

II. METHOD

Historic Architecture

As part of the walkover survey on September 23, 1999, an area of potential effect (APE) was recommended for historic architectural resources in order to identify standing resources more than 50 years old located within the APE. The Chandler-Taylor House was identified as historic and a trip to the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office (DE SHPO) was made. Here, it was determined that this residence had been previously inventoried on a Cultural Resource Survey Form. The house is not listed in local or state historic registers or in the National Register of Historic Places, nor is it a National Historic Landmark.

A field survey was completed in December 1999, using an updated version of the DE SHPO's Cultural Resource Survey Forms. Photos were taken at the time of the survey. In order to develop a context for the project area and its resources, historical research was conducted in December 1999 at the Delaware SHPO, University of Delaware Morris Library, Delaware Public Archives, New Castle County Recorder of Deeds, and the University of Maryland Architecture Library.

Archaeology

URSGWC initially conducted a walkover survey of the project area. The survey determined that the majority of the project area had a low potential to contain cultural resources due to previous disturbances from the construction of Route 41 in the 1950s (e.g. utility installation, embankment cuts, etc.) and from subsequent modern housing developments along the highway. The yard areas for these houses along Route 41 were heavily landscaped to provide screening from the highway. This screening consisted of planted trees and shrubs or the creation of small hills. This determination of a low potential for cultural resources was further supported by a review of historic maps that indicated no historic development had occurred prior to the construction of the highway. Early settlement was located along Old Lancaster Pike to the west.

Two locations appeared to have a moderate to high probability for containing cultural resources (Figure 3). The first location is situated at the northeast corner of the intersection with Route 41 and Brackenville Road. The remnants of a concrete pad and a gravel driveway off of Brackenville Road were present in this area 30 x 50-meter area. In addition, the presence of a nearby stream suggested the possibility of prehistoric occupation. The second location is situated adjacent the east side of Route 41 approximately 60 meters south of its intersection with Brackenville Road. It is a relatively flat area near a stream that does not appear to have been previously disturbed by highway construction or utility installation.

A series of shovel tests were used to investigate both areas for the presence/absence of cultural resources. Shovel tests were excavated by natural strata to the maximum depth of

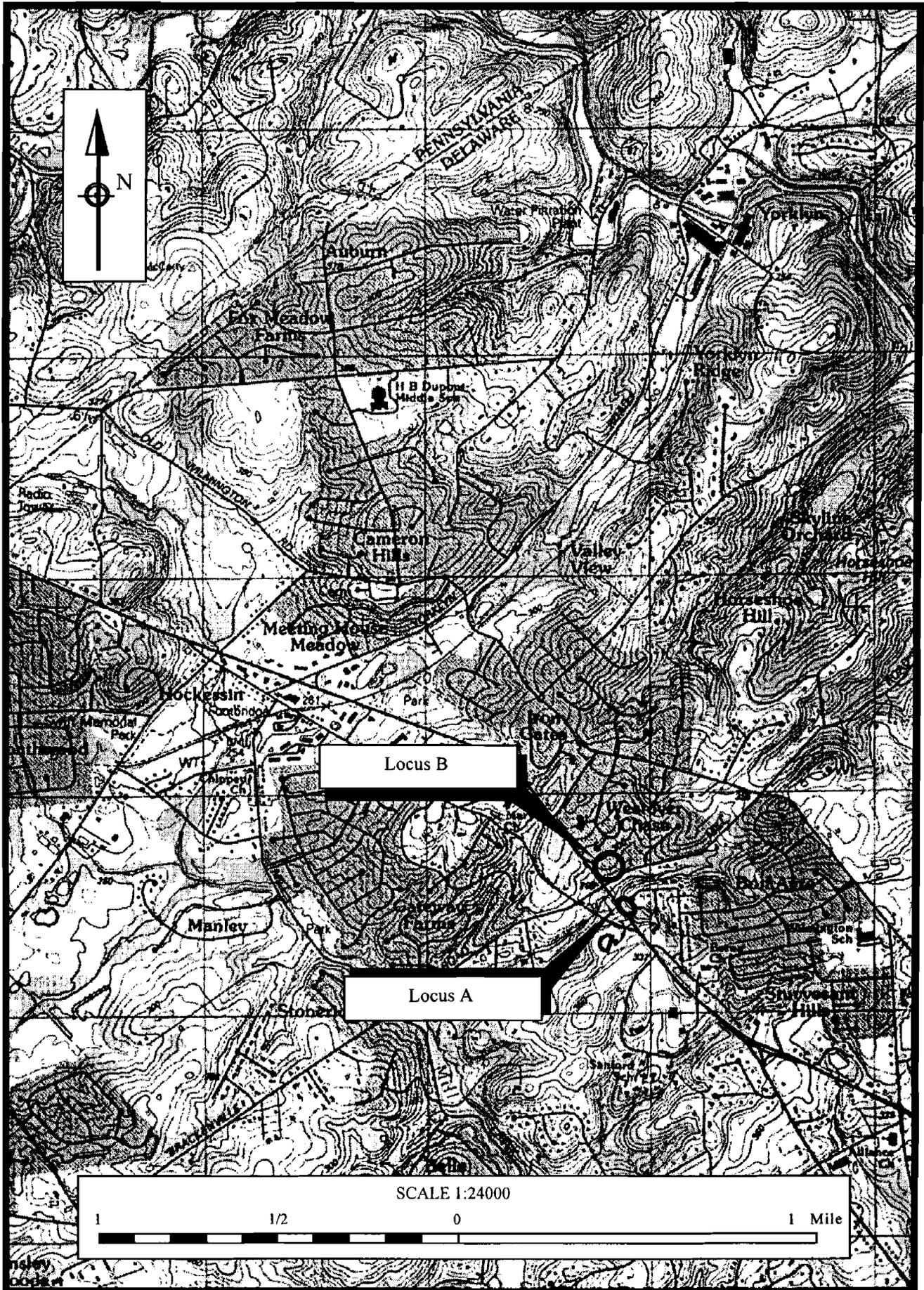


Figure 3 Portion of 7.5 USGS Kennet Square Delaware Quadrangle Topographic Map, Showing Testing Loci

anticipated construction impacts, or where possible, to sterile subsoil. If natural strata were not clearly identified, then 10-centimeter arbitrary levels were used. Soil from each stratum was screened through 1/4-inch hardware mesh and described using the Munsell color system and standard texture classifications. Recovered artifacts were bagged according to their provenience and transported to the laboratory for processing and analysis. Soil profiles, cultural features, etc. were described, photographed on both black-and-white print and color slide film, and illustrated by measured drawings as appropriate. At the conclusion of field investigations, all excavated areas were backfilled, leveled, and left as close to original condition as possible.

In order to develop an historic context for the project area and its cultural resources, URSGWC conducted both general and specific research in November 1999 at the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office, the Delaware State Archives (DSA), the Historical Society of Delaware, the New Castle Public Library, the New Castle County Department of Planning, and the Library of Congress. In addition, the historic site and archaeology survey files at the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office were consulted to determine the presence of any historic resources, National Register eligible properties within the project area.

The results of this search indicated that no archaeological sites have been previously recorded within the project area. However, URSGWC identified two standing structures within the project's historic architecture area of potential effect (APE) that are more than 50 years, the Chandler-Taylor House and its associated carriage house.