

size and spacing in the west and center sections. Those making up the west section were 2 in. x 3½ in., spaced 20 in. apart, while those of the center section were 3 in. x 4 in. and spaced 11 in. apart.

An examination of the interior walls of the structure also showed differing construction techniques and materials in the west and center sections. The framing of the west section consisted of a braced-frame design with 3 ¾ in. x 7¼ in. dimension main vertical members (Plate 15). The internal framing of the north wall of the central section made use of a combination of horizontally positioned logs, obviously salvaged from a prior use, braced by various techniques (Plate 16). The south wall revealed the more traditional technique of reused logs serving as major load-bearing members with a vertical stud support system present elsewhere (Plate 17).

INTERPRETATION

The archaeological data base provided by excavation of the Ferguson House site proved generally unreliable for socio-economic or detailed temporal interpretation. It is apparent that the site has undergone extensive disturbance and mixing from plowing and 20th century landscaping. With the exception of Feature 6 (Test Square 18), the east yard area was found to be totally disturbed by plowing and landscaping. The north yard area contained two features and squares comprised of poorly-stratified 19th and 20th century deposits. A similar situation was encountered in the west yard, where intact structural features were located. Unfortunately, association of these features with diagnostic artifacts or materials was lacking.

While the vertical disturbance is acknowledged, the mapping of selected artifacts by test unit did define non-random deposition areas within the site (Maps 6 through 12). Seven general artifact types were mapped: creamware, pearlware, whiteware/ironstone, identifiable cut nails, identifiable wire nails,



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PLATE 15

N

INTERIOR NORTH WALL OF WEST SECTION, SECOND FLOOR
(SAME DETAIL ON FIRST FLOOR AND ON SOUTH WALL AT CENTER OF BUILDING)



79

PLATE 16

N

INTERIOR SOUTH WALL OF CENTER SECTION, FIRST FLOOR



80

PLATE 17

N

INTERIOR NORTH WALL OF CENTER SECTION

bottle glass, and window glass. It was hoped that the distribution of these artifacts would shed light upon the periods of construction and occupation of the three sections of the Ferguson House, as well as patterns of yard use. The following general statements can be made:

Ceramics

Creamware (Map 6) - 62 out of a site total of 70 pieces were found in Test Square 7 and 10, to the right and left of the back door of the western (hall/passage plan) section.

Pearlware (Map 7) - 97 out of a site total of 214 pieces (45%) were found in Test Square 5, 7 and 10, in a location similar to that of creamware. Pearlware was also found in smaller quantities in Test Square 16 & 18 and Test Pits 4, 7 and 8, east and north of east (Kitchen) section. The first non-redware ceramics show up in these units. This could represent a redeposition of earlier materials when the kitchen (east) section was constructed.

Whiteware/Ironstone (Map 8) - This ceramic type is very common. Notable concentrations occur in Test Square 9 (94 pieces), 16 (126), and 18 (53). Creamware/pearlware deposition and whiteware/ironstone deposition are somewhat exclusive. Whiteware/ironstone deposition is concentrated 1) farther from the house or 2) in the east yard area near the east kitchen section. The location of the creamware and pearlware suggests it was being discarded (thrown) a few feet out the back door of the western section, while the later whiteware/ironstone was being carried to a deposition point a little further from the house.

Glass

Window glass (Map 9) - Most common very close to house or at some distance from house. Examples of the former are Test Squares 10 (98 fragments), 12 (270), and 19 (130). Examples of the latter are Test Squares 3

(90) and 13 (131). These high frequencies possibly represent broken windows and trash deposits

Bottle glass (Map 10) - Occurs in almost all test units. The largest amounts occur behind the original barn (Feature 13) and in Test Squares 3, 13 (including Feature 5), 15, and 17. The concentration present in posthole Row A of the east yard is brown bottle glass, apparently beer bottles thrown from Rt. 4.

Nails

Cut nails (Map 11) - The majority occur within a few feet of the house, 64% being in Test Squares 5, 12, 16, 18 and 19, Test Pits 4, 7 and 8, and Posthole N-16.

Wire nails (Map 12) - Notable concentrations present in two places: Test Square 16 off the east kitchen section, and Test Square 14 behind the old barn (Feature 13) or standing garage.

Cut nails do not appear to be associated with any one building episode of the house, although they are not associated with Feature 13 and extant garage. Wire nails may be associated with construction of east kitchen section (Test Square 16).

Faunal Remains

The faunal remains recovered from the Ferguson House excavation included domesticated cattle (*Bos taurus*), sheep (*Ovis aries*), pig (*Sus scrofa*), chicken (*Gallus gallus*), turkey (*Gallus maleagris*), and fish (unidentified).

The distribution was concentrated in the North (rear) yard area, with 67% of all remains being found there. The remainder was equally divided in the other two yard areas. However, no one test unit revealed any significant concentration of faunal material. Rather, all remains were lightly scattered throughout each yard area. This can be explained by plowing and secondary

soil deposition due to landscaping and construction of the various stages of the house itself.

Architectural

The architectural attributes of the Robert Ferguson House support the findings of the historical and archaeological research. Generally, the quality and type of internal framing found in the Ferguson House is common in house structures constructed for lower to middle socio-economically ranked families. The presence of previously used framing materials as noted in the center section is a well-known building characteristic for these structures (B. Herman, pers. comm.). The flat-nailed exterior facing provides additional evidence to support this conclusion. Also concluded from the architectural research were a construction date of 1830-1850 for the west section and a late -19th century date for the center section, both supported by the historical research.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological testing indicates that the integrity of the site has been affected by long term agricultural plowing, extensive 20th century landscaping, 20th century structure modification, construction of utilities and septic fields, and road widening. The excavation of 266 posthole digger tests, 27 2 ft. x 2 ft. test pits, and 21 3 ft. x 3 ft. or 5 ft. x 5 ft. test squares produced 18th, 19th and 20th century artifact types; located 13 archaeological and structural features; and provided interpretive data on artifact distribution patterns and yard area usage during the site occupation of about 150 years. The artifact distribution pattern of the early 19th century was found to be different from that associated with the deposition of late 19th and 20th century materials, with the earlier disposal patterns closer to the Ferguson House and the later materials at some distance from it.