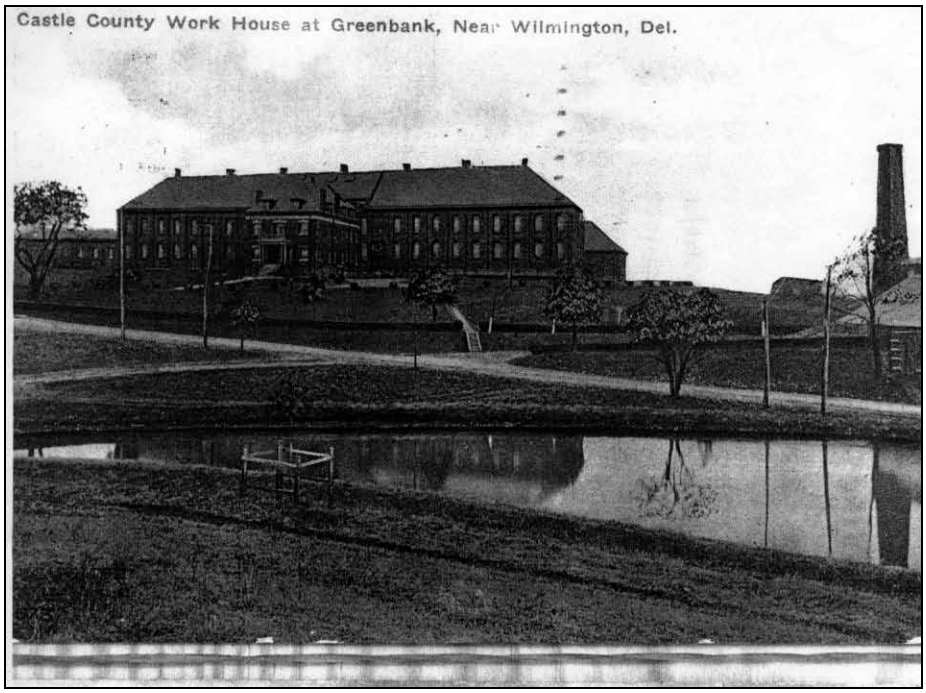
Appendix A – Additional Photographs

Historic Photographs



An undated post card view of the New Castle County Workhouse from the north side of Greenbank Road, looking south. The landscape features and condition of the road indicate the post card likely dates from the early 20th century (DE State Archives).

An undated view of the "Women's Detention Home," looking southwest. The photograph was found with the New Castle County Workhouse 1930 annual report and may be associated with the opening of the building. (Delaware State Archives)

Warden's Report—continued December 13, 1938

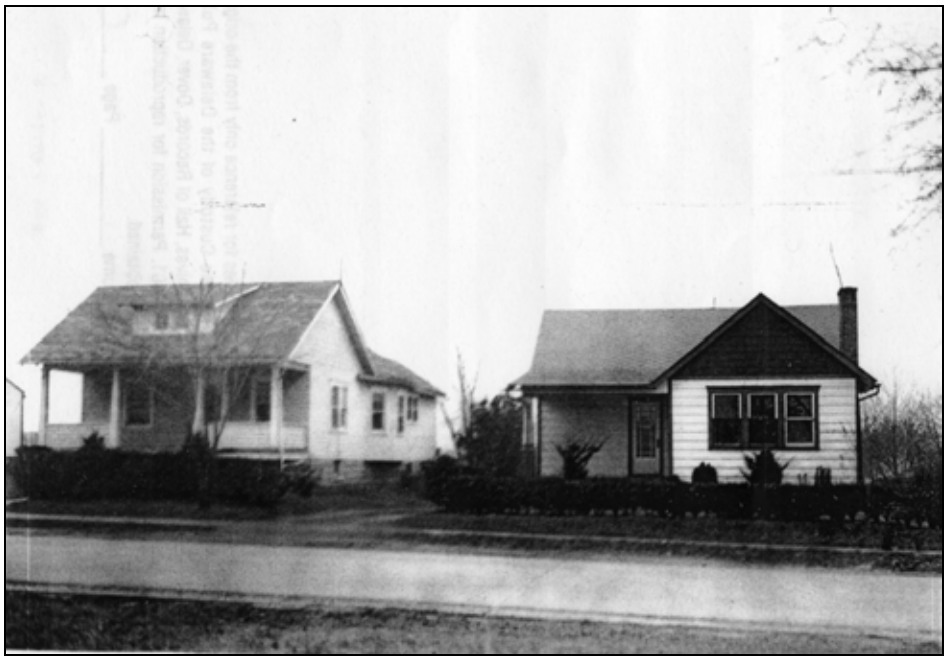
#16 NEW HIGHWAY:

I have talked with Mr. Shaw of the State Highway Department pertaining to the two bungalows at the rear of our institution which will have to be moved. Mr. Hamilton and myself inspected these properties and we estimate that they are worth approximately $3,000.00 each. We were able to get in one of the bungalows, but could not get into the other. They both have 5 rooms and bath and appear to be in fair condition. We estimate that it would cost about $1,000.00 each to move and put them in good living condition. I am attaching hereto a photograph of these bungalows. I understand from Mr. Kemp that Mr. Shaw is going to present a proposition to the Board of Trustees in connection with the land which it will be necessary for them to take when the work on the new highway is started.

#17 INSURANCE:

Our insurance policies covering fire protection on our buildings will expire on January 11, 1939, and I would like the Board to discuss the matter of renewing these policies.

Page from the New Castle County Workhouse 1938 Annual Report, showing two houses to be relocated by the State Highway Department as part of the construction of Kirkwood Highway. (Delaware State Archives)



A copy of the photograph of the Bungalows that were removed by the State Highway Department during the construction of Kirkwood Highway in 1939. (Delaware State Archives)

View of the New Castle County Workhouse after the installation of the perimeter fence c. 1936, looking southwest. The fence in this picture is very similar to the fence currently in place around the women's ward. Note the stone wall in the lower right foreground. This feature is extant.

Contemporary Photographs

View of the northeast corner of the New Castle County Workhouse – Women's Ward (N-13,728) looking southwest.

Detail of the foundation, brick cladding, and fenstration at the northern end of the east elevation.

View of the south and west elevations, looking northeast.

View of the facade and west elevations from the existing entry, looking southeast.

