

Chapter 5

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter reviews the data from Chapter 4 on an area-by-area basis, identifying any archaeological sites, and assigning them provisional boundaries based on current archaeological, topographic and historical data. Tables 5.1 through 5.6, the annotated aerial photographs and area maps in Chapter 4, and the data in appendices A and B should be referred to in conjunction with this text.

By the end of the field program in May 2011 20 areas had been subjected to surface collection, shovel testing and excavation units in varying combinations (Table 5.1). The survey produced an unexpectedly large amount of archaeological material. Surface collection resulted in the recovery and mapping of almost 8,000 artifacts from 15 of the areas surveyed. Surface collection was not undertaken on the remaining five areas. With an average of about 400 artifacts per location, two areas (10 and 17) stand out as highly dense concentrations of material, with areas 2, 6 and 9 also showing high numbers. Shovel testing and excavation units recovered about 12,000 additional artifacts (Table 5.2).

The next step in the Section 106 process is to determine which of the areas examined yielded data indicating the presence of archaeological sites that should be evaluated for National Register significance. There is broad consensus about the meaning of “archaeological site” as the location of one or more kinds of material evidence for the human past. A succinct definition is provided by the Parks Canada Glossary. There, an archaeological site,

...encompasses surface, subsurface or submerged remains of human activity at which an understanding of these activities and

the management of these resources can be achieved through the employment of archaeological techniques (Parks Canada 2010).

However, there is of necessity wide variation in the specific criteria used to define sites in a historic preservation and cultural resource management context. Factors such as geographic location, time period, level of information, legislative and regulatory environment, and historic context development and priorities at a given time, will all influence the definition.

For the purposes of this Phase IB survey, where no previous sites have been located or defined, a pragmatic working definition has been developed against which the field data has been set.

An archaeological site on Section 2 on the U.S. Route 301 project is defined as:

A concentration of artifacts that is clearly distinguishable from surrounding areas that either have similar surface visibility, or which have been subsurface tested at a closely similar interval to the area of the site. These surrounding areas may also contain artifacts, but the visual contrast is clear to a qualified archaeologist. Site boundaries are frequently, but not always, defined by topography (especially low, well-drained knolls adjacent to current or former water sources), and by more or less sharply delineated borders where artifact density becomes much less. These two criteria may be found together or separately. Soil color and composition changes, when also found in association with changes in artifact distribution, also define

**Table 5.2. Artifact Recovery: U.S. Route 301
Section 2**

Area	Total	Surface collection total	% from surface collection
2	4596	979	21.3
3	4	4	100.0
4	233	204	87.6
5	68	0	0.0
6	1032	909	88.1
7	620	510	82.3
8	377	328	87.0
9	2546	862	33.9
10	1813	1613	89.0
11	52	44	84.6
12	90	88	97.8
13	1468	125	8.5
14	43	0	0.0
15	830	0	0.0
16	107	0	0.0
17	1472	1304	88.6
18	92	65	70.7
19	3058	0	0.0
H	378	378	100.0
J	896	319	35.6
Totals	19775	7732	39.1

**Table 5.3. Route 301 Section 2.
Site Names and Numbers by Survey Area (at June 2011)**

Site Name	Hunter Research Survey Area	Sub-Area	Site #	De CRS #
Rumsey Historic/Prehistoric Site	2		7NC-F-117	N14497
Sandy Branch Prehistoric Site 1	4	A+B	7NC-F-122	N14502
Sandy Branch Prehistoric Site 2	5		7NC-F-123	N14503
Shell Button Historic / Prehistoric	6		7NC-F-124	N14504
Bunker Hill Road Historic / Prehistoric	7	N	7NC-F-126	N14506
Bunker Hill Road Historic Site South	7	S	7NC-F-125	N14505
Area 9 Prehistoric	9	A	7NC-F-127	N14507
Cardon / Holton Farmstead	9	B+C	7NC-F-128	N14508
Holton / Cann Historic	10		7NC-F-129	N00107
Armstrong Tenant Historic / Prehistoric	13	N	7NC-F-131	N14510
CannTenant/Amos Bell House Site	13	S	7NC-F-160	N5282
Armstrong Brickyard Site	15		7NC-F-132	N14511
Dale Historic	17		7NC-F-134	N14513
Spring Mill Branch Prehistoric Site 2	17		7NC-F-146	N14526
Armstrong / Rogers House	19		7NC-F-135	N14332
William Cann Outbuilding	H		7NC-F-130	N14509
Noxon's Tenant Historic	J		7NC-F-133	N14512

