

## I. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of a Phase I archeological survey at the Bridge 4A on U.S. Route 13A project area in Kent County, Delaware. GAI Consultants, Inc. (GAI) performed this work for the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) in May 1998. Phase I investigations involved background research, pedestrian reconnaissance, and subsurface survey.

DelDOT plans to replace Bridge 4A on US Route 13A at Derby Pond in Kent County (Figure 1). The project area encompasses the existing bridge structure and the roadway approaches. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) consists of a corridor measuring 290 meters (951 feet) in length and 18 meters (59 feet) wide that extends from a southern terminus at Station 1+000, 115 meters south of Bridge 4A to Station 1+290, 175 meters north of the bridge. This APE encompasses 0.52 hectares (1.29 acres), and falls entirely within the existing right-of-way (ROW) for Route 13A (Figure 2).

As required by federal regulations, GAI conducted this Phase I survey to determine if the replacement of Bridge 4A will affect any archeological resources that are potentially eligible to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). GAI's approach to this project involved background research and field investigations. The background research reviewed recorded cultural resources in the project vicinity, provided preliminary assessments of archeological potential in the project APE, and generated appropriate environmental, prehistoric, and historic contexts to interpret any resources identified during the survey.

Phase I fieldwork for this project included a pedestrian reconnaissance and subsurface survey. GAI conducted initial site inspections to refine preliminary assessments of resource sensitivity, to locate surface features, and to identify locations that could be omitted from subsurface investigations by virtue of poor drainage, excessive slope, or disturbance. The subsurface investigations entailed systematic shovel testing and test unit excavation in appropriate project areas to locate archeological deposits and features.

One previously recorded historic resource, the eighteenth-century R. Lewis house (CRS K-2032) occurs in the project vicinity. This resource lies 25 meters east of the project APE and will not be affected by the proposed project. Phase I survey failed to identify any prehistoric or historic archeological resources in the project APE. Survey did encounter the wooden remains of a bridge wingwall bed of Tidbury Creek, 2-3 meters east of the APE. This probably relates to an early-twentieth century bridge that was replaced by Bridge 4A in 1922. These remains will not be affected by the proposed construction. Based on these findings, GAI recommends no further investigations for this project.

Jonathan C. Lothrop served as Project Manager for this Phase I survey. Bradford Botwick was the Principal Investigator and Kimberly Parson acted as Field Director. Field crew included Kristen Carey, Edward Miller, Steven Sarver, and Brent Shreckengost. Geoff Henry performed the background research.

The work described in this report was performed according to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (36 CFR Part 800). The study conforms to standards set forth in *Guidelines for Architectural and Archeological Surveys in Delaware* (Delaware Historic Preservation Office 1993) and those contained in the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation* (National Park Service 1983). Chapter II of this report presents the results of the background research, including environmental and cultural contexts of the survey area and a discussion of its archeological sensitivity. Chapter III presents the results of Phase I field survey, while Chapter IV summarizes the findings of this study and provides recommendations.