View of the fence installed around the perimeter of the New Castle Workhouse – Women's Ward. Although the fence has been relocated in the past, it appears to have been installed prior to 1954.

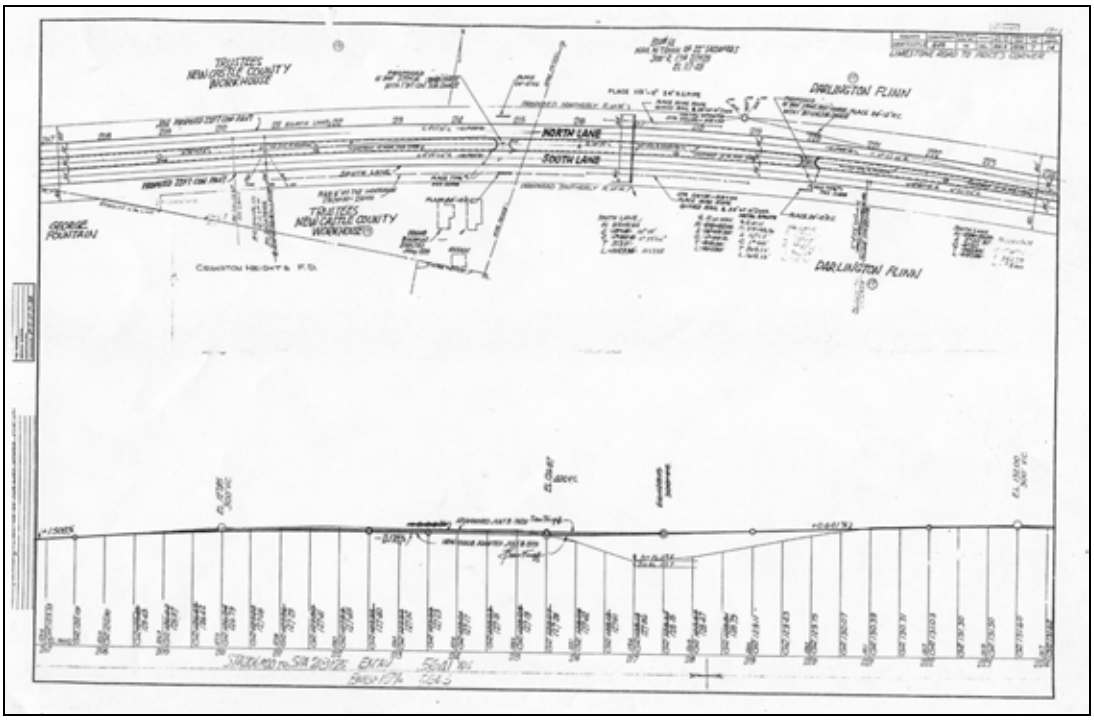
Remnant stone wall at the northwest corner of the tax parcel, a feature associated with a removed parking area for the demolished New Castle County Workhouse. Photo looking west.

View of the stone wall looking southwest.

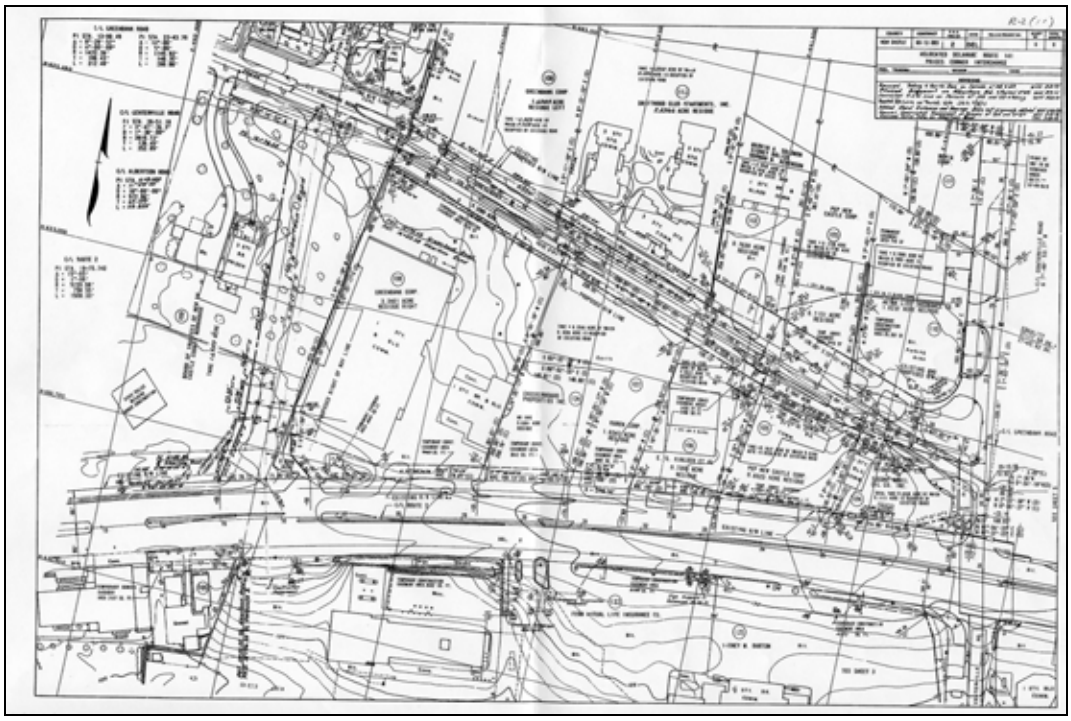
View of the remnant stone wall, looking south. Note the debris at the drainage basin.

Detail of the failed 12-inch terra cotta pipe at the northern end of the stone wall. Once a part of the drainage system along Greenbank Road, this pipe outlet no longer functions.

