Introduction

During February and March of 1985, Thunderbird Archeological Associates (TAA) completed background research and data recovery investigations at the site of the Riseing Son Tavern (7NC-E-63 -- previously referred to as the "Anthony Hotel Lot") in the village of Stanton, New Castle County, Delware. This work was completed under a contract from the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) because proposed improvements to an intersection there would adversely affect the Tavern Site. The research was undertaken to fulfill regulatory obligations under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (amended), the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and various regulations, policies, and memoranda of the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Delaware Department of Transportation. The site had been determined eligible to the National Register in October 1984 (Appendix I). Research was designed to retrieve significant scientific and historical data from the site.

The village of Stanton is located approximately two miles west of Newport and five miles west of Wilmington, New Castle County, Delaware, at the intersection of Route 4 with Route 7 (see Figures 1 and 2). The Riseing Son Tavern site was identified during Phase I and II archeological investigations completed in 1983 on the southeast corner of the intersection (Thompson 1984). The "Old Stone Inn" which had stood at the top of the lot facing the westbound lanes of Route 4, was a documented historic structure that had been demolished when an Alert Gas Station was constructed on the lot (Plate 1). The top of the lot had been bulldozed out to well below grade and large capacity gasoline storage tanks placed there, so there was little expectation of any significant remains in that location. Test excavation on the south side of the lot, on the grassy island that presently separates the gas station apron from the northbound lanes of Route 7 (Plate 2), revealed that the older soil surfaces as well as the remnants of stone foundations, had been protected by a layer of fill and that intact archeological contexts were present there (Plate 3).

The proposed new construction consists of the flaring of the north and southbound lanes of Route 7 across the site location and the lot on the west side of the Mill Lane Connector (see Figure 3). This will improve traffic flow across the intersection by eliminating one of the two traffic lights necessary to control access between the two routes.

The research reported here extends the earlier study (Thompson 1984) by providing a more detailed study of the historical background of the site and by exposing a much larger sample of the site area to recover the archeological data. The report is divided into sections describing the various activities that were carried out: Research Design, Background Research, Excavation, Artifact Analysis, and Conclusions. The Background Research was completed by Timothy Thompson, who also directed the field investigations. That work was conducted by six experienced crew excavators between the fourth of March and the twelfth of April, 1984. The detailed laboratory analysis was carried out by Ms. Kimberly Snyder Swears of the

