Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE OF WORK

The Woodland Ferry across the Nanticoke River in Woodland, southwest Sussex County, Delaware (Figures 1.1 and 1.2), has been in continuous existence since at least the 1740s. Operated by the County from 1883 to 1935, the facility is now the responsibility of the State of Delaware. The last major renovation of the ferry was apparently in 1961. Cannon's (Woodland) Ferry was listed in the Delaware Register of Historic Places on August 18, 1972 and in the National Register of Historic Places on July 2, 1973.

The undertaking requiring cultural resource studies is the proposed replacement of the existing ferry vessel and consequent improvements and replacements of the ramps and pilings on each side of the river. The Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) has identified the ferry as a property listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and has initiated Section 106 consultation under 36 CFR Part 800 in anticipation of the need for federal permitting for the project.

The purpose of this study was to identify the presence and nature, and, provisionally, the integrity and National Register eligibility, of physical components of the ferry infrastructure. The survey was to be accomplished through background research, onshore and underwater remote sensing, and subsurface testing.

Project Notice to Proceed under Term Agreement 1275, Task 4, was received on July 19, 2007.

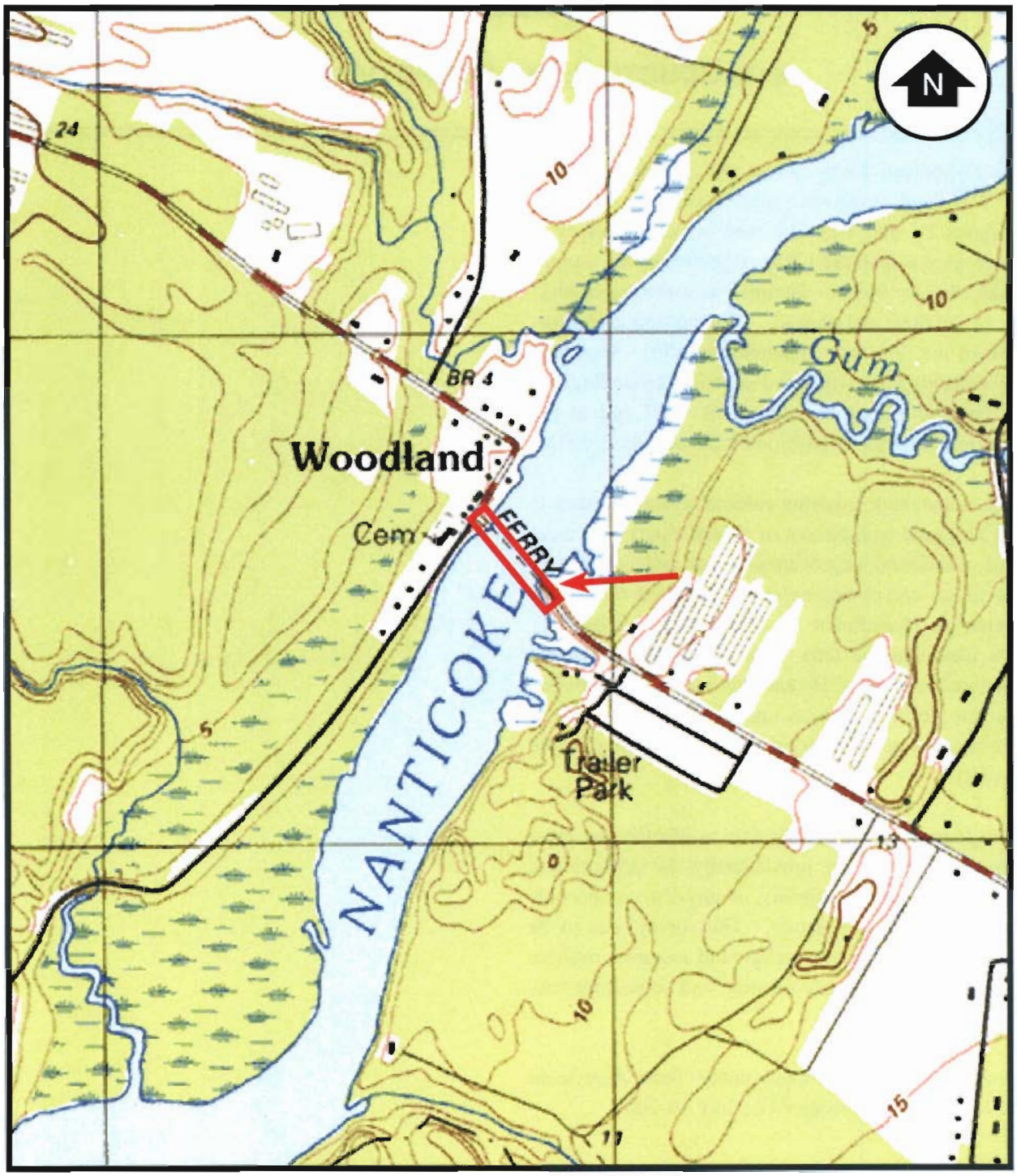


Figure 1.1. Location of Project Area (Outlined). Source: USGS 7.5' Topographic Series, Sharptown, Md.-Del. (1992). Scale: 1 inch= 1,000 feet.

