

## INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of Phase I, II, and III cultural resource investigations of the Proposed Right-of-Way (ROW) for the relocation of Delaware 6 (Route 9 - East Commerce Street or Woodland Beach Road), Duck Creek Hundred, Kent County, Delaware (Figure 1). The planned improvements to this road are necessitated by the Proposed Delaware Route 1 Realignment which bisects present Delaware 6. The research presented below was undertaken as part of the archaeological studies of the Route 13 Corridor (Custer and Bachman 1986; Bachman, Grettler, and Custer 1988) which is intended to provide relief for various critical traffic problems in the Smyrna area.

A Phase I archaeological investigation was conducted for the entire 2800 feet of the Proposed Realignment of Delaware 6. Phase II investigations were subsequently conducted at two sites found during the earlier work: the Darrach (pronounced Dar-rah) Store site (7K-A-101; K-6415) and the John Bailey House site (7K-A-102; K-6416). Both sites are located within the Proposed Right-of-Way. The Darrach Store site (7K-A-101; K-6415) was determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places; preservation in place not being feasible, the site became the subject of a Phase III investigation. The Phase I investigations were conducted in June 1988, the Phase II testing was undertaken between August and October 1988, and the Phase III data recovery fieldwork was accomplished between July and December 1989. All the investigations were conducted by archaeologists from the University of Delaware Center for Archaeological Research (UDCAR). Funding for the project was provided by the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), under the guidelines of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and Section 138 of the Federal Highway Act.

The Phase I and II report is followed by the report on the Phase III investigations of the Darrach Store site. An initial section sets out the research questions guiding the project and relates the research program to the Delaware Historical Archaeological Resource Management Plan and to the research design for the Delaware Route 1 Project. In succeeding sections, the methodologies employed to collect the requisite historical and archaeological data are presented, along with the results of those investigations. The Darrach Store site is then placed in a comparative context, and finally all the data synthesized in response to the research questions. Several Delaware Department of Transportation Archaeology Series reports review Central Delaware's environmental setting and culture history. The reader is referred especially to Custer, Bachman, and Grettler 1986 and 1987.

The Phase I survey identified five cultural resources. The results of the Phase I, II, and III research at the John Darrach Store site are reported in full here. The Phase I and II survey report on the John Bailey House site has not been published here, but is available on request from:

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Only Phase I testing was conducted at the other three sites identified within the Proposed Right-of-Way of Delaware 6 and is reported here.

## PHASE I AND II FIELD METHODS AND BACKGROUND RESEARCH

Field methods and background research for the Proposed Realignment of Delaware 6 included a level of investigation appropriate to a Phase I survey of the Project Area. These methods included an archival search for the history of the road and land use along the Proposed Realignment from the settlement of Smyrna until the

present. A pedestrian survey of the Proposed Realignment was conducted in order to locate surface scatters of either prehistoric or historic artifacts as indicators of site locations. Finally, shovel test pits were excavated in areas where artifacts were located on the surface (Appendix I) or where archival research indicated that subsurface archaeological deposits may be present. To some extent, archaeological and archival research were conducted simultaneously and were used in a complementary fashion. A detailed site history for the Darrach Store site is presented first, followed by the Phase I and II excavations.

### PHASE I AND II RESEARCH: SITE HISTORIES

The Darrach Store and Bailey House sites were part of the same tract of land in the eighteenth century (Figure 2). The Darrach Store site was initially identified in a Kent County Road Petition and Return, dated 1775 and 1781, which illustrated the road from the Maryland line eastward, through Duck Creek (Smyrna) to Duck Creek Landing (Smyrna Landing). Depicted on the return was "Jno. White's Store, now John Darrach's" on the south side of the road, at the point where the present-day Smyrna Landing Road (Kent 76) intersects the Woodland Beach Road (Delaware 6) (Figure 3). A later Kent County Orphans Court Plat of the division of Jane Darrach's estate in 1811 showed a structure in approximately the same location, labeled as an "old Brick house and Granary," in the allotment of Eleanor Kennedy (Figure 4).

The tract of land including both the Darrach Store site and the John Bailey site was purchased by William White in 1748, when he bought 125 acres from Samuel Griffin for £150 (Kent County Deeds N-1-268) (Table 1). The tract obtained by White was originally part of a 400-acre parcel called "Sherrer's Fortune," also known as "Greenock," granted by patent to William Sherrer (or "Scarrar") in May of 1680 (Kent County Warrants and Surveys, p. 260) (Figure 5). William White was variously recorded in the deed books as a yeoman and a merchant. Between 1734 and 1765, White purchased at least ten parcels of land in Duck Creek Hundred; by the later date, he had acquired over 475 acres south of the main branch of Duck Creek and north of Pairman's Branch (present Mill Creek) adjoining and containing the Darrach Store site (KCD R-1-9; R-1-44).

