

## ABSTRACT

In February, March, and April of 1985 Data Recovery efforts were completed for the site of the Riseing Son Tavern (previously referred to as the Stanton Hotel, the Wm. Anthony Hotel, and the Old Stone Hotel) in Stanton, New Castle County, Delaware. The work was carried out by Thunderbird Archeological Associates of Woodstock, Virginia, under a contract with the Delaware Department of Transportation. The site had been identified during survey and testing activities completed in 1983 by Thunderbird Archeological Associates, and it had been determined eligible to the National Register of Historic Places in October, 1984.

Background research revealed that the Tavern had been in operation by 1752, and by 1777 it was known as the Riseing Son Tavern. It continued to operate as an inn, or hotel, until after the middle of the nineteenth century. The original structure had apparently been of logs, but by 1806 a Stone building was on the lot, facing the Lancaster Pike, and it remained there until it was demolished about twenty years ago. Excavations exposed the stone foundations of two outbuildings at the rear of the lot, as well as a fence line. An eighteenth century "French Drain" and several nineteenth century midden deposits were excavated. The materials from the site were analyzed and compared to those from other nearby sites in an attempt to identify patterning in the artifacts that would be distinctive of the tavern function, but the particular analyses that were applied suggested that material culture at the site resembled rural domestic sites. Some suggestions for alternative approaches to the general problem of artifact patterning are given.