

### III. RESEARCH DESIGN

#### A. Objectives

In order to assist DelDOT's project planning and analysis of alternatives, the objectives of the present investigation were to identify historic resources located within the APE for the proposed bridge rehabilitation and to evaluate the eligibility of those resources for listing in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. The level of survey combined Phase I (Background Research and Location/Identification) and Phase II (Evaluation) studies. Investigators undertook research sufficient for the development of a historic context following the guidelines of the *Delaware Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan* (Ames et al. 1989) and its associated context documents. The APE was defined as the area liable to visual effects from the proposed rehabilitative work on the bridge.

#### B. Methods

The methodology for the present study involved background research, to provide data for the development of a historic context, and fieldwork, to carry out the identification and documentation of historic resources in the APE. Following research and fieldwork activities, National Register eligibility evaluations were undertaken utilizing the criteria developed by the historic context.

Background research activities consisted of examination of materials at various repositories. Researchers examined Delaware SHPO survey files and obtained copies of previously completed CRS and National Register forms for historic resources identified within the APE (Delaware SHPO various). Historic contexts and other historical information describing the development of the project area were also inspected at the Delaware SHPO in Dover. Tax parcel and land ownership information was collected at the New Castle County Department of Land Use in New Castle. Historical research was conducted at the office of the New Castle County Recorder of Deeds and the Historical Society of Delaware, both in Wilmington.

Fieldwork consisted of vehicular and pedestrian survey of the project area to identify historic resources meeting the National Register's 50-year age criterion. Based upon each resource's architectural style, building materials, and form, surveyors noted the location of 50-year-old resources on project area maps. Subsequent comparison with data in current tax assessments and with historical maps confirmed the age of these resources. Fieldworkers also attempted to identify resources younger than 50 years that may have attained significance within that period and therefore meet one of the criteria exceptions. Field documentation of newly identified historic resources involved collecting architectural information for the completion of CRS forms and for evaluating the resource's National Register eligibility, and photographing the resources as per the survey guidelines of the Delaware SHPO.

In compliance with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's regulations implementing Section 106 (36 CFR 800), and the guidelines of "Archeology and Historic Preservation: Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines" (United States Department of the Interior 1983) and the Delaware SHPO's *Architectural and Archaeological Surveys in Delaware* (Delaware SHPO 1993), this investigation used historic contexts to evaluate the National Register eligibility of the identified historic resources. The levels of integrity and significance outlined by the contexts were applied to the resources documented during fieldwork and their historical significance as ascertained during research, to determine whether the resources met the National Register criteria.

### **C. Expected Results**

Based upon the results of the historical research and the project area's location in rural Christiana Hundred, surveyors anticipated finding a historic agricultural landscape primarily composed of dwellings, domestic and agricultural outbuildings, and mill-related buildings and structures dating to the period 1770-1950. It was also expected that a limited number of post-1950 dwellings would be found in the project area vicinity.