**Table 5.4. Route 301 Section 2.
Site Names and Numbers by Site Number (at June 2011)**

Site Name	Hunter Research Survey Area	Sub-Area	Site #	De CRS #
Rumsey Historic/Prehistoric Site	2		7NC-F-117	N14497
Sandy Branch Prehistoric Site 1	4	A+B	7NC-F-122	N14502
Holton / Cann Historic	10		7NC-F-129	N00107
Armstrong / Rogers House	19		7NC-F-135	N14332
Sandy Branch Prehistoric Site 2	5		7NC-F-123	N14503
Shell Button Historic / Prehistoric	6		7NC-F-124	N14504
Bunker Hill Road Historic Site South	7	S	7NC-F-125	N14505
Bunker Hill Road Historic / Prehistoric	7	N	7NC-F-126	N14506
Area 9 Prehistoric	9	A	7NC-F-127	N14507
Cardon / Holton Farmstead	9	B+C	7NC-F-128	N14508
William Cann Outbuilding	H		7NC-F-130	N14509
Armstrong Tenant Historic / Prehistoric	13	N	7NC-F-131	N14510
Armstrong Brickyard Site	15		7NC-F-132	N14511
Noxon's Tenant Historic	J		7NC-F-133	N14512
Dale Historic	17		7NC-F-134	N14513
Spring Mill Branch Prehistoric Site 2	17		7NC-F-146	N14526
CannTenant/Amos Bell House Site	13	S	7NC-F-160	N5282

**Table 5.5. Route 301 Section 2.
Site Names and Numbers by Site Name (at June 2011)**

Site Name	Hunter Research Survey Area	Sub-Area	Site #	De CRS #
Area 9 Prehistoric	9	A	7NC-F-127	N14507
Armstrong / Rogers House	19		7NC-F-135	N14332
Armstrong Brickyard Site	15		7NC-F-132	N14511
Armstrong Tenant Historic / Prehistoric	13	N	7NC-F-131	N14510
Bunker Hill Road Historic / Prehistoric	7	N	7NC-F-126	N14506
Bunker Hill Road Historic Site South	7	S	7NC-F-125	N14505
CannTenant/Amos Bell House Site	13	S	7NC-F-160	N5282
Cardon / Holton Farmstead	9	B+C	7NC-F-128	N14508
Dale Historic	17		7NC-F-134	N14513
Holton / Cann Historic	10		7NC-F-129	N00107
Noxon's Tenant Historic	J		7NC-F-133	N14512
Rumsey Historic/Prehistoric Site	2		7NC-F-117	N14497
Sandy Branch Prehistoric Site 1	4	A+B	7NC-F-122	N14502
Sandy Branch Prehistoric Site 2	5		7NC-F-123	N14503
Shell Button Historic / Prehistoric	6		7NC-F-124	N14504
Spring Mill Branch Prehistoric Site 2	17		7NC-F-146	N14526
William Cann Outbuilding	H		7NC-F-130	N14509

**Table 5.6. Route 301 Section 2.
Site Names and Numbers by CRS # (at June 2011)**

Site Name	Hunter Research Survey Area	Sub-Area	Site #	De CRS #
Holton / Cann Historic	10		7NC-F-129	N00107
Armstrong / Rogers House	19		7NC-F-135	N14332
Rumsey Historic/Prehistoric Site	2		7NC-F-117	N14497
Sandy Branch Prehistoric Site 1	4	A+B	7NC-F-122	N14502
Sandy Branch Prehistoric Site 2	5		7NC-F-123	N14503
Shell Button Historic / Prehistoric	6		7NC-F-124	N14504
Bunker Hill Road Historic Site South	7	S	7NC-F-125	N14505
Bunker Hill Road Historic / Prehistoric	7	N	7NC-F-126	N14506
Area 9 Prehistoric	9	A	7NC-F-127	N14507
Cardon / Holton Farmstead	9	B+C	7NC-F-128	N14508
William Cann Outbuilding	H		7NC-F-130	N14509
Armstrong Tenant Historic / Prehistoric	13	N	7NC-F-131	N14510
Armstrong Brickyard Site	15		7NC-F-132	N14511
Noxon's Tenant Historic	J		7NC-F-133	N14512
Dale Historic	17		7NC-F-134	N14513
Spring Mill Branch Prehistoric Site 2	17		7NC-F-146	N14526
CannTenant/Amos Bell House Site	13	S	7NC-F-160	N5282

