

An Archaeological Investigation of the R. Clarke Farm Site (36AL0587)

South Fayette Township, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

This interactive eDocument is provided as a public service by the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC), in association with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. The document was produced in 2019 by CHRS, Inc. for the PTC as mitigation for the effects of the PTC's Southern Beltway Project on the R. Clarke Farm Site (36AL0587), a historic archaeological site determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.



This document is best viewed in Full Screen Mode (press Ctrl+L [Windows] or Command+L [Mac OS] in Adobe Acrobat or Adobe Reader). Navigate by clicking on arrow buttons and [hyperlinks](#). To view a list of the document's contents and begin reading, click the arrow below.

CONTENTS

[About this Archaeological Investigation](#)

[A History of the R. Clarke Farm Site](#)

[Archaeological Excavation of the R. Clarke Farm Site](#)

[Archaeological Features on the R. Clarke Farm Site](#)

[Artifacts Unearthed on the R. Clarke Farm Site](#)

[The R. Clarke Farm Site in Context](#)

[For Further Reading and Research](#)



About this Archaeological Investigation

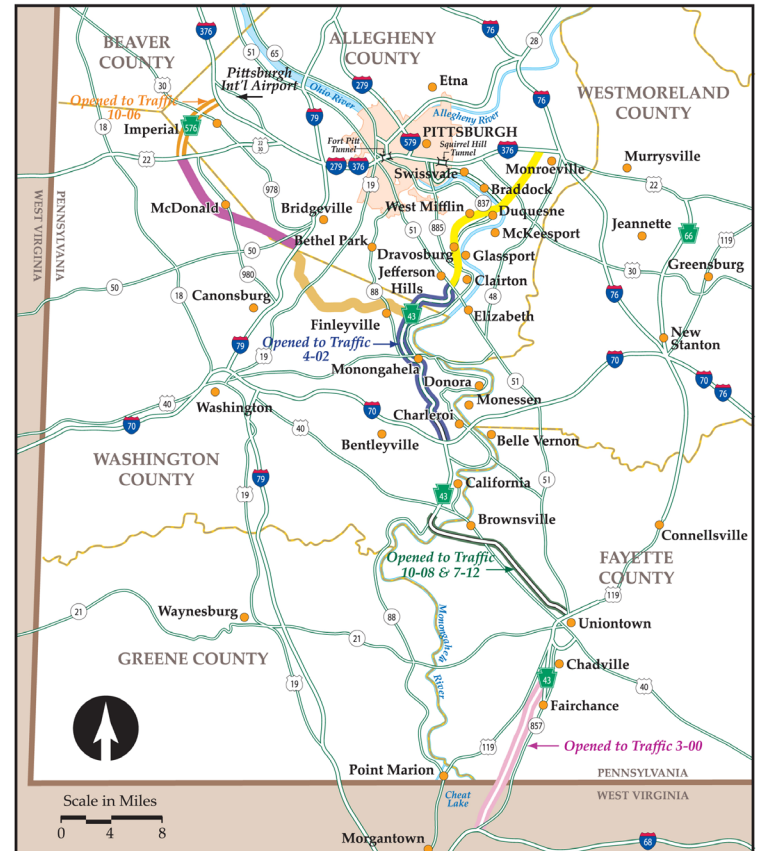
The R. Clarke Farm Site (36AL0587) was identified and investigated in the course of archaeological surveys occasioned by the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission's Southern Beltway Project. As reported in a ["Project Background"](#) posted online by the Commission, planning for the Southern Beltway and connected Mon/Fayette Expressway in southwestern Pennsylvania had begun during the 1960s in an effort "to serve the Mon Valley's world-ranked industries of steel, coal and coke production. With the economic decline of the Mon Valley in the late 1970s and 1980s, the planning efforts were refocused with the intent that better highway access and mobility would help redevelopment efforts in the area. PA Act 61 of 1985 and Act 26 of 1991 elevated the priority of developing the Southern Beltway and Mon/Fayette Expressway projects."

The Southern Beltway was designed to be a "30-mile, limited-access highway located between Interstate 376 near the Pittsburgh International Airport and the Mon/Fayette Expressway (Turnpike 43) near Finleyville, PA." As further described in a [2014 brochure](#), "the Southern Beltway—a tolled, four-lane facility—consists of three independent but interconnected projects that have different project needs, schedules and funding opportunities. The three project areas extend from Interstate 376 to U.S. Route 22; from Route 22 to Interstate 79; and from I-79 to the Mon/Fayette Expressway."

The 6-mile section extending from I-376 to U.S. Route 22—known as ["the Findlay Connector \(Toll 576\)"](#)—was designed and constructed first. The project kicked off in the spring of 1991, and was completed at a cost of \$238 million in October 2006.

MON/FAYETTE EXPRESSWAY AND SOUTHERN BELTWAY PROJECTS

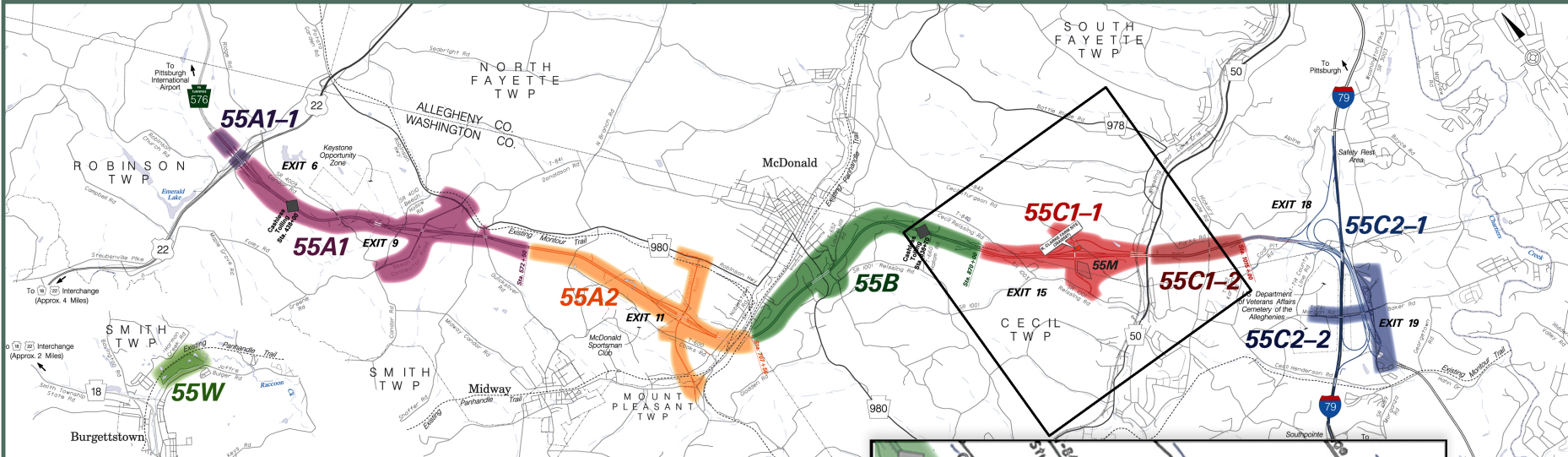
Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission
Western Regional Office
2200 North Center Avenue
New Stanton, PA 15672-9602



MON/FAYETTE EXPRESSWAY	Project Status:	SOUTHERN BELTWAY	Project Status:
I-68 to Route 43 (*ROD 9/94)	Open to Traffic	I-376 to US 22 (*ROD 5/98)	Open to Traffic
Uniontown to Brownsville (*ROD 10/00)	Open to Traffic	US 22 to I-79 (*ROD 9/08)	Final Design
I-70 to PA-51 (*ROD 5/94)	Open to Traffic	I-79 to Mon/Fayette (*ROD 5/09)	Environmental Study Complete
PA-51 to Pittsburgh (*ROD 12/04)	Final Design		

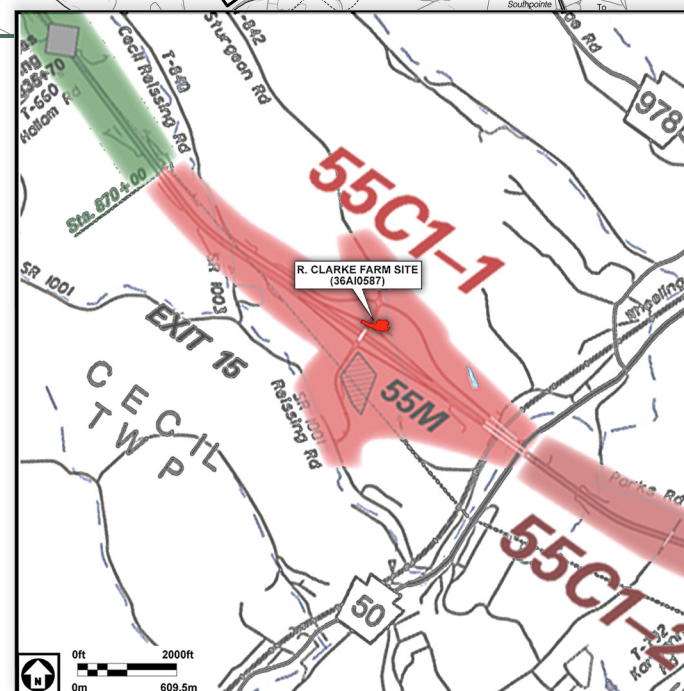
Prepared By: McCormick Taylor, Inc.
REVISED: 9-12

*Record of Decision



A map of the Southern Beltway Project's central portion (U.S. Route 22 to I-79) shows 13 miles of proposed highway winding through the Allegheny County townships of South Fayette and North Fayette, and the Washington County townships of Cecil, Mount Pleasant, and Robinson. To simplify the contracting and construction process, the alignment was divided into nine "construction sections."

While construction of the Findlay Connector was underway, plans were developed for the Southern Beltway's [13-mile central section](#), extending from the Connector's southern terminus southeastward to an interchange with I-79 and a local connection at Morganza Road near the Allegheny-Washington County border. As with all of its construction projects, the PTC [followed](#) "environmental and planning regulations established under the 1969 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act, and other federal and state laws. These regulations mandate that major transportation projects be developed in an environmentally sensitive manner that addresses input from the public and environmental resource agencies."



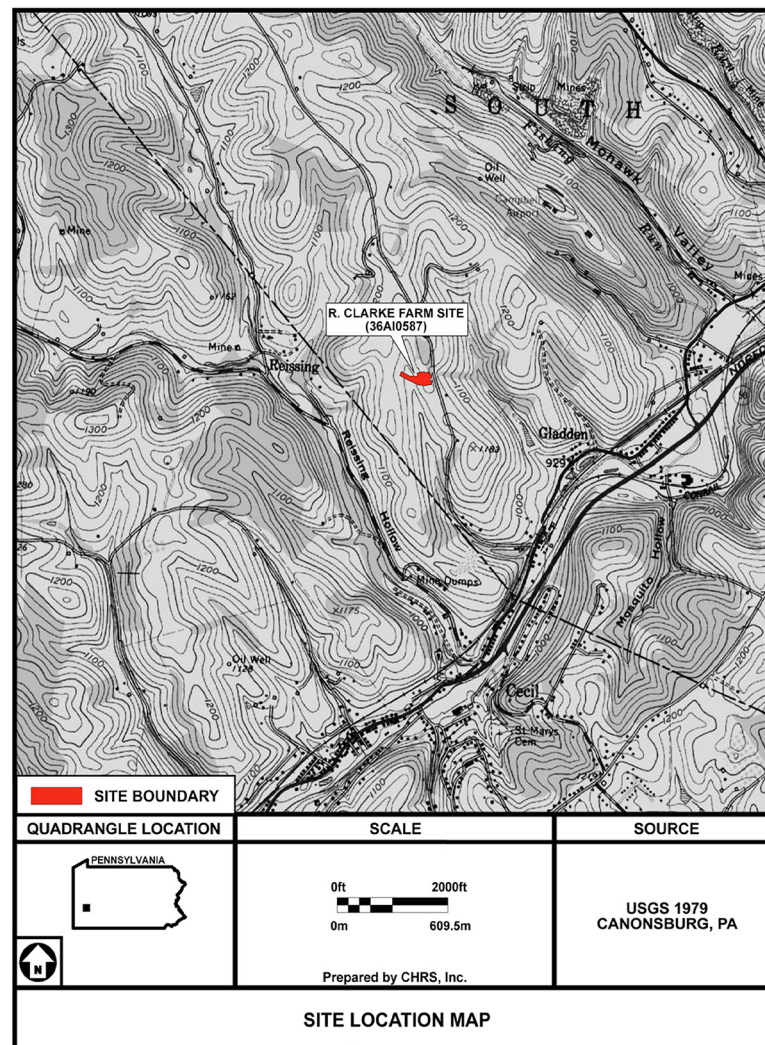
The R. Clarke Farm Site was identified in the 55C1-1 construction section, in southwestern South Fayette Township.

The National Preservation Act of 1966

Predating the [National Environmental Policy Act](#) (NEPA), the [National Preservation Act of 1966](#) is the cornerstone of the nation's cultural resource preservation policy. Amended and strengthened several times since 1966, this law established the National Register of Historic Places, the office and duties of state historic preservation officers (SHPOs), a program of grants-in-aid to enable SHPOs to conduct their work, the Certified Local Government program to identify communities that meet certain preservation standards, federal agency responsibilities concerning historic preservation activities, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. This legislation was followed in 1969 by passage of NEPA, requiring federal agencies to prepare impact statements for undertakings that might have an effect on environmental quality (cultural resources being a principal contributor to environmental quality). Yet another law with far-reaching implications—the [Archaeological and Historical Preservation Act](#)—was passed in 1974. This legislation extended the protections established by the Reservoir Salvage Act of 1960 to all federally funded, licensed, or aided undertakings where scientific, historical, or archaeological data might be impacted.

The “Section 106 Process”

The unofficial but commonly used term “[Section 106 Process](#)” derives from the section of the National Historic Preservation Act requiring federal agencies “to consider the effects on historic properties of projects they carry out, assist, fund, permit, license, or approve throughout the country. If a federal or federally-assisted project has the potential to affect historic properties, a Section 106 review will take place.” The [Advisory Council on Historic Preservation](#) (ACHP)—“an independent federal agency



The R. Clarke Farm Site is denoted on a detail of the 1979 edition of the USGS Canonsburg, PA topographic quadrangle. This graphic was included in the Pennsylvania Archaeological Site Survey (PASS) form filed for the Site in March 2018.

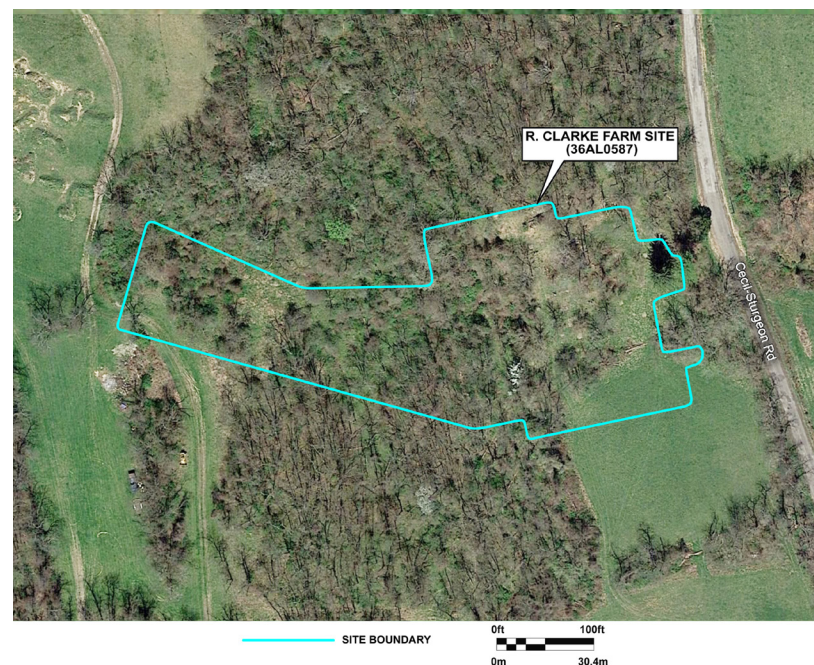
that promotes the preservation, enhancement, and productive use of our nation's historic resources, and advises the President and Congress on national historic preservation policy”—has defined the procedure for satisfying Section 106 requirements in a set of regulations titled “[Protection of Historic Properties](#).”

Pennsylvania's Legislature has enacted laws aimed at further protecting the Commonwealth's cultural resources, whether they are threatened by federally funded, licensed, or aided undertakings. The linchpin of this regulatory effort is Act No. 1978-273, amended as Act No. 1988-72, which requires that Commonwealth-funded undertakings be subjected to the same Section 106 process as federally-funded projects. Pennsylvania's SHPO—the [Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau for Historic Preservation](#)—has also published guidelines designed to promote consistency and efficiency in the treatment of cultural resources across the Commonwealth. These directives include [Guidelines for Archaeological Investigations in Pennsylvania](#), most recently revised in 2017. As stated in that document, the guidelines “are intended to ensure consistency in survey methodology, analysis, report writing, evaluations of significance, and comparability of data. To this end, a phased approach to resource identification and evaluation is outlined. The phases correspond to the required tasks of identification and inventory (Phase I), evaluation (Phase II), and mitigation through data recovery or alternative mitigation (Phase III).”

Identifying the R. Clarke Farm Site

In keeping with federal and state guidelines, the PTC engaged a cultural resource management firm—CHRS, Inc., based in Lansdale, Pennsylvania—to conduct a phased survey of archaeological resources within the project area for six proposed alternatives for

The R. Clarke Farm Site is delineated on a Google Earth aerial image recorded on April 17, 2016, a couple of months before commencement of the stripping phase of the Phase II archaeological survey.



the Southern Beltway's central section. CHRS conducted a Phase IA survey (research and field views) in 1999-2000, identifying 47 locations (loci) that appeared to contain archaeological resources (artifacts and features) at least 50 years of age (by Section 106 standards, a structure or archaeological site at least 50 years old is considered “historic”). CHRS submitted a Phase IA report to the PTC in August 2000. Over the course of the next few years, the

PTC selected an alternative for the Southern Beltway's central section, and refined that selected alignment. Fourteen of the historic archaeological loci identified through the Phase IA survey fell at least partly within the bounds of the revised project corridor, and four additional historic archaeological loci were identified following modifications to the required right-of-way. CHRS conducted a Phase IB survey (further identification and evaluation) of those 18 historic archaeological loci in two installments spanning the years 2007-2011. Through field work and more intensive research, the Phase IB survey identified four of the historic loci as archaeological sites that appeared to have enough integrity and potential historical significance to warrant further investigation. Among those four sites was the R. Clarke Farm Site. From June 2015 through January 2016, CHRS archaeologists performed a Phase II survey of each of the four sites, with the primary purpose of determining each site's eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. In a Phase II report submitted by CHRS in April 2016, the authors concluded that only the R. Clarke Farm Site and neighboring Locus 38 Farm Site (36AL0586) appeared to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, based on the likelihood that additional archaeological investigation of the sites was "likely to provide information important to our understanding of local and regional history." A Phase III survey (mitigation through data recovery) was warranted for both sites "if disturbance of this area cannot be avoided."

As explained in a subsequent CHRS report, the Southern Beltway Project's "construction timeline required that Phase III fieldwork be fast-tracked, and, anticipating concurrence from the SHPO [PHMC], fieldwork at the scope of Phase III Data Recovery was initiated [at the R. Clarke Farm Site and the Locus 38 Farm Site] in early June 2016. However, the SHPO concurrence letter, received after Phase III fieldwork had begun, required that additional Phase II fieldwork be performed before the SHPO was able

to render a decision on the National Register eligibility of the R. Clarke Farm Site and the Locus 38 Farm Site. The current [*Phase II Addendum* report, completed in April 2018] presents the combined results of the initial and extended Phase II archaeological investigations of [the two sites]."

