

as a domestic occupation, with similarities between other local domestic sites. This site's ceramic assemblage closely resembles the kinds of goods available at the local stores, such as Dickson I, supporting the view of the site's inhabitants as of the "middling sort".

While sharing characteristics similar to other black-occupied sites in the region, the Dickson II occupation was also similar to local tenant sites. Architecturally, the footprint of Structure A, and the lack of outbuildings support the tenant view of the occupation, and the ceramic assemblage identified the site as a domestic occupation, with perhaps some evidence of low level labor (i.e., sewing or rag-picking).

SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND CONCLUSIONS

The Phase I and II archaeological investigations of the Patterson Lane Site Complex identified three historic sites within the limits of the proposed ROW. Phase II investigations were conducted on all three sites to determine the cultural integrity of the archaeological deposits and to determine whether the sites were eligible for inclusion in the National Register.

PATTERSON LANE SITE (7NC-E-53)

The Patterson Lane Site (7NC-E-53) was the dwelling of John Read, a prominent merchant and the father of George Read, one of Delaware's signers of the Declaration of Independence. The site was originally occupied in the early-to-mid-eighteenth century by the Reads, and functioned as a domestic site, and as the location of an active and important wharf, store, and landing. The site was continuously occupied throughout the nineteenth century,

eventually becoming a tenant farmhouse with support buildings, and was abandoned about 1930.

Archaeological investigations identified the location of a house foundation, constructed in at least two building periods, and indicated that intact eighteenth century land surfaces may be present to the east of the foundation. Artifacts recovered spanned the full chronological range of the site's occupation, and included historic and disturbed prehistoric materials.

The Patterson Lane Site (7NC-E-53) is considered eligible for inclusion to the National Register under Criterion B, because of its association with the Read family, and the likelihood that it will provide significant historical information important to the understanding of the history of the area and the surrounding region. Since this site will not be immediately effected by Route 7 South construction, it is recommended that it be preserved in place by DelDOT. The prehistoric component of the Patterson Lane Site appears to have little significance, and is not deemed eligible for the National Register.

WILLIAM DICKSON SITE (7NC-E-82)

The William Dickson Site is located along the sharp bluff overlooking the marshland fringing the Christina River. The site was occupied originally as a store about 1780, and William Dickson was the storekeeper from circa 1783 to 1795. The building functioned as a shop until about 1845, when it was removed and a new, domestic dwelling erected on the same site, but on a slightly different orientation. This shift in orientation and function was the result of the decline of

commercial traffic on the Christina River. The site was occupied as a tenant house, and at some period by Afro-Americans, until about 1919, when it was demolished.

The archaeological testing of the William Dickson Site identified both of the building phases at the site, and determined that both structures were of an impermanent building construction. Over 20,000 artifacts were recovered from the excavations, allowing comparisons with other local and regional sites. The first period of occupation yielded significant information regarding commercial properties in Delaware, and the second occupation provided data on black lifeways for the second half of the nineteenth century.

The Dickson Site (7NC-E-82) is considered to be eligible for inclusion in the National Register under Criterion D, because it is likely to yield significant information important to the understanding of the history and commerce of Christiana Bridge and the region. However, Phase II investigations to determine the site's eligibility constituted data recovery and no further work is recommended for the William Dickson Site.

HEISLER TENANCY SITE (7NC-E-83)

The Heisler Tenancy Site (7NC-E-83) was the location of a nineteenth century tenant house and lot. William Egbert Heisler, a prominent landholder of the mid-nineteenth century, was the owner of the property until about 1867. A structure was erected on the lot by 1850, and the site was occupied until 1968, when the house was demolished. The site functioned throughout much of its history as a tenant house, and several of the tenants are

known. In the 1880s the site was purchased by the Walmsley family, a black family that had previously resided in the nearby Dickson Site.

The archaeological testing of 7NC-E-83 resulted in location of the house foundation and an associated brick-lined well. Also identified and excavated was a trash midden located along the rear boundary line of the property. Significant amounts of historic artifacts were recovered from this feature, which was approximately 15% sampled. The recovered artifacts allowed comparison of the Heisler Site with other local and regional sites, and provided considerable data about rural tenant lifeways in nineteenth century Delaware.

