

**APPENDIX III**

**GLOSSARY**

## GLOSSARY

- Agrarian** - Relating to or concerning the land and its ownership, cultivation, and tenure.
- Archaeology** - The study of the people of the past through the recovery and analysis of the artifacts they left behind.
- Artifacts** - Any object shaped or modified by human beings, 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.
- Cross-section** - A transverse of a portion of a feature, horizontally and vertically removing soil from one section.
- Diagnostic** - Artifact with identifying traits that categorize the item to a specific time period.
- Feature** - Any soil disturbance or discoloration that reflects human activity. Also, an artifact that, being too large to remove from a site, normally is recorded only; for example, house, storage pits, etc.
- Field Reconnaissance** - The walking of a field to examine the surface for any artifacts, architectural remains, or obvious archaeological features.
- 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.
- Hole-set Post** - Posts set directly in the ground connected by sills.
- Hundred** - A subdivision of some English and American counties.
- In Situ** - In the original place.
- Interface** - A surface regarded as the common boundary of two bodies or spaces.
- Loam** - A loose soil composed of roughly equal parts of silt, clay and sand, especially a kind containing organic matter and of great fertility.
- 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.
- Midden** - A refuse heap.

**Pedestrian Survey** - The walking and collecting of an archaeological site without the excavation of subsurface units.

**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.

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

**Plowzone** - 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.

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

**Postmold** - The organic stain in the ground which is left by a decayed wooden post. A postmold stain may occur inside of a posthole stain on an archaeological site.

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

**Sherd** - A piece of broken pottery.

**Slag** - The by-product of the incomplete combustion of coal, particularly soft coal. Commonly known as "clinkers".

**Soil Horizon** - Soils are divided in 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.