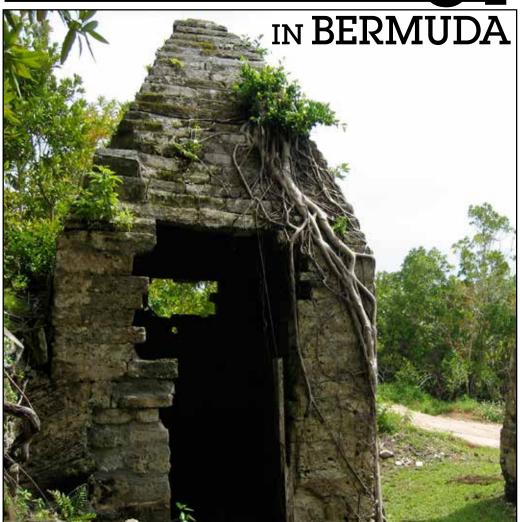
AN INTRODUCTION TO

Archaeology



THE BERMUDA NATIONAL TRUST



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To protect Bermuda's unique natural & cultural heritage forever

Preface

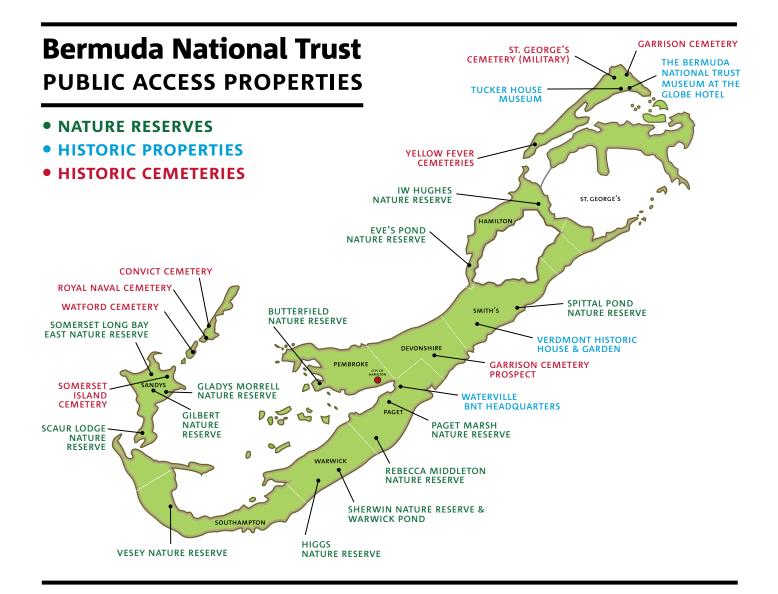
Ever since Bermuda was first settled 400 years ago, its residents have been making an impact on these islands, for better and for worse. They have crafted and built beautiful things...houses, boats, furniture and silver spoons. They have also changed the landscape, using biodiversity-rich marshes as rubbish dumps, importing invasive plant and animal species that threaten the native species, over-developing this narrow strip of land in the ocean. The threat of losing valuable open spaces and historic treasures sparked the creation of the Bermuda Monuments Trust in 1937 by a group of Bermudians who wanted to ensure that future generations would have the opportunity to understand their past. In 1970 the Bermuda National Trust was founded and took over from the Bermuda Monuments Trust. Since then it has grown to become one of the island's most respected institutions. It is an independent not-for-profit organization which promotes the preservation of the island's architectural, historic and environmental treasures, and encourages public access to and enjoyment of them. Its members and friends are from all walks of life, having in common a love of Bermuda and the desire that its special aspects should be safeguarded for everyone to enjoy now, and forever.

The Bermuda National Trust Archaeology Research Committee has a mission to undertake archaeology research to gain a better understanding of Bermuda's history and cultural heritage. For more than two decades archaeology digs have taken place in collaboration with international experts and the Trust adds to our library of knowledge with each expedition. This guide will help you to 'dig into our past' through the wonderful work of the archaeology team.

For more information on the Bermuda National Trust, the properties in its care, programmes, events, membership and volunteer opportunities please visit www.bnt.bm or contact us at 441 236 6483.

