

**THE GUTHERIE-GIACOMELLI HOUSE OR "TWEED'S
TAVERN (CRS #N-1101) AND THE ASSOCIATED
TWEED'S TAVERN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE
(7NC-A-18)
VALLEY ROAD, MILL CREEK HUNDRED, NEW
CASTLE COUNTY, DELAWARE**

**Summary Documentation Support for Determination of No
Adverse Effect on Historic Properties**

**Submitted Pursuant to
36 CFR Part 800 Protection of Historic Properties:
36 CFR Part 800.5(a) Assessing Effects:
Applying Criteria of Effect
36 CFR Part 800.9 Criteria of Effect and Adverse Effect
36 CFR Part 880.11 Properties Discovered During
Implementation of an Undertaking**

**Prepared on behalf of:
Delaware Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration**

**By:
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Hunter Research, Inc.
May 26, 1999**

**Attachments:
Figures 1 through 6: Maps and Plans
Plates 1 through 3: View and details of House
Archaeological Data Recovery Plan**

Summary

This document has been prepared in order to evaluate the National Register eligibility of the Guthrie-Giacomelli House [also known as "Tweed's Tavern"] (CRS #N-1101) and the closely associated Tweed's Tavern Archaeological Site (7NC-A-18), two historic resources which may adversely affected by road improvements proposed to be made to the Route 7 Limestone Road/Valley Road Intersection in New Castle County, Delaware. The document is also prepared in compliance with 36 CFR 800.11(b)(2)(ii) and (c)(2) by putting forward a course of action which takes into account the effects of an undertaking on these previously unidentified historic properties and providing the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation the opportunity to comment on the proposed actions.

Both the Guthrie-Giacomelli House\Tweed's Tavern and the Tweed's Tavern Archaeological site should be considered to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The Guthrie-Giacomelli House\Tweed's Tavern is historically significant for the role it played in the Delaware's rapidly developing late 18th and early 19th century overland transportation system and secondarily as a local community center. It is also an important surviving example of a building type relatively rare within the body of extant historic buildings in Delaware's Piedmont Zone and is notable for its ability to further our knowledge concerning the construction and use of log buildings in the State of Delaware during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The Tweed's Tavern Archaeological Site is significant for its ability to contribute to our knowledge concerning the history and development of the Guthrie-Giacomelli House\Tweed's Tavern and providing additional information concerning the material culture of taverns located along Delaware's 18th and 19th century transportation corridors.

Description of the Proposed Undertaking and Project Background

The Federal Highway Administration is the lead Federal Agency in this undertaking

This undertaking is part of a larger program of work which involves a series of improvements to various locations along a stretch of Route 7 in New Castle County, Delaware. Project plans call for improvements to be made to the Route 7/Valley Road intersection. Construction plans indicate that the Guthrie-Giacomelli House\Tweed's Tavern will be removed by road widening and a total of approximately 1.6 surrounding acres (on which Tweed's Tavern Archaeological Site is located) will be affected either by the widening or by the construction of a water retention pond immediately to the west of the present building site. Lowering of grade levels and general disturbance of the ground will occur during construction.

Identification and Description of Affected Historic Properties (Figures 1-6; Plates 1-3)

1. Historic Background

Historic research undertaken for this and the previous cultural resource investigations indicates that the "Tavern," (one in a string of several such establishments along Limestone Road), was established in the late 1790's and may have been initially operated by John Crow, a well-known New Castle Innkeep. There was a log house, kitchen and sheds on the property by 1804. In 1816, tax records described the log house as being large and also noted the existence of a "cookery" and a frame barn and stables. By the end of the 19th century, the property ceased to be operated as a tavern and the tavern building remained in use as a residence. Alfred Giacomelli, who possessed the property between 1957 and 1974 stated when interviewed in the late 1960's that he had enclosed the old log section when he remodeled the building. A large two story stuccoed rear frame addition on a concrete block foundation was added in 1982. The building was last in use as the commercial offices of a construction and development company.

2. The Guthrie-Giacomelli House\Tweed's Tavern (CRS #N-1101)

The architectural and historic character of the Guthrie-Giacomelli House\Tweed's Tavern was preliminarily addressed by Louis Berger & Associates' "Architectural Investigation of the Route 7 North Corridor Milltown to Pa. State Line New Castle County, Delaware" (DELDOT Archaeological Series 48). Archaeological studies have been performed along this section of S.R. 7 by the University of Delaware Center for Archaeological Research (UDCAR) in 1986 and by Hunter Research, Inc. in 1997 and 1999. These archaeological studies identified the existence of potentially National Register eligible archaeological remains associated with the operation of the Guthrie-Giacomelli House\Tweed's Tavern as a tavern in the late 18th and 19th centuries.

Although both the Louis Berger & Associates and the UDCAR studies had suggested the possibility that portions of a log structure survived within the Guthrie-Giacomelli House\Tweed's Tavern, access was not available to examine the building's structural components. The resource was not, at that time, assessed as being National Register eligible and thus the potential eligibility of this building was not fully taken into consideration when the impacts of the proposed road improvements on cultural resources were evaluated prior to the preparation of a Memorandum of Agreement between DelDot, The Advisory Council and the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office.

Although not initially therefore classified as a National Register caliber resource, additional historic architectural study of the Guthrie-Giacomelli House\Tweed's Tavern was undertaken in conjunction with Phase II Archaeological studies completed for DelDot by Hunter Research, Inc. in February of 1999. At that time the selective removal of a very limited amount of interior wall surface revealed that substantial portions of the early log tavern/house did survive within the fabric of the existing building. Additional investigations were then authorized by DelDot in order to more completely access the National Register eligibility of

the resource. These investigations were undertaken in April of 1999. The results of these investigations are presented graphically in Figures 3, 4 and 5, and illustrated by Plates 2 and 3. On the basis of these studies the Gutherie-Giacomelli House\Tweed's Tavern is evaluated as eligible for the National Register, and procedures set out under 36CFR 800.11 are being followed in order to satisfy the Agency's obligations under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended).

The Gutherie-Giacomelli House\Tweed's Tavern was observed to be a two story, end gabled building with a two story rear wing . The building is fronted by a one story enclosed porch addition. The exterior walls of the building are covered in a unifying coat of stucco. The interior floor plan of the house was found to have been heavily reconfigured to accommodate its use, first, as an expanded residence and, then, as an office building. The oldest surviving portion of the building appears to be an approximately 25' x 20' single pile core located on the building's northeastern corner (Figures 3-5). Two successive later additions have been added to the building's northwestern wall and, most recently, a modern frame and concrete block addition has been added to the building's southwestern side.

