

February 2011

Prepared for:

Delaware Department of
Transportation

**At the Road's Edge:
Final Archaeological Investigations of the
Wilson Farm Tenancy Site (7NC-F-94)**

Middletown, New Castle County, Delaware

Prepared by:

URS

Burlington, New Jersey

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February 2011

Abstract

Phase III archaeological data-recovery excavations were conducted at the Wilson Farm Tenancy Site (7NC-F-94), a National Register-eligible site located west of Middletown, New Castle County, Delaware. The Delaware Department of Transportation funded the project prior to the widening of Choptank Road, to the west and north of Middletown. Located in a pasture just to the west of the road, the site contained both prehistoric and historic remains. The prehistoric component was found to be of low density and was the result of intermittent occupation of the site dating from the Woodland I period (3000 B.C.–A.D. 1000). The historic component of the site consisted of over 100 features, including a brick foundation, a brick-lined well, pits, and postholes/molds dating from the late nineteenth through early twentieth centuries. Historic research found that tenant laborers successively occupied the site, though none of these laborers could be positively identified. Analysis of the field and laboratory data has, nonetheless, provided insights into the material lives of rural tenant laborers. The site has also yielded data that may pertain to African-derived spiritual practices.

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