FIGURE 1

REGIONAL LOCATION MAP

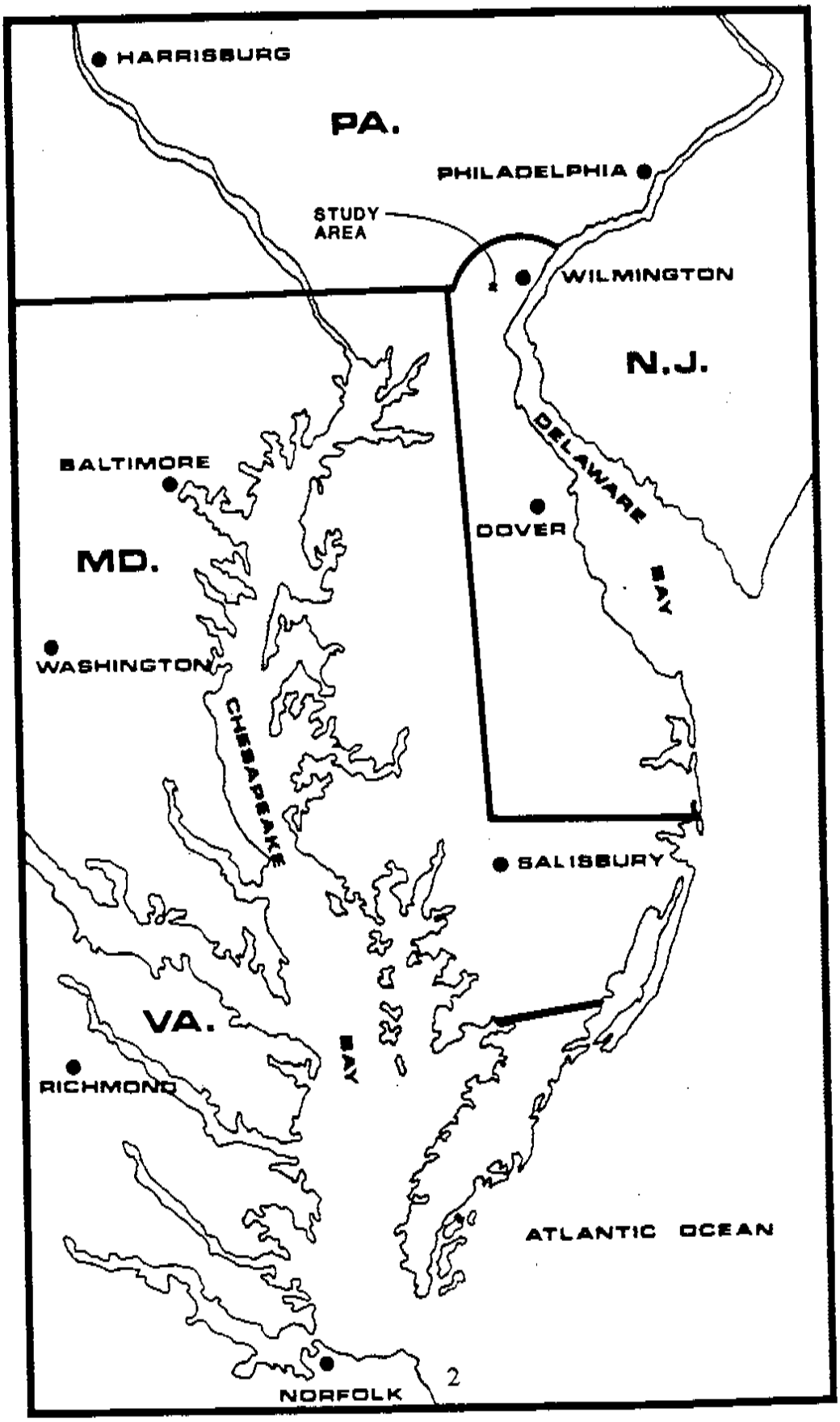
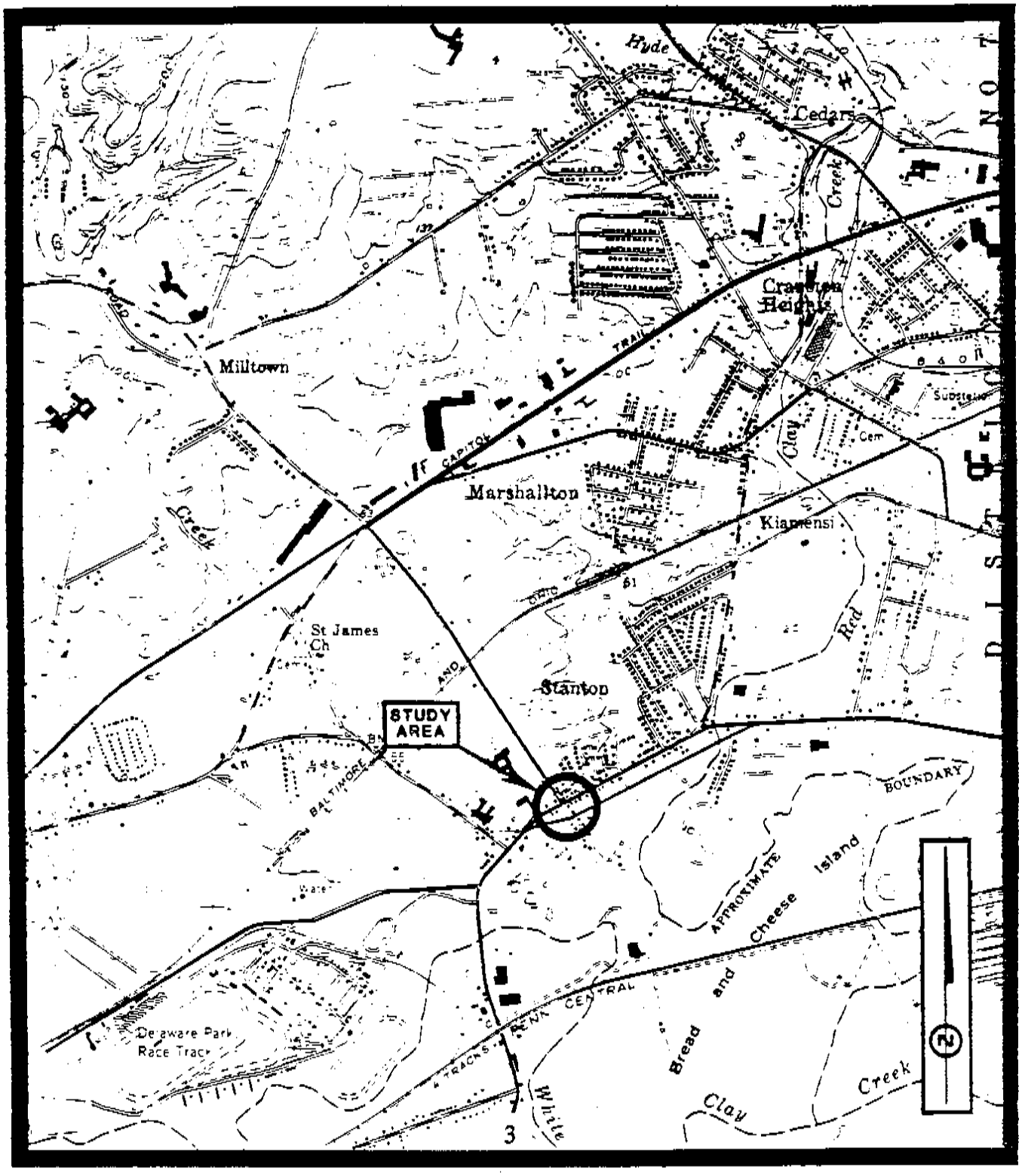


