

ABSTRACT

The following technical report was prepared for the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) by Versar, Inc. (Versar), under Agreement Number 1539 (Task 3&3A). It details the results of Phase I archaeological identification survey conducted in response to DelDOT plans to expand the Mid-County DMV at US 13 and SR 72, in New Castle County (Federal Aid No. CMAQ-2012(1), State Contract T201259401).

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) for the project was defined by DelDOT, confirmed by the Delaware (DE) State Department of Historic Preservation (SHPO) and comprises 20.5 testable acres. A total of 458 tests were excavated as part of this field effort: 344 shovel tests on 15-meter grid and 144 radial and close-interval tests at 7.5 meters. Excavations revealed relatively consistent soils across the project area consisting primarily of plowzone overlying culturally sterile subsoil.

A total of 66 artifacts were recovered as a result of shovel testing the 20.5-acre APE (n=66 historical, 26 prehistoric, and 1 ecofact). Historical material included small size-graded building material as well as ceramic and glass vessel sherds. Considering the results of archival research, coupled with artifact size, condition, date range, and distribution, the historical artifacts are interpreted as predominately field scatter and road debris associated with DuPont Highway/US 13. Following DE SHPO guidelines (1993), this material was documented but not designated as a site.

In addition to this field scatter one prehistoric site, Silver Run Prehistoric 7NC-G-181 (Cultural Resource Survey [CRS] N07483), and four prehistoric isolated finds were recorded. The four prehistoric isolated finds comprise flake recoveries outside of the landform associated with the site. Silver Run Prehistoric is a diffuse (n=5 acres), low density (n=21 artifacts, 1 ecofact), non-diagnostic, lithic scatter encompassing localized high ground within the terrace above Silver Run. In addition to flakes of jasper, chert, limonite, quartz, and quartzite, a single distal tip of a late stage biface and a naturally-perforated jasper cobble were recovered.

Given the site's context, size, density, and artifact assemblage it was deemed appropriate to compose a NRHP determination at the Phase I identification level. Silver Run Prehistoric was found to be not eligible for inclusion in the NRHP under Criterion (d). The site retains neither physical integrity, due to its location within the plowzone, nor temporal integrity, due to the non-diagnostic nature of the assemblage. Also contributing to the determination was the site's inability to meaningfully address any research questions or provide important information on the site itself, or within the larger context of prehistoric cultural dynamics in Delaware.

No further work is recommended for Silver Run Prehistoric 7NC-G-181 (CRS N07483), or the APE.