

RESEARCH DESIGN

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the survey was to determine if the APE for the road improvements project area for U.S. Route 13, Loockerman Street to Townsend Boulevard, contained architectural resources listed in or previously determined eligible for listing in the National Register, or meeting National Register criteria.

METHODS

Background research was conducted at the DelDOT archives, the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office, the Delaware state archives, the offices of the Kent County Tax Assessor and Recorder of Deeds, and the Dover Public Library, all located in Dover. Some of the historical maps used in this report were accessed at the Library of Congress, located in Washington, D.C.

The intent of the research was to use land records, city directories, historical maps and atlases, and other relevant primary and secondary sources to uncover site-specific historical information about the resources documented during this study. In addition, research was conducted to acquire information to construct appropriate historic contexts to aid in the National Register evaluation of the resources documented in this study.

An on-site survey of architectural resources 50 years of age or older within the project area identified nine resources within the APE. During the field study, information was collected concerning the type, style, and condition of each resource. The age of each building surveyed was initially classified by visual assessment or owner information. Information as to the date of construction was later obtained from the tax assessor's office as supporting evidence. Cultural resource survey forms for the newly recorded resources are provided in Appendix A. Black-and-white 35-millimeter photographs were taken of each resource.

EXPECTED RESULTS

It was expected that most of the resources identified within the APE would relate to the mid- to late twentieth-century roadside commercial and industrial development of the Dupont Highway (U.S. Route 13/113) in Dover (Transportation and Communication, Retailing and Wholesaling, and Manufacturing themes) intermixed with some examples of twentieth-century domestic development (Architecture, Engineering, and Decorative Arts theme). Because of the intense commercialization of this corridor and the limited nature of the APE, it was not expected that agricultural resources from the nineteenth or early twentieth century would be identified during the survey.

In order to be considered eligible for listing in the National Register, resources 50 years of age or older identified within the project area must retain integrity of location, setting, design, material, and workmanship, and possess architectural distinction and/or important historical associations. Properties significant under the Transportation/Communication, Retailing/Wholesaling, and Manufacturing themes would likely derive their significance through Criterion A or B, requiring documented association with an event or trend that was important in the history of the area or county, or with a person or persons who made significant contributions to the history of the area or county. Significance of properties under the architectural theme for the project area would primarily derive from Criterion C and would depend on the ability of the resource to convey clearly a specific use, function, and/or type or style of construction. Properties eligible under Criterion C also include distinctive works of a master architect or craftsman.

An eligible district often contains buildings which, although lacking individual distinction, collectively constitute a distinctive collection of interrelated resources. As such, eligible districts must convey a visual sense of the overall historical character of the environment. A district may contain buildings, structures, and objects that do not contribute to the historical character or association of the district. How noncontributing resources affect the eligibility status of a district depends on their number, their distribution within the district, and the extent to which they diminish the district's ability to convey its historical association or character.

All of the property types documented in this study must also retain a sufficient degree of integrity regardless of significance. Integrity is defined in *National Register Bulletin 15* as "the ability of a property to convey its significance" (United States Department of the Interior 1995:44). There are seven aspects of integrity, defined as location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Integrity is dependent upon how these seven aspects relate to significance. Those features or associations from which the resource derives its significance must be clearly identifiable and not significantly compromised. Integrity of association and location would therefore be crucial for those properties that meet Criterion A or B because of their associations with a historic event or individual, whereas integrity of design, workmanship, and materials would be more critical for properties deriving their significance from design factors specified under Criterion C.