SITE HISTORY

This section of the report describes the history of the occupation of the C. Kimmey Tenant Farm Site contained in various archival records. General histories of the Dover area can be found in Bachman, Grettler, and Custer (1988) and Grettler, et al. (1991a).

The C. Kimmey Tenant Farm Site was located on a parcel of approximately 150 acres bounded by the Dover to Kitts Hummock Road (present Route 113) on the east and the St. Jones River on the west. To the south, the parcel was bounded by the ancient division of the Troy and Aberdeen tracts, two of the first tracts warranted in the area (Figure 6). The property was located in the northernmost of the two early grants known as Aberdeen, which was a 400-acre parcel originally warranted to Thomas Clifford on January 2, 1678/79 (KCD B-1-137). Over the next 60-70 years the tract was divided and reformed under various owners. No archival records indicate specific improvements made to the properties during that time (Bachman and Catts 1990). A complete chain of title for the C. Kimmey Tenant Farm Site is shown in Table 2.

In 1687, John Chance purchased the 100-acre parcel on which the C. Kimmey Tenant Farm Site was located from Thomas Clifford. Two years later Chance sold the 100-acre farm on Jones Creek to Jacob Smith. In 1717, this parcel was purchased by Robert Gordon, Gentleman, who in turn sold the property to a yeoman named Jonathan Sturgis in 1720. The parcel was acquired, in 1746, by John and Margaret Pennington, who sold it in 1750 to James and Susannah Piper. In 1759 the Pipers sold it to Manlove Tarrant. Tarrant's ownership was brief since he sold the parcel in 1760 to John Paradee. In this transaction the property is described as the "tract where John Spring lives," indicating that the property was occupied as early as 1760. Not much is known about these early owners or what sort of improvements, if any, were made to the property.

John Paradee sold the parcel in 1764 to Benjamin Brown. Brown was a yeoman/bricklayer who by the time of his death in 1767 had amassed a 400-acre estate which included three tracts that made up most of the original Aberdeen tract. His total estate was valued at over 631 pounds. Brown lived on the east side of the road from Dover to Kitts Hummock (Bachman and Catts 1990) and was not living on the parcel purchased from Paradee, however. It is not known if tenants farmed the land.

When Benjamin Brown died, his will divided his lands among his three sons. To his eldest son, John, Brown left the tract of Marsh and Cripple "lying on the creek that I bought from John Paradee, Part of Aberdeen" (KCW:L-50). In 1785, John Brown traded the 150-acre farm on the Jones Neck for a 240-acre farm on the Marshyhope tract in Mispillion Hundred which was owned by Thomas Rodney. The 1785 deed of this exchange notes that the 150-acre tract traded by Brown was "where he lived at this time." Thomas Rodney, whose brother, Caesar, was a well-known Delaware statesman and signer of the Declaration of Independence, was a prominent citizen in his own right. Throughout the early 1770's, until the Revolutionary War intervened, Thomas Rodney

TABLE 2
Chain of Title

TRANSACTION	ACRES	DATE	DEED REFERENCE
			Kent County Warrants & Surveys
From agents of William Penn to Thomas Clifford	400	11/12/1680	A-47
From Thomas Clifford to Alexander Chance	100	12/13/1690	C-1-70
From Alexander Chance to Jacob Smith	100	1692	B-1-139
From Jacob Smith to Robert Gordon	100	2/11/1717	F-1-7
From Robert Gordon to Johnathan Sturgis	102	11/11/1720	F-1-124
From J. Sturgis & Jonas Edenfield to John Pennington	150	5/31/1746	N-1-104
From John & Margaret Pennington to James Piper	150	11/27/1750	O-1-62
From James & Susannah Piper to Manlove Tarrant	150	8/29/1759	P-1-148
From Manlove Tarrant to John Paradee	150	8/14/1760	Q-1-2
From John Paradee to Benjamin Brown	150	2/14/1764	R-1-8
From Benjamin Brown to son John Brown	150	1769	Will L-50
Swap between Thomas Rodney and John Brown. Exchange of Rodney's 240 acre Marshyhope tract in Mispillion Hundred for Brown's 150 acres in Jones Neck	150	2/11/1785	D-2-76
From Andrew Barratt, sheriff (land of Thomas Rodney) to Thomas, Samuel and Miers Fisher	150	2/27/1796	F-2-161
From Thomas, Samuel, and Miers Fisher all of Phila. to Richard Cooper, Esq.	150	3/31/1801	G-2-45
			Kent County Chancery Court
From Richard Cooper, Esq. to heirs of his son Dr. Ezekiel Cooper	150	1842	B-216
From Richard A. Cooper to William Bonwill	147	4/19/1837	L-3-120
From William Bonwill to Richard A. Cooper	147	4/19/1837	L-3-120
From Henrietta Cooper to brother Richard A. Cooper	35	8/30/1844	S-3-184
From Richard A. Cooper to Charles Kinney, Jr.	182	3/26/1844	S-3-190
From Mary Kinney, widow of Charles, to Joseph Mayer	182	8/27/1891	G-7-458
From Joseph & Stayfana Mayer to Ann Perkins, wife of John	182	12/18/1894	Q-7-478
From John J. & Augusta Murphy to Ann Perkins, wife of James	182	9/10/1895	T-7-69
From James H. & Ann Perkins to Mary B. Perkins & Jennie Perkins	182	7/24/1907	I-9-413
From Jennie P. & Jay H. Hipwell and Mary B. Perkins to Christian H. & Louise Zimmerman	164	11/22/1943	M-16-302
From Christian H. & Louise Zimmerman to Frank T. & Elizabeth Zimmerman	159	11/20/1952	S-19-499
From Frank T. & Elizabeth Zimmerman to Bituminous Construction Co.	159	8/25/1958	W-21-198
From The Bituminous Construction Corp. to Arthur R. & Margaret T. Baker	159	6/2/1961	P-22-462
From Arthur R. & Margaret T. Baker to Island Farm, Inc.	159	7/29/1968	H-25-28
From Island Farm, Inc. to the State of Delaware	157.3	1/4/1990	R-47-284

successfully ran a Philadelphia store that marketed the products from his Delaware farms and the farms of his brother. In 1776, he was elected to the Council of Safety by the last colonial assembly. In 1778, he was appointed Judge of the Court of Admiralty, Clothier of the Delaware Regiment, Register of the Probate of Wills and Granting of Letters of Administration for Kent County, and Colonel of the 8th Regiment of the Delaware Militia. During the 1780's he served five terms as the State Legislature's Representative to sessions of the Continental Congress, as well as two terms in the House of Assembly with a brief tenure as Speaker of the House.

