



STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS
P.O. BOX 778
DOVER, DELAWARE 19901

OFFICE OF THE
DIRECTOR

PHONE: (302) 678 - 4301

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS OF GROUND SURFACES
IN BUILDINGS 16, 17, 18, 19 AND 23 WITHIN
THE WILMINGTON BOULEVARD PROJECT PHASE II
2ND STREET BETWEEN FRENCH & WALNUT STREETS

CONTRACT #75-11-003

DELAWARE DOT ARCHAEOLOGICAL FILE REPORT # 14

SUBMITTED TO
DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
AND
DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

BY
KEVIN W. CUNNINGHAM
JOHN W. MARTIN
JOANN L. CALVERT

AUGUST 1980

reprint

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to describe the results of archaeological investigations in the basements of buildings designated as numbers 16, 17, 18, 19, and 23 within the Wilmington Boulevard Project Phase II, New Castle County, Delaware (Map 1 & Plate 1). All five buildings are located on 2nd Street between French Street and Walnut Street within the proposed right of way and have been designated for demolition.

Investigations were undertaken to ascertain resource integrity, significance and content of each of the five basements and to recommend possible cost reducing demolition procedures while maximizing the preservation of archaeological resources encountered.

Methodology

The methodology employed in this investigation revolved around determining the presence or absence of surface and/or subsurface features in the basements.

Consultation was undertaken with the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, and Delaware Division of Highways Project Planning Section.

Field investigations consisted of a walkover of each basement together with subsurface testing in the form of test pits, bucket augering and shovel scrapes. All test locations were placed well within three feet of each other. Measurements were taken and maps made of the basements (Figures 1, 2, 3, & 4).

A total of two days were spent in the five basements August 1st and 4th. Kevin W. Cunningham served as principal investigator. Joann L. Calvert and John W. Martin served as assistants.

Results and Recommendations

The standing structure basements which were investigated must have been

built sometime within the 21 year period between 1847 and 1868. The Rea and Price 1847 Map, Plan of the City of Wilmington shows no structures within the 2nd Street area between French Street and Walnut Street while the Beers Map indicates that this street was completely built up and inhabited by 1868.

The following contains the results of the test excavations within buildings 16, 17, 18, 19, and 23 together with the recommendations which will insure maximum preservation of the archaeological resources encountered.

Building 23: (Figure 1 & 5)

One 2' X 2' test pit and one bucket auger sample confirmed the presence of an insitu B1 soil horizon immediately under a 1/32" organic/grease zone. The well developed B1 horizon is minimally 3-4000 years old. With the information that the insitu soil predates any historic occupation and that any feature would be noticable immediately under the organic/grease zone, we proceeded to place 14 shovel scrapes, each scrape being approximately 1' X 1'. No features were noted and no further archaeological work will be necessary.

Building 19:

No exposed soil horizons, the basement floor is completely covered with cement. No further archaeological work is necessary.

Building 18: (Figure 2)

The basement floor is completely covered with cement except a small 12' 2" N-S by 10' 3" E-W section in the southwest corner of the basement. Six shovel scrapes noted a 5" ash zone underlain by an identical B1 horizon which was present in building 23. No features were noted and the ash zone is relatively recent as indicated by the lack of compaction. No further archaeological work is necessary.

Building 17: (Figure 3)

Twenty-five shovel scrapes exposed the same horizons as those in

buildings 23 and 18, an extremely thin zone of organic/grease underlain by an insitu well developed B1 horizon. One feature was noted in the extreme southwest corner of the small back room. A test pit was dug to a depth of one and one-half feet and uncovered 1 stoneware sherd, 1 marble, 1 window glass fragment, and 1 comb. All artifacts appear to be very recent. The area around the test pit was scraped in an attempt to expose the whole feature but the area was quite disturbed and all excavation was stopped so as not to ruin what may be left of the feature. This area will be completely covered by plywood and left intact for any further archaeological excavation that may be done in the future.

