

SECTION 6.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Richard Grubb & Associates performed a Phase I archaeological survey for the proposed improvements to Howell School Road (N54) from S.R. 896 to S.R. 71 in Pencader Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware. This Phase I survey consisted of background research, archaeological fieldwork, artifact processing and analysis, and report production. Fieldwork included a visual reconnaissance of the APE, the excavation of 143 shovel test pits (STPs) at 15-meter (49.2-foot) intervals and to 22 bracket STPs at 3-meter (9.8-foot) and 7.5-meter (24.6-foot) intervals to delineate the horizontal extent of cultural deposits. The research design was considered sufficient to identify the presence or absence of potentially significant archaeological sites in the APE.

Background research indicated there were no registered sites within the APE, but that several prehistoric sites were located within one-half mile in similar settings. An examination of historic maps and secondary source research did not identify nineteenth or early-twentieth-century structures within the APE. However, the APE is located adjacent to and within portions of the grounds of the National Register listed White Hall estate. In addition, map-documented structures were identified in proximity to the APE. As a result of the background research, the potential for prehistoric and historic sites within the APE was considered high.

One concentration of historic materials, designated Historic Site 1, and two concentrations of prehistoric materials, designated Prehistoric Sites 1 and 2, were identified in the western and west-central portions of the APE. Historic Site 1 was dated to the eighteenth through early nineteenth century based on mean dates of temporally diagnostic artifacts. A potential exists for earlier occupation based on the recovery of a small number of artifacts that date to as early as the seventeenth century. While the western-most portion of Historic Site 1 has been extensively disturbed by prior construction activities, the central and eastern portions of the site remain intact. The location of Historic Site 1 coincides with an archivally documented eighteenth to early nineteenth century occupation of the property. Based on the presence of a documented occupation and early historic artifacts, Historic Site 1 is considered a potentially significant archaeological resource. Further archaeological survey is recommended to evaluate its eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Prehistoric Site 1 was identified in woodlot on the northern side of Howell School Road, approximately 55 meters (180 feet) north of 7NC-F-18, Area 1. This small, undated prehistoric site retains a high degree of integrity and exhibits a potential for deeply buried cultural materials. Artifacts were recovered in both the B1 and B2 horizons to a maximum a depth of 93 centimeters (36.6 inches) below ground surface. Few deeply buried prehistoric sites have been investigated in the Mid-Peninsular Drainage Divide. As such, Prehistoric Site 1 is a potentially significant archaeological resource. Further archaeological survey is recommended to evaluate its

eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Prehistoric Site 2 was identified on the southern side of Howell School Road, approximately 222.5 meters (730 feet) east of 7NC-F-18, Area 1. This small, Woodland I period prehistoric site retains a high degree of integrity and exhibits a potential for features and temporally diagnostic materials based on the presence of fire-cracked rock and one quartz Woodland I period Teardrop biface. As such, Prehistoric Site 1 is a potentially significant archaeological resource. Further archaeological survey is recommended to evaluate its eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.