The eastern and oldest end of the house sits on a rubble stone basement. A large arched stone fireplace support is located at the center of the basement's east wall. Although a fireplace and exterior chimney running to the full height of the building were observed to be located above this feature, it was clear from close examination that an earlier stone or brick chimney had been removed and a concrete block chimney and fireplace built atop the truncated fireplace supports. A few surviving log floor joists and a single hewn floor joist (running north /south) were observed. The remaining original floor joists have been replaced by modern members. The joists were supported at the center of their span by a hewn summer beam (running east/west).

Contained within the body of the composite building are the exterior walls of a full two-story log building. Limited sections of log wall have been removed to facilitate the interconnection of the core building with later additions and the introduction of modern utilities. However, approximately 80 percent of the original exterior log walls survive intact. Removal of interior wall surfaces during the latest phase of historic architectural investigations revealed the use of a V-notched method of log joinery in the building's construction (Plate 2). The logs used in this construction were hewn flat on their interior and exterior vertical faces. Rounded bark covered sides remain intact on their upper and lower horizontal surfaces. The wide interstices between the logs were found to have been chinked with fieldstone and mortar. On the original interior wall surfaces, this chinking was coated with a smooth layer of stucco. The whole interior surface of the wall, both logs and chinking, was overpainted with a coat of white wash.

Evidence has also been identified to indicate that most of the exterior surfaces of the log section of the building were historically covered by a coat of stucco applied over wooden lath. This original layer of stucco has been removed but in many places the early lath survives

beneath a coat of stucco over wire mesh applied in the 1950's (Plate 3). Following the removal of modern interior wall surfaces on the first floor, a chronology of changes to door and window placement was documented. All of the early window and door fixtures have been replaced or removed but sections of original window sills, door jams and framing survive in a few locations. Due to the heavy reconfiguration of the interior, including the replacement of the original floor, the ceiling and second floor joists, it has not been possible to determine the earliest configuration of the first floor. On the second floor, several 19th-century interior partition walls survive but none appears to be contemporaneous with the date of original construction.

3. Tweed's Tavern Archaeological Site (7NC-A-18)

Archaeological investigations at the Tweed's Tavern Archaeological Site were geared towards the locating and characterizing the nature of the outbuildings mentioned in the early 19th century documents and evaluating the National Register Eligibility of any encountered remains. It was considered possible that these remains would be considered as contributing elements to the standing building, if this proved to be historically significant, or as an independent eligible archaeological property.

Investigations to resolve these questions commenced with a nonintrusive geophysical survey using ground penetrating radar, radio frequency and magnetic geophysical instruments. As a result of this survey five targets were identified, a possible foundation, two recommended excavation areas, an area with disturbed subsoils and an area which apparently contained an anomalous subsoil layer. A combination of 15 backhoe trenches and four excavation units were initially excavated to examine these targets (Figure 6). Backhoe trenches were excavated across the property in an effort to ground-truth the five geophysical targets and to locate possible undetected outbuildings associated with the tavern. These trenches located portions of a foundation from an outbuilding west of the house and immediately south of the exposed concrete foundation thought to be a possible barn in Trenches 3, 11, 13-15. Trench 10, located west of the house adjacent to a small storage shed, uncovered the top of a stone-lined shaft feature (well, cistern or privy). Trench 7 located a small dry-laid stone wall interpreted as a garden or landscaping wall.

Four excavation units were placed adjacent to the exposed exterior portions of the original core log house. Most of this area had been disturbed by 20th century alterations and additions to the house. Excavation Unit 3 contained an unidentified cut which extended north and south beyond the unit and down into the subsoil. The cut contained fill with a variety of mid-19th century artifacts.

Based on the results of this initial work four additional trenches and seven excavation units were excavated to expose the outbuilding foundations, examine the shaft feature, and investigate areas adjacent to the outside and inside of the house. Trench 16 exposed the stone shaft feature originally identified in Trench 10. The shaft had been cleaned and lined with cement and eventually lined in with clean fill material. Artifacts from the cut of the shaft,

including whiteware with sponge decoration, suggest a construction date of circa 1810 to 1840.

Trench 17 encompassed Trenches 12, 14 and 15 and portions of Trenches 3 and 13. This trench revealed a small outbuilding with a shallow stone foundation containing no cultural stratigraphy and very few artifacts. Dateable artifacts from this foundation include undecorated English ironstone china, popular from circa 1840 to 1860. Trench 18 located beneath the asphalt drive adjacent to the west side of the house revealed a large artifact-bearing deposit and a stone foundation. This deposit is dominated by large sherds of domestic redware and English ironstone, with lesser amounts of tin glazed earthenware, creamware and pearlware. Trench 19, located against the south side of the house, removed a concrete patio surface beneath which were a series of isolated post holes and modern utility trenches.

Seven excavation units (EUs 5-11) were located in and around the house. Excavation Units 5-7 were positioned around EU3 which contained an unexplained cut containing 19th century artifacts. These units identified the cut as part of a utility line extending from the house with artifacts incorporated into the fill from upper sheet midden deposits. Excavation Unit 8 was located under the north porch against the original foundation. A foundation for an early 20th century porch was revealed in this unit. Excavation Unit 9 was located on the west side of the house. This unit uncovered a stone footing which lines up directly with an opening in the log wall above, suggesting interior division of a wing at this point. Excavation Unit 10 was located on the south side of the house within Trench 19 over what was thought to be a path leading from the house. This was identified as a utility trench filled in with similar soil to the surrounding area.

Excavation Unit 11 was located west of the house within Trench 18 over a curved foundation thought to be an additional shaft feature. Excavation revealed that a stone wall had tumbled over forming what appeared to be a shaft feature. The wall extended east and west beyond the limits of the unit.

Evaluation of Significance

1. Gutherie-Giacomelli House\Tweed's Tavern (CRS #N-1101)

Tax records show that within the cultural landscape of late 18th and early 19th century New Castle County, log architecture was the most prevalent building type and the method utilized in the construction of Tweed's Tavern, hewn log walling, was the most widely utilized log construction technique. Yet, according to Bernard Herman in his *Architecture and Rural Life in Central Delaware, 1700-1900* (1987) few buildings employing this method of construction have survived the well documented rebuilding cycles which took place in New Castle County during the 19th century. The relative rarity of the building form represented by the Gutherie-Giacomelli House\Tweed's Tavern is further emphasized when one considers that the building may have been constructed as a tavern house, a commercial / semi-public building type. Simple houses and agricultural outbuildings were usually considered far more suited to log

construction.

