

6.0 CONCLUSIONS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS

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The Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the National Marine Fishers (NMF), and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), are evaluating alternatives to address existing and projected transportation needs in the U.S. 301 corridor in New Castle County, Delaware. This Determination of Eligibility Report was prepared as part of the “Identifying Historic Properties” step in the Section 106 process (36 CFR 800.4) for the proposed project.

The purpose of this project is to improve and enhance safety, manage truck traffic, and address existing and projected traffic congestion in the U.S. 301 corridor, while accommodating existing and planned development and minimizing environmental impacts. The U.S. 301 corridor extends from the Delaware-Maryland state line to I-95 in the north and S.R. 1 in the east.

The purpose of the intensive level survey effort documented in this report was the field survey and assessment of eligibility for each resource in the intensive level survey area. The GIS Protocol established by DelDOT in consultation with the DE SHPO facilitated form preparation and analysis. The intensive level study area encompasses the intensive level APE – the area within 600 feet of the centerlines of the Yellow, Orange, Purple, Brown, and Green Alternatives. Only two properties (CRS Nos. N05181 and N05201) were not accessible during the course of survey work, although sufficient information to assess National Register eligibility was collected from the roadway.

6.1 Usefulness of Research Design and Existing Contexts

Regarding the research design and criteria for evaluation that were developed in the context report, overall the research design seemed well-tailored to the project. However, during the course of survey work it was determined that Skelcher’s criteria were not sufficient for the evaluation of rural African-American communities. As part of the African-American Rural Community investigation, included in Section 5.1 of this document, recommendations for additions to and/or application of the existing African-American context are provided. Criteria were also developed for the evaluation of the Quonset hut form, as outlined in the narrative for CRS No. N14325. Further examination of the property type, including a comparison of airplane hangars and Quonset huts used for other purposes is needed.

Several areas or contexts requiring further work in order to properly assess National Register eligibility were identified during the intensive level survey. There is a need to elaborate on the *Historic Context for Evaluation of Commercial Roadside Architecture* (Rossin and Bowers 1992). The context does not include evaluation criteria for commercial properties that did not develop to serve the automobile-traveling public, such as feed mills or lumber yards with retail facilities

A context for the evaluation of mobile homes and mobile home parks is also needed. This context should provide history on the mobile home park in America and Delaware, identify extant mobile home parks, and define the features that an eligible mobile home and mobile home park would

retain. This context should also provide guidance for the evaluation of the mobile home and mobile home park using National Register Criteria for Evaluation.

A lack of previous documentation and evaluation of two property types, cemeteries and rural historic districts, was noted during the course of survey work. This report recommends that contexts for the identification and evaluation of these resource types be developed for the state of Delaware. In addition, this report includes recommendations for future documentation of a possible rural historic district in the area of the Levels, which is largely located south of the APE (Section 5.2.1).

A context for barrel-shaped roof structures would have also be useful for evaluations made during this study.

6.2 Conclusions

This report documents those resources that may be affected by the Yellow, Purple, Brown, and Green Alternatives and completes the architectural survey aspect Identification of Historic Properties step of the Section 106 process (36 CFR 800.4). As a result of the intensive level survey effort described in this report, there are 21 resources listed on the National Register, seven properties previously determined eligible for the National Register, and nine properties recommended eligible for the National Register located within the intensive level study area. Should the alternatives be refined or revised it may be necessary to make adjustments to the APE which may result in the need for additional survey work.

6.3 Future Work Efforts

Once a preferred alternative is selected (after the circulation of the DEIS), a case report detailing the anticipated effects of the preferred alternative on historic properties and mitigation efforts (if the anticipated effects are adverse) will be prepared.

As part of future work efforts, Contact Sheet Forms (CRS 12) will be prepared for each roll of 35mm negatives taken. The roll numbers will be assigned by the DE SHPO staff. Photographic Inventory Cards (CRS 13) will be provided for individual properties. Final copies of the forms will be provided to DelDOT in electronic format. Copies of documentation on file at the DE SHPO that was collected for this report will also be forwarded to DelDOT at a future date. Finally, the DE SHPO will ensure that revisions to previously listed and eligible resources presented in this report are included in the state files and provided to National Park Service staff.