

V. Interpretations: National Register Evaluations

Any historic property is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places if it possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association as well as meeting at least one of the following National Register Criteria:

Criterion A: association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;

Criterion B: association with the lives of persons significant in our past;

Criterion C: embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic value, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction;

Criterion D: has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history (Townsend *et al* 1993).

All of the properties identified during this Identification and evaluation survey were evaluated using each of the above criteria to provide a recommendation for eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

A. Cauffiel Estate

The Daniel Cauffiel Estate is significant under criterion A for its association with the development of agriculture in the region. The property was initially owned by Swedes and early records indicate that there were orchards and other types of farming on the property. There was a mill nearby built by Swedes, indicating that corn, wheat, or other grains were grown on the land. The property was later owned by Charles Lore and Daniel Cauffiel, both prominent local citizens, who held the property as a summer house or country retreat. Both of these men also maintained orchards on the property, although agriculture was not their leading source of income. They were gentleman farmers who dabbled in some aspects of the farm as a hobby, but left the day to day task of actually running the farm in the hands of a manager. After Daniel Cauffiel's death in 1930, maintaining the property as a working farm became expensive, and the agricultural activity eventually declined.

The Cauffiel Estate is not considered significant under criterion B, for association with persons significant in history. Charles Lore was a significant person in the history of the Wilmington area, and significant in the history of the State of Delaware. However, the Lore house was destroyed and there is no longer a strong historical association between him and the property. Daniel Cauffiel was an important local businessman, but he was not significant to the historical development of the local area, state, or nation.

The property is significant under criterion C for architecture. The main house on the property represents an excellent example of a Colonial/Georgian Revival house. It possesses many of the characteristics of the style. The house was built c.1928. The mid- to late 1920s was a time period in the United States when the populace was celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and there was renewed interest in the architecture of the colonial period. The Colonial

Revival style is distinguished by fanciful and exaggerated reproductions of colonial features. The main house, specifically the door, window, and portico surrounds and treatments, exemplifies the style. The door has side-lights and a transom, the windows have Georgian muntins, and the portico has Greek Doric columns and dentils. In addition, the earlier buildings on the property collectively represent various folk architectural forms. The log/stone house is potentially a Swedish folk house, the tenant house is an I-house, and there is an excellent example of a Pennsylvania barn on the estate.

In the process of determining the significance of the property, the Cauffiel Estate was compared to the Lackey Mansion at Philadelphia Pike and Grubbs Landing Road. The Lackey Mansion is a period colonial house from the late 18th century that was "revivalized" and substantially altered in the mid-to late 1920's. Like the Cauffiel Estate, the Lackey Mansion was previously part of a large estate. According to Delaware State Historic Preservation Office Cultural Resource Survey forms, the Lackey Mansion is "...noteworthy as a turn of the 20th century Colonial Revival mansion..." (DE SHPO, 1971, N-3929) There was no determination of National Register eligibility on the survey forms. Unfortunately, the Lackey Mansion has been encroached upon considerably by commercial development and lacks the setting offered by the Cauffiel Estate; including the open space and natural surroundings. The Cauffiel Estate was also compared to the William DuPont Estate, which is now Bellevue State Park. The William DuPont Estate consists of a main house and many related outbuildings. It has many more outbuildings, is larger in size, and offers a somewhat better setting than the Cauffiel Estate. The DuPont Estate is well over 300 acres in size, while the Cauffiel Estate is just over 50 acres. Like the Lackey Mansion, the main house on the William DuPont Estate, known as Bellevue Hall, was originally an older home that was remodeled considerably during the Colonial Revival period. In comparison to the Cauffiel Estate, the DuPont Estate has more resources and has an association with one of the most well known families in the nation. The DuPont Estate was surveyed by the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office (CRS N-9432 to N-9450) in 1983. The relative significance of the Cauffiel Estate is more closely related to the DuPont Estate than to the Lackey Mansion. The *Cultural Resources Management Plan for Bellevue State Park* (1997, p.45) states that Bellevue Hall on the William DuPont Estate is "Individually eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places". Both the Cauffiel and DuPont Estates retain most of the buildings originally associated with them and retain the setting in which they evolved.

The *Delaware Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan* outlines historic contexts for preservation planning in the State of Delaware. The Daniel Cauffiel Estate fits best into the context relating to the period of 1830 to 1880: Industrialization and Capitalization, and 1880 to 1940: Urbanization and Early Suburbanization within the historic trends of agriculture and settlement patterns/demographic change. There is also a possibility that if significant archaeological remains are found on the property that conclusively determine the location of a Swedish mill or farm house, that the property will also conform to the context of Exploration and Frontier Settlement (1630 to 1730). This is in concurrence with a previous report by Cara L. Blume, Cultural Heritage Program Manager for the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control. In the proposal for phase I and phase II archaeology for the Cauffiel Estate written in 1993 (p.5), Blume notes that these contexts are a high priority in Delaware's historic preservation planning processes: AThe comprehensive historic preservation plan identifies this period "Exploration and Frontier Settlement, 1630 to 1730] as having a high priority for below ground (archaeological) resources...The plan

identifies Agriculture and Settlement Patterns/ Demographic Change as the highest priority historic themes, and the time intervals from 1830 to 1880 (Industrialization and Capitalization) and 1880 to 1940 (Urbanization and Early Suburbanization) as the second and third highest priority chronological periods for historic preservation activities. The existing buildings on the Cauffiel tract all relate to these themes." Blume goes on to state that "The open fields and vistas of the Cauffiel tract may also be considered a significant historic property".