Although subjected to numerous phases of alterations, the Gutherie-Giacomelli House\Tweed's Tavern does appear to meet physical integrity requirements for National Register eligibility under Criterion C outlined in the draft historic context, Log Dwellings in Delaware, 1780-1860+. The building also may be eligible for listing in the National Register for its contributions to the broad patterns of history (Criterion A), most notably for its role as a roadside tavern within the historic theme of Transportation and Communication. This tavern was one of several similar establishments located at periodic intervals and important intersections along a significant highway, a transportation route which linked Wilmington, Delaware with Lancaster in Pennsylvania. Additional research still needs to be conducted in order to more elucidate the importance of this resource within this context. The case for the resource's eligibility under National Register Criterion D is probably its strongest. The represents a rare and important survival of a type of construction which was once most common within the landscape of early Delaware. Although its architectural integrity has been somewhat diminished by later alteration, further study of the building through its recordation would provide significant information concerning the techniques used in its construction and thus add much to the existing body of knowledge concerning the use of log architecture in Delaware.

Tweed's Tavern Archaeological Site (7NC-A-18)

The extensive machine-stripping and hand excavation within the presumed Area of Effect of the highway improvements revealed that archaeological stratigraphy was not well represented across the property, and the identified stone foundation features lacked integrity and associated artifacts in all but one instance. This lack of integrity meant that the majority of identified features could not be dated or functionally identified with any confidence, nor could an overall plan of historic features on the property be reconstructed from this evidence. Significance was evaluated in relation to both criteria C and D, and it was determined that the majority of the site area did not meet National Register standards.

Within Trench 18 close to the house, however, the combination of a substantial stone foundation and a prolific artifact assemblage indicated that in this part of the site the archaeological evidence was likely to yield information important in history (36CFR 60.4). The presence of substantial quantities of redware and other late 18th and 19th century ceramics in close proximity to the standing building and to a foundation indicates that this may be a tavern-related deposit, perhaps associated with an outbuilding. It should be noted that there was probably a free-standing detached kitchen on the property in the early 19th century.

A stand-alone research program on this archaeological data set could be drawn up within the framework of the Management Plan for Delaware's Archaeological Historic Resources (1990). The site would be seen in the following contextual setting:

Time Periods: 1770-1830 Transformation from Colony to State; 1830-1880 Industrialization and Capitalization

Geographic Zone: Piedmont

Research Domains: Domestic Economy; Social Group Identity, Behavior and Interaction

Historic Themes: Transportation, Settlement Patterns and Demographic Change; Architecture

Property Types: Inns and Taverns

(Source: Management Plan for Delaware's Archaeological Historic Resources (1990)).

Material culture studies at other tavern sites in the mid-Atlantic will provide a body of comparative data against which information from this part of the site can be set. On this basis the portion of the Tweed's Tavern Archaeological Site defined by the boundaries of Trench 18 are considered to be eligible under Criterion D. In view of the archaeological property's close association with the well preserved log building at Guthrie-Giacomelli House\Tweed's Tavern, however, it is considered that the Tweed's Tavern Archaeological Site be regarded as an integral and contributing element to the architectural property.

Assessment of Effect

The road improvement and water retention pond construction will have an adverse effect on the properties, specifically by necessitating their physical removal and destruction. Intersection improvements as currently proposed will remove both the house and the associated significant adjacent archaeological remains. The latter will in all probability lose all integrity, while the house will have to be either moved to another location, or demolished.

Support for Determination of No Adverse Effect

As outlined above, the Guthrie-Giacomelli House\Tweed's Tavern appears to meet the physical integrity requirements for National Register eligibility as outlined in the draft historic context, Log Dwellings in Delaware, 1780-1860+, meeting Criterion C. Its informational content as an example of a construction technology is also considered to make it eligible under Criterion D. The contributing portion of the Tweed's Tavern Archaeological Site is also considered to be eligible under Criterion D.

Given that the primary significance of the Guthrie-Giacomelli House\Tweed's Tavern and the associated archaeological site lies in its ability to yield information, it is submitted that its value can be "substantially preserved through the conduct of appropriate research" (36 CFR 800.9 (c)(1)), although physical removal of the building to another location should also be considered as a option. The nature and scope of such a research program is presented in the Proposal for Architectural and Architectural Documentation of the Guthrie-Giacomelli House or "Tweed's Tavern" (CRS #N-1101) and the Associated Tweed's Tavern Archaeological Site (7NC-A-18)Valley Road, Mill Creek Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware (Hunter

Research, Inc.) which accompanies this document. This plan makes provision for additional architectural recording and archaeological investigations. Work will be performed by individuals meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines, and having regard to 36 CFR Part 66: Recovery of Scientific, Prehistoric, Historic and Archaeological Data: Methods, Standards and Reporting Requirements (proposed guidelines).

Results of the work will be communicated both as a fully documented technical historic structures report and through a program of public outreach focusing on providing safe public access to the house and archaeological site during the field research.

Based on the foregoing analysis it is submitted that these properties will suffer no adverse effect as a result of the proposed undertaking, since both will be subject to a program of appropriate research. It is therefore submitted that a Determination of No Adverse Effect under 36 CFR 800.9(c)(1) is appropriate, and that this document complies with the provisions of 36 CFR 800.11(b)(2)(ii).