Building 16: (Figure 4)

The basement floor consisted entirely of recent fill that may have been associated with the construction of a new brick wall within building 16's east basement wall and the west wall of the three story brick building situated on the corner of 2nd and Walnut Streets. Twenty-five shovel tests each going 8"-12" in depth indentified a 1/32" organic/grease zone underlain by a silty clay horizon which contains small red brick fragments throughout. No features were identified and it is felt that the recent fill which has a minimum depth of eight to twelve inches offers an excellent protective layer to the basement surface.

The following is a list of the Revised Specifications as a result of a meeting on January 18, 1980 and placed in a memorandum to George D. Knutkowski from Joseph T. Wutka dated January 28, 1980. Our changes that we see applicable to Buildings 16, 17, 18, 19, and 23 are placed in CAPITAL LETTERS after each specification.

- 1) All work is to be done with a State Inspector present.
- 2) Dirt basement floors are to be covered with 1/2 inch C-D grade plywood prior to demolition of the upper portions of the building.

ALL BASEMENTS ARE EXEMPT FROM THIS EXCEPT THE SMALL FEATURE, IDENTIFIED AS SUCH, WHICH IS LOCATED IN THE EXTREME SOUTHWEST CORNER IN BUILDING 17. A MAXIMUM OF TWO 1/2 INCH C-D GRADE PLYWOOD SHEETS WILL BE PLACED BY DELAWARE DOT PERSONNEL AT THIS LOCATION (see Figure 3).

- 3) Unpaved areas adjacent to buildings to be demolished, where mechanical equipment will be utilized, will be matted to insure minimal disturbance of ground areas. Note: a type and thickness of the matting should be included in the specifications.

THIS MUST BE EMPHASIZED. OUR INVESTIGATIONS IN THE BACK YARD LOTS NOTED THE PRESENCE OF 4 PRIVIES OR WELLS, ONE EACH BEHIND BUILDINGS 16, 17, 18, AND 23. AS AN EXTRA PRECAUTION DELAWARE DOT PERSONNEL WILL STAKE AND FLAG EACH PRIVY/WELL.

- 4) Demolition of the buildings shall be done in such a manner as to not damage cellar walls and floors.
- 5) No mechanical work shall occur within two feet of the basement floor level.

THIS IS NON-APPLICABLE EXCEPT AROUND THE EXTREME SOUTHWEST CORNER OF BUILDING 17 WHERE THE FEATURE HAS BEEN LOCATED (see Figure 3).

