

## Material Culture from the Wilson Farm Tenancy: Artifact Analysis

### LABORATORY AND ANALYTICAL METHODS

The URS laboratory in Burlington, New Jersey, processed the artifacts recovered from Site 7NC-F-94. All artifacts were initially cleaned, labeled, and bagged (throughout, technicians maintained the excavation provenience integrity of each artifact). Stable artifacts were washed in water with Orvis soap using a soft bristle brush, then air-dried; in some cases, on an individual basis, artifacts deemed too delicate to wash were dry brushed—this is often the case with badly deteriorated iron and bone objects considered noteworthy. Technicians then labeled items such as prehistoric lithics, historic ceramics, bone, glass, and some metal artifacts. Labeling was conducted using an acid free, conservation grade, .25mm Staedtler marking pen applied over a base coat of Acyloid B72 resin; once the ink dried, the label was sealed with a second layer of Acyloid B72. The information marked on the artifacts consisted of the provenience catalog number. Once the artifacts were processed, they were then inventoried in a Microsoft *Access* database. The artifacts were sorted according to functional groups and material composition in this inventory.

Separate analyses were conducted on the artifacts and inventory data to answer site spatial and temporal questions. Outside consultants analyzed the floral and faunal materials. URS conducted soil flotation.

In order to examine the spatial distributions of artifacts in the plowzone, we entered the data for certain artifact types into the *Surfer 8.06.39* contouring and surface-mapping program. Artifact densities, as interpolated by the program, are shown as contour lines.

Once our analyses had been completed and selected artifacts had been photographed, the Wilson Farm Tenancy collection was prepared for permanent curation.

#### *The Artifacts: A Brief Introduction*

Over 42,000 artifacts were recovered during the three phases of work at the Wilson Farm Tenancy Site. The assemblage consists overwhelmingly of historic artifacts (most made of glass, ceramic and metal) and a relatively small collection of prehistoric artifacts (Table 7.1). The artifacts from the three phases of fieldwork were analyzed as one assemblage.

**Table 7.1 Artifact Totals**

Group	Total	%
Historic	41236	97.33%
Faunal-Bone	1058	2.50%
Prehistoric	74	0.17%
<b>Total</b>	<b>42368</b>	

## PREHISTORIC MATERIAL CULTURE AT THE WILSON FARM TENANCY SITE

Prehistoric inhabitants of the Wilson Farm Tenancy Site left very little material behind for archaeologists to discover, especially when compared to the overwhelming amount of artifacts recovered from the historic period occupation of the site. In fact, the only evidence of Native American occupation of the site consists of a few stone tools and the debris from their manufacture. This type of evidence limits what can be said about the daily activities of the Native Americans at Site 7NC-F-94. Due to the small percentage of prehistoric artifacts in the assemblage, very little analysis was done on them other than to determine type of artifact, material, and weight, and to note any visual observations such as thermal alterations or utilization.

### *Lithic Typology (Rock Types)*

The most obvious activity apparent onsite is the manufacture and maintenance of lithic (stone) tools (Tables 7.2 and 7.3). A variety of tool types and lithic materials appear in the collection. *Jasper*, (ranging from brownish yellow to orange or red, very fine-grained silicate rock or cryptocrystalline), is the most common stone used in tool manufacture ( $n=33$ , or 44.59%). Other sources for lithic artifacts include: *quartz* (a white/clear, very fine-grained silicate rock) ( $n=17$ ); *chert* (a black or gray, very fine-grained silicate rock, or cryptocrystalline, similar to jasper)( $n=13$ ); *sandstone* (a clastic sedimentary rock) ( $n=6$ ); *quartzite* (a coarse-grained metamorphic or sedimentary rock, composed essentially of quartz crystals)( $n=3$ ); *ironstone* (a compact sedimentary rock with high concentrations of iron) ( $n=1$ ); and one cortex fragment of fire cracked rock that was too burned to identify ( $n=1$ ).

Lithic materials found at the site are available locally. The cobble deposits of the Columbia Formation, which underlies much of Delaware, include quartz, quartzite, jasper, and small amounts of chert and ironstone. Quartz is also available in surface deposits in scattered locations in the Piedmont Province north of the site, having weathered from bedrock. Quartzite and jasper are also found in southeastern Pennsylvania, in Cambrian formations of the Reading Prong physiographic province. A closer source of jasper is the Iron Hill quarry area, located in northwestern Delaware and into Maryland and Pennsylvania. This region is known as the Delaware Chalcedony Complex. Chalcedony and Cecil County black flint are also part of the Delaware Chalcedony Complex.

**Table 7.2 Prehistoric Lithic Materials**

Group	Class	Material	Total	%
Prehistoric	Lithic	Jasper	33	44.59%
Prehistoric	Lithic	Quartz	17	22.97%
Prehistoric	Lithic	Chert	13	17.57%
Prehistoric	Lithic	Sandstone	6	8.11%
Prehistoric	Lithic	Quartzite	3	4.05%
Prehistoric	Lithic	Other	1	1.35%
Prehistoric	Lithic	Unknown	1	1.35%
<b>Total</b>			<b>74</b>	

**Table 7.3 Prehistoric Objects**

Group	Class	Object	Total	%
Prehistoric	Lithic	Flake	51	68.92%
Prehistoric	Lithic	FCR	7	9.46%
Prehistoric	Lithic	Shatter	7	9.46%
Prehistoric	Lithic	Projectile Point	4	5.41%
Prehistoric	Lithic	Unidentified	1	1.35%
Prehistoric	Lithic	Tool	1	1.35%
Prehistoric	Lithic	Core	1	1.35%
Prehistoric	Lithic	Axe	1	1.35%
Prehistoric	Lithic	Hammerstone	1	1.35%
<b>Total</b>			<b>74</b>	

*Debitage*

*Debitage* is a French term used to describe the waste or byproduct(s) of manufacturing and maintaining stone tools. In the Wilson Farm Tenancy inventory, *debitage* is subdivided into flakes and shatter. *Flakes* have certain characteristics that distinguish them from shatter, including striking platforms and bulbs of percussion. *Shatter*, on the other hand, refers to broken pieces of stone that lack these characteristics, but are still the apparent byproducts of intentional stone reduction. Shatter tends to be “blocky,” having roughly 90-degree angles; flakes tend to exhibit much more acute edge angles. Flakes dominate the lithic assemblage ( $n=51$ , or 68.92%) (Table 7.3). Of these, the majority are jasper ( $n=29$ ), followed by quartz ( $n=11$ ) and chert ( $n=10$ ), with a single quartzite flake (Table 7.4). Of the jasper flakes, 10 are possibly thermally altered. One exhibits a reddened tip, which may indicate that the flake was used as a graver or similar tool in which repeated utilization of the flake resulted in friction that heated the tool to the point of thermal alteration. This was the only possibly utilized flake.

**Table 7.4 Prehistoric Artifacts**

Object	Chert	Jasper	Iron-stone	Quartz	Quartzite	Sandstone	Unknown	Total	%
Flake	10	29		11	1			51	68.92%
FCR					2	4	1	7	9.46%
Shatter	3	4						7	9.46%
Projectile Point			1	3				4	5.41%
Unidentified				1				1	1.35%
Tool				1				1	1.35%
Core				1				1	1.35%
Axe						1		1	1.35%
Hammerstone						1		1	1.35%
<b>Total</b>								<b>74</b>	

*Other Tools*

A few fragments of *fire-cracked rock* (or FCR) were present in the assemblage ( $n=7$ , or 9.46%) (Table 7.3). These rocks were most likely used around small campfires Native American

inhabitants set during short-term stays at the site. Of these, four were sandstone, two were quartzite, and one was too burned to determine the lithic material.

Flakes are struck from cores. Only one definite core (FS 5215.2), which was derived from a cobble with partial cortex (Figure 7.1), and one possible core were recovered from the excavation, both manufactured from quartz.

*Bifaces*, in American archaeology, generally refer to relatively large bifacial tools, also called knives or blades (Whittaker 1994). Technically, bifaces are also cores, as the flakes detached from them during production and maintenance can themselves be used as tools (Kelly 1988). One biface tool (FS 5342.1) was identified from the collection as a possible scraper, which could have been used to process materials such as hide, wood, or bone (see Figure 7.1).

“Non-chipped” stone artifacts recovered from the Wilson Tract site include one *hammerstone* fragment and the middle portion of an axe. These fall into the category of cobble tools and would have generally made up a lesser percentage of the overall Native American tool kit. The Hammerstone fragment (FS 5020.2) is composed of sandstone and would have been used in the manufacture of chipped stone tools; i.e., to remove flakes during the manufacture of stone tools. The axe fragment (FS 1201.1) is also sandstone and would have been ground down to form its shape, at which point it could have been used for a variety of tasks (see Figure 7.1).

### *Projectile Points*

*Projectile points* are finished bifaces that have been hafted; i.e., fitted to a shaft of one length or another. These points primarily functioned as projectiles and/or knives. Intact projectile points and basal fragments were identified as specific types established in previous regional research. Projectile points exhibiting diagnostic attributes were typed based on measurements specific to the Wilson Farm Tenancy assemblage and compared to known regional examples (Ritchie 1997). Certain types of projectile points have been shown to be temporally sensitive; that is, distinctive to a particular cultural-historical period. The single preform, or incomplete projectile point, was not classified. Three partial points were quartz, while the only complete point was classified as ironstone. Surprisingly, although jasper flakes dominated the debitage (Table 7.4), none of the tools or projectile points in the assemblage were made of jasper.

The unbroken projectile point in the Wilson Farm Tenancy Site assemblage is a Poplar Island point type, associated with the Woodland I period (Figure 7.2). Of the three broken points, two were unidentifiable, while the remaining point exhibited an expanding stem or “fishtail.” Although there were only two diagnostic artifacts, and one of these was partial, the evidence indicates a Woodland I age for the Native American assemblage at the Wilson Farm Tenancy site.

## **HISTORIC ARTIFACTS FROM THE WILSON FARM TENANCY SITE**

The historic artifacts were divided into functional groups (Table 7.5): architecture, household, furniture, hardware, personal, faunal, arms, fuel, transportation, activities, medical, toy, electrical, tack, tool, commercial, and flora. The remaining artifacts were assigned to the groups “other,” a category that includes naturally occurring petrified wood, steatite fragments, and



Figure 7.1 Prehistoric tools (Left to right: FS 5215.2, core, quartz; FS 5342.1, possible scraper, quartz; FS 1201.1, axe, sandstone).



Figure 7.2 Projectile points (Left to right: FS 5001.1, unidentifiable, quartz; FS 1194.1, unidentifiable, quartz; FS 5243.18, Poplar Island, Ironstone; FS 5096.1, fishtail-like, quartz).

possible gaming pieces/gullet stones, and “unidentified,” which mostly encompasses unidentifiable metal, objects too generic to place in a group, such as lids, burned glass, and other materials that cannot be securely placed in a functional group. As shown in Table 7.5, over 84% of the site assemblage consisted of artifacts from two of these functional groups (architectural and household). The artifacts from each of the functional groups are discussed in the following sections.

**Table 7.5 Site-Wide Totals by Group**

Group	Total	%
Architectural	21158	51.26%
Household	13620	33.00%
Unknown	3143	7.61%
Furniture	1082	2.62%
Fauna-Bone	1058	2.56%
Hardware	691	1.67%
Personal	429	1.04%
Fauna-Shell	348	0.84%
Arms	219	0.53%
Fuel	161	0.39%
Transportation	85	0.21%
Activities	82	0.20%
Toy	58	0.14%
Medical	55	0.13%
Electrical	26	0.06%
Tack	20	0.05%
Tool	18	0.04%
Other (see comments)	16	0.04%
Commercial	12	0.03%
Flora	7	0.02%

*Architectural Group*

Excavations at the Wilson Farm Tenancy Site resulted in the recovery of slightly more than 21,000 architectural artifacts, accounting for 51% of the total artifact collection (Table 7.6).

**Table 7.6 Architectural Group by Class**

Group	Class	Total	%
Architectural	Glass	11204	52.95%
Architectural	Metal	9145	43.22%
Architectural	Ceramic	474	2.24%
Architectural	Other	297	1.40%
Architectural	Lithic	38	0.18%
<b>Architectural Total</b>		<b>21158</b>	

The most common architecture-related artifacts are fragments of window glass ( $n=11,204$  or 52.95%). The remaining architectural artifacts are nails and nail fragments ( $n=9,057$ , or 42.81%), brick fragments/mortar/plaster ( $n=746$ , or 3.5%), and other artifacts that each make up less than

1%, such as barbed wire, spikes, roofing tiles, architectural marble, sewer and water pipes, and cement/concrete. Table 7.7 shows the counts of these artifacts and the number recovered from features and non-feature areas (excavation units, STPs, and surface collection).

**Table 7.7 Architectural Group by Object**

Group	Object	Total	%
Architectural	Window Glass	11204	52.97%
Architectural	Nail	9057	42.81%
Architectural	Brick, Fragment	455	2.13%
Architectural	Mortar	203	0.96%
Architectural	Plaster	71	0.34%
Architectural	Barbed Wire	48	0.23%
Architectural	Spike	26	0.12%
Architectural	Tile, Roofing	24	0.11%
Architectural	Brick, Bat	17	0.08%
Architectural	Architectural Marble	14	0.07%
Architectural	Pipe, Sewer/Water	14	0.07%
Architectural	Cement	12	0.06%
Architectural	Concrete	11	0.05%
Architectural	Other	2	0.01%
<b>Total</b>		<b>21158</b>	

The only architectural artifacts from which dates could be derived were the nails. Although many of the nails were too rusted to determine type ( $n=6,963$ , or 76.88% of all nails), around 12% of the nails could be identified as cut or wire although, given the dates for this site, it can be assumed at this point that all of the square nails ( $n=995$ , or 10.99%) are also cut nails (Table 7.8). Cut nails were first produced in America in the late eighteenth century (about 1790). Numerous cut nail manufactories were established in the Northeast and Middle Atlantic States following the American Revolution, as nail machines became increasingly available, although they still required hand applied heads until 1805–1810. None of the cut nails in the Wilson Farm Tenancy assemblage were identified as having wrought/hand applied heads and thus date to 1805 or later. Cut nails continue in production today, although for most building purposes they were supplanted by even cheaper wire nails, which were produced in Europe starting in 1850 but were not common in North America until 1875 (Nelson 1968). Interestingly, a relatively high number (115, or 1.27%) of the nails are completely or partially burned. Partial burning may indicate that the nail was still inside a board, for instance, when it was burned. While there is no evidence for the main household structure on the property having been destroyed by fire, the preponderance of thermally altered nails is unusual given the fact that there was no obvious evidence for burned structures onsite or in the rest of the assemblage. It is possible that one or more structures on the property were being disassembled and used for fuel and the subsequent ashes containing burned nails made their way into the surrounding yard. The burned nails appear to be distributed mainly in the house and north and west yard areas, although these were also the most heavily excavated sections of the Wilson Farm Tenant site.

**Table 7.8 Nails by Type**

Type	Total	%
Unidentified	6963	76.88%
Square	995	10.99%
Cut	609	6.73%
Wire	490	5.41%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9057</b>	

The other architectural artifacts of note are 14 fragments of architectural marble. These are roughly finished slabs of white marble, 0.84 inches thick, which may be fragments of a mantle, a sill, or perhaps even the top of a small table. While the marble itself is not of especially fine quality, it is perhaps unusual to find in a tenant house that was probably constructed for occupation by individuals of a lower socioeconomic class.

