

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abstract	vi
Acknowledgments	vi
1. Introduction	1
2. Technological and industrial background history	12
3. Canning in nineteenth-century Delaware	29
4. History of the site	52
5. Previous investigations	62
6. Excavation narrative	68
7. Interpretation	94
8. Conclusions	110
9. Significance of Delaware cannery sites	115
References	118

## APPENDICES

1. Excavation Register	122
2. Soil chemistry	125
3. Determination of eligibility	128
4. Delaware cannery list	134
5. Qualifications of the investigator	143

# LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

## FIGURES

1. Project Location, detail from DelDOT Delaware Atlas, Sheet 20	3
2. Reconstructed ground plan of the 1874 form of the cannery	6
3. Anatomy of a nineteenth-century can	14
4. Plan of a canning house 30 by 124 feet	28
5. Plan of the cannery at Little Creek, redrawn from insurance documents	31
6. Map of the site and environs, showing Phase II tests	63
7. Profile of ER 68	65
8. Site Plan for the data recovery project	69
9. Plan of the southeast corner of the structure, ER 74, 75, 76	70
10. Plan of the northeast corner of the cellar and a later pier, ER 79 and 81	74
11. Plan of the brick boiler base, ER 84	78
12. Section through the brick boiler base, ER 84	78
13. Plan of two stone piers, ER 85	85
14. Plan and profile of the cellar, ER 88	88
15. Plan of the north end, ER 87	88
16. Profile through the dump, ER 89, north face	89
17. Plan and profile of features at the south end, ER 80 and ER 90	90
18. Profile of trench at northeast corner of building, ER 91	91
19. Interpretation of archæological evidence	95
20. Archæological remains with interpolations	96
21. Reconstructed ground plan correlated with archæological evidence	98
22. Tinsplate strips from ER 89	100
23. Artifacts and tinsplate scrap from ER 90A	105
24. Typical large scrap, tinsplate blank and strip from ER 90A	106
25. Scrap from ER 89	107
26. Tool remains	108
27. Illustrations from the Ferracute catalogue	112
28. Site map with locations of chemical tests	126
29. Pie charts of chemical test results from the Lebanon cannery site	127

## PLATES

1. Aerial view from the southwest, before construction	2
2. Aerial view from the southeast, after construction	4
3. Engraving of the canning plant of the Farmers Fruit Preserving Company	9
4. Catsup bottle from the Lebanon company	10
5. Cans produced at the Lebanon cannery	13
6. Interior of the Richardson and Robbins plant at Dover	15
7. Workroom of the Samuel Derby apple packing house at Woodside	16
8. E. L. Jones machine shop and foundry in Dover	26
9. State-of-the-art can-making machinery, 1883	27
10. Schooner <i>Rachel A. Collins</i>	32
11. Steamer <i>Avalon</i> tied up at the cannery wharf in Seaford	33
12. Steamer <i>Clio</i> , of Odessa, tied up at Watkins' Cannery	34
13. Stetson and Ellison Plant #3, Houston	35
14. Four staff members of the H. P. Cannon cannery	37
15. Little Creek Canning Company, 1899	38
16. Stetson and Ellison's second cannery on Commerce Street in Camden	39
17. The 1880 J. M. Chambers cannery in Dover	40
18. Charles Barker's evaporating plant at Milford	41
19. First plant of the Richardson and Robbins company in Dover	42
20. J. T. Postles cannery, Frederica	43
21. Cannery at Viola	45
22. Loading cans in the cannery at Viola	45
23. Office of the Calhoun and Jones cannery on Race Street in Georgetown	47
24. Wagons full of tomatoes	48
25. Cannery of William McClintock ("Clink") Minner at Masten's Corner	49
26. Waste products of canning	50
27. John S. Collins, about 1928	51
28. Captain John C. Durborough	51
29. Steamer <i>John P. Wilson</i>	61
30. Can-making waste in the bank as first discovered	66
31. The hillside before excavation, after cleaning	71
32. View eastward across the first cut, toward the river	72
33. Brick pier found in the first bakhoe cut	73

34. East wall line, ER 75, looking west, with two of the brick piers in place	75
35. L-Shaped footer in ER 79, which was built after demolition of the brick wall	77
36. Boiler base at grade, west of the building, with adjacent wall to the south	79
37. Close up perspective view of the boiler base, showing double wall	80
38. Rubble-filled robbed wall trench immediately south of the boiler bases	81
39. Stone building pier, one of three discovered on the west perimeter	82
40. The northern boiler base in the cellar, looking west toward the profile line	83
41. Cache of nails and hardware in a matrix of ash	84
42. View eastward, showing the one-brick-thick wall	84
43. Cut through the can-making waste, ER 89	86
44. Aerial view of the site from the southeast, with the cannery superimposed	92
45. North wall of the cannery building, looking east from the corner	93
46. Ellendale cannery, 1924, showing lightweight construction	109
47. Romeo's cannery in Dover	113
48. Scott and Daly, Inc., Dover	114

## TABLES

1. Can size standards, 1883, 1922, and today	18
2. Outfit of tools for can-making	21
3. Equipment of a Delaware cannery, 1881	23
4. Cannery ownership in Delaware	30
5. Delaware entries from the Ferracute Machine Company ledger	36
6. Calculation of "ideal" can body blank sizes	101
7. Blanks and products	102
8. Soil samples	125