site boundaries. A secondary supporting criterion at this stage of survey is the recovery of artifacts from soil contexts below the depth of historic (i.e. last 300 years) cultivation or other extensive and repeated disturbance. Artifacts from these contexts are held to suggest site integrity and the survival of patterning. The presence of one or more subsurface features provides substantial support to identification of the associated artifact concentration as a Site.

The second column from the right on Table 5.1 assigns a priority number to each area based on the above definition. A value of 10 means that the area easily meets or exceeds the definition and that the site area(s) have a high probability for meeting National Register eligibility standards when evaluated at the Phase II level. Conversely, low numbers reflect a lower probability that the area contains significant archaeological resources. A rating of 5 indicates that the status is unclear, while ratings of 6 or above meet the site definition criteria.

On the basis of the data, a consensus total of 17 archaeological sites has been identified by this consultant, the Delaware Department of Transportation and the Delaware Historic Preservation Office. The CRS forms for these sites are presented in Appendix C. Tables 5.3 through 5.6 are tools for locating sites by their different designations and locations.

AREA 2: RUMSEY HISTORIC/PREHISTORIC SITE 7NC-F-117, N14497

Phase II Evaluation Recommended

Two prehistoric and two historic “site clusters” are defined in this area within a larger boundary that defines the site. In this and subsequent areas the boundaries are delimited on the oblique aerial

views and delimited and labeled (as “Site Boundary Recommended for Phase II Evaluation”) on the site maps.

From both a historic and prehistoric standpoint, this area needs to be seen in the context of the adjoining Richard Grubb and Associates’ survey. This encountered similar materials along adjacent portions of the Sandy Branch.

Overall, the Area 2 site is multi-component, showing intensive prehistoric and historic usage. Some non-conclusive but suggestive evidence was found of prehistoric limonite procurement from subsurface bands of this material in this area. A range of prehistoric tool and artifact types and raw materials were recovered from the site. No diagnostic artifacts were recovered from the context below the plowzone.

The historic component of the site is particularly strongly defined under several criteria: topographically, spatially and chronologically, by artifact variety and distinctiveness, and by the identification of one sub-plowzone feature containing artifacts (Excavation Unit 2, Contexts 3 and 4).

Next Steps

The sites in Area 2 are considered very likely to be eligible for the National Register on the basis of the Phase I survey. Phase II research and survey is still considered necessary in order to define horizontal and vertical extent, integrity, and criteria of evaluation.

AREA 3

Further Investigation not Recommended

The data from Area 3 and from the flanking Areas 2 and 5 suggest that this headwater of the Sandy Branch has probably been subjected to a combination of modern colluvial siltation, and dredging. In its earlier historic and prehistoric condition it may have been an active drainage with little accumulation of silts. There is no evidence for its use as a source of water-power within the APE. The valley sides and stream floodplain are held to have minimal archaeological potential and no sites are present.

Next Steps

No further work is recommended.

AREA 4: SANDY BRANCH PREHISTORIC SITE 1, 7NC-F-122, N14502

Phase II Evaluation Recommended

The initial expectation for this area was that a dense concentration of prehistoric material would be recorded from the confluence location at the northwest corner of the area. In the event, the southern cluster was the more dense of the two. Testing indicated that this is likely to be largely, if not completely, a plowzone site.

Next Steps

Phase II evaluation is recommended for the southern site (Area 4, Site A). This should be targeted at defining horizontal and vertical extent, integrity, and research contribution potential under Criterion D.

AREA 5: SANDY BRANCH PREHISTORIC SITE 2, 7NC-F-123, N14503

Phase II Evaluation Recommended

A prehistoric occupation is concentrated along the wood line above the Sandy Branch tributary. Of note here was the recovery of Brandywine quartzite, a local, poorly documented lithic resource. The presence of this material has contributed to the priority score of 7 on what would otherwise be a less convincing candidate as a site.

