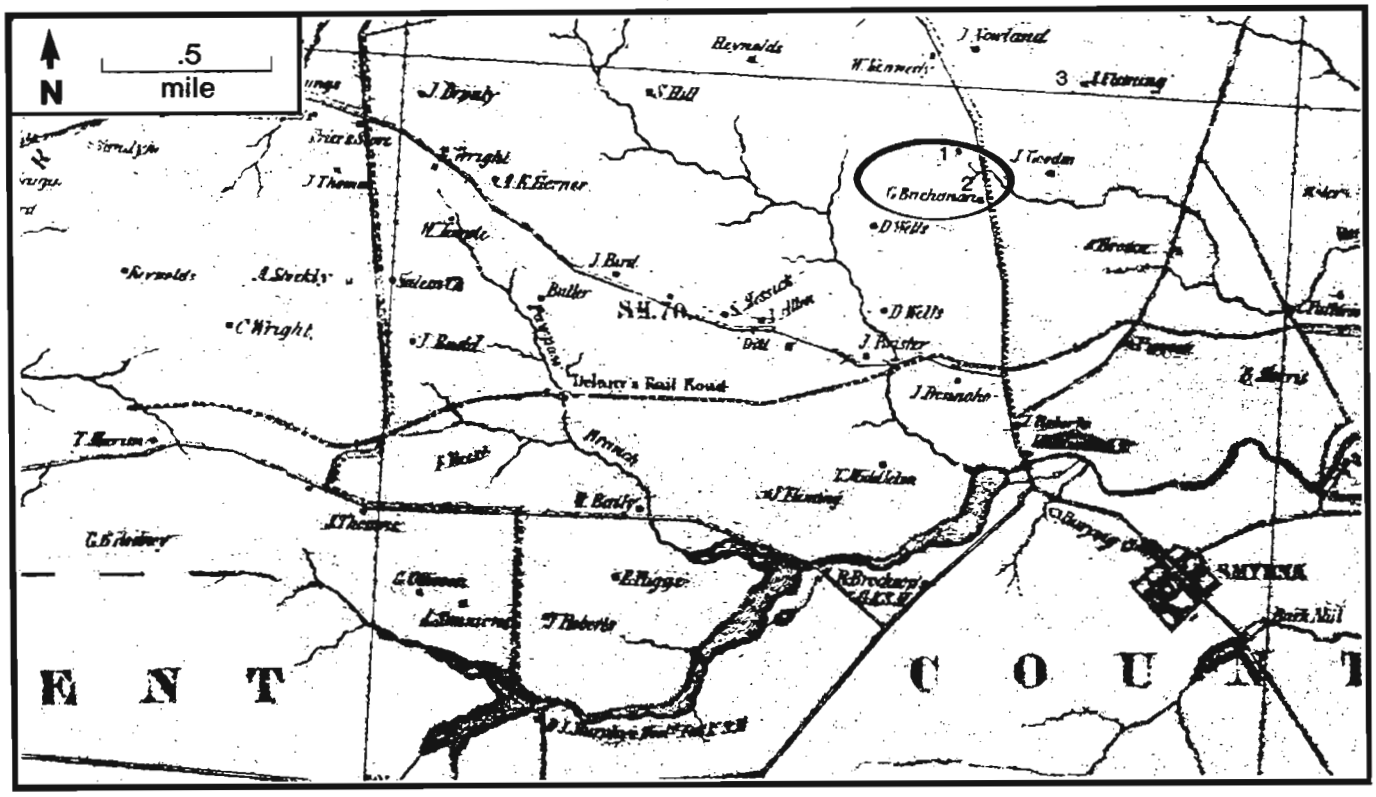
FIGURE 7

Detail of Rea and Price's Map of New Castle County, 1849



7) Other Table
   a) Dining
   b) Serving
8) Decorative
9) Lighting
10) Personal
11) Mirror
12) Preserves/Storage

The data generated from the glass vessel analysis of the Buchanan-Savin Farmstead was basic to intra-site and inter-site glass assemblage comparisons, which will be explained more fully later in the report.

SITE HISTORY

The first appearance in the archival record of the Buchanan-Savin Farmstead was in 1849, on Rea and Price's Map of New Castle County (Figure 7). The farmstead was recorded as one of two structures associated with the name "G. Buchanan". According to the 1840 census of Milford, Kent County Delaware, George W. Buchanan's business was commerce. In 1846, Buchanan purchased 269 acres of land containing the farm in New Castle County from Joseph Fleming (Table 1). Fleming was Buchanan's father-in-law, through Buchanan's second wife Mary A. [Fleming] (State Archives Marriage Index). Buchanan's first wife, Elizabeth May, had passed away in 1841, before the Buchanans settled in New Castle County (Dill 1989:1355)(State Archives Marriage Index).

TABLE 1

Chain of Title of the Buchanan-Savin Farm Site (N-6272; 7NC-J-175), 1831 - 1969

Transaction	Acres	Date	Reference
Isaac and Ann (Martin) McNeil and Stephen N. and Mary (Martin) Wyatt	109	10/21/1831	N-4-403
From Joseph Fleming to George W. Buckhanan	269	3/2/1846	R-5-9
From George W. Buchanan, deceased, to Mrs. Ann E. Buchanan, widow	34	2/18/1867	NCC O. Ct. Z-1-284
From Anna A. Armstrong to Francis C. Armstrong	149	8/27/1910	NCC O. Ct.
From Francis C. and Lydia M. Armstrong to Thomas R. Moffett	149	12/1/1921	E-31-314
From Thomas R. Moffett, deceased, to Ella Moffett, widow, via his will	149	7/27/1945	D-2-337
From Ella Moffett to T. Arthur Moffett via the will of T.R. Moffett	126	11/11/1967	D-2-337
From T. Arthur and Madeline T. Moffett to First State Enterprises	135	3/20/1969	D-2-337

The Rea and Price Map (1849) records two homes owned by the Buchanans (Figure 7). The name "G. Buchanan" appears closest to the southern home, and it is most likely that in 1849 that building was the Buchanan residence. The north structure is at the approximate location of the Buchanan-Savin Farmstead, but was placed on the west side of Duck Creek Road, as opposed to the east side where it was located on later maps and atlases. The house could have been misdrawn, although movement of buildings was not uncommon (Bernard Herman, personal communication). The north structure probably served as a tenant house until the Buchanans moved sometime between 1849 and 1857 when a fire insurance policy recorded their presence (Appendix V).

