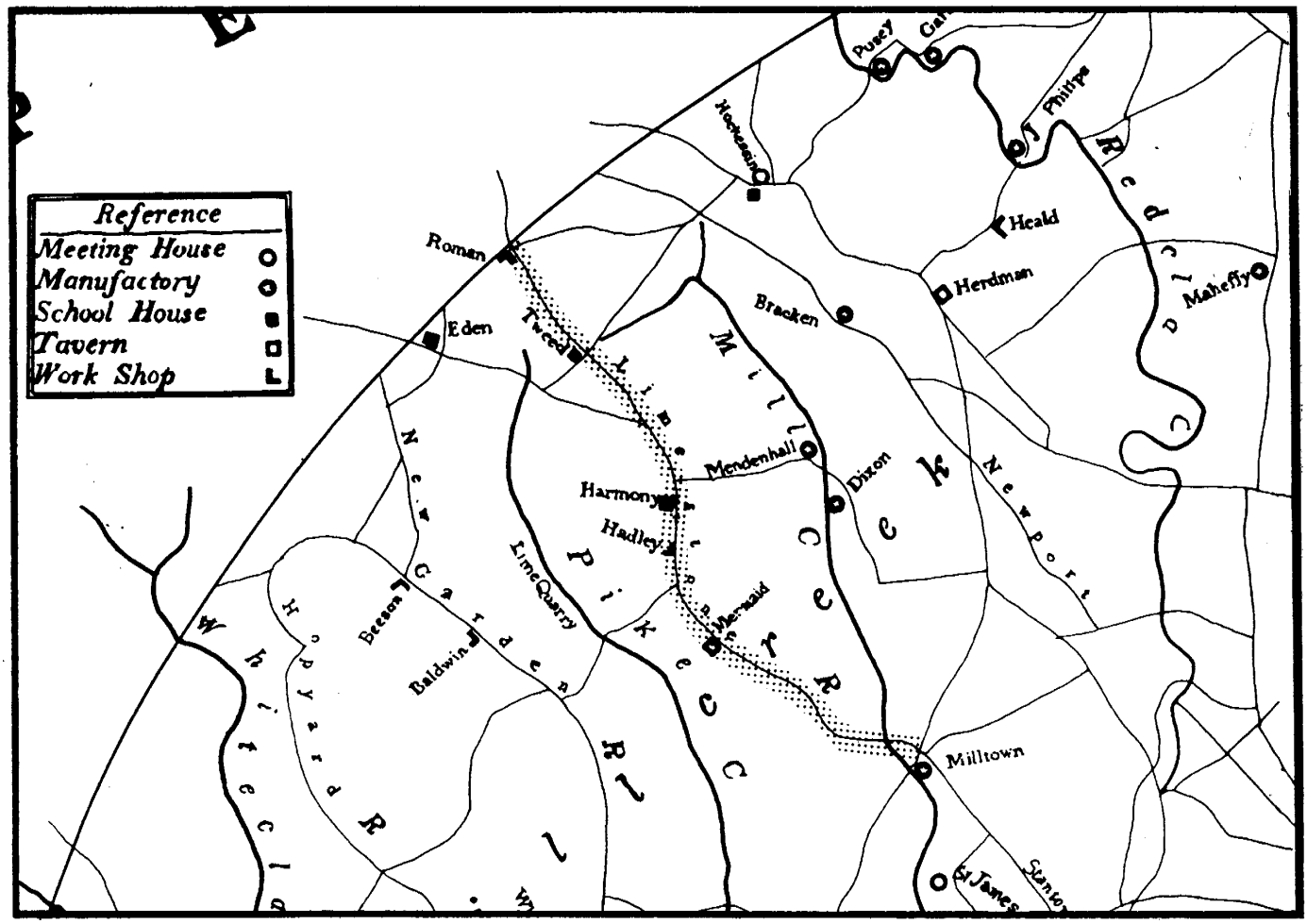
# MANAGEMENT SUMMARY OF THE PHASE I/II ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEYS FOR THE ROUTE 7 NORTH CORRIDOR, MILLTOWN TO THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE LINE, NEW CASTLE COUNTY, DELAWARE





by Wade P. Catts and Jay F. Custer

University of Delaware Department of Anthropology

Center for Archaeological Research



Delaware Department of Transportation Archaeological Series No. 41

John T. Davis
DIRECTOR
Division of Highways
1986

Delaware Department of Transportation

U.S. Department of Transportation

**ABSTRACT**

A Cultural Resource Survey of the Route 7 (Limestone Road) corridor, extending from the Milltown Road intersection to the Pennsylvania State Line, was conducted by archaeologists from the University of Delaware Center for Archaeological Research between February and June of 1985. Funding for the project was provided by the Delaware Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration. Archival research and archaeological testing were carried out to identify, locate, and determine the significance of all cultural resources in the project area. A total of sixteen cultural resources, both historic and prehistoric, were identified. Due to access problems, the significance and integrity of five of the historic resources identified were not able to be determined, and Phase II testing at these sites will have to be completed at a future date. These sites are the Mermaid Tavern Site complex, the Tweed's Tavern Site, and the G. Klair House Site. Three of the sites identified were found to be sufficiently significant for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. These sites are the Armor Site, the Hockessin Valley Site, and the Beeson Yeatman House Site.

# A MANAGEMENT SUMMARY OF THE PHASE I/II ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEYS FOR THE ROUTE 7 NORTH CORRIDOR, MILLTOWN TO THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE LINE, NEW CASTLE COUNTY, DELAWARE

DELDOT PROJECT 83-101-01 DELDOT ARCHAEOLOGY SERIES NO. 41

FHWA FEDERAL AID PROJECT F-1045(16)

By

Wade P. Catts and Jay F. Custer

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE
Department of Anthropology
Center for Archaeological Research

Submitted To

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Highway Administration

and

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs
Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

Prepared For

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Division of Highways
Location and Environmental Studies Office

John T. Davis
Director
Division of Highways

1986

reprint

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## INTRODUCTION

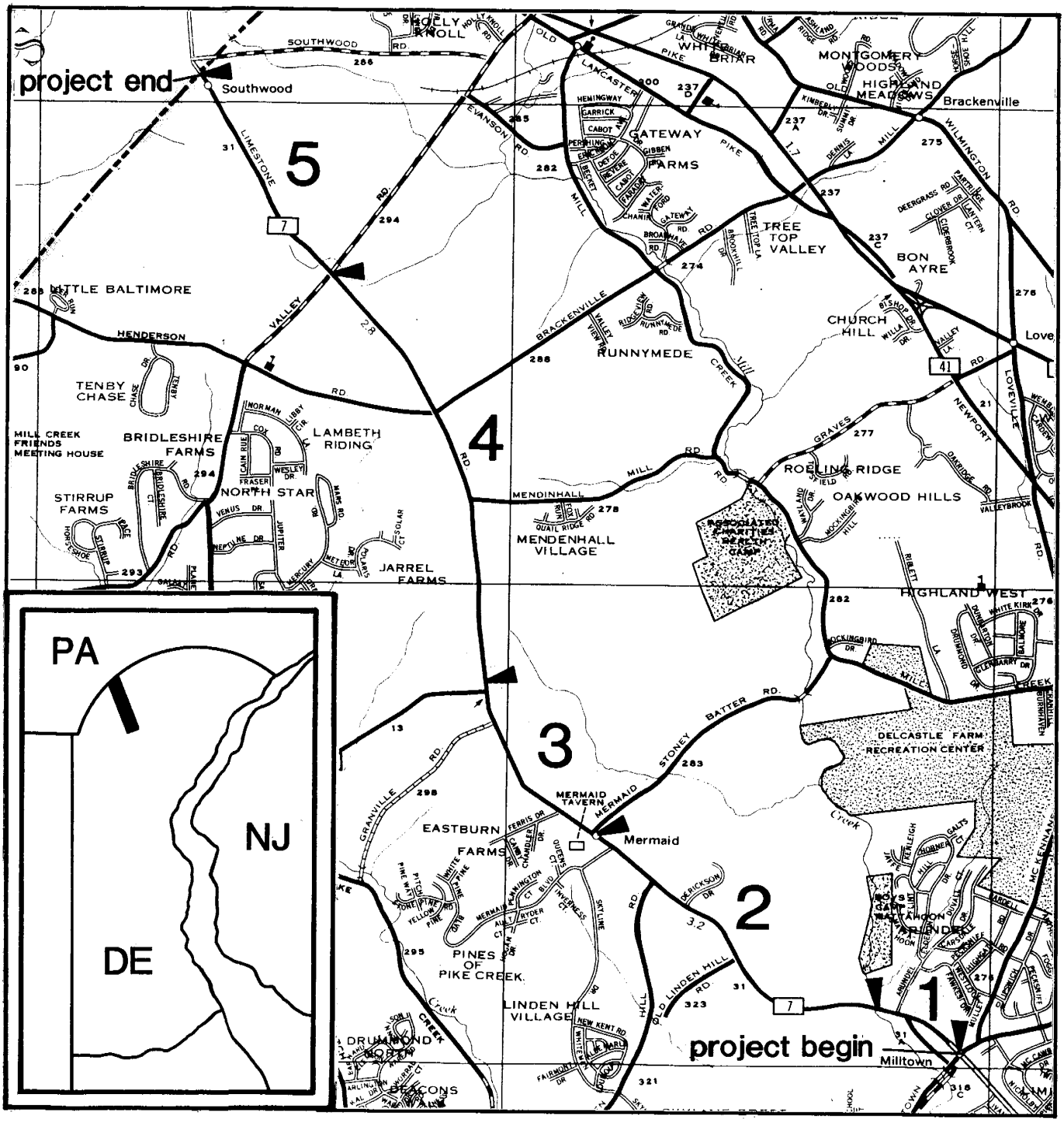
The purpose of this management summary is to present the results of Phase I field reconnaissance survey and Phase II determination-of-eligibility testing of the proposed Route 7 North corridor from Milltown Road to the Pennsylvania State Line (Figure 1). Approximately 5.3 miles of right-of-way (ROW) are included in this discussion. The fieldwork was undertaken by the University of Delaware Center for Archaeological Research between October 1984 and June 1985.

## RESEARCH METHODS

Phase I research consisted of two steps: 1) background and archival research, and 2) field survey. Background and archival research consisted of consultation with the staff of the Delaware Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (BAHP), review of all inventories of prehistoric and historic cultural resources maintained by the BAHP, review of historic atlases and maps, interviews with local landowners and experts in local history, review of archive materials such as deeds, tax assessments, probate records, road books and petitions, and other court records, and the prehistoric archaeological literature on applicable predictive models (Custer 1983, 1984; Custer and Wallace 1982). Figure 2 and Table 1 show the cultural resources and sensitivity zones identified by the background research.

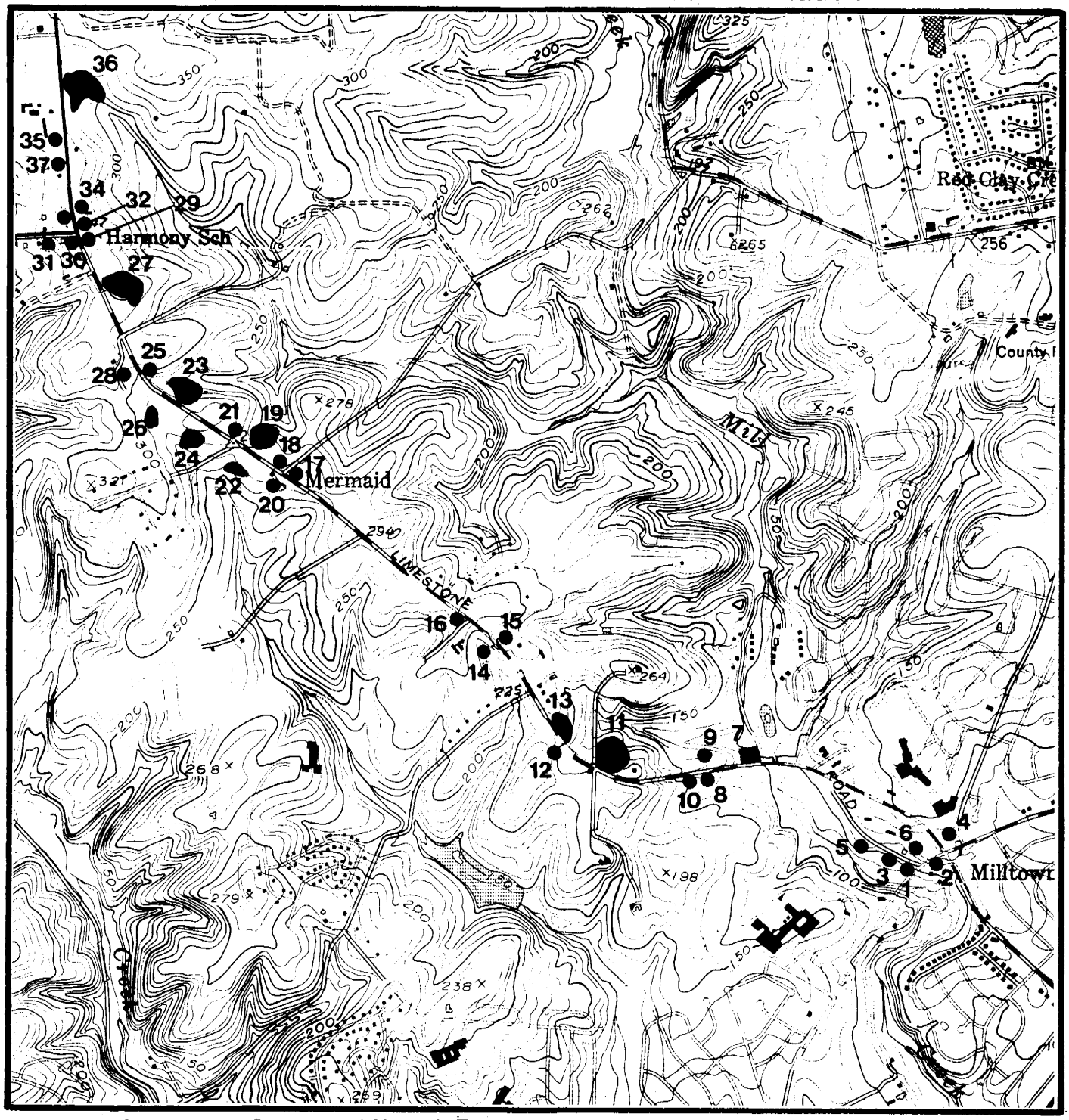
Field survey methods of the Phase I field reconnaissance survey included pedestrian survey of the entire ROW. Augering was carried out to identify areas of undisturbed soils. Surface collections were carried out where surface exposure allowed. In

# FIGURE 1
# Study Area Location



# FIGURE 2A
# Cultural Resources Identified by Background Research

see TABLE 1 for Cultural Resource Information




from U.S.G.S. Kennett Square and Newark East quadrangles

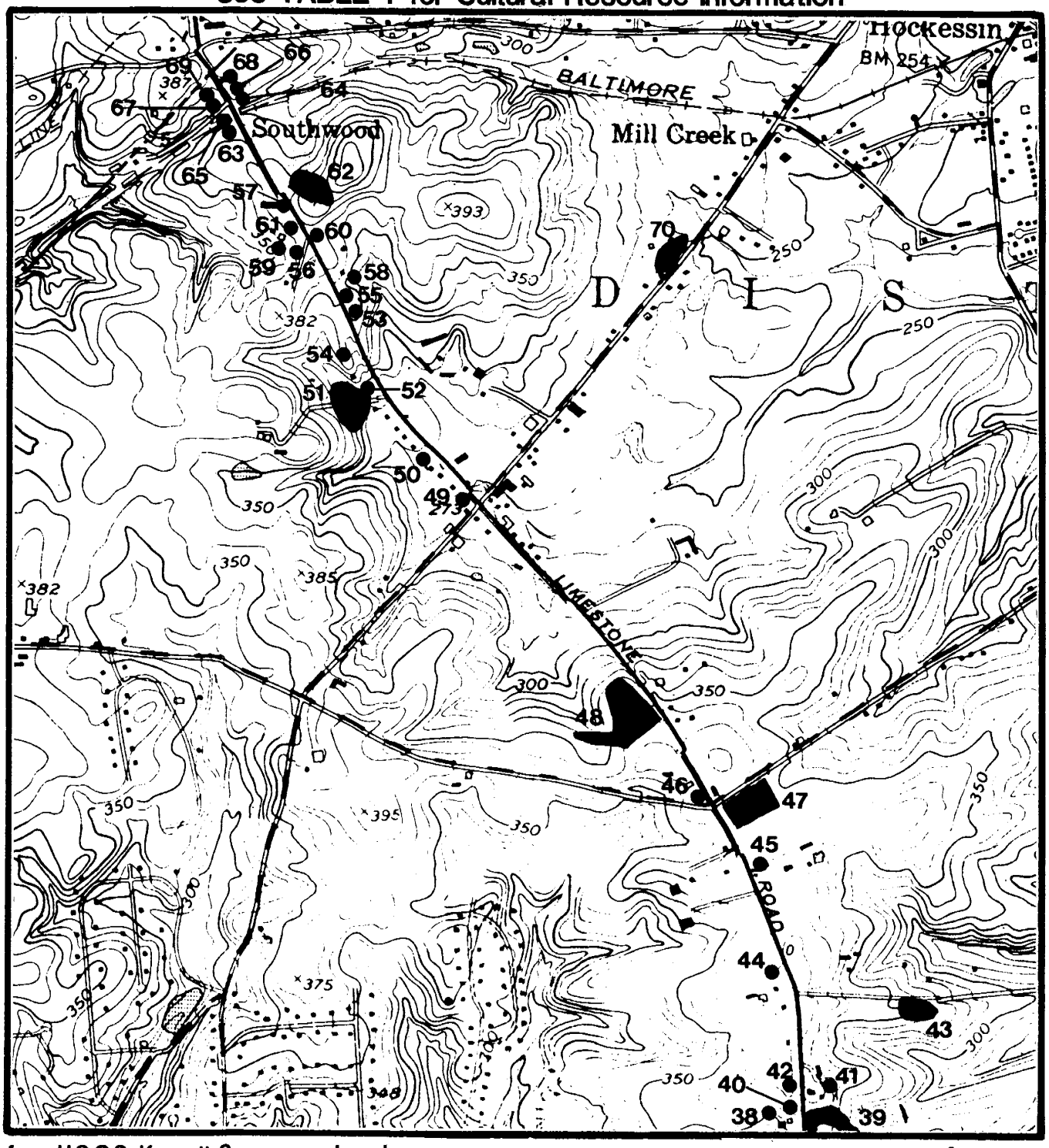
0 .5 1 KM

0 .5 1 MILE

N

# FIGURE 2B
# Cultural Resources Identified by Background Research

see TABLE 1 for Cultural Resource Information




from U.S.G.S. Kennett Square quadrangle

0 .5 1 KM

0 .5 1 MILE

N

# TABLE 1A
# Route 7 North Corridor, Current Status of Cultural Resources

| S/A | CULTURAL RESOURCE NAME | ID | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | G. Mill | 1 | x | x | | | x | | x | | | x | | x | |
| A | S. Mill | 2 | x | x | | | x | | x | | | x | | x | |
| A | A. Chandler | 3 | x | x | | | x | | x | | | x | | x | |
| A | J. Rubencame | 4 | x | | | | x | | x | | | x | | x | |
| S | L. Jones, Geo. Gebhard | 5 | x | x | | | x | | x | | | x | | x | |
| A | J. Ball | 6 | x | x | | | x | | x | | | x | | x | |
| A | Armor Site 7NC-D-101, N-10272 | 7 | | | | | | | | x | | | x | | x |
| A | Armor Barn Site 7NC-D-104B N-1250.2 | 8 | x | x | | | | | x | | | | x | | x |
| S | Armor House Site 7NC-D-104A N-1250.1 | 9 | x | x | | x | | | x | | | | x | x | x |
| A | Armor Property N-1250.3 | 10 | | | | | | | | | | | x | | |
| A | | 11 | | | | | | | | | x | | | x | |
| S | Derrickson-Ball House N-252 | 12 | x | x | | | x | | x | | | | x | x | x |
| A | Klair Site 7NC-D-114 N-10279 | 13 | | | | | | | | x | | | x | | x |
| A | No Name | 14 | x | x | | | | | | | | | x | | |
| A | Jos. W. Derrickson | 15 | x | x | | | x | | x | | | | x | | |
| A | A. Derrickson | 16 | x | x | | | x | | x | | | | x | | |
| S | Mermaid Tavern Wheelwright Shop Site 7NC-D-106C, N-242.3 | 17 | | x | | | x | x | x | | | | x | | x |
| A | Mermaid Tavern Blacksmith Shop/Stable Site 7NC-D-106B, N-242.2 | 18 | x | x | | | x | | x | | | | x | | x |
| A | | 19 | | | | | | | | | x | | x | | |
| S | Mermaid Tavern 7NC-D-106A, N-242.1 | 20 | x | x | x | | | | x | | | | x | | x |
| A | Bernard Glatz House Site 7NC-D-102, N-10273 | 21 | x | x | | | | | | | | | x | | x |
| A | | 22 | | | | | | | | | x | x | | x | |
| A | | 23 | | | | | | | | | x | | x | | |
| A | Site 7NC-D-76, N-5287 | 24 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| A | Wm. Torbert Tenant House Site N-10289 7NC-D-109 | 25 | x | | | | | | x | | | | x | | x |
| A | Site 7NC-D-74, N-5290 | 26 | | | | | | | | x | | | | x | x |
| A | | 27 | | | | | | | | | x | | x | | |
| A | Chambers House Site 7NC-A-15, N-10278 | 28 | x | x | | | x | x | x | | | | x | | x |
| S | Harmony School Dist. No 32 7NC-A-16, N-202 | 29 | x | x | | | x | x | x | | | | x | | x |
| A | Cavender House Site 7NC-A-14, N-10277 | 30 | x | x | | | x | | x | | | | x | | x |
| A | 7NC-A-21, N-10281 | 31 | | | | | | | | | x | | | x | |
| A | No Name | 32 | | x | | | | x | x | | | | x | | |
| A | J. Chambers | 33 | x | x | | | x | x | x | | | | x | | |
| A | No Name | 34 | | x | | | | x | x | | | | x | | |
| S | Chambers-Naudain House N-1107 | 35 | x | x | | x | | | x | | | | x | | x |

S - standing structure
A - archaeology only
ID - map identification number
A - appears on Beer's Atlas (1868)
B - appears on Baist's Atlas (1893)
C - National Register
D - National Register eligible
E - potentially National Register eligible

F - not eligible as a structure
G - historic archaeological site
H - prehistoric site
I - prehistoric sensitive area
J - not field checked
K - field checked by survey
L - out of project R.O.W.
M - BAHP file information with CRS number
- denotes known prehistoric sites or potential sites

**see figure 1 for locations**

# TABLE 1B
# Route 7 North Corridor, Current Status of Cultural Resources

| S/A | CULTURAL RESOURCE NAME | ID | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | | 36 | | | | | | | | | x | | x | | |
| S | F. G. Dennison House N-1090 | 37 | x | x | | x | | | x | | | | x | x | x |
| A | T. C., George Klair | 38 | x | x | | | x | | x | | | x | | x | |
| A | | 39 | | | | | | | | | x | | x | | |
| A | Wheelwright and Blacksmith Shop | 40 | x | x | | | x | | x | | | | x | | |
| S | M. B. Ocheltree House N-1095 | 41 | x | x | | x | | x | | | | x | | x | x |
| A | W. Pierson, T. Cavender | 42 | x | x | | | x | x | x | | | | x | | |
| A | Site 7NC-A-13 | 43 | | | | | | | | x | | | | x | |
| A | G. Klair | 44 | x | x | | | x | | x | | | x | | | |
| S | S. Dennison | 45 | | | | | x | | | | | x | | x | |
| S | Mrs. Gutherie's House | 46 | x | x | | | x | | x | | | | x | | |
| A | | 47 | | | | | | | | | x | | x | | |
| A | Hockessin Valley Site 7NC-A-17, N-10280 | 48 | | | | | x | | | x | | | x | | x |
| S/A | Gutherie-Giacomelli House/Tweed's Tavern Site 7NC-A-18, N-1101 | 49 | x | x | | | x | x | x | | | | x | | x |
| A | G. K., H. Lynch | 50 | x | | | | x | | x | | | x | | x | |
| A | | 51 | | | | | | | | | x | | x | | |
| A | G. S. (barn or shops) | 52 | x | | | | | x | x | | | | x | | |
| S | J. G. Grant House N-1099 | 53 | x | x | | | x | | x | | | x | | x | x |
| A | H. C. Dennison | 54 | x | | | | x | | x | | | x | | x | |
| S | J. Springer House N-1109 | 55 | x | x | | | x | | x | | | x | | x | |
| S | B. Yeatman House | 56 | x | | | | x | x | x | | | x | | | |
| A | Beeson Yeatman House Site 7NC-A-20 N-10283 | 57 | x | x | | | x | x | x | | | | x | | x |
| A | H. Graham Kaolin Works | 58 | | x | | | x | | x | | | | x | | |
| S | W. H. Ford | 59 | | x | | | x | | x | | | | x | | |
| S | J. Moynihan | 60 | | x | | | x | | x | | | x | | x | |
| A | No Name | 61 | | x | | | | | x | | | | x | | |
| A | | 62 | | | | | | | | | x | | x | | |
| A | No Name | 63 | | x | | | | | x | | | | x | | |
| S | Yeatman House N-1110 | 64 | x | x | | | x | | x | | | x | | | x |
| A | No Name | 65 | | x | | | | | x | | | | x | | |
| A | Blacksmith Shop | 66 | x | x | | | | | x | | | x | | x | |
| A | No Name | 67 | | x | | | | | x | | | | x | | |
| A | Shoe Shop | 68 | x | x | | | x | | x | | | x | | x | |
| A | E. Brown | 69 | x | x | | | x | | x | | | x | | x | |
| A | Brackinville Road Collection | 70 | | | | | | x | | | x | x | | | x |

S - standing structure
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F - not eligible as a structure
G - historic archaeological site
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I - prehistoric sensitive area
J - not field checked
K - field checked by survey
L - out of project R.O.W.
M - BAHP file information with CRS number
- denotes known prehistoric sites or potential sites

**see figure 1 for locations**

areas where surface visibility was low, and where there was a potential for undisturbed buried landscapes, 1m test units and shovel test pits were excavated. All excavated soils were screened through 1/4" mesh.

Phase II testing was carried out to determine the National Register eligibility of any sites discovered during the Phase I survey. Phase II testing consisted of the systematic excavation of 1m test units to determine the contextual integrity and limits of sites.

## RESULTS

Table 1 lists the current status of all of the cultural resources discovered during the background research and listed in Figure 2. Archaeological investigation was conducted only on those sites that fell within the ROW of Route 7. Thus, several sites not within the ROW that were identified during the background research were not tested. These sites are noted in Table 1.

To facilitate the discussion of the project's results, the project area was divided into five segments: 1) from Milltown to the south side of Mill Creek; 2) from the north side of Mill Creek to the Mermaid Tavern intersection; 3) from the Mermaid Tavern intersection to the Route 72 (Curtis Mill Road) intersection; 4) from the Route 72 intersection to Valley Road; and 5) from Valley Road to the Pennsylvania Line (Figure 1). A summary of the work conducted in each segment is presented below, and includes a discussion of the sites located and identified, the disturbed areas of the ROW within the segment, and the areas

in the segment where no sites were found. In all of the segments, areas of the ROW with greater than 10% slopes were not tested because studies of prehistoric site locations in northern Delaware (Custer and Wallace 1982; Custer and DeSantis 1986) have shown that these areas are unlikely to contain prehistoric sites.

**Segment 1: Milltown to south side of Mill Creek**

This segment of the ROW was found to be extensively disturbed by commercial and residential development, and previous DelDOT construction activity. Much of the area was poorly drained. None of the cultural resources identified in the background research and listed in Figure 2 were in the ROW in this segment. No additional sites were located.

**Segment 2: North side of Mill Creek to Mermaid Tavern**

The majority of ROW within this segment was found to be heavily disturbed by residential and commercial development, and by previous DelDOT construction activities on both sides of the road. In 1964, Limestone Road was shifted and straightened by DelDOT in the section between Carousel Farms and Goldey-Beacom College. This work has resulted in extensive subsurface disturbance within the ROW on both sides of the road.

Testing was conducted on both sides of Route 7 in this segment, except directly in front of the Derrickson-Ball House (N-252), an area of extremely steep slope and narrow ROW. Four sites were identified in the Phase I survey. Two are prehistoric - the Armor site (N10272) and the Klair site (N10279). The other two are historic - the Armor House site (N1250.1) and the Armor Barn site (N1250.2) - and are associated with the Merritt Armor House (N-1250). No other sites were identified in this segment of

the ROW.

**Segment 3: Mermaid Tavern Intersection to Route 72**

Much of the ROW in this segment was found to be relatively undisturbed, consisting of fallow and plowed fields, and scrub brush. Residential and commercial development, and previous DelDOT construction activity, particularly in the vicinty of the Route 72 intersection and the area known locally as Chambers Hill, had caused disturbance to subsurface resources in this segment.

Phase I survey in this segment identified eight historic archaeological sites. Three of these are located at the Mermaid Tavern intersection - Mermaid Tavern (N242.1), the Mermaid Tavern Wheelwright Shop site (N242.3), located on the southeast corner of the intersection, and the Mermaid Tavern Blacksmith Shop/Stable site (N242.2), located on the northeast corner of the intersection, opposite the Tavern. Another site, tentatively identified as the Bernard Glatz House site (N10273), was located on the east side of Limestone Road approximately 850 feet from the Mermaid Tavern intersection. Since the time of the fieldwork, however, this site has been destroyed by residential development.

At the Route 72 intersection, three historic sites were identified: the Thomas Cavender House site (N10277), on the southwest corner of the intersection; the J. Chambers House site (N10278), located on the northwest corner of the intersection, and the Harmony Schoolhouse, District Number 32 (N202), located to the east of the intersection. Approximately 1200 feet north

of the Mermaid Tavern intersection, on the east side of the road, was located the William Torbert Tenant House site (N10289). This site was found to be disturbed by plowing and/or the DelDOT grading and filling of Chambers Hill in 1964.

Cultural resources identified during the background research and listed in Figure 2 were searched for during the Phase I survey, but no other sites were identified in this segment of the ROW.

**Segment 4: Route 72 to Valley Road**

Residential and commercial development and previous DelDOT construction activity in this segment had disturbed the majority of potential archaeological sites identified by background research. On the west side of the road, 1964 DelDOT activity had shifted the roadbed eastward, thus the present proposed ROW on the west side was found to be located in a disturbed context. This shifting had also occurred on the east side of the road, from the vicinity of Mendenhall Village to Valley Road. Only one prehistoric site was identified during the Phase I survey. This is the Hockessin Valley site (N10280), located on the west side of the road, approximately 1300 feet south of Valley Road, and extending about 600 feet south towards Little Baltimore Road. At the location of the G. Klair House (see Figure 2, Number "44"), there is the potential for archaeological resources, but access problems were encountered which prevented excavation.

All other cultural resources identified by the background research were found to be extensively disturbed. No other archaeological sites were identified.

**Segment 5: Valley Road to the Pennsylvania Line**

Residential development, 1964 DelDOT construction, and commercial activities have substantially disturbed the archaeological resources in this segment. On the west side of the road, residential construction and the pre-1964 roadbed are present for approximately 1500 feet, and on the east side of the road, commercial and industrial uses have heavily disturbed the ground surface. At the southwest corner of the Valley road intersection, the Tweed's Tavern archaeological site was identified (N1101). Further north on Limestone Road,on the west side of the road, opposite the J. Springer House (N1109), the site of the Springer Barn (N1109) was located. Finally, approximately 750 feet north of the Barn site, also on the west side of the road, the Beeson Yeatman Tenant House site (N10283) was identified.

Other cultural resources identified through the background research were not located, or, as in the case of the J. Springer House and the A. Yeatman House (N1110), were found to be out of the ROW and therefore not subject to direct impact. The house identified in Figure 2 (Number "69") as the E. Brown house was found to be actually located in Chester County, Pennsylvania, just across the state line. No other archaeological sites were located in this segment.

Table 2 presents a list of all of the sites located within the project area that received site numbers from the BAHP and the compliance status of each site is also noted.

The following is a more detailed summary of the work conducted at each of the above named sites. This summary

TABLE 2

SUMMARY OF SITES LOCATED IN THE ROUTE 7 NORTH PROJECT AREA DURING PHASE I TESTING

| Site Name | Site Number | CRS Number | Locus Number | Status |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Armor Site | 7NC-D-101 | N-10272 | 4 | Phase II Tested |
| Armor House Site | 7NC-D-104A | N-1250.1 | 4 | Phase II Tested |
| Armor Barn Site | 7NC-D-104B | N-1250.2 | 4A | No further work required |
| Klair Site | 7NC-D-114 | N-10279 | 6 | Phase II Tested |
| Mermaid Tavern Wheelwright Shop Site | 7NC-D-106C | N-242.3 | 10 | Complete Phase II Testing |
| Mermaid Tavern Site | 7NC-D-106A | N-242.1 | 9 | Complete Phase II Testing |
| Mermaid Tavern Blacksmith Shop/Stable Site | 7NC-D-106B | N-242.2 | 11 | Phase II Tested |
| William Torbert Tenant House Site | 7NC-D-109 | N-10289 | 13 | Phase II Tested |
| Bernard Glatz House Site | 7NC-D-102 | N-10273 | 12 | No further work required |
| Thomas Cavender House Site | 7NC-A-14 | N-10277 | 14 | No further work required |
| J. Chambers House Site | 7NC-A-15 | N-10278 | 16 | Phase II Tested |
| Harmony Schoolhouse, Dist. No. 32 Site | 7NC-A-16 | N-202 | 14 | No further work required |
| Hockessin Valley Site | 7NC-A-17 | N-10280 | 26 | Phase II Tested |
| Tweed's Tavern Site (aka Gutherie-Giacomelli) | 7NC-A-18 | N-1101 | 19 | Complete Phase II Testing |
| J. Springer Barn Site | 7NC-A-19 | N-1109 | 22 | No further work required |
| Beeson Yeatman House Site | 7NC-A-20 | N-10283 | 32 | Phase II Tested |

includes the site name and CRS number, the map identification number to aid in location, a brief statement concerning the location of the site, a description of the Phase I and Phase II survey methods, a discussion of the results of the fieldwork, a statement concerning the National Register eligibility of the site, the expected impact of the road project on the site, and any alernative mitigation recommendations that may apply to the site.

**SITE NAME:** Armor Site

**SITE NUMBER:** 7NC-D-101

**CRS NUMBER:** N-10272

**LOCATION DESCRIPTION:** The Armor Site is located on the eastern border of the ROW on the northern bank of Mill Creek (Figure 2 [Number "7"] and 3) in a small floodplain at the base of a knoll. A small intermittent stream cuts across the floodplain in the site vicinity.

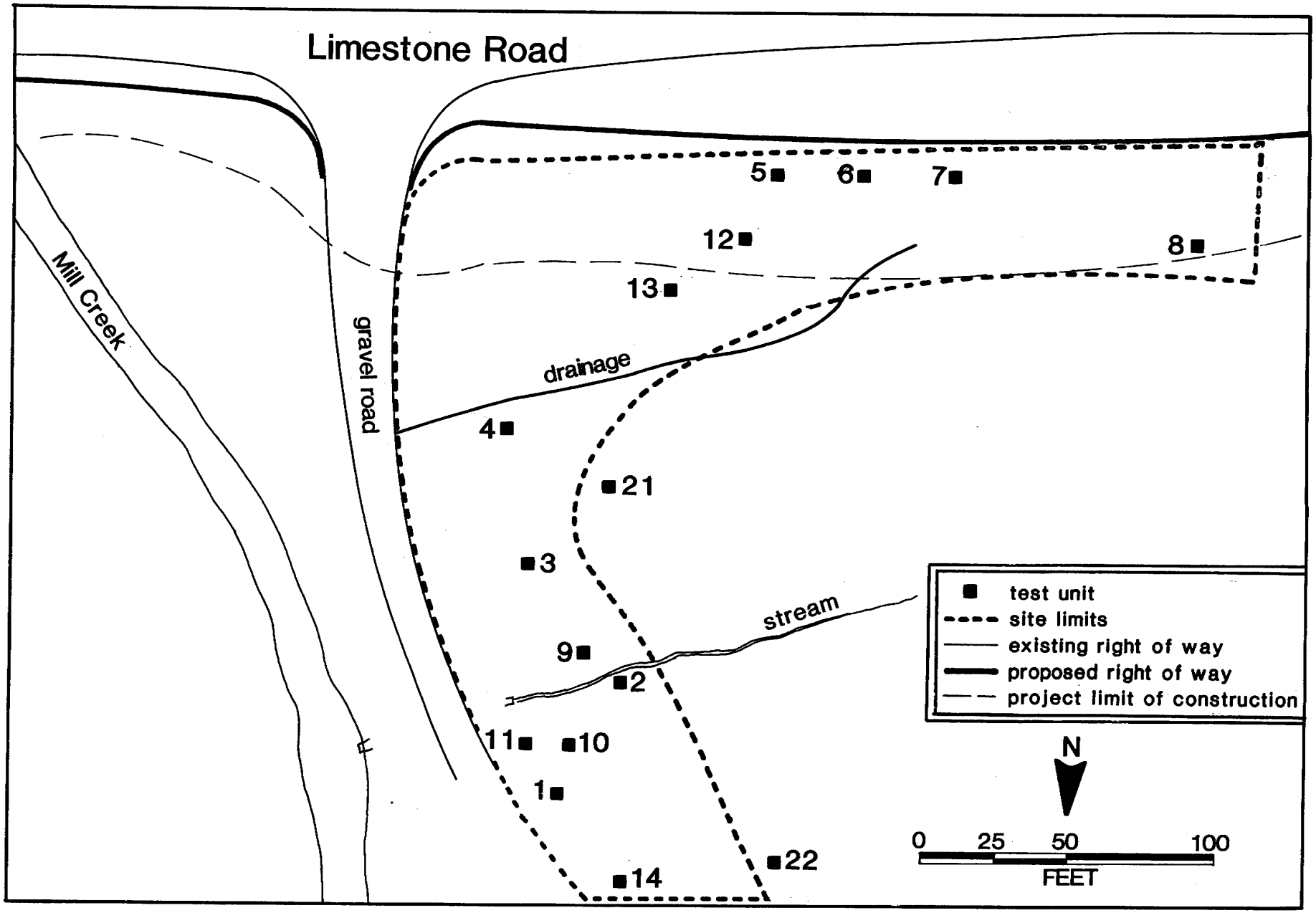
**PHASE I SURVEY METHODS:** The site was discovered in the course of excavations of 1m test units in the Mill Creek floodplain. Artifacts were recovered from intact soils 30 - 40cm deep and included chert and jasper debitage.

**PHASE II TESTING METHODS:** An additional twelve 1m test units were excavated to determine the site limits and these limits are noted in Figure 3. More debitage, a biface, and a stemmed point were recovered from good stratigraphic context in the additional testing.

**DISCUSSION OF RESULTS:** Geomorphological and pedological analysis of the soils at the site indicate that artifacts are present in

FIGURE 3

# Armor Site, N-10272, 7NC-D-101



good and unplowed stratigraphic context and were buried by low energy alluvial deposits. The only projectile point recorded is a non-diagnostic stemmed variety which could date from any time between 5000 B.C. and A.D. 1000. Pedological analysis also suggests that the site is less than 5000 years old. The relatively small size of the site and the limited range of tool types suggests an ephemerally utilized base camp or hunting/staging site. The presence of more than scattered debitage suggests that the site is more than a procurement site.

**NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY:** The Armor Site is eligible for listing on the National Register because it represents a well-preserved example of a rare site type for the Piedmont Uplands. Although many procurement sites have been recorded in upland slope settings in the Piedmont Uplands of northern Delaware, floodplain sites are rare. Usually natural erosion or modern development destroy sites in the floodplains; however, the Armor Site has escaped these impacts. Furthermore, most of the known sites for the Piedmont Uplands are either large base camps along major drainages, or small lithic scatters in the uplands. The Armor Site is unique in that it represents an intermediate size site.

**IMPACT:** The project is within and adjacent to the direct impact zone of the project. Also, given its unplowed setting, the site is extremely susceptible to indirect effects of the project.

**RECOMMENDED MITIGATION ALTERNATIVE:** It is recommended that the Armor site be avoided by DelDOT activity and preserved-in-place, if possible. If ROW requirements make this recommendation infeasible, then it is suggested that the portion of the site

which will be impacted be minimized. Portions of the site which cannot be avoided are recommended, as a final alternative, to require mitigation and data recovery.

**SITE NAME:** Armor House Site

**SITE NUMBER:** 7NC-D-104A

**CRS NUMBER:** N-1250.1

**LOCATION DESCRIPTION:** The Armor House site is located directly in front of the Merrit Armor House (N-1250.1), in the 25' strip between the existing roadway and the eastern edge of the proposed ROW (Figure 2 [Number "9"] and 4).

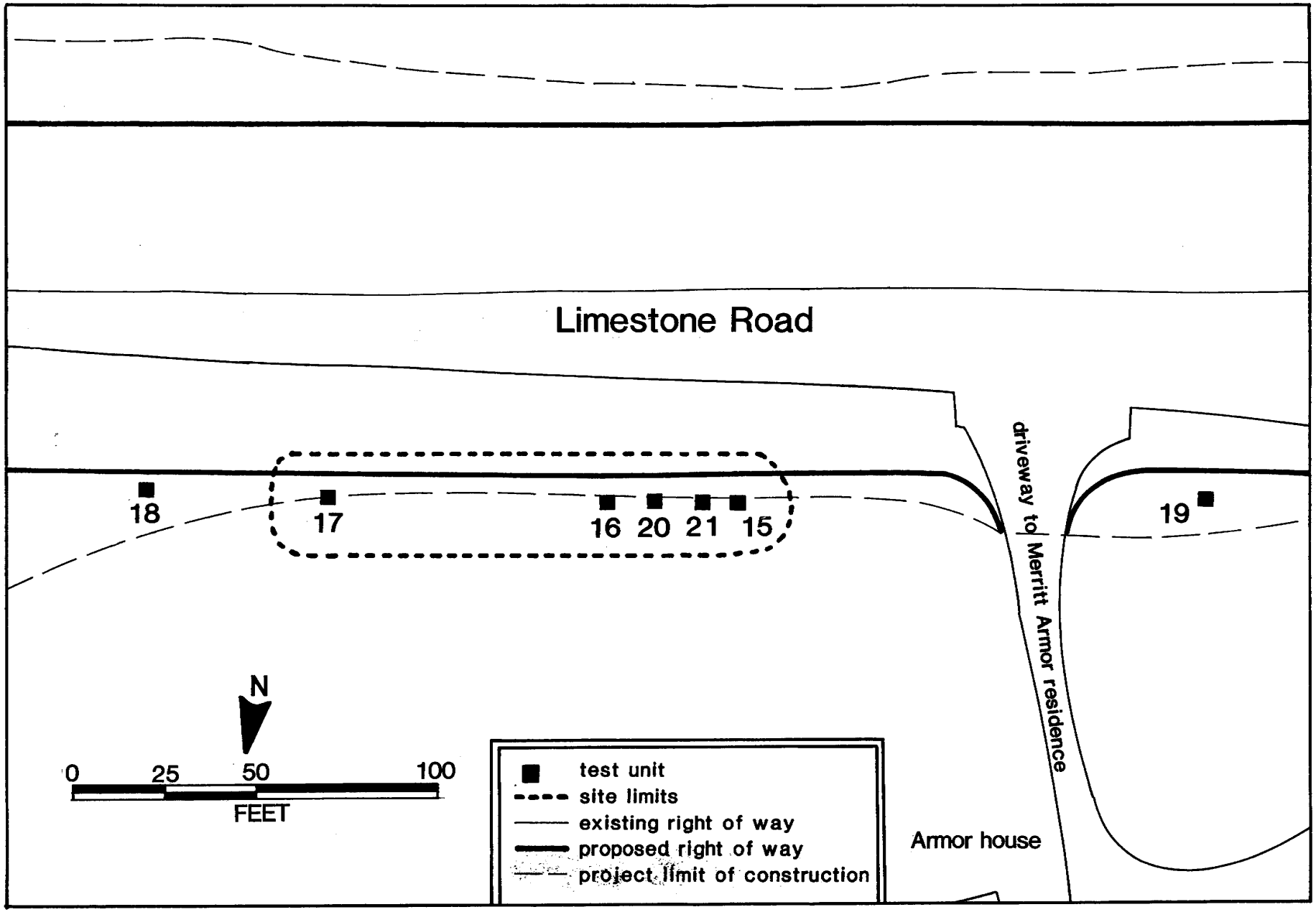
**PHASE I SURVEY METHODS:** The site was discovered in the ROW by the excavation of two 1m test units. Artifacts were recovered from an undisturbed context between 5 and 40cm below ground surface, and included cut nails, a possible "rose-headed" nail, redware fragments, white salt-glazed stoneware fragments, a possible fragment of tin-glazed earthenware, brick fragments, and green glass fragments.

**PHASE II SURVEY METHODS:** Four additional 1m test units were excavated in the vicinity of the Phase I testing in an attempt to locate any features and to define the site limits. More artifacts were recovered, similar to those found in the Phase I excavations, but no features were encountered.

**DISCUSSION OF RESULTS:** The nature of the archaeological remains at this site seem to suggest that it is representative of yard scatter refuse associated with the eighteenth century occupation of the Merritt Armor property. The artifacts recovered are undoubtably related to the occupation of the plantation, which

FIGURE 4

# Armor House Site, N-1250.1, 7NC-D-104A



was established by the first quarter of the eighteenth century. The distance of about 100 feet from the artifact scatter to the house itself, however, would suggest that the artifacts are not directly associated with the house, but perhaps with a more ephemeral structure located between the house and the road. The property owner dissuaded the archaeologists from further testing beyond the proposed ROW to investigate this possiblity. Although the Phase II testing failed to locate any such structure, the location of the barn associated with this complex across a major public road from the house could indicate that the farm buildings at this site were situated between the house and the road. The soils in this site are intact and no subsurface disturbances were discovered, indicating that the site was never plowed. The low density of artifacts recovered and the lack of any features suggests that a structure or outbuilding was not located on the site itself. Further excavations were not conducted because no features were encountered and because of a reluctance on the part of the owner to allow additional investigations on his property outside the bounds of the proposed ROW.

**NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY:** A nomination for the Armor House was submitted in 1978, but the house was evidently rejected. The association of the house with the Reverend William McKennan, a prominent Mill Creek Hundred Presbyterian minister, would seem to make the house and grounds, including the site,eligible to the National Register under criterion A. Based on the amount of archaeological and documentary information available at this time, it is not possible to determine whether this site is eligible for inclusion in the National Register.

**IMPACT:** Originally, design plans placed the site within the direct impact zone of the project. However, new design plans have moved the ROW to the west of the site, thus avoiding it.

**RECOMMENDED MITIGATION ALTERNATIVES:** None, as the site will be avoided.

**SITE NAME:** Armor Barn Site

**SITE NUMBER:** 7NC-D-104B

**CRS NUMBER:** N-1250.2

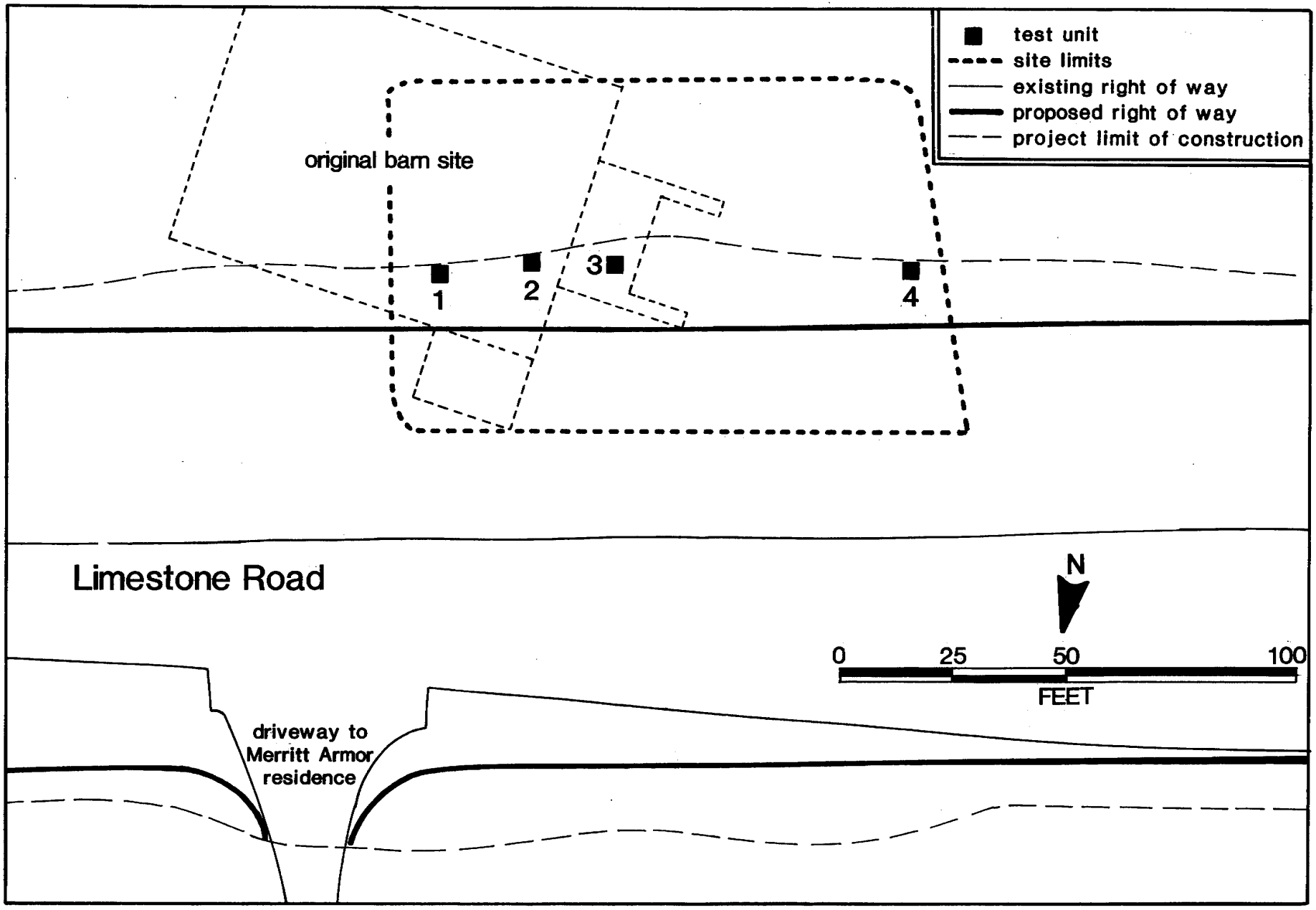
**LOCATION DESCRIPTION:** The Armor Barn Site is located in the backyard of two single family homes situated on the west side of the ROW, directly across from the Armor House and site (N-1250.1) (Figure 2 [Number "8"] and 5). The site lies partially in the ROW, and partially to the west of it.

**PHASE I SURVEY METHODS:** This 19th century stone Pennsylvania bank-barn was known to have been standing until 1978, when it was destroyed by residential development. During the Phase I survey, the location of the barn was visible on the ground surface, marked by the uneven nature of the backyard "landscaping", and by the protrusion of large foundation stones from the ground. Four 1m test units were placed in the vicinity of the barn within the ROW. All encountered heavily disturbed soils, rubble, and demolition fill. Artifacts dating from the 19th and 20th centuries, with no stratigraphic context, were recovered. No features were discovered.

