INTRODUCTION AND STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present the results of a Phase III archaeological data recovery program at the W. M. Hawthorn site, 7NC-E-46 (Figures 1 and 2, Plate 1, and Appendices I & II). The fieldwork and preliminary research and analysis were undertaken by archaeologists of the Location and Environmental Studies Office, Division of Highways, Department of Transportation. Final archival research, artifact analysis, and report preparation were conducted by the University of Delaware, Center for Archaeological Research.

The area under investigation is approximately 3.4 acres of an 8.5 acre National Register parcel within the right-of-way (ROW) of New Churchman's Road which calls for a southerly 85 foot extension of the present roadway in the vicinity of the W. M. Hawthorn site (Figure 2). Presently, properties in the area are undeveloped, consisting of fallow and cultivated fields and interspersed woodlands.

Appreciation for their support, administration, research and services is extended to all the involved individuals:

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Environmental Setting

The New Churchman's Road project area lies in the north-central portion of New Castle County south of the Fall line, the boundary between the Appalachian Piedmont and the Atlantic Coastal Plain physiographic provinces. In Delaware, this line approximates the east/west corridor of Route 2 (Kirkwood Highway) between Newark and Wilmington. The Piedmont topography is characterized by rolling hills, poorly-drained uplands, and elevations ranging between 100 and 400 feet above sea level. The Atlantic Coastal Plain to the southeast of the Fall line consists of a gently undulating plain frequently interrupted by broad

floodplain valleys, meandering streams, and large areas of salt marsh. Elevations range from sea level to 125 feet above sea level.

Specifically, the New Churchman's Road project area consists of low, rolling hills, separated by relatively broad valleys which are largely undeveloped. Vegetational patterns consist primarily of cultivated and fallow agricultural fields, fringing wooded areas of mixed hardwoods, and small residential and commercial sites. Principal water courses in the vicinity of the project area are White Clay Creek and the Christiana River, the former about .70 miles northwest and the latter 1.4 miles southeast of the site. The W. M. Hawthorn site is situated .40 miles west of Route 7, historically a primary transportation route between Philadelphia and Baltimore, and .50 miles south of Route 4, historically a major local transportation route. Important historic commercial centers are located at Christiana (1.6 miles), Stanton (1.7 miles), and Newport (3 miles).

Previous Archaeological Investigations

A Phase I archaeological survey of the proposed ROW expansion of New Churchman's Road corridor was conducted in April 1981 by archaeologists from the Delaware Department of Transportation. This survey located a cluster of eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth century historic artifacts and associated features which were thought to be the remains of a demolished farmstead (O'Connor et al. 1983). The Phase I test excavations consisted of two 3-foot by 3-foot and two 2-foot by 2-foot test squares and twenty-nine shovel/postholer tests.

