

ABSTRACT

This location level historic resources survey documented all standing historic properties within a one thousand foot wide corridor along the four proposed alignments of the Sussex County East - West Corridor project. A total of 273 historic properties were investigated to a level sufficient to evaluate their potential significance according to the National Register of Historic Places.

Research questions were developed to better understand how the anticipated resource types would fit within the contexts developed in the State Plan and to develop a context within which the significance of the historic properties could be assessed. The plan divides the region temporally, as well as functionally over time. There are eighteen historic themes, including agriculture; forestry; trapping and hunting; mining and quarrying; fishing and oystering; manufacturing; retailing and wholesaling; finance; professional services; transportation and communication; settlement patterns and demographic change; architecture, engineering, and decorative arts; government; religion; education; community organizations; occupational organizations; and major families, individuals, and events.

The role of agriculture in the development of Sussex County was examined in-depth, in order to provide a context for assessing the anticipated large number of farm related properties. A second research question was the role of changes in transportation technology in the development of Sussex County, both economically and socially, and how these effects would be reflected in the built environment. A third research question was how settlement patterns influenced Sussex County, and how this factor influenced and was reflected in the development and evolution of the built environment within the project corridor. A fourth research question was how the economic and social history of Sussex County was reflected in the historic properties located and assessed during the course of the project.

Each property was categorized according to style, function, temporal period and significance. One hundred and eight (108) of the historic properties in or adjacent to the proposed corridor alignments appear to be eligible to the National Register.

Thirty-five properties were proposed to be individually eligible. A variety of multiple property submissions were utilized to group significant historic properties according to a number of themes. Twenty-two properties were included in the Three Bay, I-House, Multiple Property Submission. Two properties were contained in the Four Bay, I-House, Multiple Property Submission. Nine properties were included in the Five Bay, I-House, Multiple Property Submission. The Classical Box Multiple Property Submission consists of five properties. Seven properties were included in the Commercial Roadside Multiple Property Submission.

A variety of historic districts were developed in order to group significant properties that were geographically linked. The Governor Collins Historic District includes five properties. The H. N. Pepper Historic District contains three properties. The Peach Mansion Historic District consists of four properties. The H. E. Williams Historic District includes three properties. The Harbeson Historic District is made up of nine properties. The Mill Worker Housing Historic district contains three properties. The Nineteenth Century Tenant Historic District consists of five properties. And the Twentieth Century Tenant Historic District includes six properties.