

## ABSTRACT

The Cultural Resources Division of Parsons Engineering Science, Inc., conducted archaeological survey and evaluative testing along State Route 896, in New Castle County, Delaware. The archaeological investigations were conducted on behalf of the Delaware Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration, in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

The archaeological investigations consisted of Phase I survey at two proposed locations for stormwater management ponds, and Phase II evaluative testing at Iron Hill East (7NC-D-108). Phase I survey at the two stormwater management areas recovered no evidence of archaeological resources. No further work is recommended at these two locations.

Phase II evaluative testing at Iron Hill East (7NC-D-108) indicated extensive aboriginal quarrying of jasper outcrops. Iron Hill is a component of the Delaware Chalcedony Complex, a series of quarries in northern Delaware and nearby portions of Maryland and Pennsylvania. The prehistoric site at Iron Hill is part of the Iron Hill Park Complex, which is known to contain dense concentrations of quarrying debris and is purportedly the source of jasper found in assemblages of Paleo-Indian to Woodland II age. The site is situated in a plow zone context and contained no vertical patterning and only limited horizontal patterning. A stemmed point was recovered, indicative of Woodland I period site use. The attributes of the lithic debris suggest that a limited amount of early stage biface reduction was conducted at the site. Most of the material consisted of limonitic waste, which could not be readily distinguished from natural spalls. This inability to confidently identify artifactual material among the debris, along with the absence of meaningful spatial patterning across the field, limits the integrity and thus the research value of the site. The site is not considered to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. It is thus held that the proposed expansion of the SR 896 right-of-way at Iron Hill East (7NC-D-108) will have no effect on cultural resources. No further archaeological work is recommended in this location.

**DRAFT**