

## 1. DETERMINATIONS OF ELIGIBILITY

### Methodology

Upon completion of the study of the various east, west, and upgrade alignments for the U.S. Route 13 Relief Route and selection of the preferred corridor, an architectural survey was undertaken for the purpose of identifying all National Register-eligible properties within the study area. This area spanned approximately 58 miles north-south through southern New Castle and northern Kent Counties, and extended east-west for 1,000 feet on either side of the center line of the proposed highway corridor for a total breadth of 2,000 feet.

Preliminary to the determination of eligibility phase of the study, Jay F. Custer of the University of Delaware compiled an inventory of standing structure cultural resources, 250 of which fell within the proposed corridor. Subsequently, representatives of the Delaware Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (BAHP) and the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) reduced this list of 250 properties warranting determinations of eligibility to approximately 140 resources. In addition, four historic districts, namely, St. Georges, Blackbird, Smyrna Landing, and Star Hill, were evaluated for National Register eligibility. A fifth potential district, New Discovery, already had been determined to be not eligible prior to this survey. In making determinations of eligibility, the criteria applied for the evaluation of both individual properties and historic districts were those set forth in the National Historic Preservation Act.

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. that are associated with events that have made significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or

- B. that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- C. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. that have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in pre-history or history.

The survey to identify those properties that meet the above criteria for National Register listing was undertaken by two architectural historians who began this project by taking a broad overview of the cultural resources of Central Delaware. In the form of a windshield survey, the historians examined typical and atypical, altered and well-preserved, and deteriorated and well-maintained properties. National Register sites were given special attention as a standard for comparison for the subject properties of the survey. In addition to establishing a context for the survey in the field, the architectural historians gathered primary and secondary information as a background to the survey. This data included existing National Register nominations and Cultural Resource Survey (CRS) forms filed with the BAHP; atlases dating from 1849, 1859, 1868, 1881, and 1893; and histories of Delaware's settlement patterns, transportation, and agriculture. In preparation of the formal Determination of Eligibility forms and the CRS forms, specific topics, for instance, one-room schoolhouses, were researched at institutions such as the State Archives in Dover, the State of Delaware Historical Society, and the Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering at the University of Delaware, directed by Dr. Bernard L. Herman.

Information gathered in the field and in archives was evaluated to make recommendations for National Register eligibility. These findings were reviewed and confirmed by representatives of the BAHP. The 31 individual properties and two historic districts identified as eligible for the National Register were then

analyzed for determinations of effect along with properties already listed in the National Register (see p. 261).

### **General Observations**

The U.S. Route 13 study area contains a broad spectrum of building types including dwellings of plank, frame, and brick construction; agricultural complexes supporting various outbuildings in addition to the typical dairy and grain barns; churches; schools; and commercial structures such as roadside service stations, a blacksmith shop, general stores, and a hotel. Overall, noticeable for their absence were historic service-related structures that typically would be found along an important historic transportation artery. This absence likely can be explained by the periodic reshaping of U.S. Route 13 over three centuries which resulted in the destruction of many roadside buildings. A second result of the evolution of the road is the high percentage of moved buildings; numerous mid-nineteenth-century structures rest upon cast stone and concrete masonry unit foundations constructed in the 1930s, the decade during which the northbound lanes were added to U.S. Route 13.

Represented in the survey are several significant, well-preserved eighteenth-century brick structures, some, such as Mt. Jones (N-1503) and the Senn-Naudain House (K-955), retaining noteworthy original interiors. Most of the properties surveyed reflect construction from the middle third of the nineteenth century (circa 1835-1870), which corresponds with central Delaware's principal era of agricultural prosperity. The farmhouses of this period characteristically are of frame construction, designed in variations of the Downingsque Gothic Revival and Italianate styles. Although the nineteenth-century farmhouses survive, typically the vast majority of first generation outbuildings was replaced by twentieth-century structures in response to changing farming practices and the introduction of new building types and materials. During the late nineteenth century, a comparatively small percentage of farmhouses was erected because of decreased agricultural growth. From an architectural history standpoint, little is seen of that period's eclectic forms such as the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival. The first three decades of the twentieth century, however,

do evidence a period of construction activity, although not nearly as concentrated as that of the mid-nineteenth century. The twentieth-century architecture surveyed in the study area is represented by vernacular farmhouses, the form often derived directly from its nineteenth-century antecedents, and by various interpretations of the Colonial Revival.

While the survey identified 31 individual properties and two historic districts as eligible or potentially eligible for listing in the National Register, it also made apparent the extent of alterations which the majority of the properties has undergone. Aluminum and vinyl siding, sash replacement, modern additions, removal of ornament, and destruction or extensive deterioration of outbuildings are common occurrences. In addition, trailer homes have come to replace or surround several historic buildings. Representative examples of the better-preserved and/or significant historic resources can be seen in the Determinations of Eligibility, recorded on National Register forms, (p. 5) and the Cultural Resource Survey forms (p. 203).