

***IV. ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL
CULTURAL RESOURCE SENSITIVITY***

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A. Architectural Resources

The project is located within two historic districts (Historic Resources of Market Street Historic District and the Market Street Mall Historic District), and extends outside both of those districts. There are historic properties adjacent to the project outside of the districts that have not been surveyed or evaluated for *National Register* significance. Because of the location of the project within historic districts, and the presence of standing eligible and listed historic buildings, the 8th Street Project APE is located in a highly sensitive section of Wilmington. In keeping with the nature of the setting, the proposed project improvements for the 8th Street project APE will be designed, located and constructed in accordance with the recommendations of the Technical Advisory Committee and the Public Advisory Committee.

In addition, the project extends outside of the limits of the two historic districts and there may be resources over 50 years of age adjacent to the project corridor. Additional research should be considered to determine the ages of the buildings within the project limits but outside of the existing historic districts.

B. Archaeological Resources

No known archaeological resources have been documented within the 8th Street project APE. However, Goodwin's 1986 archaeological management plan for the City of Wilmington suggests a medium to high potential for buried cultural resources, which are mostly privies and outbuilding footprints, associated with the backyards of nineteenth-century dwellings (Goodwin 1986). Based on the structures depicted in various nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century historic maps of Wilmington, these deposits may have formed in the empty lots that existed along the 8th Street APE in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries (Figures 5-8). Nevertheless, increased construction activities associated with urban growth in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries brought rapid development to the remaining open lots fronting the streets, in all probability destroying earlier buried remains. Any archaeological deposits surviving today would be found in

open areas at the interior of the city block, as opposed to along the street. These deposits would be found outside of the project APE.

Four blocks located on both the north and south sides of 8th Street at the east end of the project APE have no potential for archaeological integrity due to wholesale demolition and development. Between 1972 and 1977, blocks 959, 960, 966, and 967 were comprehensively disturbed by construction activities related to the installation of underground parking garages and associated government and commercial buildings (Figure 3).