*Household Group*

A total of 13,620 artifacts (33%) were assigned to the household functional group (Table 7.5). The vast majority ( $n=10,643$ , or 78% of the household group) of these artifacts consist of glass container fragments (Table 7.9). The other dominant household artifact class is ceramic sherds ( $n=2,849$ , or 20.92%). There are a few metal and non-food fauna/flora artifacts (< 1%) that include utensils, lids, and cans; the single lithic household artifact is a whetstone. The majority of the household artifacts come from non-feature proveniences, and most were recovered from the plowzone.

**Table 7.9 Household by Class**

Group	Class	Total	%
Household	Glass	10643	78.14%
Household	Ceramic	2849	20.92%
Household	Metal	124	0.91%
Household	Non-Food Fauna/Flora	3	0.02%
Household	Lithic	1	0.01%
<b>Household Total</b>		<b>13620</b>	

As we expected for a site of this period (circa 1880–1950), household glass (i.e., non-window glass) formed a large percentage of the recovered artifacts. Glass bottles, container glass, glass tablewares, canning jars, and other items are relatively common on sites dating to the late nineteenth and early to mid twentieth centuries, certainly when compared to the occurrence of ceramics. This is due to the fact that in the middle decades of the nineteenth century, technological advances in the glassmaking industry resulted in lower cost and greater availability of glassware. Previous to this, bottles were hand-blown, which was more time consuming, and the resulting bottles were more expensive and tended to be reused. With the advent of semi- and fully automatic bottle machines around the turn of the nineteenth century (Miller et al. 2000), the average household began to purchase significant quantities of products bottled in glass and mass-produced glass decorative objects and tablewares. In addition, the bottles were viewed as more disposable, a development augmented by an 1876 law prohibiting the refilling of bottles with registered trademarks and another law put in place from 1933–1964 barring the refilling of bottles embossed with “Federal Law Prohibits Sale or Reuse of This Bottle” (Busch 1983). As a

result, archaeological sites dating to the second half of the nineteenth century frequently yield substantial quantities of container and decorative glass, a trend that is even more marked in twentieth-century contexts (LBA 1994).

For analytical purposes, the type of glass had to be determined along with its manufacturing technique. The majority of the identifiable glass was either mouth-blown into a mold or made with a semi- or fully automatic bottle machine, as with these two examples (FS 5066.50 and 5067.37) (Figures 7.3 and 7.4). Material or type of glass is broken down into colorless non-lead, lead glass, common colored glass, and milk glass (Table 7.10). Exposing colorless glass to a short-wave UV light identifies lead glass. If lead is present, the glass will shine a bright ice blue; glass negative for lead will not react or will shine a dull yellow color. As expected, the majority of the glass is colorless non-lead glass ( $n=6,249$ , or almost 59% of household artifacts). The majority of the common colored glass is aqua. The lead glass is composed primarily of table glass. The milk glass is predominantly canning jar lids, with a few jars being the only exception.

**Table 7.10 Household Glass by Material**

Material	Total	%
Non Lead	6249	58.71%
Common Glass	3772	35.44%
Lead	393	3.69%
Milk Glass	221	2.08%
Other	8	0.08%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10643</b>	

Because of the nature of the archaeological deposit and the fact that most of the artifacts came from the plowzone and consequently are very fragmentary, there is no way to determine how many vessels there are for each object form. For the purpose of this report, each form will be discussed separately, though very little speculation can be made as to how many vessels are represented in the artifact counts.

Container glass ( $n=5,891$ , or 55% of the household glass artifacts) (Table 7.11) consists primarily of glass sherds that are either from bottles or jars, but are too fragmentary or lacking in diagnostic features to identify their form. This is the category with the majority of fragments due to the previously mentioned disturbed nature of the site. It is also for this reason that the bulk of the bottles ( $n=3,556$ , or 33%) cannot be classified more specifically. However, some sherds in the bottle category could be identified as to specific bottle types. Of these, the majority could be classified as lightweight beer/soda bottles postdating 1939 (Busch 1983). Soda bottles that could be specifically identified belonged to at least two Coca-Cola bottles (FS 5342.23 and FS 1192.27) and a 7-Up bottle (FS 5165.35). A number of mineral water bottle fragments were also identified, at least one from the Congress & Empire Spring mineral water company (FS 5082.29), located in Saratoga Springs, New York, identifiable by the distinctive embossed "C" (part of "congress") on the sherd. The second highest frequency of identifiable sherds was from club sauce/condiment bottles. It is unknown which condiments were contained within the bottles as they could have contained a variety of powders, sauces, pickled items and such, although one sherd resembles a modern ketchup bottle (FS 5015.11). At least three baking soda bottles are in

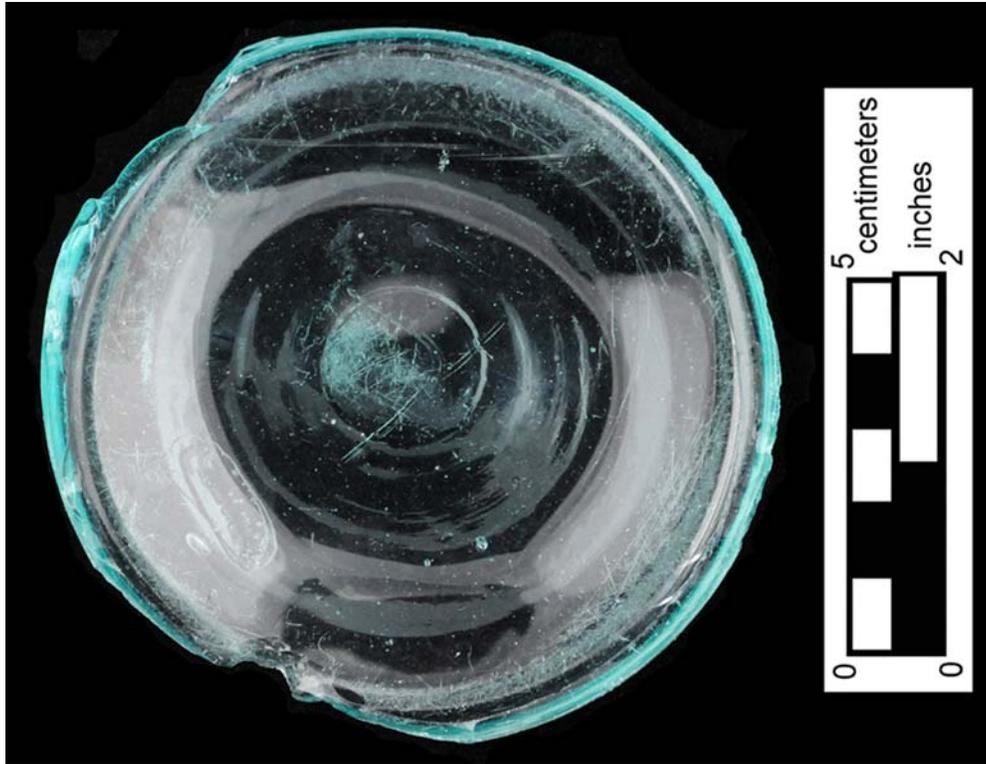


Figure 7.3 Aqua bottle base with valve mark (FS 5066.50).



Figure 7.4 Aqua machine-made bottle with mold seam visible and double ring finish with cork closure (FS 5067.37).

the assemblage (FS 5208.39 and FS 1365.4), and of these, one is embossed on the base with “THE POTTER PARLIN CO. 16” (FS 5020.98). This identifies the bottle as coming from the Globe Spice Mills in Cincinnati, Ohio, operated by Ellis M. Potter and Andrew J. Parlin around 1882.

**Table 7.11 Household Glass by Object Form**

Group	Class	Object Form	Total	%
Household	Glass	Container Glass	5891	55.35%
Household	Glass	Bottle	3556	33.41%
Household	Glass	Tableware, General	407	3.82%
Household	Glass	Canning Jar	303	2.85%
Household	Glass	Unidentified	163	1.53%
Household	Glass	Jar	133	1.25%
Household	Glass	Tumbler	83	0.78%
Household	Glass	Bottle, Beer	30	0.28%
Household	Glass	Bottle, Liquor	20	0.19%
Household	Glass	Other (see comments)	19	0.18%
Household	Glass	Bottle, Wine	11	0.10%
Household	Glass	Flask	9	0.08%
Household	Glass	Dish	8	0.08%
Household	Glass	Stemware	6	0.06%
Household	Glass	Bottle, Panel	2	0.02%
Household	Glass	Vase	1	0.01%
Household	Glass	Bottle, Milk	1	0.01%
<b>Total</b>			<b>10643</b>	

During the time period that the Wilson Tenant Farm was active, glass tablewares were becoming increasingly affordable due to the increased production of pressed glass. This trend is reflected in the archaeological assemblage. All combined tablewares, general and otherwise, make up over 4% of the household glass assemblage. Identifiable tablewares include a relatively large number of tumbler fragments ( $n=83$ , or 0.78%) (Table 7.11), dishes, stemwares, and one fragment of a vase, almost all pressed. One explanation for why there is such a low percentage of ceramic artifacts compared to household glass can be seen through examination of large department store catalogs of the time period. The 1895 Montgomery Ward & Company catalog lists almost as many pages of glass tablewares as of equivalent ceramics, and in most cases the glass vessels are less expensive than their ceramic counterparts (Emmet 1969). Sears, Roebuck & Company was selling some pressed glass “by the barrel” (Israel 1993:684) for \$1.90 in 1897, and in some cases shipped by the pound, which was never the case with ceramic vessels. Over 9% of the glass tablewares are classified as “Depression Glass.” This lightly colored pressed glass, marketed in yellow, pink, green, amethyst, and even white, was produced between the years of 1920 and 1950 and was even less expensive than previously mentioned pressed tablewares. Sold individually on occasion, and also by the barrel, Depression Glass was frequently given away free at movie theaters or gas stations and in cereal or soap boxes. Quaker Oats is known to have ordered five railroad cars of this glass to include in their product boxes (Adams 2008). Whether the Wilson Farm tenants acquired their Depression Glass through purchase or as free gifts is unknown, but it is clear that the occupants were utilizing a large amount of inexpensive glass tablewares.

Canning jars make up a substantial portion of the household glass ( $n=303$ , or 2.86%). Approximately half of these are sherds of the jars themselves and the remainder represent milk glass lids (FS 5001.73) (Figure 7.5), developed in 1869 and used to seal the jars (Miller et al. 2000). It is clear from these numbers that the Wilson Farm tenants were regularly canning foods, which would be standard practice on a farm from this time period. Starting in 1893, wide-mouth bottles such as canning jars were being machine made (Miller et al. 2000) and would have been readily available and inexpensive. The rest of the jars are predominantly jelly or packer jars. Jelly/packers, or condiment jars containing jellies, mustards, and other foods, could be used as tumblers once they were emptied. These jars were in production from 1908 to roughly the 1960s (Jones 2000). The remainder of the jars includes three Vicks Vapor Rub jars (FS 1194.31, 1191.25, 1195.10), dating from 1912 to the present, milk glass cold cream jars, and one complete Bosco powdered chocolate drink mix jar (FS 1203.1). The Bosco jar is externally threaded with the company logo embossed on the base twice in a crossed fashion. Bosco is known to have been in business since 1928.

A number of bottles are identified as containing alcoholic beverages. Beer bottles make up the majority ( $n=30$ , or 0.28%) (Table 7.11). Of these, two are identifiable as Budweiser bottles (FS 5099.23) and one as a modern Colt 45 40-ounce malt liquor bottle recovered during the surface collection (FS 5342.20). Of the vessels classified as “liquor bottles,” most of these are whiskey bottle sherds (FS 5004.4) (Figure 7.6) with the exception of one champagne bottle. In addition to regular whiskey bottles, a number of flasks are present in the collection; the nine sherds recovered represent at least five vessels. Two of the flasks are complete; one is unmarked (FS 5248.5) (Figure 7.7) while the other is embossed with “HAMBRO DISTILLING CO. BALTO MD USA” (FS 5278.1) (Figure 7.8), which the Baltimore business directory lists as being in operation from 1903-1908. At least two of the flasks show evidence of molded decoration; one a fluted design (FS 5001.83) while the other exhibits the remnants of contact molded stars (FS 5214.17). It is likely that this later flask had an eagle or historic figure molded on either side. Historic or figural flasks were common in the nineteenth century, often depicting patriotic designs or political figures, and stars would have been a common patriotic motif used on them (McKearin and Wilson 1978).

The last bottle to be addressed is the lone sherd identified as a milk bottle (FS 1215.5). While this may seem to be a small number given the amount of milk that was likely consumed by the tenants and the number of milk bottles in circulation, it must be remembered that these bottles were reused by the dairies delivering milk to homes at the time. It is also possible that some, if not all, of the milk consumed on the farm was produced on site.

Although glass was becoming cheaper to produce and as a result was being disposed of in greater quantities in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the household glass to ceramic ratio may also be in part a result of disposal practices by the tenants living on the Wilson farm. Residents may have utilized fewer ceramic vessels but in addition may have been making use of chipped or heavily worn ceramics or even mending broken ones and taking their ceramic tablewares with them when they moved off the property rather than disposing of them, as is sometimes done. This is to be expected of short-term residents, especially those of a lower socioeconomic status who could not afford to replace old or worn ceramics, whereas long-term residents might be inclined to dispose of these tablewares when there is a change in ownership of a property. It

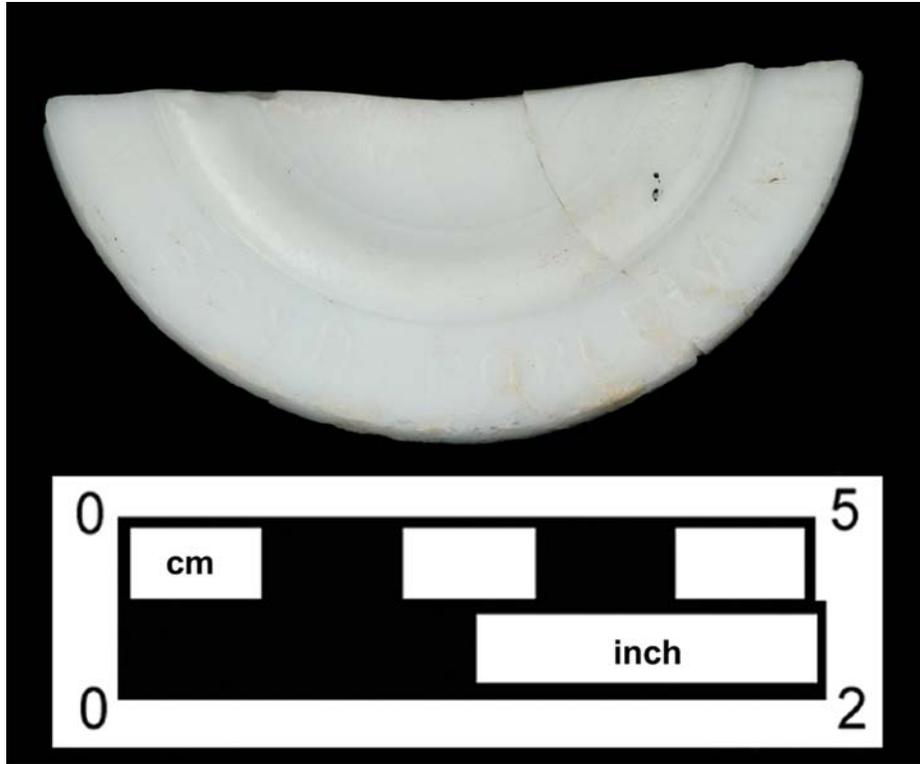


Figure 7.5 Milk glass canning jar lid (FS 5001.73).



