

Chapter 1 – Project Description and Purpose

The Delaware Department of transportation (DelDOT) is proposing to make improvements to Greenbank Road at the intersection with Albertson Boulevard. The roadway will be widened slightly, pedestrian sidewalks will be realigned and turning movements will be improved. The existing entry to the New Castle County Workhouse – Women’s Ward will be closed and a new joint entry with the adjacent Justice of the Peace Court will be constructed. The project will enhance safety at the intersection for pedestrians, transit, and motor vehicles. New striping and signing are also expected.

The goals of the project are to realign the existing roadway, improve operational efficiencies, and improve safety for motorists and pedestrians. Semi-Final plans are currently in development for this project.

Level and Reason for the Historic Architectural Survey

This report describes the results of a combined reconnaissance-level and identification/ evaluation-level architectural resource survey conducted by DelDOT staff for the Greenbank Road and Albertson Blvd. Improvements in Christiana Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware. The project area is located on the United States Geological Survey, Newark East, 7.5-minute quadrangle in the piedmont physiographic province (see Figure 1-1).

A field view took place July 2, 2009. Attending this field view were DelDOT Engineers Shanté Hastings, Sarah Criswell and Jon Schmidt. In light of the small size and limited scope of the project, it was agreed that the Architectural Resource Survey report for this undertaking would be limited in length and historic context development. Previous cultural resource survey work in the area has been limited. However, the footprint of the project will have limited impact in changing the size and magnitude of the current capacity of Greenbank Road. Rather, the project is focused on increasing safety, enhancing visibility, and improving turning activities.

The architectural assessment of historic properties in this undertaking will identify and discuss properties that will be directly impacted by the project. Indirect effects were not considered applicable for nearby or adjacent properties (50-years old or older) since no noticeable changes will occur that might be considered to carry a detrimental effect. The report lists and evaluates the resources constructed prior to 1962 in the APE developed for this project.

The architectural assessments are designed to assure compliance with applicable state and federal legislation, including the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 36 CFR 800, and Executive Order 11593, as amended.

Area of Potential Effect

The DelDOT proposed Area of Potential Effects (APE) includes locations that may be impacted by construction or that may experience effects once construction is completed. Included within the APE are locations where an undertaking may result in ground disturbance, from which elements of the undertaking may be directly visible, and where the activity may result in changes in traffic patterns, land use, and public access. Such impacts include areas affected by Permanent Easements and Temporary Construction Easements. Effects on historic resources include physical, contextual, and a consideration of indirect effects. Contextual and indirect effects may include changing the land use of lands surrounding a particular resource, the introduction of visual, audible, or atmospheric elements that are out of context for the property as it exists, or the negative alteration or removal of publicly accessible views to the historic resource.

The APE is defined in 36 CFR 800.16(d) as follows: “the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause changes in the character or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist. The area of potential effects is influenced by the scale and nature of an undertaking and may be different for different kinds of effects cause[d] by the undertaking.”

One APE has been delineated in this document, an APE for architecture. The APE includes the area in which the intersection and roadway improvements may directly cause changes in the character or use of historic properties. The APE includes all properties that are directly impacted by construction activities, extending to the parcel boundaries, thus including any potential historic resources that could experience a change in historic character associated with the intersection and roadway improvements.

Under the DelDOT initiative, the APE is depicted on the following pages. The APE has been consulted on with the SHPO and FHWA. Based on the project overview, it is felt that the level of effort with the number of properties involved sufficiently delineates potential impacts both direct and indirect.

The DelDOT recommended APE begins at the western boundary of the correctional facility property before traveling north across Greenbank Road and following along the western and northern boundaries of Greenbank Manor Apartments (Tax PIN: 0703720027), the northern property boundaries of two residential dwellings in the Albertson Park subdivision (Tax PINs: 0703720026 and 0703720093) and the southern property boundaries of two parcels that comprise the Greenbank Shopping Center (Tax PINs: 0703720094 and 0703720258). The APE then crosses over Greenbank Road and continues to the east along the northern property boundary of Tax Parcel 0703720103 and the northern and western boundaries of Tax Parcel 0703720102 before crossing over Albertson Boulevard at the intersection with SR 2 (Kirkwood Highway) and following the southern and western boundaries of the correctional facility property (Tax PIN: 0703720246) before returning to the place of the beginning. The DelDOT Recommended APE comprises approximately 11.8 acres not including lands within the existing right-of-way.

