

ABSTRACT

Geomorphological investigations and standing structures research have been completed in conjunction with the proposed Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) Bridge 146 Retaining Wall project located in Bridgeville, Sussex County, Delaware. The project area is located in the Atlantic Coastal Plain Physiographic Province, and is drained by the Bridgeville Branch, which is a tributary to the Nanticoke River. The proposed DelDOT project includes the removal of a failing retaining wall adjacent to Bridge 146, and in lieu of its reconstruction, the sloping back of the stream bank to avoid future slumping/erosional problems. In addition to the retaining wall, a house (S-4387), present on the lot, has been determined to be structurally unsound and will be razed as part of the project.

No previously recorded archaeological sites or National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible or -listed properties are present within the project Area of Potential Effect (APE), and the geomorphological studies did not reveal sediments appropriate for the inclusion of precontact period archaeological resources. Historic period sediments present on the site are redeposited and mixed. Further excavation of these fill deposits would not provide answers to the appropriate research questions for the historic period use of this particular lot and structure.

The historic structures assessment concludes that the Bridge 146 Retaining Wall house (S-4387) is not individually eligible for listing in the NRHP under any of the four criteria due to its lack of architectural integrity, lack of association with a master architect, lack of distinct stylistic or period architectural characteristics, altered architectural detail, lack of association with persons or events of historical importance, and lack of archaeological or further historic documentary research potential. In addition, the house (S-4387) is not considered an appropriate contributing element to any of the three nearby established or potential historic districts.

Based on the lack of any previously recorded precontact or historic period archaeological resources in the project APE, the non-eligibility of the house (S-4387) individually for listing in the NRHP and as a contributing element to a historic district, the property's lack of appropriate sediments to contain archaeological resources appropriate for addressing research questions about the property and house (S-4387), and the confined nature and scale of the DelDOT project, the Bridge 146 Retaining Wall project, as currently designed, will not affect any significant archaeological resources or historic structures. No additional archaeological or historic documentary investigations are warranted.