

Description of Work

IV. DESCRIPTION OF WORK

Summary

Archaeological Resources

In terms of the Hockessin S.R. 41 (Lancaster Pike) project area as a whole, information presented in this and previous chapters indicates a high likelihood that archaeological sites of one type or another are contained within the current APE. Situated within a highly productive environmental setting, these lands would have appeared very attractive to prehistoric Native American populations, offering well-drained inhabitable ground adjacent to a ready supply of fresh water and easily accessible routes of transportation to the nearby coastal and uplands resource zones. Within the immediate vicinity available resources, including numerous varieties of aquatic, estuarine, and woodland plant and animal wildlife, would have supplied not only sustenance but the necessary raw materials for the manufacture of tools, clothing, and shelter, as well. In addition, abundant supplies of high quality lithic materials, contained both in the banks of nearby streams and in bedrock sources located a few miles to the southwest, would have supplied the needed raw materials for the manufacture of stone tools.

Historical Architectural Resources

The study revealed five (5) resources within the survey area fifty years and older: the Wilmington and Western Railroad (Plate 11), Public School No. 29 (Plates 12-13), Jackson's Store and Post Office, 1410 Old Lancaster Pike, and a potential Hockessin Historic District. The Wilmington and Western was listed on the National Register on September 8, 1980. Public School No. 29 was listed May 22, 1970. Jackson's Store and Post Office was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in November 2000 by the New Castle County Planning Department and is now managed under a Historic Preservation Overlay. KSK evaluated 1410 Old Lancaster Pike as an individual resource and determined it to be ineligible due to a loss of integrity. KSK also evaluated the properties along Old Lancaster Pike, beginning with the house at 1410 and continuing south to Beech Tree Lane, as a potential historic district. KSK determined that the area lacks historic character and cohesiveness due to widespread exterior renovations and the recent infill of large modern buildings.

Table 3. Historic architectural resources documented in the survey area.

TAX PARCEL #	NAME/ADDRESS	CONSTRUCTION DATE	NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY
N/A	Wilmington and Western RR	c. 1872	Listed: 1980-09-08
08-007.00-025	Jackson's Store and Post Office	c. 1830	Potentially eligible
08-007.40-030	1410 Old Lancaster Pike	c. 1880	Ineligible: integrity
08-007.40-029	1406 Old Lancaster Pike	c. 1880	Ineligible: integrity
80-007.00-044	Public School No. 29	c. 1870	Listed: 1978-05-22
08-007.40	Hockessin Historic District	c. 1850	Ineligible: integrity



Plate 11. View north along the Wilmington and Western Railroad from Yorklyn Road.



Plate 12. View east to the Public School No. 29 (Lanborn Library).



Plate 13. View south to the Public School No. 29 (Lanborn Library).

Archaeological Resource Description and Evaluation

Pedestrian Reconnaissance

The pedestrian reconnaissance of the planned Hockessin S.R. 41 (Lancaster Pike) project area was conducted within the maximum proposed limits of construction disturbance (archaeological APE) and sought to describe existing characteristics of the APE, as well as record any surficial evidence of previously unrecorded historic and/or prehistoric sites, and document any conditions that may have affected the preservation of subsurface artifact deposits. Performance of the reconnaissance involved the visual inspection of all portions of the APE and the careful documentation of the above features through detailed notes and both color slide and black and white photographs. The findings of the pedestrian reconnaissance, along with collected background research were used to assemble the project area archaeological sensitivity model outlined below.

For ease of presenting the findings of the pedestrian reconnaissance the APE has been divided into three sections: western, eastern, and storm water management

