

**PHASE I ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
WASHINGTON STREET SIDEWALKS  
CITY OF NEW CASTLE, NEW CASTLE COUNTY  
DELAWARE**

**PARENT AGREEMENT 1417, TASK 11**

**JUNE 2011**



**RICHARD GRUBB & ASSOCIATES, INC.**  
Cultural Resource Consultants



**Phase I Archaeological Survey  
Washington Street Sidewalks  
City of New Castle, New Castle County  
Delaware**

**Parent Agreement 1417, Task 11**

**By**

**Sharon D. White, Ph.D., RPA**

**Principal Investigator:**

Sharon D. White, Ph.D., RPA

**Prepared by:**

Richard Grubb & Associates, Inc.  
30 North Main Street  
Cranbury, New Jersey 08512

**Prepared for:**

Delaware Department of Transportation  
P.O. Box 778  
800 Bay Road  
Dover, Delaware 19903

**Date:** September 27, 2010 (Revised June 2, 2011)



## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

A Phase I archaeological survey was conducted by Richard Grubb & Associates (RGA) of Cranbury, New Jersey, within the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the proposed improvements to sidewalks in the City of New Castle, New Castle County, Delaware. The Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) is using funds provided by the Federal Highway Administration for this project. The proposed undertaking will replace existing or install new sidewalks along South Street between Third and West Seventh Streets, along West Seventh Street between the South and Washington Street intersections, along Washington Street between West Seventh Street and State Route 273, and on State Route 273 at its intersection with Washington Street. Sidewalk improvements are also proposed on Sixth Street at the intersection of Sixth and South Streets. The approximate length of the APE is 5,225 feet. The limits of construction for the proposed undertaking vary from 10 to 15 feet from the edge of the existing roadways. The approximate area of the APE is 1.2 acres.

The primary objective of the Phase I archaeological survey was to determine the presence or absence of archaeological sites within the APE. The scope of work included background research, archaeological fieldwork, artifact processing and analysis, and report production.

Based on the results of the background research, the APE was considered to have a high potential for prehistoric resources, given the proximity to the Delaware River, the upland topographic setting, and well-drained soils in the APE. Historic archaeological resource potential was also considered high due to the long period of occupation for the City of New Castle, the presence of the Stonum historic property and the New Castle Historic District (both partially within the APE), and nineteenth century roads and railroads within the APE.

The fieldwork portion of the Phase I archaeological survey was conducted in May of 2010. Fieldwork included a visual reconnaissance of the APE and the excavation of 35 shovel test pits (STPs) at 10-meter and judgmental intervals. Several portions of the APE were found to be heavily disturbed and composed of deep fills.

A total of 588 artifacts were found in fill and surface strata in 32 STPs excavated within the APE, and all dated from the early nineteenth through twentieth centuries. Based on the mixed chronology of associated artifacts in individual STPs and the poor stratigraphic integrity of the finds, these artifacts could not be directly related to previously surveyed properties and do not constitute archaeological sites. No potentially significant archaeological resources were identified. Based on these results, RGA recommends no further archaeological survey.



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary.....	i
Table of Contents.....	ii
List of Figures, Photo Plates, and Tables.....	iii
1.0 Introduction.....	1-1
1.1 Project Description and the Area of Potential Effects .....	1-11
2.0 Research Goals and Design.....	2-1
3.0 Environmental Setting.....	3-1
4.0 Background Research .....	4-1
4.1 Archaeology.....	4-1
4.2 Prehistoric Context.....	4-5
4.3 Historic Context.....	4-8
5.0 Archaeological Survey.....	5-1
5.1 Assessment of Archaeological Resources Sensitivity .....	5-1
5.2 Research Design and Methods .....	5-2
5.3 Results .....	5-9
6.0 Conclusions and Recommendations .....	6-1
7.0 Sources.....	7-1

### Appendices:

- Appendix A: Curriculum Vita for Principal Investigator
- Appendix B: Record of Consultation
- Appendix C: Shovel Test Pit Log
- Appendix D: Artifact Catalog
- Appendix E: Annotated Bibliography



