

Speech for Media Day at Boyd's Corner – 12/9/2008

Good morning. My name is David Clarke and I am one of DelDOT's Archaeologists. I would like to thank all of you for coming out today, to visit the Boyd's Corner Archaeological excavation. I want to begin by thanking the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, specifically Gwen Davis for her continued support to protect and preserve all of Delaware's cultural resources, Hunter Research my consultant whom is doing the excavation, and the DelDOT project team for their excellent coordination throughout this project. We are doing an excavation here because this intersection will be widened to make it safer for the thousands who travel through here every day. As one of DelDOT's archaeologists I am tasked with overseeing all the Archaeological compliance work for federally funded projects such as the Boyd's Corner Intersection Improvements. The Boyd's Corner Intersection we are standing on today has a long and exciting history. In various forms, there has been an intersection here for centuries. John Boyd emigrated from Coleraine County Ireland to Delaware in 1791, in 1812, his father in-law sold him a large parcel of land, part of which we standing on today. Hunter Research has been contracted to preform an Archaeological Excavation of the remains of the Boyd's House and Store. As you will see today, we have been pleasantly surprised to find much of the site intact, and full of exciting artifacts. Currently the excavation is partially complete, with many more questions still to be answered. So far, we have learned about some of the different types of pottery that were used at this house and possible sold in the store, as well as other artifacts, and the structure itself, in that we have a brick and stone foundation, brick drain, and possible a well. Recently we found some artifacts that suggest this site may date back to the 1700s. After my remarks, Hunter Research will give you a tour of the site, and answer any questions you may have about the excavation and the history of Boyd's Corner. By excavating this site, we will not only learn about it's inhabitants, but be able to bring to life what an early to mid 1800's house and store looked like, and answer some questions such as: What were inhabitants of central Delaware buying at this time? Where did the products come from, Delaware, Philadelphia, Europe? These questions and many more will further our collective knowledge about Delaware's vibrant past and provide us with a window of opportunity to look back at how Delawareans lived so many years ago. Thank you all again for coming out today, and I'd like to invite you all to tour the site with, Dr. Ian Burrow and Bill Liebeknecht of Hunter Research, whom are on hand along with myself to talk to you and answer any questions you may have

David S. Clarke

DelDOT Archaeologist
Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 778-800 Bay Road
Dover, DE 19903
Phone: (302) 760-2271
Fax: (302) 739-8282
david.clarke@state.de.us
www.archaeology.deldot.gov