

Section 106

For thousands of years people have lived, worked, and played among the rolling hills, expansive farm fields, and miles of sandy beaches that mark the Delaware landscape. The physical clues they left behind provide a tangible link between past and present. The Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT), founded in 1917, is fully committed to protecting these historic resources by consulting with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and preservation groups, employing a qualified cultural resource staff, and involving the public in major projects.

1812 Survey Map of Peter Hyatt's Land

Delaware Department of Transportation
Cultural Resources Division
www.archaeology.deldot.gov

Delaware State Historic
Preservation Office
www.history.delaware.gov

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Office of Project Development
and Environmental Review
www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/histpres/index.asp

Advisory Council on Historic
Preservation (ACHP)
www.achp.gov

National Park Service (NPS)
www.nps.gov/nr/



Cultural Resources

An Early- to Mid-18th Century Redware Storage Vessel Found In Situ at The Elkins B Site.

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 provided a mandate for historic preservation by creating a list of historically significant properties in the U.S. called the National Register of Historic Places, and a set of laws to help protect them. Section 106 of that act ensures that federal agencies follow specific steps to help limit the impact of their activities on cultural resources.

Pursuant to Section 106, when a potential impact on historic properties exists, DelDOT consults with the FHWA, SHPO, other preservation groups, and the public to: (1) identify and assess the significance of historic properties, and (2) evaluate the project's potential impact and devise measures to offset any adverse effects.

This open process allows the public and DelDOT to exchange ideas, alternatives, and solutions for not only a better highway system, but for a cultural heritage worth protecting.

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Retirement Farm, St. Georges Hundred, Rt. 13, Built Late 1800s
(Listed National Register of Historic Places, 1985)



Ashland Covered Bridge,
Brackenville Rd, Built ca. 1870

Architecture

Delaware boasts a rich and diverse architectural heritage that includes over 600 individually listed properties and districts on the National Register of Historic Places and 13 National Historic Landmarks. These resources, representing all periods of development—from the 17th century through the 1950s—encompass a broad range of formal and vernacular architectural styles and a wide variety of building types: residential, commercial, industrial, civic, religious, and transportation-related (e.g., railroad depots and lighthouses). DelDOT architectural historians identify, document, and study the historic built landscape to help forge a deeper understanding of the past and ensure its preservation for future generations.



Native American Projectile Points

- A. Stemmed Point (8000 B.C.–A.D. 900), Frederick Lodge Site
- B. Late Paleo-Indian/Early Archaic Lanceolate Point (ca. 6,500 B.C.), Pleasanton South Site
- C. Stemmed Point (ca. 3000 B.C.–A.D. 1000), Frederick Lodge Site

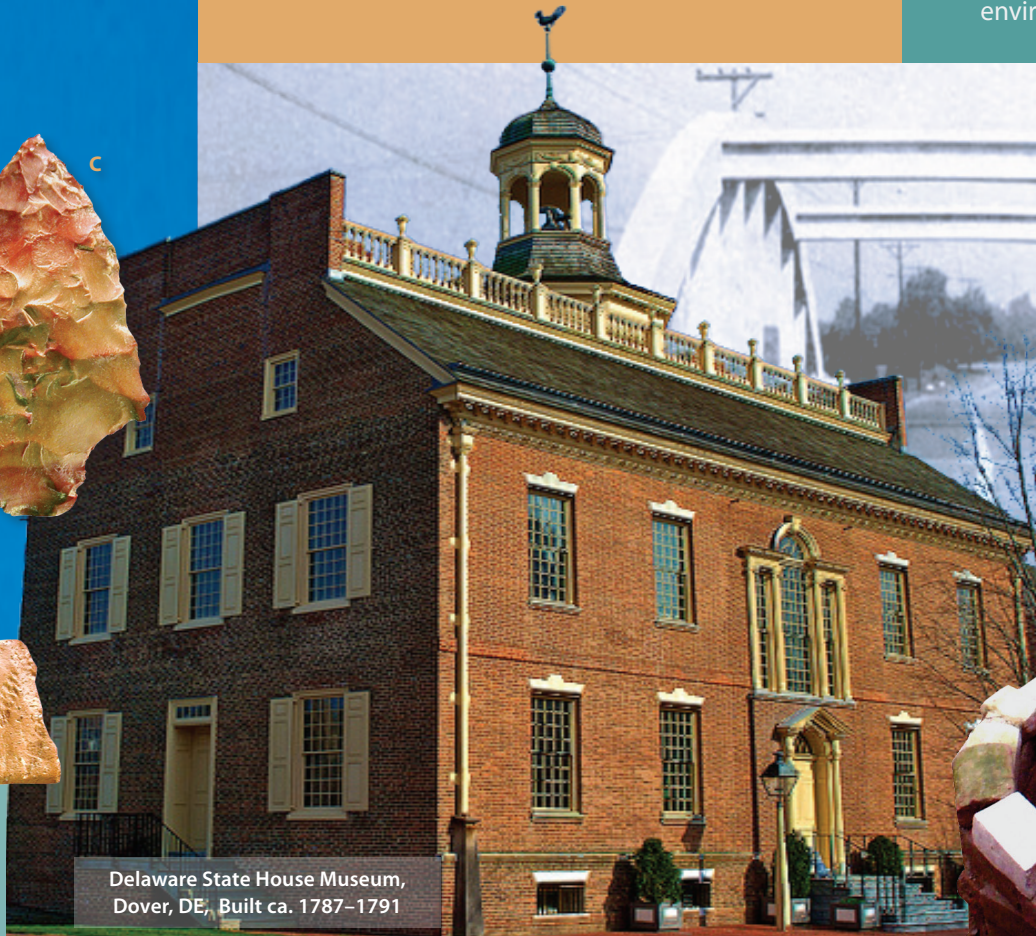


Native American Pottery

Cord-impressed Rim Fragments from Minguannan Ware Vessel (A.D. 1000–A.D. 1600), Frederick Lodge Site

Historic Bridges

Delaware's historic bridges are part of a centuries-old transportation network. The state's first bridges were constructed in the mid-1700s to replace ferries and fords rendered obsolete by increasing traffic along the region's expanding roadways. To date, DelDOT has documented over 680 individual bridges dating from the early 19th century through the late 1950s. This diverse collection includes examples representing each of Delaware's major historic types—stone arch (1810–1860), truss (1870s–1910), reinforced concrete (1905–1950s), steel girder (1910s–1950s), and movable (1800s–1950s)—that embody and reflect over 200 years of evolving bridge design and materials.



Delaware State House Museum, Dover, DE, Built ca. 1787–1791

Archaeology

Archaeology is the study of past behavior and culture from the time of the earliest humans to the most advanced civilizations. Archaeologists study artifacts, objects modified or manufactured by humans, which include non-perishable items like stone tools, stone or clay vessels, glass, and metals, and perishable remains such as textiles or clothing. When discovered, these clues to the past are recorded in place to help researchers reconstruct living surfaces like house foundations, fire-hearths, refuse or garbage pits, wells, and privies. Documenting and studying artifacts in their context helps us explain how past peoples lived and adapted to changing social and environmental circumstances.



Overhead Bridge, Tull's Crossing, Wilmington, DE, 1941–1942

Excavation of a ca. Late 19th Century Brick-lined Well at the Wilson Farm Tenancy Site