

## ABSTRACT

Final archaeological excavations were conducted at the eighteenth through nineteenth century Darrach Store site. In addition, preliminary archaeological survey concluded that the eighteenth through nineteenth century John Bailey House site was heavily disturbed and no further work was undertaken. This project is part of the Delaware Route 1 Corridor, a 48 mile limited access highway, which is currently under construction.

Complete archival research, excavation of a 25% plow zone sample, total excavation of 240 features within the one-acre site area, data analysis, and various site comparisons constituted the Final investigations of the John Darrach Store site reported here. Constructed before the Revolution by John Darrach's father-in-law William White, Darrach operated the Store along the road to the Duck Creek Landing between 1778 and his death in 1805. In addition, he rented a portion of the store as a residence, probably for a time in the later eighteenth century to John Griffin, the local miller. Between 1803 and 1806, Darrach or his heirs converted the store to a tenant residence. From then until its demolition in the late 1860s, the store housed mostly unidentified tenants probably working in farming or laboring in maritime trades.

Four research themes guided the historical and archaeological investigations of the store: The social and economic context of family, mercantile activity in the Smyrna/Duck Creek Hundred, tenancy, agricultural crisis and reform: 1790-1840, and evolution of architecture and landscape. The first, informed principally by historic documents and the archaeological and comparative information on the store's architecture, focussed on the Whites, Darrachs, and other elite mercantile families of Duck Creek in the latter eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. These studies revealed the extensive network of kinship linking these families; their expression of social and economic position through their dress, their silver, furniture, and books prominently displayed in large, expensive, permanent brick houses; and the commercial businesses they operated from their often equally large, expensive, and permanent brick stores. Offering textiles, sewing equipment, clothing, liquor, imported foods, spices, and beverages, books, ceramics and other kitchenwares for cash and in exchange for agricultural produce and other goods and services, these merchants served local community members who patronized them based on a combination of social and economic factors.

The lives of the Darrach Store tenants, in comparison, were better documented in the archaeological than historical record. Griffin and/or other eighteenth century tenants lived in the western half of the store, heated by the building's only fireplaces. They did not carry their household refuse - ceramics, bottle glass, food bone and shell - very far from the back door before dumping it broadcast across the rear and side yards. Soil chemical levels suggest these early tenants may also have tethered their animals near the store, and/or planted a small garden in the side yard. Ceramics form the principle archaeological remains of these families. Domestic, perhaps even locally produced, versatile, multipurpose redwares dominate the assemblage, the expected possessions of a family making due with a few equally versatile, multipurpose cooking pots and pans, as Griffin's probate inventory documents. The domestic economic strategy of the store's later occupants, in residence between its conversion to a tenancy and circa 1825, is reconstructable in even more detail. Multifunctional redwares continued to predominate in the kitchen and on the table. Supplementing these wares at meals, at tea, and on display in the cupboard were a few creamware and pearlware plates, and creamware, pearlware and porcelain teawares. The faunal remains indicate these families served beef, port, mutton, and chicken, as well as geese and other water fowl, muskrat, opossum, squirrel, rabbit, and locally harvested oysters on their earthenware plates and bowls. All could have been raised, hunted, or harvested by the tenants themselves, or purchased at a store in town, or acquired from a neighboring farmer or waterman. Moreover, all the faunal taxa represented archaeologically served multiple roles in the local economy, as food sources for local consumption and for exchange, and as sources of fur, hides, wool, and feathers. Although many questions remain concerning the lives of the Darrach Store's tenants, they clearly sought the most out of their investment, whether of time, energy, or money.

This study of the Darrach Store also contributed information on the agricultural crisis and subsequent reform efforts in Delaware between circa 1790 and 1840. John Darrach clearly took advantage of the opportunities in the international economy of the early federal period offered, and profited handsomely. Later, when prices hit bottom, wealthy merchants like Robert Patterson, who leased the store in the early nineteenth century, amassed control over incredible landholdings. They then set about rebuilding - the economy, the land, and the social relations linking the two. As for their tenants, as we have seen, they placed a premium on resourcefulness, and thus survived, fortunate to be living in an area rich in natural resources, despite human efforts to wear out the land.

Finally, the Darrach Store site's archaeological record preserved a case study of the evolution of architecture and landscape in Duck Creek between the second half of the eighteenth century and the Civil War. When William White constructed his brick store, in the 1770s or earlier, brick structures were truly a rarity in central Delaware, and a visible sign of success and permanence. No outbuildings of this period left archaeological remains, although an impermanent utilitarian building set on wooden blocks seems likely. A well in the rear yard served the tenants' kitchen, and their domestic landscape was confined to the west and southwest yards between the store, the Maryland Road, a gully to the west, and this well and possible outbuilding to the south. At the end of the eighteenth century, John Darrach abandoned the brick store, moving his home and store into downtown Duck Creek Crossroads. The old store property was remodeled for tenants, an addition constructed on its eastern end, new outbuildings erected, and the domestic yard enlarged, reorganized, and enclosed by fences separating outdoor work areas, storage and work spaces in the outbuildings, gardens, livestock pens, and waste disposal areas in the form of a large midden and privies. This intermediate landscape of the early nineteenth century seemingly expressed changing perceptions of the division of property and property rights soon codified through the agricultural reformers' efforts. Later tenants changed the property little, until new owners in the 1860s reworked the landscape once again, plowing under and planting over all vestiges of the buildings, work yards, gardens, and dumps.