

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Thompson's Island Site
other names/site number 7S-G-4

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number Delaware Seashore State Park not for publication X
city or town Dewey Beach vicinity X
state Delaware code DE county Sussex code 003 zip code

=====

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Domestic</u>	Sub: <u>camp</u>
<u>Agriculture/Subsistence</u>	<u>processing</u>
<u>Industry/Processing/Extraction</u>	<u>processing site</u>
<u>Cemetery</u>	<u>burial site</u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Conservation Area</u>	Sub: <u>landscape</u>

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A

roof

walls

other

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====

8. Statement of Significance

=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
Archaeology: Prehistoric

Period of Significance 3000 B.C. - A.D. 1600

Significant Dates N/A

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation Wolfe Neck Complex
Delmarva Adena Complex
Carey Complex
Slaughter Creek Complex

Architect/Builder N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

- Previous documentation on file (NPS)
 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

- Primary Location of Additional Data
 State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Name of repository: Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Division of Parks and Recreation

=====

10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreage of Property 68.45 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	3		
2	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	4		

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Cara Lee Blume, Cultural Heritage Program Manager
organization Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Division of Parks and Recreation date May 17, 1994
street & number 89 Kings Highway, P.O. Box 1401 telephone 302) 739-4413
city or town Dover state DE zip code 19903

=====
Additional Documentation
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====
Property Owner
=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name State of Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Division of Parks and Recreation
street & number 89 Kings Highway telephone (302)739-4401
city or town Dover state DE zip code 19903

=====
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 10

Thompson's Island Site (7S-G-4)
name of property
Sussex County, Delaware
county and State

=====

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION:

The Thompson's Island site (7S-G-4) is located on the northern shore of Rehoboth Bay, a large inland bay on Delaware's Atlantic coast, across a small cove from the northern end of the barrier beach which protects Rehoboth Bay from the ocean. The island itself consists of approximately 37 acres of well-drained upland separated from the mainland by 32 acres of salt marsh and the channel of Stockley Creek. The elevation of the island rises from sea level at the northern end, where it is bordered by Stockley Creek, to about 20 ft above sea level at the southern end, where an eroding bluff faces Rehoboth Bay.

Although a number of disturbance processes, including cultivation, off-road driving, coastal erosion, and unauthorized digging, have affected the archaeological deposits on Thompson's Island, testing has shown that these deposits, and the information contained within them, remain substantially intact. Evidence of human occupation, in the form of lithic debris, stone tools, and ceramic sherds, is distributed across much of the island, and dates to the Woodland I and Woodland II Periods of prehistory (3000 B.C. to A.D. 1650). Windblown soils have buried cultural material to depths ranging from 40 cm. below the present surface of the ground in the highest (southern) part of the island to 60 cm. below the surface at the lowest (northern) end.

Pit features, often associated with shell, have been identified at the southern end of the island, and the high density of shell fragments in the plow zone in this part of the site indicates that an extensive shell midden was once present. Human and dog burials have also been identified.

Environmental Setting

The current setting of Thompson's Island is characterized by wild cherry and a variety of scrub growth invading the formerly cultivated area of the island. Woody shrubs and small trees are particularly dense around the edges of the old field. A stand of pines extends along the canal and across the northern end of the island, and the understory is considerably less dense here. The interior of the island remained open for a long time after the end of cultivation, in part because the area was used by four-wheel drive enthusiasts. In 1990, evidence of disturbance by off-road driving was readily apparent on the north slope of the island, but was limited to a small

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 11 Thompson's Island Site (7S-G-4)
name of property
Sussex County, Delaware
county and State

=====

area. Four-wheel drive activity appears to have been reduced in recent years because of the degradation of the access road, and has virtually stopped since the property was acquired by the state.

The native forest in the uplands of this area at the time of European settlement most probably consisted of mixed hardwoods with some Virginia and loblolly pines. Wetland hardwood species, such as oak, birch, swamp maple, and holly would have predominated in poorly drained areas. Associated with these forests, there would have been a wide variety of secondary tree species, shrubs, vines, and herbs. Many of these are attractive to animals as food, and some can be utilized by human groups for food, flavorings, and medicines. The locations of exploitable concentrations of these and other usable plants influenced the locations of prehistoric settlements.

