

## CONCLUSIONS

This study has focused on the investigation of 11 properties in or near the Route 896 project corridor, in order to make a preliminary evaluation of their historic architectural importance. As a result of this study, six of the 11 properties have been identified as meeting one or more criteria for eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places (Table 1). Two properties (Aikens Tavern Historic District and the New Castle and Frenchtown Railroad) are already listed in the National Register.

School No. 56 has been evaluated as significant both as an example of rural school architecture, and for its association with the continuum of rural public education in Glasgow and Pencader Hundred. The Evan Lynch house has been evaluated as of potential National Register eligibility for its association with the entrepreneurial activity that characterized Glasgow's nineteenth century history as a crossroads community and service center for the nearby agricultural population.

The other four properties of potential National Register eligibility are Bellvue, the Hermitage, Cann Farmstead, and the Williams-Boulden house. Although each has its own particular character and history, they have certain aspects in common. For example, the John Frazer house (at the Hermitage), the Cann house and the Williams-Boulden house represent variations on a common, and important, vernacular form -- the I-house. Of these three,

TABLE 1

STATUS OF PROJECT AREA HISTORIC PROPERTIES (SOUTH TO NORTH)

Bellvue (N-3975)	Meets NR Criterion C
DeShane-Paxon House	Does not meet NR Criteria
Williams-Boulden House (N-3986)	Meets NR Criterion C
Cann Farmstead (N-3997)	Meets NR Criterion C
New Castle and Frenchtown Railroad (N-442)	Listed in NR
Frame House (N-3980)	Does not meet NR Criteria
Evan Lynch House (N-3976)	Meets NR Criterion A
Hermitage (N-3990)	Meets NR Criterion C
Aikens Tavern Historic District (N-3875)	Listed in NR
School No. 56 (N-3881)	Meets NR Criteria A and C
Clarksdale Tenant House #3	Does not meet NR Criteria
Clarksdale Tenant House #2 (N-10616)	Does not meet NR Criteria
Clarksdale Tenant House #4	Does not meet NR Criteria

the Frazer house, with its symmetrical facade and center hall plan, shows the most influence of formal stylistic qualities, while the Cann house, in particular, retains more folk or traditional elements in its massing and plan. The Cann and Williams-Boulden houses also share an interesting, and possibly peculiarly local, "three-over-four" treatment of their facades.

The rebuilding of the agricultural landscape that attended agricultural recovery and reforms in the middle decades of the 19th century is illustrated, in different ways, by the Bellvue farmhouse and the Frazer house. The Bellvue house, with its distinct--and distinctive--construction episodes, provides an example of the expansion and remodeling of an 18th century dwelling to meet the needs and preferences of a later generation of farm dwellers. The Frazer house, on the other hand, illustrates the erection of new dwellings whose formality and attention to style suggest the increasing urbanization and proliferation of urban influences in north central Delaware in the second quarter of the 19th century.

The agricultural complexes, particularly those of Bellvue, the Hermitage, and the Cann property, appear to largely post-date their respective farm dwellings, in so doing providing illustration of the continuum of agricultural activity in the area from the late 18th century to the early 20th century. Bellvue, the Williams-Boulden property and the Cann farm include examples of the crib barn or granary, one of two new forms of agricultural architecture that were introduced into central Delaware during

the mid-19th century period of rebuilding (Herman 1987:146). The Hermitage features an example of bank barn construction, modified with a concrete floor for dairy use but still retaining the earthen ramp and the gable-roofed "bridge house" that was occasionally utilized in this type of barn. To the greatest extent, however, Bellvue, the Cann farm and, especially, the Hermitage, suggest a second important period of agricultural "rebuilding," this specifically associated with the early 20th century expansion of the dairy industry in north-central Delaware illustrated not by enlargement of barns (as occurred in Mill Creek Hundred to the north (see Jicha and Cesna 1986)), but by construction of new barns specifically designed to meet the needs and requirements of large-scale "modern" dairy operations.

The Clarksdale tenant houses, although evaluated in this study as lacking sufficient integrity and importance for National Register eligibility, point to another, earlier episode of central Delaware's rural history. The beginning of the 19th century was a time of agricultural depression brought about largely by poor agricultural practices that depleted the soil, and by the subdivision of large tracts over the 18th century into increasingly smaller, inefficient, farms. As impoverished farmers left their lands, however, those whose fortunes enabled them to remain proceeded to "busily and aggressively" buy up the abandoned tracts and reassemble them into more productive units (Herman 1984:5). The story of Cantwell Clark, who amassed over 1,500 acres in Pencader Hundred in the 1830s, might prove to be

an interesting case study of this particular phenomenon of Delaware's agricultural history, one for which documents, rather than structures, offer the potentially most valuable tools toward understanding.

#### ANTICIPATED PROJECT EFFECTS

Current design plans for widening of Route 896 and construction of the Glasgow bypass indicate that for those architectural resources potentially eligible for, or listed in, the National Register, construction will occur outside proposed or established site boundaries, and thus is not expected to directly affect significant architectural resources. Architectural resources within the Aikens Tavern Historic District at Glasgow may potentially benefit from the proposed bypass, because such a bypass will relieve pressure to further widen U.S. 40 and the existing Route 896 at the crossroads: an important consideration due to the relative proximity of the historic district's buildings to the roadways. South of Glasgow, widening of Route 896 is not expected to materially alter the existing environment of the Cann Farmstead, Bellvue or the Williams-Boulden house, although the Cann farm and Williams-Boulden house may experience indirect effects of a temporary nature during construction, due to the presence of heavy equipment, because of their proximity to the highway.

The proposed project will, however, affect the New Castle-Frenchtown Railroad, which is listed in the National Register as a historic site, because a portion of the railroad right of way will be acquired for construction of the southern end of the Glasgow bypass. DelDOT will ensure that this segment will have been tested for possible archaeological potential prior to initiation of construction at this location.