

The historic period of Baltimore Hundred begins quite early. Until the 1760s, much of southern Sussex County including Baltimore Hundred was part of Maryland. By the mid-1800s, many of today's towns were well established and various farmsteads could be found around the outskirts of towns. Archaeological materials associated with farmsteads and

towns contribute to our understanding of everyday life in Baltimore Hundred during the 18th and 19th centuries.



## Why Cultural Resources?

Progress is important, but so is our cultural heritage. Like many of DelDOT's other archaeological and historic preservation projects, the Route 26 Improvements Project will seek to protect our heritage while improving Delaware's roadway system. Federal Regulations exist to aid in protecting our past. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 requires federal agencies to consider the effects of their undertakings on cultural resources. Once it is decided that resources will be affected, DelDOT, the Federal Highway Administration, the State Historic Preservation Officer, and consulting parties work together to minimize the effects of the project on those resources. This process allows the public and DelDOT to exchange ideas, alternatives, and solutions that result in a better future while protecting the past.

## A Note of Thanks

We thank you for your patience and cooperation as DelDOT conducts the cultural resources studies for the Route 26 Improvements Project. Any information that may help us to gain insight on the history of the area would be much appreciated.

## For more information, please contact:

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## Information about other DelDOT projects can be found at:

[www.deldot.net/public.ejs](http://www.deldot.net/public.ejs)

## To learn about federal regulations regarding cultural resources, please consult:

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
[www.achp.gov](http://www.achp.gov)

The U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration  
[www.fhwa.dot.gov](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov)

The Delaware State Historic Preservation Office  
[www.state.de.us/shpo/index.htm](http://www.state.de.us/shpo/index.htm)



Delaware Department of Transportation  
Archaeology and Historic Preservation



McCormick, Taylor & Associates, Inc.  
Engineers and Planners

# ROUTE 26 IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT



Baltimore Hundred

Sussex County

Delaware



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration



Delaware Department of Transportation

## A Glimpse into the Past

As part of the planning process, various environmental studies are conducted for each DelDOT project. Together, engineers, scientists, preservation specialists, historians, and environmental planners use the findings of the studies to develop functional and creative designs that are sensitive to our state's natural, social, and cultural resources.

In addition to studying the effects of the project on the environment, these studies present a unique opportunity to explore Delaware's remarkable past. Studies of above ground and below ground cultural resources, that is, historic buildings and archaeological sites, help us to understand the cultural landscape in which we live.

## Baltimore Hundred: Continuity and Change

The coastal regions of southern Sussex County have witnessed changes over time, particularly along the Route 26 corridor from Dagsboro to Bethany Beach. Communities lining Route 26, such as Clarksville, Millville and Ocean View, reflect the changing architectural styles and farming techniques of past and present generations. Many of the mid-19th and 20th century buildings seen along Route 26 are outgrowths of the area's association with the agricultural production of lumber, corn, eggs, chickens and soybeans.

Anchored to its rural agrarian past, Baltimore Hundred is also adapting to the future. Tourists flock seasonally to Sussex County's destinations, putting a strain on local roads. Many family farms are being sold for development. Preservation efforts are therefore essential to uncover the rich heritage of southern Delaware's past for the future.



## Spring Banke

Spring Banke, located along Route 26 near Clarksville, was constructed around 1770. A significant example of 18th century vernacular building style, Spring Banke is one of the oldest existing houses along the Route 26 corridor. This building is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



## The Ground Beneath our Feet

Like history, archaeology is the study of people, situations, and events of the past. An archaeological site is a place where physical evidence of past human activities can be found. By examining the remains of what people have left behind, and most importantly, where they left them, archaeologists can reconstruct the past.

As today's households reflect the technological advances, trends, fashions, diets, health conditions, and quality of life during modern times, the households we uncover provide a glimpse into the past. By studying how people once lived, worked, and played, we can learn about the people that helped shape the unique and diverse cultural heritage of Sussex County.

Humans have lived in present-day Sussex County for over 10,000 years. The first groups to the area were Native Americans. Sussex County once contained a wide variety of plants and animals, which would have attracted people to the area. Studies of Native American archaeological sites can help us to understand past Native American lifeways such as settlement patterns, food gathering techniques, as well as stone tool and ceramic pottery manufacturing.