

HISTORICAL METHODS

The survey team first undertook a literature search directed toward providing a contextual history of the project area. This search involved an examination of published sources, including local and specialized histories, maps, and atlases, and provided a basis for preparation of an historical overview. It also provided useful background information for site-specific documentation. The survey team then compiled information on previously identified historic properties within the immediate vicinity of the project area. Sources included the National Register of Historic Places, the Historic American Buildings Survey, the Historic American Engineering Record, and the Delaware Cultural Resource Survey. Following a review of existing data the survey team undertook a vehicular/pedestrian field reconnaissance. The purpose of this reconnaissance was twofold: first to confirm information from existing data, and second to permit preliminary assessments of potential significance based on both visual examination of the area and published sources. The survey area included the entire project area, as well as the immediate vicinity of the project area within which historic properties may be affected by the project. The survey team photographed each building that appeared to meet either the pre-1945 age consideration of the Delaware Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan (Herman and Siders 1986) or at least one of the Criteria for Evaluation (36 CFR 60.4) of the National Register.

These criteria, defining the quality of historical significance, are:

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and:

- a. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- b. that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- c. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

- d. that have yielded or may be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Ordinarily, cemeteries, birthplaces, or graves of historical figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, structures that have been moved from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings, properties primarily commemorative in nature, and properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years shall not be considered eligible for the National Register. However, such properties will qualify if they are integral parts of districts that do meet the criteria of if they fall within the following categories:

- a. a religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance; or
- b. a building or structure removed from its original location but which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event; or
- c. a birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no other appropriate site or building directly associated with his productive life; or
- d. a cemetery which derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events; or
- e. a reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived; or
- f. a property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own historical significance; or
- g. a property achieving significance within the past 50 years if it is of exceptional importance.

The survey team prepared a Locus Identification Form on each property identified and a Structural Data Form on each major building or structure (available from the Delaware Department of Transportation). For properties which on the basis of the literature search and field reconnaissance appeared not eligible

for the National Register, the survey team prepared a brief description and evaluation. For properties which appeared potentially eligible for the National Register, the survey team conducted more extensive research. This research involved a correlation of the physical evidence with both secondary sources, including historic themes presented in the Delaware Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan, local histories and historic maps, and primary sources, including census and land records. Repositories consulted included BAHP, Delaware Bureau of Archives and Records, Fine Arts Library, University of Pennsylvania, Hagley Museum and Library, Historical Society of Delaware, Lewes Historical Society, Lewes Public Library, National Archives, Philadelphia Branch, Rehoboth Public Library, and Sussex County Courthouse. In addition, the survey team sought out and interviewed residents who were knowledgeable of local history and the development of local communities. All evaluations of significance were based explicitly upon the Criteria for Evaluation. For properties determined eligible, the survey team prepared National Register of Historic Places Registration Forms (Appendix III).