- **Western Section:**
The western section consists of the area west of the intersections of S.R. 41 (Lancaster Pike) and Valley Road. This area also includes SWM Area D located within the triangle area at the intersections of S.R. 41, Valley Road, and Old Lancaster Pike. Lands along the north and south side of S.R. 41 consist largely of gently sloping grassy fields and appear to have been minimally impacted by the construction of the current roadway.
- **Eastern Section:**
The eastern section consists of the area east of the intersection of S.R. 41 and Valley Road. Lands along the northern and southern side of the existing roadway have experienced extensive recent light commercial development and have likely been disturbed in the process.
- **Storm Water Management Areas:**
There are approximately eight potential storm water management (SWM) areas (Areas D thru I) located along the southern and northern side of the existing S.R. 41 corridor. Storm Water Management Area D will be addressed within the western section of the APE. Two potential SWM areas are located along the northern side of S.R. 41 east of Valley Road. These areas were considered untestable due to heavy disturbance by recent commercial development and existing storm water management systems. The remaining five potential SWM areas (E thru I) are characterized as open grassy landscaped areas

Sensitivity Model

In terms of the general project area vicinity information presented in previous chapters indicates an overall high probability for the presence of both prehistoric and historical archaeological deposits. Confirmation of the potential for prehistoric occupations is found primarily in the large number of previously recorded sites located along Mill Creek and its associated tributaries within a one-mile radius of the project area. In all instances these sites are associated with a suite of environmental variables that are also found within the archaeological APE. Likewise, the large number of extant and historically documented structures located within the town of Hockessin and in the vicinity of S.R. 41 suggests that historical archaeological resources are also likely to be present.

Despite the general high archaeological potential of the project area region information gathered during the pedestrian reconnaissance allows more fine-grained predictions to be made regarding the site potential

of very specific portions of the APE. Detailed assessments of the various project area segments are presented below.

- *Western Section(including Area D)*
Portions of the S.R. 41 APE west of Valley Road consist primarily of open grassy fields, with minimal evidence of recent development or disturbance other than that related to agriculture. More substantial disturbances are likely to be localized to areas immediately adjacent to the S.R. 41 roadbed and associated with the construction and improvement of that thoroughfare. Based on these limited prior impacts, along with the area's proximity to a section of Mill Creek and the presence of deep, well-drained soils the western section of the archaeological APE was assigned a moderate to high prehistoric site potential. In terms of historical site potential, this portion of the project area was also assigned a moderate to high probability given the presence on the 1868 and 1893 maps of a number of both residential and commercial structures located adjacent to Old Lancaster Pike and Valley Road.
- *Eastern Section*
Unlike the eastern section, areas along S.R. 41 east of Valley Road are associated with a section of roadway constructed to bypass the town of Hockessin and Old Lancaster Pike in the 1950's and in recent years has been heavily developed through the construction of numerous light industrial and commercial structures. Based on the substantial amount of disturbance likely to have occurred in conjunction with the construction of the roadway and adjacent structures this portion of the APE must be considered to exhibit a low potential for containing intact prehistoric resources. Given that construction of the current roadbed is also reported to have occurred at the expense of many of the historical properties formerly fronting the north edge of Old Lancaster Pike it seems equally unlikely that undisturbed historical archaeological resources have survived.
- *Storm Water Management Areas*
Of the eight potential storm water management areas contained within the archaeological APE two are located north of S.R. 41 and are associated with large asphalt parking pads and extensive recent development. Not only were these SWM's considered to be extremely unlikely to contain intact cultural resource deposits but were excluded from field testing. Management areas located south of S.R. 41 are contained in open grassy landscapes with apparent minimal amounts of prior disturbance. Based on the distance between these SWM's and sources of fresh water these sections of the project area were assessed a moderate probability for containing intact prehistoric resources. Uncertain placement of these areas with respect to documented historic structures also resulted in a determination of moderate historical site potential.

Phase IB Methods

Field testing of the project area constitutes the final component of a full Phase I archaeological survey. The testing methodologies employed during this work were derived from the conclusions of the above sensitivity model and designed to test specific predictions made regarding the likely presence of subsurface cultural deposits within individual APE segments. Subsurface examinations were performed within all portions of the archaeological APE excluding those areas determined likely to have been severely impacted by construction-related activities. In some segments believed to be at least partially disturbed testing was carried out with the specific intent of verifying the presence and extent of impacts, and to assess the possibility that some resource deposits may have escaped total disruption. All field testing was conducted in compliance with the standards established in the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office's *Guidelines for Architectural and Archaeological Surveys in Delaware* (1993).

