1 Introduction

The following report details the results of a Phase II Archaeological Evaluation of site 7K-F-205, the Potter Estate Tenant Farmstead (Potter Estate) conducted by HDR, Inc. (HDR) for the proposed SR 1, Northeast (NE) Front Street Grade Separated Intersection project in and adjacent to the east of the City of Milford in Milford Hundred, Kent County, Delaware (Figure 1-1). HDR conducted the evaluation for the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). DelDOT proposes the construction of a grade-separated intersection (Alternative 6) to improve traffic safety by allowing easier entrance to, and exit from, SR 1 near the intersection of NE Front Street/New Wharf Road and SR 1 (Figure 1-2). Because the undertaking will be federally funded, FHWA seeks to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended) and the implementing regulations outlined in 36 CFR Part 800.

As a result of a Phase I survey conducted by A.D. Marble & Company in 2013, Site 7K-F-205 was identified and recommended potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion D. It was believed to have the potential to yield significant information about the history of the area. The Phase II evaluation area was selected and defined in the project Scope of Work based on the Phase I archaeological survey results and historic aerial photographs. These results and aerial images suggest that structures and features associated with the Potter Estate Tenant Farmstead would likely be concentrated at the southeast edge of the site area and along the farm lane in the southwest part of the site, and would likely continue outside of the project's APE. The Phase I results show a decrease in artifact density to the northwest of the site, decreasing along with proximity to the adjacent New Wharf Road. Figure 1-3 shows the site boundary as defined following the Phase I investigation, with the Phase II evaluation area outlined. The current project area is within a relatively flat agricultural field at the southeastern intersection of New Wharf Road/SR 409 and Milford Bypass/Route 1. The Mispillion River flows west to east approximately 2,000 feet south and east of the Phase II evaluation area, whereas Swan Creek—a tributary that feeds Mispillion River to the east—is approximately 0.75 mile north of the evaluation area.

The cultural resources evaluation was conducted in accordance with Section 106 of The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended; the Procedures for the Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties set forth in 36 CFR 800, as amended; 23 CFR 771, as amended; guidance published by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; Sections 1(3) and 2(b) of Executive Order 11593; the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended; and the guidelines established by Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs (DHCA) in *Archaeological Survey in Delaware* (2013). HDR conducted background research in October 2014 and the fieldwork was undertaken in December 2014.

Figure 1-2. DelDOT Alternative 6 (detail).

Source: DelDOT

Source: Bing Hybrid 2014

HDR archaeologist Tiffany Raszick conducted the background research in October 2014. Fieldwork occurred December 9–17, 2014, directed by James Parker and assisted by archaeologists Lily Kleppertknoop, Thomas Wingate, and Nicholas Onesty. Raszick, Kleppertknoop, and Wingate processed and analyzed the assemblage recovered during fieldwork at HDR's archaeology laboratory in Vienna, Virginia. David Kenton, commissioner of the Milford Museum and former president of the Milford Historical Society, provided invaluable information on the history of occupation in and near the Potter Estate Tenant Farmstead.

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