

SECTION 5.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

An intensive-level historic architectural survey was conducted within the APE for the Washington Street sidewalks project in the City of New Castle, New Castle County, Delaware. The survey included historical research and a site visit to survey properties identified in the reconnaissance survey and to record current conditions in the New Castle Historic District.

The research design anticipated the likelihood of finding a variety of resources within the APE, including: urban dwellings near the historic core of New Castle dating from the period 1730-1930; remnants of agricultural complexes from the period 1730-1850; commercial establishments dating from 1880-1940; industrial complexes constructed between 1832-1940; and suburban residential development constructed after World War II. Fieldwork identified all property types within the APE. As a result, the historical research and available historic contexts were found to be adequate for the purposes of this intensive-level historic architectural survey.

Research revealed gaps in the existing literature for the industrial history of the City of New Castle and New Castle County in general. Information was particularly lacking for the vulcanized fibre industry, of which Delaware was an international leader. No comparative data for the size of the state's vulcanized fibre plants, annual production, and employment was found during the course of research, making an analysis of Wilmington Fibre's significance within the industry on the county, state, national, and even international level difficult. Development of a historic context exploring the state's vulcanized fibre industry, and/or the industry of New Castle County, would improve the understanding of plants similar to Wilmington Fibre and assist in evaluating their significance under the National Register Criteria.

During consultation with Michael Connolly, Executive Director of the New Castle Historical Society (NCHS), regarding the project, Mr. Connolly indicated that a historic gas street lamp manufactured by the Tasker Iron Works survives in New Castle, on East Third Street by the Green (see Plate 5.1). He recommended that reproduction lamps in this design would be desirable for the Washington Street sidewalks project if lighting is incorporated into the improvements. Mr. Connolly also noted that the NCHS seeks to document the historic lamp through photographs and measured drawings.



Plate 5.1:

Original Tasker Iron Works gas street lamp, located on East Third Street on the Green.

Photo view: West

Photographer: Jennifer Leynes

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