The 1850 Population Census of New Castle County recorded that George Buchanan's household consisted of 11 other people besides himself: his wife Mary A.; his daughters, Mary E., Anne A., Bathsheba, Angelina, Catherine; and a son George (the first of George senior's two sons christened George will hereafter be referred to as George (II). Two farm laborers, John Baker and Samuel McElwee, and two black household servants, Moll Smith and Hannah Pouso, shared the Buchanan home (Table 2). Agricultural Census records for that same year showed that George W. Buchanan cultivated wheat, Indian corn, peas, beans, Irish potatoes, buckwheat, butter, wool, and raised animals sent to slaughter (Table 3).

In the 1852-1853 tax year, George W. Buchanan was taxed on an "old frame dwelling + 1 outhouse", representing Buchanan's two houses, and it cannot be determined which was the Buchanan-Savin Farmhouse. Tax assessments made in 1856 noted George W. Buchanan owned a "Fr. [dwelling] & 2 out [houses]", indicating that Buchanan had acquired another tenant house. One of the outhouses was a structure listed as "J. Fleming" on the 1849 Rea and Price Map (Figures 7 and 8). The additional outhouse was on a parcel of land inherited from the estate of Joseph Fleming, Mary A. Buchanan's father (N.C.C. Probate Records). This tract lay along Duck Creek adjacent to a mill pond. The acquisition of this piece of land may have seemed like a boon at the time, but it began a chain of events

TABLE 2

Buchanan Household 1850-1890

1850		1860		1870		1880	
Name	Age	Name	Age	Name	Age	Name	Age
George W.	37	George W.^	45	deceased 1866			
Mary A.	30	M.A.	40	deceased 1861			
Mary E.[1]	16	m. Wells 1853		m. Denny 1868			
George	13						
Anne A.	11	m. Armstrong 1855					
Bathsheba	4	B.B.	15	deceased 1864			
Angelina	3	A.	14	deceased 1863			
Catherine	1	C.F.	11	deceased 1865			
		J.H.	9	James	19	deceased 1877	
		S.L.	7	Louiza	16	m. Culleny 1872	
		G.W.	2	George	12	George W.	22 deceased 1881
						Mary	25 deceased 1948
						Mary L.	3
						George R.	2
				Kate (James' wife)	18	m. Lingo 1877	
				Anne E.[3]		m. Davis 1871	deceased 1891
		Hannah (Sloan)[2]		divorced 1862			
Moll Smith (female house servant)	13	Moll Smith (female house servant)	21				
Hannah Pouso (female house servant)	14						
John Baker (farm laborer)	17						
Samuel McElwee (farm laborer)	13						
		W. Fields (farm laborer)	28				
		C. Jones (farm laborer)	14				
		R. Crossberry (farm laborer)	12				
				Wm. Wells (farm laborer)	12		

KEY: m. = marries and leaves Buchanan household
1 = George W. Buchanan's second wife
2 = George W. Buchanan's third wife
3 = George W. Buchanan's fourth wife
^ = George W. Buchanan was held at New Castle County Prison from May 1859 to May 1864, for the manslaughter of David C. Casperson.

that would greatly change the Buchanan's lives. In 1849, the Buchanan home was sold, along with a large parcel of land to Samuel A. Armstrong, the recent husband of the Buchanan's daughter Anne A.

In April of 1857, George W. Buchanan purchased insurance policies on his three houses from the Kent Mutual Insurance Company (Appendix V). Two buildings were listed with tenants, Mr. Shaw and Daniel Maloney, and the other was occupied by the Buchanans. The policy described in detail the structures present at the Buchanan Farmstead:

> "No. 1 A Frame Dwelling house 1 1/2 stories 16 x 20 [feet] with back building 12 x 28 feet situated in Appoquinimink Hundred...estimated value $600, owned and occupied by the Applicant; warmed by stoves & fireplaces--stove pipes well secured; ashes poured on the ground 60 ft. from building; pump under a back shed 6 feet off. Insured value $400."
>
> "No. 2 A Stable and Carriage house, the main building 18 x 20 [feet], 16 ft. post, with 2 wings each 12 x 18 ft. 12 feet high; 50 yards from No. 1. Estimated at $350; insured value $234."
>
> "No. 3 Is a meal, corn, and tool house 12 x 26 feet 1 story high, 40 feet from No. 1, estimated value at $75. Insured value $50."
> Kent Mutual Insurance Co. Policy #720. Approved 17 April 1857.

TABLE 3

Buchanan Farmstead Productivity from 1850 - 1880

		George W. Buchanan				James Buchanan	George W. Buchanan (III)
Product	Unit of Measure	Agricultural Census 1850	Tax Records 1852-53	Agricultural Census 1860	Probate Record 1867	Agricultural Census 1870	Agricultural Census 1880
Improved acres	number	175	200	250	not listed	34	45
Unimproved acres	number	85	0	50	not listed	0	0
Cash value	dollars	8,000	5,000	15,000	not listed	2,000	2,000
Machinery	dollars	200	not listed	200	250	50	175
Wages	number	not listed	not listed	not listed	not listed	100	150
Horses	number	2	not listed	3	2	2	3
Ass/ mules	number	1	not listed	4	2	0	0
Milch cows	number	2	not listed	6	3	1	4
Working oxen	number	2	not listed	0	0	0	0
Other cattle	number	0	not listed	16	8	0	6
Sheep	number	18	not listed	0	12	0	0
Swine	number	4	not listed	13	8	4	3
Value stock	dollars	200	305	1,500	740	300	250
Wheat	bushel	260	not listed	400	yes	0	33
Indian corn	bushel	1,600	not listed	1,800	yes	300	200
Peas and beans	bushel	60	not listed	0	not listed	0	0
Irish potatoes	bushel	200	not listed	0	not listed	0	0
Buckwheat	bushel	55	not listed	0	not listed	0	0
Butter	pounds	25	not listed	300	not listed	0	200
Wool	pounds	40	not listed	0	not listed	0	0
Animals slaughtered	dollars	40	not listed	100	not listed	30	0
Oats	bushel	0	not listed	700	not listed	0	30
Sweet potatoes	bushel	0	not listed	20	not listed	0	0
Orchard products	dollars	0	not listed	40	yes	300	0
Hay	varied	not listed	not listed	not listed	$30	not listed	0

