

ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES: DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION

INTRODUCTION

Sixteen properties over 50 years of age were recorded for this project (Figure 7). Following is a discussion of each property, including an architectural description, historical information, and an evaluation of National Register eligibility.

1. William Lowther Farm (Foxhole Farm) (Beers 1868) (N-526)
3401 Centerville Road
Tax Parcels 07-028.00-064 and 07-028.00-067
(Cultural Resource Survey Form in Appendix A)

Description: This property consists of a dwelling, a bank barn, and four other outbuildings situated on two parcels. The dwelling, which lies about 200 feet west of Centerville Road, is an L-plan, cross-gable, frame building with 1½- and 2-story elements, which appears to date from the mid-nineteenth century (Plates 1 and 2). The structure rests on a stone foundation, and is clad with stucco. Its roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The east elevation has five bays, the two southernmost of which are within the cross gable. The cross gable has an interior brick chimney on the west end of its ridge. The west elevation of this cross-gabled section has a 1½-story addition which appears to date to the mid-twentieth century. This addition has an interior concrete-block chimney. Windows are a combination of wooden 6/6 double-hung with 1½-inch wooden surrounds as well as wooden casements, and one first-story bay window on the south elevation side. The east elevation has the date of 1957 painted on it. The owner, Mrs. Meryl Lovett, states that this signifies the date when she and her husband made major renovations to the house, including the removal of the previous asbestos siding, which they replaced with stucco, as well as the addition of the rear ell section and replacement of all windows.

The most prominent secondary resource on the property is a mid- to late nineteenth-century frame barn which fronts Centerville Road (Plate 3). This structure is a bank barn, which has a lower section which appears to have accommodated livestock at one time. The barn's lower section is accessible at ground level on the south, east, and west elevations, and has a stone foundation to a height of approximately nine feet. The stone foundation is set into an earthen bank on the north elevation, where an asphalt drive meets the upper-level entrance. The barn is a gabled structure with a combination of board and batten siding and vertical board siding. The barn's main roof has asphalt shingles, but a shed-roofed section on its east elevation has cedar roof shingles. A notable feature on the east elevation is an obelisk-shaped stone pillar which supports the upper level. A 10x10-inch wooden post extant to the north of this pillar may have replaced a similar pillar. The interior of the barn reveals that the majority of floor joists and heavy timbers have been replaced within the last 50 years, and a small concrete-block wall has replaced some of the original stone foundation on the west elevation.

