

SR 141

Centre Road Improvements

New Castle County, Delaware



Delaware Department
of Transportation

An Archaeological and Historic
Preservation Survey



The SR 141 Centre Road corridor is a busy highway linking travelers to a complex network of major and minor roads, suburban communities, industrial sites, and commercial enterprises. Historically, this roadway served as connection linking outlying rural farmsteads and large estates to the urban center of Wilmington. These properties were given formal names to signify their presence, such as Brookland, Woodland, and Maple Grove. Even the National Register-eligible Ferris State Family and Youth Center started out as one such estate, referred to as Woodside (see green box). In the first half of the twentieth century, the roadway network was improved to accommodate the growing body of highway travelers going to work in the city, visiting the local market, or traveling from one town to the next. But like many highways, time and traffic have taken a toll on the SR 141 roadway.

The Delaware Department of Transportation has proposed to improve the existing four lane undivided roadway by adding a landscaped median, shoulders, designated turning lanes and a new signal at Lowry Drive. Improvements on Faulkland Road include additional turn lanes at the SR 141 intersection. Before any construction can begin, a survey must be conducted for any cultural resources present within the proposed site of development. Archaeologists hope to find the cultural remains, whether broken pottery, a house foundation, or a stone tool, of the people who previously lived in this area and learn more about these people, their lifestyles, and possibly what the landscape looked like at that time. Standing structures in the project area will be studied



Pictures

- A. Stone flakes from tool production.
- B. Redware pottery sherds.
- C. SR 141 at Little Mill Creek, facing north.
- D. Faulkland Road looking towards SR 141.

and recorded by architectural historians, who will note the age of each structure, if a structure has been altered from its original design, and if a structure has historical significance. One National Register-eligible resource, the Willow Run 2 subdivision on Faulkland Road east of SR 141, has previously been documented in the project.

We need your assistance in the cultural resources survey of the project area. If you

happen to have discovered an artifact while digging in your garden, live in a historic structure, or know someone who has interesting stories and pictures about what the area looked like many years ago, the archaeologists and architectural historians would like to talk to you. If you see the archaeologists or architectural historians working in your neighborhood, please take a moment and tell your story or show your discovery to them. Your information will contribute to our understanding of the prehistory and history of the SR 141 Centre Road corridor and will add important information to Delaware's cultural heritage.

