1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the results of preliminary archaeological background research and the geomorphological reconnaissance performed for the proposed improvements to a segment of School Bell Road (S.R. 1 to U.S. 40) located in New Castle Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware (Figure 1). The project Area of Potential Effect (APE) is located on the Newark East, Delaware 7.5 minute topographic quadrangle (United States Geological Survey [USGS] 1993) in the Upper Coastal Plain physiographic province. The State of Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) will improve the existing two-lane roadway by the construction of 1.5 m (5.0 ft) wide roadway sidewalk/bicycle lanes, 2.4 m (8.0 ft) wide shoulders, and stormwater management systems, as well as the minor realignment of substandard horizontal curves located north and south of the Jamestowne community, and at the intersection of School Bell Road with U.S. 40.

The project APE includes all of the areas designated for ground disturbance as shown on project design mapping dated June 24, 2003 and supplied by DelDOT to Skelly and Loy, Inc. (Figure 2). Based on the project mapping, all of the areas within the proposed shoulders, sidewalk/bicycle lanes, and stormwater management facilities, totaling 5.85 ha (14.45 ac), were considered part of the project APE.

Prior to the initiation of the School Bell Road Improvements project, a geomorphological reconnaissance and background research were conducted. This background research included the examination of the Delaware archaeological site files; the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) files; the historic resources inventory files; reports documenting previously conducted cultural resource studies; relevant statewide historic contexts; historic maps; and historic as-built roadway plans housed at the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office and the DelDOT office.

Geomorphological investigations were conducted within the project APE. The purpose of the geomorphological reconnaissance was to assess the nature of the landforms and soils within the project APE, and to determine if appropriate areas exist for the implementation of Phase I archaeological fieldwork. Geomorphological investigations included the examination of the soils/ sediments contained within the project APE *via* expedient auger borings for the potential to contain buried preserved archaeological resources. In addition, the assessment determined any disturbances to the soils/sediments that would preclude the preservation of buried *in situ* archaeological resources.