

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Background Research

Background research was conducted using a variety of sources and repositories. As a starting point, the SHPO's NRHP and Cultural Resource Survey (CRS) form files were examined, as were relevant cultural resource survey reports and historic and archaeological contexts on milling and agriculture. The file review revealed three architectural resources within the APE had previously been listed in the NRHP: Chipmans Mill (S-400); Old Christ Church (S-188); and Chipman Potato House (S-5873). The mill had burned down subsequent to its listing in 1988 and all that remained was its foundation and spillway. Two other resources had been preliminarily surveyed and had CRS forms on file at the SHPO's office: S-5878, a brick-faced Cape Cod style house and S-5880, a frame Cape Cod style house.

Following the file review, historic atlases and maps were gathered, as were secondary sources on Sussex County and Laurel and its hinterlands, from the Laurel Public Library in Laurel, the Delaware Public Archives in Dover, the Morris Library of the University of Delaware in Newark, the Maryland State Archives in Annapolis, and the Edward H. Nabb Research Center at Salisbury University in Salisbury, Maryland. Historic tax assessment records and Censuses of Manufacturers were reviewed at the Delaware Public Archives. Deeds for specific properties were researched at the Sussex County Courthouse in Georgetown. Oral interviews have been an important source of information. Jamie Givens, the grandson of Carlton Lowe, the last owner of Chipmans Gristmill, has been of inestimable help. Other informants include Kendall Jones of the Laurel Historical Society, Ned Fowler of the Old Christ Church League, Sturges Lowe, Gloria Lowe, and Alice O'Neal.

2.2 Field Investigations

An initial field investigation to identify potential historic architectural resources within the project APE was held in January 2005. Contact was made at that time with Jamie Givens, the grandson of Carlton Lowe, the last owner of the Chipmans Gristmill. He provided detailed knowledge and background on the resources within the APE. A second field investigation was conducted on March 15, 2005 with representatives of DelDOT, the SHPO, and DNREC. At the second field view, the APE for architectural resources was defined, the NRHP status of Chipmans Mill was discussed, and the potential for a NRHP historic district within the APE was discussed.