

APPENDIX D
RESEARCH PROPOSAL

PROPOSAL FOR
ARCHITECTURAL EVALUATION
DE SR 896, SUMMIT BRIDGE TO SR4
CONTRACT 79-108-01; F-1033 (2)

SUBMITTED TO:

Division of Highways
Delaware Department of Transportation
Dover, Delaware

PREPARED BY:

THE CULTURAL RESOURCE GROUP
LOUIS BERGER & ASSOCIATES INC.
EAST ORANGE, NEW JERSEY

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SCOPE OF SERVICES

As specified by the Delaware Department of Transportation, eleven structures and associated outbuildings, located within the Delaware Route 896, Summit Bridge to State Route 4 project area, are to be examined and evaluated in terms of their architectural/historical significance and their potential eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. Results of this investigation are to be submitted as an architectural report, as completed Cultural Resource Survey Forms, and also as Determination of Eligibility forms for those properties evaluated as eligible by the Delaware SHPO.

Work Program

1. Preliminary Consultation. Upon initiation of the project, appropriate staff members of the Division of Highways and of the Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation will be consulted concerning the proposed inventory and the results of previous investigations. Issues of particular interest or concern to either agency will be identified and addressed as appropriate in the conduct of the work program.

2. Field Work. Field Work will commence with a brief reconnaissance of the project area and vicinity, in order to develop an overall impression of the existing architectural environment. Following this reconnaissance, the architectural historian will conduct structure-by-structure examination of each of the eleven properties. Major features of each property to be recorded will include setting, orientation and arrangement of structures, approximate dimensions, forms, materials, construction methods, architectural details, and nature and extent of alterations and additions. For those properties whose owners/occupants grant permission, interiors will also be investigated for floor plans, significant architectural features, and additional construction information. Each property will be photographed in 35 mm black and white and with color slides, with a minimum of two views of each major structure, plus views as necessary to convey the overall character of each property.

3. Research. In order to develop an historical/architectural context within which to interpret the Route 896 structures, a background literature search will be conducted, utilizing among other materials historic maps, county road books, published local, area and state histories, pertinent architectural literature, and previous cultural resource studies relevant to the project area. The principal sources of these materials will be BAHP and DOT files, the Historical Society of Delaware, Wilmington, the Hall of Records, Dover, and the University of Delaware Library, Newark.

In addition to background, or contextual, data collection, each of the eleven properties will be researched to obtain as precise information as possible concerning date of construction/alteration, original occupants/builders, and use. To accomplish this, each property will first be correlated with historic maps of the area. Then, for properties appearing to have architectural significance and thus of potential National Register Eligibility, site histories will be compiled through deed searches carried back as far as is necessary to identify, or confirm, original owner/builders and, if possible, dates of construction/alteration. (For example, a property with clearly late 19th century structures would not be researched back to the 18th century, but a property with early 19th or late 18th century structures would be.) Information on the uses of the property and the nature of the owners' occupation will be sought in probate, tax and census records and in local and area histories. Data such as these will be used to determine potential associational importance and to develop understanding of the history of each property and its place in the occupation and development of the area.

4. Post-field Consultation. Following completion of the field effort, the architectural historian will meet with DelDOT, FHWA and BAHP personnel, to review orally the preliminary findings concerning the potential National Register eligibility of each property.

5. Report and Form Preparation. Based upon the results of the architectural evaluation, and consultation with DelDOT, FHWA and BAHP, the architectural historian will prepare Determination of Eligibility forms, along with appropriate photographic documentation, for each property that appears to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Five 8" x 10" prints will be submitted of each photo accompanying the DOE forms. In addition, Cultural Resource Survey Forms (from BAHP) will be prepared for all eleven properties.

A final report will also be prepared, that will present the research design, results of the background literature search, methodology employed in the project, and findings. The properties inventoried in the project area will be discussed and evaluated in an appropriate historical/architectural framework. This framework will include an overview of the existing architectural environment, and a discussion of the relationship of the inventoried properties to that environment. The inventoried properties will also be discussed in the context of the vernacular cultural region in which they are located, and how they reflect area construction patterns, in terms of traditional forms and materials, and in terms of the influence of formal styles occurring in the region. The report will be illustrated with photographs, sketch site plans and maps as appropriate.