

soil deposition due to landscaping and construction of the various stages of the house itself.

Architectural

The architectural attributes of the Robert Ferguson House support the findings of the historical and archaeological research. Generally, the quality and type of internal framing found in the Ferguson House is common in house structures constructed for lower to middle socio-economically ranked families. The presence of previously used framing materials as noted in the center section is a well-known building characteristic for these structures (B. Herman, pers. comm.). The flat-nailed exterior facing provides additional evidence to support this conclusion. Also concluded from the architectural research were a construction date of 1830-1850 for the west section and a late -19th century date for the center section, both supported by the historical research.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological testing indicates that the integrity of the site has been affected by long term agricultural plowing, extensive 20th century landscaping, 20th century structure modification, construction of utilities and septic fields, and road widening. The excavation of 266 posthole digger tests, 27 2 ft. x 2 ft. test pits, and 21 3 ft. x 3 ft. or 5 ft. x 5 ft. test squares produced 18th, 19th and 20th century artifact types; located 13 archaeological and structural features; and provided interpretive data on artifact distribution patterns and yard area usage during the site occupation of about 150 years. The artifact distribution pattern of the early 19th century was found to be different from that associated with the deposition of late 19th and 20th century materials, with the earlier disposal patterns closer to the Ferguson House and the later materials at some distance from it.

Archival research combined with informant data indicated that the first structure on the property was a log dwelling on the south side of Route 4, which was present by 1816. This was the Lynch farmstead, razed in 1955 for the construction of Todd Estates housing development. A second, frame dwelling first appears on the property by 1837 and seems to be the Robert Ferguson house. The quantities and distribution of artifacts present on the site tend to support this contention. The majority of the artifacts recovered have dates of manufacture after 1820. A very small percentage of datable artifacts which may precede this time include creamware (1762-1820), pearlware (1780-1830), and one identifiable wrought nail (pre-1800).

Of the three hypotheses presented in the research design, only the first, regarding the quantity, type, and configuration of outbuildings, was substantially proved or disproved by the archaeological and architectural data obtained from the site. The foundations of two outbuildings were revealed by excavation: the chicken house (Feature 4 in Test Squares 1, 4, 6, 11, and 13) and a 22 ft. by 40 ft. barn (Feature 13). These represent all of the known late 19th and 20th century structures, as indicated by informants, photographs, and maps of the property. It is felt that this is an insufficient number of buildings to support a working farm of 140+ acres and thus probably represents the number of auxiliary structures required for a tenant farm dwelling.

Insufficient data were generated to refute or support hypotheses 2 and 3. Information on the Lynch farmstead and economic status of the owners was not obtainable from the inventories of Reed and Bradford. Since the Lynch farmstead was totally destroyed by the construction of Todd Estates, comparative data was unavailable. It is recommended that any future study of a purported tenant farmhouse include architectural and archeological research on the owner's farmstead as well. In this manner, the relationship between the owner's and tenant's farmhouse may be understood.

Due to the considerable disturbances encountered in the excavations around the Ferguson house, only general information could be obtained about the intra-site artifact spatial patterning (hypothesis). The interpretation of the artifact distribution has been discussed above. It is anticipated that information generated by the excavations at the site will serve as a data base for future tenant farmhouse investigations.

The disturbances mentioned included considerable vertical artifact mixing and limited horizontal scattering of midden areas by plowing and landscaping. This should be expected at future sites of this type.

A large number of test units were excavated at this site, including test squares, posthole digger tests, and mechanical stripping of a selected area. Due to the scarcity of structural features and the mixing of artifacts encountered, it was felt that a test unit sampling pattern of this density was required. It is suggested that on future excavations of this type, a series of soil samples and a similar or greater density of test units should be employed.