

PROJECT SUMMARY

In August 1998, the Cultural Resource Consulting Group (Highland Park, NJ) completed a Phase IB (identification-level) and Phase II (assessment and evaluation) cultural resource survey at the proposed site of the Keystone Crossing Mall, along SR 100 in Uwchlan Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania. The project area is located adjacent to SR 100, just south of PA Turnpike Interchange 23. The total project area for commercial development is approximately 175 acres, but roughly 168 acres of this total were cleared for development by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) after review of a previous cultural resource survey (Jensen et al. 1995) (see 11/7/95 and 8/1/96 letters in Appendix 2). The size of the present Phase I project area is approximately 6.6 acres, and the areas studied at Phase II level are a total of approximately 2.1 acres. The previous cultural resource survey noted above was carried out as part of a development project proposed in 1995 by Kravco, Inc., which did not reach the construction stage. The current project is sponsored by the Taubman Company.

This project involves a National Register-eligible historic property (SHPO Opinion 2/27/95) known as the Happy Days Farm, which is listed on the Pennsylvania Historic Resource Survey (2/27/95). Included within this report is a section on the impacts to the historic structures on the property and the Pennsylvania Historic Resource Survey Forms for the eligible resource. This resource includes the main farmhouse, springhouse, and associated outbuildings, as well as a tenant house, and a stone-end barn and springhouse.

The previous survey carried out by SJS Archaeological Services, Inc., (Jensen et al. 1995) identified a number of archaeological sites. Site 36-CH-669, located between the main farm house and the springhouse, and site 36-CH-668, located just south of the confluence of Shamona Creek and the spring, occur within the present Phase IB and II project area. As noted above, the PHMC has cleared most of the property, except for the site known as 36-CH-669. They recommended that a Phase II archaeological investigation be performed in the area of 36-CH-669. However, because 1998 construction plans entailed no impact to that area, Phase II survey was not performed on site 36-CH-669. Because the 1995 survey had not employed a systematic testing strategy in certain sensitive areas that would be directly affected by the currently proposed construction of a ring road, detention basins and a mall entrance road, Phase IB investigation was conducted in those areas.

The present Phase IB study area identified three separate prehistoric loci in the area of potential effects. These loci were identified during excavation of shovel tests laid out in a systematic grid pattern. Locus #1 (shovel tests #101, #105, #106) is located directly north of site 36-CH-668, which was identified by SJS during their excavation of Transect 19. SJS recommended further testing on this site due to the recovery of stone tools (a biface, a scraper, and lithic debitage). In addition, SJS's Transect 23 to the north of Locus #1 also recovered a

number of prehistoric artifacts. Transect 23 may relate Locus #1 with site 36-CH-669 further to the north, while the proximity of site 36-CH-668 to the south also suggests a relationship between itself and the identified locus. This is probably one large site, with small activity areas (loci) and somewhat empty areas between. This would be a familiar configuration for prehistoric sites in this part of Pennsylvania. Locus #3 (shovel test #61) is situated in the middle of the pasture in front of the main house. Shovel test #61 yielded a chert flake. Two judgements around the original test yielded an argillite flake, a quartz biface, and quartz flakes. Additional shovel tests were also excavated around shovel test #88 (Locus #2), due to the presence of a utilized quartz flake. Those additional tests yielded a few quartz flakes and a thermally altered jasper flake. As a result of these findings, a Phase II workplan was devised and carried out at those loci described above.

A Phase II survey was conducted at the three identified prehistoric loci to determine each site's significance, delineate its boundaries, and evaluate its eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Two 3-foot-square excavation units were placed within each locus, along with additional, closer-interval shovel tests as necessary.

These archaeological excavations revealed no significant prehistoric occupation of the area. Small concentrations of quartz and jasper debitage were recovered. No features were identified and only one diagnostic artifact was recovered, a Levanna projectile point (700 - 1350 A.D.). It is the opinion of CRCC archaeologists that the prehistoric remains recovered from Phase IB and Phase II investigations are not potential sources of important information about prehistory (National Register Criterion D) and are thus not eligible for listing on the National Register (36 CFR 60). The recovered artifacts appear to represent a non-stratified, sparse lithic scatter, with few diagnostics and no features, typical of this area in Pennsylvania (PHMC 1997). No further testing is recommended.

Therefore, the only resources that will be affected by the proposed project are the structures that comprise the Happy Days Farm Complex. The proposed construction will have an adverse effect on the Happy Days Farm Complex. There will also be an adverse effect to the outbuildings associated with the Complex; their removal is proposed in order to make way for the new entrance road.

A meeting was held at the PHMC on August 19th, 1998 to discuss the project and issues that remained to be resolved, and to suggest appropriate mitigation procedures for structures whose removal is proposed, as stipulated in PHMC's 8/1/96 letter. CRCC archaeologists and architectural historians recommend a number of mitigation measures for the outbuildings to be removed. Those measures are described in Section VII, and are also included in the Memorandum of Agreement at the end of this report.