

**Appendix A**

**THE PUBLIC AND THE TAVERN**

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# NEWS RELEASE

Delaware Department of Transportation  
Office of External Affairs  
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1-800-652-5600 or (302) 760-2080  
[www.deldot.net](http://www.deldot.net)



September 20, 1999  
Release

For Immediate

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERY OF LOG CABIN AT TWEEDS TAVERN SITE

Tweeds Tavern Archaeological and Log Cabin Site

*Hockession* – The Delaware Department of Transportation announces a significant archaeological discovery of a 1700's era log cabin within the former Gutherie-Giacomelli House. The log cabin was discovered as part of the Route 7 dualization project and the Valley Road/Route 7 intersection improvements that have recently started in the Hockession area.

Known locally as the "Tweeds Tavern", the site is located at the north west corner of the intersection of Valley Road and State Route 7/Limestone Road. The site was recently discovered when DelDOT was granted access and ownership to the property for evaluation prior to the road improvement project.

An archaeological consulting firm, Hunter Research, Inc. of Trenton NJ, was hired to verify the presence of the log cabin as well as exterior subsurface archaeology needs. Interior walls and plaster within the center portion of the house were selectively removed. Discovered within the horse hair and plaster walls were supporting posts and beams of a log cabin. From what can be determined, the log cabin is a two story structure with a rubble stone cellar area, that was built around 1790. As it stands relatively intact, further archaeological work and recordation of the log cabin structure and surrounding area is ongoing.

In addition, as part of DelDOT's federal regulations under historic preservation and transportation funding requirements, the Department is investigating the structural viability of the historic structure. A structural engineering analysis will be undertaken to determine if the structure can be moved, and at what cost. The current transportation improvements planned for the area require that the log cabin be moved, removed, or relocated, as a whole or in pieces to a nearby location. Sections or pieces could also be salvaged, sold, auctioned, or donated.

As part of this project's archaeological outreach, DelDOT welcomes the public to visit the site and take a guided look at the Tweeds Tavern. Archaeologists and architectural historians have prepared and secured the site so that the public may stop by, ask questions, and learn about the early part of northern Delaware's history.

An open house will be held for the public on October 2, 1999, from 8 am to 5pm.

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September 27, 1999

John H. Schields, Jr.  
MacDermid Imaging Tech  
1 Norman Drive  
Wilmington, DE 19808

Re: Tweed's Tavern, 520 Valley Road, Hockessin (Intersection of Route 7 and Valley Road)

Dear Mr. Schields:

I am writing to you in your capacity as a member of the Newcastle County Review Board to invite you to visit the combined archaeological and architectural investigations we have been undertaking on the Tavern Site. You will recall that this has been the subject of discussion at the Review Board on a number of occasions.

Hunter Research Inc. is carrying out the investigations on behalf of the Delaware Department of Transportation with a view to establishing in what manner the log building may be preserved. We have undertaken extensive documentation and exposure of the log building and associated archaeological deposits in the last few weeks.

On Saturday October 2<sup>nd</sup> we are holding an Open Day at the site so that the public can visit and see the results. This would be a good opportunity for you to inspect the work, but if another time would be more convenient please contact me so that we can make arrangements.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Burrow  
Vice President

cc Kevin Cunningham DelDOT Planning  
Richard Hunter



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL  
INVESTIGATIONS AT TWEED'S TAVERN, ROUTE 7 AND  
VALLEY ROAD, NEWCASTLE COUNTY, DELAWARE

INFORMATION SHEET #1

### What's Going On Here?

A team of archaeologists and architectural historians are exploring a recently- discovered log building of about 1800. This log building is "hidden" inside the house you see standing today, which is called the Guthrie Giacomelli House. The log building was probably built as a tavern to serve travelers making their way from Pennsylvania towards the Delaware River and Wilmington. This is such a historically important building that the Delaware Department of Transportation is exploring the possibility of moving the building to another more permanent site.

At the same time as the work on the building, archaeologists are excavating the foundations of one of the now-demolished outbuildings which may be associated with the historic tavern. Initial archaeological work a few months ago found a lot of kitchenware (redware pottery) in this area, and we have reason to think that there was probably a separate kitchen on the property this might be it. We hope to find out what the building was, and to locate artifacts and other information which will throw more light on the lives of the people who owned, operated and used the tavern almost 200 years ago.

### How is the Work Being Done?

Inside the building, the team is removing more of the modern interior wall covering to expose as much of the log structure as possible. The exposed timbers will be photographed and drawn to provide a permanent record of the building. At the same time, structural engineers and architects will be assessing the feasibility of moving the log building in one piece to another location to preserve it.

The archaeological work outside involves the careful removal of each layer of soil in and around the remains of the building. We are excavating an area of about 250 square feet. Most of the work is done with trowels, so that the subtle differences in the soils can be more easily seen, and small artifacts identified. Just like inside the log building, a lot of time is spent in making a record of what is found.