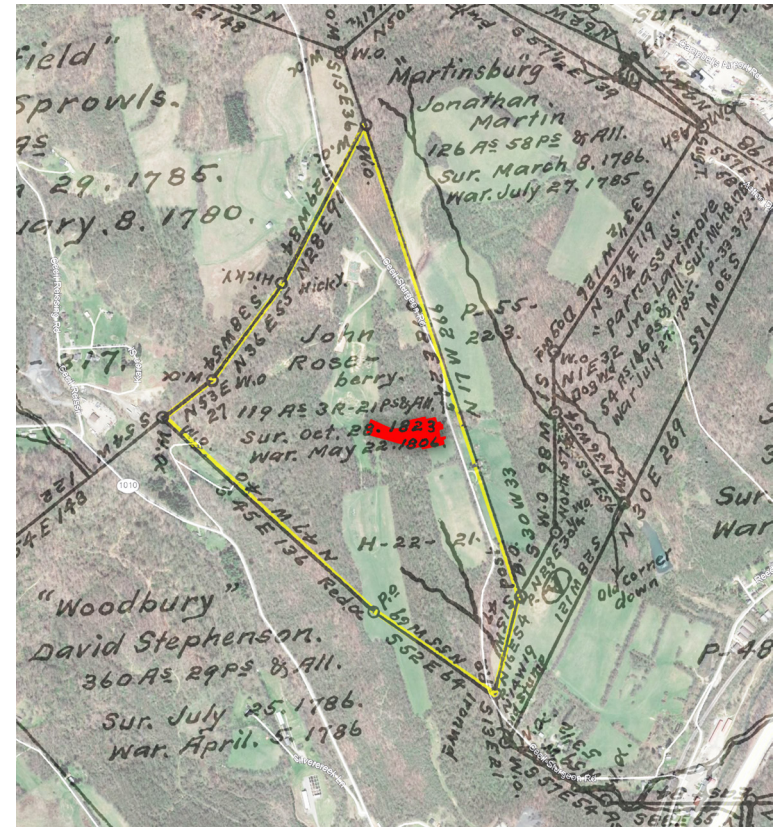
A final recommendation in the *Phase II Addendum* report was that the results of the investigations of the R. Clarke Farm Site and the Locus 38 Farm Site be made available to the public, as mitigation for the anticipated impacts of the PTC's Southern Beltway Project on the two sites. The PTC and PHMC agreed with this approach, and this eDocument was prepared accordingly. A separate eDocument has been prepared for the Locus 38 Farm Site.

The following chapters present condensed versions of the various sections of the *Phase II Addendum* report pertaining to the R. Clarke Farm Site, beginning with the Site's recorded history.

A History of the R. Clarke Farm Site

The R. Clarke Farm Site (36AL0587) is situated on the west side of Cecil-Sturgeon Road, 0.67 miles northwest of the road's intersection with Millers Run Road in rural South Fayette Township, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. The boundary dividing South Fayette Township from Washington County's Cecil Township lies approximately 1,000 feet to the southwest. The R. Clarke Farm Site was occupied by a farmstead from the early nineteenth century through the mid-1970s. For over a century beginning around 1840 the farmstead was inhabited by Pennsylvania native Rudolph Clark and, later, his descendants. (During an early phase of map research for the Southern Beltway Transportation Project, the owner of the Rudolph Clark farm was misidentified as "R. Clarke," and the latter name was applied to the associated archaeological site [36AL0587] when it was recorded in the Pennsylvania Archaeological Site Survey database.)

The first structures on the farmstead were likely constructed not by Rudolph Clark but by prior owner John Roseberry, who applied in the spring of 1806 for a warrant of survey for a 119.88-acre tract in what was then Fayette Township, along Allegheny County's southwestern edge. Roseberry had been born about 36 years earlier in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, to Alexander Roseberry (1735-1803) and Margaret McConnell (1737-1805). He and elder brother Isaac moved westward to Washington County's Cecil Township in the late 1780s, and there John married Sarah Miller, probably before the turn of the nineteenth century. If that union produced any children, none survived long enough to be entered into the public record. John and Sarah were living by themselves in Cecil Township when the 1800 federal census was conducted, and they were probably residing in the same town-



The bounds of the 119.88-acre tract for which John Roseberry was granted a warrant of survey on May 22, 1806 are highlighted in yellow on a connected warrant map of South Fayette Township. The map is superimposed for visual reference on a 2016 Google Earth aerial image. The R. Clarke Farm Site is denoted in red.

ship—with the family of John’s brother Isaac—when the next federal census was conducted in 1810.

The Roseberry brothers’ father Alexander and mother Margaret died in Cumberland County in 1803 and 1805, respectively, which may have provided an impetus for John to apply for a warrant of survey in Fayette Township early in 1806. A warrant was issued on May 22 of that year, but nearly two decades would pass before an associated survey was returned. During the interim, John Roseberry either built the first structures on his Fayette Township farmstead, or he improved facilities that had been erected prior to his 1806 warrant application. Sometime before 1817, Roseberry assumed proprietorship of the former Armstrong’s Mill, along Millers Run at future Cecil village, approximately one mile southeast of the R. Clarke Farm Site. John and his wife Sarah—approximately 50 and 46 years of age, respectively—were enumerated for the first time in Fayette Township on census schedules recorded in 1820. The only other member of their household was an unidentified “free white male” in the 10-15 age category.

A survey of John Roseberry’s 119.88-acre Fayette Township tract was finally completed on October 28, 1823, and a patent for the tract was granted the following March 20. The resulting survey “draft” depicted the tract’s arrow-straight eastern boundary hewing closely to the present alignment of Cecil-Sturgeon Road for a distance of nearly 4,000 feet. The tract’s southwestern boundary roughly paralleled the Allegheny-Washington border over a distance of 3,448.5 feet. An unlabeled waterway was depicted on the map flowing southward through the southern half of the tract, emanating from a source in the vicinity of the R. Clarke Farm Site. John Roseberry or a predecessor had presumably chosen to establish a farmstead near that water source. The original farmhouse, possibly constructed prior to Roseberry’s 1806 warrant application, stood either within or immediately adjacent to



A draft of a Tract of land Situate in Fayette township, Allegheny County on the waters of Millers Run Containing one hundred & nineteen acres three Rods and twenty one Perches & Allowance of Six Per Cent for Roads &c. Surveyed the 28th of October 1823 in pursuance of a Warrant granted to John Roseberry dated the 22^d of May 1806

A “draft” of the 119.88-acre tract surveyed for John Roseberry on October 28, 1823 was copied onto page 102 of Pennsylvania Survey Book C-189. The map is superimposed for visual reference on a section of the 1906 Carnegie, PA USGS topographic quadrangle.

the R. Clarke Farm Site, near the location occupied from at least 1876 through the early 1970s by a two-story frame farmhouse (the early nineteenth-century dwelling and its larger mid-nineteenth-century successor would be denoted side-by-side on a map of South Fayette Township published in 1876).

John and Sarah Roseberry's residence on the western edge of Fayette Township was reflected on census schedules compiled in 1830. The Roseberrys shared their home with four unidentified persons: a man in his 20s, a female in her 30s, an adolescent girl, and a boy in the 5-9 age range. The boy may have been the farm's future owner, Rudolph Clark, who turned 7 in 1830. Based on their ages, the other unidentified members of the Roseberry household in 1830 may have been Rudolph's parents and a sister, but records relating to Rudolph's parentage and further familial relations have not been located, and his latter-day descendants are uncertain about his origins. Rudolph would tell census enumerators in 1850, 1860, and 1870 that he had been born in Pennsylvania. To the 1870 enumerator he further asserted that his parents were not "foreign born." On a mortality schedule recorded in

1880, he and both parents were described as Pennsylvania natives. There is, nevertheless, a persistent notion among his descendants that Rudolph's immediate ancestors "were Scots-Irish and came from Ireland."

Rudolph Clark was almost certainly living with the Roseberrys on their Fayette Township farm by 1840. The household of John Roseberry (about 70 years of age) and wife Sarah (about 66) was recorded on census schedules compiled in that year as including a boy of Rudolph's approximate age (17), as well as an adolescent girl and a man in his 40s. Moreover, when John Roseberry composed his final will and testament the following year (March 13, 1841), he bequeathed the following "to Rudolph Clark":

... the remainder of my old place, also one half of that Lot of Land I purchased of Biggart subject to the payment of eight hundred Dollars to [neighbor Alexander] Fitzpatrick's children when they come to age of twenty one, and if the said Rudolph is not prepared at that time it is my will he shall have two years indulgence on each

In the name of God Amen, I John Roseberry of Fayette Township Allegheny County being weaker in body but of sound mind Memory and judgement, Blessed be almighty god for the same, but considering the uncertainty of this transitory life to make ordain and publish this my last will and testament in manner and form following Viz first of all I Commit my immortal Soul into the hands of God who gave it and my body to the earth to be buried in Christian and decent like manner, and after the payment of all my just debts and funeral expenses I dispose of my worldly property as follows— First I Bequeath to my beloved wife Sarah all my household property to use and dispose of at her own pleasure, also eight hundred Dollars with the yearly incomes of the whole of my real estate (with the exception of the Mill pro-

The opening (left) and closing sections (right) of John Roseberry's three-page will, composed on March 13, 1841.

of this my Last will and testament hereby revoking all other wills legacies and Bequeathments by me heretofore made Declaring this and no other to be my Last will and testament in testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this thirteenth Day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty one Signed sealed published and declared as his last will and testament at his request have hereunto subscribed as witnesses

John Roseberry

of the bequeathments to said Fitzpatrick's children, this eight hundred Dollars is part of the before mentioned bequeathments to said children; if any of the said children should be removed by Death before receiving the amount bequeathed to them, said Rudolph is exempted from payment of said bequeathment; but should the said Rudolph not behave himself in a becoming manner to my beloved wife Sarah he forfeits his claim to said estate.

It may be inferred from this will that, by the spring of 1841, Rudolph Clark had become the principal resident laborer on the Roseberry farm, serving as a surrogate grandson and farm manager for aging and heir-less John and Sarah Roseberry. At approximately 18 years of age, Rudolph was not old enough to take legal possession of real estate; that could not happen until he turned 21 in 1844. John Roseberry's will also reflected substantial wealth. His individual monetary bequests—mostly to children of neighboring farmer Alexander Fitzpatrick, “made in consequences of [Fitzpatrick's] services to me in my life time”—amounted to \$1,100. To his “beloved wife Sarah,” John Roseberry bequeathed “all my household property to use and dispose of at her own pleasure, also eight hundred Dollars with the yearly incomes of the whole of my real estate with the exception of the Mill property for her use during her natural Life, also whatever sheep I possess with two cows and one horse. If my wife should marry, her husband shall have no control over the property which I have willed to her for maintenance.”

John Roseberry died within the next two years, a period that also witnessed the 1842 division of Fayette Township into North and South Fayette Townships. The date of Roseberry's death is not recorded, but it occurred before June 19, 1843, when neighboring farmers Charles Cavanaugh and Nathaniel Sproul appeared before Allegheny County's Register for the Probate of Wills and

testified that they had witnessed Roseberry compose his will. Ten days later, letters testamentary were granted to another neighbor, William Dickson, who with Archibald Cook had been appointed by Roseberry to execute his will. Dickson was ordered to prepare an inventory of Roseberry's “goods and chattels, rights and credits” before a month was out. The Register recorded (probated) the will on June 30, 1843. The inventory was compiled eight days later not by Dickson but by his neighbors James McPeak and Joseph Gladden. The latter found evidence of 21 notes due John Roseberry for various amounts totaling just over \$3,000 (approximately \$100,000 in 2019 dollars, calculated from the Consumer Price Index). Roseberry's “goods and chattels” comprised the following, which included items “left to widow [Sarah] by will” (entries in original spelling):

- one wagon
- one lot of old gear
- one harrow and gun
- one lot of old chains
- Butt and breast chains
- one windmill
- one saddle
- one horse and two cows
- 109 sheep at \$1.12½ per head
- two bedsteads, one bed and bedding
- one Bedstead and bedding
- one Bedstead and bedding [*sic*]
- one Bedstead and bedding [*sic*]
- Cupboard and furniture
- Kitchen cupboard and furniture
- Books and book Case
- Old Bureo and Desk
- Clock and case
- Table stand and looking glass

Carpet
one table and brass kittle
Twelve Chairs
one mettal Kittle
Cooking utentials

The value of John Roseberry's "goods and chattels, rights and credits" in July 1843 amounted to \$3,496.23½. That was almost as much in cash and personal property as the Roseberry farm itself was worth. William Dickson and Archibald Cook needed three years to track down all of Roseberry's creditees, collect on outstanding notes, and settle the estate. Dickson was finally able to report to an Orphans' Court on March 23, 1846 that he had dealt out all of Roseberry's assets, leaving a cash balance of \$27.27.

Though John Roseberry had bequeathed his home farm ("my old place") to Rudolph Clark by his 1841 will, 76-year-old widow Sarah Roseberry was recorded as the farm's owner and head-of-household on census schedules compiled in August 1850 (her real estate was valued at \$4,550, virtually the same value recorded on agricultural schedules for the farm itself). No real estate was attributed to the household's only male—26-year-old bachelor Rudolph Clark—nor to its other member, 40-year-old white Pennsylvanian Anna Smith (no additional biographical details for Smith have been discovered). From the order of households enumerated in the vicinity, it may be inferred that there was only one occupied dwelling on the Roseberry farmstead. It is also apparent that the Roseberry farm was part of an area along the Allegheny-Washington County border almost entirely devoted to agriculture. Indeed, all of the households enumerated along the road extending northwestward from Cecil village to Sturgeon village were occupied by farming families, most of whom worked farms exceeding 140 acres. Similar conditions prevailed across South Fayette Township, which in 1850 ranked

second among Allegheny County townships in its number of 140+-acre farms.

Under Rudolph Clark's management, the Roseberry farm's 120 improved acres had been moderately productive during the year ending on June 1, 1850, yielding crops of wheat (200 bushels), Indian corn (200 bushels), oats (400 bushels), Irish potatoes (25 bushels), and hay (8 tons). Using milk from 3 dairy cows, the farm had generated 200 pounds of butter, and its flock of 190 sheep (slightly below the South Fayette Township per-farm average) had produced 100 pounds of wool. Rudolph and 3 horses provided most of the muscle-power, with only \$75 worth of farm implements to ease or increase the efficiency of their efforts. Though slightly understocked with animals and somewhat less productive than the average South Fayette Township farm, the Roseberry plantation fit the general profile of a standard general farm within the ["Southwestern Pennsylvania Diversified Agriculture and Sheep Raising Region"](#) of this era, as characterized by the Pennsylvania Agricultural History Project. On typical farms during the period 1830-1850, "a highly varied mix of cultivated crops (corn, wheat, oats, rye, buckwheat, hay), along with an ever expanding proportion of pasture land, supported an emerging system of stock raising and droving . . . The 1850 census showed that across the region, average sheep numbers significantly exceeded statewide averages. Extra sheep accounted for the almost all the difference between county and state averages. . . . The town of Washington [12 miles south of the Roseberry farm] was a principal wool-trading entrepot."

On November 19, 1852, "weak in body" Sarah Roseberry composed her final will and testament, which was witnessed by neighbors David McConnell and Charles Cavanaugh. She devoted the first part of the will to addressing the interests of her long-time housemate and farm manager Rudolph Clark, as follows:

Purchaser		\$	cts.
Rudolph Clark	two turkey dishes		12½
do [ditto]	one sett small plates		10
do	eight plates, one c[en]t per plate		8
do	two large plates, 6 ct. per plate		12
do	one lott of [illeg.] tea and coffee		12½
do	four plates Bowl and saucers		6¼
do	two sett knives and forks		50
do	Nine Glass tumblers 5 cts		45
do	two Small Bowls at 5 cts		10
do	one sugar Bowl Glass Plates		10
do	½ doz. tea spoons		25
do	3 Stock Glasses Molasses [illeg.]	[blank]	
do	one [illeg.] + salt sellars		50
Alexander Kirkpatrick, note	Henrys Commentary one Bible	11	25
Rudolph Clark	Eskin's Sermons		00
do	two Volumes Foxes[?] Works	1	00
do	Marrow of Modern Divinity		50
do	Bostons Fourfold State	1	00
do	Proudfits Sermons two others	1	50
do	Fountain of Life		50
do	Romans on faith fact and fancy		50
do	Clarks Travels		75
do	five Volumes in Vanity	1	00
do	Family Bible Harveys med[itations]	1	00
do	Three Volumes in Vanity		50
do	One Sett Yellow Chairs		75
do	One Sett Black chairs 7 pieces		87
do	One Table and Stand	1	00
Rudolph Clark	one Looking Glass	1	00
do	one pr. Brass candlesticks		50
do	one Abasters[?] and two Pictures		50
do	one Fender and Poker	1	50
do	one lott Carpet	2	00
Mrs. Fitzpatrick	one Beadsted Bed + Beding	3	00
Rudolph Clark	one Bureau		25
Mrs. Fitzpatrick	one Cott	3	00
Rudolph Clark	one Dining table	2	00
do	one Dough Trey	1	00
Mrs. Fitzpatrick	one Kitchen table		25
Rudolph Clark	one Lott tin Ware		25
do	one lott tins and pans	1	00
do	eight pieces tin ware	1	00
do	5 pieces tin ware	1	00
do	Irons tongs and shovel		75
do	one Wire Sive		25
do	one large Copper Kettle	2	00
do	one iron Kettle	1	00
do	one Tub		20
do	One beadstead		50
Mrs. Fitzpatrick	One beadstead		50
Rudolph Clark	one Churn		50

The “Whole amount of [this] Sale” came to \$49.89¼, with Rudolph Clark’s charges amounting to a few cents over \$32.

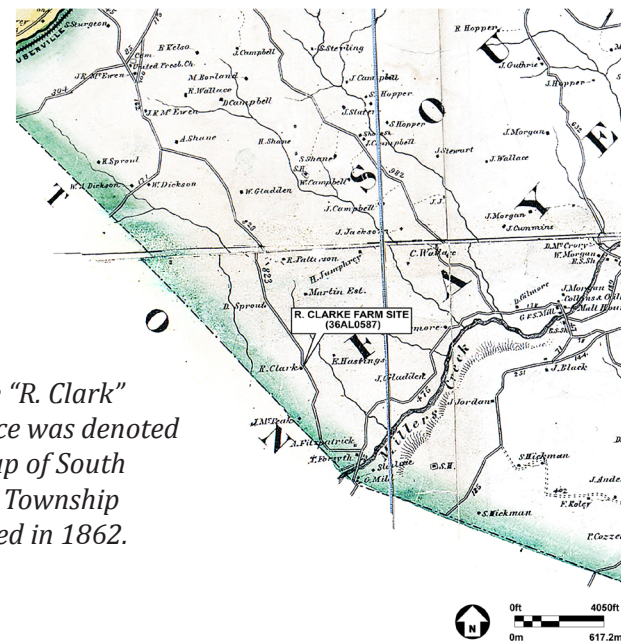
Exactly one month after the sale (February 28, 1853), Sarah Roseberry’s will was probated. It would take William Dickson another two years to submit a final account of her estate. During the interim, Rudolph Clark’s sole ownership of the Roseberry farm was confirmed, and Rudolph filled the household vacancy left by his departed landlord by marrying Margaret Ewing in a ceremony at the Bethel Presbyterian Church, 8 miles to the east. Margaret was several years older than her new husband, having been born in 1820 to John P. Ewing (1786-1829) and Elizabeth Walker (1794-1861) in Robinson Township, western Allegheny County. Following John Ewing’s death when Margaret was 9 years old, mother Elizabeth had married Robinson Township surveyor Stephen Woods.

