

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE AND GOALS OF THE INVESTIGATION

The Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT), in coordination with Delaware Division of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), has initiated the S.R. 1/Indian River Inlet Bridge Project. The purpose of this undertaking is to replace the existing bridge, dating from 1962. Throughout its life the bridge has been subject to continuous tidal action, resulting in severe erosion at the bridge pier. While DelDOT has conducted preventative maintenance over the years and continues to monitor the bridge's condition, the state's engineering and outside experts agree that a new bridge is necessary.

Since the proposed action has the potential to affect cultural resources, DelDOT wishes to identify such resources and consider means to avoid or minimize potential adverse effects. As the initial step in this effort, DelDOT through its engineering consultant, Rummel, Klepper & Kahl, LLP (RKK), retained John Milner Associates, Inc. (JMA) to prepare this Management Document for the S.R. 1/Indian River Inlet Bridge Project.

The initial baseline study was prepared in May 2003 and provided environmental and cultural contexts for the study area, defined to encompass a two-mile radius from the center of the existing bridge. Based on a combination of background research and field examination, the document identified known prehistoric and historic archeological resources, maritime resources, and historic architectural resources (Appendix I). It also assessed the sensitivity of the two-mile study area for the presence of such resources and provides recommendations for further cultural resources investigations.

Following review of the initial document in May 2003 by DelDOT and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), additional services were requested, including monitoring of geotechnical borings at the proposed new bridge location, a pedestrian reconnaissance of proposed approaches to the bridge, a compilation of data on known cultural resources within a five-mile radius of Indian River Inlet, analysis of the potential visual effects of the proposed bridge on selected locations, and Phase I archeological investigations at the proposed Fresh Pond Wetland Mitigation area.

Investigations associated with this project were conducted in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation* (September 1983) and the *SHPO Guidelines for Archeological and Architectural Surveys in Delaware* (Guerrant 1993). Other sources identified priorities and offered research frameworks, such as *A Management Plan for Delaware's Prehistoric Cultural Resources* (Custer 1986a), *A Management Plan for the Archeological Resources of Delaware's Atlantic Coastal Plain* (Custer 1987), the *Management Plan for Delaware's Historical Archeological Resources* (De Cunzo and Catts 1990), the *Delaware Statewide Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan* (Ames et al. 1987), and SHPO's "Assessing Visual Effects on Historic Properties" draft policies and issues (dated October 7, 2003).

1.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA

The initial study area was assumed to encompass an area extending two miles in all land side directions from the midpoint of the existing Indian River Inlet Bridge (Figure 1). This is the area within which the proposed new bridge is expected to be readily visible from ground level. If the bridge is visible from a historic architectural resource, it may also have an indirect effect on it, depending on the property's significant characteristics. This study area was subsequently revised after DelDOT and SHPO review in May 2003 to a five-mile radius from the bridge (Figure 2).