

GLOSSARY

<i>archaeology</i>	The study of past human culture through the systematic recovery and analysis of the artifacts and other material evidence they left behind.
<i>archival research</i>	Research conducted in places where public or historical records, charters, and documents are stored and preserved.
<i>artifact</i>	Any object shaped or modified and produced by humans, or as a result of human activity. A stone tool, a house, and a four-lane highway could all be considered artifacts.
<i>assemblage</i>	Collection of persons or things: in archaeology, the collection of artifacts from a particular site, from a stratigraphic level or cultural component within the site, or of a particular artifact class, such as lithics or ceramics.
<i>butchery waste</i>	Bone thrown away during the butchering of the animal carcass; parts not used for food.
<i>creamware</i>	A cream-colored ceramic used to make plates and other dishes, introduced by Josiah Wedgwood in 1762 and common until 1800.
<i>cross section</i>	A transverse of a portion of a feature; horizontally and vertically removing soil from one section.
<i>culture</i>	A uniquely human system of behavioral patterns, beliefs, habits, and customs acquired by man through a nonbiological, uninherited process, learned by his society.
<i>datum</i>	A point, line, or surface used as a reference, as in surveying.
<i>diagnostic</i>	An artifact that can clearly be dated and/or identified as to maker, date, place or origin, etc., thus serving as supporting evidence.
<i>dietary refuse</i>	Bone that comes from the table; food scraps.
<i>earthenware</i>	Kind of ceramic (pottery) fired at a rather low temperature, softer than stoneware or porcelain. Earthenware is usually divided into "coarse earthenwares," rougher types used to make pots and crocks for kitchen or dairy use, and "refined earthenwares," which were made for display on the table.
<i>ethnobotany</i>	The analysis and interpretation of plant lore and agricultural customs of a people.
<i>faunal remains</i>	Animal remains, including both bone and shell.
<i>feature</i>	Any soil disturbance or discoloration that reflects human activity, or an artifact that is too large to be removed from a site and is just recorded—for example, a house or storage pits.

<i>fill</i>	The soil inside a feature.
<i>floral remains</i>	Includes both charred and uncharred plant materials such as seeds, nuts, shells, and wood.
<i>flotation</i>	The process of sifting soil samples through a fine screen while running a steady stream of water over the sample; residual materials such as tiny artifacts, seeds, and bones are separated out into light and heavy fractions for analysis.
<i>granary</i>	A storage building for threshed grain.
<i>grid</i>	The two-dimensional intersection network defining the squares in which archaeologists excavate.
<i>historic</i>	The time period after the appearance of written records. In the United States this generally refers to approximately 1600 AD, the period after the beginning of European settlement.
<i>historical archaeology</i>	The archaeology of the period from initial European settlement to today.
<i>hundred</i>	A historic, English term for an administrative unit smaller than a county, used in Delaware.
<i>loam</i>	A loose, fertile soil composed of a mixture of silt, clay, and sand containing organic matter.
<i>material culture</i>	That segment of the physical environment which is purposely shaped by humans.
<i>Mean Ceramic Date (MCD)</i>	A date obtained from the study of historic ceramics recovered from a site that approximates the median date of the site or deposit.
<i>milk pan</i>	Wide, shallow pan with a pouring spout, usually made of coarse earthenware, used to separate cream from milk.
<i>Minimum Number of Vessels (MNV)</i>	The smallest number of ceramic or glass vessels that could have produced the sherds from an archaeological assemblage.
<i>Minimum Number of Units (MNU)</i>	The smallest number of bones (such as ribs or skulls) that could have produced the bone fragments found on an archaeological site, or in one context.
<i>mitigation</i>	In archaeology, refers to minimizing the destruction or disturbance of an archaeological site by a construction project, erosion, farming practices, etc., through excavation of the site and systematic recovery of the artifacts or other representative material of past life.

<i>outbuilding</i>	A building other than the principal building on a property. On an eighteenth- or nineteenth-century farm, smokehouses, dairies, stables, and corncribs were typical outbuildings.
<i>patent</i>	Document granting ownership of land without a clear previous legal owner, as with new colonists in North America.
<i>pearlware</i>	A refined, nearly white ceramic used for plates, teacups, and other dishes, introduced by Josiah Wedgwood in about 1775 and common until about 1830.
<i>pewter</i>	A shiny gray metal, an alloy of tin, antimony, and lead, used to make dishes.
<i>Phase I</i>	The first stage of archaeological fieldwork, which simply tries to find out whether sites are present.
<i>Phase II</i>	The second stage of archaeological fieldwork, in which sites are further investigated to determine their boundaries and how intact they are.
<i>Phase III</i>	The final stage of archaeological fieldwork, also called Data Recovery. Usually involves intensive archaeological and historical investigations to recover detailed information about the site.
<i>plat</i>	Property map.
<i>plowzone</i>	That part of the soil which has been repeatedly disturbed by plowing, usually the top eight to ten inches.
<i>porringer</i>	A small, handled bowl for eating soups or stews.
<i>posthole</i>	A hole dug in the ground into which a post is placed.
<i>post mold</i>	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 a site.
<i>probate</i>	The judicial certification of the authenticity or validity of a will.
<i>processing waste</i>	Bone thrown away after it has been used to make food, such as cow skulls used for making headcheese.
<i>profile</i>	A side view of a feature or test unit.
<i>research design</i>	A strategy developed at the beginning of a project to guide the research.
<i>sediment</i>	Soil deposited by wind, water, or glaciers.
<i>sherd</i>	A piece of broken pottery or glass.
<i>socioeconomic</i>	Applies to the interrelationship between economic wealth (or poverty) and social position or status.

<i>stratigraphy</i>	The origin, composition, and succession of natural soil or rock or cultural layers.
<i>stratum</i>	(1) A mass of sedimentary deposits lying in a vertical sequence, and (2) a layer in which archaeological material (such as artifacts or dwelling remains) is found within a site.
<i>subsoil</i>	Sterile, naturally occurring soils not changed by human occupation.
<i>subsurface</i>	Below the surface, not visible from the surface.
<i>sundry</i>	Various; miscellaneous small articles or items.
<i>tablewares</i>	Ceramics used at the dining table rather than in the kitchen, such as plates and small bowls.
<i>teawares</i>	Ceramics used in preparing and serving tea, such as teacups, saucers, teapots, cream pots.
<i>terminus post quem (TPQ)</i>	The “date after which” an archaeological stratum or feature’s fill was deposited based on the date of the most recent artifact found in the stratum or fill.
<i>Total Number of Fragments (TNF)</i>	Number of bone fragments found on an archaeological site, or in one context.
<i>vessel</i>	A container, such as bowl, bottle, plate, or jar. Archaeologists conventionally refer to all the glass and ceramic household objects they find as “vessels.” See also <i>Minimum Number of Vessels</i> .