**PHASE II SURVEY METHODS:** Owing to the extremely disturbed nature of the site, no further excavations were conducted.

FIGURE 5

# Armor Barn Site, N-1250.2, 7NC-D-104B



**DISCUSSION OF RESULTS:** The demolition of the barn in 1978 thoroughly disturbed this site. There is no context to the artifacts that were recovered, there has been extensive subsurface disturbance, and grading, filling, and landscaping have occurred.

**NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY:** The barn was nominated in 1978 to the National Register, along with the Merrit Armor House. As previously noted, the nomination was not accepted. At that time the barn was still standing, and represented a part of a 18th and 19th century farming complex. Due to the extensive disturbances caused by demolition, development, and landscaping, this site no longer has any archaeological or architectural context. It is not considered eligible under any criteria to the National Register.

**IMPACT:** This site is directly within the project ROW.

**RECOMMENDED MITIGATION ALTERNATIVES:** None.

**SITE NAME:** Klair Site

**SITE NUMBER:** 7NC-D-114

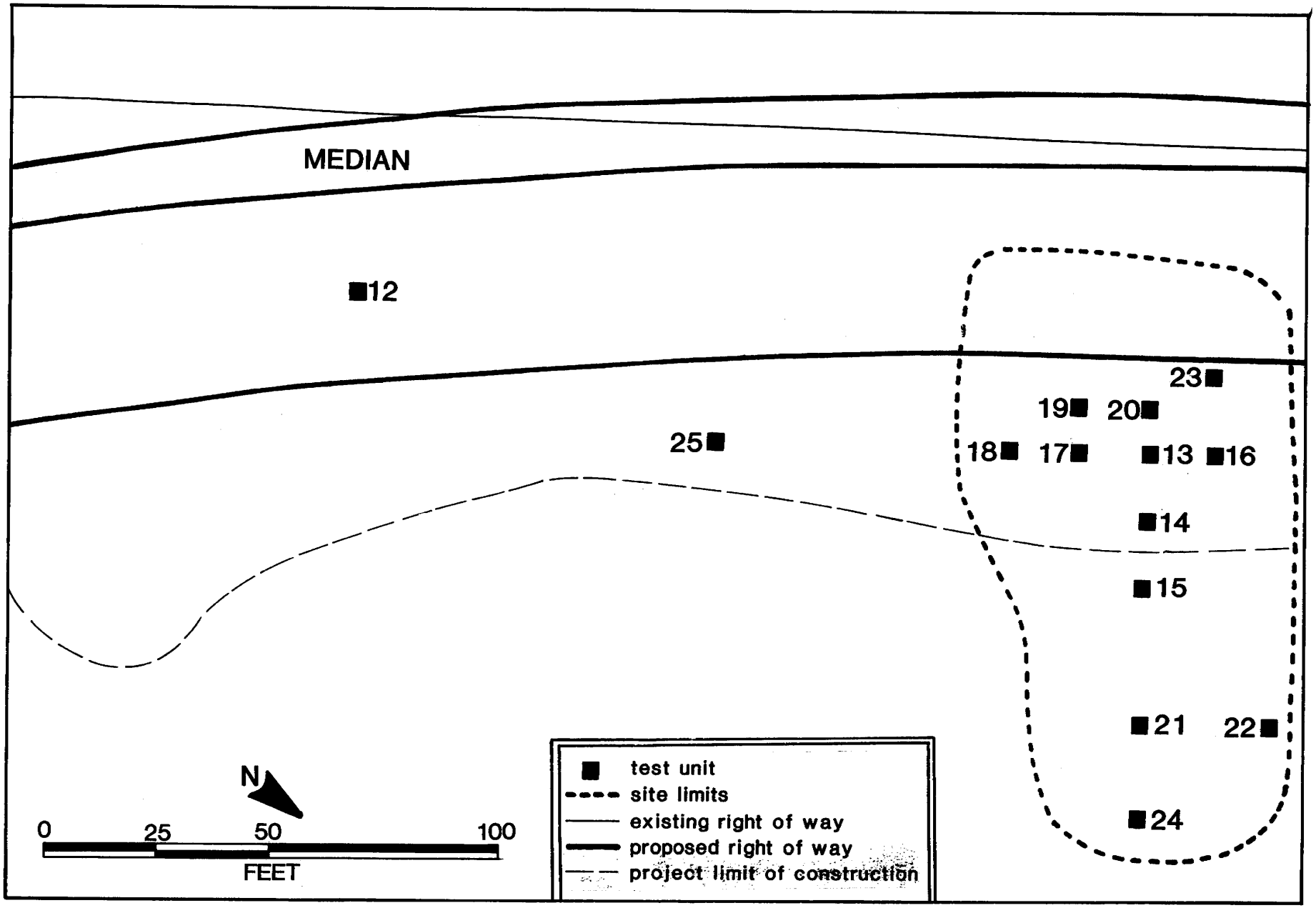
**CRS NUMBER:** N-10279

**LOCATION DESCRIPTION:** The Klair Site is located on a slope and knoll on the east side of the proposed ROW, approximately 400' south of Old Linden Hill Road (Figure 2 [Number "13"] and 6). To the east of the site and downslope is a small ephemeral stream.

**PHASE I SURVEY METHODS:** This site was discovered during the course of excavations of 1m test units within the wide ROW (200') at this location. Debitage was recovered from colluvial deposits at the base of the knoll about 60cm below surface.

FIGURE 6

# Klair Site, N-10279, 7NC-D-114



**PHASE II SURVEY METHODS:** An additional thirteen 1m test units were excavated at this site to define the limits of the site. Additional debitage and a possible flake tool were recovered, from both the colluvial soils at the base of the knoll and from the top of the knoll itself.

**DISCUSSION OF RESULTS:** The Klair Site assemblage of limited debitage and limited tool types indicates that the site is probably a procurement site. The site was plowed and the artifacts are not in good stratigraphic context.

**NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY:** Procurement sites on knolls and hillside slopes are common in the Piedmont Uplands (Custer and Wallace 1982; Custer 1983:105). Because this site is not unique, and because plowing has disturbed the site's stratigraphic context, it is not eligible for inclusion on the National Register under any criterion.

**IMPACT:** This site is located within the ROW.

**RECOMMENDED MITIGATION ALTERNATIVES:** None.

**SITE NAME:** Mermaid Tavern Wheelwright Shop Site

**SITE NUMBER:** 7NC-D-106C

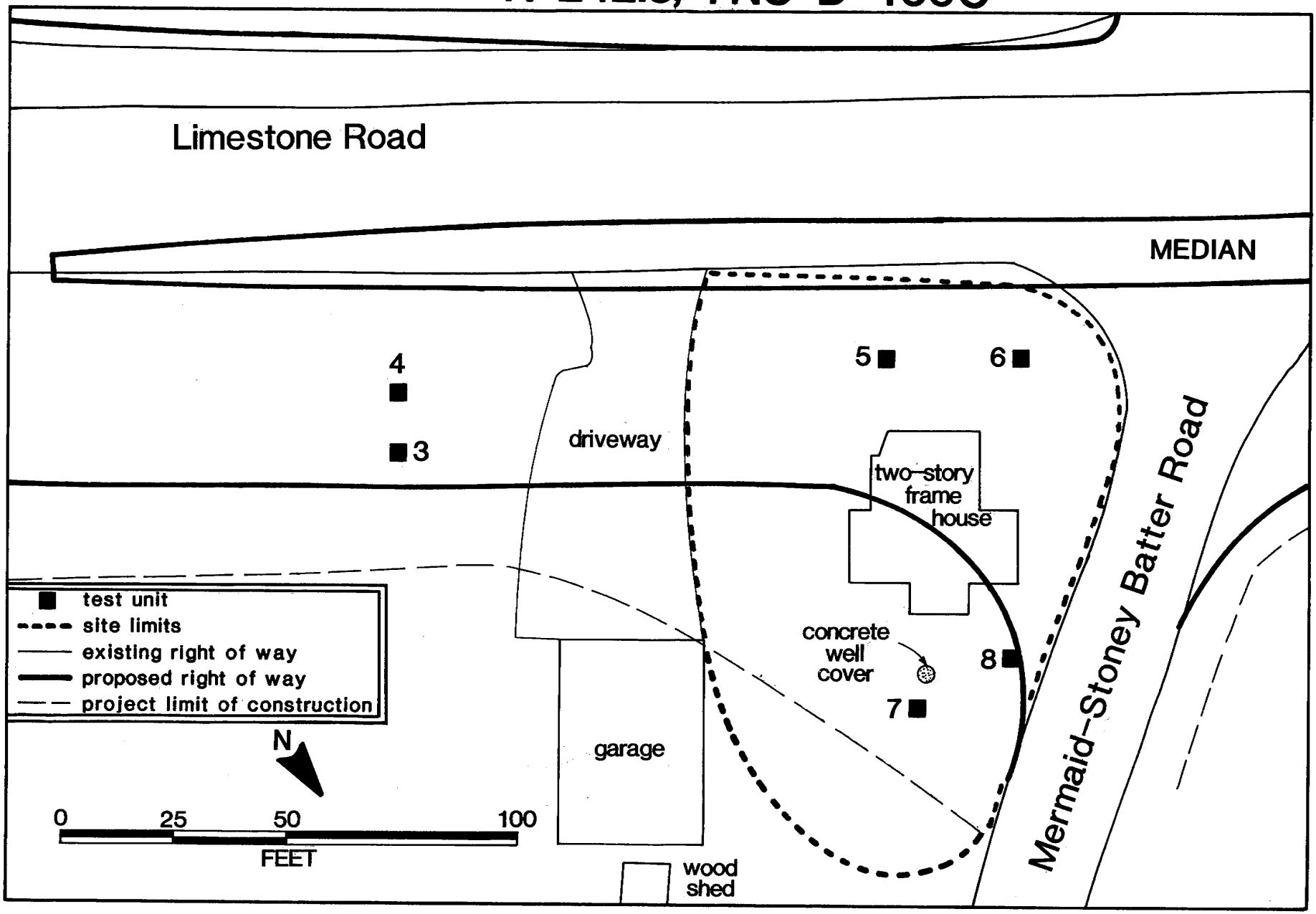
**CRS NUMBER:** N-242.3

**LOCATION DESCRIPTION:** This site is located on the southeast corner of Mermaid-Stoneybatter Road and Limestone Road, catecorner to the Mermaid Tavern (N-242.1) (Figure 2 [Number "17"] and 7).

**PHASE I SURVEY METHODS:** Background research indicated that the present house on this site was constructed in 1900 by the owner of the Mermaid Tavern. Prior to that time the site was the

FIGURE 7

# Mermaid Tavern Wheelwright Shop Site, N-242.3, 7NC-D-106C



location of a wheelwright shop associated with the Tavern complex. Testing consisted of six 1m test units placed around the house. These test units found a variety of 19th century artifacts -- whiteware fragments, gray salt-glazed stoneware fragments, nails, a partial horseshoe, bottle and window glass fragments, shells, and brick fragments-- between 0 and 30cm below ground surface. A trash feature, consisting of coal and ash intermixed with soil, was uncovered to the rear (north) of the house.

**PHASE II SURVEY METHODS:** None were conducted, due to the refusal of the land owner to allow any additional investigations.

**DISCUSSION OF RESULTS:** The artifacts recovered fron the Phase I testing were found to be in good stratigraphic context, and are probably associated with the 19th century wheelwright shop. The discovery of the trash feature, and the knowledge of the location of a possible privy (based on oral interviews), both within the ROW, make the further investigation of this site valuable. In addition, this site has always been associated with the Mermaid Tavern, a National Register property that was the focal point for local political, economic, and social functions for over 200 years.

**NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY:** This site is probably eligible, based on the limited amount of information obtained from the Phase I survey, under Criterion D. Due to the access problems created by the denial of further research by the owner, additional work at this site is recommended after the site has been acquired by DelDOT. Also, see Mermaid Tavern listing.

**IMPACT:** This site is located completely within the direct impact

zone of the project.

**RECOMMENDED MITIGATION ALTERNATIVES:** At this time no conclusive statements can be made about the eligibility of the site and thus no mitigation alternatives can be made. It is then recommended that Phase II testing be conducted at this site after acquisition of the property by DelDOT.

**SITE NAME:** Mermaid Tavern Blacksmith Shop/Stable Site

**SITE NUMBER:** 7NC-D-106B

**CRS NUMBER:** N-242.2

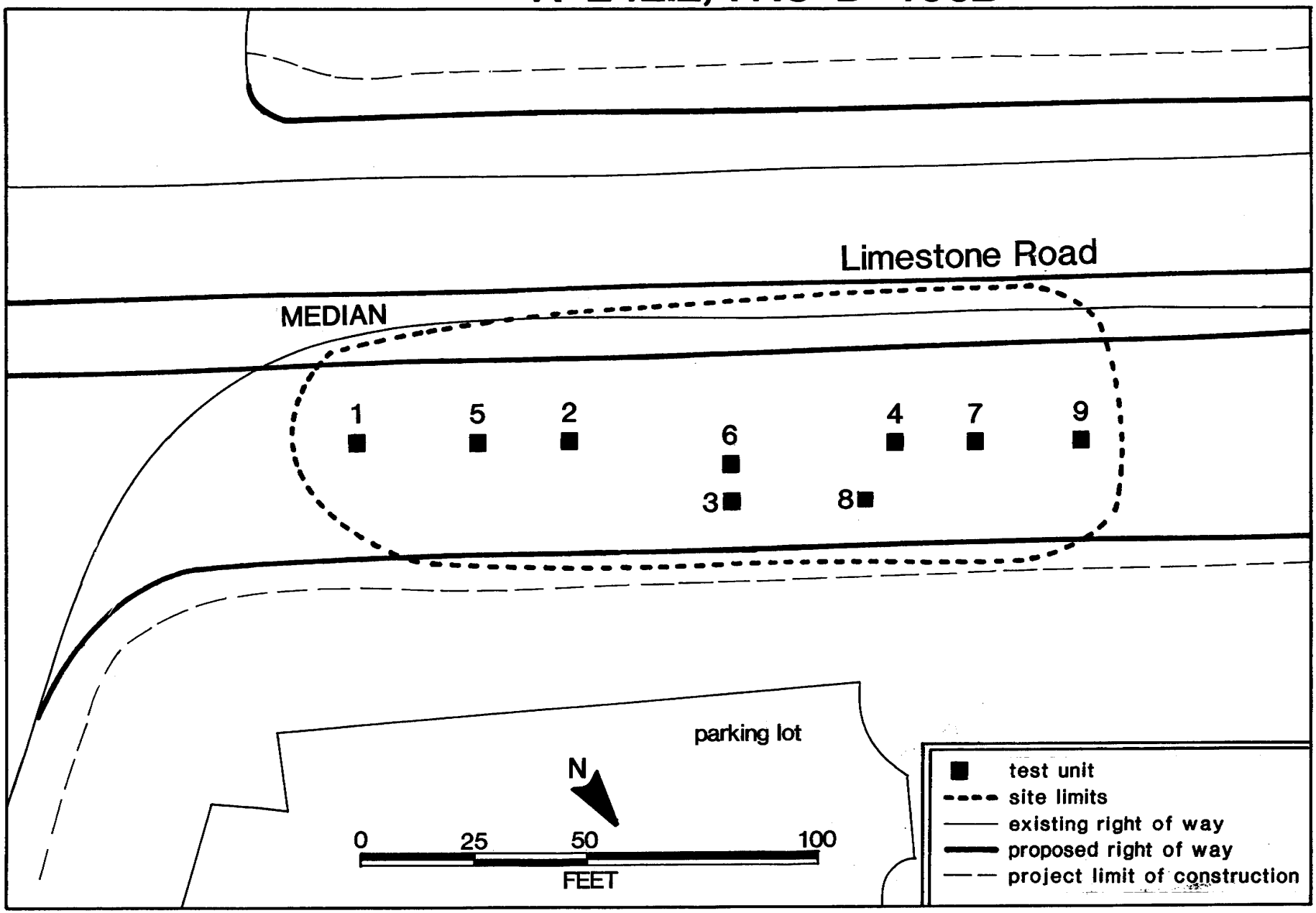
**LOCATION DESCRIPTION:** This site is located on the eastern edge of the ROW at the northeast corner of Mermaid-Stoney-batter Road and Route 7. It is directly opposite from the Mermaid Tavern, and north of the Mermaid Tavern Wheelwright Shop (Figure 2 [Number "18"] and 8).

**PHASE I SURVEY METHODS:** Background research revealed that a blacksmith shop and stable associated with the Mermaid Tavern were located here by the second decade of the 19th century. To identify and locate this structure, four auger probes and two 1m test units were excavated at the site. A very dark brown organic A horizon was found buried about 18cm below ground surface, and extending to a depth of approximately 25cm. Within this buried level were found decaying organic material (rotting vegetation and wood fragments) and artifacts, including redware, whiteware, and annular ware fragments, nails, window and bottle glass fragments, and shell fragments.

**PHASE II SURVEY METHODS:** An additional seven 1m test units were excavated at this site to determine the extent of the site and to

FIGURE 8

# Mermaid Tavern Blacksmith Shop/Stable Site, N-242.2, 7NC-D-106B



locate any features. The buried A horizon was located in all of these additional units, and the site limits were defined. No features were located. Artifacts were recovered from stratigraphic contexts similar to those encountered in the Phase I survey.

