DAIRY FARMING IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY DELAWARE:

Archaeological Data Recovered at Weldin Site, 7-NC-B11

FINDING AND LEARNING ABOUT THE SITE

property and moved there in 1862 with his wife, Hannah, and their children. The earliest records that can be found for the site date to ere for about 80 years. When they left, the site was abandoned. 1680, although it is unknown if anyone lived there then. 1891-

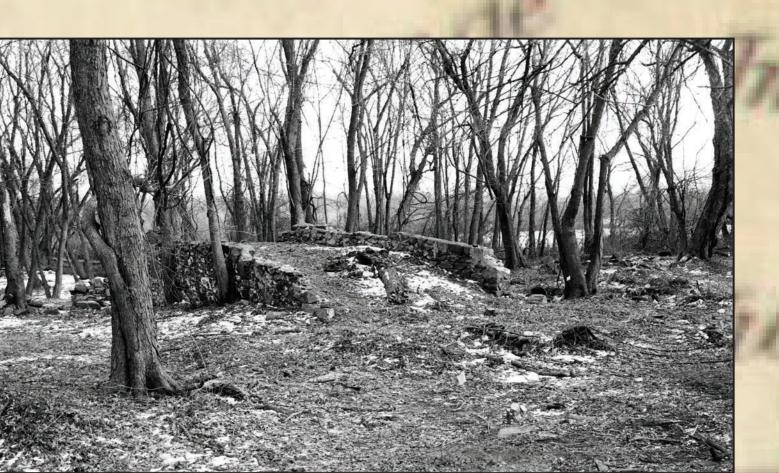


Stone corner of the main house, still standing in 2000.

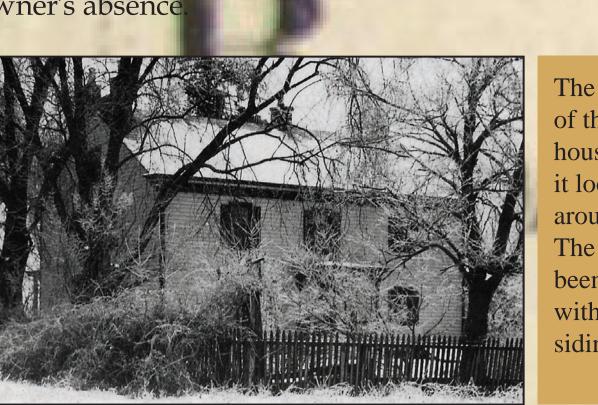
of the stone walls of the farmhouse, still partially standing. There were also foundations of a corncrib and

site also has an official designation New Castle County, "B" is the area

of the site and to conduct archaeological excavations.



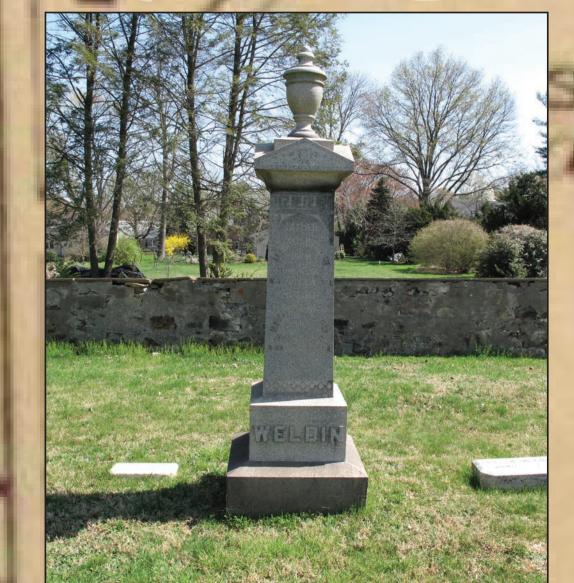
The first mention of a house on the property was 1710, so we know that people were living there by that time. At some times during its history, the site was occupied by the people who owned it, but during other times, the people who lived there were tenants who farmed the land in the



Concord Pike.

Site (7NC-B-11)

ans to install interpretative signs in the future as part of a walking trail around the foundations.



the Phase II, 170 shovel test pits and 20 test units were excavated. By the time of

excavation of the test units, a backhoe was used be seen in the undisturbed subsoil.

excavations through the process of screening This involves placing the excavated soil into a sturdy box with a screen on the bottom. The screens have 1/4 inch openings and the soil is pushed through them, leaving the artifacts behind. The artifacts are then picked out of washing, inventorying, labeling, and packing for curation at the Delaware State Museum.



The privy (outhouse pit) while it was eing excavated. Privies often contair any items that were thrown away by ne people who lived there.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1



Toys found at the site included marbles dominoes, and jacks. The toys pictured here were likely used during the late



Coins: Top row: 1800 cent, 1816 cent, 1828 cent, unreadable date cent. Bottom row: 1807 King



and lived at the site versus the families who were tenants?

