INTRODUCTION

Three historic archaeological sites, the Taylor/Anderson site (7NC-E-87), the Bethel Church site (7NC-E-88), and the Clayton Farm site (7NC-E-89), were located in the project corridor during Phase I background research and field testing. The Taylor/Anderson site appears to be a late nineteenth-century farmhouse. The Bethel Church site was the location of a Baptist church and associated buildings dating from the early nineteenth century. The Clayton Farm site appears to be an early twentieth-century farm complex. No prehistoric archaeological sites were identified.

Because all three of the historic archaeological sites would be impacted by the proposed improvements to Route 273 and because the nature and extent of the sites needed to be determined in order to allow for an assessment of construction impacts, it was recommended that additional work be performed at each of these sites to assess their potential for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

THE TAYLOR SITE

Background Research

The Taylor site is located approximately in the middle of the Route 273 project area (see Plate 1). The first indication that a site was present in this area came from documentary evidence.

Until the mid-nineteenth century, land had been portioned out in large tracts in New Castle County. Increasingly, during the nineteenth century, the land began to be divided into smaller farmsteads.

The Taylor site is first depicted on the 1868 Beers Atlas (Beers 1868). According to this map, the Taylor land was south of the Christiana/New Castle Road and extended west to present-day Route 7, near the town of Christiana (Figure 8).

On the Hopkins survey of 1881, the Taylor house is again shown. Their holdings apparently no longer extended to Route 7, for another name appears on the map between the Taylor farmstead and Route 7 (Figure 3). By 1893 the Baist Atlas depicts a road leading south to the McAllister farmstead (Figure 4). Deeds and wills dating as far back as 1866 mention McAllister Road (today's Appelby Road) as the western boundary of the Taylor's 93 3/4 acres south of the Christiana/New Castle Road (New Castle County Deed Book I37:580, New Castle County Register of Wills Q2:399).

Subsequent research revealed that the Taylor house was situated in the center of a large orchard stretching east and west of the house. In reality the Taylor property consisted of a substantial amount of land on both the north and south sides of Route 273. The farm was occupied by members of the Taylor family for some 70 years, from 1866 to 1936. Anna M. Taylor, widow of John Thomas Taylor, was the last Taylor deed holder. She sold the northern section in 1928 (New Castle County Deed Book Y39:89), keeping the 93 3/4 acres south of the road until 1936 (New Castle County Deed Book Z39:265).

The first Taylor to occupy this land was Henry Taylor, father of John Thomas Taylor. Henry had purchased the land from Henry Clark in 1866 (New Castle County Deed Book I37:580). When Henry died in 1893, in his will he left his wife, Sophia, a stipend of $225 per year. To one of his two sons, John E. Taylor, (husband of Anna M. Taylor) he left,

> my farm where I lived all my life ... and farming utensils ... and all my bank stock."
>
> Henry's other son, James, received $100 from the estate (New Castle County Register of Wills Q2:399).

At the time of his father's death, John Taylor had already made up his own will. This will, recorded in 1885, he mentions his wife, Anna, and four sons, John, Johnathan, James, and Hugh. John Taylor's will, executed in 1915, stated that he left all his worldly goods to his wife, Anna M. Taylor:

> [I] give and bequeath to my wife Anna Taylor the dwelling house and land connected therewith and now occupied by us as a homestead and all furniture, pictures, ornaments . . . contained therein and used by us in connection therewith during her natural life . . . for her own use . . . .

Upon Anna's death the land was to be sold and the proceeds were to be divided by their four sons (New Castle County Register Will G2:432).

On August 3, 1928, Anna M. Taylor, sold the northern piece of property to the State of Delaware for $1. This property measured 2,536 feet along Route 273, 17,188.8 feet on the west, 235.2 feet on the north, and 7,868.6 feet on the east. The State then subdivided the land and sold various portions of the whole (New Castle County Deed Books Y35:89).

Anna M. Taylor still owned the southern 93 3/4 acres. During the Depression the widow Taylor sold the property to William T. Shute, "single man," for $7,500. This occurred in February, 1931 (New Castle County Deed Book I37:580). Three years later, William T. Shute sold the land back to the widow Taylor for $5,500 (New Castle County Deed Book A39:580) thus taking an obvious financial loss.

