

## ABSTRACT

This report summarizes the results of Phase II Archaeological Investigations carried out by Hunter Research, Inc. in conjunction with the Delaware Department of Transportation's proposed storm water detention basin located between Mousley Place and Clearview Avenue, Stations 103+50 to 112+50, along Delaware Route 92 (Naaman's Road) in New Castle County, Delaware. The initial Phase II archaeological investigations took place on March 3, 1996. Three one-meter-square excavation units were placed at 15-meter intervals across the front portion of an unstripped area along the south side of Naaman's Road.

These investigations located the remains of the Pierce/Talley House, a simple stone dwelling that was extant from the mid-19th century until at least the early 1970s. The current archaeological investigations identified the house site approximately 4.5 meters (15 feet) north northeast of a stone-lined well (discovered during the Phase I archaeological survey). A poorly preserved foundation was recorded.

Based on the Delaware Historic Context Archaeology of Agriculture and Farm Life, New Castle and Kent Counties, Delaware 1830-1940, the Pierce/Talley House Site can be classified as an agricultural dwelling since the house was once the residence of a farm owner-operator. Owing to the heavy-handed demolition of the dwelling and subsequent stripping of the site, the surviving archaeological remains are considerably reduced from what one might otherwise expect on a site of this type. There was a notable paucity of material culture in the shovel tests and excavation units. Due to its substantial loss of archaeological integrity, it seems highly unlikely that the Pierce/Talley House Site could potentially address any of the research domains identified in the Delaware Historic Context Archaeology of Agriculture and Farm Life, New Castle and Kent Counties, Delaware 1830-1940, and the property is therefore not considered eligible for inclusion to the State or National Register of Historic Places. No further archaeological work is recommended at this location in connection with the Delaware Department of Transportation's proposed storm water detention basins.