Phase IB field procedures employed a testing strategy based on a program of variable interval shovel test pit (STP) excavation supplemented by a series of three larger one-by-one meter (ca. 3-x-3 foot) square excavation units. Following the predictions of the sensitivity model shovel test intervals varied in accordance with a particular APE segment's assigned archaeological site potential. Portions of the project area determined to have a high site probability were examined using a standard interval of 15 meters (50 feet) between STPs while those with a low potential were tested at intervals of 30 meters (100 feet).

Within each portion of the archaeological APE shovel test were organized into linear transects aligned parallel to the various extant roadways. In areas where APE boundaries extended out 15 meters (50 feet) or less a single transect of STPs were deemed sufficient to adequately test the area; however, wherever the boundary went beyond 15 meters two transects of test pits were employed. During the course of testing whenever instances occurred where artifacts were recovered from non-consecutive STPs a series of subsequent radial tests were excavated at a standard intervals of 7.5 meters (25 feet). The purpose of these radial STP's was to allow KSK archaeologists to better characterize the boundaries of such identified artifact scatters and to rule out, to the extent possible, the occurrence of isolated finds. Additional one by one meter excavation units were emplaced following the completion of the shovel test regimen and were intended to allow for a more complete understanding of the precise nature, density, and stratigraphic position of cultural materials within the more ephemeral artifact concentrations identified. Such measures were also taken as a means of possibly ruling out some artifact deposits from the need for additional (i.e., Phase II) excavation.

All completed shovel test pits measured approximately 50 cm (c. 18 in.) in diameter and were excavated by individual strata, to a point at least 10 cm (c. 4 in.) into sterile subsoil. Soil removed from tests was screened through 1/4 in. hardware cloth to ensure uniform recovery of cultural materials, and all recovered artifacts were retained in paper bags labeled with precise horizontal and vertical provenience information. Standardized forms were used to record data relating to depth of strata, soil Munsell color and texture, and artifact content for each test pit. Representative shovel test soil profiles were further recorded by means of documentary photographs and/or hand drawn profiles. All excavated shovel tests were screened onto plastic tarps and the removed soil backfilled immediately upon completion.

After removing and setting aside the sod, soil within all one by one meter (3-x-3 foot) units was excavated by natural levels to the top of the intact subsoil (B-horizon). Soils in the B-horizon were then excavated in arbitrary 4-inch (10-cm) levels to a point at least 4 inches (10 cm) into sterile deposits. All excavated soil was screened through 1/4-in. hardware cloth. Recovered artifacts were placed in paper bags labeled with precise soil stratum and vertical provenience information. Standardized forms were used to record data relating to the depths, Munsell color and texture, and artifact content for each soil stratum. The resulting stratigraphic profile was drawn and documented using black and white print and color slide photographs. All excavated soils were screened onto plastic tarps and backfilled immediately upon completion.

All artifacts recovered during this project were taken to KSK's Archaeological Laboratory facilities in Pennsauken, New Jersey for processing and analysis. At the lab, all artifacts were first cleaned with water and allowed to air dry. Subsequent analysis of recovered materials consisted of documenting the raw material type, function, and where possible approximate age of each artifact, as well as the entering of all relevant analytical variables into a computerized database for eventual statistical characterization. Once analysis of the artifacts was completed, all items were prepared for eventual long term curation in accordance with the DESHPO's *Guidelines*.

Field Testing Results

Completion of the shovel testing program required the excavation of 135 standard interval shovel tests, including 123 standard interval and 12 radial STP's (Figures 10a-b). Of these this number 13 STP's were found to contain either prehistoric Native American and/or historic period cultural materials; a total of three one by one meter excavation units were also excavated. All considered Phase I testing of the archaeological APE produced an artifact assemblage comprised of a total of 692 items. As shown in Appendix C historic items constitute the single largest class of artifacts recovered and represent approximately 90.9% of the total assemblage (N=629). Historic artifacts recovered are represented by ceramics, architectural glass, nails, and miscellaneous architectural debris. Prehistoric artifacts are represented by debitage (6.79%; N=47) and includes examples of shatter, flakes, and one unifacially worked flake. The primary type of lithic material represented is quartz (97.87%; N=46) and one chert flake (2.13%; N=1). See Table 4-6 and Appendix C.

