

APPENDIX D:

**PROJECT RELATED PUBLIC
OUTREACH EFFORTS**

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As part of the Phase II archaeological Investigations in Hockessin, and in consultation with the Delaware Department of Transportation, KSK developed an informative brochure that: 1) provided an historical overview of land use at the Jackson-Griffith House Site; 2) detailed previous archaeological work within the project area; and 3) outlined the goals of Phase II excavations (see below). These brochures were distributed to local businesses, residents, public libraries, and historical societies prior to the commencement of Phase II fieldwork as a means of fostering increased public interest for, and participation in this investigation. In addition, the brochure was also posted on the DelDOT web page so that it could be easily accessed by all interested individuals.

During the two-week period of field studies KSK's activities at the site caught the attention of a substantial number of both local residents and passersby, and an average of between five and ten people per day stopped at the site to observe the excavations. In response to this enthusiastic turnout KSK's field crew offered visitors an informal presentation that plainly described the project, the history of the project area, the goals and methods of the archaeological investigation, and the roles of Section 106 and the Delaware Department of Transportation in helping to preserve Delaware's rich cultural heritage. Visitors were additionally provided a tour of the site, during which they were encouraged, so far as safety issues would allow, to view the excavations first-hand and to freely interact with the field crew. As a means of more clearly relating what information was being generated by fieldwork interested persons were also permitted an opportunity to inspect and directly handle some of the artifacts recovered from the site. This latter activity proved to be especially popular with the many children who were brought by their parents to witness the project.

Realizing the great potential that local residents and amateur historians hold for providing critical information about the site that may not be found in traditional documentary sources KSK actively sought out persons with such specialized knowledge, and encouraged them to share their knowledge. Toward this end, KSK contacted members of the local Historical Society and arranged to make a public presentation about the project and recent discoveries at one of the group's regular monthly meetings. This meeting was well attended by the residents of Hockessin and resulted in contact being established with three gentlemen – Joseph Lake, Brian Woodcock, and Kenneth Murphy – who proved to be a wealth of information about local history. The individuals also volunteered their own time to search the Historical Society's files and to scour other documentary sources in an effort to provide the project with in depth background information that could be used to help interpret the archaeological finds. They also made a concerted effort to locate older residents who may have had first hand reminiscences of the Jackson-Griffith house and property prior to its demolition forty or fifty years ago, and eagerly participated in project field meetings between KSK, WRA, DelDOT, and DE SHPO. To these gentlemen, and the others who assisted this project, we at KSK are deeply indebted.

Efforts to promote the archaeological studies at the site were also greatly helped after the staff of the local newspaper, the Hockessin Community News, were informed of the excavations. KSK arranged a site visit for Mr. Jason Kotowski, one of the paper's staff reporters, and provided him with a tour of the site and the opportunity to inspect and photograph some of the recovered artifacts. Ultimately, Mr. Kotowski elicited additional commentary from Mike Hahn and Ken Murphy, of DelDOT and the Greater Hockessin Development Association, respectively, and published a story about the excavations in the June 20, 2002 edition of the paper. This story, in turn, helped to significantly increase public awareness of, and interest in this archaeological investigation, and served to increase the number of interested persons who visited the site and took advantage of KSK's site tours.



KSK Project Archaeologist Richard J. Lewis giving site tours to interested members of the public.



Representatives from KSK, WRA, DE SHPO and DelDOT examining artifacts recovered during Phase II testing.



KSK Project Archaeologist Richard J. Lewis explaining Phase II testing results during a project field meeting.



Field meeting between representatives from KSK, Whitman, Renquardt and Associates, LLP (WRA), DelDOT, the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office (DE SHPO), and the Hockessin Historical Society.



Overview showing site visitors during course of fieldwork.



Cultural Resource Survey of S.R. 41 in Hockessin Delaware



What is a Cultural Resource Survey?

The Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) is planning to make improvements to State Route 41 in Hockessin, New Castle County. As a project funded in part by Federal money DelDOT is required, by the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, to conduct a Cultural Resource Survey of the construction area prior to the start of roadway work. The purpose of these studies is to find out if there are any potentially important historical or pre-historic Native American sites present in the work zone that might be damaged or destroyed by construction activities. If such sites are present, efforts are then made to record the historical information these places contain, and to use this knowledge to improve our understanding of the

people and past events that helped shape our present day lives.



