APPENDIX V

PUBLIC INFORMATION HANDOUT

1985 - 1986

STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS
P.O. BOX 778
DOVER, DELAWARE 19903

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

TELEPHONE: 302-736-4644

OGLETOWN CA. 1670 - 1985

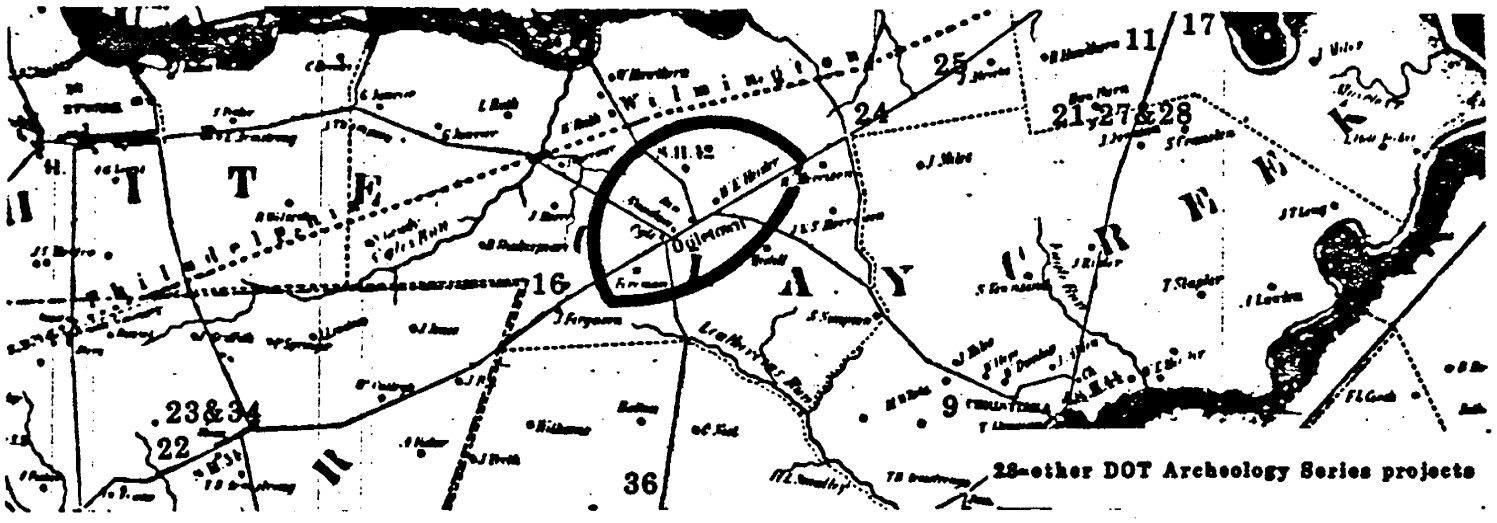
A historic and prehistoric cultural resource planning survey is presently being conducted by the Delaware Department of Transportation, Division of Highways and the Federal Highway Administration in conjunction with the University of Delaware Center for Archaeological Research (UDCAR). The survey will complete research begun in 1980 to locate prehistoric and historic sites and will determine the significance of all sites within the project area. This research is a required part of the planning process for the proposed Ogletown interchange project.

Delaware Department of Transportation

Ogletown or Ogle's Town is named for Thomas Ogle who in 1739 received a grant of 735 acres in eastern White Clay Creek Hundred, extending along the south side of present day Route 273 from Pine Swamp Corners to the Penn Central R.R. tracks. Since 1734, Ogle had resided one and a quarter miles north on the Newark Road on a 300 acre plantation bequeathed to him by his father, Thomas Ogle, Sr. At the time of the purchase of the Ogletown property two structures existed on the tract, one on or near the site of Mr. A. Temple's old house and farm, historically called the Red House Plantation, and the other in the vicinity of the Crown Zellerbach plant. Soon after his purchase of the property, Ogle built a small brick home on the northeast corner of the intersection of Route 273 and Route 4. This structure was torn down in 1955 as part of the widening of Route 273. Thomas Ogle quickly established a small manufacturing community containing a saw and grist mill on Ogle's Run where it crosses Route 273, a tavern and boarding house in his residence, and numerous storehouses in both Ogletown and in Christiana Bridge. Ogle also constructed a number of log tenement houses near his main residence. By 1751 Ogle was well off enough to advertise his property for rent in the Pennsylvania Gazette stating that "he incling (sic) to live easy the rest of his days". After his death in 1771 Ogle bequeathed a total of 20 parcels of land to his children. His son, James, received the mansion house and improvements thereon. His wife, Catherine, received the Red House Plantation and 200 acres. Other lands bequeathed to his children included a grist and saw mill and three plantations in Cecil County, Maryland, two plantations in Mill Creek Hundred, eight lots in Christiana Bridge, and two other plantations in White Clay Creek Hundred. His children seem not to have had their father's business sense and by 1800 most of the inherited land had passed out of their hands. The Ogle site was owned by John Dickinson of Wilmington from 1795 to 1800, George Read of New Castle from 1800 to 1803, by clock and watchmaker, Nicholas Le Huray from 1826 to 1838, and operated as a hotel by William Hawthorn in the 1860's. During the period of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Ogletown remained as it had during the early part of the century. Later in the 20th century while under the ownership of the Hawthorn family the larger 111 acre parcel was divided into smaller lots and numerous structures were constructed on both sides of Route 4 adjacent to the Ogle House. Many of these houses were demolished by the DOT during the mid-1970's.

