

ABSTRACT

A.D. Marble & Company conducted a Cultural Resources Evaluation for the Mulberry Street Drainage Improvements and Sidewalks Project in the Town of Milton, Sussex County, Delaware, for the Town of Milton during September 2001. The primary goal of this investigation was to locate and identify any existing and potential historic structures and/or prehistoric/historic archeological resources within the project area that would be affected by the proposed construction.

The proposed transportation improvements include the construction of 2,406.1 square meters (25,900.0 sq ft) of new sidewalk and curbing along the east and west sides of Mulberry Street within the project area. Drainage improvements, consisting of new stormwater inlets, new drain pipes, and other associated equipment, are included in the proposed improvements as well. The existing drainage system in the project area will be upgraded and the new drainage improvements tied into the system. The proposed improvements will be constructed within the state-owned right-of-way.

A research design, based on current architectural and archaeological research in Delaware and the town of Milton, was implemented to provide a systematic study of the recommended project Area of Potential Effect (APE). Results from background research into historic structures and known archeological sites were evaluated to ascertain whether or not cultural resources were present in the project area.

The recommended project APE contains a diversity of architectural resources. The northern portion of the project corridor contains residential and commercial development associated with late-twentieth-century urban expansion, while mid-nineteenth century frame dwellings representative of early residences are found in the southern portion of the proposed Mulberry Street corridor. Three contributing structures of the Milton Historic District, a listed *National Register of Historic Places* resource, impact the southern portion of the recommended project APE as well. These historic structures will not be impacted by the proposed improvements.

Little potential for intact archaeological deposits exists within the recommended project APE. No documented archaeological sites have been recorded in the Mulberry Street project corridor. Extensive roadway improvements and the introduction of buried utilities throughout the twentieth century have effectively compromised the soil integrity of Mulberry Street, reducing the potential for intact archaeological deposits.

Based on the proposed design for the transportation improvements, there will be no adverse effects to any historic properties or potential archaeological resources located within the Mulberry Street Drainage Improvements and Sidewalks project.