

7 Summary and Recommendations

Under contract to DeIDOT, HDR conducted a Phase II archaeological evaluation at Site 7K-F-205 ahead of the proposed SR 1, Northeast Front Street Grade Separated Intersection project in Milford, Delaware. The investigation was completed to assist DeIDOT in meeting anticipated regulatory obligations under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended. HDR performed the work in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation and Archaeological Survey in Delaware* (2013).

The primary objective of the Phase II evaluation was to identify all archaeological resources within the current project area and recommend eligibility candidacy for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The purpose of the NRHP is to list properties that are “significant in American history, architecture, archaeology and culture” (NHPA Section 101[a][1]). The implementing regulations of the NHPA provide the following criteria for evaluation:

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and

- a) that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- b) that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- c) that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- d) that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history” (36 CFR 60.4).

HDR conducted the background research in October 2014, and the fieldwork was undertaken in December 2014. The field investigation included the excavation of 60 shovel tests along a 7.5 m grid followed by the excavation of seven meter square test units.

Two features were encountered during the Phase II evaluation at the site. Both features (Feature 1 and Feature 2) represent episodes of structures being razed and subsequently buried in the field and covered with topsoil. The historic assemblage recovered from the site dates predominately from the mid-nineteenth to mid-twentieth centuries. Map data indicates a dwelling and other structures were at the location since at least 1868 and documentary records indicate those structures were razed in the third quarter of the twentieth century. Records and maps suggest there may have been an earlier dwelling at the farm but not within the current project area.

A total of 2,048 artifacts were recovered from the site. This does not include brick (22,287.78 g), mortar (40,512.82 g), charcoal (4,950.13 g), corroded and unidentifiable metal fragments (7,915.41 g), and oyster and clam shell (887.04) that derived from the test units and were weighted and discarded. Architectural-related items (nail and flat glass) (n=1,042) and domestic artifacts

(ceramics, glassware, and bottles) (n=590) make up the majority of the assemblage (79%). The limited number of personal items found at the site (two buttons, a broken Frozen Charlotte doll, a coin (no date), and shoe grommets) suggests that the structures were cleared out before being razed.

Twentieth century items such as rubber fragments, pieces of aluminum foil, a telephone box, and a bottle base that dates to the early 1960s, were recovered from deposits at the base of the excavations (up to a meter deep) in association with early to mid-nineteenth century items. Hand molded and machine-made bricks, cut and wire nails, and lime and Portland cement mortar were found together in all levels of the excavation. Scorched and burned ceramics, melted and fused glass, and oxidized metal found in all levels is indication of direct and indirect burning.

The Phase II archaeological evaluation for the Potter Estate Tenant Farmstead site (7K-F-205) indicates that two structures were razed in the current project area and the remains buried in the field and covered over with topsoil. The artifact assemblage shows a lack of horizontal and vertical integrity with no temporal stratification. The character of the assemblage suggests that the structures were cleaned out prior to their demolition. Therefore, HDR feels that the site does not meet the requirements for NRHP eligibility.