In the mid-1780's, personal tragedy, plus shifting political alignments, set Thomas Rodney on a path of decline that led to bankruptcy in 1791. Rodney began to lose his political base when his brother Caesar died in 1784. In 1785, Thomas was forced to surrender the position in the Court of Admiralty and by 1788 had lost the position as Register of Wills, which had been quite lucrative. These events were preceded by the death of his wife Elizabeth Fisher. Along with the personal loss accompanying the deaths of his brother and wife came the additional responsibility of managing Caesar's estate. Caesar had left an estate in value of 20,000 pounds to his minor nephew Caesar Augustus Rodney, Thomas's son. Mismanagement of the estate by Thomas led his creditors to press him for payment of both his own debts as well as those of his brother. Among those creditors was Samuel Fisher, kinsman of his deceased wife. In 1791, Samuel Fisher filed suit to recover loans to Thomas. In March of that year, creditors began to seize Rodney property in foreclosures. By June, Thomas was arrested on a writ of execution and imprisoned in Dover for 14 months. He spent the next 10 years in poverty and obscurity.

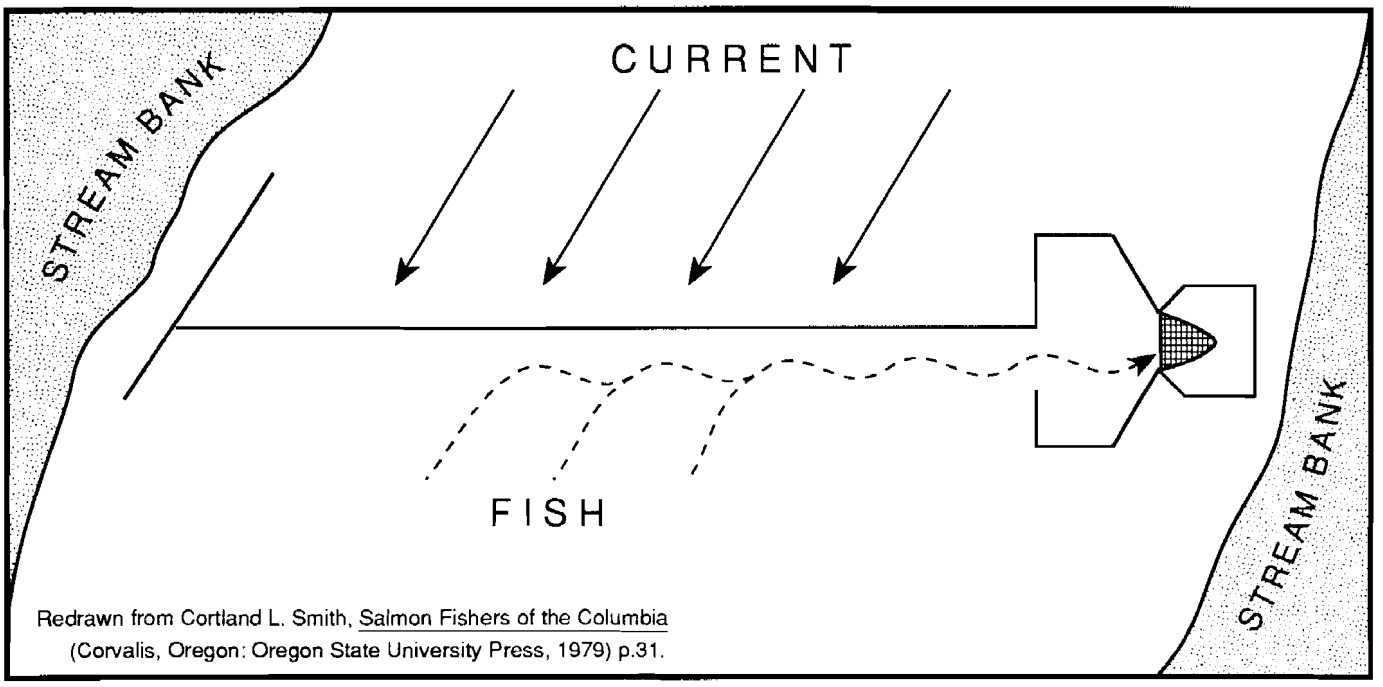
An account of the administration of Rodney's estate in 1815 valued the estate at $2079.51. The list of creditors on this account is also extensive, showing a sizable debt to be cleared by the estate. Interestingly, included on the list of creditors was Mary Brown, sister to John Brown from whom Rodney had acquired the property including the C. Kimmey Site. An unsigned, undated will names his son Caesar Augustus and daughter Lavinia heirs to lands on the St. Jones Neck acquired from Henry Irons and a tract in Marshyhope called Great Island. The executors were instructed to sell the lands to pay his debts. Any surplus from the sale was to be considered part of Rodney's personal estate. Lands slated for sale included the 150-acre parcel on the St. Jones acquired from John Brown.

Andrew Barratt, the sheriff responsible for disposing of Rodney's properties, sold the parcel to Rodney's in-laws Thomas, Samuel, and Miers Fisher in 1796. The Fishers were all from Philadelphia, suggesting that the parcel was occupied by tenants. However, 1828 probate records, as well as the 1800 tax assessment for Dover Hundred, show a Thomas Fisher living on a farm in Kent County. Thomas Fisher is also listed as one of the administrators of the estate of Dr. Ezekiel Cooper, who would inherit the property in 1818. Fisher was probably occupying the farm between 1796 and 1801 raising livestock to be sent to Philadelphia and marketed by family members Samuel and Miers.

From 1801 to 1842 the farm, including the Kimmey Site, was part of the estate of Richard Cooper, Esquire, a Superior Court Judge for the State of Delaware. Cooper's tenure as an owner of the property is interesting because in 1816 he became involved in a controversy concerning a fish trap, or weir, he erected in the St. Jones River adjacent to his property. Weirs are a means of

FIGURE 7

Diagram of a Fish Trap or Weir



Redrawn from Cortland L. Smith, Salmon Fishers of the Columbia (Corvalis, Oregon: Oregon State University Press, 1979) p.31.

