APPENDIX Y

Public Consumption Handout

1985-1986

STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS
P.O. BOX 778
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DIRECTOR

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HISTORIC ARCHEOLOGY RESEARCH PROGRAM AT THE H. GRANT TENANCY SITE (7NC-B-6)

A historic archeology research program is being conducted by the Delaware Department of Transportation, Division of Highways, and the Federal Highway Administration in conjunction with Thunderbird Archeological Associates at the H. Grant Tenancy Site.

Delaware Department of Transportation

The Route 48 - (Lancaster Pike) intersection improvement plan calls for the construction of an enlarged and safer intersection. The H. Grant Tenancy Site (7NC-B-6) is the only area along the proposed improvement that has not been built up with housing complexes or is not still in cultivation. At one time the site was cultivated but it is presently pasture, and the thickness of the root mat suggests that it has been so for some time.

At the H. Grant Tenancy Site an early to mid 19th century historic component tentatively identified as a tenancy or former tenant house was found. Along with the tenancy site there was also one small prehistoric site of unknown cultural affiliation that was of little significance. Historic map and deedresearch suggests that the H. Grant Tenancy Site was a short lived domestic structure and further evidence comes from the various classes of ceramics found representing the domestic activities of food storage, food preparation, and food consumption. The structure was oriented towards Lancaster Pike and post molds indicate probable outbuildings of unknown function.

The H. Grant Tenancy Site has high significance because it contributes data important in the understanding of the history of this area and the surrounding region. The intact subsurface archeological features may yield information directly relevant to an understanding of the changing economic patterns observed in the beginning of the 19th century. There is a great potential for the reconstruction of patterns of disposal for the site, as well as the discernment of functionally specific site areas. Another significance of the site is that it provides a good opportunity to study the economic unit of the tenancy. None from this period have been excavated to date in Delaware and few in the Middle Atlantic region. Data recovery would provide comparative information to be used with other known Middle Atlantic tenancies. Such sites occupy an important place in the economic structure of the late 18th century and early 19th century, when the eastern seaboard was undergoing radical economic change. The tenancies represent a relatively little described class in the historical documentation of the era, yet formed a very large and important economic substrate of American Society.

If you would like further information concerning this research program, please contact Kevin Cunningham at 736-4644 or Tim Thompson at the site.