



STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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DOVER, DELAWARE 19903

THOMAS R. CARPER
GOVERNOR

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND TESTING
IN THE SR 1 CORRIDOR,
NEW CASTLE COUNTY, DELAWARE

The Delaware Department of Transportation, in conjunction with the Cultural Resource Group of Louis Berger & Associates, Inc., is conducting test excavations of archaeological sites in the proposed path of SR 1 from Pine Tree Corners to Scott Run, as well as archaeological survey of several proposed wetland replacement areas. SR 1 is being constructed to relieve congestion on U.S. 13 and provide a safer, faster route from Wilmington to southern Delmarva and the Ocean beaches.

St. Georges and Appoquinimink Hundreds have rich historic heritages. American Indians have lived in the region for 12,000 years, and dozens of Indian sites have been discovered. Artifacts recovered from these sites include stone arrowheads, spear points, and knives, fragments of soapstone bowls, pottery, and ornamental objects such as shell beads. The first Europeans to settle in the area were Dutch who came in the 1660s, who established a town on the Appoquinimink River now called Odessa. The Dutch were followed by English, Scotch, Scotch Irish, and African immigrants. In the 1700s the Dutch settlement of Appoquinimink evolved into the English town of Cantwell's Bridge, and small towns grew up at crossroads along the King's Highway (now U.S. 13) in the project area, including McDonough and Fieldsboro.

The archaeological sites where test excavations are being conducted include both prehistoric American Indian camping areas and the dwellings of European American from the Colonial and early Federal periods. These sites were identified by Louis Berger & Associates during an archaeological survey of the SR 1 corridor conducted in May and June, 1995. The archaeologists will be searching for datable artifacts, such as prehistoric ceramics or stone tools or historic bottles, remains of houses and other structures, and other evidence of how people lived in the past. If any especially important remains are found on the tested sites, more complete excavations will be conducted before highway construction begins.

At the conclusion of the survey, a report will be prepared for DelDOT and the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office, which interested persons can obtain from DelDOT. Any artifacts found within the state right-of-way will be turned over to the Delaware State Museum.

If you would like additional information concerning the project, please contact Kevin Cunningham, DelDOT archaeologist, at 739-4642, or Charles LeeDecker of Louis Berger & Associates at 202-331-7775.