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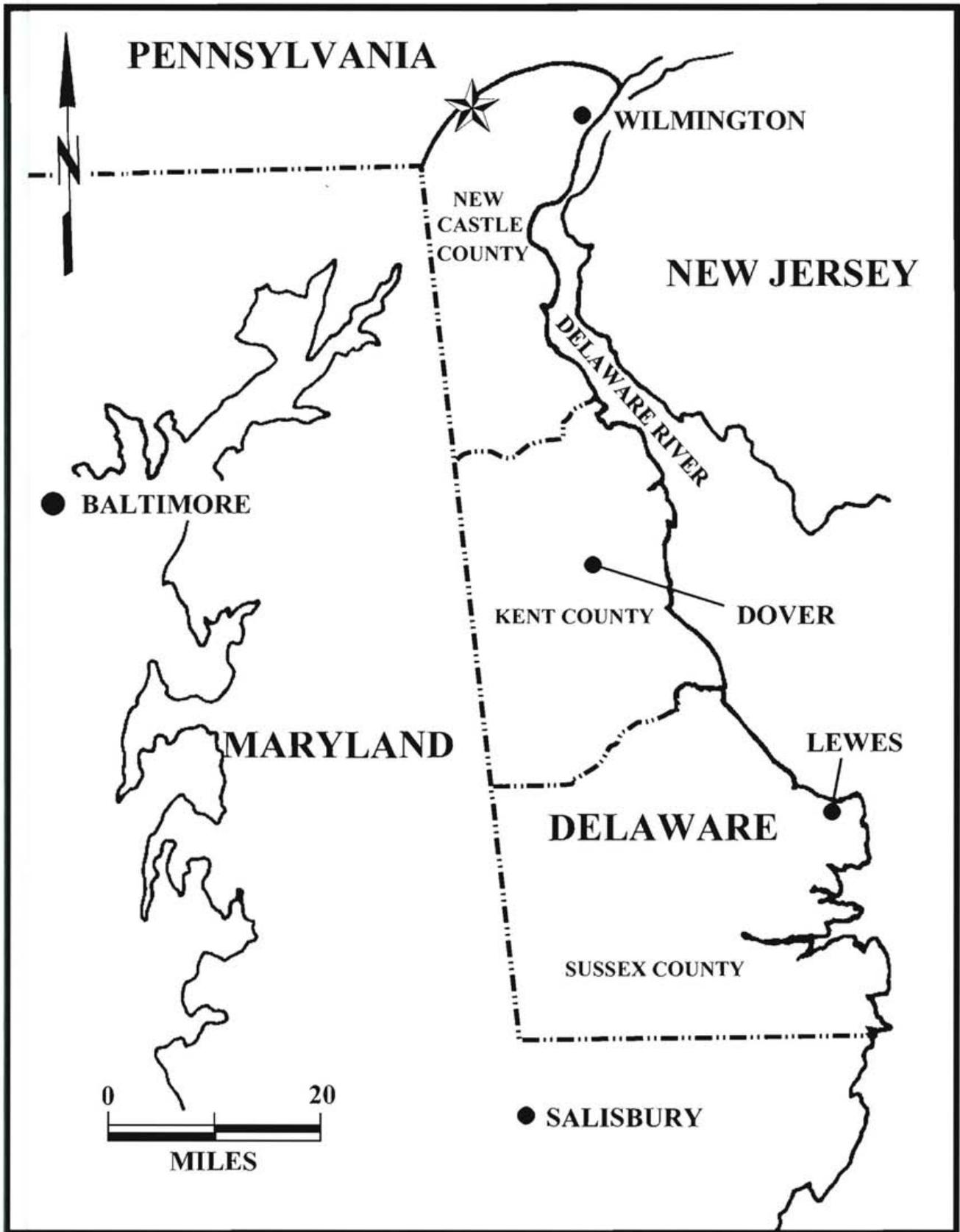


Figure 1. General Location of Gutherie-Giacomelli House (Tweed's Tavern) CRS-#N-1101 (starred).

