

Chesapeake City in particular has profited greatly from its association with the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. The Chesapeake City District Civic Association formed after a severe economic downturn in the 1960s, in which residents abandoned their homes and businesses closed. This group had the foresight to recognize the economic power that could be harnessed from Chesapeake City's identity as a 19th-century canal town and was instrumental in saving and restoring several historic buildings in town. By the 1980s, the Bayard House Restaurant and Back Creek General Store opened in restored 19th-century buildings. While Chesapeake City no longer thrives on canal trade and commerce, it is the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal that still provides the backbone of the town's identity and economy (Shagena 1996 14-15).

3. INVENTORY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL RESOURCES

A. Introduction

This survey has identified 284 resources within the project corridor. These resources fall into six different categories:

1. Buildings, Structures or Sites Listed in the National Register,
2. Buildings, Structures or Sites Considered Eligible for Listing in the National Register,
3. Buildings, Structures or Sites Considered Not Eligible for Listing in the National Register,
4. Historical Buildings, Structures or Sites Identified from SHPO Files,
5. Historic Map Documented Buildings, Structures or Sites, and
6. Previously Identified Prehistoric Archaeological Sites.

Each category of resource is discussed by the state they are located in because of minor differences in the way Maryland and Delaware each register and document historic resources.

National Register-listed buildings, structures or sites (category 1) are those that have been nominated and reviewed through a joint state/federal process, culminating in acceptance by the National Register of Historic Places, a list maintained by the National Park Service. This designation is important because these historic properties are protected by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Buildings, structures or sites considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (category 2) are also protected by this Federal legislation. Finally, buildings, structures or sites that have been formally evaluated as Not Eligible (category 3) do not receive protections from the Federal government. All of these sites have received significant investigation and consideration that evaluates their history and integrity.

Many of the historic sites, with or without standing structures, that have been surveyed in Maryland and Delaware by both the respective states and as part of cultural resource investigations have been identified but not evaluated for their National Register eligibility. These sites (category 4) may be eligible, however the formal process of determining this status has not been conducted. These sites are briefly documented with simple survey forms.

The majority of historic resources identified by this investigation are Historic Map Documented Buildings, Structures or Sites (category 5). Historic map documented resources are defined as those structures that appear on historic map coverages of the project corridor but have not been previously architecturally or archaeologically surveyed. For the most part, these resources are now historic archaeological sites with no above-ground elements, although some may still

be standing. A complete assessment of the current condition of every historic map documented structure is beyond the scope of this investigation.

Finally, 13 prehistoric sites have been previously identified by the respective state offices (one in Maryland and 12 in Delaware). These sites are often unevaluated archaeological sites with very little surface expression identified by amateur collectors and cultural resource surveys. Because archaeological investigation is required to evaluate these sites, very little assessment and documentation has been conducted. A simple survey form, often not completely filled out, is the only record of these sites. At a larger scale, their location in the landscape can be used to generally assess the archaeological sensitivity of an area.

B. MARYLAND (Figures 20, 21a-c, 22)

1. Buildings, Structures or Sites Listed in the National Register (Table 1)

Within Maryland, two historic resources are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The South Chesapeake City Historic District (MD 39) (Plate 1) was listed July 15, 1974 and consists of a small series of houses along Bohemia Avenue and George Street that represent the 19th-century core of the thriving 20th-century town that grew around it. The second listed site in Maryland is the Old Lock Pump House of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal (MD 44) (Plates 1-3). This building was listed October 15, 1966 and is also a National Historic Landmark. This status indicates that the property is of National significance, not just at the local and state levels. The pump house, which is currently operated as a museum, sheltered the steam engines and lift wheel that supplied water to the upper level of the canal during the 19th century.

2. Buildings, Structures or Sites Considered Eligible for Listing in the National Register (Table 1)

Two other structures within the project corridor in South Chesapeake City are considered eligible for listing in the National Register by the Maryland Historical Trust. The Reese Store Building (MD 42) is located at 100 Bohemia Avenue and is considered individually eligible as well as a contributing element of the South Chesapeake City Historic District. This two-story frame building was built in 1861 and is considered the best example of commercial architecture in the district. The other structure considered eligible is Bridge MD 286 over Back Creek (MD 48) just east of South Chesapeake City. This concrete slab bridge is considered eligible as an intact example of the improvements made to the Chesapeake City Harbor by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the 1930s.

