

INTRODUCTION

This report documents the Cultural Resource Reconnaissance of Delaware Route 273 from Delaware Route 7 to U.S. Route 13 in New Castle County, Delaware. This reconnaissance was performed by Cultural Heritage Research Services, Inc. (CHRS) of North Wales, Pennsylvania for the Delaware Department of Transportation.

The proposed highway project involves improvements to Route 273 from just east of Route 7 to just west of Route 13 (Figure 1). This project would consist of widening the present road to a four-lane highway with a 14-foot, non-crossable median. The area examined by the survey included the existing right-of-way and all necessary construction easement right-of-way.

The purpose of the archaeological and architectural studies is to locate cultural resources which may be affected by the proposed action and to develop a plan of assessing the significance of these resources. This work is to be performed pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. Significance is based upon the criteria of the National Register of Historic Places as published in Title 36, Part 60 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

Significant sites are those which are listed, or are eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places. Criteria for the National Register of Historic Places are included in Title 36, Part 60 of the Code of Federal Regulations. The Department of the Interior has established the following criteria for evaluating and determining the eligibility of properties to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places:

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and:

A. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or

B. that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or

C. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

D. that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.