

ABSTRACT

On behalf of the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT), the Cultural Resource Group of Louis Berger & Associates, Inc. (LBA), has conducted Phase I and Phase II archaeological investigations of the proposed SR 1 corridor from Scott Run to Pine Tree Corners in New Castle County, Delaware, and associated wetland replacement areas. The project corridor bypassed the historic town of Odessa and crossed several areas of high potential for both historic and prehistoric archaeological sites.

The project corridor was approximately 16 kilometers (10 miles) long, with a width that varied between 99 and 305 meters (325 and 1,000 feet). U.S. Route 13 is being relocated along portions of the corridor, and several access roads, a toll plaza, and two major interchanges (at SR 299 and County Road 420) are planned; these studies covered the rights-of-way for all these improvements. In addition, several wetland replacement areas associated with the SR 1 project area were also surveyed. Two of these wetland replacement areas, designated Osborne and Lynch, were south of the main project area, along the Smyrna to Pine Tree Corners segment of SR 1 in Blackbird Hundred. The total project area, excluding the area covered by existing U.S. Route 13, measured approximately 286 hectares (707 acres). In order to facilitate the Phase I survey, a predictive model, based on a model developed by the University of Delaware Center for Archaeological Research for the SR 1 project (Custer et al. 1984), was used to divide the project area into areas of high and low archaeological potential. The entire project area was then inspected on foot to identify standing historic structures, ruins, or high-potential microenvironments not apparent on maps. All high-potential areas were surveyed, as well as a 10 percent sample of low-potential areas.

The archaeological surveys resulted in the identification or re-identification of 35 archaeological sites in the project area. Of these, 22 are prehistoric sites, eight are historic, and five have both prehistoric and historic components. Following consultations between DelDOT and the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office (DESHPO), Phase II work plans were developed and implemented for 17 of these sites. As a result, sufficient information is available to determine that five of these sites appear to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The remaining sites are considered either ineligible for the National Register or require additional Phase II investigation to assess their significance.

The five sites for which there are sufficient data to support a determination of eligibility are the Locust Grove Site (7NC-F-73), the Drawyer Creek South Site (7NC-G-143), the Appoquinimink North Site (7NC-F-13), the Whitby Branch Site (7NC-G-151), and the Osborne Wetland No. 3 Site (7NC-J-212).

The Locust Grove Site (7NC-F-13) consists of three intact artifact-bearing deposits in the yard of the Locust Grove house. The latter is a structure already determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, as part of the *Rebuilding St. Georges Hundred (1830-1899)*

thematic nomination (Kiso, Franks & Straw 1994). The associated refuse deposits have a high degree of integrity and date from the mid- and late nineteenth century.

The Appoquinimink North Site (7NC-F-13) contains both a historic and a prehistoric component, although only the historic component is considered significant. The historic component is characterized by a dense scatter of domestic artifacts dating between circa 1780 and 1830 and by three features, including a possible cellar, a pit, and a structural posthole. The prehistoric component at the site is represented by a broad, thin lithic scatter representing infrequent, low-level procurement activity during the Woodland I period.

The Drawyer Creek South Site (7NC-G-143) is interpreted as a procurement station or microband base camp occupied during the Woodland II period. The site has at least two activity areas, including a concentration of ceramic fragments close to the current shoreline and a workshop for tool production from locally available lithic materials. A concentration of fire-cracked rock may represent a hearth.

The Whitby Branch Site (7NC-G-151) is interpreted as a microband base camp or procurement station occupied during the Woodland I period. The site is situated on a well-drained rise overlooking wetlands associated with Whitby Branch and the Appoquinimink River. A large and varied sample of prehistoric artifact classes and tool types was recovered from two loci of activity. Two clusters of fire-cracked rock, possible remnant surface hearths, appear to have been the focus of much of the activity at the site.

The Osborne Wetland No. 3 Site (7NC-J-212) is located on a sandy ridge overlooking extensive wetlands. The prehistoric occupations at this site—resource procurement station(s) or microband base camp(s)—have yielded substantial quantities of artifacts, including temporally diagnostic tools, and contain what are probably intact cultural deposits below the plowzone. One locus of intact subsurface deposits is located on the lower terrace, dating to the Archaic period, and another locus of intact subplowzone artifact-bearing deposits was exposed in the western third of the site, along the ridgeline, and was associated with artifacts dating to the Woodland I period.

This report covers multiple episodes of Phase I and Phase II fieldwork carried out between November 1994 and December 1995, which were authorized under five task orders. As a result of ongoing refinements in the highway design, additional fieldwork in the project area continues. Additional Phase II evaluations may be conducted on some of the sites reported herein, as a result of consultation between DelDOT and DESHPO. It is anticipated that subsequent Phase I and Phase II investigation in the project area will be reported as supplements to the present report.