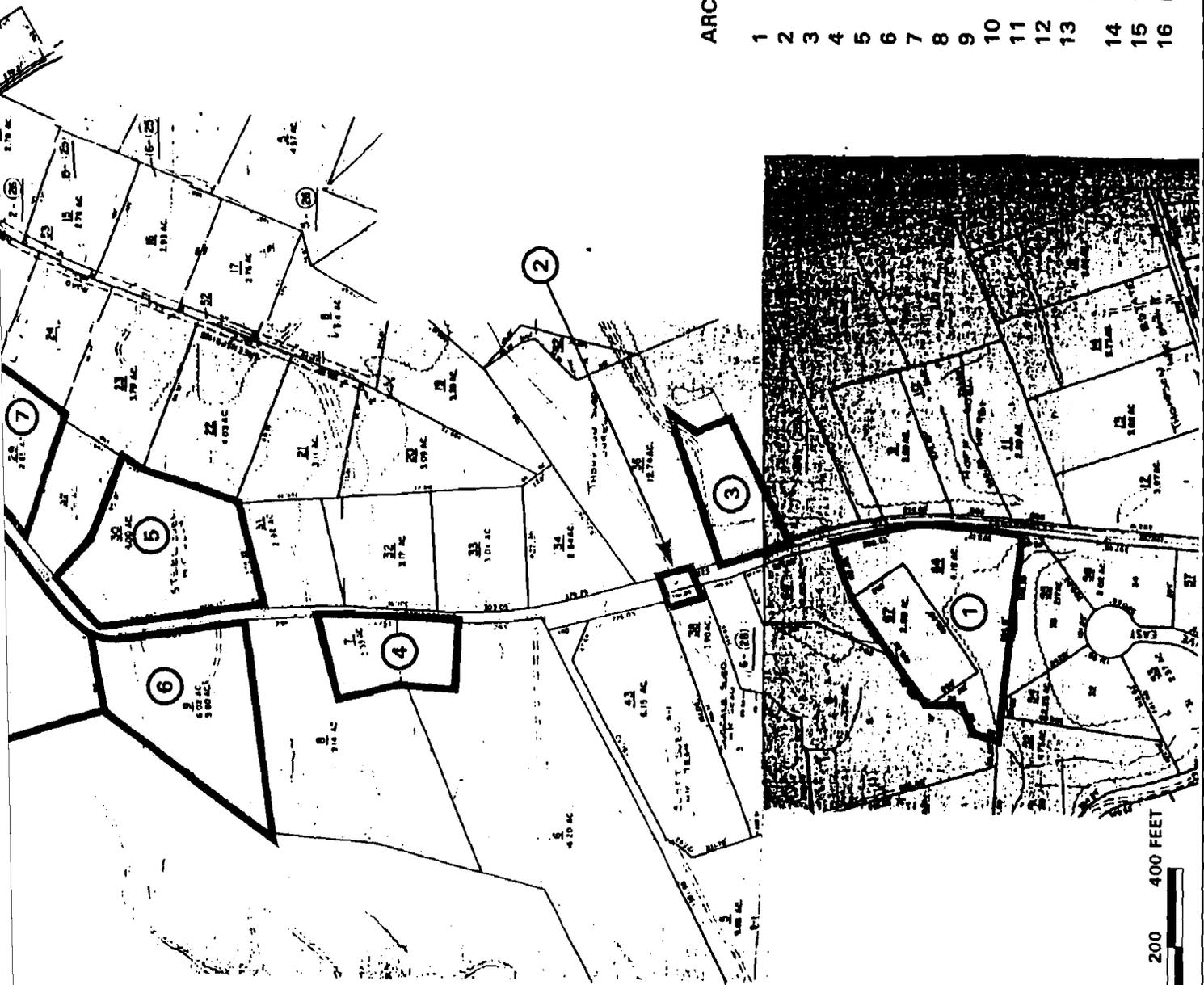
North of the barn is an open bay garage/storage shed (Plate 4). This structure's south elevation opens to the asphalt drive. It is a simple side-gabled frame building with a stone foundation. It is clad with vertical board siding, most of which has recently been replaced. The roof has asphalt shingles. West of the barn, but east of the dwelling, stand two outbuildings. The first is a gabled frame storage shed with stone foundation, vertical board siding, and asphalt-shingled roof which appears to date from the mid- to late nineteenth century, and the second is a shed-roofed chicken coop with a concrete foundation, board and batten siding, and asphalt-shingled roof which appears to date from the early twentieth century (Plates 5 and 6). South of the barn lies a two-bay, side-gabled shed set on a concrete slab. Its roof is clad with asphalt shingles. Its walls are clad with a combination of board and batten siding, and two-inch vertical wood strips set approximately one inch apart for ventilation. This shed appears to date from the early to mid-twentieth century (Plate 7).

A springhouse is located several hundred feet south of the house, barn, and other outbuildings. The structure, built of uncoursed rubble, has a gabled roof with asphalt shingles. The springhouse appears to date from the mid- to late nineteenth century (Plate 8).

Applicable Historic Context: Piedmont Zone, Industrialization and Early Urbanization: 1830-1880 ±; Theme: Agriculture; Property Type—Rural Farm Site; Theme: Architecture; Property Type—Mid-Nineteenth-Century I-House.

