

Dover Green Historic District

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the Dover Green Historic District is bounded by Governors Avenue, North Street, South Street and East Street. The center of the Historic District was originally known as Court House Square; today, it is called "The Green". This resource is significant for its architecture, archaeology and community planning.

Automobile-Related Business

Automobile-related businesses dominated the South Governors Avenue area by the mid-20th century when the roadway served as US 13. These businesses included auto dealers, service stations, diners and motels.

One of Dover's first commercial malls was constructed after World War II. The Mall at Rodney Village is located just south of the project area. It is adjacent to the Rodney Village subdivision, which was completed in 1960.

Today, most of the automobile oriented businesses that once thrived next to vestiges of the area's agricultural past, such as the Capital Grange Hall, are being replaced by healthcare related industries. These newer healthcare related businesses continue to focus on the expansion of the Bayhealth Medical Center, formerly known as Kent General Hospital.

* The historic content for this brochure was derived from *Identification & Evaluation of Standing Structures, Governor's Avenue Safety Project, Water Street to Webbs Lane, Dover, Kent County, Delaware*. URS Corporation, January 2003.

A Note of Thanks

DelDOT thanks you for your patience and cooperation while its representatives conduct the cultural resources studies for the South Governors Avenue Project. Any information that may help us gain insight related to the history of the area is appreciated.

For more information, please contact:

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Information about other DelDOT projects can be found at:

www.deldot.net/public.ejs

To learn about federal regulations regarding cultural resources, please consult:

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
www.achp.gov

The U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration
www.fhwa.dot.gov

The Delaware State Historic Preservation Office
www.state.de.us/shpo/index.htm



Delaware Department of Transportation
Archaeology and Historic Preservation



McCormick, Taylor & Associates, Inc.
Engineers and Planners

South Governors Avenue Project

Water Street to Webbs Lane

Dover, Kent County

Delaware



US Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration



Delaware
Department of Transportation

Project Description

The project includes the full reconstruction of 1.5 miles of South Governors Avenue (U.S. 13A, Kent 3) from Water Street (Kent 72) to Webbs Lane (Kent 192). The proposed roadway will include a 14-foot two-way center-turn lane, one 11-foot travel lane in each direction, a 5-foot shoulder in each direction, curbing on both sides of the road (closed drainage), a 3-foot grass buffer on each side of the road, and a 5-foot sidewalk on each side of the road. To accomplish this section, minor widening and right-of-way acquisitions are required, particularly between Webbs Lane and Puncheon Run. Other components of the project that will be improved include access, pedestrian facilities, bicycle facilities, intersections, transit amenities, and drainage.



A Glimpse into the Past

As part of the transportation planning process, various environmental studies are conducted for each DelDOT project. Together, engineers, scientists, preservation specialists, historians, and environmental planners use the findings of these studies to develop functional and creative designs that are sensitive to our state's natural, social, and cultural resources.

In addition to studying the effects of the project on the environment, these studies present a unique opportunity to explore Delaware's remarkable past. Studies of above ground and below ground cultural resources, that is, historic buildings and archaeological sites, help us to understand the cultural landscape in which we live.

Why Cultural Resources?

Progress is important, but so is our cultural heritage. Like many of DelDOT's numerous archaeological and historic preservation projects, the South Governors Avenue Project will seek to protect our heritage while improving Delaware's roadway system. Federal regulations exist to aid in protecting our past. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, requires federal agencies to consider the effects of their activities on cultural resources. Once it is determined that resources will be

affected, DelDOT works together with state and federal agencies, and its consultants, to minimize the effects of the project on those resources. This process allows the public and DelDOT to exchange ideas and alternatives to create solutions that result in a better future while protecting the past.

Development

Governors Avenue was once known as High Street and initially extended to Hope Street, then moved east to follow present-day Bradford Street. Governors Avenue was used as a stagecoach route until the completion of the Delaware Railroad to the west. During the mid-20th century, Governors Avenue served as US 13, the main north-south artery of the state. It remains signed as ALT 13 and functions as a well-used, north-south route through Dover today.

Governors Avenue was originally bordered by farmland, particularly the southern end. Agricultural endeavors, especially peach orchards and vineyards, were crucial to the economic development of the area.

To accommodate local farmers, the southern portion of Governors Avenue was widened in the early 1920s. This enabled easier transportation of goods to nearby markets for sale, or canneries for processing.

During the first half of the 20th century, many of the farms along Governors Avenue were subdivided to make way for suburban development that has continued through the 21st century.