it. However, it is likely that the ditches were dug sometime during the use of the cemetery, a contention which is supported by the redware fragments found during the test excavations in the ditches.

INTERSITE ANALYSES

COMPARISONS WITH OTHER LOCAL FAMILY CEMETERIES

The Lafferty Lane cemetery can be compared to other family cemeteries recently excavated in the Dover area. The Loockerman's Range Site (7K-C-365B), near the Dover Downs racetrack is a multicomponent site which contained prehistoric Woodland I and Woodland II components as well as an early to mid-eighteenth century domestic component (Bachman n.d.). Also located on the small rise which contained the site were four unmarked historic graves of an unknown date. The four graves lay in a row spanning about 11.0' and consisted of two adults (Features 2 and 8) whose graveshafts measured 6.3' and 6.7' long, respectively, and two subadults (Features 3 and 9), measuring 4.8' and 4.5'. The burial orientations of these four graves are similar to those at Lafferty Lane. With due east arbitrarily designated zero degrees, the Loockerman's Range graves measure 1, 2, 3, and 15 degrees south of east. No gravestones, postmolds, or other markers were associated with any of the four features. All four graveshaft outlines were oval to slightly hexagonal and all four contained hexagonal coffins. Coffin nails and coffin wood stains were encountered in all four graves but sparse skeletal remains were found. No human remains of any sort were found in Features 2 and 3, while

8 and 9 contained only tooth fragments. The few teeth found in Feature 9, which totaled 10 molars and canines, were identified as those of a 6 to 7 year old, which is consistent with the size of the feature (graveshaft length of 4.5', coffin stain length of 4.3'). No grave furniture, clothing fragments, personal adornments or other artifacts were found in any of the four graves.

The grave fill contained eighteenth century ceramics and numerous small brick fragments suggesting that the four interments took place during or after the domestic occupation of the site, but probably before the third quarter of the nineteenth century when rectangular coffins became common. It is also unknown if the occupants of the site are in any way related to those in the graves.

The Rodney family cemetery at Byfield near Dover was partially excavated by the Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation several years ago. The boundary ditch surrounding the graveyard measured 90 x 95 feet, or similar to the 96 x 100 feet found at Lafferty Lane. This dimension, approximately equal to 1/4 acre, may have been a standard set aside for a family graveyard in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. At Byfield, partial stripping of the surface revealed 14 graves, including one brick vault, none of which were marked. The total number of interments in the cemetery is not known. All of the exposed graveshafts were oriented east-west and 11 adults and three subadults were indicated by the graveshaft dimensions. Twelve of the fourteen shaft stains appear rectangular and two hexagonal. The interments date to

the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, but the identification of the occupants of each grave can only be assumed to be members of the Rodney households.

The Nowell Family Cemetery (7K-E-174) near Harrington, Delaware was excavated in 1988 and involved the removal of 44 human graves and three animal interments which dated to the nineteenth century (Payne and Thomas 1988). Five brick vaults were among the 44 human graves and, interestingly, all five vaults appeared to contain females. The burial area covered approximately 5800 square feet and was organized into two sections, labeled north and south by the excavators. Possible nuclear family clusters may be perceived in the plan, but since only one headstone remained in the cemetery at the onset of excavations in the spring of 1988, little of the internal family grave orientation could be determined. The orientation of the graves was the usual feet-to-the-east with a high degree of parallelism and an average bearing of 23 degrees south of east (113 degrees southeast of north) with very little deviation.

Since the goal of the excavations at the Nowell cemetery was prompt grave removal and reburial, the excavators could perform only cursory osteological analysis before reinterment. They were able to provide the sex, age estimates, and other observations for some or all of the 35 burials. Tentative or positive gender assignment produced nine identifiable females, and nine males, while 15 could be classified as subadults (under 18 years of age) and 16 as adults (18 years of age and older). The subadult/adult ratio of 15/16 (48% subadults, 52% adults) is

somewhat lower than at Lafferty Lane, where 58 percent of the graveshafts were classified as subadults.

