased manner toward the southeastern edge of the property in order to search for outbuildings that may have stood near the edge of the property overlooking the “trench” of the CSX railroad corridor (Photograph 10). The field team excavated seventeen STPs (STP 1, 3 to 18); they did not excavate STP 2 because it was located on the Poindexter’s macadam driveway (Figure 2).

A total of 159 artifacts were recovered during the investigation of this portion of the APE. An archaeological site, 7NC-E-185, was identified within an approximately 100-foot radius of the Poindexter dwelling. A dramatic decrease in STP artifact content in STPs 8 to 14 strongly



Photograph 7: View of southwest quadrant test area in residential yard, facing southwest (October 2008).



Photograph 8: View of southwest quadrant test area in tall grass, facing southwest (October 2008).



Photograph 9: View of southwest quadrant test area in light woods, facing southwest (October 2008).



Photograph 10: View of CSX railroad trench, facing southwest (October 2008).

suggests that artifacts associated with the site were encountered in STPs 1, 3 to 6, and 15 to 18. The artifacts are characterized primarily by materials attributed to domestic and architectural classes. A possible posthole feature was identified in STP 3. A twentieth-century refuse midden was discovered in STP 18. Wally Poindexter informed the field team that a railroad-related water tank may have sat in the vicinity of STP 18 (Wally Poindexter, personal communication, 2008). Despite a rigorous search, no railroad feature was encountered during the investigation. The following discussion briefly presents the findings in the non-site area and then presents a detailed discussion of the findings in the site area.

5.2.1 Testing in Non-Site Area

Eight STPs (STPS 7 to 14) were located in the tall grassy area and lightly wooded areas of this portion of the APE (Figure 2). Based on the paucity of artifactual materials recovered in this area, it is strongly believed that these STPs were not situated within the boundary of the site (7NC-E-185). Two stratigraphic profiles were observed in this area. The first was encountered in STPs 10, 12, and 14, and it was composed of a plowzone/root mat of dark gray brown silty clay and an underlying B-horizon of yellow brown silty clay. The second profile typical of this area was encountered in STPs 11 and 13. It consisted of a plowzone/root mat of brown silty clay overlying a transitional layer of light yellow brown silty clay situated above the yellow brown silty clay B-horizon. The transitional layer likely represents a leached portion of the overlying plowzone layer. A total of two artifacts in this “non-site” section of this portion of the APE were recovered from STP 12. The plowzone in STP 12 contained an unidentifiable shell fragment and an aqua bottle glass fragment.

5.2.2 7NC-E-185 - Testing in Site Area

Ten STPs (STPS 1 to 6, 15 to 18) were located within the site (Figure 2). STP 2 remained unexcavated due to its location on a macadam driveway. STPs were spaced at 50-foot intervals. STP 18 was excavated in a modern refuse midden; the aim of the excavation at this location was to identify a potential railroad-associated feature. One feature, a possible posthole, was identified in STP 3. STPs 3 and 18 are described in greater detail in the following discussion.

Four stratigraphic profiles were observed in the site area. The first was similar to one of the two basic profiles discovered in the 1419 Newport Road portion of the APE: it was composed of a landscape layer of brown clayey silt loam that covered a buried plowzone of light yellowish brown silt loam that was found situated on top of a B-horizon of yellow clayey silt (Figure 12). This sequence was present in STP 1 in the front corner of the property (Photograph 11); its plowzone layer contained a single window glass fragment. This sequence was also present in STP 6, located on the far edge of the backyard proper; its plowzone layer contained a plastic shirt button and a small threaded brass plumbing pipe.

A more common stratigraphic sequence was a dark brown clay loam landscape layer overlying the B-horizon. It was present in STPs 4, 5, and 15, which (like STP 6) are also located in the rear of the backyard proper. The landscape layer in these STPs contained 17 artifacts including coal and amber bottle glass fragments, a window glass fragment, a whiteware fragment, a cut and a wire nail, and a vinyl record fragment. No materials were found in the B-horizon.

Another common sequence of layers in the site area was characterized by a landscape layer that overlaid a fill of brown fine sandy silt in STP 3 and mottled yellow brown clayey silt in its neighboring STP 16. Both STPs were located within approximately 50 to 75 feet of the dwelling. The fill in these STPs was found overlying the B-horizon. The landscape layer contained 40 artifacts (nine in STP 3; 31 in STP 16). These materials included coal; coal slag; brick fragments; window glass fragments; colorless, amber, aqua, and green bottle glass fragments; a milk vessel glass fragment; a whiteware sherd; an ironstone sherd; a toy car wheel; a roofing nail; and two cut nails.

