

APPENDIX X

GLOSSARY

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Artifact - Any object shaped or modified by man, or as a result of human activity.

Archaeology - The study of the people of the past through the recovery and analysis of the artifacts they left behind.

Assemblage - The array of contemporary objects and associations found at an archaeological site.

Culture - The non-biological mechanism of human adaptation.

Diagnostic - An artifact that can clearly be dated and/or identified as to maker, date, place or origin, etc.

Feature - Any soil disturbance or discoloration that reflects human activity. Also, 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.

Holocene - The latest division of the Quarternary period, which commenced around 12,000 B.P.

Hundred - A subdivision of some English and American counties.

Intestate - A person who dies without making a will.

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

Intersite Analysis - Analysis between different sites.

Intrasite Analysis - Analysis within the site.

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

Locus - A predicted archaeological site locality.

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.

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.

Physiographic Zone - Regions or areas that are characterized by a particular geography, geology, and topography.

Plowzone - 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.

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

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

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

Prosopographical - A study of a specific group of persons sharing similar occupations or positions in a community.

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

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.

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

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

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