

5.0 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A Phase I archaeological survey, including background research, geomorphology, and field investigations, has been completed for the DeIDOT's proposed School Bell Road Improvements project. The goal of the archaeological survey was to identify any archaeological remains located within the limits of the construction disturbance proposed for the roadway project and, if possible, to assess any identified resources for significance (eligibility for listing in the NRHP). To this end, background and geomorphological research indicated that portions of the project APE had the potential to contain pre-contact or historic period archaeological remains. These areas were then surveyed using appropriate, standard and proven methodologies. Three pre-contact period isolated artifacts were identified in the project APE during the survey. Stafford Isolate 1 (FS 3.1) is a pre-contact period cortex removal flake made of mottled gray chert. Stafford Isolate 2 (FS 5.1) is a pre-contact period cortex removal flake made of jasper. The School Bell Enterprises Isolate (FS 1.1) is a utilized biface made of jasper. None of the isolates is chronologically or culturally diagnostic. Use wear along one of the biface edges indicates that the implement was possibly used for scraping; however, the other two artifacts are not functionally diagnostic. The presence of these flakes and lack of all other types of cultural materials indicates only that pre-contact period peoples were present in the general vicinity of the archaeological APE.

Despite the opportunity to survey relatively undisturbed portions of the archaeological APE which had the potential to contain pre-contact period cultural remains, the School Bell Road Improvements project Phase I survey resulted in the identification of only three isolated pre-contact period lithic artifacts with no associated cultural features or other cultural materials. These isolated artifacts appear to indicate ephemeral use of the archaeological APE by pre-contact period peoples for general subsistence purposes such as hunting and gathering. The Phase I survey findings appear to agree with Custer's determination of low site probability for the area, as well as his prediction for only ephemeral transitory use of this upland area as part of a more general settlement pattern which included larger more permanent base camps along the lower Christiana River and in the vicinity of Churchman's Marsh. The School Bell Road Phase I survey did not yield significant positive results; however, this general area continues to be under increased developmental pressure and should remain a high priority research area.

Based on the non-diagnostic nature of the recovered isolated lithic artifacts, the lack of associated cultural features or materials appropriate for radiometric dating, and the lack of

other classes of artifacts (e.g., ceramics, fire cracked rock, groundstone), the Stafford Isolate 1 (FS 3.1), the Stafford Isolate 2 (FS 5.1), and the School Bell Enterprises Isolate (FS 1.1) do not have the potential to provide new or insightful information about the specific pre-contact period use of the School Bell Road Improvements project archaeological APE.

No previously recorded pre-contact or historic period archaeological resources or NRHP-listed or -eligible archaeological sites are present within the School Bell Road (S.R. 1 to U.S. 40) Improvements project archaeological APE. Therefore, the proposed School Bell Road Improvements project, as currently designed, will not affect any significant pre-contact or historic period archaeological resources, and no additional archaeological investigations are warranted.