

## ABSTRACT

A.D. Marble & Company conducted a Cultural Resources Survey for the Mispillion River Greenway Path (Phase XII), City of Milford, Sussex County, Delaware, for the City of Milford 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 236.9 square meters (2,550.0 sq ft) of 2.4-meter (8.0-ft) wide raised boardwalk on 4.5-meter (15.0-ft) pilings with 1.2-meter (4.0-ft) high wood safety rails, along with Victorian period lighting, site furnishings, and landscaping within the project area. Bank grading and stone riprap will be used along the riverfront portion of the project area. The proposed pathway improvements will tie into an existing boardwalk and bridge network, part of the Mispillion River Greenway Pedestrian and Bicycle Path System.

The recommended project Area of Potential Effect (APE) is located adjacent to, but outside of, the Victorian South Milford Historic District, a *National Register of Historic Places*-listed resource within the Historic Resources of Milford. Architectural styles and background history, based on standing structures and the pattern of land use in the project corridor, indicate that the recommended project APE is representative of an industrial neighborhood from 1850 to 1949. The Front Street State Service Center and the Draper and Company Store and Apartment Building, and a group of mid-nineteenth to mid-twentieth-century brick and frame commercial buildings on the south side of Southwest Front Street, are potentially eligible for inclusion in the *National Register of Historic Places* and should receive further examination for architectural and historical merit. No architectural resources will be affected by the proposed improvements within the recommended project APE.

The recommended project APE has been subjected to extensive urban land reuse since the mid-nineteenth century. Historical records indicate industrial occupation of the property associated with a lumberyard and cannery operation. Periodic building construction coupled with landfilling along the Mispillion River has altered the original landscape, and archaeological integrity, of the recommended project APE. In addition, the introduction of modern buried utilities has further impacted the archaeological integrity of the recommended project APE. The recommended project APE retains low potential for undocumented archaeological resources, and no further archaeological work is recommended.

Based on the proposed design for the transportation improvements, there will be no effects to any historic properties or archaeological resources located within the Mispillion River Greenway Path (Phase XII) project. These improvements will provide the last link in this trail segment connecting the trail system from Rehoboth Boulevard on the east side of Milford to Haven Lake on the west side of Milford following the Mispillion River and its tributaries. The introduction of Victorian period lighting and other enhancements in the recommended Mispillion River Greenway Path project APE will provide a safe, aesthetically sensitive pathway for pedestrians and bicyclists to traverse the City of Milford, while keeping with the character of the South Milford Historic District.