

7.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 CONCLUSIONS

Based upon reference to the previously developed historic contexts for U.S. 113 and application of the criteria of the National Register to each of the surveyed properties and districts, the following resources within the Ellendale study area are currently recommended eligible for the National Register:

- S-00150. McColley's Chapel. This property is recommended eligible under National Register Criterion C for its late nineteenth-century church building. It is a very well-preserved example of a distinctive church type. A National Register nomination form has been completed by the church community and has been submitted to DelSHPO for review (Parsons 2008).
- S-08570. Maringola Farm Stand. The small farm stand on this property is recommended eligible for the National Register under Criterion C as a good example of roadside architecture and a rare surviving example of a once-common property type.
- S-12179. ECW Camp S-53 Mess Hall. The Mess Hall, moved to its current location from a CCC camp in Redden State Forest, is recommended eligible under Criterion C because it is a well-preserved example of a building type that is fast disappearing from the Sussex County landscape. It appears to meet the requirements of Criteria Consideration B (for moved buildings).

The following additional properties are listed in the National Register:

- S-08151, Ellendale Forest Picnic Facility, U.S. 113
- S-08384, Teddy's Tavern, U.S. 113

The remaining architectural properties are recommended not eligible for the National Register due to lack of significance and/or integrity.

7.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Of the 68 individual architectural properties that are included in this study, 63 are recommended not eligible for the National Register; an additional 11 properties were found to have been demolished. Additionally, the two proposed historic districts evaluated for this study are recommended not eligible for the National Register. For these properties, no further investigation or evaluation is required.

Under the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and associated implementing regulations, the effect of a federally permitted or funded undertaking on properties listed in or eligible for the National Register must be addressed using the Criteria of Adverse Effects. The evaluation of effects of the proposed road construction on listed or recommended eligible properties and districts will be included in a separate document.

7.2.1 Delaware State Forests

The Delaware State Forest system encompasses three forests, one in each of its counties. Within each of these forests are management units referred to as tracts, each with its own history of acquisition and use. The Blackbird State Forest in New Castle County has 9 tracts, the Taber State Forest in Kent County has just 1 tract, and the Redden State Forest—by far the largest of Delaware’s forests—has 16 tracts. JMA recommends that the history of each state forest and each tract be taken into account to determine the best approach to evaluating the historically distinct units of each forest within the broader context of the Delaware State Forest system.

This report has provided a contextual history of the forest system in the United States, and, more specifically, the development of Delaware’s forests, in order to provide a backdrop for evaluating the National Register eligibility of forest tracts within the Ellendale Study Area. For the Redden State Forest, JMA recommends that five separate units be evaluated for National Register eligibility: 1) the original nursery at Hudson Pond; 2) the Appenzellar Tract; 3) the Owens Tract; 4) the Ellendale State Forest (now the Ellendale Tract); and 5) the tracts of the Redden State Forest established before the consolidation in 1995, including, at minimum, Jester, Headquarters, and Bailey.

The two forest units evaluated in this report—the Appenzellar Tract (S-12177) and the Ellendale State Forest (S-12178)—are recommended not eligible for the National Register under Criterion A, based largely on the fact that neither retains adequate integrity to convey its association with the early, and potentially historically significant, developmental history of the forest. There is no demonstrable connection with any individuals of historical importance, nor does there appear to be any outstanding information potential, so both tracts are recommended not eligible under Criterion B or D. Further research into possible local significance of these two forest tracts could potentially lead to different conclusions than those offered in this study. Under Criterion C, neither tract demonstrates the characteristics of a designed landscape, and the Appenzellar Tract has no historic-period standing structures. The Ellendale Tract encompasses the CCC-era picnic facility (S-08151), which is already listed on the National Register under Criterion C, but the current boundary is adequate to convey the architectural significance of the property, and the tract as a whole is recommended not eligible. JMA recommends, however, that eligibility under Criterion A be further explored for this resource, for its possible association with the CCC in general and Company 1293 at ECW Camp S-53 at Redden State Forest in particular. JMA also recommends that a state-wide context be developed for CCC work to identify, among other things, in what government sectors and geographical areas it made the greatest impact, the types and distribution of buildings and structures constructed, and the locations of extant facilities (moved or in their original locations).

One of the historical tracts of the Redden State Forest, the Headquarters Tract, was not evaluated in this report although it is also technically within the Ellendale Study Area. The proposed impact is indirect, and only to a narrow access road leading into a recently acquired parcel. The Redden State Forest was partially evaluated by Brian Page, however, in a 2000 National Register nomination for the Jester and Headquarters Tracts. Page did not address the other Redden State Forest tracts in his nomination, largely because his thematic approach precluded anything added to the forest after 1939, when the CCC program at Redden State Forest was discontinued. JMA recommends that Page’s nomination should be reconsidered to possibly include a discussion of the remainder of the tracts that were part of the Redden State Forest before it was consolidated with other forest tracts in 1995.

7.2.2 Ellendale Historic District

One property in the Ellendale study area (S-08733.047) falls within the boundary on file at DelSHPO for the proposed Ellendale Historic District. According to DelSHPO records, this district has never been formally evaluated, and there is no DOE on file.

JMA did not record or evaluate the district, tasks that are outside the scope of the current project, but did recommend that the boundary be amended to exclude S-08733.047, which does not contribute to the district and is outside its period of significance (late 19th to early 20th centuries). A further recommendation is that the entire district be formally researched, surveyed, recorded, and evaluated, and that a DOE be prepared and filed with DelSHPO if the district is determined eligible for the National Register.

7.2.3 Future Research

As the result of preparation of the four survey reports for the U.S. 113 corridor, JMA recommends the following changes to historic contexts and planning goals:

- Revision of Delaware historic contexts to include twentieth-century residential and commercial development patterns.
- Revision of Delaware historic contexts to include consideration of significant trends in twentieth-century agriculture and resources representative of these trends.
- Revisiting of the roadside commercial context previously developed for U.S. 113 to include resource types not included in the existing documents.
- Development of a Delaware historic context for evaluating resources associated with the CCC.
- Analysis of eligible properties throughout the U.S. 113 North/South corridor to determine if multiple property thematic nominations may be appropriate.