

## ABSTRACT

This report documents the results and conclusions of a cultural resources survey of SR 41 (Lancaster Pike) from approximately Ash Tree Lane to Erickson Avenue in Hockessin, New Castle County, DE. The Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) proposes to make safety improvements, which include modifying the road to accommodate left turn lanes. As part of federal environmental requirements associated with these improvements, the engineering firm of Whitman, Requardt and Associates, LLP (WRA) hired the Cultural Resources Group of Kise Straw and Kolodner (KSK) to conduct a survey of historic architectural resources and archaeological resources on behalf of DelDOT. Fieldwork was completed in the late fall and winter of 2000 and late spring of 2001.

This study revealed five (5) historic architectural resources within the project area. One is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, two (2) have been determined eligible for the National Register and two (2) have been determined ineligible by KSK due to a lack of integrity. KSK then evaluated the nature of the undertaking and its effect on the above-ground resources. Because SR 41 is a modern highway and the proposed improvements are comparable to the existing road, and the current project plans do not physically intrude upon the National Register-eligible properties, KSK has determined that the undertaking will not adversely effect historic architectural resources.

Phase I archaeological investigations involved the conduct of extensive background research and a pedestrian reconnaissance for the purpose of developing a detailed sensitivity model for the project area. Field testing was subsequently performed to test the predictions of the model with respect to the presence or absence of historical and prehistoric subsurface deposits within the designated APE. Completion of field testing resulted in the identification of a single site containing both prehistoric and historical period artifacts immediately southwest of the intersection of S.R. 41 and Valley Road. Subsequent intensive testing of this locus, designated site 7-NC-A-84, additionally revealed the presence of intact building foundations likely associated with a mid-late nineteenth century commercial/residential structure formerly located in this vicinity. Testing also identified a second area of possible prehistoric occupation to the northwest of the S.R. 41/Valley Road intersection; however, given the uncertain nature of the quartz materials recovered no official site designation has been conferred on this locus at this time. Based on the field testing results only those cultural resources associated with site 7-NC-A-84 were found to be potentially significant and were recommended for Phase II archaeological investigations, pending the inability of avoidance measures to remove the threat of potential construction-related impacts.

Thus, the proposed improvements may have the potential to affect both above-ground and below-ground cultural resources. Investigation of cultural resources is required unless changes are made to the scope or location of the proposed improvements.