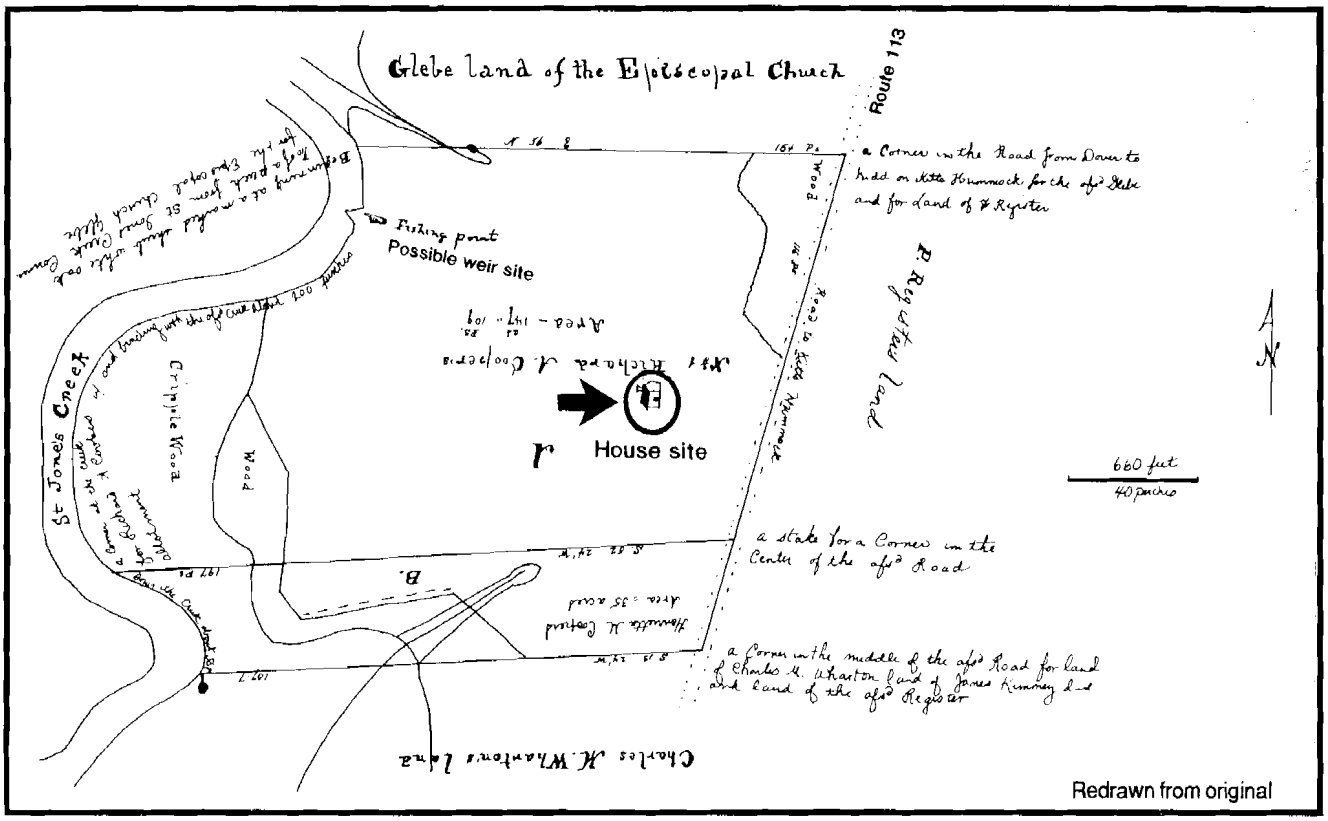
capturing large numbers of fish, especially those who travel from saltwater to fresh water to spawn, such as shad, alewife, and herring. A weir usually consists of a wooden or rock "fence" which blocks the path of the fish as they swim upstream seeking fresh water (Figure 7). They are then channeled into an enclosure from which they are removed. Weirs are very effective and few fish generally escape to complete their upstream migrations.

Upstream neighbors of Cooper protested his monopoly on fish caused by the weir. For example, Grettler (1990:127) notes a remark that no individual was entitled to a "monopoly of this provision [i.e., fish]... designed by Providence for general use." However, Cooper defended the weir on the grounds that it stood on private property. To fish from his own property, he reasoned, was a right he purchased along with the land. He considered the weir as an agricultural improvement to more efficiently harvest the fish crop. Furthermore, to defend his weir from his unhappy neighbors, Cooper mounted a swivel gun, a small cannon, near the trap.

In 1817, the use of weirs was prohibited, but the local controversy continued until 1833 when weirs were permanently banned. Over the years, argument between the proponents of private property rights and those of "design by Providence" persisted. Added to the dispute were differences of opinion over the causes of increasing river siltation and decreased navigability of the river due to this siltation, which some thought was exacerbated by the weirs. Under the weight of this controversy, the commercial potential of spring fish runs pioneered by Richard Cooper and his swivel gun was squelched (Grettler 1990).

FIGURE 8

1842 Orphans' Court Plat of the Lands of Richard Cooper



No inventory of Cooper's estate was found, however his will was 12 pages long with two codicils. At least eight properties in Caroline County, Maryland, and Kent County, Delaware, were listed, as well as numerous household and personal items. Included in his possessions were Negro slaves, but Richard Cooper was apparently a somewhat enlightened slave owner. His will made provisions for all slaves 25 years or older to be freed on the first Christmas after his death. Younger slaves and children of slaves were to be freed the first Christmas after their 25th birthdays. Runaways and troublemakers would continue in the service of the family until they had worked off or repaid any expenses incurred by the family for the trouble of recovering their property.

Cooper's will was very specific on how the estate was to be divided among his widow Clarissa and his five children. In particular, the lands on the east side of Jones Creek, which would eventually include the Kimmey Site, were to go to his oldest son, Dr. Ezekiel Cooper and his heirs.