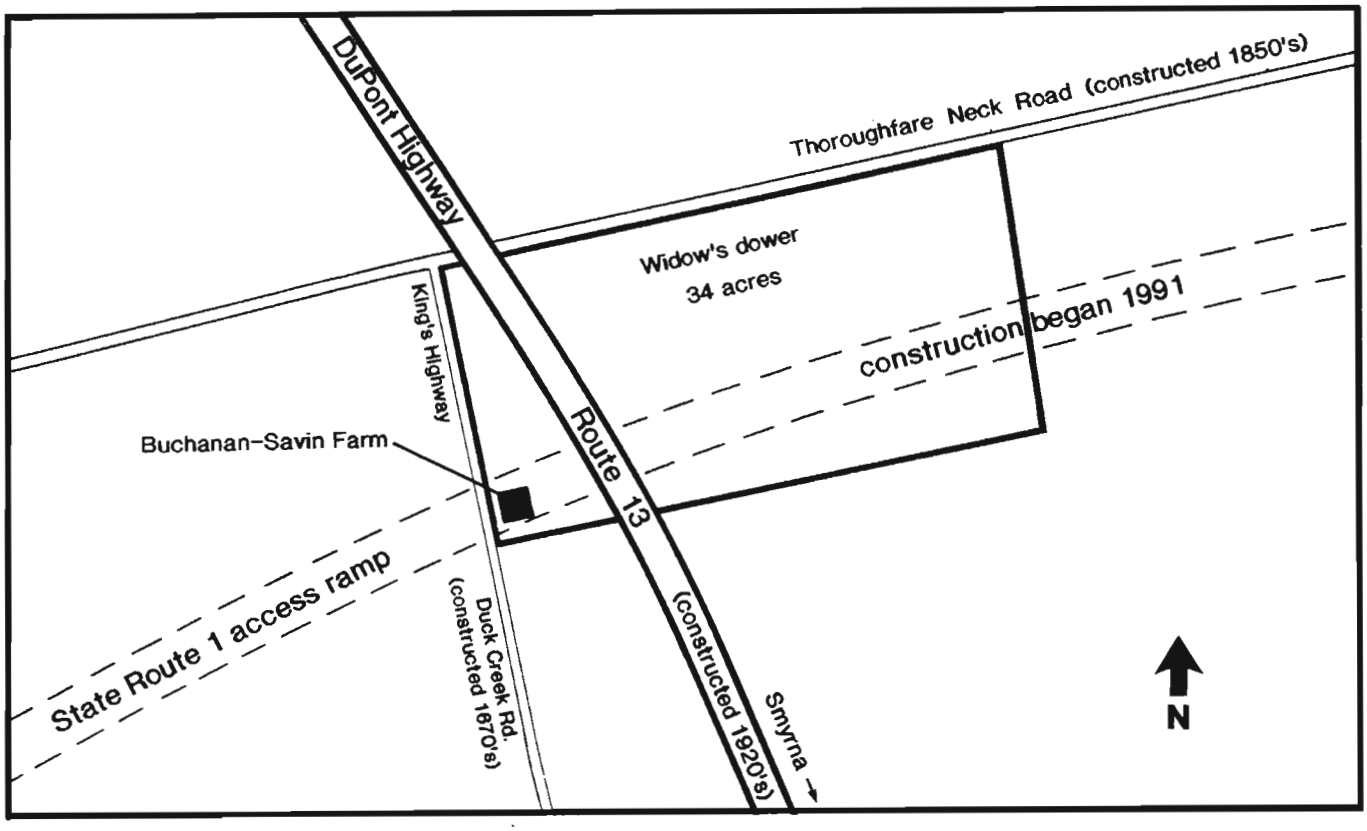
According to this insurance record, in 1857, the Buchanan-Savin Farmstead consisted of six structures: a 16x20 ft one-and-a-half story frame farmhouse with an 12x28 ft back building and two outbuildings, a 18x32 ft stable and carriage house with two 12x18 ft wings, and a 12x26 ft corn, meal and tool shed. The stable and carriage house was located within 50 yards of the house, and the corn, meal, and tool shed was located 40 feet from the house.

A 1858 plat from the Road Books of the New Castle County Court of General Sessions records the approval of a "Public road...crossing the State Rd. from Smyrna to Blackbird...to the Public road from Thorough neck to Smyrna". This road passed along the north of the Buchanan property which contained the Buchanan-Savin Farmstead site. George W. Buchanan received $208.50 for damages. The plat shows the Buchanan farmhouse, but no other structures on the Buchanan property (Figure 9).

In 1859, George W. Buchanan killed David S. Casperson (Scharf 1888:1129). After an argument over a fenceline, George W. Buchanan attacked his neighbor David S. Casperson with a briar scythe. The actual court records are no longer extant, however, the Smyrna Times carried articles from the time of the murder to Buchanan's murder trial. Casperson had recently purchased the plot of land adjacent to Buchanan's southern tenant house which the Buchanans had inherited in 1856. Casperson felt cheated of land and had removed Buchanan's post and rail fence (Smyrna Times, June 2 1859). The property line had been in dispute since 1797, despite repeated surveys (Scharf 1888:1129). While Buchanan and his tenants were replacing the stolen posts, Casperson became embroiled into a heated argument with Buchanan over the true property line. Witnesses reported that the argument lasted twenty to forty-five minutes. At the trial David Hazel (also appears as Hazlet), one of Buchanan's workmen related portions of the argument; Casperson said "there is no use in putting it [the fence] up, for I will take it down again," Buchanan replied "if the neighbor's cattle get in we must put up with it, but if yours get in they'll get hurt - or killed" (Hazel did not know which was said). (Smyrna Times, June 2 1859).