The B-horizon encountered in STP 3 was reported to contain 11 artifacts: six unidentifiable metal fragments, four cut nail fragments, and a piece of coal slag. The B-horizon in other STPs yielded no cultural materials, which suggests that these materials probably originated in the overlying fill layer and that they were likely collected near the B-horizon/Fill layer interface. STP 3 also contained a possible posthole that appears to have been originally cut from the base of the fill layer and into the B-horizon (Figure 12). The fill of the possible posthole was the same sediment as the fill layer. Assuming it is a posthole, it is plausible that fill sediments filled the



Photograph 11: View of STP 1 in the southeast quadrant, facing south (October 2008).

void left behind after the post was removed. The upper layer (landscape fill) of the STP was not widened to expose the shape of the potential post feature because the field crew believed that it represented a rodent or root disturbance rather than a cultural feature. Nonetheless, given its location near the edge of the railroad corridor trench, it is possible that it represents the former location of a post for a fence that stretched along the edge of the property above the trench.

STP 17 exhibited a unique set of layers: a dark gray brown sandy loam landscape layer above a yellow brown clayey silt fill layer that was situated on top of dark yellowish brown clay loam identified as a buried plowzone (Figure 12). The field team encountered a yellow clayey silt B-horizon at the base of the STP and below the buried plowzone. STP 17 was located immediately adjacent to the Poindexter dwelling (Figure 2; Photograph 12). Its profile is similar to those in STP 3 and STP 16; however, unlike those STPs, it contains a remnant of the plowzone below the landscape and fill layers. A cinder and piece of brick were recovered from the fill layer; two porcelain sherds and two colorless bottle glass fragments were collected from the buried plowzone layer.

STP 18 was placed approximately 20 feet north of STP 5 along the edge of the bluff overlooking the railroad trench (Figure 2). Similar to the nearby STPs 4 and 5, it was basically composed of two layers: a landscape layer and an underlying B-horizon. Unlike those adjacent STPs, STP 18 contained a midden of modern refuse within the landscape layer. The midden was first identified when the field team uncovered a section of a plate of sheet metal that bent in a curved manner toward the surface. That is, it was not lying flat as though it may have been covering a shaft feature, which is a common practice related to the disuse of a well or privy on historic properties. STP 18 is also located where Wally Poindexter told the field team a railroad water tower may have stood. The field team discovered no evidence for any railroad structures in this vicinity. Instead, they found a mid-twentieth-century refuse midden that contained the plate of sheet metal and an object identified as part of the metal superstructure of a lawn chair (Photograph 13). The metal plate and possible lawn chair framing were documented but not collected.

A total of 71 artifacts were recovered from the midden. Materials included a melted plastic fork, colorless and amber bottle glass fragments, three personal care/beauty/medicine bottles



Photograph 12: View of STP 17 location at corner of Poindexter dwelling, facing northeast (October 2008).

(screw top), a nail polish bottle, a 1962 Lincoln cent, an electrode, aluminum foil, burnt whiteware, a Depression glass vessel fragment, a metal jar lid fragment, burnt and melted window glass fragments, milk glass lampshade fragments, and a terra cotta fragment. Based on these items, it appears that the midden is associated with a location where refuse was secondarily deposited and occasionally burned *in situ*. The 1962 penny suggests that the midden dates at least to that time. Taken as a whole, it appears that the assemblage dates to the early to middle of the twentieth century and that it is very likely associated with the occupation of the 1500 Newport Road dwelling. Excavators were able to peel back a small portion of the metal sheet to create a small window through which they excavated further with an auger (Figure 12). The B-horizon of yellow brown clayey silt was encountered approximately 10 centimeters below the metal plate.

The Phase IB survey identified a historic domestic site on the 1500 Newport Road property. The materials generally date to the early and middle portions of the twentieth century and are likely associated with the dwelling at this location.

