

GLOSSARY

<i>archaeology</i>	The study of past human culture through the systematic recovery and analysis of the artifacts/material evidence they left behind.
<i>archival research</i>	Research conducted in places where public or historical records, charters, and documents are stored and preserved.
<i>argillite</i>	A metamorphosed mudstone cemented by silica and lacking slaty cleavage. Used by prehistoric peoples to make stone tools. Found in New Jersey and Pennsylvania but not native to Delaware.
<i>artifact</i>	Any object shaped or modified and produced by humans, or as a result of human activity. A stone tool, a house, and a four-lane highway could all be considered artifacts.
<i>assemblage</i>	Collection of persons or things: in archaeology, the collection of artifacts from a particular site, from a stratigraphic level or cultural component within the site, or of a particular artifact class, such as lithics or ceramics.
<i>bay</i>	A subdivision of a building as seen from the front. A Georgian house with a door in the center of the facade and two pairs of windows on each side is said to have five bays.
<i>biface</i>	A stone tool bearing flake scars on both faces.
<i>broad glass</i>	Also called cylinder glass; window panes formed from a flattened glass cylinder.
<i>butchery waste</i>	Bone thrown away during the butchering of the animal carcass; parts not used for food.
<i>Census, U.S.</i>	An official count of the nation's population taken every ten years, often including a collection of demographic information.
<i>chert</i>	A fine-grained, siliceous, sedimentary rock, generally light-colored; an impure variety of chalcedony, resembling flint. Common in eastern North America and often used by prehistoric peoples to make stone tools.
<i>chronology</i>	Pertains to the basic temporal units of prehistory and the time span reflected in archaeological site stratigraphy.

<i>cortex</i>	Natural rind or weathered outer layer on flint-like materials; observations of cortex provide information on tool manufacturing techniques and methods of raw material procurement; presence of cortex indicates early- to middle-stage stool manufacturing activity.
<i>creamware</i>	A cream-colored ceramic used to make plates and other dishes, introduced by Josiah Wedgwood in 1762 and common until 1800.
<i>cripple</i>	Historical term meaning wetland or marshland.
<i>cross section</i>	A transverse of a portion of a feature, horizontally and vertically removing soil from one section.
<i>crown glass</i>	Window panes formed from a disk of hand-blown glass.
<i>culture</i>	A uniquely human system of behavioral patterns, beliefs, habits, and customs acquired by man through a nonbiological, uninherited process, learned by his society.
<i>datum</i>	A point, line, or surface used as a reference, as in surveying.
<i>debitage</i>	Residual lithic material resulting from tool manufacture; represents intentional and unintentional breakage of artifacts through either manufacture or function;debitage flakes may represent the various stages of progress of the raw material from the original form to the finished tool.
<i>demography</i>	The study of the characteristics of human populations, such as size, density, distribution, growth, and vital statistics.
<i>diagnostic</i>	An artifact that can clearly be dated and/or identified as to maker, date, place of origin, etc., thus serving as supporting evidence.
<i>dietary refuse</i>	Bone that comes from the table; food scraps.
<i>ethnobotany</i>	The analysis and interpretation of plant lore and agricultural customs of a people.
<i>extant</i>	Still in existence.
<i>fallow field</i>	A plowed field left unseeded for a growing season.
<i>faunal remains</i>	Animal remains, including both bone and shell.

<i>feature</i>	Any soil disturbance or discoloration that reflects human activity, or an artifact that is too large to be removed from a site and is just recorded—for example, a house or a storage pit.
<i>floral remains</i>	Includes both charred and uncharred plant materials such as seeds, nuts, shells, and wood.
<i>flotation</i>	The process of sifting soil samples through a fine screen while running a steady stream of water over the sample; residual materials such as tiny artifacts, seeds, and bones are separated out into light and heavy fractions for analysis.
<i>Georgian</i>	An architectural style based on Italian Renaissance models common in Britain and British America in the eighteenth century. Georgian houses were symmetrical, with central doorways that opened into halls or reception areas, not directly into the main room, as in a traditional British house.
<i>granary</i>	A storage building for threshed grain.
<i>grid</i>	The two-dimensional intersection network defining the squares in which archaeologists excavate.
<i>historic</i>	The time period after the appearance of written records. In the United States this generally refers to approximately AD 1600, the period after the beginning of European settlement.
<i>historical archaeology</i>	The archaeology of the period from initial European settlement to today.
<i>hundred</i>	A historic term representing the administrative division of some American and English counties.
<i>indentured</i>	A contract binding a person to work for another for a specified period of time in return for payment of travel and maintenance expenses.
<i>in situ</i>	In the original place.
<i>intersite</i>	Between sites; often used in the context of comparison.
<i>intestate</i>	A person who dies without a will.
<i>intrasite</i>	Within a site.

<i>intrasite patterning</i>	Horizontal and vertical site structure; focuses on the delineation of task-specific activity areas and site formation processes.
<i>jasper</i>	An opaque cryptocrystalline quartz of a variety of colors, usually yellowish brown to reddish brown, often used by prehistoric peoples to make stone tools.
<i>lithic</i>	Of, related to, or made of stone.
<i>loam</i>	A loose, fertile soil composed of a mixture of silt, clay, and sand containing organic matter.
<i>locus</i>	A defined archaeological site or testing location.
<i>marsh</i>	A tract of soft, wet land usually characterized by grasses, cattails, and related vegetation, often forming a transition zone between water and land.
<i>material culture</i>	That segment of the physical environment which is purposely shaped by humans.
<i>Mean Ceramic Date (MCD)</i>	A date obtained from the study of historic ceramics recovered from a site that approximates the median date of the site or deposit.
<i>Minimum Number of Vessels (MNV)</i>	The smallest number of ceramic or glass vessels that could have produced the sherds from an archaeological assemblage.
<i>Minimum Number of Units (MNU)</i>	The smallest number of bones (such as ribs or skulls) that could have produced the bone fragments found on an archaeological site, or in one context.
<i>mitigation</i>	In archaeology, refers to minimizing the destruction or disturbance of an archaeological site by a construction project, erosion, farming practices, etc., through excavation of the site and systematic recovery of the artifacts or other representative material of past life.
<i>Munsell Notation System</i>	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. The Munsell system is usually used in association with a description of soil type.

*Orphans' Court
Records*

The county court responsible for the welfare of orphans when a father died without a will. The Orphans' Court watched over the estate until the children (if any) reached majority. A guardian appointed by the court was to make periodic returns of the estate to the court. When the youngest heir came of age, 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 farm: smokehouses, dairies, stables, and corncribs were typical outbuildings.

pearlware

A refined, nearly white ceramic used for plates, teacups, and other dishes, introduced by Josiah Wedgwood in about 1775 and common until about 1830.

perch

A measure of distance and acreage used by early surveyors, equal to 16.5 feet. Also called a pole, rod, or rood.

Phase I

The first stage of archaeological fieldwork, the objective of which is simply to find out whether sites are present.

Phase II

The second stage of archaeological fieldwork, in which sites are further investigated to determine their boundaries and how intact they are.

Phase III

The final stage of archaeological fieldwork, also called Data Recovery. Usually involves intensive archaeological and historical investigations to recover detailed information about the site.

plowzone

That part of the soil which has been repeatedly disturbed by plowing, usually the top eight to ten inches.

porringer

A small-handled vessel from which soups or stews are eaten.

posthole

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 postmold stain may occur inside a posthole stain on a site.

probate

The judicial certification of the authenticity or validity of a will.

<i>processing waste</i>	Bone which is thrown away after it has been used to make food, such as cow skulls used for making head cheese.
<i>profile</i>	A side view of a feature or test unit.
<i>quartz</i>	Crystalline, nonmetallic, mineral consisting of silicon dioxide; typically occurs in hexagonal crystals or crystalline masses. Used by prehistoric peoples to make stone tools.
<i>research design</i>	A strategy developed at the beginning of a project to guide the research.
<i>rhyolite</i>	A light-colored, extrusive, igneous rock with abundant quartz and a very fine-grained texture. Used by prehistoric peoples to make stone tools.
<i>sediment</i>	Soil deposited by wind, water, or glaciers.
<i>settlement pattern</i>	The distribution of archaeological sites from one period across the landscape. Study of settlement patterns tells us what kind of environments people lived in and can help us understand both the environmental and social factors that influenced where they lived.
<i>sherd</i>	A piece of broken pottery or glass.
<i>sloop</i>	A sailboat that is single masted and fore and aft rigged with a short standing bowsprit or none at all.
<i>socioeconomic</i>	Applies to the interrelationship between economic wealth (or poverty) and social position or status.
<i>soil horizon</i>	Soils are divided into three horizons, which reflect different kinds of chemical and physical processes that have resulted from changing climatic conditions.
<i>stratigraphy</i>	The origin, composition, and succession of natural soil or rock or cultural layers.
<i>stratum</i>	(1) a mass of sedimentary deposits lying in a vertical sequence, and (2) a layer in which archaeological material (such as artifacts or dwelling remains) is found within a site.
<i>subsistence</i>	A source or means of obtaining those materials essential to the maintenance of life, such as food and shelter; in archaeology, subsistence deals primarily with dietary composition and food-procurement strategies.

<i>subsoil</i>	Sterile, naturally occurring soils not changed by human occupation.
<i>subsurface</i>	Below the surface; not visible from the surface.
<i>sundry</i>	Various; miscellaneous small articles or items.
<i>terminus post quem (TPQ)</i>	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 fill.
<i>Total Number of Fragments (TNF)</i>	Number of bone fragments found on an archaeological site, or in one context.
<i>uniface</i>	A stone tool flaked on one surface only.
<i>vessel</i>	A container, such as a bowl, bottle, plate, or jar. Archaeologists conventionally refer to all the glass and ceramic household objects they find as "vessels." See also <i>Minimum Number of Vessels</i> .