

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

All three sites described in this report represent ephemeral occupations of areas adjacent to the White Clay Creek and one of its low order tributaries. All are badly disturbed by plowing and erosion and no further work is necessary for any of the sites. In general, the investigations reported here provided significant information. Determination of the dates of occupation, the site size, and the functional classes of artifacts present provided useful information for reconstructing past regional settlement patterns. In this sense, the investigations reported here were necessary to recover the sites' significant information. However, erosion has severely altered the integrity of the surface and plow zone artifact distributions. Intra-site variability cannot, therefore, be studied at these sites and further research is not necessary. Additional work would only collect more artifacts and redundant information.

Although the special circumstances of the investigations of these three sites necessitated the separation of the location and identification and determination of eligibility investigations into two separate projects and contracts, it would have been more efficient to combine these two phases of archaeological investigation into a single project. The sites were small enough that the additional testing to determine the integrity of their contexts would not have added much to the initial costs and additional controlled surface collections did not entail much more time and money. Knowledge of the nature of their contexts would have precluded the need to determine their eligibility for the National Register. In the cases of these small, disturbed surface sites, the collecting of the necessary data to provide an assessment of their context and determine their limits generally gathers sufficient significant data, such that when similar small, disturbed sites are encountered in future studies, extra time and money should be spent in early stages to determine contextual integrity and site limits. In this manner, the significant

data which these sites have to offer can be efficiently collected. If the additional testing shows some deposits with good context, determination of eligibility and final mitigation can be undertaken. If not, research at such sites can be considered finished.

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