ABSTRACT

Phase III archaeological data recovery excavations were conducted at the Buchanan-Savin Farm site (7NC-J-175), a National Register Site in Blackbird Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware. The project was funded by the Delaware Department of Transportation prior to the construction of the Early Action Segment of the State Route 1 Corridor. Located in a plowed field approximately two miles north of Smyrna, the Buchanan-Savin site was the remains of a predominantly owner-occupied farmstead. The site was occupied from the second quarter of the nineteenth century until 1991. Over 275 historic features were identified and excavated, including the remains of eight outbuildings, two privies, five fencelines, a series of tile lines, two French drains, and a well. A total of eleven extant structures, including the Buchanan-Savin farmhouse, were also identified.

Archival research revealed that the site was occupied by a series of landed farmers beginning with George W. Buchanan ca. 1849. After Buchanan's death, the site was occupied by his widow, Anne E., his sons and eventually his grandson until 1921, when the property was purchased by Thomas Moffett. Moffett constructed a modern milk farm to the south of the historic farmyard. Soil chemical analysis found a diachronic correlation of phosphorus deposits, indicating human and animal activity areas. Archaeological remains were identified and utilized in material culture analysis, agricultural yard proxemics, ceramic and utilization analysis. These findings further compared to data from other excavated sites in the Mid-Atlantic region. Investigations at the Buchanan-Savin Farmstead outlined the lifeways of rural, landed, white farmers of the nineteenth and early twentieth century in central Delaware.