1.0 Introduction

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This report discusses the results of a Phase I investigation conducted by A.D. Marble & Company for the proposed replacement of Bridge 1-651 on Newport Road over the CSX rail line and related improvements in Christiana Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware. The objective of these studies was to assess the National Register eligibility of 50-year-plus old architectural resources that have the potential to be affected by the proposed improvements and to inform future archaeological investigations associated with the project. The APE includes properties fronting portions of Newport Road, School Lane, Kiamensi Street, and James Avenue. The APE includes the Marshallton Heights residential subdivision and the Marshallton Consolidated School. The project sponsors are the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

The investigations associated with this report were conducted in accordance with the guidelines *Delaware State Historic Preservation Office Survey Forms, Instructions and Data Coordination Guidance* (2002) and the *Guidelines for Architectural and Archaeological Surveys in* Delawar (1993). In addition, the cultural resource evaluations were conducted in accordance with Section 106 of The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended and the Procedures for the Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties set forth in 36 CFR 800, as amended. This legislation requires that the effect(s) of any federally assisted undertaking on historically significant districts, buildings, structures, objects, or sites be taken into account during the project planning process. Significant resources are those that are listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places.

1.1 Project Location

The Bridge 1-651 on Newport Road over CSX project is located in Christiana Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware (Figure 1, Photographs 1 and 2). The project area is located in the southwestern suburbs of the City of Wilmington, east of the unincorporated village of Marshallton. The study area is defined by the local transportation network including the CSX corridor to the south and east, Old Capitol Trail to the north and west, and Red Clay Creek to the west and south.

1.2 Physical Geography

The project area is located in north-central New Castle County, Delaware and in the Fall Line Zone of the southern margin of the Piedmont Physiographic Province. The Red Clay Creek, the nearest major tributary to the project APE, is located almost 0.25 miles west of the project area, and it feeds into the White Clay Creek approximately 1.0 mile south of the project area. White Clay Creek flows west to east, across the county, and on the Fall Line.

Archaeologist Jay Custer (1984:23-25) notes that the Fall Line Zone resembles a large alluvial fan, because it is where tributaries originating in the Piedmont drop their bed loads as they encounter the abrupt shift from a steep to gradual-sloped gradient at the Fall Line. In the deeper past, these bed loads included clast sizes ranging from fine sands to cobbles and boulders. This depositional history at the Fall Line has precipitated a series of well-drained soils that are interspersed with cobble beds.
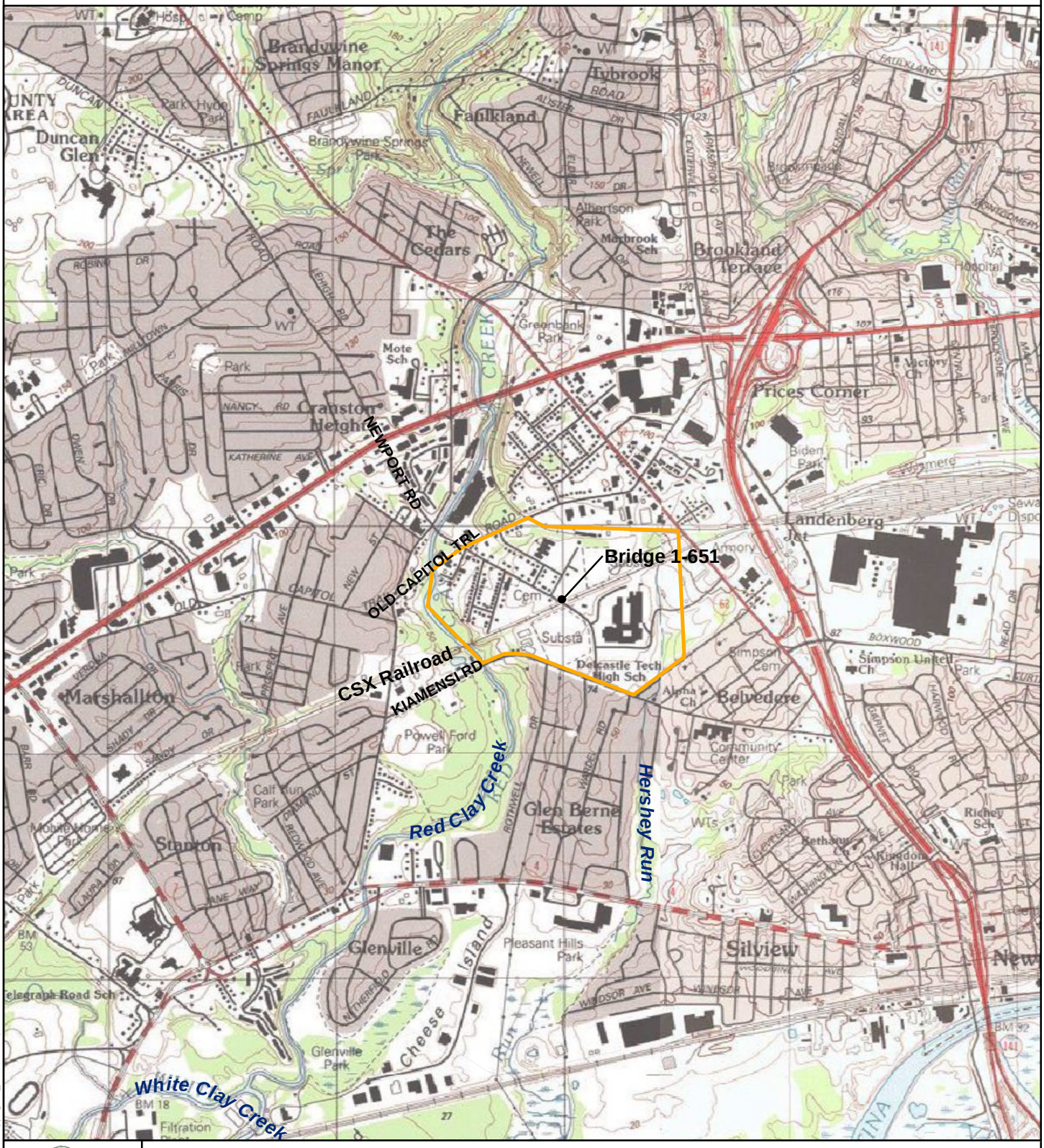
Figure 1
Project Location Map
Bridge 1-651 on Newport Road over CSX
Christiana Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware