

ABSTRACT

Complete Phase I archaeological and historic structures surveys, including background research, a fieldview, geomorphology, and field investigations, have been completed for the Delaware Department of Transportation's (DelDOT) proposed U.S. 13/U.S. 13A/Road 46 Intersection Improvements project located in Sussex County, Delaware. The project area is located on the Seaford East, Delaware 7.5 minute United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic quadrangle, in the Lower Coastal Plain physiographic province.

The intersection improvements project area consists of approximately 6.43 ha (15.88 ac) of roadway widening and ditching, a short connector road, and acceleration lanes area. Background and geomorphological research identified only one portion of the project area that retained intact soils of appropriate age to contain pre-contact archaeological resources. A total of 13 shovel test pits (STPs) was used to fully survey the U.S. 13/U.S. 13A/Road 46 Intersection Improvements project Area of Potential Effects (APE). A single piece of solarized glass (Isolate 1) was identified during the archaeological survey. Although the glass can be generally dated to the period between 1880 and 1915, it is not functionally diagnostic, nor does it lend insight into the specific historic period land-use of the project area. Isolates are not considered archaeological sites; therefore, it is not potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Research did not identify any previously recorded NRHP-listed or -eligible historic properties within the U.S. 13/U.S. 13A/Road 46 Intersection Improvements project area. The current historic structures survey identified two above-ground structures (service station/cigarette shop and residence) that are over 50 years of age within or adjacent to the proposed project area. The evaluation of their potential eligibility for listing in the NRHP, using the NRHP Criteria for Evaluation and Delaware state guidelines, determined that neither of the resources is eligible for listing in the NRHP.

Based on the lack of previously and newly identified archaeological sites within the U.S. 13/U.S. 13A/Road 46 Intersection Improvements project area, and the lack of NRHP-listed or -eligible historic structures, the proposed intersection improvements, as currently designed, will not affect any significant pre-contact or historic period archaeological resources or historic structures. No additional cultural resources investigations are warranted.