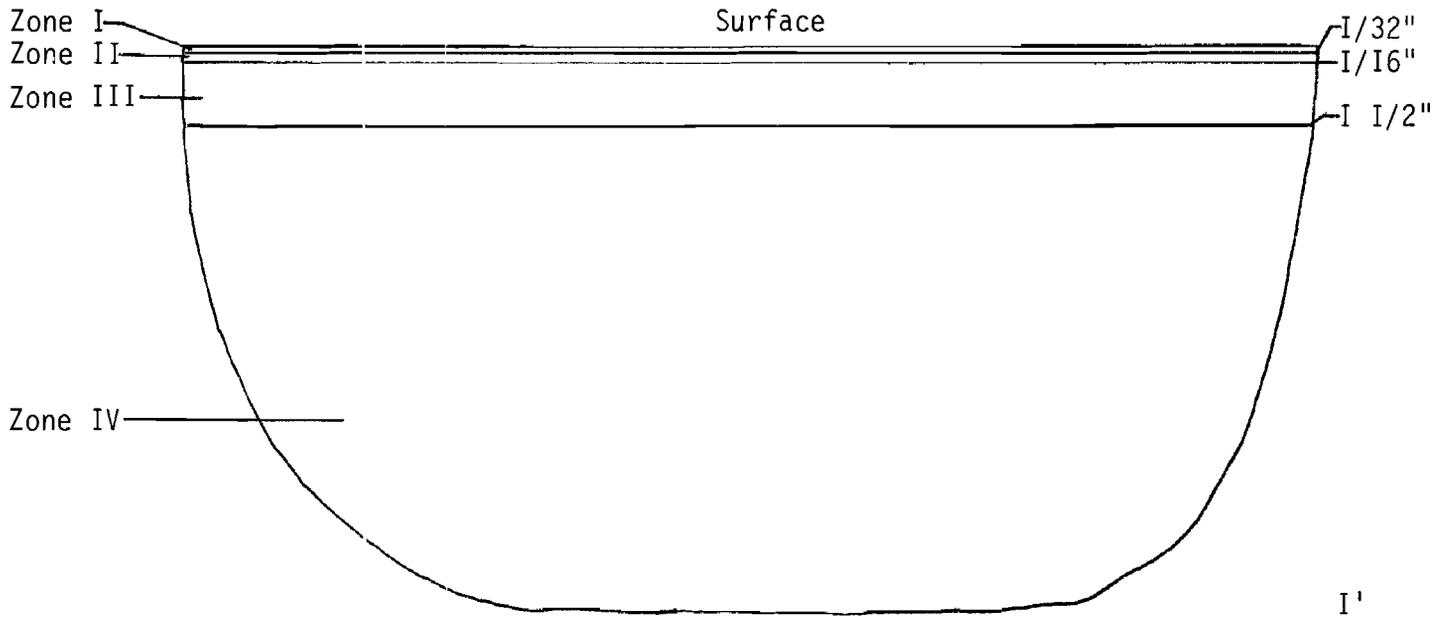
- 6) In paragraph 2, page 7 of specifications, the second sentence should be changed to read, Buildings foundation walls shall be removed to ground level.
- 7) In future specifications, the contractor, prior to beginning work, shall notify the Department to contact the State Historic Preservation Office by letter with copy to the contractor that the SHPO has two weeks to remove any objects, part or pieces of the buildings or buildings under consideration for demolition prior to the initiation of that demolition.

The results of our field reconnaissance and testing resulted in the discovery of one feature. This feature will be completely covered and preserved. We feel that our recommendations made above (in caps) and within the framework of the original revised specifications will permit cost reducing demolition procedures while maximizing the preservation of the archaeological data.

FIGURE 2

BUILDING 7

TEST PIT I - PROFILE OF SOUTH WALL



Zone I -- Dark black organic/grease human occupation

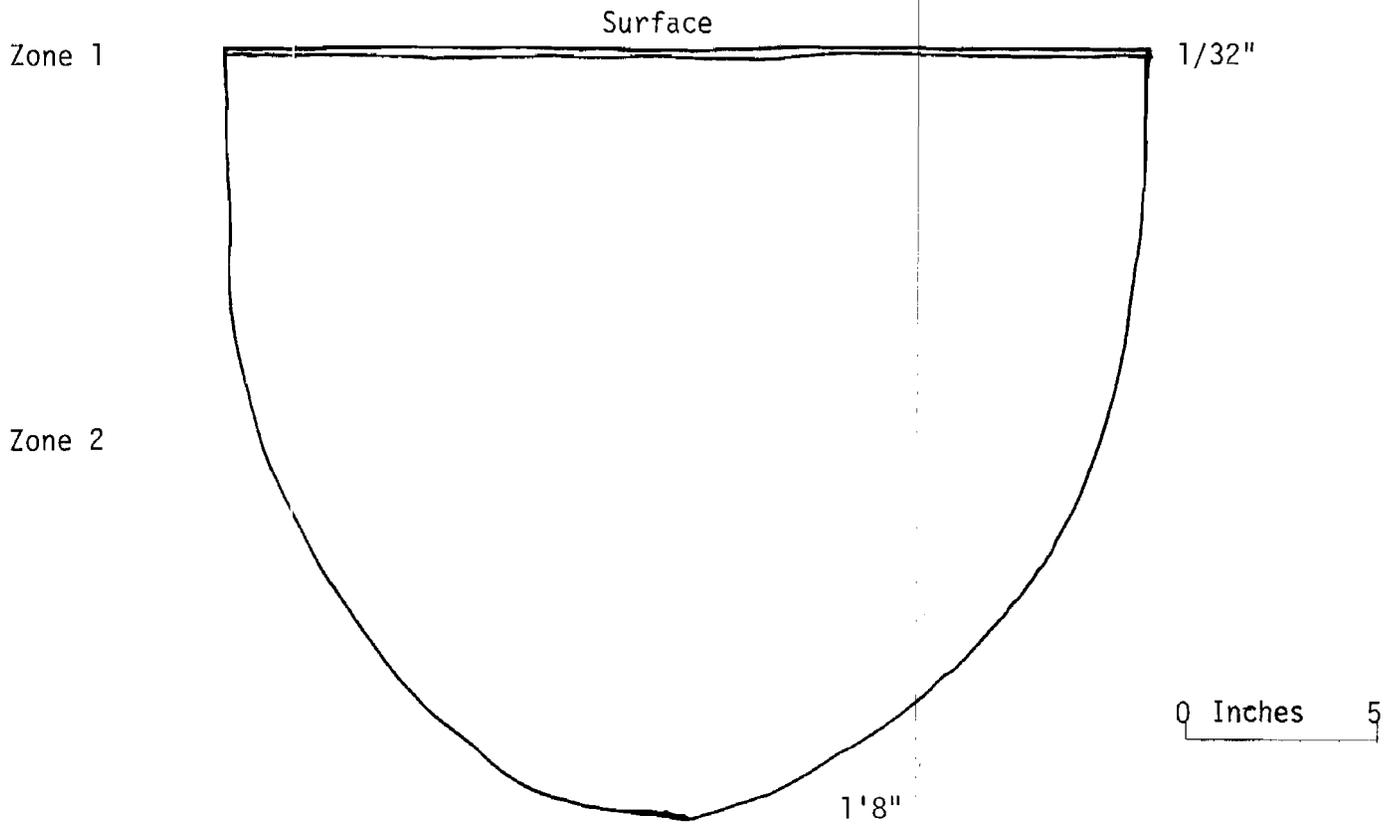
Zone II - Grey/white ash

Zone III- Dark brown silty sand with broken brick throughout

Zone IV - Light brown-yellow clay with small amounts of mica BI horizon

0 Inches 5

FIGURE 5
BUILDING 23
TEST PIT 1 - PROFILE OF SOUTH WALL



Zone 1 -- Dark black organic/grease human occupation

Zone 2 -- Light brown-yellow clay with small amounts of mica B1 horizon

TABLE I
LOCATION & CONDITION OF
PRIVY/WELLS

BEHIND BLDG. #	DIMENSIONS/ N-S	E-W	DEPTH	CONDITION
23	45"	55"	34"	Fully exposed, walls are stable
I9	36"	22"	49"	Partially exposed
I7	46"	46"	6'6"	Fully exposed, 1 course of Belgium Block underlain by brick, walls are stable
I6	46"	46"	38"	Fully exposed, walls are stable

All privy/wells are located within eight feet of the back walls. All appear to have had material taken from them as evidenced by the dirt mounds adjacent to each. Select fill, a coarse yellow orange sand, will be placed by the demolition contractor into each privy/well and will bury them to a depth of 1-2'. Privy/well behind building 23 will be covered by the proposed access road while those behind buildings I9, I7, and I6 will be to the east of the proposed route.



STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS
P. O. Box 778
DOVER, DELAWARE 19901

OFFICE OF THE
DIRECTOR

TELEPHONE:

FURTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS ON THE WILMINGTON BLVD. PHASE II
BUILDING #7 (ACE'S RESTAURANT) SW CORNER OF FRONT & KING STREETS