3. Buildings, Structures or Sites Considered Not Eligible for Listing in the National Register (Table 1)

Six resources have been identified by the Maryland Historical Trust as not eligible for the listing in the National Register. Three of these resources are houses; "Rabbit Hill" (MD 47), 727 Mt. Nebo Road (MD 15) and 741 Mt. Nebo Road (MD 46). The North Chesapeake City Survey District (MD 11) and Chesapeake City Bridge (MD 10) (Plate 5) were also considered, although it was recommended that the latter be reconsidered once it was 50 years old (it was built in 1948). Importantly, the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal (MD 1) is considered not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places by the Maryland Historical Trust (letter dated September 19, 1994) because of the substantial changes made to this feature in the 20th century that have removed almost all remnants of the 19th-century canal.

4. Historical Buildings, Structures or Sites Identified from SHPO Files (Table 2)

Eighteen historic resources were surveyed within the Maryland portion of the project corridor but have not been evaluated for their eligibility. Thirteen of these resources are houses. Six are scattered in the countryside along the historic roads north and south of the canal and seven are located within the North Chesapeake City Historic District. The houses within the historic district are of particular interest because of both their proximity to the canal and their probable historical relationship with people who worked on the canal. For example, Nellie Allen's House (MD 15) is considered a typical example of canal worker's housing by the surveyor. The First Presbyterian Church (MD 16) of North Chesapeake City, dating from the 19th century, also falls within this category. Several farmhouses with 18th-century elements were also identified in this category set back away from the canal including the Phillips House (MD 6) and Randalia (MD 35).

Franklin Hall (MD 41), a commercial structure, was singled out amongst the other contributing elements of the South Chesapeake City Historic District as an important building. The site of this building (MD40) was also individually surveyed along with the former site of the Chesapeake City Public School (MD37). To the east, the last remaining building from the Village of Bethel was also surveyed, Thompson/Parkinson House (MD 57) (Plate 6).

5. Historic Map Documented Buildings, Structures or Sites (Table 3)

The following historical maps were used to develop this list for the Maryland section of the project corridor: Poussin 1834, Martenet 1858 and Lake Griffin & Stevenson 1877. A total of 32 Historical Map Documented Structures were identified within the

Maryland section of this project corridor. These sites are largely located along, and include the 19th-century roads whose alignments largely survive and consist predominantly of dwellings along with outbuildings, a saw mill, a few roads and the former site of a pivot bridge (now in the canal). All of the information gleaned about these sites is presented on the maps and tables included in this report. Of particular note is the Village of Bethel (MD 59), also known as Pivot Bridge, which is included with this group. Most of this village was completely removed when the canal was widened in the 1940s and again in the 1960s, leaving only the Thompson/Parkinson House (MD 57) standing in its original location. The Bethel Cemetery and all of its graves were moved to its current location in the 1960s south of its original location to accommodate the canal widening.

6. Previously Identified Prehistoric Archaeological Sites and Areas of Prehistoric Archaeological Sensitivity (Table 4)

A single prehistoric archaeological site was identified within the Maryland portion of the project corridor (MD 34). This small, Early Woodland period site (approximately 1,000 B.C. to A.D. 1) was located on the southern bank of Back Creek. Very little information is provided about the site, other than the approximate occupation period, apparently assessed from the type of aboriginal pottery recovered.

The presence of only a single prehistoric site does not indicate an absence of prehistoric occupation along the Maryland section of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. Both the northern and southern banks of Back Creek as it extends west from Chesapeake City towards its confluence with the Elk River (known as Back Creek Neck and Randalia, respectively) are likely locations for prehistoric occupation. In particular, the area along Long Creek and at its confluence with the canal has a very good potential to have been

occupied prehistorically, given the long marsh area and moderately sloping banks. Further to the east, the canal corridor extends into the rising topography and lies at a much greater distance from the pre-canal water sources that seem so essential to prehistoric settlement patterns. However, in undisturbed portions of the corridor small, sometimes ephemeral upland sites may exist (although this type of site is often difficult to find and evaluate).

