INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results and interpretations of the Phase III archaeological data recovery excavations at the C. Kimmey Tenant Farm Site (7K-D-119, K-6440). The site is located south of Dover, in East Dover Hundred, Kent County, Delaware (Figure 1, Plate 1). The data recovery investigations at the site focused on a historic occupation dating from the mid-nineteenth century to the 1970's. Fieldwork, artifact analyses, and report preparation were carried out between July 1991 and January 1994 by archaeologists from the University of Delaware Center for Archaeological Research (UDCAR). Funding for the project was provided by the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (amended) prior to the construction of State Route 1, a 50-mile long limited access highway which will run from Interstate I-95 to Dover, Delaware. Figure 1 shows the location of the C. Kimmey Tenant Farm Site in relation to other archaeological sites in the State Route 1 Corridor.

The C. Kimmey Tenant Farm Site was identified during a Phase I reconnaissance survey of the State Route 1 Corridor (Bachman, Grettler, and Custer 1988:53-55). The site appears on mid-nineteenth century atlas maps of the region and a pedestrian survey found a scatter of nineteenth and twentieth century artifacts within a 300 foot radius of the ruins of a brick house and six standing structures (Bachman, Grettler, and Custer 1988:53-55). Phase II testing (Grettler et al. 1991a:256-270) identified intact subsurface historic features and the site was considered to be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion "D" because the site would likely yield significant archaeological data on rural domestic life in the nineteenth century in central Delaware. Specifically, the C. Kimmey Tenant Farm Site was considered to be significant because it was especially well preserved, and offered an excellent opportunity to study the lifeways of tenant farmers of the late nineteenth century in Kent County. Tenant farmers are not often described in the currently available archival records, and archaeology is the only way to study the everyday lives of these people. Data recovery excavations were, therefore, undertaken when it became apparent that the site would be destroyed by road construction and related borrow pit operations.

Environmental Setting

The C. Kimmey Tenant Farm Site is located in Kent County within the Lower Coastal Plain physiographic province (Figure 2). The Lower Coastal Plain is underlain by the sand deposits of the Columbia Formation (Jordan 1964:40). Reworking of the Columbian formation sediments has produced a relatively flat and featureless landscape. Elevation differences average 30 feet (10 meters) and are moderated by long gradual slopes. The topographical variations are sufficient to cause differential distributions of plant and animal species (Braun 1967:246-247). Water courses, such as the St. Jones River which is located a quarter mile west of the site, are tidal and brackish

along their middle and lower reaches. Extensive salt marshes are found along most of the drainages of the regions in coastal areas. The soil series at the site, Sassafras sandy loam, is formed in well drained upland settings, and is distributed in a mosaic pattern across the region. These soils are highly productive and have been extensively farmed. The soils are easy to work and warm up early in the spring (Matthews and Ireland 1971:21-22). The C. Kimmey Tenant Farm Site is located in a grove of trees in an agricultural field on a slight rise which is about 30 feet above sea level (Plate 2).

Since the arrival of Europeans and the colonization of central Delaware, land use in the site area has been primarily agricultural. Historically, the population of the Dover area was involved in agriculture and its supporting occupations, such as milling, shipping, manufacturing of carriages and cabinets, canning and juice and syrup production. Since the early 1960's, the vicinity of the C. Kimmey Tenant Farm Site has been drastically altered at an increasingly rapid rate through commercial, industrial, and especially residential development due to the proximity of the Dover Air Force Base. Plate 1 shows this development along Route 113 in the vicinity of the site as does Figure 3.

Previous Archaeological Investigations

The C. Kimmey Tenant Farm Site was first identified during the Phase I pedestrian survey of the Early Action Segment of the Route 13 Corridor (Bachman, Grettler, and Custer 1988:53-55). Remains of six standing structures, including a brick and frame house were identified in the heavily overgrown woodlot encompassing the site (Plate 2). Well-drained farmland surrounded the site, and a controlled surface collection was conducted.

A scatter of nineteenth and twentieth century historical artifacts were recovered. Documentary research identified the site as the C. Kimmey House noted on Byles' (1859) and Beers' (1868) historical atlases.

