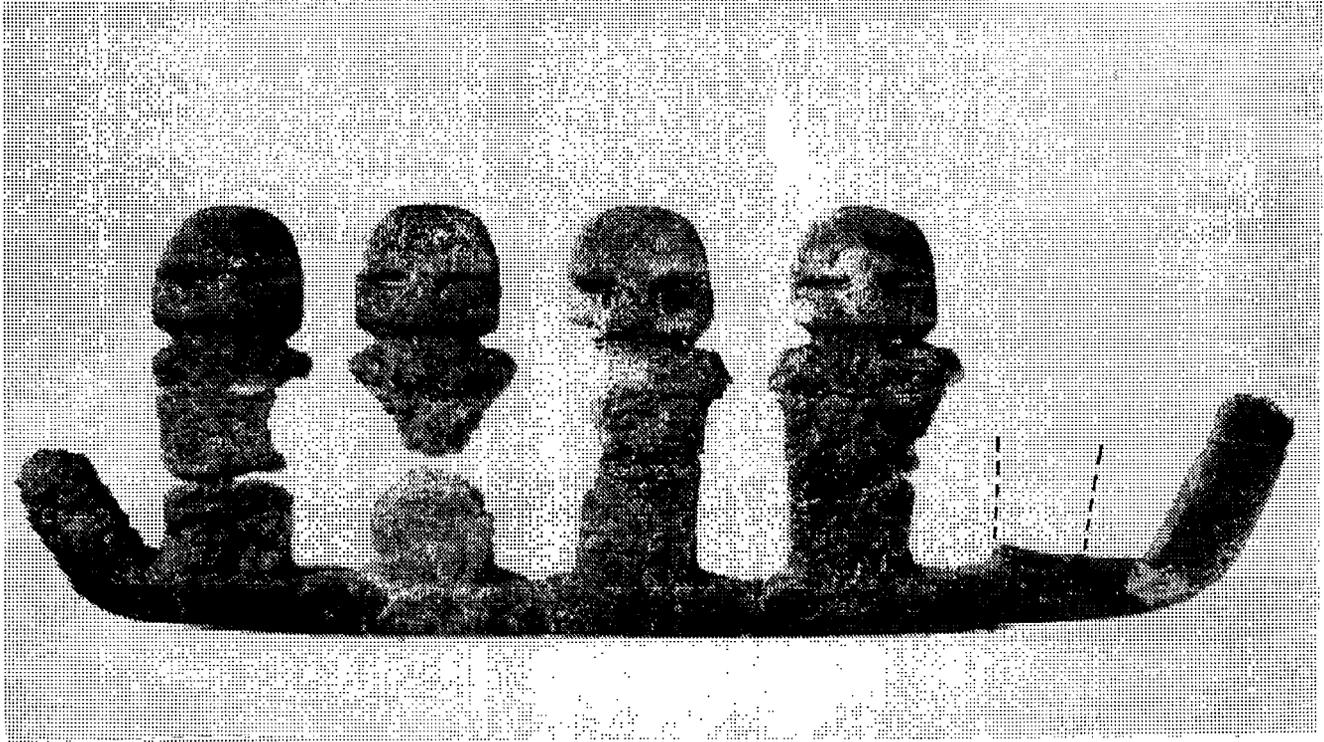


An Archaeological Planning Survey of Selected
Portions of the Proposed East-West Corridor,
Delaware Routes 404/18 and 9,
Sussex County, Delaware



By

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Delaware Department of Transportation Archaeology Series No. 115

Eugene E. Abbott
Director of Planning

1994

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PORTIONS OF THE PROPOSED EAST-WEST CORRIDOR,
DELAWARE ROUTES 404/18 AND 9,
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DELDOT PROJECT 88-112-01

DELDOT ARCHAEOLOGY SERIES NO. 115

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs
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ABSTRACT

Survey for cultural resources of selected portions of the East-West Corridor in Sussex County, Delaware, undertaken in 1991, produced extensive and intensive data on a wide variety of prehistoric and historical archaeological sites located within fourteen segments of the proposed corridor. Pedestrian surveys and limited subsurface testing resulted in the recording of 162 prehistoric and historical archaeological sites with the State Historic Preservation Office. Study areas that were selected for examination were considered high probability areas for the location of archaeological sites; medium and low probability areas for both prehistoric and historical resources were not as well represented in the survey areas. However, the predictive value of the high probability zones was substantiated by the survey results.

Artifacts recovered during the survey represent prehistoric settlement from the Archaic through Woodland II periods (7500 B.C. -- A.D. 1600). Ceramics types, including Wilgus, Nassawango, Hell Island, Colbourn, and Wolfe Neck varieties were recovered, and artifacts manufactured from exotic raw materials, such as argillite and rhyolite, were found. Most of the prehistoric sites are small procurement sites, but several base camp sites were also found.

Historical sites related to iron production were found at Unity Forge and Collins Pond. A wide range of late nineteenth century farmsteads, and several late eighteenth and early nineteenth century farmsteads were also documented throughout the study areas.

