

X. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following discussion presents the conclusions of a Phase I Archaeological Survey of the BR 159 over James Street project, which is located in the Town of Newport in New Castle County, Delaware. This survey was conducted by McCormick Taylor, Inc. in Late Summer – Early Fall 2012 for the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) to fulfill Section 106 requirements.

The primary goal of the Phase I archaeological survey was to locate and identify any significant archaeological resources that may be affected by the proposed undertaking, which is a bridge replacement project. One archaeological site, the Boys-Hilyard/Delaware Canoe Club Site (7NC-E-194; N-10880), was identified and evaluated for historic significance by this survey.

A. Summary of the Boys-Hilyard/Delaware Canoe Club Site

The Boys-Hilyard/Delaware Canoe Club Site (7NC-E-194; N-10880) consists of disturbed remains of two buildings, a mid-to late nineteenth century brick house (Boys-Hilyard House Site, 7NC-E-194B) and a late nineteenth-early twentieth century boat house (Delaware Canoe Club Boat House, 7NC-E-194B) that was constructed off of the south elevation of the aforementioned brick house.

The archaeological remains of the Boys-Hilyard House Site component of 7NC-E-194 is represented as a subsurface deposit of compacted demolition fill and mixed artifact scatters. The deposit of demolition fill is the in-filled cellar hole of the aforementioned brick house. The cellar hole has been compromised by building modification/demolition and by post-demolition earthmoving activities through, around, and in it. Large portions of the cellar area, including wall segments, have been lost to roadway and subsurface utility construction.

The archaeological remains of the Delaware Canoe Club Boat House Site component of 7NC-E-194 is represented as mixed artifact scatters in the general vicinity of the footprint of the former building.

The mixed artifact scatters consist of cultural material contained in unstratified fill horizons. Due to the low density of non-architectural artifacts that are contemporaneous with the historic occupations of the property, differentiation of artifacts that may/may not have been associated with the Boys-Hilyard and/or the Delaware Canoe Club is not feasible. The fill horizons contain random mixes of artifacts that collectively, within a single horizon, span the late nineteenth through late twentieth century. The fill horizons also contain refuse and debris that were obviously not generated by the site's past occupants. Horizontal and vertical migration of artifacts has been substantial due to recurrent grading and filling across the site. Due to lacks of intact cultural deposits, low densities of domestic artifacts, and lacks of any

distinct spatial, temporal, or categorical patterning, it has been concluded that the physical integrities and data potentials of the Boys-Hilyard/Delaware Canoe Club Site does not rise to the level required by the NPS' Criteria of Evaluation for either significance or integrity. The Boys-Hilyard/Delaware Canoe Club Site (7NC-E-194) is recommended not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

B. Conclusions and Recommendations

Based on the results of the Phase I Archaeological Survey, it has been concluded that the BR 159 archaeological survey area does not contain NRHP-eligible archaeological sites. The remaining portion of the BR 159 project APE was previously determined to be devoid of significant archaeological sites due to the extent of past disturbances.

No further work is warranted within the BR 159 project APE. A finding of no historic properties affected are recommended for the BR 159 project APE.