

I. INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This report details the findings of a historic architectural survey and determination of eligibility conducted by URS Corporation (URS) for the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) for Bridge 447 in Sussex County, Delaware (Figure 1.1). Work was initiated in June 2001 in response to the proposed replacement of Bridge 447. This report includes a description of the proposed project, which will utilize federal funds, a description of the bridge, a historic context, and recommendations regarding National Register eligibility.

This report does not include a discussion of archaeological resources. No archaeological sites in the project area have been recorded in the files at the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office (DE SHPO). The potential for their presence is low due to the swampy conditions of the area surrounding the bridge and the Blackwater Creek. Therefore, no archaeological investigations have been recommended within the project area.

Current plans call for the replacement of Bridge 447 because it is considered structurally deficient due to settlement, which has resulted in the formation of a sinkhole in the roadway. The bridge, which was constructed in 1924 – 25 and partially rebuilt in 1948, will be replaced with a new precast concrete rigid frame structure. The span will be increased from 12 to 14 feet, and the overall bridge length from 14 feet, 6 inches to over 16 feet. The width of the bridge will increase from 28 feet, 8 inches to 69 feet, plus abutments.

The tasks performed for this project were conducted pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended; the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR Part 800, January 2001) and the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office's *Guidelines for Architectural and Archaeological Surveys in Delaware*. URS staff conducting this survey also meet the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards described in 36 CFR Part 61.

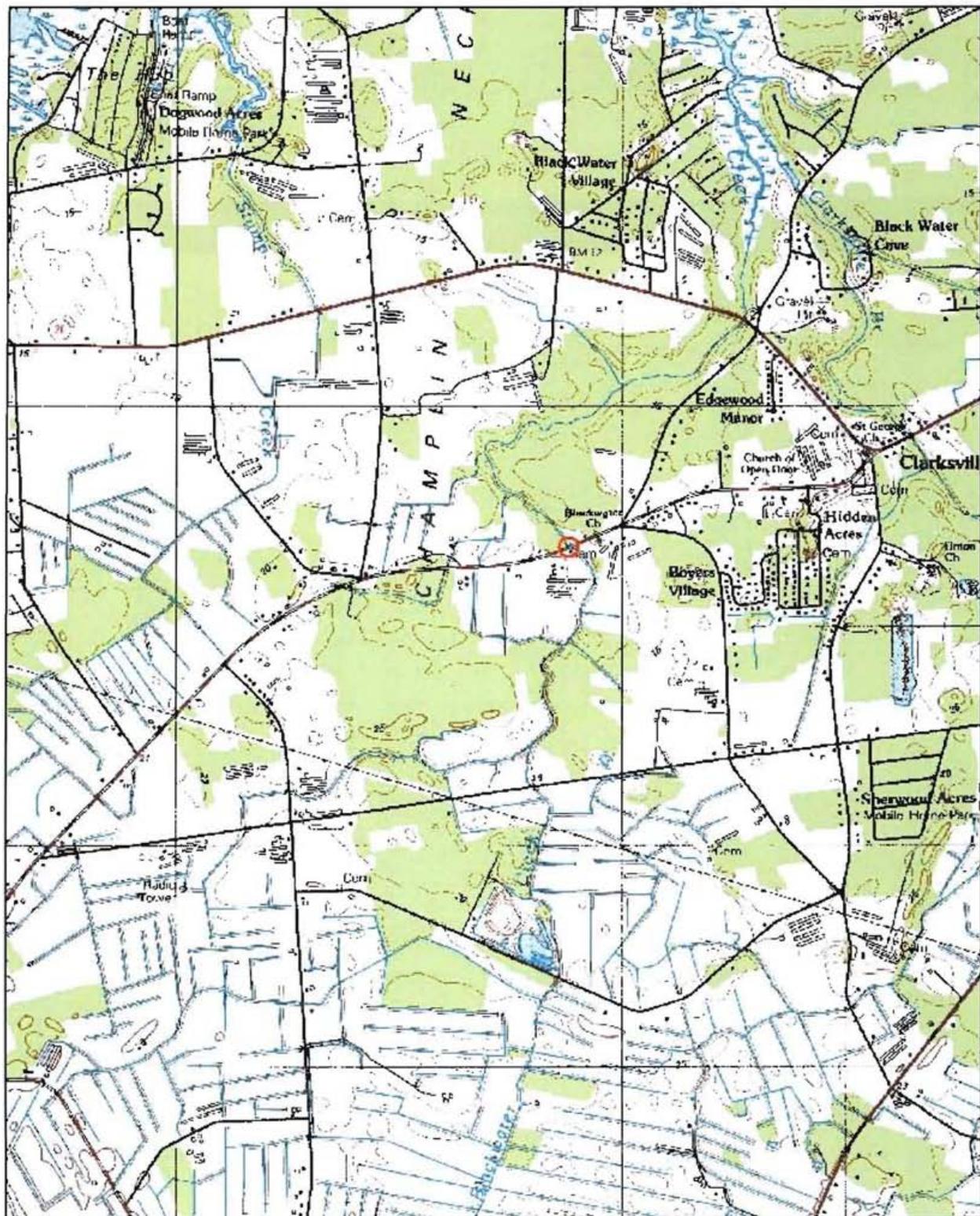


Figure 1.1 Project Area Map Showing Location of Bridge 447 (USGS Frankford Quad)