Only one child resulted from the marriage of Rudolph and Margaret Clark: James Ewing Clark, born on December 10, 1854. As the sole male heir in a farming family, James appeared destined to learn the ropes from his father, assume greater responsibilities as he matured, and eventually take over management and ownership of the property. And that is indeed how James’ life unfolded, as reflected on population and agricultural census schedules recorded in 1860, 1870, and 1880. No resident farm laborers other than Rudolph and son James were enumerated on those schedules. By equipping themselves with new and/or improved farming implements, the Clarks were able to expand the size, and increase the productivity, of their farm without the addition of hired help (the recorded value of their “farming implements and machinery” rose from \$75 in 1850 to \$150 in 1860, then to \$400 in 1870). In size, the farm increased from 119 improved acres in 1860 (unimproved acres were not recorded); to 150 improved and 90 unimproved acres in 1870; to 160 improved acres, 124 acres of “permanent meadow, permanent pastures, orchards and vineyards,” and 20 acres of woodland in 1880. The means by which Rudolph Clark expanded his farm during the 1860s and ‘70s have not been ascertained. The earliest recorded deed to the farm, dated May 7, 1924, does not recite prior conveyances. Beyond referencing “an Agreement made February 12, 1864, between Rudolph Clark and [neighboring farmer] James McPeak, for the straightening of their common lines,” the deed describes the Clark farm (then containing 183.74 acres) as one of several “tracts or pieces of land

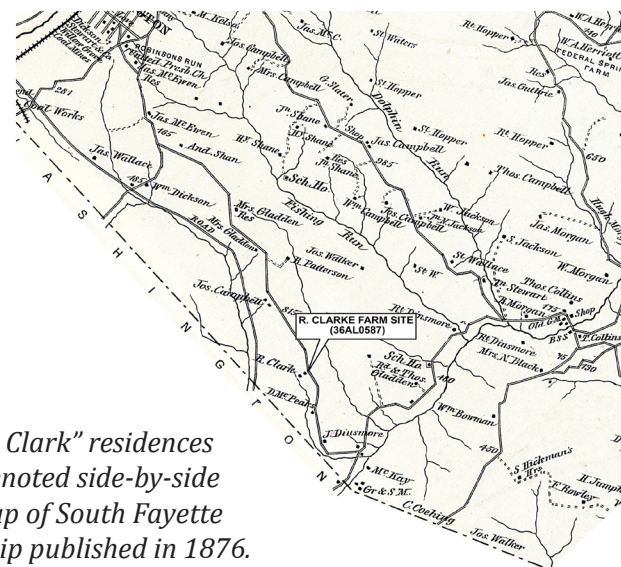
which James E. Clark was seized in his demesne as of fee in his lifetime.” Data recorded in the 1880 agricultural census, together with a farm description included in Rudolph Clark’s will (details to follow), suggest that the Clark farm proper comprised 160 improved acres and a 20-acre woodlot. Rudolph utilized 124 additional acres somewhere in the vicinity as pasture land.

As Rudolph Clark expanded his farm, the property’s “cash value” more than doubled, from \$6,500 in 1860 to \$14,400 in 1880. While the numbers of horses, dairy cattle, and swine remained relatively constant throughout that period (hovering in the 4-5 range), the number of sheep decreased from 150 in 1860, to 130 in 1870, to approximately 100 in 1880 (the “Sheep on hand” column on 1880 schedules was left blank by the enumerator for all South Fayette Township farms; the presence of approximately 100 sheep on the Clark farm is inferred from entries for “100 fleeces clipped,” yielding 880 pounds of wool). Beyond sheep-rearing and wool production, the Clarks continued to raise crops of Indian corn, wheat, oats, Irish potatoes, and hay, as did most of their neighbors during southwestern Pennsylvania’s “Civil War Era Peak Period, 1850-c. 1890,” as [characterized by the Pennsylvania Agricultural History Project](#).

Maps of South Fayette Township published in 1862 and 1876 suggest that between those years Rudolph Clark built a larger and more modern house for his family beside the property’s original dwelling. While only one residence was denoted on or near the R. Clarke Farm Site on the 1862 map, two dwellings were denoted side-by-side in that vicinity on the 1876 map. The buildings were attributed on both maps to “R[udolph] Clark.” Rudolph certainly had the wherewithal to construct a modern residence during the post-Civil War period, while also expanding his farm. An accounting of his assets in the spring of 1880 would find him with cash on hand, judgment notes, promissory notes, savings bank accounts,



A single “R. Clark” residence was denoted on a map of South Fayette Township published in 1862.



Two “R. Clark” residences were denoted side-by-side on a map of South Fayette Township published in 1876.

and bank certificates amounting to \$7,260.88, at a time when the average South Fayette Township farm, containing 132 acres, could be purchased for a little more than \$8,000.

On December 26, 1878—perhaps already experiencing symptoms of the cancer that would end his life—55-year-old Rudolph Clark composed what proved to be his “last will and testament.” It was a brief document, with only three provisions:

First: I bequeath to my wife Margaret Clark the farm on which I now reside situated in [South Fayette] township[, Allegheny] county, bounded on the north by the farms of Joseph Campbell and the heirs of Nevin Barclay, on the south and west by the farm of David McPeak, & on the east by the farm of heirs of Isaac McBride, said farm containing one hundred and eighty acres more or less.

Second: I bequeath to my son James Ewing Clark (after the payment of all my just debts), all my personal property consisting of money, notes, and stock on my farm.

Third: I appoint my wife Margaret Clark and my son James Ewing Clark executors of this my last will and testament.

Rudolph lived only 15 months longer. Cancer ended his life after 57 years on March 16, 1880. Ten days later, neighboring farmers Ebenezer Hastings and Hugh Wallace appeared before the Allegheny County Register of Wills to affirm that they had witnessed Rudolph compose his will, and that he was of sound mind when he did so. They also brought word that Rudolph’s widow Margaret had renounced her appointment as one of two executors of her late husband’s will. The Register thus granted letters testamentary to James Ewing Clark alone, and completed the day by admitting Rudolph’s will to probate.

At James E. Clark’s direction, Ebenezer Hastings and Thomas D. Gladden visited the Clark farm the following week to compile an “Inventory and Appraisement of the goods and chattels, rights and credits, which were of Rudolph Clark, late of South Fayette Township.” As noted above, Hastings and Gladden found Rudolph’s cash on hand, judgment notes, promissory notes, savings bank accounts, and bank certificates amounting to \$7,260.88. The remainder of Rudolph’s personal assets (excluding real estate) were itemized as follows:

Furniture in Dining Room	\$20.00
Furniture in Parlor	75.00
Chamber Furniture and Bedding	50.00
Hall Carpet	5.00
Library	25.00
Kitchen Furniture and utensils	75.00
4 Horses	270.00
4 Cows	160.00
1 Steer	25.00
55 Ewes @ \$5.00	275.00
55 Wethers @ \$5.00	275.00
40 lambs @ \$3.50	140.00
1 Lot of Hay	48.00
1 Lot of Hay	10.00
13 Acres Wheat in the ground @ \$5.00	65.00
6 Pigs @ \$5.00	30.00
200 Bus. Corn @ 50 cents	100.00
250 Bus. Oats @ 40 cents	100.00
175 Bus. Wheat @ \$1.25	218.75
Corn Sheller	5.00
Spring Wagon	20.00
3 Plows @ \$5.00	15.00
1 Lot Hay	32.00
Sled and Harrows	3.00

Harness	15.00
Cider Mill	5.00
Wagon	25.00
Hay Rake	10.00
Mower + Reaper	50.00
Wagon Ladders	5.00
1 Lot Hay	48.00
Sundries	50.00

Based on this inventory and appraisal—submitted to a notary public on April 1, 1880, and filed with the Allegheny County Register of Wills four days later—the late Rudolph Clark’s personal estate was reckoned to be worth \$9,510.63. As noted above, the value of the Clark farm in the summer of 1880 (including equipment and livestock) was estimated to be \$14,400. By comparison, other farms along the western edge of South Fayette Township were valued in 1880 as follows:

Samuel Dickson, fixed rental, 25 acres, \$2,000
 William Patterson, owner, 281 acres, \$12,525
 William Griffin, owner, 185 acres, \$9,375
 William M. Dinsmore, owner, 295 acres, \$21,700
 William M. Burkett, fixed rental, 84 acres, \$3,000
 John Patterson, owner, 127 acres, \$4,500
 Robert Murphy, owner, 52 acres, \$2,500
 Ebenezer Hastings, owner, 309 acres, \$10,800
 David McPeak, owner, 127 acres, \$7,980
 James R. Dinsmore, owner, 268 acres, \$12,475
 Hugh Wallace, rents for shares, 140 acres, \$500
 Charles H. Vance, fixed rental, 326 acres, \$17,200
 Andrew Shane, owner, 170 acres, \$10,000
 Joseph Walker, fixed rental, 210 acres, \$11,100
 David Tweed, owner, 7 acres, \$855
 James Kirk, fixed rental, 165 acres, 4,000

Henry Shane, owner, 104 acres, \$6,000
 James Campbell, owner, 20 acres, \$1,000.

Judging from the data, the farm left to the care of 59-year old widow Margaret Clark and her 25-year-old bachelor son James in the summer of 1880 ranked among the largest and most prosperous in the intensively agricultural western section of South Fayette Township. The Clarks appeared even more well-to-do when compared with the region’s non-farmers, especially those among the recent waves of European immigrants attracted to burgeoning bituminous mining and coke-making operations along Robinsons Run (defining South Fayette Township’s northwestern border) and Chartiers Creek (southeastern border). Supported by newly opened railroads snaking through the region’s creek valleys, those industries were largely responsible for a 50% surge in the populations of South Fayette Township and its municipal neighbors in southwestern Allegheny County during the first 15 years following the Civil War, as reflected in census enumerations. While the physical manifestations of that growth were most conspicuous in and around mining centers and towns, farmers in surrounding rural sections enjoyed increased local demand for their products, and, in some cases, profits from the sale or lease of mineral and gas rights.

James Clark remained a bachelor until May 20, 1884, when he married 21-year-old Mary Ann McConnell, a daughter of Collier Township farmer Joseph McConnell and his late wife Mary Ann Gladden. The wedding ceremony was held at the Woodville United Presbyterian Church outside Carnegie Borough, 6 miles northeast of the Clark farm. James and Mary Ann Clark would own and occupy the Clark farm together through the next 40 years. James’ widowed mother Margaret shared the farmhouse with her son and daughter-in-law until her death on September 30, 1887. By that date, Mary Ann had given birth to two sons: William Irvin

Clark (born on March 19, 1885); and James Rudolph Clark (December 8, 1886). After Margaret Clark's death, four more children joined James and Mary Ann's family: Isabella Clark (born in February 1888); Mary Margaret (May 1891); Nathan Cook (October 15, 1894); and Scott Walker (January 29, 1898). The family thus numbered eight when a census enumerator visited the Clark farm on June 13, 1900. Filling out the household was 40-year-old widower and farm laborer Frank Kinny, a Pennsylvania native.

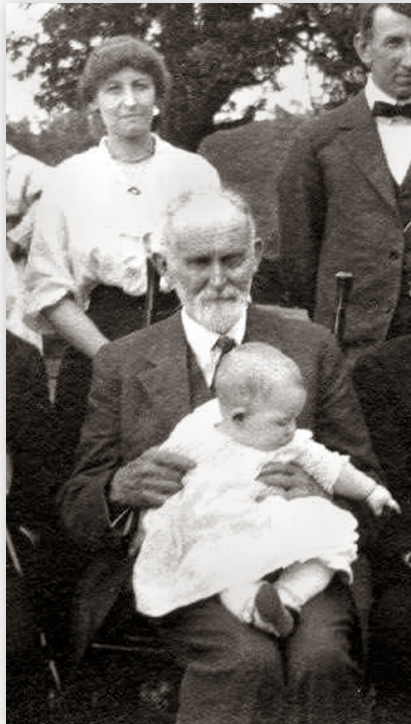
As the owner-occupants of an ancestral farm, the Clarks were now part of a distinct minority among South Fayette Township inhabitants. The pace of European immigration into the region in the aftermath of the Civil War had increased during the 1880s and '90s as steel mills joined expanding mining and coke-making complexes within railroad-equipped corridors. Associated towns mushroomed, some to the point where they petitioned for incorporation as boroughs. Among the resulting municipalities was Oakdale Borough, created along Robinsons Run north of the Clark farm in 1892 from portions of South and North Fayette Townships. Even though South Fayette Township contributed over 500 residents to Oakdale's charter population, the South Fayette population nearly doubled during the 1890s, spiking from 2,484 to 5,548 inhabitants. Most of the newcomers were drawn to work in the area's mines, either as miners or as managers and support personnel (carpenters, blacksmiths, etc.). By far the most frequent occupation noted on 1900 census schedules recorded in South Fayette Township was "miner," and while some of those miners had recently migrated northward from mid-Atlantic and Southern states, many more were identified as immigrants from German, Italy, England, France, Belgium, and neighboring countries. South Fayette's farming population, meanwhile, dipped slightly during the latter decades of the nineteenth century, as its number of farms slipped from 108 in 1880 to 85 in 1900.

The large Clark farm household remained remarkably intact through the first decade of the twentieth-century decade. Even farmhand Frank Kinny was still in residence when a census enumerator visited the farm on May 3, 1910. Second-eldest son James Rudolph (known to family and friends as "Dolph") was by then employed as a hoisting engineer in a local mine, having recently studied engineering for two years at a college in Ada, Ohio. A few months after the May 1910 census enumeration, Dolph married South Fayette neighbor Naomi Kathryn ("Kate") Parkes and went to live with her in Turtle Creek Borough, southeast of Pittsburgh, where he found employment as an electrical worker.



Photograph courtesy of Susan Clark.

Dolph Clark married Naomi Kathryn ("Kate") Parkes in Gladden on August 30, 1910. Kate was a native of Staffordshire, England. She had been brought by her parents to the U.S. as a two-year-old in 1888, and her father John worked as a miner in the Sturgeon area. Between 1900 and 1910 John Parks bought a general farm outside the village of Treveskyn. That was Kate's home when she began dating her neighbor Dolph.



James Ewing Clark holds grandson John Ewing Clark on his lap at a social gathering in 1916. John's mother Naomi Kate stands in the rear.

Photograph courtesy of Susan Clark.

James and Mary Ann Clark's daughter Isabella was next to marry and leave home. According to the following newspaper report, her wedding took place on the Clark farm:

Miss Isabella G. Clark and Mr. Joseph Scholfield were united in marriage on Thursday afternoon Dec. 24, 1915 a 2:30 o'clock at the home of the bride's parents Mr. and Mrs. James Clark of R.D. #3 McDonald, PA. The Rev. J.B. Cavitt performed the ceremony in the presence of 40 relatives and friends. Miss Margaret Clark and Mr. Irvin Clark, sister and brother of the bride, were the attendants. . . . The house was beautifully decorated in the

Christmas colors pink and white. A sumptuous wedding dinner was served after which the young couple departed to their new home near Ashtabula, OH, where the groom is engaged in farming.

Susan Clark, one of Dolph and Naomi Clark's granddaughters, has reported that "James Ewing Clark's children were college educated or at least attended college. I'm not sure about William Irvin Clark, but the rest of them did attend college, including my grandfather [Dolph] who studied engineering and subsequently worked for H.J. Heinz, Westinghouse and GE glass. Margaret and Isabel were teachers. Scott Clark was a farmer, agriculture teacher and principal at Washington High School. . . . My mother also told me that her father, William Cook, worked for James Ewing Clark when he (William) was a young boy. Further, she said that her father told her . . . that James Ewing Clark came from an important family. Her father told her that he really liked this James Ewing Clark. He told her they had the best farm around and that they really knew how to farm. He told her that these Clarks were rich, but he did not know where their money came from. . . . I recall my father [James Rudolph Clark II, known as "Rudy"] telling me that the Clarks' money came from the McConnells and was inherited from an uncle [of Mary Ann McConnell Clark]."

Siblings Irvin, Margaret, Nathan, and Scott Clark were still unmarried and living with their parents on the Clark farm when the next federal census was enumerated in January 1920. By that time, 27-year-old Margaret was employed as a public school teacher, and 25-year-old Nathan Clark worked as a clerk in a railroad office. Their 34-year-old brother Irvin still served as the Clark farm's chief laborer, in which capacity he was assisted by his 22-year-old brother Scott and 30-year-old Italian immigrant farmhand Mike Domino. Also part of the Clark household was 70-year-old widow Elizabeth Schreckendorf.

Posing in a yard on the R. Clarke Farm Site around 1917 are (clockwise from left) Naomi Kate Clark, her husband Dolph, their second son Rudy, in the arms of his grandmother Mary Ann McConnell Clark, and Nathan Clark (seated), the second youngest son of Mary Ann and James Ewing Clark.

Photograph courtesy of Susan Clark.



Events of the mid-1920s drastically altered the composition of the Clark household. On February 8, 1923, the life of 28-year-old Nathan Clark was cut short by tuberculosis. His remains were interred beside the graves of his grandparents Rudolph and Margaret Clark in the Robinson Run Cemetery. The following November, Scott Clark married Mary Louise Hartman of “near Bridgetville,” and brought her to live with him and his parents on the Clark farm. Five months later, patriarch James E. Clark was killed in a farming accident about 400 feet west of the Clark farmhouse, reported in a local newspaper as follows:

James Ewing Clark, aged 65 years, a well-known farmer of this section, was crushed to death at his home about

a mile above Cecil village on Thursday evening of last week when he lost control of a tractor which was operating and it overturned, pinning him underneath it. Mr. Clark had been using the tractor to plow and just finished work for the day when the accident occurred. He had driven the machine into the barn and apparently put his foot on the accelerator instead of the brake and the tractor went through the rear barn door, turning over twice in its drop to the ground directly outside the barn, and making a mighty noise. The unfortunate driver was instantly killed in the fall. His son Scott Clark came to the rescue, but could do nothing, as his father was already dead. Mrs. [Mary Ann] Clark was in Pittsburgh at the time of the accident, visiting her daughter, Miss Margaret Clark, who is ill in a hospital there. Mr. Clark was a widely known agriculturist, whose farm, located in the Millers Run valley, is partly in South Fayette township, Allegheny county, and partly in Cecil township, Washington county. He was a man of most excellent character, highly esteemed by all who knew him. His neighbors were filled with dismay and sadness when they heard the news of his sudden death, saying they had lost a real friend. Surviving are his wife, formerly Miss Mary McConnell, and the following children: Irwin Clark of near Cecil, Dolph Clark of Pittsburgh, Scott Clark on the home farm, Mrs. [Isabella] Scofield of Jefferson, Ohio, and Miss Margaret Clark at home. The funeral services were held at the Clark home on Sunday afternoon [April 20, 1924], conducted by the Rev. C.B. Ramsey of Woodville and the Rev. J.I. Krohn of McDonald, and the Rev. W.D. Irons D.D., of McDonald. It was one of the largest funerals ever held in the neighborhood, over two hundred autos being parked near the Clark home. Interment was in Robinson's Run cemetery.

Dolph Clark's son Rudy would tell his daughter Susan that "it was like a top official had died and that there were even sirens at [James E. Clark's] funeral. There were so many people who came to see him that the farm could barely accommodate all those people. [He] was buried in a special casket and the funeral cost \$5,000."

When it was ascertained that James Clark had not composed a viable will, his "only heirs at law"—widow Mary Ann, and children Irvin, Dolph, Isabella, Margaret, and Scott—took steps to "vest in Mary A. Clark" title to the Clark farm and other real estate owned by James Clark at the time of his death. That process was completed by a deed dated May 7, 1924, through which the heirs conveyed to James' widow the 183.74-acre family farm (lying "partly in South Fayette Township and partly in Cecil Township"), a 77.59-acre tract "lying and being on the waters of Millers Run in South Fayette Township," and "Lot 125 in Robinson's Run Cemetery." The long eastern boundary of the Clark farm was described in the deed as hewing closely to Cecil-Sturgeon Road over a distance of 3,993 feet.