The coffin type was classified as square [rectangular?], shouldered, or oval and could be determined for 27 of the interments at the Nowell Cemetery. There seems to be little correlation between the coffin type and graveshaft outline, further supporting the contention made earlier in this report that grave shaft outline cannot be used as a basis for relative dating at Lafferty Lane.

GEOGRAPHICAL CONSIDERATIONS OF FAMILY CEMETERY PLACEMENT

An extension of the geographical analysis of the cemetery is its relationship to the farm complex used by the family during the period the cemetery was formed. The Lafferty Lane cemetery was not associated with any known late eighteenth and early nineteenth century dwelling sites, although the "F. Register" house shown on Byles' Atlas of Kent County (1859) may have been the residence of Thomas Brown who owned the property prior to 1822. It is known that the farmland surrounding the cemetery was occupied during the period the cemetery was in use. Given that the Dover to Kitts Hummock Road (present U.S. 113) was an established roadway by the early eighteenth century, and that Lafferty Lane was not laid out until the early nineteenth century, it is likely that the Browns and other potential occupants of the Lafferty Lane cemetery lived somewhere along the Dover to Kitts Hummock Road. The present distance from U.S. 113 to the cemetery is 1200 feet, but since the location of the eighteenth and early nineteenth century residences is unknown,

TABLE 6

COMPARISON WITH OTHER KENT COUNTY FAMILY CEMETERIES WHICH ARE ROUGHLY CONTEMPORARY WITH LAFFERTY LANE (FROM DILL 1989)

Cemetery	Individuals	Date Range of Interments	Distance from Farmhouse (feet)
1. Lafferty Lane	**123**	**estimated 1760-1840**	**1000**
2. Lockwood Family	7	1805-1832	700
3. Short Farm	7	1809-1885	750
4. Fox Hall Plantation	3	1750-1793	500
5. Slaughter Family	16	1830-1882	1300
6. Clements Farm	8	1829-1865	800
7. Smock Family	9	1801-1849	200
8. Anderson Family	16	1815-1882	600
9. Barker Family	4	1790-1797	200
10. Pickering Family	3	1813-1871	800
11. Warren Family	7	1804-1835	1600
12. Reed Family	6	1807-1850	500
13. Whitely Family	11	1797-1859	1000
14. Jester Family	3	1803-1807	300
15. Ward Family	13	1798-1873	1000
16. Beswick Family	27	1771-1881	200
17. Parson Thorne Cemetery	17	1795-1858	100
18. Wood Family	2	1818-1831	200
19. Stratham Farm Memorial	10	1760-1883	250
20. Saulsbury Family Plot	23	1656-1922	750
21. Layton Cemetery	1	1809	1500