In the absence of any kind of faunal studies for the Thompson Island preserve area, it is difficult to make more than general statements regarding faunal assemblages. Farming and development have also caused significant disturbances in faunal distributions. Certainly, however, white-tailed deer would have been present throughout the project area during prehistoric times, and the stream valleys in particular would have provided both food and water.

A variety of smaller mammals would have been present along the edges of the stream valleys, including squirrels and racoons. Occasionally, more solitary animals such as bears or bobcats may have been present. On the other hand, some animals, such as rabbits and groundhogs, which prefer the edges of open areas, may not have been as common as today. The marshy floodplains would have provided habitat for amphibians such as turtles and salamanders. With rising sea level, oysters and later clams would have become available in the developing bay. The types of fish available would have changed through time as sea level changes altered the salinity of the waters bordering the preserve.

The drainage characteristics of the area have changed significantly since the end of the Pleistocene, as a result of rising sea level. Shoreline reconstructions by Kraft (1971) indicate that when the first human groups arrived in Delaware, some 12,000 years ago, Thompson's Island was located approximately 35 miles west of the Atlantic coastline and 10 miles west of the ancestral Delaware River. By 7500 years ago, the developing estuary created by rising sea level had reached the area that is now Rehoboth Bay.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 12

Thompson's Island Site (7S-G-4)
name of property
Sussex County, Delaware
county and State

=====
At that time, however, the site was a mile or so from the fringing marshes of the upper Rehoboth Bay estuary, along the tributary now called Stockley Creek. Over the next 6000 years, the Rehoboth Bay basin gradually filled with water as sea level continued to rise. By 1500 years ago, Rehoboth Bay had reached nearly its present size. Thompson's Island bordered the bay, where shellfish and other estuarine resources were readily available. Marsh filled the valley of Stockley Creek. Over the last 1500 years, the rate of sea level rise has slowed, so that natural changes in the drainage system are less noticeable than in the past. The Thompson's Island headland is subject to ongoing erosion, and as much as 5 acres may have been lost since 1860, when the island was shown on an Orphan's Court survey.

More recently, human activities have altered the landscape of Thompson's Island. Extensive clearing and cultivation began shortly after the arrival of the first Europeans in the last half of the 17th century. In the 1890's, the U. S. Corps of Engineers built the Lewes and Rehoboth Canal. The channel cut across the Stockley Creek drainage system, so that the headwaters flowed into the canal, and Stockley Creek itself was truncated. Dredge spoil deposited on the marsh on the east side of the canal provided more secure land access to Thompson's Island. Stone jetties built to protect the south end of the canal have contributed to the deposition of a sand beach on the east side of the canal. For the most part, however, these activities have had limited effects on the archaeological resources of the island. When Thompson's Island was acquired by the State of Delaware in January, 1990, the property had been unused, except by hunters, picnickers, and four-wheel drive enthusiasts, for more than a quarter of a century.

Physical Description

The Thompson's Island site appears to have functioned as a micro-band base camp, repeatedly re-occupied by small groups of people for several weeks at a time. No extensive occupation appears to have taken place before the beginning of the Woodland I Period, about 3000 B.C., although small areas were identified where earlier deposits with nondiagnostic artifacts had been buried by aeolian deposits. The greatest intensity of occupation on Thompson's Island occurred between 500 B.C. and A.D. 0, the time period associated with the Wolfe Neck and Delmarva Adena cultural complexes. These complexes are identified by their characteristic ceramics, Wolfe Neck,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 13

Thompson's Island Site (7S-G-4)
name of property
Sussex County, Delaware
county and State

=====

Nassawango, Coulbourn and Wilgus wares. The north-facing rise at the center of the island functioned as a Native American cemetery from the Delmarva Adena times into the Woodland II Period. Carey complex occupations (represented by the presence of Mockley and Hell Island ceramics) are present at the site, but the greatest focus of settlement during this time period (A. D. 100 to A. D. 1000) appears to have been at the Little Neck site on the north side of Stockley Creek. The Woodland II occupation (1000 A.D. to 1600 A.D.) was identified by the distribution of Townsend ceramics in association with traces of a dark, organic, shell midden on the south part of the Island. No confirmation of the presence of any Contact Period settlement was obtained.

