

APPENDIX VIII

GLOSSARY

Agrarian - Relating to or concerning the land and its ownership, cultivation, and tenure.

Amaranth - An herb genus including pigweed and other species cultivated as food and for their showy flowers.

Apothecary - An eighteenth and nineteenth century druggist or pharmacist.

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

Archival Research - Research done at places in which public or historical records, charters and documents are stored and preserved.

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

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

Auger - A large tool for boring holes deep in the ground.

Bay - The subdivision longitudinally of a building by piers, arches, girders, etc.

Bimodal - Having two separate statistical modes, or most frequent value in a set of data.

Brackish - A freshwater/saltwater mix.

Burgomaster - The chief magistrate of a town in certain European countries.

Caplifters - Handles or other fixtures/hardware on later nineteenth century decorated coffins.

Cartwright - Cart and wagon maker.

U.S. Census - A count of the nation's population taken every ten years as a basis for determining states' representation in the U.S. House of Representatives. Some censuses include information on a person's place of residence, sex, age, family status, ethnic background, occupation, literacy, etc.

Chenopodium - A plant of the Goosefoot family.

Cordwainer - Eighteenth and nineteenth century term for a leather worker and sometimes shoemaker.

Crassotrea virginica - The species of oyster found in the waters of the Delaware region.

Cross-section - A transverse of a portion of a feature, horizontally and vertically removing soil from one section.

Culture - A uniquely human system of habits and customs acquired by man through a non-biological, uninherited process, learned by his society, and used as his primary means of adapting to his environment.

Datum - A point used as a reference, as in surveying.

De Facto - In reality or fact.

Demography - The size, density, distribution, and vital statistics of a human population; also refers to the study of these population characteristics.

Diachronic - Referring to two or more reference points in time.

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

Distal - Opposite end from the point of attachment.

Dripline - A slight trench or depression left in the soil where a roof overhang was present.

Ephemeral Site - A site that was occupied for a very short period of time; transitory.

Escutcheon - A hardware form, specifically a protective or ornamental shield such as around a keyhole; used in reference to doors, furniture, coffins, etc.

Ethnobotany - The analysis and interpretation of interrelationships between people and plants.

Extant - Still in existence.

Fallow Field - A plowed but unplanted field.

Faunal Remains - Animal remains from archaeological sites studied to learn of past foodways and the ecological relationships between humans and animals.

Feature - Any soil disturbance or discoloration that reflects human activity, or an artifact that, being too large to remove from a site, normally is recorded only; for example, house, storage pits, etc.

Foodways - The interrelated systems of food procurement, preparation, and consumption.

Footring - A raised ring on the base of certain ceramic vessels, on which the vessel rests.

Flotation - The use of water suspension to recover tiny plant and bone fragments from archaeological sites.

Granary - A storage building for grain.

Grid - The 2-dimensional intersection network defining the squares in which archaeologists excavate.

Hemp - A plant which produces a tough fiber used in making cordage.

Hinterland - The land directly adjacent to and inland from a coast. Also a region remote from urban areas; back country.

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.

Historical Archaeology - The study of material culture in an historical perspective.

Hole-set Post - Posts set directly in the ground connected by sills.

Hundred - A subdivision of some English and American counties.

Indentured - A person bound to work for another for a specified period of time, especially in return for payment of travel and maintenance expenses.

In Situ - In the original place.

Intersite - Between sites; often used in the context of comparison.

Intestate - A person who dies without making a will.

Intra-site - Within a site.

Kinship - Socially recognized relationships based on real or imagined descent and marriage patterns.

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

Locus - A defined archaeological site or testing location.

Manumission - To release from slavery; to liberate from personal bondage or servitude.

Mantua-maker - A dress, cloak, or coat maker; more specifically, a maker of mantuas, a loose-fitting gown commonly worn in the eighteenth century.

Marsh - A tract of soft wet land usually characterized by grasses, cattails and related vegetation.

Material Culture - That segment of man's physical environment which is purposely shaped by him according to culturally dictated plans.

