



PHASE IA ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS State Route 1 Widening New Castle County, Delaware

DRAFT REPORT

**AGREEMENT NO. 1538
WORK ORDER #5**

PREPARED FOR:



Delaware Department of Transportation
800 Bay Road
Dover, Delaware 19901

PREPARED BY:



THE LOUIS BERGER GROUP, INC.
1250 - 23rd Street, NW.
Washington, D.C. 20037-1164

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ABSTRACT

The Delaware Department of Transportation sponsored a Phase IA archaeological investigation for the proposed widening of State Route (SR) 1 from the Roth Bridge over Scott Run to SR 273 in central New Castle County, Delaware. The project extends for a distance of approximately 10 miles. The northern terminus is located at the Christiana Mall, and the southern terminus is located at Rogers Pit, just south of the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal. In addition to new travel lanes, major interchange upgrades are being considered at SR 273, U.S. Route 40, U.S. Route 301, and SR 72. The proposed project will be constructed in phases over a number of years. Any archaeological fieldwork will be carried out for the individual sections of the project as they are scheduled and funded. The purpose of this investigation is to provide an overall framework for any archaeological work to be undertaken as part of this project. It assesses whether or not the area of potential effect (APE) has the potential to contain previously undocumented archaeological resources. It specifies the areas that would require archaeological survey, should they be impacted, and provides an archaeological context for any discoveries that may be made.

Research for this study was completed from April through July 2012. The study methods focused on archival research and cartographic analysis, using a broad variety of sources. The primary sources examined include previous cultural resource studies, maps and atlases, and various planning documents. Many of the maps were converted to a Geographic Information System to allow comparison of historical and modern conditions. Field investigation consisted of a walkover survey to confirm the locations of known sites and assess the integrity of the landscape.

The APE runs the length of the project and covers the area within 600 feet from the edge of the existing travel lane, for a total area of 1,943 acres. Within this area 29 archaeological sites have been recorded, of which at least 13 have been largely or entirely destroyed, mostly by prior construction of SR 1. About 65 percent of the APE has been disturbed. Another 2 percent has been previously surveyed, and about 3 percent is wetlands or otherwise of very low archaeological potential. The remainder, about 577 acres or 30 percent of the total, should be archaeologically investigated before project construction or other disturbance takes place.

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