The prehistoric tool assemblage as a whole is dominated by small utilized flakes, with scraper, graver and burin tools also present. Utilized flakes were used in a variety of processing activities, while graters and burins may have been used in shell processing. The presence of cores and biface fragments suggest that tool kit replenishment was a typical activity at the north end of the site. Grinding and pounding tools associated with seed processing were distributed across the site. Ground stone tools such as a celt, grooved shaft abrader, and gorget fragments were found at the south end of the site.

Analysis of the material recovered during shovel testing indicates that the activities undertaken during visits to the site varied from one area to another. Tool production or repair took place most frequently along the northern and eastern boundaries of the island. Activities associated with the use of ceramics were more generally distributed across the site. Shell midden and shell-filled pits appear to be confined to the south end of the island, adjacent to Rehoboth Bay.

Some evidence of stratigraphic separation is present, although there is some variation in vertical distribution and in soil profiles across the site. Woodland II ceramics (Townsend and Killens wares) are found only in the surface deposits (designated Zone I). Late Woodland I ceramics (Hell Island, Mockley, and Wilgus wares) are found predominantly in Zone I, but are also

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 14

Thompson's Island Site (7S-G-4)
name of property
Sussex County, Delaware
county and State

=====

present in undisturbed remnants of shell-midden (designated Zone II). Earlier Woodland I ceramics (Coulbourn and Wolfe Neck wares) are found predominantly in Zone III, an aeolian deposit underlying the shell midden and the plowzone.

Previous Cultural Resources Studies

Thompson's Island was first identified as an archaeological site in 1942, when historian C. A. Weslager, an active member of the Archaeological Society of Delaware, and Dr. T. Dale Stewart, Curator of Physical Anthropology at the Smithsonian Institution, visited the site with an acquaintance who had been told about "an Indian burial ground" while vacationing in Rehoboth. In his book, Delaware's Buried Past (1968:84), Dr. Weslager describes the drive to the site along the canal and across an abandoned field to a low hill. Over the next two days, Dr. Weslager and his party excavated two pits filled with shell and dark soil. At the bottom of each of these pits, they encountered the skeletons of Native American dogs (Weslager 1968:83-88). The prehistory of Delaware was not well-understood at that time, but pottery found in the two pits resembled pottery found in other excavations nearby that has since been identified as belonging to the Woodland II period.

Two years later, Dr. Weslager returned to the site with another member of the Archaeological Society of Delaware. This time, a grave containing at least eighteen individuals was excavated. Dr. Weslager (1968:89-90) describes the burials as follows:

There, jumbled in the trench only a little over two feet from the surface of the ground were the skulls of eighteen persons--men, women, and children. Some were complete and in a fair state of preservation; others were badly disintegrated with parts missing. The skulls lay in a bed of human bones--ribs, legs, arms, and other bones crossing over and under in a crazy-quilt fashion.

The excavators removed as many of the skulls as they could, as well as a number of long bones, and sent them to Dr. Stewart for analysis (Weslager

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section <u>7</u>	Page <u>15</u>	<u>Thompson's Island Site (7S-G-4)</u>
		name of property
		<u>Sussex County, Delaware</u>
		county and State

=====

1968:92). A piece of broken pottery, a broken argillite projectile point, and three copper tubular beads were also recovered from the grave.

At the time of Dr. Weslager's first visit to Thompson's Island, he noted evidence of uncontrolled digging in the cemetery area. This appears to have continued sporadically over the years, and at least one of the diggers is reported to have sold artifacts found in the graves there. Jack Littel, a member of the Kent County Archeological Society, a chapter of the Archaeological Society of Delaware, obtained several artifacts which were reported to have come from Thompson's Island, including fragments of a large Flint Ridge chalcedony blade, fragments of a blocked end tubular pipe, and a slate pendant, all belonging to the Delmarva Adena complex. He also reports that copper beads were included in the collection.

Soon after Delaware's first professional archaeologist, State Archaeologist Ronald A. Thomas, began work for the Delaware Archaeological Board in 1965, he visited the site with Kermit Hill, another local collector. Hill's surface collection from Thompson's Island included several spherical copper beads. At the time of Thomas' visit to the site, only a few artifacts were recovered although the site was under cultivation. Bone fragments were visible on the surface in one area, and Thomas noted a shell pit eroding from the bank on the south side of the island (Ronald A. Thomas, personal communication: February, 1992).

