

III. RESEARCH DESIGN

A. Objectives

The goal of this survey was to determine whether the area of potential effect for DeIDOT's proposed improvements at Bridges 526 and 527 along Route 326 near Millsboro, and at the intersection of Routes 26 and 17 near Millville, contained architectural resources listed in or previously determined eligible for the National Register, or meeting National Register criteria.

B. Methods

Background research was conducted at the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office in Dover, the Sussex County Office of Tax Assessment in Georgetown, and the Millsboro Public Library in Millsboro. Historical maps were collected from the Library of Congress, and structural information, plans, and other data related to Bridge 526 and 527 were obtained at the Delaware Department of Transportation in Dover. At the request of DeIDOT, particular attention was paid to developing a precise history of milling activities on the property as an aid in ascertaining its archaeological potential.

An on-site survey of architectural resources over 50 years of age within the project areas identified six individual resources. During the field study, information was collected concerning the type, style, and condition of each resource. The age of each building surveyed was initially classified by visual assessment or owner information. Information as to the date of construction was later obtained from the tax assessor's office as supporting evidence. All relevant survey forms were completed for six resources and are included in Appendix A. Black-and-white 35-millimeter photographs were taken of each resource.

C. Expected Results

Based upon available cultural resource information, it was expected that four architectural/engineering resources would be found to lie within the area of potential effect of the Millsboro project area. These known resources were a mill, a single dwelling, and two bridges (Bridges 526 and 527). All of these resources were expected to be associated with the milling activities that have characterized the history of the property. In the other study area, at the intersection of Routes 26 and 17, two resources 50 years or older were known to be present.

In order to be considered eligible for listing in the National Register, resources identified within the project area that are 50 years or older must retain integrity of location, setting, design, material, and workmanship, and possess architectural distinction and/or important historical associations. Properties significant under the agriculture and settlement patterns and demographic changes themes through Criterion A or B require documented association with an event or trend that was important

in the history of the area or county, or with a person or persons who made significant contributions to the history of the area or county.

Significance of properties under the architectural theme for both project areas would be expected to fall under Criterion C. Significance under Criterion C would depend on the ability of the resource to clearly convey a specific use, function, and/or type or style of construction.