

HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES

W. C. Fountain Agricultural Complex (CRS # K-01689)

- **NRHP Status:** The W. C. Fountain Agricultural Complex is NRHP-eligible under Criteria A for its significance in local agricultural history and under NRHP Criteria C because the farmland, eighteenth and nineteenth century farmhouse, and twentieth century farm buildings convey the long occupation of the property and its changing nature over time. The W. C. Fountain Farmhouse is NRHP-eligible under Criteria C for its architecture and under Criteria D because surviving dwellings from the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries are comparatively rare, the house could yield information on historic building techniques not available from other sources. Most buildings are, however, vacant and subject to neglect where there is evidence of vandalism. Since this is an entire agricultural complex, the current fields on the tax parcel fields (active under agricultural use) are essential elements of the historic property's setting, feeling, and association. The buildings that form a complex on the property are setback from the road and the current Barratt's Chapel Road will be realigned at-grade and further away from the property's proximity.
- **Potential Effects of Implementing the Preferred Alternative:** Under the Preferred Alternative there are no right-of-way acquisitions or easements that would suggest an encroachment on the W. C. Fountain Agricultural Complex property. Visual effects were assessed due to the relative close proximity to the existing of Barratt's Chapel Road realignment with Skeeter Neck at SR 1. The improvements to the Barratt's Chapel Road intersection with SR 1 would occur within the existing right-of-way and would remain at-grade as is consistent with its current condition. In relation to the property's historic context the improvements at SR 1 under the Preferred Alternative and at Barratt's Chapel Road are too remote in distance to have a visual or applicable effect.
- **Determination of Adverse Effect:** New or potential visual impacts and/or intrusions that did not exist before will not apply. There is no effect on the property.

Barratt's Chapel and Cemetery (CRS # K-103)

- **NRHP Status:** The Barratt's Chapel and Cemetery is listed on the NRHP. Although changes have occurred on the property, the historic boundary continues to coincide with the tax parcel. The property is significant for its broad patterns of religious affiliation and architecture under NRHP Criteria A and C.
- **Potential Effects of Implementing the Preferred Alternative:** Under the Preferred Alternative for the Little Heaven Project there are no right-of-way acquisitions that would physically encroach on the property. In close coordination with the Board of Trustee's for the property, shoulder and turning improvement will be made at egress areas. Temporary construction easements will be needed to achieve this. In addition, a historic sign marker and ceremonial church bell (both modern and not-contributing) need to be relocated on the property. Both elements are too close to the road. With the requested shoulder/egress improvements, both elements are within the temporary construction area. They will simply be minimally set back from their existing location. Visual effects were assessed due to the close proximity to existing SR 1. It is not anticipated that any adverse visual effects to Barratt's Chapel and Cemetery would result from implementation of the

Preferred Alternative. Physical effects caused by temporary access onto the property would not be adverse as well as any random vegetation loss. There is no change in the character of the property because of the existing presence of SR 1.

- **Determination of Effect:** Some effects are expected due to audible increases. However, they would occur in the future regardless of whether the proposed undertaking is implemented or not. These effects were evaluated based on the Criteria of Adverse Effects and the result was a determination that the effects were not considered adverse. Adverse effects are not expected due to physical encroachment onto the roadside front of the property because the improvements occur in the existing right-of-way. The proposed changes and effects to the property are a primary result of project coordination with the Barratt's Chapel organization and not as a result of implementing the Preferred Alternative.

Jehu Reed House (CRS # K-137)

- **NRHP Status:** The Jehu Reed House is listed on the NRHP. Despite major physical deterioration, lack of upkeep, and development of the surrounding area, the dwelling maintains its status as the main agricultural residence of the former Jehu Reed family under Criteria A. Its architectural merit also listed under Criteria C of the NRHP. The existing tax parcel serves as the NRHP boundary for the Jehu Reed House. Although still occupied in one confined portion, the dwelling barely sustains habitable conditions that are safe for human use and occupation. No record is available that the dwelling has been condemned, but it is of the author's professional opinion that it should. The NRHP status is simply acknowledged and unchallenged for project purposes.
- **Potential Effects of Implementing the Preferred Alternative:** Under the Preferred Alternative for the Little Heaven Project there are no acquisitions or easements that would physically encroach on the property. Visual and noise effects were assessed due to the resource's close proximity to existing SR 1. It is anticipated that an adverse visual effect to the Jehu Reed House would result from implementation of the Preferred Alternative because the new roadway improvements is not compatible with what currently exists in nexus to the property. This visual effect, deemed negative, could be debated since there is adequate vegetation/screening (i.e. mostly uncontrolled vegetation) in front of the dwelling that conceals the defining characteristics and presence from the proposed overpass of SR 1 over Bowers Beach Road during summer months. Noise impacts are not expected.
- **Determination of Effect:** Given its current state of deterioration and uncontrolled vegetation surrounding the façade, visual adverse effects are still expected. Changes in use or of physical features within the property's surrounding setting do not necessarily apply as adverse because the setting is already compromised and none of the surrounding area is a direct or indirect character defining feature that helps establish the significance of the property. Some audible effects could be expected, however, implementing Preferred Alternative and elevating SR 1 at this location would not directly correlate to an increase in audible impacts. SR 1 is shifted away from the property. Based on analysis or comments directed by the DE SHPO under the Criteria of Adverse Effect, the effects of implementing the Preferred Alternative are considered adverse.

Thomas James House (CRS # K-2686)

- **NRHP Status:** As a former farmstead, the Thomas James House is just eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria C for its architecture. The surrounding 2.06 acre property is the delineated historic boundary.
- **Potential Effects of Implementing the Preferred Alternative:** The property fronts Clapham Road on a 2.06 acre parcel. The proposed undertaking of the Preferred Alternative would require the following right-of-way acquisition to the property: a 20' wide strip of right-of-way along the length of the property fronting Clapham Road (0.14 acres).
- **Determination of Effect:** Some effects are expected due to a physical take upon the property and some changes upon the roadway corridor also introduce visual effects; however, these effects were evaluated based on the Criteria of Adverse Effects and the result was a determination that the effects were not considered adverse.

Mt. Olive Colored School/Mt. Olive School (CRS # K-2685)

- **NRHP Status:** The Mt. Olive Colored School/Mt. Olive School is eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria A in the areas of education and African-American heritage for its importance as a locus of rural African-American education in Delaware and Criteria C in the area of architecture, as an example of the 1920s Colonial Revival schools designed specifically for Delaware by nationally-renowned school architect James Oscar Betelle. Currently owned by the State Department of Education, the existing tax parcel (2.07 acres) serves as the NRHP boundary for the Mt. Olive Colored School/Mt. Olive School. The building barely sustains habitable conditions that are safe or viable for human use and occupation. No record is available that the dwelling has been condemned by County inspections, but it is of the property owner's management opinion that it be.
- **Potential Effects of Implementing the Preferred Alternative:** The Mt. Olive Colored School/Mt. Olive School property fronts Clapham Road to the west, existing SR 1 to the east and Mulberrie Point Road to the south. The proposed undertaking of the Preferred Alternative would require the following right-of-way acquisitions to the property: a 50' wide strip of right-of-way along the length of the property fronting Clapham Rd at approximately 0.21 acres and an area adjacent to SR 1 at approximately 0.28 acres. A Permanent Easement area totaling 0.78 acres is also required for drainage and for a county sewer line upgrade.
- **Determination of Effect:** Adverse effects are expected due to physical take, visual, audible, and a setting compromise that may be considered cumulative in nature.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES - investigations still ongoing

Archaeological Sites Considered Under a Phase II Recommendation

To date a number of parcels (referenced as specific land use parcels for the project) have been identified. All archaeological sites identified thus far are not eligible sites for the National Register of Historic Places. However, they could be following further investigations and coordination with the DE SHPO and other interested parties. All sites identified to date would be impacted or partially impacted by the Preferred Alternative. A list of the sites is provided on the following page.

- Parcels 1-1 and 1-2 - Northwest Portion of Barratt's Chapel Road and SR 1 Intersection, associated with the early 20th century Gray Farm (Chapel View Farm, K-2738).
- Parcel 18, Northwest Corner of Barratt's Chapel Road and SR 1 intersection. Investigations include three loci: 1) 18th century rural life, 2) 19th century farmstead possible associated with W. Townsend occupation, 3) pre-contact Native American materials in the central portion of the parcel.
- Parcels 2-10, 25, and 17 - Southeast Corner of (lower) Skeeter Neck Road and SR 1 artifacts from late 18th to 20th century.
- Parcels 2-8 and 2-9 - Northeast Corner of Skeeter Neck Road (south) and SR 1 intersection. Consisting of 19th to early 20th century architectural and domestic artifacts, possibly associated with the J. Grier residence.
- Parcels 2-1 and 16 - East Side of SR 1, north of Skeeter Neck Road (south). Consisting of late 18th to early 20th century architectural and domestic artifacts.
- Parcel 26, East of SR 1, large parcel abutting wetland area. Artifacts consist of two loci: 1) late 18th to 19th century rural occupation; 2) pre-contact Native American artifacts from the Early Woodland / Woodland I occupation.
- Parcels 2-3 and 2-7 - East Side of SR 1, adjacent to North of 2-1, consisting of late 18th to early 20th century architectural and domestic artifacts.
- Parcels 5-3 and 12 - Southeast Corner Skeeter Neck Road (north) and SR 1 intersection. Consisting of 19th to 20th century architectural and domestic artifacts, possibly associated with the T. James / J. Faley residence.
- Parcel 7 - Junction of Clapham Road and SR 1, consisting of 19th to early 20th century domestic artifacts.

The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) (see **Appendix A**) accompanied with this effects determination directs DelDOT and FHWA to continue the archaeological investigations and consider design refinements with DE SHPO and/or consulting parties in order to minimize impacts upon archaeological sites that may be deemed National Register Eligible. Ultimately, data recovery, public outreach, preservation in place, consulting party protocol, and other mitigation measures are discussed and administered under the MOA.