

RESEARCH DESIGN

Objectives

The objectives of the present study, which was conducted to assist DeIDOT in its project planning, entailed identifying historical resources located within the APE for the Grubb Road improvement project and evaluating the National Register of Historic Places eligibility of those resources in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. The level of survey combined Phase I (Background Research and Location/Identification) and Phase II (Evaluation) studies. The investigator undertook research sufficient for the development of a historic context following the guidelines of the *Delaware Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan* (Ames et al. 1989) and its associated context documents. The project area, or APE, consisted of properties immediately adjacent to the proposed undertaking along Grubb Road between Naamans Road on the west and Marsh Road on the east, in Brandywine Hundred, New Castle County. This area encompasses 3.57 kilometers (2.22 miles) of roadway length along Grubb Road.

Methods

The methodology for the study involved background research to identify historical resources in the APE and provide data for the development of a historic context, and fieldwork identification and documentation of historical resources. Following research and fieldwork, National Register of Historic Places eligibility evaluations were undertaken, using the criteria developed through the historic context.

Background research entailed an examination of materials at various repositories. DESHPO SPO survey maps were examined to locate previously identified resources within the APE. Survey files were then researched. Copies of previously completed CRS and National Register forms for historical resources identified within the APE were obtained. Historic context documents, cultural resource survey reports, and other historical information describing the development of the project area were also inspected at the DESHPO. Copies of historical maps were obtained from microfilm at the DESHPO. Additional CRS survey information was collected at the New Castle County Department of Land Use and Planning in New Castle. Deed transactions were examined at the New Castle County Recorder of Deeds in Wilmington. Additional secondary historical information was researched at the University of Delaware's Morris Library, and in its Special Collections department, in Newark.

Fieldwork consisted of a pedestrian survey of the project area to identify historical resources meeting the National Register's 50-year age criterion. Based upon the resource's architectural style, building materials, and form, the surveyor determined whether a resource met the National Register's 50-year age criterion and noted the resource's location on project area maps. Subsequent comparison with historical map views and deed transactions helped to further determine the age of the identified resources. The field investigator also attempted to identify resources less than 50 years old that may have attained significance within that period and might meet one of the criteria exceptions. Copies of the previously completed CRS and National Register forms were also utilized in the field to compare against the resource's current condition and to determine whether updated CRS forms or amended National Register forms were required. Field documentation of the newly identified historical resources involved collecting architectural information for use in completing CRS forms and evaluating the resource's National Register eligibility, and photographing the resources as per the survey guidelines of the DESHPO.

In compliance with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's regulations implementing Section 106 (36 CFR 800), and the guidelines of Archeology and Historic Preservation: Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines (United States Department of the Interior 1983) and the DESHPO's *Architectural and Archaeological Surveys in Delaware* (DESHPO 1993), this investigation used historic contexts as a basis for evaluating the National Register eligibility of the identified historical resources. The levels of integrity and significance outlined in the historic contexts were applied in documenting the resource during fieldwork and also in assessing its historical significance as ascertained through research, to determine whether it met the National Register criteria.

Expected Results

Based upon the results of the historical research, and the project area's location within Brandywine Hundred, it could be anticipated that a predominantly residential landscape would be found, composed of late twentieth-century suburban dwellings set on relatively large lots. It was also expected that a few surviving dwellings related to Brandywine Hundred's agricultural past would be identified, but without their farmsteads and related agrarian landscapes. Scattered commercial and community structures such as stores, churches, and fraternal lodges could also remain on the landscape, helping to document Grubb Road's and Brandywine Hundred's settlement and evolution.