

I. INTRODUCTION

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This report presents the results of the Cultural Resources Evaluation for DelDOT Contract No. 99-200-01, 8th Street Environmental Enhancements, Orange Street to Walnut Street, Transportation Enhancement Program, City of Wilmington, New Castle County, Delaware.

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) encompasses the proposed design of streetscape improvements along 8th Street from Orange Street to Walnut Street in Wilmington, Delaware (Figure 1). The work will consist of improved lighting, horticultural treatments, upgraded transit shelters, curb extensions, curb ramps, replacement of existing sidewalk with new sidewalk and brick sidewalk, and optional upgraded mid-block pedestrian crossings as shown on the initial concept plan for the project (Appendix A). The general overall scheme for the improvements follows the outline presented in the “Sketch Plan, Eighth Street Transportation Enhancements, City of Wilmington, Delaware, May 15, 1998” as prepared by Orth Rodgers & Associates as part of the “Wilmington Initiatives” project. It is understood that the concept will be refined to keep all improvements within the existing street right-of-way (Appendix B).

The “Wilmington Initiatives” project is a city-wide plan designed to improve Wilmington’s transportation corridors. The “Wilmington Initiatives” project seeks to provide a balance between the requirements for local and regional access within the corridor for all modes of surface transportation, to promote community-based economic development, to improve the visual quality of the corridors in keeping with community character, to enhance safety and environmental quality within the corridors, and to support community goals within city neighborhoods. The Wilmington Area Planning Council (WILMAPCO) strives to obtain these goals through the advice of the Technical Advisory Committee, who analyzes and makes recommendations on transportation and land use issues, and the Public Advisory Committee, which provides citizens’ perspectives on the impact of transportation plans in the region.

The purpose of this Cultural Resources Evaluation is to investigate the 8th Street APE and determine if any known archaeological or architectural resources will be affected due to the proposed improvements. This investigation was conducted between April and May 2001.