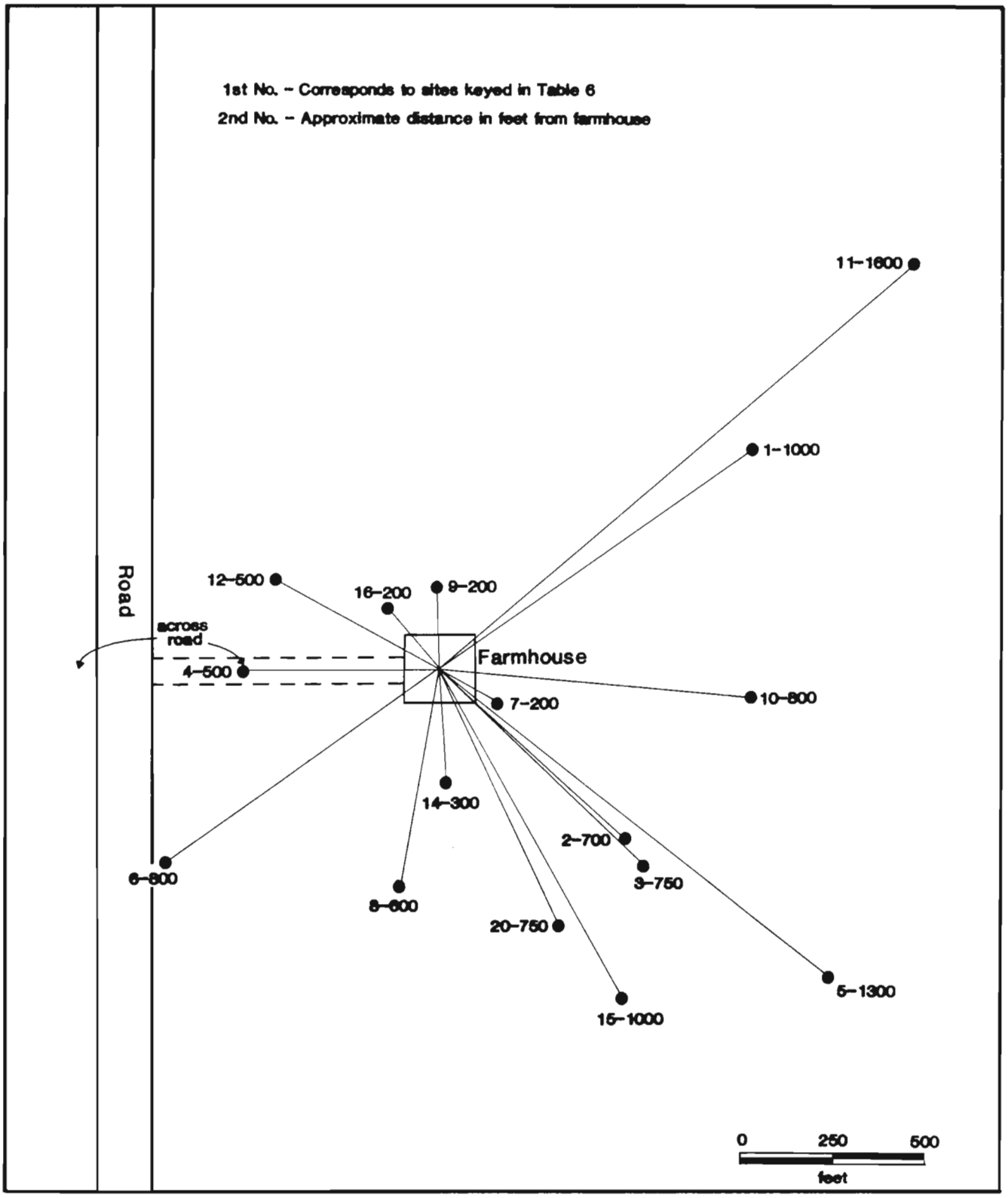
Range: 100' - 1600'
Average Distance: 678.5'

this measurement is of limited utility.

However, the relationship of family cemetery plots to extant dwellings or former dwellings which are known from mid-nineteenth century atlases (Byles' Atlas of Kent County 1859, Beers' Atlas of Delaware 1868) can be used for comparison. Table 6 lists the cemeteries, the date range of the interments, and the distance from the dwelling for a number of Kent County

FIGURE 13

Composite of Dwelling-to-Family Graveyard Distance, Kent County Sample



farms. The relationship of these family cemeteries to the farmhouse on the property was then plotted and is shown in Figure 13. From this sample of 16 plots, it can be seen that the majority lie within the semicircle to the "rear" of the dwelling. The range is from 100 to 1300 feet and the average is 679 feet.

A group of Sussex County family cemeteries was studied for comparison. The Sussex East-West Corridor Study (Catts and Custer 1990) identified 34 family cemeteries from primarily the nineteenth century. From Dill (1989) and the BAHP files, cemetery locational data was compared with Byles' (1859) and Beers' (1868) Atlases. A plot was generated (Figure 14) which corroborated the Kent County result. A distance comparison (Table 7) produced an average house-to-cemetery distance of 832 feet for all 34 family graveyards, or slightly but not significantly higher than the Kent County sample.

