

## **SECTION 2.0 RESEARCH DESIGN**

### **2.1 Research Objectives**

In order to comply with the requirements set forth in Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the intensive-level historic architectural survey had as its objective the identification of all historic resources listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places within the APE for the current project. The Location/Identification Level (Phase I) survey was completed in May 2010 and submitted to DelDOT and the DE SHPO in a separate reconnaissance-level survey report. This report contains the Evaluation Level (Phase II) survey results, including background research, development of a historic context, and survey and evaluation of properties more than 50 years of age within the APE.

### **2.2 Methods**

The methodology for the survey included completion of a reconnaissance-level survey of the APE to identify properties requiring further research and evaluation. Following submission of the reconnaissance survey, additional background research was conducted to develop a historic context for evaluating the significance of all properties identified for further research. Each of the identified properties was also surveyed on the intensive level and documented on DE SHPO Cultural Resource Survey (CRS) forms. Surveyed properties were then evaluated against the National Register Criteria for Evaluation to determine their significance.

Background research was conducted at the DE SHPO to identify properties within the APE that are listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Previous historic sites surveys and regulatory surveys on file at the DE SHPO were reviewed to identify any previously surveyed resources within the APE. Additional background research consisted of a review of pertinent primary and secondary sources, including local and county histories and historic maps and atlases. A title search was performed on all properties identified in the reconnaissance survey requiring National Register evaluations, to the extent that the original owner of the building and its date of construction could be determined.

Determinations of significance are based on the National Register of Historic Places Criteria. Properties listed in or determined eligible for listing in the National Register can be architectural and archaeological resources. Significant historic properties include districts, structures, objects, or sites that are at least 50 years old and which meet at least one National Register criterion. Criteria used in the evaluation process are specified in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, Part 60, National

Register of Historic Places (36 CFR 60.4). To be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, a historic property(s) must possess:

the quality of significance in American History, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture [that] 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 a 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 lack individual distinction, or
- (D) that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. (36 CFR 60.4)

There are several criteria considerations. Ordinarily, cemeteries, birthplaces, or graves of historical figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, structures that have been moved from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings, properties primarily commemorative in nature, and properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years shall not be considered eligible for the National Register. However, such properties will qualify if they are integral parts of districts that do meet the criteria or if they fall within the following categories:

- (A) a religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance, or
- (B) a building or structure removed from its original location but which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event, or
- (C) a birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no other appropriate site or building directly associated with his/her productive life, or
- (D) a cemetery which derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events, or

- (E) a reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived, or
- (F) a property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own historic significance, or
- (G) a property achieving significance within the past 50 years if it is of exceptional importance. (36 CFR 60.4)

When conducting National Register evaluations, the physical characteristics and historic significance of the overall property are examined. While a property in its entirety may be considered eligible based on Criteria A, B, C, and/or D, specific data is also required for individual components therein based on date, function, history, physical characteristics, and other information. Resources that do not relate in a significant way to the overall property may contribute if they independently meet the National Register criteria.

A contributing building, site, structure, or object adds to the historic architectural qualities, historic associations, or archeological values for which a property is significant because a) it was present during the period of significance, and possesses historic integrity reflecting its character at that time or is capable of yielding important information about the period, or b) it independently meets the National Register criteria. A non-contributing building, site, structure, or object does not add to the historic architectural qualities, historic associations, or archeological values for which a property is significant because a) it was not present during the period of significance, b) due to alterations, disturbances, additions, or other changes, it no longer possesses historic integrity reflecting its character at that time or is incapable of yielding important information about the period, or c) it does not independently meet the National Register criteria.

### **2.3 Expected Results**

Based upon the results of the historical research and the project's location in a mixed-use area within the city limits of New Castle, the consultant recognized the potential for the APE to contain: urban dwellings near the historic core of New Castle dating from the period 1730-1930; remnants of agricultural complexes outside of New Castle's core area built between 1730-1850; commercial establishments dating from 1880-1940; industrial complexes in the vicinity of the New Castle & Frenchtown Railroad corridor constructed between 1832-1940; and post-World War II suburban residential development.

