

APPENDIX D
RESEARCH PROPOSAL

PROPOSAL FOR
ARCHITECTURAL EVALUATION
DE SR 7, MILLTOWN TO PENNSYLVANIA LINE
CONTRACT 83-101-01; F1045 (16)

SUBMITTED TO:

Division of Highways
Delaware Department of Transportation
Dover, Delaware

PREPARED BY:

THE CULTURAL RESOURCE GROUP
LOUIS BERGER & ASSOCIATES INC.
EAST ORANGE, NEW JERSEY

August 1985

SCOPE OF SERVICES

As specified in the Request for Proposals, 12 structures and associated outbuildings, located within the Delaware Route 7, Milltown to Pennsylvania state line project area, are to be examined and evaluated in terms of their architectural/historical significance and their potential eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. Three additional structures, which have already been determined not eligible for the National Register, are to be investigated for their relationship to the overall architectural character of the project area, but are not to be included in the structure-by-structure inventory. Results of this investigation are to be submitted both as an architectural report and as Determination of Eligibility forms.

From information provided in the Request for Proposals, it appears that the structures to be inventoried range in date from the late 18th to late 19th centuries. They are situated in an area that although increasingly developed, appears to retain at least vestiges of a once predominantly rural, agricultural environment, as evidenced by references to agricultural outbuildings associated with several of the properties. Given the approximate date range and location of the structures, a preliminary approach toward interpreting these properties is suggested by Glassie (1972), Pillsbury (1977) and Herman (1982). These studies place the project area in the Delaware Valley folk culture region, and, more specifically, the source areas of southeastern Pennsylvania (particularly Chester and Delaware Counties) and southwestern New Jersey, combining influences from both German and English (as well as Anglo-American) vernacular traditions. Major vernacular house forms that have been associated with this area include the I-house and its Georgian variants, and a three-room "Quaker plan" that is associated with both German and English-derived building traditions in the region. Investigation of the extent to which structures in the project area reflect, or depart from, use of materials and forms identified as characteristic of this cultural region, may provide a framework for interpreting these structures and evaluating their significance on associational (National Register Criterion A) and/or more directly architectural (Criterion C) grounds.

Work Program

1. Preliminary Consultation. Upon initiation of the project, appropriate staff members of the Division of Highways and of the Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation will be consulted concerning the proposed inventory and the results of previous investigations. Issues of particular interest or concern to either agency will be identified and addressed as appropriate in the conduct of the work program.

2. Field Work. Field Work will commence with a reconnaissance of the project area and vicinity, in order to develop an overall

impression of the existing architectural environment. Following this reconnaissance, the architectural historians will conduct structure-by-structure examination of each of the twelve properties specified in the RFP. Major features of each property to be recorded will include setting, orientation and arrangement of structures, approximate dimensions, forms, materials, construction methods, architectural details, and nature and extent of alterations and additions. For those properties whose owners/occupants grant permission, interiors will also be investigated for floor plans, significant architectural features, and additional construction information. Each property will be photographed in 35 mm black and white, with a minimum of two views of each major structure, plus views as necessary to convey the overall character of each property. As field work progresses along the project corridor, types and characteristics of other structures will be noted, with an eye toward identifying those that, while not meeting National Register Criteria, may be of interest in terms of the overall architectural history of Route 7.

3. Research. In order to develop an historical/architectural context within which to interpret the Route 7 structures, a background literature search will be conducted, utilizing among other materials historic maps, county road books, published local, area and state histories, pertinent architectural literature, and previous cultural resource studies relevant to the project area (including, for example, Coleman et. al. 1985). The principal sources of these materials will be BAHF and DOT files, the Historical Society of Delaware, Wilmington, the Hall of Records, Dover, and the University of Delaware Library, Newark.

In addition to background, or contextual, data collection, each of the 12 individual properties will be researched to obtain as precise information as possible concerning date of construction/alteration, original occupants/builders, and use. To accomplish this, each property will first be correlated with historic maps of the area. Then, site histories will be compiled through deed searches carried back as far as is necessary to identify, or confirm, original owner/builders and, if possible, dates of construction/alteration. (For example, a property with clearly late 19th century structures would not be researched back to the 18th century, but a property with early 19th or late 18th century structures would be.) Information on the uses of the property and the nature of the owners' occupation will be sought in probate, tax and census records (the latter including industrial/manufacturing census data, much of which (for Mill Creek Hundred) is reproduced in Coleman (1985)), and in local and area histories. Data such as these will be used to determine potential associational importance and to develop understanding of the history of each property and its place in the occupation and development of the area.

4. Post-field Consultation. Following completion of the field effort, the architectural historians will meet with DelDOT, FHWA and BAHF personnel, to review orally the preliminary findings concerning the potential National Register eligibility of each property.

5. Report and Form Preparation. Based upon the results of the architectural evaluation, and consultation with DelDOT, FHWA and BAHP, the architectural historians will prepare Determination of Eligibility forms, along with appropriate photographic documentation, for each property that appears to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

A final report will also be prepared, that will present the research design, results of the background literature search, methodology employed in the project, and findings. The properties inventoried in the project area, as well as the three that have already been determined not eligible for the National Register, will be discussed and evaluated in an appropriate historical/architectural framework. This framework will include an overview of the existing architectural environment, and a discussion of the relationship of the inventoried properties to that environment. The inventoried properties will also be discussed in the context of the vernacular cultural region in which they are located, and how they reflect area construction patterns, in terms of traditional forms and materials, and in terms of the influence of formal styles occurring in the region. The report will be illustrated with photographs, sketch site plans and maps as appropriate.