About the year 1760, John Darrach and his two brothers, James and Thomas, arrived in Delaware from County Antrim, Ireland. The Darrachs (pronounced "Dar-rah") were Scotch-Irish Presbyterians (Runk 1899:267). John Darrach settled in Duck Creek Town, and in January 1775 married Jane White, the daughter of William White. White died in February 1778 and his estate inventory indicates that he was a prosperous Duck Creek merchant. At the time of his death, he owned an eight-room house, a "new House," considerable livestock, including 27 head of cattle, 28 hogs, 12 horses, 15 sheep, seven slaves, and two sloops, the "Red Cedar" and the "Mulberry" (Kent County Probate Records, 1778). At his death, William White's property passed to his heirs; his son-in-law, John Darrach, apparently received both the store house and dwelling house on Woodland Beach Road.

John Darrach had six children by Jane White: Ann, William, John (II), Ellen (or Eleanor), Thomas, and Lydia McComb (Runk 1899:271). In the winter of 1805, John Darrach, Senior, died intestate. By this time he had become an important and wealthy merchant in the surrounding county, owning nine houses and lots in the vicinity of Duck Creek Crossroads, a 448 acre plantation, and several other large tracts in Kent County (Kent County Tax Assessments 1797, 1804). In addition to these extensive tracts of land in Duck Creek Hundred, Darrach also owned at least 200 acres in Appoquinimink Hundred on the north side of Duck Creek, which probably included the Brick Store Landing (NCCD E-3-461).

John Darrach, Senior's lands devolved to his heirs, in particular Jane (White) Darrach, his wife, and John Darrach, Junior. Like his father, John Junior was a merchant who solidified his social position by marrying Margaret Stewart, the daughter of Dr. David Stewart, a prominent landholder in New Castle County, and the founder of the shipping village of Port Penn (Nelson 1984:47). John Darrach, Junior died in 1810, and stipulated in his will that all of his property in Kent County be sold to pay off any debts owed by his estate (New Castle County (NCCO) Wills 1808). The remainder of the Duck Creek Hundred lands had passed to Jane (White) Darrach in 1805, but she died within a year of her son, and in 1811 the Kent County Orphans Court divided Jane

TABLE 1

## SUMMARY OF DEED TRANSACTIONS FOR THE JOHN DARRACH SITE

Buyer from Seller	Deed Reference	Date	Amount	Acreage
Hall Realty Holding Co. from Carl M. Wright, sheriff	Q-30-393	April 9, 1976	\$234,099.96	160+ acres
Karlee Corporation from Howard M. Schofield and Edna Ellen Pratt Schofield	A-24-340	July 16, 1965	\$10.00	
Henry Holt Pratt and Edna Ellen Pratt, heirs of Mattie Holt Pratt	N.C.C. Will Z-8-16	Jan. 24, 1951		
Franklin Pratt and Mattie Holt Pratt, subject to the life interest of Gilbert Pratt, husband of Annie Holt Pratt from Louise B. Phillips	V-14-486	August 14, 1936	\$1.00	2 tracts: A. 120+ acres B. 54+ acres
Louise B. Phillips from Franklin and Mattie Holt Pratt	C-14-234	Nov. 21, 1931	\$10.00	two tracts: A. 177+ acres B. 17+ acres
Harry Holt, Gilbert Pratt and Matilda Holt Pratt from Annie Holt Pratt, deceased	intestate status of Delaware	July 27, 1926		

TABLE 1 (cont.)

Buyer from Seller	Deed Reference	Date	Amount	Acreage
Annie Holt Pratt from Harry and Saddle Holt	A-12-137	July 21, 1921	\$10,000	2 tracts: A. 177+ acres B. 17+ acres
Harry Holt from Carroll H. Sudler and Susan C. Sudler (his wife) and William E. Waters and Susan C. Waters (his wife)	O-9-302	Dec. 7, 1908	\$17,000	2 tracts: A. 177+ acres B. 17+ acres
Susan C. Black (Waters), one of the heirs of John G. Black and Alfonsa C. Black, deceased, by partition of property with other heirs	K-6-99	July 27, 1882		
John G. Black, Kent Co., Maryland from Joseph P. Comegys	W-4-150	Dec. 1, 1863	\$7,579.98	74+ acres
**parcels 6 and 7 from the plot map in W-4-135**				
John G. Black, Kent Co., Maryland from John G. Cummins, Kent Co., Maryland	S-3-233	March 6, 1844	\$4500	2 Tracts: A. 46+ acres B. 17+ acres
*land which John G. Cummins received by Orphans Court allotment of the lands of John Cummins and Susan M. Cummins, Jan. 26, 1843*				

TABLE 1 (cont.)