Mary Ann McConnell Clark (left) poses with daughters Isabella Clark Schofield (center) and Mary Margaret Clark Cheeks in the rear yard of the R. Clark Farm Site around 1923.

Mary Ann McConnell Clark plays with grandson John Ewing Clark behind the Clark farmhouse in the summer of 1916 (left). Six years later, she is photographed in that yard again, this time with grandson John (now about 6 years old), and John's brother Rudy (born in August 1920).



All photographs courtesy of Susan Clark.

Between May 1924 and April 2, 1930, Mary Ann Clark moved from the Clark farm, leaving it to be occupied by son Dolph and his family upon their return from Turtle Creek Borough. A census enumerator visiting the farm along “Sturgeon Road” in the spring of 1930 found the resident household comprising 44-year-old Dolph (who had interrupted his career as an electrical engineer in order to take up general farming), his 44-year-old wife Naomi, and sons John Ewing (14) and James Rudolph (10; called “Rudy”),

According to their granddaughter Susan, Dolph and Naomi Clark struggled financially through the 1930s. “They lost their money during the Great Depression,” she reported recently, “and almost lost the farm.” Technically, the latter threat could have only arisen after Dolph and his brother Scott acquired the Clark farm and associated pieces of real estate from their widowed mother Mary Ann on April 6, 1939. By that time, Scott had been living for at least four years with his wife on a rented farm in South Strabane Township, Washington County.

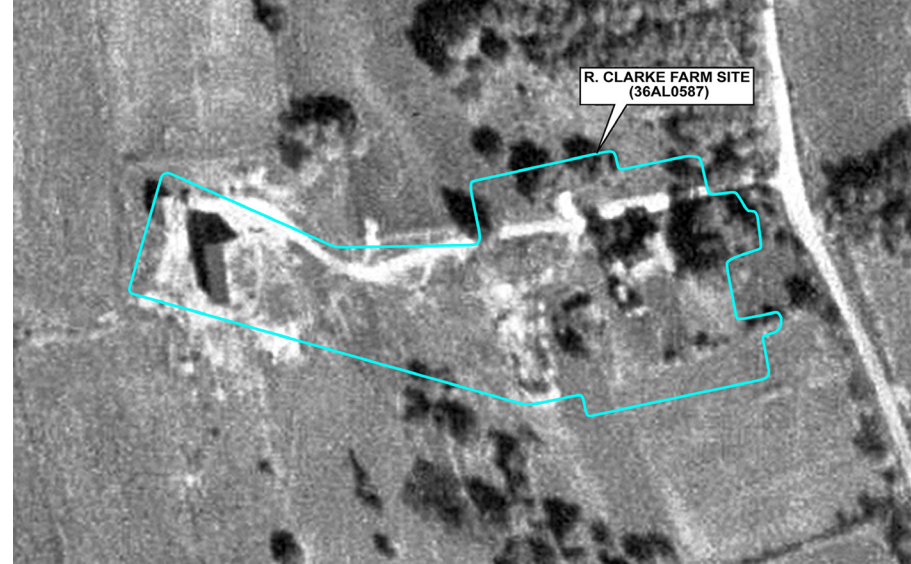
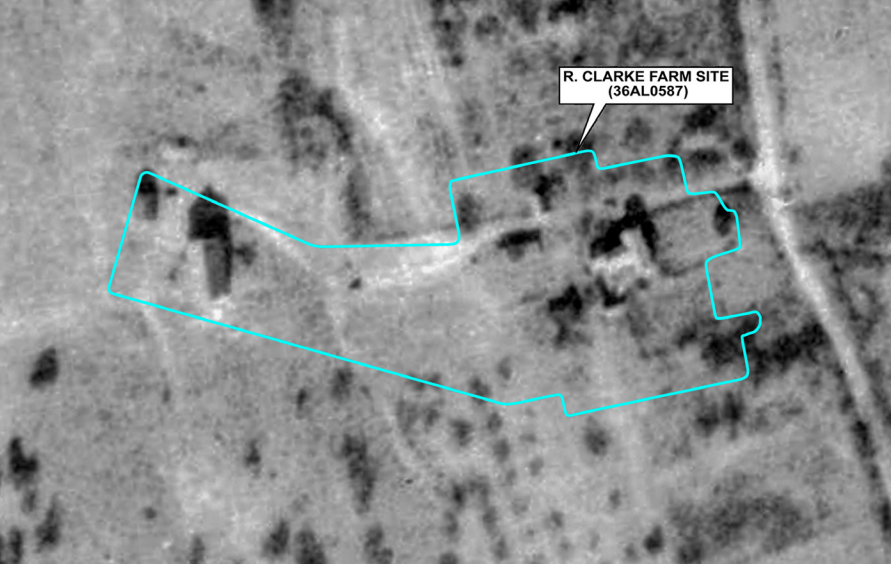
The Clarks’ financial straits must have eased by April 1940, when a census enumerator visited the Clark farm and recorded data pertaining to Dolph and Naomi (both 53 years of age) and their 19-year-old son Rudy. Over the course of the preceding year, Dolph and Rudy had each generated at least \$850 in earnings from their farm, and Dolph had also worked 26 weeks as a laborer in a steel mill, earning an additional \$600. The Clarks’ minimum combined annual income of \$2,700 placed them among the highest income-generating households in the western half of South Fayette Township. Most of their neighbors—whether farmers, mine employees, or businessmen—had annual earnings ranging from several hundred dollars to \$1,200.

The Clarks’ relative prosperity in 1940 may have been anomalous. Barely two years later, on November 5, 1942, Dolph and

Naomi Clark conveyed their one-half interest in the Clark farm to Dolph’s brother Scott and his wife Mary, still living in South Strabane Township. The conveyance would be noted in a subsequent deed for the property; it does not appear to have been recorded in a deed at the time. The reason or reasons for the conveyance have not been determined. Even though Scott and Mary Clark now held full title to the Clark farm, Dolph and Naomi remained in residence with son Rudy. The following spring (1943), Rudy was “drafted into the army infantry in the European Theatre Operations” (as reported by his daughter Susan). Soon after he departed for what turned out to be a year of domestic military service, followed by a year overseas, Dolph fell “very ill.” Naomi, “having to heat the farmhouse, burned all of the valuable land maps, documents and books . . . in the Clark farm’s extensive library.”

According to Susan Clark, the Clark family’s situation grew even more dire in the winter of 1944-45 when Rudy “sustained an injury to his leg while fighting on the front lines in the Battle of the Bulge. He spent three months in an army hospital overseas and was released to go home to recover from his injury. When he was [on his way] home, his father [Dolph] passed away. His mother tried to notify [him of his father’s death] through the Red Cross[, but was not successful]. . . . Not knowing that his father had died, [Rudy] got off the bus and was walking the road (Cecil-Sturgeon Road) to the Clark’s family farm. Someone driving in a car who knew the family stopped to tell him his father was dead.” As noted on Dolph’s death certificate, the 58-year-old farmer and Universal-Cyclops Steel Company employee had been suffering from a “partial intestinal obstruction,” and was hospitalized at Pittsburgh’s Mercy Hospital when a heart attack ended his life on October 10, 1945.

Conditions on the Clark farm in the immediate aftermath of Dolph Clark’s death and Rudy’s return from Europe have not been



High-altitude, high-resolution aerial photographs of the Clark farmstead were recorded for the United States Department of Agriculture in November 1938 (above left) and September 1957 (above right). Such images can be extremely valuable to archaeologists and historians investigating an area—like the R. Clarke Farm Site—on which structures have been razed, moved, or removed.

ascertained. Rudy reportedly required additional recovery time, and his mother would have been hard pressed to manage a farm on her own. Within a matter of months they vacated the house and took up residence in a nearby village. Rudy’s daughter Susan reports that her father rarely drove past his boyhood home after that relocation. “He felt [that his family] had bad luck there. I think that is why he did not want [to live there any longer], plus the expense of it [appeared daunting].”

By a deed dated March 4, 1948, non-residents Scott and Mary Clark conveyed the vacated Clark farm to 27-year-old farmer Leo Sochacky of Smith Township, Washington County, in consideration of \$10,000. Reduced to 161.86 acres, the farm was further described in the deed as “having thereon erected a two-story frame house, a frame barn, and other outbuildings.” The farm’s

new owner was a son of Polish immigrant farmers Andrew and Veronica (Maslyk) Sochacky. The Sochackys had settled on a rented farm in North Fayette Township prior to March 1920, and there the family—already including Pennsylvania-born children Stella, Michael, Jennie, and Loraine—grew through the births of Leo in November 1920 and Violet in 1924. The Sochackys were still living on a rented North Fayette Township farm when the 1940 federal census was enumerated. While father Andy and son Leo tended the farm, Leo’s brother Mike worked in a local coal mine.

At least some of the funds or mortgage collateral used by Leo in purchasing the Clark farm in March 1948 may have been provided by his parents. Andy and Vera Sochacky (as they were known to friends and family) appear to have moved onto the farm with Leo at that time. When Andy died from chronic heart dis-

ease on February 22, 1957, it was noted on his death certificate that the “68-year-old farmer” had lived in the Cecil vicinity for “10 years.” Vera Sochacky was identified as a resident of South Fayette Township (“R.D.# 2 McDonald”) on her April 13, 1959 death certificate, which attributed her death at age 65 to a blocked artery. Her housemate Leo supplied the coroner with biographical information concerning his deceased mother.

Leo Sochacky owned and occupied the Clark farm a dozen years after his mother’s death. He did not marry during that time (nor would he later), and he appears to have done little as its lone resident to keep the property from deteriorating. During the mid-1960s, the “hard luck farmer” suffered a “dreary succession of hapless adventures,” described in a 1970 newspaper report as follows: “his cattle died from disease; the barn burned down; he was locked in the county jail after he failed to show up for a hearing on a complaint that he had threatened a neighbor, but he later was freed and won that case. . . . [His] debts mounted as he went through two operations” (*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, January 27, 1970). An aerial photograph taken on May 26, 1967 documented the recent destruction of Sochacky’s barn. In the spring of 1968, legal proceedings threatened to pry possession of the Clark farm away from its beleaguered owner, as detailed in the following legal appeal recorded in July 1975:

On June 4, 1968, one John Belitskus entered a judgment by confession against Sochacky in the sum of \$6,979.70. There followed a sheriff’s sale of the real estate owned by Sochacky upon execution on that judgment. On July 5, 1968, the property was exposed for public sale by the Sheriff of Allegheny County and purchased by [industrial executive and Washington County farm owner] Averell E. Daniell for \$50,000. On August 15, 1968, a deed purporting to convey the property of Sochacky to Daniell

was recorded in the Recorder of Deeds Office of Allegheny County. Despite the sale, Sochacky remained in possession of the land, and on September 19, 1968, Daniell commenced an action to quiet title against Sochacky. A jury trial was held in which the court directed a verdict in favor of Sochacky on the grounds that the sale of the real estate was not in conformity with the law. . . . There then followed certain procedural maneuvers under which the property was for a second time made subject to a sheriff’s sale on October 1, 1973, in conformance with a court decree. In this second sale the real estate was bid in by C.F.&J., Inc. for \$74,664. Of this amount, \$24,345.36 has been and is now being held by the Sheriff in the name of Sochacky.

For the period September 9, 1968, through October 9, 1973, Sochacky had received public assistance benefits from DPW [Department of Public Welfare] in the amount of \$7,656.44. Upon being apprised of the existence of the funds being held in Sochacky’s name by the Sheriff of Allegheny County, DPW filed a petition on October 23, 1973, in which it requested a rule on Sochacky to show cause why DPW should not be substituted for his rights to the extent of the public assistance benefits paid to him. DPW’s claim had been reduced to judgment. . . . Sochacky was duly served, but he did not attend the hearing scheduled for December 3, 1973, nor did he file an answer to DPW’s petition. . . .

On May 7, 1974 the court below filed an opinion and order in which the court examined the entire procedural matter, as a result of which it concluded that the prior orders of the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County [continued on Page 19]

Squire Drops Trespassing Charges

Luckless Farmer Reaps A Point In S. Fayette Case

By DALE McFEATHERS
Leo, the lonely farmer of South Fayette Twp., finally won a small skirmish in a war of hard luck during which he has lost every major battle.

Leo Sochacky, 48, has been unemployed, under surgery, sick, arrested and in jail.

His 160-acre farm, where his cattle died of disease and his barn burned, was sold at a sheriff's sale for \$30,000.

Debts Paid

After the debts on the farm were paid there was \$24,345 left in the sheriff's office.

Since Leo believes the sale was illegal, he has refused to pick up the money. The welfare people have taken him off relief because he can have the \$24,345 merely by going into the sheriff's office and identifying himself.

Last night he won a point when Squire Raymond Ron-

another operation and returned to find that his farm, between Reising Rd. and Cecil-Sturgeon Rd. off Route 50, was up for sheriff's sale.

A Neighborhood Legal Services Assn. lawyer managed to get the sale postponed from July 1 to July 5, but still the

sale was made for \$300 an acre.

Leo refused to leave.

Next, a creditor and neighbor signed charges claiming that Leo had threatened to kill him for bringing about the sheriff's sale.

Constable Henry Bourg, who

went to serve the warrant, found Leo so sick with arthritic gout that he drove Leo to a doctor.

Leo was released on his own recognizance because he was well known to the squire and the police.

But Leo never showed up for his hearing on July 25.

The purchaser of the farm filed trespassing charges against Leo on Sept. 3.

Fearing Leo wouldn't show up at another hearing, the squire had him committed to County Jail Sept. 4. In jail, Leo yielded to pleas that he get a lawyer and was out on Sept. 6.

The lawyer, Donald Lee of Bridgeville, found him a place to stay in Carnegie.

Last night Leo won his skirmish and was considering assuming the offensive with a suit to have the sheriff's sale declared illegal.

He was even thinking of moving back on the farm.

The struggles of "luckless farmer" Leo Sochacky—owner of the Clark farm beginning in March 1948—as he tried to retain ownership of the property during the 1960s were reported in an article published in the September 13, 1968 edition of the Pittsburgh Press.



LEO SOCHACKY

Never rains. Only pours.

chettl dismissed charges of surety of the peace and trespassing after the plaintiffs failed to show up at Leo's hearing in the South Fayette Municipal Bldg.

Leo's chronicle began when he had to quit work as a laborer because of a double hernia last year.

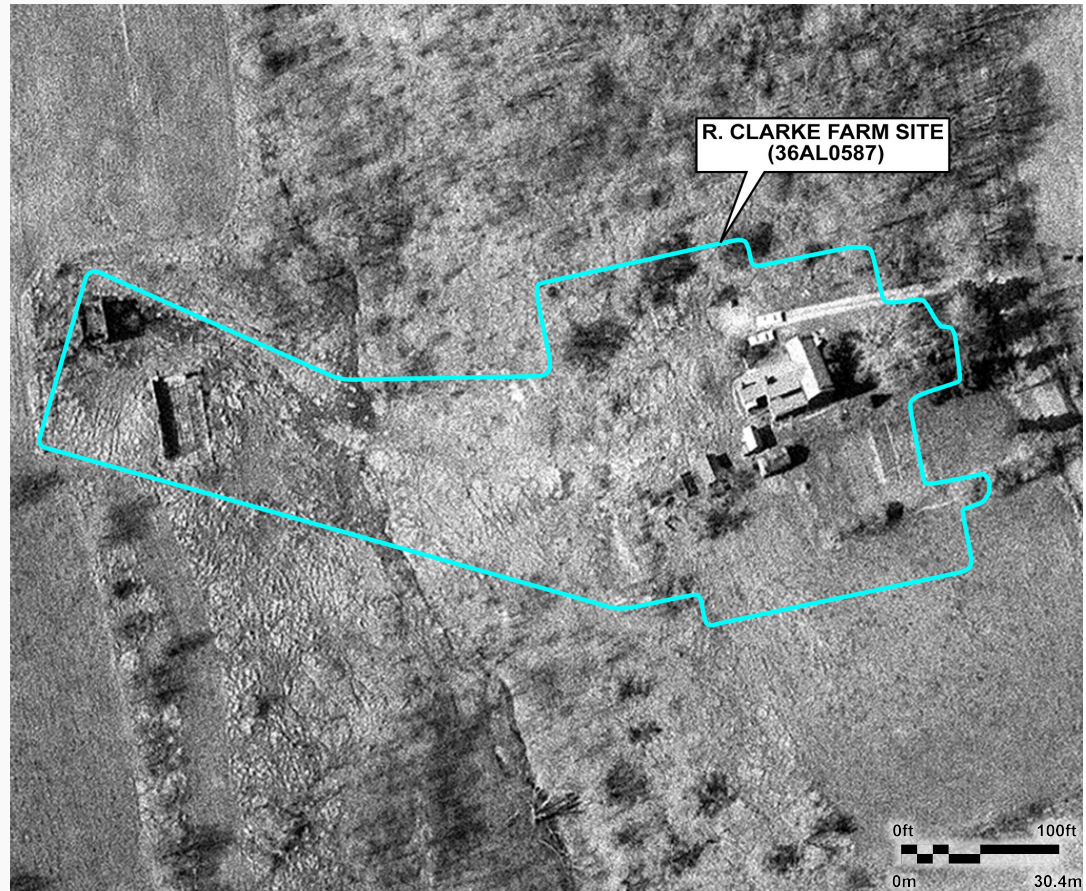
In April he underwent surgery.

Back For Surgery

Meanwhile his debts mount-

ed.

In June he went back for



Below: In addition to the farmhouse and neighboring outbuildings, a USGS aerial photograph taken in April 1973 recorded the rectangular footprint of the Sochacky farmstead's main barn (far left), which had burned in the mid-1960s.

were erroneous and the Sheriff's sales were thereby defective. As a result, the lower court concluded that because the second Sheriff's Sale was void, the \$24,345.36 held by the Sheriff did not belong to Sochacky. . . . DPW filed exceptions to the court's order of May 7, 1974 which were dismissed on June 18, 1974, on the basis that DPW was not a party to the action to quiet title and had no standing to present its petition for a rule on Sochacky.

. . . And Now, this 10th day of July, 1975, based upon the above discussion, it is ordered [by judges of the Commonwealth Court] that the orders of the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County dated May 7, 1974 and June 18, 1974 in the above-noted case are hereby vacated; and it is ordered that the Department of Public Welfare of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is hereby substituted for the rights of Leo Sochacky, also known as Leo J. Sochacky, to the extent of \$7,656.44 from the proceeds held by the Sheriff of Allegheny County at Ex. 567 July Term, 1968, in the name of Leo Sochacky.

The October 1, 1973 conveyance of the 161.86-acre former Clark farm by Allegheny County Deputy Sheriff John M. McNamara to C.F.& J., Inc. was allowed to stand, as noted in deeds recorded in both Allegheny County and Washington County. As reflected on aerial photographs, the property's farmhouse and neighboring outbuildings were still standing as of April 14, 1973, but by December 5, 1975, no above-ground structures remained on the R. Clarke Farm Site. A neighbor would report to Susan Clark his recollection that most or all of the structures were destroyed by fire, which also consumed "Leo's silver trailer."

The Clark farm's new owner as of October 1, 1973—C.F.& J., Inc.—was officially incorporated that month through the

collaboration of South Fayette Township residents John Kosky Jr. (founder of John Kosky Coal and Excavating Company) and Francis (Frank) W. Chebatoris (President of Cheb Drywall, Inc.). The Morgan-based business partners had been acquiring coal and farm land in the vicinity since the early 1960s, John Kosky Jr. has reported. C.F.& J., Inc. owned the structure-less former Clark farm for the next two decades.

