

CONCLUSIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS

As stated in the research design, the primary purpose of the archeological investigations was to locate, identify, and evaluate any significant cultural resources that might be present in the proposed right-of-way and the additional areas relating to the widening of Lancaster Pike, realignment of portions of the Pike, and an examination of the front yards of ten historic properties previously identified along the project corridor.

Implications for Regional Prehistory

This portion of the Piedmont Uplands was not expected to yield evidence for base camps, but, as the project area was dissected by a number of streams and their tributaries, it was probable that smaller procurement sites or camps would occur. However, the project location itself, the area along Lancaster Pike, suggested that any sites identified would be shallow with very little contextual integrity, and very likely would have been disturbed by the building of SR 48 as well as by historic plowing. The very parameters of the survey - the limited corridor of the Right of Way and the evidence for previous disturbance by road construction and modern development (driveways, landscaping, private roads) - all suggested little probability for significant prehistoric sites. In those larger areas tested, it was felt that there was a greater probability for finding sites.

Surface surveys were made of all land surfaces that had been undisturbed by prior development that were to be affected by the proposed construction. Subsurface testing was carried out in ten localities along the proposed right-of-way, and larger areas designated for storm water were examined; these were areas deemed to have been of good potential for prehistoric occupation (see Figure 55). The field testing revealed low intensity prehistoric remains at ten locations, ranging from single flakes to 25 artifacts (flakes, chunks, and biface/point fragments), and made from quartz, quartzite, chert and jasper. These were recovered from Ap horizons as well as from fill zones and historic contexts. The areas yielding these materials were, indeed, located near streams, with the intermittent streams being associated with the isolated finds or small scatters. Red Clay Creek, not surprisingly, proved to be the area yielding greater numbers of materials, but much of the context was disturbed; no features were identified for prehistoric sites. It must be kept in mind that this area also received the greatest amount of testing.

NW Branch, Hyde Run (intermittent)

Jordan House r-o-w

1 jasper flake

Episcopal Field site

5 quartz flakes, 1 jasper flake

Loveville P.O.

1 quartz flake, 2 quartz chunks, 3 chert flakes, 2 jasper flakes

Hyde Run (headwaters, intermittent)

Mundy North Field

1 chert flake

Extinct stream cut to Red Clay Creek

Lewis Miller House

1 chert flake

Red Clay Creek (perennial)

Barker House, Sector A

11 quartz flakes, 2 quartz chunks, 1 quartz biface fragment, 3 chert flakes,
1 jasper flake

Barker House, Sector B

4 quartz flakes, 1 quartz chunk, 1 quartzite flake, 2 jasper flakes, 1 jasper
point fragment

Rolling Mill East

3 quartz flakes, 1 quartz chunk, 1 quartzite flake, 1 jasper flake

Red Clay Creek tributary (intermittent)

Red Clay Creek Uplands

2 quartz flakes

Little Mill Creek (perennial)

Oak Hill School

6 quartz flakes, 3 quartzite flakes, 3 jasper flakes, 1 chalcedony flake, 1
chert flake

The expectations of the predictive models of prehistoric settlement patterns as described for the Piedmont Uplands (Custer 1986) and for the Middle Atlantic Piedmont (Gardner 1978) emphasize the use of such Piedmont areas as being primarily by Archaic through Woodland II peoples for rather limited resource procurement forays. The most promising areas for such sites would be those in association with water, generally in a sheltered location, and, ideally, in close proximity to an area of high resource availability--frequently marshy or swampy areas which were game-attractive locales offering useful vegetative resources. Locales where lithic resources were available were also frequently occupied by these early populations. These sites generally represent short-term occupations, characterized by small numbers of a limited range of artifact classes. The prehistoric field scatters were, indeed, in areas near streams, often on small rises just off the immediate floodplains of the creeks. The limited number of materials recovered does not allow a great deal to be stated concerning time period or function of the occupations, but the very low density of artifacts leads one to assume that these were small, transient sites.

No additional work has been recommended for these prehistoric scatters.

Implications for Regional History

The Eligibility Studies for historic structures (Benenson et al. 1988; KKFS 1993) have identified significant examples of buildings of various function and style for this portion of New Castle County. Those within the project area range from early complexes such as the Oak Hill Inn, which played a role in the development of Lancaster Pike as an important transportation corridor as early as 1820 (Heald 1820), to later residential "gentrification" processes in which new Colonial Style houses were built and old houses were renovated for new occupants as this area became more a suburb of nearby Wilmington. The buildings encompass a time span from the 18th to the 20th century periods of architectural design and settlement patterns.

Lancaster Pike originally traversed what was predominantly an agricultural area characterized by large landholdings and tenant farms such as the Tatnell estate and tenant house, the adjacent Grant tenancy site, and the Limerick tenant house, possibly the Barker house, and the Taylor tenant House. Although agriculture dominated, part-time employment in businesses such as mills was available to those who needed the income. The first era within the study reflects 18th century development along the Lancaster Turnpike (a toll road), a time from which several rubblestone and log vernacular houses remain standing along the Pike. The Oak Hill Inn, is perhaps the oldest, dating to at least 1787, and was known as Springer's Tavern, important in the development of the Pike because of the role it played in supplying a resting place to travelers who used the road. Other dwellings were constructed along the road during the latter part of the 1700's and early 1800's. These include the William Jordan dwelling complex, the Barker House, the Stilley/Armor House, and Limerick. Early non-domestic structures include the Coffee Run Mission and the Oak Hill School.

