

places; however, utility maps are generally not considered accurate, and locations should be confirmed in the field for design purposes.

**Historical value.** Historical societies and agencies may also have important site information. The identification of historic and archaeological elements of a site is very important. Most states have regulations protecting historic or archaeological materials and sites. Discovering that a site has a historical feature or value is a critical piece of data in the early analysis. Sources of information regarding these features include local and state historical agencies and societies as well as local government records. Other sources include early USGS maps and libraries. Sometimes local names for features such as bridges and roads might be indicators of some historical or cultural element of value. Historical sources often have informative value as well. Place and road names often provide insight into former conditions and uses. “Swamp Road,” for example, could suggest seasonal flooding or wetland conditions not in evidence at the time of a site visit.

Local historic and cultural values are sometimes hard to discern. Sources for information may address the physical area of value but not address the community attachment to less tangible values such as views or local character. These values are often unwritten and informal, but they may represent a significant, albeit unofficial, community interest that should be addressed. Though more difficult to identify, analysts should be sensitive to such community values.

### Infrastructure

The location of surface and subsurface utilities is also completed in the site analysis. The analyst should identify the locations, capacity, and access to all necessary utilities, as well as the requirements for connections. Of particular importance might be moratoriums on sanitary sewer or water connections or exorbitant connection fees. Equally important is the consideration of interferences between utilities either on the site or in bringing the utilities to the site. Access to public water and sewers should be evaluated. The capacity of existing water and sewers may be of a concern in some communities and should be evaluated at these early stages.

The capacity of road networks to accommodate proposed traffic is also a concern. Are local roads of a type and design sufficient for the proposed project? Are turning radii adequate? Will traffic signals and other improvements be necessary? Requirements to upgrade public highways may be prohibitive for some projects.

### Assessing “Fit”

Fit is a difficult criterion to define conclusively. It is, however, like quality—you will recognize it when you see it. In some places gauging fit is as simple as reading the zoning and local development plans; in other communities, fit is a more difficult assessment to make. In general, fit is determined by how the