**DISCUSSION OF RESULTS:** This site is undoubtably the location of the blacksmith shop/stable that historic documentation reports stood at this intersection. The artifacts recovered date to the same time period as the shop and stable. The buried organic A horizon with decaying vegetation and wood fragments embedded in it may be either the stable floor, or a yard or penned area associated with it. This organic level was not disturbed by the construction of a professional center east of the site, and is intact within the ROW. According to oral interviews, the blacksmith shop was located to the north of the stable. No evidence of this structure was found by the Phase I and II survey; it may have been closer to Limestone Road and was destroyed by 20th century DelDOT construction.

**NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY:** This site is already listed in the National Register under Criterion A. The eligibility of this site under Criterion D of the National Register should be based on the entire Tavern complex, including this site, the tavern itself (7NC-D-106A), and the Wheelwright Shop (7NC-D-106C) which cannot be addressed at this time given the results of the present survey.

**IMPACT:** This site is located within the direct impact zone of this project.

**RECOMMENDED MITIGATION ALTERNATIVES:** At this time no conclusive statements can be made about the eligibility of the site and thus no mitigation alternatives can be made. It is then recommended that Phase II testing be conducted at this site after acquisition of the property by DelDOT.

**SITE NAME:** Mermaid Tavern Site

**SITE NUMBER:** 7NC-D-106A

**CRS NUMBER:** N-242.1

**LOCATION DESCRIPTION:** The Mermaid Tavern archaeological site is located in the 25' ROW directly in front of the Mermaid Tavern (Figure 2 [ Number "20"] and 9).

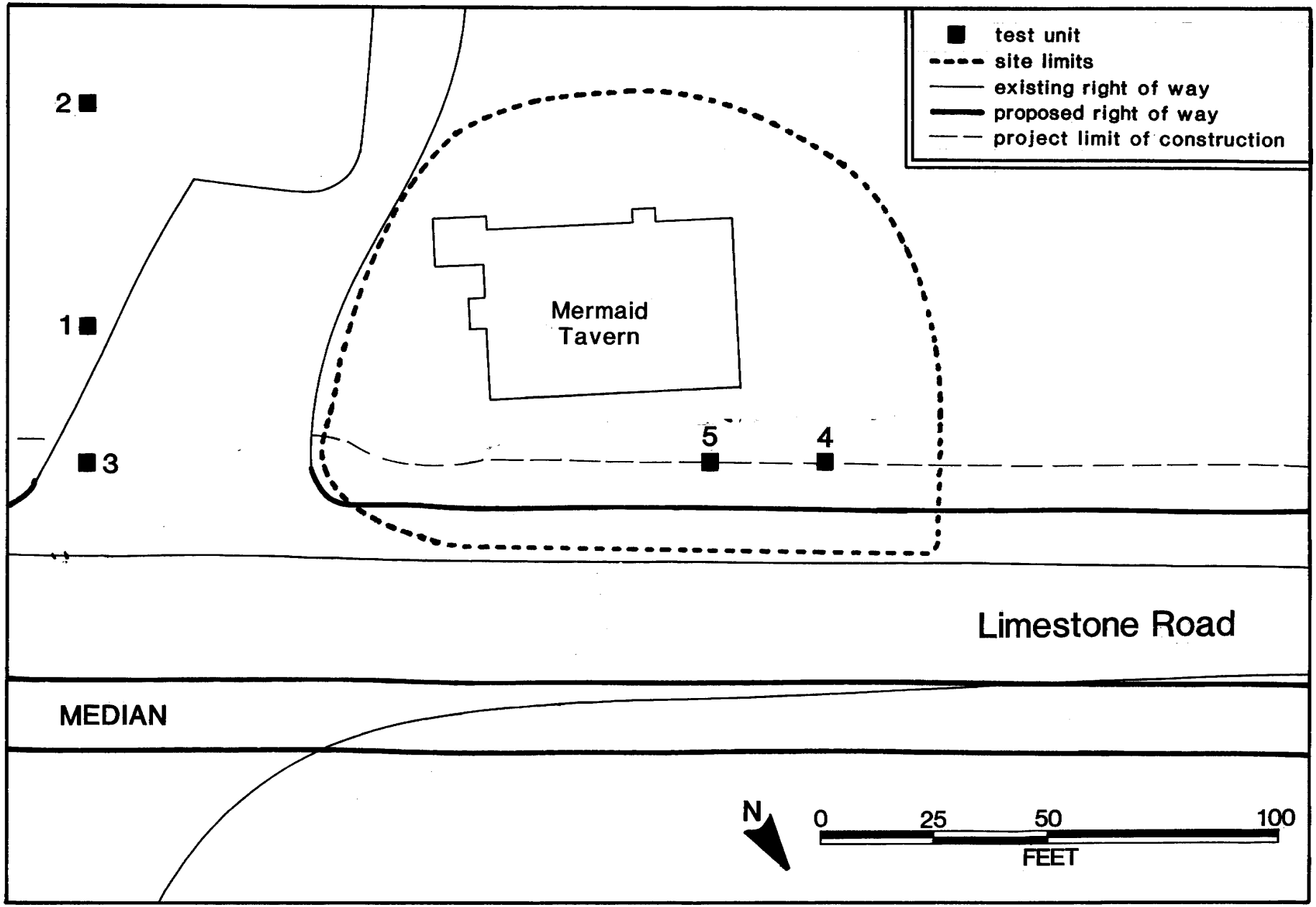
**PHASE I SURVEY METHODS:** Excavations at this site were limited to only the ground surface within the ROW. Two 1m test units were excavated in the ROW and in the vicinity of the northeast corner of the dwelling. Testing here revealed a buried A horizon approximately 60cm below ground surface. This level contained numerous artifacts, including fragments of white salt-glazed stoneware, redware, yellowware, whiteware, nails, bottle and window glass, and oyster shells.

**PHASE II SURVEY METHODS:** None were undertaken, as the land owner desired no further archaeological testing on the property.

**DISCUSSION OF RESULTS:** With the limited amount of information available from the Phase I survey, it is difficult to make a definite statement about this site. The buried A horizon is clearly associated with Mermaid Tavern, and the artifacts date within the range of occupation known for the site. Soils excavated above this level were of a disturbed nature, probably

FIGURE 9

# Mermaid Tavern Site, N-242.1, 7NC-D-106A



the result of grading, filling, and construction on the tavern and the road over time.

The potential significance of the Mermaid Tavern site is best understood in conjuction with the cultural resources on the Mermaid Tavern itself and the associated sites -- the Wheelwright Shop site and the Blacksmith Shop/Stable site -- at the intersection. However, no Phase II testing was conducted at the Mermaid Tavern site or the Wheelwright Shop site because of access problems. Therefore, the significance of the blacksmith shop/stable site cannot be addressed until additional Phase II excavations are completed.

Nevertheless, it should be noted that archaeological studies of the Mermaid Tavern site complex could make considerable contributions to the study of rural communities and cultural change in the region. Investigations at Mermaid Tavern could be used for comparative studies of other tavern sites in the region, such as the recently completed data recovery program at the Rising Sun Tavern in Stanton (Thompson and Gardner 1986). The study of the blacksmith and wheelwright shops could be compared to the excavations conducted at the Wilson-Slack Agricultural Complex (Coleman et al. 1985). In sum, it is highly likely that the various components of the Mermaid Tavern area will be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

**NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY:** The Mermaid Tavern itself is already listed on the National Register. With the discovery of archaeological resources on all three corners of the Mermaid Tavern intersection, it is suggested that the Mermaid Tavern site, the Mermaid Tavern Wheelwright Shop site (7NC-D-106C), and

the Mermaid Tavern Blacksmith Shop/Stable site (7NC-D-106B), could be nominated to the National Register as a district under Criteria A, or D. The Mermaid Tavern Site itself is probably eligible under Criterion D.

**IMPACT:** The Mermaid Tavern Site is located within the existing ROW of Limestone Road, and the site is extremely vulnerable to indirect effects of the project.

**RECOMMENDED MITIGATION ALTERNATIVES:** At this time no conclusive statements can be made about the eligibility of the site and thus no mitigation alternatives can be made. It is thus recommended that Phase II testing be conducted at this site after acquisition of the property by DelDOT.

**SITE NAME:** Bernard Glatz House Site

**SITE NUMBER:** 7NC-D-102

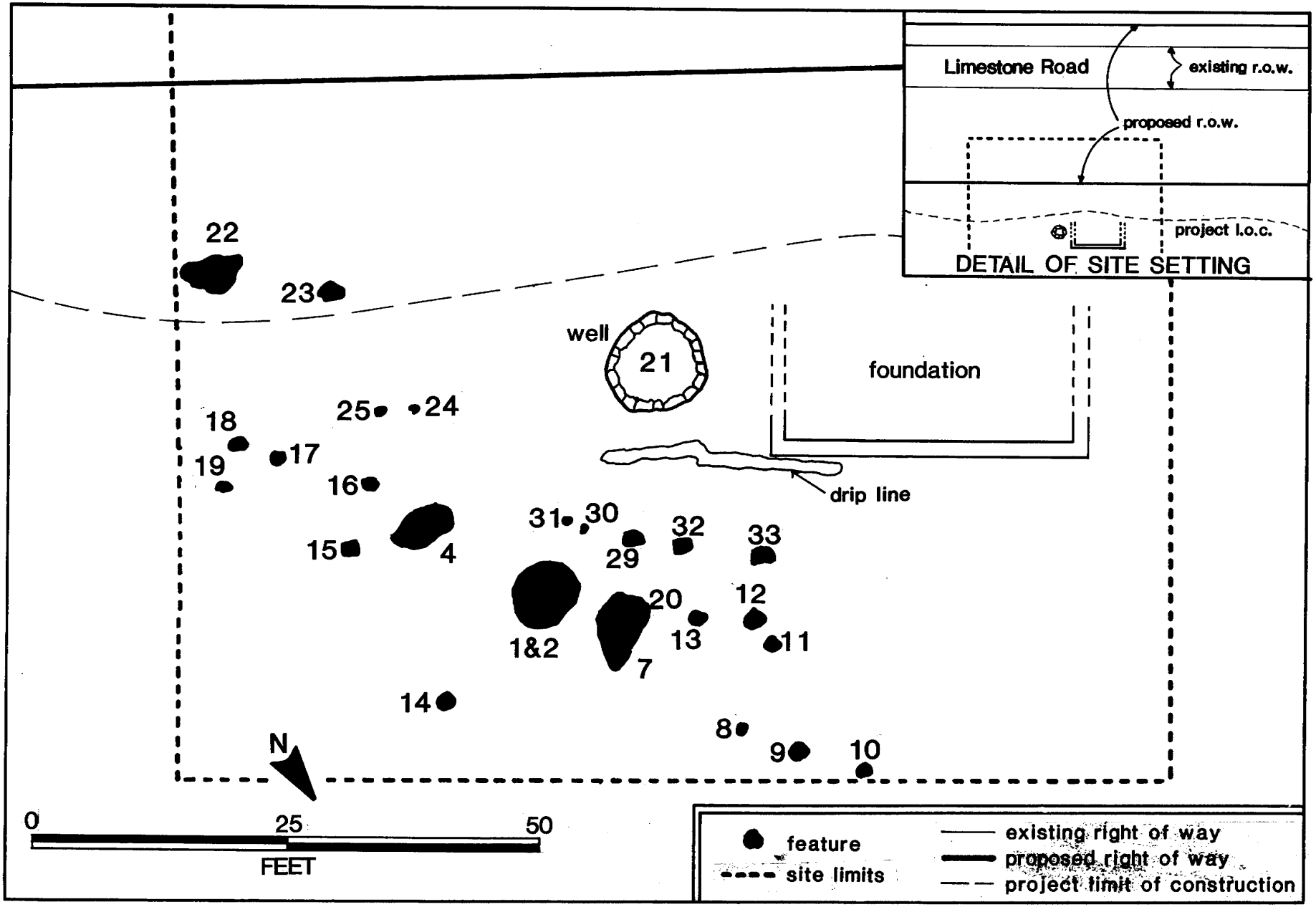
**CRS NUMBER:** N-10273

**LOCATION DESCRIPTION:** The Glatz House site was located approximately 850' north of the Mermaid Tavern intersection, on the east side of the ROW of Limestone Road. It was located on a small knoll in a fallow field, and was scheduled for residential development (Figure 2 [Number "21"] and 10).

**PHASE I SURVEY METHODS:** Background research indicated that this area was the location of a house, known as "R. Walker" on Beers' Atlas (1868). A pedestrian survey and surface collection located a concentration of 19th century artifacts approximately 40' east of Limestone Road. Subsequent to the surface collection, but prior to any excavation, a developer used earth-moving machinery to strip off the top 8-10" of plowzone from the site, revealing a

FIGURE 10

# Bernard Glatz House Site, N-10273, 7NC-D-102



partially intact stone foundation wall and several small features.

**PHASE II SURVEY METHODS:** In an effort to salvage as much as possible from this site, which was to be completely destroyed by grading for construction, excavations were undertaken. Thirty-five features were eventually identified and excavated, including the cellar and three walls of the house, a stone-lined well estimated to be at least 50' deep, several trash pits, and numerous post holes. Artifacts recovered dated from the 2nd quarter of the 19th century to the end of the 19th century, and consisted of whitewares, pearlwares, bottles, window glass and bottle glass fragments, buttons, oyster shells, and bones.

**DISCUSSION OF RESULTS:** The excavations at the Glatz site resulted in the collection of a large number of artifacts from good stratigraphic contexts. The date range of the artifacts coincides with the date of destruction of the house (circa 1912) obtained from oral interviews. Unfortunately, the site has been 100% destroyed by private construction activity. Therefore, no further archaeological investigation of the site is possible.

**NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY:** The Bernard Glatz Site is not eligible for inclusion to the National Register -- there is no site left to nominate.

**IMPACT:** No longer applicable to the site.

**RECOMMENDED MITIGATION ALTERNATIVES:** None.

**SITE NAME:** William Torbert Tenant House Site

**SITE NUMBER:** 7NC-D-109

**CRS NUMBER:** N-10289

**LOCATION DESCRIPTION:** This site is located approximately 1300' north of the Mermaid Tavern intersection, on the east edge of the ROW, in a plowed field (Figure 2 [Number "25"] and 11).

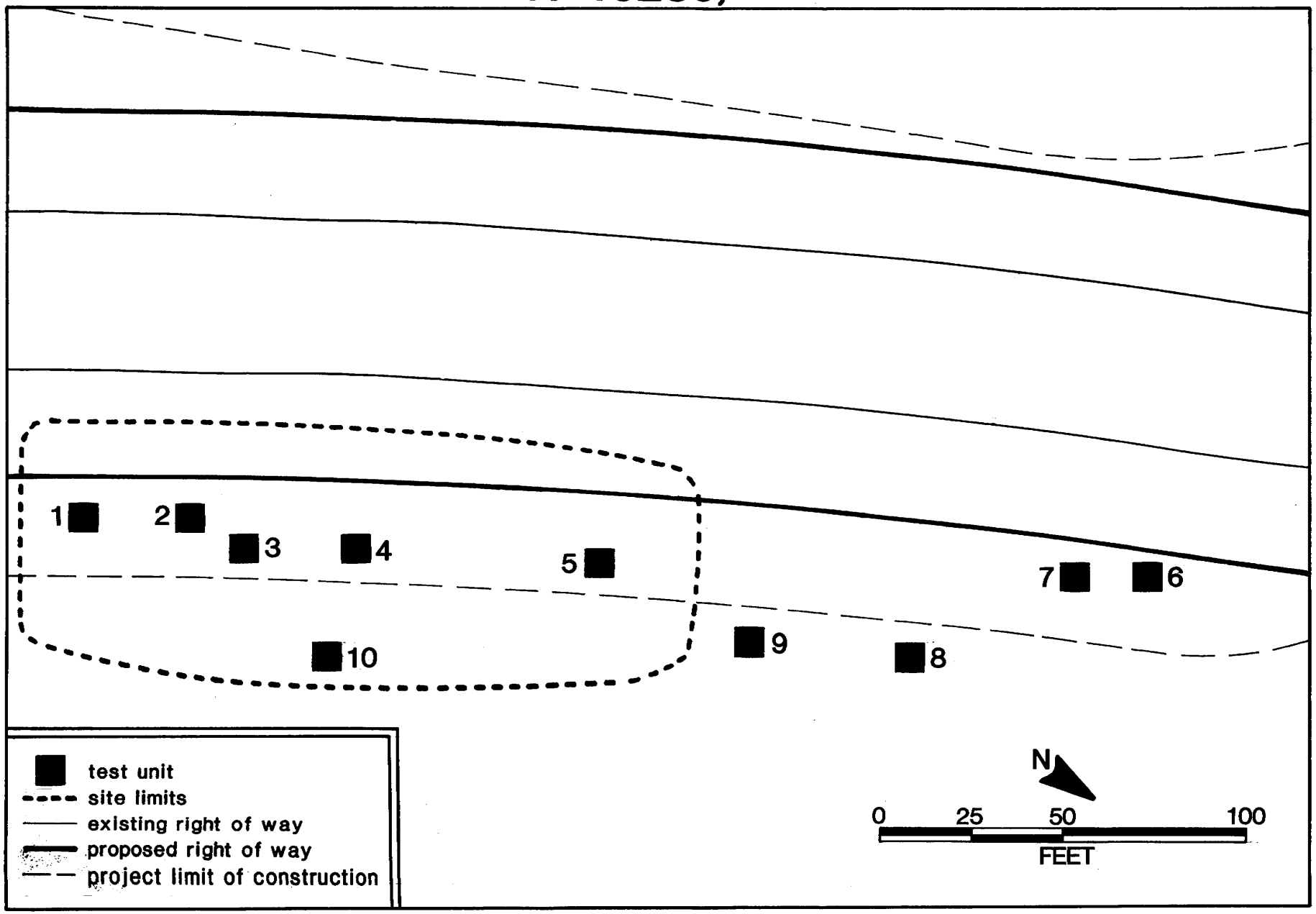
**PHASE I SURVEY METHODS:** Background research indicated the presence of a possible late 18th to 19th century dwelling house in this location. A pedestrian survey of the ROW in this vicinity located several historic ceramic fragments on the ground surface.

