

I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to describe the results of a survey for architectural and archaeological resources within the proposed Borrow Pit and Wetland Mitigation Site No. 5 associated with planned improvements to a 13-mile portion of U.S. Route 113, between Milford and Georgetown, Sussex County, Delaware (Figures 1 and 2). This work has been undertaken by the Cultural Resource Group of Louis Berger & Associates, Inc., for the Delaware Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration. The work is being carried out in accordance with the instructions and intents of Section 101(b)(4) of the National Environmental Policy Act; Section 1(3) and 2(b) of Executive Order 11593; Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act; 36 CFR 771, as amended; the guidelines developed by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation published November 26, 1980; and the amended Procedures for the Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties as set forth in 36 CFR 800.

Wetland Mitigation Site No. 5, also known as the Eskridge property, is located at the intersection of State Roads 244 and 246, approximately two miles north of Georgetown. The site encompasses an area of 105 acres, most of which is in active cultivation (Plate 1). The property will be developed as a wetland recreation site, to compensate for the loss of wetlands resulting from construction improvements to U.S. Route 113 between Georgetown and Milford. Initially, topsoil from the site will be stripped and stockpiled for later use, then the site will be excavated to an elevation where the seasonal water table elevation will support a wetland habitat complex. The new wetland acreage will be planted with pine and hardwood saplings, and the property will ultimately be managed by the State of Delaware as a permanent natural space and become part of the Redden State Forest.

The scope of work included a Phase I survey for archaeological resources and a Phase I/Phase II architectural assessment of extant buildings and structures within the property. The archaeological and architectural fieldwork was conducted during the period from March 2-6, 1992.

This report is divided into seven chapters, plus appendices. This introductory chapter is followed by chapters describing the study area's environmental setting, prehistoric cultural sequence and historical development. Drawn primarily from preservation plans for Delaware's prehistoric and historic resources, these chapters provide the context for discussion and interpretation of the archaeological and architectural fieldwork. The Architectural Survey chapter provides a detailed description and evaluation of National Register eligibility for the extant buildings within the project area. The Archaeological Survey chapter includes a discussion of the archaeological research design, field survey results and a summary discussion of the findings. Cultural resource management recommendations for the archaeological and architectural resources are included in the concluding chapter.

Appendices to the report include the personnel qualifications; a National Register determination of eligibility form; CRS-3 and CRS-4 cultural resource survey forms; and a listing of artifacts recovered during the archaeological survey. The artifact collections have been prepared for permanent storage at the Island Field Museum. Original field records, photographs, historical research material, and a complete set of artifact catalog listings have been prepared for storage with the collection.