

APPENDIX X

GLOSSARY

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- 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 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.
- Bay** - The subdivision longitudinally of a building by piers, arches, girders, etc.
- Calkin** - A sharp pointed piece of iron on a shoe for a horse or an ox; used to prevent the animal from slipping.
- Cartwright** - Cart and wagon maker.
- Clevis** - A U-shaped metal piece with holes in each end through which a pin or bolt is run, used for attaching a drawbar to a plow.
- 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.
- Cordwainer** - Eighteenth and nineteenth century term for a leather worker and sometimes shoemaker.
- Coulter** - A blade or wheel on a plow for making vertical cuts.
- 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.
- 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 or origin.
- Extant** - Still in existence.
- 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.

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.

Grid - The two-dimensional intersection network defining the squares in which archaeologists excavate eg. S0E110.

Hame - One of the two curved wooden or metal pieces of harness that fit around the neck of a draft animal and to which the traces are attached.

Harrow - A farm instrument consisting of a heavy frame with sharp teeth or upright disks, used to break up and even off plowed ground.

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.

Humus - Soil, usually on top of the ground, that contains a large proportion of rotted and rotting vegetable material.

Hundred - A subdivision of some English and American counties.

Hypothesis - A tentative assumption made in order to draw out and test its logical or empirical consequences.

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.

Interface - A surface regarded as the common boundary of two bodies or spaces.

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

Intestate - A person who dies without making a will.

Intra-site - Within a site.

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.

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 as such in property transaction records such as deeds.

Midden - A refuse heap.

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.

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.

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.

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

Pike - A fork or pitchfork.

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 and Tie-beam Pairs - prefabricated units consisting of two opposite upright posts tied together by a connecting horizontal beam.

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.

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

Sherd - A piece of broken pottery.

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

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

Soil Horizon - Soils are divided into three 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.

Stud - An upright post in the framework of a wall for supporting sheets of lath, wall board, or similar material.

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.

Swingletree - the pivoted horizontal crossbar to which the harness traces of a draft animal are attached and which is in turn attached to a vehicle or an implement.

Synchronic - Referring to a single period in time.

Tie-beam - The horizontal beam which connects two opposite upright posts.

Tie-beam Pair - Two opposite upright posts (connected by a tie-beam).

(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.