

## ABSTRACT

Archaeological data recovery operations were initiated at the Delaware Park Site (7NC-E-41), New Castle County, Delaware, when it was determined that proposed State Route 7 construction procedures would effect a prehistoric site which had been declared eligible for listing on the National Register for Historic Places. These archaeological operations were undertaken by Mid-Atlantic Archaeological Research, Inc. of Newark, Delaware under contract with the Department of Transportation of the State of Delaware. Review functions were provided by the Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation of the State of Delaware.

Field work followed the acceptance of a research design and a field "blueprint for action" prepared by Mid-Atlantic Archaeological Research, Inc. A crew of from six to 20 persons engaged in field work during the months of April, May and June of 1980. A total of 220 subsurface features were uncovered and totally excavated. Artifacts recovered from the surface and the feature fill were recorded, processed and analyzed. Soil samples were taken and analyzed for pollen, phytoliths, seeds and other organic remains, chemical makeup and faunal remains. Soil flotation was done on a representative sample of each feature. Field investigations were terminated on June 30th, as scheduled.

Analysis of the recovered data indicate that the Delaware Park Site was occupied from Middle Archaic through Late Woodland periods. The major occupation period, as derived from 20 radio-carbon dates, was from about 740 B.C. to 640 A.D. Projectile point types and ceramic ware types tend to confirm this major occupation period. Functional analysis of the data recorded indicate a base camp occupation of the site with resource procurement activities including fishing, gathering, nutting, hunting, and possibly flint and quartz preparation.

The Delaware Park Site investigations have added a considerable amount of data to the known prehistoric record of northern Delaware. This information can be used to reconstruct the prehistoric chronology and the settlement patterns of aboriginal cultures. Credit for this increase in knowledge should be given to involved personnel and organizations.