

HISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECTS



Philadelphia Waterworks, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The exterior of this National Historic Landmark has been restored and portions of the interior have been rehabilitated as exhibit space. As part of the restorative effort, CHRS performed archaeological monitoring and excavation in one of the

turbines and in one of the waterwheel locations. Excavations revealed that the wheel pit, including stone breast and wooden remnants of the flume, were intact beneath twentieth-century fills. Because of the importance of these features, archaeological documentation by CHRS included the taking of large-format photographs for use for future researchers and as part of an educational program being developed by the Philadelphia Water Department.

The Dunlap Village Site, Fayette County, Pennsylvania.

Archaeology was undertaken as part of a highway project within a portion of a coal-and-coke company town primarily occupied from 1907 to the early to mid-1930s. Archaeological research included informant interviews and analysis of over 200,000 artifacts. The work provided details of the lifestyles of those who worked the mine and coke works and lived in the village. A book, written for the general public, was produced for the project and is being distributed by Penn State's Coal and Coke Heritage Center.



Brice House, Annapolis, Maryland.

Archaeological investigations at the Brice House, a National Historic Landmark, were focused on reconstruction efforts for this eighteenth-century building. Archaeological deposits were able to identify various stair treatments used during the eighteenth, nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The work also identified the previous use of a portion of the building as a stable. An unexpected find was the remains of a seventeenth-century house foundation located beneath the floor of a portion of the building



Joseph Lewis Site, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. This data recovery included an evaluation of the extant and archaeologically identified structures on the farm and the preparation of an agricultural context within which the Joseph Lewis Farm was evaluated. Four periods of occupation were identified through detailed analysis of the complex stratigraphy at the site. The archaeological data indicated a strong reaffirmation of the occupants' German ethnicity during the nineteenth century and a continued emphasis on maintaining a Germanic identity in the early twentieth century.

The Allen House Site, Christiana, Delaware. This early nineteenth-century farm was originally a tenant house associated with the property of a signer of the Declaration of Independence. The site was occupied until the mid-nineteenth century, when it was abandoned. Archaeological investigations undertaken within a sanitary sewer right-of-way identified the house foundation, a cobblestone courtyard, a summer kitchen, a carpentry or blacksmith work shop, and corn crib locations. A wide variety of late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century artifacts provided additional data to analyze the site.



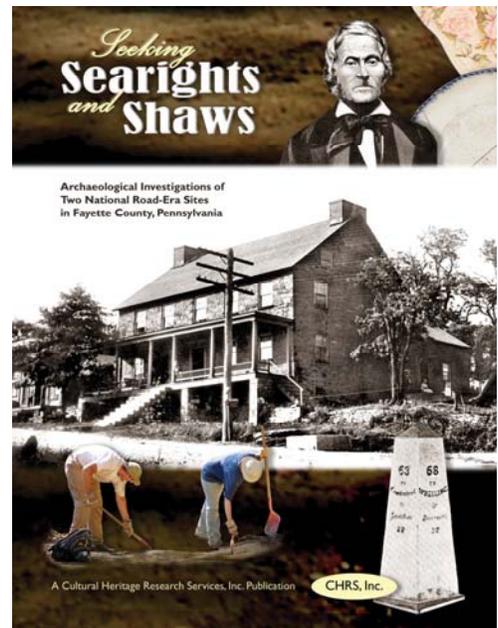
Bishop Site, Berks County, Pennsylvania. This PennDOT project identified the foundation of a tenant house and domestic deposits. The tenant house was occupied for about 20 years, between 1855 and 1875. The house was occupied by at least seven families during that period. The data indicated that the occupants retained a culture and vision that valued goods produced and exchanged within the community. Through their family and community ties, the tenants of the Bishop Site were supported and thrived, using tenancy at the site as a stepping stone to move upward.