In 1992, John Kosky Jr. and Frank Chebatoris decided to divvy up their jointly-held properties. They reached an agreement that would give John and his wife Madeline title to land on the east side of Cecil-Spurgeon Road, while Frank and his wife Irene assumed full ownership of property on the west side of the road. As part of that process, C.F.& J., Inc. conveyed the former Clark farm (on the west side of Cecil-Spurgeon Road) to Frank Chebatoris and John Kosky Jr. by a deed dated June 25, 1992, and two days later the business partners conveyed the property to Frank Chebatoris alone. The following November 25, Frank conveyed the property to himself and his wife Irene. The Chebatorises owned the property together through Frank's death on June 4, 2012. By a deed dated January 17, 2013, Irene Chebatoris conveyed the property to her grandson, Michael J. Francis Sullivan. It was noted in the deed that the conveyance was "a transfer from Grandmother to her Grandson and is therefore exempt from Pennsylvania Transfer Tax." As of April 2017, online tax records indicated that Canonburg resident Michael Sullivan retains ownership of the former Clark farm, identified as Tax Parcel 486-G-2.



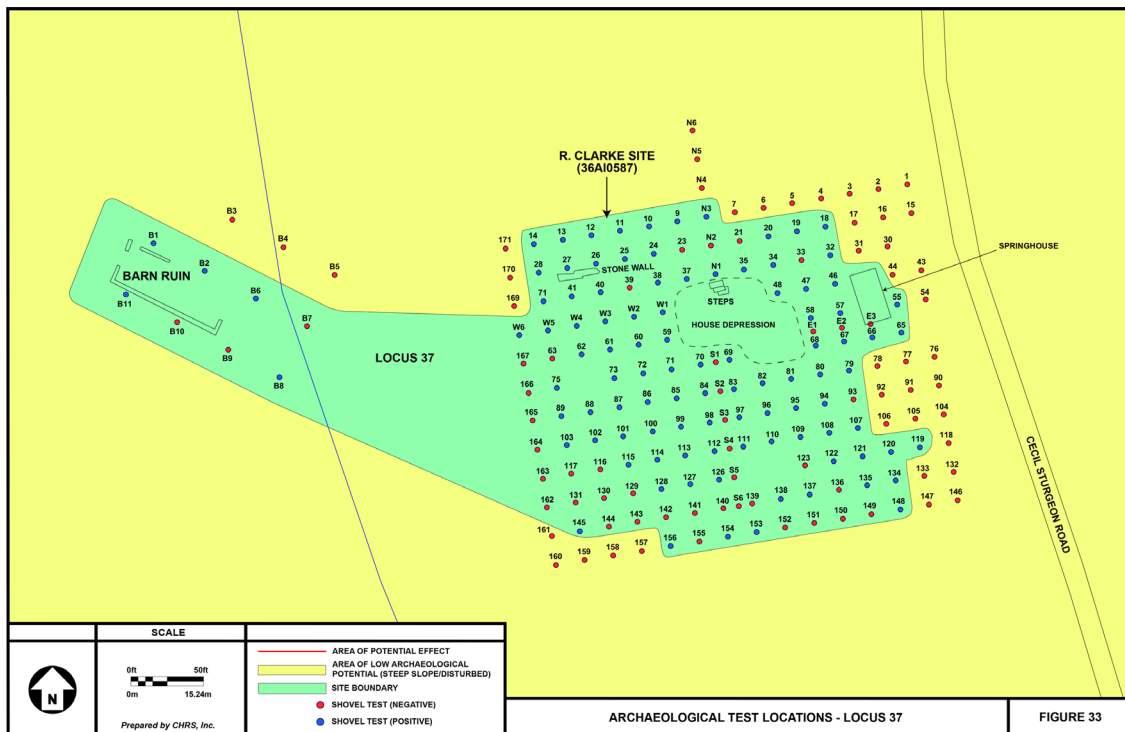
Archaeological Excavations on the R. Clarke Farm Site

In 2008, when CHRS archaeologists arrived at Archaeological Locus 37 to perform a Phase IB investigation (which would lead to the locus' identification as the R. Clarke Farm Site), they found "a combination of mowed lawn, weeds and weedy trees; a stone springhouse, steps, and a depression associated with a no longer extant house; a small circular depression; a stone wall; and stone foundations associated with an outbuilding." The archaeologists would further relate in their Phase IB report (May 2009) that "most of the structural features were heavily overgrown. Initial testing included the excavation of 178 Shovel Test Pits (STPs) at 20-foot intervals in a grid pattern radiating from the remains of the house. Additionally, 11 STPs were excavated around the remains of the barn associated with the farm. More than 1,300 historic artifacts were recovered from around the

farmhouse and outbuilding ruins. Slightly more than 60% of the artifact assemblage was kitchen related material. About 41% of the kitchen related material was made of ceramic. The majority of the rest of the kitchen assemblage were items made of glass. The stone ruins and archaeological deposits have been designated as the R. Clarke Farm Site (36AL0587). Although a building is shown on an 1862 map of the area, only five sherds of pearlware and one of creamware reflect a mid-nineteenth-century occupation. The majority of artifacts recovered date from a later period. A substantial amount of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-century artifacts are present at the Site. Additional investigation will be necessary to assess the Site's eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Phase II Archaeological Survey is recommended."



Photographs taken at Archaeological Locus 37 at the beginning of Phase IB testing in 2008 recorded patches of mowed lawn surrounded by trees and bushes, along with crumbling remnants of unidentified structures that appeared to have been outbuildings.



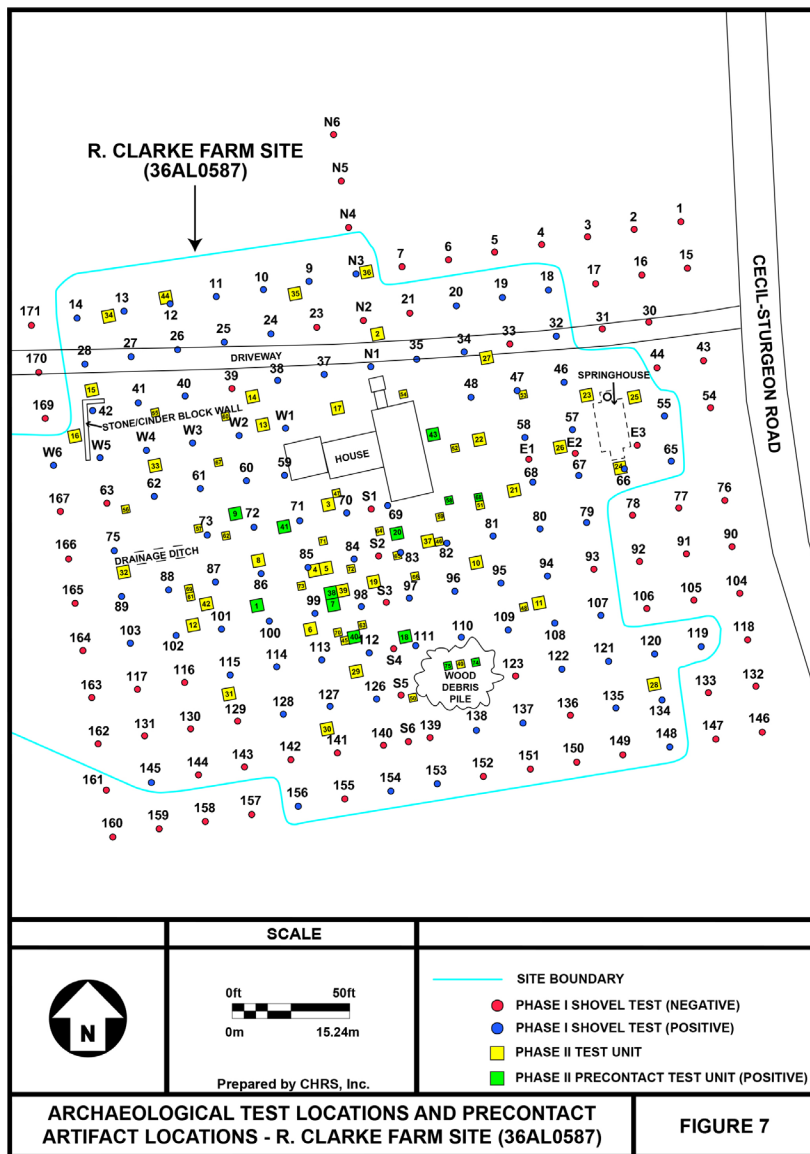
Left: Figure 33 of the Phase IB Archaeological Survey report, submitted in May 2009, showed the locations of 178 Shovel Test Pits (STPs) recently placed at 20-foot intervals in a grid pattern radiating from the “House Depression,” as well as 11 STPs excavated around a nearby “Barn Ruin.”

Below: Closing profile of a one-meter-square Test Unit (TU 45), June 8, 2016.



CHRS archaeologists returned to the R. Clarke Farm Site in June 2015 to begin Phase II testing. As they would explain in their subsequent report, they found the Site “heavily overgrown with trees and dense underbrush. All structural features were masked by the dense vegetation. Site clearing exposed foundational remains of the farmhouse, a stone-lined well/cistern within an outbuilding, a stone-lined drainage ditch, an additional section of the previously defined ‘stone wall,’ and a number of small circular and rectangular depressions at the surface.” Over the course of the next few months, the archaeologists used hand tools to excavate 44 five-foot-square test units (TUs) within the grid formed by the 192 STPs previously excavated. An additional round of Phase

II testing, conducted from June 2016 through February 2017, entailed the excavation of 31 one-meter-square TUs to supplement the data recovered during the prior rounds of testing. After the excavations using hand-tools were complete, a Caterpillar hydraulic excavator was used to strip top soil from approximately half of the Site in order to expose additional features and further expose features partially uncovered during earlier excavations. Through all of the methods employed during the Phase II investigation, more than 31,000 artifacts were recovered and processed, and 160 subsurface features were identified and investigated. Selected features were sectioned or fully excavated in an effort to identify their function and temporal (chronologic) associations.



Phase IB and II test locations, and precontact artifact locations, Figure 7, Phase II Archaeological Survey Addendum report, April 2018.



Above: The initial round of Phase II fieldwork proceeds despite a wintry mix on January 12, 2016.

Below: Additional testing is conducted under balmier conditions on September 13, 2016.





In the fall of 2016, a Caterpillar hydraulic excavator was used to strip top soil from approximately half of the Site in order to expose additional features and further expose features partially uncovered during earlier excavations. Selected features were then sectioned or fully excavated.



Archaeological Features on the R. Clarke Farm Site

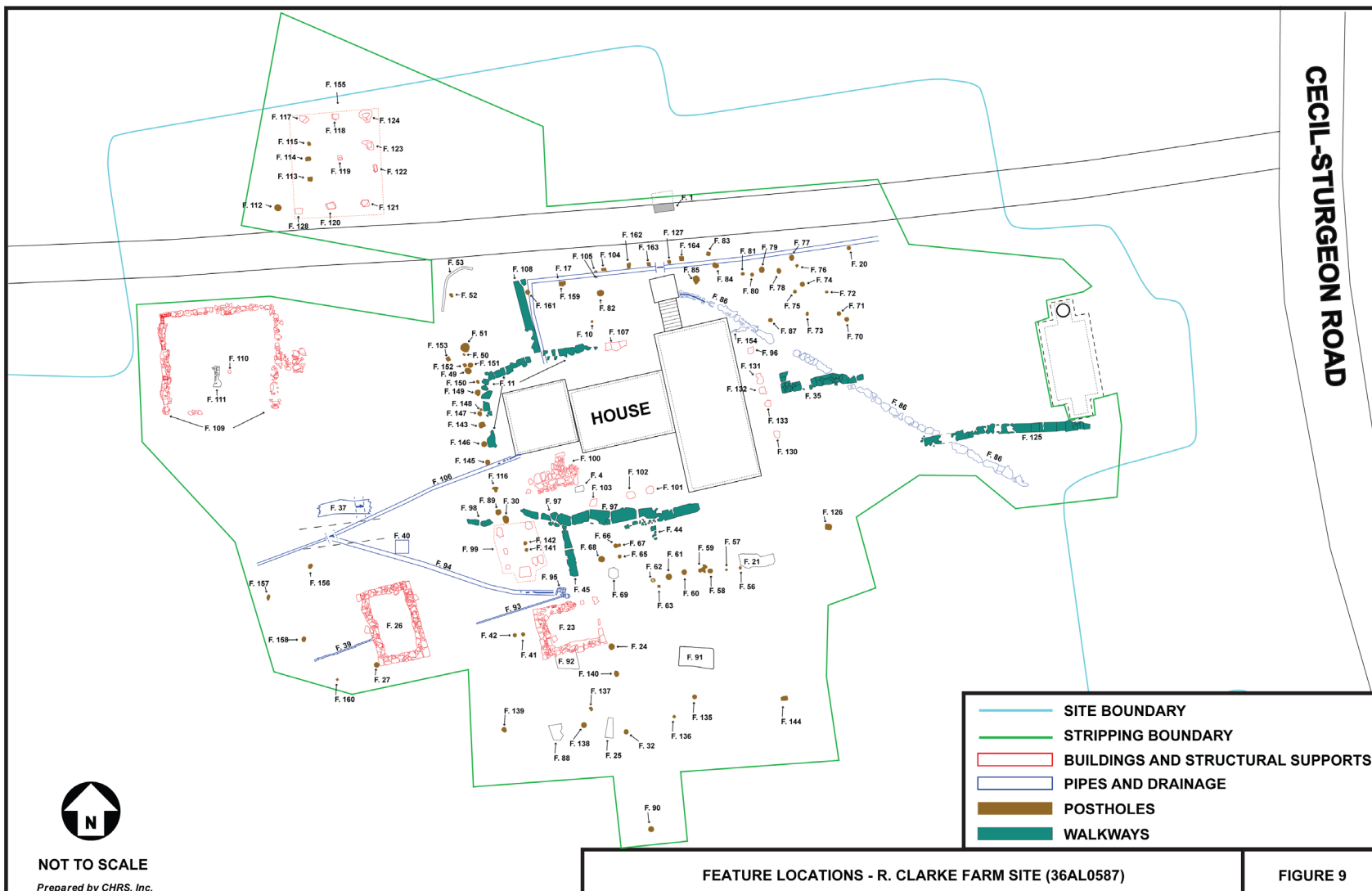
Through the multi-round Phase II testing, archaeologists identified 160 subsurface features on the R. Clarke Farm Site. All features were numbered, documented, mapped, and photographed, and their locations were recorded with GPS. The Site's two prominent surface features—remnants of the farmhouse and a springhouse—were documented, mapped, and photographed, but were not assigned feature numbers. The subsurface features that appeared to hold the most potential for shedding light on historic activities on the Site included:

- a “red dog”/coal ash covered section of driveway
- 2 privy (outhouse) pits
- a brick drainage pad
- a concentrated trash deposit
- 2 sections of concrete walkway
- a section of concrete and stone walkway
- 4 earthenware drainage pipes and a pipe trench
- a french drain
- a hexagonal terra cotta pipe
- an iron pipe and pipe trench
- an outbuilding footprint
- a pipe trench
- a possible greenhouse
- a possible outbuilding
- a stone and cinder block outbuilding foundation
- 2 stone outbuilding foundations
- 9 isolated stone structural supports
- 6 sections of stone walkway
- a stone/concrete patio/walkway



The two prominent surface features on the Site were remnants of the farmhouse (above) and a springhouse (below).





Locations of 160 subsurface features uncovered through Phase II testing were plotted on Figure 9 of the Phase II Archaeological Survey Addendum report.

Right: Westward view of Feature 125. As described in the Phase II Addendum report, "Features 125, 97, and 11 were individual segments of a stone and concrete walkway that extended from the springhouse entrance and around the south, west, and north sides of the farmhouse, possibly leading to a farmhouse entrance on the north side. Although sizeable gaps separate the three features, the orientation of each implies they were likely once connected."



Below: Eastward view of Feature 97.



Above: Eastward view of Feature 23, "an 18-by-15-foot stone and cinder block foundation located south of the farmhouse. A portion of the south wall was originally uncovered in TUs 38 and 39. The majority of the foundation was exposed by mechanical stripping and further defined by hand. The west wall was largely intact and consisted of two courses of thick, cut fieldstones approximately 3 feet wide. The south wall was fairly intact and consisted of a single course of stone, including a few thick, cut fieldstones with smaller, unshaped stones between. The north and east walls were less complete. A vault-type privy (Feature 92) was located adjacent and likely attached to the exterior of the south wall. Features 93 (iron pipe), 94 (underground drainage pipe), and 95 (brick drainage pad) are located within a few feet of the north wall and may also be associated with Feature 23. Artifacts were collected during wall cleaning, but do not hint at any particular building function."



Above: Westward view of Feature 26, “a 20-by-13-foot stone foundation located southwest of the farmhouse. The walls averaged 2 feet in width and were composed of small, uncut, flat fieldstones. Larger fieldstone blocks were present at the four corners. A hexagonal terra cotta pipe (Feature 39, [right, top]) extended from the west wall of Feature 26 and stretched approximately 18 feet west before disappearing below a backfill pile. Artifacts were collected during wall cleaning, but do not hint at any particular building function. This outbuilding is present in historical aerial photographs taken in 1938 through 1973.”



Right: Opening planview of Feature 91, “a shallow, rectangular pit measuring approximately 8.5 by 4.5 feet. This pit is likely the chamber, or vault, of a vault-type sanitary privy, designed with sanitation in mind and constructed to be relatively water-tight and easy to clean and deodorize. The shallow pit was meant to house an impervious ‘vault,’ usually either a metal container or a box constructed of brick or stone with plaster on the interior. Vaults were intentionally kept shallow to facilitate emptying and cleaning.”

