

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document provides information regarding the cultural resource investigations, including archaeological and historic documentary studies, completed by Skelly and Loy, Inc. for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Delaware Department of Transportation's (DeIDOT's) replacement of Bridge 918 on State Route (S.R.) 30 at Reynolds Pond located in Broadkiln Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware (Figure 1; Photograph 1). The proposed project entailed the replacement of the existing *ca.* 1925 Bridge 918 with a wider box culvert and new spillway (Photograph 2), and construction of a 0.30 ha (0.75 ac) wetland mitigation site to the east of the bridge location (Photograph 3).

The cultural resource research associated with the wetland mitigation project was completed in 2005. However, due to the potential for mill remains to be present under the existing roadway and bridge, the archaeological research at the bridge location could not be undertaken until the construction of the bridge commenced. In order to ensure that the Section 106 compliance responsibilities were met for the project, FHWA/DeIDOT and the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). The MOA outlined the specific tasks and processes that FHWA/DeIDOT followed in order to mitigate the adverse effects of the project to archaeological sites including Reynolds Mill (7S-C-99) located adjacent to the bridge location. The research reported in this document partially fulfills the stipulations of the MOA.



Photograph 1. Bridge 918 project area in July 2007 prior to replacement of the bridge, facing north.



Photograph 2. Bridge 918 project area in November 2007 after replacement of the bridge, facing northwest. Aerial photograph provided by DeIDOT.



Photograph 3. View of wetland mitigation area, facing west-northwest.