Besides the Temple/Red House Site and the Thomas Ogle Site, there exists within the Ogletown project area a number of historic sites located on an 1849 map of the area. On the site formerly occupied by the Mister Donut stood the John Ruth Inn, known to be in existence by 1795. This inn served the community after the Ogle establishment went out of business during the late 18th century. Across the street at the site of the BP gas station stood a double dwelling tenant house owned by William E. Heisler. Heisler also owned a 259 acre tract on the east side of Red Mill Road and resided in a large residence to the north of the Route 273 and Route 4 intersection on a lot formerly occupied by the Sherwood Diner. On the site of the Arco station on the northwest corner of the intersection stood a house and barn owned by Robert Ogle, a son of Thomas, Jr.

REA & PRICE 1849



Along Red Mill Road stood several structures built during the middle of the 19th century. School House #42, built in 1843 is still standing, now substantially altered and used by Clean Cut Lawn and Tree Care for a business operation. Two other structures built ca. 1870 and owned by Samuel Morrison are also no longer standing, one having been demolished by the DOT and the other by the Baptist church during the 1970's.

Ogletown prospered during the 18th century because of a location on one of the major transpeninsular roads laid out in Delaware, extending from the Head of Elk on the Chesapeake to Christiana Bridge. The dogleg nature of the road in the Ogletown area at the intersection of the Head of Elk-Christiana Bridge road with the Newark-Nottingham-Conestoga road created an ideal situation for the creation of a hamlet-type community including an inn and place of lodging.

Ogletown as a village never consisted of more than a few houses, stores, a church, a post office, a hotel, and a blacksmith/wheel wright shop. All of these have been obliterated by the Route 4 highway, so that none of 18th and 19th century Ogletown remains today. By the beginning of the 18th century and continuing into the 19th century, many landowners (farmers and tenant farmers) of White Clay Creek Hundred, appear to have been gentlemen farmers owning large tracts or plantations. The history of this area is dominated by the history of these prominent families: the Ogles, Formans, Naudains, and Hawthorns. By the early 20th century, descendants of these families were selling estates, but many of these families still resided in the project area until very recently.

Although the history of the Ogletown area is most significant for its association with important historic figures, the area was also inhabited during the prehistoric period. The earliest known prehistoric people lived during the **Paleo-Indian Period**, from about 12,000 B.C. - 6,500 B.C. This period overlapped and immediately followed the last great glaciation of North America. These people probably lived a nomadic existence, collecting wild vegetal foods and hunting now extinct large game animals such a bison, mastadons, sloths, etc. The project area contains no kown sites from this period, but they have been found nearby and may be located during the survey.

The **Archaic Period** (6500 B.C. - 3000 B.C.) saw the establishment of oak and hemlock forests over the landscape, with the people adapting to present day plant and animal forms. The adaptation was one of a more generalized hunting and gathering pattern in which plant food resources would have played an increasingly important role. The settlement pattern consisted of large base camps and outlying hunting sites, reflective of a social organization characterized by the seasonal waxing and waning of band groups.

The **Woodland I Period** (3000 B.C. - A.D. 1000) saw a flourishing of tool types and a large increase in the number of known sites around the project area including the establishment of large sedentary base camps. The intensive harvesting of wild plant foods that may have approached the efficiency of agriculture, and the introduction of broadbladed, knife-like chipped stone tools were important developments during this period. Also seen was the addition of stone, and later ceramic, containers, which allowed for the efficient cooking and storing of foods. Major trade networks are evident from the presence of exotic raw materials utilized for the manufacture of utilitarian and ceremonial objects. The Hawthorn Site (7NC-E-46), located on New Churchman's Road, was a site dating to this time period recently excavated by UDCAR archaeologists (DOT Archaeology Series 27).

The **Woodland II Period** (A.D. 1000 - A.D. 1650) contains many similar resource procurement methods and the large base camp settlement system of the Woodland I Period. However, there was an increasing reliance on plant foods and coastal resources, such as shellfish. Social organization changes were evidenced by a collapse of the trade and exchange networks and the end of elaborate cemeteries. Numerous sites occupied during this time period are found in the vicinity.

The **Contact Period** (A.D. 1650 - A.D. 1750) is that period when European settlers entered the area and first made contact with the native people. These sites are characterized by a mixing of Indian and European lifeways and artifacts and have much to tell about the acculturation process experienced by the Indians. Unfortunately, no documentedd Contact Period sites have ever been found in Delaware, although they have been found in Pennsylvania and other surrounding states.

If you request any further information or have any information on prehistoric or historic sites within this project area, please contact Kevin Cunningham, DelDOT Archaeologist at 736-4644, Jay Custer, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, University of Delaware, at 451-2821, or Ellis Coleman, Project Director at the sites.