I. Introduction

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) are developing the proposed Blue Ball Properties Area Transportation Improvement Project. The project is located in Brandywine Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware and involves proposed improvements to the intersections of existing Route 202 with Route 141, Murphy Road, Rockland Road and Foulk Road and the interchange between Route 202 and Interstate 95. The results of the Phase II Archaeological Evaluation Testing for 7NC-B-11 (the Weldin Plantation Site) ***(Figure 1)*** are discussed in this document.

The Nemours Historic District dominates the area on the west side of Concord Pike and consists of the A.I. DuPont Institute, mansion and gardens; the Murphy House; the Bird-Husbands House and the Blue Ball Barn. Municipal sites in the project area are the Porter Reservoir and Filtration Plant and the Rock Manor (public) Golf Course. Residential development in the area consists of Deerhurst, Fairfax, Alapocas and Rock Manor subdivisions. In addition, there are several strip malls to accommodate the suburban community. This area is a suburb of Wilmington, Delaware.

The project must be in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's (ACHP's) implementing regulations, 36 CFR § 800. McCormick, Taylor & Associates, Inc (MTA) is completing the cultural resources studies.

MTA completed a survey of all historic architectural resources and archaeological resources within the area of potential effect (APE) for this project, in consultation with DelDOT, FHWA, the Delaware State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), and additional Consulting Parties. The APE has been previously established (Shaffer and Arnold 2000). The survey of historic architectural resources (Arnold 2000) is has been reviewed by the Consulting Parties. A Phase I Archaeological Identification Survey has been completed (Shaffer 2000, Shaffer 2001). Three archaeological sites had been previously identified that required Phase II Archaeological Evaluation Testing: 7NC-B-11, the Weldin Plantation Site, previously identified by Thunderbird Archeological Associates, Inc. (TAA) (Taylor et al. 1989), 7NC-B-49, the Augustine Cutoff Site, previously identified by TAA (Wholey et al. 2000) and 7NC-B-54, the Milner #1 Site, previously identified by John Milner Associates, Inc. (JMA) (Roberts 1999). The goal of the additional testing was to provide enough information to determine if these sites are eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Principal Investigator for the Archaeological Identification and Evaluation Testing is Barbara Shaffer. Kevin Simons provided technical expertise for the interpretation of the site and participated in the fieldwork. Richard Baublitz, MTA's Pennsylvania Archaeological Group Coordinator, provided technical assistance. Robert Eiswert was the Archaeological Field Director. Extensive background research had been previously completed by TAA. Additional research was conducted by Kevin Simons, Scott Emory, Francine Arnold, and David Kimmerly. Dorothy Daly completed the landscape and vegetation survey. Archaeological Field Technicians were Jeffrey Bowdoin, Brenda Carr, Timothy Coan, Colin Ferriman, Bonnie Lassiter, Timothy Mancl, Wayne Mellin, David Orr, Rebecka Weinsteiger, and Joshua Wilson. Jonathan Bream inventoried the artifacts and Brenda Carr performed the faunal analysis. Graphics were produced