PROJECT #75-11-003

DELAWARE DOT ARCHAEOLOGICAL FILE REPORT # 14

Submitted to
DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

By
Kevin W. Cunningham

AUGUST 1980

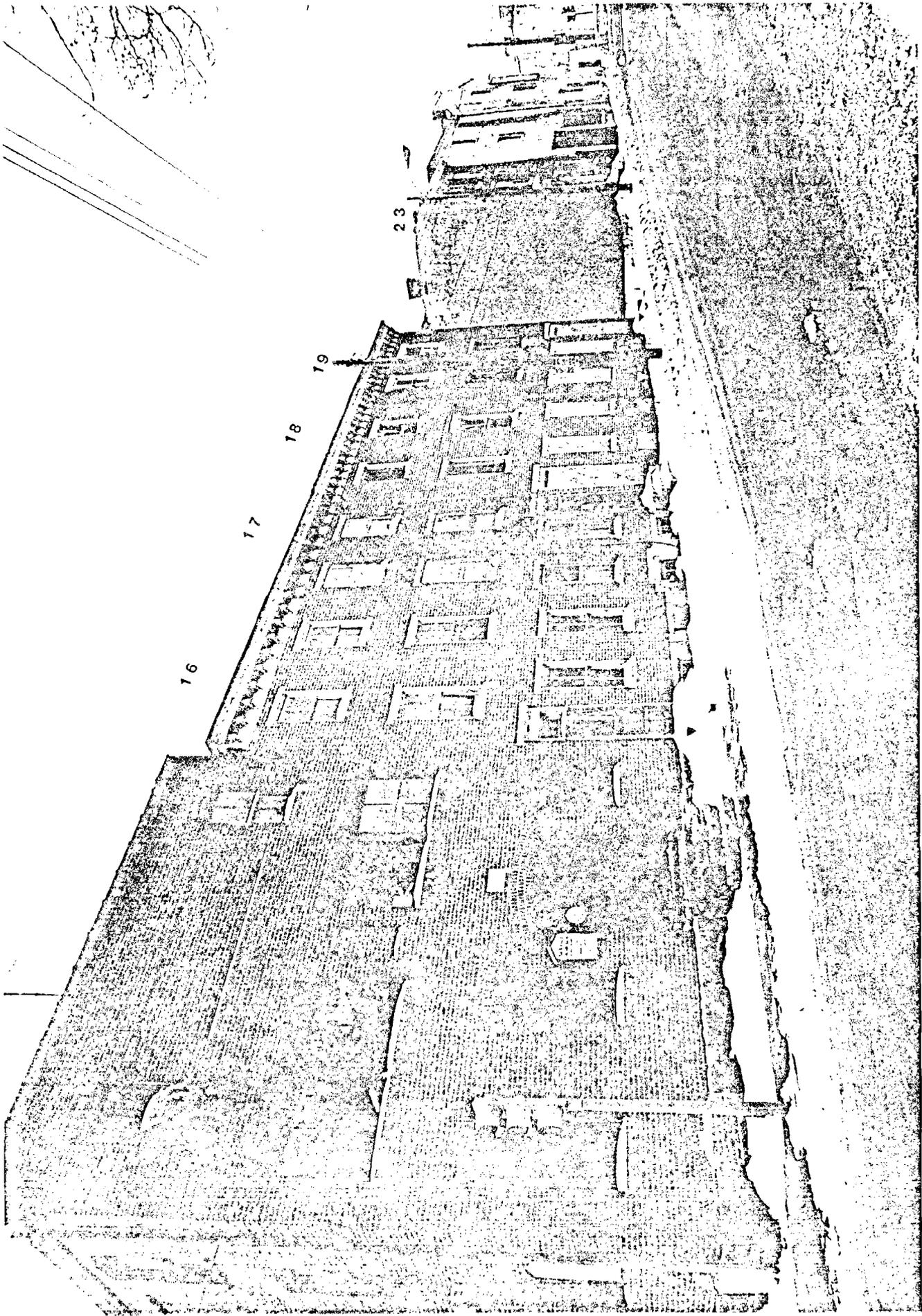
Introduction

The following are the results and recommendations of our archaeological investigations in the basement of building #7 (Ace's Restaurant) within the Wilmington Boulevard Project Phase II, New Castle County, Delaware (Map I and Plate I). Building 7 is located on the corner of King and Front Streets. This transmittal will be included as part of our first report dated August 1980 entitled Archaeological Investigations of Ground Surfaces In Buildings I6, I7, I8, I9, and 23 Within The Wilmington Boulevard Project Phase II 2nd Street Between French & Walnut Streets, DELDot Archaeological File Report # I4.