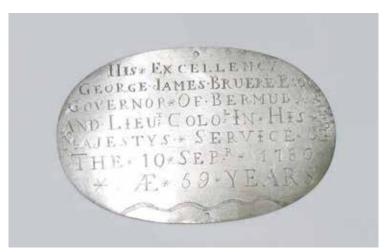
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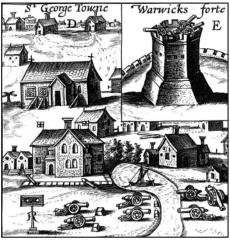
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AN INTRODUCTION TO

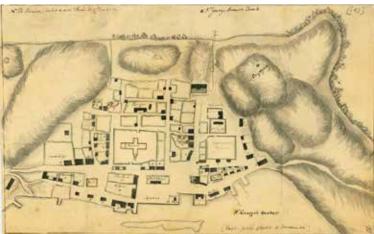
Archaeology IN BERMUDA













ARCHAEOLOGY IS THE STUDY OF THE HUMAN PAST THROUGH ITS material remains, its objects, buildings, and landscapes. It is a vital science that enables us to have a broader understanding of the human life from its origin to today. To do this, archaeologists draw on a diverse tool-kit of both scientific and humanistic approaches. This teacher resource guide is designed to help educators use the archaeological work being done in Bermuda to enrich the study of the past in social studies. This guide is divided into three parts: a basic introduction to archaeology, an overview of some important sites that have been excavated, an appendix with archaeology activities for your classroom and an artefact identification guide.

The literal translation of archaeology is from the Greek: Arkhaios "ancient" Logia "study of". Thus archaeology encompasses the full breadth of the human past, from our origins as homo sapiens, to our complex 21st century society. One thing to stress to your students is that archaeology is not the study of dinosaurs! Archaeology is a discipline that falls between history and anthropology. Archaeologists are concerned both with the material conditions of important events in the past and the social and cultural relations among individuals, groups and societies as well as their relationship to the present. Archaeology then can be defined as:

The systematic study of our human past, based on the investigation of material culture and context, together forming the archaeological record. In other words, the study of human beings through their stuff.



Archaeology is a systematic science because it uses a variety of scientific techniques to understand the human past. The most important of these are the suite of excavation techniques discussed below to slowly and deliberately uncover the remains of the past. For instance, as a rule of digging, archaeologists excavate in regular squares arranged on a grid system, as illustrated through this working shot taken from an excavation completed at Whitehall in St. George's.





In other words archaeologists are concerned with the material culture of the past as it exists in the present and discovered through archaeological excavation. This includes a wide array of material including pottery, wine bottles, ceramic pipes and utensils.

Context is the position of an archaeological find in time and space as discovered through archaeological practice. It is defined by a number of factors and will be discussed later. One point to stress is that archaeological finds are practically worthless without their context. For instance, does a coca cola bottle tell you much about the past if you do not know where it came from?

Context consists of three primary pieces of information: matrix, provenance, and association:

- Matrix is the physical medium that surrounds the archaeological find, whether it is sand, clay, or limestone.
- Provenance is the 3-D location of an archaeological find.
- Association is the relationship between archaeological finds on a given site. Together these factors create the context for the archaeological record.

Goals of Archaeology • Archaeology has four primary goals:

1. TO DESCRIBE CULTURE HISTORY

Culture History is the events of the past as they relate to the physical materials. For instance on Bermuda archaeologists have successfully described the physical evolution of the dozens of forts that ring the island. This evolution has then been linked to the broader strategic position of the island in the Atlantic world.

2. TO RECONSTRUCT PAST LIFEWAYS

Archaeologists are also charged with the reconstruction of past lifeways, including the standing environment, foodways, and cultural practices. One great example of the reconstruction of past lifeways on Bermuda is the settler dwelling reconstruction at Carter House on St. David's. Here the architecture of the past is on display for visitors to experience the conditions of 17th century life on the island.



