

I. INTRODUCTION

The Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) proposes to undertake a rehabilitation of Bridge 9, also known as Smiths Bridge, and an improvement of the bridge's approach roadways. Bridge 9 carries Smiths Bridge Road over Brandywine Creek, and is located immediately west of the junction with Brandywine Creek Road (Figure 1). The area is rural-residential in character, with some agricultural activity still carried on. On the southeast side of Smiths Bridge Road on the west bank of the creek, and adjacent to the project location, is Granogue, a large estate.

DelDOT contracted the Cultural Resource Group of Louis Berger & Associates, Inc. (Berger), to perform architectural investigations as part of the preliminary planning for the proposed rehabilitation and improvement. The purpose of the investigations was to identify architectural resources within the area of potential effect (APE) currently listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, the Federal government's list of buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts worthy of preservation. Federal legislation requires the identification, evaluation, and treatment of cultural resources impacted by publicly financed undertakings. These legislative mandates include Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended; Section 101 (b)(4) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended; the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Procedures for the Protection of Historic Properties (36 CFR 800); and Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966, as amended.

Berger conducted architectural and historical research and fieldwork for this project in January 1999. Preliminary research focused on examining survey files at the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office (Delaware SHPO) in order to identify any previously surveyed and documented resources within the project's APE. Properties immediately adjacent to the proposed improvements constituted the APE for the investigation (see Figure 1). The Delaware SHPO survey files contained information on six previously inventoried architectural resources located within the APE, although the data were of a limited nature not in accord with current Delaware SHPO procedure. None of the six are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The project researcher also gathered historical information from Delaware SHPO historic contexts for use in developing a historical narrative describing the evolution of the project area and outlining evaluation criteria for National Register eligibility.

Fieldwork identified one additional resource more than 50 years old within the APE that had not been previously inventoried. Delaware SHPO Cultural Resource Survey (CRS) forms were completed for all seven resources. The investigation also identified and evaluated the Smith's Mill-Granogue Historic District. A Determination of Eligibility form was completed for the historic district.

This report, illustrated with copies of historical maps and photographs of the architectural resources, presents the National Register of Historic Places evaluations for the rehabilitation and improvement project on Smiths Bridge Road. Chapter II provides a general overview of the project area vicinity and a historic context describing the salient trends that have contributed to the area's evolution. The context also outlines property types and levels of integrity required for National Register eligibility. Chapter III presents a discussion of the investigation's objectives, methods, and expected results. Chapter IV provides physical descriptions of the identified architectural resources, National Register eligibility evaluations for the resources, and a summary table describing the action recommended for each resource. Chapter V offers a synopsis of the results and final recommendations of the architectural investigations. Copies of CRS forms completed as part of these investigations are found in Appendix A. The Determination of Eligibility Form is presented in Appendix B.

Berger wishes to extend its grateful appreciation to local residents who facilitated the survey. Mr. Henry Rust and Mr. Ellis McDonald graciously permitted access to their properties. Mr. Rust, Mr. Richard Bennett,