After early 19th century improvements to the Pike, followed by its opening as a free road in 1838, a second period of settlement took place. Now fashionable suburban homes in the country setting were built for people with interests in the nearby city. Highfield Hall, with its Italianate style, and the Tuscan Villa-style Chandler House are good examples of this trend. Italianate alterations and additions were made to the Stilley House (N-506) and a Greek Revival wing was added to the Tatnall Tenant House (N-502) of the Glenden Estate (out of project area). The Loveville Post Office, the Shodderly, and the Oak Hill Schoolhouse were probably three out of a number of services that opened along this road in the early part of the 19th century. Loveville developed as a small hamlet along the Pike. The Lewis Miller agricultural complex, with a new house on the property, exemplifies those farms that continued to function in the area. It was at this time that the Wilmington and Western Railroad was constructed.

It was the Colonial Revival movement that characterized the 20th century, a time when the country House Movement saw the development of estates and gentleman farming. The Braidablik Estate, with its dairy complex, was a state-of-the-art farm that once rivaled Winterthur and Nemours before it suffered much by alterations that were made. Another such property is Limerick.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES BY SURVEY AREAS

Section 1730-1770

1770-1830

1830-1880

1880-1940

1

William Jordan House
ca 1810 - vernacular farmhouse
Georgian - Federal addition

Loveville Post Office
1850 - renovated, Georgian revival

Dwelling N-12077
ca 1925 - frame bungalow

2

Coffee Run Mission
1790 - British jesuits mission house
1812 - house/outbuildings
National Register

Whitman/Clark
1863 farm complex
1900 - new Queen Anne elements added
 Taylor Tenant House
1848/1860 [1833 - included tenement]
originally Downingsesque

3

Barker House
1800 Greek Revival, Colonial Revival addition
Once eligible, now demolished

Red Barn
1850 - part of Barker's farm complex
Demolished

Lewis Miller House
earlier structure ruins
Gothic Revival house & agricultural buildings
National Register
 Dwelling N-4065
mid to late 19th century
 Wilmington & Western RR
1830
National Register

4

Chandler
c. 1845 - Tuscan Vill stylea
renovated early/mid 20th century,
Colonial Revival
National Register

Red Clay Creek Bridge
1940
 Dwelling N-12079
cottage

Section 1730-1770

1770-1830

1830-1880

1880-1940

5

Oak Hill Inn/Stone Barn

*recorded 1730 - 1st tavern
vernacular log and stone building
National Register*

Breidablik
*1770 - "Country Seat" farm complex
Restored in Colonial Revival style
National Register*

Stilley House
*late 1770's; Italianate wing added,
then another wing, Colonial Revival, 1920's
National Register*

Dwelling N-495
1820 stone farmhouse

Oak Hill School
*1770 - demolished; current building altered
National Register, Criterion D; mitigated*

Limerick
*1815 ; 1936 - Country House
National Register*

Highfield
*1830 - Italian Villa style
Masonic Home, Georgian Revival
National Register*

Letdown/Taylor-Welford/Tatnell/Glendon
*Estate complex
National Register*

Grant Tenancy (site)
*mid-1800's
National Register, criterion D; mitigated*

2 Hedgerow Place
1941 Colonial Revival
Little Mill Creek Bridge
1929

Of the structures surveyed in the project area, seven had received preliminary approval for nomination to the National Register (Memorandum, December 1988, Daniel Griffith, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer), based on their architectural merit. These are: the Barker House, now demolished, the Lewis Miller House, the Chandler House, the Stilley House, the Oak Hill Inn, Limerick, and the Highfield Hall Main House and Masonic Home. Lying just outside the project area are three National Register eligible properties: the Coffee Run Mission complex, Breidablik, and the Letdown complex. Two historic properties were eligible on their archeological merit: the Barker House and the Oak Hill School. Previously the Grant Tenancy site had been mitigated.

The dimensions of the right-of-way and proposed areas for non-right-of-way projects limited what was actually found. It had been expected that artifacts associated with farm related residences would predominate, as well as artifacts generated by relatively affluent landowners. However, the more well-to-do landowners seem to have sited their homes further back from the road; this suggests that the main portions of such archeological remains may lie outside of the data recovery areas. On the other hand, the smaller landholders and tenants, as well as the properties functioning to serve the public, tend to have been sited closer to the road. Unfortunately the testing revealed a preponderance of disturbed areas near the roads, both as a result of past road construction and subsequent widening (as in 1938, when the stone walls lining the Pike were built, remnants of which are still visible) and from more recent development - housing development with driveways as well as larger projects with substantial parking areas and landscaping.

The archeological testing yielded very little in the way of intact archeological evidence, and only the Barker House and the Oak Hill School were determined to be eligible on the basis of their archeological deposits. The Oak Hill School received mitigation work during the current work discussed in this report, but the Barker House site has not been mitigated. The Barker House, although determined eligible on its architectural merits, had been razed by the owner prior to this survey. The Oak Hill School structure was considered to be ineligible on the basis of architectural merit.

RECOMMENDATIONS

No further work is being recommended for the five areas of field scatter, both prehistoric and historic, based on the low density and quantity of materials recovered and the lack of any historic features. The Barker House archeological deposit has been determined to be eligible and Phase III data recovery excavations will be necessary if the property can not be avoided by the proposed construction. The Lewis Miller House, the Chandler House, the Stilley House, the Oak Hill Inn, Limerick, and the Highfield Hall Main House and Masonic Home lie outside the boundaries of the right-of-way.