

## V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This report described a Phase I archeological survey of the proposed SR 82 Slope Stabilization Project, New Castle County, Delaware. The survey included background research, surface and subsurface field investigations, and laboratory analysis.

Background research indicated that no previously recorded archeological sites existed within the project area. A review of prehistoric site locations in the region indicated that the study area possessed a low potential for prehistoric archeological resources because of the steep terrain along both sides of SR 82. A review of historic maps and the proximity of the Auburn Mills Historic District indicated that the survey area contained a high potential for historic archeological deposits and features.

Two previously recorded features associated with the Auburn Mills Historic District were noted during the pedestrian reconnaissance for this Phase I survey. These included a circa 1910 concrete dam (N-13620) directly west of the northern limits of the project area, and a millrace extending along the western side of SR 82, just outside the limits of construction. The millrace was apparently constructed during the late eighteenth to early nineteenth century by the Garrett family in support of the water powered gristmill located to the south. The early twentieth-century dam diverted water from Red Clay Creek into the adjacent millrace, and was apparently used as an auxiliary (water) power source by the Marshall Brothers following their introduction of steam power at Auburn Mills (Griffitts 1998). Both of these resources lie outside the project's APE.

Additionally, the survey identified a group of five fieldstone piers situated on either side of the millrace. Three piers lie on the eastern bank of the millrace and two are opposite these on the western bank. Although the piers along the eastern side of the millrace are situated within the project right-of-way, they lie just outside the limits of construction. Close-interval testing in the area adjacent to these features produced three historic and three modern artifacts from a single STP. These artifacts derived from a fill deposit associated with SR 82 and do not reflect an archeological site, nor do they provide information about the chronology or function of the stone piers. While their chronology and function could not be ascertained, the spatial relationship of these features to the millrace strongly suggests that they represent footings for a bridge or other structure that spanned the millrace. Because they clearly relate to the millrace, this group of stone piers may constitute a contributing element to the Auburn Mills Historic District. Therefore, GAI concurs with Griffitt's (1998) recommendation that the boundary of the Auburn Mills Historic District be expanded northward to include the northern extent of the millrace and diversion dam. GAI further recommends that the masonry piers identified during this survey be included in the expanded boundary.

Under current project plans, the millrace and masonry piers lie just beyond the project's limits of construction, and will not be impacted by planned excavation and grading activities. This finding was confirmed during a conversation with Ms. Gwen Davis of the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office (personal communication, 1998). Because these resources lie outside the project's limits of construction, the proposed slope stabilization project will have no effect on them. Accordingly, GAI recommends that no further cultural resource investigations are required in this area. If design plans should change and avoidance of these resources is not feasible, it is recommended that additional archeological investigations be conducted to further document these features and determine their probable age and relationship to the millrace and Auburn Mills Historic District.

Pedestrian reconnaissance and subsurface testing in other portions of the project area revealed that the entire east side of the project ROW is excessively sloped and possesses no

potential for subsurface archeological deposits. Testing in level positions on the west side of SR 82 indicated that these areas have been disturbed by past plowing and/or road construction. No cultural deposits or features were identified in these areas, and no further investigations are recommended.

While no additional archeological investigations are warranted, GAI recommends that DelDOT take precautions to ensure that the cultural features identified during this survey are not disturbed during project construction. If feasible, GAI suggests that temporary fencing be built around the features for the duration of the project to clearly mark their location and to protect them from construction activities.