

## **SECTION 6.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Under Task 4 of Parent Agreement 1534, Dovetail (2013) conducted a Phase II archaeological survey at the Stroud site in New Castle County, Delaware. Archival research, including a review of relevant historical documents (e.g., period maps, property and tax records, census data, genealogical information, etc.) was conducted in support of the archaeological survey. The purpose of this effort was to examine the site's various components within a larger socio-historical context to facilitate a more cohesive interpretation and evaluation. Archival research revealed an extensive history of the larger property dating back to an original grant by Jacob Vandegrift in the early-eighteenth century, yet the dwelling associated with Stroud site does not appear in the archival record until 1738-1739. The results of the Phase II archaeological survey conducted at the Stroud site corroborate this site history, suggesting a mean occupation of the site dating to the 1830s.

Phase II testing within the Stroud site included the excavation of both close-interval STP and TUs. Close-interval testing along with a surface inspection of the site area revealed the presence of a core concentration of cultural activity in the southeastern portion of the site. Test units were employed to further explore the nature of the site and the site core. Six Phase I and 20 Phase II TUs placed across the Stroud site yielded an abundance of historic artifacts (dominated by ceramic and glass domestic items) and two posthole features. Soil geochemical analysis conducted at the site showed elevated deposition of organic refuse concentrated in the southeast quadrant of the site, in the area identified as the site core through archaeological testing. Additionally, phosphorous and calcium results indicate the possible presence of a fence line or landscape barrier along the E410 transect between transects N540 and N630. This linear soil anomaly corresponded with the post stain identified along the Easting transect in TU 20, which may represent the physical remains of a fence. Combined, the archaeological testing and soil analysis conducted at the Stroud site suggest that the site core contains an artifact-rich horizon interpreted as an occupation layer associated with the side yard of the main dwelling or an outbuilding such as a kitchen or quarter.

Based on the extensive archival, archaeological, and soil geochemical analysis research conducted as part of this survey, it is recommended that the Stroud site (7NC-G-180) is eligible for listing on the NRHP under Criterion D. The site has the potential to contribute significant information on the domestic life, social context, subsistence/agriculture, and/or settlement patterns in New Castle County during the Period of Transformation from Colony to State (1770–1830) and the Period of Industrialization and Capitalization (1830–1880). The initial results of Phase II archaeological testing, data analysis and background research were detailed in a Phase II archaeological management summary report completed by Dovetail in April 2013 that was submitted to and approved by the DelDOT. The DHCA concurred with the management summary report

recommendations and in consultation with the DelDOT determined that an appropriate approach to mitigate the site from adverse effects was an alternative mitigation that synthesizes geochemical analyses conducted on historic archaeological sites in Delaware (see Appendix H). The Stroud site alternative mitigation report is in preparation and will be presented in Volume 2 under separate cover. As such, this Phase II archaeological survey report partially satisfies the cultural resources survey requirements for the Stroud Site.