

## I. INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project area is located in Smyrna, approximately one mile east of Clayton, in Kent County, Delaware. The improvement project centers on Carter Road (CR 137), which runs northwest-southeast on the southwestern edge of the city of Smyrna. The limits of the proposed improvements to Carter Road extend approximately 1¼ miles from Wheatley's Pond Road (SR 300) at the northwest end to Sunnyside Road (CR 90) at the southeast end (Figure 1). Portions of the project area fall within the city's jurisdiction, while other portions are outside the city boundaries and are under the jurisdiction of Kent County.

From the late-nineteenth century until the past decade, Carter Road was a fairly undeveloped strip, with scattered residential buildings on both sides and the small mid-twentieth century subdivision of Colmar Manor towards the southeastern end of the project area. In the 1990s, much development occurred, with the construction of the Mill Creek Branch and Gardenside subdivisions. The area has been extensively altered from a formerly open landscape to incorporate these dense residential neighborhoods between Commerce Street and Mill Creek on the southwest side of Carter Road. The west and east limits of the project area remain less developed, although another new subdivision is under construction just east of the project terminus (Figure 2).

This influx of residents to the area has necessitated the proposed improvements to Carter Road. In order to manage the increased traffic flow in the area and create a safe environment for drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists, the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) has proposed making improvements to Carter Road. The proposed project would involve minor widening of the existing travel lanes from 10½ to 11 feet wide; the addition of two five-foot wide paved shoulders; the installation of curbs with closed drainage on both sides of the road; a sidewalk on one side for a portion of the road; a sidewalk on both sides from South Street to the Mill Creek bridge; a roundabout at the Sunnyside Road intersection; traffic calming devices at South Street; and capacity improvements to the Wheatley's Pond Road intersection. Currently, the right-of-way is 40 feet wide. The improvements described above will require the addition of approximately 47 feet to the right-of-way.

URS Corporation (URS), under contract with DelDOT, conducted a historic architectural field survey and National Register eligibility assessments for the proposed improvements to Carter Road in December 2001 and April 2002. This work was conducted in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and its implementing regulations, found in 36 CFR Part 800. Section 106 requires that all federal agencies, or agencies acting on their behalf, such as DelDOT, take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties. The project is currently a planning study. However, the use of future federal funding and/or permits is anticipated.

This report presents the results of the second step in the four-step Section 106 review process, the identification and evaluation of historic properties. Historic properties are defined as buildings, districts, structures, objects, and sites listed in, or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, the nation's list of resources of cultural or historic