Figure 7.6 Neck/shoulder of a brown mouth-blown whiskey bottle with tooled ring finish and cork closure (FS 5004.4).



Figure 7.7 Clear unmarked mouth-blown whiskey flask (FS 5248.5).



Figure 7.8 Clear whiskey flask embossed with lettering "HAMBRO DISTILLING CO. BALTO MD USA" (FS 5278.1).

should also be noted that archaeologists only sampled the site and other areas of the Wilson Farm Tenancy may have contained higher concentrations of ceramics.

**Ceramics.** Household ceramics make up almost 21% of the household assemblage (Table 7.9). For analytical purposes, these ceramics have initially been ordered based on their ware type. Table 7.12 shows ceramic sherd counts, grouped into four general classes: refined earthenware (whiteware, white granite, ironstone, Rockingham, and yellowware), porcelain, stoneware, and redware. Refined earthenware, mostly post 1820, ( $n=2585$ , or 90%) accounts for the overwhelming majority of the ceramics from the site, with the remaining 10% being porcelains, stoneware, and redware.

**Table 7.12 Household Ceramics by Material**

Group	Class	Material	Total	%
Household	Ceramic	Refined Earthenware	2585	90.70%
Household	Ceramic	Porcelain	125	4.41%
Household	Ceramic	Stoneware	84	2.97%
Household	Ceramic	Redware	55	1.94%
Household	Ceramic	Other	1	0.04%
<b>Total</b>			<b>2849</b>	

Of the refined wares, the majority were inexpensive whitewares and white granites (Table 7.13) such as the plate, shown in Figure 7.9 (FS 5020.153), which comprise roughly 80% of all ceramic artifacts (Miller 1980, 1991). Rockingham, ironstone, and yellowware, shown in Figure 7.10 (FS 5020.141), are present in much lower proportions.

**Table 7.13 Household Ceramics by Ware Type**

Ware	Total	%
Whiteware	818	28.71%
White Granite	758	26.61%
Whiteware/White Granite	710	24.92%
Rockingham	121	4.25%
Porcelain, Hard Paste	97	3.40%
Ironstone/Stone China	65	2.28%
Yellowware	61	2.14%
Redware	52	1.83%
Salt Glazed, Gray/Buf Bodyed	46	1.61%
Unidentified Refined Earthenware	37	1.30%
Slip Glazed Stoneware	33	1.16%
Porcelain, Chinese Export	14	0.49%
Porcelainous	12	0.42%
Pearlware	4	0.14%
Pearlware/Whiteware	4	0.14%
Salt Glazed, Brown Bodyed	4	0.14%
Victorian Majolica	3	0.11%



Figure 7.9 Whiteware plate fragments, mended (FS 5020.153).

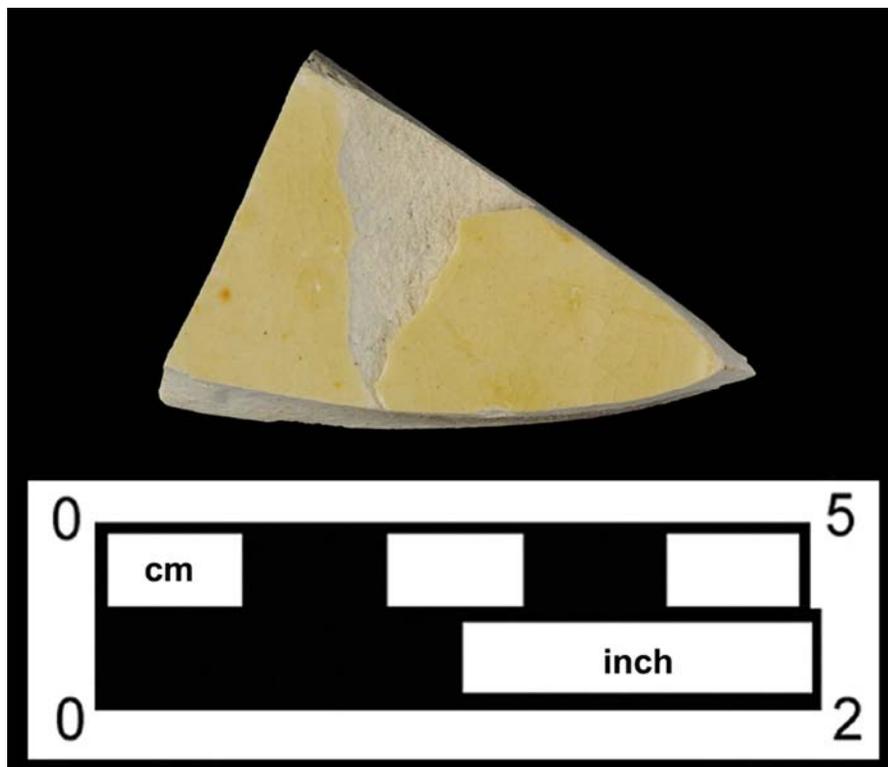


Figure 7.10 Yellowware sherd (FS 5020.141).

**Table 7.13 Household Ceramics by Ware Type (Cont'd)**

Ware	Total	%
Creamware	2	0.07%
Unidentified	2	0.07%
Unidentified Coarse Earthenware	2	0.07%
Lustreware	1	0.04%
Molded	1	0.04%
Porcelain, Soft Paste	1	0.04%
Unidentified Stoneware	1	0.04%
Total	2849	

Decoration for the vessels similarly reflects the Wilson Farm tenants' utilization of primarily inexpensive ceramics. Although many sherds were either too small for identification of their decorations or had spalled surfaces, the majority of the sherds whose decoration could be identified were either undecorated or molded/embossed, a relatively low-cost decorative treatment (Table 7.14). The decorated wares included painted and printed whitewares, ironstones, and hard paste porcelains; floral motifs and simple bands were the most common identifiable patterns. Some of the painted whitewares had chrome color revival floral designs, which date from 1870-1930 (Miller et al. 2000). Identifiable printed patterns included primarily floral motifs with a few geometric patterns and landscape scenes. Over 1.7% of the ceramics were decorated with overglaze decals and an additional 0.18% with underglaze decals. Of the fifty-four decal-decorated sherds, twenty-seven were whitewares, twenty-two were ironstones, and five were hard paste porcelain. The majority of decal designs, with one neo-classical exception, were floral motifs. The "lead glazed" examples from the collection were all the redwares. Some porcelains, Rockingham wares and whitewares were decorated with colored glazes. The majority of the colored-glaze porcelain sherds belonged to one set of pink glazed teawares. The scalloped and shell-edged decorated ceramics combined to make up close to 2% of the decorated ceramics. Most of these vessels are whitewares and it should be noted that all of the shell-edged sherds are flatwares also painted blue. The Bristol-type slip, Albany-type slip, and miscellaneous brown slip decorations all occur on stonewares and combined make up around 2% of the ceramic decoration. All of the slip-decorated sherds come from two yellowware vessels, one with white bands and the other with a tan slip interior. "Liquid Gold" gilding, a technology not present until 1870 (Miller et al. 2000), was on twenty-two sherds of whiteware, porcelain, and ironstone. The ceramic decorations which occurred in low percentages in the collection include: flow printing, overglaze painting, dipt, lustre, mottled glaze, reeded, a rusticated surface and stamped.

**Table 7.14 Ceramic Decoration**

Primary Decoration	Total	%
Unknown	1889	66.30%
Undecorated	258	9.06%
Molded Pattern	116	4.07%
Embossed	77	2.70%
Painted	75	2.63%
Glaze Not Extant	61	2.14%
Decal Overglaze	49	1.72%

**Table 7.14 Ceramic Decoration (Cont'd)**

Primary Decoration	Total	%
Lead Glazed	48	1.68%
Printed	46	1.61%
Colored Glaze	40	1.40%
Scalloped	36	1.26%
Bristol-Type Slip	33	1.16%
Gilding	22	0.77%
Slip Decorated	15	0.53%
Exterior Spalled	11	0.39%
Shell Edge	11	0.39%
Albany-Type Slip	10	0.35%
Miscellaneous Brown Slip	8	0.28%
Flow Printed	7	0.25%
Uncolored Glaze	7	0.25%
Decal Underglaze	5	0.18%
Painted, Overglaze	5	0.18%
Double Glazed	3	0.11%
Interior Spalled	3	0.11%
Unglazed	3	0.11%
Dipt	2	0.07%
Lustre	2	0.07%
Painted, Lined	2	0.07%
Mottled Glaze	1	0.04%
Reeded	1	0.04%
Rusticated Surface	1	0.04%
Single Glazed	1	0.04%
Stamped	1	0.04%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2849</b>	

As stated previously, the great majority of the wares and decorations are not high status and are in keeping with the rest of the archaeological collection (Miller 1980, 1991).

Few (1.6%) of the vessels had maker's marks and very few of these could be identified. The identified marks could be traced to England, the United States (West Virginia and Trenton N.J.), Japan, and possibly France. The West Virginia marks are for the firm of Homer Laughlin and are on sherds from at least two plates. The plates (represented by six sherds from FS 1222.39, 1192.46 and 1191.47. 5067.50) have the scalloped and embossed edge pattern called the "Republic" shape by Laughlin (Jasper 1993:30-33). Republic was one of the most popular of all Laughlin shapes. One sherd is marked "HOM.../REPU," another has "...ER LAUG ...," and a third has "...HLIN/...BLIC/...9N." It is unfortunate that more of this mark is not present as the Laughlin Company marked their wares with date codes; from the remaining mark, we can only determine that the vessel was made in a year ending in 9, possibly between 1910 and 1930 (Gates and Ormerod 1982:129). The Republic shape was decorated in a variety of applied decal patterns, most often floral motifs with gilded bands around the rims (Jasper *ibid*). It could also be undecorated, although this was probably not common. The sherds from the project area do

not have any traces of applied decoration but they could have come from undecorated parts of decorated vessels.

Two sherds (FS 5082.49 and 5241.4) have marks of the Trenton Anchor Pottery, although they might be from different time periods in the pottery's history: One of the marks can be dated only to between 1893 and 1926, while the other depicts a British coat of arms (a lion and a unicorn holding a shield) with an "AP" in the center, a mark utilized between 1894 and 1898, (a period when local potters adopted British marks) (Barber 1968). Three other marks have variations of the British coat of arms, which appears frequently on British-made ceramics and their nineteenth-century American imitators. Of these, at least one might be of local rather than British manufacture, based on its inferior quality. The other two lion and unicorn marks are almost certainly British, one likely from Burslem, a town in Staffordshire, the center of the English ceramic industry. The other, while unidentified as to exact potter or region, depicts a detailed chained unicorn (Figure 7.11) (FS 5067.56). In addition to these marks there is an unidentified English mark and a probable Wedgwood mark (FS 5093.77). It should be noted that all of the marks occurred on refined earthenwares with the single exception of a hard paste porcelain vessel of unidentified form and decoration with a "Made in Japan" stamp (FS 5339.1). This dates the vessel to 1921 and after as prior to this "Nippon" was the name used on this country's export wares.

As with the glass, ceramic sherds were also broken down into object forms (Table 7.15). Similarly, as a result of plow disturbance, most of the sherds were small and could not be identified as to vessel form; the most common general identifications were "hollowware" or "flatware." Many more sherds were identified as hollowwares rather than flatwares, possibly because it is easier to identify plates, saucers, and dishes from small sherds.

**Table 7.15 Household Ceramics by Object Form**

Object Form	Total	%
Unidentified	1939	68.06%
Hollowware	419	14.71%
Flatware	233	8.18%
Plate	115	4.04%
Saucer	45	1.58%
Teaware, General	33	1.16%
Tea Pot	15	0.53%
Tea Cup	10	0.35%
Jar/Jug	7	0.25%
Bowl	6	0.21%
Bottle	5	0.18%
Tableware, General	4	0.14%
Dish	3	0.11%
Jar	3	0.11%
Platter/Dish	3	0.11%
Other	2	0.07%
Salt Cellar	2	0.07%
Tureen	2	0.07%
Bowl, Mixing	1	0.04%



Figure 7.11 Portion of Lion and Unicorn English maker's mark on whiteware sherd (FS 5067.56).

**Table 7.15 Household Ceramics by Object Form (Cont'd)**

Object Form	Total	%
Coffee Cup	1	0.04%
Pan	1	0.04%
Total	2849	

The 104 sherds (40.3% of the 285 sherds with identifiable forms) from all teawares (cups, saucers, teapots and general teaware) and 129 sherds (50% of identified forms) from all tablewares (plates, dishes and platters, tureens, bowls, and general tablewares) include both decorated and undecorated pieces. The majority of these are refined earthenwares but there are some porcelain pieces in both functional categories, although only one sherd (decoration unknown) was definitely identified as a plate.

By the time the Wilson Tenancy was occupied, all Americans consumed tea and coffee as a social activity. In general, the teawares acquired by a household were the most expensive and highly decorated wares owned. Tea was commonly taken with guests and the sets put on display, thus emphasizing their importance. Two teapots were identified; a Rockingham teapot with unidentified molded decoration, a small portion of which is shown here (FS 5047.47) (Figure 7.12), and a whiteware example with light blue transfer print (FS 5001.151). Only one recognizable set of teawares was identified from the site: a hard paste porcelain set with a pink colored glaze that dates between 1920 and 1960. Identified elements of this set include teacups and saucers. The remaining teawares are either from mismatched sets or their counterparts never made it into the archaeological record of the site and/or were not recovered by archaeologists. The majority of the teawares recovered were whiteware or white granite. Decorations include molding/embossing, painting (overglaze and underglaze), decal, transfer printing (the previously mentioned teapot), three sherds with gold gilding, two with lustre, and a single creamware sherd with rustication (i.e. decorated with small chips of different colored clays) dating from 1780 to 1820 (FS 5001.147). This creamware vessel clearly predates the site although it may have been an heirloom passed down from previous generations and brought to the farm. This creamware sherd and the few pearlware sherds recovered illustrate the occasional problems with using ceramics for dating a site as some vessels are retained for long periods before they are discarded.

Table 7.15 also illustrates that kitchenwares, food preparation and storage vessels are not represented in high numbers in this collection. Food storage vessels include jars, jugs, and bottles and are represented by only fifteen sherds (0.46%). These include various gray and brown body stonewares with minimal decoration including Bristol and Albany slips and two sherds with unidentified blue painted designs. Only one food preparation vessel, a redware pan with plain brown lead glaze, was recovered (FS 5339.7). Pans could be multi-functional vessels used to bake with or to store food in. The Wilson Farm tenants were most probably utilizing metal vessels for their food preparation and storage needs, which explains their absence in the archaeological record, as metal is usually not well-preserved in the ground. While only one cooking pot was identified (FS 5022.9, an aluminum handle) it needs to be noted that most of the metal artifacts, especially those made of iron, aluminum, and zinc, on the site were very heavily corroded and thus unidentifiable.