**PHASE II SURVEY METHODS:** Ten 2m test units were excavated in this field to locate any features present and to define the site limits. A small number of artifacts -- redware fragments, glass fragments, and brick fragments -- were recovered, but no features were encountered.

**DISCUSSION OF RESULTS:** The thin scattering of historic ceramics across this site is evidence that at one time a dwelling or structure was present nearby. No structure was identified at this location within the ROW. Unfortunately, 20th century road construction, which moved the roadbed eastward in 1964, may have obliterated the original house location. Historic evidence suggests that this house site was, by the middle of the 19th century, a tenant house. Archaeological research at houses of this type have indicated that tenant houses are often of a very impermanent nature, thus leaving little evidence of their existence. In addition, continuous plowing has probably removed

FIGURE 11

# William Torbert Tenant House Site, N-10289, 7NC-D-109



much of the original ground surface. The absence of any features or other definitive archaeological evidence precludes the need for any further archaeological research at this site.

**NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY:** Due to the lack of firm archaeological evidence for the existence of this site, it is not considered eligible for inclusion to the National Register under any criteria.

**IMPACT:** This site is partially located within the direct impact zone of the project, and will also be effected by indirect construction activities.

**RECOMMENDED MITIGATION ALTERNATIVES:** None.

**SITE NAME:** Thomas Cavender House Site

**SITE NUMBER:** 7NC-A-14

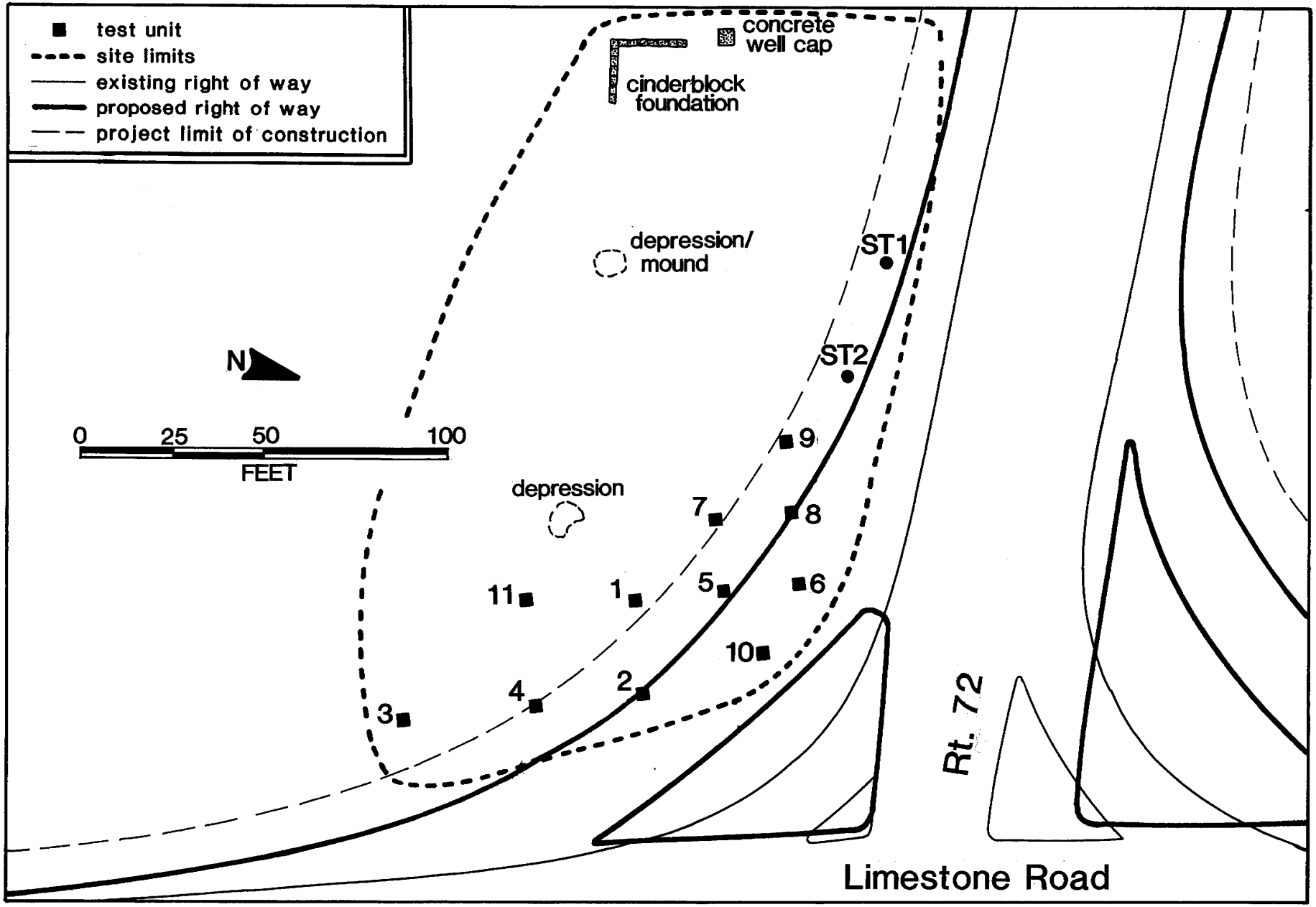
**CRS NUMBER:** N-10277

**LOCATION DESCRIPTION:** The T. Cavender Site is located at the southwest corner of the Limestone Road and Curtis Mill Road (Route 72) intersection (Figure 2 [Number "30"] and 12). It lies partially within the ROW, and the evidence of several outbuildings associated with it are located outside of the ROW. At the time of the excavations, the site was covered with knee-high weeds and grasses, and was unplowed.

**PHASE I SURVEY METHODS:** Background research indicated that a stone dwelling dating to the early 19th century, and occupied until 1964, had stood at this site. Eleven 1m test units and two shovel test units were excavated to locate and identify this structure. Artifacts from a disturbed context were recovered in all of the test units, and included pearlware fragments,

FIGURE 12

# Cavender House Site, N-10277, 7NC-A-14



whiteware fragments, porcelain, bottle and window glass, bone and shell. The stratigraphy of the site was extensively disturbed, owing to the demolition of the structure and its subsequent backfilling and landscaping in the 1960s.

**PHASE II SURVEY METHODS:** No further excavations were undertaken at this site, due to the disturbed nature of the site, and the lack of any subsurface features. After the grass was mowed by a local landowner, several above-ground features, all located outside of the project ROW, were identified and mapped. These included two small depressions, a cinderblock foundation and concrete well-cap. All of these features were located to the south and west of the site. No archaeological investigation of these features was undertaken.

**DISCUSSION OF RESULTS:** Owing to the extremely disturbed nature of the soils present at the site, and the lack of any stratigraphic context to the recovered artifacts, it is evident that this site underwent considerable landscaping grading and filling after the house was torn down in 1964. No further work is considered necessary at this site.

**NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY:** This site is not considered eligible to the National Register under any criteria.

**IMPACT:** The portion of the site that was excavated is located within the direct impact zone of the project area. The portion of the site containing the depressions, foundation, and well-cap are not within the project ROW. However, they may be subject to indirect adverse construction activities.

**RECOMMENDED MITIGATION ALTERNATIVES:** None, except for avoidance of foundations and features outside of the ROW.

**SITE NAME:** District No. 32, Harmony Schoolhouse Site

**SITE NUMBER:** 7NC-A-16

**CRS NUMBER:** N-202

**LOCATION DESCRIPTION:** The Harmony Schoolhouse Site is located on the eastern side of the ROW, opposite of the eastern terminus of Curtis Mill Road. The archaeological site is on the grounds of the schoolhouse, a potential National Register property (Figure 2 [Number "29"] and 13).

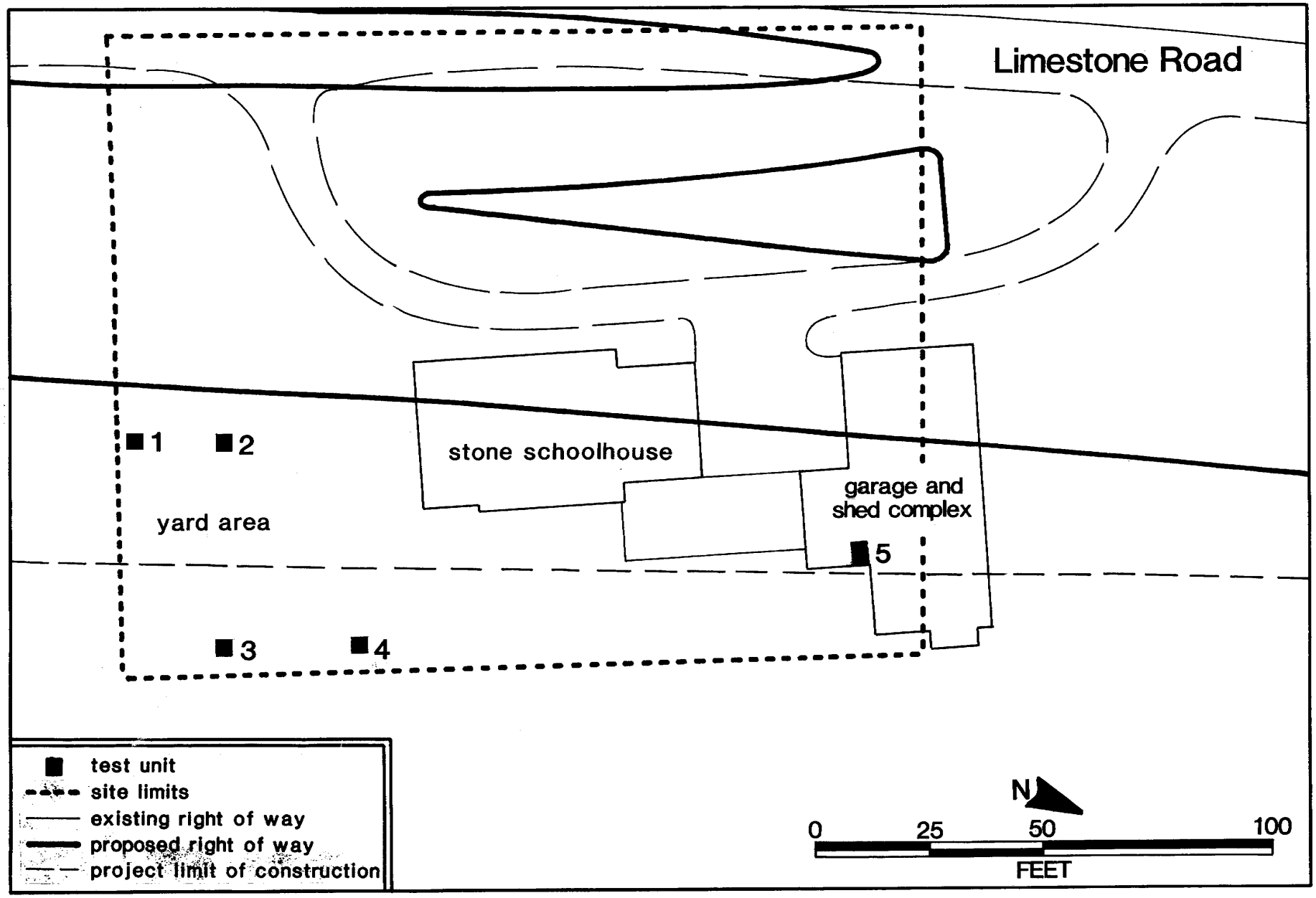
**PHASE I SURVEY METHODS:** The location of this site was known prior to fieldwork because of background research. Four 1m test units were excavated in the yard area of the dwelling, within the ROW, and one 1 x 1.5m test unit was excavated within a shed on the property. Historic artifacts were recovered, including fragments of whiteware and redware, but the majority of the artifacts were metal fragments, window and bottle glass fragments, and brick fragments. Artifacts were found within the upper 30cm of soil, with no stratigraphic context. No features were located in the yard area. Two trash features were located within the shed excavation, both containing 20th century debris.

**PHASE II SURVEY METHODS:** None were conducted, based on the findings of the Phase I research.

**DISCUSSION OF RESULTS:** The results of the excavations at the Harmony Schoolhouse were similar to the results of the work conducted at the Welsh Tract Schoolhouse (Catts et al. 1983). The artifacts recovered are representative of a thin yard scatter of predominantly 20th century materials, probably dating to the conversion and occupation of the schoolhouse as a private dwelling in the 1950s. Further excavations at the schoolhouse

FIGURE 13

# Harmony Schoolhouse Site, N-202, 7NC-A-16



are not considered necessary, as they will not add any valuable information to what has already been recovered.

**NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY:** Although the schoolhouse is not eligible for listing to the National Register as an archaeological site, it is considered eligible under Criteria A, because it is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of state and local history.

**IMPACT:** At the time of the fieldwork, this site was in the direct impact zone of the project. However, new design plans have removed the threat of demolition from the site, and it will be avoided.

**RECOMMENDED MITIGATION ALTERNATIVES:** Preservation in place and/or avoidance are the recommended alternatives, as data recovery is not likely to yield any additional valuable data about the site.

**SITE NAME:** J. Chambers House Site

**SITE NUMBER:** 7NC-A-15

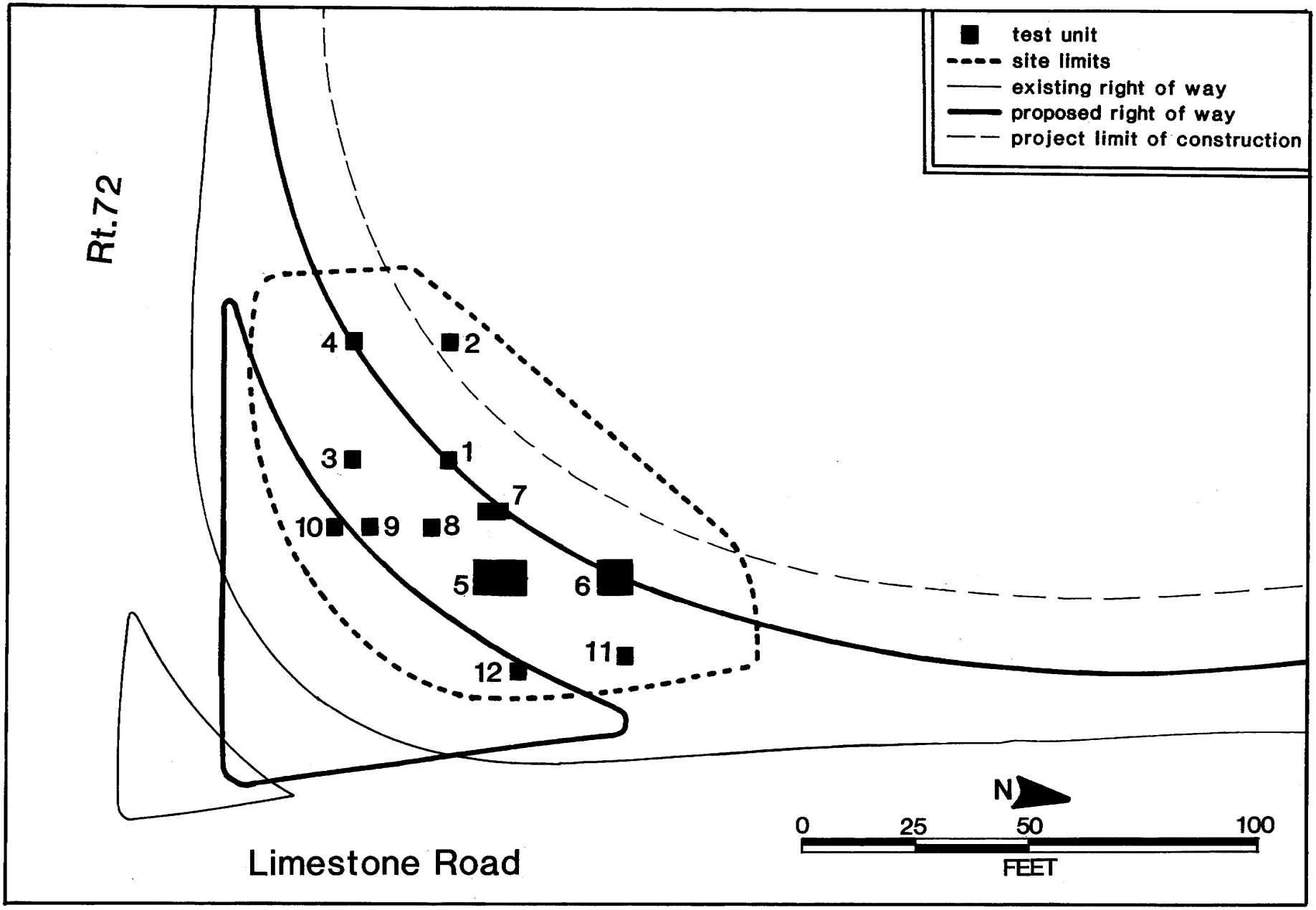
**CRS NUMBER:** N-10278

**LOCATION DESCRIPTION:** The J. Chambers House site is located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Limestone Road and Route 72. The land at this site is presently fallow field with a few scattered peach trees (Figure 2 [Number "33"] and 14).

**PHASE I SURVEY METHODS:** Background research revealed that this site was the location of the "J. Chambers" house in 1868, and was present by at least the beginning of the 19th century. Four 1m test units were excavated at the site, and a shallow, brick-lined well feature was uncovered. Artifacts found were from disturbed

FIGURE 14

# J. Chambers House Site, N-10278, 7NC-A-15



stratigraphic contexts, and included redwares, whitewares, and pearlwares intermixed with modern 20th century debris.

**PHASE II SURVEY METHODS:** An additional nine 1m test units and two 2m test units were excavated to define the site limits and determine the extent of subsurface disturbance. A circular shallow feature and a square unlined privy pit were excavated. Both were filled with modern 20th century debris mixed with some 19th century artifacts.

**DISCUSSION OF RESULTS:** Excavations at this site revealed an extensively disturbed site with no stratigraphic context and recently filled features. Oral interviews indicated that the house was occupied until 1964, when DelDOT construction demolished it. The house itself was said to have sat closer to the intersection, and thus the present excavations took place in what was the back and side yards of the house.

**NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY:** This site is not considered eligible to the National Register due to the disturbed nature of the foundation and the recent filling and grading.

**IMPACT:** The J. Chambers site is located within the direct impact zone of the present project, and will be completely destroyed by construction.

**RECOMMENDED MITIGATION ALTERNATIVES:** None.

**SITE NAME:** G. Klair Site

**SITE NUMBER:** Not yet determined.

**CRS NUMBER:** Not yet determined.

**LOCATION DESCRIPTION:** The G. Klair site is located in the ROW on the west side of Limestone Road, at the intersection of

Mendenhall Mill Road and Route 7 (Figure 2, Number "44").

**PHASE I METHODS:** Background research indicated that this was the site of a mid-19th century dwelling. The house was removed in 1964 by DelDOT. On the property, but located outside of the ROW, are a barn and several support structures. Additional research revealed that this site was occupied by Dr. Robert Bines by at least the middle of the 18th century. No subsurface testing was conducted at this site, however, because the owners would not allow access to their property.

**PHASE II METHODS:** None were undertaken, due to access difficulties.

**DISCUSSION OF RESULTS:** It is difficult to determine the extent or integrity of this site, due to access problems. Background research indicated that the site was occupied by the mid-18th century, and continuously used after that time. It is possible that there are subsurface remains in the ROW at this site. Phase II testing should be conducted to determine the integrity of this site.

**NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY:** Unknown at this time.

**IMPACT:** The location of the dwelling house on this site is located in the direct impact zone of the project.

**RECOMMENDED MITIGATION ALTERNATIVES:** Conduct Phase I and II investigations of the property.

**SITE NAME:** Hockessin Valley Site

**SITE NUMBER:** 7NC-A-17

**CRS NUMBER:** N-10280

**LOCATION DESCRIPTION:** This site is located in a fallow field approximately 1300' south of the Route 7 - Valley Road intersection, on the west side of the ROW (Figure 2 [Number "48"] and 15). A small stream forms the northern boundary of the site. A portion of the site was also located west of the ROW.

**PHASE I SURVEY METHODS:** This site was identified during the Phase I survey testing of eighteen 1m test units. Artifacts were recovered from intact soils between 10cm and 40cm below surface, and included quartz, chert, argillite, and jasper flakes and debitage, and a reworked quartz biface.

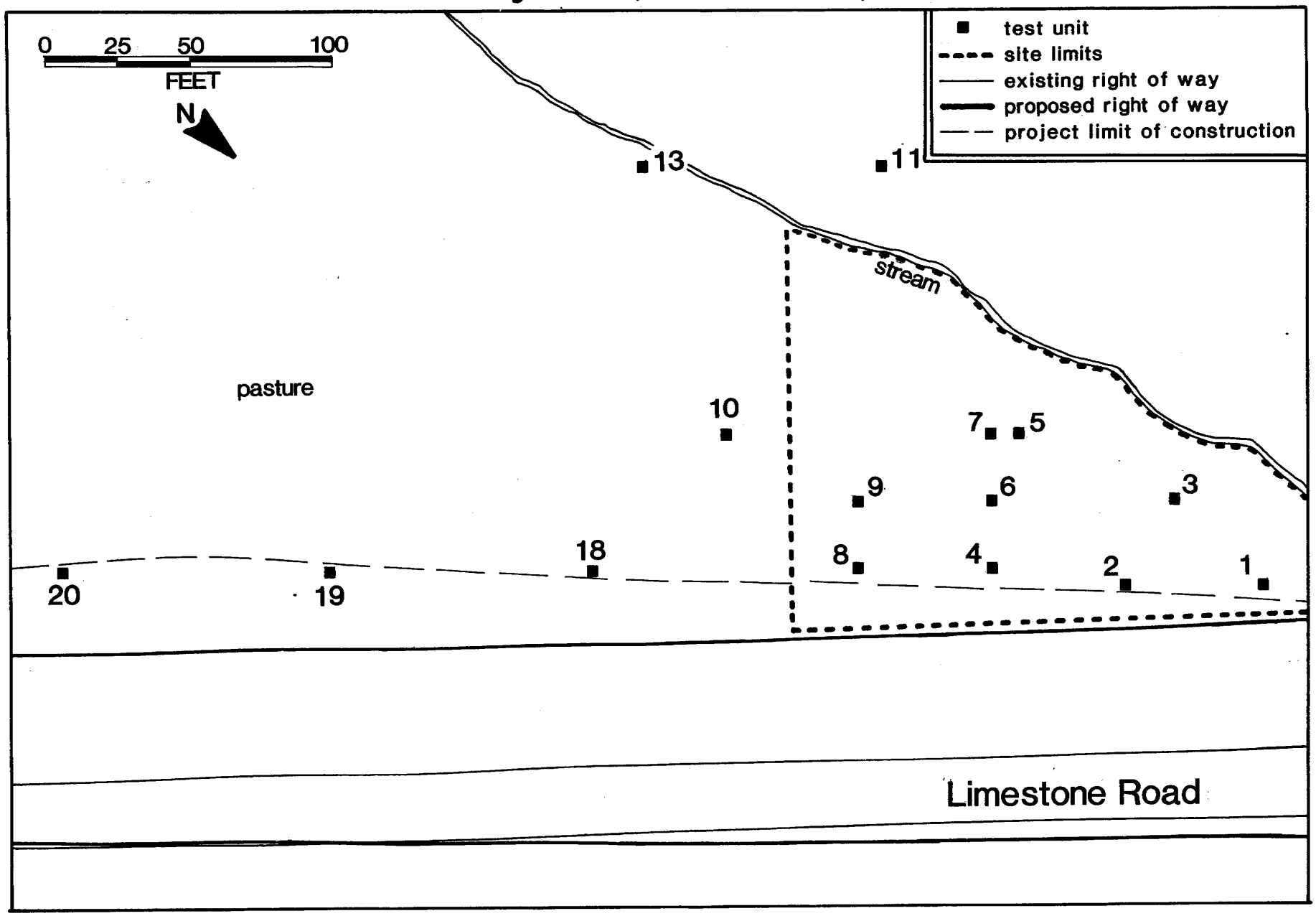
**PHASE II SURVEY METHODS:** Additional twenty-eight 1m test units were excavated at this site to determine the site limits, which are shown in Figure 15. More debitage and a jasper biface were recovered from good stratigraphic context in the Phase II testing.

**DISCUSSION OF RESULTS:** Most of the artifacts were recovered from intact soils, but the steep slope of the southern portion of the site makes it likely that the artifacts' context in that area is not good. However, the northern portion of the site is in a flat floodplain where artifacts have been buried by alluvial deposition. The artifact assemblage is similar to that of the Armor Site (N10272) and the site is probably an ephemerally utilized base camp or a hunting/staging site.

**NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY:** The Hockessin Valley Site is eligible for inclusion on the National Register because it

FIGURE 15

# Hockessin Valley Site, N-10280, 7NC-A-17



represents a well-preserved example of a rare site type for the Piedmont Uplands. Although many procurement sites have been recorded in the Piedmont Uplands of northern Delaware, floodplain sites such as Hockessin Valley are rare. Usually, natural erosion or modern development destroy sites in the floodplains; however, the Hockessin Valley Site has escaped these impacts. Furthermore, most of the known sites for the Piedmont Uplands are either large base camps along major drainages, or small lithic scatters in the uplands. The Hockessin Valley Site is unique in that it represents an intermediate-size site.

**IMPACT:** The eastern 50' of the site, located within the ROW, is in the direct impact zone of the project. In addition, the unplowed setting of the site makes it suceptible to indirect effects from the project.

**RECOMMENDED MITIGATION ALTERNATIVES:** It is recommended that the Hockessin Valley site be avoided by DelDOT activity and preserved-in-place, if possible. If ROW requirements make this recommendation infeasible, then it is suggested that the portion of the site which will be impacted be minimized. Portions of the site which cannot be avoided are recommended, as a final alternative, to require mitigation and data recovery.

**SITE NAME:** Tweed's Tavern Site (aka Gutherie-Giacomelli House)

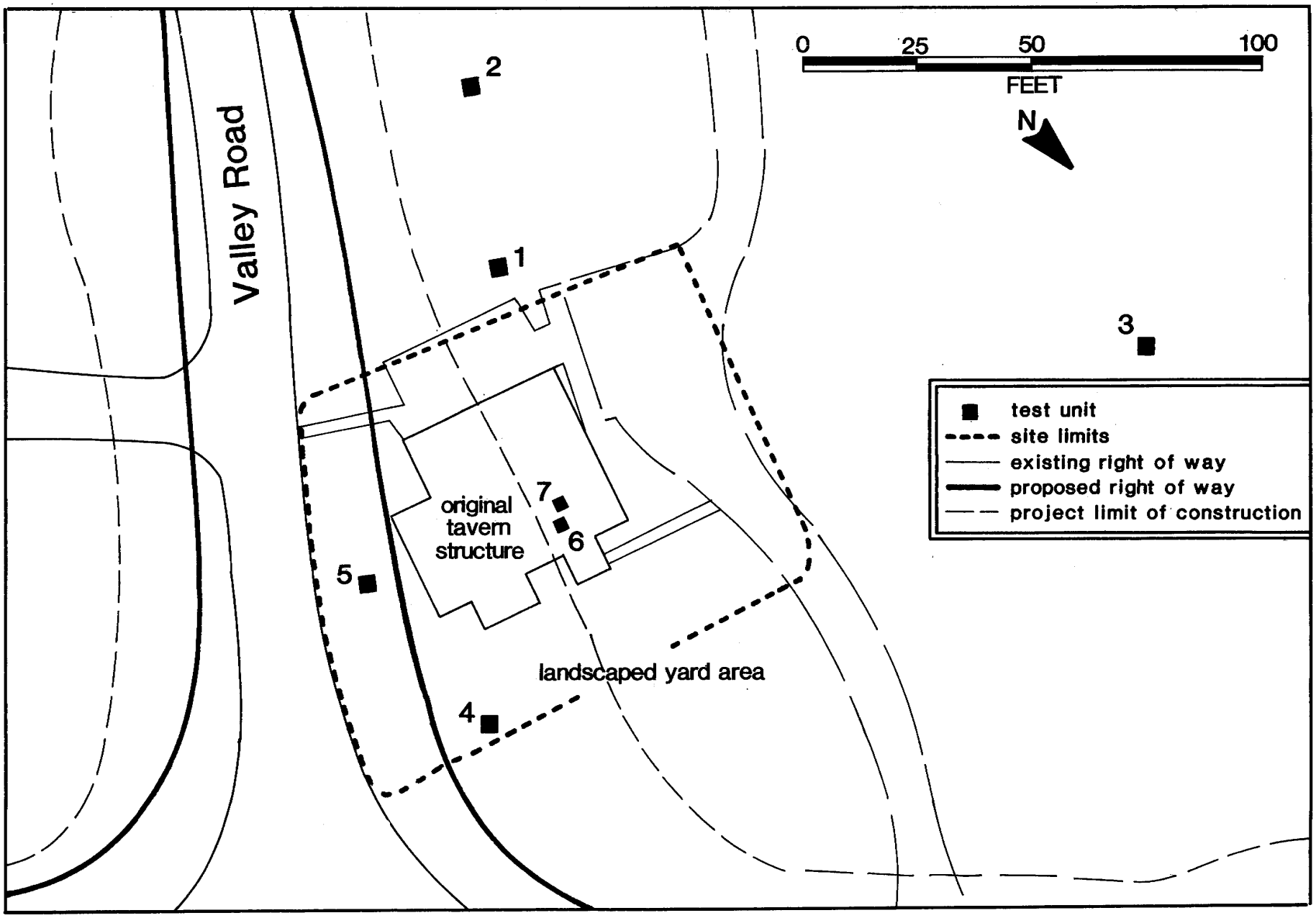
**SITE NUMBER:** 7NC-A-18

**CRS NUMBER:** N-1101

**LOCATION DESCRIPTION:** The Tweed's Tavern site is located on the southwest corner of the intersection of Limestone Road and Valley Road (Figure 2 [Number "49"] and 16). SHPO files call this

FIGURE 16

# Tweed's Tavern Site, Locus 19, N-1101, 7NC-A-18



structure the Gutherie-Giacamelli House, but a more apt historic name is Tweed's Tavern; this is the site name that will be used for the remainder of this report. The intact archaeological site is inside of the dwelling at the site, in a crawlspace on the north side of the structure. The remainder of the yard area is not included as part of the archaeological site.

**PHASE I SURVEY METHODS:** Background research indicated that the present house at the site had once been Tweed's Tavern, also known as Mudford's Tavern, which functioned as an inn in the first half of the 19th century. Five 1m test units were excavated, and numerous late 19th and 20th century artifacts were recovered. These artifacts were found in a disturbed stratigraphic context.

**PHASE II SURVEY METHODS:** Phase I survey results indicated that the yard area around the dwelling was extensively disturbed. The property owners suggested that excavations be conducted in the crawlspace under a recent addition to the house. Phase II investigations consisted of two 2ft test units in the crawlspace. Faunal remains, whiteware fragments, buttons, oyster shell fragments, redware fragments, and window and bottle glass were recovered from these excavations. These artifacts were found within the top 20cm of the ground surface.

**DISCUSSION OF RESULTS:** Although the grounds around the house have been extensively graded and landscaped, and the house itself has been considerably altered and renovated, the crawlspace excavations produced a collection of artifacts from good stratigraphic context. The crawlspace test units were placed close to the original north wall of the tavern, and the artifacts

recovered date to the time period of occupation. Additional work conducted here could also include the cellar floor of the original tavern, which until recently was a dirt floor. Unfortunately, the floor has been covered with concrete. Investigations at Tweed's Tavern could be used for comparative studies of tavern's in the vicinity, particularly the Rising Sun Tavern in Stanton (Thompson and Gardner 1986) and the Mermaid Tavern on Limestone Road. A study of these three sites would yield valuable information concerning taverns and their place in the overall socio-cultural landscape over time. This would be of especial interest, as all three of these taverns were located on the same thoroughfare (Limestone Road) which represents a transect across the area from a "urban" area (Stanton) to a more "rural" location (Tweed's Tavern).

**NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY:** The structure at this site is not considered eligible for inclusion to the National Register because it has been substantially rennovated, thus compromising its architectural integrity. However, the archaeological site associated with the tavern occupation of the site is considered eligible to the National Register under Criterion D.

**IMPACT:** This site, including the structure, is within the direct impact zone of the project, and is scheduled for demolition.

**RECOMMENDED MITIGATION ALTERNATIVE:** At this time no conclusive statements can be made about the eligibility of the site and thus no mitigation alternatives can be made. It is then recommended that Phase II testing be conducted at this site after acquisition of the property by DelDOT.

**SITE NAME:** J. Springer Barn Site

**SITE NUMBER:** 7NC-A-19

**CRS NUMBER:** N-1109

**LOCATION DESCRIPTION:** This site is located approximatley 2600' north of Valley Road on the west side of the ROW (Figure 2 [Number "55"] and 17). A partial stone foundation, now in ruins, lies on the extreme western edge of the ROW. The site is opposite of the J.Springer House (N1109), located on the east side of Limestone Road.

**PHASE I SURVEY METHODS:** Testing at this site was conducted because background research indicated that a stable and shop were located in this vicinity by the second quarter of the 19th century. Five 1m test units were excavated, and discovered an extensively disturbed soil profile. Artifacts dating to the 19th and 20th centuries were recovered from poor stratigraphic contexts.

