

CONCLUSIONS

The C. Kimmey Tenant Farm Site is a mid- to upper-socioeconomic level tenant- and owner-occupied farm. Archival research suggests that the site was first settled in 1797, but no archaeological evidence of occupations prior to the mid-nineteenth century was found. The first archaeological evidence places the site in the second quarter of the nineteenth century. At the time of Phase III excavations, the site consisted of the remains of a large dairying operation that had been converted to a truck crop farm. The roots of the conversion from dairy farm to truck crop are seen in the archaeological and historical reconstruction of the local social and agricultural landscape.

Further research on agricultural change such as dairy specialization and truck crop farming provided important information on social and economic changes in the nineteenth and early twentieth century. By focusing on agricultural and economic change, research revealed the role of changes in transportation access, market opportunities, and agricultural change within the domestic economy and the historical landscape.

In conclusion, the data gathered during the Phase II excavations at the C. Kimmey Tenant Farm Site provide an important look at how a farmstead changed in response to regional shifts in agricultural economies. Even though these changes are not that far removed from us in time, it is important to record the effects of these changes through archaeological studies now because farmsteads like the one studied here are rapidly disappearing from the Delaware landscape. As populations grow and land use patterns change, reports like this one provide some of the only reminders of the agrarian legacy of Delaware's cultural heritage.