

ABSTRACT

Archaeological test excavations at eight prehistoric sites and one historic site within the right-of-way of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal section of the State Route 1 Corridor project are described. Four prehistoric sites were found to be the remains of small, ephemeral occupations dating to the Woodland I time period, ca. 3,000 B.C. - A.D. 1,000. Plowing and other activities have destroyed the sites, and no further archaeological research is recommended. Two prehistoric sites (Parkway Gravel - 7NC-G-100, and Dragon Run North B - 7NC-G-104) yielded substantial amounts of cultural material. Use of both sites was predominately during the Woodland I Period. Contact Period occupation of the Parkway Gravel site may be indicated by a flaked, olive glass bottle bottom and several gunflints. The Dragon Run North B site is unusual in the amount of ironstone used for lithic raw materials. Reexamination of ironstone use and distribution in the region suggests that ironstone crops out at the eastern margin of the Upper Coastal Plain where streams are deeply incised into the Columbia Geological Formation. Both the Parkway Gravel and the Dragon Run North B sites were severely damaged by plowing and soil erosion. Further archaeological research is not recommended. Two other prehistoric sites (Wrangle Hill South - 7NC-G-105, and Snapp - 7NC-G-101) were more substantial than the other six prehistoric sites. Furthermore both sites had many intact subsurface features and soils undamaged by plowing. The sites were both occupied during the Woodland I and II periods (ca. 3,000 B.C. - A.D. 1600). Nassawango ceramics, a rare type in northern Delaware and one associated with the Delmarva Adena complex, were found at the Wrangle Hill South site. The Wrangle Hill South site also showed heavy use of ironstone. The Snapp site is a large site with abundant fire-cracked rock suggesting many cooking features - thus, a large village. Unplowed wooded areas hold the promise of undisturbed cultural features and activity areas. Both the Wrangle Hill South and Snapp sites are recommended for further research as they are eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Archaeological testing of the Woodville Farm Historical site (7NC-E-98) located a variety of subsurface features dating to the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries. Two major areas of activity were identified: the domestic activity area around the house foundation itself, and the farmyard. The abundance of artifacts and features and the good preservation of the remains makes the site significant. Phase III data recovery excavations are recommended at the Snapp and Wrangle Hill South prehistoric sites, and at the Woodville Farm Historical site.