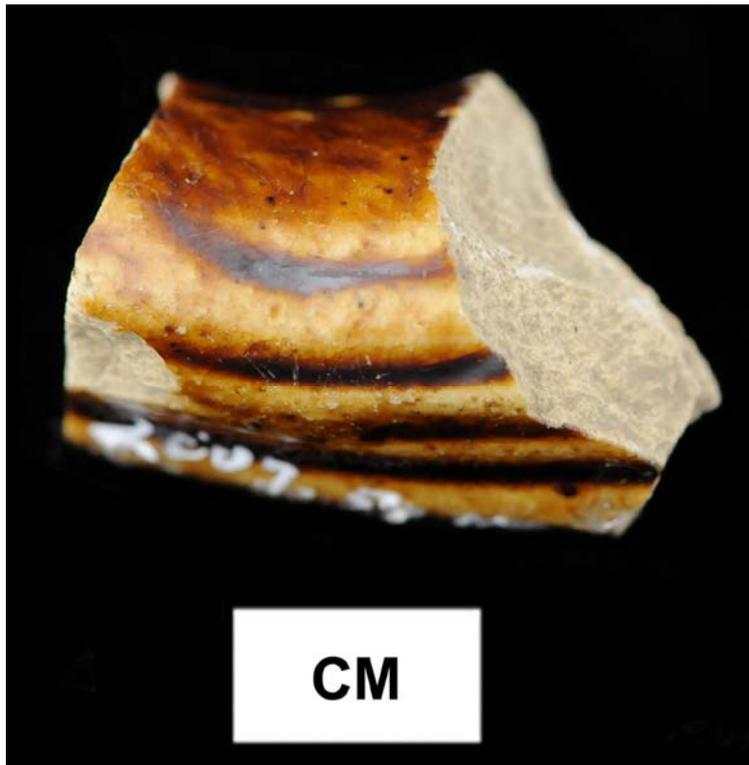


Figure 7.12 Fragment of molded Rockingham teapot (FS 5047.47).

**Utensils and Other Items.** The household group also includes a number of utensils—knives, forks and spoons (Table 7.16). We recovered parts of at least five table knives. Of these, two have bone handles (FS 5006.2) (Figure 7.13), one is a complete steel butter knife, and the last two are iron. Although no complete fork tines were excavated there are several handle fragments that possibly belong to forks. At least five spoons, mostly made of copper alloy, are also represented in the Wilson Tenant Farm assemblage. One of the spoons is a teaspoon stamped with the manufacturer and alloys. Probably made of copper alloy and nickel, it is stamped on the back of the handle "CB PARKER Mfg Co 22% NICKELSILVER" (FS 5321.116). Unfortunately, no information could be found regarding the CB parker company. Two of the spoons were stamped with decorative motifs; one with a dot motif around the boarder and one complete yet bent spoon with an intricate classical design featuring a vase at the top of the handle (FS 5001.13) (Figure 7.14). The last spoon is another teaspoon in fragments that may retain remnants of a white metal coating (FS 5322.70).

**Table 7.16 Household Metal by Object**

Object	Total	Percentage
Lid	56	45.16%
Can	41	33.06%
Spoon	9	7.26%
Fragment	6	4.84%
Knife, Table	3	2.42%
Utensil	3	2.42%
Handle	3	2.42%
Key	2	1.61%
Other	1	0.81%
Total	124	

The lid category is made up primarily of crown bottle caps, patented in 1892, and externally threaded aluminum canning jar lids; the earliest use of household aluminum dates to 1891. The “fragments” listed in Table 7.16 are of aluminum foil, a product invented in the early twentieth century (Miller et al. 2000). Cans from the Wilson Farm include two aluminum beer cans, which are likely modern, with an earliest possible date of 1958. The remainder of the cans are iron food storage cans. The two keys recovered are for the opening of cans (FS 5185.20 and 5165.53), the most well known examples being the squat, rectangular sardine cans that used to come equipped with small keys.

*Furniture Group*

The excavations at the Wilson Tenant Farm Site yielded a total of 1082 furniture-related artifacts (Table 7.17). These items made up less than 3% of the total collection (Table 7.5). None of these artifacts are particularly time sensitive, with the exception of the non-lead lamp glass, which post-dates 1864, and a few additional artifacts that will be discussed. Lamp glass makes up the large majority ( $n=974$ , or 90.02%) of the furniture group and includes lead and non-lead glass belonging primarily to lamp chimneys with some globe fragments (Table 7.18). Lamp glass became increasingly common after the mid-nineteenth century, after Drake’s



Figure 7.13 Bone handle knife (FS 5006.2).

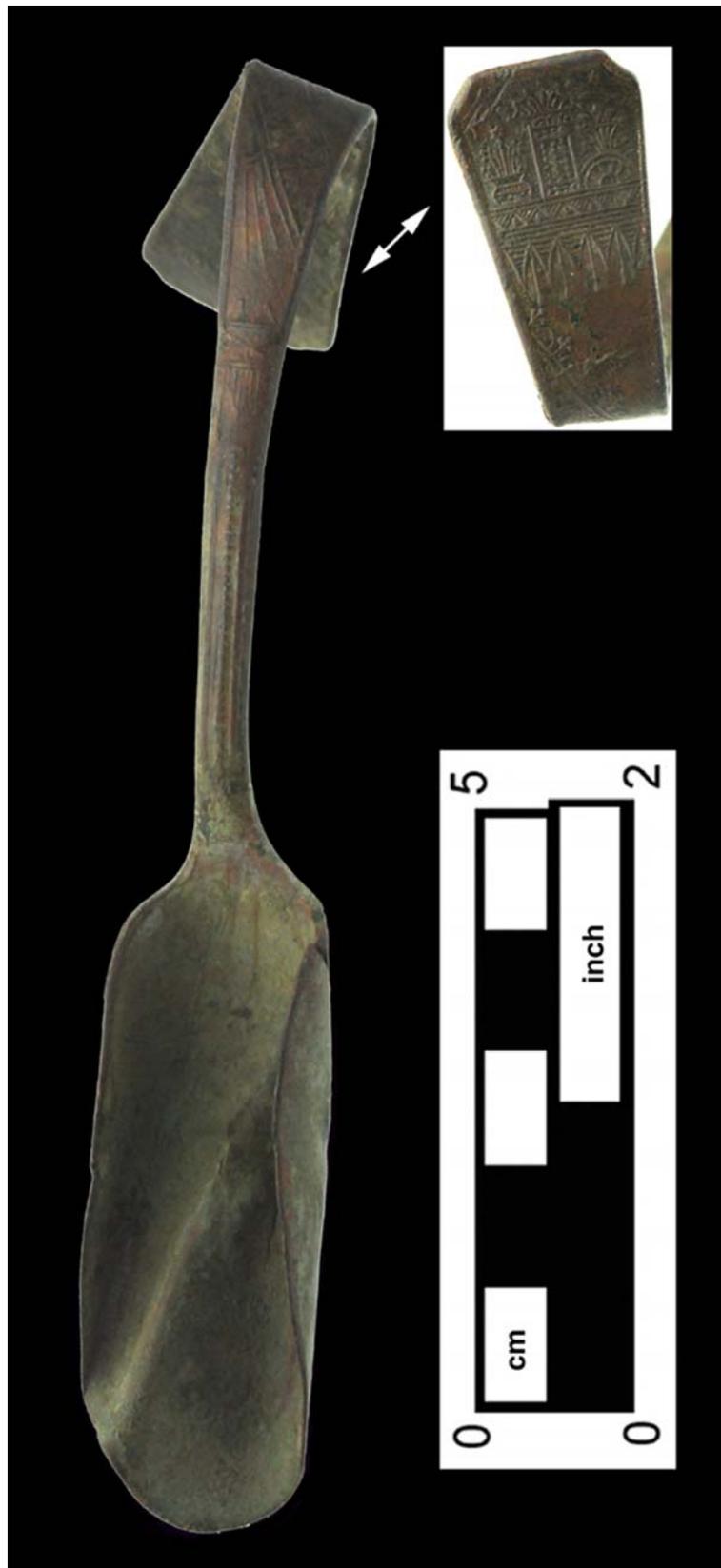


Figure 7.14 Decorated spoon, inset shows stamped design (FS 5001.13).

1859 drilling of the first oil well resulted in decline in the cost of kerosene (Miller et al. 2000), and as glass became less expensive to produce.

**Table 7.17 Furniture by Class**

Class	Total	%
Glass	1008	93.16%
Ceramic	41	3.79%
Metal	32	2.96%
Synthetic	1	0.09%
Total	1082	

Metal lamp parts are also present in the furniture group ( $n=27$ , or 2.5%). These include chimney holders, wick slots, and various wick-winding elements. Two wick winders are stamped with manufacturer information indicating that one lamp was produced by The Arctic/M.B. Co. out of New York (FS 5082.13) and L.J. Atwood patented the other (FS 5264.2). As The Arctic Company is still in business it is impossible to assign an age to this winder. However, L.J. Atwood is known to have issued patents between the years of 1862 and 1912, clearly dating this particular lamp hardware ([www.thelampworks.com](http://www.thelampworks.com)).

**Table 7.18 Furniture by Object**

Group	Object	Total	%
Furniture	Lamp Glass	974	90.02%
Furniture	Figurine	41	3.79%
Furniture	Mirror Glass	34	3.14%
Furniture	Lamp Part	27	2.50%
Furniture	Other (see comments)	2	0.18%
Furniture	Clock	2	0.18%
Furniture	Furniture Part	2	0.18%
Total		1082	

The remainder of the furniture related-glass is mirror glass. Mirror glass is almost always flat with residue on one surface and, in the case of the Wilson Farm Tenancy, colored aqua.

There are a number of figurines identified from the excavation. The most complete of these is a small white porcelain statuette of a smiling boy wearing a pointed hat sitting on a fence with a small cat at his feet (FS 5105.56) (Figure 7.15). The figurine, as mended, is nearly whole. It represents the kind of knick-knack that would have adorned shelves or mantles inside the home. Several sherds from a large cat statue composed of unglazed refined earthenware belong to what may be a mantle or lawn ornament or even a door holder (FS 5002.20) (Figure 7.16). In addition to these two identifiable figurines, nine further fragments representing at least five other figurines in various colors, shapes, and ware types indicate that tenants at the Wilson Farm valued these items and likely owned many more than are represented by the archaeological record.

The remainder of the furniture group is composed of two clock fragments, a cog (FS 5108.7) and a small arm (FS 5093.8), although it cannot be determined if the two belong to the same device.

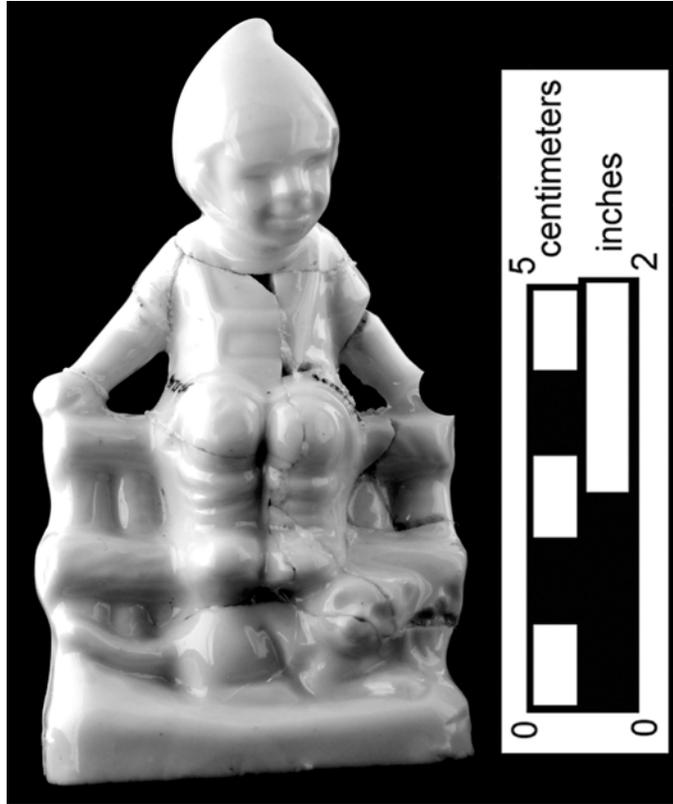


Figure 7.15 Mended porcelain figurine of boy sitting on a fence with a cat at his feet (FS 5105.56).

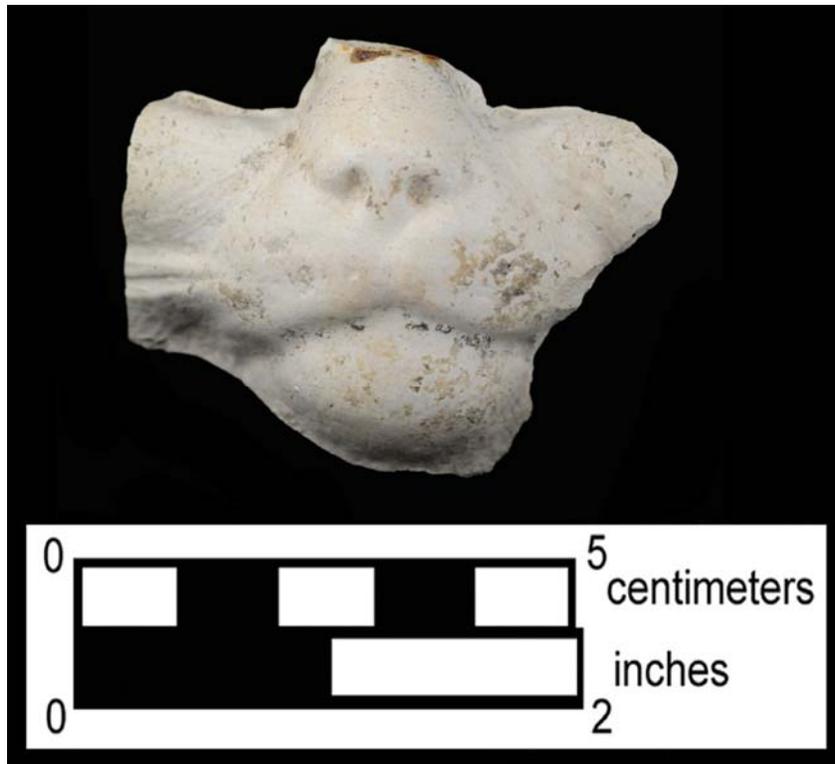


Figure 7.16 Face portion of a refined earthenware feline figurine lawn ornament or mantle decoration (FS 5002.20).

Two caster wheels (FS 1226.9 and 5165.50) are the only furniture parts in the collection while the “Other” category includes a decorative plastic element in a Fleur de Lis-type shape (FS 5185.4) and a lead curtain weight (FS 5163.6).

*Hardware Group*

A total of 691 artifacts from the hardware group were recovered during our excavations at the site, accounting for less than 2% of the collection (Tables 7.6 and 7.19). The majority of these artifacts are metal. This group is made up of various objects, not many of which are temporally diagnostic.

