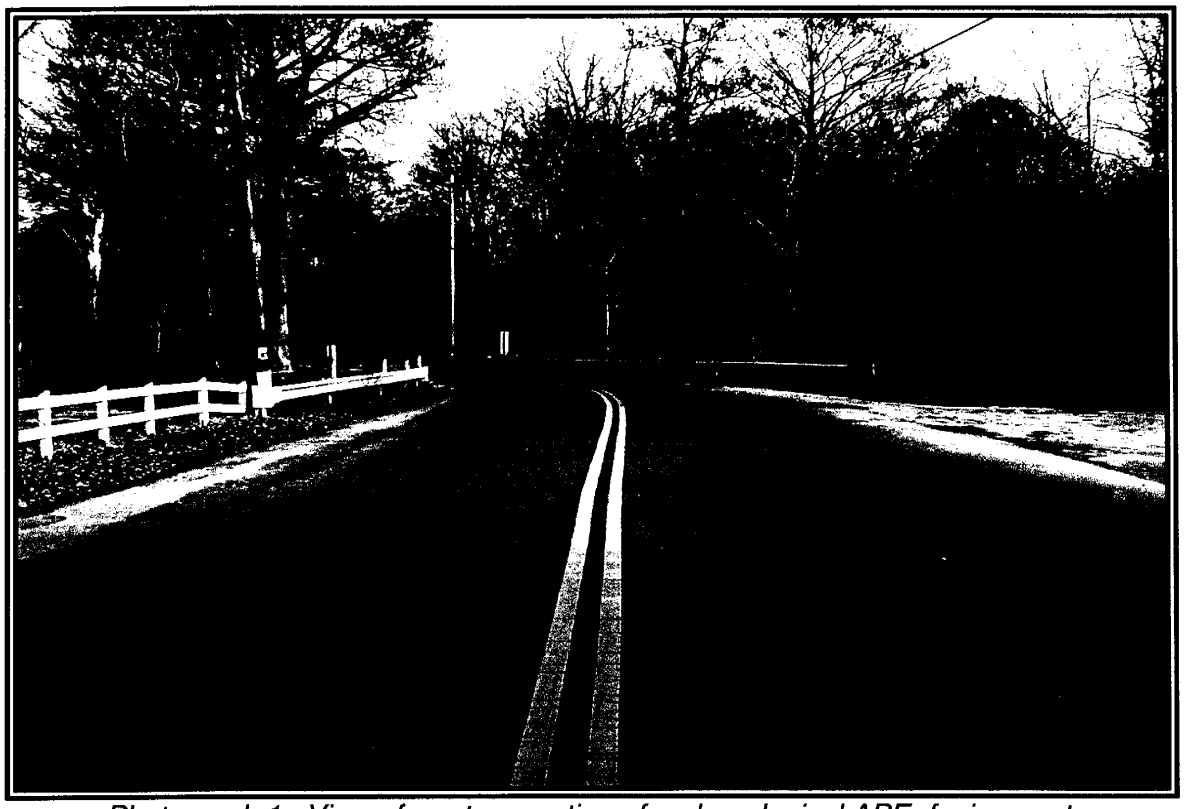
1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the results of preliminary archaeological background research and the geomorphological reconnaissance performed for the proposed Bridge 362 at Chipman's Pond east of the town of Laurel in Broad Creek Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware (Figure 1;Photographs 1, 2, and 3). The project area is located on the Laurel East, Delaware 7.5 minute topographic quadrangle (United States Geological Survey [USGS] 1992) in the Lower Coastal Plain physiographic province. The proposed bridge replacement and roadway realignment is being necessitated by the plans of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) to upgrade the water control structures at the spillway and dam, of which Bridge 362 is a part (Photographs 4 and 5). The Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) has safety concerns about the carrying capacity of the bridge and the horizontal alignment of the approaches once the DNREC upgrades are constructed. The project Area of Potential Effects (APE) for archaeological resources includes all of the areas designed for ground disturbance, as shown on project design mapping supplied by DelDOT to Skelly and Loy, Inc. (Figure 2). Based on the project mapping, the archaeological APE totals approximately 1.07 ha (2.64 ac).

