

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Phase I archaeological investigations have been completed in conjunction with the proposed State Route (S.R.) 54 Improvements, Sound Church Road to Keenwick Road project located in Baltimore Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware (Figure 1).

1.1 Purpose and Need

The S.R. 54 Improvements project archaeological survey was performed by Skelly and Loy, Inc. personnel (Appendix A) at the request of the State of Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) in order to identify any and all archaeological resources that might be present within the project Area of Potential Effect (APE), and to preliminarily assess those resources for integrity and/or significance (Appendix B). By accomplishing these goals, compliance with state and federal legislation, including Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended in 1980 and 1992; the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1966, as amended; the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; Code of Federal Regulations: Advisory Council on Historic Preservation CFR800; Delaware Code Annotated Title 29 § 8705, 7 § 5301-5309, and 7 § 5401-5411; and Delaware Antiquities Act, is assured. *The Guidelines for Architectural and Archaeological Surveys in the State of Delaware* (Delaware State Historic Preservation Office 2001) were followed in preparing the project research design, methodology, and this report.

1.2 Project Description

The proposed roadway work includes the modification of the existing two-lane road into a three-lane road with a center turn lane and the proposed Zion Church Road realignment (Figure 2). The improvements will be required to service a larger number of new residential developments completed in and proposed for the area. The project APE includes all areas of potential construction impact. All impacts should occur within the proposed 25.9 m (85.0 ft) wide right-of-way which is centered on the existing roadway and Zion Church Road realignment. The length of the project APE is approximately 3,048.0 m (10,000.0 ft).

The project APE is located on the Assawoman Bay, Maryland-Delaware 7.5 minute topographic quadrangle (United States Geological Survey [USGS] 1997) in the Lower Peninsula

portion of the Eastern Shore Coastal Plain physiographic province (Dent 1995:70). Elevations within the project APE range from approximately 1.5 to 3.1 m (5.0 to 10.0 ft) above mean sea level (msl). Soil types mapped within the project APE include the Evesboro, Fallsington, Klej, Pocomoke, and Woodstown series, which all form in coastal plain sediments.