

IV. METHODOLOGY

Initial research was conducted by URS Historian E. Madeleine Scheerer and Architectural Historian Anne Brockett at the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office (DE SHPO). Research involved reviewing architectural survey reports, the architectural site file, individual inventory forms, and historic maps. These resources were examined to determine if any architectural resources within the project area had previously been identified, surveyed, listed in or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, or had been recorded at any level by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) or Historic American Engineering Record (HAER).

In an effort to determine the history of the project area and the twentieth-century residential and economic development of the Carter Road corridor, Ms. Scheerer conducted general and specific research at local and regional repositories in December 2001. These repositories included the Delaware State Archives, the Greater Wilmington Public Library, Delaware State Historic Preservation Office, the Kent County Recorder of Deeds Office, the University of Delaware, the Hagley Museum and Library, the Historical Society of Delaware, the Kent County Public Library, the Smyrna Public Library, and the Library of Congress. In addition, personal interviews were conducted with several property owners and with George Caley, a local historian.

Coordination and consultation was undertaken with the Delaware Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan and other defined contexts, including the *Historic Context Master Reference and Summary* (Ames et al), *Cultural Resource Survey of U.S. Route 113, Milford-Georgetown, Sussex County, Delaware* (LeeDecker et al.), *Suburbanization in the Vicinity of Wilmington, Delaware, 1880-1950+/-: A Historic Context* (Chase et al.), draft *Context and Guidelines for Evaluating America's Historic Suburbs for the National Register of Historic Places* (Ames), as well as other readily available archival resources. Additional references are cited at the conclusion of this report.

In accordance with accepted state survey methodology, URS also developed a research design. Based upon the research design, it was expected that fieldwork would reveal a variety of vernacular building types and associated historic resources dating from the late-nineteenth century to mid-twentieth century, all of which would be related to a regional context of suburbanization.

Survey work consisted of first defining the previously mentioned APE for the proposed improvements to Carter Road (discussed below). The fieldwork involved photographing and completing cultural resource survey (CRS) forms for each property within the APE that appeared to be fifty years of age or older. For each surveyed property, Ms. Brockett completed a Property Identification Form (CRS-1) and a Main Building Form (CRS-2). Additional forms, primarily Related Outbuilding Forms (CRS-3), were completed as necessary. Ms. Brockett also visited previously surveyed properties within the APE and completed Update Forms (CRS-10) when necessary.

Based on the fieldwork and on historic research, recommendations for National Register eligibility were prepared. This evaluation was conducted for each individual building and as part of a potential historic district.

Area of Potential Effects

An initial step in the review process, outlined in the Section 106 regulations, is to determine the area within which historic properties will be affected, or are likely to be affected, by an undertaking. This area is called the Area of Potential Effects (APE). The APE is defined as

the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause alterations in the character or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist. The Area of Potential Effects is influenced by the scale and nature of an undertaking and may be different for different kinds of effects caused by the undertaking” (36 CFR 800.16(d)).

Such changes may include physical destruction, damage, or alteration of a property; change in the property’s use, character, or of physical features within its setting that contribute to its historic significance, or the introduction of visual, atmospheric, or audible elements that diminish the integrity of the property’s significant historic features (36 CFR 800.5(a)(2)). For the purposes of this study, the URS architectural historian examined not only the footprint of the proposed undertaking, but also adjacent areas that could be indirectly affected by the proposed project. The APE is illustrated in Figure 2. The APE was defined in consultation between DelDOT and the SHPO. The APE was roughly defined during a field review with DelDOT (representing FHWA), SHPO, and URS.

The survey work included the documentation of above-ground historic resources, including standing structures, located within the APE. Several historic resources, adjacent to but not in the APE, were not surveyed. The Bannister Hall/Bayard House (K-122), which is individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a single property, is located on the same lot to the southwest of Carter Road. However, due to distance and extensive vegetative screening around the houses, the property is outside the APE for this project.

The Spruance City Historic District (K-6976) is a National Register-eligible historic district that consists of a small portion of the larger Spruance City subdivision, which was laid out in 1868-1869. Although Carter Road forms the southwestern boundary of the original plat for Spruance City, the portion of the subdivision that lies within the boundaries of the historic district is located three blocks away from Carter Road on Howard Street, between Mt. Vernon and Cummins Streets. Several properties within the original subdivision plat were surveyed for this project. However, these are not within the boundaries of the Spruance City Historic District and do not individually or collectively relate to the district. They are geographically removed from the district and separated from it by vacant lots, vegetation, and modern in-fill housing. Due to this distance and intervening construction, the Spruance City Historic District is considered outside the APE for this project.

Additional buildings within the APE were of recent construction (less than 50 years old) and do not meet Criterion Consideration G. Accordingly, these recently constructed buildings were not surveyed.

One previously surveyed property (K-3897), a house which was surveyed in 1981 and 2001, is no longer extant. This house was located on the triangular lot to the southwest of the intersection of Carter Road and Wheatley's Pond Road. It was surveyed in 1981 and additional photographs were taken in April 2001. It has since been demolished and the lot on which it stood is now vacant. A CRS Survey Update Form (CRS-10) has been prepared to reflect changes to the property. No evaluation of this property was made for the purposes of this architectural report.