Next Steps

Phase II evaluation is recommended. This will define horizontal and vertical extent, integrity, and research contribution potential under Criterion D, focusing on the use of Brandywine quartzite.

AREA 6: SHELL BUTTON HISTORIC-PREHISTORIC SITE, 7NC-F-124, N14504

Phase II Evaluation Recommended

Area 6 also has a tightly defined multi-component site. The three-quarter-grooved axe, jasper triangle projectile point, and other points and ceramics from here point to frequentation during both the Woodland I and Woodland II periods. Twenty-eight kilograms (61 lbs.) of thermally altered rock were recovered in the surface collection. The historic occupation appears to comprise chiefly waste materials from the manufacture of shell buttons around 1900. This industry is better documented in southern Delaware and this assemblage appears to have the potential to yield information on specifics of the process and its social and economic context.

Next Steps

Phase II evaluation is needed for the historic button manufacturing evidence to establish if this is a manufacturing location with workshop(s) and other structures, or if it is a disposal area only. In this and in several other instances the integrated application of more than one remote-sensing technique is recommended for locating sub-plowzone structural evidence. It is suggested that in this instance the prehistoric site investigations be secondary to the historic in terms of methodology employed.

AREA 7 (SOUTH): BUNKER HILL ROAD SITE SOUTH, 7NC-F-125, N14505

Phase II Evaluation Not Recommended

Although the series of extensive thermally altered rock and brick clusters observed on the surface within Area 7 South clearly reflect past human activity, sampling and background research failed to provide any clues to their date or purpose. The balance of probabilities suggests that these are a reflection of agricultural or disposal practices, probably within the last 50 years. They are considered to hold limited information potential and no further work is recommended.

Next Steps

No further work is recommended.

AREA 7 (NORTH): BUNKER HILL ROAD HISTORIC-PREHISTORIC SITE, 7NC-F-126, N14506

Phase II Evaluation Recommended

Site A (7NC-F-126, N14506) , on the north side of Bunker Hill Road, is a striking concentration of 18th-century material on a low knoll. No specific documentary evidence for a house at this location has been found and it is considered probable that this is a tenant house site. Prehistoric artifacts coincident with this concentration may indicate common locational factors, possibly related to the local route across the peninsula.

Next Steps

Integrated Phase II historical research and field investigations to establish the context, extent, and integrity of the historic site are recommended.

AREA 8

Further Investigation not Recommended

Although, like Area 9 to the north, Area 8 is located close to an extensive upland wetland where prehistoric material might be anticipated, the observed archaeological data here is not considered to meet the site definition threshold. The rhyolite point is one of only 22 prehistoric items recovered over a wide area. The historic artifacts are of the late 19th century and later and appear to reflect trash disposal.

Next Steps

No further work is recommended.

AREA 9: DELAWARE CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY SITE LISTING: AREA 9A PREHISTORIC SITE, 7NC-F-127, N14507; AREA 9 CARDON HOLTON HISTORIC SITE, 7NC-F-128, N14508

Phase II Evaluation Recommended

After Area 2, Area 9 produced the highest number of artifacts from surface collection, shovel testing and excavation units, and is assigned a priority rating of 10. Site A is a moderately well-defined prehistoric artifact concentration flanking the south side of relict stream course west of more extensive headwater wetlands. Site B is a multicomponent site on a knoll north of the same stream, with a varied 18th-century data set including a subsurface feature that may be a smokehouse. Like Area 9, this location produced iron kettle fragments. A case can be made connecting this site to William Carden, who owned this section of the Boaz Boyce Tract from 1722 to before 1783 (see Hunter Research, Inc. 2009:4-55). The prehistoric component includes a range of raw material types and may reflect multiple occupations of a site favorably placed on the mid-drainage divide close to the headwater Black Marsh of the Dove's Nest branch of the Appoquinimink.

Site C is a concentration of 19th-century material possibly relating to an outbuilding of the still-standing Holton Farm.

Next Steps

Phase II evaluation focusing on refining the vertical and horizontal boundaries of the historic and prehistoric components is recommended. Remote sensing should be deployed to locate the Carden and Holton structures.

