

## ABSTRACT

Background research and geomorphological investigations have been completed for the State of Delaware Department of Transportation's (DeIDOT) proposed Bridge 362 at Chipman's Pond project located east of the town of Laurel, in Broad Creek Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware. The proposed bridge replacement and roadway realignment is being necessitated by the plans of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) to upgrade the water control structures at the spillway and dam, of which Bridge 362 is a part. DeIDOT has safety concerns about the carrying capacity of the bridge and the horizontal alignment of the approaches once the DNREC upgrades are constructed. The project Area of Potential Effects (APE) for archaeological resources includes all of the areas designed for ground disturbance, as shown on project design mapping supplied by DeIDOT to Skelly and Loy, Inc. The archaeological APE is located in the Lower Coastal Plain physiographic province and includes approximately 1.07 ha (2.64 ac).

Most of the archaeological APE has been extensively disturbed by historic and modern period activities, including roadway, dam, water control structures, and mill(s) construction and maintenance; utility emplacement; and fluvial erosion/scouring, ponding, and channelization. Additionally, large portions of the archaeological APE have been wetlands historically. Geomorphological investigations, *via* expedient auger borings, conducted within the archaeological APE assessed the nature of the landforms and soils, and determined that no portions of the archaeological APE contained intact sediments of appropriate age to contain pre-contact period archaeological resources. However, due to the heavy historic period commercial use of the archaeological APE, survey for specific historic period resources is recommended.

A summary of the results of the preliminary archaeological background research and the geomorphological reconnaissance, as well as a work plan for the recommended Phase I archaeology survey investigations, are presented in this report.