

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

The report presents the results of a Phase IA cultural resource investigation conducted for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Philadelphia District. The USACE are currently conducting studies of the recreational potential of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. The major focus of these studies is the proposed development of a multi-use trail system that will enhance the recreational opportunities for the local and regional community. Along with traditional trail uses, such as hiking and biking, heritage tourism and historic sites interpretation are likely components of this recreational development scheme. In this context, Hunter Research, Inc. has completed this investigation with the following objectives: 1). to identify known historic and archaeological resources which may merit historic interpretive development through documentary research, field inspection and the development of a prehistoric and historic context for the project corridor; and 2). to identify areas of historical and archaeological sensitivity which may affect or constrain landscape restoration, trail development and construction of facilities such as parking lots, access areas and comfort stations.

The extensive modifications made to the canal in the last 150 years have substantially changed the historical landscape throughout the project corridor. Remnants of the original canal are few and far between, the Eastern Lock at Delaware City and the Pump House at South Chesapeake City being the most important examples. Also, significant portions of a few towns have been completely removed. Having said this, many resources remain within the wider study area. These resources have been plotted and tabulated according to their current regulatory status, more specifically their eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. A brief summary of the resources by type and area is also provided along with preliminary recommendations identifying resources of particular significance and interest and areas of historical/archaeological sensitivity.