The will was contested in Chancery Court, and the case was not resolved until 1842, more than 20 years after Cooper's death. By that time, his son Ezekiel had died, and his portion of the estate was divided between his brother and sisters. A house appears on this 1842 division of the property (Figure 8). While this structure might be the frame portion of the C. Kimmey Tenant Farm house, it could also represent an earlier structure on the site. The contested fish weir site is also marked as "fishing point" (Figure 8).

TABLE 3

Owners, Tenants and Structure Descriptions from Tax Assessments: 1797-1860

OWNER	TAX YEAR	TENANT	STRUCTURE DESCRIPTION
Thomas, Samuel and Miers Fisher	1797	None	"unfinished dwelling house & kitchen"
Richard Cooper, Esq.	1803	None	"log house and barn"
	1810	E. Parris	"old buildings in bad repair
	1816	Wm. Frazier	"wooden dwellings and other buildings in bad repair"
Dr. Ezekiel Cooper	1817	John Graham	"wooden dwelling"
	1822	Roger Molleston	"log tenement"
Richard A. Cooper	1828	Roger Molleston	"wooden dwelling"
	1841	J. L. Harper	"dwelling house, carriage house, stables, and lot of ground"
Charles Kimmey	1852	Steven Catts	no description
	1860	Steven Catts	"a farm with brick house, stable and crib"

TABLE 4

Members of J. L. Harper Household

DOVER HUNDRED	MALES	AGE	FEMALES	AGE	FREE COLORED FEMALES	AGE
Joseph G. Harper	1	40-50	1	5-10	2	10-24
			1	10-15		
			1	15-20		
			1	40-50		
Note: Eight total persons none employed			1	70-80		

The C. Kimmey Tenant Farm Site was tenant-occupied while the Cooper family owned the property from 1801 to 1844. In 1803, no tenant was listed in the tax assessments, but two structures, a log house and barn, were described. One hundred and thirty acres of the 150-acre farm were cleared, while the remaining 20 acres were wooded. In 1810, the tenant was E. Parris and according to a tax list taken in that year, Parris was living in "old buildings in bad repair." Fewer acres were cleared in 1810 when Cooper's tenant farm was described as containing 120 acres of cleared land. In 1816, Richard Cooper was assessed for a "wooden dwelling and other buildings in bad repair" on the Kimmey parcel. The tenant on the farm at the time was William Frazier.

By the time of the 1822 tax assessment, Ezekiel Cooper who had inherited the farm from his father, was assessed for a number of properties in and around the town of Dover. In a tax list of 1822, the property was described as a 150-acre farm, consisting of 100 acres cleared and 50 acres in woodland, and "one log tenemant", in the tenure of a free black named Roger Molleston. Roger Molleston was still listed as the tenant on the Cooper property in the 1828 tax list. He was living in a "wooden dwelling," the location of which is not known. The tax assessments for Dover Hundred from 1803 to 1828 all mention structures on the site in one form or another (Table 3). It is probable that the words "log" and "wooden" that appear on the various lists refer to the same "buildings in bad repair." It is also uncertain if the tax lists were describing a series of buildings over a span of time. Despite these questions, however, it seems clear that

FIGURE 9

Byles' Atlas Map - 1859

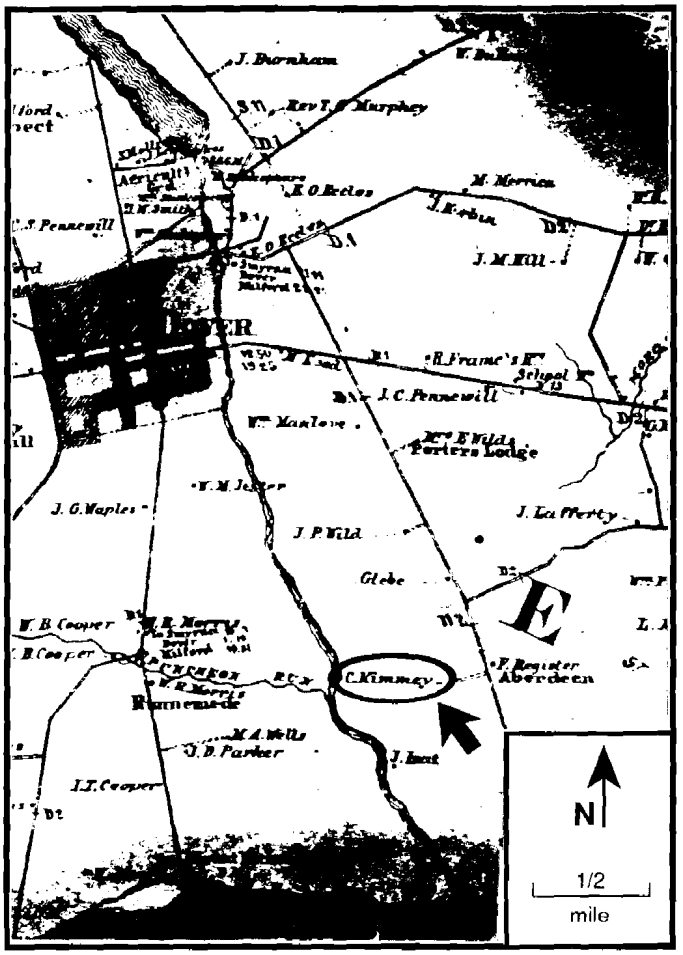
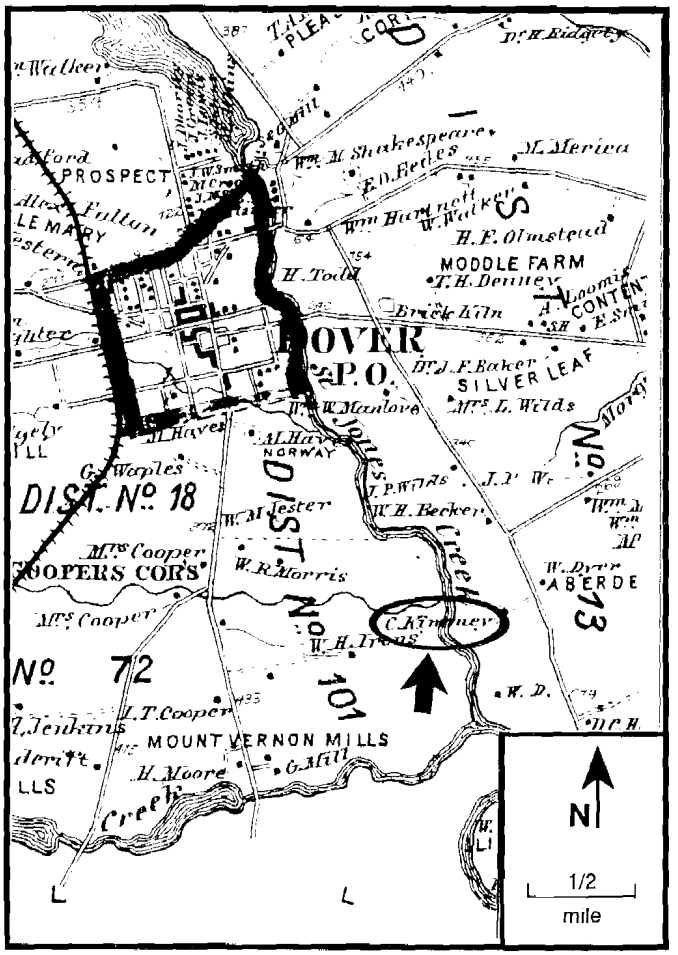