## LIST OF FIGURES, PHOTO PLATES, AND TABLES

### FIGURES:

<b>Figure 1.1:</b>	Aerial Map .....	1-2
<b>Figure 1.2:</b>	U.S.G.S. Map.....	1-3
<b>Figure 1.3:</b>	County Map.....	1-4
<b>Figure 1.4a:</b>	Construction Plan.....	1-5
<b>Figure 1.4b:</b>	Construction Plan.....	1-6
<b>Figure 1.4c:</b>	Construction Plan.....	1-7
<b>Figure 1.4d:</b>	Construction Plan.....	1-8
<b>Figure 1.4e:</b>	Construction Plan.....	1-9
<b>Figure 1.4f:</b>	Construction Plan.....	1-10
<b>Figure 1.5:</b>	Map of Surveyed Architectural Resources.....	1-12
<b>Figure 1.6:</b>	New Castle Historic District.....	1-13
<b>Figure 3.1:</b>	Physiographic Provinces Map.....	3-2
<b>Figure 3.2:</b>	Soils Map.....	3-3
<b>Figure 4.1:</b>	1805 Latrobe, Plan of the Town of Newcastle .....	4-11
<b>Figure 4.2:</b>	1849 Rea and Price, Map of New Castle County, Delaware.....	4-14
<b>Figure 4.3:</b>	1868 F. W. Beers, <i>Atlas of the State of Delaware</i> .....	4-15
<b>Figure 4.4:</b>	1886 Hexamer General Surveys, Insurance Map of Triton Mills.....	4-17
<b>Figure 4.5:</b>	1886 Hexamer General Surveys, Insurance Map of New Castle Mills.....	4-19
<b>Figure 4.6:</b>	1885 Sanborn Map Company, Insurance Maps of New Castle, Delaware .....	4-20
<b>Figure 4.7:</b>	1891 Sanborn Map Company, Insurance Maps of New Castle, Delaware .....	4-23
<b>Figure 4.8:</b>	1893 G. Wm. Baist, Atlas of New Castle County, Delaware .....	4-24
<b>Figure 4.9:</b>	1901 Sanborn Map Company, Insurance Maps of New Castle, Delaware .....	4-25

<b>Figure 4.10:</b>	1912 Sanborn Map Company, Insurance Maps of New Castle, Delaware .....	4-27
<b>Figure 4.11:</b>	1925 Dallin Aerial Survey, Bellanca Airfield and New Castle.....	4-28
<b>Figure 4.12:</b>	1925 Dallin Aerial Survey, General View of New Castle .....	4-29
<b>Figure 4.13:</b>	1925 Dallin Aerial Survey, Wilmington Fibre Specialty Company.....	4-30
<b>Figure 4.14:</b>	1925 Dallin Aerial Survey, Deemer Steel Company .....	4-31
<b>Figure 4.15:</b>	1945 Aerial Survey of New Castle.....	4-33
<b>Figure 5.1a:</b>	Construction, Phasing, M.O.T. and Erosion Control Plan showing STP and photo locations.....	5-4
<b>Figure 5.1b:</b>	Construction, Phasing, M.O.T. and Erosion Control Plan showing STP and photo locations.....	5-5
<b>Figure 5.1c:</b>	Construction, Phasing, M.O.T. and Erosion Control Plan showing STP and photo locations.....	5-6
<b>Figure 5.1d:</b>	Construction, Phasing, M.O.T. and Erosion Control Plan showing STP and photo locations.....	5-7
<b>Figure 5.1e:</b>	Construction, Phasing, M.O.T. and Erosion Control Plan showing STP and photo locations.....	5-8
<b>Figure 5.2:</b>	Representative soil profiles from shovel test pits 2, 10, 18 and 28 .....	5-16
<b>Figure 5.3:</b>	Representative artifacts found in fill deposits in the South Street section of the APE.....	5-19
<b>Figure 5.4:</b>	Representative artifacts found in fill deposits in the West Seventh Street section of the APE .....	5-28
<b>Figure 5.5:</b>	Representative artifacts found in fill deposits in the Washington Street section of the APE .....	5-34

**PHOTO PLATES:**

<b>Plate 5.1:</b>	Overview of South Street from eastern terminus of the APE.....	5-11
<b>Plate 5.2:</b>	South Street between Fourth and Fifth Streets.....	5-12
<b>Plate 5.3:</b>	South Street between Sixth and West Seventh Streets.....	5-13
<b>Plate 5.4:</b>	South Street between Sixth and West Seventh Streets.....	5-14

<b>Plate 5.5:</b>	Intersection of South Street and West Seventh Street.....	5-21
<b>Plate 5.6:</b>	Intersection of South Street and West Seventh Street.....	5-22
<b>Plate 5.7:</b>	Intersection of South Street and West Seventh Street.....	5-23
<b>Plate 5.8:</b>	West Seventh Street between South Street and the railroad crossing.....	5-24
<b>Plate 5.9:</b>	West Seventh Street between Umbrella Row and Washington Street.....	5-25
<b>Plate 5.10:</b>	West Seventh Street between Umbrella Row and Washington Street.....	5-26
<b>Plate 5.11:</b>	Washington Street between Ninth Street and the railroad crossing .....	5-30
<b>Plate 5.12:</b>	Washington Street between Ninth and Tenth Streets within Stonum property .....	5-31
<b>Plate 5.13:</b>	Washington Street between Ninth and Tenth Streets.....	5-32
<b>TABLES:</b>		
<b>Table 4.1:</b>	Registered archaeological sites within a one-mile radius of the APE .....	4-2
<b>Table 5.1:</b>	Summary of Testing Strategy and Potential for Archaeological Resources.....	5-3