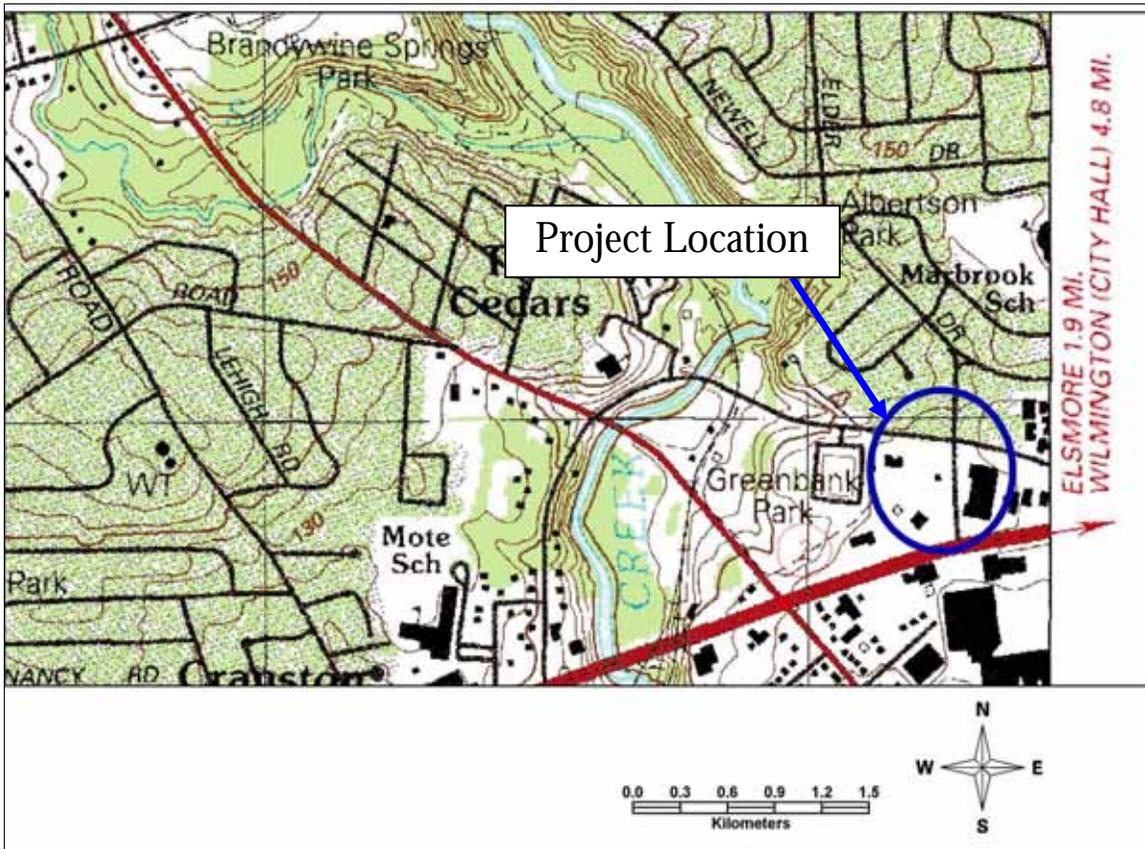


Figure 1-1: U.S.G.S. Newark East, Delaware-New Castle Co., 7.5' Quadrangle, 1993

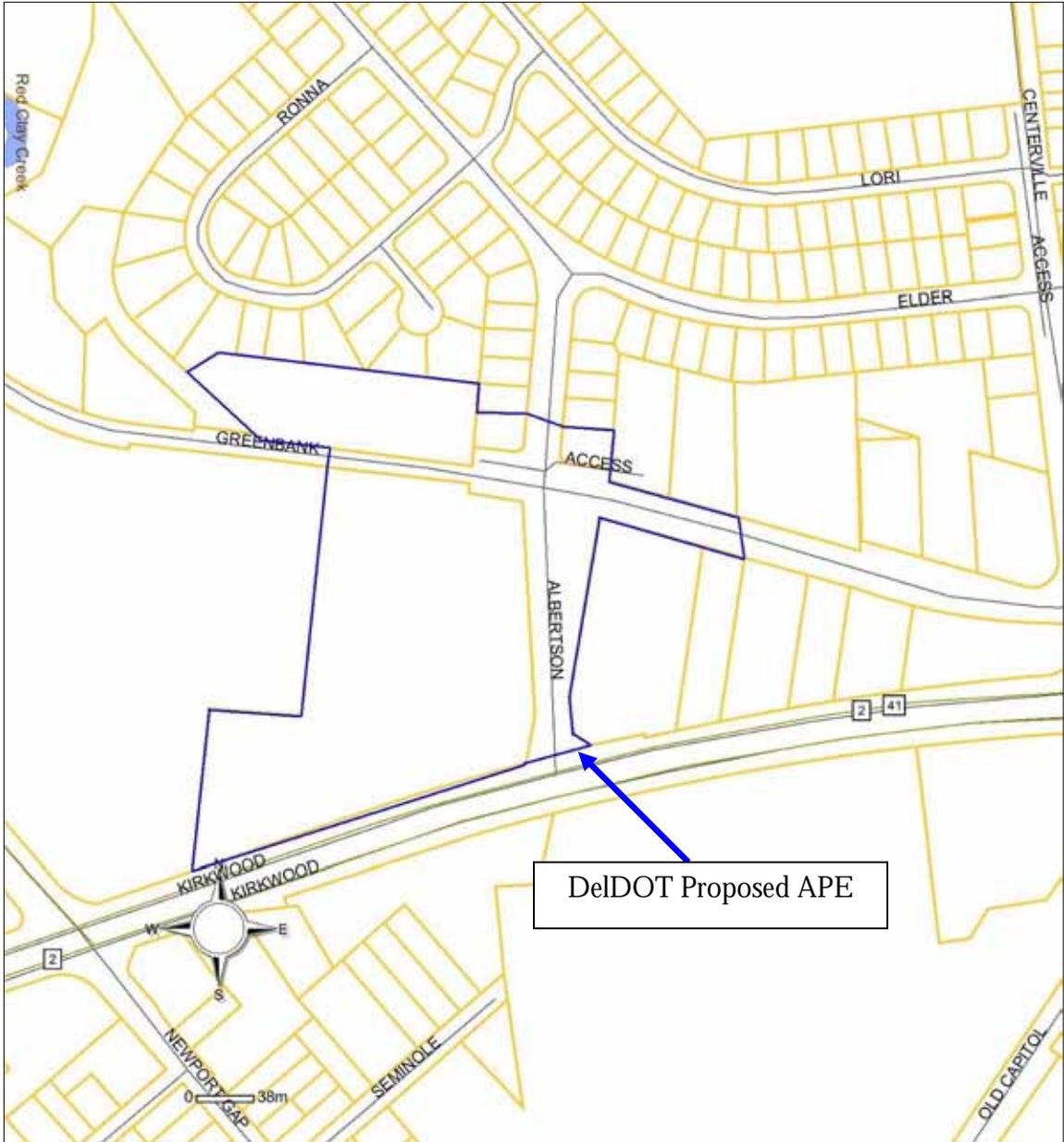


Figure 1-2: Map of the Project Area showing New Castle County Tax Parcels. The DeIDOT proposed APE is highlighted in blue. September 2009. (DE CHRIS)

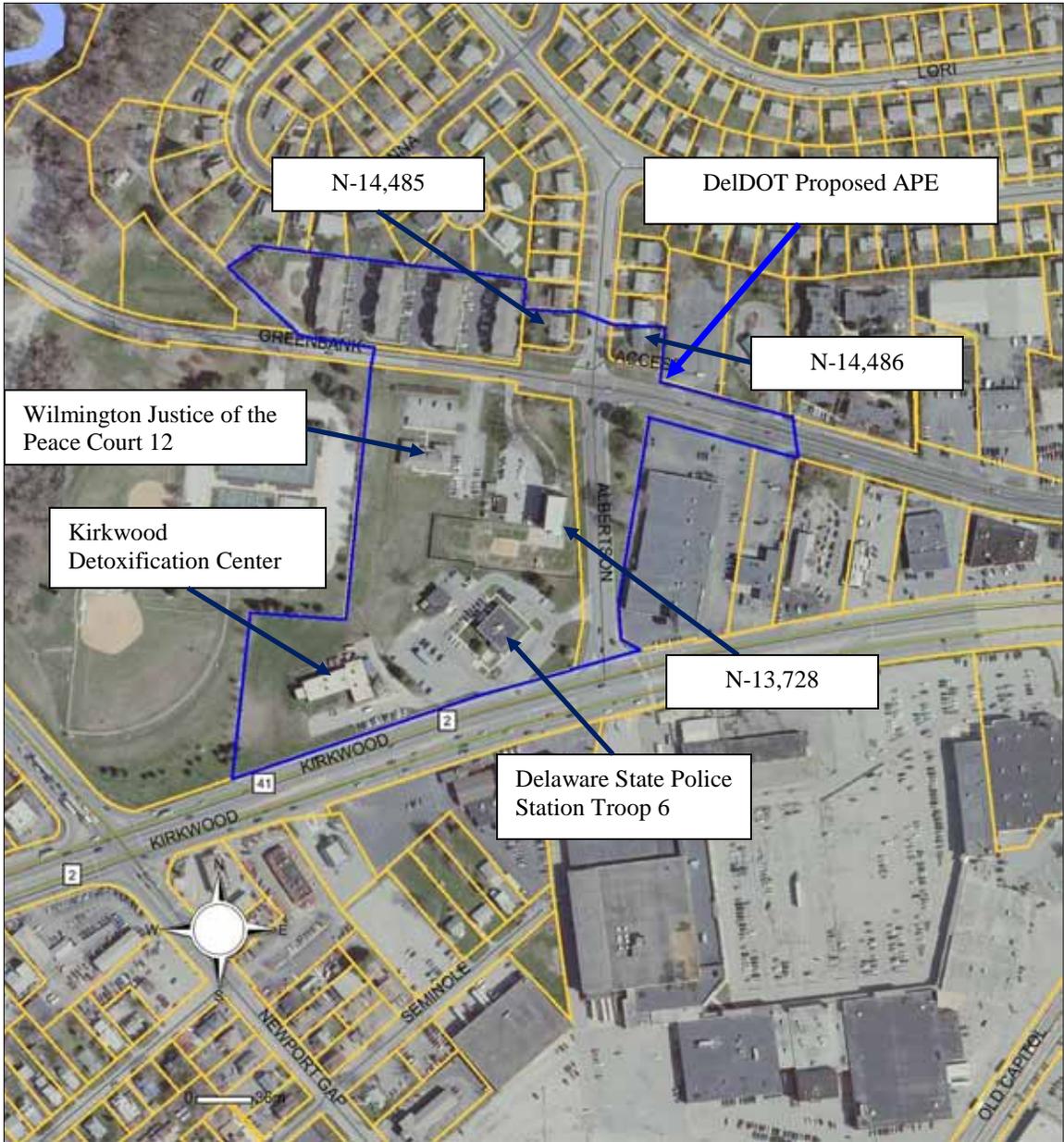


Figure 1-3: Tax parcel map of the project area with the 2007 aerial photographs. The DeIDOT proposed APE is outlined in blue. September 2009. (DE CHRIS)

