

Finally, salvage excavations of a previously looted well were undertaken, by Dr. Bernard Herman of the University of Delaware, College of Urban Affairs, and Dean Nelson, Chief, Delaware Bureau of Museums and Historic Sites. This feature, located within a rear wing of the Thomas Mendenhall House (southeast corner of Walnut and Front Sts.) produced an assemblage of artifacts dating to ca. 1780-1820. An analysis of the materials concluded that the quality and quantity of the materials conflicts with that expected from archival research (Herman 1982).

The locations of the nine historical and/or archaeological projects which have been recorded within the city of Wilmington since 1974 are noted on Map 7. The level and type of work which has taken place by various local and State agencies, as well as by private contracting companies, is a reflection of the federal and state laws which protect our nations historical and archaeological resources. heritage.

METHODOLOGY

The methods employed were developed to satisfy the National Park Service requirements 36 part 66 (Draft), as well as those required by the Delaware Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation for a preliminary archaeological survey. As standard for all DelDOT archaeological investigations, the methodology proceeded along three avenues of investigation: background information and archival research, field investigations, and laboratory processing and report preparation.

Background Information and Archival Research: Background infor-

FIGURE 1

WILMINGTON BLVD.

**PROPORTIONS OF UNSKILLED, SKILLED,
LOW WHITE COLLAR, & HIGH WHITE COLLAR
INDIVIDUALS RESIDING IN THE WILMINGTON BLVD.
PROJECT AREA, 1814-1890**

