

II. METHODS

Background research was conducted on Bridge 447, State Road 54, the surrounding buildings, and the historical settlement and development of the project area. This information was gathered from primary and secondary sources and was used to prepare a historic context. Specific research was conducted at the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office (DE SHPO)—review of historic maps, architectural survey files, and reports—and at the DeIDOT Archives. A review of Delaware’s Historic Bridges Survey (Lichtenstein Consulting Engineers, Inc. 2000 and P.A.C. Spero & Company 1991) and consultation with knowledgeable individuals at the DE SHPO also aided in completing the historic context.

Several existing contexts for the area were also examined, including *“Neither a Desert nor a Paradise”*: *Historic Context for the Archaeology of Agriculture and Rural Life, Sussex County, Delaware, 1770 – 1940* (De Cunzo and Garcia 1993) and *National Register of Historic Places Eligibility Evaluation: Baltimore Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware* (Mulchahey, Siders, et al. 1990).

Fieldwork was conducted on June 21, 2001. Digital and black-and-white photographs were taken of the bridge and the surrounding standing structures. Cultural Resource Survey Forms, including a Property Identification Form (CRS-1) and a Structure Form (CRS-6) were completed.