

CLARENCE STREET EXTENSION PROJECT

Phase I Archaeological Survey Report



East Dover Hundred and the City of Dover, Kent County, Delaware

Prepared for:



The City of Dover
P.O. Box 475
Dover, Delaware 19903

In Association with:



Century Engineering, Inc.
4134 DuPont Highway
Dover, Delaware 19901

Prepared by:



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March 2011

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report details the results of a Phase I identification-level archaeological investigation conducted by A.D. Marble & Company of Conshohocken, Pennsylvania, for the proposed Clarence Street Extension Project in the City of Dover and East Dover Hundred, Kent County, Delaware. The project area extends south from Forest Street to North Street, west to Cherry Street, and east along Slaughter Street. The purpose of the Clarence Street Extension Project is to improve the efficiency of the downtown Dover transportation system by creating a north-south connector that extends the existing grid system and improves access to the existing transit and sidewalk network. The proposed 750-foot extension of Clarence Street was identified in the City of Dover's Strategic Development Plan for the West Side. This study was performed for Century Engineering, Inc., on behalf of the City of Dover. The project is funded in part by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

The archaeological Area of Potential Effect (APE) includes the project alignment as well as buffer areas that may be disturbed due to construction impacts related to staging, stockpiling, access roads, and stormwater management basins. The archaeological APE is irregularly shaped, stretches between Forest and North streets, crosses through the approximate center of the aboveground portion of Tar Ditch, and extends to the west along Vine and Slaughter streets. The APE encompasses an approximately 4.4-acre (1.8-hectare) area consisting of residential, commercial, and industrial properties. The portion of the APE located between Forest and Lincoln streets is situated in residential and commercial properties, the central portion is situated in a combination of industrial and residential properties, and the southernmost portion is situated within residential and industrial properties. The APE is historically sensitive, as it is composed of areas adjacent to or in the margins of the Potential Lincoln Park Industrial Complex (CRS #K7117) and the West Dover Historic District (CRS #K6972) (A.D. Marble & Company 2010). The APE is located approximately 500 feet west of the Victorian Dover Historic District (CRS #K00396). The southern end of the APE is located adjacent to the north of the Eden Hill Estate, which is a historic property listed in the National Register of Historic Places (5/8/1973).

The objective of the archaeological investigation was to identify archaeological resources in the APE. Background research (field view) and examination of project mapping determined that only a fraction of the APE (approximately 2.7 acres of the 4.4-acre APE [61 percent of the APE]) would undergo Phase I archaeological resources identification survey (field work). The field work was accomplished via shovel test pits (STPs) in September 2010. A.D. Marble & Company excavated a total of 38 STPs during the investigation.

The Phase I investigation revealed evidence of historic and modern occupation of the APE. The A.D. Marble & Company's field team recovered 1,884 historic and modern artifacts during the investigation. Historic artifacts include domestic and architectural debris such as fragments of bottle and window glass, nails, and brick fragments, as well as sherds of nineteenth- to twentieth-century ceramic forms. Chunks of concrete and macadam were commonly recovered from the STPs. No archaeological features were identified during the investigation.

The investigation identified three archaeological sites. One of the sites, the Henry Site (CRS #K-6972.011), is a small historic domestic site that is located near the southern end of the APE at the

intersection of Clarence and Slaughter streets. Early-twentieth-century mapping documents the presence of a residential structure and outbuilding at that location. A mix of nineteenth-century and twentieth-century household artifacts including bottle glass, ironstone, pearlware, cream-colored ware, whiteware, redware, brick fragments, nails, plastic, asbestos shingle fragments, aluminum foil, and macadam are present in the site assemblage. The second and third sites, the E. Adams Site and the R. Baynard Site, are historic domestic sites located at the northern end of the APE and are associated with the respective property addresses of 716 and 712 Forest Street (newly identified historic resources CRS #K-7125 and CRS #K-7126, respectively, in A.D. Marble & Company's Determination of Eligibility Report [2010]). The assemblages contain a mix of modern and historic materials that include coal ash, brick, nails, bottle glass, pearlware, terra cotta, plastic, unidentifiable metal, concrete, and asphalt. The associated structures are not considered to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (A.D. Marble & Company 2010).

A mix of historic and modern artifacts is present elsewhere in the APE, but these areas occur in places that have been heavily disturbed in the very recent past (late twentieth century). Excavations in the central portion of the APE demonstrate that the area was very likely prepared via the mechanical placement and tamping down of modern fill. It is hypothesized that this fill was placed at this location to prevent meandering or erosion of the banks of Tar Ditch, which runs northwest to southeast through the APE.