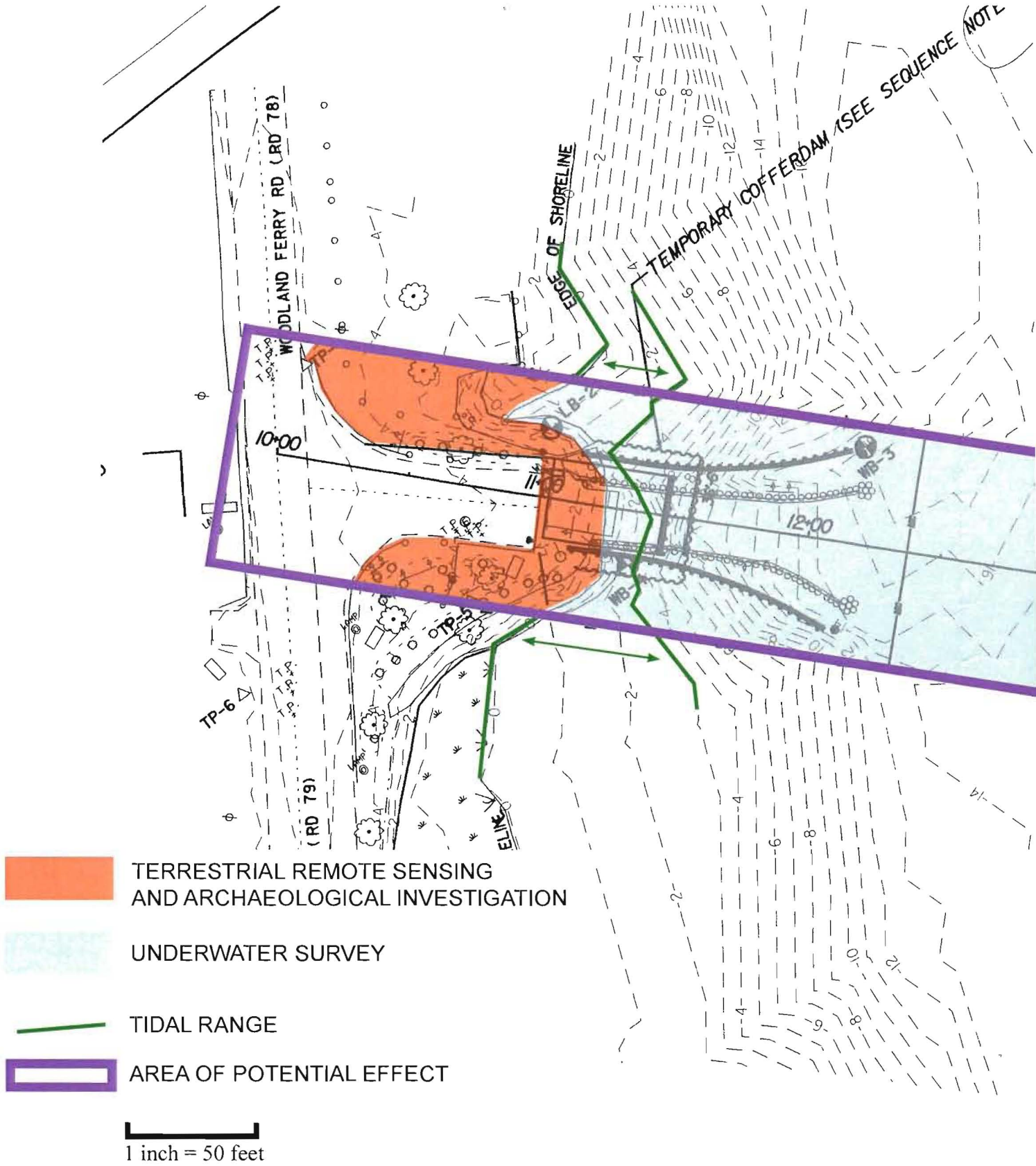
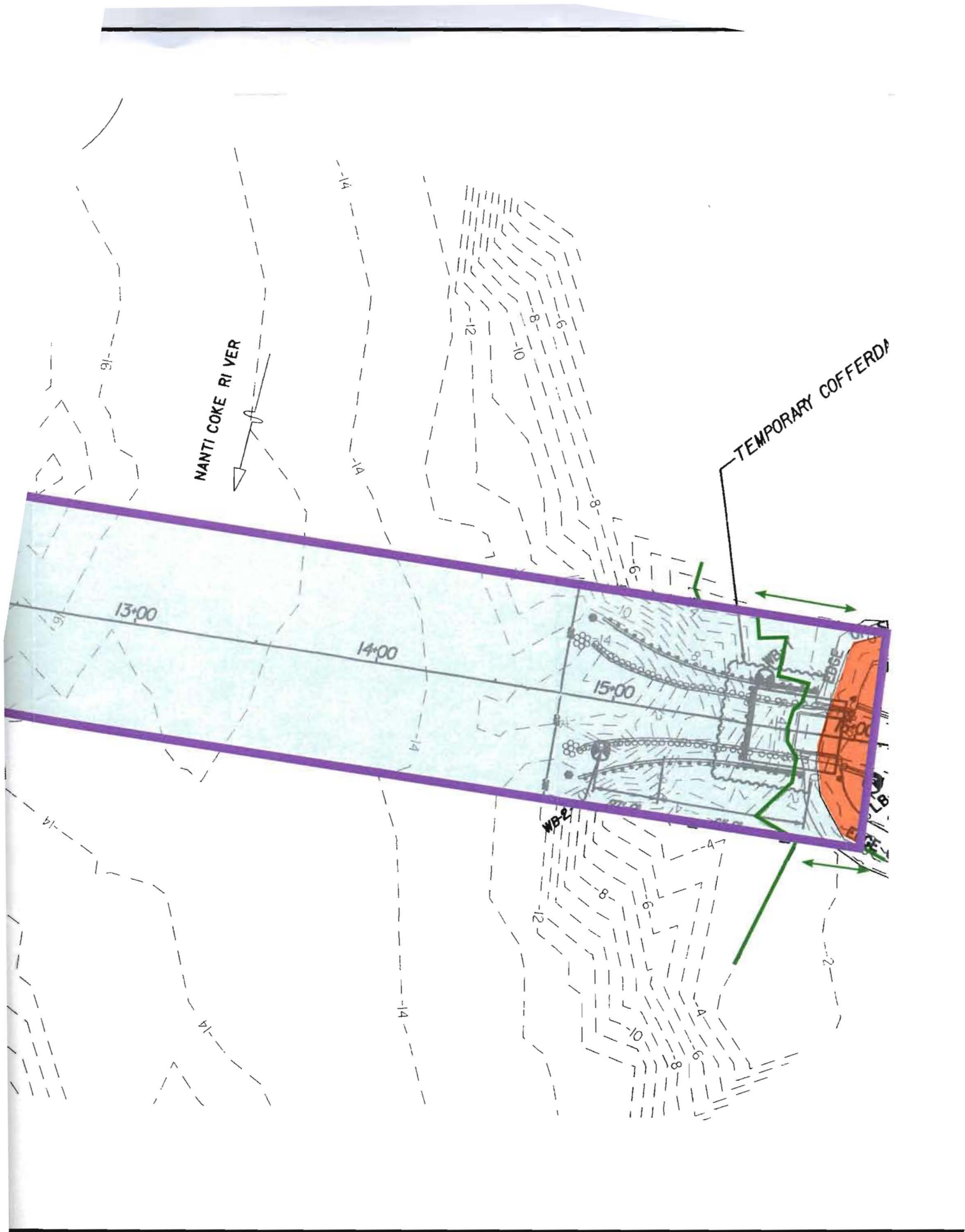


Figure 1.2. Overall Site Plan Showing Extent of Survey and Area of Potential Effect.


NANTI COKE RI VER
TEMPORARY COFFERDA
13+00
14+00
15+00
WB-2
EDGE