ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEYS US ROUTE 301 LEVELS ROAD MAINLINE CONTRACT 3 NEW CASTLE COUNTY, DELAWARE AND CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND

CLIENT:

Delaware Department of Transportation

PROJECT SPONSOR:

Delaware Department of Transportation

REVIEW AGENCY:

Delaware State Historic Preservation Office; Maryland Historic Trust

PROJECT STAFF:

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RGA conducted Phase IA/IB/II archaeological surveys for portions of the U.S. Route 301 project. These investigations were performed in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and in accordance with a Memorandum of Agreement entered into among the Federal Highway Administration, the Delaware Department of Transportation, the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office, and the Maryland Historical Trust.

Initial background research and the development of a GIS database of previously identified archaeological sites determined that 15 of the 24 study areas had a moderate to high potential for prehistoric and historic archaeological resources. The Phase IB archaeological survey resulted in the identification of five potentially significant archaeological sites. RGA subsequently completed Phase II archaeological surveys at two of these sites: the Warwick Prehistoric site and the historic Polk Tenant site. As a result of the surveys the Warwick Prehistoric site was recommended eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as a rare example of a Late Archaic/Early Woodland period prehistoric site. The Polk Tenant site was also recommended eligible for its preserved suite of architectural features (i.e., brick and stone cellar walls, cellar entrance, and brick well or cistern) and temporally associated artifact assemblage.