Cover Illustration: The cover illustration is a carved antler artifact depicting five figures in a canoe. The artifact dates to the Woodland II Period (ca. A. D. 1000 - A. D. 1600) and was found in the 1930's at the Slaughter Creek Site, which is located northeast of the Route 404 project area. This artifact was used on the cover of this report because it is an especially interesting example of prehistoric art symbolic of the Lenape occupation of Southern Delaware.

DelDOT Archaeological Series Index Information

This form is intended to provide information on the contents of this volume for indexing. It is also intended for researchers to use to check the research methods and topics included in this volume.

Report Title: **AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PLANNING STUDY OF SELECTED PORTIONS OF THE PROPOSED EAST-WEST CORRIDOR, DELAWARE ROUTES 404/18 AND 9, SUSSEX COUNTY, DELAWARE**

DelDOT Report Number: **115**

Level of Investigations: [Phase I, II, III, Planning Survey, Specialized Study]

PLANNING STUDY

Basic Time Periods Covered:

- All prehistoric
- Mainly prehistoric, some historic
- Equal coverage of prehistoric and historic
- Mainly historic, some prehistoric
- All historic

Site Contexts:

	Prehistoric	Historic
Plow zone/disturbed surface soils	X	X
Intact features	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
Buried artifact-bearing strata	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE

List up to five major time periods or site types

- 1. ARCHAIC THROUGH PRESENT DAY (7500 BC - AD 1993)**
- 2. PREHISTORIC SITE TYPES: PROCUREMENT AND MACRO-BAND BASE CAMPS**
- 3. HISTORICAL SITE TYPES: AGRICULTURAL COMPLEXES, DWELLINGS, STORE, MILL, FORGE**

List up to eight major topics covered in Conclusions and Discussions of Results

- 1. PREHISTORIC AND HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE PREDICTIVE MODELS**
- 2. CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING SITE SIGNIFICANCE**
- 3. DENSITY OF HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES**

4. SUMMARY OF IDENTIFIED HISTORICAL AND PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES WITHIN STUDY AREA

Specialized Analyses Undertaken

Prehistoric

Historic

- Blood Residue
- Ceramic Chronology
- Ceramic Vessel Surface Alterations
- Cordage Twists from Ceramic Impressions
- Faunal Analysis
- Flake Attributes
- Floral Analysis
- Flotation
- Geomorphology and Pedology
- Glass Analysis
- HABS Documentation
- HAER Documentation
- Historic Architecture
- Informant Interviews
- Leather Analysis
- Miller Ceramic Index
- Mortar Analysis
- Palynology
- Projectile Point Chronology
- Projectile Point Function
- Radiocarbon Dates
- Soil Chemistry
- Spatial Distribution of Artifacts
- Stone Tool Functional Analysis
- Wood Identification

X

X

List up to 5 other specialized analyses not listed above:

NOT APPLICABLE

Geographic Area Covered

- New Castle County
- Kent County
- Sussex County
- All State

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This project would not have been possible without the cooperation of the land owners of Sussex County who allowed us access to their property. Their assistance has increased our knowledge of Delaware's prehistoric and historic past.

Appreciation for their support, administration, research, and services is extended to all of the following individuals:

Mr. and Mrs. Doug Vanderwende, William Hearn, and Bob Rider allowed us to study record their collections of Indian artifacts found over the years on their farms. Artifact collections such as these are extremely valuable for archaeologists, especially when the artifacts are labeled to record where they were found.

Lester Realty, Georgetown, was also particularly helpful with logistical support for the project by providing us with a base of operations and housing for the field crew.

From the Division of Highways: Raymond M. Harbeson, Jr., Chief Engineer/Director, Division of Highways; Raymond D. Richter, Assistant Director, Preconstruction; Joseph T. Wutka, Jr., Location Studies and Environmental Engineer; Kevin W. Cunningham, DelDOT Archaeologist; Paul A. Welsh, Location Studies Manager; Gerald R. Mulderring, Project Engineer; Carol L. Kates, Secretary; and Joanna Likens, Project Scheduling and Support.

From the Federal Highway Administration: John J. Gilbert, Division Administrator.

From the Division of Historic and Cultural Affairs: Daniel R. Griffith, Director and State Historic Preservation Officer.

From the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office: Joan Larrivee, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Alice H. Guerrant, Faye Stocum, and Gwen Davis Coffin, Archaeologists.

From the University of Delaware: Juan Villamarin, Chairman, Department of Anthropology; Carolyn Fierro, Administrative Assistant; and Joanne Faulls, Secretary, Department of Anthropology.

Curation Note: All artifacts, site records, analytical data, photographs, slides, and video tapes from the Route 404 project are curated at the University of Delaware Center for Archaeological Research, Newark, DE 19716. For further information contact Jay F. Custer, University of Delaware (302-831-2821) or Kevin Cunningham, Delaware Department of Transportation (302-739-3826).

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