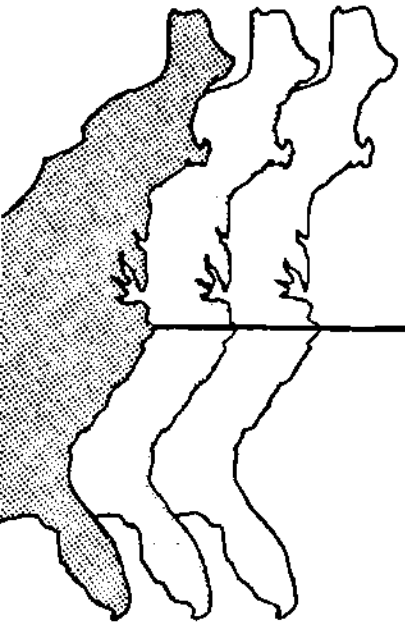


field investigations

MOUSLEY PROPERTY

(N-563)

Documentary History

In 1718 Thomas Smith, a Chester County yeoman, purchased a tract of land in Rockland Manor. In 1740 he sold the property to his son, Thomas Smith, a yeoman from Brandywine Hundred. Initial Eurpopean occupancy appears to have occured about this time. By 1754, Thomas Smith of Brandywine Hundred had died intestate and the division of his property (see Plate 1) was determined by the Orphan's Court. The mansion house and ninety acres awarded to his widow became known as the "Widow's Third" property. The other portion of the plantation contained a hay house and dam suggesting that agricultural activities were well established (New Castle Orphans Court Book C-1/211). Disposition of the "Widow's Third" property came to the New Castle County Orphan's Court again in 1801 when Thomas Smith, a descendant of the above Thomas Smiths, died intestate (Orphans Court Book I-J/226). A return for this order was not made until August 1805 when the "Widow's Third" property was awarded to Thomas Smith senior. Seven months later he conveyed it to Joseph Talley. Little is written about these Thomas Smiths.

Joseph Talley added to his ninety acres by purchasing fifteen acres adjacent to his eastern boundry (see Plate 2) from Joseph Dixon et al in 1814. After Talley's death, his estate was divided between his son and daughter (see Plate 3). The subject property settled in his son, Jehu Talley Jr. in the year 1825.

Jehu Talley conveyed to John S. Berry in 1867 and a house with Berry's name on it appears in the Beers 1868 Atlas (Fig. 2). Berry is listed in the Wilmington City Directories as having also maintained a market at 35-36 Third Street in Wilmington for a short period of time. In 1884 the listing was for an ice cream business, in 1885 for a butcher and in 1886 for a produce stall.

Alfred Mousley bought the property in 1890. The Baist 1893 Atlas indicates that the property either belonged to or was occupied by Joseph Mousley. The present owner, Arthur Mousley, identified Joseph Mousley as his uncle and said that Joseph Mousley was never the owner or householder of this property. Mrs. Oda Mousley Talley, a sister of the present owner, said that she was born in the house and except for the period of her marriage to Mr. Talley, lived there her entire life. She described the untrimmed outbuilding northeast of the house (Photograph # 422-32 - DOT) as the "ice cream house". Both she and her brother, Arthur Mousley, spoke of their father's ice cream business and the fact that on Sunday afternoons, the backyard would be filled with people who wanted to buy their father's ice cream. The heirs of Alfred Mousley conveyed the property to A. Arthur Mousley, sone of Alfred Mousley in 1958. Each owner who died seized of this property, died intestate.

Architectural Assessment

Originally a two-story, single-pile, three-bay stone house facing south, it was later enlarged to the north and its extended west wall was then made the facade of a Gothic Revival transformation.

Of the original building walls there remain only the south and east walls and portions of the north and west walls. Although now almost entirely covered with plaster, they are of dark gray "Brandywine Granite", lain in white lime mortar. The original frcnt entrance door and frame are still in place. The door is of an unusual stile-and-rail design, with eight raised panels and sheathed on the back with vertical boards. The best preserved of the original windows is in the south wall at the first floor where it is protected by a porch roof. Here, the narrow-muntined six-light sash and the shutters appear to date from the original construction. The shutters are of stile-and-rail design with raised panels, sheathed on the back and hung on hand-forged strap hinges. Inside the house, little can be said to have survived the restyling operation except some first floor construction and an enclosed, winding stairway in the northeast corner. Locations of the original chimneys cannot be established without further on-site research. Architrave and panel moldings are of an ogee-and-bead type that can be found in the George Read and Senator Van Dyke houses in New Castle, Delaware. Although the floor plan of the original house appears to have been of an early type - two rooms on each floor - all other indications are that it was constructed around 1800.

It appears that, sometime later, a hip-roofed, one-story porch was added to the south facade. A trace of this can be found just above and to the west of the surviving first floor window described earlier.

The extension of the house and its Gothic Revival transformation probably occured during the period 1850-1875. The new L-shaped plan was covered by a new high-pitched roof. Exposed rafter ends were cut to a decorative profile, as were the ends of the barge boards and the bracketed, extended rafter plates. The angle between the barge boards at each gable was fitted with a decorative king post truss. The experior surfaces of all stone walls, new and old, were dovered with plaster. The surface of the plaster was marked with thin painted lines in imitation of jointing in cut stone. New windows were large than those in the original building, fitted with 2/2 double-hung sash. A one-story, hip-roofed porch was placed across the west front. Interior woodwork is quite modest. Doors have oak-grained stiles and rails; panels are finished with burl-grained gesso. The new center hall stair is built and trimmed with what were probably standard woodwork elements. There are no fireplaces; until quite recently, stoves proviced all heating.

In later times a kitchen addition was placed against a portion of the south wall; still later, this was expanded vertically to provide a bathroom and a small bedroom on the second floor. Another kitchen has since been built in the angle of the L. These are all of frame construction, with low-pitched shed roof and ashlar-pattern asphalt roll siding.

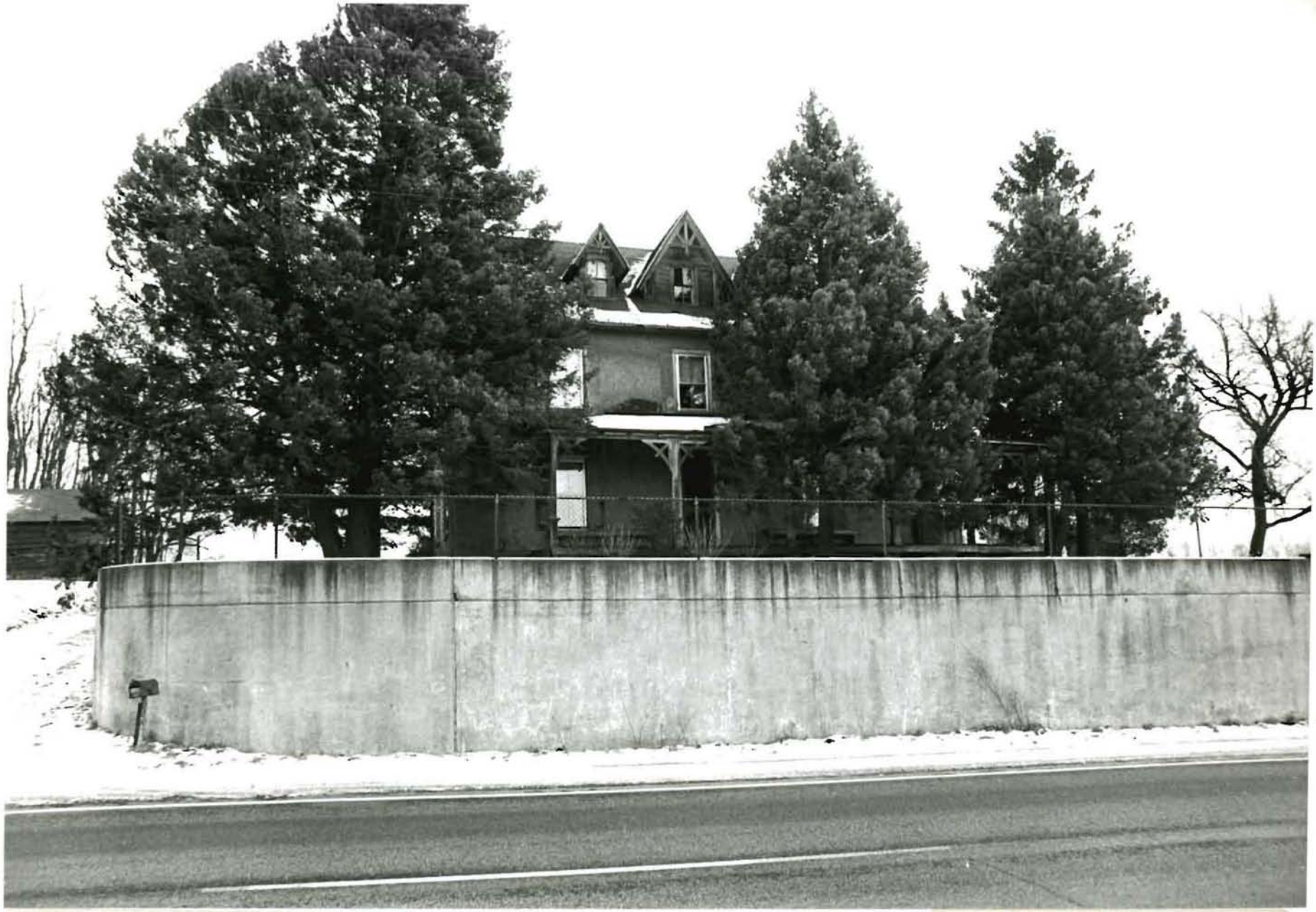


Figure 6: Mousley Property
(N-563)
Front View

MAAR PROJECT: DOT-202

SOURCE: DOT Photo # 422-33
January 26, 1979

Figure 7: Mousley Property
(N-563)
Rear View

MAAR PROJECT: DOT-202

SOURCE: DOT Photo # 422-29
January 26, 1979

The combination summer kitchen - milk house and the nearby privy are styled to match the main house's Gothic Revival appearance. All roof trim features are repeated. Both buildings are sheathed in vertical board-and-batten siding. Windows, where they occur, have six-light, double-hung sashes. Doors are ledge type. It is probably safe to assume that these two structures are coeval with the mid-19th Century transformation of the house.

The other outbuildings, a modest-sized, wood-framed dairy barn and a smaller auxiliary building are of little apparent architectural or historical interest. Both are now unused and in a poor state of repair.

The property is an historical and architectural document. Although much of the original structure was obliterated in the transformation, the remaining elements are unaltered and are extensive enough to provide a clear picture of its early appearance. This unusual combination of an early-type floor plan with later details, as indicated by superficial inspection, is deserving of further study. Beyond that, the Gothic Revival work is unusual in its rusticity and vigor; there are no fussy details here.

But it is in the summer kitchen that the Gothic Revival treatment employed in the house has been fully developed. This is a truly delightful little structure worthy of preservation. The same may be said of the similarly-detailed privy with but little less enthusiasm. These three buildings deserve more attention than they have received in the recent past.

Figure 8: Mousley Property
(N-563)
Summer Kitchen

MAAR PROJECT: DOT-202

SOURCE: DOT Photo # 422-28
January 26, 1979

WOODLAWN TRUSTEES PROPERTY

(N-564)

Documentary History

The history of this property is the same as that of the Mousley property until 1825 after the death of Joseph Talley when his son and daughter divided the property (see Plate 3). His daughter Susanna and her husband, John McKeever, held their portion and appeared on the Beers 1868 Atlas. They conveyed to William B. Harvey in 1878. Harvey sold five acres to James Graves in 1883, and then conveyed to Eber Y. Talley in 1887. A family genealogy (Talley 1899) entitled "The Talley History and Genealogy" stated that Eber Talley "... is engaged in the ice cream business on the Concord Turnpike, above Perry's Hotel". On March 21, 1919, the administrator of Eber Talley's estate conveyed to William Bancroft, the philanthropist, who immediately conveyed to Woodlawn Trustees Incorporated. Each owner who died seized of this property, died intestate.

Architectural Assessment

House

Originally a two-story, two-family stone house, it has been enlarged not less than twice. The first addition was a one-story stone wing on the north; the second was a larger stone and frame addition, again on the north. The one-story porch, that extends along the entire east front, was probably built at the time the second addition was made.

