

PREVIOUS ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

The H. Grant Tenancy site was discovered during Phase I and II archeological investigations conducted during the fall of 1983. Archival research had indicated the presence of a structure, apparently located in the approximate location of the site, on a map of the vicinity of Philadelphia published by Pomeroy and Beers in 1860. This map covered the Wilmington and Brandywine Railroad routes for New Castle County, Delaware and Delaware and Chester Counties, Pennsylvania.

A large quantity of artifacts were noted in the plowzone during the Phase I and II investigations, and testing isolated several subsurface features which suggested the presence of a structure. The site's placement in the early to mid 19th century was based primarily on the high percentage of pearlware in the assemblage (Barse 1985).

As a result of the intensive survey excavations, the H. Grant Tenancy site was determined to be eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places under criterion D, 36 CFR, Part 800 (Appendix I). It was considered to be significant in that intact subsurface archeological features were present which were felt to contain potential information concerning changing economic patterns observed in the early part of the 19th century. In addition, based on the hypothesis that the site represented a tenant house, it was felt that the assemblage could provide valuable information concerning the nature of small tenant sites, as these are poorly known, both archeologically and historically (Barse 1985). The tenant house hypothesis was based on the results of the archival research which showed the name H. Grant associated with several properties in the area.

RESEARCH DESIGN

The research design was drawn from the original hypothesis that 7NC-B-6 was a tenant farm.

In response to changing economic conditions in the beginning of the 19th century, land tenure became consolidated into the hands of fewer individuals near urban areas (Bidwell and Falconer 1941:242). Landowners often had business interests connected with industrialization or commerce in urban centers and frequently lived in the city. To maintain agricultural production, a system of tenancy was employed. Tenants were probably drawn from groups of lower economic status in both urban and rural population, but very little historic research has been devoted to these individuals and little is known of their economic or cultural background. Likewise few remnants of their material culture, including their housing, have survived. Based on the findings of the Phase I and Phase II studies (Barse 1985), it was originally felt that the H. Grant Tenancy site represented the remains of such tenancy and that an examination of the material culture could provide valuable information about such sites. Because the site was felt to contain structural remains,