### What's Next?

- Check here for information sheet updates
- Come to our Open Day on Saturday October 2<sup>nd</sup>, when we will have guided tours and family activities.
- For more information call Ian Burrow at Hunter Research, Inc. 609-695-0122 or Kevin Cunningham at the Delaware Department of Transportation 302-760-2125

## DelDOT engineers discover 200-year-old log home at site of road-widening project



William B. Liebeknecht, principal investigator for Hunter Research, points out construction details of the log house on Valley Road. "It's kind of neat if you've never seen a log cabin before," he said. Hunter Research was hired by DelDOT to supervise excavation of the site, where road-widening work is planned. (The News Journal/WILLIAM BRETZNER)

## House serves as window to past

By DAWN ANQ  
Staff reporter

State highway engineers recently stumbled upon a two-story log house, probably built in the 1790s.

The structure was enclosed within a 1960s house before being torn down to make room for road improvements at Valley Road and Del. 7.

Experts said the house, known as Tweeds Tavern or the Catherine Grayson House, is one of about 50 European log structures found in the state and is rare because of its second story. "Last construction was the first time that European immigrants brought to Delaware," said Tim Mullin, assistant director of museums for the Historical Society of Delaware.

It was the very first and simplest type of shelter to build. Any log structure that



The News Journal

is found is pretty significant because logs rot. By mere attrition, there are precious few log structures left.

Delaware Department of Transportation officials are uncertain what they will do with the building. They



Tweeds Tavern was encased within a 1960s house at 420 Valley Road in Hockessin.



This padlock and two-tine fork are among the artifacts historians recovered from the site of the log house dating to the 1790s.

### IF YOU GO

Historians Saturday will conduct public tours of a newly discovered 200-year-old log house. The house is at 420 Valley Road in Hockessin. Tours will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

could move it or dismantle it. The widening of the road will continue.

Archaeologists meanwhile are carefully peeling away the outer structure to uncover treasures within. "This is giving us a win-

dow on the way things used to be," said Damon Tvaryanas, an architectural historian with Hunter Research Inc., the Trenton, N.J., company hired by DelDOT to supervise the excavation. They found a bone-hand-

dled two-tine fork, a medicine bottle, and a padlock in the walls of the house. They have uncovered more than 10,000 artifacts in the surrounding area.

See HOUSE — B6

## House: Historians examine 200-year-old log structure

### FROM PAGE B1

The artifacts include pieces of redware pots and bowls, and blue and green shell-edged china, probably imported from England.

A rib, possibly from a sheep or pig, indicates what people likely ate, said William B. Liebeknecht, principal investigator for Hunter Research.

"It's kind of neat if you've never seen a log cabin before," Liebeknecht said, as he pointed to a v-shaped groove that once held a window frame.

Unlike Lincoln Log-type cabins that are a tight fit, Tweeds Tavern has gaps between each log. The gaps were packed with rocks, making the structure drafty.

"There was lots of wind up here," he said, pointing to the large second-story windows.

Of significance is the distinction between a log cabin and a log house.

"A cabin denotes a small structure built for a temporary time," said Kevin Puleo, a New Castle County historic preservation planner intern. Cabins are also known to be small one-room structures.

In keeping with federal historic preservation rules, DelDOT hired a structural analyst to determine whether the house can be saved. The outside is intact, but the inside has been altered.

DelDOT could relocate the structure, or salvage sections of it to be sold, auctioned or donated.

If the structure is safe, DelDOT would relocate the house to a public park, said Michael Hahn, a project manager with DelDOT.

The artifacts found in and around the old tavern will probably be donated to a local museum, Liebeknecht said.

It is unclear how many historical log homes or cabins exist in Delaware. There is an early 1700s log cabin on display at the Delaware Agricultural Museum & Village in Dover. Another log cabin, estimated to be 300 years old, stands at Fort Christina Park.

Tweeds Tavern was the vision of Delaware businessman John Crow. He wanted to build a stop along Limestone Pike, a major route for farmers bringing corn, wheat, and other merchandise from Lancaster, Pa., to New Castle and Wilmington.

In 1785, Crow leased 10 acres from Stephen Foulk at what is now the Valley Road and Del. 7 intersection.

There, he built a two-story log

house, which he converted into a tavern with a fireplace and a spiral staircase leading to the second floor.

It was a place for weary travelers to refresh themselves.

By 1801, Foulk sold the property to James Harvey, who sold it a year later to John Tweed.

Thereafter, it was known as Tweeds Tavern.

The Tweed family owned the property until 1830, when it was sold to Rufe W. Dickinson.

"It probably stayed as a tavern throughout the 19th century and became a house at the turn of the century," Tvaryanas said.





Plate A.1. Visitors lined up for open day (Photographer: Vivian Braubitz, October 1999)[HRI Neg. # 99037/19:29)



Plate A.2. Screening at open day (Photographer: Vivian Braubitz, October 1999)[HRI Neg. #99037/19:33].



Plate A.3. Children's activities table at Open Day (Photographer: Vivian Braubitz, October 1999)[HRI Neg. #99037/19:31].



Plate A.4. Artifact display at Open Day (Photographer: Vivian Braubitz, October 1999)[HRI Neg. #99037/19:35].

**Ian Burrow**

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**From:** <ianbhome@aol.com>  
**To:** <burrow@hunterresearch.com>  
**Cc:** <rwhunter@castle.net>; <eheite@dmv.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 03, 1999 4:55 PM  
**Subject:** Open Day at Tweeds Tavern, October 2nd 1999

To Kevin Cunningham and Mike Hahn, DeIDOT

I wanted to report to you that the Open Day at Tweed's Tavern on Saturday was a success well beyond our expectations. We estimate that at least 500 people visited the site. The first visitors arrived before 10 am and there was still a long line of people waiting to get into the tavern at 4 p.m.