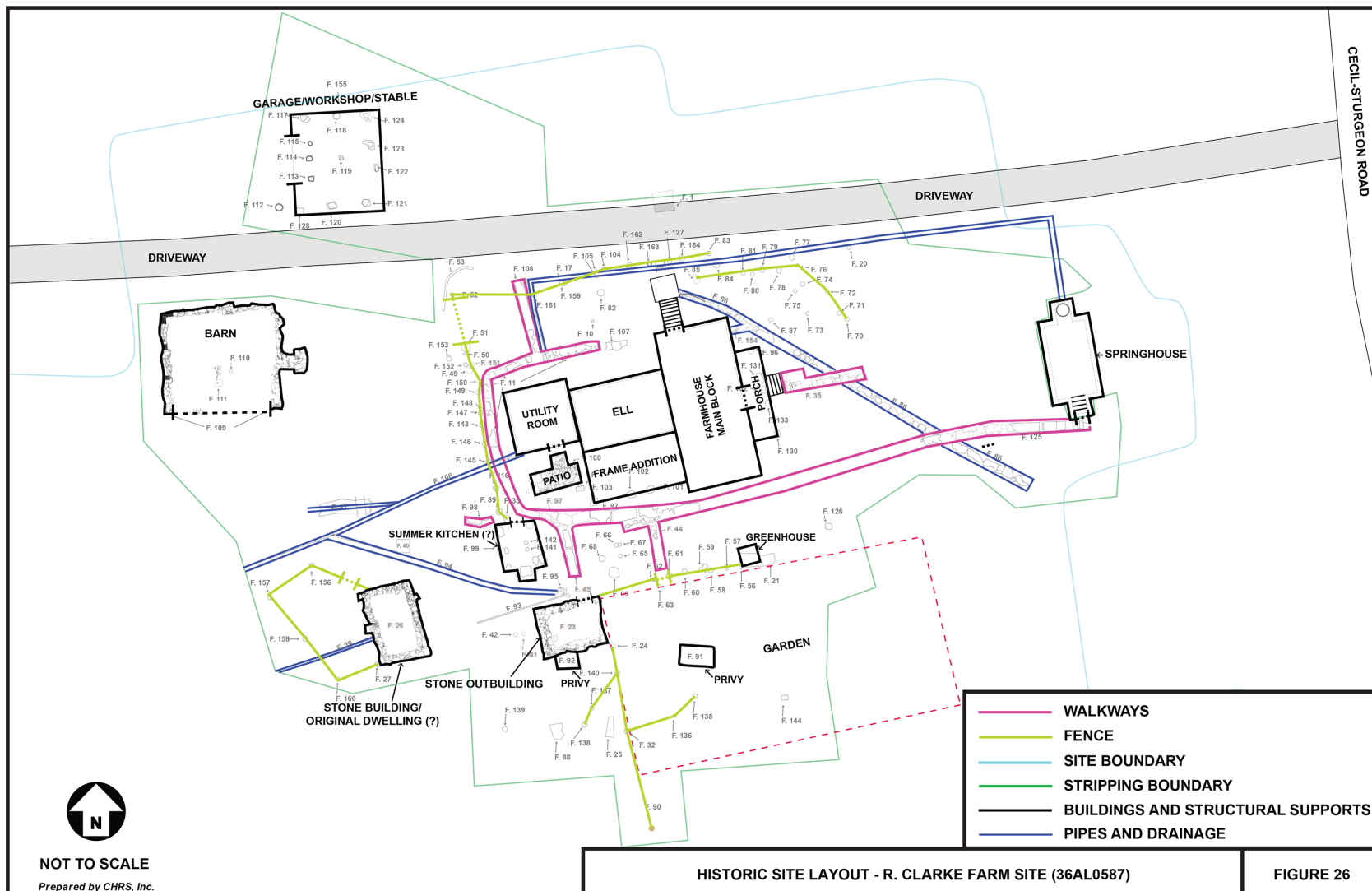




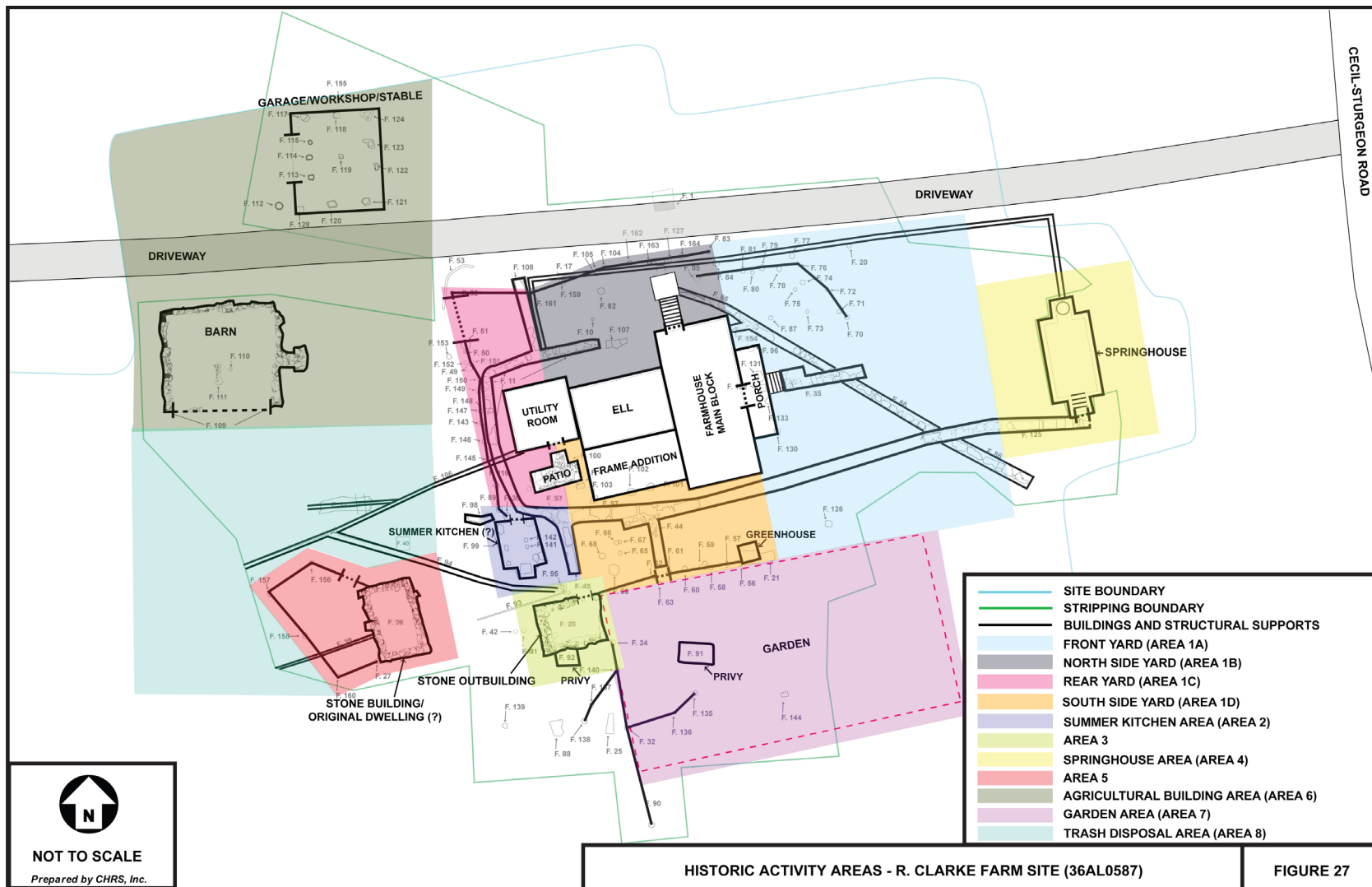
Left: Southward view of Feature 99, “a roughly rectangular arrangement of large, shaped fieldstones believed to have been associated with a frame outbuilding visible at this location on aerial photographs taken in 1938 through 1973. Overall dimensions are approximately 12 feet by 10 feet. The function of Feature 99 is uncertain, but its size and location nearest the farmhouse suggests it may have been a summer kitchen or other building of high importance and frequent usage.”

Right: Northwestward view of Feature 109, “a large stone and cinder block foundation located approximately 40 feet west of the farmhouse. The west wall and a portion of the north wall were visible above ground prior to site stripping, but the remainder was exposed by mechanical stripping and further detailed by hand. The foundation measured 27 feet by 25 feet. Its large size, incorporation of site topography, and the possible presence of a ramp may indicate that Feature 109 was a bank barn. This structure is present in aerial photographs taken in 1938 and 1947, but was apparently demolished by 1957.”





As explained in a “Features Analysis” section of the *Phase II Addendum* report, “an examination of the interconnectedness of features, combined with aerial imagery, historical precedents, and artifactual data, allows for the determination of the historic layout and possible historic usage of some components of the R. Clarke Farm Site farmstead core. This historic reconstruction is depicted in Figure 26.”



“Reconstruction of historic fence lines and identification of presumed building functions allows us to divide the farmstead core into eight distinct activity areas (with four additional subdivisions). These activity areas are depicted in Figure 27.” The areas are described on the following page.

- The Farmhouse Area (Area 1), which includes the nineteenth-century farmhouse and surrounding area. This area is further subdivided into a large front yard (Area 1a), a north side yard (Area 1b), a small rear yard (Area 1c), and a south side yard (Area 1d). The Farmhouse Area is bounded by fence lines to the north, west, and south. The front yard extends east to near the springhouse. This area was likely the focus of domestic activities.
- The Summer Kitchen Area (Area 2), which includes Feature 99, a frame outbuilding believed to have been a summer kitchen, and the area immediately surrounding it.
- Area 3, which includes Feature 23, a large stone and cinder block building foundation; Feature 92, a vault-type privy attached to Feature 23; and the area immediately surround these features.
- The Springhouse Area (Area 4), which includes the springhouse foundation and the area immediately surrounding it.
- Area 5, which includes Feature 26, a large stone building foundation; a fenced enclosure adjacent to the west side of the building; and the area immediately surrounding these features.
- The Agricultural Building Area (Area 6), which includes Feature 109, a possible barn; Feature 155, a possible garage, workshop, and/or stable; and the area surrounding each building. This area was likely devoted to animal husbandry activities and the maintenance and storage of machinery.
- The Garden Area (Area 7) devoted to small scale agriculture. Historic aerial photographs show this area to be under cultivation, but separated from the more expansive fields by a distinct tree line along the southern edge and bounded to the east by an expanse of manicured lawn. The garden was bounded to the north and west by fence lines.
- The Trash Disposal Area (Area 8), which includes the area to the west of Feature 26 and between Features 26 and 109. Mid- to late twentieth-century trash was noted at the surface to the west of Feature 26, and subsurface excavation showed the presence of multiple debris-laden fill layers throughout this area (i.e., Test Unit 62/Feature 40).



Eastward view of Feature 26

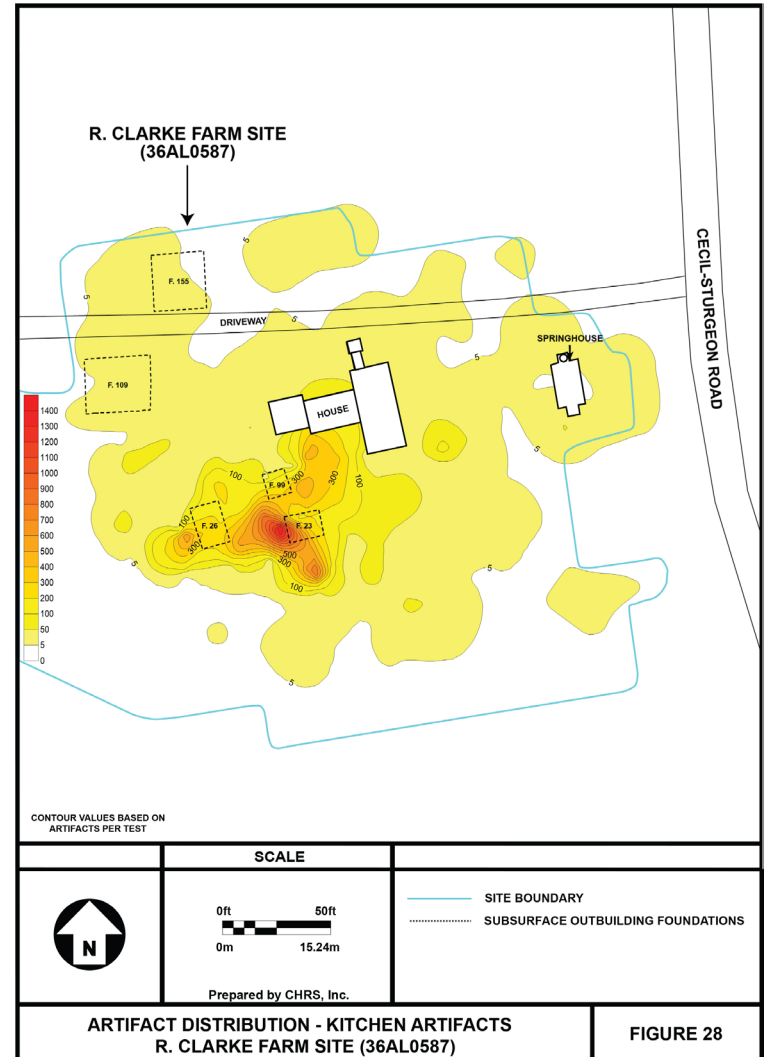
Artifacts Unearthed on the R. Clarke Farm Site

More than 31,000 artifacts were recovered and processed during the Phase II archaeological survey of the R. Clarke Farm Site. Only a handful of them (26 total) predated the arrival of Europeans in America. The precontact-era items comprised 19 pieces of debitage (18 chert and one jasper, cast off during the manufacture of stone points), a chert biface fragment, a chalcedony biface fragment, a chert biface, a chert thumbnail scraper, a jasper core, a hammerstone or pestle, and a chert point. The latter may be a Late Archaic/Early Woodland Period (ca. 3,000 BCE to 500 CE) Merom point. No features associated with the precontact period were identified. The precontact portion of the Site was identified as a low-density lithic scatter and was not subjected to further analysis.



Left: Chert projectile point, possibly a Late Archaic/Early Woodland Period (ca. 3,000 BCE to 500 CE) Merom point.

Right: Kitchen artifact distribution map, from Phase II Archaeological Survey Addendum, April 2018.



As explained in the *Phase II Addendum* report, the historic-era artifacts were “categorized according to functional categories established by Stanley South (1977). This provides a means of comparing the nature of the total artifact assemblages. Artifacts may be categorized as kitchen related (ceramics, bottle glass, vessel glass, tableware, etc.), architectural (window glass, nails, architectural hardware, etc.), furniture related (knobs, pulls, lighting components, etc.), personal (combs, coins, jewelry, eyeglass lenses, etc.), clothing, arms related (ammunition, gunflints, gun components, etc.), tobacco related, and activity related (tools, toys, etc.). Items omitted from the functional analysis include brick, mortar, plaster, ash, cinder, coal, bone, shell, and other biological items. Artifacts collected from uncertain proveniences during mechanical stripping were also not included in the functional analysis. Of the more than 31,000 artifacts recovered from the Site during the Phase II archaeological survey, 29,949 were suitable for functional analysis. Artifacts recovered from STPs during the Phase IB archaeological investigation were not included in the Phase II functional analysis. Artifact distribution maps were generated using Golden Software’s Surfer® to analyze and identify any intrasite spatial distribution patterns. The maps were generated on the basis of the number of artifacts recovered from shovel test pits and test units.”

Kitchen related items (associated with food preparation, storage, and serving) were the most common artifact group recovered from the Site, comprising 58.4% of the total artifact assemblage. The preponderance of kitchen related artifacts reflects the domestic nature of the Site. Within the kitchen group assemblage, bottle glass constitutes a distinct majority (64.5%), while ceramics constitute a notable minority (33.1%). A few miscellaneous cooking and tableware items were also recovered.

Bottle glass was recovered in a range of colors, including colorless, amber, aqua, light aqua tint, blue, light blue tint, cobalt

Colorless jar with screw top finish



Colorless ink bottle with bead finish



Colorless bottle with double bead finish (HEBERLING/BLOOMINGTON, ILL.)



Colorless bottle with screw top shaker finish (W.T. RAW-LEIGH CO./FREEPORT, ILL.)



blue, green, light green tint, olive green, teal, and milk glass. Colorless bottle glass was, by far, the most common variety recovered, accounting for nearly two thirds (64.7%) of the recovered bottle glass. Aqua (15.4%) and amber (12.3%) bottle glass were also recovered in significant quantities. The color or tint of a bottle can reveal information about its probable function and, often, its period of manufacture. As such, differences in bottle glass color proportions between contexts could imply either functional or chronological differences. Color, when used in conjunction with bottle morphology, can be used to infer what type of material a given bottle once contained. For example, amber bottle glass is most often characteristic of beer and bleach bottles, while cobalt blue bottle glass is most often characteristic of medicine bottles. Other common associations of bottle glass color and function, as it related to this particular assemblage, include aqua bottle glass commonly used as food storage and beverage containers and milk glass bottles most commonly used as containers for cosmetics, creams, and ointments. Color is also chronologically diagnostic, in a general sense. For example, colorless bottle glass, relatively uncommon prior to the late nineteenth century, came to dominate the American bottle glass industry around the turn of the twentieth century, especially after the advent and popularization of automatic bottling machines. Aqua colors are more likely to be present from the 1850s to the turn of the twentieth century. Olive and light green tints are more likely found in mid-nineteenth-century deposits than twentieth-century deposits. The ubiquitous nature of amber bottle glass, unfortunately, does not allow for any meaningful temporal association.

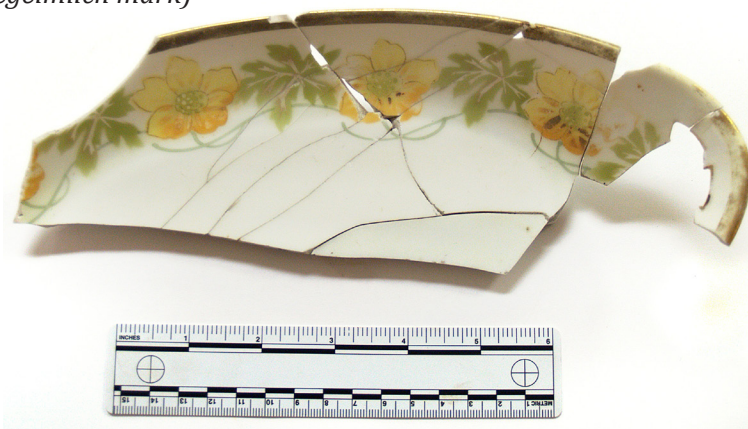
Similarly, bottle morphology (shape and finish), manufacturing techniques, mold markings, labeling, embossed dates, and patent dates can provide clues to function and period of manufacture. Both panel and round bottles were identified, and a variety of finishes were noted. Both machine made and blown-in-mold

Amber medicine bottle with screw top and cap (WHITEHALL)



Colorless medicine bottle with prescription finish (KUHN REMEDY CO./CHICAGO, ILL.)

German porcelain serving dish with decal (Reinhold Schlegelmilch mark)



bottles were recovered. Pontil marks and kick ups are present. A variety of diagnostic mold markings provide a wide range of manufacture dates from the late nineteenth century to the present. The majority of mold markings indicate manufacture during the mid-twentieth century. Embossed and applied labels also allowed for identification of former container contents and period of manufacture.

Ceramics constituted one third of the kitchen group artifact assemblage recovered from the Site. A variety of artifacts can be made of ceramic, including kitchen related items, architectural items, clothing items, tobacco pipes, jewelry, and toys. Most of the recovered ceramic artifacts were associated with the production or consumption of food and drink. Whiteware is the most prevalent ceramic type within the assemblage (56.1%), followed by redware (12.8%) and stoneware (10.8%). Whiteware is a refined paste, white-bodied earthenware typically associated with the mid- to late nineteenth century and twentieth century. Refined paste wares generally include vessel types associated with the serving and consumption of food. The recovered whiteware sherds feature many different decorative styles, including annular, decal decorated, edged (black, blue, gild, and green), flow blue, gilded, glazed (blue, green, and cream), molded, molded edge, hand painted (blue and pink), polychrome, sponged (blue and red), stenciled, and transferprint (aqua, black, blue, brown, gray, green, purple, and red). Identifiable whiteware vessel forms include cups, saucers, plates, bowls, tureens, pitchers, and part of one basin. Ironstone, a form of whiteware also associated with the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, was also recovered from the site, albeit in a lesser quantity (4.5%). Ironstone vessel types include cups, saucers, plates, bowls, and a single sherd from a tureen lid. Decorative styles include decal decorated, blue edged, gilded, cream glazed, molded, and aqua transferprint. Most of the decorative elements on the whiteware and ironstone vessels

Molded buff earthenware



Porcelain plate with blue floral decal



Gray stoneware bowl

were popular in the second and third quarters of the nineteenth century, although some, such as decal decorated, undecorated, or molded pieces, were more popular in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

A few of the ceramic vessels feature manufacturers' marks or other diagnostic markings, the majority of which are found on whiteware sherds. The whiteware vessels were almost entirely manufactured within the western Pennsylvania/eastern Ohio/northern West Virginia region, with one piece, manufactured by the Canonsburg Pottery Company, produced locally in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania. A few pieces were produced or decorated in Trenton, New Jersey. Two pieces were imported from England. Of the three ironstone vessels with diagnostic information, one was produced in the region (Sebring, Ohio), one was from Trenton, and one was imported from Staffordshire, England. Manufacture dates range from the mid-nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century, with the mean centered around the turn of the twentieth century.

Architectural items constituted nearly one-third of the artifact assemblage. These items include nails, window glass, and other items associated with the construction and decoration of the farmhouse and outbuildings. Window glass accounts for the majority of this artifact grouping (61.9%), followed by nails (30.5%) and other architectural items (7.6%). The presence of window glass was consistent throughout the farmstead core, but only sporadically encountered in outlying areas. As might be expected, high concentrations of window glass were found in association with the farmhouse and outbuildings, particularly surrounding the outbuildings south of the farmhouse. The single densest concentration, however, was recovered from Test Units 37/46, which contained Feature 21. Artifactual and photographic data suggest that Feature 21 marks the location of a former greenhouse.



