

## MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

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This report presents the results of a multidisciplinary research program on Tweed's Tavern: the Gutherie-Giacomelli House (Tweed's Tavern) CRS-#N-1101, and the Tweed's Tavern Archaeological Site [7NC-A-18], two associated historic resources at the intersection of Limestone Road (State Route 7) and Valley Road, one mile south of the Pennsylvania state line in Mill Creek Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware. The work was carried out in fulfillment of the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended). The intersection has been improved by the Delaware Department of Transportation using funds from the Federal Highway Authority.

The work focuses on a log structure built in the mid 1790s as a purpose-built tavern. The study joins several other investigations of tavern sites in New Castle County and surrounding areas. It is intended as a contribution to the study of taverns and tavern life, and their relationship to transportation, in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, and to the understanding of regional vernacular architecture, particularly log buildings.

The work described here was the final stage in a series of identification and evaluation studies that started in the mid 1980s. In early 1999, identification of substantial remains of the late 18th-century log tavern within the standing house, and of an associated archaeological site —of which the main component was a trash deposit within a natural sinkhole — led to the development of a research design to document these resources and set them into a broader research context. Topics to be addressed included the relationship of taverns to the road system of northern Delaware in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, the status of Tweed's Tavern in relation to other taverns in the area, the log building in relation to other known Delaware examples, and the contribution of the artifact assemblage to the study both of the life of the tavern itself and to wider debates about the interpretation of the material culture of taverns.

A range of methods was used to address these questions. Primary documentary research was undertaken on title deeds, inventories, tavern license petitions, and other pertinent material, supplemented by consultation of a wide range of secondary sources. Oral history interviews were conducted to gain a picture of life on the property in the 1930s through the 1980s. The architecture of the log building was investigated through detailed measured drawings and through comparative and contextual studies, making use of data at the state Historic Preservation Office, the University of Delaware and the Historic American Buildings Record. The logs from which the building was constructed were dated to the mid 1790s by dendrochronological sampling. Preliminary characterization of the archaeology of the site was attempted through remote sensing, primarily directed towards locating outbuildings. This met with limited success as the archaeology of the site was generally rather disturbed.

Research set the site within its local framework, placing particular emphasis on the transportation network. The 18th- and early 19th-century development of Mill Creek Hundred and adjacent portions of northern New Castle County was heavily influenced by the road network that connected the Christina River, with its waterpowered grist mills and access to coastal and international trade networks, and the highly productive grain-producing

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areas of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. The development of this road network, culminating in the turnpiking of several routes in the early 1800s, is detailed. Limestone Road itself was not turnpiked.

Documentary data from a number of taverns in Mill Creek, Christiana and White Clay Creek Hundreds was examined and compared to determine if possible the influence of turnpiking on taverns, and to establish the status of Tweed's Tavern in relation to other establishments. The results showed that Tweed's Tavern, although a small establishment, was a successful property, although this success was probably due at least in part to the owners having additional income from farming.

The property was a tavern from the mid 1790s to 1831 and possibly later. Isaac Wilcox and James Harvey preceded John Tweed as innkeepers. After he took it over in 1804 its peculiar early name of Mudfort was replaced by his own. Members of the Tweed family remained associated with it until 1831. For much of the later 1800s it was in the hands of the Baldwin family. In the early 1930s it came into the ownership of the Giacomelli family. Life on the property in the 1930s, 40s and 50s has been recorded using information generously provided by family members, including many details about the log house itself.

The building itself was very thoroughly documented, first through plans and elevations by John Milner Architects, and then through log-by-log drawings of the surviving original fabric. The analysis of the data showed that the original building comprised a single room on each of the two floors, plus basement, attic and lean-to. Early interior and exterior wall treatments and fenestration were identified. The lean-to may have been equipped with a stove when it was constructed. The building was modified, probably in the 1830-1850 period. The first floor room was divided into two, and an additional exterior door was added to provide separate access to each space. The southern room may have remained in use as a bar. The first floor ceiling was raised by jacking up the second storey. The upstairs space was divided into several rooms and the walls plastered. Overall, the impression is of increased domesticity. Few alterations were subsequently made until the 1950s.