FIGURE 10

Beers' Atlas Map - 1868



neither the Coopers nor their tenants were interested in investing much money in improvements on the property. Although the buildings on the tax lists may have been on the same property as the C. Kimmey tenant farm house, none of them could have been the frame house still standing in 1991, as this frame house was of balloon frame construction, a technology that dates back no further than 1832 (Sprague 1983). It is most probable that the earlier black tenant occupied structures owned by the Cooper family were oriented closer to and along the St. Jones River.

An 1841 tax assessment indicates that the C. Kimmey Tenant Farm Site was occupied by J. L. Harper and his family at that time. Richard A. Cooper owned the property and Harper was listed as the tenant of a "dwelling house, carriage house, stables, and lot of ground." Table 4 lists the members of Harper's household noted in the 1840 census. Based on the additions noted for the structure descriptions section from 1828 to 1841 tax assessments, it is most likely that the dwelling house listed in the 1841 assessment was the balloon frame structure still standing in 1991. Thus, Richard A. Cooper was the first of his family to make major improvements on this property.

Charles Kimmey purchased the 182-acre property from Richard A. Cooper in 1844. The C. Kimmey Tenant Farm Site appears on both Byles' (1859) and Beers' (1868) atlases associated with the name "C. Kimmey" (Figures 9 and 10). Charles Kimmey was the son of a Maryland merchant and miller and was born in Marsh Hope Neck, North West Fork Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware, in 1809. In 1813, his family moved to Dover. As an adult he lived and worked in Ohio and Georgia, but he returned

TABLE 5

Summary of the Kimmey and Catts Households, 1850 and 1860 Censuses

NAMES OF ALL PERSONS WITHIN HOUSEHOLD	AGE	SEX	COLOR	PROFESSION, OCCUPATION, OR TRADE OF EACH PERSON, MALE OR FEMALE OVER AGE 15	VALUE OF REAL ESTATE	VALUE OF PERSONAL ESTATE
1850						
Kimmey, Charles	41	M	W	Lawyer	6,200	
Mary	36	F	W			
Mary	9	F	W			
Charles	7	M	W			
Hannah	5 mo.	F	W			
Wheatley, Elizabeth	11	F	W			
Draper, Willimina	12	F	B			
Catts, Stephen	40	M	W	Farmer		
Rachel	37	F	W			
Vincent	12	M	W	Laborer		
Mary	12	F	W			
James	10	M	W			
Rachel	1	F	W			
1860						
Kimmey, Charles	50	M	W	Lawyer	12,000	15,000
Mary S.	38	F	W			
Mary	19	F	W			
Charles	17	M	W	Clerk		
William	8	M	W			
James	6	M	W			
Elizabeth	5	F	W			
Pleasaton, Susan	28	F	W	Servant		
Minos, Susan	12	F	B	Servant		
Catts, Stephen	52	M	W	Farmer		1,000
Rachel	48	F	W			
James	20	M	W	Farm Laborer		
Casheimer	12	F	W			
Morris, Alexia	14	F	W	Servant		
Minos, Darria	14	F	W			

to Delaware in 1838. He entered into local politics, and by 1842, he was appointed Kent County Prothonotary and Clerk of the Court of Errors and Appeals. Within four years Kimmey resigned his political appointments and spent the remainder of his working years as a cashier in various Dover area banks. During this time, the Kimmey family owned the property on the St. Jones River and rented it to Stephen and Rachel Catts between 1850 and 1860 (Plate 10). Stephen Catts later became Coroner of Kent County.

Table 5 shows both the 1850 and 1860 census records for the Kimmey and Catts households. Catts procured a substantial livelihood from the farm and agricultural censuses for 1850 and 1860 showed the value of his farm at roughly double the average value of farms in Dover Hundred. For items produced on the farm, the listings show him consistently at or above the average for the

PLATE 10

Stephen and Rachel Catts, ca. 1860

TABLE 6

Comparative Agricultural Census Values, 1850-1860

	1850		1860	
GOODS & VALUES	AVERAGE	STEPHEN CATTS	AVERAGE	STEPHEN CATTS
Improved land	90 acres	150 acres	136 acres	150 acres
Unimproved land	--	50 acres	46 acres	40 acres
Farm	$1806.40	$3000.00	$4605.30	$8000.00
Farming implements & machines	$61.00	$40.00	$125.00	$300.00
Horses	3.0	2	2.5	3
Milk Cows	2.8	2	2.8	3
Working Oxen	2.0	2	1.0	1
Other Cattle	4.4	3	4.0	6
Sheep	--	5	2.5	15
Swine	8.0	8	7.0	8
Livestock	$250.80	$250.00	$460.00	$500.00
Wheat	47 bushels	60 bushels	99 bushels	115 bushels
Rye	7 bushels	--	10 bushels	--
Indian corn	475 bushels	500 bushels	623 bushels	700 bushels
Oats	63 bushels	50 bushels	177 bushels	360 bushels
Irish potatoes	32 bushels	35 bushels	50 bushels	75 bushels
Sweet potatoes	9 bushels	10 bushels	21 bushels	15 bushels
Buckwheat	3 bushels	7 bushels	2 bushels	--
Flax seed	--	2 bushels	3 bushels	--
Wool	--	13 pounds	8 pounds	40 pounds
Butter	62 pounds	200 pounds	115 pounds	150 pounds
Flax	2 pounds	40 pounds	--	--
Orchard products	$4.00	--	$10.00	$50.00
Produce (market gardens)	$5.00	$3.00	$2.00	--
Hay	3 tons	2 tons	3 tons	--
Homemade manufactures	$3.80	--	$.11	--
Animals slaughtered	--	$48.00	$101.00	$75.00

Reference: Michael (1985)

Hundred (Table 6). Kimmey's farm tenanted by Catts was described as a 150-acre farm with "Brick House, stable, crib, and c." valued at $1708. Kimmey himself and his wife were living in a house and lot in Dover valued at $1041. Kimmey's entire holdings were valued at $7832, a substantial sum that places him in the middle to upper socioeconomic ranks of the Dover area.