Excellent coverage in the Home Journal and on Channel 6 Action News at 5:30 on Friday obviously had a major effect in getting the word out, and the DeIDOT press release did its job well.

Visitors came in alongside the excavations at the rear of the house and were introduced to the archaeological aspects of the project there. Children were encouraged to help screen for artifacts in the soils from the early 19th century trash deposit which was under excavation. This was very popular!

Inside the tavern handouts on the project were available (until we ran out of them in the mid-afternoon). Artifacts were on display, together with some of our archaeological graphics. Hard-hatted groups of 12-15 people were taken through the tavern by Damon Tvarayanas and myself, and this actually resulted in some new observations which will be helpful in the analysis.

We had many takers among the younger children for building with Lincoln Logs, mending ceramics and drawing and coloring activities. All our cookies and sodas were consumed.

We were also really pleased to meet several members of the Neiffer and Giacomelli families who lived in the house from the 1930's to the late 1980's: Elmer and Jackie Neiffer, who moved in to the house in about 1935, gave us lots of information about the building and the property before World War II. Their daughter Joan showed us interior and exterior photographs from the 1930's-1950's, and is going to scan these and send them to us. Elmer and Jackie's niece Norma Giacomelli also gave us a lot of information.

We also met a local artist, Kathy Ruck, who wants to do a reconstruction view of the tavern, and Anne Copley, who lives in a NR log house on Yeatman Mill Road in Newark. We also learned of an Amish group based in Elizabethtown Pa who specialize in dismantling and re-erecting timber buildings.

Professional visitors included Wade Catts, Barb Silber (McCormick Taylor) and John (and Debbie) Martin (Gannett Fleming).



Plate A.5. Exterior view of Tweed's Tavern looking east (Photographer: Susan Ferenbach, January 2000)[HRI Neg. #99037/40:15).



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL  
INVESTIGATIONS AT TWEED'S TAVERN, ROUTE 7 AND  
VALLEY ROAD, NEWCASTLE COUNTY, DELAWARE

INFORMATION SHEET #2

### What's Going On Here?

This is the second information sheet on this ongoing project. A team of archaeologists, architectural historians, architects and engineers are exploring a recently-discovered old log building believed to be approximately 200 years old. Enveloped within more modern additions, the house, historically known as Tweed's Tavern, was probably constructed in the years around 1800. Throughout much of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the tavern served travelers (probably chiefly drovers) making their way along the well-traveled Limestone Road from Pennsylvania towards the Delaware River and Wilmington. This is such a historically important building that the Delaware Department of Transportation is exploring the possibility of moving the building to another site.

### Something About Log Buildings

There was a strong tradition of log building in Colonial and early 19<sup>th</sup>-century America. The "log cabin" summons up ideas of early pioneers making homesteads in the wilderness, and of course frontiersman Abraham Lincoln was born and raised in log cabins Kentucky and Illinois.

The tradition of log building appears to have been brought into the Middle Colonies of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware by immigrants from the Germanic parts of Europe (what are now Germany and the Scandinavian countries). It was a different tradition from that brought by English settlers, who built houses using open frameworks of hewn timbers.

The log building tradition was, however, very useful in the New World, where timber was plentiful and log building was a simpler and quicker way to make a comfortable house. So it was soon adopted by people not of Germanic heritage.

Architectural historians make a distinction between log **cabins** and log **houses**. In log cabins the timbers are left round and jointed at the corner by "saddle" notches. Log houses are made of square-hewn timbers which are carefully jointed together at the corners with a range of joint types. These are shown on the illustration. Tweed's Tavern is a log house, with v-notched corner joints.

As you go around the building you will see how the timbers have been squared and the corner joints made. Gaps between the horizontal timbers are filled with "chinking" or stones and mortar.

Within the building, much of the modern interior finish has been removed to expose large sections of each of the original log walls. This work has revealed the locations of the original door and window locations and has shown that it is likely that the height of the building has been increased from a one and a half-story structure to a full two-story building. Architects are preparing accurate floor plans of the tavern showing the location of significant early building components. The building is also being thoroughly photographed, utilizing a large format camera in order to provide a permanent record of the structure. Structural engineers are currently in the process of assessing the feasibility of either moving the building intact or disassembling the historic components of the tavern and reconstructing them at another location.

## **Archaeology Update**

Simultaneously with the work on the interior of the building, archaeologists are investigating remains initially thought to be the foundations of one of several now-demolished outbuildings. These stone remains have now been further exposed and much to our surprise they turned out to be part of a complex stone drainage system. The drain probably originates from the rear of the room attached to the west side of the tavern, and seems to have originally been built in about 1850 primarily to carry water from a nearby spring which would naturally have drained towards the tavern. The drain runs perpendicular to the building draining into a natural basin about 25 feet across, close to the head of an un-named stream immediately west of the tavern. This ancient basin was frequented by Native Americans, as is shown by our discovery of several projectile points (arrow or spearheads) in this part of the site.

Before the drain was constructed, this basin appears to have been used as a trash disposal area for the tavern, and soils from the surrounding area were probably washing into it continuously. Historical records do refer to this area as "Mudford" in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but whether this referred to the character of the place or is just a family name is not certain at present.