Stratigraphically intact archaeological resources were essentially confined to an area immediately north and northwest of the tavern building. Here, a large sub-circular feature, interpreted as the upper portions of a limestone sink hole, was encountered. Within this feature, sealed beneath a capping of compact clay, was a dark organic soil layer containing a substantial collection of artifacts dating from the late 18th through late 19th century. Between the pit and the house was a group of culverts or drains constructed of stone in the mid-1800s, apparently to divert water away from the building. Excavation units around the exterior of the log building located early 19th century artifacts in disturbed contexts.

The artifact assemblage from the sink hole feature and the surrounding area, and from the excavation units around the southern portion of the house, were studied in relation to ongoing methodological debate about tavern assemblages. This debate was reviewed and a range of basic intrasite and intersite analyses undertaken on the ceramics, faunal materials and assemblages as a whole. Intrasite analysis appeared to show some differences in function or disposal practices between the sink hole area and the areas around the house to the south.

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Deposition in the sink hole appeared to be more related to kitchen functions, but also continued for longer, into the last decades of the 19th century.

Although the chronological range of artifacts in the sink hole thus extended well beyond the tavern period, analysis was undertaken on artifact types that could be dated to the early 19th century. In common with other recent tavern investigations, it was concluded that there is nothing to distinguish this assemblage as coming from a tavern. Comparisons with several other taverns and with a nearby farmsite showed wide variation in the artifact data and no clear patterning among taverns or between the taverns and the domestic site. The large number of variables involved, and the complexity of early 19th-century culture, probably explain this lack of patterning. This contrasts to some extent with sites of the 17th and early 18th century, where more patterning is apparent in the artifact record.

Faunal analysis yielded some more interesting results. There was some evidence for the butchering of cattle and (less surprisingly) pig at the site. Meals eaten at the site showed a wider range of quality and therefore cost than those at the Riseing Son and King of Prussia taverns. Food at these establishments was consistently of poorer quality and less varied than that at Tweed's. It must be acknowledged that some of the Tweed's material may not be tavern-related, but the results are consistent with the documentary picture of the tavern as small but modestly prosperous.

The final section of the report evaluates the research design and makes suggestions for future approaches to the identified research themes.

### A NOTE ON COMPASS DIRECTIONS (Figure M.1.)

The long axis of the Tweed's Tavern building was aligned approximately northwest to southeast. During the work, a site grid was established using this main axis as the north-south line. For clarity, all archaeological and architectural descriptions used this site grid rather than the true compass directions. The "true" northwest wall of the building, for example, is referred to here as the north wall, the southwest wall as the west wall, and so on. All site maps and building plans show the relationship of the site grid north to true north, and directions on detail photographs refer to this grid. Overall views of the property refer to true compass directions in the captions.

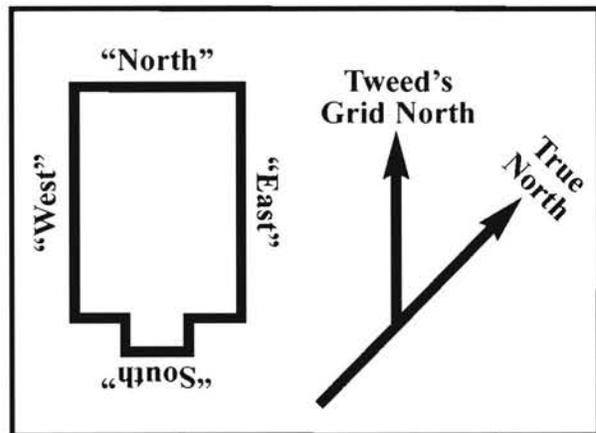


Figure M.1. Explanation of Compass Directions Terminology.