

SECTION 5.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following discussion is focused on the description and interpretation of the five archaeological sites identified during the Phase IB archaeological survey within the U.S. Route 301 Levels Road Mitigation Site (Figures 5.1-5.3). Recommendations for further archaeological investigation are included for sites with the potential to meet National Register of Historic Places eligibility criteria. The Area 7/12 Brick Locus discovered near the historic crossroads is considered part of the U.S. 301 Section 2 Rumsey Prehistoric/Historic site (CRS # N14501, Site # 7NC-F-121) and is discussed in the U.S. Route 301 Section 2 report.

Site components for the five sites are summarized in Table 5.1. The five sites are described in detail in Sections 5.1 to 5.6. Section 5.7 summarizes the results of the Phase IB archaeological survey in relationship to the U.S. Route 301 prehistoric and historic archaeological models and research priorities.

Table 5.1: Site Summary.

CRS #/ Site #	Site Name	Periods of occupation	Hypothesized Site Type
N14492/ 7NC-F-112	Rumsey/Polk Tenant/Prehistoric site	18 th -19 th Century, Woodland I (Late Archaic- Middle Woodland)	Small base camp, domestic tenant site
N14493/ 7NC-F-113	Levels Road Area 2/3 Prehistoric site	Unknown Prehistoric	Procurement site, temporary work site
N14494/ 7NC-F-114	Levels Road Area 4 Prehistoric site 1	Woodland I	Procurement site
N14495/ 7NC-F-115	Levels Road Area 4 Prehistoric site 2	Archaic-Woodland I	Procurement site
N14496/ 7NC-F-116	Levels Road Area 11/14 Prehistoric site	Unknown Prehistoric (possibly Woodland II)	Procurement site

5.1 Rumsey/Polk Tenant/Prehistoric site (CRS # N14492, Site # 7NC-F-112)

Two loci of prehistoric eighteenth and nineteenth century artifacts were identified during the pedestrian and metal detector surveys within the northern and central portions of Area 2/3 (see Figures 4.4a and 4.5-4.25, see Figure 5.1). These two loci were separated by approximately 60 meters. Both are considered part of the Rumsey/Polk Tenant/Prehistoric site (CRS # N14492, Site # 7NC-F-112) in consultation with DelDOT/DESHPO. This site measures 220 by 120 meters (2.64 hectares/6.5 acres).

Area 2 was considered to have high potential for both historic and prehistoric resources and Area 3 high potential for historic and moderate potential for prehistoric resources (see Table 4.1, see Figure 4.1). A structure attributed to W[illiam] Polk is located within Area 2/3 in the location of the Rumsey/Polk site on the 1849 Rea and Price *Map of New Castle County*, but does not appear on the 1868 Beers *Atlas of the State of Delaware* or the later nineteenth century maps. The site was part of extensive holdings of the prominent Rumsey (from 1742 to 1836) and the Polk/Cochran families until the end of the nineteenth century. The Rumseys, Polks, and Cochrans owned substantial houses elsewhere so it was assumed that the historic components of the archaeological site represent the remains of a tenant domicile or farmstead.

The prehistoric component of the site yielded approximately 50 varied artifacts including six bifaces functionally classified as projectile points, as well as debitage, cores, and FCR (see Table 4.4 and 4.5, see Figures 4.9, 4.10, and 4.11). These artifacts reflect a variety of activities that took place over time at the site, such as tool manufacture and maintenance, cooking, processing foods, and preparation of hunting gear. The variety of lithic types (see Figure 4.10) and the presence of debitage and FCR with cortex indicate that the use of local cobbles was probably important although some of the lithic materials may have been imported or exchanged from other areas, such as the Iron Hill jasper quarry further north in New Castle County. Cobble sources of quartz, chert, jasper, and other lithic materials were located throughout the APE and on the adjacent bluffs and forested areas. One quartz point was classified as a Koens-Crispin type (see Figure 4.9), placing elements of the site broadly within the Woodland I period (end of the Late Archaic, ca x – x BP). Analyses of the variety and density of artifacts concluded that the site may represent a small base camp.