Although this investigation is an archaeological resources identification (Phase I) survey and not an evaluation (Phase II) survey, it is the opinion of A.D. Marble & Company that the evidence recovered from each of the sites is compelling enough to evaluate the eligibility of the sites to the National Register at the Phase I stage. Each of the three sites identified during the investigation contains a temporally mixed assemblage; the sites also lack depositional integrity and are considered to be disturbed sites. Given their lack of integrity, these sites are highly unlikely to contain information to reconstruct the past at their respective locations. Associations of the materials to former occupants are tenuous at best, if not impossible. Coupled with the background research, the data demonstrate that none of the sites is eligible under National Register Criteria A through D.

A.D. Marble & Company recommends that none of the three sites is a significant archaeological resource, that they should not be considered National Register-eligible, and that they do not warrant additional investigation. It is the opinion of A.D. Marble & Company that no archaeological properties were identified elsewhere in the APE. In sum, A.D. Marble & Company recommends that no additional work is merited in the Clarence Street Extension Project APE.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	<i>i</i>
Table of Contents	<i>iii</i>
List of Illustrations	<i>iv</i>
1.0 INTRODUCTION	1
2.0 PROJECT SETTING	6
3.0 CULTURAL HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE CONTEXT	9
4.0 RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODS	20
4.1 Background Research	20
4.2 Field Methods	20
4.3 Lab Methods	21
4.4 Deed of Gift and Artifact Curation	22
5.0 FIELD RESULTS	23
5.1 Test Area A: The Henry Site	25
5.2 Test Area B	32
5.3 Test Area C: The E. Adams Site and The R. Baynard Site	45
6.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	51

References Cited

Appendices

Appendix A: Artifact Catalog

Appendix B: Qualifications of Researchers

Appendix C: Photographs of Representative Samples of Site and Non-Site Assemblages

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Figures

1.	Project Location Map.....	2
2.	Area of Potential Effects.....	3
3.	Soils Map.....	8
4.	1868 Beers Map.....	11
5.	1868 Accretio Plot.....	12
6.	1887 Roe Atlas.....	13
7.	1919 Sanborn Map.....	15
8.	1929 Sanborn Map.....	16
9.	1929 Sanborn Map Revised to 1950.....	17
10.	1929 Sanborn Map Revised to 1969.....	18
11.	1968 Aerial Photograph.....	19
12.	Shovel Test Pit Locations.....	24
13.	Representative Shovel Test Pit Profiles.....	31
14.	Archaeological Sites Identified during Investigation.....	52

Photographs

1.	View of Test Area A at Clarence Street and Slaughter Street intersection, facing north.....	26
2.	View of Test Area A in vicinity of STP 2, facing north.....	26
3.	View of Test Area A in vicinity of STP 6, facing north.....	27
4.	View of berm in Test Area A near STPs 4 and 5, facing north.....	27
5.	View of southwestern edge of Test Area A from STP 4, facing south.....	28
6.	Recording excavation results from STP 3W in Test Area A.....	30
7.	Test Area A, STP 3 West profile.....	30
8.	View of Test Area B from STP 17, facing north.....	33
9.	View of Test Area B from STP 14, facing southeast.....	33
10.	View of Tar Ditch from Test Area B: STP 4, facing north.....	34
11.	View of portion of Test Area B located inside the industrial park, facing southwest.....	34
12.	View of storage containers in Test Area B-industrial park, facing south.....	35
13.	View of storage containers; note macadam tarmac. Facing north.....	35
14.	View of north edge of Test Area B near STP 21, facing south.....	36
15.	View of Test Area B ground conditions near STP 18, facing east.....	36
16.	Tunneling through dense vegetation near STP 24 in Test Area B, facing north.....	37
17.	Macadam dump between STPs 19 and 20 in Test Area B.....	37
18.	View of Test Area B from vicinity of STP 22, facing south.....	38
19.	Test Area B, STP 5 profile; note macadam and concrete fill.....	40
20.	Test Area B, STP 11 profile; note large chunks of concrete.....	40
21.	Test Area B, STP 12 profile; note macadam and concrete fill.....	41
22.	Test Area B, STP 18 profile showing intact “natural” layers; A-horizon to subsoil.....	43
23.	Test Area B, STP 19 profile; note Layer I (fill). Showing fill to subsoil.....	43

24.	Test Area B, STP 20 profile; note red shag rug recovered from Layer I (fill). Showing fill to subsoil	44
25.	Test Area C, front of 716 Forest Street, facing west	46
26.	Test Area C, front of 712 Forest Street, facing east.....	46
27.	Test Area C, 716 Forest Street, STPs 4 and 5 transect, facing south.....	47
28.	Test Area C, STPs 1 to 3 transect location, between 712 and 716 Forest Street, facing north	47
29.	Test Area C, STPs 6 and 7 transect location, facing south.....	48

Tables

1.	Archaeological Sites and Recommendations.....	53
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