The Smyrna Times reported that another witness Elias Lockerman, Buchanan's tenant on the property containing the disputed boundary related the following:

FIGURE 8
History of Road Impact of the Buchanan-Savin Farmstead



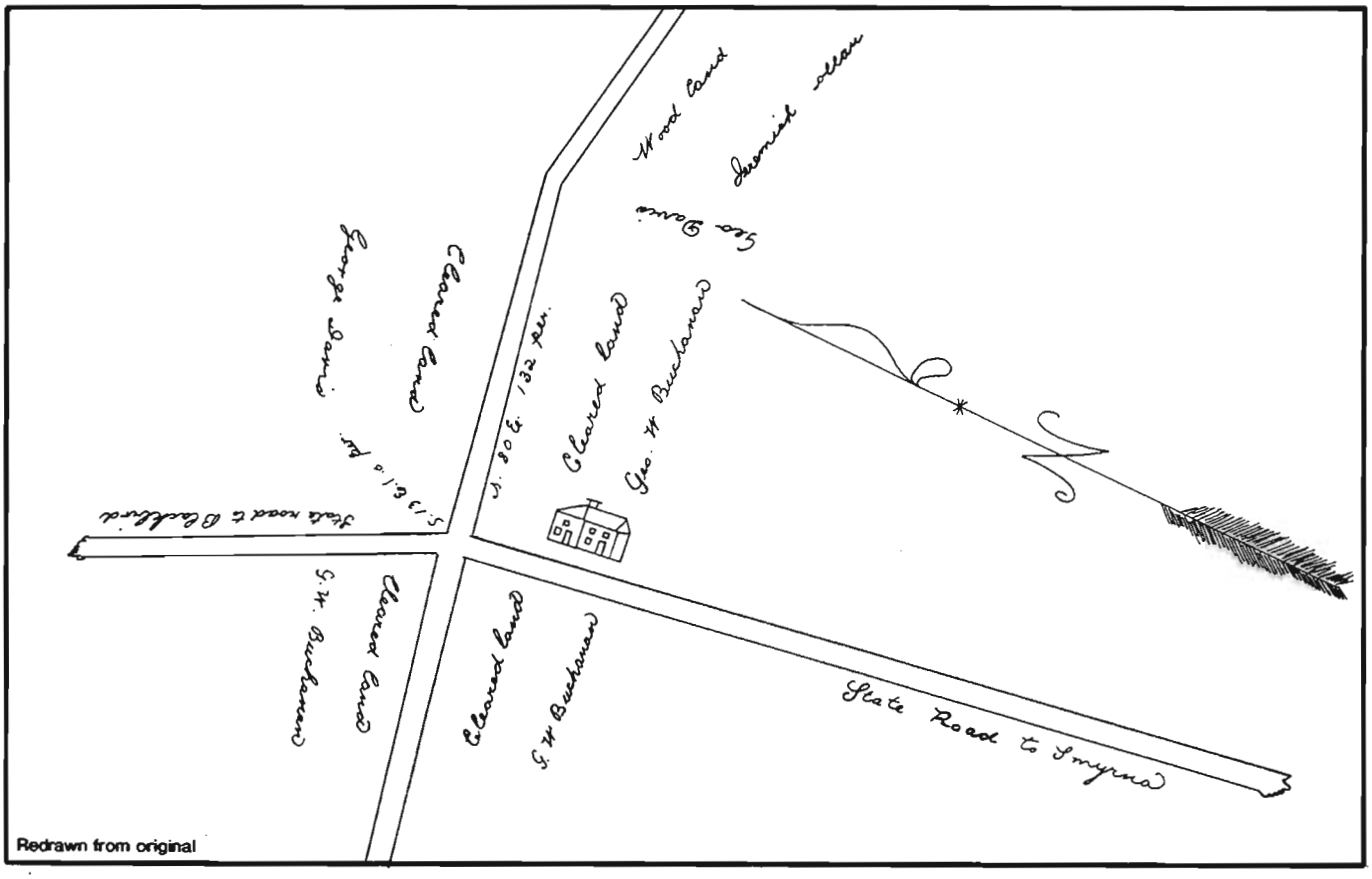
> Buchanan told Casperson to go home and attend to his own business, as he did not want to have any difficulty with him; he [Buchanan] told him he would mark the rails of the fence, and if he [Casperson] took it down in his absence he would know them; Casperson said he would never see the rails again; Buchanan told him not to get over the fence; he [Buchanan] took the briar-scythe we had and went some distance off to cut bushes; Casperson finally jumped over the fence and said, "I'm over and you can't help yourself"; I saw Buchanan start towards me and pass me with his scythe; I next heard a little noise and looked around; saw Buchanan and Casperson together; Buchanan had the scythe; but by the time I got there Buchanan had struck Casperson with the scythe on the left thigh; Casperson fell on the scythe and had hold of the snath, near the blade; we got him [Casperson] up and Mr. B told us to carry him [Casperson] home and go for the doctor (Smyrna Times, June 2 1859).

David S. Casperson died six days later from what doctors referred to as "mortification" of one of the two wounds Casperson received from the confrontation. The first wound was a cut to Casperson's left thigh which doctor's said "was healing nicely". The postmortem autopsy revealed that a second wound in Casperson's right leg fractured the fibula, "cutting muscles, arteries and nerves". The doctors testified that this wound was enough to cause death (Smyrna Times, June 2 1859).

