INTRODUCTION

This report details the results of preliminary and extended Phase I archeological investigations of the proposed dualization of Route 141 (Centre Road) from Route 100 (Montchanin Road) to U.S. Route 202 (Concord Pike) in New Castle County, Delaware. The Phase I investigations were completed as stipulated between the Delaware Department of Transportation, Division of Highways (DelDOT) and Thunderbird Archeological Associates, Inc. (TAA). Figure 1 shows the project location and Figure 2 shows the boundaries of the study area. Field investigations were conducted by TAA between October 16 and November 24, 1985 (preliminary Phase I) and between April 17 through June 13 and again from August 12 through October 4, 1986 (extended Phase I).

Dr. William M. Gardner served as principal investigator, Timothy A. Thompson and Pamela Stephenson as archival researchers and Randolph Taylor as field director. Kimberly Snyder directed the artifact analysis. Mary Folsom Barse served as lab supervisor. Thompson and Stephenson wrote the archival sections of the report, with Thompson concentrating on the Pigeon Row & Long Row houses, Dwelling H and Walkers Bank/Keg Factory sections and Stephenson authoring the remainder. Taylor wrote the majority of the rest of the report with a focus on the field methodology and field interpretations of the sites, as well as the interpretations of the prehistoric sites. Snyder wrote those sections of the report dealing with the analysis of the historic artifacts, as well as integrating all sections of the report.

A total of nineteen historic and four prehistoric sites were encountered during the course of the investigations. Fifteen of these were mentioned in the Request for Proposal (RFP), although five of the fifteen were identified as possible site locations on the basis of archival research and their presence and condition in the field had not yet been verified. The remaining eight sites were discovered through the present field investigations, archival research or a combination of the two.

After completion of the preliminary Phase I investigations, recommendations were presented for additional field investigations (extended Phase I) and background research for eight of the historic sites and one prehistoric site. In addition, background investigations for two potential sites (the Weldin site, 7NC-B-6, and Walkers Bank/Keg Factory, 7NC-B-8, Areas B and C) were conducted prior to the initiation of the extended Phase I field investigations. These site areas are extensive and the additional background research was necessary for making subsequent recommendations for fieldwork at these locations. Phase I and Phase II fieldwork had previously been conducted for the Blue Ball Tavern site (Thomas et al 1980) during archeological investigations of Concord Pike.

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Division of Highways

Raymond D. Richter, Asst. Director, Preconstruction
Joseph T. Wutka, Jr., Location Studies and Environmental Engineer
Kevin W. Cunningham, DelDOT Archeologist
Diane M. Bernardo, Project Engineer
T. William Brockenbrough, Jr., Project Engineer
Carol L. Kates, Secretary
Joanna P. Likens, Preconstruction

Federal Highway Administration

John J. Gilbert, Division Administrator
Robert H. Wheeler, Realty/Environmental Officer

Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

Daniel R. Griffith, State Historic Preservation Officer
Joan Laravee, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Faye L. Stocum, Archaeologist
Alice H. Guerrant, Archaeologist
Stephen G. Del Sordo, Historian

Division of Graphics and Printing

Ray Moore, Shop Supervisor
John Bordley, Pressman
Bob Farley, Pressman
Jeff Faulkner, Pressman
William Yerkes, Pressman
Dorothy Hutchins, Machine Person
Joan Pillsbury, Bindary Clerk
Grace Steele, Graphics Spec.

PREVIOUS ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

In 1980, Middle Atlantic Archaeological Research, Inc. (MAAR) conducted a cultural resources assessment of Concord Pike in New Castle County, Delaware. This work was conducted in connection with proposed improvements to Concord Pike (Route 202) from Interstate 95 to the Pennsylvania state line (Thomas et al 1980:I-1). This work consisted of archival and architectural investigations of seven properties and archeological fieldwork at one of these seven properties, the Blue Ball Tavern. Only the Husbands property (N-4049), and the Blue Ball Tavern (N-542), lay within the project boundaries discussed here. According to Thomas et al (1980:II-18), the house located on the Husbands property is shown on the Baist Atlas of 1893 but not on the Beers Atlas of 1868. The owner of the property stated to MAAR that the house was constructed in 1887. The architectural evaluation contained within the MAAR report (1980:II-19, III-2) stated that additions to the house have resulted in "an ill-conceived conglomeration of architectural styles that cannot be considered as of significance." However, subsequently it was noted that "outbuildings associated