The bearing and distance plots of both the Kent and Sussex samples indicated several things about the placement of family cemeteries on the Low Coastal Plain of southern Kent and central Sussex counties. The farmhouse is usually located between the cemetery and the public road leading past the house. This is interpreted as a means of keeping the family dead out of the public way and in a personal, more controllable space to the "rear" of the farmhouse. The possession of the family cemetery was desirable within the context of an agriculturally based economy with a world view derived from continuity upon and allegiance to the land, the nurturing of a family-owned farmstead, and an individual self-worth derived from land

FIGURE 14

Composite of Dwelling-to-Family Graveyard Distance, Proposed Sussex East-West Corridor Study Sample

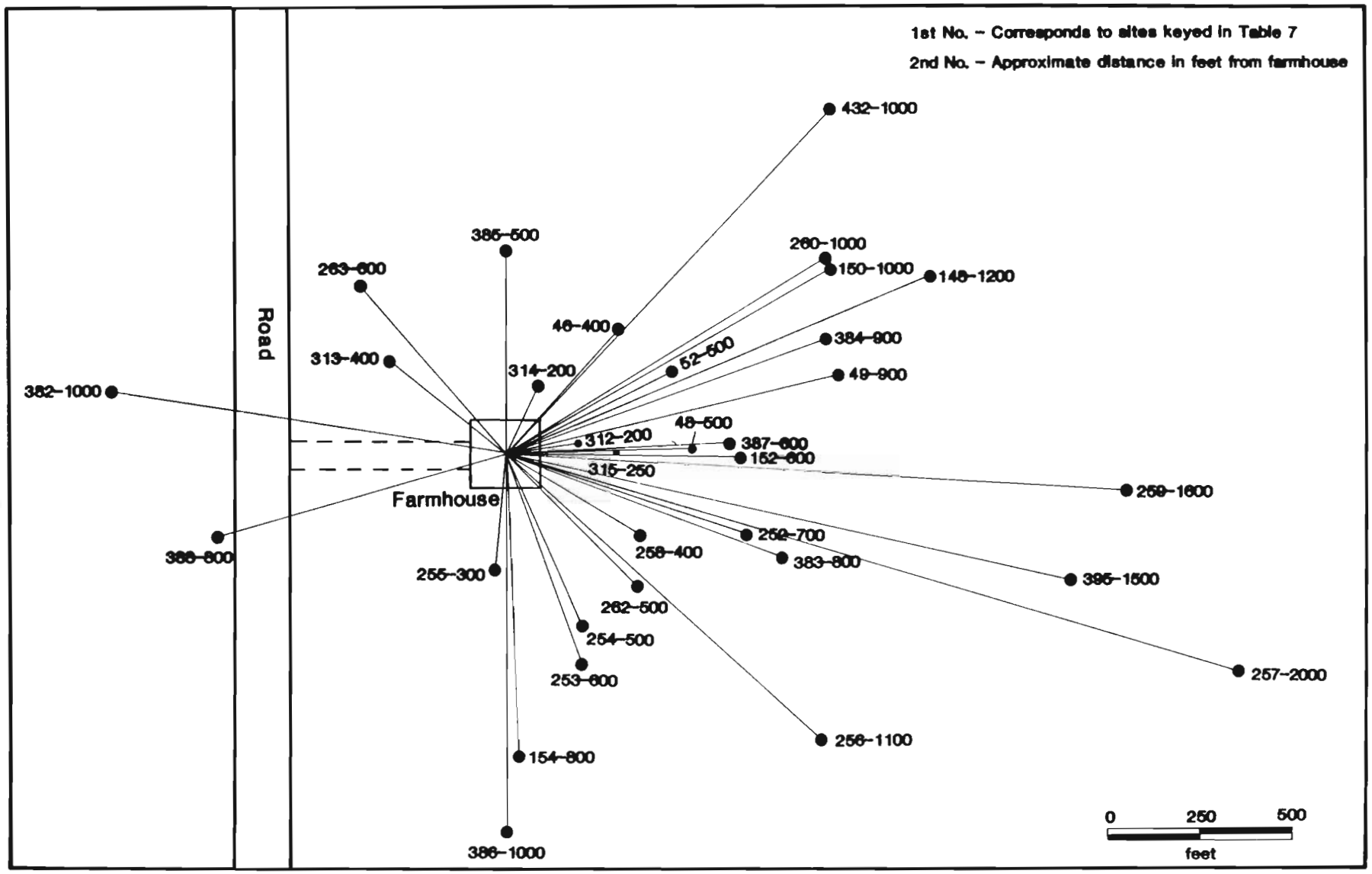


TABLE 7

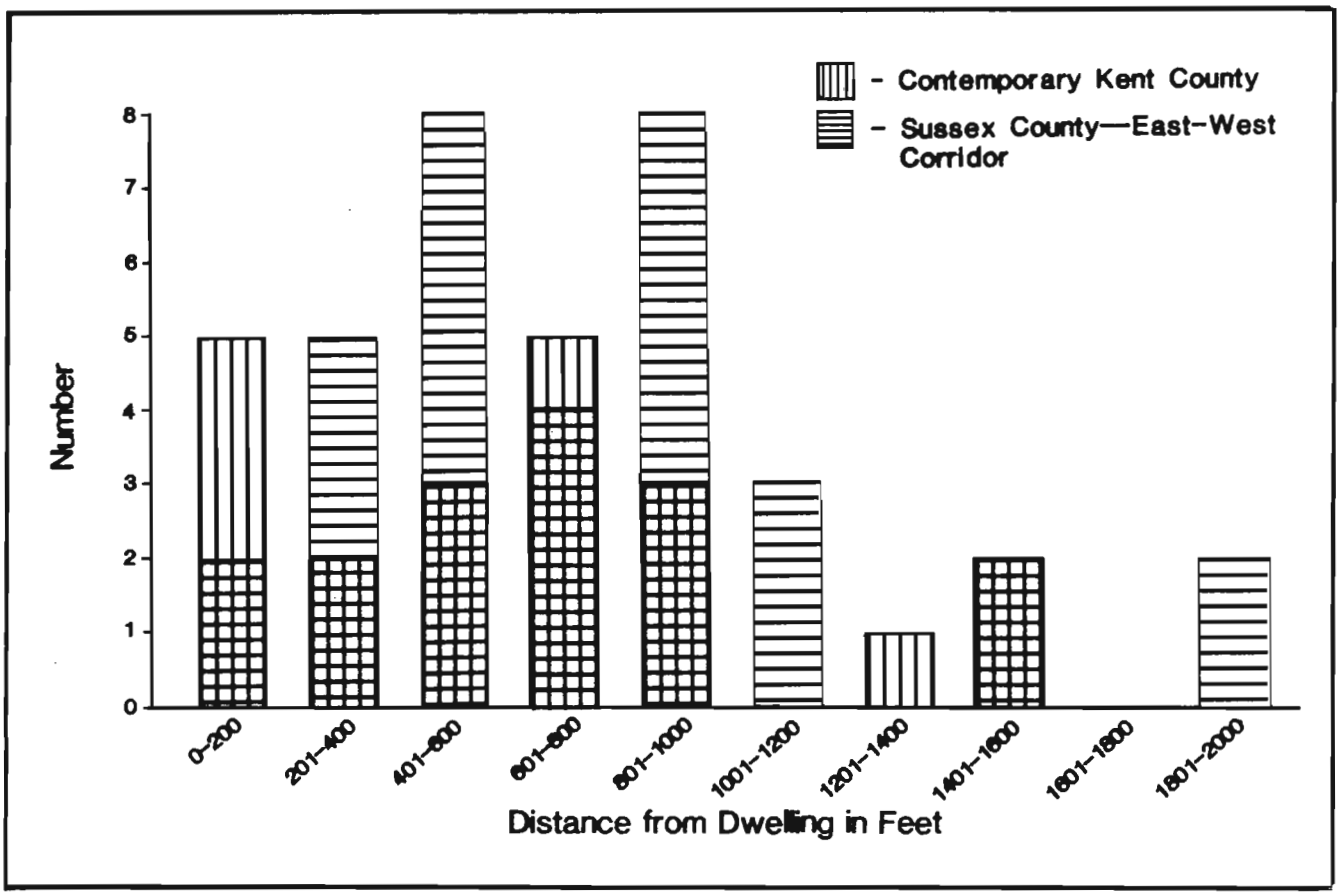
SUSSEX COUNTY EAST-WEST CORRIDOR STUDY SAMPLE CEMETERIES

Cemetery (Interments)	Date Range of Interments	Distance from Farmhouse (feet)
46-Family Cemetery	?	400
47-McIlvaine Grave	?	2000
48-Rodney Cemetery	?	1000
49-Family Cemetery	?	900
52-Family Cemetery	?	500
147-Russell/Prettyman	?	500
148-Isaac Cemetery (1 grave)	1898	1200
150-McColley Cemetery (6 graves)	1881	1000
152-Family Cemetery	?	600
154-Tyndall/Knowles (5 graves)	1853-1923	800
252-Mills Cemetery (2 graves)	1861-	700
253-Family Cemetery	?	600
254-McIlvain Cemetery (3 graves)	1826-1836	500
255-Family Cemetery	?	300
256-Family Cemetery	?	1100
257-Family Cemetery	?	2000
258-Family Cemetery	?	400
259-Family Cemetery	?	1600
260-Fred Walls Cemetery (1 grave)	?	1000
262-Vent Farm Cemetery (3 graves)	1826-1906	500
263-Barrett Family Cemetery (6 graves)	1860-1872	600
312-Family Cemetery	?	200
313-Family Cemetery	?	400
314-Family Cemetery	?	200
315-Family Cemetery	?	250
382-Family Cemetery	19th Century	1000
383-J. & J. Collins Cemetery (4 graves)	1850-1900	800
384-Family Cemetery	1868	900
385-Family Cemetery	?	1100
386-Family Cemetery	?	1000
387-Collins Cemetery	1881-1917	600
388-Short Cemetery	19th Century	800
395-Family Cemetery	?	1500
432-Family Cemetery	?	1000

Range: 150' - 2000'
Average Distance: 832'