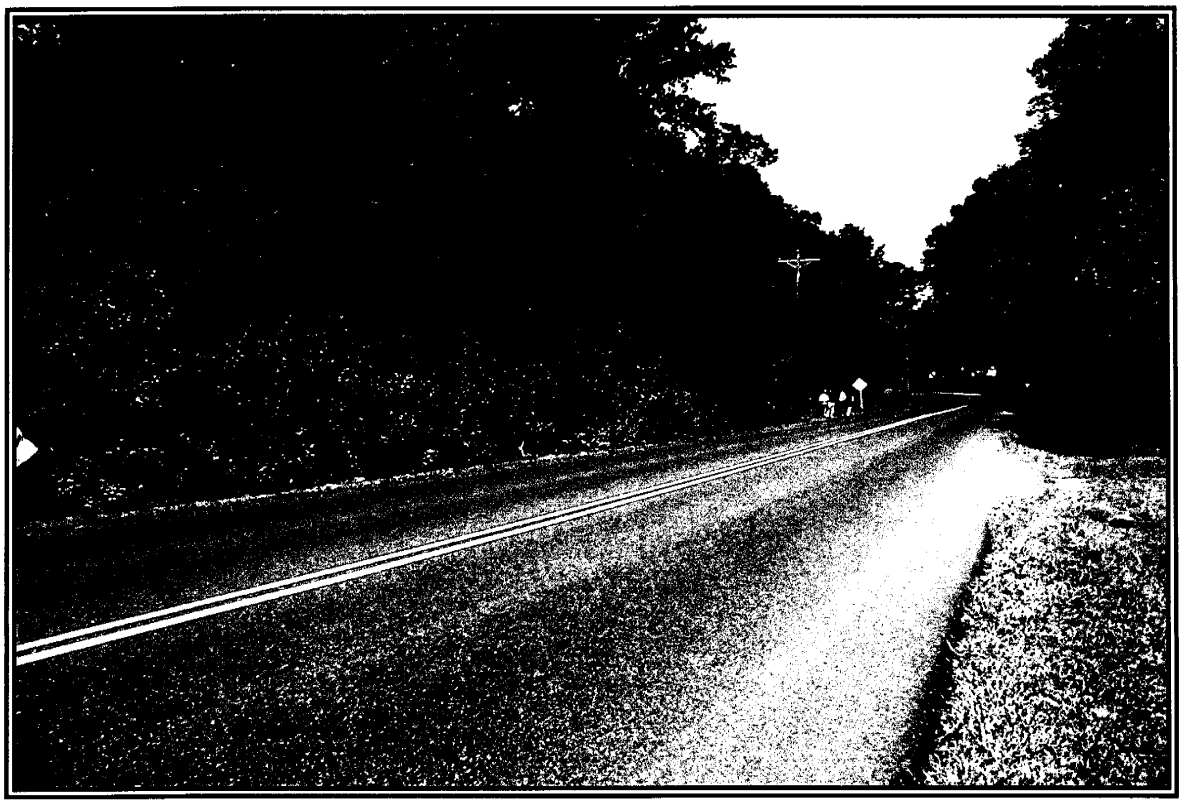
A geomorphological reconnaissance and background research were conducted for this project. The background research included the examination of the Delaware archaeological site files; the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) files; the historic resources inventory files; reports documenting previously conducted cultural resource studies; relevant statewide historic contexts; historic maps; and historic as-built roadway plans housed at the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the DelDOT office. In addition, census material, family histories, photographic collections, county bridge records, general histories and atlases, 1933 flood information, and Chipman's Mill information was viewed at the Dover Public Archives, the University of Delaware's Morris Library, the Laurel Public Library, the Sussex County Historical Society, the Laurel Historical Society, the Delaware Historical Society, the Sussex County Recorder of Deeds Office, and the Sussex County Planning Office. Informant interviews of persons with knowledge of the project area were also undertaken (Appendix A).

