

## **II. RESEARCH DESIGN**

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### Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of this Historic Architectural Survey is to identify all cultural resources within the study area that may be listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NR). This is accomplished through the implementation of a multi-tiered research design that combines background research, field investigation, data analysis, and report preparation. The specific research objectives for this project included:

- Identify previously recorded cultural resources in the study area;
- Establish the Historic Architectural Area of Potential Effects (APE);
- Establish a detailed historic context within which properties may be interpreted;
- Document and analyze cultural resources identified during fieldwork;
- Correlate cultural resources in the project area with the research questions, goals, and priorities listed in *The Delaware Comprehensive Preservation Plan*.

### Methodology

#### *Establishment of the Area of Potential Effects*

The APE was established in consultation with Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT), and the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office (DE SHPO). The APE encompasses all properties and historic districts adjacent to the proposed area of disturbance. This includes properties fronting SR 141 (Centre Road AKA Ferris Road), Faulkland Road, and portions of Lowry Drive, Cedar Avenue, Montgomery Avenue, Eton Court, Wagoner Drive, and Lehigh Avenue, and also Brookland Terrace, Woodland Heights, Woodland Apartments, Willow Run I, Willow Run II, and the Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth, and Their Families. The APE is shown on **Figure 1**, and representative photographs are shown in **Plates 1-5**. At a field meeting held on January 5, 2005, project participants agreed that although the Willow Run II subdivision is within the project APE, the nature of the work in this area is such that further examination of this resource is not necessary.

#### *Background Research*

Background research was performed to gain an understanding of the cultural and architectural development of the study area and surrounding region, and to identify and assess previously prepared documentation to avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts. Kise Straw and Kolodner's (KSK) project team thoroughly searched pertinent literature to identify historical information about the project area and vicinity. Appropriate primary and secondary source materials pertaining to the area were also examined. Specific repositories consulted by KSK included the DE SHPO data room and the Delaware Public Archives in Dover; the New Castle County Department of Land Use in New Castle; the University of Delaware Library in Newark; the Wilmington Public Library; and the Free Library of Philadelphia and University of Pennsylvania Van Pelt Library in Philadelphia. KSK examined relevant historic maps and atlases, books, as-built roadway drawings, subdivision and plot plans, aerial photographs, local histories, previous cultural resources surveys and NR nominations for resources located within the project area.



**Plate 1.** Route 141 from Faulkland Road, view north.



**Plate 2.** Faulkland Road from Route 141, view east.



Plate 3. Route 141 from Faulkland Road, view south.



Plate 4. Route 141 from Gilpin Avenue, view southwest.



**Plate 5.** Route 141 from approximately Montgomery Avenue, view northeast.

KSK also consulted with staff members at the Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth, and Their Families (the Ferris School) and Woodland Apartments, in addition to other knowledgeable persons in the area. Some deed research was undertaken in those cases where properties were considered potentially eligible for the NR.

### *Historic Architectural Survey and Evaluation*

The appearance, condition, and integrity of all properties built in 1956 or earlier were documented through field notes and black and white and digital photography. Using the data acquired during both field investigations and background research, each resource was evaluated for NR eligibility within the state historic contexts outlined in the *Delaware Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan*<sup>1</sup> and the *Delaware Historic Context Master Reference and Summary*<sup>2</sup> and as per federal NR guidelines outlined in 36 CFR 60.4. The *Delaware Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan* identifies the following preservation priorities that may apply to historic architectural, or above-ground, resources in the survey:

- Priority Historic Themes for Above-Ground Resources:  
Settlement Patterns and Demographic Change (II)  
Other (#6)
- Priority Chronological Periods for Above-Ground Resources:  
1830-1880 +/- Industrialization and Early Urbanization (II)  
1880-1940 +/- Urbanization and Early Suburbanization (#3)
- Priority Geographic Zones for Above-Ground Resources:  
Piedmont (#5)

There are few commercial properties in the project area, and only one that is 50 years or older. The historic context for commercial roadside architecture, therefore, does not apply to the evaluation of this project area.

The results of the evaluation are located in Chapter IV (Historic Architectural Survey and Evaluation). Nomination forms for properties recommended eligible for the NR as a result of this survey are included in **Appendix A**, and Delaware Cultural Resource Survey forms completed for remaining resources not previously surveyed are included as **Appendix B**.

### *Report Preparation*

This report discusses the findings and interpretations of the survey and evaluation of historic architectural resources. All findings and analyses were documented and assembled according to requirements contained in the *Delaware Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan* and *Guidelines for Architectural and Archaeological Surveys in Delaware*, and upon further consultation with project staff at DelDOT and the DE SHPO.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> David L. Ames and Mary Helen Callahan, et al., *Delaware Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan*. Newark, DE: University of Delaware Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering, 1989.

<sup>2</sup> Bernard Herman and Rebecca J. Siders, et. al. *Historic Context Master Reference and Summary*, (Newark, DE: University of Delaware Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering), 1989.

<sup>3</sup> Delaware State Historic Preservation Office (DE SHPO), *Guidelines for Architectural and Archaeological Surveys in Delaware*, (Dover, DE: Delaware State Historic Preservation Office), 1993.

### *Project Phases*

Due to funding, contractual and project task timing issues, this project proceeded in three stages. In the first stage, circa 2002, KSK conducted background research, and identification and survey of potential resources built in 1952 or earlier. A management summary dated July 5, 2002 summarized the work to date and included preliminary evaluations of eligibility for the identified resources. The document also summarized previous survey efforts and findings of other consultants. A copy of the summary is included in **Appendix C**.

The second stage of work, conducted in January/February 2005, consisted of field survey and preliminary evaluations of resources scheduled for demolition in early 2005. These early demolition actions moved forward due to circumstances within DelDOT's Real Estate Section. DelDOT had acquired several properties in preceding years, and a number of these were vacant. Because the properties attracted vandals and squatters, members of the community had become concerned about the resulting health and safety issues for the neighborhood. Properties slated for demolition were documented with field notes and digital and black and white photography, and consultation occurred among KSK, DelDOT, the DE SHPO and New Castle County staff to ensure an adequate level of documentation and evaluation prior to demolition.

The third stage of work included the refinement of the study area and the full survey and evaluation of remaining potential resources within the APE. Because of earlier project delays, the period of evaluation was extended to those potential resources constructed in 1956 or earlier. Additional research was conducted to aid in the evaluation of districts and individual properties. Consultation among DelDOT, the DE SHPO, JMT and KSK staff continued throughout the documentation and draft review process.

### **Expected Results**

Based upon the project location, previous surveys, background information and knowledge of the study area, KSK anticipated suburban developments and/or individual resources from the early to mid-twentieth century along the main routes in the project area. Associated commercial properties may also be present. It was also anticipated that numerous changes had been made to these resources.