

**BALTIMORE HUNDRED, SUSSEX COUNTY, DELAWARE
S.R. 54 IMPROVEMENTS
SOUND CHURCH ROAD TO KEENWICK ROAD
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT FACILITY NO. 46**

PHASE I ARCHAEOLOGY

Prepared for:

**THE STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

Submitted by:

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ABSTRACT

Phase I archaeological investigations were completed for the State of Delaware Department of Transportation's (DelDOT's) proposed State Route (S.R.) 54 Improvements, Sound Church Road to Keenwick Road Stormwater Management Facility No. 46 project located in Baltimore Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware. The proposed stormwater management facility location is approximately 152.4 m (500.0 ft) east of the intersection of S.R. 54 with Laws Point Drive. The location is included on the Assawoman Bay, Maryland-Delaware 7.5 minute United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic quadrangle, in the Eastern Shore Coastal Plain physiographic province.

No previously recorded pre-contact or historic period archaeological sites or National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible or -listed properties are located in the proposed Stormwater Management Facility No. 46 location. One historic period site, the Adkins Site was identified during the survey. The subsurface testing of the proposed Stormwater Management Facility No. 46 test area resulted in the identification of the Adkins Site. The site was identified through historic documentary evidence of the locations of several farm buildings and by a defined artifact scatter comprised of 122 small and fragmentary artifacts including glass, ceramic, metal, brick, coal, shell, and plastic fragments all of which were recovered from the plowzone. No cultural features or other archaeological remains are present at the tested portion of the site.

The eligibility of the Adkins Site can not be determined at this time, because it has not been fully delineated or archaeologically investigated. The portion of the Adkins Site within the Stormwater Management Facility No. 46 test area which has been investigated does not appear to be able to contribute significant information about the historic landuse of the farm or its owners. The data contribution potential of the defined portion of the site is limited by the lack of cultural features and historic standing structures; the presence of only small, fragmentary, functionally and temporally non-diagnostic artifacts which are unremarkable in type, characteristics, morphology, and number; and the lack of historic documentation indicating any association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history or with the lives of individuals who are demonstrably important within a local, state, or national historic context.

Based on the lack of previously recorded archaeological sites present in the archaeological APE, and the inability of the defined portion of the Adkins Site to yield information important to the understanding of local, regional, or national history, the proposed construction of the Stormwater Management Facility No. 46, as currently designed, will not affect any significant or contributing archaeological resources eligible for or listed in the NRHP. No additional archaeological investigations are warranted at the site in the Stormwater Management Facility No. 46 archaeological APE.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
ABSTRACT	
TABLE OF CONTENTS	i
LIST OF FIGURES	ii
LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS	ii
1.0 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Purpose and Need	1
1.2 Project Description	1
2.0 METHODS	7
2.1 History of Research	7
2.2 Background Research	8
2.3 Fieldwork	8
2.4 Processing, Analyses, and Curation	9
3.0 PREDICTED ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES	11
3.1 Pre-contact Period.....	11
3.2 Historic Period	11
4.0 RESULTS	25
4.1 Adkins Site	28
5.0 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS	32
6.0 REFERENCES CITED	33
APPENDIXES	
APPENDIX A	ARTIFACT PROVENIENCE AND ANALYSIS CATALOGS
APPENDIX B	CRS FORMS

LIST OF FIGURES

<u>Figure No.</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Page</u>
1	Project Location	2
2	Plan View	3
3	Project Area in 1868	13
4	Project Area in 1941	14
5	Project Area in 1946	15
6	Project Area in 1948	16
7	Project Area in 1937	17
8	Project Area in 1954	18
9	Project Area in 1961	19
10	Project Area in 1968	20
11	Project Area in 1992	21
12	Project Area in 1901	22

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

<u>Photograph No.</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Page</u>
1	View of the Stormwater Management Facility No. 46 Archaeological APE, facing southeast	5
2	View of the Stormwater Management Facility No. 46 Archaeological APE, facing south	5
3	View of the Stormwater Management Facility No. 46 Archaeological APE, facing southwest.....	6
4	View of thatch covering the ground surface in Stormwater Management Facility No. 46 Archaeological APE, facing west	26
5	View of the drainage ditch in the central portion of the Stormwater Management Facility No. 46 archaeological APE, facing south	26
6	View of hydrated (gleyed) soils in the Stormwater Management Facility No. 46 archaeological APE, facing east	27