5.0 PYLE TENANT HOUSE SITE (7NC-D-256)

5.1 Introduction

The following discussion of the attributes and NRHP recommendation for the Pyle Tenant House site (7NC-D-256) were first submitted in 2003. Prior to SHPO comments on that submittal, the site location was completely obliterated by commercial development activities. The site location no longer exists; therefore, the site is not eligible for listing in the NRHP, and no further management of the site by DelDOT is required.

5.2 Twentieth Century Farm Sites and Archaeological Eligibility

Archaeological sites are typically assessed under Criterion D, the potential to yield significant data. Sites of the twentieth century are unusual because, unlike earlier sites, archaeology is often overwhelmed by other data sources (Henry 1995; Henry Renaud 1999). Oral history, history, photographic documentation, and sociology can often address twentieth century issues better than archaeology (Hartley 2002). Although we may not have photographs, living memories, and detailed archival documentation of a seventeenth century farm site, we are likely to have such resources for the twentieth century. Reconstructing past lifeways from archaeological evidence becomes less important when there are extensive narratives from other sources. The recentness of twentieth century sites requires that archaeologists 'raise the bar' when evaluating such sites, because the significance of data potential must be weighed against other more fruitful data sources.

In order to regiment the evaluation of the Pyle Tenant House site (7NC-D-256), previous tenant site studies were reviewed to identify key attributes. A site may have only one or a few of these attributes and still not be eligible. A broad suite of these attributes must be present before a reasonable argument can be made for eligibility. Most of the previous studies applied to eighteenth and/or nineteenth century resources, and, as discussed above, sites from the twentieth century require an even more rigorous eligibility assessment. When considering the eligibility of this twentieth century resource, the following attributes should be considered:

1. *Potential to identify/separate occupants.* The very nature of tenancy made for increased mobility and high turnover of occupancy at specific sites. If there is the likelihood that the occupants of a tenant house can be identified, the research value of the site increases. If there was only one or a few occupants through time, the research value is better than a site occupied by a multitude of short occupations.

2. *Ability to determine occupation span.* If the site signature can be linked to a specific time span (rather than a generalized period), the research value of the site is increased. There were undoubtedly subtle changes in tenant lifeways in response to local, state, national, and international developments, but these responses cannot be linked to their causes if the occupation span is vague.

3. *Ability to determine type of agricultural tenancy.* Orser and Holland (1984) have discussed the various forms of farm tenancy. If these various forms are treated as a monolithic constant, archaeological research will be of little value. There is a reasonable expectation that the type of tenancy influenced the material culture of the site's occupants. If the type of tenancy can be identified, the research value of the site increases.

4. *Length of occupation span.* All other things being equal, a short-term (snapshot) occupation will have better clarity and research potential than a long-term occupation. When addressing broad patterns of temporal change, it is more desirable to work with short, well-anchored time spans rather than broad spans that can lead to averaging. This is especially true for the twentieth century, when there were major, rapid changes in technology and culture.

5. *Potential for oral history.* Many of the most successful studies of tenant sites have relied heavily on oral history. Informants provide a living anchor for the study, help interpret archaeological findings, and can provide information on behavior or activities that left no archaeological signature.

6. *Ability to determine historic site plan (map, plat, or photograph).* Interpretations of site structure and proxemics are enhanced if a map, plat, or photograph of the tenant site can be located.

7. *Ability to determine uniqueness of ethnicity, farm products, tenant/owner relationships.* As discussed above, the more specificity that can be assigned to a site, the better that site will contribute to our understanding of variability due to ethnicity, the type of farm, and the relationship between owner and tenant.

8. *Post-abandonment use of site.* Post-abandonment use of the site can lead to a reduction in archaeological clarity. For example, dumping of early 1960s refuse on a site abandoned in 1956 can cloud refuse disposal patterns and make it difficult to attribute materials to the occupants.

9. *Ability to determine house size/form/internal organization.* The research potential of a tenant house site is increased if it retains information on the size, form, construction materials, and internal organization of the house. For many tenant sites (especially those of the House and Garden type), the house itself is the major artifact.

10. *Ability to date additions/modifications (organic growth).* Tenant houses often evolved as the needs for the house changed. Wings and porches were added, for example. If it is possible to link such changes to outside factors (e.g., increased profitability of the overall farm, change in agricultural focus), the research potential of the site is increased.

11. *Destruction mechanism (e.g., fire, razing, salvage).* The way in which the house and outbuildings were destroyed is directly relevant to the site's archaeological potential. Mechanical razing, for example, tends to destroy architectural features and refuse deposits.

Burning can encapsulate the building and its contents, although the heat of the fire can hinder identification of artifacts. Salvage of razed, burnt, or collapsed buildings can remove key artifact classes and weaken the interpretational potential of a site.

12. *Ability to compare site lay-out/organization to home site of farm owner/yeoman farmer.* A baseline research issue in historical archaeology is the study of how various classes of people responded to historical trends and events. The research potential of a tenant house is increased if similar data can be obtained from the associated owner's house.

13. *Ability to compare artifactual signatures with that of farm owner/yeoman farmer.* A baseline research issue in historical archaeology is the study of how various classes of people responded to historical trends and events. The research potential of a tenant house is increased if similar data can be obtained from the associated owner's house.

14. *Ability to compare with nearby site(s) of car-dependent, cash laborer.* It is impossible to define and defend a tenant signature if we are not sure that the signature is different from that of a car-dependent, cash laborer. Especially in the twentieth century, there are workplace options for the rural landless. The research value of a tenant site is increased if there are comparative data from contemporary home sites of cash laborers.

15. *Survival of original plantings and yard/landscape features.* Vegetation was purposefully placed on a landscape, and the location of various plants and trees helped to define space and proxemics. The survival of trees, hedges, and decorative plantings adds to the significance of a site.

16. *Survival of fence/boundary remnants.* Variation in the segmentation and use of space helps distinguish various types of tenant house sites. Our ability to reconstruct the use of space is greatly enhanced if the remnants of original fence lines, hedges, and other plantings are present. In addition, fence lines often became the focus for refuse disposal.