At some point after the construction of the drain it was decided to seal off the basin with a thick deposit of clay. The drain was still needed and a new section was built, diverting water further to the west. Large holes for posts were dug in this area after the drain was diverted. Their purpose is not certain, but they may have been intended to fence off the still muddy area.

## **What's Next?**

- We will soon be completing work both inside and outside the building and then decisions will be made on the future of the building.
- For more information call Ian Burrow at Hunter Research, Inc. 609-695-0122 or Kevin Cunningham at the Delaware Department of Transportation 302-760-2125

# Group wants to save historic Tweeds Tavern

## Log structure dates back to 1790s

By MARY SKRZAT HUTCHINS  
Special to The News Journal

**HOCKESSIN** — For more than 200 years, Tweeds Tavern has sat at the intersection of Limestone and Valley roads.

If a group of Hockessin residents have their way, that is just where it will stay.

The historic, two-story log structure needs to be moved to make way for the Limestone Road widening project, but members of the Friends of Tweeds Tavern want it relocated only about 1,000 yards from where it now sits. The Friends unit is a focus group under the Greater Hockessin Area Development Association, better known as GHADA.

"This is a jewel for the Hockessin community, and we are interested in keeping it close to its original site and re-creating what it looked like in the 1800s. In addition, it would help to create some green space along Limestone Road," said Susan Siemionko, a resident of Hampton Pointe who is leading the fight to preserve the tavern.

State Sen. Liane M. Sorenson, R-Hockessin, has joined the fight to save the tavern. She said it should be restored because it is a real piece of the Hockessin spirit. "The ideal would be to have [Tweeds Tavern] stay in its present location, and we are working very hard to make that happen," she said.

The Friends committee would like to see the tavern restored and used as a public information and historical center. Also, several out-buildings could be built that would resemble the separate kitchen, blacksmith shed and stable that were part of the tavern settlement. The added buildings would serve as a public restroom and small museum that could house artifacts that have been uncovered on the site. They would also like to see a small park at the center.

The log tavern is encased in a stucco building that has had several additions. The tavern structure is about 1,000 square feet and is built of local hardwood logs in the Swedish tradition of cabin construction, said Siemionko.

She has been meeting with Sorenson and members of the state and county historical preservation boards to develop a plan to restore the tavern. Developer Mike Zeccola, who owned the site of the tavern before selling it to the state Department of Transportation, still



Hockessin community leaders Joe Lake Jr. and Susan Siemionko are working to preserve Tweeds Tavern.

owns 5½ acres adjacent to the site. Siemionko said Zeccola is willing to swap his property with state-owned property.

Zeccola's land "would be perfect for what we have planned," Siemionko said. He has also offered to help with building a foundation, she said.

DelDOT, which bought the building and the land it sits on as part of the road-widening project, has to find a home for the building by June so the road project is not delayed.

"It is a big, big challenge for us and the county to see what we can do to get [Tweeds Tavern] relocated without delaying the road improvement project," said DelDOT planner Mike Hahn.

He said in addition to GHADA wanting to preserve the tavern, Hockessin resident John McGrellis would also like to move it to his property on Valley Road and restore it for his personal use.

Hahn is writing a marketing plan for the tavern that will include financial and time commitments that would be required of whomever takes ownership of the structure. He said DelDOT's first preference would be to see the tavern in the hands of a government agency. Second on his list would be a nonprofit organization, followed by a private citizen. A last resort

would be to demolish the building and salvage the historically significant parts, said Hahn.

"It's not like we want to have bulldozers there, but we can't delay the road improvement project," he said.

GHADA is not a nonprofit organization, Siemionko said, but Friends could be organized under another nonprofit agency in order to secure the tavern. After last week's GHADA meeting, Delaware Greenway representatives offered their nonprofit organization as an "umbrella" for Friends.

Hockessin historian Joe Lake Jr. gave a brief history of the tavern at that meeting. He said old-timers in Hockessin knew the log

structure under the stucco building was historically important to the town.

The building was probably not intended to be used as a tavern, Lake said, but it was not unusual for farmers to open their homes and create a place for travelers to eat and sleep in the early 1800s.

He said there was probably a flow of Conestoga wagons on Limestone Road carrying grain from Pennsylvania to the port in Wilmington. "These travelers needed a place to eat and sleep so taverns would develop along the way. The tavern was probably extremely successful in the 1820s. It was one of

six in Hockessin," he said.

The history of the tavern began in 1796 when John Crow leased 10 acres from Stephen Foulk at what now is the Valley Road/Del. 7 intersection to build a structure to serve farmers bringing produce and other merchandise from Lancaster, Pa., to New Castle and Wilmington. Crow built the two-story log house, which he converted into a tavern. By 1801 Foulk sold the property to James Harvey, who sold it a year later to John Tweed. Thereafter, it was known as Tweeds Tavern.

Because the structure is fragile, it is important that the tavern not be moved far, Lake said. And since Hockessin has no museum, he would like the tavern site to house some of the artifacts.

"It could be a great place ... It would look nice as you come into the valley. It would be a welcoming place for people," said Lake.

If it is not possible to strike a deal between Zeccola and the state, there are other alternative sites for the tavern, said GHADA President Ken Murphy. One possibility is county-owned land on Valley Road between the Hockessin library and the New Castle County Community Policing Office.

