

5.0 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A Phase I archaeological survey, including background research, geomorphology, and field investigations, has been completed for the DelDOT's proposed S.R. 26 Improvements project. The goal of the archaeological survey was to identify any archaeological remains located within the limits of the proposed construction disturbance and if possible, to assess any identified resources for significance (eligibility for listing in the NRHP). To this end, background and geomorphological research indicated that portions of the project APE had the potential to contain pre-contact and/or historic period archaeological remains. Twenty-four areas with the potential for archaeological resources were designated as testable areas, but the number of test areas was reduced to 22 when two test areas were found to be disturbed by subsequent development. The 22 tested areas were surveyed using appropriate, standard, and proven methodologies. Of the 22 tested areas, three were located adjacent to existing historic cemeteries and were specially tested for the presence of unmarked graves. The survey of the 22 test areas resulted in the identification of a historic period isolated artifact in Test Area 1, a few historic period artifacts in Test Area 3, and a historic period archaeological site in Test Area 21.

The single non-diagnostic whiteware sherd found in Test Area 1 is not indicative of an archaeological site and most likely represents roadside litter. It is not eligible for listing in the NRHP. The seven pieces of glass found in Test Area 3 were found within the NRHP boundaries of the Spring Banke property (S-454); however, only four pieces of solarized glass can be generally dated (1880-1915), and one piece of flat glass is most likely from a window. Based on the functionally and temporally non-diagnostic nature of the artifacts, they are not able to yield new or insightful information about the use of the NRHP-listed Spring Banke property (S-454), and do not contribute to the significance of the property. Like the whiteware sherd identified in Test Area 1, the glass specimens found in Test Area 3 are most likely the result of roadside litter and are not related to the use of the Spring Banke property (S-454).

The Parsons' Store site (7S-K-143) was identified during mechanical stripping of Test Area 21. The middle to late twentieth century store remains are limited to the basal courses of concrete block or brick foundations, minimally displaced brick piers, and a cellar depression filled with destruction debris. The artifacts observed in association with the archaeological remains were limited to items dating to the 1950s and 1960s. No dense refuse deposits or deep cultural features (e.g., wells, privies) were present in the project APE, and the majority of the

use history of the store dates to less than 50 years ago. Portions of the store/residence structure are located south of and outside the current project APE. The site has been heavily impacted by the razing of the buildings ca. 1971, and by this survey, leaving no additional areas for excavation within the project APE. While the store was in operation during part of the Urbanization and Early Suburbanization Period (1880-1940), the site no longer contains extant above-ground structures, and it has been fully excavated, mapped, and photographed. The Parsons' Store site (7S-K-143) does not have the archaeological potential to provide meaningful data about early twentieth century life in Sussex County. The site is recommended as not eligible for listing in the NRHP, and no further archaeological investigations are recommended.

No previously recorded pre-contact or historic period archaeological sites listed or eligible for listing in the NRHP are present in the S.R. 26 Improvements project APE, and specialized testing for unmarked graves near three historic cemeteries proved negative. The Phase I survey did identify two historic period artifact isolates and one historic period archaeological site, none of which are eligible for listing in the NRHP due to their inability to contribute significant information about the land-use histories of the properties on which they were recovered. Therefore, the S.R. 26 Improvements project, as currently designed, will not affect any significant pre-contact or historic period archaeological resources, and no additional archaeological investigations are warranted.