Based on the nature of the feature excavated, and the recent demolition of the tenant house, no further work is recommended for the Heisler Tenancy. The site is considered to be eligible for inclusion in the National Register under Criterion D, as it is likely to provide additional significant data about the history of the local area and surrounding region. However, the Phase II work conducted here constituted data recovery.

In sum, the excavation of the Patterson Lane Site Complex produced three historic sites, one with a non-eligible prehistoric component. Due to the intensive level of investigation undertaken on two of these sites (7NC-E-82 and 7NC-E-83), and the shifting of the Route 7 South alignment to avoid the third (7NC-E-53), no further archaeological work needs to be done in this area.

eventually becoming a tenant farmhouse with support buildings, and was abandoned about 1930.

Archaeological investigations identified the location of a house foundation, constructed in at least two building periods, and indicated that intact eighteenth century land surfaces may be present to the east of the foundation. Artifacts recovered spanned the full chronological range of the site's occupation, and included historic and disturbed prehistoric materials.

The Patterson Lane Site (7NC-E-53) is considered eligible for inclusion to the National Register under Criterion B, because of its association with the Read family, and the likelihood that it will provide significant historical information important to the understanding of the history of the area and the surrounding region. Since this site will not be immediately effected by Route 7 South construction, it is recommended that it be preserved in place by DelDOT. The prehistoric component of the Patterson Lane Site appears to have little significance, and is not deemed eligible for the National Register.

WILLIAM DICKSON SITE (7NC-E-82)

The William Dickson Site is located along the sharp bluff overlooking the marshland fringing the Christina River. The site was occupied originally as a store about 1780, and William Dickson was the storekeeper from circa 1783 to 1795. The building functioned as a shop until about 1845, when it was removed and a new, domestic dwelling erected on the same site, but on a slightly different orientation. This shift in orientation and function was the result of the decline of

commercial traffic on the Christina River. The site was occupied as a tenant house, and at some period by Afro-Americans, until about 1919, when it was demolished.

The archaeological testing of the William Dickson Site identified both of the building phases at the site, and determined that both structures were of an impermanent building construction. Over 20,000 artifacts were recovered from the excavations, allowing comparisons with other local and regional sites. The first period of occupation yielded significant information regarding commercial properties in Delaware, and the second occupation provided data on black lifeways for the second half of the nineteenth century.

The Dickson Site (7NC-E-82) is considered to be eligible for inclusion in the National Register under Criterion D, because it is likely to yield significant information important to the understanding of the history and commerce of Christiana Bridge and the region. However, Phase II investigations to determine the site's eligibility constituted data recovery and no further work is recommended for the William Dickson Site.

HEISLER TENANCY SITE (7NC-E-83)

The Heisler Tenancy Site (7NC-E-83) was the location of a nineteenth century tenant house and lot. William Egbert Heisler, a prominent landholder of the mid-nineteenth century, was the owner of the property until about 1867. A structure was erected on the lot by 1850, and the site was occupied until 1968, when the house was demolished. The site functioned throughout much of its history as a tenant house, and several of the tenants are

known. In the 1880s the site was purchased by the Walmsley family, a black family that had previously resided in the nearby Dickson Site.

The archaeological testing of 7NC-E-83 resulted in location of the house foundation and an associated brick-lined well. Also identified and excavated was a trash midden located along the rear boundary line of the property. Significant amounts of historic artifacts were recovered from this feature, which was approximately 15% sampled. The recovered artifacts allowed comparison of the Heisler Site with other local and regional sites, and provided considerable data about rural tenant lifeways in nineteenth century Delaware.

Based on the nature of the feature excavated, and the recent demolition of the tenant house, no further work is recommended for the Heisler Tenancy. The site is considered to be eligible for inclusion in the National Register under Criterion D, as it is likely to provide additional significant data about the history of the local area and surrounding region. However, the Phase II work conducted here constituted data recovery.

In sum, the excavation of the Patterson Lane Site Complex produced three historic sites, one with a non-eligible prehistoric component. Due to the intensive level of investigation undertaken on two of these sites (7NC-E-82 and 7NC-E-83), and the shifting of the Route 7 South alignment to avoid the third (7NC-E-53), no further archaeological work needs to be done in this area.