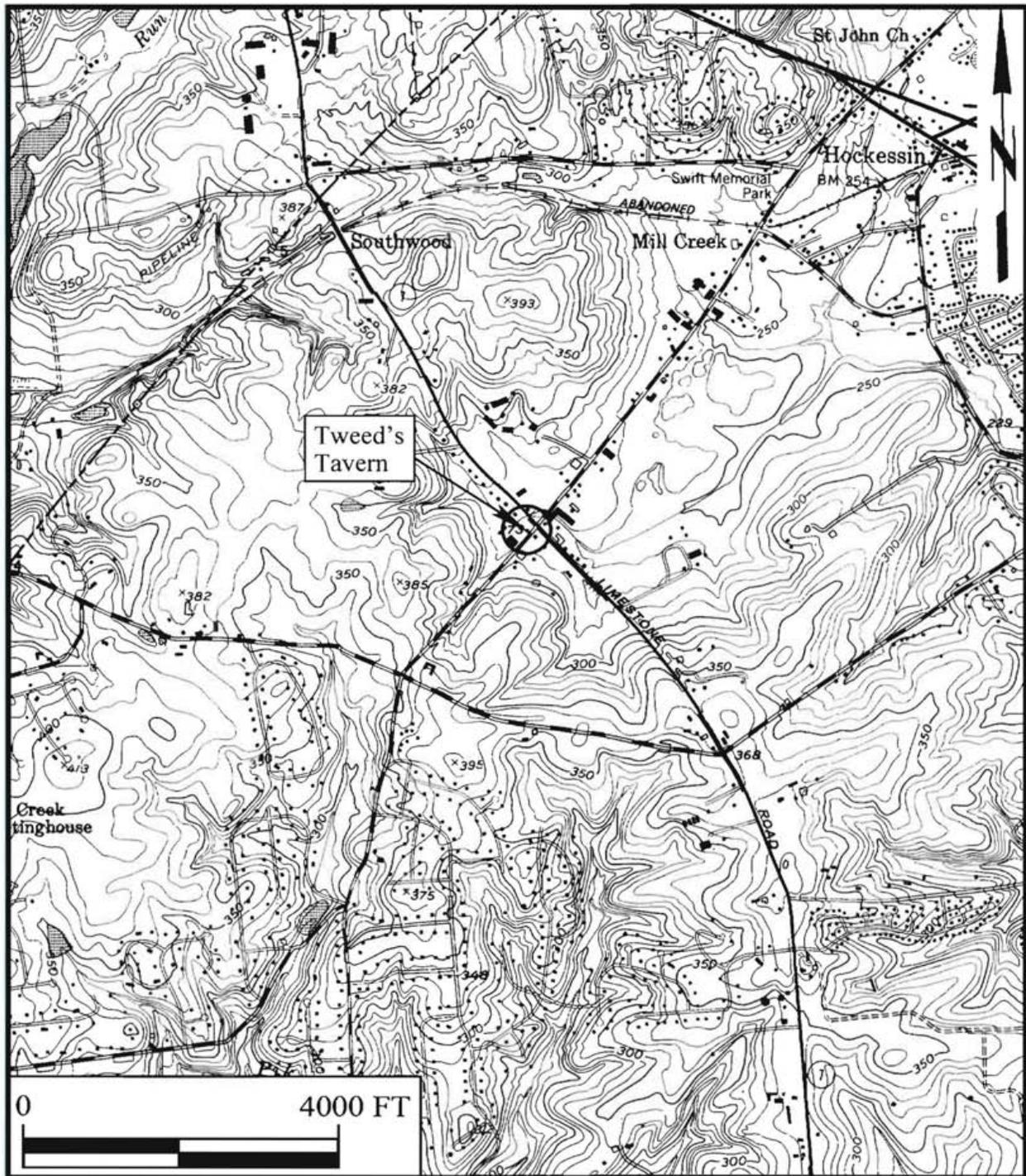
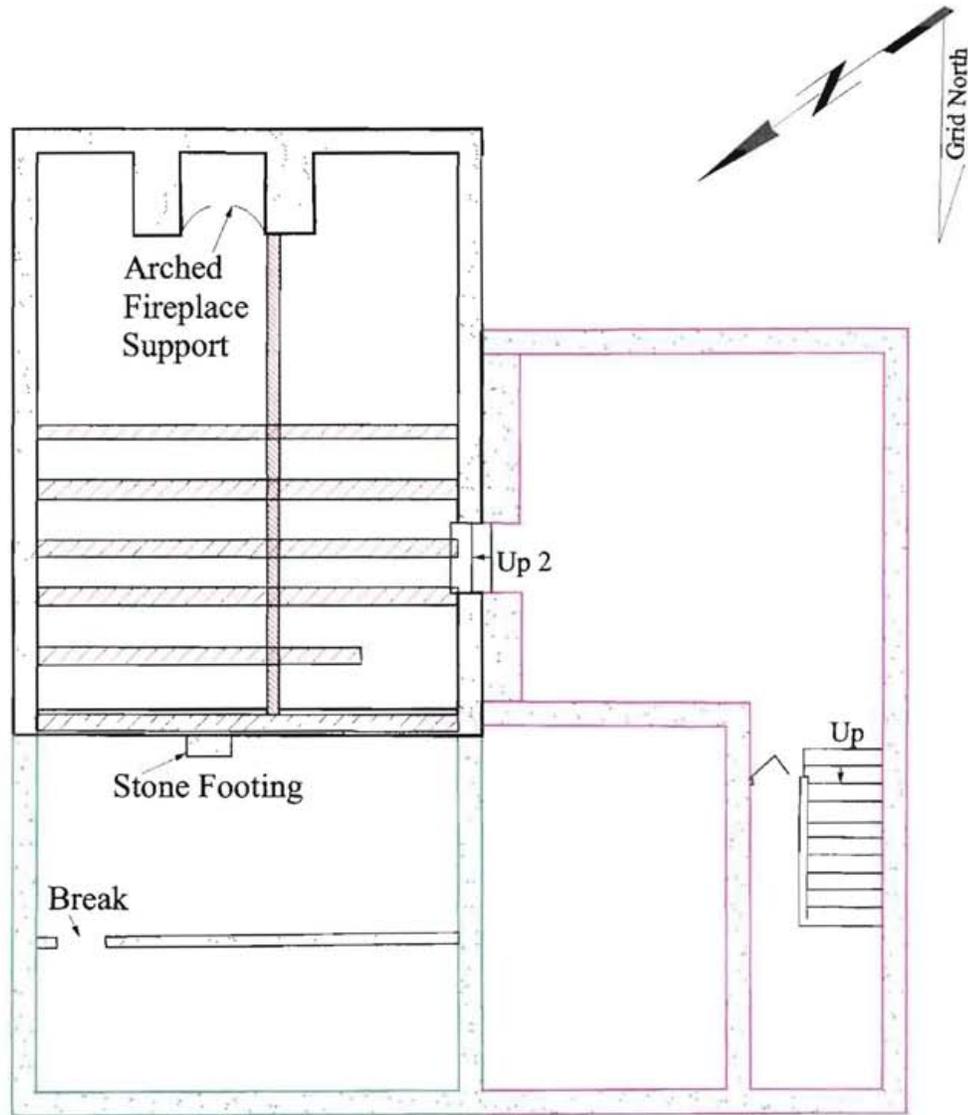


Figure 2. Detailed Location of Gutherie-Giacomelli House (Tweed's Tavern) CRS-#N-1101 (circled). Source: USGS 7.5' Topographic Series, Kennett Square, PA-Del. (1954 [Photorevised 1986]).

Gutherie-Giacomelli House (Tweed's Tavern)
CRS-#N-1101, New Castle County, Delaware



- Projected Dimensions of First Building Phase
- First Addition Walls
- Second Addition Walls
- Stone
- Concrete, First and Second Additions
- ▨ Log Joists
- ▨ Hewn Summer Beam

0 16 Feet

Figure 3. Plan of Basement Showing Location of Early First Floor Joists.

Gutherie-Giacomelli House (Tweed's Tavern)
CRS-#N-1101, New Castle County, Delaware