**Table 7.19 Hardware by Object**

Group	Object	Total	Class	%
Hardware	Wire	141	Metal	20.41%
Hardware	Unidentified	137	Metal	19.83%
Hardware	Bolt/Nut	137	Metal	19.83%
Hardware	Staple	60	Metal	8.68%
Hardware	Other/Unidentifiable	59	Metal	8.54%
Hardware	Screw	52	Metal	7.53%
Hardware	Washer	27	Metal	3.91%
Hardware	Fragment	17	Metal	2.46%
Hardware	Rod	13	Metal	1.88%
Hardware	Hinge	9	Metal	1.30%
Hardware	Door Knob	8	Ceramic	1.16%
Hardware	Hook	5	Metal	0.72%
Hardware	Rivet	4	Metal	0.58%
Hardware	Handle	4	Metal	0.58%
Hardware	Tack	4	Metal	0.58%
Hardware	Key	3	Metal	0.43%
Hardware	Lock	3	Metal	0.43%
Hardware	Chain Link	2	Metal	0.29%
Hardware	Barrel Hoop	2	Metal	0.29%
Hardware	Spike	2	Metal	0.29%
Hardware	Washer	1	Synthetic	0.14%
Hardware	Door Knob	1	Metal	0.14%
Hardware	Lock, Box	1	Metal	0.14%
Total		691		

The few datable artifacts from the hardware group include two aluminum wire fragments, which post date 1891, and a copper alloy key manufactured by the Clum Company in Milwaukee, likely after 1900. Household hardware includes doorknobs composed of hard paste porcelain and agate ware. Of the eight fragments recovered, at least one large agate ware knob dating from 1860 to 1940 and three porcelain knobs (one small cabinet-sized, one medium and one unknown) were identified. A medium sized iron knob, also likely for a cabinet, was also excavated. Copper drawer/cabinet hardware includes a handle, hinge (both decorative), a portion of a latch and two delicate hooks. A single spigot for draining radiators is also included as well as a small copper alloy stopcock (FS 5322.77) (Figure 7.17) and iron spigot handle.



Figure 7.17 Copper alloy knob (FS 5322.77).

Some of the hardware could possibly be associated with a barn or other outbuildings: hinges, a bolt latch, a large handle, bolts, hooks, and chain link. Axel clips, many large springs, wagon hardware, and a link from a chain belt (FS 5006.15) (Figure 7.18) are remnants of the machinery present on site.

*Personal Group*

Of the 429 personal artifacts recovered from the site (Table 7.20), the majority ( $n=155$ , or 36%) are buttons, followed by beads ( $n=65$ , or 15%), comb fragments ( $n=59$ , or 13%), clothing rivets ( $n=30$ , or 7%), equal numbers of pipe bowls, stems ( $n=19$ , or 4%) and jewelry components ( $n=22$ , or 5%), buckles ( $n=15$ , or 3%) and pins, hooks, fasteners, watch parts, pocket knives, cosmetic jars, a grommet, shoe fragment, and rod which each made up less than 2% of the personal group, respectively. The majority of the personal artifacts are clothing related (buttons, rivets, buckles, pins, clothing fasteners, hooks, grommet, and the shoe fragment), followed by personal adornment (beads, combs, jewelry, watch) and other small finds carried on the person such as smoking paraphernalia and a pocket knife.

**Table 7.20 Personal Items by Object**

Group	Object	Total	%
Personal	Button	155	36.13%
Personal	Bead	65	15.15%
Personal	Comb	59	13.75%
Personal	Rivet	30	6.99%
Personal	Jewelry	22	5.13%
Personal	Pipe Bowl	19	4.43%
Personal	Pipe Stem	19	4.43%
Personal	Buckle	15	3.50%
Personal	Unidentified	8	1.86%
Personal	Other	6	1.40%
Personal	Pin	6	1.40%
Personal	Watch	6	1.40%
Personal	Clothing Fastener	6	1.40%
Personal	Hook	5	1.17%
Personal	Cosmetic Jar	3	0.70%
Personal	Knife, Pocket	2	0.47%
Personal	Shoe	1	0.23%
Personal	Rod	1	0.23%
Personal	Grommet	1	0.23%
Total		429	

**Buttons and Other Clothing-Related Artifacts.** A large number of buttons was recovered from the Wilson Farm excavations ( $n=155$ ) (Table 7.21). While buttons are often a common artifact on nineteenth- and twentieth-century archaeological sites, the preponderance and variation of buttons found here is of interest. The tenants living at the site might have taken in laundry or worked sewing clothing, which could account for the large numbers of buttons. It is not uncommon for working-class families and individuals to supplement their income with these trades (Griggs 2000). Three thimbles (discussed in the Activities Group section below) but no needles were found, which might argue against sewing as an income-generating activity.



Figure 7.18 Remnant of Wilson Farm Tenancy farm machinery, link from a chain belt (FS 5006.15).

The majority of the buttons recovered from the Wilson Farm excavation are made of porcelain and are known as Prosser or China buttons ( $n=87$ , or 56.13%) (Table 7.21). Prosser buttons were produced from 1840 until the middle of the twentieth century. In the middle of the nineteenth century, dust pressed porcelain technology was leading to the replacement of bone, shell, and metal buttons, as porcelain buttons were easier and cheaper to produce in mass quantities. Most of the Prosser buttons in the collection are plain white colored with four or two holes. Prosser buttons could be manufactured in a variety of colors and pressed shapes, some of which were recovered during the present excavations. Figure 7.19 illustrates three decorated Prosser buttons in the bottom row: a green four hole, a red/brown two hole, and a white example with red paint along the edge in a pressed “ink well” shape (FS 5047.42, 5192.70, and 5001.133). Examples with “pie crust” edges, pressed floral designs, painted rims, and domed “gaiter” Prossers were also recovered. While the majority of the Prosser buttons are all-purpose, some designs, such as the gaiter, were most often used on women and children’s clothing (Sprague 2002).

**Table 7.21 Buttons by Material**

Object	Material	Total	%
Button	Porcelain	87	56.13%
Button	Iron	18	11.61%
Button	Copper Alloy	13	8.39%
Button	Bone	13	8.39%
Button	Plastic	9	5.81%
Button	Shell	6	3.87%
Button	Composite	4	2.58%
Button	Rubber	3	1.94%
Button	Common Glass	2	1.29%
Total		155	

As the twentieth century progressed, more buttons were manufactured from hard rubber and plastic. One rather large and fancy four-hole example can be seen in two parts on the top row of Figure 7.19 (FS 1169.8). The black portion on the left is hard rubber (also called vulcanite) adhering to a white celluloid backing, which would also have been attached to the ivory colored celluloid disk in the center. Celluloid was an early plastic intended to mimic natural substances such as bone, ivory, and turtle shell and was in production from 1868 until 1920 (Miller et al. 2000). This is a highly decorative button and would have probably been worn on a woman’s coat. The remainder of the synthetic buttons in the assemblage were manufactured from Bakelite, another early plastic developed in 1907 and utilized until the mid-twentieth century (Miller et al. 2000).

Additional buttons include iron and copper alloy buttons, a few of which had stamped patterns, plain bone and shell buttons, and two faceted glass buttons with copper alloy shanks, which would have adorned a woman’s clothing.

Clothing rivets found on site were mostly components of work-related garments worn on the farm, such as denim jeans or overalls, and likely belong primarily to men’s clothing. All of the thirty rivets recovered are iron or copper alloy and are unmarked with the exception of one well-made copper alloy example stamped “Jacob Reed’s Sons” around the front (FS 5001.16). Jacob Reed’s Sons was founded as a men’s clothing store of some reputation in Philadelphia in 1824

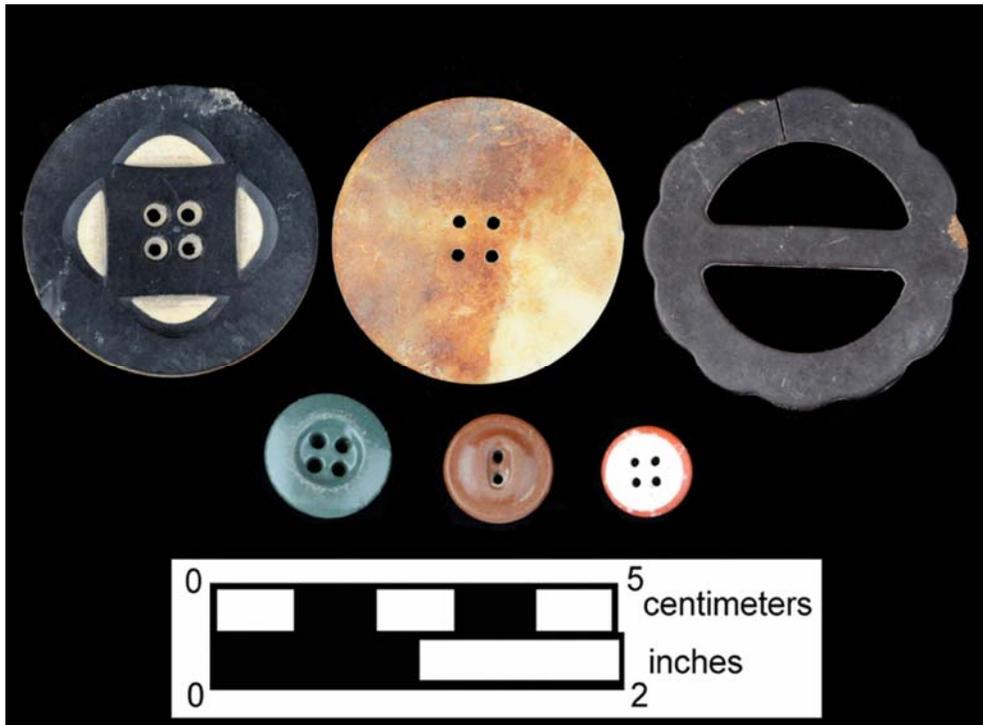


Figure 7.19 Buttons. Top row, left to right: top portion of a Bakelite and Celluloid button, Celluloid bottom portion of same button, plastic dress belt. Bottom row, left to right: Green Prosser button, Red Prosser Button, White Prosser Button with red accent (FS 1169.8, 5322.81, 5047.42, 5192.70, and 5001.133).

and continued to operate until the 1980s (Skaler and Keels 2008). Obviously it cannot be determined if the tenants acquired the clothing article related to this rivet from the store or by some other means but given the character of the store it can be assumed that it was a quality garment, if not necessarily a high status one.

Fifteen clothing buckles or fragments, representing ten buckles, were recovered (Table 7.20). The majority are copper alloy or iron with the exception of a single brown plastic dress buckle shown in the upper row of Figure 7.19 (FS 5322.81). While most of the buckles cannot be identified as to specific purpose, there are three suspender buckles present, two of which are identical. These buckles are stamped with a scroll design (FS 1206.3) (Figure 7.20) and a March 21, 1871 patent date along with the name of Abraham Shenfield. While the patent date provides the beginning date for these artifacts, it is estimated that these buckles may have been sold up until 1930.

The pins listed in the personal group are all safety pins while the clothing fasteners are comprised mainly of small snaps such as would have adorned undergarments or possibly even doll clothing. Five small eye hooks recovered were also likely used to fasten undergarments or women and children's clothing. Very little from the collection represents the footwear worn by the tenants on the Wilson Farm. A grommet likely belonging to a shoe and a shoe heel fragment are the only artifacts of this nature (FS 5321.122). In summary, there is a significant number of artifacts relating to clothing on the Wilson Farm Tenancy, the majority of which are utilitarian but there are also some decorative examples.

**Beads and Other Adornments.** A great variety of beads was recovered from the site (Figure 7.21) (FS 5322.83, 1169.9, 5067.16, 5066.44, 5192.71, 5047.13, and 5221.9). Although there are 65 bead fragments these represent only 29 actual beads. Most of the beads are intact with the noted exception of a single large Venetian polychrome bead (FS 5022.47) with an elaborate floral decoration, which was shattered into 29 sherds (Figure 7.22), along with a few other cracked specimens, accounting for the higher count. Table 7.22 illustrates that blue and black beads dominate the assemblage, although there is a range of colors present. The single copper colored bead is actually copper alloy and appears to part of a dog collar (FS 5285.8). The remainder of the beads excavated are glass. Few of the beads match with the exception of two beads, one green and one red (FS 5192.71 and 5221.9), which share the same faceted ovoid shape, and two flat black faceted beads (FS 5113.141). Other shapes include a blue cane bead (FS 5047.13), three round "pony" beads (one yellow and two light blue) (FS 5066.45, 5256.19 and 5213.44) with large holes in the center such as would commonly be used in crafts or hair braiding, a blue trumpet-shaped bead, a green "D" or half circle shaped bead (FS 5192.71), as well as a light blue example resembling an ear of corn (FS 5067.16) (see Figure 7.21). Overall, the majority of the beads are spherical with single holes although there is a range of sizes and colors on this site.

**Table 7.22 Beads by Color**

Object	Color	Total
Bead	Blue	10
Bead	Black	8
Bead	Green	4
Bead	Red	2



Figure 7.20 Suspender buckle patented by Abraham Shenfield on March 21, 1871 (FS 1206.3).

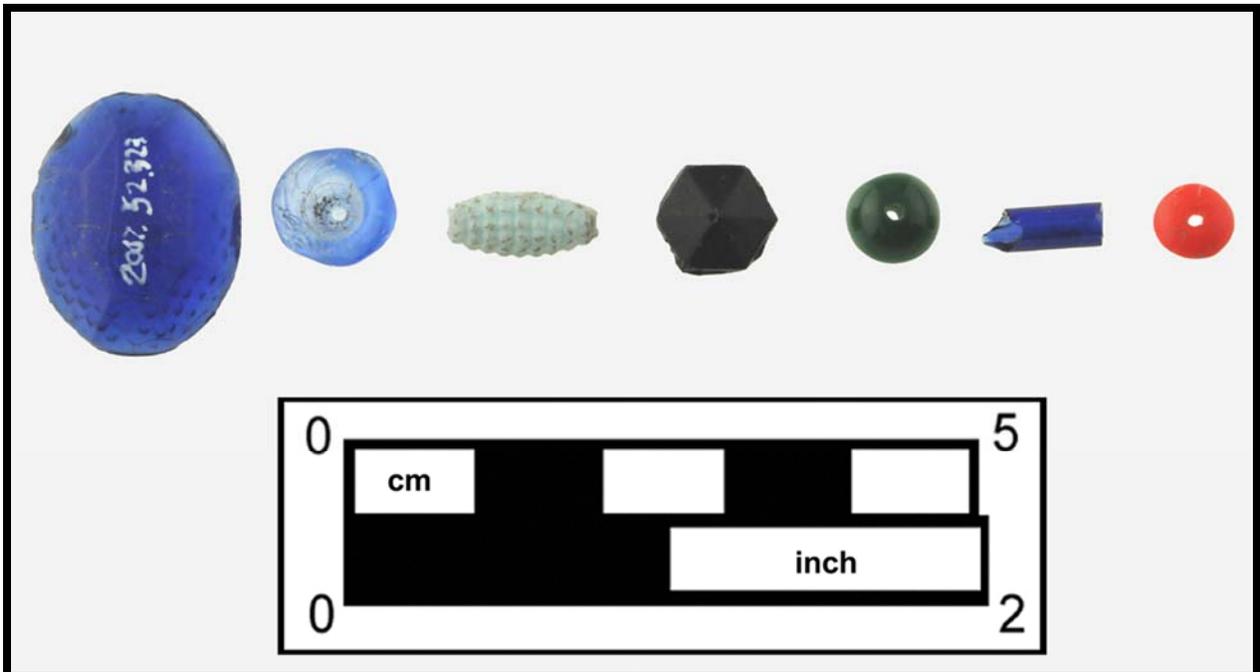


Figure 7.21 Beads. Left to right: blue rhinestone jewelry component, blue trumpet-shaped bead, light blue corn cob bead, black faceted jewelry component, green spherical bead, blue cane bead, red/orange spherical bead (FS 5322.83, 1169.9, 5067.16, 5066.44, 5192.71, 5047.13, and 5221.9).