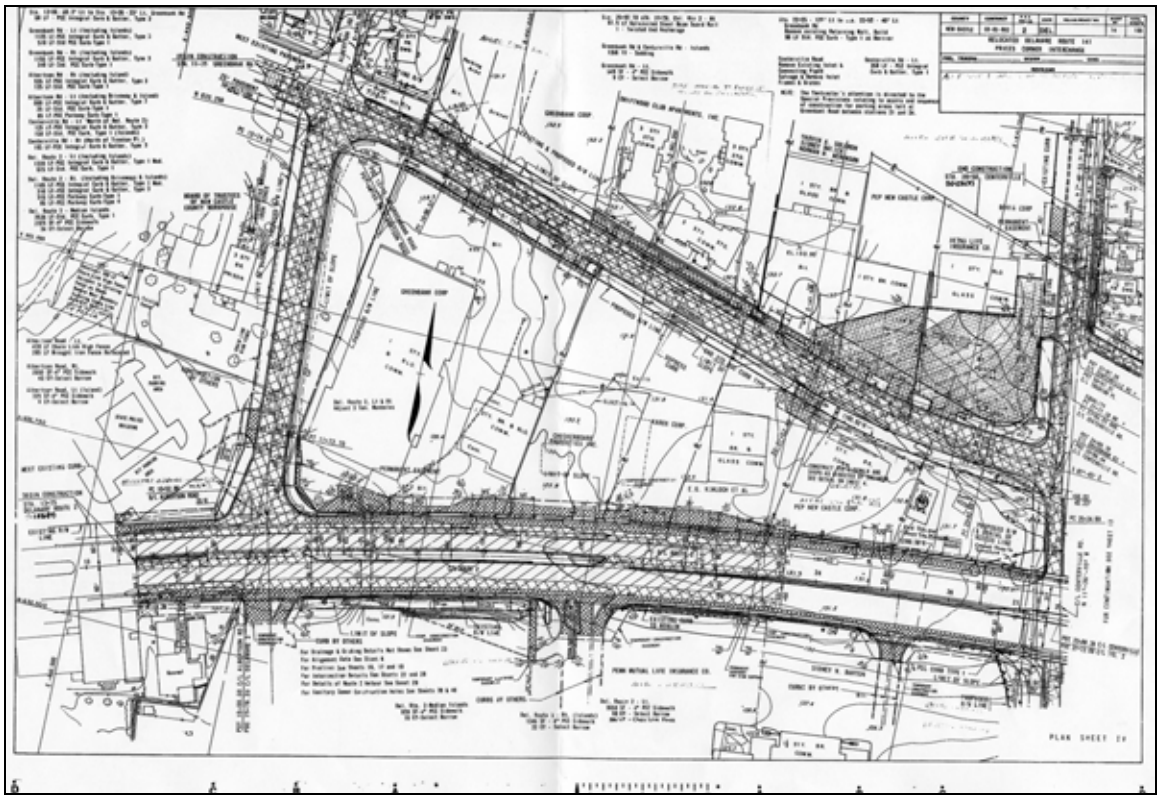
Appendix B – DelDOT Archive Plans



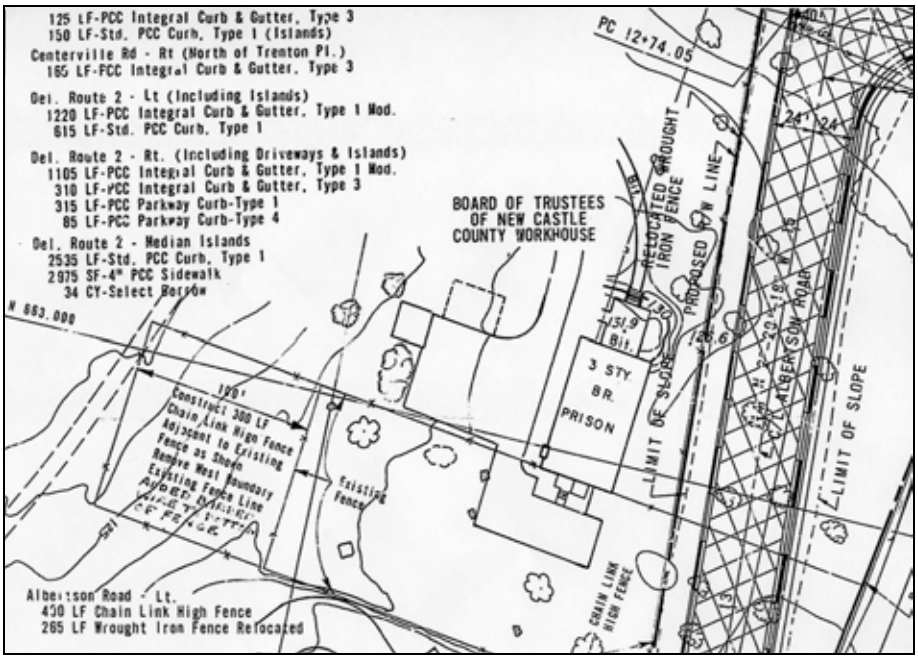
DelDOT Contract 649, Sheet 7 to construct State Route 2 (Kirkwood Highway), 1938. The current project area is situated at top left. The two Bungalows to be removed shown in Appendix B are at top center. (DelDOT Archive Plans)



DelDOT Contract 66-12-003, Sheet 6 to relocate DE Route 141, Prices Corner Interchange, 1966. The plan shows the New Castle County Workhouse – Women's Ward and the extension of Albertson Road, outlined at left. (DelDOT Archive Plans)



DelDOT Contract 69-02-002, Sheet 14 to relocate DE Route 141, Prices Corner Interchange, 1969. The plan sheet more clearly outlines the extension of Albertson Road between Greenbank Road and Kirkwood Highway. (DelDOT Archive Plans)



An enlargement of DelDOT Contract 69-02-002, Sheet 14 showing the note to relocate the wrought iron perimeter fence and install chain link fence.

Appendix C – CRS Forms

N-13,728 New Castle County Workhouse – Women's Ward
N-14,485 Dwelling, 1 Albertson Blvd.
N-14,486 Dwelling, 2 Albertson Blvd.