Charles Kimmey and his wife, Mary, moved from their house in the town of Dover to their farm outside of Dover sometime between 1860 and 1862. In 1862, Charles Kimmey took out an insurance policy on the property with the Kent Mutual Insurance Company. In an application for this policy made in January 1862, the Kimmey tenant farm was described as:

"No. 2 A 2 story Brick building on the farm in St. Jones Neck 20 [by] 27 feet Frame Back Building 1 1/2 storys (sic) 16 [by] 18 feet with shead [sic] Back 12 [by] 18 feet. There is 2 chimneys 2 fireplaces and warmed with Stoves, the pipes well secured, Ashes kept away from any Buildings, a dump in the yard. Nearest building 6 feet [away] a small frame [structure] occupied as a smoakhouse. This property is about 2 miles [from] Dover on the road from Dover to the Beach in Dover hundred and is owned and occupied by the subscriber. Estimated value $1500; insured value $1000."

"No. 3 A Frame building 20 [by] 30 feet occupied as a barn. Estimated value, $400. Insured value $266."

"No. 4 A shed building 10 [by] 49 feet used for cows. Estimated value $50. Insured value $33."

"[No. 5] A Carriage House and Stable. Estimated value $150. Insured value $112."

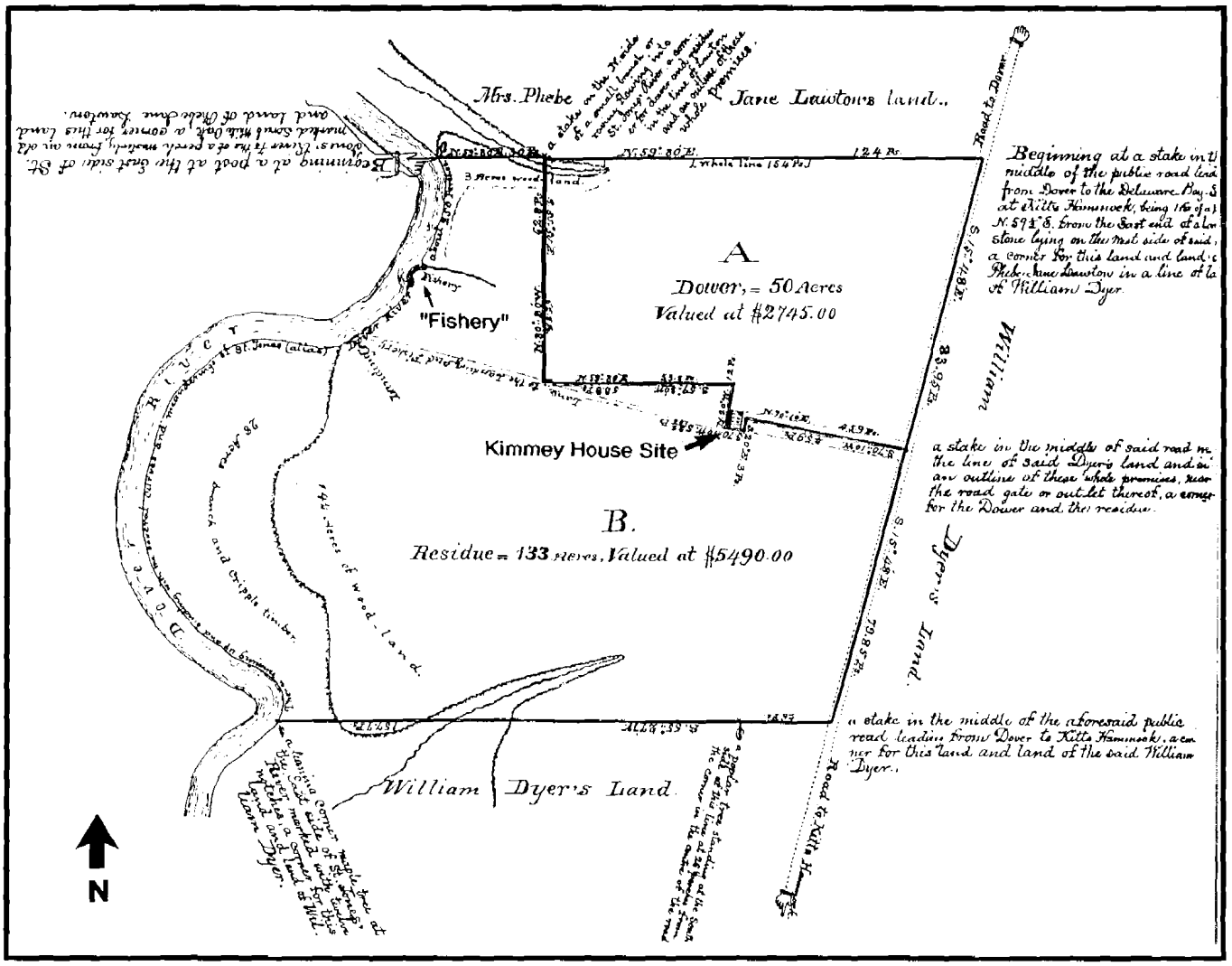
As indicated by this 1862 insurance policy, the C. Kimmey Tenant Farm Site consisted of an owner-occupied two story brick dwelling with a one and one-half story frame addition attached to the rear. The brick section was 20 x 27 feet and the frame "Back Building" was 16 x 18 feet. A 12- x 18-foot shed was attached to the frame back building probably along one of the 18-foot long sides. The three-part dwelling described in these insurance records is consistent with the floor plan of the C. Kimmey Tenant House still extant in 1991. Thus, the house design remained apparently unaltered from 1862 to 1991.