Buyer from Seller	Deed Reference	Date	Amount	Acreage
Joseph P. Comegys, Dover, Kent Co., Delaware from	W-4-74	August 30, 1863	\$1.00	
Susan M. Lacey, Berrin Co., Michigan; William Purves and Anna, his wife, Phila.; Thomas I. Campbell and Eliza G., his wife, Iowa Co., Wisconsin; David H. Kennedy and Karen H., his wife, Davis Co., Indiana; Mary Ann Evans, widow; and Reed Gordon and Matilda, his wife, New York City, heirs of Jane Darrach				
*All of the parcels marked B, C, D, E, F, G, H, and K on the Orphans Court Plat (Book G-87-188), being the division of the lands of Jane Darrach				
Isaac Davis, Smyrna from	B-3-118	Feb. 11, 1829	\$400	3 tracts: those marked A, D, and I on the Orphans Court Plat G-88
Matilda Brush, Hartford, N.C. one of the children of Ann Brush, who was a child and heir of Jane Darrach				
John Darrach from	intestate	c. 1778		
William White	laws of Delaware			
William White, yeomen, Kent Co. (and merchant) from	N-1-268	March 20, 1748		125 acres
Samuel Griffith (land tract was part of "Sherrer's Fortune" alias "Grennoch")				

Darrach's estate, awarding Eleanor (Darrach) Kennedy the 44 acres which contained an "old Brick house and Granary," the location of the Darrach Store site (KCOG G-1-87) (Figure 4). Other portions of the estate went to Lydia Darrach, Thomas Darrach's heirs, Ann Brush, and John Cummins. At that time, the "old House now in the possession of John Bailey" was awarded to John Cummins; this is the location of the John Bailey House site.

Eleanor Kennedy was married to William Kennedy, yet another merchant from Duck Creek Hundred. Eleanor died in 1818, and the property left to her by her mother, Jane (White) Darrach, devolved to her husband and heirs. Her heirs, and the heirs of Thomas Darrach and Lydia Darrach (by now residing all over the United States, including Philadelphia, New York City, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin), retained the Darrach Store site until 1863, when the old Darrach plantation (which had consisted of about 250 acres) was reconsolidated and sold for \$1 to Joseph P. Comegys of Dover (KCD W-4-74). The old brick house was apparently still on the property, for

Byles' Map of Kent County (1859) shows a house in the tenure of "J. Mason" at the site (Figure 6). Less than a decade later, and probably after the sale of the land to Joseph Comegys, the house was removed; no structure is shown on Beers' Atlas (1868) or any subsequent maps of the area (Figure 7).

Comegys bought the land in August of 1863, and less than four months later, in December, sold 74 acres of the Darrach property to John G. Black of Kent County, Maryland for over \$7500 (KCD W-4-150). The John Cummins property containing the John Bailey House site was passed by Kent County Orphans Court to John G. Cummins in January of 1843, and a little over a year later, in March of 1844, John G. Cummins sold the 46+ acre parcel to John G. Black (KCD S-3-233). Thus Black, a prominent grain merchant in Delaware and Maryland, again consolidated the property. Beers' Atlas of Delaware for 1868 shows a "J. G. Black" residing on the property in a house situated well south of the present Proposed Right-of-Way. By 1882 Black held over 177 acres of the original Darrach tract. In that year, his heirs divided the land among themselves, and Susan C. Black, his daughter, received the portion containing the Darrach Store site (KCD K-6-99). By 1908, Susan C. Black had married William E. Waters, and she and others sold the land to Harry Holt for \$17,000 (KCD O-9-302). The Holt family and the related Pratt family retained possession of the property until 1965, when it was purchased by the Karlee Corporation for \$10 (KCD A-24-340). The Karlee Corporation in turn passed ownership of the land to the Hall Realty Holding Company in 1976 for the sum of over \$234,000 (KCD Q-30-393). Table 1 presents a summary of the property transactions affecting the Darrach Store and John Bailey House sites.