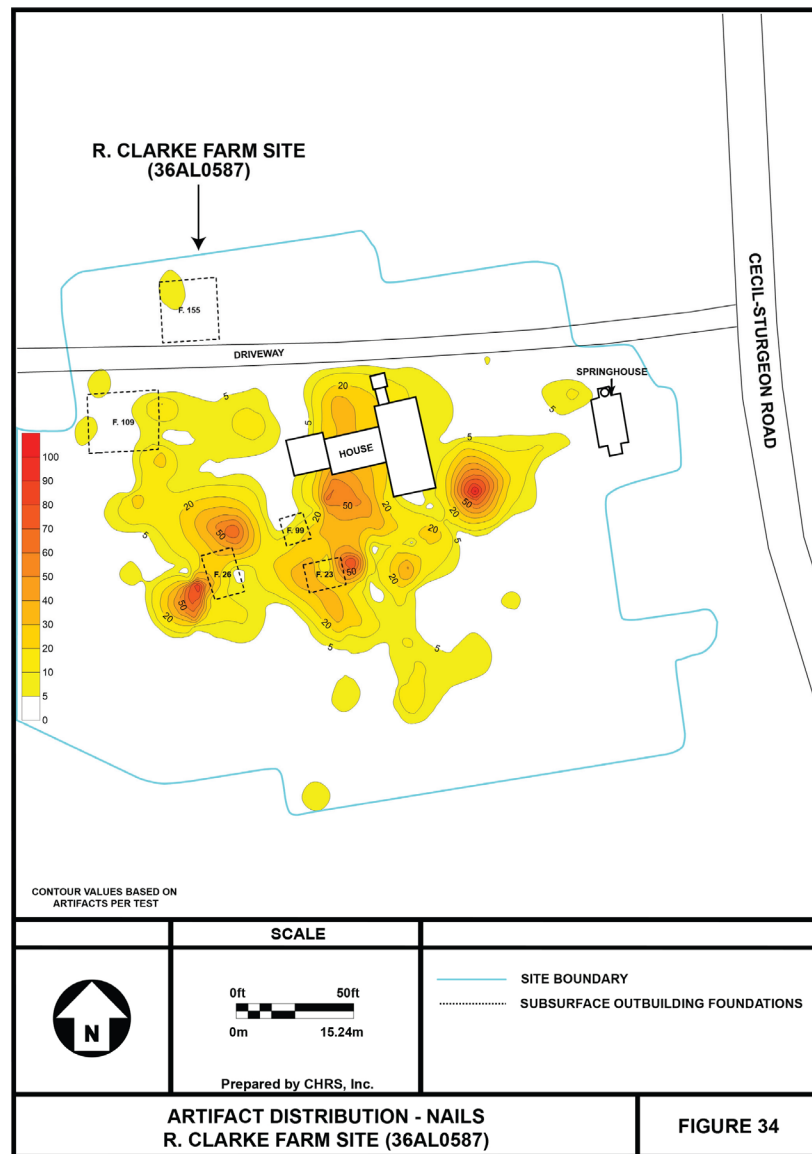
Window glass artifact distribution map, from Phase II Archaeological Survey Addendum, April 2018.

Recovered nails include wrought, cut, and wire varieties. Wrought nails are usually associated with eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century construction, while cut nails are usually associated with the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Wire nails came into general use during the late nineteenth century, and came to dominate twentieth-century construction. A number of the cut nails feature wrought heads which indicate early nineteenth-century manufacture. Eighty percent of the identifiable, non-fragmentary nails were either unaltered or clinched, suggesting that the buildings on the Site had collapsed in place. This jibes with reports that the farmhouse and some outbuildings burned down. Other recovered architectural fasteners include cut and wire brads, roofing nails, roofing tacks, and spikes (including a large eye-head spike and two which were possibly wrought).

Non-fastener architectural items unearthed on the Site include shingles (asbestos, asphalt, and slate), gutter hooks, window materials (plaster window came and wire mesh window screen), door hardware (door knob fragments, hinges, and a door box lock), electrical items (glass electrical fuses and porcelain insulators), plumbing items (earthenware sewer pipe, terra cotta drain pipe, a faucet filter, and a possible toilet tank lid), tiles (asbestos, ceramic, and linoleum), a decorative copper alloy gas lamp fixture, tar paper, and lumber.



*Decorative copper alloy gas lamp fixture
(Feature 155)*



*Nail artifact distribution map, from Phase II
Archaeological Survey Addendum, April 2018.*

Furniture, personal, clothing, arms, tobacco, activities, and miscellaneous artifact groups constitute the remainder of the assemblage. Only 1% of the assemblage comprises furniture items, and most of those items are related to lighting, including lamp chimney glass (crimped, embossed, painted, and milk glass varieties), light bulb components (bases, filaments, glass, and an insulator), two lamp bases, a porcelain fixture fragment, and a chandelier crystal.

Forty personal items were recovered, including coinage, jewelry and accoutrements, comb fragments (bone, celluloid, and plastic), a copper token, mirror glass, and an eyeglass lens. Among the jewelry and accoutrements unearthed were beads (ceramic and possibly ebony), two milk glass cabochons, a 1933 World's Fair commemorative bracelet, a celluloid hair pin, a shell and copper alloy tie pin, mirror glass from a compact, a wrist watch, leather from a wallet, a copper alloy purse frame, and various jewelry fragments. Clothing related items included 48 buttons and button fragments; eleven buckles of various types and metallic compositions; and pieces of leather, woven fabric, and vinyl. Among the recovered shoe parts are heels, soles, and other leather and rubber fragments.

Of the 38 arms-related artifacts recovered, most are shotgun shells (12 gauge) or bullet casings (.32 caliber, .38 caliber, and others). Among the others are a 0.7-inch-diameter lead ball (possibly for musket use) and a French gun flint. The few unearthed tobacco related items comprised fragments of kaolin clay and stoneware pipe stems and bowls.

More than 2,500 artifacts associated with particular activities were recovered. Most of the artifacts are hardware (bolts, nuts, washers, wire, chains, etc.). Analysis of these items and their locations provides further insight into the Site's activity areas

Assorted buttons, including Bakelite (6; top), plastic (3; left center), and milk glass (3; right center)



D-shaped copper buckles with ferrous tongues/pins



Turn key



Whistle (Feature 92)

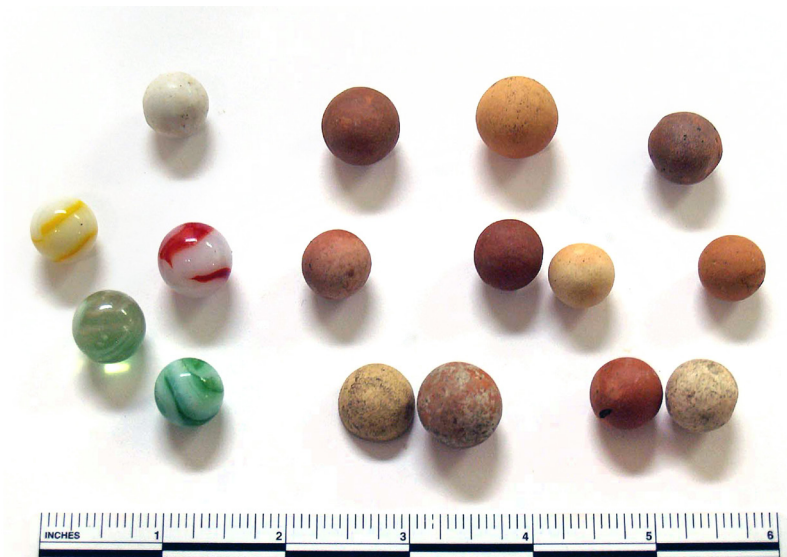
and outbuilding functions. Tools, automotive and/or small-engine items, and items related to horses were found throughout the Site, but mostly concentrated west of the farmhouse, specifically within the Agricultural Building Area. Tools include three file fragments, at least two wrenches, two lug wrenches, two carpenter's graphites, two soapstone sticks (used by welders), a pair of pliers, a sledge hammer head, a pick axe head, a pitch fork, a mounted press or clamp, a saw blade fragment, and two ferrous objects which may be tool handles. Items related to horses were also concentrated in the Agricultural Building Area. These items include eight horseshoes, one horseshoe nail fragment, and three pieces of horse tack.

Assorted horse related items: horseshoe nails (upper left), horseshoe (upper center), harness bell (lower center, right), harness rivet (lower center, left), and horse trap-pings (lower left and right)



Miscellaneous metal objects, clockwise from top left: harness bell, decorative scissors handle, dog escutcheon, decorative white metal (possibly jewelry), and knife handle.

Fifty items classified as toys were recovered. They include marbles (20 clay, 4 glass, 1 porcelain), 18 porcelain doll fragments and possible nylon doll hair, a porcelain toy teapot lid, a whistle, a glass die, an axel from a toy vehicle, and a ferrous toy horse. A fragment of molded earthenware, possibly part of a handmade doll head, was also recovered. Other items used for leisurely entertainment include two harmonica fragments and bicycle parts. Toys were found throughout the site, but were concentrated south of the farmhouse, primarily within the south side yard, Area 3, and the Garden Area. As previously suggested by concentrations of tobacco items and detachable clothing fasteners, it appears that this section of the farmstead was the locus for leisurely outdoor activities for both children and adults.



Assorted marbles, including glass (4; lower left), porcelain (1; upper left), and clay (11; right)



Assorted doll parts and accessories, including porcelain fragments (8), toy teapot lid (upper right), and earthenware doll head fragment (upper center)

The R. Clarke Farm Site in Context

Following their analyses of archaeological data retrieved from the R. Clarke Farm Site, the authors of the *Phase II Addendum* report attempted to find broader meaning by comparing the Site to other historic archaeological sites in the vicinity and the wider region. The resulting “Intersite Comparative Analysis” drew upon the results of Phase II and Phase III archaeological surveys performed by CHRS on four Pennsylvania farm sites with similar periods of occupation, as well as two purposefully dissimilar sites (a part time/retirement farm and a coal-and-coke company town). Data from the selected sites were reorganized in order to fit the categories used in the organization of R. Clarke Farm Site Phase II investigation data.

The extended considerations of historical and geographical context in the “Intersite Comparative Analysis”—largely based on artifact assemblages—set the stage for a concluding “Discussion” in which the *Phase II Addendum* report authors reflected on the “bigger picture” significance of the Site. The successive occupations of the Site, beginning with John Roseberry in the early nineteenth century, were discussed as follows (tables and in-text citations have been omitted in the interest of brevity).

Roseberry Occupation (ca. 1806-1853)

The first resident of the Site was John Roseberry, a Cumberland County, Pennsylvania native who applied in the spring of 1806 for a warrant of survey of a 119.88-acre tract that included the land later occupied by the R. Clarke Farm Site. A farmstead was assembled on or in the immediate vicinity of the site by 1820

at the latest, when John and his wife Sarah were enumerated as residents on a census conducted that year. A survey of the tract was completed in 1823, and although no structures are depicted on this map, Pennsylvania Land Office regulations at the time required that proof of settlement, improvement, and cultivation be established before a warrant would be issued.

John Roseberry farmed the tract with the assistance of Rudolph Clark, a surrogate grandson to the heir-less couple, and the patriarch of the Clark family that would eventually own and operate the farm for nearly a century. Following the death of John (1843) and Sarah Roseberry (1853), Rudolph Clark assumed sole ownership of the Roseberry farm in March 1853. Agricultural schedules of 1850 reveal a farm slightly understocked and underperforming relative to neighboring South Fayette Township farms, but producing wool, dairy products, and a varied mixture of crops that fit the general profile of a standard general farm within the “Southwestern Pennsylvania Diversified Agriculture and Sheep Raising Region,” as characterized by the Pennsylvania Agricultural History Project.

Little evidence of the early nineteenth-century Roseberry period of occupation was recovered during the archaeological investigations. Within the recovered ceramic assemblage, a total of 246 sherds were identified as having early to mid-nineteenth-century production dates. These ceramic types include pearlware, Chinese porcelain, creamware, slip trailed redware, c.c. ware, slip decorated redware, jackfield, engine-turned redware, and white stoneware. Sherds were relatively small, and only a few vessel types were discerned: a Chinese porcelain saucer, a pearlware cup, and

a pearlware soup plate. The early-to-mid-nineteenth-century ceramics are, for the most part, clustered around the southern side of the farmhouse. The locations included the Garden Area, surrounding the stone building represented by Feature 23 (Area 3), northeast of the stone building represented by Feature 26 (Area 5), and on the south side of the farmhouse between the twentieth-century garden area and the farmhouse. The relatively small number of early-to-mid-nineteenth-century artifacts do not permit any informed socioeconomic correlations specific to the Roseberry household. The spatial distribution of these early artifacts may, however, provide clues as to farmstead layout and function in the early to mid-nineteenth century.

The 2-foot-thick foundational remains represented by Feature 26 hint at a purpose beyond that of a simple outbuilding. The solid foundation walls of Feature 26 are more along the lines of what may be expected for a house foundation or summer kitchen. Besides the large farmhouse, Feature 26 was the only other structure to possess interior drainage, which was provided by Feature 39, a hexagonal terra cotta pipe. This pipe was unlike the round earthenware drainage pipe found elsewhere on the Site. Clay pipe of hexagonal shape was a precursor to the more familiar round pipe. Large scale production of clay drainage pipe in the United States began in 1849 by the firm of Hill, Merrill and Company in Middlesbury, Ohio. The first clay pipe product manufactured was hexagonal in shape, and was soon supplanted by the round shape. Terra cotta, with its porous, fragile composition, also fell out of favor by the late nineteenth century and was replaced by more water resistant and less fragile salt-glazed vitrified clay and slip-glazed pipe. By 1880, these impervious types of pipe were commonplace. Around this time, bell-and-spigot joints also gained popularity as an additional method for increasing water tightness. Feature 39 featured open joints, and there was no evidence that they had once been secured with sealing material, such as

mortar or tar. These characteristics hint at a mid-nineteenth-century installation. This simple method of indoor water removal was likely for the drainage of a sink. It is likely that the buildings represented by Features 23 and 26 were constructed during the period of Roseberry occupation.

Comparisons of size and construction can be made to the few remaining eighteenth-century log homes in Allegheny County and neighboring Washington County. The Roseberry home may have been constructed of logs, as single story log houses represented 75% of pre-1800 buildings across the region. A prime candidate for comparison is the Stephenson Log House, which is located on the property neighboring the R. Clarke Farm Site parcel to the southwest (approximately 1,600 feet from the core of Clark farmstead). The Stephenson Log House, constructed in 1778, features hewn logs atop a stone foundation with a footprint of 34 feet by 16 feet. The foundation is described as “stone fill” (sandstone) with “thin stones laid on an angle.” This is similar to the Feature 26 foundation which consists of thin, platy pieces of sandstone, laid horizontally between more massive and blocky corner stones. The dimensions of the Stephenson Log House are larger and more elongated compared to Feature 26, which measures 20 feet by 13 feet. However, the Stephenson Log House is unusually long and narrow for an early log house in this area: the United States Direct Tax List indicates that less than 1% of the log houses across southwestern Pennsylvania were over 32 feet in length. Instead, most Washington County log houses were squarer, measuring a bit more than 20 feet on one side and a bit less than 20 feet on the other. A closer comparison, in terms of size, is found in the Neill Log House, built ca. 1787, in the Schenley Park section of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County. It has the nearly-square rectangular form (about 21 feet by about 24 feet) more typical of early log houses in the region. A survey of the log houses remaining in Washington County also reveals an ethnic trend: vernacular

log houses in predominantly German areas tend to be more cubic, while more rectangular forms are associated with Scots-Irish areas of the county. John Roseberry was of Scots-Irish descent.

One other possible candidate for the original dwelling is the middle ell of the farmhouse. The middle ell measured approximately 25 feet by 15 feet, and featured thicker, more massive foundation walls than the multi-story main block of the farmhouse. The dimensions of this ell foundation are comparable to the Scots-Irish type of log houses of the period. It is possible that a section of the ell portion of the farmhouse constituted the earliest residential building on the Site, with the main block having been added in the mid-nineteenth century and the frame addition in the early twentieth century. Ceramics deposition in the first half of the nineteenth century was often adjacent to the residential building on the Site, extending 20 to 25 feet from the structure. These deposits would have been destroyed during the expansion of the farmhouse during the second half of the nineteenth century and in the twentieth century. The remaining early nineteenth-century deposits would be near outbuildings such as those represented by Features 23 and 26, and possibly another unidentified outbuilding in what became the garden area in the twentieth century.

Rudolph and Margaret Clark Occupation (1853-1880)

For nearly a century, the Clark family retained ownership of the former Roseberry farm and continued to operate it in a manner consistent with other farms of the region, focusing on wool production, dairy products, and a varied mixture of crops. Rudolph Clark married Margaret Ewing shortly after inheriting the Roseberry farm, and on December 10, 1854, the heir apparent, James Ewing Clark, was born. Together, Rudolph and James operated the family farm, with much success, until Rudolph's death in

March 1880. This was a prosperous period for the Clarks, as well as many other wool-producing farms in the region. The American Civil War generated a huge demand for wool products to outfit the Union Army and civilians, especially since the cotton supply from the South had been cut off.

During Rudolph Clark's ownership, the farm increased in size from 119 improved acres in 1860 (unimproved acres were not recorded); to 150 improved and 90 unimproved acres in 1870; to 160 improved acres, 124 acres of "permanent meadow, permanent pastures, orchards and vineyards," and 20 acres of woodland in 1880. The property's value more than doubled during that period, increasing from \$6,500 in 1860 to \$14,400 in 1880. The Clarks apparently fared even better than many neighboring farms: at the time of Rudolph's death in 1880, the value of the Clark farm (\$14,400) was nearly double the average of neighboring farms (approximately \$7,639). Somewhat surprisingly, the number of sheep on the Clark farm actually decreased during this period, from 150 in 1860, to 130 in 1870, to approximately 100 in 1880. This trend may be somewhat counterbalanced by the fact that improved feeding and care, as well as selective breeding of larger sheep, would likely have increased the weight of the fleece yield per sheep.

The increase in income also signaled a change in lifestyle. Families shifted away from a life of merely working to survive to a life with an "enhanced level of material comfort—not ostentation or excess, perhaps, but beyond the mere necessities." Architecturally, this manifested in a period of building and renovation in the region. Maps suggest that it is during this period (1862-1876) that the Clarks constructed their larger and more modern house to replace or supplement the original Roseberry dwelling. Field data and aerial photography suggest that this was an I-house, the fashionable farmhouse form of the period. Although it is unclear

when the attached ells were constructed, the presence of these ells suggests a “consistent interaction with city and town of the period, and also possibly an awareness of popular forms and styles derived from published materials such as pattern books, farm journals, and popular magazines. They also signify substantial financial means.” This construction boom also applied to outbuildings. The grazing-dependent nature of sheep farming is not architecturally intensive, so prior to this period of prosperity, outbuildings may have been quite rare. Architectural surveys indicate that, throughout the region, most remaining barns were constructed during this period (1860s and 1870s).

In terms of material culture, this period saw households updating furnishings, improving living conditions through adoption of new technologies (i.e., the wood burning cook stove, new methods of heating and plumbing), and expanding the variety of foods in their diet through the cultivation of non-native garden crops and new methods for processing and preserving foods (most notably, canning). While material relating to this time period was recovered at the Site, the material lacks sufficient temporal distinction for artifacts to be exclusively attributed to this period. The architectural and historical data indicate the expansion of the farmhouse. The coarse paste ceramic distribution suggests that Rudolph Clark continued to use the south yard areas as he had prior to Sarah Roseberry’s death and possibly increase his use of the front (east) yard area and the area surrounding the spring house during the third quarter of the nineteenth century.