The original stone structure, probably built in the 1820's, was a four-bay single-pile house of a simple character that suggests that it was designed to serve as tenant's or workmen's housing. The low-pitched roof and decorative brick cornice are typical of Pennsylvania stone houses of the period. First floor joists appear to be original; rotted at their bearings in the west wall, they have been bolstered by a heavy timber frame. The one remaining fireplace chimney has been closed up, and serves as a flue for the present heating furnace. Window frames appear to be original, but sashes are replacements. The two door openings in the east front have been retrimmed; the doors themselves are late 19th Century types. The door and frame in the west wall seems to have been installed at a later date, probably at the time of the second addition.

Traces of the former, lower roof of the first addition may be seen from outside, where the old rafter plate appears as a horizontal projection from the plane of the wall, and in the attic, where the top of an earlier gable wall is visible. The original east door, a neatly executed ledge door, is worthy of note; It is hung on Gothic-tipped butt hinges. The window frame in the west wall and one of the two in the west wall are original; sashes are replacements.

In the second addition, the roof of the little north wing was removed, a second floor was installed, and the east and west walls were raised with stone. A two-story frame extension to the north completed the addition. A single new

roof covers the raised stone wing and the frame extension. The roof is hipped at the north end, rafter ends are exposed at the eaves and a simple Gothic gable is centered on the east side. The previously mentioned porch conceals the erratic fenestration pattern of the east wall. This second addition seems to date from sometime in the last two decades of the 19th Century.

As mentioned before, the original stone house was designed to serve a simple purpose in a very simple way. It is quite likely that its starkly simple masonry walls and unassertive brick cornice were complemented by severly simple window and door trim.

If it remained today in its original form, it would be worthy of attention for no other reason than its having escaped alteration. As it stands, however, later additions have enhanced it not at all.

Outbuildings

Other than a springhouse, outbuildings on the property are utilitarian farm structures of no architectural interest. The springhouse, now standing in a backwater from a nearby stream, is a small stone building with gable roof, vertically sheathed gables, box cornice and beaded barge boards. There are two small windows and the remains of a door frame. It is probable, that the modern-appearing roof structure is a recent addition to an old stone structure.

Figure 9: Woodlawn Trustees Property (N-564) Front View

MAAR PROJECT: DOT-202

SOURCE: DOT Photo # 417-13
January 18, 1979

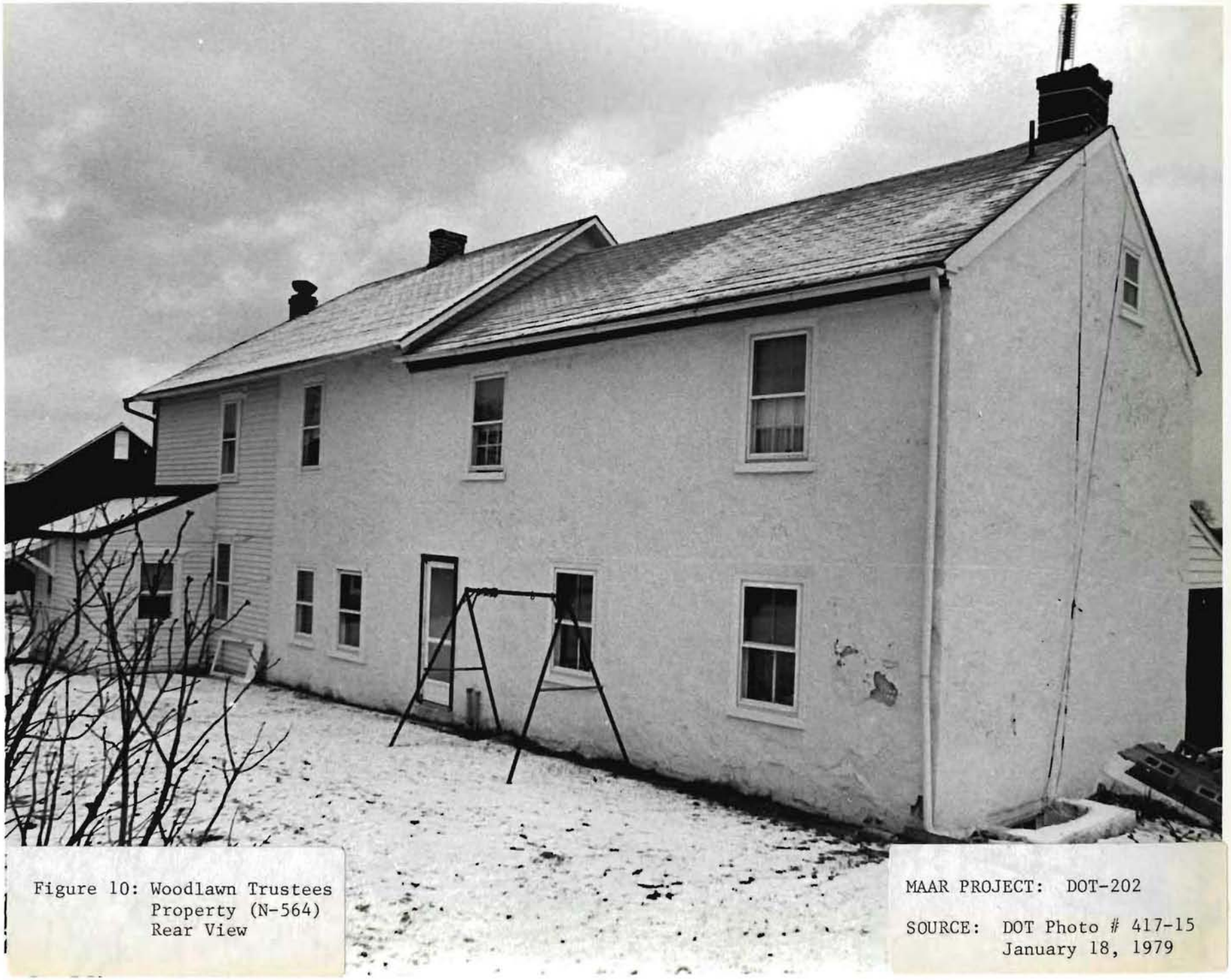


Figure 10: Woodlawn Trustees Property (N-564) Rear View

MAAR PROJECT: DOT-202

SOURCE: DOT Photo # 417-15 January 18, 1979

BREGER PROPERTY

(N-553)

Documentary History

The chain of title for this property can first be established at a sheriff's sale prior to 1825, when Charles P. Twadell of Chester County, Pennsylvania, bought the property from Sheriff Peter B. Delany. There is no record of a conveyance from Twadell to Joseph W. Day, but the metes and bounds of an unrecorded deed identify the land as that portion sold by the heirs of Joseph W. Day to Thomas R. Day in April of 1850 (see Plate 6). Thomas R. Day conveyed the land to William F. McKee in 1859. McKee appears to have been a son-in-law of John Mancill who owned the Marony Property, discussed later in this report. McKee held it until 1865 when he conveyed to Richard Griffith, a butcher.

Griffith held it only a few weeks before conveying to James Morrow, subject to a $1000.00 mortgage. The property then went into receivership several times, and was finally sold to Millard T. Poole at another sheriff's sales in 1886. Poole held for two years and sold to Patrick Walsh in 1888. Four years later, Patrick Walsh conveyed to Patrick Fahey.

Scharf (1868) describes Fahey as "... a prominent builder". Wilmington City Directories list him as a "contractor and builder" with his home and business in Wilmington. Both New Castle County Direct and Indirect Indices include an unusually high number of entries for Fahey, implying that he was dealing in real estate rather than accruing an estate.

A house appears on this property on both the Beers 1868 map and Baists 1893 map, but neither have the owner or occupant identified. Oral tradition states the "... present house was constructed during the 1890's, after the original structure burned". The Fahey ownership would add credibility to this. After Patrick Fahey sold the property to Michael Brager in 1896, there were no recorded conveyances or devices. Highway Department Plans, dated 1956, indicate the owner at that time was Lewis Breger. The property is currently assessed to Daniel L. Breger.

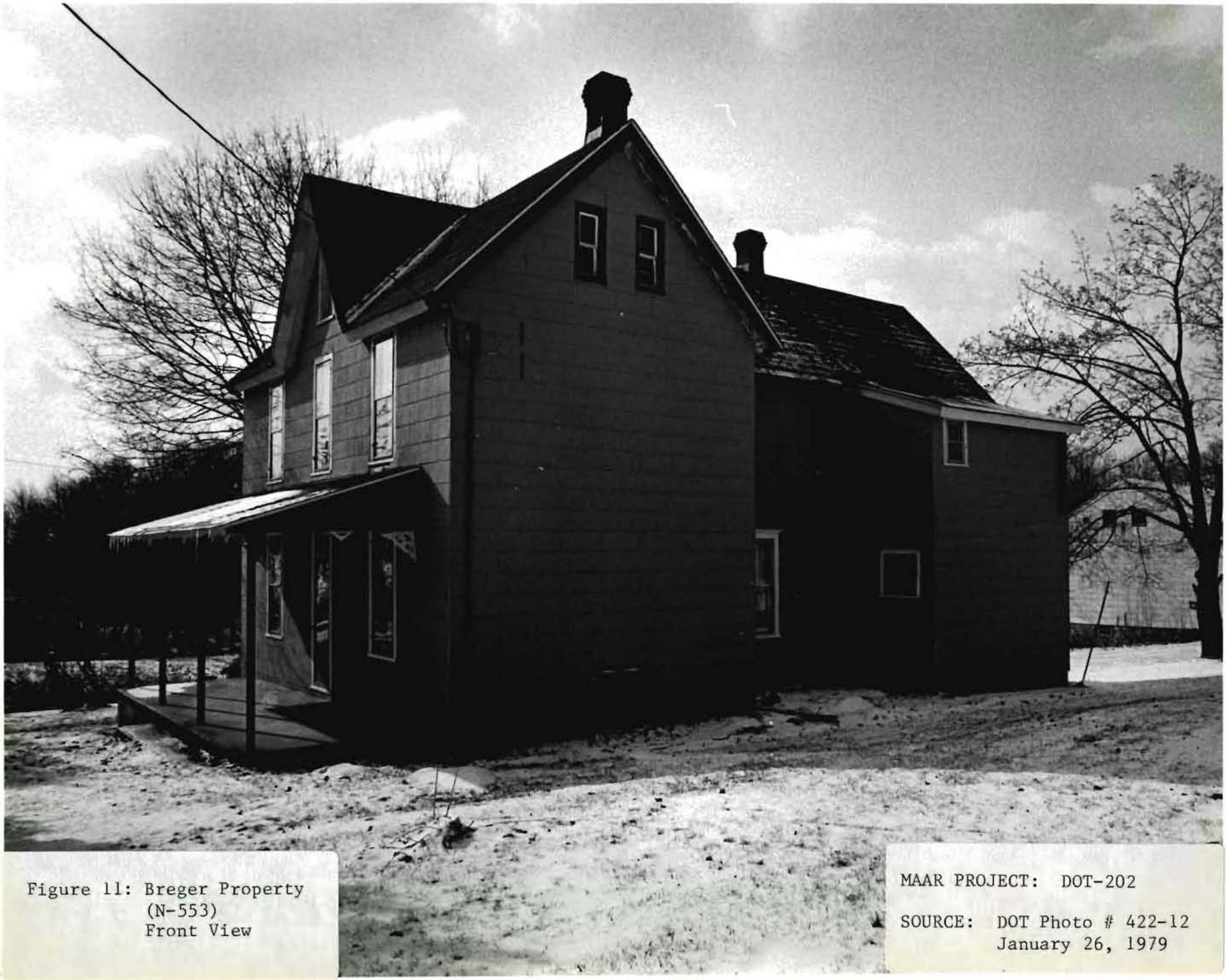


Figure 11: Breger Property
(N-553)
Front View

MAAR PROJECT: DOT-202

SOURCE: DOT Photo # 422-12
January 26, 1979

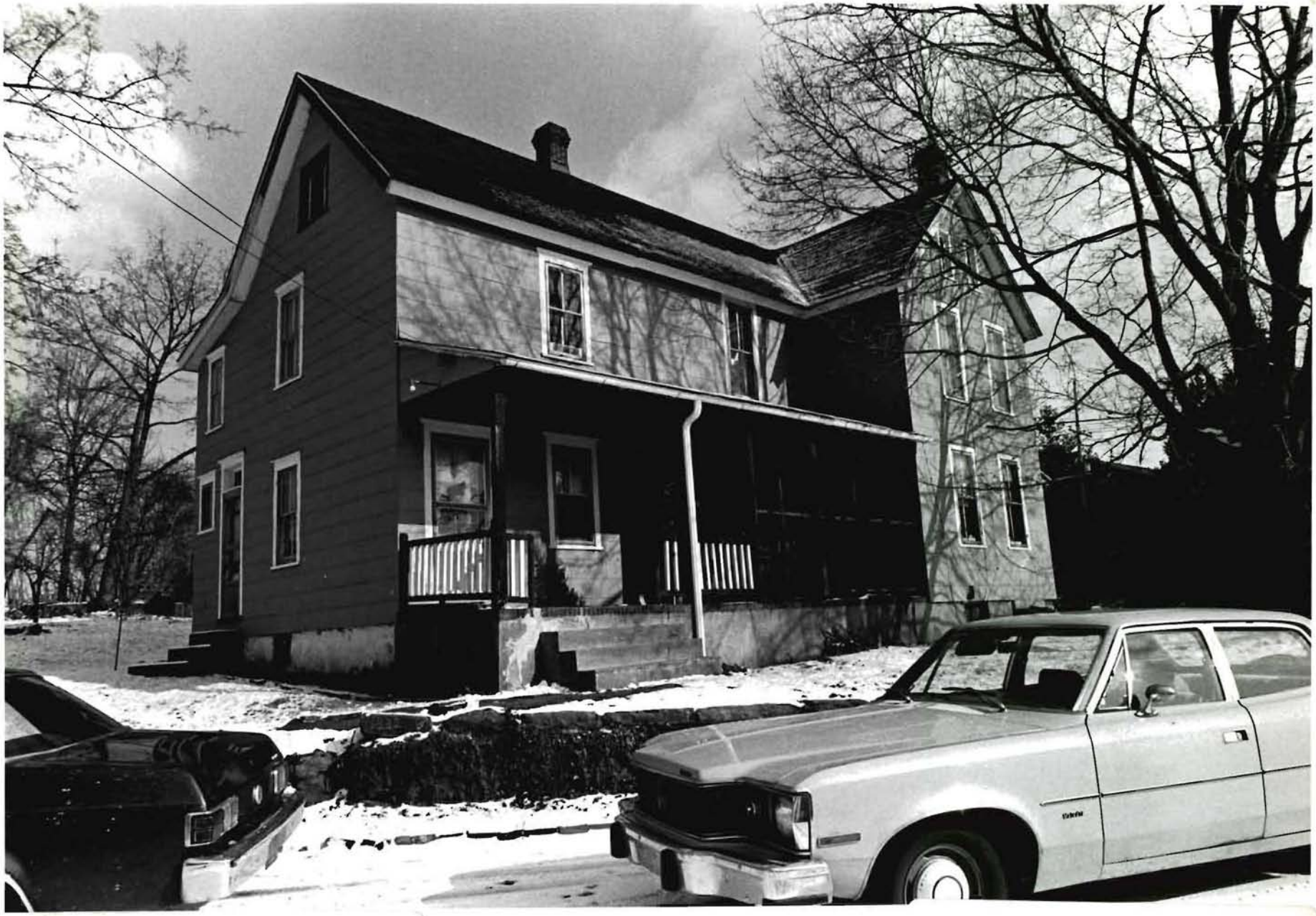


Figure 12: Breger Property (N-553)
Rear View

MAAR PROJECT: DOT-202

SOURCE: DOT Photo # 422-16
January 26, 1979

MARONEY PROPERTY

Documentary History

This property is first identified in 1792, when the administrators of the William Sharpley estate sold twenty-two acres of land to John Faulke. John Faulke held it for six months, and then sold it to William Sharpley, Jr. William Sharpley, Jr., held it until 1807, when he conveyed to Esau Sharpley. It was at this time (c. 1811) that Concord Road became the Great Valley and Wilmington Turnpike. By 1818 Rocky Run, the small stream that crosses Concord Pike approximately 350 feet south of the house, had been designated as the five mile tool point; however, no connection between this house and Turnpike activities has been established (Wilmington-Great Valley Turnpike Folder, Historical Society of Delaware).

The property left the Sharpley family in 1832 when Esau conveyed to Curtis Mousley and William Day. Curtis Mousley conveyed his share to William Day six months later. William A. Day sold to John Mancill in 1835. Mancill was one of the few owners to hold the property for any length of time. Beers 1868 map indicated a house on this property, but did not identify an owner or occupant. The property then changed ownership every five to ten years until 1892, when Isaac S. Weldin purchased it and held it for twenty years. During his tenure, Baist issued his Atlas and marked the house with the name Moses Starr. Once again the land changed hands frequently until 1935 when Titus Geesy bought it. His intentions to build a larger home on the twenty-two acres were realized, but his plans to convert the little bank house into a library was not. In 1948 he sold the bank house and 0.8 of an acre to John W. Maroney.

The Maroney family appears to be one of the most interesting or noteworthy families to live in the house. Dr. Maroney is a pediatrician who also raises boxwood. Mrs. Maroney is presently serving as the 12th District Representative to the State House of Representatives. Their common interest and activities in the field of historic preservation are long standing. The two "old" but undated photographs (included in this report) were gifts to the Maroneys from neighbors.

John Mancill (New Castle County Will Book U-4/210) George W. Mousley (intestate) and Beverly R. Cause (intestate) died seized of this property, but no additional information was learned from their estate papers.

Architectural Assessment

The only building on this property is the owner's residence, consisting of a two-story stone core structure, with an extensive ell-shaped wing of frame construction. The stone portion, a south-facing bank house, was probably built sometime in the middle of the 18th Century. It is a variation of a type found throughout nearby Chester and Delaware Counties in Pennsylvania. The wing was built in two increments, the first in 1949, and the second in 1953-54.

In 1948, the present owner engaged Albert Kruse, a Wilmington architect, to prepare plans for restoration of the stone structure, and for a new bedroom addition. At that time, the writer was an employee of the firm of Pope and Kruse, Architects; he became intimately involved in the work. When initially surveyed, the stone structure was much as it appears today; the north porch was there, but not so the pent eave on the south. A small frame wing abutted on the east. The curiously plain roof cornice found at that time is still in place and has been reproduced on the pent eave.

The roof framing and the attic floor, including the attic floor joists, appear to be a part of the original fabric. The second floor joists have been replaced in recent years; the old flooring remains, however. Brick flooring in the first floor was installed by the present owner. The two fireplaces were restored at the same time. The enclosed winding stair beside the chimney is original, with the exception of one ledge door at the foot of the run to the second floor. The porch on the north appears today the same as it did in 1948, but there have been replacements made for some of its members. Chimney tops are of brick, and are not original. The north door and frame seem to be as old as the house, but at the south a new dutch door has been hung in an original door frame. Window frames date from the 18th Century, but the sash are replacements. Shutters and their hardware are 19th Century types.

Upstairs, nail holes in the floor and in the side of one attic floor joist are evidence of an earlier board partition. Such a partition would have formed a small, unheated room at the east end of the house. The only indication of a similar small room below is the presence of a small window, now fitted with a 4-light casement sash, in the south wall, east of the entrance door.

This is a delightful little house, greatly enhanced by its hillside setting of large trees and woodland shrubbery. But modernization has diminished the old stone structure's value as an historical document, and the modern additions, although quite tastefully executed, represent nothing more than a high level of suburban residential design.

BLUE BALL TAVERN

(N-542)

Documentary History

The property is first identified as that of Joseph Morton, who held it from 1755 to 1772 and was described as an innkeeper. The location of his inn has not been determined. His son, Joshua, was referred to in 1777 as a yeoman. Andrew J. McKee, who purchased the land in 1777 was a weaver and farmer.

John Dickinson, who added this land to his other holdings in 1786, referred to the property in his will (N.C. Co. Will Book Q/303) as a "plantation or tract of land". A spot check of tavern licenses issued indicated that Thomas McKee was the Blue Ball innkeeper from 1808 to 1810, and George Miller from 1811 to 1814. However, no inference should be drawn from these facts. Scharf (1868) cited Blue Ball Inn as a polling place in 1811. In 1818, McKee's Hill was designated as a tool point for the Wilmington-Great Valley Turnpike by the Board of Managers of the Wilmington and Great Valley Turnpike giving credibility to a 1949 newspaper reference to a toll house on the property.

In November of 1858 Maria Dickinson Logan devised her "farm known as 'Blue Ball' tract now in the tenure of Joshua Hutton and Hiett Hutton". Beers 1868 Atlas showed "Blue Ball". In 1888 Scharf recorded: "Many years ago the building was enlarged and converted into a farmhouse, thus removing this old landmark". Baist's 1893 Atlas indicated the house and outbuildings (3).

Contemporary Department of Transportation drawings show a two-and-a-half story stucco residence, a milk house, and two one-story, frame out-buildings on the property.

THE DUPONT DIARY

(N-4048)

Documentary History

Research at the Hagley Museum Library was unusually unproductive, eventhough Hagley Museum Research Associate, Jacqueline A. Hinsley, agreed that all museum sources had been investigated. The Hagley Photographic Library contains four aerial photographs of the Route 202 and Rockland Road intersection, but these, due to their small size, were not of much aid.

Personal conversation with the local residents indicated that they believed that the dairy serviced the estate on which it was located, and was not used for commercial or research purposes.

Architectural Assessment

There are but two buildings now standing on this site. One is a large dairy barn, the other is a small milk house. Materials used and methods of construction employed indicate that they were built in the 1930s.

The dairy barn is a two-story structure. Milking parlors are below; the upper level provides storage for hay and feed. A one-story wing to the west contains box stalls. Walls are of masonry, plastered. Floors are reinforced concrete. The roof is supported by steel trusses. Partitions are of expanded steel lath and cement plaster.

The milk house, a one-story building, has walls of plastered masonry, and its appearance harmonizes with that of the dairy barn. Interior floors are paved with ceramic tile. Interior walls and partitions are covered with white glass tiles.

If there is anythingoutstanding about these neo-classical buildings, it is that they are among the very few architecturally designed farm structures in the area.

THE HUSBANDS PROPERTY

(N-4049)

Documentary History

This property is first identified in the will of John Dickinson (New Castle County Will Book Q/303) as part of the property devised to his daughter, Maria Dickinson Logan, as "... and also all that lot or parcel of ground between the Concord and Faulk Roads and adjoining to my small lot at the intersection of the said roads." Beers 1868 Atlas does not show a house on this land and is vague about the ownership.

Philip P. Husbands, the present owner of the house said that his father-in-law, Thomas A. Weldin, built the house before he owned the property and that after the house was built, Thomas's brother, Jacob, sold the land to him. This could be explained by New Castle County Deed C-17/113, which states that this property was part of Jacob R. Weldin's land when he died intestate. The property was then put in trust for his three children - Eliza (who was not competent), Thomas A., and Jacob A. Weldin. After Eliza's death, Jacob A. Weldin sold his share of the land to Thomas in 1896. If the house had been built during the period the property was held in trust, the tradition would fit the facts. The house was devised to Thomas's daughter, Eva, wife of Philip R. Husbands (New Castle County Will U-41/151) in February of 1939.

Philip Husbands is vague about the exact construction date of the house, at one time stating that it had withstood the great blizzard of '88. Baists Atlas of 1893 shows the house on this property. Mr. Husbands also stated that his father-in-law and he were both dairy farmers. He has an "old" (undated) photograph of the house in his possession.

Architectural Assessment

House

The owner states that the house was built in 1887, and enlarged in the early years of this century. The two-story brick core structure is, of course, the original house. T-shaped in plan, it has a simplified, unbracketed Italianate cornice and a Gothic Revival gable centered on the front, or southern facade. The two-story addition, that is in the northwest angle of the T, is of brick up to the second floor and of frame construction above; the second floor siding is "fish scale" wood shingles, painted. The large bay window in the west gable wall of the core building, and the wide porch that wraps around the west and south, seem to have been coeval with the two-story addition.

Inside the house, there have been a number of alterations. The lower five steps of the main stair have been rotated ninety degrees; openings have been changed; bathrooms and an elevator have been added, and the kitchen has been modernized.

The house is quite well maintained and it is in sound condition, but the many ill-conceived additions have resulted in a rather clumsy appearance. If it were practical to restore the house to its original, unaltered form, it would be very pleasing, if not unusual, example of late 19th Century residential architecture. Given its location, the practicality of such an undertaking is unlikely.

Outbuildings

The several, relatively small outbuildings appear to have been built to serve agricultural storage and animal housing purposes. They are simple, well-constructed and well-maintained, but they are of little architectural or historical interest.

Archaeological Investigations

Prepared by John P. McCarthy,
MAAR Field Supervisor

The archaeological investigations at the Blue Ball Tavern tract were designed to assess the historic archaeological resources on the property. The field-work was carried-out in two parts. First, the area was carefully examined and all exposed surfaces were collected. In addition, the area thought to be the tavern site was tested with a manual posthole digger. These survey activities helped to determine areas of archaeological sensitivity for further testing and also provided preliminary data for spatial and functional analysis of the activities carried out at the site. The second phase of the field investigations consisted of excavation of test units and test trenches to determine the nature, condition and extent of the resources located in the survey phase of the project.

Phase I

Investigations of the tract began with a careful examination of the grounds including standing architecture, exposed surfaces and other features. The standing architecture will be discussed in a later section and did not pertain to the Blue Ball Tavern complex. The likely location of the tavern site was defined by the major highway in the area, U.S. Route 202, a stone wall and a field (refer to site map - Figure 13).

Surface collection of the supposed house site and adjacent areas revealed several areas of artifact concentration. Two areas, marked A on the Artifact Concentrations map (Figure 14) were located at the north edge of the area believed to be the house site. The artifacts found included a sherd of vessel glass, nine sherds of whiteware, two sherds each of glazed and unglazed redware, and two sherds of window glass. The third concentration, labeled B on Figure 14 was found primarly on the surface of the plowed field at its southern most end, adjacent to the house area. Artifacts in this concentration included ceramics and glass vessel sherds (including wine bottle fragments) and a few nails, window glass fragments and shell fragments.

The posthole testing of the site was done on a twenty foot grid with additional testing at ten foot intervals where it was felt that it would be appropriate (see posthole grid, Figure 15). These holes were dug with a hand operated posthole digger. The soil was carefully troweled and examined to recover any artifacts present. Figure 16 illustrates the quantitive distribution of materials recovered from the postholes. Also noted was the presence of bricks and stones, providing some data which suggested the location of subsurface archaeological and architectural remains (see Figure 17).

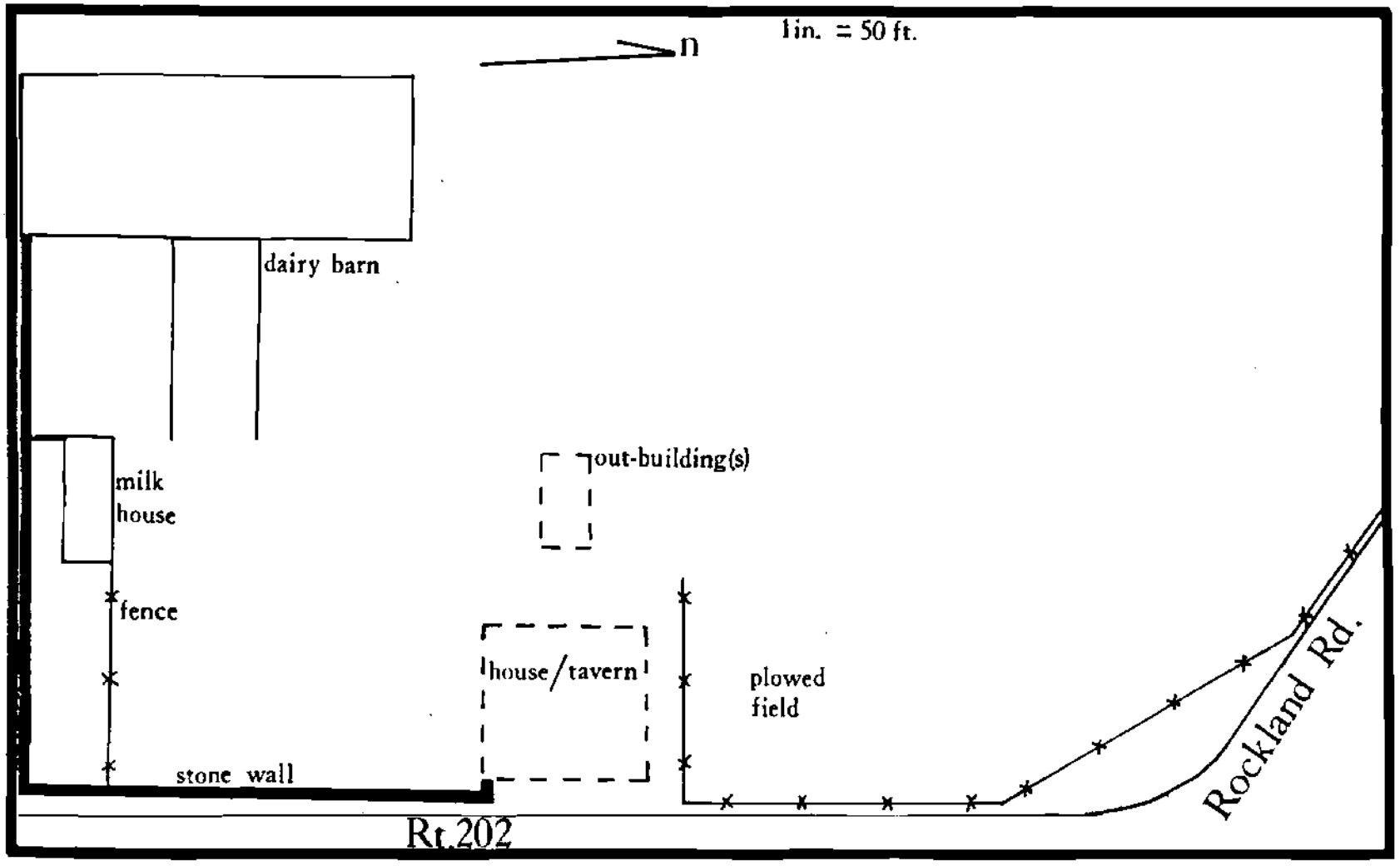


Figure 13: Blue Ball Tavern
Project Plan View

MAAR PROJECT: DOT-202

SOURCE: Field Plan View
1979

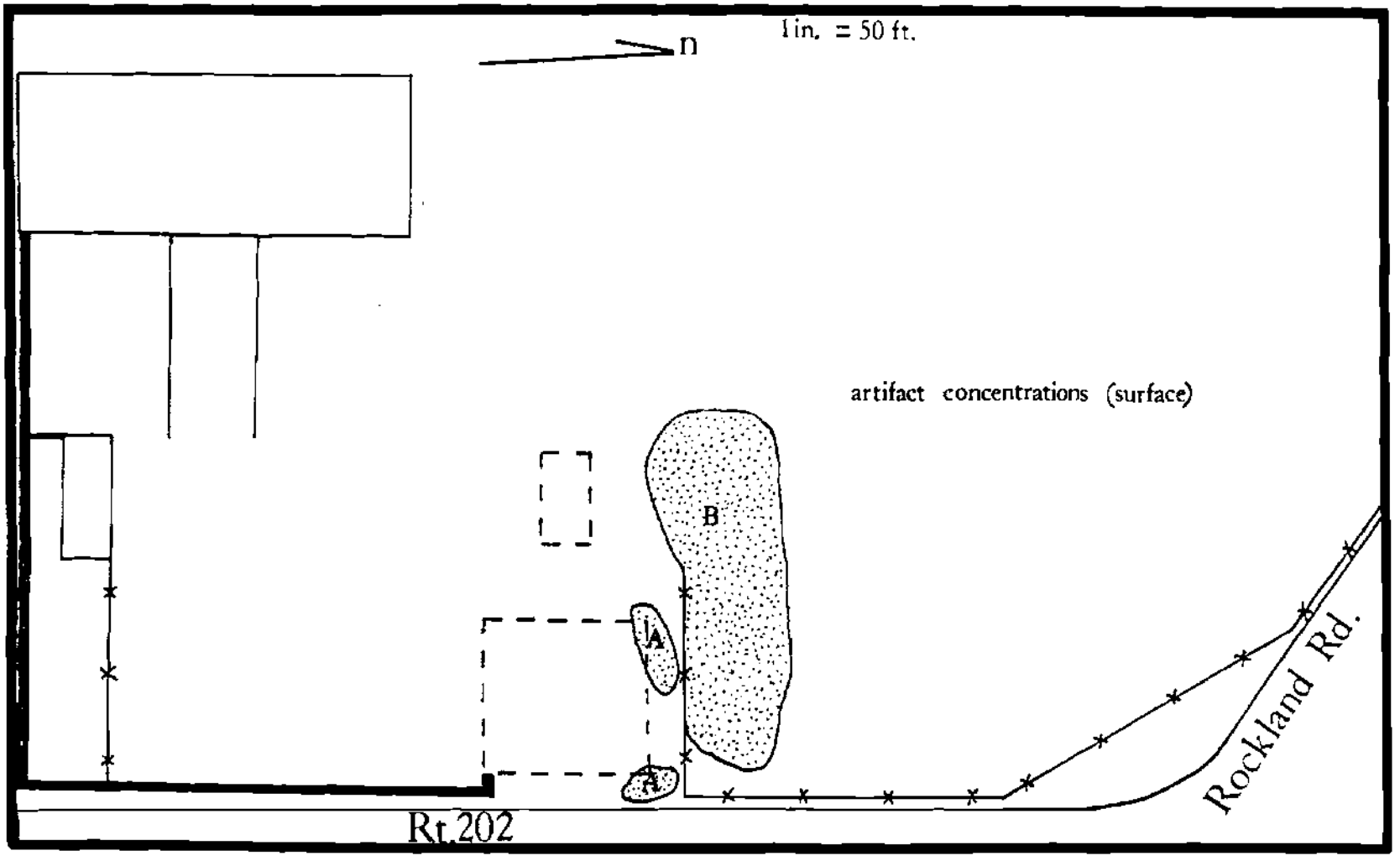


Figure 14: Artifact Surface Concentration

MAAR PROJECT: DOT-202

SOURCE: Field Notes Plan View

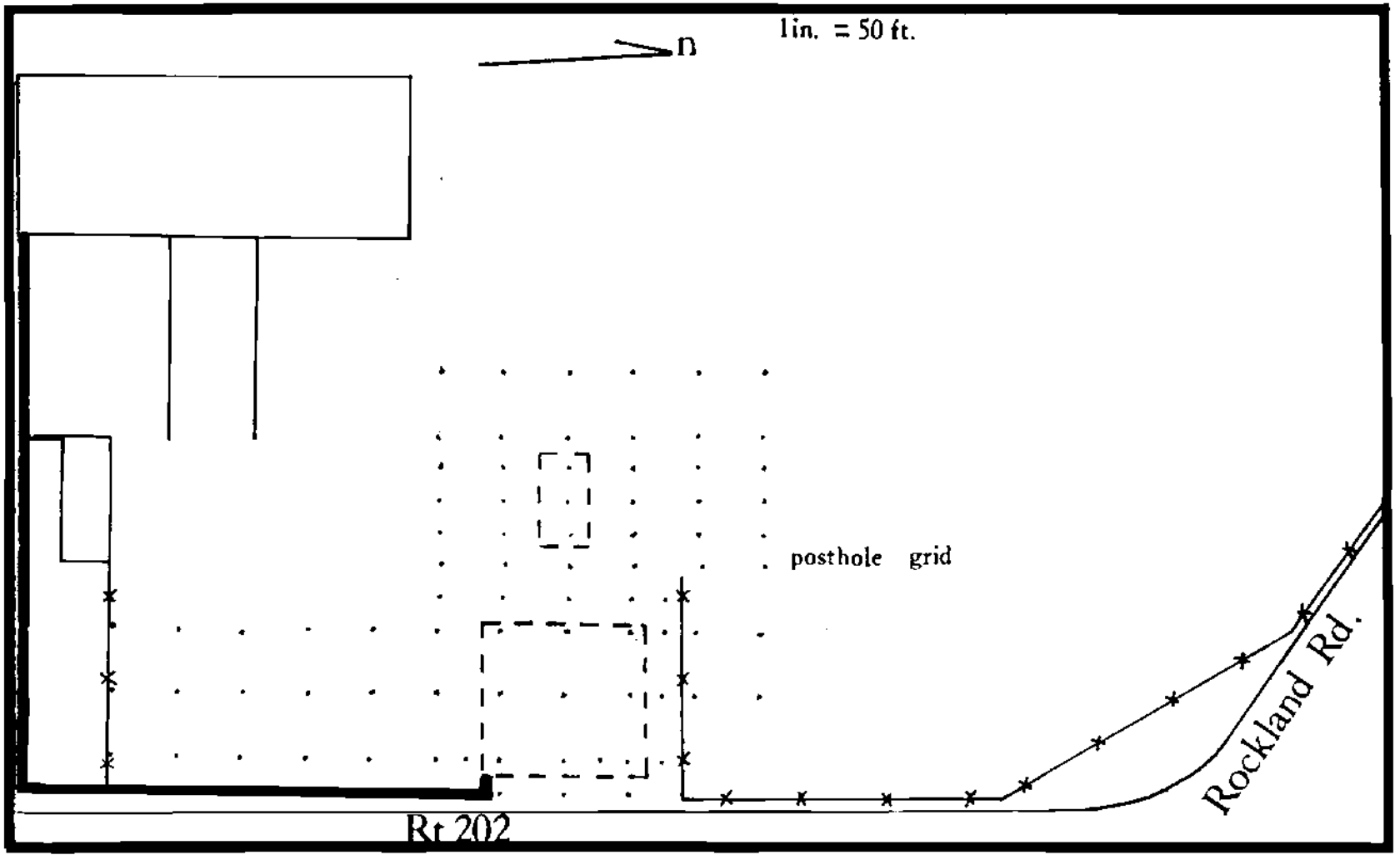


Figure 15: Posthole Excavation Grid Pattern

MAAR PROJECT: DOT-202

SOURCE: Field Plan View 1979

Phase II

The second part of the field investigations consisted of test excavation of areas believed to be archaeologically sensitive based on the results of the survey phase of the project and on information provided by documentary research. Department of Transportation drawings and information collected by the Delaware Cultural Resources Survey suggested that the house/tavern was located at the north end of the stone wall adjacent to the plowed field. This corresponded with the preliminary results of the surface collection and the posthole tests.

In order to determine the condition and extent of the subsurface features believed to be present on the site, a series of test excavations were executed using standard archaeological techniques. The work is done with flat shovels through the disturbed soils and with pointing trowels to excavate cultural deposits beneath the disturbed zone.

Test units 1 - 4 and Trenches 1, 3 and 4 were located on the house/tavern site (See figure 18). Test 1 was located at the north end of the stone wall where the documents indicated that the southeast corner of the building once stood. Under a layer of disturbed soils the stone foundation of the building was found. The south wall was 34 inches wide and 46 inches deep while the east wall was 24 inches wide and 9 inches deep (see Figure 19 and Plate Ia and b).

A six inch wide builders trench was located on the exterior of the east wall. It contained four sherds of window glass, a wire nail, three sherds of whiteware and one sherd of redware. A narrow builders trench (1-2") was in evidence on the interior of the south foundation wall. No artifacts were found in the interior trench. On the exterior side of the wall mottled soils were encountered suggesting disturbance. The exterior side of the builders trench was not located. In the interior of the structure clay subsoil was found.

Test 2 was excavated at a point throught to be the northeast corner of the structure (see Figure 18). Under the disturbed soil, instead of a foundation wall, a cement pallet was found. At the northwest corner of the pallet, a dark stain became evident in the clay subsoil. Excavation of the stain showed it to be a builders trench containing whiteware sherds, redware sherds, glass vessel sherds, nails, bone gragments, window glass sherds and other materials including a red balloon. The trench proved to be from nine to twenty-five inches deep. Excavation of the trench also revealed a curved stone wall under the cement pad (see Figure 20). The feature would seem to be a sealed well.

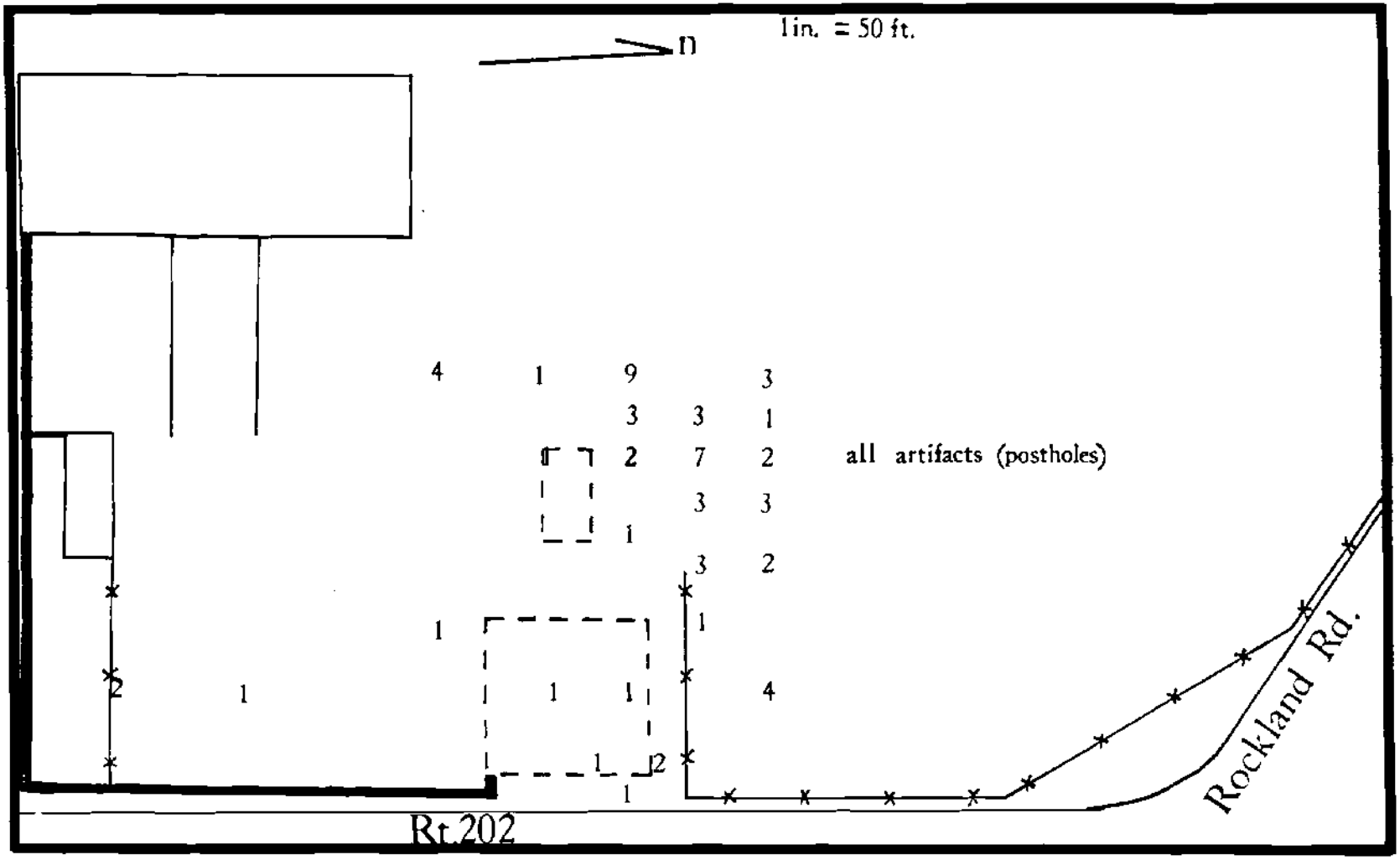


Figure 16: Artifact Count Distribution

MAAR PROJECT: DOT-202

SOURCE: MAAR Field Analysis

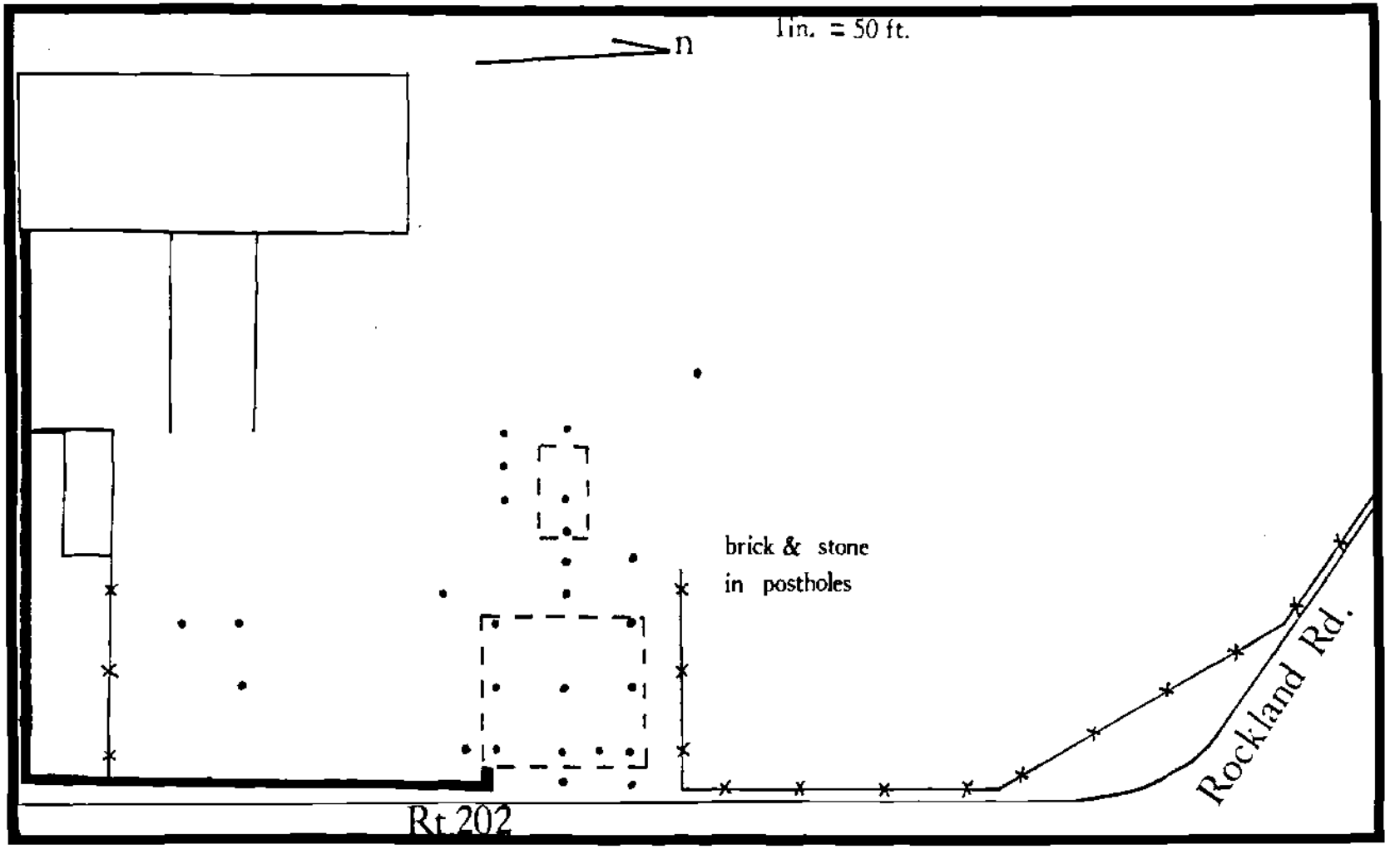


Figure 17: Subsurface Structural Debris

MAAR PROJECT: DOT-202

SOURCE: MAAR Field Analysis

Test 3 was excavated with the hope of locating the southwest foundation corner (see Figure18). No foundations were found under the disturbed soil zone. The only thing found was a broken four inch drain pipe on top of the clay subsoil.

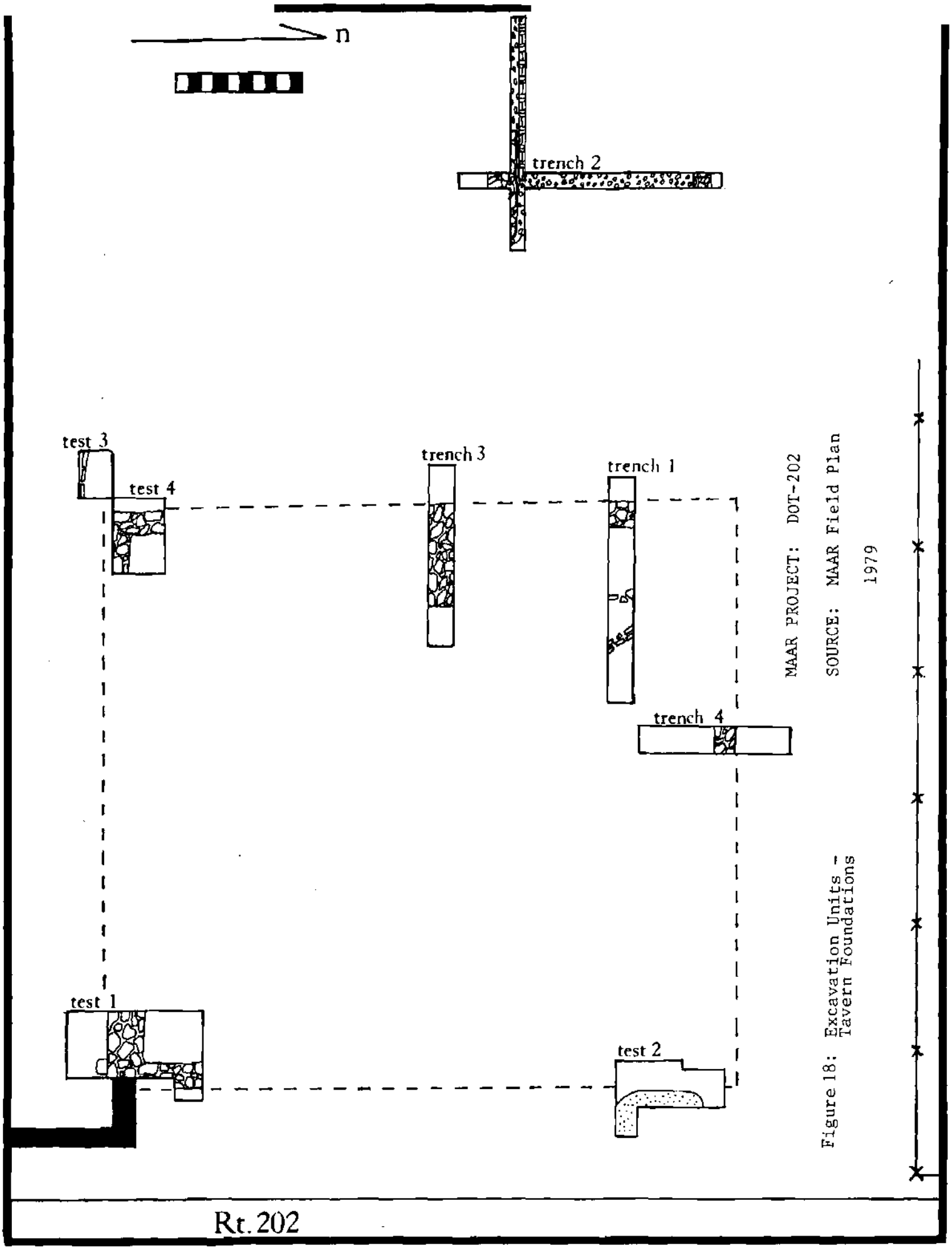
Test 4 was located directly to the northeast of Test 3 (Figure18). The west wall was located and part of the south wall of the structure was also exposed. The wall was only one course deep and no builders trench was in evidence. The clay subsoil was found on the exterior at the west foundation. The subsoil was also found on the interior of the foundation.

Trench 1 was excavated to reveal a segment of the building's west wall (see Figure 21 and Plate IIb). Under the disturbed soil zone, a 20 inch thick segment of the west wall was found. Approximately six feet east of the west wall a second wall section was found. This wall segment was less than a foot thick. Both of the foundations were only one course of stone thick and no builders trenches were found. Nearly three feet east of the second wall segment a brick feature running diagonally was found. Four feet further east, a pit-like feature, possibly a posthole, was found (see Figure 21.) The clay subsoil was in evidence on the interior and the exterior of the foundations.

Trench 3 revealed a wall segment approximately six and a half feet wide on the west side of the structure (Figure 18. The foundation was one course thick and no builders trench was found in the clay subsoil on the interior nor on the exterior.

Under the disturbed soil zone in Trench 4, a segment of the north foundation wall was found (Figure 18 and Plate IIa). The segment was one course thick and there was no builders trench in evidence. The clay subsoil was found in the interior and on the exterior of the foundation.

Trench 2 was excavated to the west of the main structure (Figure 18). It was excavated in order to determine the nature of a surface feature (s) believed to be an outbuilding (s). The Trench 2 complex consisted of two trenches, at right angles, revealing the nature of the subsurface feature. The feature revealed was a complex stone and brick structure filled with nine to ten inches of loose rubble over a three inch layer of humus, which in turn lay, overa one inch layer of orange sand on a brick floor (Figure 22). The rubble contained a variety of glass vessel sherds, windown glass sherds, white ware sherds, redware sherds, nails, door parts and bone and shell fragments. The humus layer contained glass vessel sherds including "Pepsi" and "Coke" bottle fragments, and one door part. No builders trench was found.



MAAR PROJECT: DOT-202

SOURCE: MAAR Field Plan 1979

Figure 18: Excavation Units - Tavern Foundations

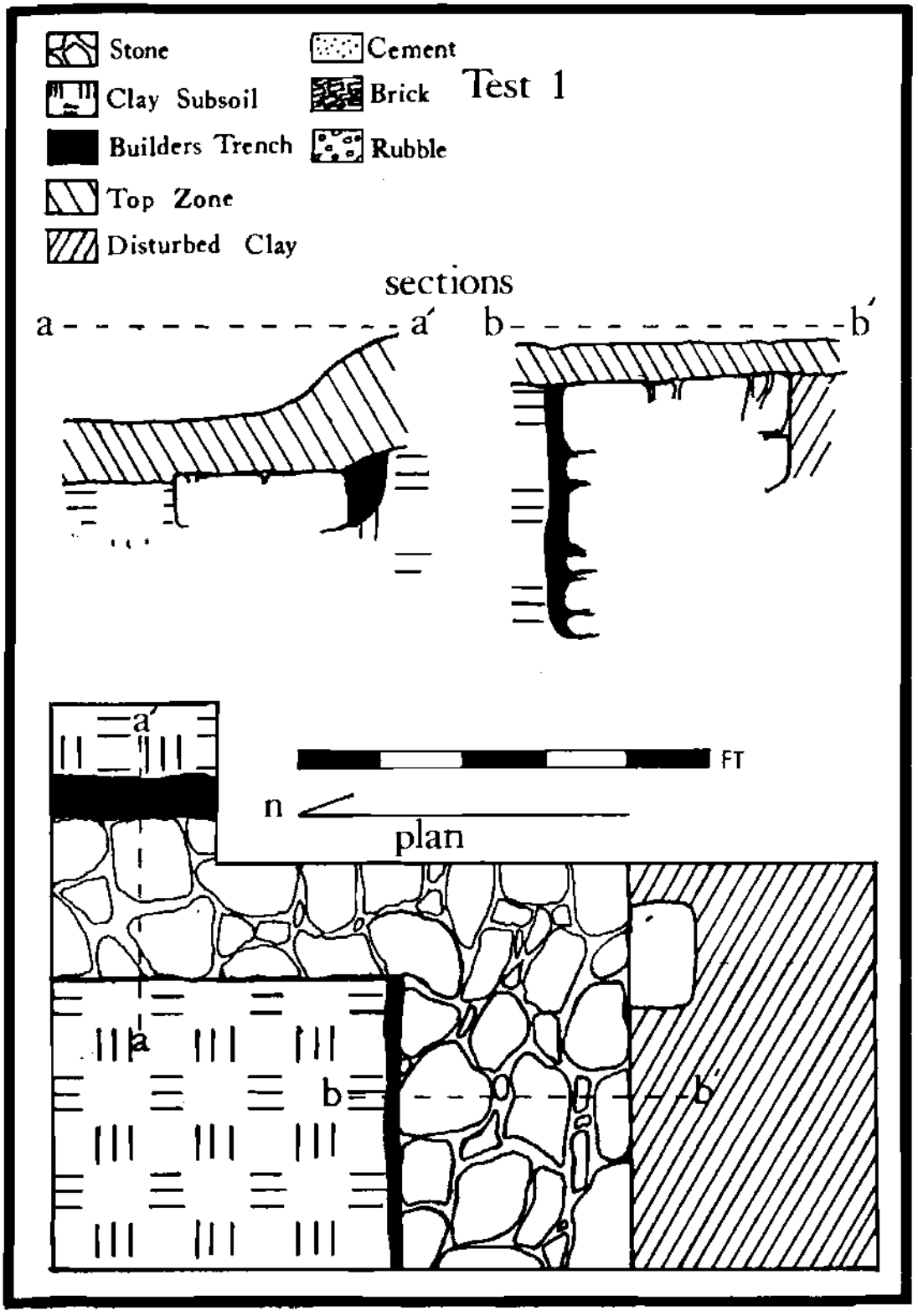


Figure 19: Test 1 Plan View & Profile

MAAR PROJECT: DOT-202

SOURCE: MAAR Field Notes

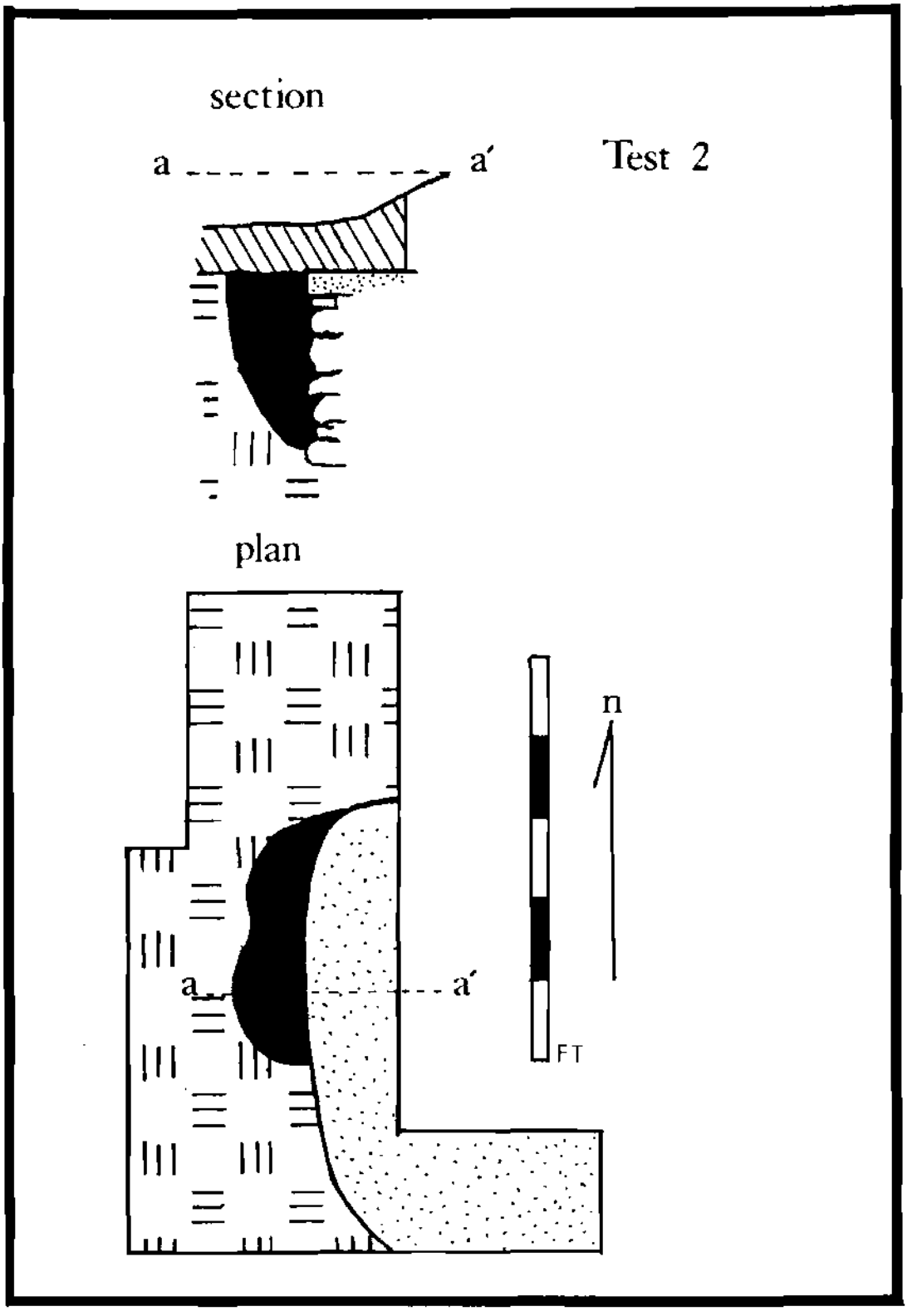


Figure 20: Test 2 Plan View and Profile

MAAR PROJECT: DOT-202

SOURCE: MAAR Field Notes

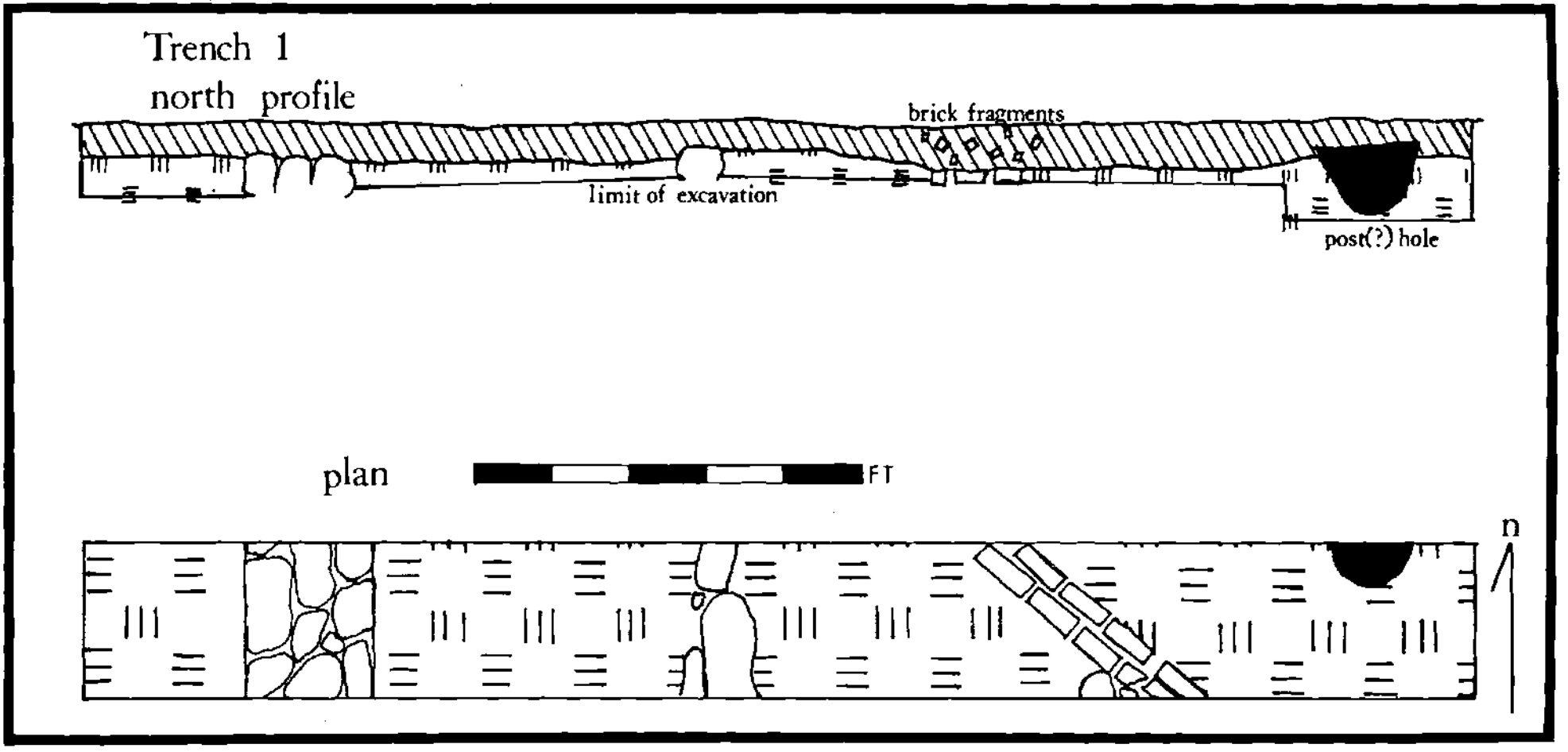


Figure 21: Trench 1 Plan View & Profile

MAAR PROJECT: DOT-202

SOURCE: MAAR Field Notes

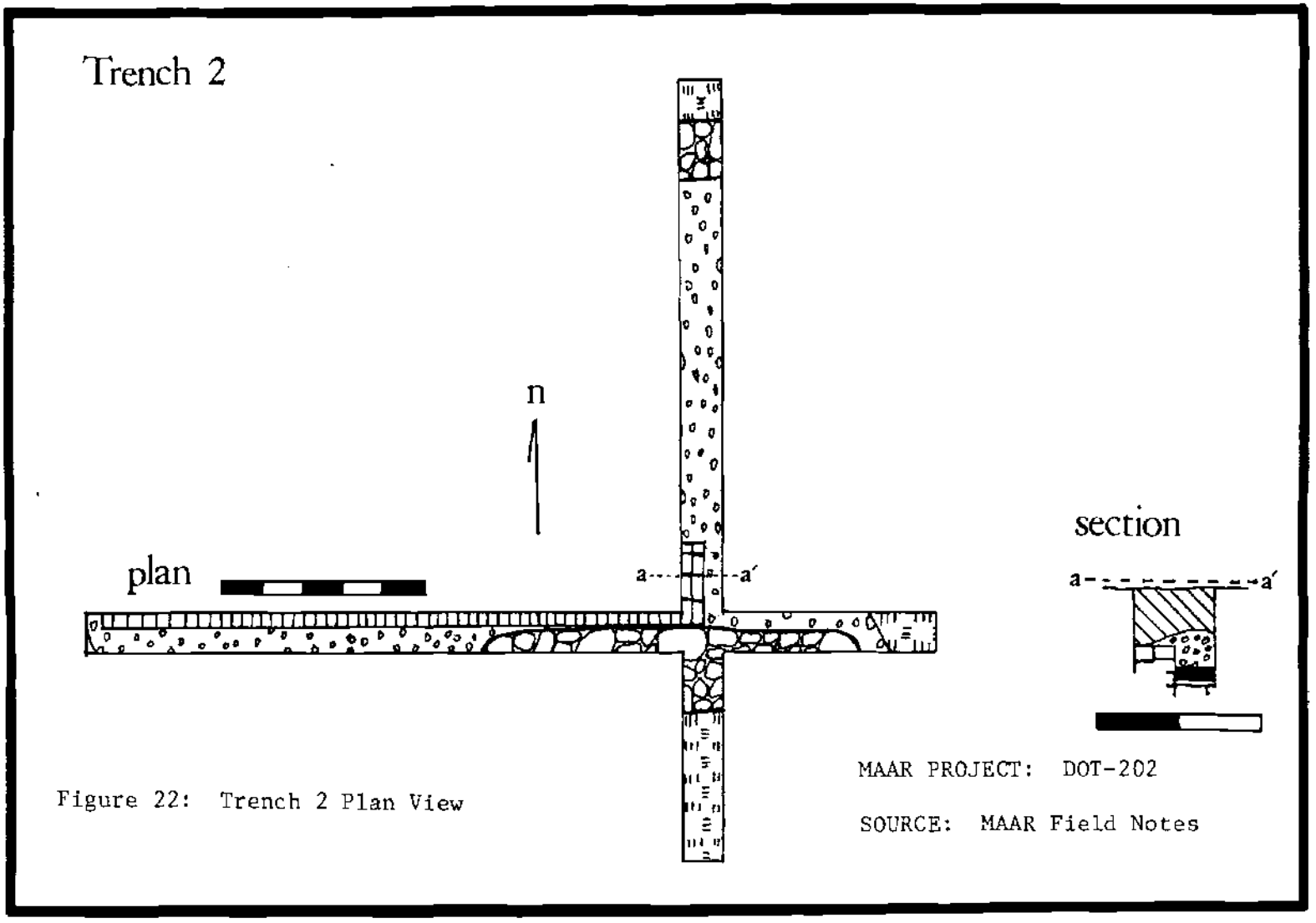


Figure 22: Trench 2 Plan View

MAAR PROJECT: DOT-202

SOURCE: MAAR Field Notes

Analysis and Evaluation

The archaeological investigation of the Blue Ball Tavern site revealed that despite the demolition of the structure, which resulted in the disturbed soil zone encountered on the site, the tavern structure remains an archaeological site with some integrity. The foundation walls, well and other features provide a unique possibility to study the function changes of a farm/tavern which lead to changes in patterns of behavior that will be reflected in the archaeological record. This rural farm/tavern can tell archaeologists a great deal about life in rural northern Delaware in the late 18th and 19th centuries.

Preliminary spatial analysis provides some interesting information. The surface collection revealed three artifact concentrations. Two small concentrations, labeled A on Figure 14 would seem to be adjacent to the main structure and may be part of secondary trash depositions found near doorways at British-American sites of the 18th and 19th centuries (the Brunswick Pattern of Stanley South (1977)). The third concentration, labeled B, seems to be a scatter of household trash which was deposited in the field to the north and northeast of the structure. This may indicate the presence of a trash midden used over a long period of time.

The distribution of kitchen related artifacts recovered from postholes supports these observations and suggests the possible presence of another midden to the north and west of the outbuildings (see Figure 23).

The distribution of architectural materials (Figure 24) is not inconsistant with these findings (see above) and is similar to the scatter of architectural materials around the buildings in the farm model presented by Lewis (1977) and South (1979).

The distribution of farm related objects from the post holes (figure 25) suggests that farm activities were removed from the house complex and were centered on the barn and outbuildings related to farm functions.

The architectural materials found to the south of the main structure suggests the presence of another outbuilding (Figure 24). This hypothesis is supported by the distribution of stone in postholes (Figure 17). Three stones were found in the same general area. The remaining information from Figure 17and the documentary data determined the areas to be tested in an effort to locate the main house/tavern building and at least one related outbuilding.

The tests revealed parts of the house's foundations including segments with builders trenches. The varying thickness and depth of wall segments would suggest several construction periods and construction techniques. This is supported by the contents of the builders trench found on the exterior of the east wall as found in Test 1. The white ware indicates a date of construction after 1820 (South 1972) while the wire nail would mean a construction date after 1850 (Nelson 1968).

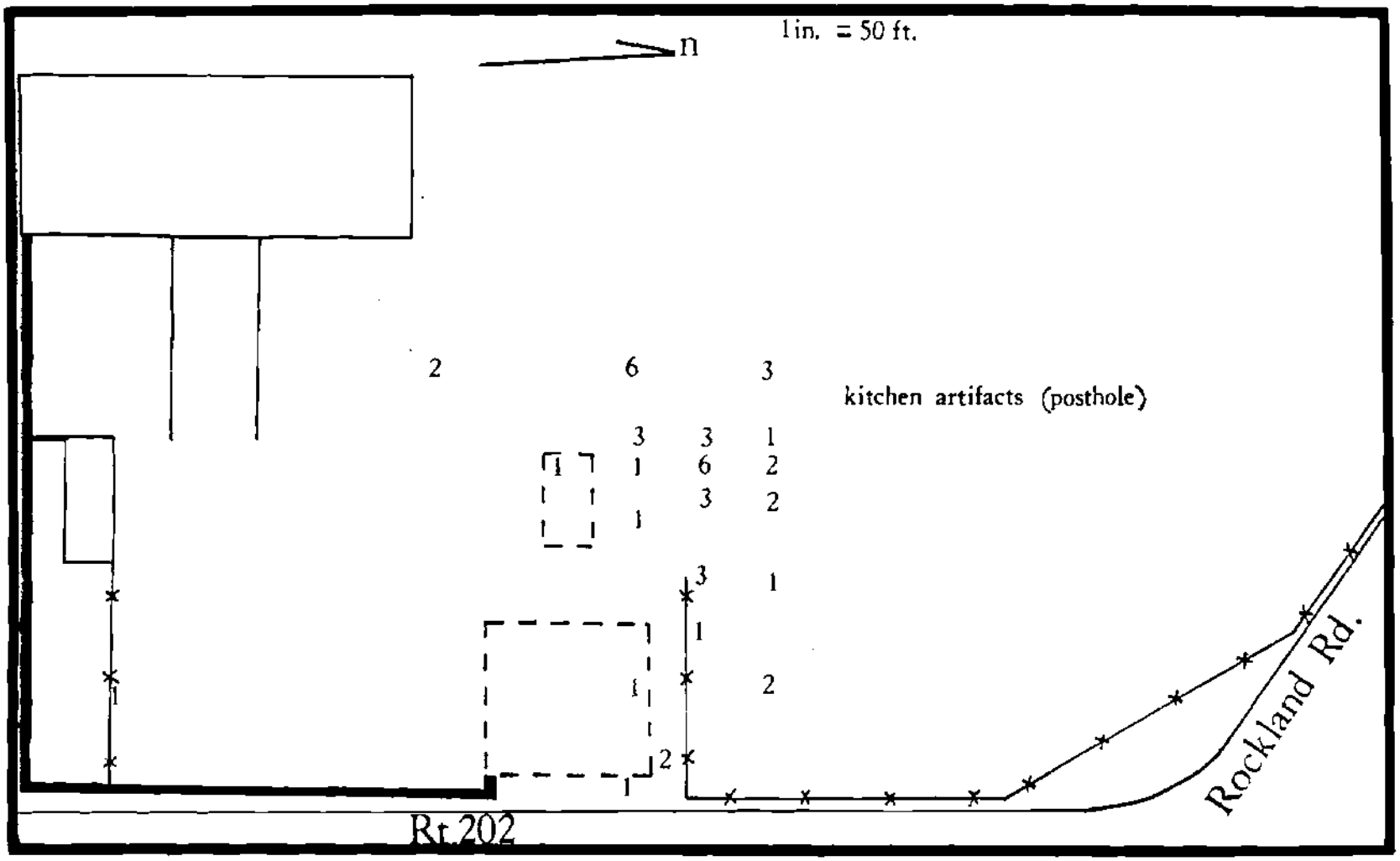


Figure 23: Kitchen Artifact Distribution

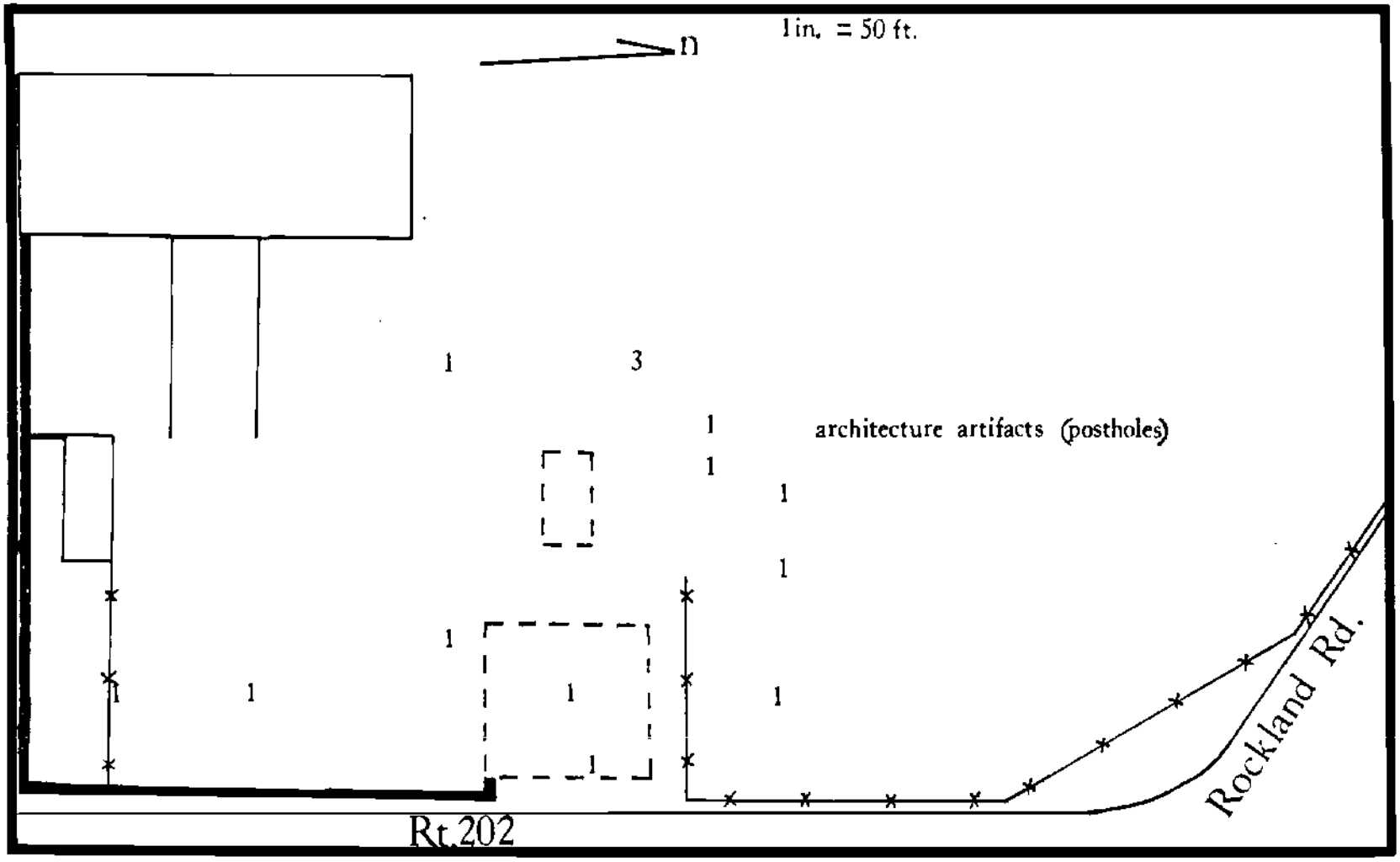


Figure 24: Architecture Artifacts Distribution

MAAR PROJECT: DOT-202
SOURCE: MAAR Field Analysis

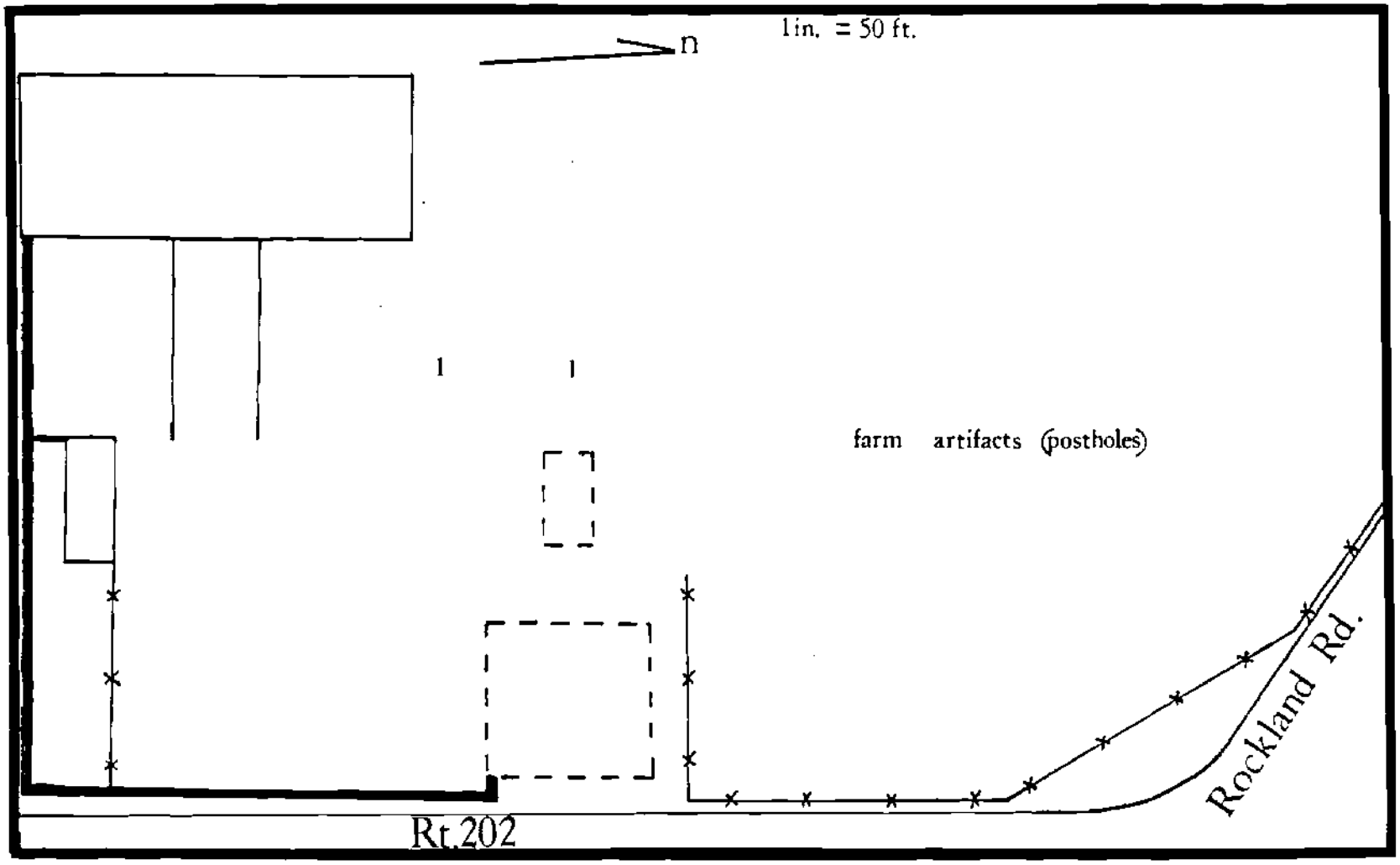


Figure 25: Farm Artifact Distribution

MAAR PROJECT: DOT-202
SOURCE: MAAR Field Analysis

The possible well and cement cap's builders trench-fill dates to the mid-nineteenth century with the exception of the balloon which is twentieth century. The excavation must have been carried out when the feature was capped and the fill might have been part of a trash midden located nearby.

The features exposed by trench complex 2 evidences at least two construction modes, probably for two different buildings. One, is a building on a stone foundation dating to before the mid-nineteenth century (as judged by the mortar), and the second is a brick foundation and floor constructed late in the 19th or early in the 20th century (judging by the Portland cement mortar). The brick foundation structure stood well into the 20th century, as the "Pepsi" and "Coke" bottle fragments attest.

The results of the investigation indicate that the Blue Ball Tavern site, despite its distruction, can help answer many questions about this rural Delaware farm/tavern. The site has the potential to answer many questions about diet, trade patterns, socio-economic status, ethnic background and, of greatest importance, the behavior of the people who lived at or or frequented the Blue Ball site during its function as Tavern, Farm and/or Toll House.

Any action which might impact the site should be preceeded by archaeological mitigation operations to either recover or otherwise preserve the data the site has to offer.