

ABSTRACT

Archaeological investigations were conducted at the proposed site of the Wilmington Boulevard along front street in Wilmington Delaware. The work included a background and literature search; the development of a developmental model of change throughout the three hundred year period during which Wilmington was developed; and archaeological surface and subsurface investigations designed to test the model, to determine the significance of the archaeological resources known to exist within the project area and to demonstrate the cultural integrity of those resources.

The investigations were conducted by Mid-Atlantic Archaeological Research, Inc. of Newark, Delaware. Staff included historians, field archaeologists and laboratory researchers. The work was conducted over a period of a year with field excavations done in the spring of 1979. This report concludes the responsibilities of Mid-Atlantic Archaeological Research, Inc. (MAAR) to the contractees, the Department of Transportation, State of Delaware.

Investigations revealed that the Wilmington Boulevard project would impact that area of Wilmington which witnessed the longest period of development from the first establishment of a plot plan by Thomas Willing to the early commercial, manufacturing and industrial developments in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. A variety of resources were identified including residences, commercial buildings, transportation facilities, industrial concerns, private social group meeting halls, governmental facilities and churches.

Excavations resulted in the discovery of numerous features from throughout the project area and the recovery of over fifteen thousand artifacts. Excavated were wells, privies, foundations, cellar holes, industrial features and utility structures. Material recovered was from the early eighteenth century to the present. The potential data to be recovered from the project area is unlimited and site significance can not be denied.

This report summarizes the results of the background and literature search, the field investigations and includes recommendations for further archaeological research. The field investigations can be seen to support the documentary data and lend some weight to the general developmental model for the City of Wilmington.