FIGURE 15

Number of Cemeteries per Distance Increment

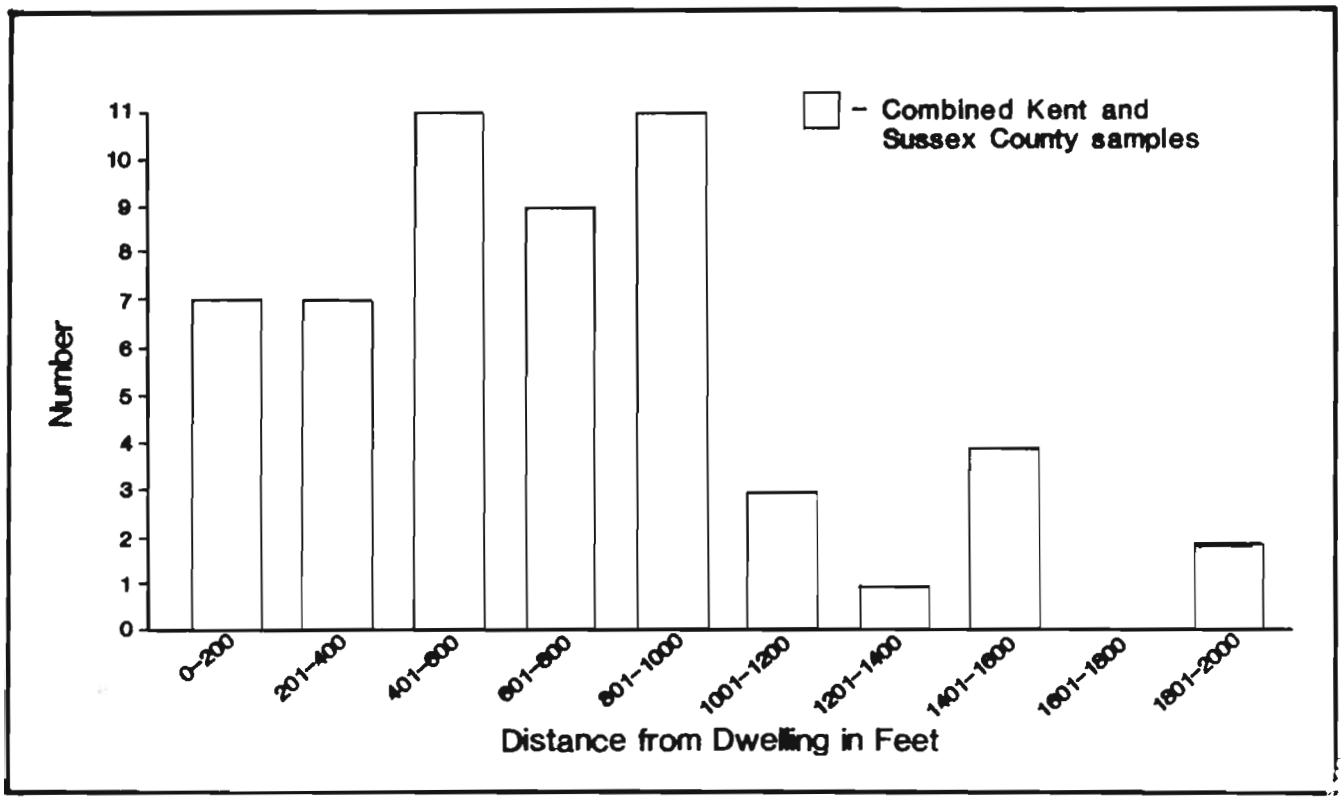


ownership and farm productivity.

The distances from the farmhouse to the cemetery are plotted in Figure 15. The dwelling to cemetery distance was measured in 200 foot increments from 0 to 2000 feet and the number of family cemeteries within each distance increment is shown. Figure 15 includes a comparison of the Kent and Sussex county samples; Figure 16 shows a composite of both samples. Although there are some minor inconsistencies between the two samples, there seems to be a peak between 400 and 1000 feet and a secondary peak at 1400-1600 feet. The Kent County data also show a fairly high number for the 0-200' distance.

FIGURE 16

Composite of Dwelling-to-Family Graveyard Distance, Combined Kent County and Sussex County Sample



Geographers have indicated that topography is an important consideration in cemetery placement for each farm (Francaviglia 1971; Jeane 1969; Price 1966), and the Kent County and Sussex County data support this conclusion. The dwelling is generally placed on a low ridge or rise affording good drainage. The distance of house to cemetery probably reflects the selection of a second piece of well drained high ground which falls within that 400-1000 foot distance from the farmhouse and which is also located in the rearward 180 degree semicircle away from the public road or thoroughfare. The family dead are shown respect through interment in a clearly demarcated burial plot located on a piece of well-drained ground within the family farmstead.

However, the placement of the cemetery several hundred feet from the dwelling also shows a desire of the living to be separated from the dead, and there could be several reasons for this. One reason could be for concerns of health. The graveyard would not be placed near a source of drinking water for fear of contamination. A second reason may have been to separate the sacred burial ground from the profane daily activities of the dwelling house and the nearby farmyard. The distance would reduce the probability that a pig or some other barnyard animal might disturb the graves. Finally, the detached nature of the family cemetery may have allowed for the private indulgence of ancestor veneration or worship.

Graveyards remaining on the landscape today which are no longer associated with a structure can be used in turn as locators or predictors for dwelling houses. The settlement and locational information outlined in the previous pages could be applied to a specific farmstead, perhaps one which had been allowed to return to mature forest, and used as an indicator for a house location. Topographic considerations and a knowledge of the early road system coupled with a known cemetery location may offer a more efficient method for survey.

CONCLUSIONS

Excavation at the Lafferty Lane Cemetery (7K-D-111) revealed the existence of a private family cemetery probably dating from the mid-eighteenth to the mid-nineteenth centuries. Thought to contain several generations of the Benjamin Brown, Sr. family. The cemetery measured 96 by 100 feet or