Table 4. Archaeological Artifact Inventory

Artifact Group/Type	Sum
Ceramics, Creamware	1
Ceramics, Earthenware - Refined	4
Ceramics, Porcelain - Hard Paste	2
Ceramics, Red-bodied Earthenware	10
Ceramics, Whiteware	22
Ceramics, Yellowware	23
Ceramics Total	62
Faunal Total	16
Glass, Unknown Vessel	34
Glass Bottle	57
Glass Tableware	2
Glass Total	93
Prehistoric Lithics - Bifaces	1
Prehistoric Lithics - Debitage	45
Prehistoric Lithics - Unifaces	1
Prehistoric Lithics Total	47
Activities - Hardware (Non-architectural and Non-furniture)	14
Activities - Household/Domestic Items	2
Activities - Livestock/Pet Related	5
Activities - Recreation and Toys	4
Architectural - Building Materials	8
Architectural - Electronic Materials	2
Architectural - Fasteners	132
Architectural - Glass	218
Architectural - Hardware	5
Architectural - Miscellaneous	1
Clothing - Accessories	2
Clothing - Fasteners	2
Clothing - Shoes	1
Furnishings - Lighting Equipment	1
Kitchen - Containers, Utensils and Sundries	20
Personal - Coins	1
Personal - Personal Items	1
Unidentified - Other	55
Small Finds and Architectural Total	474
TOTAL ARTIFACTS	692

Table 5. Summary of artifacts recovered during Phase I excavation by KSK.

ARTIFACT GROUP	SUM	% PROJECT TOTAL
Ceramics	62	8.96%
Faunal	16	2.31%
Glass	93	13.44%
Prehistoric Lithics	47	6.79%
Small Finds and Architectural	474	68.50%
TOTAL ARTIFACTS	692	100.00%

Table 6. Prehistoric resources recovered during Phase I excavation by KSK.

Prehistoric Lithics	Material	Sum	% Lithic Total
Prehistoric Lithics - Bifaces	Quartz	1	2.13%
Prehistoric Lithics - Debitage	Chert	1	2.13%
Prehistoric Lithics - Debitage	Quartz	44	93.62%
Prehistoric Lithics - Unifaces	Quartz	1	2.13%
TOTAL ARTIFACTS		47	100.00%

In terms of stratigraphy, the shovel testing regimen generally confirmed the expectations of the sensitivity model with respect to the overall distribution of intact and disturbed soils throughout the project area. At the same time, the model did consistently accurately estimate the extent of disturbance within areas that have experienced episodes of recent development. Throughout the archaeological APE the predominant soil profile encountered consisted of a 10 to 60 cm thick disturbance zone directly overlying disturbed A Horizon and subsoil. The areas that exhibited deeply impacted soil strata were focused in the area adjacent the existing S.R. 41 (Lancaster Pike), east of the intersection of S.R. 41 and Valley Road. The portion of the APE that varied from the above scenarios was encountered on the west side of the intersection of S.R. 41 (Lancaster Pike) and Valley Road and within those Storm Water Management Area (SWM's) not adjacent the existing S.R. 41 corridor.

Phase I shovel testing identified two distinct loci of historic and/or prehistoric resources (Figure 11). Loci #1, located at STP #D13, within the triangle area at the intersection of S.R. 41 (Lancaster Pike), Valley Road, and Old Lancaster Pike, yielded one piece of quartz debitage. KSK's Project Archaeologist placed an additional 8 radial shovel test pits and 2 one-by-one meter excavation units within this area in order to better define site potential. These additional test units yielded 23 pieces of quartz debitage, 1 quartz uniaxially worked flake, and 1 piece of chert debitage from multiple historic fill horizons. These test also yielded 9 pieces of quartz debitage from an impacted A horizon and 5 pieces of quartz debitage from within the B Horizon. As well as remnant walls of a small stone and mortar foundation at STP locations D13-South/E.U. #1, E.U. #1-East, and E.U. #1-South. These additional test units yielded a variety of mid to late nineteenth/ early twentieth century artifacts which include whiteware, creamware, yellowware, red bodied earthenware, machine cut nails, architectural glass, and miscellaneous domestic items. Due to the presence of an remnant foundation and multitude of historic domestic artifacts this area has been designated as a site (7NC-A-84).

