

ABSTRACT

This is a report of Phase I and Phase II archæological and historical surveys along the proposed course of a rerouted Denney's Road in the city of Dover, Kent County, Delaware. Two different alternate rights-of-way were investigated. The new road will be called Scarborough Road to distinguish it from the "old" Denney's Road, which remains open.

Several resources are identified as archæologically significant and potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. One site has been formally determined to be eligible, and several others are recommended for Phase II study.

The Nathan Williams House site was the home of a freedman before 1840, and is one of Delaware's few identified freedmen's dwelling sites occupied during the early nineteenth century by a freedman who was not the owner. The authors recommend testing at the Phase II level.

The Ford Farm prehistoric site is a high knoll on a bluff overlooking the confluence of two branches of St. Jones River. A test yielded a large quantity of prehistoric stoneworking waste, indicating a long occupation of the site with apparent stratification. There is no evidence that it has ever been cultivated. The authors recommend testing at the Phase II level.

Blueberry Hill, a site originally identified by Custer and Galasso as 7K-C-107, was tested and proved to be well preserved in spite of cultivation and construction. The State Historic Preservation Officer has determined that the site is eligible for the National Register.

The western portion of the White Marsh Branch site, a knoll protruding into the marshlands on the east side of the St. Jones River, is a possibly stratified prehistoric site exhibiting considerable integrity. Phase II testing revealed that the portion of the site lying within the proposed northern alignment has been disturbed and is not archæologically significant. The portion lying outside the potential impact area is identified as eligible for the Register.

Simon's Savannah is a stratified prehistoric site on a sand ridge next to a bay/basin feature on the Delaware Technical and Community College campus. Although parts of the site have been destroyed, the remnant has been shown to retain integrity. The authors recommend that the site be declared eligible for listing in the Register, on the basis of Phase II fieldwork conducted by the Kent County Archæological Society.

Several other sites, less likely to be eligible for registration, are identified and entered in the state cultural resource survey. Loci east of the St. Jones River include sites in the former trailer sales lot adjacent to Route 13, the college athletic field, and an open field on the east side of the White Marsh site. On the Geiser farm, in the proposed north alignment, these sites included the prehistoric Beiser site and the nineteenth-century Geiser toft, now occupied by a modern bungalow. In the southern alignment, scattered artifact finds in the open fields of the Ford farm are evaluated as ineligible for registration.