The Cauffiel Estate is bounded by Philadelphia Pike to the west, Stoney Creek to the north, Governor Printz Boulevard to the east, and by the property lines of the Bellevue and Bellevue Manor Addition subdivisions to the south. The estate consists of three tax parcels: 06-124.00-141, 06-124.00-143, and 06-124.00-144. Two of the parcels are owned by the State of Delaware (06-124.00-141 and 06-124.00-144). Parcel 06-124.00-143 is owned by a realty holding company, and contains a building currently used for lawyers' offices. This parcel was originally part of 06-124.00-141. The accompanying site plan provides the boundaries of the property.

The nominated property includes both parcels currently owned by the State of Delaware (06-124.00-141 06-124.00-144) and the former residence/office building parcel (06-124.00-143). The two state-owned properties include the former Cauffiel Estate (06-124.00-144), and all of the houses, barns, outbuildings and structures historically associated with the property. The parcel with the railroad and trolley right-of-ways and bridge abutments (06-124.00-141) also includes natural features such as the wetlands, creeks, and open space. These two parcels, owned by the state, are currently considered by the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) to be an extension of Bellevue State Park. The parcel containing the former residence/office building, while not owned by the State, is combined with the others, and collectively referred to in DNREC planning reports as the "Cauffiel Tract" (Cauffiel-Volpe-Hessler: Proposal for Phase I and Phase II Archaeological Investigations). The former residence/office building parcel was once part of 06-124.00-141. For the purpose of this Determination of Eligibility, the three parcels have been combined.

7NC-C-12A

This archaeological locus contains prehistoric and historic components. DNREC and MTA both identified an archaeological feature within the APE during previous testing (Clark 1995, Clark 1996, Corbett and Clark 1997) which was the focus of the Archaeological Evaluation Survey. After exposing a much larger portion of the aforementioned feature it became clear that it consisted of a series of parallel ruts having the appearance, composition and configuration of very large plowscars. Each rut is approximately one meter wide and several meters long. Rocks of various shapes and sizes were scattered throughout the ruts, but not within the surrounding subsoil. The placement of the rocks appeared to be random, and no patterns of rocks were observed. The contents of the rut scars were screened (sampled). Artifacts recovered were very sparse and generally consisted of late historic period glass and ceramics.

DelDOT provided MTA with an aerial photograph of the general area taken during construction of Governor Printz Boulevard in the 1950's. The photograph depicts construction activities in the area

of Locus A (*Figure 27*). MTA's interpretation of the feature is that the ruts were caused by construction vehicles and road construction related activity.

During a field view held June 25, 1999, DelDOT, DNREC and the SHPO agreed with the above interpretation and also agreed that no further archaeological work is necessary within the APE at Locus A (*Appendix C*). DNREC reiterated that further to the southwest (outside the APE) the prehistoric component of the site would be expected to be more significant. The portions of the site outside the APE may or may not be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places; however, it was agreed that the portion of the site within the APE does not have the potential to contain significant information. The portion of the site within the APE is a non-contributing resource to the National Register eligible Cauffiel Estate.

7NC-C-12B

This archaeological locus has been partially disturbed through the construction of a trolley bed. In addition, the integrity of the sola in which the artifacts are occurring has been compromised. Artifacts are primarily occurring within a plowzone which has been partially stripped away and is not contiguous over the site. This plowzone contained a mixture of redeposited prehistoric and historic artifacts. It is also apparent that a certain degree of deflation has occurred to the existing sola prior to the construction of the trolley bed. Subsequent to the trolley bed construction, the lower (down slope) portion of the site was covered with multiple layers of slope wash which according to the geomorphologist (*Appendix D*) has banked up against the trolley bed, burying the site under as much as 0.8 meters of re-deposited fill. This has artificially given the site area a more level appearance than it would have had prior to the construction of the trolley. In some portions of the site the buried plowzone is evident under the fill, in other portions it is missing altogether, while in the up-slope portions of the site it has been consumed by the modern plowzone. The buried plowzone contains late nineteenth /early twentieth century historic artifacts in addition to the prehistoric artifacts. The prehistoric artifacts were concentrated in the northeastern corner of the site, the portion of the site in which the geomorphologist noted more severe erosion and deflation have occurred. Our interpretation of the site is that many of the artifacts, including those within the Apb horizon, have come to their present position through a combination of deflation and down slope movement and are not in their original contexts. This is supported by the fact that the prehistoric ceramic sherds are small and badly eroded. Exterior surfaces are absent from virtually all sherds recovered. No prehistoric features were identified.

MTA's recommendation is that the portion of 7NC-C-12B within the APE does not have the potential to contribute significant information, although it is not known if other portions of the site outside of the APE might have that potential. This evaluation is based on the lack of integrity of the artifact bearing strata, as noted above, the low density of artifacts, and lack of features. The portion of the site within the APE is a non-contributing resource to the National Register eligible Cauffiel Estate.