- 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.
- Messuage** - A building, especially a dwelling, often cited in deeds and other property transaction records.
- Midden** - A refuse heap usually containing household and domestic debris.
- Mitigation** - In archaeology, refers to minimizing the destruction or disturbance of an archaeological site by a construction project, erosion, farming practices or the like, through excavation of the site and recovery of the information about past life that it contains.
- Munsell Notation System** - A standard means of describing all color gradations along scales of value, hue, and color. Archaeologists use this system in describing and standardizing soil color descriptions.
- 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. Spelling variations of Orphans' Court include "Orphans Court" and "Orphan's Court."
- Outbuilding** - A building other than the principal building on a property; for example, on an eighteenth or nineteenth century Delaware farm: smokehouses, dairies, stables, and corn-cribs were typical outbuildings.
- Paradigm** - An intellectual tradition that conditions the way in which its followers generate, perceive, and interpret data; a framework or model.
- Patroons** - Proprietor of a manorial estate in Dutch New York; the captain or officer commanding a ship.
- Pedestrian Survey** - The walking and collecting of an archaeological site without the excavation of subsurface units.
- Perch** - A measure of distance and acreage used by early surveyors, equal to 16.5 feet. Also called a pole, rod, or rood. A perch is equal to one-quarter of a chain, which is 66 feet long, and eighty chains equals 1 mile, or 5,280 feet. Finally 1 acre is composed of 10 square chains, or 43,560 feet.
- Phase I** - Determination of the absence or presence of a site.
- Phase II** - Further investigation of a site to define its limits and integrity for National Register eligibility.

Phase III - Data recovery phase of archaeological investigation. Usually involves intensive archaeological and historical investigations to recover as much data as possible and mitigate the effects of proposed construction.

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

Phytolith - Tiny silica particles contained in some plants. Sometimes these can be recovered from archaeological sites, and used to identify the plant even after it has decayed.

Plow zone - 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.

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

Post mold - The organic stain in the ground which is left by a decayed wooden post. A post mold stain may occur inside of a post hole stain on an archaeological site.

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

Profile - A side view of a feature or test unit.

Research Design - A strategy developed at the beginning of a project to guide the researchers.

Salinity Regime - Waters having certain levels of salinity or saltiness.

Sediment - Soil deposited by wind, water, or glaciers.

Shallops - Small, shallow draft vessels capable of maneuver on inland tidal creeks by oar or sail; usually with a 2-4 man crew. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, these vessels were important in the shipping of agricultural produce and other goods in the Delaware region.

Sherd - A piece of broken pottery.

Sill - The horizontal member that bears the upright portion of a frame.

Siltation - Process of filling of a channel with silt or mud.

Sloops - Larger vessel than a shallop capable of carrying a larger cargo but requiring greater draft and thus limited to coastal and oceanic transport and shipping.

Socio-economic - Applies to the inter-relationship between economic wealth (or poverty) and social position or status.

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

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

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.

Subsoil - Sterile, naturally occurring soils not changed by human occupation.

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

Surface Collection - Act of walking along a surface such as an open field or plowed field, and collecting artifacts seen on the surface of the ground.

Sundry - Miscellaneous small articles or items.

Supine (position) - Lying on one's back.

Synchronic - Referring to a single period in time.

Tax Assessment Error List - It is a supplementary tax assessment list made after the initial tax assessment to correct errors.

Taxables - A person taxed for real or personal property. Most taxables were white males over the age of 21 who were eligible to vote. Widows, minors, and the estates of deceased persons, however were also sometimes taxed.

Tithable - Subject to a tithe or tax.

(TPQ) Terminus post quem - 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 feature.

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

Truncation - Partially cut off; for example, plowing "truncates" features and strata in archaeological sites.

Unimodal - Having one most frequent value, or peak, in a set of data. Normal distributed data are unimodal.-

Vegetal Waste - Waste from plants, eg. vegetables, especially plants used for foods. For example, corn husks and cobs.

Waster - Broken or otherwise damaged bricks or ceramics generally discarded after manufacture.

Yeoman - An eighteenth century and earlier term for a farmer and owner of a small farm.

CC index value

A set of CC index values for English ceramics has been generated for the period 1787 to 1880. CC ware was the cheapest refined type of ceramic for this period and was used as a base for the index. The index values were created by dividing the cost of CC ware into the cost of the other ceramic types. These index values are used to compare the cost between excavated ceramic assemblages. These index values are described in Miller 1980 and 1991.

Crazing

Crazing is the cracking of the glaze on ceramics vessels which are caused because the glaze has a different rate of contraction than the body. When the vessel is heated or cooled, the different rates of expansion and contraction between the glaze and body cause small cracks to appear in the glaze.

Dipt

The Staffordshire potters' term for refined earthen wares that are slip decorated such as mocha, common cable, variegated, and blue banded. These wares were the cheapest types of bowls, mugs, and pitchers available with color decoration from ca 1790 to 1860.

Fish and Sherds Model

This is a mathematical model used to estimate the total number of vessels on a site based on the excavated sample. It is based on the biological model for estimating the population of fish in a pond or lake by tagging a sample of fish, releasing them, and then recapturing some of the tagged fish in a second sampling. The model is described in Miller and Moodey 1986.

Jigger & jolly

These are mechanical devices for producing ceramic vessels which began to replace hand thrown pots in the 1840s. The Jigger was used to throw plates while the jolly was used to throw cups and bowls.

Minimum Vessel Count

This is the minimum number of vessels that are represented by the sherds from an archaeological assemblage.