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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 PURPOSE AND GOALS OF THE INVESTIGATION

JMA (John Milner Associates, Inc.) conducted a Phase I archeological survey of the proposed Intersection Improvements at Plantation and Cedar Grove Roads, located in Lewes, Sussex County, Delaware (Figure 1), for the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT). The proposed improvements will affect an area of approximately 36,127 square meters (8.92 acres) of land surrounding the intersection of Plantation and Cedar Grove roads with Postal Lane. The proposed project involves a realignment of Cedar Grove Road and creation of an expanded, four-way intersection. The purpose of the survey was to identify potentially significant archeological remains that may be affected by the Intersection Improvements project in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended. Funding for the project was provided by DelDOT under Agreement #1536, Task Order 1.

Construction plans for the project were reviewed by DelDOT archeologists prior to field investigations conducted by JMA. The DelDOT archeologists delineated archeologically sensitive sections of the project area based on review of historic maps and atlases. The review served chiefly to limit the scope of the archeological investigations to the south side of Plantation Road (see Figure 1).

JMA's archeological research was conducted under the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation* (September 1983), as well as guidelines specific to the State of Delaware, including, but not limited to, *A Management Plan for Delaware's Prehistoric Cultural Resources* (Custer 1986a), *A Management Plan for the Prehistoric Archaeological Resources of Delaware's Atlantic Coastal Region* (Custer 1987), the *Management Plan for Delaware's Historical Archaeological Resources* (De Cunzo and Catts 1990), and the *Delaware Statewide Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan* (Ames et al. 1987). Field investigations were conducted in accordance with SHPO guidelines (Delaware State Historic Preservation Office 1993, 1997).

### 1.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT AREA

The Phase I archeological survey of the Intersection Improvements project involved the examination of five areas within the project area on the south sides of Plantation Road, east and west of Cedar Grove Road (Figure 2). The north side of Plantation Road is characterized by modern housing development and was not tested. Agricultural fields occupy much of the project area south of Plantation Road. A 5.64 acre (22,833 square meters) portion of a 10-acre agricultural field at the southwest quadrant of the intersection was plowed and disked in advance of a pedestrian survey of this field (Plate 1). This field is part of the historic "T Hart" farmstead depicted on the 1868 Beers *Atlas* map for Lewes and Rehoboth Hundred. The Hart farmhouse beyond the limits of the project area but a portion of the Hart farmstead front lawn and that of adjoining properties to the south were one of three narrow strips to be tested with a transect of shovel tests. Approximately 150 meters of the project area crosses the site of the Ebenezer Methodist Church and cemetery along the east side of Cedar Grove Road (Plate 2). The south end of this area had recently been planted in corn while the area fronting the cemetery was mown lawn. A second transect of shovel tests was placed at the south end of the project area on the east side of Cedar Grove Road, and the third transect was placed to the north, along Plantation Road

(Plate 3). The project area is flat to gently sloping within a mixed suburban and rural setting. The tested areas consist of cultivated fields and mown grass or residential lawns along the roads.

Fieldwork was conducted in May 2011 under the direction of Tim Mancl, with Juliette Gerhardt serving as project manager and archeological field assistants Jennifer Ort and Amy King.



Plate 1. Field at the southwest corner of the project area prior to plowing, view west.



Plate 2. Site of the Ebenezer Methodist Church cemetery on the east side of Cedar Grove Road, view northeast.



Plate 3. Intersection of Cedar Grove Road (right) with Plantation Road (center), view east. A transect of shovel tests, Transect 1, was placed along Plantation Road easterly from the intersection with Cedar Grove Road.



Plate 4. Plowed field south of Plantation Road showing Locus 1, a concentration of historic-period artifacts delineated in the surface reconnaissance, view south-southeast. Cedar Grove Road is in the background.