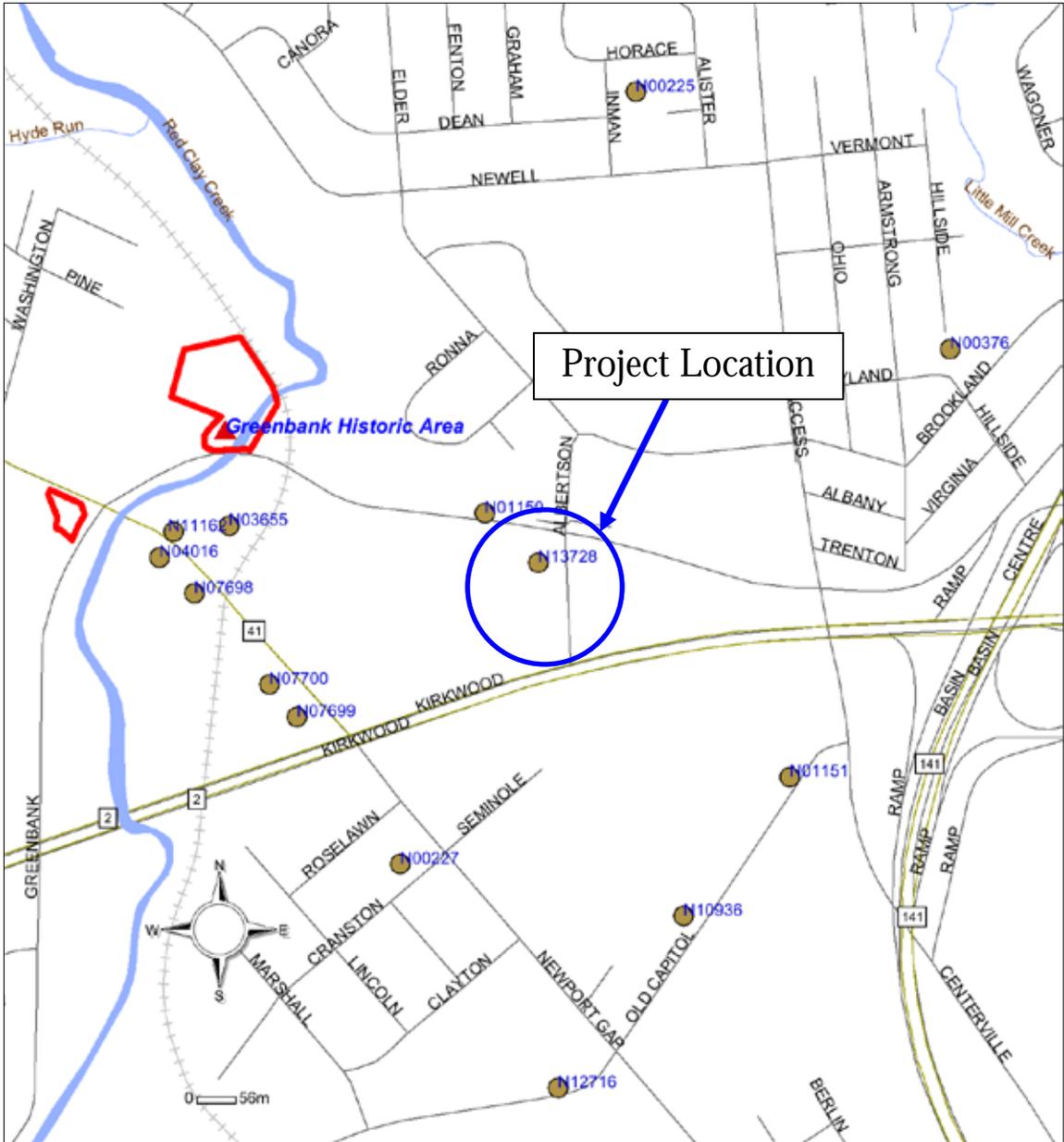


Figure 1-4: Map of the project area showing the cultural resource points and National Register district in the vicinity. CRS Point N-13,728 is the New Castle County Workhouse – Women’s Ward. CRS Point N-01150 is the F. Showden House, demolished prior to 1976.