AREA 10: HOLTON-CANN HISTORIC SITE, 7NC-F-129, N00107

Phase II Evaluation Recommended

Site A in Area 10 is again a multi-component site. This historic material can be confidently related to the William Cann House, which is pictured on an Orphan's Court Map of 1836. The documentary evidence from this property is fairly extensive, providing opportunities to relate and compare archaeological and historical data sets. Prehistoric material from here includes ceramics, possibly suggesting occupation of a more intensive nature than temporary hunting or foraging stations.

Next Steps

As with Area 9, Phase II evaluation focusing on refining the vertical and horizontal boundaries of the historic and prehistoric components. Remote sensing should be deployed to locate the Cann house foundation.

AREA 11

Further Investigation not Recommended

The archaeological site definition threshold is not reached by the 52 artifacts recovered here. A small number of prehistoric artifacts were recovered. Historic materials include a quantity of redware, but it is considered that these materials reflect the periphery of a domestic midden, well outside the APE.

Next Steps

No further work is recommended.

AREA 12

Further Investigation not Recommended

The 90 artifacts recovered during survey here include six prehistoric items. Of the historic material, over one-third are brick fragments and the remainder late 18th- and 19th-century ceramics. The material is widely dispersed across the area. The archaeological site definition threshold is not reached.

Next Steps

No further work is recommended.

AREA 13: ARMSTRONG TENANT HISTORIC – PREHISTORIC SITE: 7NC-F-131, N14510; CANN TENANT/AMOS BELL HOMESTEAD SITE: 7NC-F-160, N5282

Further Investigation Recommended at Amos Bell Homestead Site

The Area 13 material was afforded a priority score of 5. A total of 177 artifacts were recovered from the surface collection area north of Armstrong Corner Road: the majority in a reasonably well-defined cluster adjacent to the swale of a relict stream. The presumably prehistoric material includes as much as 23 kg (51.7 lb) of thermally altered rock but less than a dozen other items, none of them chronologically diagnostic. Historical materials are primarily later 18th- and 19th-century ceramics. Building materials are present in low numbers. There was no artifact recovery below the plowzone from any of the eleven shovel tests. Overall, this concentration of artifactual material, although it is adjacent to a water source, seemed to be restricted in character a confined to the plowzone. It is therefore considered not to meet the site criteria and therefore not to merit further investi-

gation, in part because of the much more diverse and extensive sites of broadly similar character defined in other areas of the survey.

The investigations of south of Armstrong Corner Road identified structural evidence apparently relating to an early 19th-century occupation, possibly a tenancy of the William Cann ownership of 1816-1834.

Next Steps

No further work north of Armstrong Corner Road. Phase II level investigation of the Cann Tenancy/ Amos Bell House site should be undertaken to more fully define the extent and integrity of the features and to establish their date and affiliation. An association with Amos Bell is considered a likely key factor in significance evaluation. Remote sensing could be employed on the likely site of the house close to the road.

AREA 14

Further Investigation not Recommended

A low artifact count (43), the non-diagnostic and problematic character of the prehistoric material, and the modern character of the historic materials, all indicate that there is no necessity for additional investigation here.

Next Steps

No further work is recommended.

**AREA 15: ARMSTRONG BRICKYARD SITE,
7NC-F-132, N14511**

Phase II Evaluation Recommended

The Phase I testing results from this area point to the presence of brick making using traditional brick clamp technology after the Civil War, a time when this was being replaced by permanent kiln structures in heavily capitalized brick operations elsewhere. The area lies on Armstrong property and was probably part of the brick operation that was documented here in 1878. Research directions here are the possible employment of African-Americans in a traditional rural-based industry centered on Armstrong Corner in the late 19th century. No prehistoric materials were recovered from this location.

Next Steps

A phase II study focused primarily on the integrated use of two or more remote sensing techniques may be able to delineate the site with a minimal amount of additional archaeological testing. Limited additional historical research will be aimed at testing the current hypothesis that this was a traditional brick making operation using local materials and labor, probably employing African-Americans in the decades after the Civil War.

