

PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGY



Phase II Archaeological Survey, U.S. Route 301 Project, New Castle County, Delaware. This project entailed conducting Phase II Archaeological Surveys for a number of prehistoric archaeological sites within DelDOT's U.S. Route 301's Area of Potential Effect. The work was undertaken as part of an open-end contract with DelDOT to provide cultural resources services. The prehistoric sites included cultural components from the Archaic, Woodland I and Woodland II periods. A variety of lithic and ceramic materials were encountered. The sites were located both in the Chesapeake and Delaware Bay watersheds and contained postholes, hearths, and pit houses.

S.R. 1010, Section 02B Bridge Replacement Project, Berks County, Pennsylvania. This project entailed the preparation of Phase I, Phase II and Phase III archaeological surveys related to studies associated with a bridge replacement project undertaken in an archaeologically sensitive area. Coordination between the archaeologists from CHRS and the engineers and environmental scientists from the project team limited impacts of the project to a small portion of a large prehistoric archaeological site. The Phase III archaeological survey necessitated the analysis of both prehistoric lifeways and lithic resource quarrying as it related to the Hardyston Formation Archaeological District, a National Register of Historic Places-listed property that extends over a 35-square-mile area. Public dissemination documents included a self-launching illustrated lecture for distribution to schools and local archaeological groups.

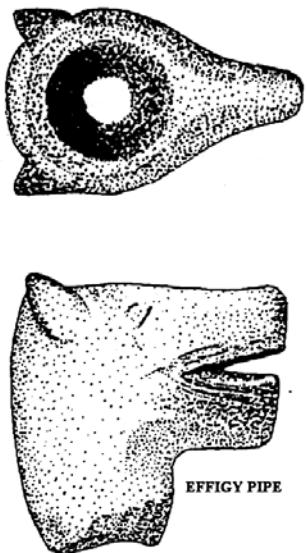
S.R. 1010, Section 02B
Bridge Replacement Project
Longswamp Township
Berks County, Pennsylvania

PHASE III ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SITE 36BK239 AND SITE 36BK746

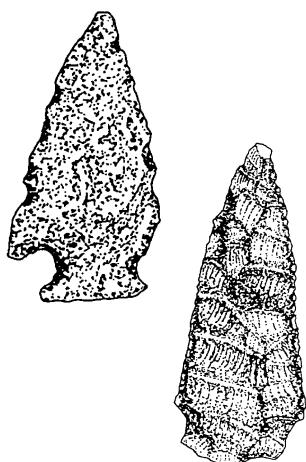
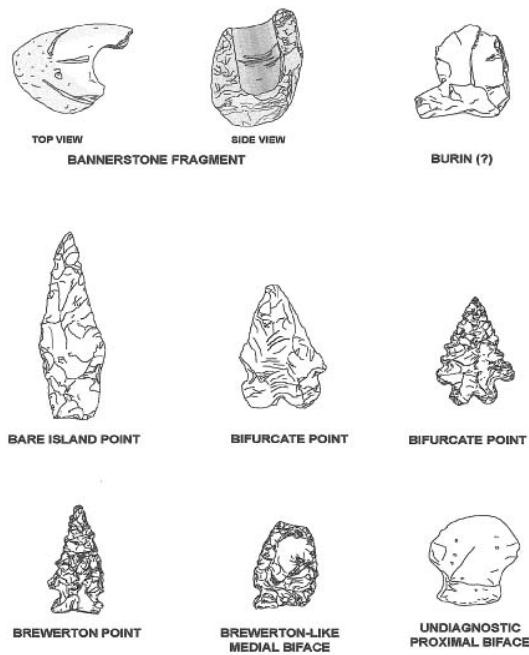


United States Department of Transportation,
Federal Highway Administration
and the
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation



Crossroads Bridge Project, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. This project entailed limited investigation of a large site in eastern Dauphin County. The initial work suggested a small Late Woodland component was present within the proposed right-of-way for a roadway improvement. Investigations by CHRS identified a large lithic reduction area associated with Late Archaic use of Hardyston Formation jaspers, a small Late Woodland component and a Contact Period component. The extensive use of extra-local jasper during the Late Archaic was not unknown for the region, although the density of material was surprising. The Contact Period items included an effigy pipe, musket balls and sprue found in association with a small bark-lined pit. The presence of a carbonized peach pit from the same period suggests the Contact Period remains represent a portion of a village site, the only documented site not in the floodplain of a major river.

Higginbotham Farm, Burlington County, New Jersey. Phase I, II, and III archaeological surveys were performed at Site 28Bu296 in association with a proposed housing development project in Evesham Township. This site had historic and prehistoric components. The prehistoric artifact assemblage contained over 5,000 artifacts, including lithic debitage, various tools and a drilled stone bead. The historic component consisted of a well/springhouse, two pipes, a possible trough, and a large historic midden deposit. The house on the property had been designated as a local landmark and was on the Township's Historic Site inventory. In addition to the archaeological work, the house was recorded to HABS standards, and a commemorative plaque was designed by CHRS.



Marshalls Creek Traffic Improvement Project, Monroe County, Pennsylvania. This work was performed in the Pocono Uplands area of Pennsylvania. Previous surveys in the region suggested that few prehistoric sites would be found in this portion of the Poconos. Sixty prehistoric archaeological sites were discovered during the survey. The unexpectedly high percentage of prehistoric sites led the CHRS archaeologists to provide a higher level of analysis than is usually found in Phase I archaeological surveys. The analysis of the data from the 60 sites showed a large number of sites containing locally-derived lithic raw material, suggesting an interrelationship between local lithic quarries and the surrounding sites. A Marshalls Creek Chert Quarry Archaeological District was designated.



American Water Company Pipeline Project, Barbadoes Island, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. This project entailed the block excavation of flood plain deposits on an island in the Schuylkill River. More than 10,000 artifacts were recovered from contexts associated with the Late Archaic and Late Woodland Periods. The site, located in an urbanized portion of Pennsylvania, demonstrated the continued presence of intact deposits despite industrial and other disturbances.

Great Bend Bridge Replacement Project, Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania. This project encountered a deeply buried prehistoric site along the north Branch of the Susquehanna River. Archaeological deposits extended to a depth of four meters below surfaces. Cultural components recovered ranged from the Middle Archaic to the present. Geomorphological studies and C-14 dates helped to establish new data concerning prehistoric use of this portion of Pennsylvania. An exhibit panel was prepared by CHRS, illustrating the results of the work.



Yellow Breeches Creek Bridge Replacement Project, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. This project evaluated the Zinn Site (36Cu180). The archaeological work indicated that the Zinn Site was a small base camp located along the lower reaches of Yellow Breeches Creek. From a regional perspective, the Zinn Site represents an important contribution to settlement pattern theory. Its deeply buried terrace position suggests that other similarly buried sites should exist in the area, and could be detected through appropriate testing strategies. In contrast to other proposed models of settlement patterning for the region, the downstream portion of Yellow Breeches Creek appears to represent not a buffer zone between two catchment zones, but instead an area where prehistoric sites have been deeply buried by historic alluvium and colluvium. The historic deposition in this area would be thick enough to escape plow penetration and prevent artifact surface migration that would allow for subsequent artifact detection and collection. A complementary process would also explain the large number of sites which have been found in the upstream portion of Yellow Breeches Creek: these areas exhibit a considerably thinner historic mantle, with narrower floodplains and greater erosional forces. In consequence, plowing would easily expose artifact bearing soils to the vagaries of artifact predation.