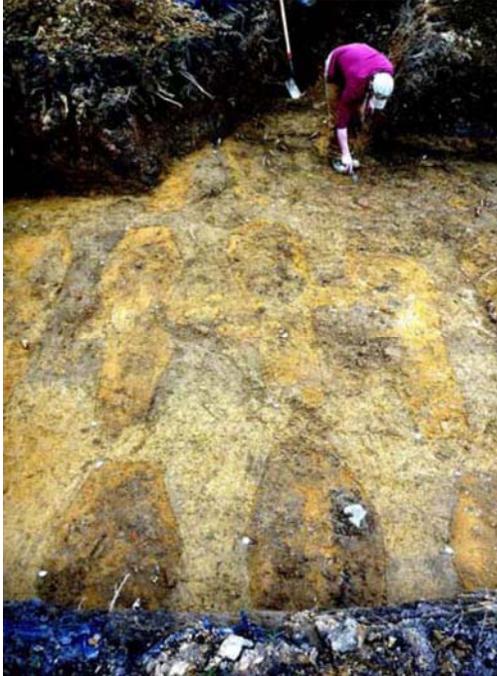
Myers/Pickel Wagon Shop, Hessdale, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. This project entailed site evaluation as part of Section 106 studies performed for a highway project. The archaeological fieldwork resulted in the recovery of 8,000 artifacts. Through the analysis of the field data and artifacts it was possible to identify industrial activity areas (such as “tiring” and horseshoeing) and social spaces (public yard areas). Unlike other shops which gave way to factory-produced wagons, the Myers/Pickel Wagon Shop continued to operate as an artisanal enterprise within a community atmosphere throughout the nineteenth century.



Thomas Stone National Historic Site, Charles County, Maryland. This National Historic Site is associated with a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Archaeological work was performed for the National Park Service. The work investigated anomalies identified by a geophysical survey. However, the results of the anomaly testing were unexpected; the features sought were not present, yet a variety of landscape features associated with the house’s garden, and remains associated with the slave cabins at the site were identified.

Searights Tavern and the Shaw Site, Fayette County, Pennsylvania. These two sites were subjected to data recovery as part of the Pennsylvania Turnpike’s Mon-Fayette Transportation Project. Searights Tavern was a nineteenth-century tavern located along the National Road in southwestern Pennsylvania. The Shaw Site was the residence of one of the retired tavern keepers located a mile from the tavern. The two sites contained architectural and domestic deposits from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Analysis of the data allowed the reconstruction of site buildings and activities as they changed at both sites through time. The connection between the two sites permitted a single public dissemination document to be prepared, linking the story of the National Road not only to the tavern but also to the people who inhabited the region.





Sister Cities Plaza, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This project entailed Phase Ia, Phase Ib and Archaeological Monitoring. The project was located in a portion of Philadelphia's Logan Square. Phase Ia investigations identified the potential for paupers' graves and prehistoric archaeological deposits. The Phase Ib archaeological investigations were limited to areas that were to be directly impacted by the project. No prehistoric deposits were encountered, but more than 40 late eighteenth-century coffin burials were found. Analysis of the data indicated that, in most cases, proposed project impacts could be limited in depth and avoid impacting the burials. Consultation with project architects and engineers permitted a shifting of proposed utility impacts to portions of the property that had no archaeological potential. Archaeological Monitoring services were provided to ensure that no burials would be disturbed during construction.

Ellwood (Lacy House), Fredericksburg-Spotsylvania National Military Park, Fredericksburg, Virginia. This early nineteenth-century building had been headquarters for both Union and Confederate forces during the Battle of the Wilderness. A geophysical survey had identified a variety of anomalies at the site. The National Park Service contracted with CHRS to test the anomalies found during the geophysical survey. In addition to prehistoric artifacts and material associated with the Civil War, the archaeological investigation at the site encountered an early nineteenth-century summer kitchen, remains of a nineteenth-century shed, and a variety of brick walkways and artifacts associated with the antebellum use of the site.



Conrad Weiser Homestead, Berks County, Pennsylvania. Studies on this property were undertaken as part of an indefinite delivery contract with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Archaeological work was performed to support restoration of the mid-eighteenth-century Weiser house and conservation of Weiser tombstones. The archaeological work identified numerous early to late nineteenth-century activity areas around the house which had survived an early twentieth-century Olmstead relandscaping, but no mid-eighteenth-century deposits associated with Conrad Weiser were encountered. Other work on the property included the use of ground penetrating radar to identify grave locations and excavation by CHRS to permit the conservation of tombstones.