

the Ferguson House shows that the farm center was located surrounding the main dwelling on the south side of Route 4.

RESEARCH DESIGN

The research design was created to provide information on the archaeological and architectural characteristics of a tenant farm and the lifeways of the house occupants from the period 1837-1940. The objective was to generate a comparative data base for use in future archaeological excavation and analysis. The general nature of the design was a deliberate step to afford compatibility with the developing State Preservation Plan for historic resources.

The background research indicated several areas for investigation of the Ferguson House and yards. When the house was built in the 1830's, the Lynch farm across the road had already been a working farm for several decades. The Ferguson house was constructed as a tenant farmhouse to be rented out to a farmer or laborer who helped work the larger farm. The building style and materials were likely to have been of lower complexity and quality compared to the main house. This secondary residence status is supported by the fact that there appear to be few outbuildings, or the remains of such in the immediate vicinity of the Ferguson House.

The research was concentrated on the three topics: the number and configuration of outbuildings, the associated artifact types, and the artifact distribution and concentration. From this data it was hoped that information could be obtained regarding the life of a tenant farmer, and specifically, on the ethnicity and economic status of the occupants. The following hypotheses formed the basis for the research design.

Hypothesis 1

If this is a tenant farm, then the number of outbuildings should not be those necessary for the daily operation of a 145 acre farm, but should be more representative of those structures required for day to day use by a single family.

Test Implications:

The archaeologically recovered outbuildings and standing structures associated with a tenant dwelling should include privy houses, small garages, sheds, and chicken houses. Structures not expected to be found would include large barns associated with hay storage or dairy operations, corn cribs, wagon and machinery storage sheds, livestock pens, and other utility buildings.

Hypothesis 2

If the Ferguson House is a tenant farm dwelling through the period 1837-1940, then the artifact types recovered should reflect a lower economic standing than those recovered from the main farmhouse.

Test Implications:

The artifact types recovered should include mass-produced items like redware, undecorated whitewares, and ironstone, and should not include porcelains, hand-blown glass tablewares, or imported wares. The inventories of Bradford (Appendix 6) and Reed (Appendix 7) indicate the material holdings of the landowners, who presumably lived in the now demolished Lynch farmhouse. The artifacts recovered from the Ferguson House property should reflect a lower economic wealth when compared to the Bradford and Reed inventories.

Hypothesis 3

The intra-site artifact spatial patterning will show specialized types of usage areas typical of a tenants domestic dwelling for the years 1837-1940.

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