The historic component of the site contains domestic and personal artifacts manufactured from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries (see Figures 4.12, 4.15, 4.17, 4.18, 4.19, 4.21, and 4.22). Eighteenth century ceramic sherds include scratch blue white salt-glazed stoneware, white salt-glazed stoneware, fragments of a Whieldon creamware teapot (1750-1780), Staffordshire slipware, tin-enameled ware, and hard bodied red earthenware. Other eighteenth century artifacts include the stem of a wine glass dated from 1755-1785, a 1739 George II halfpenny, shoe buckles, brass buttons, and a brass flintlock pistol barrel and a gunflint. The pistol is similar to types made in Liege, Belgium. It is a one-shot pistol designed to be carried in a boot or pocket, possibly by a military officer. Other artifacts such as red earthenware, hand-forged nails, white ball clay smoking pipe fragments, and olive bottle glass have extended manufacturing date ranges, possibly from the seventeenth or eighteenth to the nineteenth century. Nineteenth century artifacts were numerous and included whiteware, yellowware, and other ceramics, bottle glass, and cut nails (see Figure 4.25).

Two features were identified during the Phase I archaeological survey. Feature 1 is a possible posthole located in an STP adjacent to a find spot of scratch-blue ceramics. The feature was further defined in an EU (2A) placed in this location. Feature 3 is a possible pit feature located in EU 2C. In addition to the features, architectural materials such as brick, hand-forged nails, and window glass are present (see Figure 4.13) and likely derived from a former structure or structures. Domestic items indicate the site contained a domicile occupied during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Since the former domicile was owned by the Rumseys after 1733 and the Polk/Cochrans after 1836, it may have been occupied by a tenant of the Rumseys or Polks. Further archaeological survey is needed to define the site's horizontal and vertical dimensions, locate any intact structural elements of the site (cellar, footings, hearth base, privy, or well), activity areas, functions, period of occupation, and integrity.

Conclusion and Recommendation

A Phase II archaeological survey is recommended to define the site's horizontal and vertical dimensions, activity areas, functions, period of occupation, and integrity. If it cannot be avoided by a project redesign, a Phase II archaeological survey is recommended for the Rumsey/Polk Tenant/Prehistoric site (CRS # N14492, Site # 7NC-F-112) to determine its eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. The Phase II archaeological survey should include EUs at close intervals within the dense portions of the site to locate activity areas, internal concentrations, and features, and at notable locations, and additional background research to learn more about the potential eighteenth and nineteenth century inhabitants.

5.2 Levels Road Area 2/3 Prehistoric site (CRS # N14493, Site # 7NC-F-113)

A prehistoric locus on the northeastern end of Study Area 2/3 adjacent to Study Area 8 is situated on a slight upland adjacent to a swale or drainage near the tributary of Sandy Branch in an area considered to have high potential for prehistoric resources (see Figure 4.4b). The site contained nine prehistoric artifacts in an area approximately 80 by 40 meters (0.32 hectare/0.79 acre). This locus of artifacts was registered as the Levels Road Area 2/3 Prehistoric site (CRS # N14493, Site # 7NC-F-113). This area also contained low densities of brick fragments that were considered the result of field scatter and not a historic site. The range of artifacts included two pieces of debitage, two cores, and five FCR of varied lithic types with no bifaces or diagnostic artifacts. It may represent a short term work station.

Conclusion and Recommendation

The Levels Road Area 2/3 Prehistoric site (CRS # N14493, Site # 7NC-F-113) was identified and registered with DESHPO as prehistoric site. The site was determined to have limited potential to yield significant information about prehistory and unlikely to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. In consultation with DelDOT and DESHPO, no further archaeological survey was necessary.

5.3 Levels Road Area 4 Prehistoric site 1 (CRS # N14494, Site # 7NC-F-114)

The Levels Road Area 4 Prehistoric site 1 (CRS # N14494, Site # 7NC-F-114) was identified in the southwestern portion of Area 4 in a setting with gently rolling knolls and swales near a tributary of Sandy Branch (Figure 5.2, see Figures 4.26a, 4.27, and 4.28). The site is in an area determined to have high potential for prehistoric resources (see Figure 4.1, see Table 4.1). The site contained approximately 10 prehistoric artifacts in an area approximately 140 by 120 meters (1.68 hectares/4.15 acres).

Artifact distribution for this site is diffuse, approximately two artifacts per acre. The artifacts include debitage, a quartz chopper, a chert Susquehanna point, an untyped rhyolite point, and a quartz biface fragment (see Figure 4.28). The Susquehanna point is a characteristic diagnostic tool made and used during the Woodland I period (terminal portion of the Late Archaic). Site activities likely included tool maintenance and resource procurement, as well as woodworking. The site assemblage is likely to have formed over time as a result of multiple, unrelated events, and is therefore unlikely to provide new information about prehistoric settlement in this area.

