

# 10. PLANNING IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROJECT

DELAWARE'S BODY of state plans relating to historic preservation was augmented during the course of this project by the addition of a state management plan for historical archaeology (DeCunzo and Catts 1990). This document contains an augmented list of property types specific to historical archaeology, and research contexts derived from these types.

Notably, in terms of the present study, the plan identifies agricultural production and distribution, 1830-1940, as a context with the highest research priority (DeCunzo and Catts 1990: 135-136). The plan also emphasizes the need to keep lists of property types up to date, and to disseminate changes.

## PROPERTY TYPES ENCOUNTERED

The initial research design anticipated that property types would include rural tofts, drainage works, agricultural fields, prehistoric sites associated with bay/basin features, and prehistoric seasonal procurement sites.

Cemetery probability was evaluated, but no cemetery sites were encountered.

The following list of property types is based upon the list provided in Herman, Siders, Ames and Callahan 1989. Encountered types previously listed in the plan are in *italics*. Additional property types or classifications based upon the current study are indicated in **boldface**.

## Economic and Cultural Trends

Agriculture (croft areas)

Products

*Nursery/Orchard*

Methods

Cultivation

**Plowing**

**Plow Scars**

Enclosures

**Field Edges**

Drainage and Irrigation

*Ditches*

**Fertilization**

**Manuring Spread**  
**Fertilizer residues**

Forestry

*Sawmills*

Mining/Quarrying

*Borrow Pits*

*Sand Pits*

*Brick Clay Pits*

**Casual Resource Areas**

Transportation and communication

Land

Railroad

*Trestles, Bridges, Cuts*

Community Organizations

Recreational and Cultural

**Organized Athletic Fields**

*Tennis Courts*

**Baseball Diamond**

**Undirected Recreation**

**Dirt Bike Tracks**

**Sand-Pit Shooting**

## CASUAL RESOURCE AREAS

The peninsular part of White Marsh (FIGURE 22, PAGE 50) represents a type of resource exploitation activity that has not previously been reported. This bank was apparently used for many generations as an ad-hoc source of borrow. The large pit indicates a commercial level [or at least a large-scale period] of exploitation, while the nearby smaller pits (FIGURE 44, PAGE 77) appear to have been ad hoc sources for small amounts intermittently over many years.

This property type includes a complex of pits exploited intermittently. In this type of resource exploitation, the resource would have been a permanent fixture of the landscape, to be reactivated when needed for a single small project. Large, continuously open pits are absent in such cases, and sizable, commercially useful, deposits are not necessarily present.

At White Marsh, the resource was exploited over many years, possibly centuries. Sand for mortar, and oyster shells for lime, could be found in similar intermittently-exploited resource areas.

This specialization could help explain why the stratified portion of the White Marsh site survived. The peninsula is sandy loam soil, which would not have been attractive to brickmakers. Bricklayers would have obtained their sand from purer sources elsewhere, notably at Blueberry Hill

#### FLOW SCARS AND THE TOPSOIL

Two test loci at White Marsh demonstrated the value of cataloguing plowscar features to delineate the history of a site.

Changing plow designs and methods of enriching the plowsoil can leave evidence detectable by archaeological methods that could be useful to historians of agriculture and agricultural technology.

Chemical evaluation revealed at least three distinct areas, where chemical modification differed by period. The athletic field (ER 50 exhibited very high levels of some common fertilizer chemicals, notably calcium. On the other hand, tests in the woods revealed relatively lower levels of soil-enhancement chemicals.

Analysis of plowscars indicates that the wooded area had been taken out of cultivation before the introduction of moldboard plows and before modern fertilization practices.

From these findings, it is evidence that soil chemistry and plowscar analysis together can be used to date changes in land use, including field shrinkage, changes in ownership, tenancy, and scientific farming.

Old field edge evidence can be useful in reaching an understanding of site development processes. Sensitivity to field history is commonplace among British archaeologists, who have developed detailed models of cultivation history.

This property type, the agricultural field, deserves separate consideration in any survey. Fields should always be considered potentially informative components of any survey area that includes agricultural sites.

#### UNDIRECTED RECREATION PROPERTIES

The state plan has categories for organized recreation, but Americans are

notoriously independent in their use of leisure. At Blueberry Hill, dirt bikers, marksmen, and ATV riders have exploited an old sand pit simultaneously but not in concert. Each group has informally reserved its times and spaces, which others scrupulously respect. When archaeologists entered the environment, they were allowed to peacefully reserve their own space, relatively undisturbed by vandals or intruders.

Physical and social organization of the sand pit at Blueberry Hill clearly indicates enough structure to define a property type identifiable elsewhere. Although they are neither planned nor otherwise identified, such informal recreation areas probably have a long history that deserves recognition.

Organized recreation sites, on the other hand, are defined in the state plan for historic preservation as a category of property type, but the list set forth in the plan is less than comprehensive.

#### IDENTIFIED SITES

At the end of the current study, four categories of cultural resources can be identified:

##### SUMMARY OF PHASE I AND PHASE II FINDINGS

Locus Name	Level of Survey Completed	Affiliation
INELIGIBLE, NOT NEEDING MORE STUDY		
Trailer sales	Phase I	Historic
Athletic Field	Phase I	Historic
White Marsh (east)	Phase I	Historic / Prehistoric
Ford open loci	Phase I	Prehistoric
Beiser	Phase I / II	Prehistoric
Geiser Toft	Phase I	Historic
NEEDS PHASE II FOR DETERMINATION		
Sawmill	Reconnaissance	Historic
PROBABLY ELIGIBLE, NEEDS PHASE II FOR DEFINITION		
Ford Farm	Phase I	Prehistoric
Nathan Williams	Phase I	Historic
ELIGIBLE		
Simon Savannah White Marsh (peninsula)	Phase I / II	Archaic
Blueberry Hill	Phase I / II	Prehistoric
	Phase I / II	Prehistoric