The jury deliberated for two hours and found George W. Buchanan guilty of manslaughter (Smyrna Times, June 2 1859). Buchanan's full charge was manslaughter and felony, sentencing him to five years in New Castle County Jail and four thousand dollars in fines and court costs. Several months

FIGURE 9

1858 New Castle County Court of General Sessions Road Book Plat



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later, in December, Governor William Burton filed a remission of three thousand dollars of Buchanan's fines and court costs (New Castle County Court of Oyer and Terminer Session Docket, May 1859).

The death of David S. Casperson and the imprisoning of George W. Buchanan was seen as a "distressing affair", "Both Messrs. Casperson and Buchanan, were in good circumstances -- useful, enterprising and valuable men in the community" (Smyrna Times, April 21, 1859). Buchanan was a large land owner, and David S. Casperson's family ran a grist mill in Smyrna. Both were men of means, among the elite of the farming community. The dispute over even a small portion of land demonstrated the tremendous value real estate held to men like Buchanan and Casperson. The trial as reported in the Smyrna Times also names Elias Lockerman and John Goldsborough as tenants on Buchanan's property and records David Hazel and William Fields as hired hands.

In 1860, the Buchanan household was reported to have held 11 members: George W. (who in actuality was held in the New Castle jail), his wife Mary A., his daughters Bathsheba, Angelina, Catherine, Sarah, and two sons James, and George (George, the second of George senior's two sons christened George, will hereafter be referred to as George (III)). Other non-family people who shared the Buchanan residence were three farm laborers, W. Fields (still employed since the trial) C. Jones, and R. Crossberry, and Moll Smith who remained the Buchanan family servant since 1850 (Table 2).

The older children from Buchanan's first marriage, Mary E., George (II), and Anne A. had left the Buchanan Farm. Anne A. married Samuel A. Armstrong and sometime later moved to the southern

tenant house that was the Buchanan residence in 1849 (Figure 7, Location 2). Samuel A. Armstrong, around 1864, purchased a large section of the Buchanan land. Like George W. Buchanan, Samuel A. Armstrong acquired the property from his father-in-law. Mary E. Buchanan married Francis Wells in 1858 (State Archives Marriage Record Index). The Wells family owned large tracts directly west of the Buchanan family and had been neighbors since the Buchanans settled in the area. Later in 1868 presumably after the death of Francis Wells, Mary E. married William T. Denny (State Archives Marriage Record Index). The fate of George (II) is unknown, however he may have been dead by 1858 as the Buchanans named an infant son George W. (III).

The 1860 Agricultural Census detailed a successful Buchanan Farm (Table 3). The cash value of the land almost doubled in ten years--from $8,000 in 1850 to $15,000 in 1860. Livestock played a greater role, but corn and wheat were still staple crops. New crops, however, were being cultivated: oats, sweet potatoes, and orchard crops. The new farm products, especially livestock and orchard products, were a response to the growing urban markets of Philadelphia and Wilmington for fresh dairy products and fruit.

George W. Buchanan's second wife, Mary A. (Fleming), died in 1861, while he was held in New Castle County Jail. The next year Buchanan married Hannah (Sloan) Bradley, his third wife. Buchanan was still incarcerated and perhaps this was a marriage of convenience to provide a mother for Buchanan's six children still at home. Despite the care of a foster mother, Buchanan's three teenage daughters Bathsheba, Angelina, and Catherine passed away within the following three years (Dill 1989:27). Buchanan's third marriage ended in divorce in February 1864, two months before his release from jail in May. Divorces in nineteenth- century Delaware were relatively rare and Buchanan's was one of less than a hundred on record (State Archives Divorce Index).

Buchanan married his fourth and final wife, Annie E., sometime between 1864 and his death in 1866. At the time of George W. Buchanan's death all that remained of the Buchanan family was Annie E., Buchanan's fourth wife, and his three youngest children by his second wife: James H., S.L. (Louiza), and George W. (III).

Probate records compiled by Samuel A. Armstrong for the Buchanan estate listed debtors, the worth of the contents of the house, and farm animals and equipment (Appendix VI). A thirty-four-acre "Widow's Dower" parcel which contained the Buchanan-Savin Farmstead was deeded to the widow, Anne E. Buchanan (Figure 10).

Twenty individuals owed George W. Buchanan money upon his death. A majority of the debt was money Samuel A. Armstrong owed on the mortgage of the portion of the farm he purchased three years earlier, and the benefits of a life insurance policy. The occupations of the remaining creditors as listed in the 1860 and 1870 censuses reveal George W. Buchanan's local economic network (Figure 11; Table 3). Debtors to Buchanan's estate included Daniel Thompson, a butcher, Gos. W. Spicer, owner of a feed store, John Walker a produce seller, and Blanchard Smith a clerk of an unspecified store in Dover. The debts reflect regular accounts, a daily part of every farmers' affairs. Three other individuals owed Buchanan rent at the time of the probate. These rents may have been for land or for the use of the remaining tenant house. Nine white farmers and two black farmers from as far as Little Creek and Mispillion Hundreds in Kent County were also listed in the probate record. These debts indicate that George W. Buchanan had business dealings outside his local area and outside his immediate social circles. Buchanan not only dealt with merchants as far south as Dover, but he also lent money to farmers throughout central Delaware.

A New Castle County Orphan's Court plat recorded the locations of the farmhouse and two outbuildings after G. W. Buchanan's death in 1866 (Figure 10). These outbuildings were the stable\carriage house and meal, corn, and tool house mentioned in the 1857 Kent Mutual Fire Insurance Record. The insurance policy was transferred to Anne E. Buchanan after her husband's death.

