

INTRODUCTION

Project Description and Location

The Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) is proposing improvements at the intersection of Capitol Trail (SR 2) and Possum Park Road (SR 72), Newark, New Castle County, Delaware (Figure 1). The Rutgers University Center for Public Archaeology was selected to perform Phase I and (if necessary) Phase II testing of the project area. This investigation involved background research, a field reconnaissance survey, a program of subsurface testing designed to determine the presence or absence of significant archaeological remains (Phase I) and to assess their potential eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places (Phase II), and the production of this report that includes relevant data along with appropriate evaluations, conclusions, and recommendations. The goal of this cultural resource survey was the identification and definition of any potentially eligible prehistoric or historic archaeological features within the proposed project area.

This investigation was designed to satisfy the instructions and intents set forth by Section 101(b)(4) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; Sections 1(3) and 2(b) of Executive Order 11593; Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act; 23 CFR 771, as amended October 30, 1980; 36 CFR 66; the guidelines developed by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and published on November 26, 1980; 36 CFR 48; and, the amended Procedures for the Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties as set forth in 36 CFR Part 800. In addition, the work was designed to satisfy Delaware State Antiquities Act, Delaware Code Title 7, Chapters 53 and 54; Delaware Code Title 29, Sections 551-552; and, Delaware Code Title 68, Chapter 7.

The archaeologists performing this work meet the qualifications specified in 36 CFR 66.3(b)(2), as amended September 28, 1983 with 36 CFR 48. All information submitted in this survey is factual and sufficiently complete to allow for the necessary DelDOT and Delaware State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) review and for the Secretary of the Interior to determine the eligibility of all potentially significant archaeological sites identified within the project area. Significance will be evaluated in accordance with the Criteria for Inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (36 CFR 60.4).

The project is located in the Windy Hills section of New Castle County, just east of the City of Newark. The project area comprises approximately 2 acres on the east and west sides of Possum Park Road and a short distance to the north of Capitol Trail. An unnamed creek flows southward through the project area along the east side of Possum Park Road to its confluence with Middle Run, which runs westward through the southern end of the project area. Fieldwork for this project was accomplished June 15-18, 1993. The majority of the project area to the east of Possum Park Road is currently an unpaved parking area associated with the George R. Clark baseball field adjacent to the north boundary of the project.

With the exception of locations where the unnamed creek is contained in culverts that pass under the two entrances to the parking area, the areas bordering the streams are wooded. A sanitary sewer crosses the unnamed creek near its confluence with Middle Run and runs roughly parallel to Middle Run through the project area. A small portion of this eastern project area is located on the south side of Middle Run and borders the Wendy's restaurant parking lot. A man-hole is situated in this landscaped area. The section to the west of Possum Park Road and north of Middle Run is covered by dense brush. This area lies between Possum Park Road and a cultivated field. A small portion extends across Middle Run and is adjacent to a nursery and sod store. Like the east side of the road, this area has also been landscaped.