

3.0 DESCRIPTION OF  
THE AREA OF  
POTENTIAL EFFECT

### 3.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT

For the purposes of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the APE is defined as “the geographic area within which an undertaking may cause changes in the character or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist” (36 CFR Section 800.4, Advisory Council for Historic Preservation website, accessed 06/07/05). The APE, shown in Figures 2 and 3, generally encompasses an area that extends 1,000.0 feet to either side of the center line of the various current preliminary alternatives. These alternatives extend north from the Delaware-Maryland state line to just south of the existing bridge over the C&D Canal. The irregularly-shaped APE follows along the boundaries of tax parcels and measures approximately 27.5 square miles. The APE will be modified to accommodate changes in project engineering and/or to include additional potentially affected historic resources as needed through the project development process.

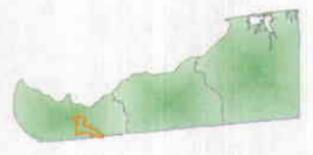
The APE is located south of the C&D Canal in New Castle County in the Upper Peninsula Zone. The study area falls primarily within the historical boundaries of St. Georges Hundred, although a small portion of it is situated in Pencader and Appoquinimink Hundreds. The main north-south portion of the study area follows U.S. 301 from just south of the C&D Canal (Summit Bridge) to west of Middletown and terminates at the state line. The eastern portion of the study area follows SR 896 from Mt. Pleasant to Boyds Corner, ending just east of SR 1. Along with the aforementioned villages, the study area includes the hamlets of Armstrong (formerly Armstrongs Corner) and a small portion of the Town of Middletown.

While numerous runs and small creeks drain the study area, no major waterways are found within the APE. The northern portion of the study area is drained by several small runs, including Crystal Run and Joy Run, which flow into the C&D Canal. Back Creek and its tributaries drain the northwestern corner of the study area. The headwater branches of Drawyer Creek drain the east-central portion of the study area, while tributaries of Bohemia Creek drain the west-central and southern areas. Scott Run and the headwaters of Augustine Creek drain the eastern section of the study area.

As the area is relatively flat and well-watered, the earliest European settlers in the area practiced agriculture. Until recently, the APE was characterized by a pattern of dispersed farms connected by expansive agricultural fields. During the eighteenth century, the early road network began to expand, which augmented an already vital waterway transport system. Small settlements began to develop at crossroads road and creek landings. In the nineteenth century, the introduction of the railroad further facilitated the expansion of the area’s settlements, especially Mt. Pleasant and Armstrongs Corner. By the early twentieth century, many old roadways were modernized and improved, as was the case for U.S. 301. Wholly new highways, including the Du Pont Highway (U.S. 13), further opened the area to development. Commercial businesses and services grew up along these modern roads. More recently, large-scale residential and commercial developments are replacing the agricultural landscape.

**U.S. 301 Project Development  
Historic Context and  
Reconnaissance Survey Report**

 Reconnaissance Level APE



Sources:  
1997 Aerial Photography

**Figure 2  
Area of Potential Effect**



July 2006



**U.S. 301 Project Development  
Historic Context and  
Reconnaissance Survey Report**

-  Reconnaissance Level Survey APE
- CRSPoints**
-  Properties Listed or Determined Eligible for the National Register
-  Properties Previously Determined Not Eligible
-  Unevaluated
- Previously Listed or Determined Eligible (boundaries confirmed):**
-  Determined Eligible
-  Listed
-  Previously Listed or Determined Eligible (boundaries under investigation)



Sources:  
1997 Aerial Photography

**Figure 3  
Identified and Potential Resources**



July 2006