FIGURE 2

PROJECT LOCATION MAP



0.5 0 0.5 1.0

SCALE IN MILES

1 0 1

SCALE IN KILOMETERS

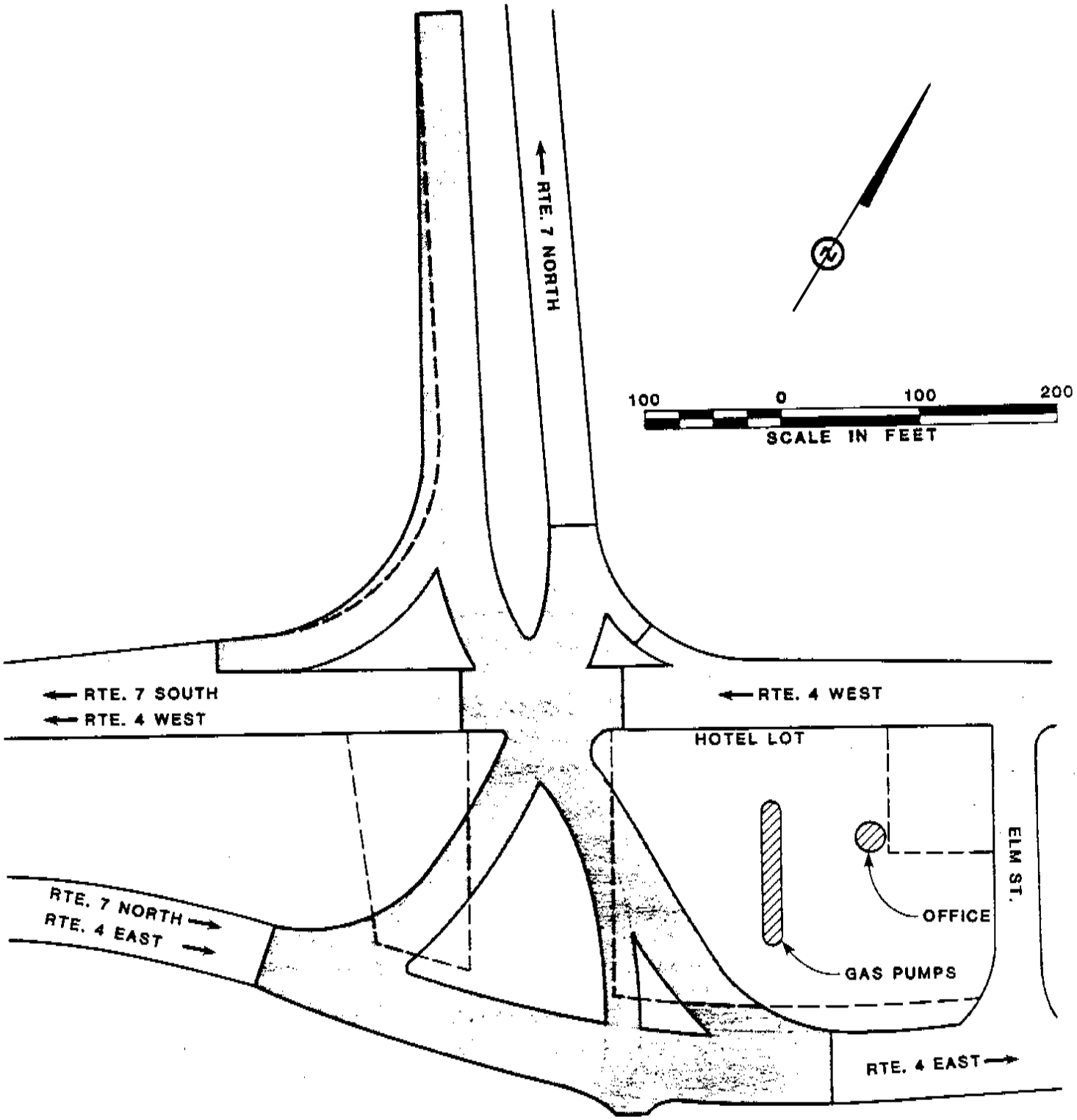
Plate 1: Aerial View of Project Area

Plate 2: Testing the Grassy Island

Plate 3: Upper Foundation, During Testing

FIGURE 3

AREA OF PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION



KEY:

—Limits of Proposed Construction

Thunderbird staff, who also functioned as Project Coordinator throughout the various aspects of the work. Ms. Michaele White assisted Mr. Thompson and Ms. Swears in the drafting of the graphics and other aspects of the report production. The report was set up on a Macintosh 512 personal computer using word processing and graphics programs, and printed on an Apple Laserwriter printer at the Showker Graphic Arts, Harrisonburg, Virginia. Dr. William M. Gardner served as Principal Investigator and took overall responsibility for maintaining the highest possible standards of research.