

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Historical Structures

Eleven standing structures were examined during the survey. The first, owned by Oak Hollow Associates, is located on Edinburgh Drive just south of Route 273 at Station 00+72 South. This residential structure was constructed during the first quarter of the twentieth century. The building is a vernacular expression of the Colonial Revival and does not appear to meet the criteria of eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. No additional work is recommended at this location.

The other standing structure examined during the survey is "Tat-Tat." This Neo-Egyptian/Persian/Babylonian Temple, constructed during the 1950s, is significant as one of the only Temples of this type in the United States. It is unique and in good condition, having been constantly maintained by the owner. The temple is another vernacular adaptation of a combination of historic styles. The unique architectural styling of the "Temple" building and its setting are an unusual example of Near Eastern influences in northern Delaware. Because of these unique qualities, Tat-Tat appears to be a significant element of northern Delaware's architectural landscape; however, it does not satisfy the age criteria set forth for properties listed on the National Register and is therefore not eligible.

Archaeological Sites

Three historic archaeological sites, the Taylor/Anderson site (7NC-E-87), the Bethel Church site (7NC-E-88), and the Step site (7NC-E-89), were located in the project corridor (Figure 13). All three of these sites will be impacted by the proposed improvement to Route 273. The nature and extent of the sites must be determined in order to allow for an assessment of their eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places and the construction impacts. It is, therefore, recommended that additional work be performed.

Taylor/Anderson House Site. At the Taylor House site, located on the south side of DE Route 273 near station 60+00, archaeological deposits from the late nineteenth century were encountered. As indicated by Beers' map, the house site dates back to, at least, 1868 (Figure 8). The additional work needed to assess the National Register eligibility of this site includes both archaeological and historical elements.

A detailed history of the property and its inhabitants is necessary to provide the historical context for the archaeological remains collected. The development of a chain of title and an examination of tax, census, probate, and orphans court records are also necessary.

Additional fieldwork at the site should include the excavation of shovel test pits within a 20-foot (6-meter) grid, which would be established over the site. This testing will define the limits of the archaeological deposits and should provide distributional data relating to site function. After the data gathered by the shovel tests has been examined, a series of excavation units should be dug to further elucidate the nature of the stratigraphy, to test for

the existence of subsurface features, and to gather additional artifactual data. The placement of these units within the grid system will be determined by the nature of the stratigraphy revealed, by artifact patterning, and by the historical information available. Analysis of the material should focus upon the potential for the site to add to our knowledge of historical processes in Delaware and the Middle Atlantic. The material should be examined within the context of other known historic sites within the project area and the region.

Bethel Church Site. The Bethel Church site area is located north of Route 273 in the vicinity of station 110+00. The site contained deposits dating from the mid-nineteenth century to the present. This area contained the Bethel Baptist Church and cemetery since the late 1780s. The site of the church and cemetery lies well outside the right-of-way; however, two domestic structures built between the church and the roadway in the mid-nineteenth century appear on Beers' atlas of 1868. It seems likely that the artifacts found relate to these structures. Additional work, both archaeological and historical, is needed to assess the National Register eligibility of this site.

A detailed history of the property and its inhabitants is necessary to provide the historical context for the archaeological remains collected. The development of a chain of title and an examination of tax, census, probate, orphans court records should be performed.

Additional fieldwork at the site should include the excavation of shovel test pits along the lines of a 20-foot (6-meter) grid to be established over the site. This testing would help to define the limits of the archaeological deposits and should assist in the identification of site function. Testing should be performed from the existing roadway north, towards the area of the cemetery. No tests should be excavated in the cemetery area. After examination of the shovel test data, a series of measured test units should be excavated. The placement of these units within the grid system should be based on the nature of the stratigraphy revealed, on artifact patterning, and on the historical information assembled. The test unit excavation strategy should provide additional artifactual data as well as provide evidence (or lack thereof) of subsurface features and stratigraphic integrity. Analysis of the material should focus upon the potential for the site to add to our knowledge of historical processes in Delaware and the Middle Atlantic. The material should also be examined within the context of other, known historic sites within the project area and the region.

The Step Site. The Step site area is located north of the road in the vicinity of Station 137+00. The site contained deposits dating from the early twentieth century. This area contained an early twentieth-century tenant farmhouse and associated deposits. Historical work, in addition to archaeological work, is necessary for the assessment of this site's eligibility for the National Register.

A detailed history of the property and of its inhabitants would provide the historical context needed to understand the significance of the archaeological remains collected. The development of a chain of title and the examination of tax, census, probate, and orphans court records would necessarily be a part of this research.

Additional fieldwork at the site should include the excavation of shovel test pits on a 20-foot (6-meter) grid that would be established over the site. This testing could help to delineate the archaeological deposits present and to identify site function. Testing should be performed from the existing roadway north. After the data gathered by the shovel tests has been examined, a series of measured test units should be excavated. The decision of where to place these units within the grid system should be made with the following in mind: the nature of the stratigraphy revealed, artifact patterning, and historical information available. The test unit excavation strategy should provide additional artifactual data as well as reveal any subsurface features and the degree of stratigraphic integrity. Analysis of the material should focus the site's ability to increase our knowledge of historical processes in the Middle Atlantic and should be placed within the context of other known historic sites in the project area and the region.