During the summers of 2008 and 2010, Peter Siegel taught an archaeology field methods class on the Van Reyer-Bond House property. Intact archaeological deposits potentially could contribute to the historic context of the National Register listing. To evaluate the integrity, density, and distribution of archaeological deposits, a five-meter interval shovel-test grid was laid across the entire property. Based on total artifacts and individual artifact classes, the greatest densities of archaeological materials were determined to be located in the backyard, which is consistent with expectations for archaeological deposits generally associated with historic-period house lots. Some of the historic maps available for the property do show outbuildings in the backyard. Based on overall artifact distributions we narrowed down areas for larger block excavations in the form of contiguous one-meter square units. Foundations and associated deposits of an outbuilding were identified, corresponding to one of the outbuildings plotted on an insurance map and can be seen in a number of photographs taken by Bond family members.

Much of the deposit within the outbuilding consists of refuse characterized by complete to near-complete glass bottles and fairly large fragments of ceramic dishes. Most of this deposit was sealed in a context well below the floor of the structure seen in photographs from the mid-twentieth century. The foundations of the outbuilding are substantial and would have been unnecessary for the shed shown in the mid-twentieth century photos. We have documented a change in use of a structure through time. Like other categories of artifacts, buildings have life histories. The original use of the small but substantially constructed outbuilding may have been for cold storage, like a root cellar or an ice house. When that function became obsolete the below-ground foundation was filled to grade and the above-ground shed constructed and was used to store miscellaneous household and yard items and appeared to become a focal point for backyard activities.