

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Project Background

The following technical report describes a combined Phase I and II archaeological survey performed for four locations that are currently under consideration for the construction of stormwater retention basins in the area of Hanby's Corner, Brandywine Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware (Figure 1.1). The construction of these retention basins is planned in conjunction with the improvement of Delaware Route 92 (Naaman's Road). The planned retention basin locations are located in four separate parcels, all within a one-eighth mile radius of the Delaware Route 92 (Naaman's Road)/Delaware Route 3 (Marsh Road) intersection (Figure 1.2). Location 1, referred to here as the Darley Road study area, is situated in the southwest angle of the Darley Road/Naaman's Road intersection. Locations 2 and 3, respectively the Naaman's Road (East) and (West) study areas, are situated in the northwest angle of the Naaman's Road/Marsh Road intersection, on either side of an unnamed tributary of the South Branch of Naaman's Creek. Location 4, termed the Marsh Road study area, is situated in the southeast angle of the Naaman's Road/Marsh Road intersection (Figure 1.3).

This study was carried out by Hunter Research, Inc., under contract to the Delaware Department of Transportation. Cultural resources investigations are required in this instance in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended), the regulations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (36 CFR 800) and Corps of Engineers regulations pertaining to Section 106 compliance. The scope-of-work for these investigations called for a combined Phase I and II archaeological survey involving: documentary and background research; fieldwork (including pedestrian survey, limited subsurface testing within the four study areas, and historic and modern land use analysis); cataloging of cultural materials; evaluation of identified archaeological resources; and report preparation.

B. Criteria of Evaluation

The information generated by this survey was considered in terms of the criteria for evaluation outlined by the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Register Program:

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and:

- A. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- C. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. that have yielded, or may be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Ordinarily, cemeteries, birthplaces or graves of historical figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, structures that have been moved from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings, properties primarily commemorative in nature, and properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years shall not be considered eligible for the National Register. However, such properties will qualify if they are integral parts of districts that do meet the criteria or if they fall within the following categories:

- A. a religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance; or
- B. a building or structure removed from its original location but which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event; or
- C. a birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no other appropriate site or building directly associated with his productive life; or
- D. a cemetery which derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events; or

E. a reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived; or

F. a property primarily commemorative in intent of design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own historic significance; or

G. a property achieving significance within the past 50 years if it is of exceptional importance.

C. Definition of Terms

The following definitions are from the Department of the Interior, National Register of Historic Places 36 CFR 63 (Federal Register, Vol. 42, No. 183, Wed. Sept. 21, 1977, pp. 47666-67):

1. A "district" is a geographically definable area, urban or rural, possessing a significant concentration, linkage or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, or objects which are united by past events or aesthetically by plan or physical development. A district may also be comprised of individual elements which are separated geographically but are linked by associations or history.

2. A "site" is the location of a significant event, or prehistoric or historic occupation or activity or a building or structure whether standing, ruined, or vanished where the location itself maintains historical or archaeological value regardless of the value of any existing structures.

3. A "building" is a structure created to shelter and form of human activity such as a house, barn, church, hotel or similar structure. "Buildings" may refer to a historically related complex, such as a courthouse and jail or a house and barn.

4. A "structure" is a work made up of interdependent and interrelated parts in a definite pattern or organization. Constructed by man, it is often an engineering project large in scale.

5. An "object" is a material thing of functional, aesthetic, cultural, historical, or scientific value that may be, by nature or design, movable yet related to a specific setting or environment.

D. Previous Research and Principal Information Sources

A state-mandated cultural resource investigation was performed for the proposed Naaman's Road dualization project and this study identified a variety of historic and prehistoric resources adjacent to the course of dualization alignment (Cunningham et al. 1986). Two historic sites were noted in the immediate project vicinity: N-7641 (Grover Hanby House, west) and N-7640 (R. J. Hanby Site). This study also identified four other nearby historic resources: N-7642 (Grover Hanby House, east), N-457 (Old Schoolhouse No. 4), N-7639 (A.R. Hanby House) and the John Hanby Site. Further detail will be found on these resources in the Chapter 4 of this report, while the R.J. Hanby Site (renamed in this report as the J.G. Hanby House Site) formed the principal focus of archaeological activity during the current survey. No prehistoric resources have been previously documented in the project vicinity.

E. Research Design

This combined Phase I and II survey employed a systematic sampling strategy to assess the temporal range, spatial extent and physical integrity of cultural remains within the four study areas. Whenever possible, such as on the Marsh Road parcel, the existence of visible surface remains served to guide the linear alignments of systematic shovel tests.

As will be discussed in greater detail in Chapter 2, the four study areas are located within the Piedmont Plateau physiographic province. Prehistoric site locations adjacent to the segment of Naaman's Road under examination are certainly possible given the location on an upland ridge between branches of Naaman's Creek. The management plan for prehistoric resources prepared by Custer (1983) defines the Piedmont Uplands as a management unit and a study unit. The Piedmont Uplands are viewed as potentially significant during the Archaic, Woodland I and Woodland II periods as the location of "macro-band camps" (seasonal aggregation sites) and of smaller, special purpose procurement sites. Well-drained terraces adjacent to higher-order streams, such as Naaman's Creek, are considered likely areas for macro-band sites. Procurement sites would be sought on knoll slopes adjacent to lower order drainages (Custer 1983). Any prehistoric sites encountered on the ridge above Naaman's Creek would therefore be more likely to reflect specialized procurement activities.

Increasing numbers of roadways in northern New Castle County during the early 19th century provided focal points for dwellings on the agricultural landscape. Lands encompassed within the four study areas were portions of a Hanby family enclave during the second quarter of the 19th century, as indicated on historic maps. Thus, the principal research questions concerning early historic land use along Naaman's Road center on the role of this location within the overall

agricultural context of northern New Castle County. The evolution of the cultural landscape in this area and the extent to which this evolution was linked to the fortunes of the Hanby family are of some interest. Such topics are pertinent to the priority themes identified for subsurface resources in the Delaware Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan and associated context studies (Ames et al. 1989:79-87; De Cunzo and Catts 1990; De Cunzo 1992).

In the later historic period, the chief areas of research interest concern the suburban growth of Wilmington, and the impact of this growth on the economic and physical structure of the traditional farms and farmers. Again, research questions can be formulated around these topics that are in conformance with the priorities of the Delaware Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan.