

## **SITE INTERPRETATIONS**

The results of the Phase II DelDOT investigations at 7NC-E-53 indicate that the historic component of the site is undisturbed and in good condition. The site represents a farmstead and possible landing operation dating from the mid-eighteenth to nineteenth century, and was owned at one time by a prominent local merchant, John Read. The site was occupied continuously throughout the nineteenth century, yet there is archaeological evidence that middle-to-late eighteenth century deposits are present in good stratigraphic contexts. Much of the site, particularly around the foundation, is unplowed. The historic artifacts recovered show archaeological evidence of historic sheet refuse disposal patterns.

### **WILLIAM DICKSON SITE (7NC-E-82) INVESTIGATIONS**

#### **SITE HISTORY**

Of all three sites investigated in the Patterson Lane Site Complex, the Dickson Site is the most difficult to trace historically. The site's history is easily followed backwards in time until 1844, then the trail of deed transactions and property transfers becomes murky and fragmentary. Table 8 presents a summary of the deed transactions for the Dickson Site.

The property, which is presently owned by William T. Neal, Jr., was acquired by William T. Neal, Sr., in 1919 from George W. Butler of Christiana Village (NCCD N-28-260). Butler had bought the land, which consisted of 5.7 acres, from the heirs of Daniel Heisler Egbert in 1912 for \$1000. There was a building present

TABLE 8

**DICKSON SITE (7NC-E-82),  
SUMMARY OF PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS**

Name (from/to)	Reference	Date	Acreage	Cost
William T. Neal, WCCH from George Butler and wife, WCCH	N-28-260	11-15-1919	5.7a	\$500
George Butler, WCCH from Henderson R. Collins, et al., heirs of Daniel Heisler Egbert	B-24-184	9-11-1912	5.7a	\$1,000
Daniel Heisler Egbert, merchant, Christiana Bridge from Thomas B. Armstrong, Farmer, NCCO	X-5-27	1-15-1845	2a	\$25.00
Thomas B. Armstrong from Abraham Boys, Sheriff	W-5-220	10-3-1844	2a	\$80
George Ogle (II), WCCH from Samuel Ogle	K-4-193	9-9-1818	2a	-----
Samuel Ogle from Joseph Ogle, Farmer, WCCH	J-1-458 NCC Orphans Court	2-15-1806	2a	-----

TABLE 8 (cont.)

Name (from/to)	Reference	Date	Acreage	Cost
Joseph Ogle, Farmer, WCCH from Thomas Ogle (II), Miller, Mispillion Hundred, Kent Co.	F-2-125 NCCD	8-1-1781	--	-----
Thomas Ogle (II) from Thomas Ogle (I)	Misc.-1-384 NCC Wills	12-31-1771	--	-----
WCCH - White Clay Creek Hundred				
NCCO - New Castle County				
NCCD - New Castle County Deeds				
a - acres				

on the land at that time (NCCD B-24-184). Egbert's heirs had been willed the land in 1878, and Egbert himself, a merchant in Christiana Bridge, had purchased a 2 acre portion of the parcel in 1845 from a local farmer and large landholder, Thomas B. Armstrong (NCCD X-5-27). D. H. Egbert is shown as the owner on the 1860 Lake and Beers' map of Christiana (Figure 12). Armstrong in turn had bought the land in October 1844, about four months prior to the sale to Egbert. He paid \$80 for the lot at a sheriff's sale, and sold it for \$25. At the time of the sale, the lot was described as "...situated near the village of Christiana Bridge, bounded by the Road leading from the Christiana and Wilmington Turnpike to William Egbert Heisler's farm, formerly known by the name Read and Patterson's Road, by lands of Daniel Heisler Egbert, formerly of Daniel Heisler, and lands of William Egbert Heisler, formerly of Read's, and now known generally by the name of George Ogle's Lot" (NCCD X-5-27).

At this point, the property transactions become obscure. It seems, however, that just as is the case with the Heisler Site, which is described below, this lot was part of Rees Jones' Eagle's Point property and was embroiled in the lengthy and confusing Orphan's Court divisions of that approximately 74-acre tract among nine separate landholders. It appears that this particular two acre lot was part of the land awarded to Thomas Ogle by the Court, and was part of the land that he bequeathed to his son George Ogle in 1768 (New Castle County Wills, Misc. 1-384; hereafter NCCW). At this time, according to the will there apparently was a wharf and storehouse on the property. This son George, however, died intestate and the property re-evolved to

the father's estate. Thomas Ogle's estate then sold the lot to another son, Joseph, in 1781 (NCCD F-2-125). Joseph Ogle, of White Clay Creek Hundred, died intestate in April of 1798, and was survived by his wife, Priscilla, and five children: Samuel, George, Elizabeth, Anna, and Mary. The Orphan's Court of New Castle County valued Joseph's real estate as consisting of four lots, as follows:

1. The Mansion Plantation
2. A lot in Mill Creek Hundred
3. A wharf and two old storehouses at Christiana Bridge, which storehouses have not been under rent, nor are they at present, of course no profits but rather an expense, as Taxes are to be paid.
4. A small lot of ground adjoining lands late of William Patterson, Esq., dec'd -- in bad repair, worth 20 shillings. (New Castle County Orphans Court I-1-451).

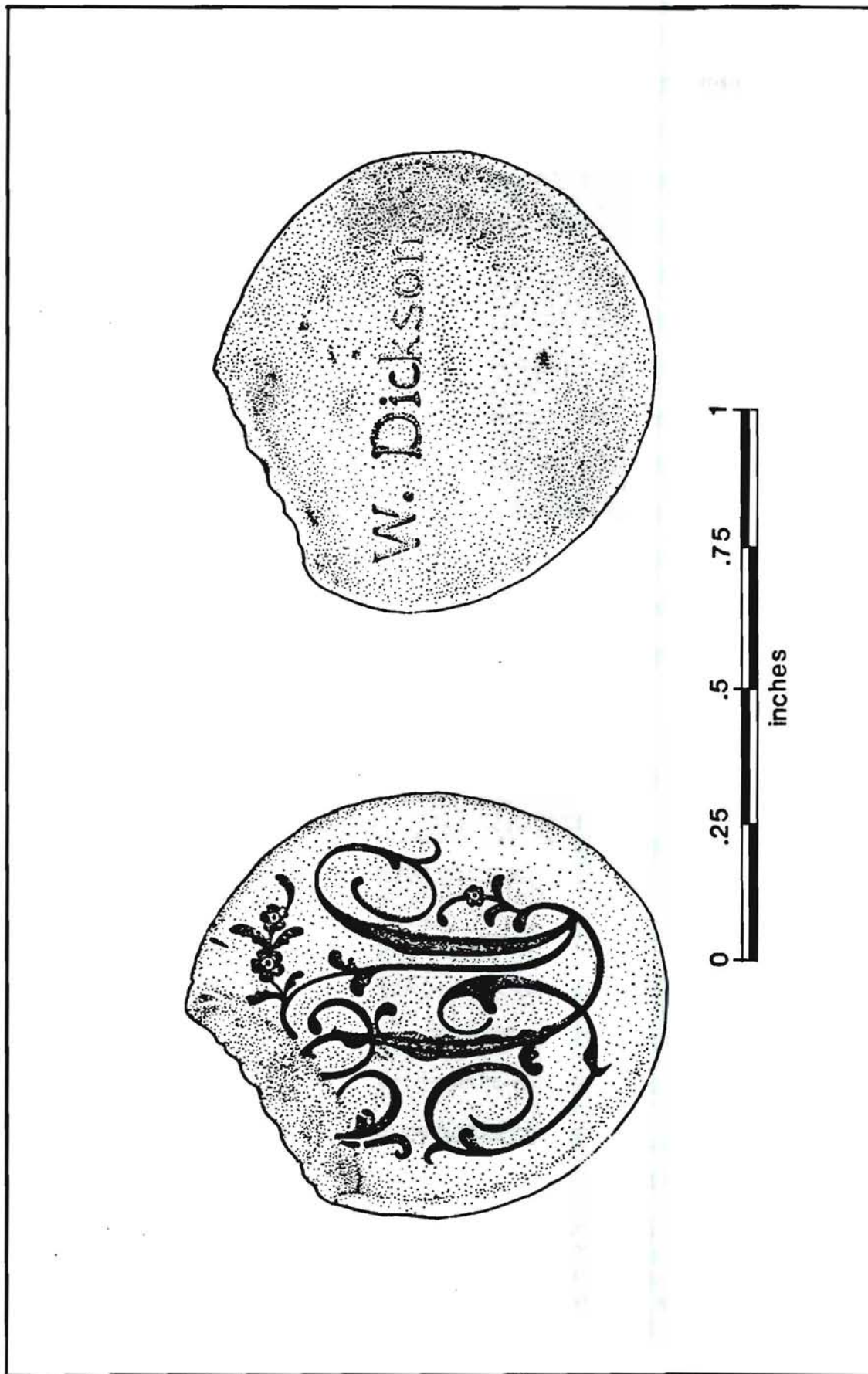
Evidently, the Orphans Court settled the matter between the heirs of Joseph Ogle, for in September of 1818, Thomas Ogle sold his brother George Ogle a part of his father's estate, but not the portion containing the Dickson Site (NCCD Z-3-74). Within a year, however, George's sister, Mary (Ogle) Crabb brought suit against her brother for a debt of over \$970 in the Delaware Superior Court. Litigation dragged on over the case until December of 1843, when it was decided in favor of Dr. Francis Crabb and his wife, Mary (Ogle). George Ogle's lot was ordered by the Court to be sold at public sale, and it was at this sale that Thomas B. Armstrong purchased the lot (NCCD W-5-220).

William Dickson's presence on the site was never found in the documentary records. On the contrary, it was the archaeological research which discovered his name in connection with the site. A small ceramic letter-seal stamp, engraved with

"W. Dickson" on the round side and a cartouche of the initials "W. D." on the reverse, flat side, was found during the course of excavation (Figure 31). This artifact thus supplied a name to the site, and a potential site occupant.

Further historic research into the name revealed that there had been a William Dickson in Christiana in the late eighteenth century. Dickson was a merchant who arrived in the village about 1783 when he purchased a 15 acre parcel of land located on the west side of town in June from James Dunn (NCCD X-3-294). By 1787, he was a partner in the retail firm of Hannah and Dickson (Hollingsworth, Maxwell, and Adams 1789-1798). Like other local merchants (see Regional History and Patterson Lane Site History), Hannah and Dickson shipped country produce, and received manufactured and imported goods from Philadelphia and Wilmington. For Hannah and Dickson, though, country produce was almost exclusively flaxseed and flour; in the three year period between December 1788 and December 1791, this firm up-freighted 497 barrels of flour, 162 hogsheads of flaxseed, and 1 keg of butter. In return, they received all manner of goods from the urban centers, including barrels and boxes of lemons, rolls of tobacco, hogsheads and loaves of sugar, barrels of salt, hogsheads of rum, pipes of wine, band boxes, kegs, hats, bridles and traces, bundles of shoes, boxes of soap, bundles of brushes, paper bundles and reams of paper, quantities of earthenware, 115 pieces of cedarware, and the ubiquitous "sundries" and unidentified bundles. One unique item received was a "head and foot stone" on January 4, 1790. Both men also down-freighted items

**FIGURE 31**  
**Sketch of the Dickson Wax Letter Seal**



individually, and these goods were substantially the same as those they imported together.

Dickson's position within the community, both economically as a merchant, socially as a member of the upper class can be seen in the historic record. By Main's definition of a merchant (1973:86), Dickson already was a man of some means, and his social station in Christiana Bridge was assured, for William Dickson married Deborah Patterson, the daughter of William Patterson, and had three sons. Though Dickson had purchased at least two lots of land on the west side of town, he never erected any dwellings on them. Instead, he and his family resided in a house, belonging to Robert Montgomery, near Christiana Bridge, which was rented for 24 pounds per year. In 1795, this advertisement was published, suggesting the type of home that Dickson had,

For Sale, a lot in Christiana Bridge, on which are a good Brick house and Kitchen, with a Piazza between them, a frame stable, stores shed and a garden, now occupied by William Dickson, merchant.

(Delaware Gazette, May 30, 1795)

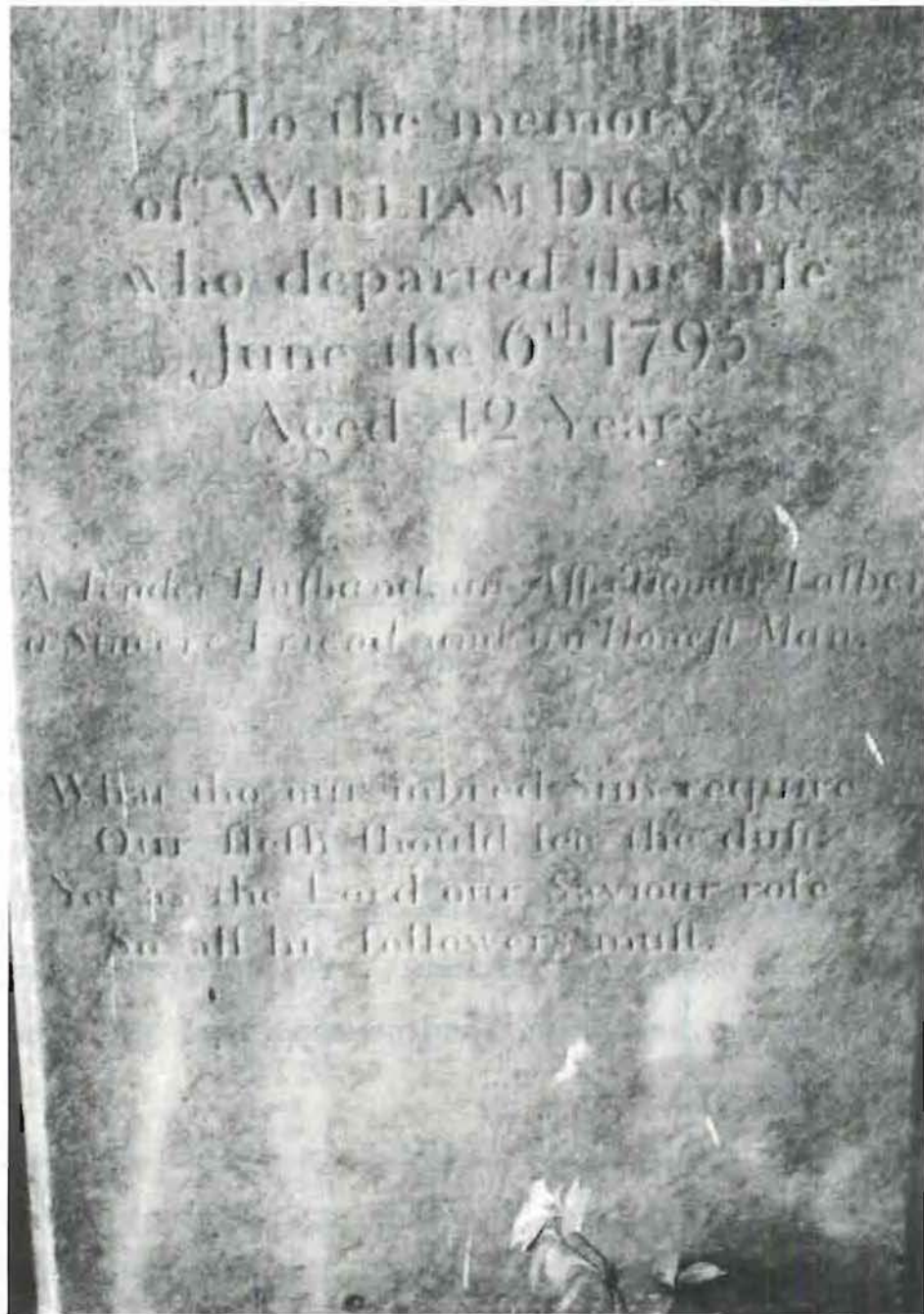
This ad was also ominously suggestive of Dickson's future; he was dead seven days later, on June 6, 1795, at the age of 42 years. Though only in the area for a short time, Dickson was evidently a well-respected and prominent citizen of Christiana. The Delaware and Eastern Shore Advertiser printed this tribute and eulogy to Dickson on June 17:

Died on Saturday the 6th instant, at Christiana Bridge, WILLIAM DICKSON, merchant; and on Sunday following was interred in the family burying ground with all the solemn and melancholy grandeur of Masonry, of which he stood conspicuously on upright column.



PLATE 10

Gravestone of William Dickson, Located in the Back Wall  
of the Christiana Presbyterian Church



To the memory / of William Dickson /  
who departed this life / June the 6th 1795 / Aged 42 Years  
A tender Husband, and Affectionate Father, /  
a Sincere Friend and Honest Man. /  
What tho' our inbred Sins require, / Our flesh should see the dust, /  
Your son the Lord our Saviour rose, / So all his followers must.

His remains were attended by a large and respectable number of citizens. A pathetic discourse, well adapted to the occasion, was delivered by the Rev. Samuel Barr.

He left among the numbers to hael his loss, an amiable widow, and two small children. While here his works were square, and his actions plumb, the grand Architect of the Universe thought more to call him from this transitory life to the sublime Lodge above, and as brethren we resign him to the will of emaculate and thrice puissant.

Within the obituary, obvious references and allusions to Dickson's membership in the Freemasons were underlined. Most of these refer to his upstanding role in the community, and his moral and ethical virtues. The family burying ground doubtless was the one belonging to the Patterson family, at the Presbyterian Church in Christiana Bridge. The eulogy was incorrect in the number of children that Dickson had; there were three sons, not two, William P., John H., and Joseph S. Dickson. His "amiable widow", 27 years old at the time of William's death, shortly remarried a local merchant, Thomas Belcher. Deborah (Dickson) Belcher died in 1816 and is also buried in the family plot at the Presbyterian Church. Presently, William and Deborah Dickson's graves have been incorporated into the back wall of the church (Plate 10).

To pay off his debts, Dickson's estate was sold at public sale on the 14th of July, and consisted of "All the Shop Goods of the Dec'd., in parcels, or the whole together". The house, shop and granaries were also offered for rent, and a "Horse and chair, a Horse Cart and Gears, a Milch cow, hay etc.", part of Dickson's personal estate, were also up for sale (Delaware and Eastern Shore Advertiser, July 4, 1795).

An inventory of Dickson's estate was prepared by the end of June, 1795 (Appendix VII). It is a significant and useful document because both Dickson's personal estate as well as his store goods, were included in the inventory. Thus a list of the contents of the storehouse along the Christina exists for the period of greatest commercial activity in Christiana Bridge.

By far the largest item accounted for in the inventory is textiles, including various types of cloth, ribbon and tapes, like Fustian, velveret, velvet, calimanco, calico, shalloon, russian sheeting, nankeen, sasinet, "cassimer", flannel, serge, linen, swan down, and muslin, silt ferreting, holland tape, coloured thread, sewing silk, and "facing and trimming for a Regimental Coat". Also part of this category were ready-made clothes, like bandanna, chequered, and cotton handkerchiefs, silk scarves, shawls, aprons, neck cloths, men's and women's mittens and gloves, clothing patterns, like jean, velveret, and "cassimer" Waist Coat Patterns, and men's, women's, and children's shoes in small quantities. Dickson had about 68% of his total store inventory invested in textiles. There were full ranges of a variety of textiles, based on grade and price. There were nine different grades of calico, four of Irish Linen, five of Fustian, and four of shalloon, in addition to a bewildering variety of types, such as "Jaconet muslin", "book muslin", crossed barred muslin, "royal ribbed nankeen", "striped nankeen", "moreen", buckram, " striped holland", and "mulberrry wild bore".

In descending order, the next items of importance in Dickson's store inventory were alcohol (7.5%), carpentry supplies and tools (6.0%), agricultural produce (5.2%), ceramics and wares

(3.1%), and food stuffs (3.0%). Alcohol consisted of 16 gallons of apple brandy, 93 gallons of rum, some teneriff wine, and part of a case of gin; most of these were not locally produced. Carpentry supplies were made up mostly of 211 lbs. of nails, several lots of window glass, and 149 lbs. of steel. Dickson also had "a lot of files, hinges, and plane irons". Agricultural produce was made up of non-edible, unprocessed goods, such as cotton and wool. Ceramics and wares consisted of "lots" of cedarware, earthenware, china, glass and queensware. Foodstuffs were those goods that could not be obtained locally, such as raisins, coffee, tea, sugar, and pepper.

Final goods in Dickson's store included sundries (1.3%), such as buttons, pins, needles, and combs, tack and hunting supplies (2.6%), and various miscellaneous items. All totalled, Dickson had an inventory valued at over 541 pounds, comprising about 58% of his entire personal estate, valued at 935 pounds. Considering that Dickson was a tenant and owned only 20 acres of unimproved land, he was quite well-off financially, ranking in the upper 43 percent of North American merchants of the period (Main 1973:113).

In addition to his personal estate included in the inventory, Dickson was owed over 1700 pounds by his debtors, including many from the surrounding community, like Levi Adams, James Black, Robert Montgomery, Thomas McIntire, James Ogle, Benjamin Patterson (his wife's brother), John Stanton, Joseph Rotheram, and Sylvester Welch. This interdependent debt structure has been described as one of the major factors in rural community

cohesiveness (Henretta 1978:16), and merchants filled an important role in this structure, lending cash, bartering and trading for goods, and allowing purchases on extended terms of credit (Martin 1939; Carson 1954; Fanelli 1981). Also on his list of debts were interests and bonds worth over 142 pounds in merchant vessels, like the two voyages of the ship **Wilmington**, the ship **Swanwick**, the schooner **Neptune**, and the sloop **Marie**. Vessels of these types were not mere coastal trade ships, but were involved in overseas trading ventures. These debts demonstrate clearly that Dickson was a merchant in the true definition of the word (Main 1973:86-88). Dickson's administrations and accounts were not settled until 1797.

For comparative purposes, four additional storekeeper inventories were compiled from New Castle probate records, for the period 1791 to 1801 (Appendix VIII). Two of these, John Linn and Benjamin Mendenhall, were Wilmington merchants, and represent urban shopkeepers, and the other two, Richardson Armstrong and John Taylor, were rural merchants from Appoquinimink Hundred, in southern New Castle County. Finally, the inventory of storekeeper William Polk of the town of St. Georges, though of a later period, was included in the survey, since it was compiled from the account books of Polk for the years 1810-1811 (Fanelli 1981). A similar examination of storekeepers' inventories was conducted by Louis Berger and Associates for the investigations of the Hamlin Site in northern New Jersey (Morin, et al. 1986).

A tabulation of the comparison of these inventories and Polk's reconstructed inventory is shown in Table 9. Categories compared included those used for the examination of Dickson's

TABLE 9

**COMPARISON OF STOREKEEPERS' INVENTORIES,  
NEW CASTLE COUNTY, 1791-1811  
(From Fanelli 1983)**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Taylor, 1791 Appoquinimink Hundred</b>	<b>Dickson, 1795 Christiana Bridge</b>	<b>Mendenhall, 1797 Wilmington</b>
Textiles	t 19 (10%)	t367 (60%)	\$2262 (72.6%)
Alcohol	t 2 (1.0%)	t 41 (7.5%)	\$ 180 (6%)
Agricultural Produce	t 48 (25%)	t 28 (5.2%)	\$ 425 (13.6%)
Tack	0 (0%)	t 8 (1.5%)	\$ 0 (0%)
Hunting Supplies	0 (0%)	t 6 (1.1%)	\$ 35 (1.1%)
Carpentry Tools	t 7 (4.0%)	t 32 (6.0%)	\$ 0 (0%)
Ceramics/ Pewter	t 4 (2.0%)	t 17 (3.1%)	\$ 71 (2.3%)
Food	0 (0%)	t 16 (3.0%)	\$ 21 (.7%)
Misc.	t109 (58%)	t 18 (3.3%)	\$ 75 (2.4%)
Sundries	0 (0%)	t 8 (1.3%)	\$ 47 (1.5%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>t189 (100%)</b>	<b>t541 (100%)</b>	<b>\$3116 (100%)</b>

TABLE 9 (cont.)

Category	Linn, 1798 Wilmington	Armstrong, 1801 Appoquinimink Hundred	Polk, 1810-1811 St. Georges (Town)
Textiles	\$103 (82.4%)	\$69 (48.2%)	\$1397 (61.2%)
Alcohol	\$ 0 (0%)	\$ 0 (0%)	\$ 325 (14.2%)
Agricultural Produce	\$ 16 (12.8%)	\$1.20 (.8%)	\$ 20 (.9%)
Tack	\$ 0 (0%)	\$ 0 (0%)	\$13.50 (.6%)
Hunting Supplies	\$ 0 (0%)	\$ 7 (4.9%)	\$ 30 (1.3%)
Carpentry Tools	\$ 0 (0%)	\$ 0 (0%)	\$14.20 (.6%)
Ceramics/ Pewter	\$ 0 (0%)	\$ 8 (5.6%) \$19 (13.3%)	\$50.30 (2.2%)
Food	\$.50 (.004%)	\$22 (15.4%)	\$ 315 (13.8%)
Misc.	\$ 5 (4%)	\$23 (16%)	\$118.70 (5.2%)
Sundries	\$ 1 (.8%)	\$ 2 (1.4%)	* *
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$125.5 (100%)</b>	<b>\$143 (100%)</b>	<b>\$2284 (100%)</b>

\* - No data available  
t - pound(s)

inventory: textiles (including whole and prepared cloth, thread, ribbon, tapes, shoes), agricultural produce (un-processed and non-edible goods, like cotton, wool, flax, indigo, tobacco), tack, hunting supplies, carpentry supplies and tools, ceramics and wares (china, glass, cedarware, earthenware, queensware, pewter, tin-ware), food (coffee, tea, spices, sugar, molasses, rice, raisins), sundries (buttons, needles, pins, combs, buckles), and miscellaneous (varied from inventory to inventory).

In all of the urban or hinterland town cases, textiles comprised the largest single category, ranging from 68% to 82% of the total inventory. The rural inventories of Taylor and Armstrong showed comparatively less investment in textiles, suggesting perhaps that textiles were expensive for merchants to purchase, and smaller storekeepers could not afford to invest as much capital in these items. The remainder of the categories exhibited a wide range in percentages of investment, indicating that factors of location, clientele, season the inventory was compiled, and demand for the product were important to the merchants. On the whole it can be seen that the urban merchants, Mendenhall and Linn, seemed to specialize in certain items of their inventories to a greater extent than the more rural stores of Armstrong and Taylor. Dickson and Polk, located in hinterland town shops, had the greatest variety of goods on hand, in particular carrying tack, hunting supplies, carpentry supplies and tools, that the rural shops and urban markets did not.

This comparative analysis suggests that shops and storehouses such as Dickson's, located in prominent transshipment centers like Christiana Bridge, provided a major source of imported goods for the hinterland. They were strategically located to carry on trade with the larger urban centers and areas of production, and were placed for easy access from the backcountry.

#### **PHASE I INVESTIGATIONS**

The Dickson Site (7NC-E-82) was first identified during the Phase I survey conducted by UDCAR archaeologists. A pedestrian



survey over the site location indicated a deep U-shaped terrace cut into the southern slope of the bluff above the marshland. Within this terrace was found brick and stone rubble on the surface, and evidence of a partial stone foundation. Phase I subsurface testing at this location consisted of the excavation of eight 3'x3' test units within and around the terrace (Figure 32). Five of these test units recovered substantial amounts of historic artifacts, including whitewares, ironstones, redwares, and window and bottle glass, and lesser amounts of stonewares and personal items, including 126 buttons of several types. Most of these artifacts dated from the second half of the nineteenth century, however, there were small amounts of cream colored ware and pearlware recovered as well. The partial stone foundation was tested for evidence of a builder's trench or footer, but the foundation proved to be only one stone in depth, and no trench was located. Exact dimensions of the structure were not ascertained at this time, but it was estimated to be approximately 22'x24'. Appendix II contains an inventory of the artifacts recovered during the Phase I and II investigations of the Dickson Site.

#### **PHASE II INVESTIGATIONS**

Intensive Phase II investigations at the W. Dickson Site (7NC-E-82) resulted in the excavation of a multi-component historic site (Figure 33). Two site occupations, in two distinct structures, were identified. The late occupation, dating to the second half of the nineteenth century, will be designated as Structure A. The earlier occupation, which dated to the late

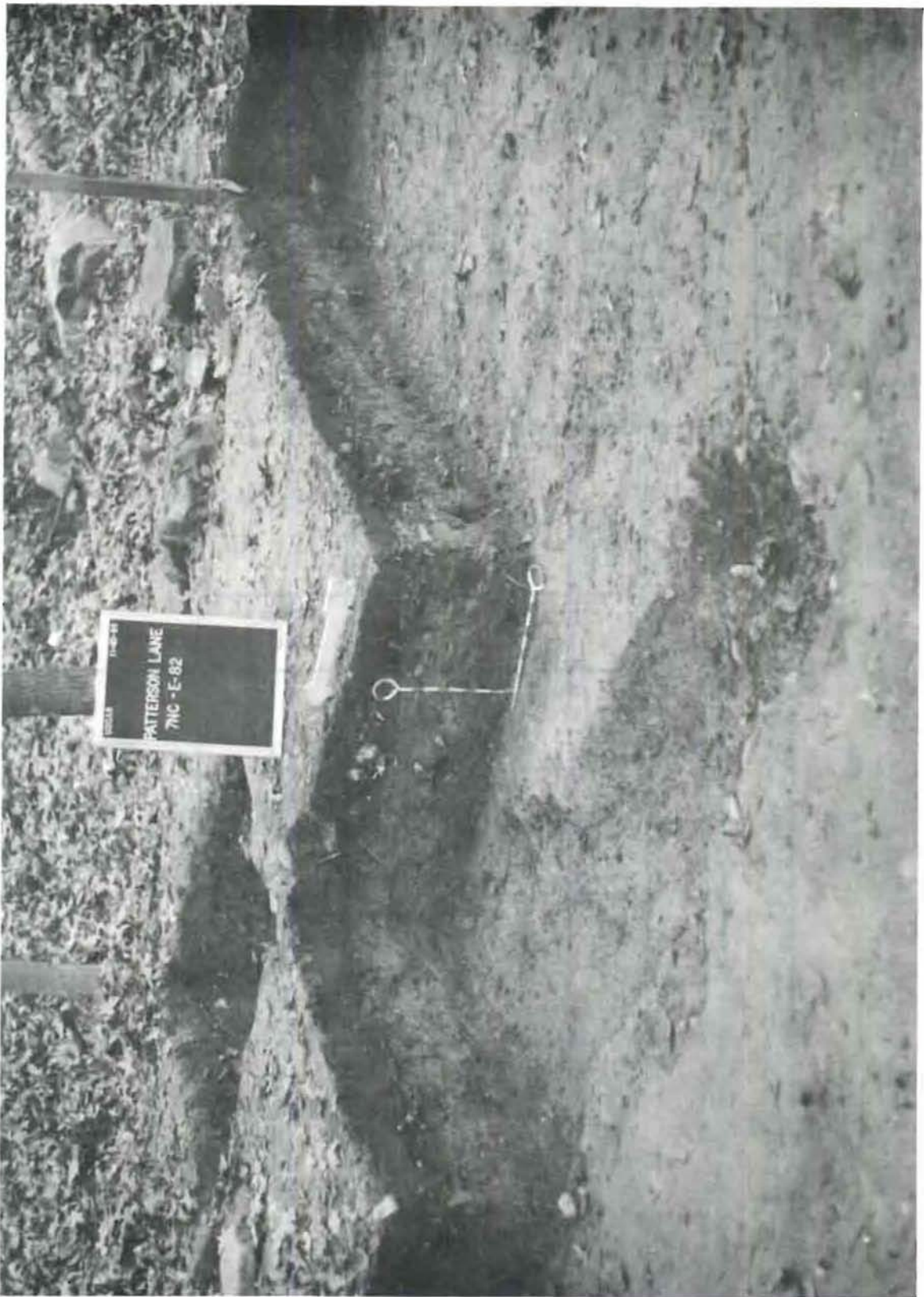
eighteenth through early nineteenth century, will be called in this discussion Structure B. Results and findings of this investigation were based on the excavation of a total of 60 contiguous test units and 255 shovel tests laid out in grid-fashion using the existing DelDOT grid. These test units were 3'x3', 5'x5', and 10'x10' in size. In addition to the test units, 18 features were excavated. Figures 33 and 34 illustrate the test units and features excavated and their locations.

During the initial excavation of the Phase II testing, a red-orange fill layer of clay was encountered immediately below the remains of Structure A (Plate 11 and Figures 35 and 36). This clay cap was approximately 9'x15' and covered a large portion of the site area. It was used to cover over the remains of the earlier structure (Structure B) and to provide a level surface for the later structure. In addition, this clay cap effectively sealed the majority of features associated with the earlier house. The stone foundation associated with Structure A is largely disturbed with only the east wall intact. Large stones thought to be associated with this foundation are present in a scattered rectangular fashion which probably approximates the later structure's size and foundation location. The approximate dimensions of Structure A are 20'x24'.

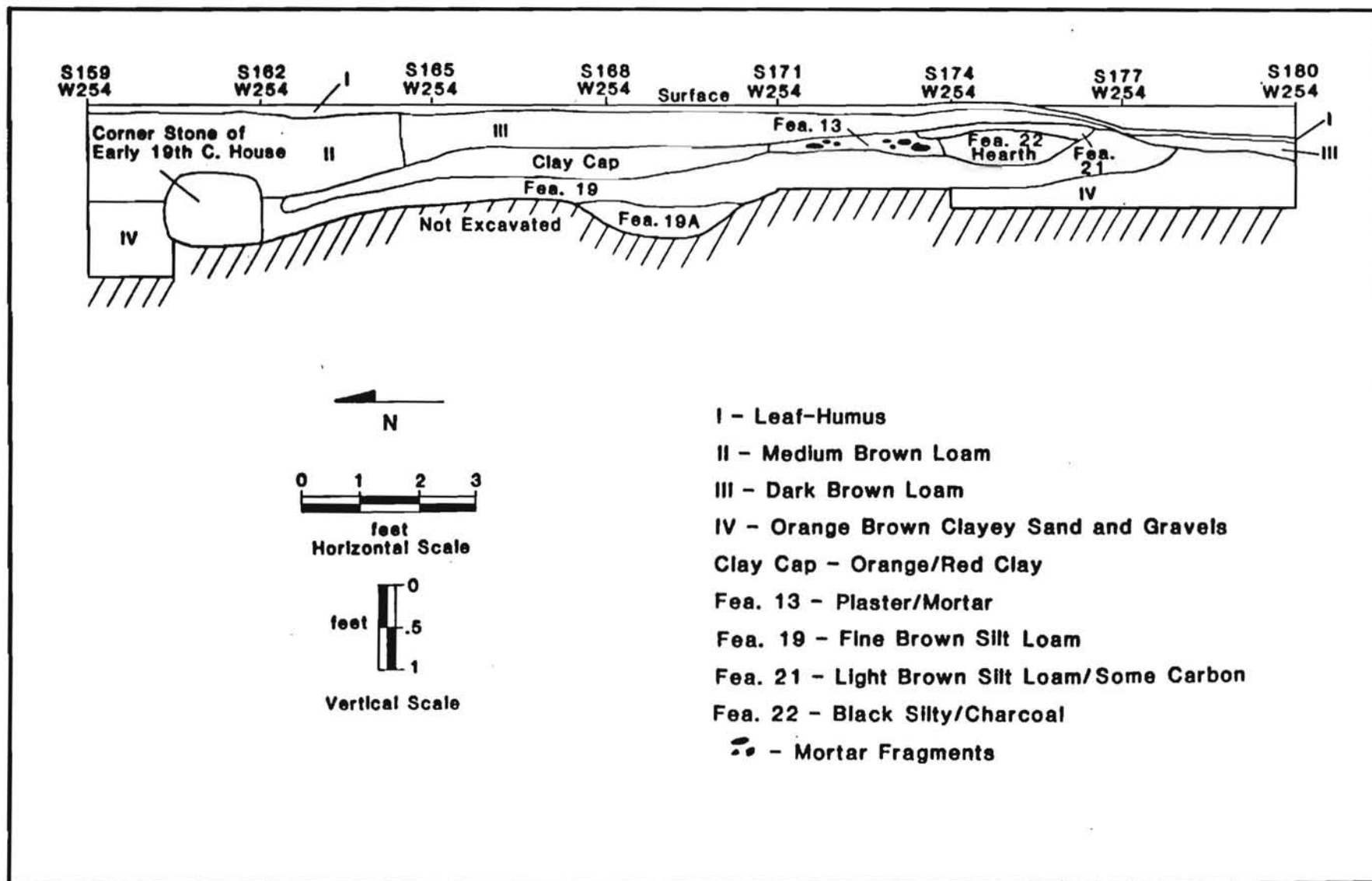
Each test unit was excavated individually along with the features as they were uncovered. Careful attention was paid to the mapping and the photographing of the site. Table 10 summarizes the features excavated at the W. Dickson Site (7NC-E-82), including its cultural designation (i.e., feature

PLATE 11

Dickson Site (7NC-E-82), Clay Cap Profile



**FIGURE 35**  
**Dickson Site (7NC-E-82), North-South Profile**



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FIGURE 36  
 Dickson Site (7NC-E-82), East-West Profile

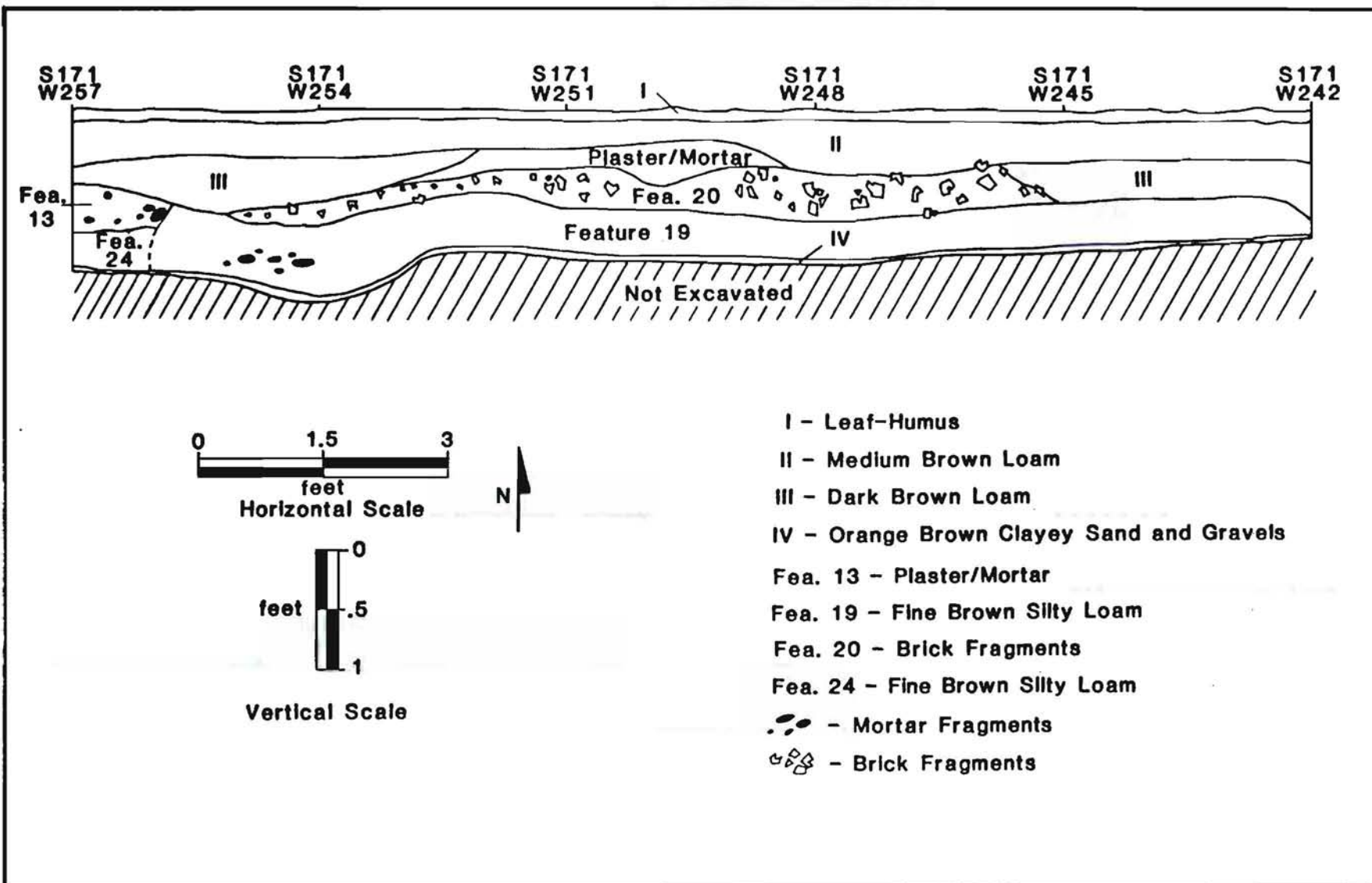


TABLE 10

DICKSON SITE (7NC-E-82),  
FEATURE SUMMARY

Feature Number	Cultural Designation	Approximate Dimensions	Associated House	Mean Ceramic Date
10	Chimney-Brick Fall	12' x 10'	Later Structure	1854.4
11, 15	East Stone Foundation	20' x 1'	Later Structure	-----
12	Mortar/Plaster Concentration	2.5' X 1.5'	Later Structure	1834.1
13	Linear Mortar/ Plaster Concentration	14' x 1'	Early Structure	1810.5
14	South Stone Foundation	indeterminate est. 26' x 1'	Later Structure	-----
16	Pipe and Trench (S175W220)	.5' X 3.5'	Later Structure	no ceramics
17	Pipe and Trench (S180W225, NE1/4)	.75' X 4.25'	Later Structure	1860.6
18	Pipe and Trench (S180W225, SE1/4)	.75' X 15'	Later Structure	1856.3
19,19A	Refuse Midden Beneath House	21' x 16'	Early Structure	1811.8
20	Hand-Molded Brick Concentration	10' x 10'	Early Structure	1816.0

TABLE 10 (cont.)

21	A concentration of sandy loam with artifacts	4' X 3'	Early Structure	1806.3
22	Possible Hearth	2' x 1.5'	Early Structure	no ceramics
23	Plaster Concentration	.5' X 1.0'	Early Structure	no ceramics
24/29	Refuse Midden beneath house - Feature 19	21' X 16'	Early Structure	1811.8
25	Brick, mortar/plaster frags, some carbon flecking - associated with Feature 22	2' x 3'	Early Structure	1805.8
27	West Stone Foundation	indeterminate est. 20' x 1'	Later Structure	-----
29	Stone-Hearth Base	5.5' x 6.0'	Later Structure	-----

interpretation, approximate dimensions and which structure [A or B] with which it is associated).

Due to the large number of artifacts, time constraints placed on the excavation, and the sealed conditions of the remains of Structure B, it was decided to only sample a portion of the later house occupation. Approximately 50% of Structure A was subjected to archaeological investigation and recording, whereas a 100% sampling technique was conducted on Structure B.

#### **Structure A (Dickson II)**

In addition to test unit excavations, ten features were identified and excavated that were associated with Structure A. These included structural features, a stone hearth and chimney, and drain pipe features.

The first feature identified of Structure A, Feature 10, was a brick-chimney fall (Plate 12). The brick fall was approximately 12'x10' and consisted of machine-made bricks, some glazed and mortared. A small portion of the inside of the chimney was exposed revealing smoke-blackened brick surfaces. The central portion of the brick-chimney fall had remained reasonably intact after falling off of the east foundation wall (Features 11 and 15) with associated bricks scattering around it. A mean ceramic date of 1854.4 indicates its association with the later structure.

Features 11 and 15 represent the most intact portion of the stone foundation associated with the later structure. These features made up the east foundation. This foundation consisted of a one rock dry laid linear arrangement of large stones. The east foundation was approximately 20'x1' in size. Feature 29 was



a square stone hearth/chimney base approximately 5.5'x6.0'. The feature was adjacent to the east foundation wall (Features 11 and 15) and the brick chimney fall (Feature 10). Feature 29 was comprised of a number of very large dry laid stones, and was one stone thick (Plate 13).

Feature 12 consisted of a small, indistinct concentration of mortar and plaster. The dimensions of Feature 12 were roughly 2.5'x1.5'. Artifacts recovered with the feature or near it included whiteware, yellowware, and a nickel plated copper belt buckle marked with "pat. June 16, [18]85" indicating its association with the later structure. Feature 12 had a mean ceramic date of 1834.1.

Feature 14 consisted of several large, possible foundation stones, located just south of what is believed to be the south edge of the later structure. No intact stone foundation existed along here, though the stones found nearby probably represented portions of the foundation. There was a somewhat sharp change in the contour along the south edge. This break from the flat, level, U-shaped terrace to a more sloping land surface may represent the south edge of the later structure.

The west stone foundation of the later structure was Feature 27. The stones did not form any intact foundation; however, they were arranged in such a fashion as to suggest a foundation. Approximate dimensions of Feature 27 were 20'x1'.

Features 16, 17, and 18 were terra cotta pipes and their associated trenches running north-south with the slope of the bluff. These features were found next to and under Feature 10. The origin and destination of each pipe is unclear, but they

PLATE 13  
Dickson Site (7NC-E-82),  
Plan View of Feature 29, Chimney Base



probably were used to improve drainage around the house. Two of the pipes were redware and the other of a more modern terra cotta sewer pipe. Ceramic dates derived for Features 17 and 18 give mean ceramic dates of 1860.6 and 1856.3 respectively.

Levels 1 and 2 of the test units excavated from the area that was located inside of Structure A were associated with that building and recovered the largest number of artifacts, including whitewares and ironstones, pearlwares, yellowwares, and blue and gray stonewares, large amounts of bottle and window glass, buttons, thimbles, and other personal items. The majority of reconstructable ceramic vessels associated with Structure A were recovered from these test units. A mean ceramic date of 1821.5 was derived for Structure A, which is not in agreement with the other MCDs from the features associated with Structure A. Additionally, nineteen dateable coins were recovered from the interior of Structure A, and these provide a mean coin date of 1872 for the structure. This date fits with both the archaeologically derived MCDs and the historic data for the building.

#### **Structure B (Dickson I)**

The eight features associated with the earlier structure included structural features, refuse middens, a hearth, and a brick concentration. The mean ceramic date for six of the eight features ranged from 1805.8 to 1816.

Of the features associated with the earlier structure, called Structure B, Feature 19 was the most extensive. Feature 19 was defined as having a light brown silt loam laden with artifacts and some carbon flecking, seen in a surrounding orange-

brown clayey sand. The approximate dimensions of Feature 19 were 21'x16'. The feature was relatively flat-bottomed with quickly sloping sides. The feature was from three to six inches thick. The feature edges were well-defined along the north and west sides. The east and south edges of Feature 19 were less defined, especially in the southeast corner due to a large tree disturbance. The feature edges appear to define the edges of the earlier structure. Three large flat stones, spaced at approximately nine foot intervals, were seen along the north edge of Feature 19. They appear to be pier stones on which the earlier structure may have rested. Artifacts from Feature 19 included handpainted polychrome and shell-edged pearlwares, creamwares, redwares, bone, shell, and metal shank buttons, and coins, and the feature has a mean ceramic date of 1811.8. Eleven coins were recovered from Feature 19, ranging in date from King George III half-pennies (circa 1770-1775) to an 1830 U.S. Liberty Head Cent. A mean coin date of 1806.8 was derived from these for the feature. Feature 19 represented a deposition of cultural materials which could have fallen through the floor of the earlier structure, had been tossed under the floor, and/or had been dragged under the structure. Feature 19 was probably first excavated to form a flat level area for the earlier structure and subsequently became infilled with cultural materials during its occupation. The red clay cap was put down after the removal of Structure B, and covered most of Feature 19, effectively sealing it intact and undisturbed.

Feature 13 was a linear mortar and plaster concentration approximately 15'x1.5' in size. The exact function of this

feature is unknown, because the feature originated from under the clay cap and stuck up into the soils of the later structure. Feature 13 is thought to be associated with the earlier structures based on its vertical origin, artifacts, and a mean ceramic date of 1810.5.

Feature 20 was identified as a brick scatter located above portions of Feature 19 and intruding into the red clay cap. The feature was approximately 10'x10' and consisted of hand-molded bricks. These bricks were probably associated with nearby Feature 22. Ceramics found in the feature produced a mean ceramic date of 1816.0. Feature 21 consisted of a light brown sandy loam with charcoal flecking and small orange brick fragments. Artifacts recovered were primarily ceramics, buttons, and nails and had a mean ceramic date of 1806.3. Feature 21 is thin and somewhat indistinct and overlies Features 22, 23, 24, and 25, all of which are superimposed in Feature 19. Feature 22 represents a possible hearth location or ash dump. The feature was a dark charcoal lens with some brick fragments. The feature dimensions were 2.5'x1.5'x.5' (depth) and oval in shape. Feature 23 was a plaster/mortar concentration located beneath Feature 21. It is located near Feature 13 and is probably related to Feature 13. Feature 24 was originally identified as a separate feature. Soils were identical to those of Feature 19, a light brown silty loam with carbon flecking. In addition, artifact classes were also identical. As Feature 24 was exposed, it became clear that it was an extension of Feature 19, west of Feature 13. Feature 25 consisted of a dark brown silty loam with

brick fragments, carbon flecking, mortar, and plaster. The dimensions of the feature were 2'x2.5' and near Feature 22. The darker soils and carbon flecking with brick fragments suggests an association with Feature 22. A mean ceramic date of 1805.8 was produced from the ceramics found in the feature.

Upon completion of the test unit and feature excavations, an intensive shovel testing program was implemented to locate any associated features or artifact concentrations beyond the limits of the known site occupations. The shovel testing was concentrated to the north and east of the W. Dickson Site (7NC-E-82) and complemented the previous Phase I testing already accomplished by both DelDOT and UDCAR archaeologists. A 5'x5' and 10'x10' grid was established off of the existing grid. A total of 255 shovel test pits (STPs) were excavated. The STPs were an average of 1 foot in diameter and 1.5' in depth. Figure 37 illustrates the STP pattern employed. Artifacts found in the shovel tests were few in number. Shovel Test Pit S115 W222, produced one possible jasper core, while the remaining shovel tests produced historic materials only. Total numbers of artifacts per shovel test ranged from zero to 42. Shovel Test Pit S190 W217 produced 42 historic artifacts. A concentration of historic artifacts consisting of whiteware fragments, clear and green bottle glass, window glass, nail, shell and brick fragments, probably representing a side yard area for Structure A, was noted adjacent east and south of Feature 10 (Figure 37) and included STP S190 W217; however, soil profiles did not indicate feature disturbances. The shovel testing failed to identify any additional features.