Excavation on a regular grid system at Whitehall in St. George's

A sampling of archaeological material culture encountered on Bermuda

1952 Coca-Cola bottle found at Whitehall in St. George's

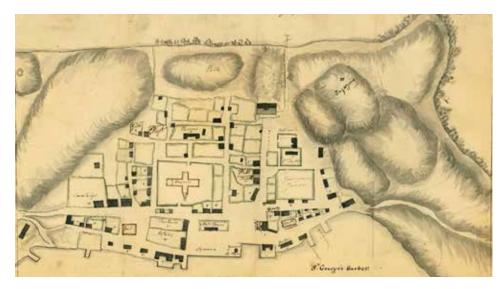




The Settler's Dwelling at Carter House

3. EXPLAIN CULTURAL PROCESSES

Archaeologists also explain changing cultural processes, specifically the reasons why culture changes. For example in St. George's, archaeologists have plotted how the town changed as a result of Bermuda's Maritime Revolution. They have demonstrated how the 17th century capital was merely a symbolic capital with little commerce but then was transformed into a patchwork of warehouses that were at the very centre of the English Atlantic World during the 18th century.



18th century St. George's from the Joell spy map

17th century St. George's from the John Smith engraving



4. PRESERVE AND INTERPRET THE PAST

Finally, archaeologists are tasked with preserving and interpreting the archaeological record. This entails the excavation and reporting of archaeological research in an ethical way and providing a means for long-term care and storage of artefacts. Archaeologists are also charged with providing a means through which the public can access, be enriched by and understand the archaeological past, whether it be through public lectures, reporting, publications, or museums. An excellent example of this is the partnership of archaeologists at the Jamestown living history museum.

The Archaeological Record

Archaeologists study the archaeological record – the distribution of materials associated with human activities distributed on and under the surface of the earth. The archaeological record comprises four categories of data: artefacts, ecofacts, feature and standing architecture.



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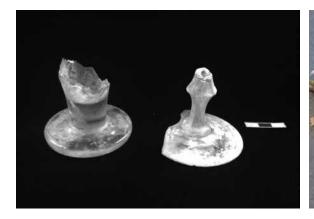
The reconstructed ships at the Jamestown Settlement living history museum



A typical collection of archaeological data

Artefacts

Artefacts are objects made by humans. They are portable, and can be collected through archaeological recovery techniques and taken from archaeological sites. Examples: ceramics, wine bottles, or these stemware bases recovered from excavations at the State House in 2004.





left:

Two stemware bases from the State House privy in St. George's

riaht

Fish bones recovered from Whitehall

Ecofacts

Ecofacts are materials from nature that are used or modified by humans through various activities. Examples include plants and animal remains such as these recovered from Whitehall.

Features

Features are permanent installations that have been constructed in the earth. Features cannot be removed from archaeological sites. Examples include hearths, middens (trash pits), and postholes, such as the example below of a posthole at Verdmont.

Standing Architecture

Standing architecture is above-ground buildings that intersect with archaeological landscapes. Examples: temples, pyramids, domestic houses. In Bermuda there is a wide array of standing architecture, such as this buttery from Honey Hill in Paget.





This brief introduction has introduced you to the basics of archaeological research, and the components of the archaeological record. What follows is a brief outline of 6 sites that archaeologists have studied here in Bermuda.

left:

Posthole at Verdmont

right:

Buttery at Honey Hill in Paget

Significant Excavation Sites in Bermuda

SMITH'S ISLAND ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT

ST. GEORGE'S HARBOUR

This multi-year project was initiated and lead by Dr. Michael Jarvis of the University of Rochester in 2010. Taking the entire 60-acre island as a collection of sites reflecting 400 years of Bermudian history, Jarvis seeks to identify and study all sites of human occupation, starting with the farmstead of Sea Venture castaway Christopher Carter and his mates Edward Chard and Edward Waters, occupied from 1610 to 1612. To date 23 sites have been found, including an early 17th century house, the 18th century whale house, a maritime quarantine hut, Smallpox Bay cottage, an 18th century mansion, several slave quarters, water catchments, tanks, limekilns, and quarries, and a collapsed cave complex. Excavations at the Oven Site have revealed a substantial timber-frame multi-room house dating to the early 17th century, with evidence of occupation by enslaved Native Americans. Thought to be the Carter, Chard, and Water's farm, the Cotton Hole Bight site was, unfortunately, heavily quarried in the mid 18th century, destroying evidence of occupation. 2013 excavations at the Smallpox Bay quarantine site revealed post holes indicating that an earlier timber structure predated the currently standing late 18th century stone ruin. In future years the University of Rochester field school will investigate the whale house, Forbes mansion, cave site and West End slave quarters as it trains students in archaeological field methods and historic research techniques.





