III. ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCE POTENTIAL

INTRODUCTION

GAI conducted background research to develop appropriate environmental and cultural contexts for the survey area, to identify previously recorded cultural resources within or near the project location, and to establish a basis for evaluating the archeological resource potential of the project area. Background research included a review of pertinent primary and secondary sources of information, as well as cultural resource inventory files and survey reports at the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office, the Hall of Records (Delaware State Archives), and DelDOT, Dover; the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.; and other local and regional historical societies and libraries.

PREHISTORIC SITES

A review of archeological site inventory files indicated that no prehistoric archeological resources have been previously identified within 1.6-kilometers (1.0 mile) of the project area. However, a number of archeological survey reports and studies (Custer 1984, 1988b; Custer and Wallace 1982; Knepper and Pappas 1998; Stewart et al. 1986) have suggested important environmental variables relevant to the prehistoric settlement in the project region. Typically, prehistoric sites in the Piedmont uplands of northern Delaware and southeastern Pennsylvania consist of small, low-density lithic scatters. These probably represent briefly occupied, limited activity camps (Custer 1988b:33; Knepper and Pappas 1998:6). These sites have been interpreted as evidence that uplands were used primarily for resource procurement activities (Custer 1988b; Custer and Wallace 1982). The following settings were identified as having a high potential for containing prehistoric archeological sites of this type: upland slopes (of between 3 and 8%), knolls, saddles, spurs, and slopes adjacent to ephemeral streams and springs, and toeslopes that extend into swampy floodplains of larger drainages. The majority of recorded sites lie within 40 meters of a surface water source (Custer 1988b:32; Custer and Wallace 1982). Generally, poorly drained soils are viewed as having a low potential for prehistoric sites, although locations adjacent to these areas may be sensitive.

In summary, areas sensitive for prehistoric archeological sites in the project region consist of comparatively level and well-drained locations in proximity to water sources. The SR 82 project area does not conform to this characterization as it generally crosses steep terrain. Moreover, the relatively level terrain at the foot of the slope appears to have been disturbed by prior construction of a millrace and SR 82. For these reasons, the project area is characterized as having a low potential for containing prehistoric archeological resources.

HISTORIC SITES

Archeological site files indicated that no historic archeological sites have been recorded within 1.6 kilometers (1.0 miles) of the project area. Structural resource inventory forms, however, revealed 14 historic architectural resources located within 300 meters (987 feet) of the SR 82 project area (Table 1). A review of these structures suggests the types of archeological resources that may occur within the project area and vicinity. Previously recorded structures generally relate to three principal categories: domestic (dwellings and associated outbuildings), industrial (mills, mill dams and races), and transportation (bridges).

Auburn Mills Historic District

Of particular relevance to the present project is the NRHP-listed Auburn Mills Historic District (N-5003), located south of the project area at the intersection of SR 82 and County Road 253 (Figure 1). The district encompasses several industrial, commercial, and domestic structures

associated with the eighteenth- to nineteenth-century Auburn Mills (Herman and Drossin 1979). Although the district, as originally delineated, lies 91 meters (300 feet) south of the project area, a recently completed historic architectural survey recommended the expansion of its boundaries to include the existing study area (Griffitts 1998: 28, 29). The proposed augmented boundaries encompass the Auburn Mills Trace Dam (N-13620) near the northern terminus of the SR 82 project area, and a millrace that runs along the western side of SR 82 and just beyond the limits of construction for the present project area. While the existing concrete dam was built circa 1910, the millrace was initially constructed during the late-eighteenth or early-nineteenth century.

Table 1
Previously Recorded Historic Cultural Resources
Within 1.6 Kilometers of the SR 82 Project Area

RESOURCE #	NAME/DESCRIPTION	RESOURCE #	NAME/DESCRIPTION
N-329	Yorklyn Snuff Mill	N-4086	Dixon House
N-446	Right-of-way Houses	N-4092	Woodale Historic District
N-1083	Auburn Mill	N-5003	Auburn Mills Historic Dist.
N-1362	Marshall Dam	N-5004	Auburn Mills House
N-3927	William Grant House	N-12555	Bridge #114
N-4054	Bridge #112	N-12556	Bridge #126
N-4055	Dam and Race	N-1362	Millrace and Dam

A summary of the historical development of the Auburn Mills Historic District is abstracted from Scharf (1888), Herman and Drossin (1979), and Griffitts (1998) and presented below. The Red Clay Creek Valley has historically been a locus of early milling activity in New Castle County. Operations at the site began during the mid-eighteenth century at which time John Garrett, Sr. developed Red Clay Creek into a seat of grist- and sawmills. Efforts to expand and diversify the operation during the late eighteenth century led John Garrett, Jr. to construct an additional gristmill along Red Clay Creek and a snuff mill downstream from the gristmill. By 1812, the complex had come under the ownership of Horatio G. Garrett, presumably John Garrett, Jr.'s son. By that year it encompassed a small group of related structures known as Auburn Mills that included the mill, now producing paper, H.G. Garrett's residence, and housing for mill employees. These structures lay along the millrace, which extended from the Pennsylvania state line south to a meander in Red Clay Creek, for a distance of approximately 608 meters (2000 feet). In 1813, Thomas Lea bought the mill and converted it to a cotton spinning facility. Despite several changes in ownership, cotton processing continued for most of the nineteenth century. Further growth included the addition to the complex of a textile mill in the 1880s during the tenure of William and James Clark.

The most intensive period of activity and expansion occurred between 1890 and 1910. Developments at this time included augmenting worker housing and the addition of paper production facilities. William Clark sold his holdings to Israel and Elwood Marshall, and S. Franklin Ewart, in 1890, the three of who converted the textile mill into a paper mill. Shortly thereafter, Ewart sold his share to the Marshall brothers who subsequently patented a new type of paper made from fiber. In addition to expanding the mill, other developments at the complex included the construction of Israel Marshall's home in 1897. Because of its association with historic milling in the area and innovations made by the Marshall brothers, in 1979 this historic

district was listed on the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and B (Griffitts 1998).

Historic maps of the area (Beers 1868; Hopkins 1881; Price and Rea 1849) illustrate the growth of the Auburn Mills Historic District and suggest the project area's historic archeological resource potential. The maps illustrate the development at the intersection of SR 82 and County Road 253 and to the south where the late nineteenth-century snuff mill lay. Within the project area, however, little development appears to have occurred except for the millrace, which parallels the western edge of the existing road (Figures 3 and 4).

The brief overview of the development of the Auburn Mills Historic District suggests the likelihood that associated historic archeological resources may be identified within the project area. As discussed, the millrace and dam lie along the western edge of the project's limits of construction. As such, there is a high potential for encountering structures or features related to the mill's historic water power system.