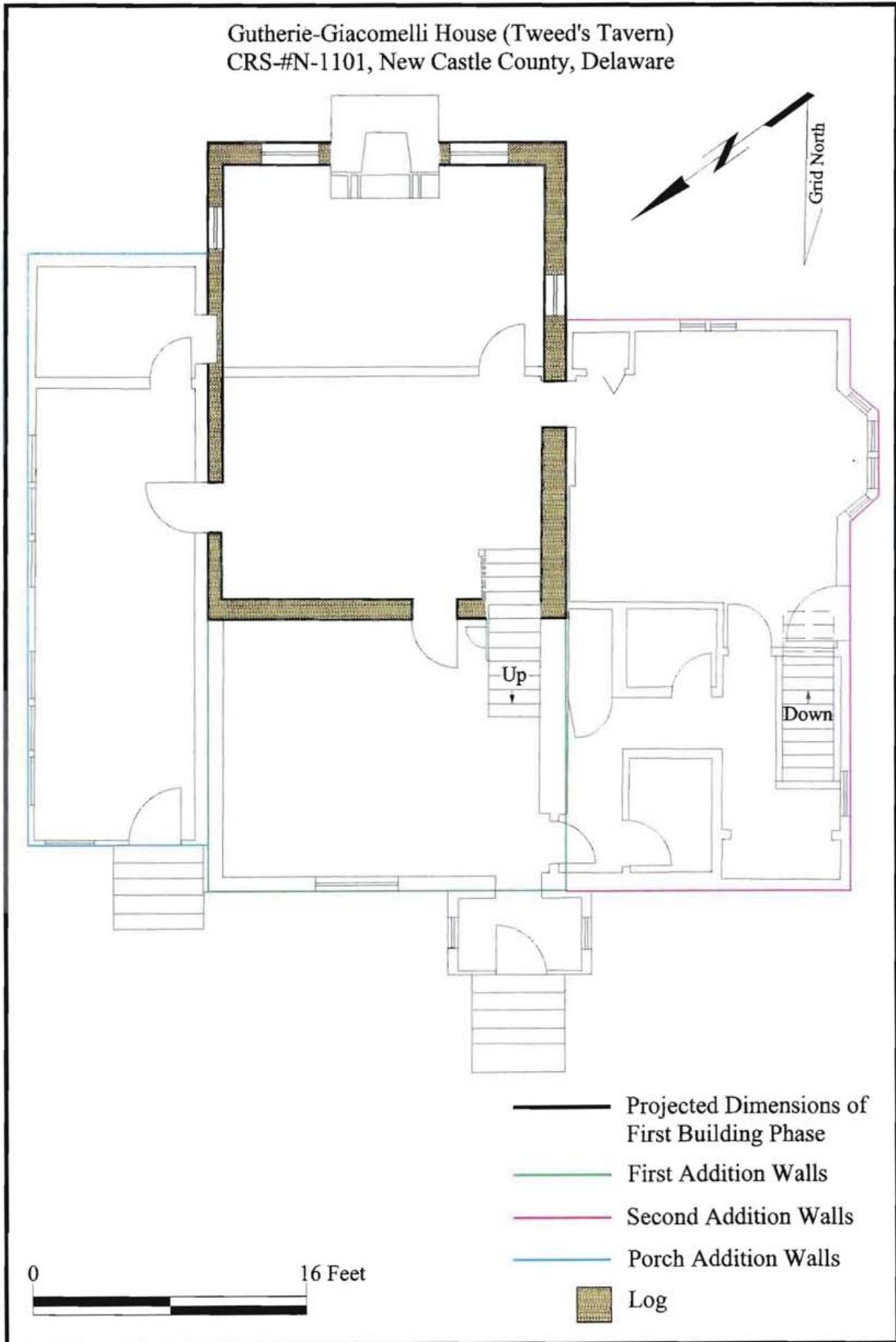
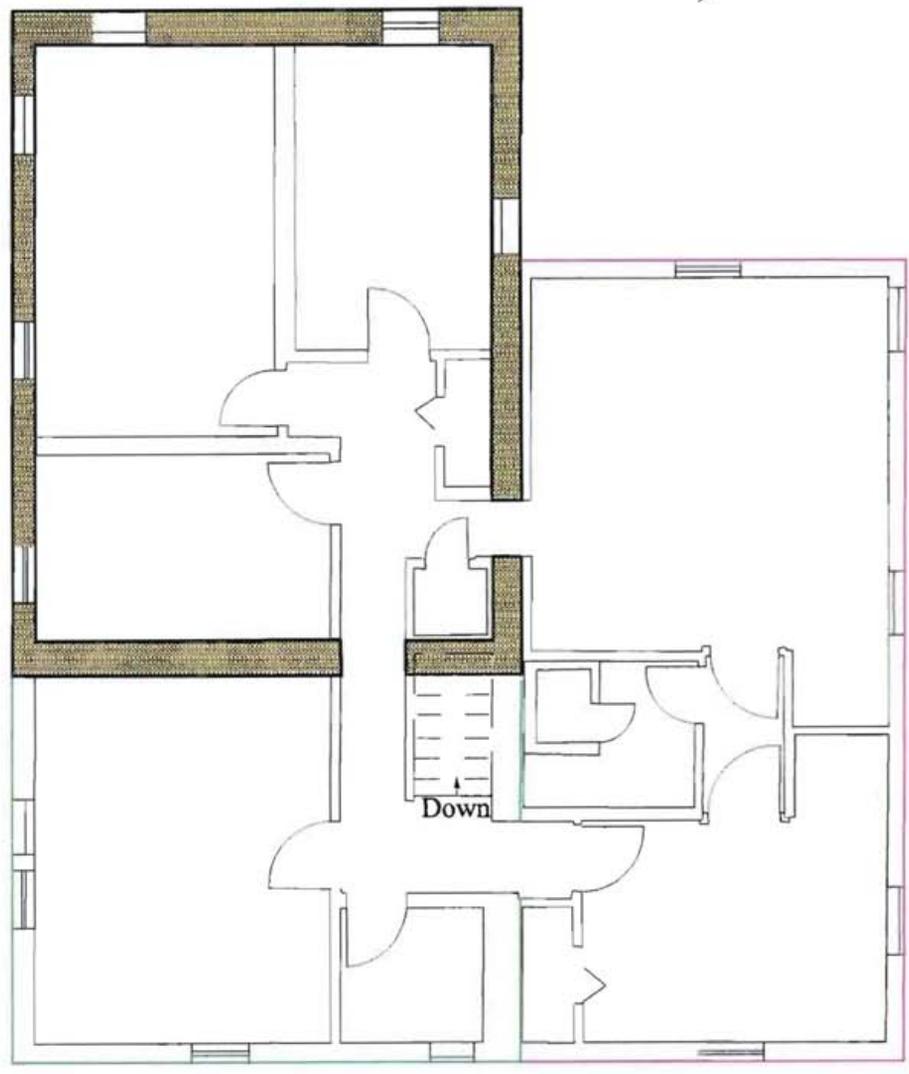


Figure 4. Plan of First Floor.

Gutherie-Giacomelli House (Tweed's Tavern)
CRS-#N-1101, New Castle County, Delaware



Down



- Projected Dimensions of First Building Phase
- First Addition Walls
- Second Addition Walls
- Log

Figure 5. Plan of Second Floor.