17. *Likelihood of outbuilding features.* Many of the activities that occurred at a tenant house were focused on the home, yard, and outbuildings. If a site lacks outbuildings (or features from outbuildings), it becomes more difficult to interpret past behaviors.

18. *Ability to match site to defined type (e.g., house and garden).* Many of the types of tenant homesites have been defined for resources with standing structures. If we are to explore the diversity of tenant sites, it is important to have the potential to link an archaeological example to a defined type.

19. *Ability to define possible gender-specific activity areas.* One area of study of tenant sites has been gender-specific activity areas. The male tenant was often focused on non-home areas (remote barns, silos, fields), while the female tenant had domain over much of the near-house activity areas. If such areas have been disturbed or mixed, the research value of a site is decreased.

20. *Ability to link refuse deposits to specific occupation span.* Tenant house occupants are notorious for the adaptive reuse of older items, and it is often difficult to ascertain the occupant associated with a specific refuse deposit. In addition, specific refuse areas (e.g., the burn drum) may have been reused over the entire occupation span of the house. The research potential of a site is increased if refuse deposits can be linked to specific occupations.

21. *Integrity of refuse deposits.* An archaeologist once observed of a Georgia tenant house site that "it's difficult to tell where the house refuse ends and the roadside dumping begins." Many tenant house sites quickly became refuse dumps upon the abandonment of the house. Such dumping can severely undermine our ability to link refuse to the site occupants. If refuse deposits are in subsurface features, or if sheet midden has not been contaminated by post-abandonment dumping, the research potential of the site is increased.

22. *Preservation of midden or features with ethnobotanical or zooarchaeological remains.* The twentieth century, especially its first half, was a time of great changes in foodways. The eating habits of tenants can be addressed through artifactual analyses (study of food cans, bottles, etc.) or oral history. However, their analyses are greatly strengthened when zooarchaeological and ethnobotanical remains have survived.

23. *Presence of sufficient artifacts to characterize lifeways, foodways, and consumer patterns of the site occupants.* In the 1980s, there was a dispute among archaeologists regarding the apparent depauperate artifact assemblage from Southern tenant sites (Trinkley 1983; Orser and Holland 1984). One school felt that this was a direct reflection of the impoverished material culture of the site occupants, but the other school attributed the poor artifact return to severe post-depositional processes including plowing/grading within feet of standing tenant houses, salvage of usable material, landform erosion, and purposeful cleaning of fields or forest lands. The greater issue becomes, regardless of the causes, will there be sufficient artifacts to properly characterize behavior at the site? Or, in other terms, does the archaeologist wish to expend funds and efforts to end up with only a handful of artifacts?

24. *Sufficient preservation of deposits to identify yard cleaning/refuse disposal patterns.* One area of recent research on tenant houses, especially those of Southern African Americans, is yard-cleaning behavior. Was there a grass lawn or a dirt yard? Was the yard raked or swept, with artifacts deposited on the margins or in refuse pits? If intact refuse deposits are present, the research potential of the site increases.

25. *Presence of features filled during occupation of site (abandoned wells, refuse pits, privies).* The mere presence of a privy or well on a tenant site does not guarantee that a productive, sealed deposit is present. If the privy or well remained open throughout the occupation span, it will contain only a few dropped or lost artifacts, as well as post-abandonment material of unknown origin. However, if a tenant house occupation saw the abandonment and filling of a well or privy (either of which may have occurred with a switch to modern plumbing), the refuse used in backfilling should be attributable to the site occupants.

26. *Potential for intact living floors (e.g., cellar depression).* When artifacts are found *in situ* on a living floor, the archaeologist can be confident of their association with the occupation of the structure. Cellar floors have proven a valuable source of data for nineteenth century tenant sites in Delaware.

Table 5 provides data on the attributes of various farm sites that were recommended as eligible for listing in the NRHP. In reviewing these data, key constellations of attributes were identified that most contributed to the success of the studies. These included: oral history, ability to identify the occupants, and historic map/photograph documentation of site structure; the presence of

outbuildings and features closed during the occupation of the site; and integrity of refuse deposits and ability to link specific refuse episodes to specific occupants.

Table 5.
Attributes of Select NRHP-Eligible Farm Sites Previously Subjected to Phase III Data Recovery Research

Attribute	Temple 7NC-D-68	Williams 7NC-D-130	Whitten Rd. 7NC-D-100	Ferguson N-3902	Grant 7NC-B-6	Kimmey 7K-C-119
Identify occupants	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Determine occupation span	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Determine type of agricultural tenancy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Length of occupation span	130 years	52 years, 29 years, 40 years	75 years	150 years	40 years	101 years, 27 years
Oral history	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
Historic site plan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Determine uniqueness of ethnicity, farm products, tenant/owner relationships	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Post-abandonment use of site	Plowed	Plowed	Plowed	House standing, plowed yards	Plowed	Woodland
Determine house size/form/internal organization	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Dating additions/modifications	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Destruction mechanism						
Compare site lay-out/organization to home site of farm owner/yeoman farmer	No	No	No	No	No	Within site
Compare artifactual signature with that of farm owner/yeoman farmer	No	No	No	No	No	Within site
Compare with nearby site(s) of car-dependent, cash laborer	No	No	No	No	No	No
Survival of original plantings and yard/landscape features	No	No	No	Limited	No	Yes
Survival of fence/boundary remnants	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Outbuilding features	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Match site to defined type (e.g., House and Garden)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Define possible gender-specific activity areas	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Link refuse deposits to specific occupation span	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Integrity of refuse deposits	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Good	Good
Midden/features with ethnobotanical or zooarchaeological remains	Yes	Yes	Limited	Yes	Yes	Yes