C. Delaware (Figures 20, 21c-g, 23, 24, 25)

1. Buildings, Structures or Sites Listed in the National Register (Table 5)

Nine historic properties within the Delaware section of the project corridor are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Lums Mill House (DE 31) (Plate 7), also known as the Samuel Davies House, was built in the first quarter of the 18th century and subsequently expanded during the 19th century. It is both an interesting example of an early Delaware farmhouse and is associated with one of the earliest mills (and millers) in this part of Delaware. Bloomfield and the Bloomfield Tenant House (DE 46) (Plate 8) lie just west of St. Georges. The main house was built in the early 19th century by William Hurlock, one of the contractors building the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal lock at St. Georges. The only property south of the canal is an 18th-century house known as Windsor or “Annondale” from historic maps (DE 213). This brick farmhouse lies on one of the promontories overlooking the canal just west of Briar Point.

The Saint Georges Historic District (DE 50) (Plate 9) includes an individually eligible house, the Sutton House (DE 56). This district is comprised of the remnants of an 18th-century village that blossomed with the coming of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal in the late 1820s. Subsequent expansion of the canal has removed many of the buildings in the southern part of

the village along with the canal lock and associated crossing that brought so many people through the town. A Vernacular Frame House (DE 59) that lies just east of the historic district has also been individually listed.

The Delaware City Historic District (DE 84) (Plate 10) lies at the eastern end of the old channel of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. Delaware City was originally planned and built as a port on the Delaware River in the early 1800s, but became dependent upon the commerce that the canal brought. When the canal was enlarged in the 1920s, the eastern confluence with the Delaware River was moved from Delaware City south to Reedy Point. The Eastern Lock of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal (DE 106) is still visible in Battery Park in Delaware City. This 260-foot-long stone structure was built as a 100-foot-long lock and the enlarged with the canal in the 1850s and early 1920s.

Fort DuPont Historic District (DE 95) (Plate 11) is located just south of the old channel of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. It was in use as a military fort from 1861 to 1945, after which it became a state park and the site of the Governor Bacon Health Center. Several military buildings remain standing along with the remains of a few artillery batteries along the Delaware River side of the district.

2. Buildings, Structures or Sites Considered Eligible for Listing in the National Register

The Delaware Historic Preservation Office does not maintain a list of buildings, structures or sites considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

3. *Buildings, Structures or Sites Considered Not Eligible for Listing in the National Register*

The Delaware Historic Preservation Office does not maintain a list of buildings, structures or sites considered not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

4. *Historical Buildings, Structures or Sites Identified from SHPO Files (Table 6)*

Sixty five buildings, structures or sites have been surveyed by the Delaware Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation as part of the ongoing Cultural Resource Survey that have not been formally evaluated for (individual) eligibility. These resources are almost all located within one of three concentrations: Jesterville, St. Georges or South St. Georges. These resources are predominantly dwellings, along with a few churches, commercial buildings and farms. In St. Georges many of these buildings are contributing elements of the St. Georges Historic District. No such districts have been identified in South St. Georges or Jesterville.

5. *Historic Map Documented Buildings, Structures or Sites (Table 7)*

The following historical maps were used to develop this list for this section: Poussin 1834, U.S. Coast Survey 1841, Rea and Price 1849, Beers 1868, Hopkins 1881, and Baist 1893. The historical map coverage was somewhat more extensive for the Delaware section of the project corridor, generating 134 historic map documented buildings, structures or sites. As with the Maryland section, these sites are largely located along, and include the 19th-century roads whose alignments largely survive and consist predominately of dwellings along with outbuildings, a few roads and several canal-related buildings and

sites. Several of these sites have been completely removed by the widening of the canal or covered by dredge spoil dumping in the 20th century. All of the information known about these sites is presented on the maps and tables included in this report. These sites provide little historic interpretive potential but may have archaeological potential and are provided principally as a planning tool for the project design.

