

### 10.1 Research Issues for Precontact Sites

Since it seems likely that small lithic scatters will be the principal, and perhaps the only, type of precontact site found within the Purple Section 1 APE, the preliminary research issues suggested here relate primarily to that type of site. Additionally, if it is found that cobble concentrations such as those observed within the APE served as sources of lithic raw material during the precontact period, lithic raw material procurement and processing issues could be relevant in future research on the precontact sites found there. Some possible research issues therefore include:

- The functional and chronological interpretation of small lithic scatters.
- The nature of precontact settlement and use of the “interior,” away from resource rich rivers, estuaries, and coastal zones.
- Identification of lithic raw material sources and precontact patterns of procurement and processing.

### 10.2 Research Issues for Historic Period Sites

Background research suggested that some and perhaps all of the historic sites found within the project’s APE are likely to be farmsteads. Additionally, the apparent depiction on historic maps of multiple residences with one name (e.g. the J. LeCompt houses), and at least one residence with no name (the unnamed house on lands associated with the P./Mrs. Bowman residence), suggests that tenant farmers may have been occupying some of the houses that historically were within or near the Purple Section 1 APE. Additionally, censuses indicate that varying numbers of domestic servants and farm laborers resided on many farms, and that slaves were present on at least some farms in earlier censuses, but appear to be less prevalent later. On some farms with slaves, free African American servants and farm laborers were also present. While many of the domestic servants are identified as African American, some were not. Similarly, African American farm laborers were common, but sometimes lived and worked on the same farms with non-African American farm laborers. This would suggest that the different races worked together in the performance of farm work, since such tasks frequently required a communal effort on family farms.

The proximity of the National Register Bennett-Thomas Mill Site, and the earth dam across Scott Run, suggest that water powered mills may have been present within the APE as well as family farms and tenant farmers. And finally, a more recent pattern of interest was the disappearance of the family farms from the APE in the mid-twentieth century, as documented by 1937 aerial photographs as compared to later USGS mapping and current conditions. Based on these observations, some research issues relating to historic sites might be:

- Differences in material culture, socio-economic status, and ethnicity between farm owners and tenant farmers.
- The development of farming economies from earliest settlement through the mid-twentieth century, including the impact of transportation facilities such as the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal (1829) and the Delaware Railroad (1856).
- The role, status, and ethnicity of the servants and farm laborers listed in census records as living on farms.
- The extent to which slavery had disappeared from this community prior to emancipation, and the timing and processes involved.
- The history and role of small water powered mills in the local and regional economy.
- The mid-twentieth century transition to agribusiness.

### **10.3 Other Research Issues**

Other possible research issues relate to archaeological investigative procedures. Examples include:

- Local landform transformations during Holocene and historic times, and their implications for archaeological site burial and preservation/destruction.
- The efficacy of the precontact and historic predictive models for predicting the occurrence of archaeological sites. And specifically, what are the best predictors of early historic sites?