



## State of New Jersey

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Dear Reader,

The following series of documents by Dr. Michael Stewart on the archaeology of New Jersey's Upper Delaware River Valley was funded through compliance mitigation for adverse effects to archaeological properties in Sussex County, New Jersey.

The study of archaeology is a process requiring the development of research questions on how people lived in the past which drives archaeological excavations recovering the material evidence for patterns of past human lifeways including habitation, activity areas, and mortuary practices. The data collected from these excavations are then documented in formal reports. Synthesizing the results of the archaeological research documented in these individual reports facilitates future archaeological research. For more detailed information on archaeology and archaeological sites in New Jersey, please see: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/hpo/1identify/survarkeo.htm>

There had not been a major synthesis of archaeological investigation in the Upper Delaware Valley geographic region since the 1970s. Having an up to date synthesis will enable the establishment of priorities and research questions for moving forward on future archaeological investigations. By broadening the scale of analysis, it will identify gaps in our current knowledge of past human lifeways, analyze the effectiveness of past research methodologies, and set priorities for future archaeological research. This will enable cultural resource managers and the archaeological community as a whole to: 1) better decisions about where to focus future archaeological research, 2) develop research questions that address gaps in our knowledge of the past, and 3) use appropriate survey methodologies to collect data that will answer these critical research questions. This will give us a more accurate and fuller understanding of how people lived in the past and facilitate more efficient use of limited resources.

The study area for this document was not limited by modern political boundaries, it includes Pennsylvania and New York as well as New Jersey making it more reflective of past human patterns of seasonal movement and habitation.

This is the first of several planned volumes:

- References Relevant to the Archaeology of Native Americans in the Upper Delaware Valley of New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania
- A Radiocarbon Foundation for Archaeological Research in the Upper Delaware Valley

- Predictive Modeling: Upper Delaware Valley Practices in Regional Perspective
- Raw Material Sources and their Pre-Contact Use by Native Americans in the Upper Delaware Valley

This model can be carried out in other geographic regions within and beyond New Jersey.

Sincerely,



Katherine J. Marcopul  
Deputy State Historic  
Preservation Officer

KJM/AT/VM