Conclusion and Recommendation

The Levels Road Area 4 Prehistoric site 1 (CRS # N14494, Site # 7NC-F-114) was registered with DESHPO. The site was determined to have limited potential to yield significant information about prehistory and unlikely to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. In consultation with DelDOT and DESHPO, no further archaeological survey is recommended.

5.4 Levels Road Area 4 Prehistoric site 2 (CRS # N14495, Site # 7NC-F-115)

The Levels Road Area 4 Prehistoric site 2 (CRS # N14495, Site # 7NC-F-115) is located south and east of the swale in the southern portion of Area 4, and extends into Area 10 by a few meters. The site area includes gently rolling uplands and low lying swales or drainages adjacent to the southern tributary of Sandy Branch (see Figures 4.26b, 4.27, 4.28, and 5.2). This portion of the APE was determined to have high potential for prehistoric resources (see Figure 4.1, see Table 4.1). The site

contains 36 prehistoric artifacts including four projectile points (see Figure 4.27), and measures approximately 400 by 120 meters (4.8 hectares/11.86 acres).

Artifacts were found on uplands and side slopes adjacent to drainages. In addition to a diffuse distribution of 24 artifacts (approximately two per acre) located during the pedestrian survey, a small cluster of 12 artifacts were found in STPs and an EU surrounding adjacent surface finds of two flakes, P0103/P0104 (see Figure 4.26b). Recovered artifacts include diagnostic projectile point fragments, a hammerstone, two scrapers, a core, and debitage. Contracting or straight-stemmed points were identified as Poplar Island and Bare Island types (see Figure 4.28). These points are often considered to date to the Woodland I (Late Archaic) period, but may have a greater temporal range extending from the Archaic (Middle Archaic) to the end of the Woodland I (Middle Woodland) periods (e.g., Custer 1996, 2001). Site activities likely included tool manufacture, maintenance, resource procurement such as hunting, and resource processing such as hide scraping. Like Site 1, Site 2 may represent multiple periods of use during the Archaic through Woodland I periods. The low density and diffuse nature of the assemblage and lack of definitive features or activity areas limits the information potential for this site.

Conclusion and Recommendation

The Levels Road Area 4 Prehistoric site 2 (CRS # N14495, Site # 7NC-F-115) was identified and registered with DESHPO. The site was determined to have limited potential to yield significant information about prehistory and unlikely to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. In consultation with DelDOT and DESHPO, no further archaeological survey is recommended

5.5 Levels Road Area 11/14 Prehistoric site (CRS # N14496, Site # 7NC-F-116)

This site is located in an area of high potential for both historic and prehistoric resources (see Table 4.1, see Figure 4.1) on a low upland knoll adjacent to a drainage or swale in Areas 11 and 14 (see Figure 4.44). The site dimensions are approximately 140 by 100 meters (1.4 hectares/3.46 acres) including the areas in both Areas 11 and 14 (see Figures 4.45, 4.46, and 4.54).

Fifteen prehistoric artifacts found during surface collection of Areas 11 and 14 in a 3.46 acre area (approximately five per acre) were considered part of the Levels Road Area 11/14 Prehistoric site (CRS # N14496, Site # 7NC-F-116). The artifacts include two untyped, rhyolite projectile point fragments, a chert point tip, two quartz bifacial tool fragments, a chert and a quartz core, seven fragments of debitage made of quartz, quartzite, limonite, and chert, and a fragment of FCR. A variety of activities such as hunting, tool manufacture and cooking are suggested by the tools, FCR, and debitage found in this site (see Figure 4.46). None of the artifacts are temporally diagnostic;

however, a chert triangular projectile point found outside of the site in Area 11 is associated with the Woodland II (Late Woodland) period and may be associated with the site. It is unknown what type of site is represented, but the variety of artifacts and the low density suggest it may have been a repeatedly used procurement site.

Conclusion and Recommendation

The Levels Road Area 11/14 Prehistoric site (CRS # N14496, Site # 7NC-F-116) was identified and registered with DESHPO. The site was determined to have limited potential to yield significant information about prehistory and unlikely to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. In consultation with DelDOT and DESHPO, no further archaeological survey is recommended.

