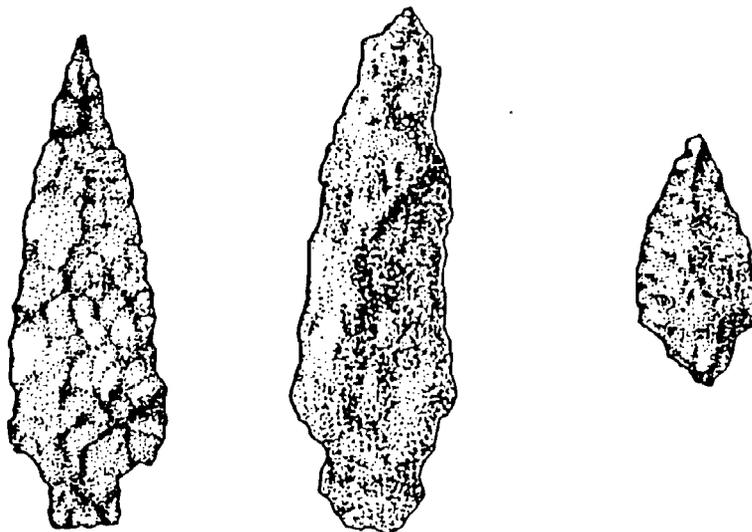




STATE OF DELAWARE  
*DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION*  
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THOMAS R. CARPER  
GOVERNOR

**Valley Road - Limestone Road to Lancaster Pike  
Cultural Resources Project**



Summer 1993

The Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) has proposed improvements along Valley Road, between Limestone Road and Lancaster Pike, consisting mostly of widening within the existing alignment. In order to protect cultural resources which may be adversely affected by the planned construction, the firm of R. Alan Mounier, Archaeologist (Vineland, N.J.) will be conducting a survey to identify any prehistoric and historic sites which may reside in the ground.

The earliest archaeological sites in Delaware date to around 12,000 B.C., the end of the Pleistocene or "Ice Age," and the beginning of the North American post-glacial period. Delaware was occupied by hunter/gatherer, and later, horticultural/agricultural groups until the arrival of Europeans in the 17th century. As a result of European influence, the native way of life was changed forever. Those who did not move out of the new European territory were assumed into the new culture. Archaeologists strive to separate and interpret the various periods of occupation through the study of artifacts and ground alterations resulting from human habitation.

Known prehistoric sites in the general project area are thought to represent small family base camps or foraging sites. These sites date to around 3500 B.C., near the end of the Late Archaic cultural period and the beginning of the Woodland cultural period. Although the immediate project area may hold similar sites, the hilly terrain may have been more suited to small resource gathering sites.

During the early historic period, the project area was settled by Quaker farmers and millers. The agricultural nature of Hockessin persisted through the mid-19th century. The area experienced a minor period of growth during the late 19th century with the advent of the kaolin mining industry. Kaolin clay was used to make smoking pipes and ceramics. The construction of the Wilmington and Western Railroad (a.k.a. Baltimore and Ohio) through the area in 1872 aided the industry and encouraged more settlement, since it connected Hockessin with Wilmington and Philadelphia. A flag station, called Mill Creek Station, was located just off Valley Road. Some of the late 19th-century development along Valley Road may also be related to the Jackson Limestone and Marble Quarries which were located a short distance to the southeast.

More recently, the area has become known for the concentration of mushroom growers. None of the original mushroom structures remain standing in the project area, though their vestiges may exist in the ground.

Through archaeological investigations, surviving cultural remains can inform us about past cultures for which we have no written records, and support or refute recorded historical information. The archaeological survey is expected to last approximately two to three weeks. If you have any questions, please contact Kevin Cunningham, DelDOT Archaeologist, at (302) 739-3826, or R. Alan Mounier at (609) 692-4475.

