

APPENDIX XII
GLOSSARY

GLOSSARY

- Archaeology** - The study of the people of the past through the recovery and analysis of the artifacts they left behind and their context.
- Archival Research** - Research done at places in which public or historical records, charters and documents are stored and preserved.
- Artifact** - Any object shaped or modified by man, or as a result of human activity.
- Assemblage** - The array of contemporary objects and associations found at an archaeological site.
- Bay** - The subdivision longitudinally of a building by piers, arches, girders, etc.
- Cross-section** - A transverse of a portion of a feature, horizontally and vertically removing soil from one section.
- Cross-mend** - the pieces of ceramic in different features that fit together in a reconstructed vessel.
- Culture** - A uniquely human system of habits and customs acquired by man through a non-biological, uninherited process, learned by his society, and used as his primary means of adapting to his environment.
- Datum** - A point used as a reference, as in surveying.
- Deciduous** - Leaf bearing trees that shed in autumn.
- Diachronic** - Referring to two or more reference points in time.
- Diagnostic** - An artifact that can clearly be dated and/or identified as to maker, date, place or origin, etc.
- Difference-of-Proportion Test** - A test of significance to determine similarity or dissimilarity between sample proportions within the populations from which the samples were taken.
- Dripline** - A slight trench or depression left in the soil where a roof overhang was present.
- Extant** - Still in existence.
- Feature** - Any soil disturbance or discoloration that reflects human activity, or an artifact that, being too large to remove from a site, normally is recorded only; for example, house, storage pits, etc.
- Historic** - The time period after the appearance of written records. In the New World, this generally refers to the time period after the beginning of European settlement at approximately 1600 A.D.
- Historical Archaeology** - The study of material culture in an historical perspective.
- Hole-set Post** - Posts set directly in the ground connected by sills.
- Humus** - Soil, usually on top of the ground, that contains a large proportion of rotted and rotting vegetable material.

Hundred - A subdivision of some English and American counties.

Hypothesis - A tentative assumption made in order to draw out and test its logical or empirical consequences.

In Situ - In the original place.

Interface - A surface regarded as the common boundary of two bodies or spaces.

Intersite - Between sites; often used in the context of comparison.

Intestate - A person who dies without making a will.

Intra-site - Within a site.

Kinship - Socially recognized relationships based on real or imagined descent and marriage patterns.

Loam - A loose soil composed of roughly equal parts of silt, clay, and sand, especially a kind containing organic matter and of great fertility.

Locus - A defined archaeological site or testing location.

Material Culture - That segment of man's physical environment which is purposely shaped by him according to culturally dictated plans.

Mean Ceramic Date - A date obtained from the study of historic ceramics recovered from a site that approximates the median occupation date of the site.

Midden - A refuse heap.

Mitigate - To make or become less severe or intense by excavating.

Orphans Court Records - The County Court responsible for the welfare of orphans when a father died without a will. Orphans Court watched over the estate until the children (if any) reached majority. A guardian was appointed by the Court, who was to make periodic returns of the estate to the Court. When the youngest heir came of age, then the property could be divided among the heirs. These court records are filled with information regarding income property, education, repairs of houses and outbuildings, contracts, and other useful material about eighteenth and nineteenth century life.

Pedestrian Survey - The walking and collecting of an archaeological site without the excavation of subsurface units.

Perch - A measure of distance and acreage used by early surveyors, equal to 16.5 feet. Also called a pole, rod, or rood. A perch is equal to one-quarter of a chain, which is 66 feet long, and eighty chains equals 1 mile, or 5,280 feet. Finally 1 acre is composed of 10 square chains, or 43,560 feet.

Plow Zone - In a plowed field, the upper layer of organic soil which is continually reworked by the plow. In the Middle Atlantic region this is about 8-12 inches.

Post Hole - A hole dug in the ground into which a post is placed.

Post Mold - The organic stain in the ground which is left by a decayed wooden post. A postmold stain may occur inside of a posthole stain on an archaeological site.

Probate - The official proving of a will as authentic or valid.

Profile - A side view of a feature or test unit.

Research Design - A strategy developed at the beginning of a project to guide the researchers.

Reverse Assembly - When, in construction of aisled buildings, the wall plate is carried on the end of the tie-beam which in turn is carried on the post.

Sherd - A piece of broken pottery.

Sill - The horizontal member that bears the upright portion of a frame.

Socioeconomic - Applies to the inter-relationship between economic wealth (or poverty) and social position or status.

Soil Horizon - Soils are divided into 3 horizons, which reflect different kinds of chemical and physical processes that have resulted from changing climatic conditions.

Strata - The various layers of human or geological origin which comprise archaeological sites.

Stratigraphy - The examination of the soil layering on an archaeological site; the characteristics of each individual stratum and its relationship to others in the sequence is critical to understanding the temporal and spatial characteristics of the site.

Subsoil - Sterile, naturally occurring soils not changed by human occupation.

Subsurface - Below the surface, not visible from the surface.

Surface Collection - Act of walking along a surface such as an open field or plowed field, and collecting artifacts seen on the surface of the ground.

Synchronic - Referring to a single period in time.

Transect Sampling - A means of archaeological research design in which the sampling element is a square or rectangular grid.