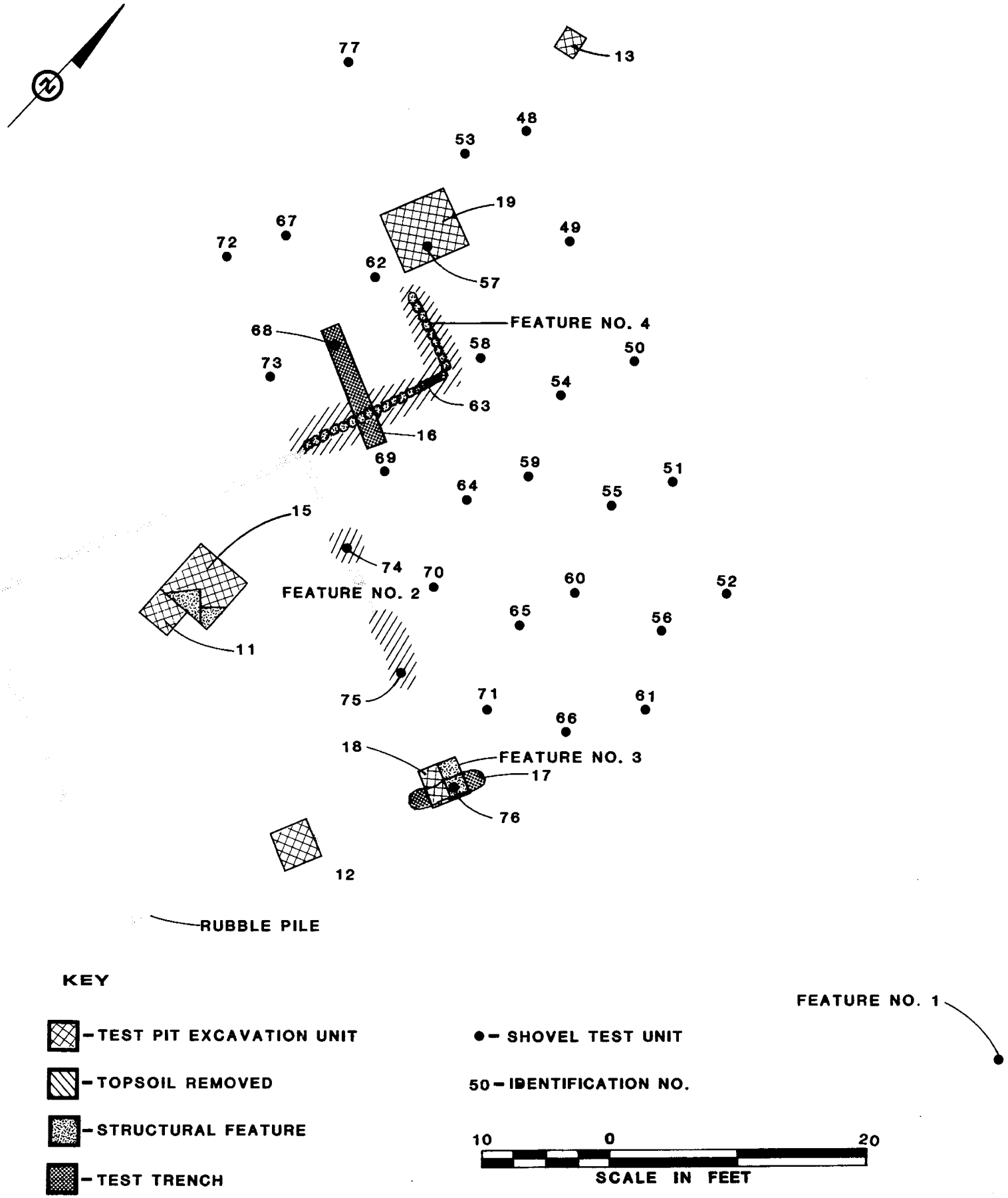
Three subsurface features were located and a circular, brick-lined feature was systematically excavated. (Figure 3) A Phase II survey to determine the extent, integrity, and National Register Eligibility of the site was recommended for the historic resources.

The Phase II archaeological survey was conducted in 1982 by archaeologists from the Delaware Department of Transportation. The purpose of this survey was to evaluate the significance and integrity of the historic cultural resources located by the Phase I survey. The Phase II survey revealed the site to be the former W. M. Hawthorn farm, occupied from at least the early nineteenth century until the mid-twentieth century. In addition, testing uncovered the presence of a partially undisturbed prehistoric site with features and associated artifacts dating to ca. 4000 B.C. - A.D. 1000 (O'Connor et al. 1983). Custer and Bachman (1984) describe the prehistoric mitigation results.

The Phase II survey included excavations of test squares in those areas of the site which yielded a high density of subsurface artifacts and/or features, during the Phase I survey. The Phase II research sought to delineate artifact distributions, to identify the dimensions of the structure, to establish the limits of the site, and to investigate other potentially sensitive areas of the site.

The test excavations consisted of four 5-foot by 5-foot units , one 3-foot by 3-foot unit, and two 2-foot wide trenches. (Figure 4) The Phase II work was able to locate three, and possibly four, intact subsurface foundations, and artifact distribution maps were constructed for the site. On July 2, 1982

FIGURE 3
PHASE 1 ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT THE W. M. HAWTHORN FARMSTEAD



the W. M. Hawthorn site was determined to be eligible for inclusion to the National Register of Historic Places (Appendix II) and the development of a data recovery plan for further mitigation of the site became necessary.

The results of documentary historic research and artifact data gained from the Phase I and II research are integrated into this report.

RESEARCH DESIGN

Introduction

Phase I/II archaeological research at the William M. Hawthorn farmstead provided information substantial enough to determine the site eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (O'Connor et al. 1983). The nomination concluded that "because of the separate, undisturbed areas of cultural materials dating to different periods of occupation of the site, it probably retains information concerning the variations in spatial utilization of a farmstead in the surrounds of the residence structure from the late 18th through mid-20th centuries" (Section 8, Hawthorn Site Determination of Eligibility). Thus, the major research task of the current Phase III investigation was the recovery of significant archaeological resources as per 36 CFR 800.4(c) and the Advisory Council's "Treatment of Archaeological Properties: A Handbook". In order to satisfy these requirements a data recovery plan was prepared with the cooperation of the State of Delaware, Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. The research design and methodology discussed below were derived from that plan.