

## ABSTRACT

Phase III archaeological data recovery excavations were conducted at the William Strickland Plantation Site, 7K-A-117 (formerly known as the Mannee-Cahoon House Site), a National Register Site in Smyrna, Duck Creek Hundred, Kent County, Delaware. The project was funded by the Delaware Department of Transportation prior to the construction of the Early Action Segment of State Route 1. Located in a plowed field southeast of Smyrna near Belmont Hall, a National Register Site, the William Strickland Plantation was the location of a colonial farmstead. The site was owner-occupied dating from circa 1726 to circa 1764. One hundred and eighty-nine cultural features were identified and excavated, including the remains of an earthfast dwelling, a post-in-ground kitchen/quarter, a smokehouse with a cellar, two agricultural structures, two wells, trash disposal features, several fencelines, including a worm fence, and a partially completed cellar hole. Historic research and archaeological remains associated the site with the occupation of the William Strickland family and black slaves. Intrasite and intersite comparisons were conducted using the soils information and artifact data that were recovered. These comparisons provided valuable insights into the lifeways and material culture of rural farmsteads during colonial times in Delaware.

The preservation and quality of the faunal remains, which included more than 8000 bones, was remarkable, and has allowed detailed research into Delaware's colonial foodways. The Strickland Plantation, like others in Delaware, appears to have been a livestock farm, raising cattle, pigs, and sheep for both domestic and commercial use. Wild species, such as deer, water fowl, and oysters, supplemented the household diet. The artifacts recovered from the site reflect the material culture of a household located in the top ten percent of Duck Creek Hundred's taxables at the middle of the eighteenth century. Evidence of commercial dairy production was found in the form of large numbers of milk pans and butter pots. These were jobs that the women of the household undertook, suggesting that the Strickland farm women, black and white, were involved in the local economic system. Documentary and archaeological evidence reveals the Strickland's household to have contained significant amounts of tea equipage, such as tea cups and saucers, tea tables, tea pots and pewter utensils. Other artifacts, such as a weeding hoe, iron kettle fragments, and the slave collar listed in William Strickland's inventory, represent the slave laboring class of persons on the plantation. Artifact distribution and soil chemical data suggest that there was no clear trash disposal area at the site. Anywhere beyond the limits of the house yard seems to have been appropriate. Farmstead layout is the form of a hollow courtyard and is similar to the layouts seen at several other Delaware River Valley sites. The Strickland Plantation material culture is interpreted as representative of a distinctive Delaware River Valley colonial settlement, with significant differences between the Chesapeake.

Cover Illustration: The cover illustration is a nearly intact drinking pot, or mug, that was recovered among refuse in the bottom of one of the wells at the William Strickland Plantation Site. The mug is marked with an "AR" which stands for "Anna Regina," or Queen Anne, the last member of the Stuart Dynasty, who held the the English throne from 1702 to 1714.