

ABSTRACT

The following report details the results of a combined Phase IB Archaeological Survey and Phase II Archaeological Investigation conducted by A.D. Marble & Company of Conshohocken, Pennsylvania, for the proposed SR 1 Frederica Interchange project located in Murderkill Hundred, Kent County, Delaware. The study is part of the SR 1 Corridor Capacity Preservation Program. This study was performed for Century Engineering, Inc. and the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT). DelDOT proposed to redesign the intersection of SR 1 and SR 12, located north of the town of Frederica. A Phase IA Archaeological Survey of the project was already completed and was used to establish the testing methodology for the Phase IB study.

The proposed Area of Potential Effects (APE) associated with this project is located within the Mid-Drainage Zone of the Lower Coastal Plain Physiographic Province. The project APE predominantly consists of agricultural lands overlooking the estuarine setting of the Murderkill River. Marshlands border the southern limits of the APE, with a small drainage extending along the western edge of SR 12 to the intersection of SR 12 and SR 1. The confluence of Spring Creek and the Murderkill River is located approximately 68.6 meters south of the project APE. A mix of deciduous and coniferous trees interspersed with scrub-shrub and briars is found along the transition zone between agricultural field and marshland. Grassy banks line the edge of the roadway.

The Phase IB Archaeological Survey of the SR 1 Frederica Interchange project's APE revealed extensive evidence of prehistoric and historic use of the area. Geomorphologic testing determined that the project APE consists of Pleistocene Age alluvial deposits capped with disturbed, surficial plowzone (Ap) horizons. Phase II Investigation conducted within several parts of the APE surveyed during the Phase IB study uncovered a significant body of data concerning the geological formation of the landscape, as well as the cultural remains of Native American and later Euroamerican occupants. A total of 3,772 prehistoric artifacts was recovered from among 389 10.0-meter square surface-collected grid cells, 322 STPs, and 103 1.0-meter square test units. Analysis of the artifact collection yielded a wide range of ground and flaked tool forms, ceramics, and debitage indicative of a wide variety of activities, such as raw material procurement, tool manufacture and maintenance, floral and faunal processing, and cooking. As a consequence of these Phase IB and II studies, one site, the Grey Farm site (7K-F-11), a multicomponent prehistoric site, was recommended eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. A data recovery workplan intended to mitigate any adverse effects the project may have on 7K-F-11 is included in this report. In addition, an area of historic archaeological deposits that yielded a diversity of historic artifacts is suggested to have the potential to provide new information about early- to mid-eighteenth-century domestic sites in Kent County, as well as consumer patterns, socioeconomic trends, and other useful data. It is the recommendation of the archaeologists that this resource receive further study in order to establish its National Register eligibility.