HUNTER RESEARCH

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS CEDAR NECK ROAD STATE ROUTE 1 AND STATE ROUTE 30 CEDAR CREEK HUNDRED, SUSSEX COUNTY DELAWARE

PHASE I ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE SURVEY

PARENT AGREEMENT 1415, TASK 7

Prepared for:

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ABSTRACT

A Phase I archaeological cultural resources survey was undertaken at the intersection of State Route 1, Cedar Neck Road and State Route 30, southeast of Milford, Sussex County, Delaware, in order to establish the presence or absence of archaeological resources that meet, or have the potential to meet, the threshold of eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. The work was undertaken for the Delaware Department of Transportation in anticipation of Section 106 requirements under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

Three areas were examined: Area 1 (Intersection of SR 30/Cedar Creek Road and State Route 206/Wilkins Road) Area 2 (Proposed Ramps A and B Connecting State Route 1 and State Route 30/Cedar Creek Road) and Area 3 (Proposed Overpass and Ramps C & D Connecting State Route 1 and State Route 206/Cedar Neck Road).

Background and contextual research suggested that there was a fairly low probability of recovering archaeological evidence of substantial past human activity over most of the surveyed area. However, proposed Ramps A and B, connecting State Route 30 and State Route 1 south of Cedar Neck Road, cross an area where a house property is shown on the Beers map published in 1868. The property was at that time owned by W. Shockley, a member of a locally prominent family whose 18th-century members included a prominent Loyalist.

Field methods comprised shovel testing, and, in the areas of proposed Ramps A and B, surface collection survey.

Two of the three surveyed areas (Area 1: Intersection of State Route 30/Cedar Creek Road and State Route 206/ Wilkins Road, and Area 3: Proposed Overpass and Ramps C and D Connecting State Route 1 and State Route 206/Cedar Neck Road) are not considered to merit further investigation because of the absence of artifacts and historical data, and indications of recent disturbance.

Further work, to the Phase II (evaluation of significance) level, is however considered to be required in the third area (Area 2: Proposed Ramps A and B Connecting State Route 1 and State Route 30/Cedar Creek Road), designated CRS 10315, Site number 7S-C-100. Artifacts, soils and topographic features combine to indicate that there are potentially significant archaeological cultural resources on the western half of this proposed ramp corridor. In particular, a small but distinctive collection of 18th-century material was recovered here. Also recovered from the same general area was a lithic prehistoric assemblage. This comprises less than a dozen items, but includes thermally altered rock and a probable Woodland I projectile point of broadspear affinity. This lithic scatter is probably associated with the south-flowing relict stream visible on the project aerial photographs.

Recommended Phase II investigations comprise supplementary historical research and additional field investigations. The latter is a combination of excavation units and machine removal of plowzone to further investigate site integrity and eligibility.

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