

2.0 METHODS

2.1 Background Research

Background information used to develop historic overviews and contexts for this project was gathered from the following institutions and agencies, including the Delaware Public Archives, the Sussex County Assessment, Recorder of Deeds, and Register of Wills Offices, the Georgetown Public Library, and the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Information had also been provided by DelDOT's Environmental Studies Office on road improvement records. Additionally, numerous online websites were accessed for information, including aerial photography at the Delaware DataMIL and Penn Pilot and historic digital maps from the David Rumsey Map Collection.

2.2 Previous Cultural Resources Studies

Prior to the initiation of field survey, the files at the Delaware SHPO were consulted to identify previously inventoried resources within the project's APE, as well as any reports for previous projects within or near the project area that might provide information useful to this project. Several resources within the individual US 9 project APEs were identified in previous reconnaissance studies or surveys. The dairy farm (S-861) within the APE for the US 9 Intersection Improvements at Sweetbriar/Dairy Farm Road was inventoried in 1979 as part of a county-wide historic property survey (Hastings 1979), but no determination of eligibility was made at that time. The CRS form for this previously recorded resource is located in Appendix B.

In 1991, a reconnaissance-level planning study for the proposed Sussex East-West Corridor Project was undertaken that encompassed a five-mile-wide area centered on State Roads 404/18 and 9 and extended from Lewes west to the Maryland state line (Catts et al. 1991). The report identified previously recorded standing structures and known, but un-inventoried, structures. A determination of eligibility had not been prepared for any of the properties.

In 1992, a location-level historic resources survey within the Sussex East-West Corridor was produced by Tabachnick and Keller (1992) for DelDOT. The survey identified 273 historic properties within the study corridor, 118 of which appeared to be potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, and 155 of which were considered not eligible for the National Register due to lack of integrity or lack of architectural significance. These preliminary assessments were never confirmed by DelDOT (the authorizing and managing agency), nor the Delaware SHPO in any formal evaluations or administrative record. Thus, a preliminary recommendation was purely the opinion of the consultant and had been based on integrity of architectural merit. Six of the 273 historic resources identified in that survey are located within the APEs for the US 9 Intersection Improvements at Gravel Hill Road (SR 30) and include S-8491 (no longer extant), S-8492, S-8493, S-8494, S-8495, and S-8496 (Table 1). CRS forms for the six previously recorded resources are located in Appendix B.

Table 1: Previously Inventoried Resources in the Sussex East-West Corridor Study

<i>CRS #</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Prelim. Recommended Eligibility</i>
S-8491	NW corner of US 9 & Gravel Hill Rd	dwelling	yes (no longer extant)
S-8492	Gravel Hill Rd, south of US 9	dwelling	no
S-8493	SE corner of US 9 & Gravel Hill Rd	dwelling	yes
S-8494	SE corner of US 9 & Gravel Hill Rd	dwelling	no
S-8495	Gravel Hill Rd, south of US 9	dwelling	no
S-8496	Gravel Hill Rd, south of US 9	dwelling	no

2.3 Field Survey

In November of 2009 all three US 9 intersections were surveyed to identify standing structures within the project APE that were 50 years old or older (constructed prior to 1962). A site visit verified that only the Gravel Hill Road and Sweetbriar/Dairy Farm Road intersections had standing structures old enough to require survey. The intersection at Hudson/Fisher Road did not have any inventoried or potential historic structures within the APE, or surrounding area, so no further survey efforts were needed for this project area. In October 2010, DelDOT staff of Michael C. Hahn, AICP and Nathaniel Delesline personally viewed and discussed the history of the S-861 (Hopkins Dairy Farm) with Mr. Walter Hopkins, owner and proprietor of the farm to assure and improve the original draft eligibility assessment on this property.

Field survey documented the location, approximate age, condition, function, construction materials, and architectural details of each resource. Black and white (35 mm) and color digital photographs were taken of facades, lateral views, architectural details, outbuildings, and when appropriate, streetscapes. When possible, informant interviews were performed to obtain additional historical information about the properties. Delaware Cultural Resource Survey (CRS) forms were prepared for all properties, including survey update forms for previously inventoried resources, and are included in Appendix C. Descriptions of each property and determinations of eligibility are located in Section 5.0 of this report.