5.6 Interpretation of the Phase I archaeological survey results

As a result of the Phase I archaeological survey in the U.S. Route 301 Levels Mitigation site, five archaeological sites were identified. These results provide data for testing models of prehistoric and historic archaeological sensitivity for the U.S. Route 301 corridor (A.D. Marble & Company 2006a, 2006b; Kellogg 1992; Siders 1993a) and similar settings elsewhere in the Mid Peninsular Drainage Divide and Delmarva Peninsula (e.g., Custer n.d., 1986, 1989; Custer et al. 1986; De Cunzio and Catts 1990; Eveleigh et al. 1983; Petraglia et al. 1998, 2002).

In terms of the prehistoric sensitivity assessment, the survey results demonstrate that all of the sites are consistent with current regional models for prehistoric site location. In these models, the highest potential for prehistoric sites are within 150 meters (approximately 500 feet) of wetlands and streams on level, well drained upland areas (see Richard Grubb & Associates, Inc. 2009: 3-87 and 5-2). The survey results are also consistent with the expected site types including small camps and procurement sites commonly found in headwater and drainage divide settings.

The prehistoric model presented by Custer (n.d.) and Eveleigh et al. (1983) and depicted on U.S.G.S. quadrangle maps on file with the DESHPO was not supported by the survey results. When the sites located by the Phase IB archaeological survey are compared with the areas of potential depicted on a quadrangle map of the APE, only portions of the Levels Road Area 4 Prehistoric site 1 and Levels Road Area 4 Prehistoric site 2 fall within areas of high potential. The Levels Road Area 11/14 Prehistoric site falls within an area of moderate potential and the Rumsey/Polk Tenant/Prehistoric site is in an area considered to have low potential for prehistoric resources. The 1986 *A Management Plan for Delaware's Prehistoric Cultural Resources* indicates that the APE is in an area of low to medium significant site potential with no development pressure (Custer 1986: 190, 206). Since that time the amount of development pressure has increased considerably and the evaluation of potential may

have been due to a lack of systematic survey in the area.

Based on the models of prehistoric and historic archaeological sensitivity for the U.S. Route 301 corridor, the potential for Paleo-Indian is low, the potential for Archaic, Woodland II, Contact period or early colonial period Native American sites was considered moderate, and the potential for Woodland I period site within the APE was considered high (see Section 3.1). Five sites with prehistoric components identified during the Phase I archaeological survey are the Rumsey/Polk Tenant/Prehistoric site, Levels Road Area 2/3 Prehistoric site, Levels Road Area 4 Prehistoric site 1, Levels Road Area 4 Prehistoric site 2, and Levels Road Area 11/14 Prehistoric site. The sites (see Table 5.1) include possible Archaic to Woodland II period procurement sites and a small base camp. An examination of sites in the Bohemia River drainage and similar settings in the Sassafras River drainage indicated that sites in the headwaters areas tend to be small and ephemeral with larger sites such as Hack Point and Bohemia Mills located near the confluences of major streams and near the Chesapeake Bay. Prehistoric sites of all periods are represented within the Bohemia River drainage.

The Rumsey/Polk Tenant/Prehistoric site is considered a potential small base camp adjacent to the Sandy Branch and dated to the Woodland I (Late Archaic) period based on a single diagnostic artifact. The remaining sites are interpreted as procurement sites, where small groups were positioned to carry out the daily activities associated with the acquisition of critical resources beyond the site boundaries, but within the local plant and animal resource catchment area. The Rumsey/Polk Tenant/Prehistoric site and Levels Road Area 4 Prehistoric site 1 yielded diagnostic artifacts suggesting they were occupied during the Woodland I period. The Levels Road Area 4 Prehistoric site 2 may have been occupied during the Archaic and Woodland I periods. The Levels Road Area 11/14 Prehistoric site's period of occupation is not known, but based on the presence of a nearby diagnostic artifact the site may have formed during the Woodland II period. The Levels Road Area 2/3 Prehistoric site's period of occupation is not known.