* CRS Forms available upon request from DelDOT Environmental Studies

Appendix D – Draft NR Nomination for New Castle County Workhouse – Women's Ward

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name New Castle County Workhouse – Women's Ward

other names/site number N-13728

2. Location

street & number 200 Greenbank Road [ ] not for publication

city or town Wilmington [X] vicinity

state Delaware code DE county New Castle code 003 zip code 19806

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this ___ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide ___local

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register ___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register ___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

New Castle County Workhouse - Women's Ward
Name of Property

New Castle County, DE
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

	private
	public - Local
X	public - State
	public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

x	building(s)
	district
	site
	structure
x	object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		district
		site
		structure
	1	object
1	1	**Total**

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Government - Correctional Facility - Jail

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Government - Correctional Facility - Jail

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Modern Movement – Art Deco

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Stone – Sandstone
walls: Brick
roof: Asphalt
other: Concrete trim

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The John L. Webb Correctional Facility in Wilmington, DE is a three-story, five-bay building situated at the eastern end of a "J" shaped 9.15-acre parcel at the intersection of Albertson Blvd. and Greenbank Road. Although the parcel's land use is primarily related to criminal justice, it is segmented among the correctional facility, a Justice of the Peace Court (constructed circa 1993) situated directly to the west, the Delaware State Police Troop 6 station and body shop (circa 1972) to the south, and the Kirkwood Detoxification Center (circa 1972) located to the southwest. The portion of the property currently identified with the prison is surrounded with a six-foot high wrought iron fence. A rectangular, recreation yard south of the correctional facility is surrounded by an 8-foot chain link fence, at one time topped with barbed wire. Oriented towards the north, the resource fronts Greenbank Road at a broad setback. A strip of manicured grass lawn separates the road from the wrought-iron fence. Inside the fence, the property is primarily comprised of a manicured grass lawn. Mature oak trees, a metal flag pole, and a curvilinear concrete sidewalk distinguish the north lawn. Vehicular access to the property is via a narrow drive and parking area situated along the west elevation of the resource.

A remnant feature of a parking lot associated with the demolished New Castle County Workhouse is located at the far northwestern corner of the property, approximately 37 feet from the western boundary of the tax parcel. The feature is a partially buried stone wall that extends north-to-south approximately 23-feet 4-inches long. A comparison of historic and current photographs and a survey of historic plan sheets have identified the feature as a stone retention wall associated with a 12" terra cotta pipe used for drainage. The wall appears to have been installed c. 1937, when an asphalt parking area was constructed along Greenbank Road as part of perimeter improvements to the Workhouse. Historic and current photographs of the retention wall are in Appendix A.

The drainage pipe has failed and is no longer associated with the existing drainage along Greenbank Road. Upgrades to the drainage system associated with the undertaking will involve removing an eleven foot portion of the wall closest to Greenbank Road.

Narrative Description

The five-bay, three-story John L. Webb Correctional Facility is constructed of brick laid in common bond with decorative quoins at either end of the façade. The resource displays the manner of institutional Art Deco, implementing the style through a series of subtle features and characteristics. Deco details include the parapet wall at the top of the façade, decorative brick quoins, and the architectural emphasis of the main entry.

The primary entrance to the resource is a contemporary steel door with a small, tempered glass window capped by a one-light transom. A course of raised brickwork, the only prominent ornamentation at the first floor, frames the slightly-recessed entry. The uncoursed-stone foundation is exposed as a water table at the base of the façade. A course of vertical brick and a second course of brick headers mark the transition to the foundation. A wheelchair lift is situated at the western end of the façade, providing handicapped access to the entry. A metal sign above the entry identifies the resource as the "John L. Webb Correctional Facility" in yellow letters against a blue field. The entry is monitored by three cameras mounted to the façade of the building. The building is also well lit by two sconce lights at the entry and two additional security lights mounted at the second story. Fenestration on the façade is regular and symmetrical, with four, one-over-one, replacement, single-hung sash, wood windows fitted with screens at the first floor. The lower sash of each window has steel bars at the interior. The windows are trimmed with narrow wood surrounds and projecting, concrete sills. The second and third floors each have five windows fashioned identically to those on the first floor. The pattern of fenestration is such that the center window – corresponding to an interior hallway – is set slightly apart from the sets of two windows located at the exterior of the elevation – corresponding to interior holding cells. The corbiestepped roof line is trimmed with a narrow frieze band of vertical bricks.

(Continued)

New Castle County Workhouse - Women's Ward
Name of Property

New Castle County, DE
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [X] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [ ] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [ ] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [ ] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- [ ] A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- [ ] B removed from its original location.
- [ ] C a birthplace or grave.
- [ ] D a cemetery.
- [ ] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- [ ] F a commemorative property.
- [ ] G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Government

Period of Significance

1929-1960 (end of historic period to date)

Significant Dates

1929

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Period of Significance (justification)
The period of significance extends from the date of construction to the end of the historic period (fifty years in the past from the time of this nomination's submission)

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The New Castle County Workhouse – Women's Ward is historically significant as the first women's prison in Delaware. Constructed in 1929, the facility has continually served as a correctional institution, though it no longer houses women. The prison building is well-preserved, carefully maintained, and retains integrity as well as significance.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The John L. Webb Correctional Facility has been evaluated as a prison. Research indicates the resource was constructed in 1929 after years of lobbying and planning by a variety of reform-minded organizations such as the National Society of Penal Information, the Prisoners Aid Society and the Russell Sage Foundation. Ultimately the prison was constructed by the Board of Trustees of New Castle County Workhouse as the women's ward of the New Castle County Workhouse. The construction project was financed by the New Castle County Levy Court. The building was the first women's prison constructed in the State of Delaware. Previously in the corrections system in Delaware, women and men were housed in the same facility, though sequestered from one another. Evidence exists from a variety of primary sources citing the need for constructing a separate prison for women. Several letters use morality as the impetus for separating men and women in the correctional system. In 1921, a Board of Trustees report states, "…our Institution is now not a suitable place to confine women." In November 1923, Warden Wilson wrote to the Board of Trustees, "As a first principal of moral education there must be a separation of the sexes." Although it took nearly an entire decade and changes in plans, the new women's prison was constructed in 1929.

The facility is representative of a trend in the moral reform of prisons during the early 20th century. Although the resource no longer functions as a women's prison, it remains active in the Delaware Department of Corrections. As such, the prison retains a high degree of its integrity of feeling, association, design and location. As an institutional building, the resource has been well-cared-for, receiving regular maintenance that has contributed to its retention of integrity of setting and materials. For these reasons, the John L. Webb Correctional Facility is recommended eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A. The period of significance for the resource is 1929, when the facility opened, to 1962, the close of the historic period of 50-years for the purposes of this project.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

The Board of Trustees of New Castle County Workhouse was created in 1899 when the Delaware Legislature authorized construction of a new county prison to replace the existing jail in New Castle. The board was comprised of five appointed county residents committed to serving five-year terms. The New Castle County Levy court financed the construction of the prison by selling bonds (Caldwell 105). Money from the bond sales was transferred to the Board of Trustees in order to purchase land and construct the workhouse. The 200-cell prison – 180 for men, 20 for women – opened in 1901 on a 38.25-acre parcel situated adjacent to the Red Clay Creek in rural Greenbank, Delaware. (Continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Ames, David L., Mary Helen Callahan, Bernard L. Herman, and Rebecca J. Siders. *Delaware Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan.* Newark: Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering, University of Delaware, 1989.