In the mid-1970's, field archaeologists on the staff of the Delaware Section of Archaeology visited the site again. The field was no longer under cultivation, and only a few artifacts were recovered. However, the archaeologists again noted a shell-filled pit eroding from the bank on the south side of the island, and they also identified a shell midden at the eastern end of the island. The Section of Archaeology requested permission from the landowner to conduct subsurface testing, but this was not granted, and no further archaeological research on the island was attempted until after the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control acquired the property in January, 1990.

Following state acquisition of Thompson's Island, the Division of Parks and Recreation undertook an archaeological study of the site. A total of 157 shovel tests were excavated on a 25 meter grid, and 45 1 meter X 1 meter

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 16

Thompson's Island Site (7S-G-4)
name of property
Sussex County, Delaware
county and State

=====
units were excavated in 10 block excavations. A variety of archaeological contexts were identified in various parts of the site. Patterns of artifact distribution defined on the basis of shovel tests indicate the presence of definable activity areas, as well as changes in horizontal placement of occupations over time. At the northern end of the site, evidence of site burial by aeolian (windblown) deposits was found. In the southeast corner, traces of undisturbed midden were recovered. Pit features and graves have been found in the southern half of the island. This study has made it possible to characterize the archaeological resources of Thompson's Island in greater detail, and to expand the areas of significance.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 17

Thompson's Island Site (7S-G-4)
name of property
Sussex County, Delaware
county and State

=====

Non-contributing Elements

The historic component of the Thompson's Island site represents a mid-19th century tenant occupation, shown on an 1860 Orphan's Court survey. The cellar hole for the house is still visible, and artifact distributions from the shovel testing indicate that the occupation was limited to a linear distribution beginning in the southwestern corner of the island and running northeast along the base of the rise at the center of the island. This occupation does not appear to have disrupted the archaeological remains of the preceding Native American occupation to any significant extent.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 18

Thompson's Island Site (7S-G-4)
name of property
Sussex County, Delaware
county and State

=====

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Thompson's Island site is a micro-band base camp repeatedly reoccupied during the Woodland I and Woodland II time periods, a period during which the environmental setting changed from a mid-drainage riverine setting to an inland bay estuarine setting. The site's deposits are relatively intact, despite cultivation and unauthorized digging, and retain undisturbed vertical and horizontal spatial relationships between artifacts and features. This indicates that interpretation of activity areas is possible.

The Thompson's Island site is significant under Criterion D as having the potential to yield significant information in the study of Woodland I and Woodland II community patterns and in the study of adaptation to changing environmental settings. The data contained in this site which can contribute to these studies include the placement of the activity areas on the landscape, the association of temporally diagnostic ceramics and projectile points with stratified deposits and with pit features, the relative density of various kinds of debris, differences in the kinds of tools present in each activity area, and the association of storage pits with activity areas and with primary and secondary refuse in fills. The presence of shell midden and shell-filled pits also provides the potential for preservation of floral and faunal material.

Although the presence of cultural material from deeply buried contexts indicates some earlier occupation, extensive use of the Thompson's Island site began about 500 B.C., and increased in intensity until near the end of the Woodland I Period. By the beginning of the Woodland II Period, settlement on Thompson's Island appears to have been focused on the southern part of the island, which was convenient for the exploitation of the shellfish resources of the developing Rehoboth Bay estuary. This occupation was extensive, but does not appear to have been associated with the intensity of occupation or the variety of activities which would be expected in a settlement occupied by a large number of households over several months (macro-band base camp). The temporal differences in the occupation of these areas are of particular importance because they span the period when the local environment changed from a riverine setting to an estuarine setting as a result of rising sea level.

