ATTENTION:

PORTIONS OF THIS SCANNED DOCUMENT ARE ILLEGIBLE DUE TO THE POOR QUALITY OF THE SOURCE DOCUMENT.
Memorandum

To: Peter Snell, Denver Service Center

From: Superintendent, Independence

Subject: Interim Archeological Report - Deshler-Morris House

Please find attached a copy of Dan Crozier's interim archeological report for work done on the 1850 and 1856 sections of the Deshler-Morris House. We think the first two paragraphs of Dan's letter are self-explanatory.

Hobart G. Cawood

Enclosure

cc:
Dan Crozier
Dr. John L. Cotter  
Regional Archaeologist  
Northeast Region  
National Park Service  
143 South Third Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

Dear Dr. Cotter:

Please be advised that the comprehensive investigative phase of our archaeological investigations at the Deshler-Morris House is concluded, within the terms of Professional Services Contract #CX-4000-5-0012. Several areas within and exterior to the house will be examined as exposed by the contractor, R.S. Cook and Associates, Inc. Contractor Gary Rossmann will advise when our services are required.

Mr. Rossmann, in consultation with plumbing contractor John R. Morris, has requested that we do not backfill above and peripheral to that bricklined structure located beneath the brick sidewalk south of the 1750 section. We have also been requested not to return brick to a small exterior area west of the 1880 section. All other excavated areas exterior to the house and in the 1850 section have been backfilled and bricks replaced. Please note that we had not been advised as to the treatment we should afford that bricklined structure located beneath the 1880 section, nor the disposition of ash which was removed from that structure. Bagged ash is presently neatly aligned on walk and wall areas west of the 1880 section; certainly the contractor could remove it along with demolition rubble, or perhaps utilize it as fill or bedding for sidewalk areas, should you so designate.

I realize that all persons concerned with the Bicentennial projects have very heavy work loads and full schedules. I therefore would suggest the following: should interpretive personnel not be able to make recommendations in the near future as to potential restoration of that brick lined structure located beneath the floor of the 1880 section, excavated areas peripheral to that structure could be backfilled. The total structure can be considered...
at a later date. I would recommend however that your engineers examine the structure, affording treatment, should it be necessary, to prevent possible collapse.

We have sincerely enjoyed archaeologically investigating portions of the Deshler-Morris House. Should questions arise regarding those investigations, please call my home at 1-723-4060. Please find enclosed copy of correspondence with Mr. Rossmann.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Daniel G. Crozier
Research Associate

DGC:dw
Enclosure
cc: Mr. Hobart Cawood
March 17, 1975

Mr. Gary Rossmann  
R.S. Cook and Assoc., Inc.  
1022 Spring Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19130

Dear Mr. Rossmann:

Per your request, please find enclosed photographs of the Deshler-Morris House exterior and portions of the interior of the 1850 and 1880 sections. I have paid for the processing of the photographs, see enclosed receipt.

In accordance with our discussions this past week, you will advise (by calling 1-723-4060) at the earliest opportunity regarding my examination of certain areas to be disturbed within and exterior to the Deshler-Morris House. Those areas are:

1. That area beneath the concrete slab located in the northwest quadrant of the 1850 section interior.
2. That area beneath the concrete slab located exterior to the west wall of the 1880 section.
3. Those areas of the basement floor of the 1750 and 1772 sections, as exposed to receive support pillars.
4. That exterior area immediately east of the south exit of the 1750 section.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Daniel G. Crozier  
Research Associate

DGC:dw  
Enclosures  
cc: Dr. John Cotter  
Mr. Hobart Cawood
Fig. 1. Deshler-Morris House, exterior, view west.

Fig. 2. Interior, 1880 section, SW quadrant, view south.
Fig. 3. Interior, 1880 section, SW quadrant, view south.

Fig. 4. Interior, 1890 section, SW quadrant, view south.
Fig. 5. Interior, 1880 section, NW quadrant, view north.
Fig. 7. Interior, 1880 section, SE quadrant, view south.

Fig. 8. Exterior, north side, view east.
Fig. 9. Exterior, 1880 section, west side, view north.

Fig. 10. Exterior, 1880 section, west side, view north.
Fig. 11. Exterior, 1850 section, south side, view east.

Fig. 12. Exterior, 1850 section, south side, view east.
Fig. 13. Exterior, 1880 section, south side, view east.

Fig. 14. Exterior, 1880 section, south side, view east.
Fig. 15. Exterior, 1850 section, south side, top of bricklined structure, view south.

Fig. 16. Exterior, 1850 section, south side, bricklined structure, view east.
Fig. 17. Exterior, 1750 section, south side, view north.

Fig. 18. Exterior, 1750 section, doorway, south side, view east.
Fig. 19. Interior, 1850 section, SE quadrant, view south.

Fig. 20. Interior, 1950 section, NE quadrant, view north.
Fig. 21. Interior, 1850 section, NW quadrant, brick structure, view west.