"Georgian mindset" to help us organize our understanding of people's behavior during the eighteenth century. The Georgian H mindset focused on balance, order, and symmetry. People were concerned with privacy and having specific places in the home and on the farm for different activities. Newly constructed and renovated homes contained more specialized rooms so that different tasks could be conducted in different spaces, instead of doing all of the indoor work in one or two rooms. The construction of the kitchen addition on the house shows that the people livin

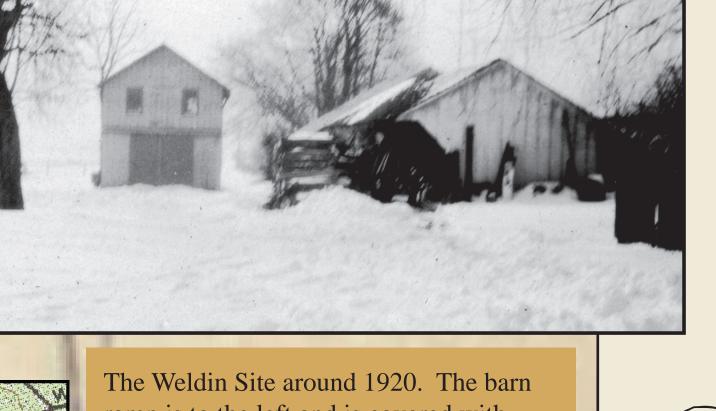
Progressive farming became popular in the late 1700s and was concerned with improving the home and farm. Progressive farmers were interested in new technology, ways to increase productivity, and efficiency. The Weldin Site was owned by John Dickinson from 1785 until his death in 1808. Dickinson was a signer of the United States Constitution. His daughter and son-in-law owned the property until 1862. Dickinson and his descendants were wealthy and made improvements to the property. They were interested in having tenants who were willing to try innovative technology, crop rotation, and fertilization. The layout of the main house reflects these ideas. The addition, which was actually bigger than the original house, was constructed during the Dickinson family ownership. The newly renovated house was larger and more comfortable to attract tenants who were hard-working and interested in progressive techniques.

were interested in separating activities.

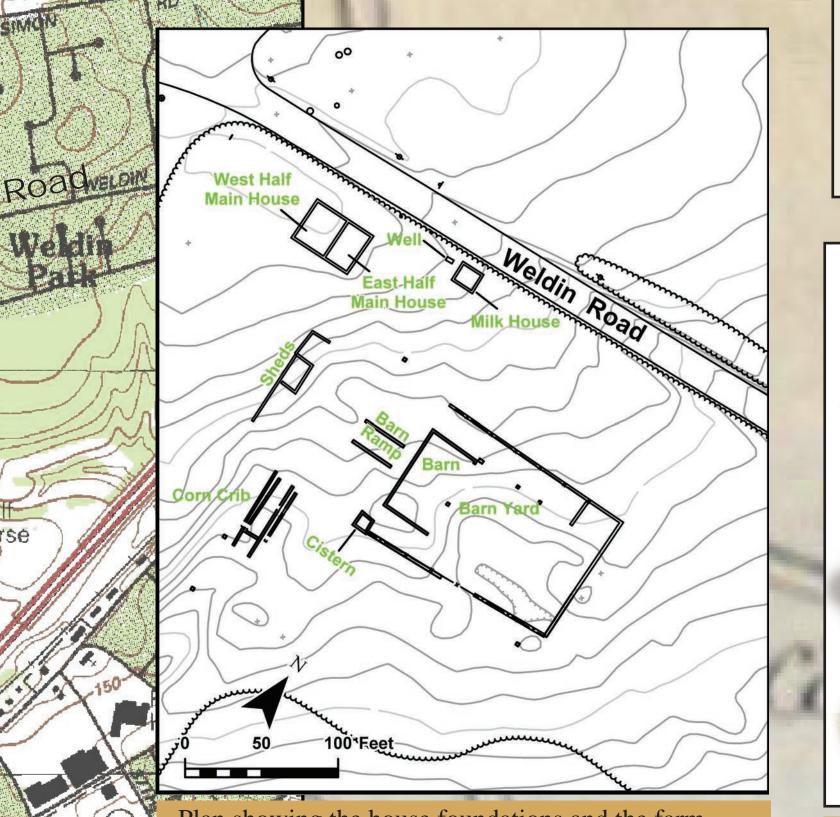
The largest influence on the archeological remains at the Weldin Site was the rise of the dairying industry. The farm functioned as a dairy farm from the mid-1800s onward. The layout of the farm needed to be rearranged so that farmers could specialize in dairying. Changes seen on farms that were converted to dairying included the construction of more and larger outbuildings, adjustments to the layout of the buildings for more efficient dairying operations, and new activity areas where tasks were undertaken. Jacob Weldin constructed almost all of the farm buildings for which there are foundations today, including the milk house, bank barn and barnyard, corncrib, and sheds. The extensive renovations he and his family conducted on the property reflect the rise of the dairy industry and how it affected use of space on farms.

owned and lived at the site versus the families who were tenants. John Bradford was a tena at the site from 1849 to 1862, while the property





in the center. To the left are sheds.



artist rendering of what the main house would have looked like around 1805. The house was facing east. The left portion was stone and the right portion was log or frame; both portions were covered with stucco.



The house was facing north. The log or frame addition had been torn down. The original stone block is the left and a stone addition is to the right. Both portions were covered with stucco.



of each of the 13 states in the new United States is inscribed around the edge.





