

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Background Research

Background research began with the collection of previously prepared reports and secondary sources for Kent County and South Murderkill Hundred. Additionally, all available Cultural Resource Survey (CRS) forms for previously surveyed historic structures within the 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 and atlases, 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 Frederica, which are near or overlap with the Barratts Chapel Road Improvements project, to avoid duplication of effort.

Once the historic resources within the APE were identified, the properties with potential for historic significance and NRHP eligibility were researched further. Deeds and tax assessment records were searched for information about individual properties and property owners. This information was augmented by an investigation of a variety of records, including wills, probate files, orphan's court case files, census records, census industrial schedules, road books, and mill condemnation papers. The documents were examined at the Delaware Public Archives, Kent County Recorder of Deeds Office, and other historic repositories.

2.2 Field Investigations

The historic structures APE was field surveyed in January 2008 and March 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.