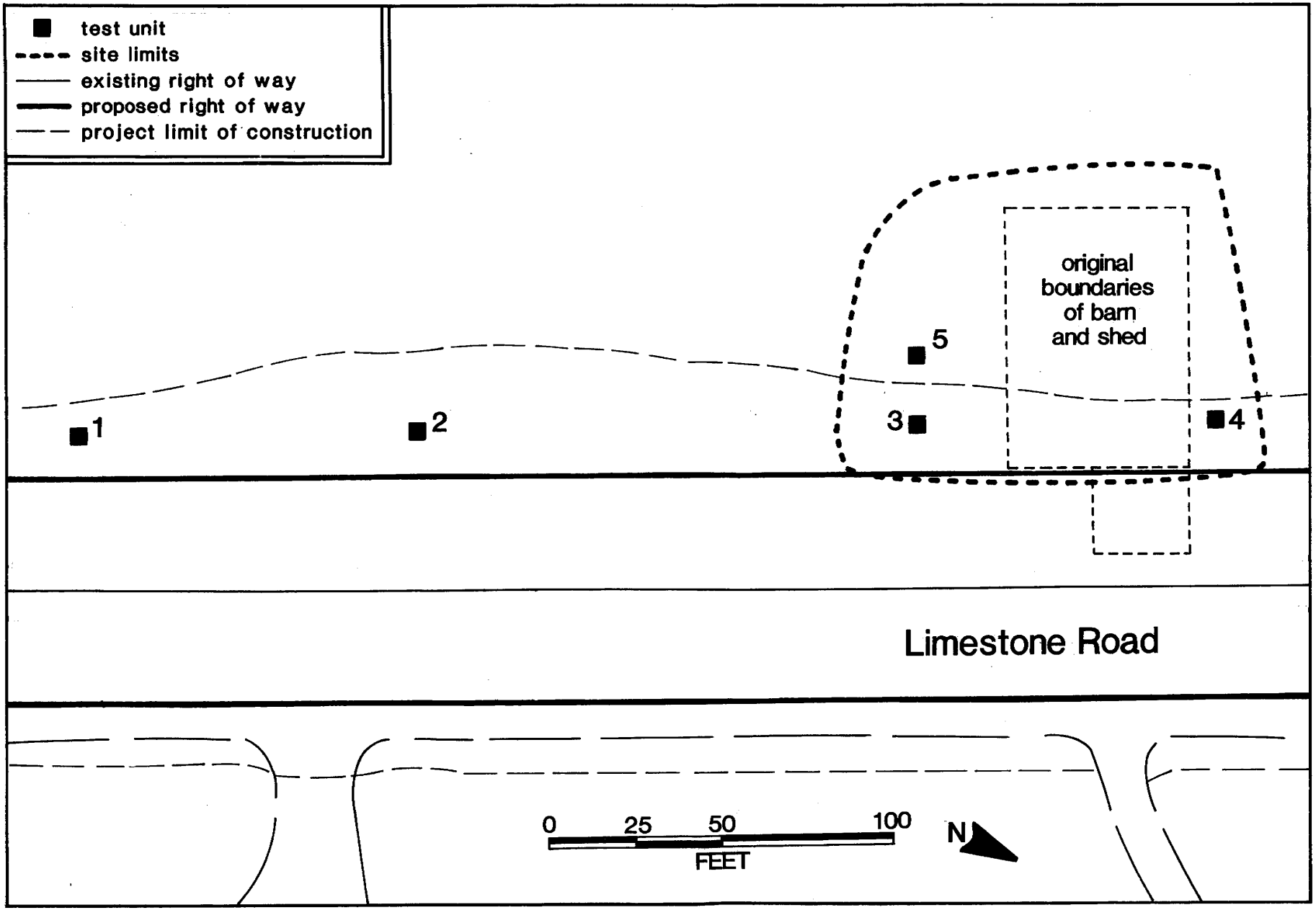
**PHASE II SURVEY METHODS:** None were conducted, because of the disturbed character of the stratigraphy at the site.

**DISCUSSION OF RESULTS:** The excavations at the Springer Barn site were conducted in an area of extensive soil disturbance, caused by the 1964 DelDOT demolition of the barn itself. The ruins on the western edge of the ROW are in poor condition, and show evidence of rubble filling and demolition. No further work is necessary at this site.

**NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY:** The Springer Barn site is not considered eligible to the National Register due to lack of integrity.

FIGURE 17

# Springer Barn Site, N-1109, 7NC-A-19



**IMPACT:** The site is within the direct impact zone of the project. In addition, the barn ruins are subject to indirect project effects.

**RECOMMENDED MITIGATION ALTERNATIVES:** Avoidance or preservation in place of the barn ruins outside of the ROW is suggested, but no alternatives need be considered for the site within the ROW.

**SITE NAME:** Beeson Yeatman Tenant House Site

**SITE NUMBER:** 7NC-A-20

**CRS NUMBER:** N-10283

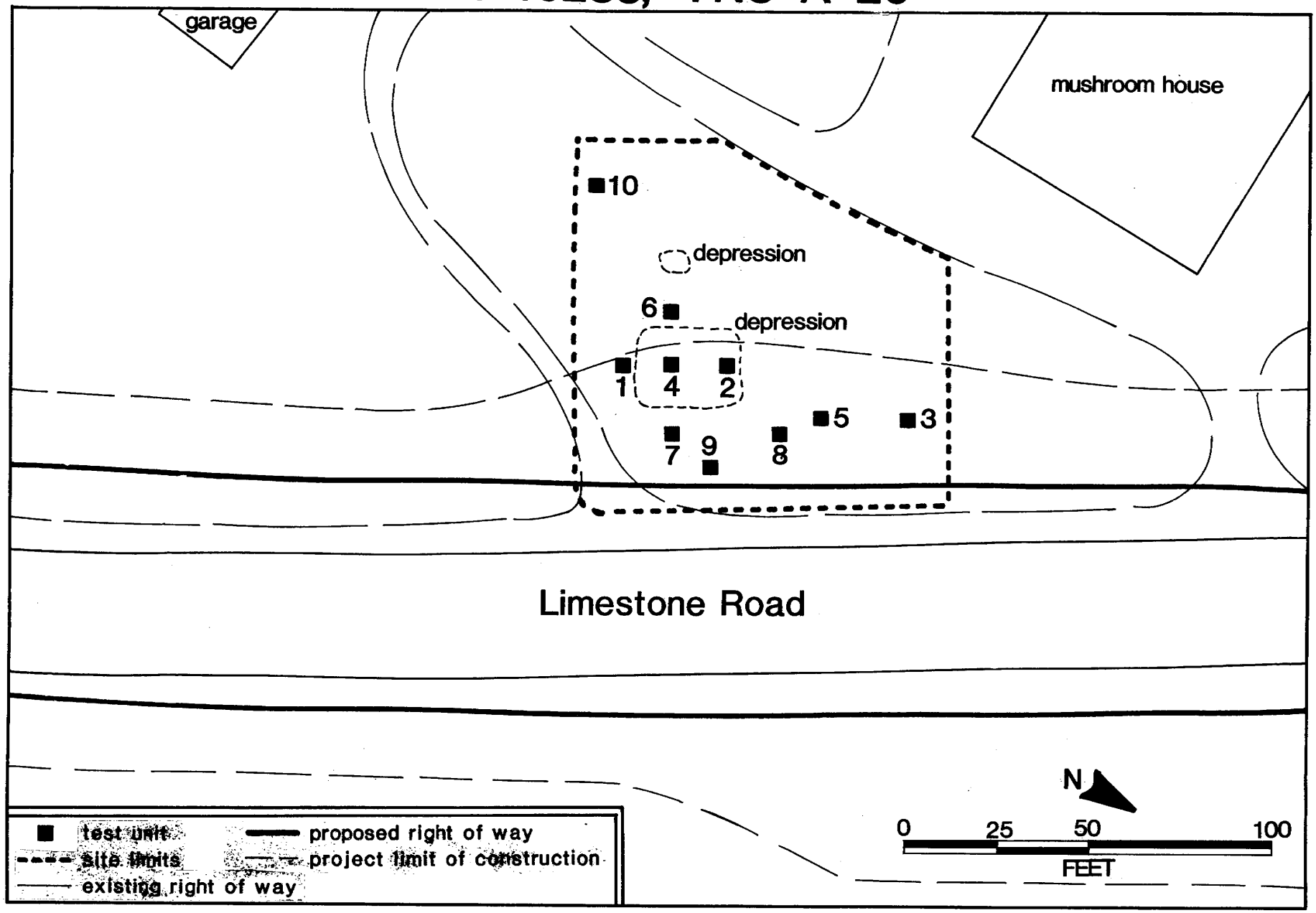
**LOCATION DESCRIPTION:** The Beeson Yeatman Tenant House site is located approximately 750' north of 7NC-A-19, on the west side of the ROW (Figure 2 [Number "57"] and 18). A shallow rectangular depression (30' x 30') marks the location of the house. To the west of the house site, about 20' outside of the ROW, is an additional small circular depression. Also to the west of the house site, 140' away, was a two-story frame house identified as the "W. H. Ford" house and the "B. Yeatman" house in Figure 2 (Number "56"). This structure burned in 1985, during field investigations.

**PHASE I SURVEY METHODS:** Background research indicated that a house was located in this vicinity by the mid-19th century. The discovery of the rectangular depression prompted the excavation of three 1m test units. These units produced a large number of historic artifacts from a shallow soil level between 0 and 12cm below surface, in good stratigraphic context.

**PHASE II SURVEY METHODS:** An additional eight 1m test units were excavated at the site to define the site limits. These are shown

FIGURE 18

# Beeson Yeatman House Site, N-10283, 7NC-A-20



in Figure 18. More historic artifacts were recovered, also from good stratigraphic contexts, but no features were encountered.

**DISCUSSION OF RESULTS:** Because 7NC-A-20 has yielded a variety of artifact types from undisturbed contexts, the site is considered to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Furthermore, the archaeological data from the Yeatman site can be used to study research questions concerning nineteenth century tenant life in northern Delaware. Excavations at the Beeson Yeatman House Site can be informative of the processes of social change and land tenancy in northern Delaware. Documentary evidence of the site occupation suggests that Yeatman moved out of his first house (the archaeological site) and constructed a new one by 1868. His first log house probably became a tenant structure. The rectagular depression present at the site has dimensions similar to those reported by Stiverson (1977:56-84) for eighteenth century Maryland. Intersite comparisons of the tenant occupation of this site could be made with the Ferguson House (Coleman _et al_. 1983), the late nineteenth century occupation of the Hawthorn Site (Coleman _et al_. 1984), and the Howard-McHenry site in Maryland (Hurry and Kavanaugh 1983). Comparisons of this nature would provide researchers with a more complete picture of the lifeways and material culture of agricultural tenants in northern Delaware in the nineteenth century. Excavations at this site produced a collection of artifacts recovered from good stratigraphic contexts, in association with a house feature of some type. The lack of any architectural features at the site may be indicative of the nature of the house itself -- perhaps it was constructed

on brick or wood piers. The dates of the artifacts recovered ranged during the known occupation of the site. The small circular depression located outside of the ROW is either the location of a well or privy. A test unit placed near this depression recovered historic artifacts like those found on the rest of the site.

**NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY:** This site is considered eligible to the National Register under Criterion D, as it is likely to yield valuable information concerning the nature of rural tenant life in northern Delaware during the 19th century.

**IMPACT:** This site is located within the direct impact zone of the project.

**RECOMMENDED MITIGATION ALTERNATIVES:** It recommended the the Beeson Yeatman Tenant House Site be avoided by DelDOT activity and preserved-in-place, if possible. If ROW requirements make this recommendation infeasible, then it is suggested that the portion of the site which will be impacted be minimized. Portions of the site which cannot be avoided are recommended, as a final alternative, to require mitigation and data recovery.

## CONCLUSION

To summarize, Table 3 lists the archaeological sites where further work, either in the form of Phase II testing or data recovery, are necessary. This table lists sites that appear to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register based on the level of fieldwork and background research undertaken during the project. Where the significance of a site seems certain, data recovery is the recommended mitigation alternative. Table 4

lists those sites where no further work is required, due either to a lack of integrity, and/or a lack of significance. Figure 19 presents the locations of all the sites listed in Tables 3 and 4.

**TABLE 3**

**SUMMARY OF ROUTE 7 NORTH SITES REQUIRING FURTHER WORK**

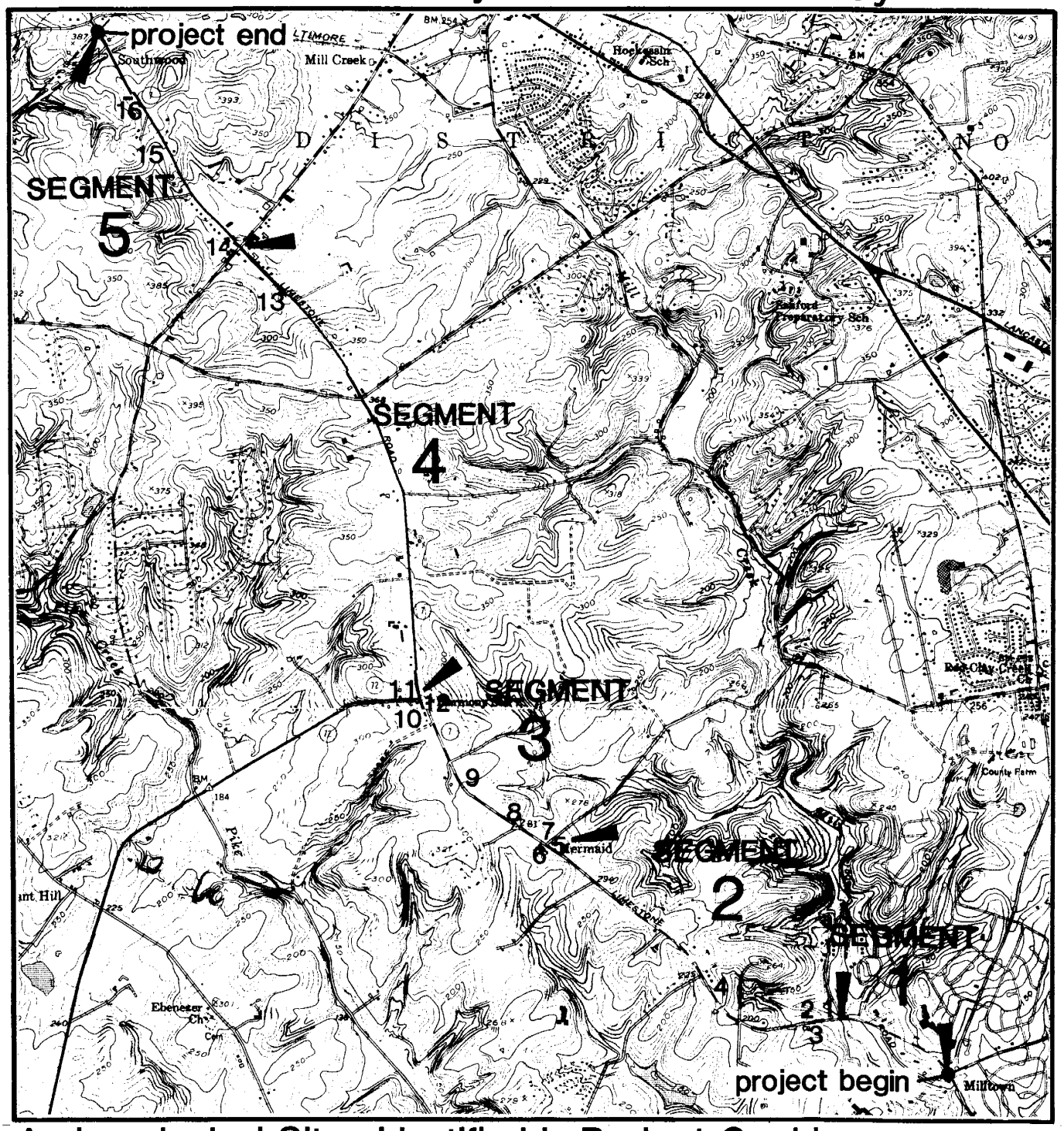
| CRS # | Site Number and Name | | Work Required |
|---|---|---|---|
| N-10272 | 7NC-D-101 | Armor Site | Data Recovery |
| N-242.3 | 7NC-D-106C | Mermaid Tavern Wheelwright Shop Site | Phase II |
| N-242.1 | 7NC-D-106A | Mermaid Tavern Site | Phase II |
| N-242.2 | 7NC-D-106B | Mermaid Tavern Blacksmith Shop/Stable Site | Phase II |
| N-10280 | 7NC-A-17 | Hockessin Valley Site | Data Recovery |
| N-1101 | 7NC-A-18 | Tweed's Tavern Site (aka Gutherie-Giacomelli) | Phase II |
| N-10283 | 7NC-A-20 | Beeson Yeatman House Site | Data Recovery |
| | | G. Klair House Site | Phase I/II |

**TABLE 4**

**SUMMARY OF ROUTE 7 NORTH SITES REQUIRING NO FURTHER WORK**

| CRS # | Site Number and Name | |
|---|---|---|
| N-1250.1 | 7NC-D-104A | Armor House Site |
| N-1250.2 | 7NC-D-104B | Armor Barn Site |
| N-10279 | 7NC-D-114 | Klair Site |
| N-10273 | 7NC-D-102 | Bernard Glatz House Site |
| N-10289 | 7NC-D-109 | William Torbert Tenant House Site |
| N-10277 | 7NC-A-14 | Thomas Cavender House Site |
| N-10278 | 7NC-A-15 | J. Chambers House Site |
| N-202 | 7NC-A-16 | Harmony Schoolhouse, District No. 32 Site |
| N-1109 | 7NC-A-19 | J. Springer Barn Site |

# FIGURE 19
## Sites Indentified by the Phase I/II Survey




## Archaeological Sites Identified in Project Corridor

1 - 7NC-D-101
2 - 7NC-D-104A
3 - 7NC-D-104B
4 - 7NC-D-114
5 - 7NC-D-106C
6 - 7NC-D-106A
7 - 7NC-D-106B
8 - 7NC-D-102
9 - 7NC-D-109
10 - 7NC-A-14
11 - 7NC-A-15
12 - 7NC-A-16
13 - 7NC-A-17
14 - 7NC-A-18
15 - 7NC-A-19
16 - 7NC-A-20

N

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