Evaluation: Rae and Price's map of New Castle County indicates that no structures existed on this site in 1849 (see Figure 4), but by 1868, Beers depicts the farmstead of William Lowther at this location (Beers 1868) (see Figure 5). Deed records show that Lowther acquired the property from William Cochran and Abner Woodward in 1865 (NCC Deed A-8-251; A-8-257). Although assessment records do not show William Lowther as owning land or buildings in the 1870s, his son, Moses Lowther, was assessed in 1873 for 100 acres of land which contained a springhouse and barn (NCC Tax Assessments, Christiana Hundred, 1873). Although no dwelling was found in tax assessment records, it is assumed that the house was present along with these buildings, as the Beers map and the deeds to adjacent properties indicate that the Lowthers were living on the property by 1868 (see Figure 5). William died in 1902, leaving the land to his son, Moses Lowther (New Castle County [NCC] Will Z-2-198), who in turn sold the land to Henry B. Thompson in 1908 (NCC Deed X-21-360). The present owners of the barn, springhouse, and garage, Horace and Martha Dugdale, acquired the land in 1948 (NCC Deed E-48-357). They created a subdivision which separated the house, chicken coop, and shed from the remaining buildings in 1958, and sold it to Vernon and Meryl Lovett, but it appears that the Lovetts had been tenants on the land previous to this transaction (NCC Deed N-61-345).

The William Lowther Farm meets National Register Criterion C, as it represents the distinctive characteristics of a mid-nineteenth-century farmstead. However, although the house at the William Lowther Farm possesses integrity of location, it has experienced major renovations and additions which have destroyed its integrity of materials, design, and workmanship. In addition, the barn and garage have had significant amounts of their historic fabric replaced over the years, diminishing their integrity of materials. The William Lowther Farm does not meet National Register Criteria with respect to integrity.



ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES

- 1 WILLIAM LOWTHER FARMHOUSE (N-526)
- 2 BRIDGE NO. 136-A (N-13524)
- 3 HENRY B. THOMPSON HOUSE (N-13525)
- 4 BENJAMIN HARTLEY HOUSE (N-525)
- 5 FRANK G. TALLMAN HOUSE (N-13526)
- 6 GEORGE R. BEACH HOUSE (N-13527)
- 7 JAMES RANKIN DAVIS HOUSE (N-13528)
- 8 WILLIAM A. WORTH HOUSE (N-13529)
- 9 WILLIAM A. DICKSON HOUSE (N-524)
- 10 DEBORAH B. HALSEY WILSON HOUSE (N-13530)
- 11 WESTBRAE TENANT HOUSE (N-522)
- 12 WESTBRAE (N-521)
- 13 WESTBRAE SPRINGS SPRINGHOUSE AND HOLDING TANK (N-523)
- 14 STONE HEADWALL (N-13531)
- 15 VALLEY GARDEN PARK (N-13532)
- 16 HOMER D. EWING HOUSE (N-7681)