Figure 1 – Project Location Map

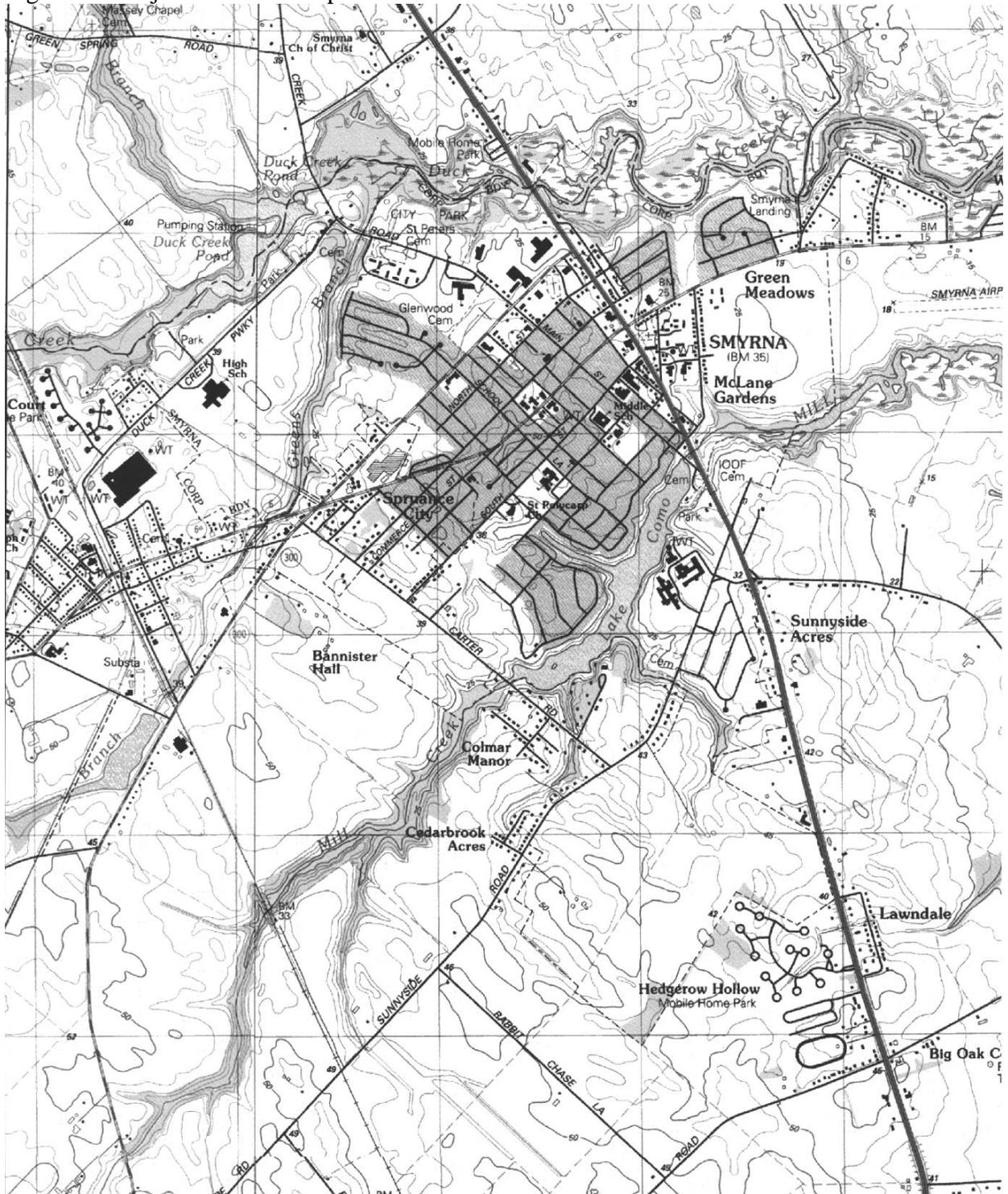


Figure 2 – Aerial



significance. The State Historic Preservation Office and the Federal Highways Agency (FHWA) and applicant are also consulted during these steps of the Section 106 process. The third step of the process involves assessing the effects a project may have on any historic properties. The fourth step is to consult with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) on ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects on historic properties.

It is important to note that the survey and evaluation work conducted for the preparation of this report includes only above-ground historic resources.

All work was performed pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR part 800, January 2001), and the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office's *Guidelines for Architectural and Archaeological Surveys in Delaware*. Anne Brockett conducted the initial historic architectural field survey and National Register eligibility assessments in December 2001. Additional survey and evaluation work was conducted in April 2002. E. Madeleine Scheerer conducted the historical background research in December 2001 to January 2002 and prepared the historic context. Mr. Mark Edwards served as the project's Principal Investigator. Lynda Bass prepared graphics for the report. Survey materials are stored at the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office.

Michael Hahn and Patrick Carpenter of DeIDOT provided background information on the proposed project, including maps, aerial views, and subdivision plans that were essential for the preparation of this report. They also provided comments on the scope of the project and contacts for sources of additional information for preparing the historic context and determinations of eligibility.

Chapter II of this report presents the results of the background historical research on the project area in a historic context. Chapter III and Chapter IV present the research design and methodology employed by URS in conducting the field survey and preparing this report. Chapter V provides the results of the historic architectural field survey and a discussion of National Register eligibility for each historic property identified in the project area.