

RESEARCH DESIGN

GENERAL WORK PLAN

The goal of this Phase IA investigation is to assess whether or not the APE has the potential to contain previously undocumented archaeological resources. For purposes of this investigation, a more broadly defined study area — generally corresponding to the study area for the NEPA analysis — has been investigated to provide a general historic context. The investigation was conducted at the same time as an architectural inventory of the APE, and it drew on that study for historical background material and information on standing structures (Kuhn et al. 2012).

ARCHIVAL RESEARCH

Archival research for this investigation focused on documentary/cartographic analysis of the APE and surrounding study area. Research began with a review of information that was readily available from previous and ongoing studies conducted by DelDOT and others, including mapping of current conditions, mapping of the alignment, a narrative description of the overall project, and previous cultural resource studies associated with the study area, especially information on the historical development and previous industrial uses of the properties along the alignment.

Additional information on the study area was sought at the archives of the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office (DESHPO), supplemented by local sources at the city/county and regional levels. Much useful information was available at the Delaware Historical Society (DHS) and the New Castle County Recorder of Deeds Office.

FIELD INVESTIGATION

After gaining familiarity with the historical development of the study area, a pedestrian survey was undertaken to assess and document conditions along the entire APE. The main purpose was to document modern disturbance, such as by highway construction and dredge spoil dumping. Areas of modern disturbance were noted, along with evidence of historical land use patterns. Narrative notes and digital photographs were used to document field conditions. Two sites, the Patterson Site (7NC-E-53) and the Partridge Cemetery (Site 7NC-E-149), were visited to assess their condition.