5.3 The DiMatteo Site: 7NC-E-185

The DiMatteo Site, 7NC-E-185, is located within the residential yard of the Poindexter dwelling at 1500 Newport Road. The site may be defined as a historic archaeological site that is associated with a twentieth-century single family dwelling. The dwelling and the site share the CRS number, N-13111. The site lacks depositional integrity and contains an amalgam of chronologically mixed twentieth-century artifacts recovered from a landscape fill layer and a buried plowzone. Nonetheless, it is strongly believed that these materials are associated with the occupation of the 1500 Newport Road property. Artifacts collected from the site include pale aqua window glass, colorless and amber bottle glass, red earthenware, whiteware, wire nails, coal, cinders, brick fragments, a vinyl record fragment, continuous-thread glass bottle closure, American porcelain, a metal lawn chair frame, and a large sheet metal fragment (the latter two were not collected but noted on excavation form). After consulting with the DESHPO and Museum regarding the culling of materials from the site assemblage, materials will be curated at the DSM DE Archaeological Collections facility.

The following is an excerpt from the historic structures Phase I Investigation Report prepared in July 2008 by Dluzak et al. of A.D. Marble & Company. It describes the history of Deeds for the 1500 Newport Road property, provides an historical context for 7NC-E-185, and reviews the recommended eligibility status of the historic structure on the property.

Historical Narrative

By a deed dated June 3, 1918, Mary E. C. Flinn conveyed a one-acre parcel of her late husbands' 153-acre farm to Nicola DiMatteo in consideration of \$200 (New Castle County Deed Book R27:303). Nicola DiMatteo and his wife, Theresa, likely erected the two-story, American Foursquare dwelling on the property soon thereafter. The dwelling is depicted on a 1937 aerial photograph, and road plans from 1949 indicate the property included the two-story dwelling and a shed (no longer extant). The DiMatteos likely resided on the property until their deaths in 1955 (Nicola) and 1964 (Theresa) (recited in New Castle County Deed Book O78:181). The one-acre property was subsequently vested to their son and daughter-in-law, Nathan and Priscilla DiMatteo, by a deed dated February 23, 1967 (New Castle County Deed Book O78:181). The couple sold the property to George and Hilda Poindexter on October 1, 1971 in consideration of \$14,700 (New Castle County Deed Book L85:888). Hilda Poindexter died on July 3, 2000. Several months later, on October 29, widower George Poindexter conveyed the property to present-day owners Giwallace and Flora Poindexter (relationship unknown) on October 29, 2000 (New Castle County Deed 200208280083391).

National Register Evaluation

The property at 1500 Newport Road was evaluated as a Residential Resource. The property is a typical example of an early twentieth-century American Foursquare dwelling commonly found in suburban areas (Lanier and Herman 1991:171). Typical characteristics of the American Foursquare include a two-story dwelling with a square footprint topped by a pyramidal or hipped roof; a one-story, full-width porch; and dormer windows.

Based on a review of the history of the area, the property is an example of development of isolated residential at the edge of a farm adjacent to the roadway. It does not appear to be significant for its association with early twentieth-century residential suburban development outside of Wilmington, and is recommended not eligible under Criterion A. Based on the background research conducted for this project, the property does not appear to be associated with an individual of historic importance; therefore, the property is not eligible under Criterion B. With the enclosure of the front porch and the construction of the rear addition, the dwelling is an altered example of a common early twentieth-century form. The dwelling is not architecturally significant; therefore, the property is not eligible for National Register listing under Criterion C. The property does not appear to possess the potential to yield information on building practices or methods of construction; therefore, the property does not appear to be eligible for listing under Criterion D. Due to lack of significance and integrity, the Nicola and Theresa DiMatteo Dwelling is not eligible for listing in the National Register (A.D. Marble & Company 2008).

Although the Phase IB archaeological resources identification-level survey successfully identified an archaeological resource, based on the evidence, the DiMatteo Site (7NC-E-185) does not appear to meet the requirements for listing in the National Register (NR) (i.e., fulfill one or more National Register criteria [Criteria A to D]). Archaeological resources that would be considered eligible to be listed to the NR must have "significance" for association with important events or patterns of history (Criterion A); or for association with an important historical figure (Criterion B); or for association with an important example of period architecture, landscape, or engineering (Criterion C); or for the information that it is likely to yield that might be considered important to local history (Criterion D). An eligible archaeological property must also have integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. This means that the property must retain enough of its historic physical character (or in the case of archaeological sites, intact archaeological features) to represent its historic period and associations adequately. It is the opinion of the A.D. Marble & Company staff that the DiMatteo Site (7NC-E-185) fails to fulfill any NR eligibility criteria and lacks archaeological integrity.

Therefore A.D. Marble & Company archaeology staff recommends that no further archaeological study is warranted in this portion of the APE.