Fig. 22. Interior, 1850 section, SE quadrant, view west.
Mr. Hobart Cawood, Superintendent
Independence National Historical Park
National Park Service
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

Dear Mr. Cawood:

In accordance with our telephone conversation of April 18 and an April 28 request by Mr. Peter Snell, I here forward an overview of archaeological findings as recorded from within the 1850 and 1855 Sections of the Deshler-Morris House, Independence National Historical Park, Germantown; Professional Services Contract Number CX4000-5-0012. I also include several photographs of the Deshler-Morris House exterior.

Please be advised that drawings, photographs, and interpretations are not final; a comprehensive report of our findings will be forwarded the Regional Archaeologist in the future, within the terms of the contractual arrangements. Dr. John L. Cotter was not in Philadelphia during our original discussions, thus I am forwarding you these preliminary findings for your disposition.

In accordance with my February 28 proposal concerning continued archaeological investigations at the Deshler-Morris House, Change Order No. 1, March 7, 1975, was incorporated into Professional Services Contract Number CX4000-5-0012. Examination of that ground area beneath the floor of the 1850 and 1855 Sections was initiated, prior to restoration activities. Flooring, sub-floor portland cement, and a portion of twentieth century concrete were removed to facilitate investigative efforts, see figures 4-5. Rubble was removed and the area in question was investigated. A brick structure was exposed (the primary purpose of this correspondence), and necessary records obtained, see figures 1-7; interpretive personnel examined the structure in that stage of archaeological investigation as noted in figures 6 and 7. Continued investigations awaited the removal of concrete by the contractor, from
the northwest portion of those sections under consideration; such investigations were concluded April 18.

It would appear that that brick structure (support platform?) uncovered within the 1850 Section, see figures 1-3, 4-9, was not constructed prior to 1850. Rubble located beneath the western and southern portions of the structure appeared to be fragmentary portions of the original 1850 Section, west wall, and perhaps rubble associated with 1909 construction activities as well; comparative studies of constructional materials and ash recovered during our investigations have not been completed. In attempting to establish relative dates, it must be noted that a lead pipe passes beneath this portion of the brick structure, appearing to be intrusive. Functional aspects of the structure have not been researched to date by this investigator, thus suggest your personnel provide an interpretation should such an approach be warranted at this time.

Those photographs of the Deshler-Morris House exterior, figures 11-14, were provided by the Morris family. A number of original photographs have been donated to the project, and will be forwarded to you in the near future. If I can be of further assistance, please advise.

Sincerely,

Daniel G. Crozier
Research Associate

DCC:dw
cc: Dr. John L. Cotter
Regional Archaeologist
plan view, 1850 and
Fig. 1. Deshler-Morris House, interior plan view, 1850 and 1856 sections.
ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS
DESHLER-MORRIS HOUSE
Independence National Historical Park
Germantown, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

2 FT.
1850 SECTION: INTERIOR CROSS-SECTION A-A'
Fig. 2. Interior cross-section A-A':

datum elevation
brick faced with cement
Structure 3

A
L 15
L 10
ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS
DESHLER-MORRIS HOUSE
Independence National Historical Park
Germantown, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

1850 SECTION: INTERIOR CROSS-SECTION B-B'
ark yellowish brown stain (IOYR 4/4)

Structure 3

lead pipe

pebbles

rubble

lith plaster, rubble

limit of excavation

cross-section at L12.5

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESHLER-MORRIS
Independence Natl
Germantown, Phila
1850 SECTION: IN
Key to Profile:
1. Tile
2. Gray cement
3. Mortar
4. Matrix of brick, cement, stone
5. Loose fill with plaster, rubble
6. Concrete with large pebbles
7. Cement with brick
8. Mortar, stone, brick rubble
9. Dark brown fill with plaster

Fig. 3. Interior cross-section B-B'.
Fig. 4. Deshler-Morris House, 1850 and 1855 Sections, floor end portion of concrete slab.

Fig. 5. Deshler-Morris House, 1850 and 1855 Sections, floor removed exposing concrete slab. Concrete covers brick structure.
Fig. 6. Deshler-Morris House, 1850 and 1856 Sections, portion of concrete slab removed to expose brick structure.

Fig. 7. Deshler-Morris House, 1850 Section: vertical view of eastern portion of brick structure.
Fig. 6. DeHilger-Morris House, 1920 and 1955 Sections: concrete slab removed, view west.

Fig. 7. DeHilger-Morris House, 1920 and 1955 Sections: concrete slab removed, view north.
Fig. 11. Deshler-Morris House, view northeast. Photograph date, 1885.
Fig. 12. Deshler-Morris House, south side, 1750 Section. Note in particular the basement entrance area. Photograph date, 1885.
Fig. 14. Deshler-Morris House, view northeast. Date of Photograph unknown; documentary evidences indicate a date of 1868 to 1880.
Fig. 13. Deshler-Morris House, south side, view west. Note in particular the basement entrance area and location of cistern uncovered during 1975 archaeological investigations. Photograph date, 1882.