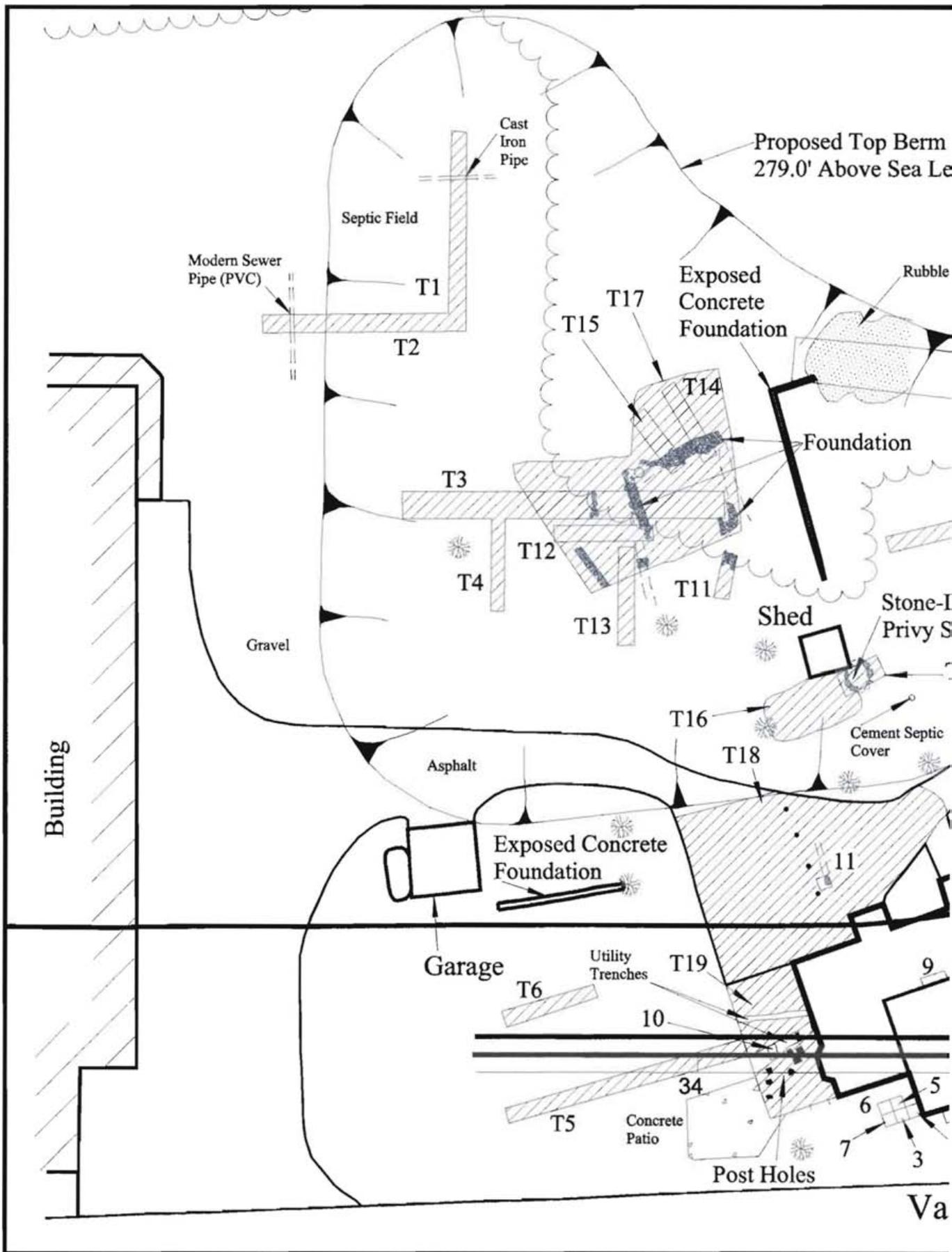
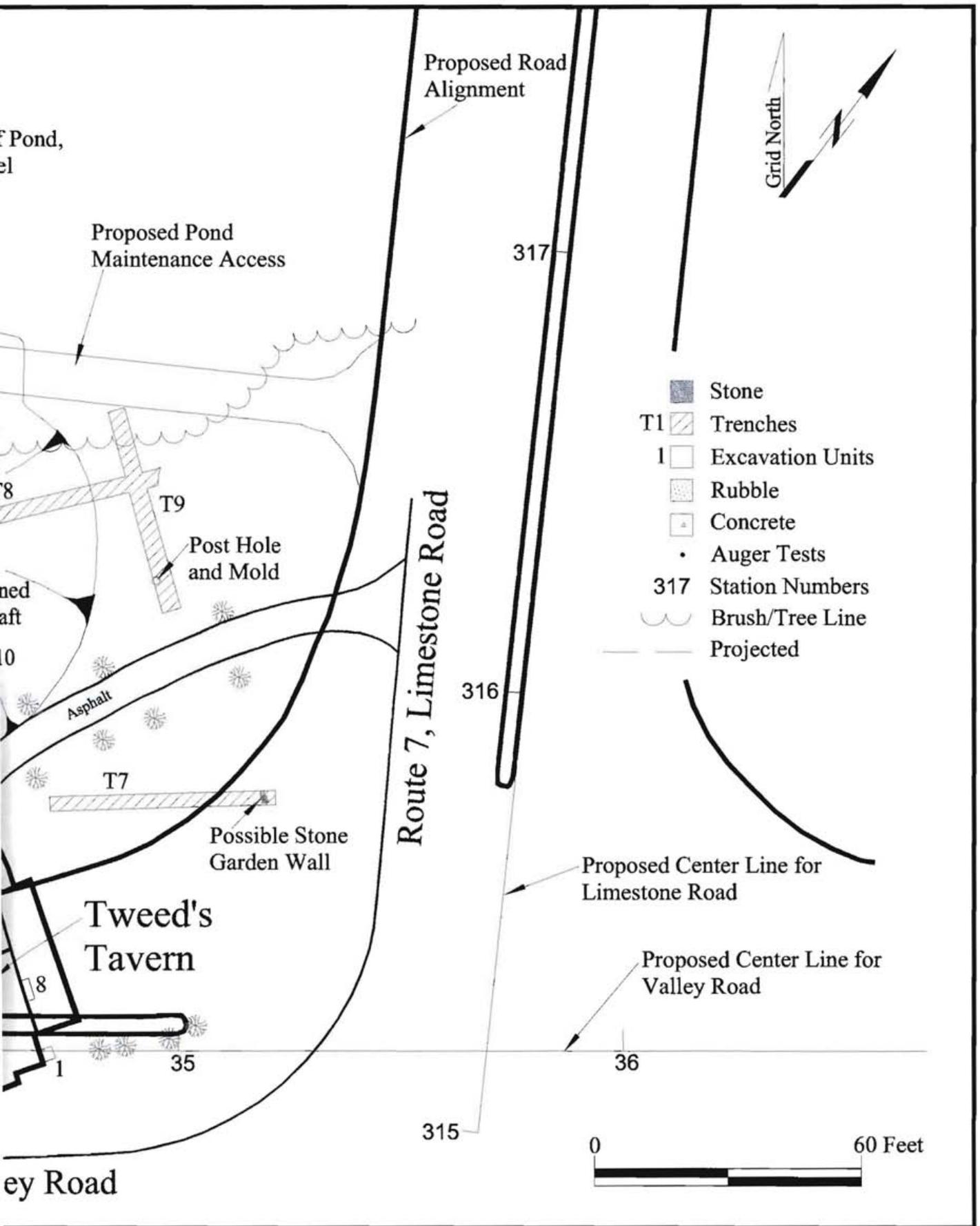


