

APPENDIX VI

GLOSSARY

Alluvium - Deposits of gravel, sand, and soil which are transported by flowing water.

Archaeology - The study of the people of the past through the recovery and analysis of the artifacts they left behind and their context.

Archival Research - Research done at places in which public or historical records, charters and documents are stored and preserved.

Artifact - Any object shaped or modified by man, or as a result of human activity.

Auger - A large tool for boring holes deep in the ground.

Bay/Basin Feature - Also known as whale wallows, these shallow ponds, thought to have been formed during the end of the Pleistocene, represent a favored prehistoric settlement location.

B. P. - Years before present, which has been standardized at A.D. 1950.

Cretaceous Geologic Period - The third period of the Mesozoic era characterized by the development of flowering plants and the disappearance of dinosaurs.

Culture - A uniquely human system of habits and customs acquired by man through a non-biological, uninherited process, learned by his society, and used as his primary means of adapting to his environment.

Extant - Still in existence.

Fall Line - A transition zone from the Piedmont Uplands to the flatter Coastal Plain.

Feature - Any soil disturbance or discoloration that reflects human activity, or an artifact that, being too large to remove from a site, normally is recorded only; for example, house, storage pits, etc.

Feldspar - Silicates of aluminum, containing sodium, potassium, calcium, or barium or combinations of these elements. Clay is the chief substance formed when weathering decomposes feldspars.

Fire-cracked Rock - A rock that has fractured and/or discolored due to exposure to fire.

Fluvial - Produced by the action of flowing water.

Granary - A storage building for grain.

Grid - The 2-dimensional intersection network defining the squares in which archaeologists excavate.

Historic - The time period after the appearance of written records. In the New World, this generally refers to the time period after the beginning of European settlement at approximately 1600 A.D.

Historical Archaeology - The study of material culture in an historical perspective.

Hundred - A subdivision of some English and American counties.

Intestate - A person who dies without making a will.

Material Culture - That segment of man's physical environment which is purposely shaped by him according to culturally dictated plans.

Loam - A loose soil composed of roughly equal parts of silt, clay, and sand, especially a kind containing organic matter and of great fertility.

Orphans Court Records - The County Court responsible for the welfare of orphans when a father died without a will. Orphans court watched over the estate until the children (if any) reached majority. A guardian was appointed by the Court, who was to make periodic returns of the estate to the Court. When the youngest heir came of age, then the property could be divided among the heirs. These court records are filled with information regarding income property, education, repairs of houses and outbuildings, contracts, and other useful material about eighteenth and nineteenth century life.

Outbuilding - A building other than the principal building on a property; for example, on an eighteenth or nineteenth century Delaware farm: smokehouses, dairies, stables, and corn-cribs were typical outbuildings.

Pedestrian Survey - The walking and collecting of an archaeological site without the excavation of subsurface units.

Perch - A measure of distance and acreage used by early surveyors, equal to 16.5 feet. Also called a pole, rod, or rood. A perch is equal to one-quarter of a chain, which is 66 feet long, and eighty chains equals 1 mile, or 5,280 feet. Finally, 1 acre is composed of 10 square chains, or 43,560 feet.

Phase I - Determination of the absence or presence of a site.

Phase II - Further investigation of a site to define its limits and integrity for National Register eligibility.

Physiographic Zone - Regions or areas that are characterized by a particular geography, geology, and topography.

Piedmont Region - An area of gently rolling to hilly land lying between the Appalachian Mountains and the Atlantic Coastal Plain. The division between the Piedmont Region and the Coastal Plain is marked by the Fall Line.

Pleistocene - A division of the geologic Quarternary Period, which began around 2.3 to 3 million years ago and is associated with rapid hominid evolution from Australopithecinae to Homo sapiens sapiens.

Plow Zone - In a plowed field, the upper layer of organic soil which is continually reworked by the plow. In the Middle Atlantic region this is about 8-12 inches.

Post Hole - A hole dug in the ground into which a post is placed.

Post Mold - The organic stain in the ground which is left by a decayed wooden post. A post mold stain may occur inside of a post hole stain on an archaeological site.

Prehistoric - The time period before the appearance of written records. In the New World this generally refers to indigenous, pre-Contact societies.

Research Design - A strategy developed at the beginning of a project to guide the researchers.

Sediment - Soil deposited by wind, water, or glaciers.

Sherd - A piece of broken pottery.

Site - A space of ground containing evidence of human occupation that archaeologists select for their dig.

Stratigraphy - The examination of the soil layering on an archaeological site; the characteristics of each individual stratum and its relationship to others in the sequence is critical to understanding the temporal and spatial characteristics of the site.

Subsoil - Sterile, naturally occurring soils not changed by human occupation.

Subsurface - Below the surface, not visible from the surface.

Surface Collection - Act of walking along a surface such as an open field or plowed field, and collecting artifacts seen on the surface of the ground.

Topography - The surface physical features and configuration of land.