Geomorphological investigations were conducted within the archaeological APE. The purpose of the geomorphological reconnaissance was to assess the nature of the landforms and soils within the archaeological APE, and to determine if appropriate areas exist for the implementation of Phase I archaeological fieldwork. Geomorphological investigations included the examination of the soils/sediments contained within the archaeological APE, *via* expedient auger borings, for the potential to contain buried preserved archaeological resources. In



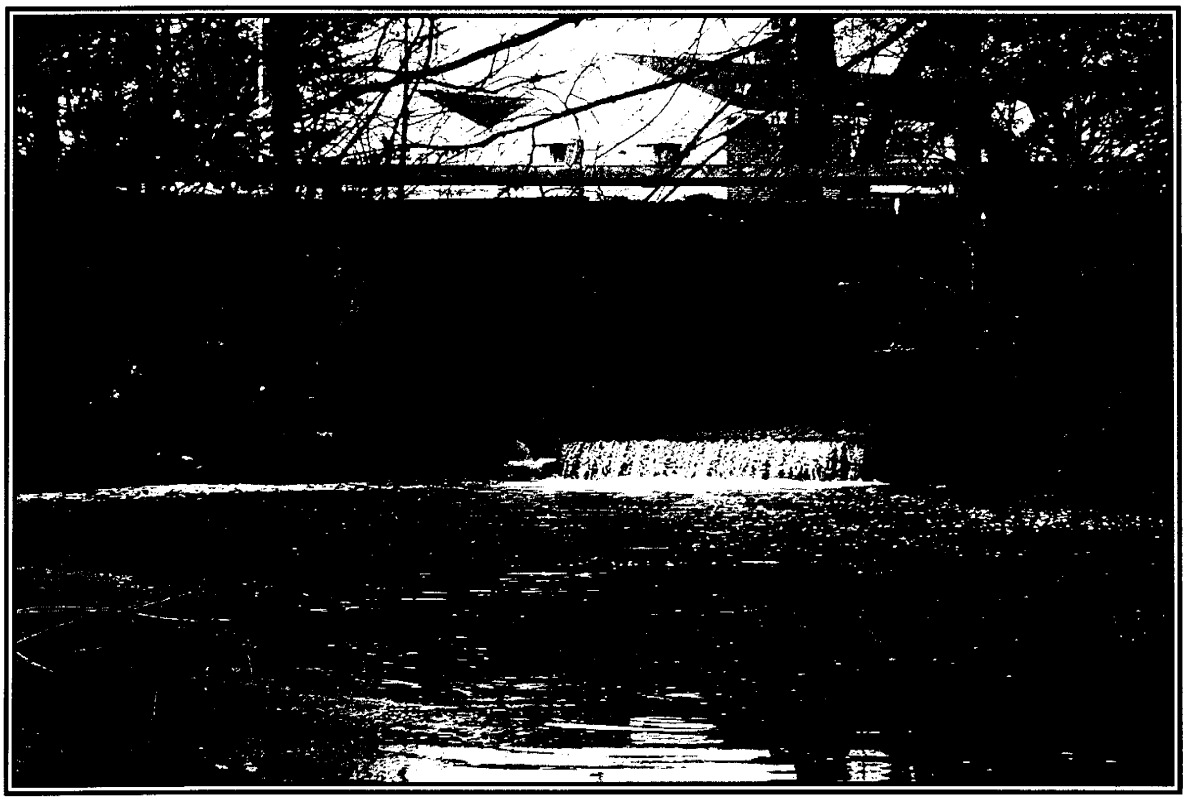
Photograph 1. View of western portion of archaeological APE, facing east.

Photograph 2. View of central portion of archaeological APE, facing west.



Photograph 3. View of eastern portion of archaeological APE, facing west.

Photograph 4. View of the north side of the spillway, facing southeast.



Photograph 5. View of the south side of the spillway, including the turbine penstock and overflow, facing north.

addition, the assessment determined any disturbances to the soils/sediments that would preclude the preservation of buried *in situ* archaeological resources.