In 1886, Charles Kimmey died intestate, leaving a widow, Mary, and five children to survive him. Five years later, Mary Kimmey sold the property to Joseph Mayer. An 1891 Orphans' Court Plat showing the metes and bounds values the parcel at $8235.00 is shown in Figure 11. It is interesting to note that the "fishery" on the St. Jones River is still noted. Between 1891 and 1943 the C. Kimmey Tenant Farm Site changed hands four times (Table 2). During most of this time it is likely that the Kimmey parcel was farmed by tenants.

In 1943, Christian Zimmerman bought the farm and moved there with his family. Plate 11 and Attachment I show the farm complex as it appeared ca. 1950. Members from the Zimmerman family kindly provided us with the following information on the farm, and also allowed us to examine and publish family photographs which show various farm buildings (Plate 12). Zimmerman was a potato farmer from Long Island and increasing production costs in New York had forced him to investigate farms in other states. He became a pioneer for the potato industry in Delaware and his farm was quite successful. In the first year, yields were a Delaware record of 250 bushels per acre. Not only were yields high, but most of the crop was number one grade potatoes. The quality was so high that the crop was bagged in the field, taken directly to the freight trains for delivery

FIGURE 11

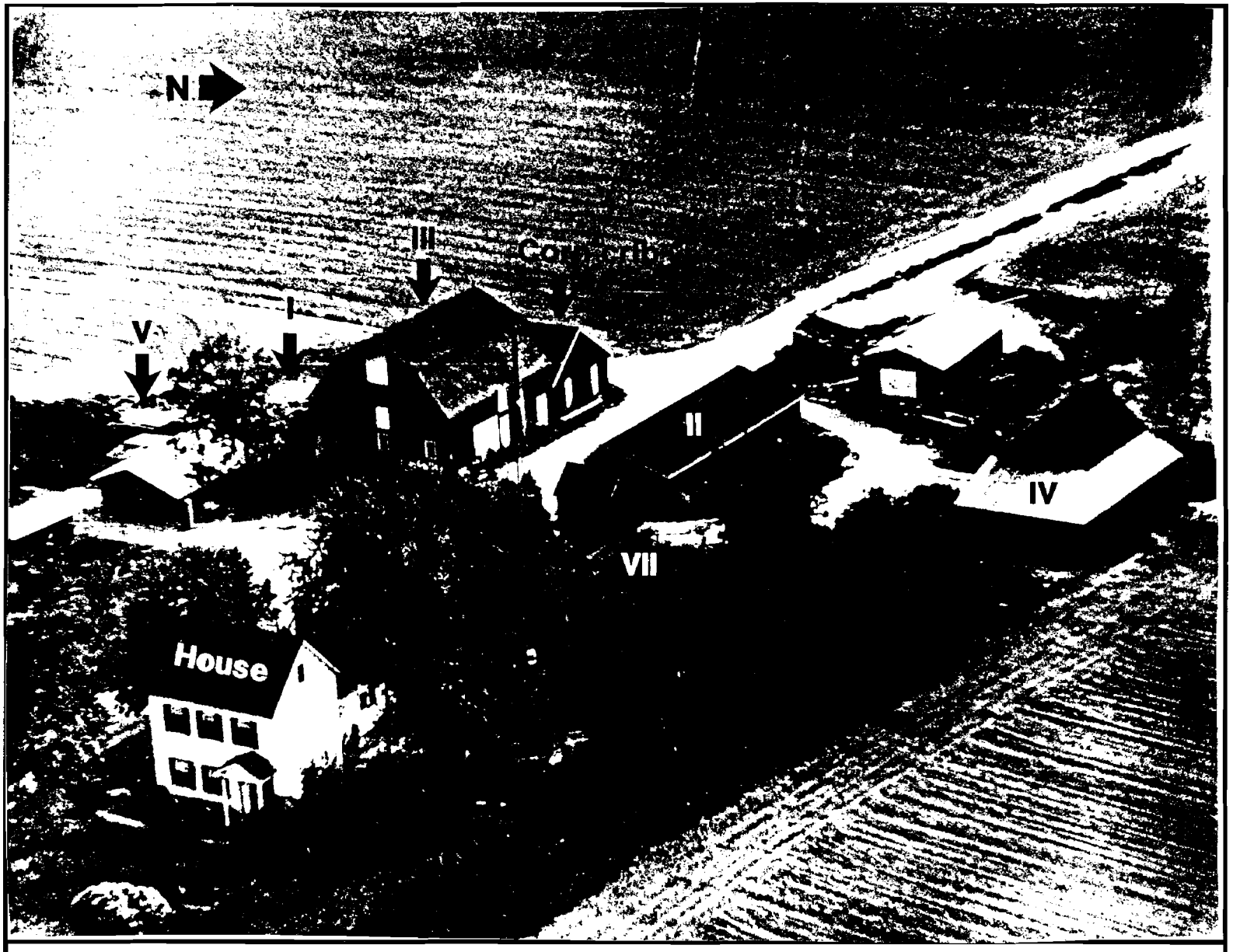
1891 Orphans' Court Plat of the Lands of Charles Kimmey



(Cover Illustration), and marketed in New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. Also, more than 50 percent of the crop was grown for the United States government. The natural richness of Delaware soil, along with the use of modern chemical fortifiers, provided yields that increased more than 100 bushels per acre annually. Zimmerman's success inspired many more Long Island potato farmers to move to Delaware. However, local farmers remained reluctant to increase plantings of potatoes. Appendix I provides a series of newspaper articles, probably from the Delaware State News, ca. 1947-1950, on the Zimmerman farm.

PLATE 11

1950 Aerial View of the C. Kimmey Tenant Farm Site



Note: Roman Numerals refer to outbuildings discussed in the text. Not all structures are visible.