(Continued)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
____previously listed in the National Register
____previously determined eligible by the National Register
____designated a National Historic Landmark
____recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
____recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
____recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

____State Historic Preservation Office
__x__Other State agency
____Federal agency
____Local government
____University
____Other
Name of repository: **Delaware Department of Transportation**

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): Delaware CRS Number: N-13728

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property ~4 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	446248.6178	4398865.1617	3			
2				4			

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
The delineated boundary of the resource is defined as the following: starting at the northwest corner, where the existing wrought-iron fence runs north-south along the western boundary of the area of the property managed by the John L. Webb Correctional Facility, extend the fence line to the northern tax parcel boundary along the Greenbank Road right-of-way, continue in an easterly direction along the tax parcel line approximately 370 feet to the intersection of Greenbank Road and Albertson Boulevard. Follow the tax parcel line in a southerly direction approximately 450 feet until a point where the wrought iron fence meets the chain link fence that encloses exercise area to the south of the prison facility. At this location, the chain link fence turns in a westerly direction and the NR boundary follows along the fence approximately 475 feet, then northerly approximately 150 feet, and ultimately easterly approximately 75 feet until it intersects the historical iron-fence running north-south to the west of the prison building.
(Continued)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary adequately encompasses and conveys the significance of the resource and excludes contemporary development on the parcel that does not contribute to the understanding of the resource's history.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jon Schmidt, Planner II

organization Delaware Department of Transportation Date 3/2010

street & number 800 S. Bay Road Dover, DE telephone (302) 760.2282

city or town Dover state DE zip code 19904

e-mail Jon.Schmidt@state.de.us

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

  A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: New Castle County Workhouse – Women's Ward

City or Vicinity: Wilmington (Vicinity)

County: New Castle **State: Delaware**

Photographer: Jon Schmidt

Date Photographed: August 2009

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1 of ___

New Castle County Workhouse - Women's Ward
Name of Property

New Castle County, DE
County and State

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name State of Delaware

street & number 245 McKee Road telephone

city or town Dover state DE zip code 19904

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The seven-bay, three-story west elevation is situated atop an exposed, ground-level foundation. The first, second, and third floors of the elevation are clad with brick. A narrow frieze band of vertical bricks caps the elevation.

The exposed foundation is constructed of uncoursed stone. Fenestration is regular and symmetrical except for the offset set of slightly smaller windows in the second bay. The second bay consists of a one-over-one metal sash at the first floor, with brick infill above. It is likely that these windows historically illuminated an interior staircase. The remaining windows consist of one-over-one metal sash. Many are fitted with screens, some with window-mounted air conditioners. All windows have vertical metal security bars mounted at the interior. Trim includes narrow wood surrounds and projecting concrete sills. A partially engaged, brick chimney is situated at the southern end of the elevation, between the sixth and seventh bays. A variety of electrical conduit, security lighting, and electronic surveillance equipment are mounted to the elevation.

The five-bay, three-story rear elevation is oriented toward the south. The elevation is comprised of common bond brick, with the uncoursed stone foundation exposed at the base. The bottom and top courses of the elevation are trimmed with vertical brick. The defining feature of the elevation is a permanent, metal fire escape at the eastern half of the elevation. The structure provides inmates access to an enclosed recreation area immediately adjacent to the correctional facility. There are entries at the center of the first, second, and third floors. Each is fitted with a flat panel, steel door with a one-light window. Transoms above the second and third story doors have been infilled with brick. The door at the first floor is fitted with vertical metal bars at three sides, creating a steel enclosure. A poured concrete stair provides access to this entry. Fenestration at the elevation is regular and asymmetrical. There are only four bays at the first floor. The easternmost window bay is absent. At the second story, the eastern two bays are infilled with brick. Only the third floor retains a symmetrical five-bay arrangement similar to the façade. All windows are one-over-one, single-hung wood sash fitted with vertical, metal bars at the interior. The windows are trimmed with a thin wood surround and projecting concrete sills. As on other elevations, a variety of electrical conduit, lighting, and security equipment are mounted to the elevation.

The seven-bay, three-story east elevation exhibits a half-story of the uncoursed stone foundation. As featured throughout the building, a course of vertical bricks lines the base and frieze of the elevation. Fenestration is regular and symmetrical, consisting of one-over-one, wood sash windows fitted with vertical metal bars at the interior. Identical to the other elevations, the windows are trimmed with narrow wood surrounds and projecting concrete sills. Several windows on the elevation are fitted with window unit air conditioners. A kitchen ventilation fan is situated at the southernmost window at the first floor. The lone drain pipe of the resource is at the southern end of the elevation. An interior brick chimney is also located at the southern end of the elevation.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (Continued)

The Board of Trustees was charged with overseeing the daily operation of the workhouse by appointing and hiring employees, providing tools, food, and all other responsibilities associated with operating a safe prison (Ibid. 106). Prior to 1918 the Board of Trustees submitted a variety of annual reports, budgets, and detailed account statements to the New Castle County Levy Court. In 1918 a new accounting system was adopted that organized reports in a manner that is readily accessible. The annual reports of the Board of Trustees to the Levy Court dated 1918 through 1955 are presently held in the Delaware State Archives. These annual reports are composed of monthly reports submitted to the Board by the warden.

The earliest surviving document discussing the need for a separate women's prison is a portion of Hastings H. Hart's "Survey of the Workhouse" written February 27, 1920. Hart was the director of the Russell Sage Foundation, an organization dedicated to improving social and living conditions in America. Hart wrote, "I would advise that you immediately create a women's prison without waiting for legislative appropriation." "The most unsatisfactory part of the plant is the women's department," he continued. "The women east and sit either in a small work room or in a narrow corridor in front of the cell" (Ibid. 106). Hart even suggested temporarily transferring the women prisoners to a facility in Clinton, NJ until a separate prison could be constructed. Although no action was apparently taken, Hart's report did not fall on deaf ears.