Smallpox Bay Cottage

Oven Site trench looking west Note the three large central post holes in the lower left, centre and right below the semicircular cut in the back wall

THE STATE HOUSE /4 PRINCESS STREET, ST. GEORGE'S



Archaeological work at the State House took place in 2005, 2009 and 2010. Work focused on the development of the building and the archaeological materials associated with civic life in the building. After Hamilton became the capital of Bermuda in 1815 the building was leased to a Masonic lodge and is still used as such today.

The State House was commissioned by Governor Nathaniel Butler and was completed between

1619 and 1621. The buildings Baroque style and prominent placement on a small rise on the eastern edge of the town centre made it a symbol of the Somers Island Company's administrative role on the island. The building served as the Sessions House, Court House, Council Meeting Hall and an all-purpose civic space.

An architectural and archival survey showed that the building went through several major renovations. The building as it appeared on the John Smith engraving probably only lasted for a dozen years. Its flat roof began to leak almost immediately. As altered over the years the building more closely came to resemble a piece of Bermudian architecture with a pitched roof and prominent entry porch.



above

The State House prior to rebuilding in 1969

left:

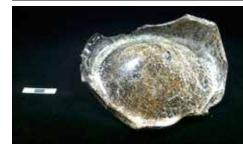
The reconstructed State House today













left:

Excavation in the State House yard

right:

Excavation in the State House privy

lef

Glass stemware finds from the State House

right:

Tea cup with peacock motif

left:

'Onion-shaped' wine bottle base

right:

Stoneware, Elers-type

STEWART HALL /5 QUEEN STREET, ST. GEORGE'S



This impressive two-storey mansion was built around 1700 by merchant Walter Mitchell and was later home to Colonial Secretary George Tucker and silversmith John Trott Cox. In 1990 and 1991, Colonial Williamsburg archaeologists excavated inside the house's northern addition and in the adjoining garden to learn more about 18th century Bermudian trading patterns. A large stone water trough (filled in the 1780s) discovered in the garden shed light on slaves' domestic activities, while the discovery

of several sherds of Colonoware (African-made coarse earthenware), imported from the Carolinas or Caribbean, revealed black circum-Atlantic trading connections. Numerous sherds of Spanish, French, and Dutch ceramics indicate that merchant Mitchell was not a strict observer of British Navigation laws.

Buttons, pins, and beads excavated in the early 1990s have recently been reexamined to understand the lives of enslaved Bermudians in the 18th century. Archaeologists have used artefacts related to clothing and personal adornment to explore enslaved peoples' religious, cultural and economic practices. Small finds like these allow researchers to challenge and add detail to the written historical records that frequently exclude the experience of enslaved people.

The most startling discovery of the 1991 season was an unmarked grave predating the construction of Stewart Hall. Archaeologists found the body of a woman between the ages of 25 and 40, buried in a shroud (rather than coffin) under the stone water trough. Ploughing after the burial erased the grave cut. The burial apparently dates to the mid-1600s. Her skeleton has since been re-interred in St. Peter's churchyard.



Stewart Hall in 1991 (from the north east) prior to the excavation, in the garden adjoining the wall bordering Queen Street

Stewart Hall, 2013 (from the south east)







left top:

Stone animal feeding trough within yard adjoining the wall Artefacts found within the trough suggest it was abandoned and filled in around 1780, while the artefacts in the layer upon which the trough was built suggest a construction date of the early 1700s, when Stewart Hall was erected.

left bottom:

17th century female skeleton next to Stewart Hall

Drawing the female skeleton to scale

PHOTOS: M. JARVIS

ST. PETER'S CHURCH /33 DUKE OF YORK STREET, ST. GEORGE'S



Established in 1612, St. Peter's Church is the oldest surviving Anglican church in the English colonial world. While the site was first used in the 17th century, the current building is a mixture of 18th and 19th century architecture. Archaeological work at the site has contributed to understanding the religious history of Bermuda. In all, archaeologists have conducted three seasons of excavations at St. Peter's and have contributed to the knowledge of the site in two areas: a churchyard survey and explorations under the current church building.