Finally on July 15, 1936, Anna M. Taylor, by now a woman on her 80s, sold the southern 93 3/4 acres to the Rosemont Development Company, Inc. for $5,000 (New Castle County Deed Book Z39:265), for a loss. The Rosemont Development Company, Inc. eventually came to own all of the old Taylor estate, for in 1938 they held, not only the Taylor land south of the Route 273, but also the land north of the road, which they had purchased from the State of Delaware for $5 (New Castle County Deed Book T40:385).

Two years later, the Rosemont Development Company sold the 93 3/4 acre farm for $5, to Burt E. and Anna Harmon of Brandywine Hundred (New Castle County Deed Book T40:385). In 1941 the Harmons sold a 5-acre plot to George and Helen Moore of New Castle Hundred for $750 (New Castle County Deed Book W42:74). The Moores, in turn, sold the Taylor House site in 1952 to John

A. and Helen Cichocki for $10. By now the original Taylor property had been reduced to a plot 50 feet on north and south and 80 feet on the east and west (New Castle County Deed Book H52:494). The site remained this size (1.23 acres) to the present day (New Castle County Tax Records Book 358:235).

In 1960 the Moores sold the property to James and Laura Jobes for $10 (New Castle County Tax Records Book 358:235), who, in turn, sold the site to Linda Deveney and Orlin Norder for $79,000 in 1986. They are the current owners of Parcel 10-029-10-11, which is all that remains of the Taylors' farm. The house stood until very recently; tax records as of August 18, 1987 assessed the land value at $19,000 and the "building" for $52,000 (New Castle County Tax Records Book 358:235).

Field Research

Phase I Testing. During the Phase I survey, the site of the old Taylor house was located. All that remained was a vacant lot. Field testing along the south side of the Route 273 right-of-way included this lot. CHRS personnel reported that a number of old medicine bottles and broken ceramics were scattered over the site (DelDOT Stations 59-61). The site obviously required further testing; unfortunately, looters cleared the site's surface before CHRS personnel could return to continue the testing.

Artifacts recovered during the Phase I survey of the Taylor site were not of great antiquity, and extensive recent disturbance was evident on the site. Documentary evidence and the artifacts and features remaining on the site appeared to contain enough potential data to warrant a recommendation that the investigation be continued during Phase II.

Methodology. Phase II testing at the Taylor site began with the establishment of a systematic grid pattern across the entire site. Initially 8 north/south transects were laid out 20 feet apart, and shovel tests were placed along each transect at 20-foot intervals, staggered in relation to the shovel tests in neighboring transects. These transects were assigned letters, beginning with A in the east and ending with H. Transect E was omitted for lack of space, and transect H was canceled as it fell on the area of new construction. In addition 5 5-foot by 5-foot units were excavated on the Taylor site (Figure 14).

Field Data. As the shovel tests along the transects were excavated, it was established that the southern portions of most of the transects contained recent garbage and were resting on an old car dump. Additional tests were added to some of the transects, where warranted or where shovel tests could not be excavated due to impediments on the site, such as vegetation, rubble, automobile parts, and general garbage (For instance, because transect G fell in the driveway, additional tests were performed along transect F).

Based on the knowledge revealed by the shovel tests, five 5-foot by 5-foot test units were excavated in areas where specific information was sought concerning the site. One test unit was excavated at the front of the property where the foundation was thought to be located, and another in the rear of the property, in what would have been the backyard.

Test Unit 1 was placed where surface debris indicated the foundation of the structure was located. This unit was placed here to gather information

about the foundations. It was noted that the surface of TU-1 was very disturbed; the soil on the surface was of two different types: on the west a pale brown silt loam, and on the east a dark brown organic loam (Figure 14). A surface collection recovered mostly architectural material (mortar, brick, tar paper, window glass) and glass, some of which displayed heat distortion.

At 0.6 feet below datum, a brick wall with mortar was found. The wall was 2 bricks wide and ran approximately north/south. The greatest number of artifacts recovered in TU-1 were concentrated in the upper level, Stratum A. A total of 1,026 artifacts were recovered from this stratum. Over half of this material consisted of modern window glass and clear bottle glass.

Test Unit 1 was excavated in sections. A builder's trench (Feature 1) was found running along the wall. Only 47 artifacts were found in the builder's trench.

The portion of TU-1 located on the east side of the wall was called Sub-Unit-A and was excavated separately. Only 47 artifacts were uncovered and 45 of these were architectural in nature. No builder's trench was found on this side of the wall.

