

ABSTRACT

This is a report of Phase I and Phase II archaeological and historical investigations in connection with proposed construction of a new road to be known as Scarborough Road, between McKee Road and Route 13 in the City of Dover, Delaware. The purpose of this investigation was to assess the significance of cultural resources in the McKee Road area that might be impacted by construction of the proposed road.

Four resources were identified that the consultants believe are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The proposed road will pass through a farm that has been developed and cultivated by one family for more than a century. Emory Scotten and his descendants converted a marginal tenant farm into a prosperous owner-occupied agribusiness operation. The buildings they constructed, and the machinery they used, during the past century for their livestock, poultry, and timber operations still survive in a high state of preservation.

At the point where the proposed road will cross the valley of St. Jones River, a deeply stratified prehistoric site was identified. The level of investigation was Phase I, location and identification. The approximate extent of the deepest part of the site was identified.

At its intersection with McKee Road, the proposed road will destroy most of a site that has been identified through documents as the residence, before 1838, of a free black. Surface collection, trenching, and chemical analysis confirmed that subsurface remains of the toft still exist.

On the west side of McKee Road is a group of houses, the remains of a settlement of Native American descendants who settled here during the last decades of the nineteenth century. Even though the houses are derelict and the community has changed character, considerable survives, both above and below grade. The agricultural fields remain untouched and potentially productive of information. A test excavation demonstrated subsurface integrity.