Results and Recommendations

Building 7: (Figure I & 2)

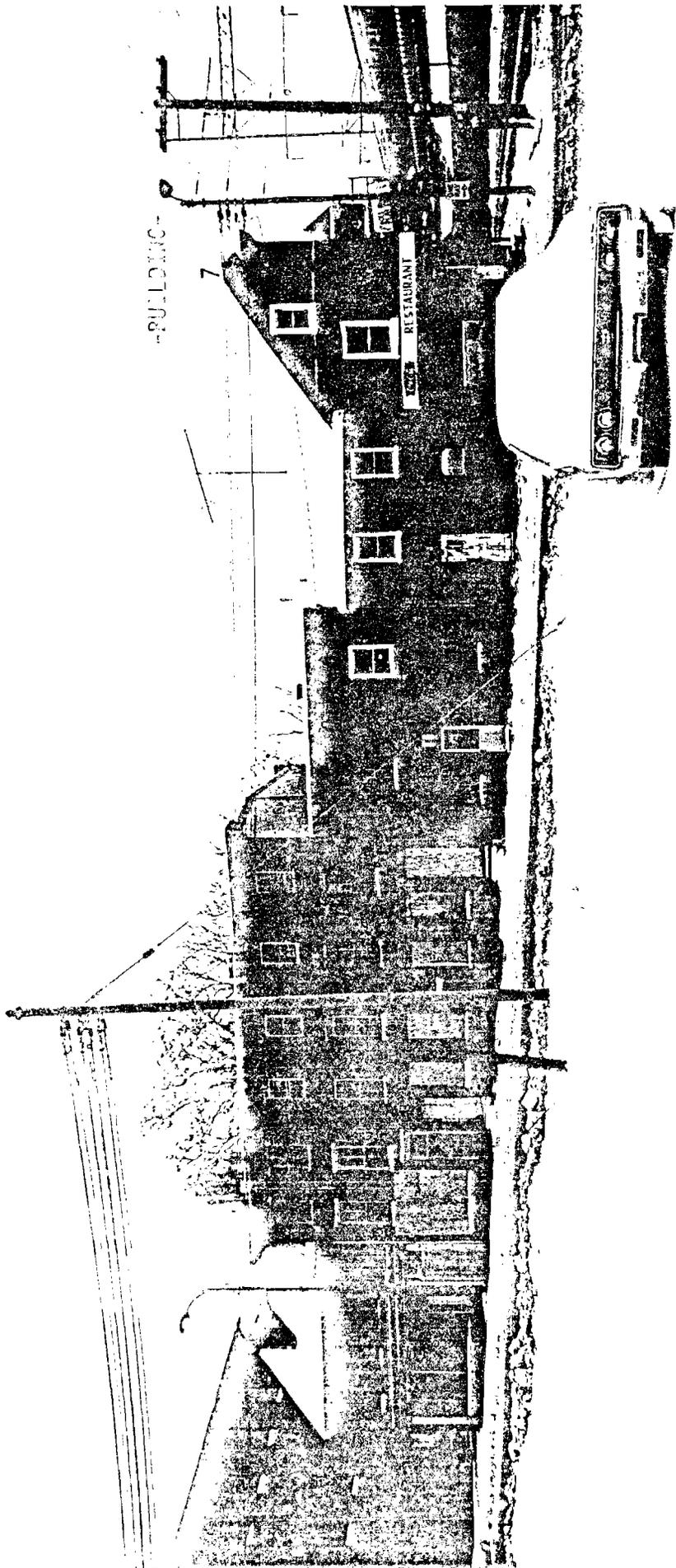
One 2'X2' test pit together with 9 shovel scrapes in the larger (north room) and 9 shovel test pits in the (south room) noted the presence of two distinct profiles but no features were present. The larger (north room) profile (Figure I) exhibited a 1/32" organic/grease zone underlain by a 1/32" ash zone. This was underlain by a recent fill with an approximate depth of 1 1/4". All three of these zones are underlain by the same BI horizon which was noted in buildings 23, I8 and I7. The smaller (south room) exhibited a 1/32" organic/grease zone underlain by a yellowish sandy/pebble lense which had a minimum depth of 12". This situation lends itself to many interpretations. There is a possibility that the structure was built and then added on to. The two separate rooms which contain two distinctly different soil horizons lends itself to this possibility. Further archival research including map studies could determine exactly the building process of this corner lot. No features were noted and no further archaeological work will be necessary within this building.



