

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Purpose and Need

Phase IA archaeological and historic structures investigations consisting of background research, geomorphology, and a windshield survey have been completed by Skelly and Loy, Inc. for the Barratts Chapel Road Improvements (S.R. 1 to McGinnis Pond Road) project, located in Kent County, Delaware (Figure 1). The Phase IA investigations were performed at the request of the Delaware Department of Transportation (DeIDOT) in order to identify portions of the archaeological Area of Potential Effects (APE) that have the potential to contain pre-contact or historic period archaeological resources, and to identify all potential historic properties meeting the minimum age criterion of 50 years.

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 National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; and the Code of Federal Regulations: Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (36CFR800) can begin. *The Guidelines for Architectural and Archaeological Surveys in the State of Delaware* (Delaware State Historic Preservation Office [DESHPO] 1993) were followed in preparing the project research design, methodology, future research plans, and this report.

### 1.2 Project Description

DeIDOT plans to improve Barratts Chapel Road from a local road to a major collector road using 12-foot travel lanes, 8-foot shoulders, and 80 feet of right-of-way due to increasing future development along the route. In addition, some cross-over and intersection improvements, including a Grade Separated Intersection (GSI) with S.R. 1, are proposed. The GSI will be constructed to the north of the existing at-grade intersection with S.R. 1 at Skeeter Neck Road. The project consists of the preparation of a conceptual engineering design for an approximately 4.43 km (2.75 rmi) section of the road between McGinnis Pond Road (State Reference number 378/379) on the west and State Highway 1/U.S. 113 on the east (Figure 2). The project is located in Kent County, Delaware.

For the purposes of these studies and based on information provided by Century Engineering and DeIDOT, the APE for the Phase I archaeology survey will consist of a corridor



along the *ca.* 4.43 km (2.75 mi) length of Barratts Chapel Road from just west of its intersection with McGinnis Pond Road to its intersection with S.R. 1 that measures out 30.5 m (100.0 ft) from the existing centerline on the north side and out 24.4 m (80.0 ft) from the existing centerline on the south side. In addition, the archaeological APE extends up and down McGinnis Pond Road for a distance of approximately 304.8 m (1,000.0 ft) to the north and 228.6 m (750.0 ft) to the south. At the east end, the archaeological APE encompasses a roughly rectangular shape of land that is proposed for GSI construction (see Figure 2). The GSI portion of the archaeological APE overlaps with the Little Heaven project area; therefore, portions of the Barratts Chapel Road archaeological APE have been previously surveyed. These areas are confined to areas adjacent to S.R. 1 on both the east and west sides of the highway. DeIDOT has requested that Skelly and Loy include any portions of the GSI area that have not been previously surveyed as part of the Barratts Chapel Road Improvements project. The total acreage for the Barratts Chapel Road Improvements project archaeological APE is *ca.* 86.9 ha (214.8 ac).

The APE for historic structures was established by DeIDOT in consultation with the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office (DESHPO) during a field view held November 27, 2007. Skelly and Loy confirmed the extent of the historic structures APE with mapping that was sent to both DeIDOT and DESHPO on January 11, 2008. The historic structures APE includes the properties that line Barratts Chapel Road between McGinnis Pond Road and S.R. 1. The historic structures APE has been drawn to capture the full extent of the tax parcels that line these roads. In this way, the historic structures APE is able to account for visual and other effects for all historic structures, including the large farm properties that are prevalent in the area. Additionally, the historic structures APE extends at the west end to include properties lining the roads to the north, south, and west of the Barratts Chapel and McGinnis Pond roads intersection for distances of approximately 750 ft to 1,200 ft. At the east end, the historic structures APE is extended to the north along S.R. 1 and to the east on the east side of S.R. 1. The northern extension of the historic structures APE along S.R. 1 overlaps with the historic structures APE of the Little Heaven project. Because a historic structures survey of this area has already been completed, Skelly and Loy was directed by DeIDOT to do no further work within the section of the overlapping APEs (see Figure 2). The extension of the historic structures APE to the east side of S.R. 1 includes the historic resource K-00103 Barratts Chapel, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The NRHP boundary of Barratts Chapel was re-evaluated as part of the previously completed Little Heaven project.