Churchyard Survey

In 2005 Hilary and Richard Tulloch completed a survey of the inscriptions within the churchyard. Three years later archaeologists from Boston University and local volunteers undertook six weeks of excavations at various sites within the core of St. George's and completed a survey of all the memorials in the churchyard. The team created a map of all the stones in the yard, including those with no visible inscription, and transferred the data into a 3-D model. This model is integrated into the St. Peter's Church website for visitors to view.



left:

St. Peter's Church

below:

St. Peter's Churchyard



loft.

3-D model of the Burial Ground for Slaves and Free Blacks

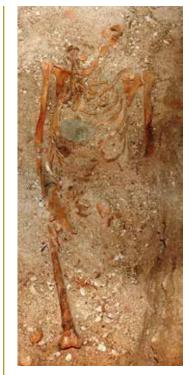
Subterranean Chambers

Archaeologists also investigated two subterranean areas: the first in the 19th century church extensions to the church and the second in an east west space under the northern portion of the church.

The southern space was filled with early limestone headstones. It was surmised that this area was originally an open churchyard. As the church expanded to the south it was at the cost of the existing graveyard and the headstones that were intruding on the building's expansion were placed in this crawl space with the bodies sealed underneath the existing church. The space is divided into three. The middle section contained what appear to be the entry steps to the 1714 church. These brick steps are worn and seem to align with the structure of that period. The eastern chamber has a series of 26 stones that have been plastered (in recent times) to the foundation walls. These are some of the oldest stones remaining at St. Peter's. As a part of the preparation of the church for the 1953 royal visit some of the oldest and best-preserved stones were put on display for the Queen in the eastern chamber.

The northern space runs more or less underneath the aisle of the 1713-1714 church with the oldest portion to the east of the current structure. This space was created by the 1950s restoration during which support foundation walls were placed in an east-west fashion some five feet apart creating a 2.5 foot high space underneath the floorboards. The archaeologists thought that if the far eastern portion of the structure was indeed the location of the original parish church then perhaps some of the postholes would still remain cut into the bedrock. The goal was to explore this area in search of any architectural foundations from the two timber-framed structures. Excavations began towards the eastern part of the area, removing the 18 inches or so of deposits underneath the floorboards. The first 2 foot unit yielded little except an uneven line of bedrock and what was left of a builder's trench for the 1950s wall. As archaeologists moved to the east however they began to uncover human remains.

The deposit then produced a human cranium in the southern end of the chamber, which appeared to be in its original place of burial and intact. After excavating to the east archaeologists uncovered the remains of a partially intact human skeleton. Lodged in the torso was a nameplate indicating this was the body of Governor George James Bruere (d.1780). On the northern side of the chamber archaeologists uncovered the coffin plate of Sir Jacob Wheate Captain (d.1783) of the HMS Cerebus, with part of a skeleton adjoining a square cut in the bedrock, which was interpreted as the Captain's grave shaft. Unfortunately, a 1950s-era cement wall bisected the shaft and only part of Sir Jacob's remains were recovered.



Articulated skeleton of **Governor George James Bruere**















Excavations under St. Peter's Church

riaht:

Excavations under St. Peter's Church

Governor Bruere's coffin plate

Sir Jacob Wheate's coffin plate

1714 steps of St. Peter's Church

St. Peter's Church southern vault

WHITEHALL /12 CLARENCE STREET, ST. GEORGE'S



Whitehall is a Georgian-style mansion (implying a symmetrical façade) built by St. George's Mayor John Van Norden in 1815. The building symbolized Van Norden's powerful position in the town after the Government moved to Hamilton that year. Before Van Norden constructed his mansion, the Whitehall property consisted of four lots dating to the turn of the 18th century. Archaeological work at Whitehall took place in 2008 and 2010. The work was carried out by a partnership between the Bermuda National

Trust, the National Museum of Bermuda, Boston University, and the College of William and Mary. The excavations aimed to uncover the remains of St. Peter's Church original boundary wall, which today is on the south side of Church Lane. In the 17th century this boundary was probably somewhere on the Whitehall property. In 2008 excavations failed to uncover evidence for the church boundary wall; however, three important areas of 18th and 19th century occupation of the site were discovered.