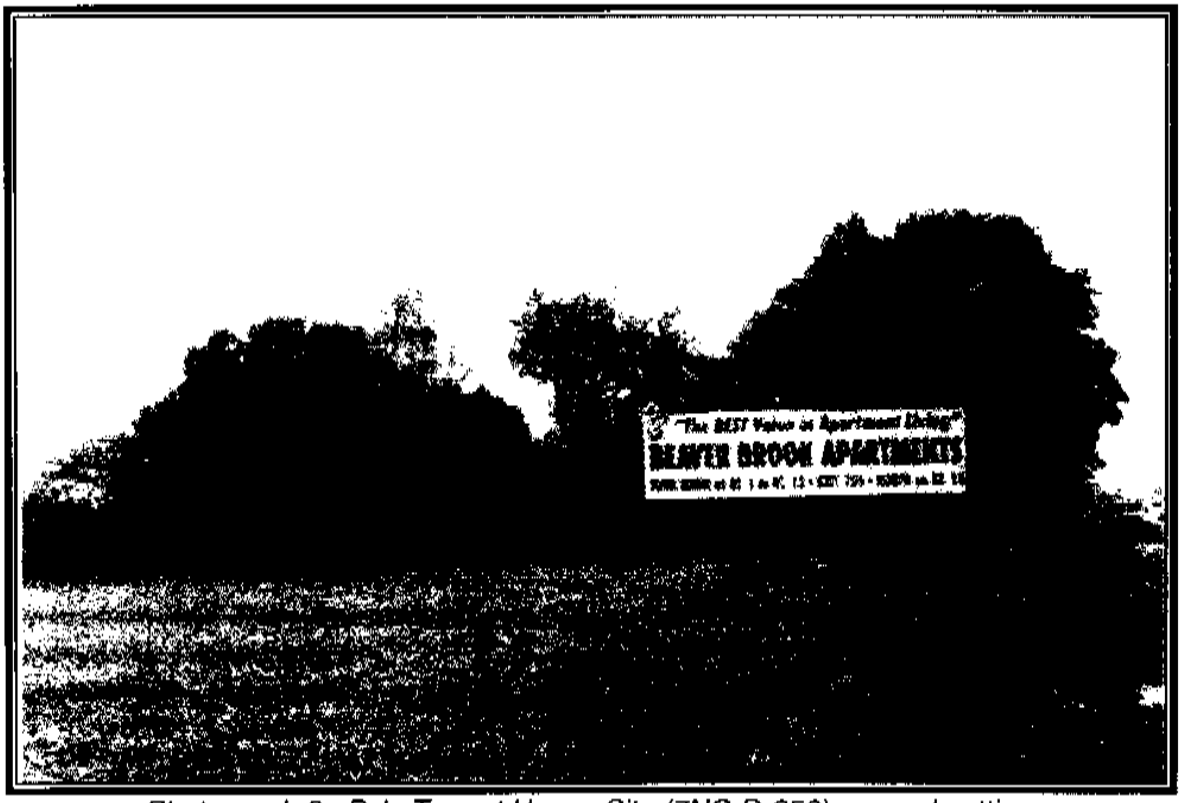
Attribute	Temple 7NC-D-68	Williams 7NC-D-130	Whitten Rd. 7NC-D-100	Ferguson N-3902	Grant 7NC-B-6	Kimmey 7K-C-119
Sufficient artifacts to characterize lifeways, foodways, and consumer patterns	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sufficient preservation of deposits to identify yard cleaning/refuse disposal patterns	Unknown	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Presence of features filled during occupation of site	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Intact living floors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Source	Hoseth *et al.* 1990	Catts and Custer 1990	Shaffer *et al.* 1988	Coleman *et al.* 1983	Taylor *et al.* 1987	Jamison *et al.* 1997

5.3 Pyle Tenant House Site (7NC-D-256) Background

The Pyle Tenant House site (7NC-D-256) is located in and immediately north of the APE (see Figure 2:Sheet 9; Photograph 3). It was first discovered when a poured concrete foundation was found during the geomorphological reconnaissance (Photograph 4). During the archaeological survey, the surface features at the site were mapped, a surface collection was completed in the plowed field surrounding the site, probing was undertaken to seek the well and privy locations, and eight STPs were excavated. The 1922 pre-build maps (Figure 3) illustrate a two-story frame house at this location (State Highway Department 1922). Oral history research was undertaken with the occupants of the neighboring farm, a chain-of-title was established, tax records were reviewed, and the 1920 census was examined.

The site is located on property that originated as two farms separately transferred to George Bole by James Stroup in an 1835 unrecorded deed and by William and Sarah Ann Johnson in an 1838 unrecorded deed. In his 1877 will (New Castle County Wills 1877:Book D2, Page 353), George Bole bequeathed a life interest in the 46.5 ha (115.0 ac) farm to his half-sister Amanda Toppin. Upon the 1891 death of Amanda Toppin, the farm passed to William Lott, who was George Bole's nephew (New Castle County Deeds 1891:Book T24, Pages193-195).

Upon the resolution of a suit in the New Castle County Chancery Court, William and Sarah Ann Lott, who lived in Havre-de-Grace, Maryland, transferred the farm to Edward T. Pyle in 1913 (New Castle County Deeds 1913:Book P29, Page 430; New Castle County Chancery Court Records, Equity Records 1913:Reel 130, Page 410). The 1920 U.S. Census identified Edward T. Pyle and Howard B. Pyle as residents to the city of Wilmington (U.S. Census 1920: Vol. 6, E.D. 131, Sheet 9, Line 61; Vol. 7, E.D. 82, Sheet 3, Line 13).



Photograph 3. Pyle Tenant House Site (7NC-D-256) general setting, facing east-northeast.

Photograph 4. Pyle Tenant House Site (7NC-D-256), eastern wall of poured concrete foundation, facing north.

In 1917, Edward T. Pyle's tax assessment included: 44.5 ha (110.0 ac) of tillable land, a frame house, and a barn, all assessed at $6,200; 2.0 ha (5.0 ac) of woodland assessed at $200; and stock assessed at $350. There is no mention of a tenant house (New Castle County Board of Assessment 1917).