Regardless of where the tavern is relocated, money will need to be raised to help fund the restoration.

The Friends committee is ready to apply for federal and state grants to help pay for the bulk of the restoration but local foundations and members of the community will be called upon to donate money to the project.

Sorenson said raising money for the project would be a nice way for the Hockessin community to come together.

But raising money is not the primary concern of Lake and Siemionko.

"The problem is getting the land," said Lake.

**RICHARD L. ABBOTT, ESQ.**  
**COUNCILMAN THIRD DISTRICT**  
Chairman - Special Services Committee  
Member: Administration  
Emergency Services  
Land Use



**LOUIS L. REDDING CITY COUNTY BUILDING**

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May 18, 2000



Dr. Ian Burrow  
Mr. Damon Tavaryanas  
Hunter Research, Inc.  
120 West State Street  
Trenton, NJ 08608-1185

Dear Dr. Burrow & Mr. Tavaryanas:

I am writing to congratulate you on your award from the New Castle County Historic Review Board for conducting an excellent public education program on the archaeological investigations on the site of Tweed's Tavern in Hockessin. I know that some of my constituents felt very strongly about saving the Tavern, and with your help, the Tavern was saved and will be used for the public to enjoy for years to come.

Thank you and again, congratulations!

Very Truly Yours,

Richard L. Abbott  
County Councilman  
Third District

# Tweed's Tavern needs an owner — today

## No one has applied to acquire 200-year-old travelers' lodge

By **ROBIN BROWN**  
Bear Bureau reporter

The Department of Transportation has committed to moving the historical Tweed's Tavern in a last-resort plan to find it an owner.

The new owner, however, has only today to apply for ownership of the former travelers' lodge, which dates from 1796.

The deadline for applica-

tions is March 20," DeIDOT's historic specialist, Michael Hahn, said. None has been submitted.

Tweed's, with a log-cabin core, must be moved from the corner of Valley Road and Del. 7 because it sits in the way of Del. 7 road improvements.

If no one submits an acceptable application to buy and move Tweed's, DeIDOT will use a last-resort plan to find an owner who can manage and restore it.

### INFORMATION

Individuals or groups seriously interested in owning Tweed's Tavern can call DeIDOT's Michael Hahn in Dover at 780-2131.

That plan has several possible steps:

■ DeIDOT could move the building at its own expense, estimated at \$46,000.

■ DeIDOT could put the building on adjoining state-owned land just north of where it is now, on a site not directly affected by the roadwork.

■ The state might offer

about an acre of land with the structure.

■ The building could be sold for \$1.

In any case, the new owner would pay for the foundation, site-preparation and security after the building move.

That plan grew from suggestions by the county's Historic Review Board. Earlier, DeIDOT's final options were razing or offering Tweed's for salvage.

Board members, appointed to advocate for preservation in the public interest, balked when DeIDOT initially applied for a county demolition permit.

See TAVERN — B5



The News Journal/SUSAN L. GREY  
Tweed's Tavern, on the corner of Valley Road and Del. 7 in Hockessin, must be moved or razed. The 1796 travelers' lodge is in the way of road improvements on Del. 7.

## Tavern: Preference is a local nonprofit group

FROM PAGE B1

"Even at that point," Hahn later said, "we hoped to move it." By law, the permits allow moving or razing.

The board can delay such permits up to nine months on old buildings, but released Tweed's permit for moving only.

"I would like to thank the department for stepping up to the plate on this one," board Chairman John H. Shields Jr. said.

Transportation Secretary Anne P. Canby recently said DeIDOT would follow its hierarchy of preferences for a new Tweed's owner.

First preference is a local nonprofit group. Last are people or businesses that want the building for private profit.

DeIDOT also advertised Tweed's in Historic Preservation magazine. The national ad prompted calls from all over the East Coast and as far as Michigan.

The Friends of Tweed's Tavern, formed by the Greater Hockessin Area Development Association, pushed to save Tweed's and voiced interest in ownership. People from Hockessin and Chester County, Pa., also inquired.

In 1796, entrepreneur John Crow built its two-story log core as a travelers' lodge. Most guests were farmers hauling produce by wagon from the Lancaster, Pa., region to Wilmington's port. John Tweed bought the lodge in 1802. With stables, a blacksmith and other services, business bustled for most of the 1800s, according to historical accounts.

Later, Tweed's was used as a home. It stood vacant for about 16 years. About two years ago, DeIDOT bought the site for its roadwork job.

Reach robin brown at 838-3189 or rbrown@wilmington.com

# Hard work reaps rewards

Preservation advocates honored by the Historic Review Board of New Castle County

By **ROBIN BROWN**  
 Bear Bureau reporter

On the eve of today's Day in Old New Castle, preservation advocates honored the city for renovating a former trolley barn to house its maintenance operation.

Reuse of the 1890s building, once the Witco chemical plant, Friday won one of 12 prestigious awards from the Historic Review Board of New Castle County.

The project was completed with the help of city administrator Bob Martin.

"All the credit goes to Bob," City Council President William Blest said.

The awards presented at historic Greenbank Mill reflect a wide range of projects.

Prominent preservationists Sidney S. Craven and Bayard Marin won awards for decades of work, from preservation efforts to organizing citizen groups.

