

2.0 RESEARCH DESIGN



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2.1 Background Research

Prior to any field survey, the files of the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office (DE SHPO) were examined. The University of Delaware (Morris Library) was checked for books and archival materials that could be used in the development of background history and historic contexts. With the exception of Barratt's Chapel, no properties within the study area have been previously evaluated for National Register significance (Figure 2). One historic bridge was surveyed in 1980 (CRS # 5652) and determined not eligible for listing in the National Register (P.A.C. Spero & Company 1991). Since the time of the 1980 survey, the bridge, which dated to 1920, has been replaced with a modern, wider structure.

2.2 Architectural Survey

After conducting background research, an architectural survey was carried out to: 1) identify the range of resources 50 years of age, or older, within the current study area; 2) locate individual properties that could be potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places; and 3) field check those properties that were previously listed or determined eligible or not eligible for listing in the National Register.

In order to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, a resource (e.g., building, site, structure, object, or district) must meet the 50-year age criterion, or meet the criteria consideration for properties achieving significance within the last 50 years. Resources 50 years of age or older, located within the APE, were documented for this project. In addition, resources must also meet the Criteria for Evaluation (36 CFR § 60.4) as stated in *National Register Bulletin: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*:

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture 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 may lack individual distinction; or
- d. that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important to history or prehistory (NPS 1997).

A property must also retain sufficient integrity from its period of significance. Expected resource types and guidelines for National Register evaluation are included within each of the three historic contexts.

A.D. Marble & Company conducted the historic resources survey in October 2003 and April 2004, which included an examination of all those buildings located on tax parcels that were located within the Historic Resources APE. Historic maps were examined to determine approximate dates of construction for buildings within the study area and resources that were identified during the initial field view in the fall of 2003. All properties that had previously been evaluated were also identified on the field mapping.

During the course of fieldwork, sketch maps and descriptions of each resource were prepared, and resources were photographed using black and white, 35 mm film. Color digital photographs were also made as a supplement to the black and white film photography. DE SHPO CRS forms were filled out manually in the field, and this information was later entered into computerized forms.

For Barratt's Chapel, which is already listed in the National Register, a CRS update form and several new CRS forms were prepared for additional associated buildings that were not included in the National Register nomination form (Davis, Guerrant, and Hahn, personal communication 2004). On the advice of the DE SHPO, the entire property was re-photographed in order to show current conditions (Davis and Guerrant, personal communication 2004). For CRS # K-6740 (the Wix/Robbins Property), a survey update form was prepared.

2.3 Identified Property Types

Under the Delaware State Plan (Ames et al. 1989; Herman et al. 1989), a total of three historic property types were located during the survey for this project. These resource types relate to (1) Architecture; (2) Agriculture; and (3) Religion.

The following descriptions describe the three resource types:

Architecture-Residential Properties: Three dwellings identified as 50 years old or older, within the APE, were documented, including distinctive examples of particular architectural styles or forms. Residential types include late Victorian, mid-twentieth-century, and Colonial Revival styles.

Agriculture: Farmsteads are defined as a cluster of buildings (house, barn, outbuildings) and the surrounding land historically associated with agricultural production. One resource surveyed during this project, the Wix/Robbins Property (CRS # K-6740), was an agricultural resource historically, but its barn(s) and all associated outbuildings are no longer standing. Nevertheless, since the present house was originally built as part of a farm, agriculture is reviewed in this study in order to provide a background context.

Churches: One religious resource, Barratt's Chapel (CRS # K-103), was found within the study area. A church is important for its associations with community development, as churches were often the focal points of historic communities. Religious buildings and cemeteries may be individually eligible for the National Register as long as they meet the criteria consideration (primary significance derived from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance). They may also be eligible as part of historic districts. Barratt's Chapel was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1972.