

# SOME HISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECTS



## **Philadelphia Waterworks, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.**

The exterior of this National Historic Landmark has recently been restored and the interior rehabilitated. 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.

**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 “tireing” 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.



## **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.



**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 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.

**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-blacksmith workshop, and corncrib locations. A wide variety of early nineteenth-century artifacts provided additional data to analyze the site.



**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.



**Brice Belmont Mansion, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.** The Belmont Mansion is an eighteenth-century building in Philadelphia's Fairmount Park. Archaeological investigations were focused on documenting landscape features associated with the eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century occupation of the site. While the use of the site during the United States' Centennial celebrations had destroyed much of the archaeological deposits, through the use of period architectural manuals it was possible to pinpoint the approximate location of outbuildings associated with the eighteenth-century occupation. Subsequent archaeological testing confirmed the interpretation of the historic mathematics used to build a portion of the structure.

**Brice Dickinson Farmstead, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.** This property contained both eighteenth- and nineteenth-century farmhouses, an eighteenth-century smoke house and privy, and agricultural buildings associated with the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century use of the property. Archaeological investigations identified additional structural features, as well as areas of important archaeological deposits. This information was incorporated into the Master Plan for the site, to be used as a guide for future development.



**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; while the features sought were not present, a variety of landscape features associated with the house's garden, as well as remains associated with slave cabins at the site, were identified.