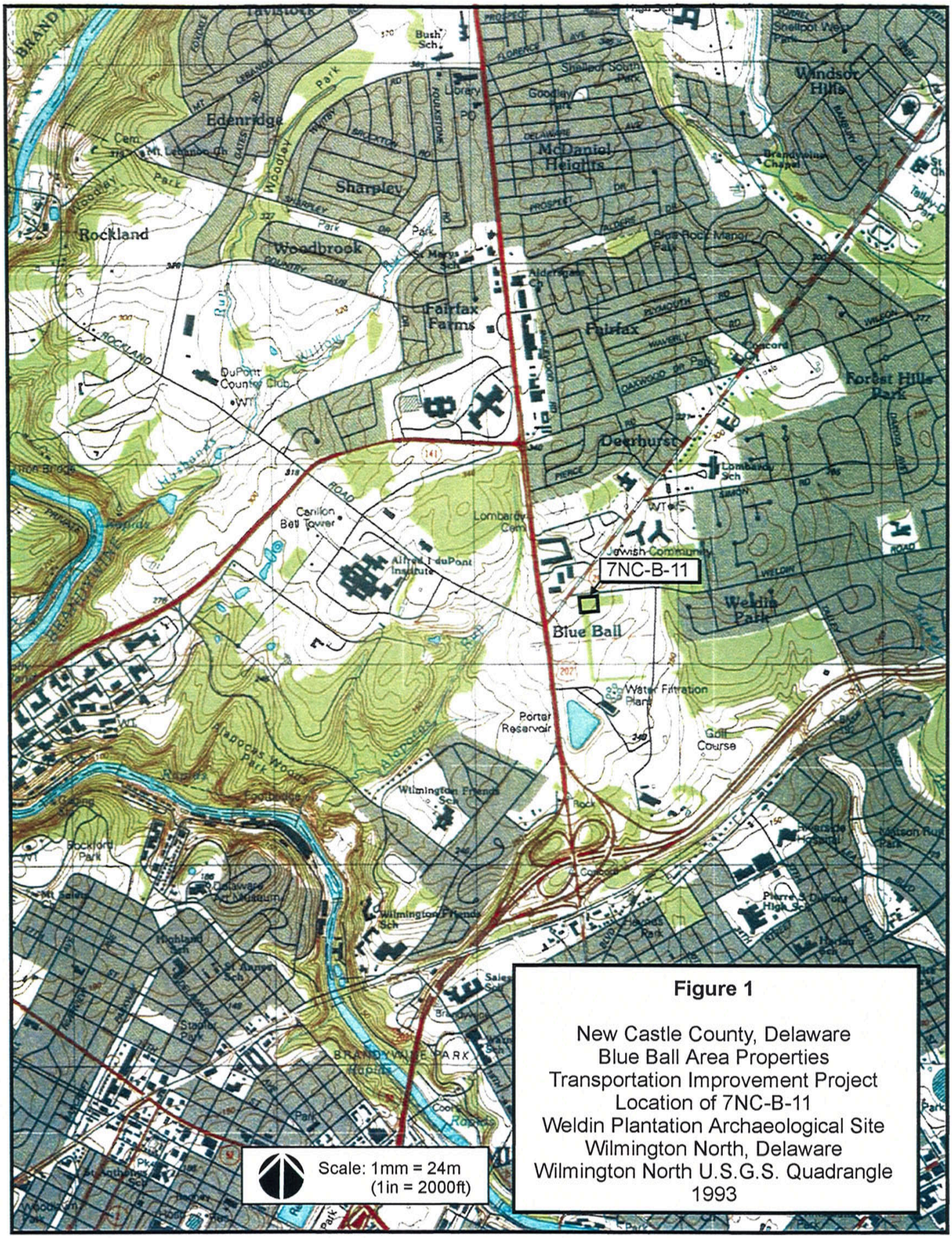

Figure 1

New Castle County, Delaware
Blue Ball Area Properties
Transportation Improvement Project
Location of 7NC-B-11
Weldin Plantation Archaeological Site
Wilmington North, Delaware
Wilmington North U.S.G.S. Quadrangle
1993

by Jennifer Dolan, Debra Ryland, and Kathy Weiser. Qualifications of key personnel are in ***Appendix A***.

The results of the Phase II Archaeological Evaluation Testing and the National Register evaluation of the 7NC-B-11 (the Weldin Plantation Site) are discussed in this management summary. Recommendations for the eligibility of 7NC-B-54 (the Milner #1 Site) and 7NC-B-49 (the Augustine Cutoff Site) have been previously submitted to DelDOT (Shaffer and Eiswert 2000, Shaffer and Eiswert 2001). A final Phase I/II Archaeological Identification and Evaluation Report, including additional documentation and photographs, will be prepared once all of the archaeological testing for the project has been completed.

The project engineering plans are currently being revised. It is unknown at this time if 7NC-B-11 will be affected by the project, and if so, what the specific effects will be. Therefore, the APE for the project is not depicted on the figures in this document. The resource, 7NC-B-11, is discussed as a whole.