In their 1921 annual report, The Board of Trustees wrote about the untenable circumstance of housing men and women in the same prison facility.

> We would again call your attention to our Women's Prison. We have agitated this question for several years, going to the Legislature upon two occasions. This portion of our Institution is now not a suitable place to confine women; there can be no segregation, it is unsanitary and a detriment to the Institution…We would again recommend an entirely separate building away from the workhouse property, possibly in a small farm and under separate management. (Ibid. 136)

In early 1923 the Prisoners' Aid Society (PAS) prepared a bill to provide for a prison farm for women in New Castle County. The bill was presented to the legislature in 1923 and became law on April 5, 1923 (Ibid. 150). The legislation established a five-member board of managers consisting of at least three women and authorized the Levy Court to borrow $50,000 at 6.5% interest, payable on a twenty year note (Ibid. 151). Under the law, all New Castle County female prisoners were to be sent to a farm and employed in "suitable work" (Ibid. 152). Despite the promise of the legislation, the Levy Court was unwilling to issue bonds or release funds, so little action took place.

In November of 1923, Workhouse Warden Elwood H. Wilson wrote in his annual report accompanying the *Joseph S. Hamilton Monthly Reports of New Castle County Workhouse for year of November 1922 to November 1923*, about the many needed improvements and changes at the workhouse, including the need to construct a separate women's prison facility.

> I sincerely hope you will again use your best efforts to obtain a separate prison for women. Present conditions are a menace to the discipline and well being of the inmates of this institution. No law ever intended that men and women should be placed under the same roof in visual contact in prison. It is an obligation of the state to protect society from a condition of affairs. It causes moral perversion, sexual deviation and degeneracy. As a first principal of moral education there must be a separation of the sexes. In many states separation has been carried to the extent of having entirely separate buildings put up for female prisoners under different management for the two sexes.

> It is my opinion that there should be a separate prison for women in Delaware under the supervision and management of a Board of Trustees appointed by the members of the judiciary of Delaware. (Wilson not paginated)

Judging by the manner in which Wilson structures his request, this was not the first time he petitioned for the construction of a new women's prison. However, no further correspondence has been discovered. In the same month the National Society of Penal Information offered the following assessment.

> The presence of women is most undesirable. Facilities for serving their meals are quite inadequate. The windows of the women's wing look down on the recreation yard of the men. There is a day matron, but when the prison was visited, there was no night supervision. In no other state where women are confined in a section of the men's prison are the conditions so unsatisfactory in every way as here or the need for placing the women in a separate institution, so urgent. (Caldwell 139)

Despite this internal lobbying, no immediate action took place. On June 5, 1925, James A. Barkley, the director of education in the New Castle County Workhouse submitted his monthly report to the Board of Trustees. While displaying the period's more provincial outlook toward women, Barkley plainly stated his opinion that constructing a women's prison was overdue.

> The work in the Women's Ward is our problem. The conditions under which we are forced to work is [*sic*] a serious handicap. The quality of mind with which we must deal here requires the most skillful handling. No effort should be spared to secure a separate prison for women. Our work with women under the most favorable conditions would be difficult but situated as they are it is almost hopeless. Here we find the most dangerous criminal. As the most delicate work of art is most easily marred, so a woman is capable of rising to the very heights of moral integrity and on the other hand of descending to the lowest depths of sin and crime. I feel that we have not yet solved our problem with the women. (New Castle County Workhouse Minutes of Meetings 1925, not paginated)

Despite the failure in lobbying for the construction of a new women's prison, the PAS continued to work for change. Throughout the late 1920s the organization met with county officials, trustees of the workhouse, former trustees of the women's prison, as well as members of the bar association, and Levy Court (Caldwell 153). The PAS again secured agreements to building a women's prison, this time on the property of the New Castle County Workhouse. Significantly, this time the New Castle County Levy Court agreed to a bond issue of $50,000 (Ibid.). The prison was designed and constructed during 1929, built primarily with prison labor.

Blueprints and construction specifications for the prison survive in the Delaware Public Archives. The specifications document describes the exact measurements and materials to be used in the construction of the prison down to the last detail and provides insight into why the building looks the way it does. The document specifies for the brick exterior to be laid in common bond with 7-to-1 Flemish Bond rows, as well as for cast-concrete sills, lintels, flue caps and copings. The builder was instructed to install a granite door sill, and risers of equal quality to Mr. Airy stone ("Specifications of Workmanship and Materials…" not paginated). The terrace and landscaping plan were also specified. The entrance plan, however, is not discussed, and may have been determined at a later date or – curiously – left to the discretion of the contractor. Blueprints and specifications for the interior list the use of each room by floor.

At the time the facility opened, the basement was divided into thirteen rooms not including a central corridor: a clothing storage room, two shower rooms, vegetable storage room, general storage room, laundry room

with a stair, boiler room, coal and ash room, "insane cell" room, stair hall, and prisoner receiving room. The first floor also contained thirteen rooms and a corridor: the matron's office, matron's bedroom, matron's lavatory and closet, prisoner and visitor consultation room, pantry, kitchen and stair, dining room, matron's dining room, stair hall, assistant matron's bedroom, and assistant matron's lavatory and closet. The second floor again contained thirteen rooms and a corridor: cell space for seven cells with three beds each, a communal dormitory with eight beds, four dual-bunk dormitories, and a guard control corridor. The third floor originally contained ten rooms in addition to the corridor: a workshop, communal lavatory, chapel, doctor and dentist office, hospital with a separate lavatory, and four detention cells.

Interior specifications were so specific as to describe the height of sanitary wainscot tiling in the bathrooms, identify where wood, terrazzo, and finished concrete floors were to be installed, and explain the width and type of trim to be installed around windows (Ibid.). The composition of the concrete filling for the floors was also specified: one part cement to three parts sand to five parts cinder (Ibid.). The type of mortar used in the exterior brick is specified at one part Portland cement to three parts sand (Ibid.). Such minutiae were not to be left to the discretion of the building contractor.

The female inmates of the New Castle County Workhouse were transferred to the new women's prison on October 19, 1929. At the time the women's prison was opened, it was still under the direction of Warden Elmer J. Leach. The following month, Hope S. Leach, his wife, was elevated to the position of Superintendent of the women's facility (Caldwell 163). The event was overlooked in the week's newspapers. Built with a capacity for 70, the inmate population of the women's prison as of December 1st was 30. The facility averaged 32 prisoners for the month, the first for which such statistics are available. By 1934, the average inmate population rose to 44.

