APPENDIX V

RT. 141 PUBLIC INFORMATION HANDOUT

1985 - 1986

STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS
P.O. BOX 778
DOVER, DELAWARE 19903

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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PUBLIC INFORMATION HANDOUT

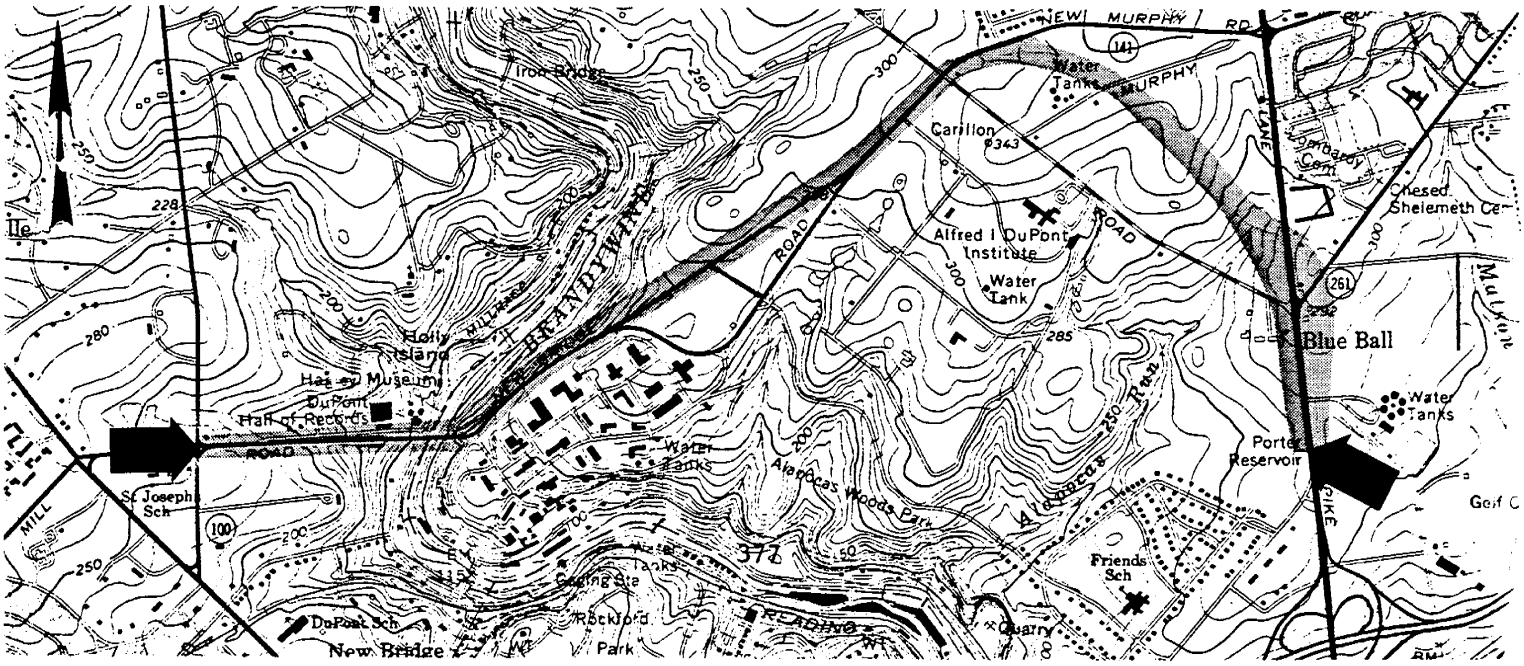
CULTURAL RESOURCES PROJECT
DE ROUTE 141 FROM DE ROUTE 100 (MONTCHANIN ROAD) TO U.S. ROUTE 202 (CONCORD PIKE)

A prehistoric, historic and architectural cultural resource survey is being conducted by the Delaware Department of Transportation, Division of Highways, and the Federal Highway administration in conjunction with Thunderbird Archeological Associates and The History Store. The cultural resource survey is necessitated by the proposed dualization of DE Rt. 141 from DE Rt. 100 (Montchanin Road) to DE Rt. 202 (Concord Pike).

Delaware Department of Transportation

The project area is located in the Piedmont uplands in New Castle County, crossing the Brandywine River and, at its eastern end, straddling the drainage divide between the Brandywine and Shellpot Creek. Current research on prehistoric sites suggests that short-term procurement and camp sites located on flats and terraces may be likely in the area during any prehistoric time period ca. 12,000 B.C. - 1600 A.D., but that only during the Late Archaic/Woodland I periods ca. 4000 B.C. - 1000 A.D. are larger, more extensive occupations expected. The most likely spot in the study area for the latter class of sites is the Brandywine River crossing. The remainder of the areas specifically designated for survey are highly dissected areas containing low-order streams.

The project area is particularly rich in historic period archeological and historical sites. The Brandywine was well suited for the construction of mills, and became a center of industrialization early in the nineteenth century, although agriculture continued to be an important economic activity. Service facilities for the local population are represented in the study area by the school house at the intersection of Barley Mill Road and Montchanin Road, and the tavern and smithy at Blue Ball near the intersection of Rockland Road and Route 202. The importance of the industrial activities in and near the study area is reflected by the presence of the Eleutherian Mills National Historic Landmark, and the Eleutherian Mills, Breck's Mill, and Walker's Mill National Register Districts. A distinctive residential pattern sometimes accompanied the industrial development in the form of rural estates, or structures and grounds set aside specifically for residential use. They contained a larger proportion of land devoted to non-productive use (i.e. gardens, "parks"), they housed a number of people and facilities devoted to rather elaborate domestic activities, and it may be predicted, contain more costly and ceremonial artifact assemblages.

The principal objective of the historical, architectural, and archeological research proposed here will be to identify and evaluate any sites that may be affected by the proposed highway construction in terms of their eligibility for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

If you have any questions or request any further information, please contact Kevin Cunningham, DelDOT Archeologist at 736-4644.