Area E, located adjacent to the east of Loci #1, at STP #E11/E.U. #3 consisted of a dense concentration of late nineteenth/ early twentieth century domestic artifacts. These include whiteware, machine cut nails, architectural glass, miscellaneous glass bottle fragments, and one 1864 "Indian Head" one cent piece. These artifacts were recovered from multiple historic fill horizons (approximately 120 cm) and are likely associated with the efforts to fill in the low lying area adjacent the current stream channel.

Loci #2, located along the north side of S.R. 41 (Lancaster Pike) at STP #C1 and #C2, yielded approximately one piece of quartz debitage, four lead fragments of a child's toy car, and two unidentifiable nail fragments from the plowzone (Ap) horizon and four pieces of quartz debitage from within the B Horizon. KSK's Project Archaeologist placed an additional five radial shovel test pits within this area in order to better define site potential. These additional tests yielded two pieces of quartz debitage from within the plowzone (Ap) horizon. Due to the nature of the artifacts and raw material it is unclear at this stage as to whether this area constitutes a prehistoric site.

Architectural Resource Description and Evaluation

Descriptions and evaluations of the surveyed resources are presented below. Delaware Cultural Resources Survey Forms for each of these resources are included in Appendix A.

Jackson's Store and Post Office

- **Physical Description**

This 3-acre property is located along the north side of SR 41 in Hockessin, Delaware. It contains a two-story, five bay Greek Revival with a side porte cochere. A masonry dwelling built circa 1850, it has a masonry foundation and water table. The exterior is clad in white stucco with white trim. The side gable roof is clad in asphalt shingles and has two eyebrow dormers with vinyl cheeks. A corbeled, brick, gable end chimney is located on the east elevation. The windows are six-over-eight and six-over-six double hung wood sash and with operable, black, wooden louvered shutters. The center bay entry porch has a pedimented roof and paired, square wood columns (Plate 14).
- **Integrity**

The massing, siting and original windows remain intact. The stucco exterior dates to pre-1952, and may be the original treatment.
- **Historical Information**

Hockessin, or "place of many foxes", is one of the highest points in Delaware. It was originally part of Letitia Manor, a 15,000-acre estate given by William Penn to his daughter. It first appears as a village on Price and Rea's *Map of the State of Delaware* in 1850. De Beers' *Atlas of the State of Delaware* shows five houses along this section of Old Lancaster in 1868. At that time, this house was labeled as J. C. Jackson's Store and Post Office.

The town experienced a significant boom after the Wilmington and Western Railroad reached the town in 1872. Most of the historic buildings along Old Lancaster Pike south to Beech Tree date from circa 1880. G. W. Baist's 1893 Atlas of New Castle County shows Old Lancaster Pike as moderately developed from Brackenville Road to the Pennsylvania border. At that time, the property was owned by Samuel Garrett.

The property is now located on SR 41. SR 41 was built in the 1950's as an improvement to Old Lancaster Pike. A more level and straight road, SR 41 overlaid historic farms, opening the adjoining land to development for the first time. It leaves the old roadbed just north of Withers Way and rejoins it north of Valley Road, alongside this property.

Jackson's Store and Post Office was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in November 2000 by the New Castle County Planning Department and is now managed under a Historic Preservation Overlay.



Plate 14. View north to Jackson's Post Office and Store

- Delaware Historic Context
Geographic Zone: Upper Peninsula
Chronological Period: 1830-1880 +/- Industrialization and Early Urbanization
Historic Theme: Architecture
Property Type: Architecture; Greek Revival
- Evaluation
This resource does not meet National Register eligibility criteria A, B, or D. Archival research conducted at local and county libraries and historical societies, and investigations of cultural resources studies and available surveys have produced no information indicating the resource to be significant for its association with significant events or persons, or for its ability to yield information important in prehistory or history. However, the resource does appear significant for its architecture (Criterion C) because it is representative of an intact Georgian.

