

SECTION 7.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Richard Grubb & Associates performed a Phase II archaeological survey for the proposed Howell School Road realignment project from SR 896 to SR 71 in Pencader Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware. The Phase II survey evaluated the archeological significance of the Williams Historic site (CRS # N03988, 7NC-F-164) and the Howell School Road Prehistoric 2 site (CRS # N04347, 7NC-F-165) identified during a Phase I archaeological survey within the APE for the proposed project. In addition, an assessment of the National Register eligibility of the Howell School Road Prehistoric 1 site was also completed.

The excavation of 42 EUs at the Williams Historic site (CRS # N03988, 7NC-F-164) yielded nine prehistoric and 1,062 historic artifacts. No temporally diagnostic prehistoric cultural material was identified. Recovered historic and prehistoric artifacts were confined to the plowzone, and in the west side of the site from a redeposited subsoil (Fill 2 in EUs 1 and 41) associated with a drainage trench. No prehistoric features were identified. The prehistoric cultural material suggests that the site is an ephemeral Native American hunting and tool processing camp. One possible historic post stain, possibly associated with a former fence line, was identified in the northwestern corner of the site. Artifact distribution patterns indicate that the northwest section of the site is situated near the former late eighteenth to early nineteenth-century log dwelling and circa 1825 frame dwelling that stood northeast of the APE. The remainder of the site contained a notably sparse artifact scatter. Recovered historic artifacts largely date from the late-eighteenth century to the 1830s. The recovery of one agateware fragment (1740-1775) and four engine turned red stoneware teaware fragments may represent fragments of heirloom vessels or suggest that the historic site occupation began during the third quarter of the eighteenth century. Based on the absence of pit features, structural remains, and intact artifact bearing strata, the portion of the Williams Historic site within the APE is not considered to represent a significant archaeological resource and is not recommended eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places since it is unlikely to contribute important new information. No further archaeological survey within the APE is recommended at this site.

Six EUs were excavated during the Phase II archaeological survey at the Howell School Road Prehistoric 2 site (7NC-F-165; CRS # N-04347). One prehistoric cultural feature was identified and 126 prehistoric artifacts were recovered. The Howell School Road Prehistoric 2 site may best be interpreted as a Woodland I short-term procurement camp. One disturbed cultural feature was identified in the central portion of the site area. Non-diagnostic jasper, quartz, chert, quartzite and chalcedony debitage were recovered primarily in plowzone contexts, although prehistoric artifacts were recovered from subsoil in one EU. One quartz corner-notched projectile point fragment, which could not be typed, was recovered during the survey. Additionally, 20 pieces of FCR were

recovered from unit matrix in the plowzone during Phase II excavations; however, the presence of concentrations of FCR in two EUs in the western portion of the site suggests the possibility of additional subsurface features. The results of the Phase II archaeological survey indicate that the site's integrity has been compromised by historic and modern activities. The Howell School Road Prehistoric 2 site (7NC-F-165; CRS # N-04347) is not recommended eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places since it is unlikely to contribute important new information for the understanding of land use, settlement and subsistence practices in the St. George's Creek drainage. No further archaeological survey is recommended.

Based on the results of a site visit by DelDOT, the Howell School Road Prehistoric 1 Site has diminished integrity due to rodent disturbances. For this reason, the site is not considered eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. No further archaeological survey is recommended.