6. *Previously Identified Prehistoric Archaeological Sites and Areas of Prehistoric Archaeological Sensitivity (Table 8)*

Twelve prehistoric archaeological sites have been previously identified in the Delaware section of the project corridor. Detailed information was not provided on the forms for most of these sites but their location does provide a good idea of the prehistoric archaeological sensitivity of the project corridor within Delaware. Eight of the 12 sites are on small bluffs projecting out towards the canal along the south bank near small streams draining the hillside between the Railroad Bridge and Briar Point (Plate 12). For the most part this area has a natural bluff edge cut frequently by small stream channels that prehistorically fed into St. Georges Creek long before the canal was built. Very little dredge spoil dumping has occurred along this section, a process that has changed the landscape severely north of the canal and further to the west on the southern bank.

One site of particular note is the Snapp Site (DE 168 or Delaware Site #7NC-G-101) which was excavated in advance of the construction of the State Route 1 bridge over the canal. This large site was occupied during most periods of prehistory but most intensively during the Woodland I phase (3,000 B.C. to A.D. 1,000). It is located just west of St. Georges and has yielded a diverse artifact assemblage and had many intact archaeological features (Custer and Silber 1995). Most of this site was excavated prior to the

construction of the State Route 1 bridge, leaving very little of it behind. If this site is any indication of the potential of other, unexcavated sites along the south bank of the canal, then these sites have a great amount of potential.

4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The extensive modifications necessary to transform the canal into a major seaway have had an extremely deleterious effect on cultural resources within the project corridor. Remnants of the original canal are few and far between, the Eastern Lock at Delaware City (DE 106) and the Pump House at South Chesapeake City (MD 39) being the most important examples. Significant portions of a few towns have been completely removed. Having said this, many resources remain within the wider study area.

At this stage in the development of the project the resolution is only enough to give general recommendations of potential effect on these resources. Several types of features will be built within the project corridor that may have a physical impact: kiosks, overlooks, trails, a single new bridge and trail head/comfort stations. The minimal subsurface or visible footprint for kiosks and overlook points compared to the substantial disturbance present within the corridor suggests that these installations will have little potential to effect cultural resources. The trails are almost all within areas of existing trails or service roads and also have little potential to effect cultural resources. The only new section of trail proposed runs along a steep bank created during the last expansion of the canal and will connect to existing service roads and has no potential to effect cultural resources. The proposed bridge over Guthrie Run will connect to modern, existing service roads in an area excavated in the 1960s. This has no potential to affect any cultural resources.

Finally, the trail head/comfort stations, of which there are 14 potential locations, will likely have a much more extensive footprint. These stations may include parking lots, picnic areas, restrooms, information centers and fishing facilities, all of which will be handicap accessible. Ten of these sites, Chesapeake South, Chesapeake North, Bethel East, Guthrie East, Summit Bridge South, Deep Cut, Joy Run, St. Georges West, Biddle Point and Reedy Point are located in areas previously disturbed by the construction/excavation of the canal or by the stockpiling of dredged material (Figures 2 and 21). Four sites are located in areas that retain some cultural resource sensitivity. The USACE trail head/comfort station will be located in the immediate vicinity of the Old Pump House (MD 44), a vital site to the history of the canal. Also, this area is largely unaltered by the 20th-century changes to the canal. Therefore, there is a potential for this site to affect cultural resources. The St. Georges South site also lies in an area that may not have been affected by the canal construction and subsequent widening. While it is located east of the village of South St Georges, away from resources identified by this investigation, it retains the potential to affect cultural resources, in particular prehistoric resources. The Grass Dale site is located near the John Reybold Farm (DE 101), part of the Grass Dale facility used and maintained by the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control. This site has the potential to affect this resource. The fourth trail head/comfort station site is located at the very end of the historic canal alignment (DE 106) in Delaware City within the Delaware City Historic District (DE 84). There were also several buildings and structures in near this area historically, including coal wharves (DE 91) and an office building (DE 90). The site is currently a park. The development of a trail head/comfort station at this location in Delaware City has the potential to affect these resources and other as yet unidentified archaeological resources in this area. Once plans are more fully developed for these four sites, an assessment can be made more definitively. This may