James Ewing and Mary Ann Clark Occupation (1880-1924)

Following Rudolph Clark’s death on March 16, 1880, care and management of the farm was left to James Ewing Clark. Rudolph’s widow, Margaret, retained ownership until her death in Septem-

ber 1887, after which James assumed complete control and ownership of the farm. In May of 1884, James married Mary Ann McConnell. This union would produce six children between 1885 and 1898, marking the first time in the history of the Site that multiple children—or any female children at all—were full-time members of the residing household. The large household would remain relatively intact over the next few decades. The most dramatic reshaping of the household occurred on April 17, 1924 when patriarch James Ewing Clark died in a farming accident when he lost control of the tractor he was operating. That marked the end of a very successful period of farming for the Clarks and foreshadowed a string of hard luck that would befall James’s descendants and future inhabitants of the property.

Through the first quarter of the twentieth century, the Clark farm was notable as a prosperous and increasingly rare holdover from southwestern Pennsylvania’s agricultural hey-day (1850-1890). That prosperity was rooted in the fact that life-long resident James Ewing Clark had been an only child (sole heir) who received the farm mortgage-free from his parents. There is also anecdotal evidence that James’ wife Mary Ann brought a measure of wealth to their marriage, having “inherited money from an uncle [McConnell].” A grandson would recount, more specifically, that “Mary Ann inherited a large sum of money, an apartment building on the north side of Pittsburgh and a theater on the south side of Pittsburgh.” The Clark farm’s continued flourishing was due in part to James’ and Mary Ann’s farming acumen and work ethic, which they inculcated in their children—including four sons capable of relieving James of the most arduous tasks and field work (a neighbor would report that the Clarks “had the best farm around and really knew how to farm”). Also factoring in the farm’s persistence was the Clark household’s unusual continuity. All six Clark children (Irvin, Dolph, Isabella, Margaret, Nathan, and Scott) were enumerated at home in 1900 and 1910, and four

of the six were still in residence ten years later (though some reportedly left for periods to attend college). Additional continuity was provided by widower farmhand Frank Kinny, who was enumerated as a member of the Clark household in 1900 and again in 1910. Moreover, the Clarks were outward-looking, eager to learn, and progressively inclined. According to a great-granddaughter of James and Mary Ann Clark, at least four of the Clark children attended college. Dolph “studied engineering and subsequently worked for H.J. Heinz, Westinghouse and GE glass. Margaret and Isabella were teachers. Scott was a farmer, agriculture teacher and principal at Washington High School.” It is unsurprising that James Clark was among the small minority (15%) of Pennsylvania farmers who invested in a tractor prior to 1927. Nor is it astonishing to hear from a descendant that 65-year-old widow Mary Ann Clark—a couple of years after her husband’s fatal tractor accident—“bought and learned to drive a car when there were hardly any cars on the road.” In taking grandsons John and Rudy Clark for rides around the countryside, Mary Ann “drove in low gear the whole time.” The grandsons really “thought they were going places,” despite the restrained pace.

The Clarks’ elevated social standing in the community at the time of James Clark’s accidental death in July 1924 was reflected in an obituary, which described James as “a well-known farmer of this section,” “a widely known agriculturist,” and “a man of excellent character, highly esteemed by all who knew him.” That esteem was evidenced at James’ funeral. “It was like a top official had died and there were even sirens,” grandson Rudy Clark would report. “There were so many people who came to see him that the farm could barely accommodate all those people. [He] was buried in a special casket and the funeral cost \$5,000.” A newspaper report noted that “it was one of the largest funerals ever held in the neighborhood, over two hundred autos being parked near the Clark home.”

The prosperity of the Clarks during this period is in contrast to many other sheep-dependent farms of the region. After the Civil War, the demand for wool diminished and prices began to drop. The lack of demand was worsened by the post-war recovery of the Southern cotton industry and a worldwide cotton boom. Wool prices became less stable as protective tariffs fluctuated with the changing national political situation, and in 1894, the protective tariff was removed for good. Other areas of the globe were able to raise high-quality sheep at lower costs, which made large-scale sheep grazing significantly less profitable in southwestern Pennsylvania.

The latter decades of the nineteenth century also saw major regional growth of extractive and manufacturing industries, particularly coal mining, oil and gas extraction, and steel production. With sheep farming becoming increasingly less profitable, many farmers sold off grazing land or leased subsurface rights to mining companies for substantial profits and royalties. Increased mining also negatively affected local water quality, and farm labor became harder to find as many laborers preferred the stability of a mining or manufacturing job to that of a seasonal farm hand. Many farms that continued agricultural pursuits shifted away from wool production to edible crops needed to feed the rapidly expanding mining population. Increases were seen in poultry meat, egg, fruit, and dairy production. By the time of James’s death in 1924, the sheep farming industry in southwestern Pennsylvania had been crippled; by 1920, farms in neighboring Washington County grazed an average of only 24 sheep, down from over 100 sheep in 1880 when James assumed control of the farm. Without agricultural census data, it is impossible to say with certainty, but the apparent success of the Clarks during this era suggests that James was able to successfully navigate the family farm through these tumultuous times by adapting to the demands of the changing economy and shifting production away from wool.

The large size of the James Ewing Clark household was well suited to the family's economic situation. Historically, men handled the rearing, grazing, and sheering of sheep, while women performed duties closer to the farmhouse, including picking fruits and vegetables; drying, canning, pickling, and making preserves; poultry raising; milking cows and churning butter; smoking meat; and feeding livestock. With the increased importance of diversified agricultural production, it can be assumed that the role of women and children on the farm also increased. The Clark household—including James's wife, their six children (four males and two females), and one adult male laborer—marked the first time in the history of the farm that a large household workforce was living on the farm. The increased contributions of the various members of the household likely helped sustain the farm's production and prosperity during this tumultuous time. Artifacts from the lower strata at the site appear to date to this period of occupation of the Site. The large Clark family was in keeping with the concept of the Cult of Domesticity and the Cult of True Womanhood that was prevalent in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century. The adherence to this philosophy may also be reflected in the prominence of teawares in the ceramic assemblage. It was likely that during this period that additions were added to the farmhouse and additional outbuildings such as the larger barns were constructed to the west and northwest of the farm house.

As owner-occupants of an ancestral farm in South Fayette Township during the first decades of the twentieth century, the Clarks found themselves in a shrinking minority. That was largely due to the massive influx of European immigrants and migrants from south of the Mason-Dixon Line, drawn to work in bituminous mining and coke-making operations along Millers Run, Robinsons Run (defining South Fayette Township's northwestern border), and Chartiers Creek (southeastern border). Through that

influx, South Fayette had seen its population nearly double during the 1890s, jumping from 2,484 to 5,548 inhabitants (despite the Township's contribution of more than 500 residents to Oakdale Borough's charter population in 1892). South Fayette's population surge continued through America's joining of the Great War in 1917, increasing 63% during the century's first decade, then another 5% before wartime brought immigration to a temporary standstill. During that era, the Clarks went from having approximately 5,540 fellow residents in South Fayette Township in 1900, to having approximately 9,210 municipal neighbors in 1920. The percentage of farm-based households declined accordingly, but the total did, as well. Eighty-five heads of households had been identified as farmers on census schedules compiled in South Fayette Township in 1900. James Clark had been among the marked majority (65%) of those farming heads who reported Pennsylvania nativity. The other third were European immigrants (except for a couple migrants from the southern U.S.) In the 1920 census enumeration, only 57 farming heads of household (James Clark included) were enumerated in South Fayette Township, a 30% decrease since the turn of the twentieth century. The ratio of Pennsylvania-born vs. non-native farming heads remained unchanged (65% vs. 35%).

More locally, the complexion of the neighborhood along Cecil-Sturgeon Road on either side of the Clark farm changed from purely agricultural at the turn of the twentieth century (when the corridor was occupied by large adjoining farms) to a mix of shrinking farms and small, recently-developed residential properties, about half of which were occupied by immigrants.

The Clark farm was thrust into a period of transition during the mid-1920s through a series of events. First, James and Mary Ann's second-youngest son, 28-year-old Nathan, died from tuberculosis in February 1923. Then, in November 1923, youngest son

Scott married a local girl and brought her to live with him and his parents on the Clark farm. Finally, James Clark was killed in July 1924. The Clark farm was never the same following James' death. The Clarks scrambled to adapt to the new order over the coming years, but the farm never returned to its former prosperity. Within a year or two of James' death, Scott Clark and his wife moved to a farm across the Allegheny-Washington County line, and were replaced on the Clark farm by Dolph and Naomi Kate Clark with their young sons John and Rudy. Widow Mary Ann Clark remained the resident matriarch through 1928 or early 1929, then moved (for unknown reasons) 5 miles eastward to the Pittsburgh City Home and Hospital at Mayview, near Bridgeville. She would continue to own the Clark farm from that distance for a decade, leaving Dolph and Naomi Kate to occupy the property as renters while the Great Depression took hold.

Dolph and Naomi Clark Occupation (1924-1948)

Following the untimely death of James Ewing Clark in 1924, ownership of the farm passed to his widow, Mary Ann Clark. By 1930, Mary Ann had moved from the farm, which was then occupied by her son, former engineer Dolph Clark, and his family. The Dolph Clark household consisted of his wife, Naomi, and their two sons: John Ewing (14) and James Rudolph (10, called "Rudy"). This new period of occupancy coincided with the beginning of the Great Depression. Although the entire nation was affected, it hit southwestern Pennsylvania farmers particularly hard. The Clarks were no exception: according to their granddaughter, Dolph and Naomi Clark "lost their money during the Great Depression and almost lost the farm."

Dolph and Naomi Kate Clark were not geared to farming as Dolph's parents had been. Naomi Kate had been brought from

northwestern England to America by her parents as a two-year-old in 1888. She had grown up with her family first in mining village between McDonald and Sturgeon, in northern South Fayette Township, where her father and older brothers worked in a mine, then on a small general farm acquired by her father outside the village of Treveskyn (Cuddy P.O.) along Millers Run. Upon her marriage to Dolph Clark in August 1910, Naomi Kate and Dolph moved to eastern Pittsburgh, where college-trained Dolph took a job as an electrical worker in the W.E.&M. Company at Turtle Creek. The couple began putting down roots there through the births of son John in 1915 and son Rudy in 1920. The family's return to the isolated Clark farm following the death of James Clark and departure of Scott Clark in the mid-1920s was an abrupt transition that may have suited Dolph and the boys much better than Naomi Kate, who did not have farming in her blood.

Life on an increasingly marginal farm only got harder with the onset of the Great Depression. The Clark family's straits might have been even more dire if Dolph's college education had not enabled him to "find good jobs, even during the Great Depression." Census schedules recorded in April 1940 indicate that Dolph's latest "good job" was working as a laborer in the Universal-Cyclops steel mill, earning an annual income of \$600. That employment left little time for helping 19-year-old son Rudy around the farm. Nor was eldest son John available for farm work: he had married a Westmoreland County native and moved to Painesville, Ohio, where he was engaged as a "hot mill man" in a steel mill. Still, Dolph and Rudy Clark were both credited on 1940 census schedules with having earned at least \$850 during the previous year from "sources other than wages or salary," which, in their case, must have meant farming income. The Clarks' minimum combined annual income of \$2,700 placed them among the highest income-generating households in the western half of South Fayette Township. Most of their neighbors—whether farmers, mine

employees, or businessmen—had annual earnings ranging from several hundred dollars to \$1,200. It was noted that Dolph “just pays the taxes” on the Clark farm as of April 1940, an unusual arrangement given that he and his non-resident brother Scott had acquired the farm by deed from their widowed mother a year earlier. Because the consideration was a nominal \$1, the deed shed no light on the worth of the once-valuable property.

Though the Clark farm was reduced by 1940 to a part-time operation, it was still successful. A 1938 Pennsylvania Agricultural Experiment Station survey found that farm income accounted for only approximately 18% of the average part-time farm household income, compared to over 75% on the Clark farm (in 1940). The same survey found that women and children performed more than half of the labor performed on part-time farms, a trend likely echoed on the Clark farm given Dolph’s off-farm occupation. With the viability of sheep farming continuing to spiral downwards, successful farms of this period focused on poultry and dairy production, and on supplying niche markets which catered to the dietary preferences of the influx of immigrant miners.

Developments during the years of World War II brought the Clark family’s long occupation of the Clark farm to a grim conclusion. Rudy was “drafted into the army infantry in the European Theatre Operations” in the spring of 1943, then departed for what turned out to be a year of domestic military service, followed by a year overseas. Dolph soon fell “very ill,” and was no longer able to work. At some point in this dark period, Naomi Kate attempted to “heat the farmhouse” by “burning all of the valuable land maps, documents and books . . . in the Clark farm’s extensive library.” Dolph’s suffering from an intestinal obstruction eventually forced his hospitalization at Pittsburgh’s Mercy Hospital, where a heart attack ended his life on October 10, 1945. Rudy was returning home after recuperating from a leg wound at Fort Indiantown Gap when

he learned of his father’s passing. He and his widowed mother soon vacated the Clark farmhouse and took up residence in a nearby village. Rudy’s daughter Susan reports that her father rarely drove past his boyhood home after that relocation. “He felt [that his family] had bad luck there. I think that is why he did not want [to live there any longer], plus the expense of it [appeared daunting].”

The archaeological data suggests that the focus of activity changed during this period. The area to the south of the farmhouse in which a privy and perhaps a storage building had once stood (Area 7) was converted into a garden. The privy that stood behind the stone building in Area 3 was abandoned and the building itself may have been repurposed. Much of the activity at the Site during this period appears to have shifted to the northwest and west of the farm house. The artifacts suggest a slightly less affluent household, but one that was still firmly embedded in the national economy and trade network.

Sochacky Occupation (1948-1973)

The third and final twentieth-century occupation of the Clark farm was also marked by adversity and decline. Dolph Clark’s brother Scott conveyed the vacated farm to 27-year-old bachelor farmer Leo Sochacky of Smith Township, Washington County, in consideration of \$10,000 (the equivalent of \$98,000 in 2018). The farm’s new owner was a son of Polish immigrant farmers Andrew and Veronica Sochacky, who had settled on a rented farm in North Fayette Township after World War I. The Sochackys were still tenant farmers in North Fayette in 1940. Leo Sochacky’s fire-sale purchase of the Clark farm in 1948 was probably financed in part by his parents, who appear to have moved onto the farm with him. Sparse records suggest that the Clark farmhouse was occupied by Leo and his aging parents for nearly a decade, until Andy

Sochacky's death from chronic heart disease in February 1957. Leo's mother Vera survived two more years, then succumbed to a blocked artery in April 1959. From that time forward, Leo Sochacky appears to have been the property's sole resident.

Newspaper accounts describe a succession of misfortunes befalling Leo Sochacky in the mid-1960s. In 1967 or earlier, his "cattle died of disease and his barn burned" (an aerial photograph taken on May 26, 1967 documented only a foundation where the Clark barn had stood. As "his debts mounted," Sochacky "had to quit work as a laborer because of a double hernia." He "underwent back surgery" in April 1968, and was compelled to return to the hospital two months later "for another surgical operation." When he arrived back at his farm, he discovered that a brother-in-law had "entered a judgment against [him] in the sum of \$6,979.70," and that a sheriff's sale of the farm was scheduled for July 5, 1968. At the sale, a Washington County farm owner and industrial executive purchased the property for \$51,790, and a deed effecting the conveyance to him was recorded in Allegheny County on August 15, 1968. The new owner charged that Sochacky—who remained in residence, though suffering from severe arthritis—was now trespassing. When a constable arrived at the Clark farmhouse to serve a warrant, he "wound up driving [Sochacky] to a doctor." Sochacky began receiving public assistance, and was eventually permitted to return to his farm when the results of the July 1968 sheriff's sale were voided by the determination that the farm lay partly in Washington County, and that no Washington County authority had been involved in the sale. Sochacky remained on his farm, continuing to receive public assistance, another five or six years. A legal suit brought by the Department of Public Welfare in October 1973 finally forced his eviction, probably by the spring of 1974. A neighbor has reported that one or more fires reduced the farmstead's remaining structures to ashes around

this time. The buildings were still standing as of April 14, 1973 (as recorded on an aerial photograph), but were gone as December 5, 1975.

Leo's hard luck as a farmer was not anomalous. By 1960, throughout the region, sheep farming had lost its viability. Mining had polluted farm water supplies to the point that the Washington County agricultural extension agent reported that: "With the development of the coal mining industry, farm water supplies have been lost entirely or seriously depleted. Wells and springs have gone dry. Not only these sources have [sic] been lost, but streams are being polluted by pumping mine water into them. Livestock will not drink from heavily polluted streams." Furthermore, the hilly topography was not well-suited to mechanized farming, and overgrazing had allowed erosion to significantly deplete soil quality. All sectors of agriculture faced increased competition from within the region and around the globe, making it "very hard for farmers on marginal soils with steep, hilly ground to make a living." South Fayette Township, once a thriving agricultural area, never regained its glory. Relatively few of the mid-nineteenth-century farms remain in the region. Many, like the former Roseberry/Clark/Sochacky farm, have gone to ruin or have been replaced by modern development. Those that remain retain very little of their former character, and most exist in very poor condition.

Summary and Recommendations

In a final section of the *Phase II Addendum* report headed "Summary and Recommendations," the authors concluded:

The R. Clarke Farm Site included both historic and precontact elements. The precontact portion of the Site is a low-density

lithic scatter which will not provide information important to our understanding of local or regional prehistory and is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The historic component of the Site is representative of an early to mid-twentieth-century farmstead, yielding more than 31,000 historic artifacts and 162 archaeological features. The artifact assemblage from the Phase II Archaeological Survey includes a wide range of artifact types that relate to the Site's occupants and their use of the Site through time. There are patterns in the domestic deposits of the farm property at the Site that reflect changing patterns of site use through time. The Site has been able

to add to the knowledge of local and regional history both individually, and through comparison with other sites in the region. The Site has provided insight into patterns of yard usage and commercial consumption for an underrepresented segment of the archaeological record: the twentieth-century southwestern Pennsylvania farmstead. Research has revealed the Site to be a farm typical of the "Southwestern Pennsylvania Diversified Agriculture and Sheep Raising Region" agricultural historic context. The Site is recommended eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The Phase II Archaeological Survey has collected the majority of data available from the Site, and no additional archaeological testing is recommended.



For Further Reading and Research

- Beers, S.N. and F.W. Beers. *Map of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania*. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: Smith, Gallup & Hewitt, 1862.
- Clark, Susan. "Clark Farm History and Clark-Ewing Family Connections: Query by Susan Clark to the Association's Genealogist, Karen Avery." *Ewing Family Journal*, Vol. 15, No. 4 (November 2009). Aurora, Illinois: Ewing Family Association.
- Cushing, Thomas. *History of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania*. "In Two Parts." Chicago, Illinois: A. Warner & Co., 1889.
- Hopkins, G.M. "South Fayette" Township map. In *Atlas of the County of Allegheny, Penna.* Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: G.M. Hopkins, 1876.
- Lavender, Catherine J. "Notes on The Cult of Domesticity and True Womanhood." Prepared for Students in HST 386: Women in the City, Department of History, The College of Staten Island/CUNY, 1998. Electronic document posted online <<https://csivc.csi.cuny.edu/history/files/lavender/386/truewoman.pdf>>. Accessed on January 25, 2018.
- Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC). "Pennsylvania Agricultural History Project; Historic Agricultural Resources of Pennsylvania c. 1700-1960: Southwestern Pennsylvania Diversified Agriculture and Sheep Raising, c. 1840-1960," 2015. Electronic document posted online <<http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/agriculture/history/index.html>>. Accessed on October 10, 2017.
- Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC). *Guidelines for Archaeological Investigations in Pennsylvania*. Harrisburg, Pennsylvania: PHMC, 2017. Curation Guidelines revised 2006.
- Rainey, Charles T. *Farm Line Map of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania*. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania: Charles T. Rainey, 1898.
- Smith, Charlotte. *Images of America: South Fayette Township*. Charlestown, South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, 2015.
- United States Geological Survey (USGS). *Carnegie, PA Quadrangle*, 15 minute series. Surveyed in 1903-04. Edition of May 1906. Washington, D.C.: United States Geological Survey.