

2.0 METHODS

2.1 Background Research

Background research for the cultural resources investigations included the examination of the Delaware archaeological site files, the NRHP files, and reports documenting previously conducted cultural resource studies housed at the DESHPO and DeIDOT offices. Skelly and Loy personnel have and will continue to coordinate with DESHPO personnel regarding germane pre-contact and historic period contexts relevant for evaluating identified archaeological sites. Additional background research included review of pertinent environmental, soils, and geographic information, as well as historic maps and atlases. Previously prepared reports and secondary sources for Kent County and South Murderkill Hundred were collected and examined. Additionally, all available Cultural Resource Survey (CRS) forms for previously surveyed historic structures resources located within the historic structures APE were gathered from the DESHPO. The locations of the resources were plotted on base mapping. Most of the CRS forms had been prepared in 1980. Additional materials, including historic maps, Preliminary Land Use Service (PLUS) documents, and tax parcel information (<http://datamil.delaware.gov/> and <http://400.co.kent.de.us/>) were collected and used to compile a historic context for the project area. The background research for the archaeological and historic structures resources was coordinated and combined when it was appropriate in order to eliminate any duplication of effort. In addition, Skelly and Loy personnel coordinated with A.D. Marble personnel regarding two previously conducted projects, Little Heaven and Fredericka, which are near or overlap with the Barratts Chapel Road Improvements project to avoid duplication of effort.

2.2 Geomorphology

Geomorphological investigations completed by the Principal Investigator and Project Geomorphologist included a pedestrian reconnaissance and the examination of the soils/sediments and landforms contained within the archaeological APE in order to determine if they had the potential to be intact and of the appropriate age to contain *in situ* archaeological resources. Expediently emplaced hand-auger borings were used to determine the depth of potential cultural deposits, landforms, and any areas of modern disturbance. The soil/sediment profiles resultant from the auger borings comprise the basis for determining the archaeological potential of the various



portions of the archaeological APE. The archaeological APE was also examined for evidence of extensive past disturbance that might preclude the preservation of archaeological remains. Eleven soil profiles were examined and described according to the methods and nomenclature of the United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) (Schoeneberger 2002). The locations of the auger borings are shown on Figure 2, and the soil profiles and descriptions are discussed in section 6.0 GEOMORPHOLOGY RESULTS and Appendix A of this report.

2.3 Historic Structures

The historic structures APE was field surveyed in January 2008. By agreement between DeIDOT and the DESHPO, it was determined that the historic structures survey would include all resources constructed prior to 1963. The date corresponds to aerial photography shown on the State Planning Office (SPO) maps on file at the DESHPO and DeIDOT. The field survey entailed photographing the resources and their associated outbuildings; noting physical descriptions of the resources; and, when possible, interviewing the property owners. The purpose of the field survey was three-fold:

- To confirm the locations and presence of the previously surveyed historic structures resources. Development pressures in the area around Barratts Chapel Road in Kent County have sought to transform much of the land from agricultural to residential and commercial development. Consequently, several of the previously surveyed resources have been removed or abandoned.
- To update the CRS forms for all extant previously surveyed historic structures resources.
- To locate and record historic structures resources that had not been previously surveyed. The locations of these resources were added to the base map and the SPO maps.