"Preservation is about quality of life," Marin said. "We need to help more developers understand that it makes good financial sense."

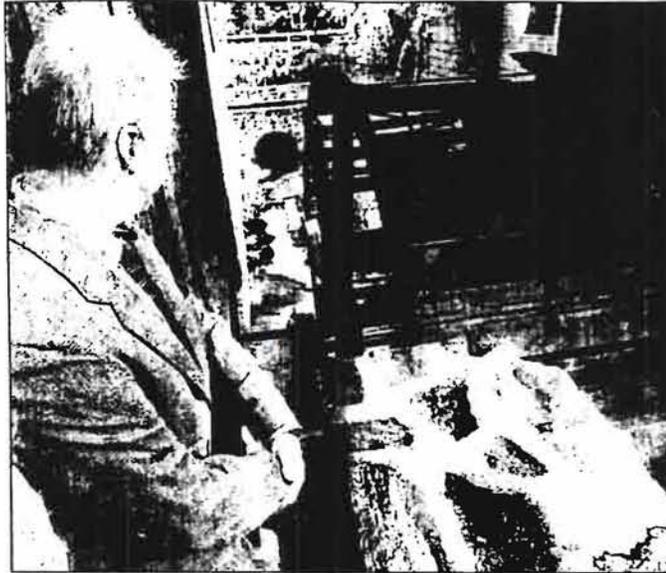
A bridge, a community hall, a gas station, a church, a theater, a teacher's lesson plan received recognition.

A developer's attorney and a pair of Delawareans dedicated to the preservation movement were among the honorees.

"We celebrate your dedication and success," said John H. Shields Jr., board chairman appointed to act in the public interest in preservation issues.

An emotional favorite in the winners' circle: Joe and Tony's Gulf Service on Philadelphia Pike in Claymont.

"We are delighted to recognize this superb example of commercial archaeology," presenter Frank McKelvey said. "... Improvements over the years have always been



Sidney S. Craven, one of the advocates who received a preservation award from the Historic Review Board of New Castle County, observes the water wheel during a tour of the Greenbank Mill Friday. Craven was honored for his decades of work, from preservation efforts to organizing citizen groups.

made with the preservation of the original character of the building uppermost."

Michael DeConstanza, who owns and runs the station with his brother John and wife, Shirley, said Gulf Co. just notified them that the station is the nation's longest continually operating Gulf station.

"That building's been good to us," he said. "We think we owe it something."

Other honorees:

■ Colonial School District teacher Terri Hanson, who received her award for a lesson plan about the county-owned Bechtel House, developed when she was a student teacher at Talley Middle School.

Classes included architecture, construction, research, analysis and study of the house and site.

■ Attorney Daniel P. Johnson, who honored for his work representing Pulte Homes. He

worked for months with the developer and the Historic Review Board to spare the Whiteman House in Pike Creek. He also was honored for crafting voluntary preservation restrictions on the land's deed, which now are used as a model.

■ Dawn, Thomas and Edith Lamb, who were honored for saving Overlook Colony's 1920s school and civic hall on Commonwealth Avenue in Claymont. It now houses five apartments and three shops, including Dawn Lamb's "Lamb's Loft" resale store.

■ Nonprofit Associated Community Talents Inc. was honored. The nonprofit bought Middletown's Everett Theater and has been restoring it. The award acknowledged "the work of all who have contributed to this important project."

■ Hunter Research Inc. won for archaeological work

at Tweed's Tavern near Hockessin. The group spared the 1700s log tavern from razing.

■ University of Delaware won for renovating and reusing the 1843 Saint Thomas Episcopal Church as a concert and lecture hall.

■ The Delaware Department of Transportation and individuals were honored for restoring Wilmington's Van Buren Street Bridge. DelDOT was praised for listening to those who pressed for its restoration, not replacement.

■ The Wilmington Waterfront Corp. was honored for preserving old Dravo Shipyard cranes.

McKelvey called the cranes "gangly, rusting giants [that] were compelling reminders of the men and women of Dravo who fought World War II from Wilmington's waterfront."

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# Wheels of progress rescue historic building

By **ROBIN BROWN**  
 Bear Bureau reporter

Bugs swirled in massive spotlights as a hauling crew moved the historic Tweed's Tavern up Limestone Road in Hockessin to safety before dawn Sunday.

"You're seeing history move right in front of your eyes," said Fileen Wellman of Hockessin. "It's wonderful that they're saving it."

The building had to be moved from its site of more

than 200 years at Limestone and Valley roads to make way for improvements to the busy intersection.

Preservation Delaware Inc. and the newly formed Hockessin Historical Society plan to restore the building on the new site.

Wellman and her husband, Bucky, joined a small crowd that watched Advanced House Movers of Mount Holly, N.J., maneuver the building up on beams and wheels to its new lot — just one-fifth of a mile

north of its original site.

Frank Orsini of Odessa bought his sons Nick, 14, and Frankie, 11, to watch the move even if it was past bedtime. "You don't see this every day," he said.

DelDOT's Michael Hahn, who has been involved in trying to find a new owner for the tavern, said the building and beams — weighing a total of 20 tons — will sit at the new site until foundation work is completed by the new owners. "That was very smooth,"

Hahn told Charlie Mullen Sr. of the moving crew.

