Distinct patterns of artifact distribution in plowzone emerge from the two known houses. Sara Bon-Harper, Jennifer Aultman, Derek Wheeler, and Nick Bon-Harper (1997) observed that higher-density artifact scatter on and around the Site 7 house. This incongruity between house location and presents difficulty in creating a predictive model of where other houses might be at the Home Farm Quarter. Alternative methods must be considered to interpret the large artifact scatter with high and low density areas that suggest the presence of at least two more houses on Site 7 and at least one other house on Site 8.

Methods in the Analysis of Slave-Occupied Plowzone Sites at Monticello

The Monticello Home Farm Quarter (44ST116) is a domestic site on the national Park of Monticello Mountain in Virginia. Its history is recognized as a work of American urban agriculture for Thomas Jefferson’s 1800s plantation in Albemarle County, Virginia. The Home Farm Quarter was recorded from around 1798 to 1800 and was identified by road traces, surveying early from cultural-based coordinates on a small grid. Flood-based survey in which workers located and examined more efficient methods are required.

The Home Farm Quarter’s two semi-dwelling enclosures are 39 by 20 and 50 by 30 feet, respectively, by archaeological survey in the winter of 1997. Only one of the Quarter’s enclosures, the overseer’s house, appears in any of Jefferson’s records. There are two other houses located from the archaeological discovery of architectural remains, and at least one other area where houses are interpreted based on artifact distribution. A set of two, or possibly three, sub-floor pits on Site 8 are one indicator of a house location, and a hearth on Site 7 reveals the only other sure house location at the Monticello Home Farm Quarter. The plowzone distributions of these three classes of ceramics: a group of wares from the mid-18th century, creamware (ca. 1770-1800), and discard at Sites 7 & 8.

To test these locally observed patterns, the mean sizes of refined earthenware sherds were considered. To produce distribution maps for 44ST116, Rich Neck, and the Palace Lands Quarter, the large sherds associated with the Site 7 house and another area on the site 7. Site 8, and the Site 9 are located at a place near the Home Farm Quarter.

The distribution of imported wares, especially jug fragments in positive contexts in a large rich area excavated on Site 8, which had the earlier occupation of the two sites. The presence of imported interior wares may be associated with earlier phases of occupation.