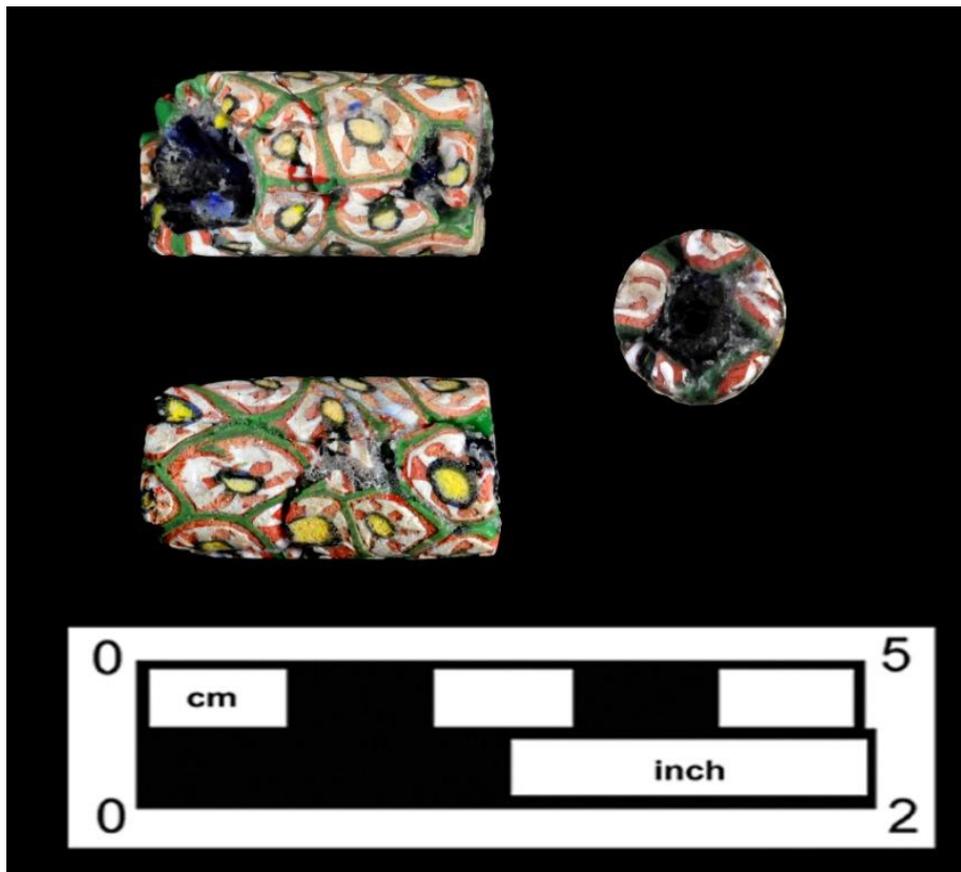


Figure 7.22 Venetian polychrome bead, mended (FS 5022.47).

**Table 7.22 Beads by Color (Cont'd)**

Object	Color	Total
Bead	Orange	1
Bead	Polychrome	1
Bead	Copper	1
Bead	White	1
Bead	Yellow	1
Total		29

Combs figure relatively prominently in the group of personal items, with fifty-nine fragments excavated, representing around a dozen actual combs, all of which were synthetic with the exception of one, discussed below. Of these, slightly more than half are utilitarian black or brown vulcanite or Bakelite combs. A single vulcanite lice comb was recovered exhibiting a patent date of 1851 (FS 5033.1). Decorative celluloid combs made up somewhat less than half of the fragments and would have been used by women on the Wilson Farm Tenancy as an inexpensive substitution for turtle shell combs to pin their hair up. The most notable comb in the collection functioned as a hair-straightening device (FS 1193.9) (Figure 7.23). This copper alloy comb was manufactured by a company called Kentucky Maid, seen in the photograph stamped across the top of the comb, and was primarily marketed to and used by African Americans. This comb would likely have had a black handle and been heated in an oven or stovetop before being drawn through the hair. Although this comb may have a date as early as 1894, the year the company was founded, this exact comb is still produced by Kentucky Maid today (Kentucky Maid 2010).

As Julia Blackwelder (2003:19) describes the process:

Hair pressing was more complicated than the simple application of Walker's and Malone's hair growers and scalp conditioners. The beautician slid the hair through her oiled fingers and then painstakingly combed the hair with a long-toothed, heated metal comb. The hairdresser employed the "pressing" comb to separate the hair strands and to push them flat by pressing the teeth nearly parallel to the hair while pulling the hair against the base of the comb and through its teeth. The beautician began by moving the comb from the scalp to the hair ends and then reversed the process, carefully working her way over the entire head of hair. Section by section the operator flattened the hair against the teeth of the hot comb, a press that straightened the hair with considerable risk of burning the hair and scalp.

Hair straightening was, and remains, a complex and contentious issue within the African American community (Banks 2001; Rooks 1996; Walker 2007). Beginning at least as early as the early nineteenth century, cultural and political constructions of hair intersected with race and gender in relation to mainstream notions of beauty (Banks 2001, in Walker 2007:2), notions of beauty that were overwhelmingly white. When nineteenth-century beauty product advertising was directed at African American women, the message was that women of color "suffered" from an African heritage, and that striving for whiteness could offer a "cure" (Rooks 1996:26). Racial ideologies, as Rooks notes, "posited specific relationships between skin color, hair texture, and the possibilities for intelligence, social advancement, and cultural acceptance" (Rooks

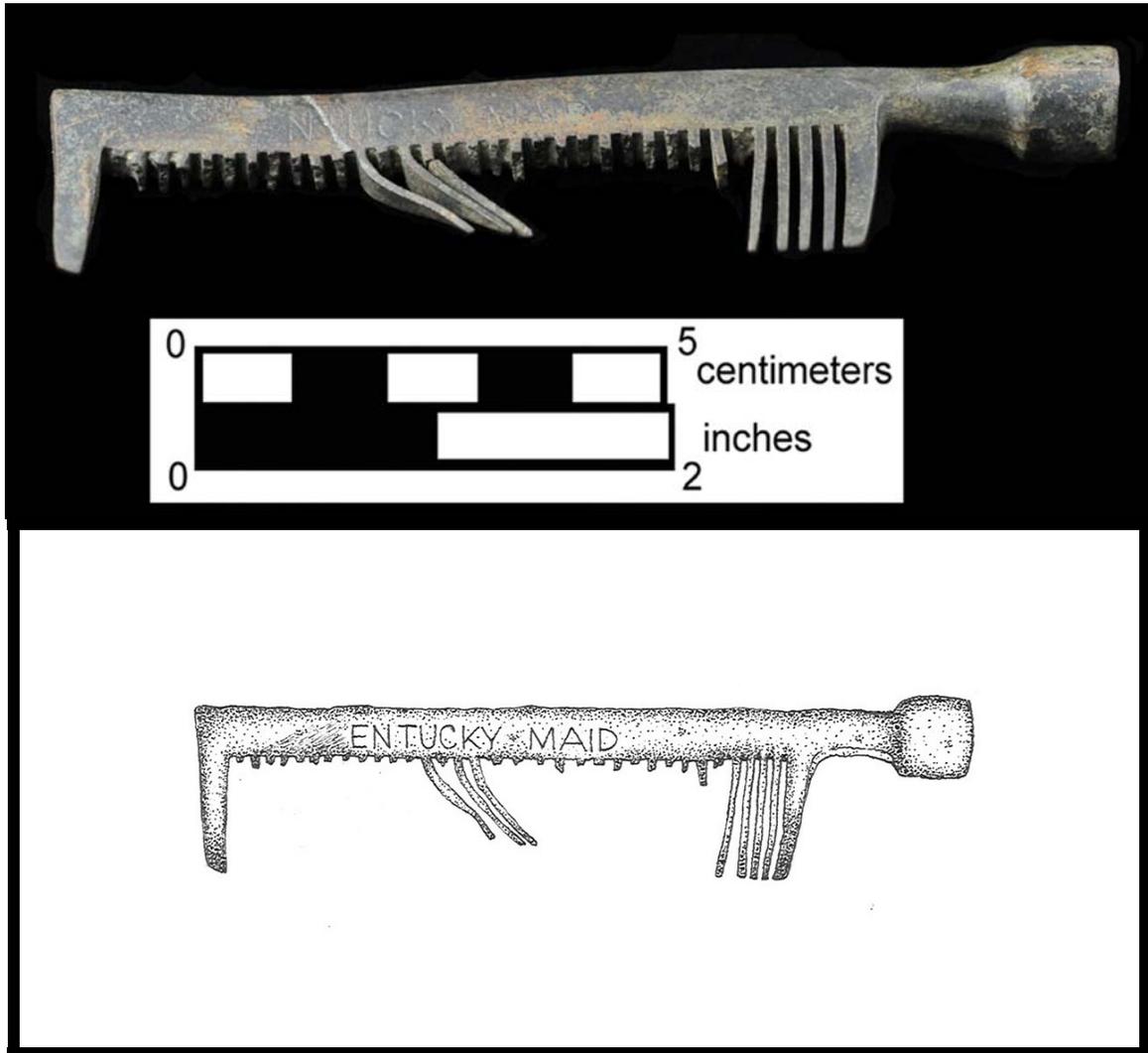


Figure 7.23 Copper alloy Kentucky Maid hair straightening comb (FS 1193.9).

1996:133). Yet, the straightening comb cannot simply be reduced to a reflection of how racism compelled African Americans to conform to white notions of beauty and racist hair-care standards. Throughout much of the twentieth century, African American beauty standards were, in fact, shaped within black society as much as they were formed in reaction to mainstream culture (Walker 2007:206). Indeed, the straightening comb, like all material culture, is multivalent—meanings are situational. As Mullins (1999:61) points out, for many African Americans today, the comb takes on other significance, bespeaking the “social context of hair in living rooms and salons, as the prelude to important life events, and as an activity shared by family and friends.”

The jewelry components recovered are mainly unidentifiable as to the original object. Some artifacts of note include five oval glass objects, three clear and two aqua that may be cover plates for small pictures or lockets. Faceted rhinestones, such as the example in far left of (FS 5322.83) Figure 7.20 functioned as inserts for jewelry and a single copper alloy leaf (FS 1198.4) (Figure 7.24) is also thought to be jewelry-related. Two black faceted decorative pinheads, such as would adorn hats or lapels, were also recovered. Although the many rivets recovered represent the everyday garments worn by the Wilson Tenant Farm’s men, a single dust-pressed porcelain collar stud represents their more formal attire (FS 5185.67) (Figure 7.25). A strangely bent horseshoe nail recovered may symbolize improvised jewelry. This nail has been curved into an almost perfect circle, with a small opening at one end and would easily fit on a finger (FS 5196.7) (Figure 7.26). Lastly, a ring in the shape of a lion’s head with two red rhinestone eyes is worth mention (FS 5047.54) (Figure 7.27). Although striking, this ring would have been inexpensive or even given away free as a prize or with a purchase of other goods and may have been a piece of costume jewelry or worn by children on the site as it is open in the back to adjust the size.

Other personal items of note include fragments from at least one watch (FS 5108.6), a shaving razor with Bakelite handle (FS 5342.9), a glass perfume rod (FS 5067.17), a fragment of a keychain (FS 5066.21), the lens from a pair of regular glasses, possibly bifocals, the lens from one pair of sunglasses (FS 5268.17), and two pocket knives (FS 5327.32 and 5105.4). The white metal lid of a copper alloy plated compact case with etched Art Deco-type design and “POWDER” written on it represents a rare luxury item found on site (FS 5321.126).

**Smoking Pipes.** Tobacco use has been part of European-American culture almost from its earliest beginnings. In the eighteenth century, stems and bowls were rarely decorated; by the nineteenth century, the stem was the common location for the manufacturer to put his name or design and stems and bowls began to take on a variety of designs including natural, geometric, effigy and political motifs (Bradley 2000). This site yielded a minimum of twelve pipes, none of which is marked, however many exhibit molded decoration. All actual pipes from the collection are ceramic although single amber and vulcanite (FS 5321.121) and Bakelite mouthpieces are present. Clay pipes went out of fashion by the 1920s and the mouthpieces excavated are an indication that corncob or wooden pipes were utilized on the premise. Mouthpieces represent six of the minimum twelve pipes identified. Non-clay pipes required separate stems made of reed or goose bone connected to mouthpieces manufactured from the above materials. While the wood and corncob pipes and associated bone and reed stems do not usually survive in the archaeological record, the mouthpieces often do.



Figure 7.24 Copper alloy leaf jewelry component (FS 1198.4).



Figure 7.25 Dust pressed porcelain men's collar stud (FS 5185.67).



Figure 7.26 Possible ring made from bent horseshoe nail (FS 5196.7).



Figure 7.27 Copper alloy lion's head ring with red rhinestone eyes (FS 5047.54).

At least one molded salt glazed stoneware pipe with brown ribbed exterior was recovered. An identical pipe is found in the “George Zorn & Co Pipes & Smokers Articles Fifth Edition Catalog,” published by the company around 1892. The pipe, described as the “Ribbed Shaker,” would also have required a reed stem; it wholesaled for 45 cents per 100 pipes and 30 cents for 100 reeds (Zorn 1892:13). This would make the pipe relatively inexpensive although slightly more costly than the white ball clay pipes comprising the majority of the smoking pipe collection, a stem of which is pictured here (FS 5001.138) (Figure 7.28). Two white clay pipes from the Wilson Farm Tenancy are also illustrated in the Zorn catalog. A single bowl fragment and buff stem fragment of the “Hexagon Cutty” found on page 5 of the catalog were recovered (FS 5093.65), representing two pipes. The Hexagonal Cuttys in the Zorn catalog were imported from Ireland and sold at wholesale for \$1.80 per three gross. Two bowl fragments of another geometric shaped bowl, listed as the “Cheapest Clay Pipe in Existence” in the Zorn catalog (Zorn 1892:9), were found (FS 5060.3 and 5006.76). This pipe, although molded, retailed for less than a plain pipe at \$1.30 per three gross. With the exception of the single amber mouthpiece, which may have represented a fancier pipe than the others, the archaeological evidence suggests that the smoking paraphernalia used at the Wilson Farm Tenancy was simple and inexpensive.

#### *Fauna/Flora Group*

Of the marine faunal remains, oyster shell makes up the majority with 180 fragments. At least one shell exhibits drill marks including the example in (FS 1179.1) Figure 7.29, which shows evidence of drilling from the inside out in two locations. Additional shell remains include small amounts of quahog and soft clam shells, whelk, and land snail. Ten fish scales were also recovered.

An assemblage of 1135 bones or bone fragments was submitted to a faunal analyst for identification. A detailed report is included as Appendix C) and summarized below. A discussion of the results by site area is presented in Chapter 8.

Overall, the bone assemblage included both dietary waste (i.e. post-consumption table remains) and waste from processing (i.e. preparing food) meats. No butchering waste was observed in the analyzed material. Pig and cattle were the two most abundant species recovered at the site. Processing waste included the skull and mandible. The brains, tongue and facial muscles were used in variety of dishes. Most of the dietary refuse consisted of hams, especially the shank ham. Stew meats in the form of ham hocks and trotters were common as well. No vertebrae were recovered. The lack of vertebral remains and the predominance of one part of the body (the leg) over all others suggested that pork cuts were purchased. Age at death data indicated that neonates and juveniles were absent in the assemblage, which further suggests that pigs were not raised at this location. If pigs were raised and slaughtered elsewhere at the site there should have been a greater distribution of skeletal elements.