FIGURE 10

Buchanan–Savin Farm Site, 1867 New Castle County Orphan's Court Plat

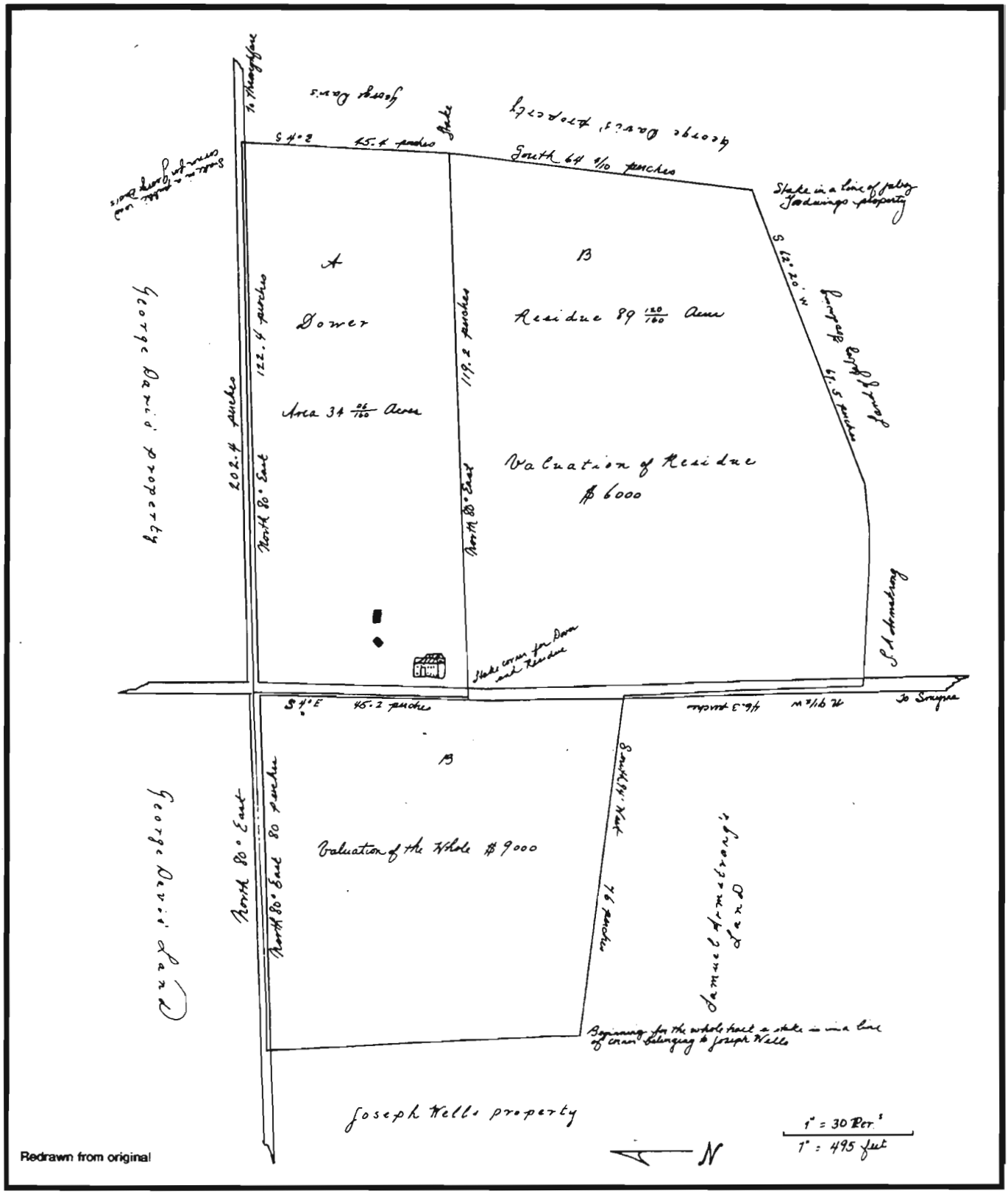

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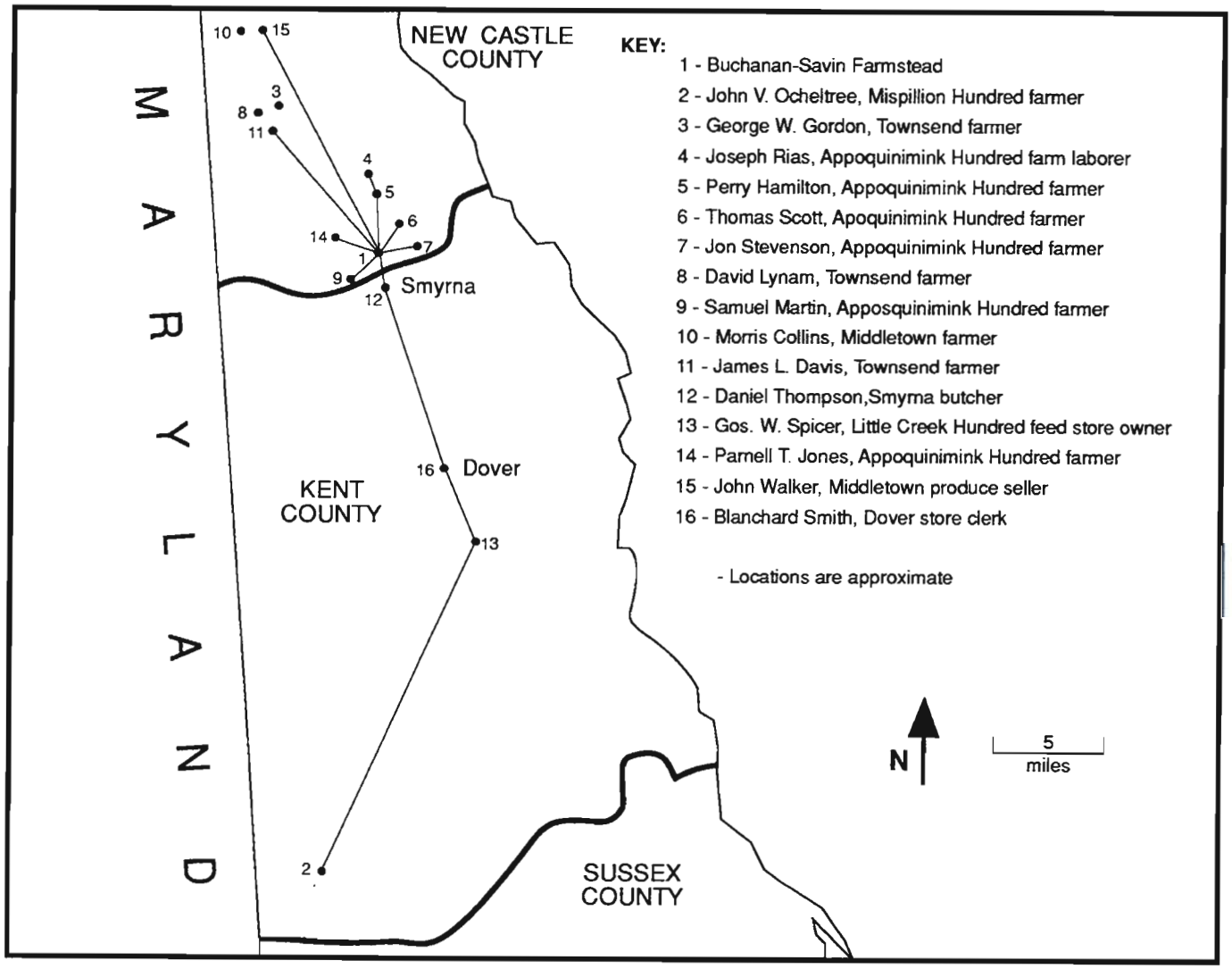
FIGURE 11