2nd St.

Between

Walnut St. & French St.



-BUILDING-

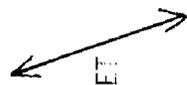
7

RESTAURANT

BUILDING 7

CORNER OF

KING STREET & FRONT STREET





STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

HALL OF RECORDS • DOVER • 19901

(302) 679-5314

736

Old State House, The Green
P. O. Box 1401

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Bureau of Archaeology and
Historic Preservation

August 12, 1980

MEMORANDUM TO: Kevin W. Cunningham, Project Planning Archaeologist,
Division of Highways

FROM: Faye L. Stocum, Archaeologist, Bureau of Archaeology
and Historic Preservation

SUBJECT: ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS IN WILMINGTON BOULEVARD
PROJECT, PHASE II

I have reviewed the above cited survey/assessment and recommendations for a revised, cost-effective demolition of these Second Street properties. I concur with your findings and recommendations.

As a note of clarification under your Results & Recommendations Section, I found out that Second Street was occupied during the late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries. Without going to pre-Rea and Price documents, such as city directories and deeds, this information is not readily apparent.

August 21, 1980

Mr. James Lutryzkowski
Assistant District Engineer
North District
P.O. Box 8
Near, DE 19701

RE: State Contract No. 79-011-08
F. A. Contract No. M-5002(3)
Wilmington Blvd. Demolition, Part V

Dear Mr. Lutryzkowski:

Wednesday, August 20, 1980 we met with Mr. Paul Beattie, State Inspector, on the Wilmington Blvd. demolition project and Ms. Faye Stocum, prehistoric archaeologist SHPO, to discuss the removal of several tree stumps which are located near the corner of Front and King Streets Wilmington (see enclosure). The meeting was held as a result of Mr. Beattie's call, Tuesday, August 19, 1980 to the problem whereby a tree stump was intruding into a historic privy/well.

As per our conversation at the meeting, it was concluded that the historic privy/well would best be preserved for future consideration by simply cutting the intruding tree stumps (3) as close to the ground surface as possible. Per the attached plans, the three tree stumps are situated well out of the construction limits of the proposed extension of the Wilmington Blvd. from King Street to Fourth Street. Upon completion of any archaeological excavations which may take place at this location in the future, the three stumps would be removed as part of a future construction contract in this area.

August 21, 1980

As noted in the current demolition specifications select fill will be placed throughout the area as well as around the existing stumps.

Very truly yours,

DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS

Joseph T. Wutka
Location Studies & Environmental Engineer

Kevin W. Cunningham
Project Planning Archaeologist

KNC/jc
Enclosure

cc: Mr. J. L. Sipple
Mr. G. E. Pusey
Mr. P. Beattie
Mr. M. Otto
Mr. N. L. Blandy
Mr. Dr. R. Griffith
Ms. F. L. Stocum



STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS
P. O. Box 778
DOVER, DELAWARE 19901

4642

TELEPHONE: (302) 736-XXXX

OFFICE OF THE
DIRECTOR

October 15, 1980

Mr. Daniel Griffith
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Old State House
The Green
Dover, Delaware 19901

Dear Dan:

This letter is to confirm our conversation on Monday, October 6, 1980 concerning the status of the four privy/wells located on the 2nd St. block between French and Walnut Streets Wilmington, New Castle County, Delaware (see enclosed figure and plate).