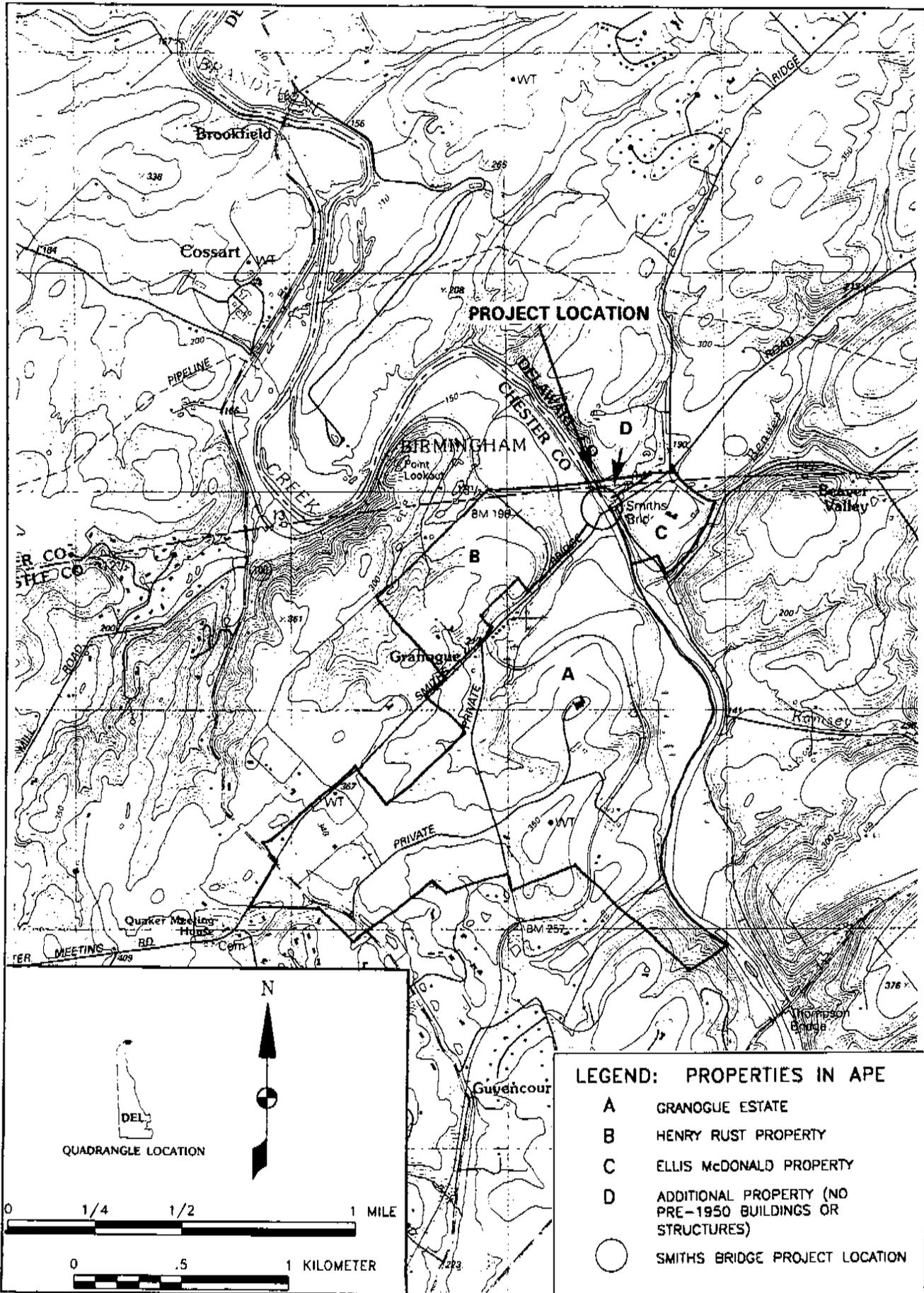


FIGURE 1: Project Location Map

SOURCE: USGS 7.5 Minute Wilmington North, DE-PA Quadrangle, 1993

and Mr. Thomas Carmean gave freely of their time and knowledge concerning the history of the respective properties and their buildings. Special thanks are due to Mr. Irénée du Pont, Jr., who assisted the undertaking with real hospitality and with the greatest enthusiasm this surveyor has yet encountered. Mr. du Pont was able to draw on his own manuscript of reminiscences and collection of sketches regarding the neighborhood's history that he has been compiling over the years.

Fieldwork, research, and report preparation activities for this project were undertaken following the Delaware SHPO's *Guidelines for Architectural and Archaeological Surveys in Delaware* (Delaware SHPO 1993). The investigations were performed under the supervision of Berger Principal Architectural Historian Martha Bowers. Architectural Historian Philip E. Pendleton performed the fieldwork and research activities and authored this report. (A copy of Mr. Pendleton's resume is presented in Appendix C.) The report was edited by Anne Moiseev. Graphics were prepared by Victor Reynolds. Production of the report was coordinated by Valerie Coleman-Moore.