AREA 16

Further Investigation not Recommended

Information quality in this area is different from that of the bulk of the survey areas since the area was not plowed and was only subjected to shovel testing. However, the recovered total of about 2.5 artifacts per shovel test is low. Thirty-one out of 40 tests produced artifacts, so no concentrations are apparent, and there was no recovery from below the plowzone

in these tests or the single excavation unit. While this area may lie close to the site of one of the Armstrong houses, the nature of the material does not meet the site criteria. The prehistoric material is also low density and lacking diagnostics.

Next Steps

No further work is recommended.

**AREA 17: DALE HISTORIC SITE, 7NC-F-134, N14513; SPRING MILL BRANCH
PREHISTORIC SITE 2, 7NC-F-146, N14526**

Phase II Evaluation Recommended

The three clusters of historic material in this area date to the period of occupation by African-American Samuel Dale and his descendents, *circa* 1854-1915. Despite challenges posed by surface conditions, it appears likely that the location of the house and two outbuildings (one possibly a spring house) have been established by the Phase IB investigations. Samuel Dale may have been a pastor and a figure of some importance in the local African-American community and there may remain a degree of oral information about the family in the district. The site has considerable potential importance for African-American history in this part of Delaware, and requires further evaluation at the Phase II level.

Next Steps

The Dale Site appears very likely to meet one or more National Register eligibility criteria. Phase II studies are needed to provide additional historical context and to confirm the location and integrity of the probable structures. Again, the integrated use of one or more remote sensing techniques is likely to be an effective part of the evaluation strategy.

AREA 18

Further Investigation not Recommended

The early 20th-century Staats House had been identified in the architectural survey. Shovel testing of the heavily disturbed lot did not recover any archaeological material considered potentially capable of contributing to the understanding of the history of the property. A small number of prehistoric materials were recovered from the cultivated field to the south.

Next Steps

No further work is recommended.

AREA 19: ARMSTRONG-ROGERS HISTORIC SITE, 7NC-135, N14332

Phase II Evaluation Recommended

Area 19 has a multi-component site with both prehistoric and late 18th- and 19th-century materials. The prehistoric component includes 30 pieces of jasper and quartz debitage from Excavation Unit 3, together with several cores. Smaller numbers of similar material were recovered from the other two excavation units, suggesting that reduction of cryptocrystalline materials was taking place here. A house site (Rogers) was hypothesized to lie within the horse paddock in the southern part of the area. Testing here located a probable outbuilding foundation and complex occupation data. Several shovel tests and the excavation units recovered artifacts from sub-plowzone contexts.

Next Steps

Both the prehistoric and historic components of this site require Phase II investigation to establish vertical and horizontal boundaries and integrity.

AREA 20: NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK (FORMERLY DELAWARE) RAILROAD

Further Investigation not Recommended

The railroad alignment does not appear likely to retain any historic integrity or features.

Next Steps

No further work is recommended.

AREA H: WILLIAM CANN OUTBUILDING SITE 7NC-F-130, N14509

Further Investigation not Recommended

Area H was only investigated to a limited degree, and the area surveyed will probably lie outside the final APE. Despite this restricted examination, the area did produce an early historic trade bead, an 18th-century button and a Jack's Reef Pentagonal projectile point. Under the current highway design no work is recommended for this area, but a Phase II study would be necessary if proposed construction limits change.

Next Steps

No further work is recommended.

AREA J: NOXON'S TENANT HISTORIC SITE, 7NC-F-133, N14512

Phase II Evaluation Recommended

This dense concentration of 18th-century material on a low but prominent knoll lies on the intersection of early historic property lines, and possibly on or near an early cart road alignment. It is one of four sites in

Section 2 that obtained a rating of 10. This is despite the fact that no surface testing was called for here under the agreed scope of work. The ceramic collection from here is dominated by redwares, including slip-trailed examples, and Jackfield and Wheildon wares. Typical pre-19th-century forms such as porringers are present, as are white salt-glazed and gray-bodied stonewares. Nineteenth-century whiteware are ironstone are also present, but overall this appears to be a concentration of 18th-century material whose historic context requires more investigations. Shovel testing in the meadow forming the hypothesized western portion of the site produced only limited amounts of artifacts, and the core of the site appears to lie on the knoll in the cultivated field.

Next Steps

As with Area 2, this site is considered very likely to meet one or more National Register Eligibility criteria. Remote sensing again appears to be an effective technique to employ at the Phase II level. Limited additional historical research on the properties and road network would also be desirable.