

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Phase II archaeological survey was conducted within the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the proposed Howell School Road realignment project from State Route (SR) 896 to SR 71 in Pencader Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware. The proposed project includes the realignment of Howell School Road from SR 71 in the east to SR 896 in the west, and will consist of grading, vegetation clearance, utility pole, sewer installation, and road construction. 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 within the APE during the Phase I archaeological survey. An assessment of the National Register eligibility of the Howell School Road Prehistoric 1 site (CRS # N07458, 7NC-F-166) was also completed.

The Phase II archaeological survey at the Williams Historic site (CRS # N03988, 7NC-F-164) included background research, the excavation of 42 one-meter square excavation units, and artifact processing and analysis. A total of nine prehistoric and 1,062 historic artifacts were recovered during the Phase II archaeological survey. No temporally diagnostic prehistoric artifacts were identified. Recovered historic and prehistoric artifacts were confined to a redeposited subsoil (Fill 2 in EUs 1 and 41) associated with a drainage trench in the west side of the site and the plowzone throughout the site. 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 in proximity to the former late eighteenth to early nineteenth-century 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 ceramic vessel fragment (1740-1775) and four engine turned red stoneware teaware fragments may represent pieces of heirloom vessels or suggest 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 lacks research potential and is not considered to represent a significant archaeological resource. No further archaeological survey is recommended within the APE at this site.

A Phase II archaeological survey at the Howell School Road Prehistoric 2 site (7NC-F-165; CRS # N-04347) determined that the site shares similarities in lithic material representation, period of occupation, and site activities with the nearby Lums Pond site (7NC-F-18; CRS # N-3778) and contributes additional data on prehistoric occupation in the St. Georges Creek drainage. 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 unlikely to contribute important new information for the understanding of land use, settlement, and subsistence practices in the region. The Howell School Road Prehistoric 2 site is not recommended as eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

A site visit by DelDOT archaeologist David Clarke indicated that the Howell School Road Prehistoric 1 Site (CRS # N07458, 7NC-F-166) had been disturbed by animal burrows. The site is not recommended eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