In 1918, the tax assessments changed to a tabular format. The 44.5 ha (110.0 ac) of tillable land was assessed at $7,700, the 2.0 ha (5.0 ac) of woodland at $150, and the stock at $900 (New Castle County Board of Assessment 1918). The value of structures had $2,300 crossed out and $3,000 written in, suggesting new construction in 1917 or 1918. This increase in structure valuation probably represents the construction of the tenant house.

The Edward Pyle assessments for 1922 and 1925 were identical to each other (New Castle County Board of Assessment 1922, 1925). Pyle had 44.0 ha (108.8 ac) of tillable land assessed at $7,000 and 2.0 ha (5.0 ac) of unimproved land assessed at $150. The buildings on the parcel were valued at $5,000, and the stock was valued at $1,850. Pyle's total assessment for the farm was $14,000.

The 1920 U.S. Census listed a tenant farmer's household in the vicinity of the Pyle Tenant site when it was owned by Edward T. Pyle. The household included Ray Thorpe, a 33-year-old white farm manager, his wife, and their three children, Ray's brother-in-law, Ray's daughter, and two hired men who worked as farm laborers (U.S. Census 1920: Vol. 9, E.D. 160, Sheet 5, Line 1). The possibility that these are the occupants of the Pyle tenant house is based on proximity to the listing for the Walther farm and identification of the occupants as farm managers and laborers. There are no extant maps of the census route in 1920, and it is not possible to conclusively link the Thorpe household to the Pyle Tenant site.

In 1922, the state of Delaware acquired a 0.5 ha (1.3 ac) right-of-way from Edward T. Pyle for improvements to U.S. Route 40 (New Castle County Deeds 1913:Book P29, Page 430). The 1922 pre-builds show a "Fr. Ho." at the site location, on land owned by Edward Pyle (State Highway Department 1922). There is a hedge along the property line approximately 4.0 m (13.1 ft) west of the tenant house, a board fence approximately 7.0 m (23.0 ft) east of the tenant house, and two large trees south of the tenant house between the house and the original lanes of Route 40. The trees were lost to the dualization of Route 40 in the mid-1930s.

An interview with the Walthers, owners of the century farm adjacent to the tenant site, verified that Edward Pyle had owned the farm next door. The Walthers were unclear if Pyle had used the main house (near the silos) as a residence, or if a farm manager had lived there. The Walthers reported that a man named Street may have lived in the tenant house at one time. When

asked if there had been a series of residents or just one or two families, Ms. Walthers reported that "I just didn't pay much attention" (Ms. Walthers, personal communication 2002).

Through an unrecorded transfer, Howard B. Pyle and Lottie J. Pyle acquired the property. In 1934, Howard B. Pyle, who at this time lived in Queen Anne's County, Maryland, and Lottie J. Pyle, who lived in the city of Wilmington, transferred the farm to the Delaware Poultry Farm, Inc. (New Castle County Mortgage Records 1934:Book I26, Page 110). However, Delaware Poultry Farm, Inc., defaulted on the mortgage, and a New Castle County Superior Court judge ordered the property to be returned to the Pyles in November 1935 (New Castle County Superior Court Records 1935:Judgement Docket, Book L5, Page132; New Castle County Deeds 1935:Book U39, Page 83).

Richard M. and Alberta A. Boys, who lived in the city of Wilmington, acquired the farm from the Pyles in 1936 (New Castle County Deeds 1936:Book X39, Page 18). In 1944, Richard M. and Alberta A. Boys sold the farm to Flaviano and Norma Calvarese (New Castle County Deeds 1944:Book F44, Page 217).

The 1946 pre-builds show the location as being on the land of F. Calvarese (State Highway Department 1946). The "farm entrance" is shown in front of the location of the barn and silo, and wire fences are shown defining the location of the Site 2 tenant house.

Norma Calvarese died in 1950, and Flaviano Calvarese died in 1956. Their executor sold the farm to Material Transit, Inc. in 1958 (New Castle County Deeds 1958:Book P62, Page 20). In 1995, Material Transit, Inc. sold the property to William Q. Saienni, Elmer D. Saienni, and Salvatore J. Saienni, who had formed a general partnership known as Saienni Enterprises (New Castle County Deeds 1995:Book 2034, Pages 144-146). It is possible that the 1956 death of Flaviano Calvarese marked the last occupation of the tenant house at the Pyle Tenant House site (7NC-D-256) location.

The *Soil Survey of New Castle County, Delaware* (Matthews and Lavoie 1970) used aerial photographs taken in 1962 as its base mapping. The tenant house at the site was still standing in 1962. No outbuildings can be discerned. The house is not depicted on the quadrangle maps from 1904 and 1993.

The Walther family owned the farm immediately west of the site for more than 100 years. Mr. Walther and his sister verified that the building was a tenant house associated with the farm (barn and silo standing) to the east. It was a two-story frame house. It was built early in the twentieth century. It was "torn down a long time ago." There were no outbuildings other than a privy. The Walthers verified the past ownership of the overall farm by Edward Pyle and then by F. Calvarese (Mr. Walther, personal communication 2002; Ms. Walther, personal communication 2002).

5.4 Archaeological Findings at the Pyle Tenant House Site (7NC-D-256)

The Pyle Tenant House site (7NC-D-256) includes a poured concrete foundation, a brick-lined well, a collapsed privy, fence remnants, a push pile, and dumps of middle-late twentieth century bottles (Figure 4; Photographs 5, 6, 7, and 8). The site is predominately captured within a wooded area, and only a thin scatter of plow-disturbed artifacts are present in the plowed field surrounding the western, northern, and eastern sides of the site. A fiber-optic cable has been buried 3.0 m (9.8 ft) south of the southern end of the foundation, and the existing edge of pavement for Route 40 is only 6.0 m (19.7 ft) south of the foundation.