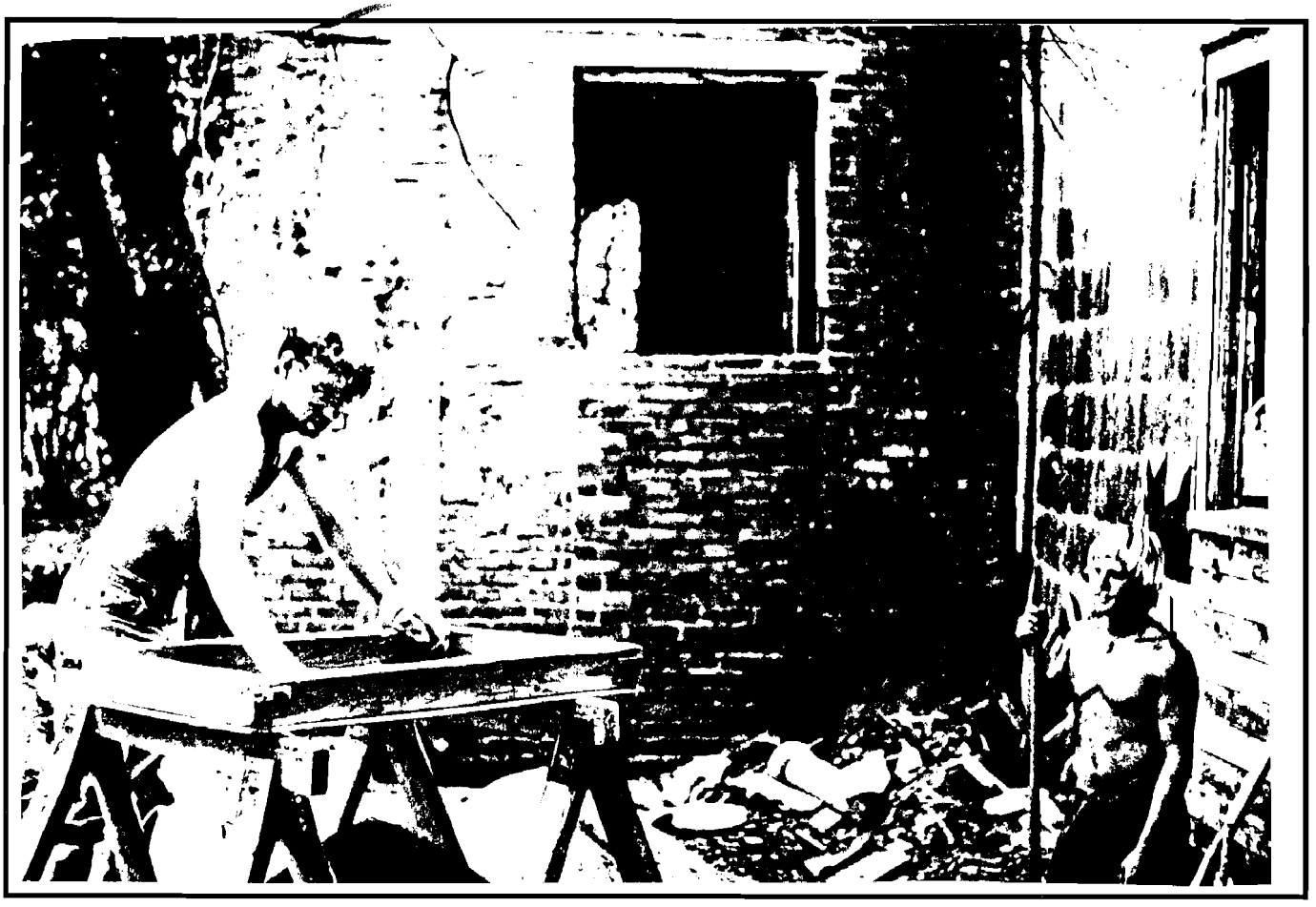
Phase II investigations of the site consisted of the excavation of 115 shovel test pits (STP) at 10-foot intervals in all directions around the extant dwelling (Figure 4) (Grettler et al. 1991a). Thirty 3- x 3-foot test units were excavated in areas of potential features based on the highest artifact densities revealed from the STP excavations (Plate 3). An additional 3- x 12-foot trench was excavated perpendicular to the south side of the frame portion of the house. The Phase II testing identified eight features and two distinct activity areas were delineated on the basis of artifact concentrations and the location of subsurface features (Figure 5, Table 1). Phase III data recovery described in this report was concentrated in Area I, the area of greatest domestic activity around the C. Kimmey house. Activity Area II contained no features and few artifacts denoting an area rarely used during the site's occupation.

The Phase I and II testing recovered 5,673 historical artifacts. Historic ceramic sherds comprised eight percent of all artifacts recovered. Forty-eight percent of all other artifacts were architectural such as window glass, brick, nail, and nail fragments. Clear, amber, and aqua bottle glass fragments, and clear glass jar fragments comprised 12 percent of all the remaining artifacts. Bottle and jar glass fragments were concentrated in trash deposit and yard refuse areas located on the west side of the C. Kimmey Tenant Farm house between the frame section and the extant outbuildings. The mean ceramic date, without redware, from the diagnostic historical ceramic assemblage was 1852.5. The artifacts recovered, in agreement with the archival and documentary data, suggest an occupation spanning at least the second quarter of the nineteenth century through the late twentieth century.

TABLE 1

Features from Phase II Testing

FEA. #	DESCRIPTION	TEST UNIT	EXCAVATION	CULTURAL ASSOCIATION
1	Brick concentration	T.U. 7 (N30 E72.5)	Partially excavated	Builder's trench
2	Soils deposited along Feature 9	T.U. 2 (N46 E80)	Partially excavated	Brick structure
3	Soils deposited along Feature 9	T.U. 2 (N46 E80)	Partially excavated	Brick structure
4	Soils deposited along Feature 9	T.U. 2 (N46 E80)	Partially excavated	Brick structure
5	20th century ceramic pipe related to Feature 8	T.U. 7 (N26 E65)	Partially excavated	Septic/drainage system
6	Artifact concentration, bottles & trash	T.U. 9 (N0 E0), 11 (N0 W3), 12 (N3 W3), 13 (N3 W0), 14 (N0 W6)	Partially excavated	Bottle & trash dump
7	Trash deposit & yard scatter	T.U. 15 (S10 E16) & 17 (S13 E16)	Partially excavated	Trash pit
8	Concrete block	N35 E40	Not excavated	Cistern
9	Brick & frame structure	T.U. 5 (N16 E75), 6 (N15 E67), 8 (N15 E52.5), 20 (N12 E32.5)	Partially excavated	House
10	Cinder block structure		Not excavated	19th century milk house
11	Large frame structure		Not excavated	19th century stable
12	Large frame structure		Not excavated	19th century barn
13	Concrete block & frame structure		Not excavated	20th century chicken coop
14	Concrete block & frame structure		Not excavated	20th century garage

PLATE 3

Phase II Excavations