In the new prison, women's activities were expanded to include darning socks, making and ironing uniforms for policemen and correctional officers, knitting towels, bedclothes, dresses and night gowns, and canning vegetables harvested from the Delcastle Prison Farm (Caldwell 163). The Red Cross continued to offer classes in first aid, sewing and cooking that were previously offered at the workhouse. Church services were conducted at the facility twice weekly (Women's Prison Annual Report 1930 n.p.).

After the construction of the women's prison, the New Castle County Workhouse underwent a series of renovations and alterations to expand capacity. One of the alterations included constructing a new gatehouse and fencing the grounds around the prison. In 1936, several contractors submitted architectural drawings and proposals to vie for the contract to install a fence around the prison (Delaware State Archives RG 2847 Series 070 Box 4). Renderings show the extent of the fencing, which does not appear to have included the grounds of the women's prison. However, a photograph of the fence shortly after its installation shows that it bears a resemblance to the fence presently in place around the women's prison. The contractor responsible for installing the fence is not documented.

On October 27, 1938 and April 11, 1939, the State of Delaware acquired three parcels of land from the workhouse (NCC Recorder of Deeds D-41-234, K-41-57). The first transaction acquired right-of-way for the construction of Kirkwood Highway. The latter purchase consisted of 2.653 acres of land cut off from the prison grounds by the newly constructed roadway. Two bungalows located on the property as of December 1938 were relocated to the south side of Kirkwood Highway in May 1939 according to DelDOT Road Contract 649, Sheet 7.

In 1969, another DelDOT project directly affected the lands of the women's prison. Contract 69-02-002 involved the construction of the clover leaf interchange of SR 141 and Kirkwood Highway (SR 2) at Price's Corner. The western end of this project involved constructing a thoroughfare to provide another connection between the Albertson Park Subdivision, Greenbank Road and Kirkwood Highway. At the time the extention to Albertson Boulevard was constructed, the Department of Corrections deeded 1.695 acres of right of way to the DelDOT. The fence, which originally surrounded the full extent of the women's prison property – adjacent to what is

presently the AMF Price Lanes bowling alley – was relocated to its current position at the west side of Albertson Boulevard.

In late 1943 or early 1944, the monthly women's prison reports stopped being submitted as separate documents alongside the workhouse reports to the Board of Trustees of the New Castle County Workhouse. Around this time information about the activities within the facility becomes sparse. However, a detailed report from 1953 discusses difficulties in sustaining the women's programs due a population that varied between 9 and 17 inmates. The document also indicates that during the previous year, women inmates had access to shell craft, modeling, crocheting, embroidering and painting classes three times weekly (Department of Corrections Annual Report, n.p.). Records also show that University of Delaware students volunteered once a week at the facility.

As a result of reforms ongoing within the prison industry, the Board of Trustees of the New Castle County Workhouse was abolished on July 1, 1956. The responsibilities of operating the workhouse and women's prison were transferred to the newly created State Board of Corrections. As corrections practices modernized, the New Castle County Workhouse became antiquated. In 1971, the Delaware Correctional Center (DCC) opened in Smyrna, rendering the workhouse obsolete. In 1973 the women's prison building was formally separated from the Workhouse when the latter building and the immediately surrounding 22 +/- acres were transferred back to New Castle County (NCC Recorder of Deeds Z-95-157). The agreement stipulated that the buildings on the property were to be demolished within a year and the land converted to a park.

Records from the time period and recollections of employees are sketchy and imprecise (and many other records are classified), but it appears that the women's prison was briefly idled and then adapted for use as the Pre-Trial Annex of DCC, designed to house as many as 75 male inmates awaiting trial. In 1978 the Pre-Trial Annex became an independent facility. The structure continued to operate in this capacity through 1986 when it was adapted to house incarcerated Driving Under the Influence offenders (State of Delaware Department of Corrections). The facility housed Level V prisoners, meaning inmates were fully incarcerated within the Department of Corrections system. In November 2007, the facility stepped down within the state system to house Level IV prisoners, meaning those exiting the penal system, participating in a short term work release program, or community service projects. DUI offenders continue to be housed at the facility.

On December 9, 1994 the facility was renamed the John L. Webb Correctional Center (currently the Webb Correctional Facility) in honor of the first African American correctional officer and male warden in Delaware history (State of Delaware Department of Corrections). Webb was hired as a correctional officer at the New Castle County Workhouse in 1954. He continued in this position until 1971, when the Delaware Correctional Center opened. Webb was promoted to the rank of Captain and transferred to the Smyrna prison. When the women's prison became the Pre-Trial Annex in 1974, Webb transferred back to Greenbank. When the facility became independent in 1978, Webb was promoted to warden, a position he held through his retirement in 1989. Webb currently resides in Wilmington. On October 27, 2009, Jon Schmidt and Nathaniel Delesline of DelDOT Environmental Studies conducted an interview with Mr. Webb. The interview confirmed historical research and documents. The resulting content of the interview did not add anything further to the historical record.

The Webb Correctional Facility has undergone a variety of alterations to integrate modern security technology, adapt to the modern needs of staff and prisoners, meet code requirements, and implement mechanical system improvements. The most recent renovations took place between 1996 and 1998 when a minor capital improvement project involved upgrading the plumbing and mechanical systems. An active facility within the Department of Corrections, security restrictions prevent providing detailed descriptions of the prison interior. At the end of the first decade of the 21st century, a rough outline of the facility shows that the alteration of rooms has taken place only at the first floor, which now contains thirteen rooms, compared to the original fourteen.

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Section 10 **Verbal Boundary Description** (Continued)

The boundary follows this fence in a northerly direction approximately 335 feet until returning to the place of the beginning. The boundary contains approximately 4 acres of land and the John L. Webb Correctional Facility. In addition to the prison, the wrought iron fence, walkway, mature trees, and landscape features immediately adjacent to the prison building are contributing elements within the historic boundary. As presently laid out, the entry and parking area are not considered contributing elements.

Name of Property: New Castle County Workhouse – Women's Ward
City or Vicinity: Wilmington (Vicinity)
County: New Castle State: Delaware
Photographer: Jon Schmidt
Date Photographed: August 2009
Description of Photograph(s) and number:
1 of 7
View of the north and west elevations of the New Castle County Workhouse – Women's Ward, looking southeast.