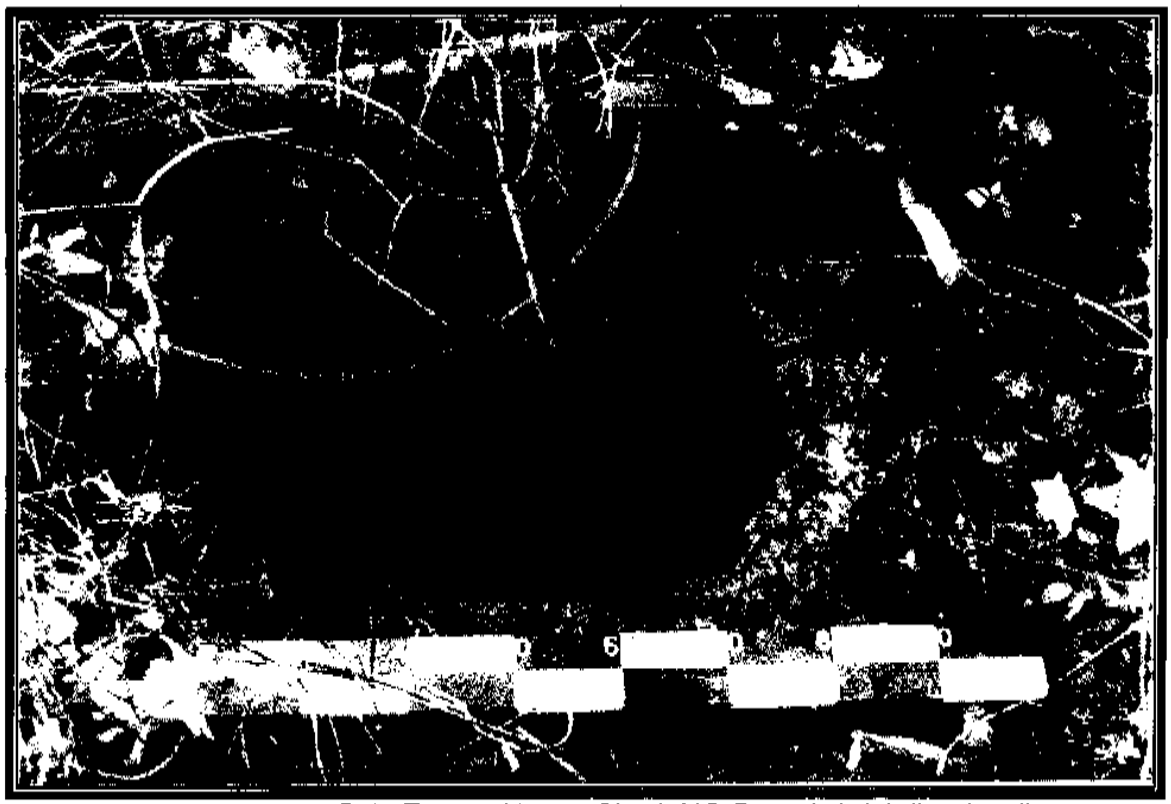
The foundation measures 10.9 x 7.3 m (35.7 x 23.8 ft). There is a 0.9 m (3.0 ft) wide door opening at the front right corner of the house, and possibly a narrow door at the right rear corner. There are two internal support piers, also made of poured concrete. The displaced sections of the front wall of the foundation suggest that the foundation was exposed for approximately 52.0 cm (20.5 in) above the ground surface and sunken approximately 43.0 cm (16.9 in) into the soil. The poured concrete foundation walls are 20.5 cm (8.1 in) wide. There are two 25.0 cm (9.8 in) diameter hardwoods growing inside the foundation. There is no indication of a cellar depression, and the Walthers do not believe that the house had a cellar (Mr. Walther, personal communication 2002; Ms. Walther, personal communication 2002).

STP N100 E100 was a 50.0 x 50.0 cm (19.7 x 19.7 in) unit placed near the center of the foundation. The stratigraphy included: a fill zone of modern trash mixed with limited plaster representing a post-destruction zone from 0-10.0 cm (0-3.9 in) below ground surface (bgs); a destruction zone comprised of 80 percent plaster, with a few wire nails and flat glass from 10.0-14.0 cm (3.9-5.5 in) bgs; a thin, artifact-free layer of 10YR 2/1 black silt loam, which represents the accumulation of sub-floor dirt during the occupation of the house from 14.0-16.0 cm (5.5-6.3 in) bgs; and a natural subsoil of 10YR 5/4 yellowish brown loam (Figure 5). There is no evidence in this profile for burning or collapse of the house. Instead, the stratigraphy suggests the purposeful razing of the house.

The well was positioned 1.0 m (3.3 ft) north of the centerpoint of the northern wall of the foundation. The well was brick-lined, and had been adapted for use with an electric pump. The well measured 0.9 m (3.0 ft) in diameter.

The remnants of a collapsed privy were discovered at N133 E108. One corner post and a portion of one wall were still standing, but the majority of the privy structure had collapsed to the northeast. STP N133 E108 was placed in the approximate center of the 2.4 x 1.2 m (8.0 x 4.0 ft)

Photograph 5. Pyle Tenant House Site (7NC-D-256), central pier and displaced pieces of southern wall of foundation, facing south.

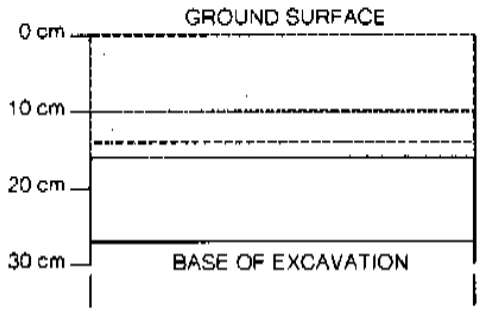


Photograph 6. Pyle Tenant House Site (7NC-D-256), brick-lined well, facing northwest.

Photograph 7. Pyle Tenant House Site (7NC-D-256), privy remnants, facing west.

Photograph 8. Pyle Tenant House Site (7NC-D-256), bottle dump near N122 E97, facing north.

