

were strong in Delaware and legislation enacted by Quaker and Methodist leaders restricted the increase of slaveholding, especially in New Castle and Kent counties, by prohibiting the importation and exportation of slaves. A combination of economic and ethical factors led to an increase in the numbers of free blacks in Delaware before the Civil War and the Emancipation Proclamation.

Urbanization and Suburbanization

Through the nineteenth century, and into the twentieth century, Delaware's agricultural production continued to focus on the perishable products with a decrease in staple crops. There was a marked increase in milk and poultry production while the levels of fruit and vegetable production were maintained. In northern Delaware, improved roads and the continued growth of Wilmington as an industrial center led to urban growth. Eventually, the suburbs expanded onto farm land. Both farm sizes and the amount of farm acreage dropped after the beginning of the twentieth century suggesting a period of farm abandonment (De Cunzo and Catts 1990). Many nineteenth-century farms became archaeological sites during this reorganization of settlement on the landscape.

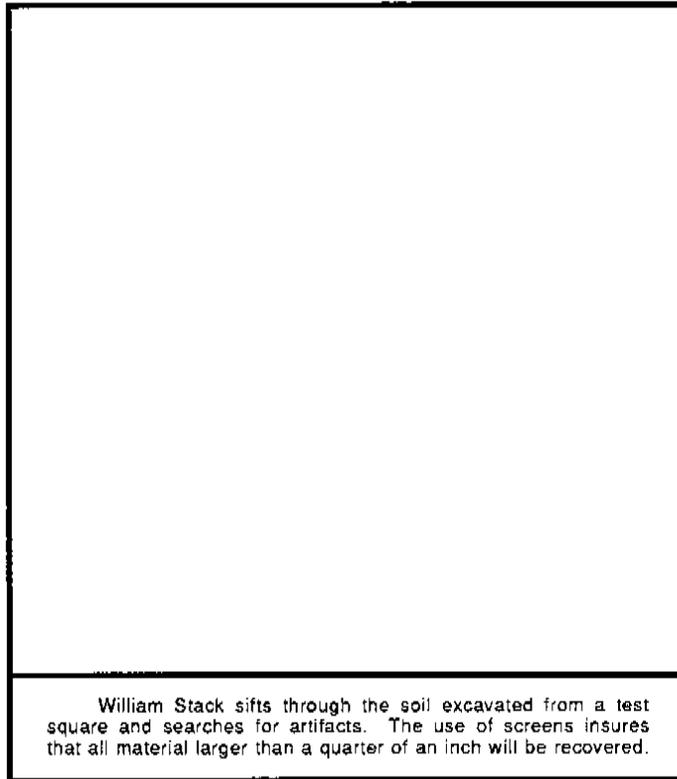
The pattern and density of settlement in Delaware, and the study area specifically, have been strongly influenced by several factors throughout the last 360 years: 1) an agrarian economy; 2) the commodity demands of large markets, first Europe and the West Indies, and later domestic commercial-industrial centers; and 3) transportation facilities. The advent of automobile transportation in the twentieth century brought about significant improvements in the state road system and opened large tracts of land to productive agriculture. The DuPont Highway constructed in the 1920s linked the northern and southern sections of the state and shifted the agrarian focus of the southern counties permanently toward non-local markets.

METHODS

Phase II testing entails excavations to determine the horizontal extent, depth, integrity, and significance of archaeological deposits identified during Phase 1 surveys. In the field, a reference grid is established over the area and test units are marked. In some cases, testing involves excavation using shovel test pits (STPs) to establish the depths of deposits or the presence and density of cultural material in an area. Soil and sediment removed from the units and shovel test pits in measured levels are screened through 1/4-inch hardware cloth (Plate 1). Material recovered from each level is bagged and sent to the lab for cataloging, cleaning, and analysis. Written records are kept of all excavations, activities, and findings.

Excavation methods vary from site to site depending on the nature of the site, its setting, and the deposits encountered. In plowed fields a controlled surface collection may be undertaken before excavation begins. All material visible on the ground is collected within grid squares laid

PLATE 1
Screening Soil at the Dragon Run
North B Site (7NC-G-104)



out on the ground. The size of excavation units may also vary. For prehistoric sites the standard unit is a one by one meter square. For historical sites three or five foot squares are excavated. On historical sites the squares can often be placed in relation to known structures on the site, but on prehistoric sites there is seldom any surface expression of the underlying material or features.

In most cases a plow zone is encountered and treated as one level. Any material below the plow zone, barring any other disturbance, is in primary context where it was deposited by the occupants of the site. Features may also be exposed below the plow zone. Features are excavated independently of surrounding material. Where conditions are favorable, special samples for flotation, radiocarbon, or soil chemical analysis are taken. Cultural features found below the

plow zone, or in other undisturbed contexts, are the best evidence of site integrity and possible significance.

RESULTS OF PHASE II TESTING

Nine sites, eight prehistoric and one historical (Table 3), were recommended for testing after the Phase I survey of this segment of the State Route 1 Corridor (Hodny, Bachman, and Custer 1989). The testing results are grouped into three sets:

1) four prehistoric sites that produced little further material or information during the Phase II testing (Small, Low-Density Sites);

2) two prehistoric sites that produced substantial amounts of cultural material, but were not considered eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places (Larger, Higher-Density Sites); and

3) two prehistoric sites and one historical site with substantial and intact deposits of cultural material which made them eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places (Significant Sites).