1410 Old Lancaster Pike

- Physical Description
This .28 acre property has 70 feet of frontage along the south side of Old Lancaster Pike in Hockessin, Delaware. It contains a two and one-half story, three bay, side gable Gothic Revival with a one-story rear addition. This wood frame house was built circa 1900, and has a parged concrete foundation with a partial basement. The exterior walls are clad in grey vinyl siding. The cross gable roof is clad in grey asphalt shingles. The windows are one-over-one, double hung aluminum replacement sash with grey vinyl louvered shutters. The main facade has a full-width porch with wood porch posts and a central, six-light wooden door (Plates 15-16).
- Integrity
The visual character of this dwelling has been significantly compromised because of exterior alterations. The entire dwelling has been reclad vinyl siding, the windows replaced, and the decorative details removed.
- Historical Information
Hockessin, or "place of many foxes", is one of the highest points in Delaware. It was originally part of Letitia Manor, a 15,000-acre estate given by William Penn to his daughter Letitia. It first appears as a village on Price and Rea's *Map of the State of Delaware* in 1850. De Beers' *Atlas of the State of Delaware* shows five houses along this section of Old Lancaster in 1868.

The town experienced a significant boom after the Wilmington and Western Railroad reached the town in 1872. Most of the historic buildings along Old Lancaster Pike south of this property date from circa 1880. G. W. Baist's 1893 *Atlas of New Castle County* shows Old Lancaster Pike as moderately developed from Brackenville Road to the Pennsylvania border.

1410 Old Lancaster first appears on the 1893 atlas. It is not definitively labeled, but may have been owned by W. Gruce as part of a 34-acre parcel farm. It has recently lost its large mushroom house located to the northwest of the main building.

- Delaware Historic Context
Geographic Zone: Upper Peninsula
Chronological Period: 1880-1940 +/- Urbanization and Early Suburbanization
Historic Theme: Architecture
Property Type: Architecture; Gothic Revival



Plate 15. View west to 1410 Old Lancaster Pike.



Plate 16. View south to 1410 Old Lancaster Pike.

- Evaluation

This resource does not meet National Register eligibility criteria A, B, C, or D. Archival research conducted at local and county libraries and historical societies, and investigations of cultural resources studies and available surveys have produced no information indicating the resource to be significant for its association with significant events or persons, or for its ability to yield information important in prehistory or history (Criteria A, B, and D). In addition, the resource does not appear significant for its method of construction or architecture (Criterion C) because it is not representative of an intact Gothic Revival.

1406 Old Lancaster Pike

- Physical Description

This .85 acre property has 99 feet of frontage along the south side of Old Lancaster Pike in Hockessin, Delaware. It contains a two-story, three bay, side gable Colonial Revival dwelling. This masonry house was built circa 1900, and has a parged concrete foundation with a full basement. The exterior walls are stuccoed and painted white. The gable roof is clad in grey asphalt shingles. The windows are one-over-one, double hung aluminum replacement sash with green wooden louvered shutters. The main facade has a center three-bay porch with wood porch posts and aluminum screened windows (Plates 17-18).

- Integrity

The visual character of this dwelling is partially obscured by the introduction of replacement windows, however the stucco exterior treatment may be original.

- Historical Information

Hockessin, or "place of many foxes", is one of the highest points in Delaware. It was originally part of Letitia Manor, a 15,000-acre estate given by William Penn to his daughter Letitia. It first appears as a village on Price and Rea's *Map of the State of Delaware* in 1850. De Beers' *Atlas of the State of Delaware* shows five houses along this section of Old Lancaster in 1868.

The town experienced a significant boom after the Wilmington and Western Railroad reached the town in 1872. Most of the buildings along the south side of Old Lancaster Pike date from circa 1880. G. W. Baist's 1893 *Atlas of New Castle County* shows Old Lancaster Pike as moderately developed from Brackenville Road to the Pennsylvania border. 1406 Old Lancaster Pike appears to be one of the newer houses in the area. It was built later than 1892, as it does not appear on Baist's atlas. According to tax records, it dates to 1900.