SOIL PROFILE
SHOVEL TEST PIT
N100 E100



Fill 1	10YR 3/3 Dark brown fill with modern trash and plaster
Fill 2	10YR 3/3 Dark brown fill, with 80% plaster
Sub-floor	10YR 2/1 Black silt loam
Subsoil	10YR 5/4 Yellowish brown loam

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROUTE 40 IMPROVEMENTS
S.R. 896 TO S.R. 1
NEW CASTLE AND PENCADER HUNDREDS
NEW CASTLE COUNTY

SOIL PROFILE SHOVEL TEST PIT
N100 E100 SITE 7NC-D-256

FIGURE - 5

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privy. The STP started as a 50.0 x 40.0 cm (19.7 x 15.8 in) unit, but was altered to a 70.0 x 40.0 cm (27.6 x 15.8 in) unit after a large piece of fiberglass roofing was discovered running north-south through the western half of the original unit. The privy was relatively shallow, with a single fill zone extending from the surface to 40.0 cm (15.8 in) bgs (Figure 6). The fill was 10YR 3/3 dark brown mottled with 10YR 3/2 very dark grayish brown and 10YR 4/3 brown silt loam. The subsoil was 10YR 5/4 yellowish brown loam. The privy fill contained a mix of domestic artifacts, including: a leather work boot; a green Canada Dry Ginger Ale bottle with white and red label from the 1960s; a clear glass bottle with a Duraglass mold date of 1948; and a clear glass, half pint flask embossed "FEDERAL LAW PROHIBITS SALE OR REUSE OF THIS BOTTLE" (used 1932-1964), with a mold date of 1954. There were no deep, intact, or pre-1950s deposits in the privy.

Remnants of a hog-wire fence were discovered on the eastern and northern sides of the former yard. The fence was supported by a mixture of wood and metal posts.

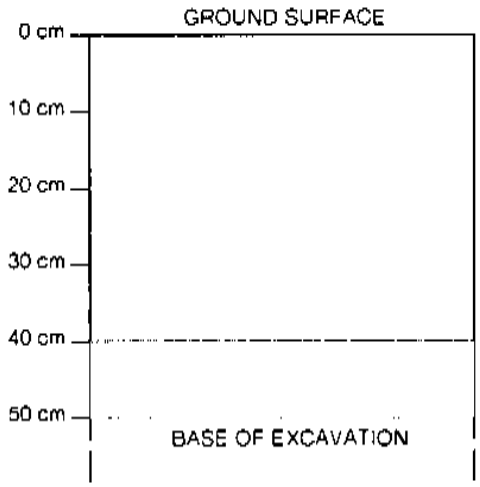
A large push pile was recorded in the southeastern corner of the site. The excavation of STP N94 E120 documented at least 1.0 m (3.3 ft) of clean, 7.5YR 5/8 strong brown sandy clay loam. This deposit did not contain any household artifacts, and appears to represent post-destruction dumping from an off-site location.

STPS N100 E110, N115 E100, and N115 E110 documented a light artifact scatter in disturbed topsoil (Figure 7). There was no evidence for side yard or backyard midden accumulations.

Discrete bottle dumps were centered at N120 E110, N122 E97, and N131 E109 (near the privy), and there was also a generalized scatter of trash from the 1960s through present over most of the backyard. The bottle dump at N120 E110 included liquor and soda bottles with mold dates of 1956, 1950, 1956, and 1953. The dump at N122 E97 likewise contained liquor and soda bottles with mold dates of 1954 and 1956, and a 1960s cereal box toy. The bottle dump near the privy contained similar bottles, including a 1966 *Cloverdale: Stays Lively Longer* bottle and another with a mold date of 1959. This bottle dump and the privy both contained safety glass formed by encasing chicken wire in light blue flat glass, and used in windows for structures.

The bottle dumps and the generalized scatter are indicative of post-abandonment dumping. Upon abandonment, former structure locations often became the target for refuse disposal. At the Pyle Tenant House site (7NC-D-256), the proximity to a major road made it an attractive location for dumping. The driveway at the site apparently remained open after abandonment. Post-abandonment dumping becomes a major problem when the occupation span of the structures ends at the start date of the dumping. It is not possible in these conditions to determine conclusively which artifacts of a scatter represent occupation debris and which represent scattered material from

SOIL PROFILE
SHOVEL TEST PIT
N133 E108



Fill	10YR 3/3 Dark brown mottled with 10YR 3/2 Very dark grayish brown and 10YR 4/3 Brown silt loam
B	10YR 5/4 Yellowish brown loam

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROUTE 40 IMPROVEMENTS
S.R. 896 TO S.R. 1
NEW CASTLE AND PENCADER HUNDREDS
NEW CASTLE COUNTY

SOIL PROFILE SHOVEL TEST PIT
N133 E108 SITE 7NC-D-256

FIGURE - 6

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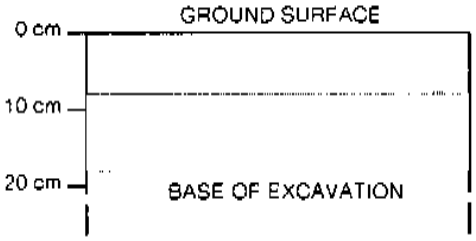
SOIL PROFILE
SHOVEL TEST PIT
N100 E110



Disturbed A 10YR 3/2 Very dark grayish brown silt loam

B 10YR 5/6 Yellowish brown silt loam

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
ROUTE 40 IMPROVEMENTS S.R. 896 TO S.R. 1 NEW CASTLE AND PENCADER HUNDREDS NEW CASTLE COUNTY
SOIL PROFILE SHOVEL TEST PIT N100 E110 SITE 7NC-D-256
FIGURE - 7 / SKELLY AND LOY, INC. CONSULTANTS IN ENVIRONMENT - ENERGY ENGINEERING - PLANNING

immediate post-abandonment dumping. The clarity of the archaeological remains is severely damaged by post-abandonment dumping.