FIGURE 7: Architectural Resources Identified in Project Area



PLATE 1: William Lowther Farm House, View to East



PLATE 2: William Lowther Farm House, View to West



PLATE 3: William Lowther Farm House Barn, View to Southwest



PLATE 4: William Lowther Farm House Garage, View to North

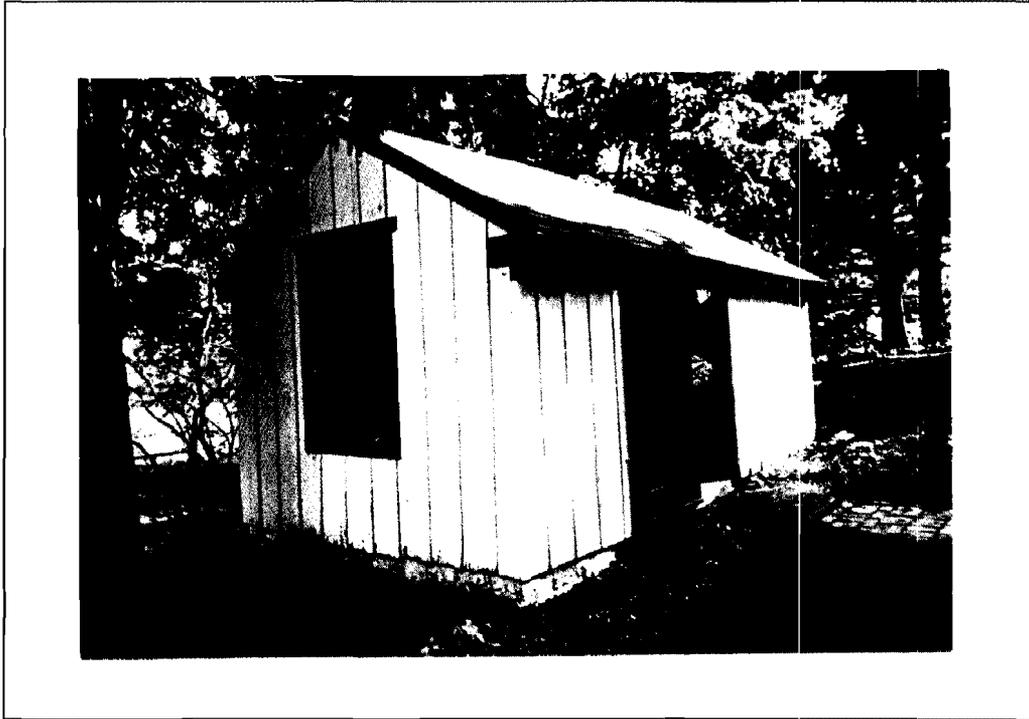


PLATE 5: William Lowther Farm House Shed, View to West

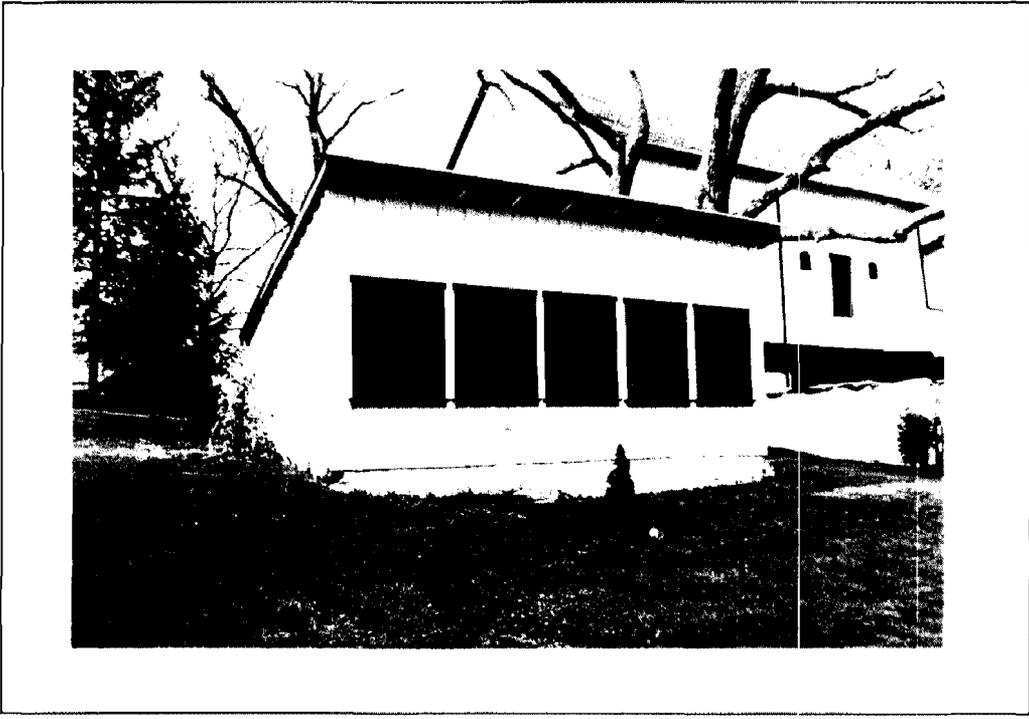


PLATE 6: William Lowther Farm House Chicken Coop, View to North



PLATE 7: William Lowther Farm House Shed, View to South



PLATE 8: William Lowther Farm House Springhouse, View to Southeast

**2. Bridge No. 136-A (N-13524)
Centerville Road
(Cultural Resource Survey Form in Appendix A)**

Description: This bridge carries Centerville Road over a small stream approximately 1,800 feet north of its intersection with Barley Mill Road (Plate 9). It is a stone, single-arch bridge measuring about 23 feet long and 28 feet wide. DeIDOT bridge inspection files give very little information as to the construction of this or similar bridges in the area, beyond indicating that the abutments are constructed of reinforced concrete (DeIDOT Bridge Inspection Files). The bridge is most likely a concrete structure with stone facing. The bridge has a single barrel arch with cut voussoirs and oversized keystone. Stone parapets rise approximately two feet above the road surface. The southern corner of the west parapet has a concrete cornerstone with the designation 136-A. The bridge appears to date from the mid-1930s.

