

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

In 1868 three farmsteads fronted Porter Road between Routes 896 and 72. Two were owned by R.T. Cann, and one by W.B. Calhoun (Beers 1868). Given the agricultural history of Pencader Hundred, it is likely that these farms were at one time over 100 acres in size. Of dwellings that might be associated with these properties, only the Calhoun House remains extant. The rest of Porter Road has succumbed to development pressures pervasive in Pencader Hundred and is now largely comprised of residential subdivisions and post-1950 tract housing.

The W.B. Calhoun House lacks integrity of feeling and setting due to the fact that no outbuildings remain associated with the tract and the surrounding environment has been developed. Although the W.B. Calhoun House still possesses the basic characteristics of design associated with its type and period, its architectural integrity has been compromised by the application of aluminum siding and modern metal windows, and it does not constitute a particularly noteworthy example of its kind. The remaining five houses, which were constructed during the twentieth century, also demonstrate the basic characteristics of their type. These houses lack architectural distinction and important historical associations. None of the six properties inventoried in association with proposed improvements to Porter Road meet National Register Criteria for Eligibility.

The research and field survey program undertaken for this study have been sufficient to accomplish the stated objective of identifying historic properties within the area of potential effect of proposed improvements on Porter Road.

During the period of Urbanization and Early Suburbanization 1880-1940±, the architectural character of the vicinity changed, primarily from an agricultural base toward residential development. This change occurred mostly in the form of the construction of mass-marketed housing types and the sale of farmland to accommodate these and other uses. Due to the rapid and continuing suburbanization of Pencader Hundred, it is of the utmost importance to continue to identify, survey, and preserve resources which will provide a greater understanding of the history of this portion of New Castle County. Although the magnitude of the suburbanization of the rural areas in the Upper Peninsula Zone is generally accepted, it is not fully comprehended in its particulars. This study of resources on Porter Road contributes in a small way toward the expansion of the information base concerning this topic.