

## **2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION**



## **2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION**

### **2.1 Environmental Setting**

Sassafras series soils comprise the soil makeup of the recommended project APE. Sassafras sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes (SaA) represents the soil type found through the majority of the recommended project APE. A narrow band of Sassafras sandy loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes (SaB) and Sassafras sandy loam, 5 to 10 percent slopes, eroded (SaC2) is found at the southern end of the recommended project APE (USDA 1974). The sloping SaB and SaC2 soils are associated with the natural drainage pattern related to the proximity of Wagamons Pond, located less than 45.7 meters (150.0 ft) south of the recommended project APE (Figure 2).

The Sassafras Series is characterized as a well-drained soil, and it is very suitable for farming, though erosion is a hazard. Sassafras Sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent has very little limitations from farming. Sassafras Sandy loam, 2 to 5 percent is similar to the previous type, but has had several inches of it's original surface removed, and is one of the most productive soils in Delaware for farming (USDA 1974:30).

### **2.2 Land Use**

The project area contains a variety of residential dwellings. A modern townhouse subdivision, Shipbuilders Village, is located on the west side of Mulberry Street near the Willow Street intersection. Late-twentieth-century commercial enterprises, such as gas stations, restaurants, and other businesses, are located at the intersection of Mulberry Street and S. R. 0016 (Ellendale Road). In contrast, structures towards Magnolia and Broad Streets appear to be late-nineteenth to early-twentieth-century dwellings. Many of the residential lots contain trees and shrubs along the Mulberry Street corridor. Above ground alterations such as streets, buildings, street signs, electric and phone line utilities, and buried utilities, such as water, sewer, and stormwater runoff, are found within and adjacent to the recommended project APE along Mulberry Street (Photographs 1 and 2).



**Photograph 1:** Mulberry Street looking towards S.R. 0016 (Ellendale Road), view looking north (September 2001).



**Photograph 2:** Mulberry Street at Magnolia Street, view looking north (September 2001).