

## 6.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

A Phase I/II archeological survey and investigation of the Intersection Improvement Project at Plantation and Cedar Grove roads in Lewes, Delaware were undertaken by JMA during May and November 2011. The Phase I survey consisted of a pedestrian reconnaissance of a plowed field, shovel testing at three locations, and gradall excavation of two trenches along the Cedar Grove Road side of the Ebenezer Methodist Church cemetery. The Phase I survey identified five historic sites within and adjacent to the project area associated with four architectural resources – the Hart Farm (CRS S-966), a Cape Cod Bungalow (CRS S-11547), the Ebenezer Methodist Church cemetery (CRS S-11548), and the David G. Drain House (CRS S-995: Kuncio et al 2008). The Phase II investigation focused on the Hart Tenant Site (CRS S-3114), identified as Locus 1 in the plowed field at the northern end of the Hart Farm during the Phase I survey. Subsequent Phase II fieldwork consisted of three gradall trenches excavated across the Locus 1 site boundary to investigate the presence or absence of structural remains.

The Phase I surface collection in the plowed field west of Cedar Grove identified a concentration of artifacts in the approximate location of two houses depicted on an 1883 Orphans Court plat of the Thomas Hart estate (Figure 7). These structures were not depicted on the 1868 Beers *Atlas* or the 1917 USGS map of the area suggesting they were built in the period between 1868 and 1883, when the property was owned by Thomas Hart or his heirs, and were removed by 1917. Artifacts found in Loci 1 and 2 in this field were consistent with this date range. The map together with the artifact concentration in Locus 1 indicated a possible Agricultural Quarter, such as a tenant house as defined by De Cunzo and Garcia (1992:251), and on this basis was identified as the Hart Tenant House site (7S-G-197). The Hart Tenant Site was the focus of the Phase II field investigation.

The only prehistoric find within the project area was the Late Woodland projectile point found along the road further south directly in front of the Hart farmhouse. This isolate, along with historic-period artifacts - fragments of a milk glass canning lid liner, redware, machine-made bottle glass, unidentified nails and brick - were found at the Hart Farm site (7S-G-195).

The transect of shovel tests running along both sides of the road in front of the Cape Cod Bungalow, in the approximate area of the Wiltbank house shown on the 1868 Beers *Atlas*, yielded mostly road debris such as machine-made beer bottle glass, plastic and aluminum. Artifacts that may have been associated with the earlier farmstead identified at this location include a single creamware sherd, a glass canning jar lid, brick, and clam shells. These finds were assigned to site 7S-G-198.

A possible hearth (Feature 1), one possible refuse pit (Feature 5), and a series of post holes and a tree line were features exposed in the trenches excavated along the road west of the Ebenezer Methodist Church cemetery (site 7S-G-199). These features were not excavated and appeared not to represent potentially significant cultural resources.

A second historic site fitting the Agricultural Dwelling property type defined by De Cunzo and Garcia (1992:251) was identified on the east side of Cedar Grove Road, the former David G. Drain House that faced Plantation Road up until 1991. Historically, this house was occupied by a J. W. Blizzard on the 1868 Beers *Atlas* (Figure 3). Aside from fragments of machine-made beer bottle glass, styrofoam, and macadam, items that likely represent roadside debris, only a few historic artifacts, such as whiteware, window glass, nails, brick, and coal, were associated with the domestic occupation at this site (7S-G-196).

The results of the Phase II investigation at the Hart Tenant Site (7S-G-197) were inconclusive. The additional research conducted on this parcel failed to document the existence of the two structures depicted on the 1883 Orphans Court map. The deeds, tax, and census records describe resident farm owners who shared their households with servants and hired hands as well as resident tenant farmers with lodgers, living side by side in the countryside surrounding Lewes. Without the benefit of addresses in the census records, it is impossible to tie parcels of land or houses to specific families. The first mention of a house on Thomas Hart's land comes in the 1868 Sussex County Tax Assessment where his house is listed on 80 acres. In the period from 1876-1880, Hart was taxed for "land and a building" on 79 acres and for 40 acres of land that was leased or occupied by "Thompson". William Thompson, a neighboring farmer, is listed in the 1880 census four 'households' away from Thomas Hart. Since Thompson is not listed 'next door' to Hart, it appears more likely that he leased the land from Hart for farming, just as is done today, while living elsewhere.

Following Thomas Hart's death in 1883, the land was owned by his wife Sarah, until her marriage to another local farmer, Rufus Joseph, and was then sold by Hart's heirs in 1898 as part of a larger 40 acre parcel (possibly the same tract that was previously leased) to John Morris. John Morris is listed in the 1900 census four 'households' away from the widow, Sarah Hart. This distance separating the census listings of Morris and Hart suggests that John Morris was not living on the land he purchased from the Harts. A comparison of the households living on either side of the Hart's in the 1870, 1880 and 1900 censuses suggests an increase in neighboring households. The 1900 census identifies Sarah Hart as a widow, living alone, even though her marriage to Rufus Joseph took place around this time. The households on either side of Sarah Hart may provide clues to possible occupants of the Hart Tenant Site. On one side was Frank Waples, an African American farm laborer and his wife and daughter listed as renters, and on the other side were two households - one owned by L.A. Donovan (occupation unknown) and his wife, and the next rented by George Logwood, an African American farm laborer, his wife and their lodger, Anthony Wilbank, also a farm laborer - who separated her from her former neighbor Collins to the south. Interpretation of the census data suggests that migrant farm workers may have been living at the Hart Tenant Site.

John Morris sold the Hart Tenant Site parcel in 1907 to Harry F. Jeffries who owned it until 1953. Interestingly, Harry Jeffries is probably related to the farm laborer, William Jeffries, who lived with the Harts as a young boy (1870 census). In the 1870 and 1880 censuses, the Harts had at least two young boys living with them to help on their farm and they may have supplemented this help with seasonal labor during their tenure.

The archeological evidence for two houses at this location was negligible. The only structural features in the three trenches were three post holes, two in Trench 1 and one at a considerable distance away in Trench 2. The two post holes in Trench 1, Features 4 and 6, were approximately 22 feet apart and were less than a foot deep. These two post holes appear in the approximate location of where the houses were shown on the 1883 Orphans Court map and one of them contained white granite ware sherds that date it to this period, however, it is just as likely that these were fence posts. The absence of structural evidence suggests that these were very small, temporary structures without foundations that may have stood in the area between the archeological trenches. It is also possible that these structures were moved rather than dismantled, actions which may have further erased evidence of construction. While the Locus 1 artifacts support habitation, the rather ephemeral nature of the associated features suggests temporary occupation consistent with seasonal farm workers.

The Thomas Hart Farm, the Bungalow, the Ebenezer Methodist Church, the David G. Drain Property, and the newly identified Hart Tenant Site, are sites that fall within the historic contexts of the Industrialization and Capitalization, 1830-1880, and Urbanization and Suburbanization, 1880-1940 periods of Delaware's history. The bulk of these sites fall outside of the project area and so it is JMA's opinion that the intersection improvements project will not affect them.