

### PHASE III EXCAVATIONS AT THE MOORE-TAYLOR FARM SITE (7K-C-380)

The Moore-Taylor Farm Site (7K-C-380, K-6432) was identified as a significant cultural resource during the Phase I/II testing of the site by the University of Delaware Center for Archaeological Research. The Moore-Taylor Farm Site is located in Duck Creek Hundred, Kent County, Delaware, in a cultivated field one mile north of Dover, Delaware.

Archival research indicates that the Moore-Taylor Site is the remains of an owner-occupied house and detached kitchen that was occupied from the mid-nineteenth until the mid-twentieth century. The site appears to have been continuously owner-occupied except for a brief period between 1863 and 1866 when John Husbands, who lived next door in N-2066, owned the property. The site appears as a structure on historic maps from Byles' 1859 atlas until 1937 when no structures appear at the site on an aerial photograph of the area taken by the Soil Conservation Service. The structure appears on Byles' 1859 atlas as a structure associated with "G. Moore" and on Beers' 1868 atlas as "R. Taylor".

The Moore-Taylor Site is located on a 27 acre parcel that existed as a distinct parcel from 1839 until the present. From 1931 until the present, the 27 acre parcel was associated with a larger 75 acre parcel adjacent to the east. This adjacent 75 acre parcel contains the J. Husbands House (K-2066), and the joining of these two properties in the 1930s coincides with the destruction of the Moore-Taylor house indicated by historic maps. Prior to 1839 the Moore-Taylor parcel was part of a single ca. 110 acre property owned by Philip Denny. No structure was located at the Moore-Taylor Site on Denny's property according to an 1822 Orphan's Court division of the property. Thus the history of the Moore-Taylor Site parcel as an independent property corresponds to the known occupation of the site.

A Phase I pedestrian survey and controlled surface collection of the Moore-Taylor Farm Site recovered a concentration of historic ceramics, nails, window glass, and small brick fragments. The location of this surface scatter corresponded to the location of the G. Moore and R. Taylor houses on Byles' and Beers' historic atlases.

Phase II testing identified the limits of the site and located twelve intact sub-surface historic features. Two distinct areas within the site were noted on the basis of artifact density and the presence of sub-surface features. Area I consists of the core of the site and contains all of the intact subsurface features identified at the site. The historic features identified included the remains of a well, three fenceposts, and a root cellar to a small outbuilding. Area I is also the core of the domestic area of the site and the area of highest artifact density.

Area II consists of a large area of low to medium artifact density. No features were identified in Area II. However, a high potential for intact artifact-bearing deposits, particularly refuse pits and yard scatter deposits, and the remains of ancillary outbuildings were identified. All of the artifacts and features identified by Phase II testing date to the mid-to-late 19th century which is consistent with the known occupation of the site. No diagnostic eighteenth or early nineteenth century (pre-1830) archaeological remains were identified.

The Moore-Taylor Farm Site (7K-C-380; K-6432) is significant because it will contribute data important to the understanding of the history of both the local area and the surrounding Mid-Atlantic Region. Intact structural remains and related domestic-related subsurface features were located by Phase I/II testing. Intact buried cultural land surfaces and artifact bearing deposits were also located. Investigations at the Moore-Taylor Farm Site could be used to study changes in the social and economic landscape of central Delaware in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Specifically, the Moore-Taylor Farm Site is an owner- and tenant- occupied agricultural complex and could be used to trace the critical economic changes that occurred in central Delaware in the 19th century. Lindstrom (1978), Hancock (1947), Munroe (1984), Hoffecker (1977), and Hayes (1860) note that farmers in 19th century central Delaware adapted to the loss of a prosperous 18th century foreign grain based economy and the onset of a much different and more volatile 19th century regional economy built around expanding local urban markets, particularly Philadelphia and New York.

In addition to the overarching social and economic changes brought by expanding regional markets, nineteenth and early twentieth century farmers in central Delaware took part in three related changes that could be studied through further archival and archaeological research on the Moore-Taylor Site. The three key changes are 1) transportation developments, 2) economic and agricultural change with the development of large scale fruit, truck produce, legume, and dairy industries that took advantage of changes in transportation and the expanding regional urban markets, and 3) changing agricultural labor and tenancy patterns. Elements of each of these three key changes can be seen in the Moore-Taylor Site.

Improved transportation in the first decades not only physically changed some central Delaware farms, but also ushered in a series of social and economic changes that could be addressed by further research on historic sites within the Proposed Delaware 1 Alignment. The improved transportation that increased access to regional urban markets also encouraged many to abandon farming and move to those urban areas. As agricultural labor prices rose, many marginal farmers were forced to abandon their farms.

One such marginal farm that was abandoned in this period appears to have been the Moore-Taylor farm. The Moore-Taylor

Farm Site, the remains of this farm, is located on relatively poor soil northeast of Dover. The late nineteenth and early twentieth century owner and tenant occupation of the Moore-Taylor Farm Site could be compared to tenant site occupations at other local sites. These occupations of the Moore-Taylor farm appear to be related to larger changes in the local labor market and the declining general prosperity of agriculture in the early twentieth century, and further research could yield significant data on these significant changes.

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