METHODOLOGY

ARCHIVAL METHODS

Limited archival research conducted as part of the Phase I/II report indicated only that the A. Temple Site was a tenant farm and not the "Red House Plantation" (Coleman et al. 1987) (Appendix II). In order to satisfy and fulfill the proposed research design (Appendix III), complete archival research was carried out to reconstruct the historic occupation of the site. This research included a more detailed study of deeds, tax

assessments, probate records, and other court records used in the preliminary study. In addition, agricultural censuses and population censuses were consulted in an effort to learn of the inhabitants at the site. Interviews with past owners of the property aided in a detailed history of the site during the early twentieth century which included a drawing of the farm complex layout, photographs, and a map with names of neighbors showing areas of interaction during the early to mid-twentieth century (Appendix VII).

FIELD METHODS

The original field methods outlined in the Phase III Data Recovery Plan (Appendix III) were altered because the Delaware Department of Transportation changed the limits of the ROW (Figure 16) to include an area only 100 feet south of the present road bed (Figure 17). This change caused the cancellation of excavations in Area D (Appendix III). The data recovery plan also noted that all units in Area A closest to the house were to be completely excavated by hand. However, preliminary testing in this area revealed extensive disturbance by plowing and only random testing was done in the area.

A 14,000 square foot area of the A. Temple Site that fell within the limits of direct impact of the proposed ROW was excavated during Phase III data recovery excavations. A 100' x 140' grid system was superimposed over the area and was divided into 10' x 10' subunits. A 5' x 5' test unit was randomly selected from within each of the 10' x 10' subunits and excavated, thus producing a 25 percent stratified, systematic,

unaligned sample of the plowzone (Figure 18; Plate 5). This sample technique was used because the results of the Whitten Road sample simulation (Shaffer et al. 1988) showed that excavation of 25 percent of plowzone deposits provides a representative sample of artifacts and a reliable view of their distribution. Larger samples do not provide significantly more reliable data. Plowzone test units were excavated as one soil level down to but not including the subsoil. All soils were screened through 1/4 inch wire mesh and all artifacts recovered were bagged according to test unit provenience and grid coordinates. Following the sampling of the plowzone, the remaining plowzone was mechanically removed with a backhoe. It should be noted that during the backhoe operations, areas of the site were disturbed by the wheels of the vehicle. It is felt by these researchers that a grade-all would be more beneficial in stripping away plowzone with the least amount of disturbance to the subsoil (Catts and Custer 1990). Artifacts recovered during and after backhoe stripping were bagged as provenienced surface collections. After shovel skimming the subsoil surface, any features identified were assigned a number and mapped. All features were sectioned, profiled, plan viewed and fully excavated. All soils from the features were screened and artifacts bagged in a similar fashion to that described for the plowzone units. Soil samples were collected from selected features, each of the 5' x 5' plowzone test units, and from the southwest corner subsurface of each 10' x 10' subunit. Chemical analyses of the soil samples were conducted by the Soils Laboratory of the University of Delaware, College of Agriculture (Appendix IV). Black and white and/or

35-mm color slides were taken of selected features, subsurface plan views, and plowzone sample test units.

LABORATORY METHODS AND ARTIFACT ANALYSIS

Prior to a detailed artifact analysis, the standard artifact processing procedures of the Delaware Bureau of Museums were applied to all artifacts recovered from the Phase III excavations. All artifacts, bone and shell were cleaned in the lab with untreated water, or, in the case of deteriorating bone, damp-brushed. Bone and shell were then placed in labeled bags, while other artifacts were themselves labeled with the site numbers and a three digit provenience number. Artifacts were sorted into categories for cataloging based on their material composition. The total artifact count for each unit and feature is provided in Appendix I.

Ceramic artifacts were catalogued on one or two different catalogue sheets, depending on their provenience. Ceramics from the Temple Site were catalogued according to their contexts; those from the plowzone sampling excavations, those from the feature excavations, and those from surface collections. A preliminary analysis on the sherd level was made for the ceramics found during mechanical stripping of the site, plowzone sampling excavations and surface collecting. Ceramics recovered from the features were sorted as to ware type, and vessel reconstruction and cross-mending were carried out to arrive at minimum vessel estimates using standard techniques. Vessels were then coded to a set of standard descriptive terms for analytical purposes. An example of the vessel analysis form is included in Appendix V.

In the designation of the South number for sherds and vessels, an effort was made to maintain South's original numbering scheme (Appendix VI). Mean ceramic dates were obtained from South (1977) or the adjusted dates found in Carlson (1983). The time-sensitive attributes and use-related descriptor vessel attributes were entered into a computer data base program. No cost-related attributes were recorded. The artifact data was organized into functional group and classification system of South (1977), but no comparative analysis was employed.

Attributes recorded for each ceramic sherd, if identified, were:

Ware - a combination of paste and glaze characteristics that serve to separate types on a basic level.

Plastic Decoration - records decorations involving the paste of the ceramic item. Examples include bat-molded plate rim treatments such as shell- and feather-edging and overall ribbed decoration such as that found on some teapots.

Color of Decoration - refers to the color of painted, or otherwise applied, decoration, including slips and glazes.

Applied Decoration - includes all non-plastic decorations having to do with applied color.

Variety - records certain types of decoration, for instance a specific, named transfer print such as the "Willow" pattern.

South Type Number - Stanley South codified the ceramics described by Noel-Hume (1978) in A Guide to Artifacts of Colonial America. Additional ceramic codification and dating were obtained from Carlson (1983). These types are useful as time markers and are used in South's Mean Ceramic Date Formula. The numbered types

found in the Temple assemblages are contained in Appendix VI.

Use/Shape/Function - these codes classify sherds according to the shape of the vessels they belong to and the use to which the vessels are put. Examples are chamber pot, milk pan, cup, and plate.

Count - sherd counts according to their positions on the vessel--rim, base, body, other (including handles and spouts, for instance), and total.

Vessel Number - in addition to provenience labeling, reconstructed vessels were assigned unique numbers to identify groups of mended sherds.

Date Range - range of time during which a particular type or variety was manufactured.

Median Date - median date of manufacture, from South (1977), used to calculate Mean Ceramic Dates for the early nineteenth century contexts.

Attributes recorded for each ceramic vessel were:

A) Minimum number of vessels estimated

B) Mean Ceramic Date on (A)

C) Vessel form

(1) flatware vs. hollowware

(2) Drinking form -

cups vs. mugs and jugs

D) Vessel function

(1) dining (tableware)

(2) drinking (tea and coffeewares)

(3) food preparation (dairy/kitchen)

(4) food storage (includes ceramic bottles)

(5) medicinal (chamber pots, hygiene)

(6) other

The data set derived from the vessel analysis was basic to inter-site assemblage comparisons.