

## RESEARCH DESIGN

**1. Objective:** To determine if the area of potential effect of the proposed Porter Road improvement project contained architectural resources listed in, previously determined eligible for, or meeting National Register Criteria.

### **2. Methods:**

**Research:** Background research was conducted at the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office and the Hall of Records, Dover—the regular and special collections at the Morris Library, University of Delaware; the Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering, University of Delaware; and the New Castle County Deed Room and Tax Assessor's Office, Wilmington. Historic maps, general histories, biographical information, and deed and tax data were the main sources of information utilized in this study.

Around the same time that the fieldwork for the Porter Road project began, the NCCDP had just completed a cultural resource Reconnaissance Level Update Survey of Pencader Hundred. A draft copy of this document was obtained from the State Historic Preservation Office and was utilized as supplementary research information for this project.

**Field:** An on-site survey of architectural resources over 50 years of age within the proposed project area identified six resources. 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. Information as to the date of construction was later obtained from the tax assessor's office as supporting evidence. All relevant survey forms were completed for the six resources, and are included in Appendix A to this report. Black-and-white 35mm photographs were taken of each resource and of representative examples of the types of resources less than 50 years of age in the project area.

**3. Expected Results:** Based upon Delaware SHPO file information, it was expected for this project that at least two architectural resources would require investigation, and that an unspecified number of additional resources over 50 years of age would be identified within the project area. The property types expected within the project area would typically be associated with farmsteads, dairying, and the early urbanization and suburbanization of this vicinity. Due to the recent trend toward the conversion of farmland into housing subdivisions in this area of Pencader Hundred, it was expected that modern housing developments would have encroached upon earlier agrarian landscapes.

In order to be considered eligible for listing on the National Register, resources identified within the project area must retain integrity of location, setting, design, material, and workmanship, and possess architectural distinction and/or important historical associations.

Significance of properties under the architectural theme for the Porter Road project area will most likely derive from Criterion C. Properties significant under the agriculture theme through Criterion A or B require documented association with an event or trend that was important in the agrarian history of the area or county, or with a person or persons who made significant contributions to the practice of agriculture in the area or county. Significance under Criterion C would depend on the ability of the resource to clearly convey a specific use and function.

An eligible rural farm site should consist of a main dwelling with outbuildings and or farm buildings of a sufficient number and kind to clearly convey the agrarian uses to which the property was put during the time period of significance for its context. The property should exhibit overall integrity of design, materials, and immediate setting to be considered eligible for the National Register.

Late Victorian dwellings should clearly demonstrate attributes and characteristics of their particular style and/or plan type. Eligible properties should exhibit a high level of integrity with respect to design, workmanship, and materials.

Due to the large number of Minimal Traditional properties throughout the Upper Peninsula Zone, those properties deemed eligible for listing on the National Register must have the highest degree of integrity of design, workmanship, materials, and setting. Occurrence in a group enhances the ability of such properties to illustrate the phenomenon of suburbanization.