

3.0 PREDICTED ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

3.1 Pre-contact Period

The following is a summary of the detailed information regarding pre-contact archaeological potential for the S.R. 54 Improvements project area as it directly relates to the proposed SWM Areas 1, 2, 3, & 4 APE (Gundy and Sams 2003a). According to the predictive modeling accomplished by Custer (n.d.) for pre-contact period archaeological resources in Delaware, the archaeological APE is located within a moderate probability area (Figure 3). Review of the Delaware archaeological site files did not yield any previously recorded pre-contact period archaeological sites within or adjacent to the archaeological APE. Previously completed cultural resource research in proximity to the S.R. 54 SWM Areas 1, 2, 3, & 4 APE includes numerous surveys (e.g., Clark 1993; Clark and Scholl 1994; Crist 1998; Custer 1987; Custer and Mellin 1987, 1990, 1991; Otter 2000) the results of which appear to support the idea that this area of Delaware experienced low-density pre-contact period settlement, but some of the most productive environments for pre-contact subsistence (Catts *et al.* 1992:15).

Based on the absence of previously identified pre-contact period archaeological sites and specific known Native American villages or trails in the general vicinity, and the presence of moderate disturbance to the APE, it is considered to have a moderate probability to contain pre-contact period archaeological sites. The presence of poorly drained soils within the APE also supports a determination of only moderate probability. For a complete and detailed pre-contact period context of the project area, the reader is referred to *A Management Plan for Delaware's Prehistoric Cultural Resources* (Custer 1986); *A Management Plan for the Prehistoric Archaeological Resources of Delaware's Atlantic Coastal Region* (Custer 1987); *Delaware Prehistoric Archaeology, An Ecological Approach* (Custer 1984); and *Chesapeake Prehistory* (Dent 1995). Despite the fact that the S.R. 54 SWM Areas 1, 2, 3, & 4 APE has potential for pre-contact period archaeological remains to be present, the systematic Phase I archaeological survey did not reveal any.

3.2 Historic Period

The following is a revised summary of the potential for the S.R. 54 SWM 1, 2, 3, & 4 APE to contain historic period archaeological resources (Gundy and Sams 2003a) and a landuse history



specific to the APE location. The majority of historic period archaeological sites previously identified in the general vicinity of the project area are related to agricultural activities (De Cunzo and Catts 1990:109-110, 112). Based on several predictive models used to reconstruct historic settlement patterns in the area, Catts *et al.* (1992:110) have determined that historic period sites dating as early as A.D. 1630 to A.D. 1730 are possible. Review of the Delaware archaeological site files did not yield any previously recorded historic period archaeological sites within the APE; however, numerous historic period archaeological sites have been recorded in the Americana Bayside development area (Otter 2000), which is adjacent to the S.R. 54 SWM 1, 2, 3, & 4 APE. Phase II research has been completed on several of the historic period archaeological sites located in the Americana Bayside development area (Thomas 2002; Dan Griffith, personal communication 2003).

The majority of the historic period archaeological sites identified by Otter (2000) are small artifact scatters or isolates comprised of ceramics, glass, metal, and other materials. The sites in this development area appear to be related to the relatively dense rural occupation of this area, as demonstrated on the Beers 1868 atlas map (Beers 1868) (Figure 4). Numerous private homeowners/landowners are listed on the Beers (1868) map; however, no buildings (e.g., residential, commercial, industrial, or public establishments) are shown in the APE vicinity (Beers 1868). Historic maps also indicate that the route of S.R. 54 has not changed appreciably throughout the historic period, but that development immediately adjacent to the roadway has increased (USGS 1901; Delaware State Highway Department 1941; War Department, Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army 1946) (Figures 5, 6, and 7).

During the winter of 2002/2003, a historic structures survey was completed for the S.R. 54 Improvements project (McCormick Taylor, Inc. 2004). Two structures were identified as greater than 50 years of age in the S.R. 54 SWM Areas 1, 2, 3, & 4 APE. CRS# S-10028 was identified as a 1940-1960 suburban single family residential dwelling with a detached garage and two outbuildings. The property was recommended not eligible for listing in the NRHP because (McCormick Taylor, Inc. 2004:53-54):

The property is not associated with an event of importance, nor is it representative of a pattern of events or historic trends (Criterion A). The property is not affiliated with any persons important to local, state, or national history (Criterion B). Although the structure shows elements of the Minimal Traditional style as described in Virginia and Lee McAlester's *Field Guide to American Houses*, it is not unique to a given period in time or method of construction and does not contribute new information to an understanding of post-World War II housing, nor is it known to represent the work of a master architect or builder (Criterion C). Owing to prior ground disturbances, there is little probability that new information will result from any archaeological testing performed in the vicinity of the property, and the buildings are not a principal source of important information (Criterion D).



CRS # S-10028 is located north of S.R. 54 on the proposed SWM 2 location. The house was razed after 2006 and only two outbuildings remain on the property.

CRS# S-10123 was identified as a 1955 suburban single family residential dwelling with a garage and chicken house. The property was recommended not eligible for listing in the NRHP because (McCormick Taylor, Inc. 2004:49-50):

The property was not evaluated as an Agricultural Complex because it does not exhibit characteristics such as a farmstead, gardens, fences, ditches, orchards, streams, and the like, nor does it derive its primary meaning from an agricultural function and activities. This property is not associated with an event of importance, nor is it representative of a pattern of events or historic trends (Criterion A). The property is not affiliated with any persons important to local, state, or national history (Criterion B). Although the house shows elements of the Ranch style, the architecture is common of the type; it is not unique to a given period in time or method of construction and does not contribute new information to an understanding of post-World War II housing, nor is it known to represent the work of a master architect or builder (Criterion C). Owing to prior ground disturbances, there is little probability that new information will result from any archaeological testing performed in the vicinity of the property, and the buildings are not a principal source of important information (Criterion D).

CRS # S-10123 is located south of S.R. 54 on the proposed SWM 3 and 4 location. The house was razed after McCormick Taylor's 2004 architectural resource survey. No buildings remain on the property.

Historic mapping indicates that structures did not appear in the APE until the mid- to late-twentieth century. An eligibility assessment of these structures recommended them not eligible for listing in the NRHP and both have been razed. Based on the absence of previously identified historic period archaeological sites and historic architectural resources located within the project APE, there is low probability for significant historic period archaeological remains to be present. Due to the long-term rural nature of the project APE, and based on the numbers of different types of previously identified historic period archaeological sites located within Sussex County, if historic period archaeological resources are identified in the APE they will likely be related to rural agricultural and/or twentieth century suburban domestic activities. For a complete and detailed historic period context of the APE, the reader is referred to *S.R. 54 Planning Study, Historic Structures Survey, Determination of Eligibility Report, Baltimore Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware* (McCormick Taylor, Inc. 2004). The systematic Phase I archaeological survey of the S.R. 54 SWM 1, 2, 3, & 4 APE yielded historic and modern period artifacts most likely associated with the occupation of the house (CRS# S-10028) once present on the proposed SWM 2 location.

