

ABSTRACT

Phase IA cultural resources studies including background research, geomorphological investigations, and historic structures identification have been completed for the Delaware Department of Transportation's (DelDOT) proposed improvements to a segment of Barratts Chapel Road (S.R. 1 to McGinnis Pond Road) located in Kent County, Delaware. DelDOT plans to improve Barratts Chapel Road from a local road to a major collector road using 12-foot lanes, 8-foot shoulders, and 80 feet of right-of-way due to increasing development along the route. In addition, some cross-over and intersection improvements, including a Grade Separated Intersection (GSI) with S.R. 1, are proposed. The project consists of the preparation of a conceptual engineering design for an approximately 4.8 km (3.0 mi) section of the road between McGinnis Pond Road (State Reference number 378/379) on the west and State Highway 1/U.S. 113 on the east.

Background research and geomorphological investigations resulted in information that indicates that the majority of the project area has a moderate to high potential to contain as yet unidentified pre-contact and/or historic period archaeological resources. Background research and a windshield survey of the project area identified 18 architectural resources over 50 years of age, which need to be assessed at the Phase II level.

Based on the results of the Phase IA background research, geomorphology, and historic structures windshield survey, further cultural resources research is recommended for the Barratts Chapel Road Improvements project. Phase IB archaeological survey fieldwork is recommended for the majority of the archaeological APE and a workplan is presented in this report. A Phase II historic architectural resource survey report will also be produced for this project. The Phase II historic architectural resource survey report will go beyond the identification level work provided in this report by presenting full discussions and evaluations of the individual resources.