"Two hours and six minutes," Mullen said at 4:06 a.m. "Not bad."

The nonprofit groups expect the restoration to take two years. Tax-deductible donations, marked for Tweed's Tavern, may be sent to Preservation Delaware, 1405 Greenhill Ave., Wilmington, DE 19806.

► Reach robin brown at 838-3189 or rbrown@wilmingtonjournal.com



The News Journal by SUSAN L. GREGG  
 Tweed's Tavern was built at Limestone and Valley roads in Hockessin in 1796.



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Plate A.6. Foundation after tavern removed (Photographer: Michael Murphy, June 2000)[HRI Neg. #0006/3:8).



Plate A.7. Tavern on blocks (Photographer: Michael Murphy, June 2000)[HRI Neg. #0006/3:17].



Plate A.8. Tavern at new location on Limestone Road (Photographer: Michael Murphy, June 2000)[HRI Neg. #0006/4:23].

# Treasure hunt heats up at tavern site

Latest finds renew hope that more historic items will be uncovered

By **ROBIN BROWN**  
Bear Bureau reporter

Archaeologists dug Tuesday around a hole in the ground where Tweed's Tavern stood for two centuries.

Movers hauled the 200-year-old tavern Sunday from Limestone and Valley roads to a nearby lot because it was in the path of roadwork.

"This is the final checkout, to see if there is any more information we can get out of the site," said Ian Burrow, an owner of Hunter Research Inc., hired by the Delaware Department of Transportation.

Today, the archaeology team will continue digging and heavy equipment will scoop fieldstone from the inn's original foundation, according to Bill Stewart, state construction supervisor on the Del. 7 project. The stone will be taken to the new site, eight-tenths of an acre owned by DelDOT about 350 yards north.

Preservation Delaware Inc. and Hockessin Historical Society — which plan to restore the building as a museum and local history center — will use the old stone, perhaps in walls at the new site.

The state authorized additional digging this week after Sunday's predawn building move produced a few more artifacts, including two bottles and a horseshoe.

DelDOT's Michael Hahn said those finds hinted that more might be found around the oldest part of the building. Built about 1796, the oldest part of the building is a rare, two-story log house of about 1,000 square feet, built of hand-hewn hardwood with V-notched corners.

"While log buildings were once very common in this region," said Susan Siemionko of the Hockessin Historical Society, "Tweed's Tavern is significant due to the rarity of examples of this early and ephemeral form of construction."

Tweed's was a lodge — with a detached kitchen and stable — mainly for people hauling grain by covered wagon from Pennsyl-



The News Journal/SEAN BUSHNET  
Hunter Research Inc. archaeologists Vivian Braubitz (left) of Bucks County, Pa., and Michael Murphy, of Philadelphia, dig Tuesday at Limestone and Valley roads, former site of Tweed's Tavern.

vania to the Delaware and Christina rivers to be sold or shipped.

Later owners who used the building as a home added to the house and coated it with stucco.

The first floor of the log structure was modified heavily during the additions. "It has been pretty much chopped up," Hahn said, adding that the second floor of the log section is in good condition.

The historic preservation groups that are working on the project with the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office, Sen. Liane M. Sorenson and Rep. Joseph E. Miro, still must give DelDOT \$1 before the house is transferred to their ownership. The price of the new site will be set after an appraisal.

The state got nearly three dozen inquiries from potential new owners for the building. Applicants, including some responding to DelDOT's national advertising of the building's availability, wanted to use Tweed's as an office, restaurant and salvage source.

Preservation activists, including members of the Historic Review Board of New Castle County, have praised how DelDOT handled the building, once its extensive history was researched. In addition to providing the new site, DelDOT put top priority on finding a non-profit group to reuse Tweed's Tavern in the public interest and paid for the inn's move.

The restoration is expected to take about two years and a major fund-raising campaign.

The highway improvements

will be completed in early 2002.

Archaeologists found historic pickings slim Monday compared with earlier finds such as a two-prong fork with a bone handle, a girl's dress and a tin toy teapot. "And there was a mummified rat in the wall," archaeologist Sue Ferenbach of Odessa said.

The latest finds include foundation stones, nails, porcelain and pottery.

A bit of a blue-and-white saucer was of interest to Ferenbach: "I've been assembling bits of the saucer that we found earlier and this is one of the missing pieces."

Archaeologist Michael Murphy of Philadelphia said the

decal pattern on the piece dates it as far back as the late 1700. "After the War of 1812, it really came in an abundance after we reopened our trade with England," he said.

