

## **ABSTRACT**

GAI Consultants, Inc., Monroeville, Pennsylvania, has completed a Phase I archeological survey in association with the Bridge 4A on US Route 13A project in Kent County, Delaware. The proposed project will involve replacing the existing bridge and rebuilding the roadway approaches to the new structure. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) for archeological resources on the project consists of a corridor measuring 290 meters (951 feet) in length, and 18 meters (59 feet) wide, that extends from a southern terminus at Station 1+000, 115 meters south of Bridge 4A to Station 1+290, 185 meters north of the bridge. The Phase I archeological survey, performed on behalf of the Delaware Department of Transportation, involved background research and field survey of the 0.52-hectare (1.29-acre) project corridor.

Background research indicated no recorded cultural resources were present in the APE. This research suggested that the majority of the project corridor possessed a low potential for prehistoric archaeological resources, except at its northern and southern termini, which are situated on slightly more elevated locations adjacent to a stream valley, and thus were thought to have a high prehistoric potential. GAI also judged the project area to possess a moderate potential for archeological resources related to historic dwellings and activities associated with a reported late nineteenth- or early twentieth-century mill seat at Derby Pond.

Fieldwork indicated that the entire western side of the project ROW either was disturbed by prior road construction or was inundated by Derby Pond. Subsurface survey on the east side of the ROW exposed disturbed and poorly drained soil profiles and produced no archaeological materials. During the fieldwork, GAI noted the presence of a previously recorded architectural resource, the eighteenth-century R. Lewis house (CRS K-2032) east of the project APE. A group of planks set vertically within the Tidbury Stream bottom was identified that represented the remains of an earlier bridge in this location; this find lies 2-3 meters east of the project APE, and requires no further investigation. No archeological evidence of the reported mill or R. Lewis house was encountered during the fieldwork. In conclusion, no architectural resources are located within the project's Area of Potential Effect. Accordingly, GAI recommends no further archaeological investigations for this project.