

Test Implications:

"Space usage and structure can vary for a number of reasons including the cultural origin of the occupants, economic status, site function, social changes or alterations in concepts of sanitation" (H. Miller 1980). Areas of land use will be discerned through the spatial distribution of the recovered artifacts. Activity areas will be delimited which are specific to tenant farm occupants through time.

METHODOLOGY

The research methods employed in the archaeological and architectural investigations at the Robert Ferguson Site were grouped into: 1) background and archival research, 2) fieldwork, and 3) artifact analysis and report preparation. The methods used were designed in accordance with the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service requirements for a data recovery program as outlined in 36 CFR PART 64 (DRAFT) and fully comply with the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 and 36 CFR Part 60.

Background and Archival Research:

Specific historical information was obtained from legal documents, local and regional histories, government records, and local informants. Previous recorded information such as the National Register nomination form and the Draft and Final EIS reports (Blendy 1978) for the Route 4 corridor provided information for the architectural description and interpretation of the Robert Ferguson house.

Field Investigations:

The Ferguson House property was divided into four areas for archaeological investigation based upon previous archaeological investigation by MAAR, informant interviews, historic maps, and the present yard configuration. These were referred to as the east, west, and north yards, and

the fallow field to the north outside the ROW (Map 2). All four areas were archaeologically tested for soil stratigraphy; feature locations; subsurface soil disturbances and artifact types, densities, and distributions. Investigations in the west yard were further directed by the reported presence of a barn foundation and a sealed privy. Investigation in the rear yard included relocation and identification of features reported by MAAR and substantiation of architectural interpretations by archaeologically dating construction stages. The fallow field, not previously tested archaeologically, was investigated for the presence of agricultural support buildings and general land use practices.

Excavation techniques included shovel tests, 2 ft. by 2 ft., 3 ft. by 3 ft., 3 ft. by 5 ft., and 5 ft. by 5 ft. squares, and mechanical stripping by backhoe. All soil was sifted through a 3/8 in. screen. All features and selected soil profiles and plan views from each unit were mapped. Black and white photographs and/or 35 mm. color slides were taken of recorded features and excavation profiles. All units were excavated in arbitrary 4 in. levels and features were sectioned and excavated in total.

Architectural investigation consisted of a thorough study of the framing techniques and materials, the facing materials, and the chimney piles. This information was recorded by photographs, drawings, and written notes.

Laboratory Processing and Analysis:

All artifacts recovered from the excavations were washed, sorted, and cataloged. Analytical procedures included determining artifact type, chronology, and distribution. All artifacts and data recording material will be maintained on repository at the Island Field Museum, South Bowers, Delaware.

Preservation Initiatives

Prior to the scheduled demolition date for the Robert Ferguson House, the Delaware Department of Transportation (DOT) made every attempt to

enhance and satisfy the spirit of the existing Federal laws governing properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Initially, the structure was offered at no cost to any private individual willing to pay for its relocation and rehabilitation. The property was advertised in Preservation News, a publication of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and listed with several local real estate agencies. The State of Delaware made an additional offer of a relocation site north of and adjacent to the existing site. Unfortunately, estimates obtained for this undertaking were too costly (\$50,000-\$70,000) for the interested parties.

A secondary preservation initiative was then taken by the DOT through the offering of salvage rights for architectural materials from the structure. As agreed to in the Memorandum of Agreement, personnel from the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs were provided access to salvage any objects, details, or sections of architectural or historical merit. While this agency did not remove any materials, the Delaware Agricultural Museum did remove the interior doors for use in ongoing restorations. Finally, an offer of salvage rights was made to interested private individuals with the stipulation that the materials be used in the restoration or renovation of a house structure eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. A number of individuals took advantage of this opportunity and as a result most of the usable architectural materials were salvaged prior to the demolition of the structure.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK

Archaeological resources recovered during the data recovery program will be discussed according to yard areas. The division of the site into 1) East yard, 2) North yard, and 3) West yard aids both the description of the results and interpretation of the archaeological materials and features. For