

The final primary research domain is the analysis and identification of social group identity and behavior through historical and archaeological research. Such research seeks to study the social, religious, political, and economic interaction of different groups. The most appropriate study unit for these questions is the local community. Groups have been most often defined by occupation, socioeconomic status (particularly tenant vs. landowner), and ethnicity (particularly black-occupied sites). No black occupations, however, were identified.

FIELD, LAB AND ARCHIVAL METHODS

The Phase I archaeological field methods included a mixture of pedestrian survey, shovel test pitting, and the excavation of 3'X3' test units within and immediately adjacent to the proposed right-of-way. The entire length of the project area was subjected to pedestrian survey including the main trunk of the proposed highway, connector roads, service roads, and toll booth locations. Some of the areas within the proposed right-of-way had been surveyed as part of the 1985 U.S. 13 Relief Route planning study for Kent County (Custer, Bachman and Grettler 1986, 1987), and Phase I Survey (Bachman, Grettler and Custer 1988). Due to changes in ground surface visibility, many of these fields were resurveyed as part of the Phase I work reported here. The 1985 survey data was incorporated into this report and will be briefly summarized.

The standard excavation procedure was to place shovel test pits (STPs) at 40-foot intervals along the centerline of the right-of-way. The interval was reduced to 10 or 20 feet in

locations which were thought likely to produce cultural material based on the predictive model or local topography. The shovel test pit lines were also extended at angles to the centerline and line segments were placed parallel to the centerline at measured distances when favorable conditions were encountered. In some cases, when a site was found within the proposed right-of-way, a preliminary estimate of its extent was determined by "chasing" the artifact distribution with a shovel test pit line from within the right-of-way to a point perhaps well outside of it. Although the site size estimates presented in this report do not formally represent the site limits, they were made so as to provide a partial basis for estimating the extent of Phase II work recommended for the site. Stratigraphic soil data was recorded on standardized log sheets. Some portions of the right-of-way were not subjected to subsurface testing at the normal interval. These were areas of poorly drained soils (chiefly Fallsington and Othello series) which were demonstrated in this survey to have virtually no chance of producing cultural remains. In these areas, the shovel test pit interval was increased to 200 feet and auger testing was done between the 200-foot nodes to determine the limits of the unproductive soils within the right-of-way.

All of the test units were excavated to culturally sterile soils and all excavated soil was screened through 1/4-inch mesh. All test units were mapped on 1/600th scale, one-foot contour field maps (scale: 1 inch equals 50 feet) provided by the Division of Highways. These highly accurate maps were keyed to the centerline surveyors stations (STA) and allowed for the accurate placement of finds made during the Phase I and II

cultural resource surveys.

BACKGROUND RESEARCH

In preparation for the archaeological survey of the project area, prior archaeological planning studies (Custer, Jehle, Klatka, and Eveleigh 1984; Custer and Bachman 1986; Custer, Bachman, and Grettler 1986, 1987; Bachman, Grettler, and Custer 1988) and the site files of the Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation were consulted to identify known archaeological resources within or adjacent to the project area. Historic maps and atlases noted in the planning studies (Byles' 1859, Figure 8; Beers' 1868, Figure 9; USGS topographic survey 1906, Figure 10; Bausman 1939, Figure 11) were also consulted for the locations of former standing structures which have now become archaeological sites. Current landowners and tenants were queried regarding any observations they may have had about cultural resources on their property. From these sources, several known prehistoric sites were plotted which lay adjacent to the project area and one previously unrecorded historic archaeological site was suspected to lay directly within the proposed right-of-way.

The nearest most significant sites are 7K-C-365A, the Dover Downs Prehistoric site (Bachman, Grettler, and Custer 1988; Riley et al. n. d.), and 7K-C-365B, the Loockerman's Range Prehistoric and Historic Archaeological site (Bachman, Grettler and Custer 1988), both located just east of present Kent 88 on the northern end of the Dover Downs Racetrack property. Site 7K-C-365A is located on a 10' high, 300' long sand ridge on the south side of