

COMPREHENSIVE PHASE IB ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT

SR 1, Little Heaven Grade Separated Intersection



Little Heaven, Kent County, Delaware
Contract No. 24-122-02

VOLUME I

► Prepared for:



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

and



Delaware Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 778
Dover, Delaware 19903

► Prepared by:



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ABSTRACT

This Comprehensive Phase IB Archaeological Survey Report presents the results of the 2003 to 2009 Phase IB archaeological investigation conducted by A.D. Marble & Company for the SR 1, Little Heaven Grade Separated Intersection project in Little Heaven, Murderkill Hundred, Kent County, Delaware. The goals for this document are to review the history of project developments, to discuss the results of the Phase IB survey, and to offer recommendations for Phase II investigations where they appear warranted.

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve traffic safety and alleviate vehicle congestion along SR 1 and at its intersections with Bowers Beach Road, Skeeter Neck Road, Mulberrie Point Road, Clapham Road (U.S. 113A), and Barratts Chapel Road in Little Heaven. The investigation is ultimately part of the SR 1 Corridor Capacity Preservation Program and the State of Delaware's Long-Range Transportation Plan. The Phase IB survey was performed for Century Engineering, Inc., and the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT).

The Area of Potential Effects (APE) was defined by the proposed limits of construction for the Preferred Alternative C. The APE was developed in consultation with DelDOT and the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office (DESHPO) on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). As of May 15, 2009, the APE has been divided into 26 parcels or study areas that constitute 69.2 ha (170.9 ac). Parcels 1 to 6 were delineated in 2003 and 2004 and were further divided into Areas. Parcel 7 was added to the project area in 2007, and Parcels 8 to 26 were added to the project area in 2008. Scott Emory (A.D. Marble & Company 2005b) provided a detailed summary of the first session of the survey, which included the survey of Parcels 1 to 5. Michael Lenert prepared reports of the results of the 2008 investigations of Parcels 6 and 7 and the results of the 2008 to 2009 investigations of Parcels 8 to 26 (A.D. Marble & Company 2008a; A.D. Marble & Company 2009). This document comprehensively reviews the investigations of all parcels included in the project (Parcels 1 to 26). The use-lives of the parcels may be generally described as agricultural, formerly commercial, and residential.

Seven parcels (Parcels 3, 9, 11, 13, 15, 21, and 22) were not tested because they were either determined to be severely disturbed or they were dismissed altogether from the construction plans by Century Engineering, Inc. and DelDOT. Recent developments in construction planning have determined that one of the parcels (Parcel 8) that was surveyed in the fall of 2008 will not be included in the project. A combination of field methods (controlled surface collection and/or shovel test pit [STP] excavations) was implemented for the archaeological survey of the parcels.

It is the opinion of A.D. Marble & Company archaeologists that eight (Parcels 1 [Area 1-1], 2 [Areas 2-1, 2-3, and 2-8], 5 [Area 5-3], 7, 8, 18, 25, and 26) of the 26 parcels that were investigated in the Phase IB effort contain potentially significant archaeological resources. Parcels 1, 2, 5, and 7 contain historic (eighteenth- and/or nineteenth-century) artifact concentrations; Parcel 8 contains a precontact artifact concentration; and Parcel 18 contains historic (eighteenth- and nineteenth-century) and precontact artifact concentrations. Parcel 25 contains a modest concentration of late-eighteenth- to mid-nineteenth-century historic artifacts. Parcel 26 contains a concentration of nineteenth-century artifacts and one small precontact artifact concentration. A.D. Marble & Company recommends that DelDOT and the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office (DESHPO) consider Phase II evaluation survey for seven

parcels: Parcels 1 (Area 1-1), 2 (Areas 2-1, 2-3, and 2-8), 5 (Area 5-3), 7, 18, 25, and 26. Parcel 8 was dismissed from project construction plans; therefore, additional survey is not recommended at that location.

If DeIDOT and DESHPO find that additional archaeological investigation is warranted, then A.D. Marble & Company archaeology staff will propose that an appropriate level of investigative effort might include: 1) additional background research and 2) subsurface testing. These methods would shed light on the horizontal and vertical extents of the historic and precontact artifact concentrations and would ideally lead to the discovery of any buried features that may be associated with the artifact concentrations. At the completion of additional investigations, it is expected that cultural resource managers would be able to evaluate the integrity and eligibility of any sites to the National Register of Historic Places. No further archaeological investigation is recommended for the remaining parcels.

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