5.5 Attributes of the Pyle Tenant House Site (7NC-D-256)

The archaeological and oral history investigations of the site allow it to be evaluated relative to the key attributes discussed above (Table 6). Although the occupation span can be estimated at 39 years (1917-1956), the end date is uncertain due to prevalent, post-abandonment dumping. The surname "Street" was possibly associated with the house, but it is unknown how many different families occupied the house. Likewise, it is unclear if the occupants were tenants, farm managers, cash labor renters, or a mixture of all of these through time. The oral history indicates that the neighbors paid more attention to the house than to its occupants, perhaps reflecting a social distance between farm owners and tenants/managers.

Table 6.
Assessment of Eligibility Attributes for the Pyle Tenant House Site (7NC-D-256)

Attribute	Condition at Pyle Tenant House Site
Identify occupants	Vaguely possible. Closest neighbor knows only one of the former occupants. Closest neighbor unclear if there were many different occupants during the span of the tenant house.
Determine occupation span	Start date known (1917). Final occupation date estimated at 1956.
Determine type of agricultural tenancy	Unclear. It is unknown if farm manager, tenant, or cash renter was present during span of tenant house.
Length of occupation span	Estimated at 39 years, but post-abandonment dumping has clouded terminal dating. Relatively long span given immense changes that occurred in twentieth century Delaware.
Oral history	Walthers have some recollections, but "just didn't pay much attention." Occupants have not been located.
Historic site plan	Partially known from 1922 pre-builds.
Determine uniqueness of ethnicity, farm products, tenant/owner relationships	Ethnicity, farm products, and occupant/owner relationships unknown.
Post-abandonment use of site	Razing of house. Extensive dumping of domestic artifacts from off-site sources. Plowing on fringes.
Determine house size/form/internal organization	House size known. Internal organization unknown. Razing and post-abandonment dumping have clouded any artifactual indications of internal structure.
Dating additions/modifications	No known additions, modifications.
Destruction mechanism	"Torn down a long time ago." The deposits in the foundation and surrounding yard indicate razing and removal of the structural debris.
Compare site lay-out/organization to home site of farm owner/yeoman farmer	Site of owner's house is not owned by DelDOT.
Compare artifactual signature with that of farm owner/yeoman farmer	Site of owner's house is not owned by DelDOT.

Attribute	Condition at Pyle Tenant House Site
Compare with nearby site(s) of car-dependent, cash laborer	No data base for comparison.
Survival of original plantings and yard/landscape features	Some yard trees have survived.
Survival of fence/boundary remnants	Some surviving remnants of hog-wire fencing shown on 1922 mapping.
Outbuilding features	"Only a privy." Privy remnant the only outbuilding evidenced archaeologically.
Match site to defined type (e.g., House and Garden)	House and Garden in form, but function unknown (tenant, manager, cash labor renter).
Define possible gender-specific activity areas	Surface and near-surface deposits compromised by razing and post-abandonment dumping.
Link refuse deposits to specific occupation span	It is not possible to link artifacts to site occupants rather than to off-site source of post-abandonment dumping.
Integrity of refuse deposits	No intact refuse deposits discovered. Site heavily reused for post-abandonment dumping.
Midden/features with ethnobotanical or zooarchaeological remains	None discovered or suspected.
Sufficient artifacts to characterize lifeways, foodways, and consumer patterns	Insufficient artifacts that can be conclusively linked to occupants of site.
Sufficient preservation of deposits to identify yard cleaning/refuse disposal patterns	Yard refuse deposits badly disturbed by razing, post-abandonment dumping, and extensive groundhog activity.
Presence of features filled during occupation of site	No indication of features filled during the occupation of site.
Intact living floors	No intact living floors. House lacked cellar and usable crawl space.

Although the site structure is known from the 1922 pre-builds, oral history, and the archaeological investigations, the site does not include intact deposits that can be linked to the site occupants. The intensity of immediate post-abandonment dumping, the effects of razing the house and removing the detritus, and the extensiveness of groundhog activity in the side and backyards have all mixed the occupation debris with off-site refuse. The privy contains only late occupation or post-abandonment deposits, and the well remained open and functional through the entire occupation span. There is no expectation for additional outbuilding loci.

A twentieth century tenant site can, under ideal situations, provide significant data on lifeways of a poorly documented class of society. However, the Pyle Tenant House site (7NC-D-256) is not a good example of this site type, and cannot address any meaningful research issues. The Pyle Tenant site lacks the key attributes that would allow it to make a significant contribution to our understanding of the historic lifeways of New Castle County. The Pyle Tenant House site (7NC-D-256) is recommended not eligible for listing in the NRHP, and no further work is warranted.

The attribute-based analysis used for the Pyle Tenant site is one of many ways to evaluate such a site. In support of our recommendation of not eligible for listing in the NRHP, it is appropriate to consider other efforts to lessen the subjectiveness of eligibility calls for farmstead sites. In 2001, Miller and Klein (2001) presented a framework for evaluating and rating the research value of farmstead sites from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Miller and Klein created a scorecard approach that considered site type, structural evidence, archaeological evidence, documentary evidence, oral history, and occupation period/length of occupation. Within each attribute (e.g., oral history), points are offered for various conditions (e.g., long-term occupants-3 points, old neighbors of site-2 points, knowledgeable local historian-1 point). Miller and Klein then defined typical point scores for owner-occupied sites and tenant-occupied sites of various periods. Miller and Klein (2001:6) note that "sites that score below these (typical) scores probably are not strong candidates for research." The threshold defined for tenant-occupied sites of the World War I to World War II era is 17 points. When the attributes of the Pyle Tenant House site (7NC-D-256) are scored, 16 is the highest possible score (Table 7) and that score is artificially inflated by receiving four points for the presence of intact features. However, neither the privy nor the well (the only features) have research potential. By the Miller and Klein approach -- as by the attribute approach used in this report -- the Pyle Tenant House site (7NC-D-256) is not a candidate for further research. The recommendation of not eligible is supported independently by the Miller and Klein approach.

