

ABSTRACT

This technical report documents a combined Phase I and II archaeological survey performed for the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) in the area of Hanby's Corner, Brandywine Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware. Investigations were undertaken at four locations under consideration for the proposed construction of storm water retention basins in connection with the upcoming improvement of Delaware Route 92 (Naaman's Road). The planned retention basins will be located on separate parcels, all situated within a one-eighth mile radius of the Delaware Route 92 (Naaman's Road)/Delaware Route 3 (Marsh Road) intersection. Survey activities included: background research (including primary archival research), field investigation (including subsurface testing), laboratory analysis, and preparation of this report. Location 1, referred to as the Darley Road study area, is situated in the southwest angle of the Darley Road/Naaman's Road intersection. Locations 2 and 3, respectively the Naaman's Road (East) and (West) study areas, are situated in the northwest angle of the Naaman's Road/Marsh Road intersection, on either side of an unnamed tributary of the South Branch of Naaman's Creek. Location 4, termed the Marsh Road study area, is situated in the southeast angle of the Naaman's Road/Marsh Road intersection.

In the case of the first three of these study areas, it is apparent that no significant archaeological resources exist within the zones of impact for the proposed highway improvements. At the fourth location, remains of the J.G. Hanby House Site were identified. Occupancy of this site was established in the early 1830s and did not finally cease until sometime after 1953. The site may be characterized as the residential nucleus of a small-scale farmstead engaged in mixed agriculture, but with an emphasis on dairying. As an agricultural entity, it can be viewed as a fairly typical mid-19th century small dairy farm, a property type common to northern New Castle County. Although archaeological remains survive on the site in the form of house and outbuilding foundations, a well and a discontinuous scatter of 19th- and 20th-century artifacts, the physical integrity of the resource has apparently been compromised by demolition activities. Therefore the site is not seen as holding a vast quantity of significant research data. The J.G. Hanby House Site is not regarded as an archaeological resource eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. No further archaeological study is recommended in connection with the proposed project at any of the four storm water pond locations.