Recreational area located at the intersection of S.R. 41 and Old Lancaster Pike

This brochure was designed to provide members of the community with information about this project and was produced as part of DelDOT's continuing efforts to promote, and involve Delaware residents in the discovery of the state's rich historical heritage. Historic Architecture and Archaeological studies for this project are being performed by Kise, Straw, & Kolodner (KSK) for Whitman, Reardon & Associates (WRA), the engineering firm contracted to oversee the project, and for DelDOT.

Cultural Resource Surveys carried out within the Mid-Atlantic States are normally carried out in three stages or phases. Phase I surveys are used to determine the presence or absence of potential cultural resources. If cultural resources are encountered during the Phase I survey, a Phase II investigation is carried out to determine the boundaries of the site and to assess its significance. If the sites are deemed to be significant, based upon the results of the Phase I and II Investigations, a Phase III Data Recovery is undertaken in order to gather as much information prior to construction activities. Throughout the entire process close consultation is maintained with the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office (DESHPO) and DelDOT.



Archaeologists in action excavating a one meter square unit.

Source: Bahr, Map of New Castle County, 1893)

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Did you know?

History

The Hockessin vicinity has a long and varied historical legacy, and contains many important architectural and archaeological resources. Hockessin, or "place of many foxes", was originally part of Letitia Manor, a 15,000-acre estate given by William Penn to his daughter. Just over the border from Chester County, Pennsylvania, Hockessin shares many similarities with southeastern Pennsylvania, such as mushroom cultivation and kaolin mining, significant Hockessin industries since the 1870s. Mushroom cultivation, which began in Kennett Square in 1885 and spilled over into the Hockessin area in 1910, has become one of Delaware's significant agricultural industries. Delaware is ranked third in the nation, behind Pennsylvania and California, in commercial mushroom production.

Early atlas's show five houses along this section of Old Lancaster Pike in 1868, including the Hockessin Post Office. This property, located along the north side of SR 41 in Hockessin, Delaware, contains a two-story Greek Revival masonry dwelling, determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in November 2000 by the New Castle County Planning Department, was built circa 1850. The Old Lancaster Turnpike was completed shortly after 1808, connecting the farms of Lancaster, Pennsylvania with Wilmington via Hockessin. The town experienced a significant boom after the Wilmington and Western Railroad reached the town in 1872. The Wilmington and Western Railroad through Hockessin opened for freight and passenger service on October 19, 1872. The line originally transported Kaolin Clay, vulcanized fiber materials, snuff, iron, and coal between downtown Wilmington, Delaware and Landenberg, Pennsylvania via the Red Clay Valley.

More than half of the historic buildings within the area date from circa 1880.



Example of a cup dating to early 19th century



General Store, located at 1214 Old Lancaster Pike.



What did we find?

Initial Phase I Cultural resource Surveys of the Hockessin State Route 41 project area were completed in the fall of 2001 and spring of 2002. KSK personnel conducted limited archaeological testing within the construction zone and inspected standing structures bordering the intersection. As a result of these investigations it was determined that roadway construction would not negatively effect any buildings that were old enough to list in the National register of Historic Places.



Test excavations showing remnants of a buried foundation wall

The archaeological team, however, discovered evidence of remnant historic structures used by the early residents of Hockessin.

Following discussions with officials with DelDOT and the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office (DESHPO) it was decided that additional, or Phase II, archaeological studies needed to be performed on the historic site discovered. Archaeologists are currently excavating a larger sample of the site and trying to carefully collect more of the artifacts made and used by the early settlers who once lived there. They are also looking for other evidence of daily life at the site, such as abandoned outbuildings, refuse pits, or signs of the structures people once lived in. It is hoped that detailed studies of the artifacts from this site will reveal important information about when this spot was occupied by the early residents of Hockessin.

For More Information Please Contact:

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Example of a child's toy: Late 1700's cast iron toy gun



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