

Abstract

An Identification and Evaluation Survey (a.k.a. Phase I/II Archaeological Survey) was undertaken in 1993 for the Delaware Department of Transportation (DELDOT). The project involved the investigation of areas to be affected by proposed improvements to Valley Road, between Route 7 and Route 41. A large portion of the project area was found to have been disturbed by previous construction. Phase I investigations -- including documentary research and fieldwork -- have been completed for the entire project alignment. Four locations were investigated at the Phase II level. These locations include 7NC-A-80 (the Springer House site [1852] and prehistoric site [ca. 1000 B.C.- A.D. 1000]), 7NC-A-81 (site of a late-19th/early 20th century stone barn and wingwall), 7NC-A-82 (the Thompson House site [late 19th century to present] and prehistoric site [ca. A.D. 1000]), and 7NC-A-3, Locus B (a prehistoric site [undated but possibly ca. 2000 B.C.], a portion of which had been previously reported). The latter three sites contain cultural remains that do not satisfy minimal requirements for significance as established by National Register Criteria for Evaluation. The grounds around the Springer House have been disturbed to an extent that militates against the survival of archaeological deposits *in situ*. Such artifacts as have been found on the grounds do not constitute a significant resource for want of good associations. However, an examination of the cellar and a crawl space beneath the Springer House indicates the possibility for the survival of artifacts or other remains relating to occupation during the mid-19th century. Accordingly, portions of the historic-era component of 7NC-A-80 are considered to have the potential to yield information about rural life in the region during the last century. The site is deemed to be potentially eligible for listing upon the National Register under Criteria (d). Unequivocal data respecting this potential could not be secured by testing during the course of the present study because the house was still occupied as a dwelling. Additional archaeological investigation of the indicated portions of the house is recommended, once the house is vacated, so that a definitive evaluation of significance with respect to National Register Criterion (d) can be obtained.