

## ABSTRACT

The Wilmington Boulevard Mitigation Program was conducted by Soil Systems, Inc. under contract to the Delaware Department of Transportation. The program included testing and data retrieval on seven blocks within the Department of Transportation's Wilmington Boulevard project area. The seven blocks were bounded by Second Street to the north, Front Street to the south, and King Street and Justison Street to the east and west respectively. Testing and data retrieval were conducted from July, 1980 to January, 1981.

The mitigation program's research domain addressed the effects of industrialization on the spatial distribution of land use activities, socio-economic group residences, and urban consumer behavior. A series of hypotheses were developed following this research domain. The data requirements of these hypotheses guided the historical, archaeological, and analytical phases of the project.

Historical research involved data collection on land use activities and socio-economic group residences. Information on the general history of Wilmington was also gathered to place the project area within its correct historical context. These data were used as independent tests of the project hypotheses.

Archaeological fieldwork was conducted in two phases. A series of backhoe trenches were placed within each block as part of Phase I. This trenching permitted the study of feature and deposit distribution within the seven blocks. Phase II was an intensive investigation of specific areas within the blocks to recover data on lot land use and socio-economic characteristics over time.

Phase II investigations produced nine occupation levels and ten features that were suitable for artifactual analyses. These analyses included artifact pattern studies; artifact functional group analysis; minimum vessel counts for ceramics and glass; economic scaling analysis (Wise 1976 and Miller 1980) of ceramic assemblages; and floral and faunal analyses. These studies provided artifactual data on the land use and socio-economic characteristics of the project area over time.

Both the historical and archaeological investigations demonstrated that different stages of industrial growth manifested themselves in different ways both in the historical and archaeological record. Spatial segregation of land use activities and socio-economic group residences occurred during a mature period of industrialization, after 1870. However, changes in these two variables also occurred during the initial period of industrial growth, around 1810. Patterns of consumer behavior, among different socio-economic groups, as seen in ceramics and floral and faunal materials, did not appear to change prior to 1860. This tentatively suggested that the process of industrialization, at least prior to 1860, did not alter consumption of ceramic and food products in Wilmington. Unfortunately, no post 1860 artifactual material, except for one context, was available from the project area.