PLATE 12

Zimmerman Family Photograph, ca. 1950

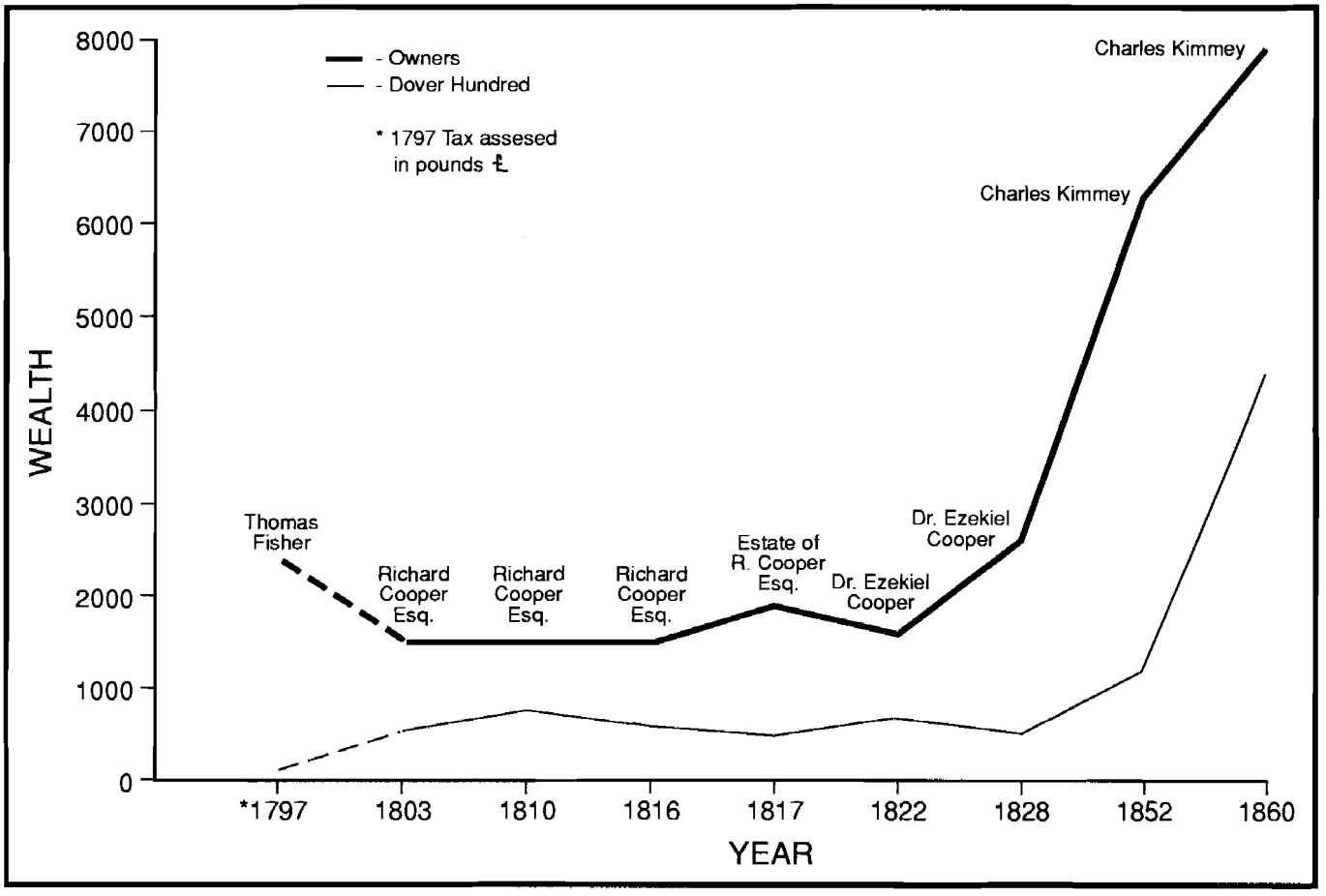
Note: This photograph shows the south facade of the frame addition to the house in the background.

In 1952, Christian Zimmerman retired from farming and sold the farm to his son, Frank, who continued to raise potatoes. Fifteen to 20 acres were also devoted to raising cauliflower as a cash crop. For both Christian and Frank, labor was scarce in the 1940-1950's. During the war years, German prisoners-of-war were trucked out to the farm from a nearby prison camp. In later years, the Zimmermans, who found local labor to be unreliable, made use of Jamaican migrant workers to harvest crops and to prepare them for shipment. The labor shortage also made it necessary for the Zimmermans to make truck runs at night to Philadelphia and New York markets. The Zimmermans had a garden for their own personal use and a one-acre field planted in corn and wheat for the farm animals. The rest of the acreage was planted in potatoes or cauliflower. Farm animals included three cows, a horse, some chickens and some pigs. All of the animals, dairy products, eggs and garden produce were used on the farm. None were sent to markets for additional income.

In 1958, the Bituminous Construction Corporation purchased the property from Frank and Elizabeth Zimmerman and began gravel pit operations along the shore of the St. Jones River in the area of the "fishery". Approximately 22 acres of the property were disturbed by the gravel pit operations and although the excavations did not impact the C. Kimmey Tenant house, they probably destroyed any early eighteenth or nineteenth century structures oriented closer to the St. Jones River.

In 1961, Bituminous Construction Corporation sold the parcel to Arthur R. and Margaret T. Baker of Alexandria, Virginia. It is not clear whether the site was tenant occupied, but it seems likely since all tax assessment bills were mailed to an Alexandria, Virginia address. The site functioned as a truck crop farm from the time the Bakers bought it in 1961 to the time they sold it in 1968 to Island Farm, Inc. Truck crops continued to be produced at the site until the property was purchased in 1990 by the State of Delaware as part of the lands acquired for the State Route 1 project.

The C. Kimmey Tenant Farm Site thus passed through two distinct phases during its history. The first phase, represented primarily by archival records, showed that the site was occupied mainly as a tenant farm which provided goods and livestock to local and regional markets. The second phase, which is better represented archaeologically, included a long period of owner occupancy. Again, the focus of the farm was to service local and regional markets, expanding beyond Philadelphia as far as New York. Figure 12 shows that the owners of the C. Kimmey Tenant Farm Site between 1797 and 1860 were of a higher economic level than the average citizen of the Dover Hundred, and this pattern persisted through time.

FIGURE 12

Comparison of Average Assessed Wealth of Dover Hundred Residents and C. Kimmey Tenant Site Owners, 1797-1860