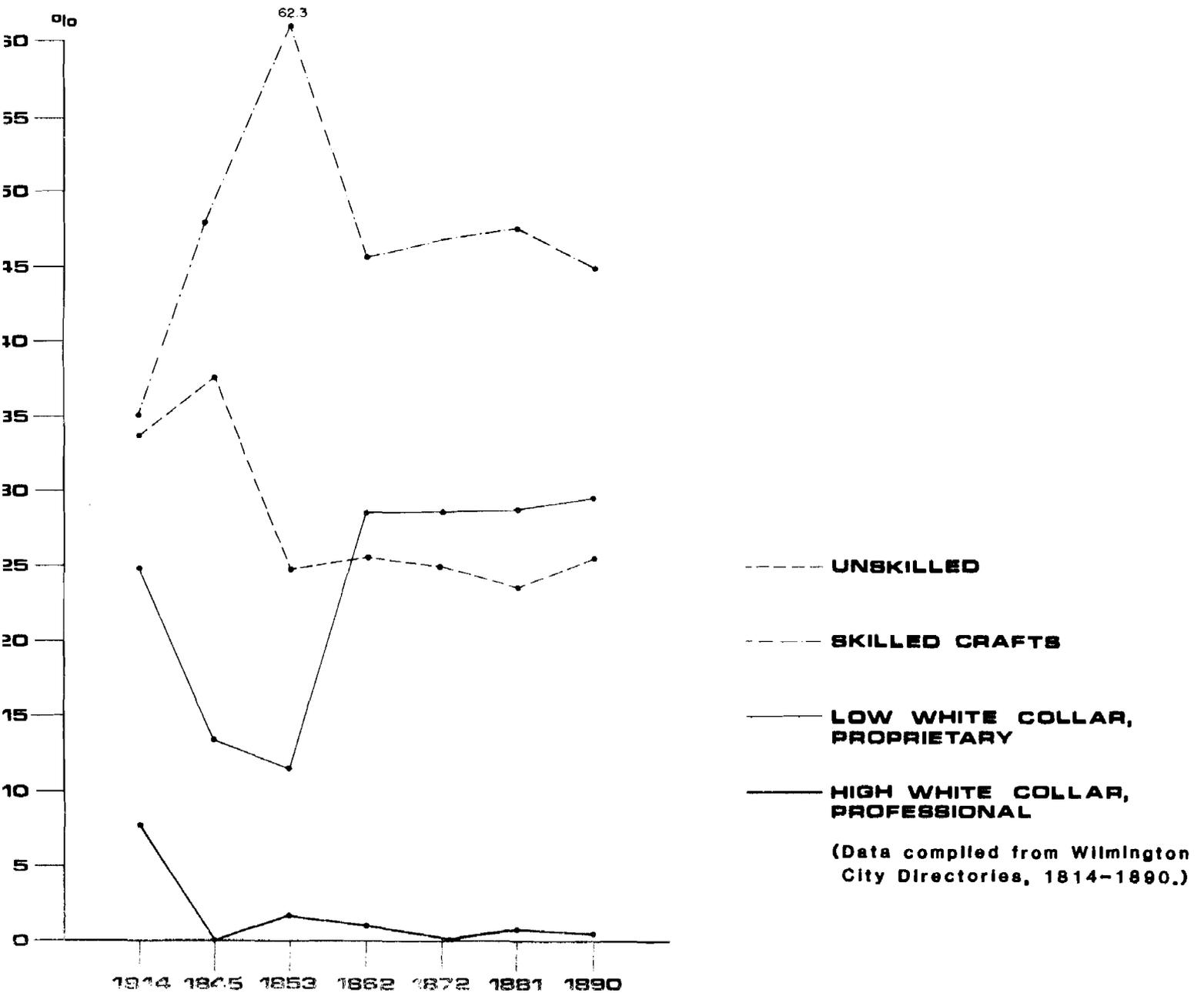
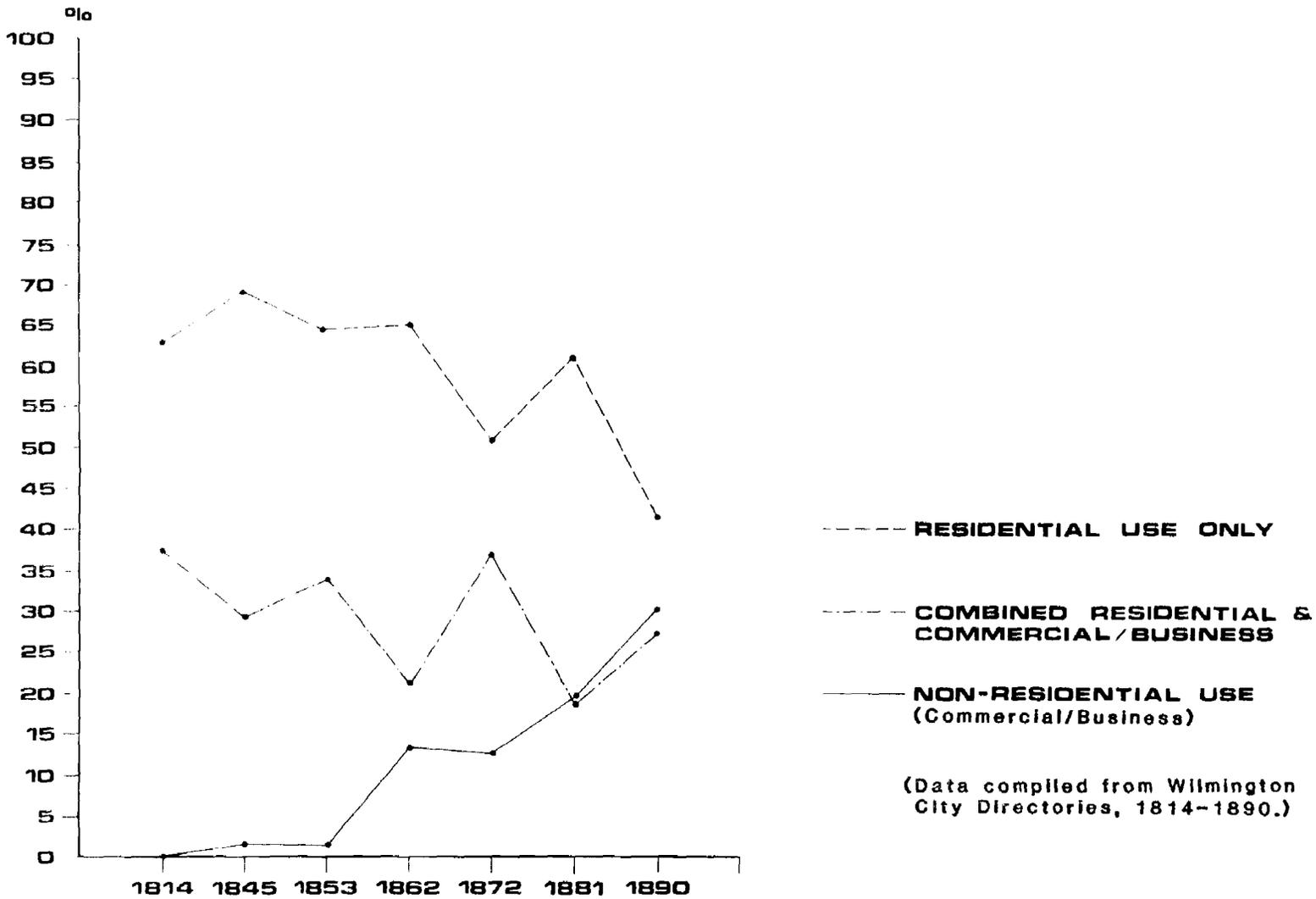


FIGURE 2

WILMINGTON BLVD.