Table 7.
Miller and Klein Attribute Score for the Pyle Tenant House Site (7NC-D-256)

Miller and Klein (2001) Attribute	Pyle Tenant House Site (7NC-D-256) Score
Site Type	Tenant farm, identity/ethnicity of tenants unknown/3 points.
Structural Evidence	Ruins/2 points.
Archaeological Evidence	Sheet trash + (marginally) intact features/2 + 4 = 6 points.
Documents	Low detail deeds, low detail tax records, no probate, no diaries, no accounts, no photos/2 points.
Oral History	Low potential, old neighbors/2 points.
Occupation Period	World War I-World Ware II/1 point.
Length of Occupation	More than 20 years/0 points.
Total Score	16 points

The somewhat dated approach presented by De Cunzo and Catts (1990) can also be seen as supporting the recommendation of not eligible for the Pyle Tenant House site (7NC-D-256). De Cunzo and Catts (1990:194-196) defined a set of criteria which historic archaeological sites must meet to be considered eligible (a slightly modified version of this approach was also presented in De Cunzo and Garcia 1992). Table 8 presents the De Cunzo and Catts requirements and how the Pyle

Tenant House site (7NC-D-256) generally fails to meet those requirements. By the De Cunzo and Catts (1990) approach, the site is not eligible for listing in the NRHP. The De Cunzo and Catts approach was presented in the SHPO-reviewed and approved *Management Plan for Delaware's Historical Archaeological Resources*.

Table 8.
Eligibility Assessment of the Pyle Tenant House Site (7NC-D-256)
(after De Cunzo and Catts 1990)

Requirement for Eligibility	Pyle Tenant House Site (7NC-D-256) Condition
Extensive historical documentation and oral history	Indications that the archival record is limited. Only one occupant of site can possibly be identified.
Diverse historical documentation	No indication that diverse records are present for this site.
Potential for oral history	The best sources for oral history have been exhausted and provided only minimal information.
Short-term undisturbed deposits or long-term occupation with good integrity	Occupation fairly long-term for twentieth century, with severe mixing and clouding of record by post-abandonment dumping.
Good architectural integrity above ground and below ground	Only foundation of house and partial privy wall remain.
Good land use integrity	Site has been used for dumping of refuse and spoil dirt since abandonment.
Good feature and strata integrity	No expectation of intact strata. The high potential features (the well and the privy) do not have any pre-abandonment deposits.
Good range of artifact types	It is not possible to determine which artifacts are from occupation and which are from post-abandonment dumping.
Faunal and ethnobotanical remains	The only faunal remains are from post-abandonment dumping.
Representative by geography, time period, ethnicity, and socio-economics	The ethnicity and socio-economics of occupants probably cannot be determined.
Representative by farm type	The type of the farm cannot be determined.
Representative by tenure	It is unclear if the house was occupied by tenants, farm managers, cash laborers, or a combination of all three.
Ability to yield significant research data	The site cannot yield significant data to address any research issue defined in the Management Plan.

Under the De Cunzo and Garcia (1992) context, the Pyle Tenant House site (7NC-D-256) must be evaluated as an Agricultural Dwelling. De Cunzo and Garcia (1992) defined the following attributes (italicized below) to be considered in evaluating Agricultural Dwellings:

> *Physical Integrity.* The Pyle Tenant House site (7NC-D-256) lacks integrity of yard and refuse deposits, due to the razing of the structure and intensive post-abandonment dumping. The refuse of the occupants cannot be securely separated from that of their dumping neighbors. The site lacks sufficient integrity to meaningfully address the research realms of

Domestic Economy, Landscape, Manufacturing and Trade, or Group Identity, Behavior, and Interaction.

Temporal Integrity. The Pyle Tenant House site (7NC-D-256) has lost temporal integrity to post-abandonment dumping. The dumping has occurred over most of the side and backyards, and even the privy may have been subjected to use for post-abandonment refuse disposal. It is not possible to segregate late occupation refuse from immediate post-abandonment dumping.

Historical Documentation and Oral History. The archival research and oral history conducted to date suggest that the Pyle Tenant House site (7NC-D-256) and its occupants did not generate an extensive and diverse historic record. It is unlikely that past occupants can be identified, and the recentness of the occupation (start date of 1917-1918) limits possible census records to only 1920. The closest neighbors at the time of tenant house occupation "just didn't pay much attention." The historic record suggests that it may be impossible to determine if the occupants of the house were tenants, farm managers, cash renters, or a combination of all three through time. The Pyle Tenant House site (7NC-D-256) cannot be considered a "type" specimen for a tenant house. The site is not part of an overall farm complex that boasts intact architecture and landscaping.

Representativeness. The identity and farm role of the various occupants of the Pyle Tenant House site (7NC-D-256) cannot be determined. Attributes of representativeness which likely cannot be addressed for this site include: farm type; tenure; ethnicity; religion; household composition and structure; economic position of occupants; changes through time in farm type; and degree of participation in scientific agricultural reform movements.

Research Questions. The Pyle Tenant House site (7NC-D-256) lacks the potential to address Domestic Economy, Landscape, Manufacturing and Trade, or Group Identity, Behavior, and Interaction. The limited landscape information present at the site (i.e., the location of planted trees and fences) has already been documented during the Phase I survey, and duplicates data available from the 1922 pre-build maps. Without knowing the identities and agricultural roles of the site occupants, there is no way to anchor the basic landscape information to a specific property type. The issues of Domestic Economy and Manufacturing and Trade cannot be addressed because of lack of integrity of refuse deposits, caused by post-abandonment dumping.

Association with Significant Person or Event. During the Phase I historic resource survey, no evidence was recovered to indicate that the overall Pyle farm was in any way associated with a significant person or event (Kuncio and Hyland 2006).

As with the other approaches to evaluating agricultural sites, the De Cunzo and Garcia (1992) method proves that the site lacks the archaeological evidence important to meaningfully address any of the key research issues identified in the appropriate state context documents. The original recommendation for the Pyle Tenant House site (7NC-D-256) of not eligible for listing in the NRHP is further supported under the approach of De Cunzo and Garcia (1992).