Economic Network of George W. Buchanan (I) from 1867 Probate Record

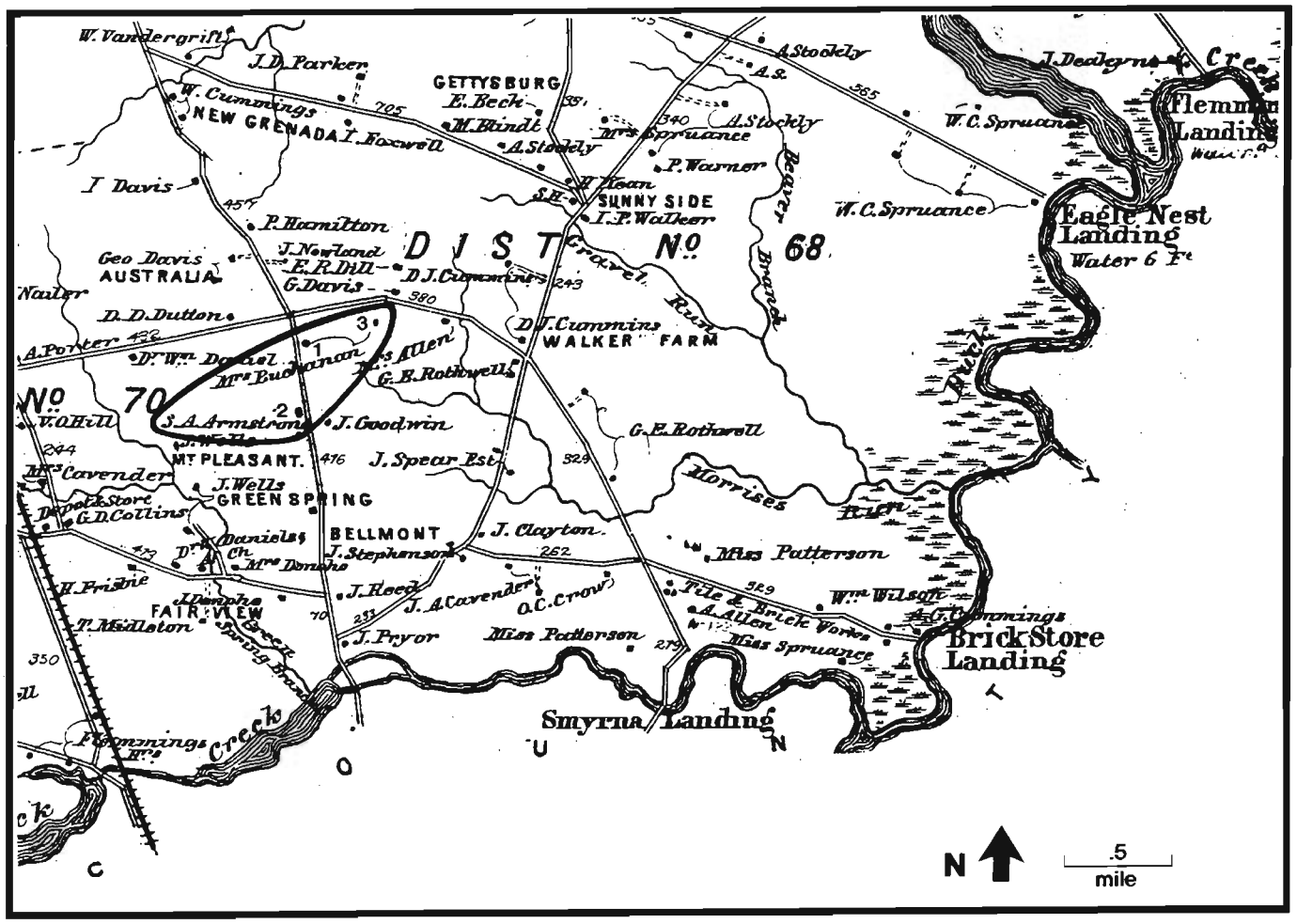


The Buchanan-Savin Farmstead appeared in Beer's 1868 Atlas (Figure 12, Location 1). Shown are two houses labeled Mrs. Buchanan, referring to the widow Anne E. Buchanan (Figure 12, Location 3). The southern of the two structures (Figure 12, Location 1) was the farmhouse at the Buchanan-Savin Farmstead. The northern structure was the tenant house labeled J. Fleming in Rea and Price's 1849 Map (Figure 7, Location 3) and as tenanted by Mr. Shaw in the 1857 fire insurance policy (Appendix V).