**CHANGING LAND-USE PATTERNS IN THE
WILMINGTON BLVD. PROJECT AREA, 1814-1890**



(Data compiled from Wilmington City Directories, 1814-1890.)

mation and archival research consisted of a review of all known literature, records, files and maps (cultural, historical, archaeological and engineering) pertinent to the development of a historic cultural history of the region as well as the five specific blocks included in the study area, (Maps 2, 3 and 5-8; Figures 1 & 2 and Appendices 1, 4 & 7). In addition to a literature search and records check, consultation, interviews and on site visits were undertaken with personnel from the Division of Highways; the Federal Highway Administration; the Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation; the University of Delaware's Department of Anthropology, and College of Urban Affairs; Mid Atlantic Archaeological Research Inc.; and Soil Systems Inc. In addition, the four previous archaeological projects which took place within or adjacent to the study area (Thomas et al. 1980; Cunningham et al. 1980; Cunningham 1980; and Herman 1982) site records from the ongoing archaeological mitigation program of Soil Systems Inc. along Front Street from Monroe to King Streets Project) (Wise 1980 and 1981a; 1980 and 1981b; 1981c; 1981d and Klein 1981), seven National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Forms from within and adjacent to the project area (Kruse 1969; Heite 1976; Fox 1976; Wise 1980, Thomas 1980b; Delaware Bureau of Archaeology & Historic Preservation 1980; Guerrant 1981), DelDOT's soil augering and boring records (1976), demolition contract specifications (1979, 1981 & 1982) and photographs taken prior to demolition, were studied to provide an interpretive framework for understanding the history and development of the project area. More importantly, these

materials were studied to aid in the selection of areas for field testing. Specifically, archival research sought to isolate areas likely to contain intact archaeological deposits and significant cultural resources.

Field Investigation: All test excavations were directed towards the gathering of information on the extent and integrity of cultural deposits. Specific information included identification of component(s) present, depth of cultural deposits, presence of undisturbed stratigraphy and sealed cultural horizons, horizontal site extent, presence/absence of subsurface features, range of artifact classes, and site function(s). In general, excavations were undertaken to determine if the proposed Wilmington Boulevard would impact any significant archaeological resources located within the Wilmington Boulevard National Register Historic District.

Prior to excavation, a general walkover of the entire project area was conducted and included an examination of all horizontal and vertical exposed surfaces. State owned right-of-way and the proposed impact area was noted (Map 2). Excavation attempted to verify and relocate all known historic features and to provide evidence on subsurface cultural resources not visible from the surface. Besides a surface reconnaissance, subsurface testing techniques utilized throughout the project area consisted of backhoe trenching (diagonally placed across property parcel lots), shovel tests, strata cuts and standard 2 x 2 feet, 3 x 3 feet or 5 x 5 feet excavation units. Excavation units were employed after backhoe trenching to further define the horizontal extent and integrity of previously identified

occupation surfaces or features. Excavations proceeded with the removal of natural soil zones, and/or three inch arbitrary levels within larger soil zones. All soil removed was sifted through 3/8" hardware wire. In the project area the decision to re-excavate a small sample of the previously looted features was based on informant information regarding the temporal span of the material, and an attempt to provide as wide an artifact sample from each of the blocks within the project area as possible. All artifacts recovered were collected and bagged according to vertical and horizontal provenience. All testing, soil profiles and excavation data were, if necessary, matched to the Munsell Color Chart (1975) for ease of future identification, drawn, described, photographed and mapped.

Laboratory Processing and Report Preparation: Because of large numbers of artifacts recovered, the laboratory procedures and level of analyses (Appendix 2, Tables 2 through 9 and Appendix 30) were streamlined. The catalog numbering system followed standards established by the Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation and a preliminary accession number was assigned (81/21). Looted privy/wells were given a single provenience number and the artifacts classified according to type (e.g., ceramic, glass, metal, miscellaneous, flora and fauna). Attempts were made to mend sherds in order to generate counts for minimum numbers of vessels (Miller 1980). Artifacts recovered from all other excavations were catalogued by excavation units and levels and also subdivided into the same artifact types as listed above (Appendix 2, Tables 3-9). All

artifacts from field excavations were catalogued with a label stating provenience information and if determinable, a function. The faunal material was analyzed by Melinda A. Zeder of the Department of Anthropology, Smithsonian Institution. Her results are appended to this report (Appendix 3). Leather, wood, and selected metal items which were in need of conservation and/or stabilization were kept in a stable environment, identified, sorted, catalogued and boxed separately for placement into a controlled environment for possible later conservation measures.

All artifacts, field and lab notes and other pertinent data are on repository with the Delaware Bureau of Museums and Historic Sites at the Island Field Museum and Research Center, South Bowers, Delaware.

RESULTS

The following section contains the results of the preliminary test excavations undertaken within the Wilmington Boulevard project area. A general description of the soil profile and artifacts from each test unit is presented first, followed by the block-specific results. Each block is discussed separately in the following order: 1) Block 1191, 2) Block 1192, 3) Block 1184, 4) Block 1183, and 5) Block 1102. For each block the following categories of information are presented: a) artifacts present, with a brief discussion of the major types present; b) depth of deposit; c) horizontal extent of deposit; and d) a discussion of the blocks significance, integrity, function, and other pertinent information relative to a diachronic cultural historic framework.