Figure 6. Gutherie-Giacomelli House (Tweed's Tavern) CRS-#N-



01, and Tweed's Tavern Archaeological Site 7NC-A-18 Site Plan.



Plate 1. General view of the Guthrie-Giacomelli House/Tweed's Tavern, looking north from across Valley Road, showing a portion of the original core log structure on the right with a 20th-century addition on the left, behind the tree. The chimney attached to the core structure is a 20th-century rebuild (Photographer: Dawn Turner) [HRI Neg. # 98039/17:1].



Plate 2. Detail view of the east interior corner of the first floor of the log structure in the Guthrie-Giacomelli House/Tweed's Tavern, showing V-notched corner jointing (Photographer: Dawn Turner) [HRI Neg. # 98039/18:8].

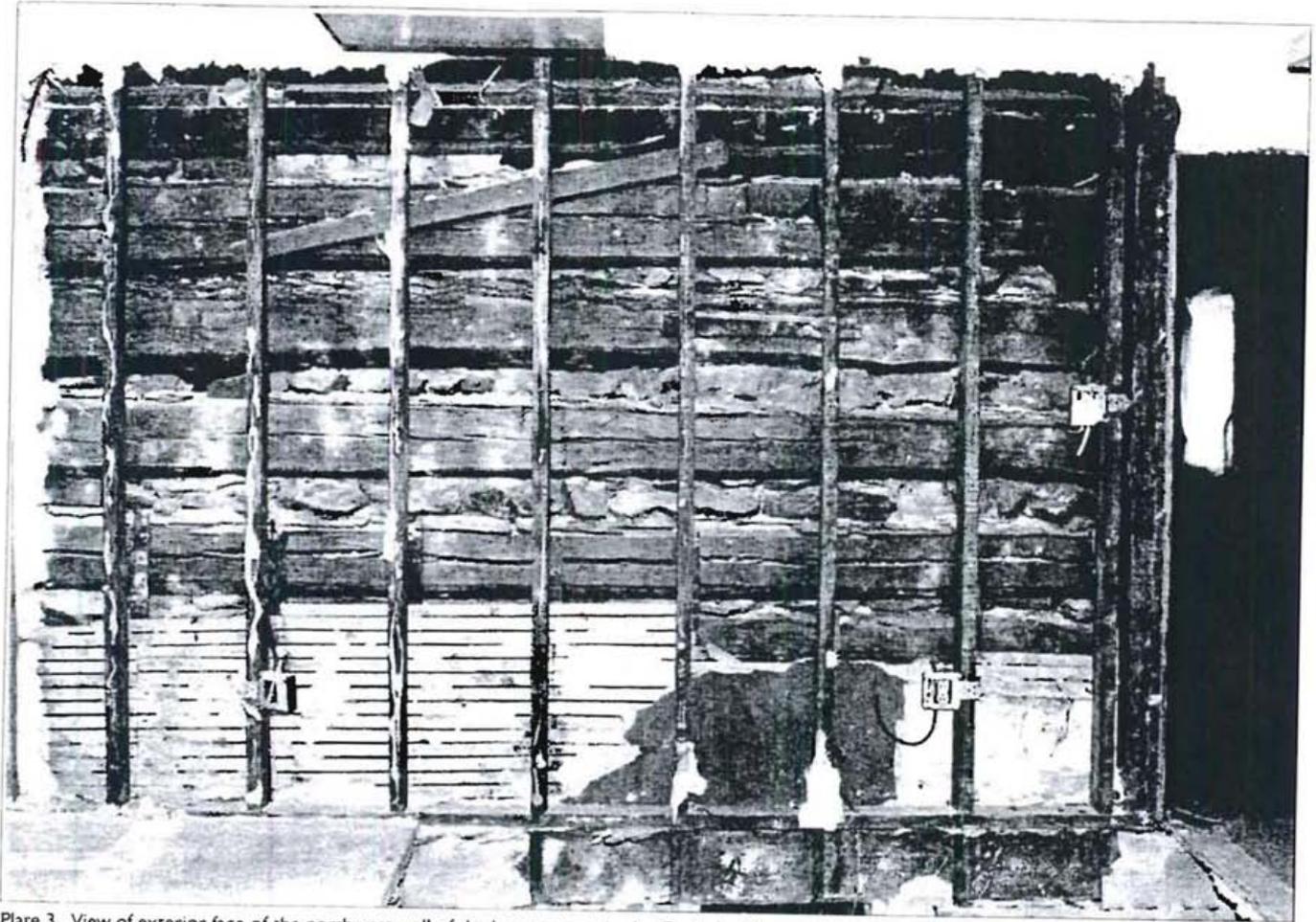


Plate 3. View of exterior face of the northwest wall of the log structure in the Guthrie-Giacomelli House/Tweed's Tavern, showing log construction and original exterior lath (Photographer: Dawn Turner) [HRI Neg. # 98039/18:36].



Plate 2. Detail view of the east interior corner of the first floor of the log structure in the Guthrie-Giacomelli House/Tweed's Tavern, showing V-notched corner jointing (Photographer: Dawn Turner) [HRI Neg. # 98039/18:8].

HW NNNN 180

Plate 3. View of exterior face of the northwest wall of the log structure in the Guthrie-Giacomelli House/Tweed's Tavern, showing log construction and original exterior lath (Photographer: Dawn Turner) [HRI Neg. # 98039/18:36].

HW NNNN 180