

## **ABSTRACT**

This report details the results of Phase I archaeological resources identification survey conducted by A.D. Marble & Company of Conshohocken, Pennsylvania, for the proposed SR 1 Frederica Grade Separated Interchange project in Kent County, Delaware. The study is part of the SR 1 Corridor Capacity Preservation Program. This study was performed for Century Engineering, Inc., and the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

The purpose of the project is to create a grade separated interchange at the southern end of the town of Frederica, Delaware. The project will improve safety at several intersections and allow access to future residential developments. The project area is primarily located between the SR 1/US 113 intersections with SR 12 (Frederica Road), SR 119 (Tub Mill Pond Road), and SR 120 (Milford Neck Road). The archaeological Area of Potential Effects (APE) encompasses an approximately 176-ac (71.2-ha) area comprised of agricultural fields, roadway and residential property margins, and wooded areas. The field work was accomplished with a combination of shovel test pits (STPs), pedestrian survey, and one test unit (TU). A.D. Marble & Company excavated a total of 186 STPs and performed pedestrian survey of 82 ac. A.D. Marble & Company excavated a single TU in a precontact-era site identified during the investigation.

The Phase I investigation revealed evidence of precontact and historic occupation of the area. A.D. Marble & Company recovered 87 precontact artifacts, 1,914 historic artifacts, and 44 faunal remains (likely historic or modern) during the investigation. It was anticipated that 1,500 artifacts would be recovered during the Phase I work; the investigation exceeded that estimate by 545 artifacts (n=2,045). The precontact assemblage contains chipped stone tools, debitage, and pieces of steatite and ceramic vessels. These materials indicate that groups performed a wide variety of activities that included stone tool manufacture and maintenance and the processing, preparation, and/or consumption of animal and plant resources. Historic artifacts include domestic and architectural debris such as fragments of bottle and window glass, nails, and brick as well as sherds of late-eighteenth- to early-twentieth-century ceramic forms.

Based on the identification of three dense artifact concentrations and the finding of historic deposits on two properties currently assigned Cultural Resource Survey (CRS) #K-04952 and #K-04954, it is the opinion of A.D. Marble & Company that five archaeological sites were identified during the Phase I investigation. One is a small, approximately 0.25-ac Woodland I-era precontact site that is located on the west side of SR 1 near the northern end of the APE and overlooks an unnamed tributary of the Murderkill River. The assemblage contains cord-marked ceramic sherds and steatite vessel fragments. The second site is an approximately 7-ac, mid- to late-nineteenth-/early-twentieth-century historic farmstead site located on the east side of SR 12 in the north-central portion of the APE. Numerous brick fragments, coal slag, and primarily nineteenth-century sherds of ironstone, whiteware, and porcelain are present in the site assemblage. Historic mapping and photography document the presence of a structure and outbuildings at this location throughout the early twentieth century.

The third site is an approximately 5-ac site containing evidence for late-eighteenth to early-twentieth century historic and precontact occupations. This site is located in an agricultural field

east of SR 1 in the southeastern portion of the APE. It contains temporally diagnostic materials including creamware, pearlware, whiteware, porcelain, ironstone, and yellowware ceramic sherds. The fourth site is an approximately 10-ac historic site primarily containing nineteenth-century artifacts that include pearlware, whiteware, and ironstone sherds. The site is located in an agricultural field in the southeastern corner of the intersection of Milford Neck Road and the entrance to a wastewater treatment facility. The fifth site is located on the edge of a former farmstead property on the east side of SR 12. Mid- to late-nineteenth-century materials comprise the assemblage of this site. Historic and precontact artifacts are present elsewhere in the APE, but these occur in a more spatially diffuse pattern and appear to constitute isolated finds and/or historic-era field scatter.

A.D. Marble & Company recommends further study (Phase II archaeological resource significance evaluations) of the five archaeological sites identified during the investigation. This additional study will establish the National-Register eligibility of each site. It is the opinion of A.D. Marble & Company that no archaeological properties were identified elsewhere in the APE. As a result, A.D. Marble & Company recommends at this time that no additional work is warranted elsewhere within the APE.