

I. INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This report details the findings of a Phase I archaeological investigation conducted by URS Corporation (URS) for the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT). Work was initiated in response to proposed improvements of Bridge 9 on Smith's Bridge Road in Wilmington, New Castle County (Figure 1). The proposed improvements consist of the rehabilitation and partial replacement of the bridge and approach roadways. Specifically, these improvements will include replacing the superstructure and repointing the stone and mortar abutments and piers as necessary. In addition, a concrete slab will be poured behind the abutments to support the approach superstructure; riprap will be placed in scour holes and around the upstream areas of the piers; and the concrete abutments located within Brandywine Creek will be repaired.

The goal of this investigation was to identify the nature and extent of any archaeological resources within the project's area of potential effect (APE) and determine if they will be impacted by the proposed construction activities. The boundary of the APE is defined as the limits of construction located on the project plans provided by DelDOT (Figure 2). A walkover survey followed by subsurface testing was conducted within the project's APE.

All work was performed 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, June 1999); the Department of Transportation Act of 1966; and 23 CFR 771. This work also followed the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office's *Guidelines for Architectural and Archaeological Surveys in Delaware*, and the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Documentation* (48FR44734-37). On July 25, 2001, Edward Morin (URS) conducted a preliminary walkover survey of the project area to identify areas that could potentially contain cultural resources. Subsurface testing from October 9 to 11, 2001 followed this preliminary survey. Ms. Christine Hilferty supervised the fieldwork with the assistance of Mr. Drew Oberholtzer. Madeline Scheerer conducted the historical background research. Mr. Edward Morin served as the project's Principal Investigator. Scott Hood and Lynda Bass prepared graphics for the report, and Paul Elwork edited the text for style and content.

A previous architectural resource investigation conducted by Louis Berger & Associates (Pendleton 1999) was reviewed, and a search of the archaeological site files at the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office (DE SHPO) was performed. This research indicated that the project's APE falls within the Smith's Mill-Granogue Historic District identified and defined during the Pendleton study (see Figure 1). The Granogue Estate sits atop the hill to the southwest of the project area, and the remains of Smith's Mill (N-1358) lie south of Smith's Bridge Road along the east bank of the Brandywine Creek. The ruins of Smith's Mill and raceway, in addition to a previously unknown portion of the mill, were located within the project APE (see Figure 2). In addition, the archaeological site files indicate that the closest site to the project area is a prehistoric rock shelter (Beaver Valley Rock Shelter, N-3663) located more than one mile east of the project.