

301 US 301 Project Development



What are Cultural Resources?

- Cultural Resources are buildings, structures, objects, sites and districts over 50 years of age. Cultural Resources are surveyed and evaluated to determine if they meet the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Such significant resources are considered historic properties. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and DeIDOT are consulting with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and interested parties, such as local property owners or community members with interest, on the level of effort taken in identifying historic properties and what impact might be expected. Based on project and compliance measures undertaken thus far, continuing mitigation measures and commitments to archaeological programs are now taking place.

Why Consider Cultural Resources?

- Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended) requires federal agencies, including the FHWA, to take into account the effects (direct and indirect) of their undertakings on historic properties (i.e. significant architectural and archaeological resources that qualify for listing on the National Register).
- The Section 106 process gives the public, other parties with legitimate interest such as Native American Tribes, the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), opportunities to comment on proposed undertakings. Comments offered in current environmental documents have contributed to the Section 106 public involvement process. Your comments and involvement in future archaeological studies as well as anticipated mitigation needs are part of the continuing public outreach.
- A useful web site to reference is <http://www.achp/work106.html>. This site explains the regulatory process and the need for considering cultural resources for federally assisted undertakings such as the US 301 Project Development.
- At this stage for the US 301 Project Development, the FHWA and DeIDOT along with the Delaware and Maryland State Historic Preservation Officers have initiated the Section 106 process, identified all architectural historic properties, prepared predictive models for on-going archaeological studies, assessed and determined adverse effects to standing structures, and consulted on measures to resolve adverse effects. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) has also been established to formalize mitigation programs and future archaeological work and field studies.
- The role of public involvement will continue with archaeological studies and any proposed mitigation measures. Formalized reports and documents, including materials for US 301 Project Development, can be viewed at <http://www.archaeology.deldot.gov>.



N-107 Holton Farm
Adverse effect by visual, audible, change in character, and secondary impacts



N-106 The Maples
Adverse effect by visual, audible, and change in character



N-109 Choptank
Adverse effect by visual and change in character

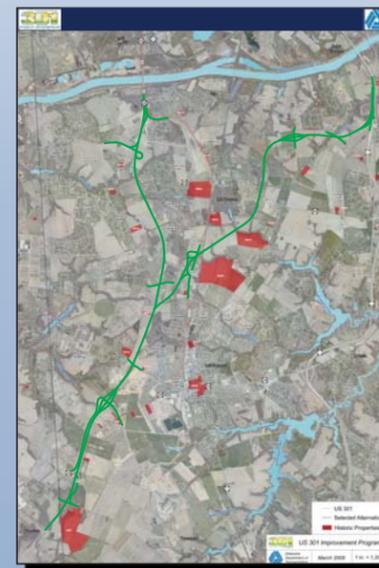


N-118 Hedgelawn
No adverse effect by visual and change in character



N-5244 Fairview
None/Not Applicable

Historic Properties



- Under the project's Record of Decision and the Memorandum of Agreement, DeIDOT and FHWA are required to consult with owners of historic properties that have been identified and determined to be adversely affected. They will advise them of the effect and the potential measures in place to minimize and mitigate the effect as a result of the selected alignment.
- Effects are deemed as: 1) None/Not Applicable, 2) No Adverse, and 3) Adverse. The Effect is also defined as an alteration to the characteristics of a historic property qualifying it for inclusion in or eligibility for the National Register.
- Examples of Adverse Effects can be physical destruction to damage to all or part of the property or inappropriate rehabilitation/repair. There are no historic properties that will be physically destroyed by the US 301 project. Adverse Effects may also be cumulative or deemed as reasonably foreseeable in the future. All examples of Adverse Effects can be defined under 36 CFR Part 800.5(a)(2).
- Under the U.S. 301 Project, the Adverse Effect is more associated with a visual, audible, and/or a change in use and/or setting of the property. Some impacts are cumulative in nature. Concerns for neglect of a property, which may lead a property's deterioration, do not apply to the project.

Current Studies

As part of the US 301 Project Development effort, several tasks have been taken to identify cultural resources that will be affected by the project. So far, the Project Team, in consultation with the SHPO, has prepared a historical context, developed and tested a computer model to predict probable locations of archaeological sites, and surveyed and evaluated buildings and structures in the area to determine their National Register eligibility. The Project Team has also prepared its Finding of Adverse Effect with a Memorandum of Agreement. The National Register listed and eligible buildings and structures are shown on the map to the left; some examples of listed and eligible structures are pictured. Known physical, audible, and visual effects to these historic properties have been identified. Discussions with property owners will continue to be scheduled to explore measures to minimize or mitigate the adverse effects. Mitigation measures will be considered and implemented where practical and feasible. Surveys to identify archaeological sites are being performed and will continue over the next several years. Effects on archaeological sites and mitigation measures will be determined when information becomes available. The U.S. 301 Project Development Final Environmental Impact Statement and the Record of Decision formalize this information and the protocol of agency compliance. Please see the DeIDOT U.S. 301 Project Development web site or other informational boards for more information.

Next Steps

- If not already established, DeIDOT (Environmental Studies Staff) on behalf of FHWA, will contact owners of historic properties that will be adversely affected (visually, setting, cumulative, change in use, or audibly). The parties will consult to determine if adverse effects can be minimized further in the design stages. Ultimately some form of mitigation will be considered and, if determined to be practical and feasible, implemented prior to, with, or following construction of the project.
- Evaluations of archaeological sites will be performed prior to any construction of the selected alternative and any associated infrastructure needs related to the project. If sites that are eligible for the National Register will be adversely affected, the parties will again consult to determine if the adverse effects can be avoided, minimized, or mitigated.
- Consultation on historic properties will continue throughout the design and construction of the project.

To provide information about Cultural Resources, or for questions regarding the studies being done for this project, please contact:

Architectural
Michael C. Hahn, AICP
DeIDOT Environmental Studies Office
302-760-2131
MichaelC.Hahn@state.de.us

Archaeological
David S. Clarke
DeIDOT Environmental Studies
302-760-2271
David.Clarke@state.de.us