Thursday September 25, 1980 Mr. Paul Beattie, State Inspector on the Wilmington Blvd. demolition project called my office to inquire about the possibility of allowing the demolition contractor, Henry Salvage Inc., to grade off the tops of the four privy/wells located on the above mentioned block. Mr. Beattie informed me that at least two feet of each privy/well would have to be graded off to curb level in order to allow for proper drainage of the entire area. I instructed Mr. Beattie to leave them alone until which time I could inquire as to the integrity of the privy/wells and also consult with you, the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer.

We decided based upon the fact that the four privy/wells had been noted as to their surface integrity and mapped in our report (Cunningham, Calvert & Martin, August 1980), together with the information gathered from Mr. Ronald Selin and Mr. Richard Green that the four privy/wells could be graded down approximately two feet without further destroying the archeological resource while implementing cost reducing demolition procedures. It must be noted that Messrs. Selin and Green, now field archeologists with SSI Inc. whom is mitigating the cultural resources on the Wilmington Blvd. had in the past dug and have in their possession the diagnostic artifacts from each of the four privy/wells. We have also been told by Cara Wise, Principal Investigator of the Wilmington Blvd. cultural resource mitigation program that the artifacts from the four privy/wells, as well as all the other features which Messrs. Selin and Green had previously dug into within the Wilmington Blvd project will be considered and included as part of the data base from the area. They insist that the artifacts from each separate feature have been kept in separate boxes. I will also note that with Messrs. Selin and Green's cooperation I am in the

process of locating, mapping and noting the other cultural features which they know the location of and/or have dug into. At the completion of this project a report will be sent to your office. This information should prove to be of value when we send out a Request for Proposals for the cultural resource mitigation program for the Wilmington Blvd. Phase II.

If I can be of any further assistance concerning this matter please call.

Very truly yours,

Division of Highways

Joseph T. Wutka
Location Studies & Environmental Engineer



Kevin W. Cunningham
Project Planning Archeologist

KWC/jlc

cc: Mr. Sipple
Mr. G.B. Pusey
Mr. J. Lutryzkowski
Mr. P. Beattie
Mr. M. Otto
Mr. N. Blendy

STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

August 15, 1980

736-4642

ENCLOSURE

TO: Glen Pusey, Chief, Project Planning Engineer
Joseph Wutka, Location Studies & Environmental Engineer
Nick Blendy, Environmental Planner
Mike Otto, Federal Highway Administration
Daniel Griffith, Chief Archaeologist, Division of Historical and
Cultural Affairs
Faye Stocum, Archaeologist, Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

RE: Further archaeological investigations on the Wilmington Blvd., Phase II.
Building #7 (Ace's Restaurant) ¹⁵⁴ corner of Front and King Streets.

From: Kevin W. Cunningham, Project Planning Archaeologist

Enclosed are our findings which describes the results and recommendations of the above mentioned building. This is to be considered as part of our previous investigations within buildings I6, I7, I8, I9 and 23. Also enclosed is page I0 of this previous report.

I hope this meets with your approval. As always, if you have any questions or concerns regarding our findings, please contact me at your convenience.

Very truly yours,

Division of Highways

Joseph T. Wutka
Location Studies & Environmental Engineer


Kevin W. Cunningham
Project Planning Archaeologist

KWC/kwc

Enclosures

STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



MEMORANDUM:

December 23, 1980

TO: Daniel Griffith, Deputy S.H.P.O.
FROM: Kevin Cunningham, Archaeologist *KC*
RE: Wilmington Boulevard Historic District, National Register Boundary
between King and French Streets

Concerning our yesterday's conversation of the above mentioned, together with the verbal description of the National Register boundary (see page 2), I would like to request that you please inform the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places as to the actual boundary as outlined on page 3.

Thank you very much for your concern in this matter. Have a great holiday.

KC/ck

cc: G. B. Pusey
J. T. Wutka ✓
J. Dittmeier