

## **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 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. Both the Location/Identification Level (Phase I) and Evaluation Level (Phase II) surveys were completed, 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: 1) background research to identify known resources and develop a historic context for evaluating significance; and 2) fieldwork to delineate the APE and to survey properties more than 50 years of age for additional research and evaluation. 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. 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 within the APE to the extent that the original owner of the house and its date of construction could be determined.

The historic architectural survey began with the definition of the APE, or the area that will experience physical or contextual effects from the project. Initial architectural fieldwork conducted in consultation with DelDOT consisted of a reconnaissance-level, or windshield, survey to delineate the boundaries of the APE. An historic architectural survey was subsequently conducted to identify and survey properties more than 50 years of age within the APE. Surveyed properties were documented on either DE SHPO Cultural Resource Survey (CRS) forms and evaluated within the appropriate historic context to determine their eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

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 low-density residential area of Christiana Hundred, the consultant recognized the potential for the APE to contain farm complexes dating from the period 1770-1950, American country houses built between 1920 and 1940, and suburban development constructed after World War II.