

ABSTRACT

A cultural resources survey of the proposed realignment of Route 273, and three proposed wetland replacement areas (Birchwood, Route 141, and Kemeether), located in New Castle County, Delaware, was conducted by the University of Delaware Center for Archaeological Research between June 1992 and February 1993. Funding for the project was provided by the Delaware Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration. Background and archival research, and archaeological investigations were carried out to identify, locate, and determine the significance of all prehistoric and historic cultural resources present within the project areas. The Phase I investigation of the Route 273 Realignment Project Area located one prehistoric site (7NC-D-131C) and continued work on two previously recorded prehistoric sites (7NC-D-131A and 7NC-D-131B). The Gabor Site Area A (7NC-D-131A) was determined to be outside the right-of-way and no further work is recommended. Two sites, the Gabor Site Area B (7NC-D-131B) and the Gabor Site Area C (7NC-D-131C), were subjected to Phase II investigations. Area C of the Gabor Site is not considered to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The Gabor Site Area B (7NC-D-131B) is considered to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places because it contained intact prehistoric features and numerous prehistoric artifacts in disturbed plow zone contexts. Phase I investigations at the three proposed wetland replacement areas located one prehistoric site on the proposed Birchwood Wetland. The Birchwood Site (7NC-D-190) was subjected to an initial Phase II excavation. Testing at the Birchwood Site was terminated after the area was removed from consideration as a potential wetland replacement area by the Delaware Department of Transportation. Additional Phase II testing to determine site limits and integrity of the Birchwood Site would be necessary if this area is reconsidered as a proposed wetland replacement.

Cover Illustration: The artifact illustrated on the cover is a bifurcate-based projectile point found at the Gabor Site, Area B (7NC-D-131B) in the Ogletown Interchange Project Area. Bifurcate-based points have been dated to ca. 6500-6000 B.C. and are not commonly found in Delaware. The point was probably deposited at the Gabor Site, Area B, by a small band of hunters who used the site as a temporary camp while hunting in the adjacent wetlands.