Name of Property: New Castle County Workhouse – Women's Ward
City or Vicinity: Wilmington (Vicinity)
County: New Castle State: Delaware
Photographer: Jon Schmidt
Date Photographed: August 2009
Description of Photograph(s) and number:
2 of 7
View of the northeast corner of the Women's Ward, looking southwest.

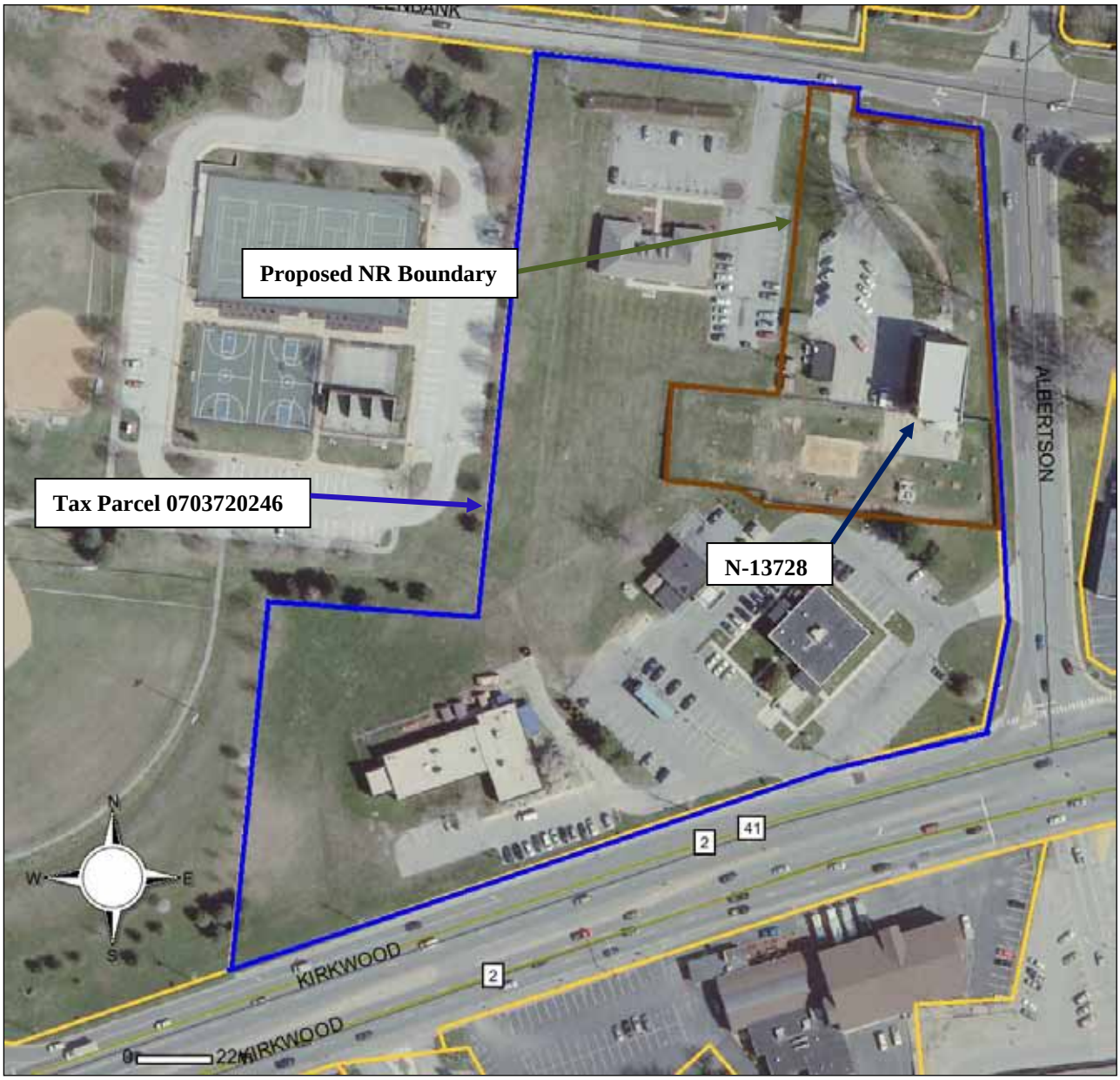
Name of Property: New Castle County Workhouse – Women's Ward
City or Vicinity: Wilmington (Vicinity)
County: New Castle State: Delaware
Photographer: Jon Schmidt
Date Photographed: August 2009
Description of Photograph(s) and number:
3 of 7
Detail of the foundation, brick cladding and fenestration at the northern end of the east elevation.

Name of Property: New Castle County Workhouse – Women's Ward
City or Vicinity: Wilmington (Vicinity)
County: New Castle State: Delaware
Photographer: Jon Schmidt
Date Photographed: August 2009
Description of Photograph(s) and number:
4 of 7
View of the south and west elevations, looking northeast.

Name of Property: New Castle County Workhouse – Women's Ward
City or Vicinity: Wilmington (Vicinity)
County: New Castle State: Delaware
Photographer: Sarah Creswell
Date Photographed: October 2009
Description of Photograph(s) and number:
5 of 7
Remnant stone wall at the northwestern corner of the tax parcel, a feature associated with a removed parking area for the demolished New Castle County Workhouse.

Name of Property: New Castle County Workhouse – Women's Ward
City or Vicinity: Wilmington (Vicinity)
County: New Castle State: Delaware
Photographer: Sarah Creswell
Date Photographed: October 2009
Description of Photograph(s) and number:
6 of 7
Detail of the failed 12-inch terra cotta pipe at the northern end of the stone wall. Once a part of the drainage system along Greenbank Road, the outlet no longer functions.

Name of Property: New Castle County Workhouse – Women's Ward
City or Vicinity: Wilmington (Vicinity)
County: New Castle State: Delaware
Photographer: Jon Schmidt
Date Photographed: c. 1929
Description of Photograph(s) and number:
7 of 7
An undated view of the east and north elevations of the "Women's Detention Home," looking southwest. The photograph was found with the New Castle County Workhouse 1930 annual report and may be associated with the opening of the buildin



Aerial view of the property showing the National Register Boundary in relation to the tax parcel.