

**U.S. 301 PROJECT
(SELECTED ALTERNATIVE, GREEN NORTH + SPUR ROAD)
ORANGE SECTION 4
NEW CASTLE COUNTY, DELAWARE**

PHASE IA ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

Prepared for:

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Prepared by:



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ABSTRACT

Phase IA archaeological investigations, including background research, a field view, and preparation of this report, have been completed for the Delaware Department of Transportation's (DelDOT's) proposed U.S. 301 Project located in New Castle County, Delaware. This research is specific to the Orange Section 4 (Spur Road) portion of the U.S. 301 Project. Historic structures research was previously completed for this project. No standing structures are present in the Orange Section 4 archaeological Area of Potential Effects (APE). Some previous archaeological research was completed in the archaeological APE.

Background research resulted in the identification of eight previously recorded pre-contact period archaeological sites located within 920.0 m (3,018.4 ft) of the Orange Section 4 archaeological APE. No previously recorded pre-contact period archaeological sites are located within the currently mapped boundaries of the archaeological APE. Twelve previously recorded historic period resources fall within or near the proposed U.S. 301 Orange Section 4 archaeological APE and include: N-6320 – J. Biggs House; N-6190 – Governor Benjamin T. Biggs Farm/S.C. Biggs Farm; N-14397 – Nicholas L. and Mildred Swyka House; N-5123 – Governor Benjamin T. Biggs Farm; N-427 – Woodside; N-109 – East Choptank/Thomas Clayton Farm/Rhoades House; N-5149 – Moody-Clayton House; N-5150 – J. Armbruster House; N-5151 – S. Burnham Farm/Knox's Adventure; N-5147 – J.W. Callahan Farm; N-5144 – Schoolhouse; and N-5145 – M.E. Walker House.

This same research, along with a field view, resulted in information that indicates that the majority of the project area has a moderate potential to contain as yet unidentified pre-contact period archaeological resources and low to moderate potential to contain historic period archaeological resources. The types and locations of expected pre-contact period archaeological sites were derived from multiple sources of information, including details of previously identified pre-contact period sites in the general vicinity of the archaeological APE, the results of several archaeological site location predictive models, and aerial topographic and vegetation conditions as determined through a limited windshield field view and aerial photographs. The results of the Phase IA archaeological investigations indicate that there is potential for pre-contact period archaeological remains to be present within the Orange Section 4 archaeological APE, albeit low. If pre-contact period archaeological resources are identified, they will most likely be small or low density artifact scatters representative of the short-term and ephemeral use of the area. Larger macroband and even microband sized archaeological sites with associated Woodland materials are not expected.

If historic period archaeological resources are identified, they will most likely be related to rural domestic and/or agricultural events. When the historic period land use of the project area is considered, it is clear that agriculture dominates the entire span of Euro-American occupation. The fact that agricultural practices comprise large tracts of land with proportionally few buildings or other permanent features, and most of the previously identified historic home and farm buildings are not located within the archaeological APE, indicate that the historic period archaeological record may be constrained to artifact scatters associated with no longer extant buildings, accidental disposal, or field manuring activities. There is only minor evidence to suggest that other historic resources such as mills, slaves and other African-American related resources, former roads, churches, taverns, blacksmith shops, stores, unmarked cemeteries, and military resources may be present in the archaeological APE.

Based on the results of the Phase IA archaeological investigations, Phase IB archaeological survey fieldwork is recommended for the majority of the archaeological APE.

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PHASE IA ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

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