Applicable Historic Context: Piedmont Zone, Urbanization and Early Suburbanization: 1880-1940 ±; Theme: Transportation and Communication; Property Type—Bridge

Evaluation: This bridge does not appear in the *Delaware Historic Bridges Survey and Evaluation* (Spero 1991). A map of bridges surveyed by DeIDOT, which is located in the DESHPO files, shows a bridge near this location which is designated No. 590-D (DESHPO Files). DeIDOT bridge inspection files indicate that Structure 590-D was replaced by a steel pipe in the 1980s. The bridge inspection files for Structure No. 136-A do not record its construction date; however, Bridge No. 136, which is nearly identical to this bridge and is located nearby on Barley Mill Road, was constructed around 1931 (DeIDOT Bridge Inspection Files). It is likely that Bridge No. 136-A was constructed during the same period. Bridge No. 136-A does not possess the significant historical associations necessary for eligibility under National Register Criterion A, nor can it be considered eligible under Criterion C, since it is not a technologically or architecturally significant example of its type (DeIDOT Bridge Inspection Files).

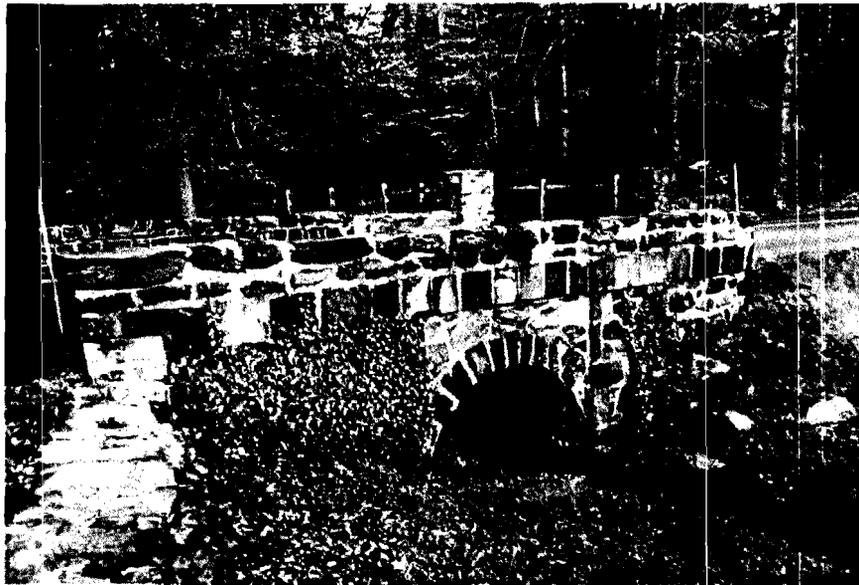


PLATE 9: Bridge No. 136-A, View to East