Paleo-Indian (Paleo-Indian and Early Archaic) sites or isolated artifacts were not discovered during the survey. No artifacts definitively attributed to the Archaic (Middle Archaic) period were located during the Phase IB archaeological survey. During the course of the survey it was hypothesized that the exotic Ohio Flint Ridge biface found in Area 5 could have been associated with the Paleo-Indian or Archaic periods based on the material, but the form was not diagnostic. Archaic sites are poorly documented in Delaware and addressing probable site locations and defining site types are a research priority (Custer 1986: 174). Since the Woodland I period is one of the best documented periods in Delaware prehistory, Custer (1986) suggests it is possible to address a variety of research questions for this period including the generation of comparable data for further definition of the Woodland I Settlement System (Custer 1986: Figure 16), the process of social transformation within

specific sites or areas, further identification and definition of settlement pattern level data for the Woodland I cultural complexes such as Barker's Landing or Clyde Farm, and inter-site comparisons (Custer 1986: 174-176). One Woodland II period a triangular point was found in Area 11. The Woodland II period is not well represented regionally, but research priorities include comparison to the Woodland I period in terms of settlement and social organization and testing a hypothesis that population levels dropped during this period in Southern New Castle County (Custer 1986: 176-177).

In terms of historic sites, the presence of sites on nineteenth century historic maps, and the location of historic roads, crossroads, and streams was a good indicator of the locations of nineteenth century sites. This is borne out by the location of the Rumsey/Polk Tenant site. Eighteenth century sites tended to be located in similar locations to that of prehistoric sites. The Rumsey/Polk Tenant site was adjacent to a tributary stream where background research suggested that historic tenancies or structures might be located. More eighteenth century artifacts and sites were found in this survey than were expected as a result of the background research.

The Rumsey/Polk Tenant site could provide potentially significant information within the context of historic themes from the *Delaware Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan* (Ames et al. 1989; Siders 1993a: 8) including *Disappearing Historic Landscapes; Agriculture; Transportation and Communication; Settlement Patterns and Demographic Changes; and Major Families, Individuals and Events*. For below-ground sites, the theme of *Settlement Patterns and Demographic Changes*, was considered the highest priority of the historic themes since this is the "key to understanding how the historic landscape was organized during a particular period..." (Ames et al. 1989:79).

This site could provide substantial information about eighteenth century settlement patterns and changes in landholders; the lives of tenants, slaves, and successful farmers; and regionally important families such as the Rumseys, Cochrans, and Polks. Further investigations could address questions about the eighteenth century economic and social relations during the evolving social structure of agricultural New Castle County. The site was occupied during the Intensified and Durable Occupation (1730-1770) and Early Industrialization (1770-1830) periods, both ranked high on the list of periods for study in Delaware (Ames et al. 1989: 81). The historic theme of *Agriculture* is considered a high priority for both above-ground and below-ground resources. Since the sites occupy landscapes that were historically agricultural, but have radically changed since the end of the twentieth century, they offer a suggestion of what landscape features may have been present in historic agricultural regions of New Castle County. The Early Industrialization period (1770-1830) is considered a time of agricultural reform and experimentation that may be reflected in below-ground evidence from features at these sites.

The site may also contribute to the theme of *Major Families, Individuals and Events* since it is connected to the ownership of major landowning families. The Rumseys acquired the APE and surrounding lands during 1730s and 1740s from the holdings of Manwaring Hall and the Evertson and Heath families. The Rumsey family was important in the economic and social life of northeastern Cecil County and southwestern New Castle County. The Rumsey lands within the APE were sold to James Polk in the 1830s, and inherited by Eliza Polk Cochran in the 1850s. The Polks and Cochrans were important landowners in the area during the nineteenth century. It is likely that the site was occupied by tenants during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries so it may be possible to learn more about the relationship between the property owners and tenants and local social structure.

Potential historic archaeological research questions that could be addressed by further investigation include documentation of little known early historic occupation and economic and social development such as seventeenth and eighteenth-century farmsteads and tenant farms, mills, and roads, greater definition of the development of the agricultural landscape of this portion of lower New Castle and Cecil Counties during the seventeenth through nineteenth centuries, including the roles of tenants and free and enslaved African Americans, and the role of the area in abolition and the Underground Railroad. During further investigation, appropriate archaeological sites and collections from the Mid-Peninsular Drainage Divide and Upper Chesapeake could be examined. A partial list of those for whom further consultation could be undertaken include Dr. Bernard Herman, Dr. Wade Catts, Dr. Lu Ann DeCunzo, Charles Fithian, Craig Lukezic, and Dr. David Orr.