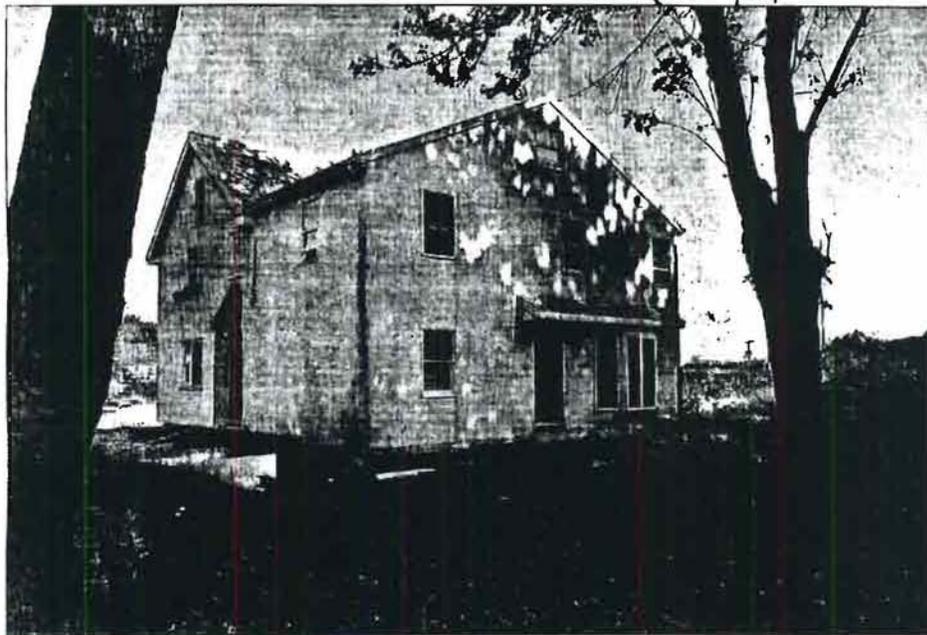
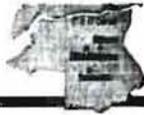
► Reach robin brown at 838-3188 (rbrown@wilmingtonjournal.com)

## HOW TO HELP

Tax-deductible donations for the Tweed's Tavern restoration may be sent to Preservation Delaware Inc., 1405 Greenhill Ave., Wilmington 19806. Checks should be made payable to the project. For more information, call 651-9617.



Tweed's Tavern rests on beams and wheels while awaiting its new site. The 200-year-old structure is being moved because of a road project.



The News Journal/ROBERT CRAIG

Tweed's Tavern is where grain farmers driving wagons bunked before their next day's ride to the port at Christians in the 1790s, researchers have learned.

## Tweed's may be state's first brewery

### Owners made stout in the tavern's cellar in 1790s, preservationists discover

By **ROBIN BROWN**  
Bear Bureau reporter

Developing restoration plans to make the historic 18th century Tweed's Tavern a showpiece now include what could be the state's first brewery.

Experts from Preservation Delaware Inc. say researchers learned the owners of Tweed's, built on Limestone Road in the 1790s, made stout in their cellar brewery. And it's part of the region's history they plan to explain to the public when the inn is restored as a local heritage center.

"We believe it's one of the oldest, if not the oldest, brewery in the state," said John H. Shields Jr. of Preservation Delaware and chairman of the Historic Review Board of New Castle County. "It may be Delaware's original micro-brewery."

In June, Tweed's, around which later owners built a more modern house, was moved a fifth-mile north of its original site at Limestone and Valley roads, to make way for

#### HOW TO HELP

Tax-deductible donations toward restoration of Tweed's Tavern may be sent to Preservation Delaware Inc., 1405 Greenhill Ave., Wilmington 19806. Checks should be marked for the Tweed's Tavern project.

#### road improvements.

The nonprofit preservation group and Hockessin Historical Society, formed to help save Tweed's from the wrecking ball, are starting grant applications and fund-raising for restoration, expected to cost about \$400,000.

The dark, rich stout made in the tavern's cellar with local grain was "a staple of their diet," Hockessin-area historian Joe Lake said.

The eventual restoration will feature no opportunities for Colonial-style guzzling of stout. But organizers such as Lake hope interpreting the brewery will help people understand the era and inn, where grain farmers driving wagons

bunked before their next day's ride to the port at Christians.

"It's the first thing you see when you come into Delaware from Pennsylvania, so we hope it will be a showpiece, a welcome center to our area and its history," said Rep. Joseph E. Miro, R-Foxfire. "Tweed's Tavern is very important and has brought our community together."

Miro and Sen. Liane M. Sorenson, R-Hockessin, championed the effort to get a state 21st Century Fund matching grant of \$69,000.

Costs already are higher than expected, however.

Shields said drainage problems complicated footer installation, which was expected to cost \$2,000 to \$3,000 but cost \$26,000.

The land was appraised at \$30,000, said Michael Hahn of the Department of Transportation.

A crowd watched the predawn move in June, when the tavern was hauled a fifth-mile north to a DelDOT lot of nearly an acre.

"You're seeing history move, right in front of your eyes," said neighbor Eileen Wellman. "It's wonderful that they're saving it."

The new lot has been ap-

praised for its sale to Preservation Delaware, Hahn said. "The whole price will be \$30,001, including a dollar for the building."

Hahn shepherded an extended effort to find a new owner for the building after the Historic Review Board of New Castle County rebuffed a demolition application.

Archaeological research at the original site yielded typical pottery, bottles and horseshoes.

The big find: foundations of an original stand-alone kitchen and blacksmith stable.

"Eventually, we'd like to rebuild those as well," Lake said.

The Colonials ate mainly beef, poultry "and anything they could drag in." Vegetables, stored in the cellar, usually were ground beets and potatoes, Lake said.

If the diet was bad, the bedding was comparable.

"They squeezed in as many bunks as possible," Lake said, standing recently in the inn's lone guest room. "Accommodations were far from comfortable."

Lake said one thing about Tweed's Tavern remains a mystery: "We still don't know why it has two front doors."

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