The Thompson's Island site has the potential to provide data which can be used to address a variety of research questions relating to human adaptation

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 19

Thompson's Island Site (7S-G-4)
name of property
Sussex County, Delaware
county and State

=====

to estuarine development. Changes in settlement intensity and activity placement over time are related to changes in riverine setting from upper drainage to mid-drainage to estuarine. The development of the inland bay environmental setting is reflected in the presence of shell deposits in middens and pits. The relative frequency of particular shellfish species and the presence or absence of specific shell features can be used to trace the development of the estuary through salinity regimes and bottom characteristics. The association of these deposits with temporally diagnostic artifacts provides a time frame for these changes. The presence of shell also increases the preservation of floral and faunal remains, providing a greater range of subsistence and environmental data. Despite cultivation, unauthorized excavation, and ongoing coastal erosion, the archaeological deposits of the Thompson's Island site retain a high degree of integrity. Limited archaeological testing during 1990 and 1991 demonstrated that intact graves and pit features were present even in the most seriously disturbed areas. The presence of windblown soils also contributes to the integrity of the Thompson's Island site. Windblown soils have buried archaeological remains of earlier occupations, providing a degree of separation between earlier and later deposits.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 20 Thompson's Island Site (7S-G-4)
name of property
Sussex County, Delaware
county and State

=====

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

The Thompson's Island site was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 197 as an example of a late prehistoric or Contact Period Native American settlement. However, the quality of information was insufficient to evaluate the integrity or boundaries of the site for preservation planning purposes. The period of significance identified in the nomination was based exclusively on the presence of copper beads from the multiple burial excavated by Dr. Weslager in 1944, and in surface collections examined by State Archaeologist Ronald A. Thomas. Thomas (Personal communication, February, 1992) reports that his conclusion that the beads were Contact Period was based on differences between these beads and copper beads from the Frederica Adena site (7K-F-2). The beads from the Frederica site were loosely rolled strips of copper, while the Thompson's Island beads were shaped into spheres. It should be noted, however, that spherical copper beads were recovered from the Nassawango Adena site (18-Wo-23) during excavations in 1973. Furthermore, Wolfe Neck, Coulbourne, and Mockley ceramics in the collections from this site at the Island Field Archaeological Research Center suggest that the Wolfe Neck, Delmarva Adena, and early Carey complexes of the Woodland I Period are also represented. In addition, earlier excavations by Weslager indicated the presence of dog burials in shell-filled pits. Such features are typical of Woodland II Slaughter Creek complex sites in the Atlantic coastal area. None of these contexts are addressed in the nomination. At the time the nomination was prepared, no statewide historic preservation planning documents had been prepared for Delaware.

In the statewide management plan for prehistoric archaeological resources (Custer 1986), Thompson Island Preserve is located in the Atlantic coast sub-unit of the Coastal Management Unit (Custer 1986:179-80). The archaeological resources of this sub-unit are under considerable stress from both development and erosion. As a result, the Delaware Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation identified the Atlantic coast management unit as a priority area for Historic Preservation Survey and Planning sub-grants. A more detailed management plan for the Atlantic coastal area (Custer 1987) identifies the Rehoboth Bay area as having a moderate probability for most site types for the Paleo-Indian and Archaic periods and a high probability for all site types for the Woodland I, Woodland II, and Contact periods (Custer 1987:61). Certain site types (such

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 21

Thompson's Island Site (7S-G-4)
name of property
Sussex County, Delaware
county and State

=====

as Paleo-Indian quarry sites and quarry-related base camps) are not expected to occur in the Atlantic coastal area, and are not included in this analysis. Data quality for all time periods is poor, so that the collection of basic information on site location and site structure continues to be a priority.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 22 Thompson's Island Site (7S-G-4)
name of property
Sussex County, Delaware
county and State

=====

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Blume, C. L. and C. A. Clark
1992 Cultural Resources Management Plan for Thompson Island Preserve. Division of Parks and Recreation.

Custer, Jay F. and Glen S. Mellin
1991 Preliminary report on archaeological survey and testing in the Atlantic Coast Zone of Delaware. Bulletin of the Archaeological Society of Delaware 28, New series.

Kraft, J. C.
1971 A Guide to the Geology of Delaware's Coastal Environments. College of Marine Studies. University of Delaware.

Weslager, C. A.
1968 Delaware's Buried Past. 2nd edition. New Brunswick, N. J.: Rutgers Press.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 23

Thompson's Island Site (7S-G-4)
name of property
Sussex County, Delaware
county and State

=====

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The Thompson's Island site is bounded on the north and east by Stockley Creek, on the south by Rehoboth Bay, and on the west by the Lewes and Rehoboth Canal.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The boundaries of the site include the currently habitable upland, where archaeological deposits have been identified and the fringing marsh, which provided part of the resource base for settlements on the island.