Beef cuts included stews, grinding meats, roasts, and steaks. Large cuts of meat were far more common than steaks. Though a variety of cuts was represented they were generally infrequent with the exception of stews cuts. As was the case with pig, many parts of the skeleton or body were not present such as the spinal column and the upper hind leg. This distribution suggests that meat cuts were purchased.



Figure 7.28 White ball clay unmarked pipestem (FS 5001.138).



Figure 7.29 Oyster shell with possible drill marks (FS 1179.1).

The high fragmentation rate of bird bones negatively affected the identification by species or skeletal element. Chicken was the most common species represented. The presence of medullary bone signals the presence of egg-laying hens, which suggests they were raised on site.

Fish and reptile also were consumed. The presence of fish is an indication of consumption while butchered turtle bone is evidence of butchering.

As was expected the diet was primarily based on the domesticated livestock. Birds, fish and turtles added variety to the diet. It is possible some of the smaller mammals identified in the assemblage, especially muskrat and rabbit, were also consumed. A diversity of wild mammal, bird, fish and reptile species indicates that exploitation of locally available resources contributed to the diet though it is unclear to what extent. The faunal assemblage presents a picture of rural lower socio-economic class dietary traditions.

Ten soil samples were submitted to the macrobotanical analyst for processing and analysis. Results of the analysis are presented in Appendix D and summarized here. The samples were from Feature 34, the brick shaft at the rear of the house, Feature 51, the builder's trench, and six pit features (Features 25, 26, 32, 57, 60, and 85).

The only carbonized material in the two Feature 34 samples were thirteen fragments of wood charcoal (black locust and deciduous types) and amorphous carbon (one fragment). Feature 51 produced 17 fragments of wood charcoal (white oak and deciduous types) and one piece of amorphous carbon. Small amounts of wood charcoal and amorphous carbon were also found in the six pit features. Overstory species represented in the wood charcoal assemblage included white oak, hickory, maple, pine, and black locust.

Nutshell remains were limited to a single walnut family (*juglandaceae*) fragment recovered from pit Feature 32. The specimen represents an interior shell fragment, and it is uncertain whether it belongs to a hickory (*Carya*) or walnut (*Juglans*) species.

In addition to identifiable botanical remains, the flotation samples contained an array of small artifacts and natural materials. These included non-carbonized roots, insect egg cases and body parts, fish scales, crushed shell, small snails, deciduous leaf fragments, and a possible small glass bead.

### *Arms Group*

The arms group makes up 0.53% of the Wilson Farm Tenancy artifacts ( $n=219$ ) (Table 7.5). These are comprised of bullet fragments, casings and components with the single exception of a trigger guard fragment. The vast majority of bullets were 0.22 caliber rim fired with various manufacturer marks. Shotgun shell caps, predominantly 12 gauge with three 10 gauge shell caps, were also numerous and exhibited a range of stamped manufacturer's marks and brands including Remington and Winchester. As no plastic casings were found, which post date 1958 (Miller et al. 2000), it can be concluded that these shotgun shells likely had paper casings or possibly brass casings, which would have been recycled. 0.38, 0.32, and 0.357 caliber handgun cartridges are also present with a single odd 0.58 caliber casing likely for a converted Springfield

rifle dating from 1867-1910 (Barnes 1985). It is unclear why 218 bullets casings and components would be located so close to the house although this may be an indication that tenants were saving and recycling their cartridges. Dropped whole bullets, however, indicate that tenants may have been firing their weapons close to their dwelling. Two 0.22 bullets, two 0.32, and a single 0.38 caliber whole bullet were discovered during excavations. All but one of these was recovered from the west yard area. The large percentage of 0.22 casings in and around the house may be indicative of the residents shooting rodents and/or small game while it is also possible that the concentration of dropped bullets indicates a target practice area.

*Fuel Group*

Of the 161 Fuel-related artifacts, making up less than 0.4% of the total assemblage, the majority are coal fragments (Table 7.23). Clinkers are the fragmentary pieces that remain after coal combustion. Slag, also a bi-product, is vitreous with a high silica content and results from higher temperature activities such as smelting. The coal and clinker fragments are expected artifacts for a domestic site. Slag may be indicative of some nearby metalworking activities although slag and ash from factories and mills were sometimes used to line dirt roads and driveways in rural areas.

**Table 7.23 Fuel by Object**

Group	Object	Total	%
Fuel	Coal Fragment	118	73.29%
Fuel	Clinker	41	25.47%
Fuel	Slag	2	1.24%
Total		161	

*Transportation Group*

All of the eighty-six artifacts within the transportation group are related to cars. The majority of these are colorless or aqua safety glass, which was developed in 1915 (Miller et al. 2000). Other car-related artifacts include an ashtray (FS 5165.41), three different tire valve caps, tire rubber fragments, two different spark plugs and many headlight fragments from a Chevrolet. The headlights are embossed “Sealed Beam,” which is the standard headlight adopted in 1940 (Lighting Equipment 2010). While these artifacts may be indicative of a car on the property, the Wilson Farm Tenancy’s proximity to Choptank Road may account for some of the artifacts in question. However, a look at the distribution of artifacts shows that the highest concentration of transportation-related objects occurs on the West side of the structure, while Choptank Road runs along the East side of the property indicating that the majority of the artifacts are likely be associated with the tenants rather than highway traffic.

*Activities Group*

Although there are only eighty-two objects in the “activities group” representing 0.2% of the collection, there are a number of interesting artifacts contained within it. Thirty pencils, both wooden and slate, attest to writing/educational activities taking place on site (Table 7.24). In addition to this a portion of a possible writing slate and the mouth of one inkbottle were recovered (FS 5037.6). Sherds of multiple flowerpots indicate evidence of gardening while remains of a harmonica, two fragments of 78 rpm records (FS 5213.1 and 5067.4), a guitar pick

(FS 5214.42), gaming pieces such as a bone die (FS 1227.3) (Figure 7.30) and possible gaming tokens made from stone and ceramic point towards recreation on the Wilson Tenant Farm. A magnifying glass lens excavated may be classified as either recreational or educational, depending on how it was utilized (FS 5247.8).

**Table 7.24 Activities by Object**

Group	Object	Total	%
Activities	Pencil	30	36.59%
Activities	Flower Pot	29	35.37%
Activities	Other (see comments)	17	20.73%
Activities	Thimble	3	3.66%
Activities	Gaming Piece	2	2.44%
Activities	Ink Bottle	1	1.22%
Total		82	

Three thimbles represent sewing activities. One thimble is copper alloy (FS 5022.20) while the other two are inexpensive aluminum. At least one of the aluminum thimbles was given away free as a gift with a bag of Gold Coin Flour (the name is stamped across the base) (FS 5206.6) (Figure 7.31), a common practice for the time period. This thimble is an artifact of interest as it was modified with a hole pushed through the waffle-stamped dome, through which a wire or string could be threaded, creating a bell-like ornament or pendant. Pierced thimbles have been recovered from a number of sites, primarily in Native-American and African-American contexts. These objects were often used as ornaments by punching a hole or holes through the crown then hanging them from a thread or thong (Hill 2000; Noel Hume 1969). Altered thimbles have been recovered from sites associated with African-American occupation in the Southern states. Excavations at Ashland-Belle Helene Plantation in Louisiana, for instance, yielded a number of thimbles thought to have been used as charms or amulets (Yakubik and Mendez 1995). Recent excavation of a privy associated with the first Philadelphia City Almshouse, known to have housed free African Americans, unearthed a similarly altered thimble (Kaktins 2008). Thimbles have also been linked to malign conjuring, a practice associated with Hoodoo, a North American variant of Vodou, the West-African belief system (Leone and Fry 2001)

*Medical Group*

**Patent Medicines.** Common inclusions in late-nineteenth- and early- to mid-twentieth-century medicine cabinets were patent medicines. These medications were non-prescription and often protected by copyright or patent. Most frequently packaged in labeled or embossed bottles for brand recognition, they were under little or no regulation by the government (Fike 1987). As such, patent medicine manufacturers could make claims to cure a wide variety of ailments while at the same time disclosing none of their mysterious ingredients, which ranged from benign and useless to addictive and harmful. The Wilson farm tenancy is no exception with multiple patent medicine bottles resulting from the excavation.

One such example is the nearly complete rectangular bottle with rounded corners and recessed panels with embossed lettering reading “HOLMES, FRAGRANT FROSTILLA, ELMIRA, N.Y.



Figure 7.30 Bone die (FS 1227.3).



Figure 7.31 Aluminum Gold Coin Flour thimble with two pierced holes (FS 5206.6).

U.S.A” (FS 5248.4) (Figure 7.32). Fragrant Frostilla was a best selling skin cream for the hands and face made by Clay W. Holmes between 1873 and at least 1952 (Fike 1987:166). In addition to its use as a moisturizer, Fragrant Frostilla was also apparently used to lighten or whiten skin tone (Harland 1903). Regardless of its supposed uses, a book put out by the American Medical Association stated that this popular lotion was composed almost entirely of “alcohol, glycerin and gum tragacanth” (Cramp 1921:59), the last ingredient acting essentially as a thickener.

Another identifiable patent bottle from the collection is a square bottle embossed “POOR RICHARD’S EYE WATER, MRs. M. G. BROWN, PHILA U.S.A” (FS 1365.5). Mrs. Brown was apparently operating from 410 Arch Street, Philadelphia in 1863 according to advertisements, relocated to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania and later moved to New York City. The end date for the bottle is 1935 (Fike 1987:245). Various advertisements posted on antiquemedicines.com indicate that Mrs. Brown was a colorful character and considered herself to be a “metaphysical physician” and professor of the eye, ear, throat and scalp. The Poor Richard’s Eye Water is listed in a Brooklyn advertisement as “Lifting sunken eyes, strengthens weak eyes, clears dim eyes”. In addition to Eye Water Mrs. Brown also produced Scalp Renovator and Metaphysical Discovery, which cured everything from deafness to baldness.

Some patent medicines were mostly, if not entirely, alcohol. Bitters, or alcohol with herbal infusions, are a good example of this. Often marketed in the nineteenth and early twentieth century as a patent medicine, and used as a way to get around prohibition since bitters were legally considered medicine, bitters could be consumed directly or mixed with beverages to cure a variety of ailments. Three identifiable bitters bottles were excavated from the Wilson tenancy. Of these, one can be linked with a brand name, that of the Records & Goldsborough Company (FS 1193.31) out of Baltimore, Maryland, which operated from 1885 to 1935. Although they initially primarily produced whiskey, Records and Goldsborough also distilled bitters, perhaps as a way to weather prohibition in view of the fact that they were clearly producing some kind of alcohol through these times.

The last identifiable patent medicine bottle is that of “JOSEPH S. BENNETT & CO, PHILA, DRUGGISTS” (FS 5021.12) (Figure 7.33). While the manufacturer is clearly stated on the bottle it is unknown what drug was contained in that specific bottle or what medicines Joseph Bennett & Company produced. It is likely that they were generating a number of drugs and bottling them in their own personally embossed bottle. In addition to these patent bottles there are a number of unidentified fragments of medicine bottles indicating that the Wilson farm tenants utilized various patent medicines, as would be expected of late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century consumers.

**Other Medications.** In addition to non-prescription medications there is possible evidence for prescription medicine use at the Wilson tenancy. A number of glass syringe fragments (FS 5020.69) (Figure 7.34) representing at least two syringes and vials were recovered from excavations. The vials came in multiple forms, some with wide mouths, which may have contained pills, and others with narrow mouths that would require a syringe to extract the fluid inside (FS 5339.19) (Figure 7.35). While it is possible that residents at the farm required injection medications such as insulin, there is also the likelihood that these medications were for the farm animals on site that might occasionally require antibiotics or other treatments. Without labels or embossing on the vials the exact form of the medication is indeterminable.



Figure 7.32 Clear patent medicine bottle embossed with "HOLMES, FRAGRANT FROSTILLA, ELMIRA, N.Y. U.S.A." (FS 5248.4).

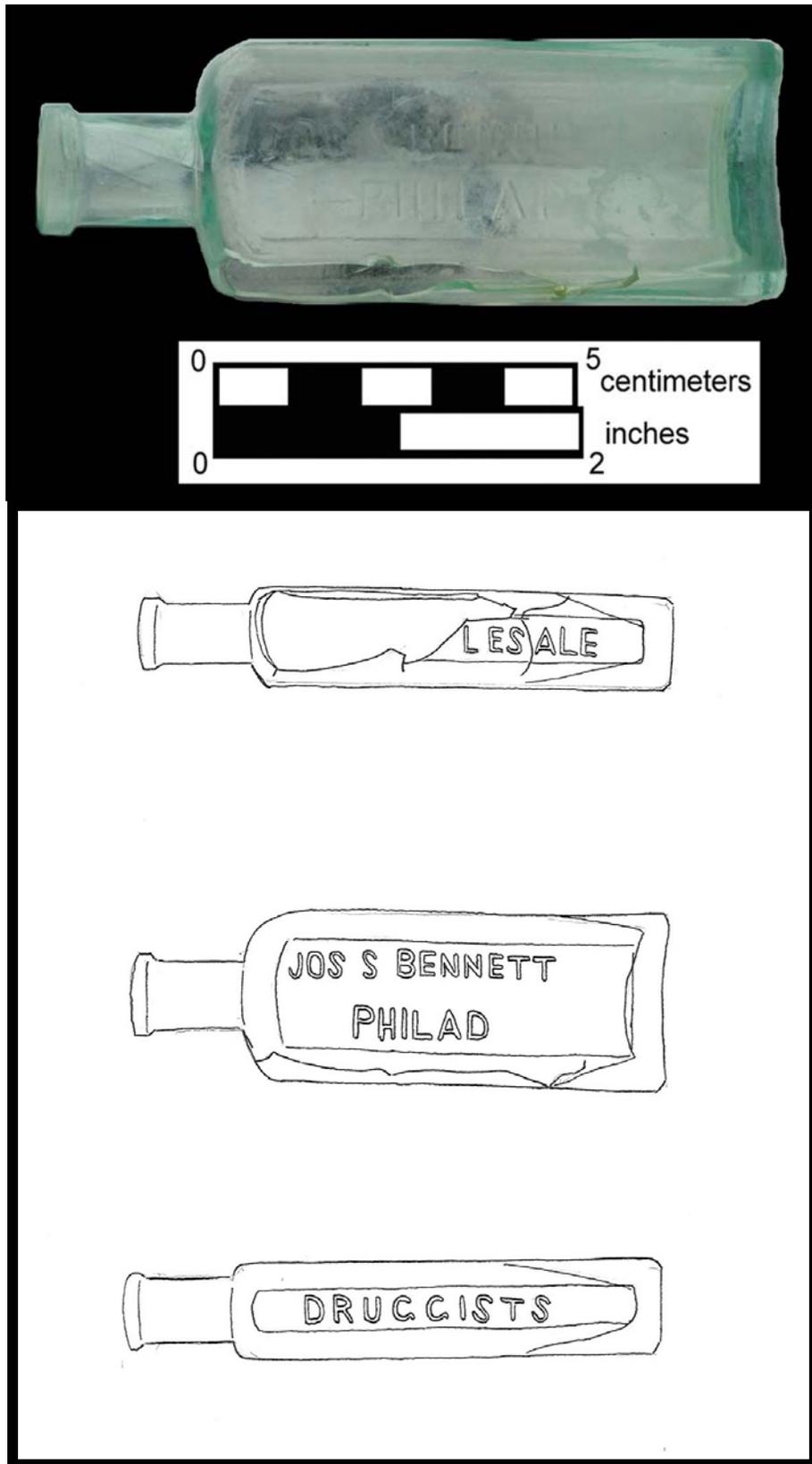


Figure 7.33 Patent medicine bottle embossed with "JOSEPH S. BENNETT & CO, PHILA, DRUGGISTS" (FS 5021.12).



