

ABSTRACT

The 1984 Rt. 13 cultural resource survey produced extensive and intensive data on a wide variety of prehistoric and historic sites within the New Castle County portion of the Rt. 13 Corridor. Pedestrian survey and subsurface testing resulted in the recording of 269 new prehistoric sites with the State Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. In order to test the utility of a LANDSAT - generated predictive model for prehistoric resources, and to provide planning information on cultural resources, investigations were concentrated in three study areas: 1) the Dragon Creek drainage near St. Georges, 2) the Appoquinimink Creek drainage, and 3) the Blackbird Creek drainage. The predictive model included high, medium, and low probability zones with the first two zones being adequately tested by the survey and the last underrepresented in the study areas. In general the results of the field survey compared favorably with the predictions formulated by the model. Artifacts recovered represented all four major periods of Delaware prehistory with diagnostic artifacts ranging from Kirk points of ca. 8000 B.C. to Woodland II triangles of ca. 1500 A.D. Of special note was the discovery of heavy utilization by prehistoric peoples of bay/basin features in the Blackbird Study Area. Investigations revealed that 87% of all bay/basins surveyed had associated archaeological remains.

A "windshield" survey was conducted of 188 standing structures and historic archaeological sites within the three study areas. This survey revealed that nearly all of the structures and archaeological sites previously identified in the initial report have remained intact and that significant archaeological resources are likely associated with the standing structures as well as the archaeological sites. The date range for the identified standing structures in the three study areas ranges from ca. 1690 to the twentieth century and represents a range of residential, agricultural, and industrial types. Locational data from all historic sites was then combined with data on soils, water type, and access to transportation networks to elucidate historic settlement patterns and generate a predictive model for future historic resource management.