

TABLE 1

Summary Catalog of Historic Artifacts from Phase I and II Testing

ARTIFACT TYPE	COUNT	ARTIFACT TYPE	COUNT
CERAMICS		ARCHITECTURAL	
Redware	711	Cut nails	110
Creamware	3	Wire nails	1
Pearlware	46	Slag	.02 kg
Whiteware	53	Mortar	.05 kg
Stoneware	112	Brick	14.7 kg
Ironstone	17	Glazed brick	2.6 kg
Yellowware	22		
Tin-glazed	96	MISCELLANEOUS	
Porcelain	55	Shell	7
Whieldonware	5	Bone	1001
Rockingham	20	Teeth	85
Staffordshire	33	Buttons	4
Buckley	3	Pipes	162
White salt-glazed stoneware	3		
GLASS			
Window	131		
Bottle	142		
Household	9		
Table	4		

RESEARCH DESIGN AND CONTEXT

The historical and archaeological research conducted during the Phase I and II studies of the William Strickland Plantation Site suggest that its main occupation began circa 1725 and ended circa 1760 (Gretler et al. 1991:290-291). Thus, the site occupation falls almost wholly within the period from 1730-1770 which has been called the Period of Intensified and Durable Occupation in studies of Delaware's history (Ames et al. 1989 and De Cunzo and Catts 1990). The overall goals of the Phase III historical archaeological research were to address the William Strickland Plantation Site's domestic economy and landscape, two of the interrelated research domains for this time period presented in the **Management Plan For Delaware's Historical Archaeological Resources** (De Cunzo and Catts 1990:14-25).

The focus of research into a site's domestic economy deals with the family/household level of investigation. The family/household is considered by archaeologists, anthropologists, and historians as a central unit of production, reproduction, consumption, and socialization (Mrozowski 1984). De Cunzo and Catts (1990:14-25) define the domestic economy of a site as the complete range of domestic strategies employed by an historic family or household at an archaeological site to achieve the family's myriad goals in the economic and social realms. Elements of the inhabitants' domestic strategies that can be investigated through historical archaeology include the composition and occupational structure of the family/household, consumer behavior, and household production. Additionally, the family/household can be examined at an intersite level by comparing it to others in the region. Investigations at the William Strickland Plantation Site focusing on landscape change are also related to the household level of investigation, but differ slightly in that they include the arrangement of the site on the landscape, its physical makeup along with its surroundings, and how these elements changed over time.

Previous historical archaeological research in Delaware had implicitly investigated the research topics of domestic economy and landscape, and the work undertaken at several of these sites is similar to the Phase III investigations at the Strickland Site (e.g., Catts and Custer 1990, Catts, Hodny, and Custer 1989; De Cunzo et al. 1992; Hoseth, Catts, and Tinsman 1994; Scholl, Hoseth and Grettler 1994). Similarly, research overviews associated with the archaeological planning surveys of the State Route 1 Corridor (Custer and Bachman 1986; Custer, Bachman, and Grettler 1986; Custer, Bachman, and Grettler 1987) noted similar research questions. Research considerations in these earlier studies had looked for data related to diachronic changes in intrasite spatial organization (household organization and landscape), food preparation and consumption (domestic economy), and artifact assemblage patterns and composition (consumer behavior, home production, household organization).

On a site-specific basis, the research questions considered during the study of the William Strickland Plantation Site included: Are there changes in the refuse disposal processes and techniques indicative of diachronic changes? Can changes be observed in the patterns of artifact and soil chemical distributions, and are these changes indicative of changing patterns of landscape use? Can such changes be related to historically documented economic and social changes on a local, regional, or national level? Are there changes in the presence and absence, or frequencies of certain artifact classes at intrasite and intersite levels? Can these changes be related to the socio-economic position of the family/household at the site, or to local and regional conditions? Can changes in any of the above categories of data be analyzed for meaningful covariance?

For the period 1730 to 1770, De Cunzo and Catts (1990:137) provide the specific research questions that can be addressed at the William Strickland Plantation Site including three main areas of the domestic economy of colonial Kent County: architecture and land use, foodways, and self-sufficiency and market participation. Similarly, Grettler et al. (1991:291) recommended that, since no other known sites in Delaware dating from this period had been the subject of data recovery excavations, data regarding dwelling and outbuilding construction techniques, farmstead layout, spatial utilization, activity areas, trash disposal, and foodways should be collected and analyzed. Generally, investigations at the William Strickland Plantation Site sought to illuminate the transition of the Duck Creek Hundred area during the period from 1730 to 1770 from a frontier region to a part of Philadelphia's agricultural hinterland (De Cunzo and Catts 1990:130).