In Stratum B of TU-1 the number of artifacts observed diminished as the excavators went deeper into the stratum. Feature 2 was unearthed in Stratum B at a depth of approximately 1.0 feet. This feature consisted of 7 quartzite cobbles arranged on an east/west line. The purpose of these stones remains unknown, though it was speculated that they might be associated with flower beds or some other garden decoration.

Even though culturally sterile soil was revealed at 0.8 feet below datum, the unit was excavated to a depth of 2.0 feet in the north central portion. No further artifacts were encountered.

Test Unit 2 was placed in the rear yard of the property with the intention of locating any features that might be associated with back yard activities. This unit was located about 13 feet south of what appeared to be the back wall of the structure. This area showed signs of having been bulldozed. The soil was a dark grayish brown, silty clay loam mixed with other types of fill material. This level contained over 1,000 artifacts.

Feature 1 was observed at the interface between Strata A and B, 1.0 feet below datum. The soil of Feature 1, a very dark brown clay loam, also had a high concentration of coal. The sides of this feature sloped gently to a depth of 1.4 feet. It contained coal and coal ash, nails, and a few ceramics and glass shards dating to the recent twentieth century. The feature seemed to be the remains a heap of refuse flung into the yard. Relatively little cultural material was recovered; excluding brick and mortar, only 11 artifacts were found.

Following the removal of the feature, Stratum B was excavated. The north half of the unit was sterile, but the south half dipped and a small number of artifacts continued to be recovered. Test Unit 2 was closed at 1.2 feet below datum in the north and 1.5 feet in the south portion of the unit. The floor of the unit was disturbed by the tree roots remaining in the mottled, yellowish brown soil.

Test Unit 3 was placed closer to the rear of the property and nearer the "Kum On In" bar and liquor store (the property directly east of the site) than any other unit. The top of the unit was covered by recent garbage and both broken and whole bottles. The top 0.2 feet of the unit containing recent debris was scraped off and discarded (Figure 15).

The soil in Stratum A was a mixture of dark grayish brown and dark brown silty loam. A great many fragments of metal were found in this stratum. Due to the large numbers of metal fragments, only 10% of these were collected. Stratum A also contained a great number of artifacts, most of them modern, including tar paper, plastic items, redware, modern bottle fragments, and styrofoam. Of the 1,389 artifacts collected, half were kitchen related and half architectural in nature. These two categories represented only 40% of the total artifacts (excluding brick and mortar); the remainder of the artifact assemblage was as described above.

Stratum B, a mottled yellowish brown and very dark grayish brown silty clay loam, continued to a depth of 1.3 feet. Only the interface between Strata A and B yielded any artifacts. These were 1 glazed redware fragment, 1 whiteware, 1 vessel glass, 15 window glass, 3 coal, and 2 unidentified nails. Excavation continued 0.3 feet into sterile soil.

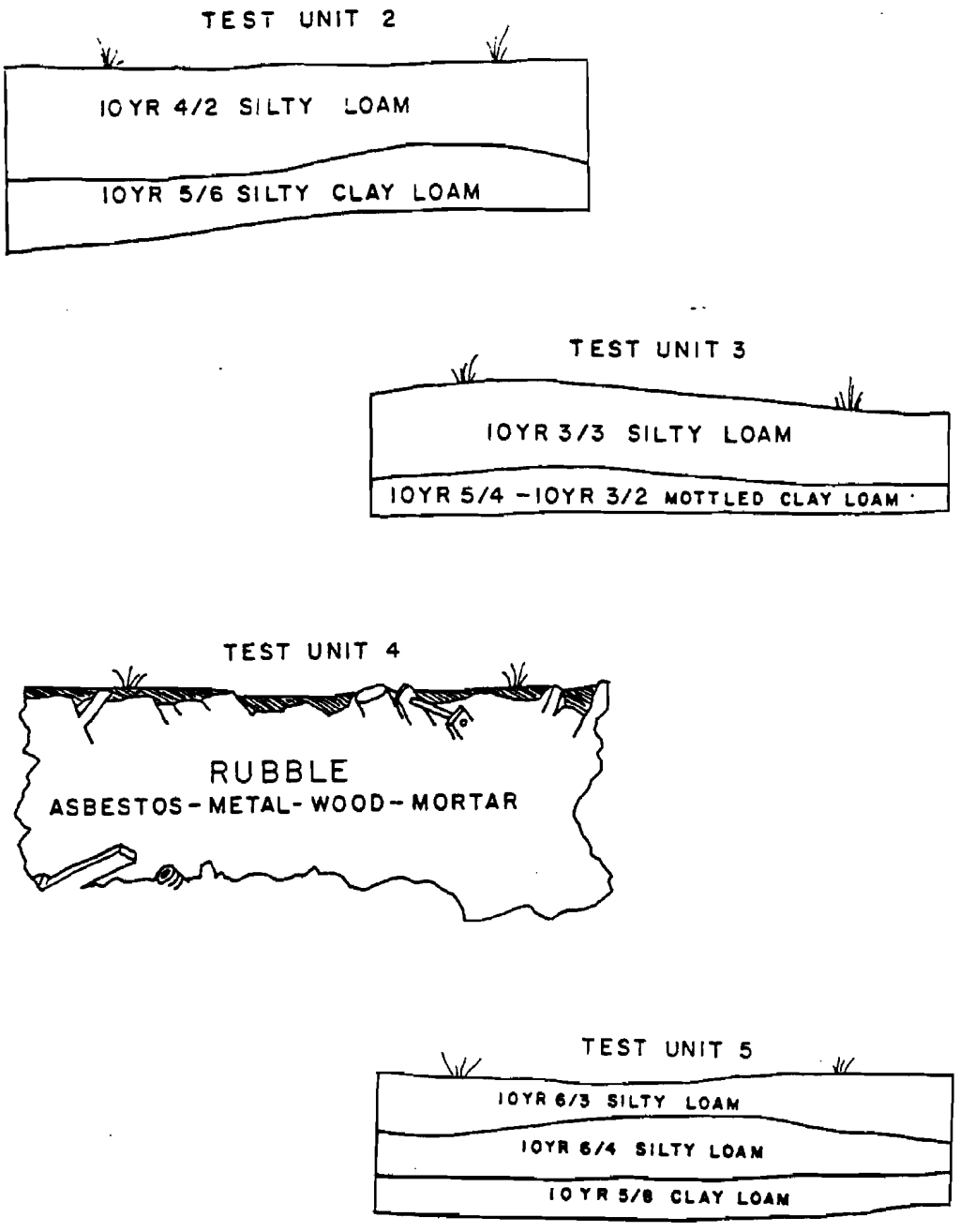
Test Unit 4 was situated immediately northwest of TU-1, so that the southeast corner of TU-4 was the same as the northwest corner of TU-1. It was expected to reveal more of the Taylor house foundation (Figure 15).

The surface of the unit was cleared of vegetation, but no soil color was recorded due to the intrusion of back dirt from TU-1. Stratum A contained substantial amounts of brick, coal, mortar, asbestos tile, and rusted metal.

Work on TU-4 was discontinued when a small tree trunk was pulled out of the southwest corner, leaving a 2-foot hole. In this hole another tree trunk and crushed chain-link fence among other modern refuse, could be seen. It was clear that this unit was situated on top of bulldozed refuse, dumped into the foundation of the house. A shovel test was placed in the northeast corner of the unit. Its depth was 1.45 feet below datum. Found in this shovel test, was material similar to that unearthed in the rest of TU-4. It was decided that this unit was unsafe and work was halted.

Test unit TU-5 was situated approximately 39 feet east of the driveway and 30 feet south of the shoulder of Route 273. The upper stratum consisted of brown loam. Few artifacts were recovered from Stratum A, probably due to the bulldozer activity in this area (Figure 15). Each of the 11 artifacts (exclusive of brick and coal) found dated to the mid to late twentieth century.

Stratum B of TU-5 consisted of yellowish brown silty clay loam and was excavated to 1.0 feet below datum. Twenty-one artifacts were recovered (excluding brick and mortar). The recovered material also appeared to date to the twentieth century.



TAYLOR SITE

TEST UNITS 2, 3, 4, & 5 | FIGURE 15

Analysis. Based on the information gained during the shovel testing phase of the work on the Taylor site, it was found that the surface of the site, as well as the soil beneath it, had been disturbed by the demolition of the Taylor house and by its recent use as a trash dump. The historical background information concerning the site, along with the discovery of subsurface artifact material, indicated that the strata beneath the debris from dumping and demolition might have maintained enough integrity to be able to contribute useful data about the Taylor site.

The soil indigenous to the site was Keyport silt loam (Mathews and Lavoie Map 20). The profile was expected to have 0.7 feet of dark yellowish brown silt loam over yellowish brown, heavy silt loam (Mathews and Lavoie:29). The shovel tests performed along transects and the test units opened in strategic locations revealed the extent to which the natural soil horizons had been disturbed. The upper level varied between 0.3-1.4 feet and was primarily described as brown or gray-brown silt loam. Beneath this level there was a level, sometimes up to 0.8 feet thick, which when present, was recorded as a yellowish brown silty clay loam. Sub-soil was encountered 0.3-1.1 feet below datum.

Although there was obvious mixing in the cultural assemblage, and the materials recovered could be seen as either relating to the late nineteenth/early twentieth century or midtwentieth century inhabitants of the site, analysis of the distribution of the artifacts retrieved in the shovel tests suggested that there were some artifact concentrations on the site which might provide information concerning historical processes. It was also hoped that a close examination of distributional patterns might allow for separation of temporally mixed materials. The artifactual data was analyzed in a number ways:

(1) Areas of artifact concentrations,
(2) Concentrations of kitchen related artifacts,
(3) Concentrations of architectural related material,
(4) Temporal distribution, and
(5) Redware distribution.

This latter category was added due to the possible value of redware distribution for indicating different activity areas. Redware is a poor temporal diagnostic. In this region, it was produced locally, rather than being imported. It is a low-cost, every-day-use vessel and is generally found on sites throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Redware can be utilized as an indication of the economic condition of the occupants of the site, but it is, in general, an indicator of preparation and food storage activities.

An examination of artifact distributions at the site revealed no meaningful patterns. Plotting the highest incidence of all artifacts (excluding brick and mortar) showed a concentration in the center of the site where the house foundation was located (Figure 16). From here, there was a general spread of material to the southeast. A small area of concentration was located along the eastern edge of the site, adjacent to the cinder block wall which separates the site from the "Kum on Inn" bar (much of this material may be associated with the drinking activities from the bar). A similar pattern was apparent in both architectural and kitchen related artifact distributions (Figures 17, 18). Redware fragments were sparsely spread across

the site. Artifacts dating to the latter half of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries formed an overlapping configuration, with no discrete concentration of either (Figure 19). In the southeast corner of the site, there was a small area containing a large number of artifacts. The north and northwest portions of the site (i.e., those portions which lay within the proposed right-of-way) contained the lowest number of artifacts. When averaged, there were about 20 artifacts per shovel test.

Stanley South has developed a set of categories to structure artifact assemblages from historic sites. Although these categories were originally devised for late eighteenth-century sites, they still provide a means of organizing late nineteenth and early twentieth-century assemblages (South 1977). These categories were applied to the Taylor artifacts.

Following quantification of the all the artifacts recovered from the Taylor site and their arrangement into Stanley South's categories, it became obvious that the two categories containing the vast majority of the material were the kitchen and architectural groupings (nearly 95% of the assemblage was evenly divided between architectural and kitchen related items). These two groupings were converted into percentages, as were the other groupings. The Bone/Shell/Nuts category was excluded because this material provided no concrete information about the site. The category of Other was also excluded because most of the items in this grouping were burned or unidentifiable bits of metal and plastic.

Table 5
Taylor Site
Comparison of Percentages of Artifacts from Shovel Tests & Test Units

	Shovel Tests			Test Units		
	#	%		#	%	
Kitchen	490	51.2	> 92.0	2,260	52.9	> 94.4
Architecture	390	40.8		1,774	41.5	
Furniture	15	1.6		23	0.5	
Arms	2	0.2		4	0.1	
Clothing	10	1.0	8.0	10	0.2	5.6
Personal	0	0.0		12	0.3	
Tobacco	2	0.2		1	0.02	
Activities	48	5.0		191	4.5	

As previously stated, the pattern of horizontal distribution of both kitchen and architectural artifacts on the Taylor site was almost identical. The next question was whether these two groups revealed any vertical combinations. The assemblage was examined to discern if temporal or functional differences could be discerned between strata. No vertical distribution pattern was discerned. This conclusion reinforced the soil data collected, which seemed to indicate that virtually no culture bearing soil stratum on the Taylor site was undisturbed.

Thus neither horizontal nor vertical architectural patterning was evident in the dispersion of architectural artifacts. The fact that most of the architectural material on the site was undatable further limited its diagnostic value.

The kitchen related artifacts reflected the same lack of patterning, vertical or horizontal, as did the architectural. Kitchen related artifacts, however, are capable of yielding more information about a site, especially concerning temporal divisions and economic status of the former inhabitants.

At this juncture kitchen artifacts were considered, not as fragments as they had been previously, but as vessels. The small size of the artifacts recovered precluded consistent identification of vessel forms. Thus, consideration of economic status employing Miller's method of examining vessel forms was not possible.

To arrive at a minimum vessel count, ceramic vessels were grouped according to their type and, then, according to their decoration. A minimum vessel count for glass was more difficult to attain. As the recent nature of this glass material suggested that almost all of the glass found on the site was intrusive and reflected activities at the "Kum on In" bar along the east side of the site, and as the glass fragments were so small as to make arriving at a minimum vessel count extremely difficult, glass vessels were excluded from the analysis.

A total of 150 ceramic vessels were discerned through the minimum vessel analysis. Remarkably, totals from the shovel tests are almost identical to those from the test units (75 vessels in each category). Furthermore, the number of "tablewares" versus "kitchenwares" is similar, with tablewares comprising 53% of the total (36 from the shovel tests and 44 from the test units) and kitchenwares making up the remaining 47% of the total (39 from the shovel tests and 31 from the test units).

Roughly, the distinction between tableware and kitchenware was made according to the clay body of the ware. Tablewares were defined as refined earthenwares and porcelains, while kitchenwares were defined as the unrefined earthenwares, including redwares, "other" unrefined earthenwares, and stonewares. It was found that the number of kitchen/utility wares totaled 7 vessels more than the refined tablewares.

In order to arrive at a temporal range for the site, all unrefined earthenwares were eliminated from consideration due to their being poor temporal diagnostics. The same is true for stonewares and other unrefined earthenwares. This leaves only refined tablewares for consideration. Porcelain had to be dropped from this group because of the difficulty identifying decorative motifs on the few, small fragments found on the site.

In an effort to discover any area that was temporally distinct, the datable artifacts found in the shovel tests were mapped across the site (see Figure 19). No distinct areas were found. Less than 2% of the ceramic material recovered could be defined as having been manufactured before 1880. At least 7% could be identified as being manufactured after 1900. The remaining ceramic items consisted primarily of small fragments of whiteware which could have been manufactured either in the late nineteenth century or any time up to and including the present. Based on the limited family of artifacts represented above, there appears to be a slight correlation between the dates of ceramic manufacture and the dates the Taylor site was inhabited by the Taylors: 1868-1936. Although the large number of modern glass items testifies to the use of the site into the present, most of the twentieth-century material was felt to be intrusive, though there was no conclusive evidence of this. Inhabitants of the site during the 51 years following the departure of the last Taylor could be responsible for the liquor bottles and automobile parts.

Conclusions and Recommendations

On the Taylor site 60 shovel tests and 5 test units were excavated. These tests indicated that there was little, if any, vertical or horizontal integrity to the site. A great deal of material on the site was thought to be intrusive and had little to do with the site's history as a farmstead during its late nineteenth to early twentieth-century occupancy. Modern trash, abandoned automobiles, and their parts were mixed with the original soil, effectively preventing the gathering of valuable information pertaining to the Taylor family.

It was not possible to locate or define any areas of differing activities on the site, nor was any pattern exhibiting changing use of space through time revealed. The location of the original structure was determined in Phase I and Phase II testing. The foundation of the house had been filled by unconsolidated modern fill and was hazardous to excavate. The site does not appear to meet the criteria of eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. No additional work is recommended.

The Taylor site's contribution to the Delaware Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan: Historic Contexts (Ames et al. 1987) is limited, due to the disturbed nature of the site. Some conclusions or, at least, assumptions may, nevertheless, be made concerning the site. The Taylor farm site, located on the upper peninsula geographic zone, was family-owned and market-oriented. It would seem to have been an active agricultural concern whose span of existence lasted 70 years, from 1866 to 1936. During the first generation, in Henry Taylor's time, the farm seemed to have worked smoothly, for there is a sense of pride in Henry's will: "my farm where I lived all my life" (New Castle County Will Book G2:432).

It seems that, after Henry Taylor's time, the farm might not have been as successful. Delaware had been famous for its peach orchards, but, with the arrival of the peach blight late in the nineteenth century, peach farms virtually disappeared from Delaware. Even if the orchard was of a different type, given the soil description above, whatever crop the Taylor's were trying to produce, may have done poorly. It is not known whether this land was being used agriculturally prior to the arrival of the Taylors.