Figure 7.34 Clear glass syringe plunger fragment (FS 5020.69).



Figure 7.35 Clear medical vial, complete (FS 5339.19).

*Toys*

Although represented by only 58 artifacts, toys at the Wilson Farm Tenancy are a testament to the children that lived, worked, and played on the site. Starting in the eighteenth century, children were encouraged to mimic adults with their toys and were given miniature versions of adult items so they could “play grownup” and define their gender roles early in life (Feister 2009). The end result of this mindset was that little girls were given dolls and small tea sets and kitchenwares while boys played with items such as little pocketknives, watches, and novelty white clay pipes (Zorn 1892).

Of the twenty nine doll parts excavated (Table 7.25), at least sixteen belong to a medium-sized doll with a pink-colored bisque fired head, a fragment of which is seen in the top of (FS 5020.136) Figure 7.36. This doll was larger and fancier than any of the others at the site with hand painted black eyelashes, brown eyebrows and red lips. Holes in the head indicate that it would have had hair and glass eyes, possibly articulating. It can be assumed that this doll, along with all of the dolls represented archaeologically, had cloth bodies as only arm, leg, and head fragments were recovered. The doll with the pink head may actually have had non-ceramic arms and legs, such as wood, as no appendages suited to the size of the doll’s head were recovered. In contrast, the other doll parts (consisting of arms and legs) belonged to a minimum of three small dolls. Although none of their heads were recovered, they were likely to have been simple, without moving eyes or realistic hair. The majority of the doll appendages were solid, as in the lower example in (FS 5026.10) Figure 7.36; at least one doll, however, exhibited hollow limbs. Three legs were hand painted with ribbons and socks, while the arms were entirely undecorated.

**Table 7.25 Toys by Object**

Group	Object	Total	%
Toy	Doll Part	29	50.00%
Toy	Marble	18	31.03%
Toy	Toy Ceramics	8	13.79%
Toy	Other Toys	3	5.17%
Total		58	

There are two kinds of toy ceramics, those used by children to prepare “make believe” meals and those designed to be used by their toys (miniature ceramics). The four fragments of miniature ceramics fall into the later category and would have been used by girls to serve tea and meals to their toys/dolls. The miniature ceramic fragments in question are all plain hard paste porcelain and may represent one set with a minimum of one saucer and two teacups.

A variety of marbles were recovered in a range of colors, sizes, and materials (Figure 7.37). While six of the marbles are glass and exhibit multicolored swirls and cat’s eyes (second from the left) (FS 5066.43), eight of them are low fired, undecorated and unglazed clay, such as the orange example in the picture (FS 5001.135). In addition to this the collection includes a blue stoneware “Bennington” marble, shown on the far right (FS 1192.34), and two oversized white porcelain marbles, one of which is exhibited on the far left (FS 5002.18). Half of the marbles, however, are made of undecorated clay.

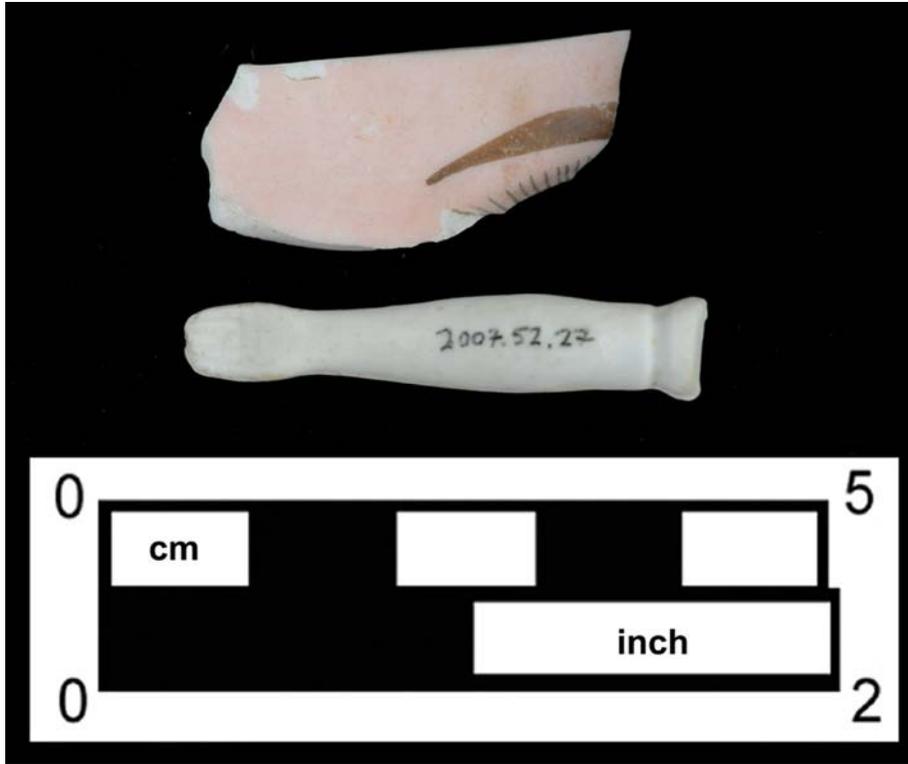


Figure 7.36 Doll parts. Top: head fragment with portion of eyebrow and lashes. Bottom: complete arm of small cloth bodied doll (FS 5020.136 and 5026.10).

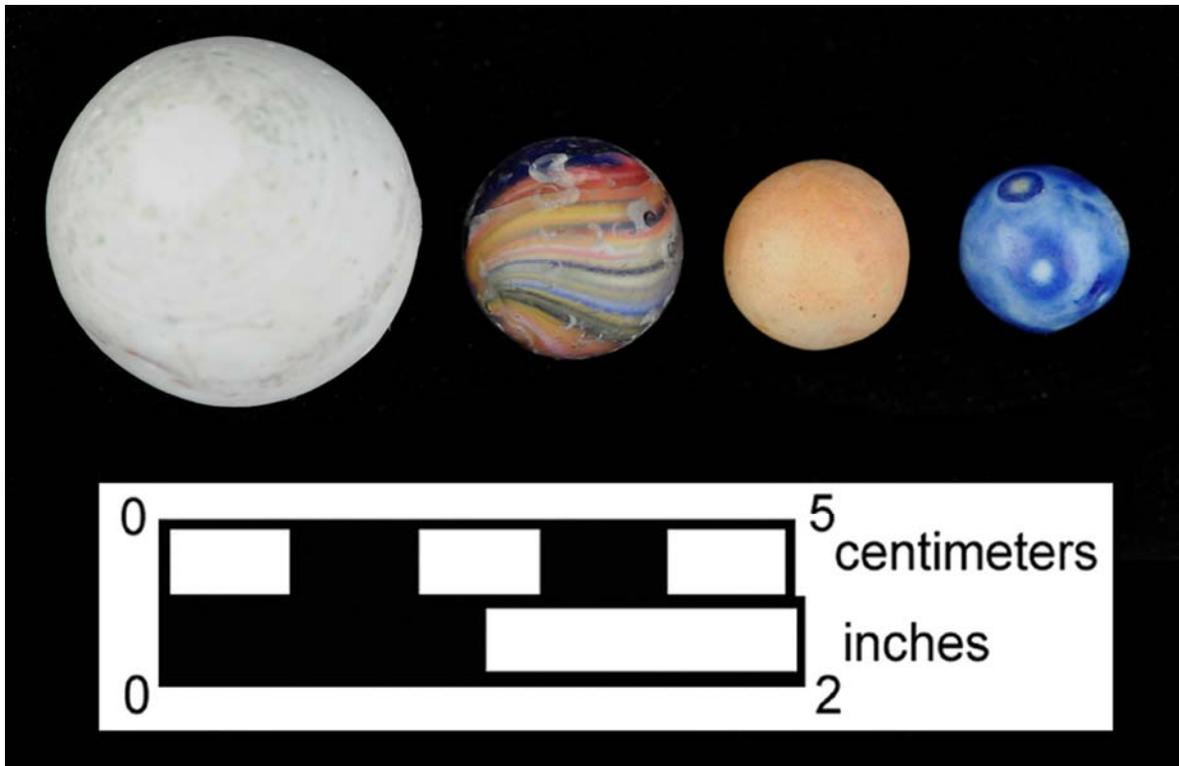


Figure 7.37 Marbles. Left to right: white porcelain, multicolored swirled glass, orange earthenware, blue stoneware 'Bennington' marble (FS 5002.18, 5066.43, 5001.135, 1192.34).

Additional toys include one possible plastic BB (FS 5185.7), a roughly made lead figurine in the shape of a chick (FS 1196.2) (Figure 7.38), which may have been part of a barnyard set, and a carnival cane topper (FS 5093.69) (Figure 7.39). Carnival canes were novelties given out as prizes at fairs and, in addition to this die motif, included dog, cat and other animal heads, popular cartoon characters such as Mickey Mouse, Little Orphan Annie and Donald Duck, and Indian heads and skulls. Although carnival canes were popular from around the turn of the twentieth century until the 1930s, this example is faintly embossed with “Japan” on the base and more clearly painted with the same lettering on the underside of the cane (see picture inset), indicating that it must post-date 1921 (as already noted, pre-1921 Japanese exports were stamped with the country name “Nippon”). The small diameter reed “cane” portion of the object was not meant to bear weight and would likely break easily and not be apt to survive in the archaeological record.

*Electrical*

The Wilson Farm Tenancy was occupied well into the twentieth century; therefore it is not surprising that a number of electrical-related objects were recovered. These include three fragments of a large carbon battery core, three dust-pressed porcelain insulators with a date of 1878 or later (Miller et al. 2000), three non-insulated spade terminals such as would be utilized on televisions as early as 1930, various wire and unidentified electrical fragments and one light bulb base. This light bulb is very small and stamped “Eveready” above the external threads (FS 5113.153). The Eveready Company manufactured small light bulbs for flashlights, toys, novelties, and Christmas lights from 1899 until they ceased production of bulbs to concentrate on batteries around 1920 (Host Monster 2010). Documentary evidence would suggest that this is likely a fragment of a Christmas light.

*Tack*

We recovered nineteen artifacts from the tack functional group during our excavations. *Tack* is defined as those artifacts, or gear, associated with the care or use of horses and other livestock, items to be expected on a farm. Accounting for less than 1% of the total collection, the majority of artifacts from this group consists of horseshoes ( $n=8$  or 40%) (FS 1211.7) (Figure 7.40), as well as buckles, horseshoe nails, and bridle pieces (Table 7.26).

**Table 7.26 Tack by Object**

Group	Object	Total	%
Tack	Horseshoe	8	40.00%
Tack	Buckle	5	25.00%
Tack	Bridle fragments	4	20.00%
Tack	Nail, Horseshoe	3	15.00%
<b>Total</b>		<b>20</b>	

The majority of the horseshoes were too rusted to determine wear. However, one shoe exhibited moderate wear (thinning) at the toe. Seven of the horseshoes were designed for average to large-sized animals while a single petite intact shoe was clearly suited to a small horse or pony. Five plain, rectangular tack buckles, three made of iron and two of copper alloy, were recovered. The copper alloy examples and one iron buckle have “D” shaped frames and may come from a horse

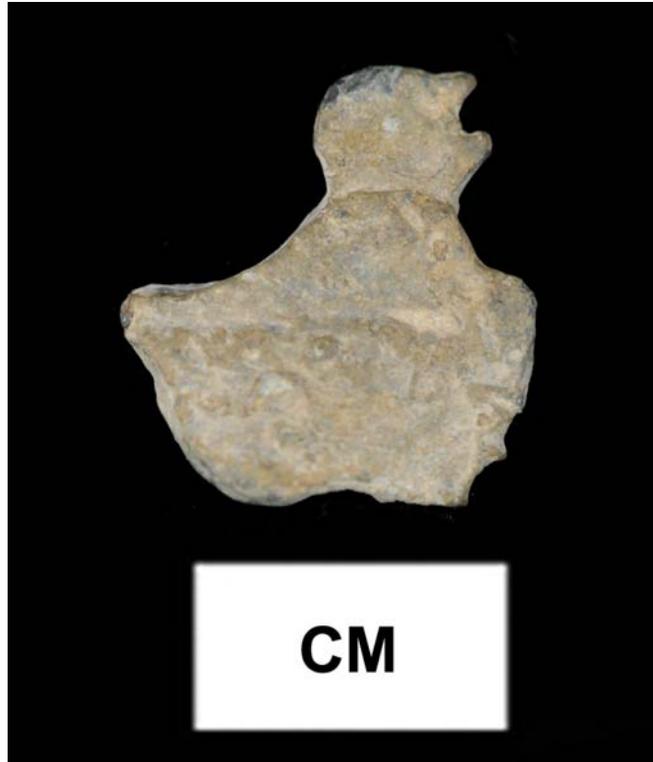


Figure 7.38 Small lead chick figurine, missing foot stand (FS 1196.2).



Figure 7.39 Die-shaped carnival cane head (FS 5093.69).



Figure 7.40 Horseshoe (FS 1211.7).

harness. The bridle pieces include two intact jointed mouth portions from a “mouthed bridoon” or “snaffle” bit (FS 5099.74 and 5148.4), which is a design that is still in use today and has changed little since the colonial period (Noël Hume 1970). Both of these bits are large, likely for draft horses.

*Tools*

Table 7.27 illustrates the variety of tools recovered from the excavation. Scissors, in the majority, cannot be ascribed to any specific activity given their corroded and fragmentary nature. Additional tools include four chisels (FS 5099.8 and 5021.5), two wrenches represented by four fragments (one of which is a stainless steel Craftsmen socket wrench which post dates 1927 (Sears Brands, LLC 2010), two axe heads (FS 5024.13 and 5022.31), one of which was recovered from pit Feature 26, a bastard file (FS 5260.5), and a spade head (FS 167.1).

**Table 7.27 Tools by Object**

Group	Object	Total	Percentage
Tool	Scissors	5	27.78%
Tool	Chisel	4	22.22%
Tool	Wrench	4	22.22%
Tool	Axe	2	11.11%
Tool	File	1	5.56%
Tool	Spade	1	5.56%
Tool	Other	1	5.56%
Total		18	

*Commercial*

Nine coins and three tokens were excavated from the Wilson Farm Tenancy. The coins are predominantly Wheatback and Indian Head pennies with the exception of a single 2-cent piece which could not be dated precisely due to corrosion but which must fall within the 1864-1873 date range for this type of coin. The Indian Head pennies include dates of 1863 (FS 5006.25) (Figure 7.41), 1897, and 1905. The Wheatback pennies have dates of 1913, 1914, 1916, 1927 and one indecipherable, although this type of coin was in production from 1909 to 1958. Two of the tokens from the collection are copper alloy, one with an unidentified symbol and the other with “ID/B.C. & Co.” stamped on one side, an unknown company. The last token is aluminum and highly corroded although the lettering on one side is identified as “HIGH REALITY CO. INC / 727 WALNUT ST. / PHILADELPHIA / PENNA” (FS 5049.5) (Figure 7.42). Presumably, this token was handed out as an advertisement. No additional information could be found regarding this company.



Figure 7.41 1863 Indian head penny (FS 5006.25).



Figure 7.42 Aluminum Walnut Street Realty token (FS 5049.5).