- Delaware Historic Context

Geographic Zone: Upper Peninsula

Chronological Period: 1880-1940 +/- Urbanization and Early Suburbanization

Historic Theme: Architecture

Property Type: Architecture; Colonial Revival



Plate 17. View south to 1406 Old Lancaster Pike.



Plate 18. View west to 1406 Old Lancaster Pike.

- **Evaluation**
This resource does not meet National Register eligibility criteria A, B, C, or D. Archival research conducted at local and county libraries and historical societies, and investigations of cultural resources studies and available surveys have produced no information indicating the resource to be significant for its association with significant events or persons, or for its ability to yield information important in prehistory or history (Criteria A, B, and D). In addition, the resource does not appear significant for its method of construction or architecture (Criterion C) because it is not representative of an intact Colonial Revival.

Hockessin Historic District

- **Physical Description**
This potential district runs along the north and south side of Old Lancaster Pike from SR 41 to Beech Tree Lane. It contains eleven historic houses representing two phases of development, circa 1855 and c. 1880. The building fabric is primarily two-story Gothic Revivals and Colonial Revivals. The houses are clad in vinyl siding, asbestos and stucco. They all have replacement aluminum sash (Plates 19-22).
- **Integrity**
The visual character of this district has been significantly compromised due to exterior alterations and recent development. All of the houses have been reclad vinyl siding, the windows replaced, and the decorative details removed. Originally a fairly loosely defined community, the open spaces have been infilled with light industrial and commercial buildings, including a gas station and a large Wawa convenience store. Originally a community of mushroom farmers, all of the outbuildings have been demolished. Also, the focal point of the community, the Wilmington and Western Railroad station, has been moved north to SR 41.

A more cohesive and better preserved district is located just south of this area, centered around School House Road.

- **Historical Information**
Hockessin, or "place of many foxes", is one of the highest points in Delaware. It was originally part of Letitia Manor, a 15,000-acre estate given by William Penn to his daughter Letitia. It first appears as a village on Price and Rea's *Map of the State of Delaware* in 1850. De Beers' *Atlas of the State of Delaware* shows five houses along this section of Old Lancaster in 1868, primarily on the north side of the road.

The town experienced a significant boom after the Wilmington and Western Railroad reached the town in 1872. The station was located on Old Lancaster Pike southeast of Yorklyn Road. Most of the historic buildings along Old Lancaster Pike date from circa 1880, built primarily on the south side of the road. G. W. Baist's *Atlas of New Castle County* shows the existing historic fabric along Old Lancaster Pike from Brackenville Road to the Pennsylvania border as having been built by 1893.

The State Highway Department as-built for 1953 show this community was a center of mushroom cultivation, as most of the dwellings had mushroom houses. The agricultural character of the community appears have begun to change when SR 41 was built, requiring the demolition of many of the outbuildings. USGS for this region shows only two mushroom houses remaining in 1984, and the last was demolished in the 1990s.



Plate 19. View east to former historic district showing infill of modern buildings.



Plate 20. View west to 1250 Old Lancaster Pike currently under renovation.

- Delaware Historic Context

Geographic Zone: Upper Peninsula

Chronological Period: 1830-1880 +/- Industrialization and Early Urbanization

Historic Theme: Architecture

Property Type: Architecture; Gothic Revival/Colonial Revival

- Evaluation

This district does not meet National Register eligibility criteria because of its lack of integrity. Though archival research has indicated this community is associated with the original development of Hockessin (Criteria A), due to widespread exterior renovations less than twenty percent of the buildings are contributing resources. The open spaces between historic resources has also been infilled with large modern buildings. It is therefore not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.



Plate 21. View south to 1336 Old Lancaster Pike showing a typical renovated historic resource within the Hockessin district.



Plate 22. View north to 1213-15 Old Lancaster Pike showing a typical renovated historic resource within the Hockessin district.