The 1870 Agricultural census lists James Buchanan (George W. Buchanan's eldest remaining son) farming the 34-acre Widow's Dower containing the Buchanan-Savin house and outbuildings (Table 3). The much scaled down Buchanan farm produced a narrower range of crops, concentrating on Indian corn, and a heavy investment in orchard products (Table 3). In 1870, the Buchanan family consisted of James, age 19, his wife Kate, age 18, and a 12-year-old farm laborer named William Wells. Although listed as a farm laborer, William Wells was the son of Mary E. (Buchanan-Wells) Denny, nephew of James Buchanan. Anne E. Buchanan, the fourth wife of the late George W. Buchanan and step-mother of James, was not listed as a member of the household indicating that she lived elsewhere.

FIGURE 12

Detail of D.G. Beers' Atlas of the State of Delaware, 1868



The State Archives Marriage Index records that Ann Elizabeth Buchanan married Robert Davis in 1871. The Davis family owned the property directly north of the Buchanan-Savin Farmstead, and like the Wells family to the west, had been long-time neighbors of the Buchanans. Deed records show that Annie E. (Buchanan) Davis still legally owned the Widow's Dower tract but the agricultural census indicated that the tract was farmed by George W. Buchanan's son James, and later George W. (III).

The 1870 census also found the two youngest Buchanans, Louiza (aged 16) and George Buchanan III (aged 12) living next door to the Buchanan-Savin Farmstead, at the house of their sister Anna A. and her husband, Samuel A. Armstrong. James Buchanan farmed the tract until his death before 1877, when his wife Kate remarried (Tatnall Tombstone Collection). The property came under the control of George W. Buchanan's youngest child George W. (III). The 1880 Census listed the occupants of the Buchanan-Savin Farmstead as George W. (III) (age 22) his wife Mary (age 25), his daughter Mary L. (age 3), and son George R. (age 2). William Shields, an Irish-born farm laborer also lived with the Buchanans.

The agricultural census schedule for 1880 of the George W. Buchanan (III) farm showed an increase in the value of machinery indicating a greater reliance on mechanization (Table 3). No orchard crops were recorded; however, corn continued to be a staple crop. Eggs, butter and wheat

production were raised in answer to newly opening urban markets and increased transportation made perishable commodities desirable (Table 3).

No population or census records of Delaware exist for 1890. The Buchanan farm, however, appeared on Baist's 1893 Atlas as one of two structures labeled "Mrs. Buchannan" (Figure 13, Location 1). George W. Buchanan (III) had died in 1881 (Tatnall Tombstone Collection) so this Mrs. Buchanan was probably Mary, George W. (III)'s widow, since Anne E., George W. Buchanan (I)'s widow, had died two years previously (Tatnall Tombstone Collection). The northern most structure shown on the Baist Atlas was the tenant house labeled, " J. Fleming" in 1849 (Figure 7, Location 3). The southern most structure was the Buchanan farmhouse at the Buchanan-Savin Farm site (Figure 13, Location 1).

By 1910, the New Castle County Orphans Court recorded the transferal of 149 acres of land, 34 acres of which was the widows dower that contained the Buchanan farmhouse, from Anna A. (Buchanan) Armstrong to her son Francis C. Armstrong. Francis C. Armstrong was the grandson of George W. Buchanan, and the nephew of James and George W. (III), the previous farmers of the Buchanan-Savin Farmstead. The widow's dower passed to the Armstrong side of the family, as Anne A. Armstrong was probably the sole surviving child of Mary A. (Fleming) Buchanan. Francis C. Armstrong maintained the Buchanan farmhouse for eleven years until 1921 when he sold the 149-acre parcel (including the widow's dower) to Thomas R. Moffett.

Thomas R. Moffett's purchase in 1921 was the first non-relative transfer in over a hundred years since Joseph Fleming acquired the land from the Brattons in 1831. In 1900, before the Moffetts moved in to the Buchanan-Savin farm, the Moffett family consisted of Thomas R. Moffett, his wife Ella, his daughter Mary, and his younger brother Nathaniel. Thomas R. Moffett constructed a new concrete block and frame dairy farm south of the traditional farmyard. Concrete block was the latest in cheap and attractive building materials sold by many companies, the chief of which was the Sears and Roebuck Co. Kits that included plans, directions and a concrete block-making machine were a popular mail order item (Simpson 1989:110). Thomas R. Moffett passed away leaving the farm to his wife Ella Moffett in 1945. The Moffetts sold the lands containing the Buchanan-Savin Farmstead to the First State Enterprise company in 1969. The Savin family occupied the farmhouse as non-farming tenants until April of 1991.

The Buchanan-Savin Farmstead passed through three distinct phases during its occupation. The first phase was a very brief tenant occupation which ended in the 1850's when George W. Buchanan moved into the Buchanan-Savin farmhouse and constructed agricultural outbuildings. The owner-occupied farm of the Buchanan's was perpetuated by the Moffetts dairy industry from the 1920's to the 1960's. The owner-occupied era lasted approximately 110 years until after 1967 when the Savin family became the tenants. This marked the fourth phase, when the Buchanan-Savin Farmstead returned to a tenant-occupied house for 24 years until the destruction of the farmstead in 1991.

RESULTS OF FIELD INVESTIGATIONS

INTRODUCTION

The data recovery excavations at Buchanan-Savin Farmstead were conducted in four separate steps: 1) the plow zone sampling of the specific excavation area using randomly excavated test units, 2) sampling of the entire farm complex on a 10x10 ft grid gathering soil-chemical samples from each of the plow zone and the subsoil; 3) mechanical stripping of the remainder of the plow zone from the site area, 4) the identification and excavation of subsurface features in the excavation area. All totaled, 268 cultural and 28 non-cultural features were identified at 7NC-J-175. Included were the remains of eight outbuildings, two privies, five fencelines, two French drains, and a well. Each part of the data recovery program utilized at the Buchanan-Savin Farmstead is presented below, beginning with the plow zone sampling, the mechanical plow zone removal, and a description of the major feature groups.