In the southern lawn, archaeologists uncovered evidence of an early 18th century house dating to the time when Bermuda's Maritime Revolution was occurring. While only a corner of the foundation was uncovered, this is one of the earliest houses to be discovered through archaeological work in St. George's.

In the centre of the south lawn archaeologists found the remains of two cows buried two meters below the surface. Buried on top of each other in a small grave shaft these cows probably died of a disease called 'ticks' in the late 18th century. This disease ravaged Bermuda's livestock during this period. The cows were probably a part of dairying activities on the site, a small-scale industry that existed throughout Bermuda during the late 18th century.

Whitehall

below: Corner foundation of an early 18th century house







On the northern edge of the lawn archaeologists uncovered the remains of a large building running east to west along the property line. This building probably dated to the middle part of the 19th century since part of a cast iron stove was found in its eastern edge. The building after it was destroyed was roughly filled in with Bermuda limestone. While we know little of its use, this structure was probably an outbuilding of Whitehall, one of the smaller structures that were used to support the main functions of the house; perhaps livestock lived within its walls.

In 2010 archaeologists began opening up a larger area to the north of the original excavation trench in the hopes of uncovering more of the building and any other associated occupation layers. It was determined that the building did continue to the north and it was defined archaeologically through several limestone columns and wall faces. Contained within the building were several occupation layers composed of sandy loam sediment yielding artefacts that date from the mid to late 17th century to the early 18th century. Sealing the building both in the 2008 test trench and in the 2010 open area trench was a thick destruction layer composed of Bermuda limestone blocks and roofing slates, as well as several large pockets of artefacts, most notably an abundance of fishbone. Based on the presence of Astbury Ceramics, produced between 1725 and 1775, in the destruction layer, the building was demolished sometime during this fifty-year period. This date range can provisionally be shrunk if we consider that the destruction layer did not contain any Wedgewood Ceramics that began mass-production in 1762.

Archaeological work at Whitehall is still in progress. In the future archaeologists hope to return to the site to understand the totality of the site's associated landscape during the 18th and 19th centuries.

Rubble inside the 19th century outbuilding at Whitehall

Bottom:

19th century outbuilding at Whitehall, area in white







Excavating the early building at Whitehall



PHOTOS: B. FORTENBERRY

VERDMONT /collector's hill, smith's parish



Standing proudly in Smith's Parish off Collectors Hill, Verdmont is one of Bermuda's most significant historic treasures. Built c. 1710, Verdmont is a unique example of early Georgian architecture. While the exact date of the building is a mystery, what is remarkable is that the footprint of the house has remained virtually the same over almost 300 years. Also remarkable is that it was lived in until 1951 without plumbing or electricity. It was subsequently purchased, restored and opened in 1957 as a museum that is maintained by the Bermuda National Trust.

Archaeological work at Verdmont began in 2006 with Ironbridge Gorge Museum's excavation behind the kitchen. The team was interested in finding activity areas of the enslaved Africans on the site. While the work did not discover any of these activity areas, it did begin a broader project of excavation work at Verdmont. The Ironbridge Gorge Archaeological Unit conducted a series of small test pits or trenches throughout the property. These revealed a posthole and rock cut along the eastern side of the property which warranted further scrutiny. It was decided that in 2007 an archaeology dig would focus on this area to search for a number of buildings that are recorded in archival documents but of which no above ground structures have survived. Furthermore archaeologists were looking for evidence to illuminate the social history of the site. Organized by the BNT Archaeology Research Committee and run by Brent Fortenberry with Travis Parno, both historic archaeology postgraduate students from the University of Bristol, the excavations were carried out by Bermudian archaeology students and local volunteers. Both 2006 trenches were re-opened and expanded while eight additional trenches were excavated.



A second posthole was discovered six yards from the first and the rock cut wall was revealed to be a significant rectangular chamber with clear evidence of 18th century occupation. The large quantity of animal bones recovered suggest that this feature was associated with animal husbandry and might have been an animal enclosure with the postholes supporting an associated fenced area.

In 2012, Brent Fortenberry resumed archaeological work at Verdmont to investigate the area below the kitchen cottage. It was determined that the area under the kitchen was a strong candidate for the housing of enslaved Africans, and a blocked up doorway revealed the possibility of a linking staircase between the current patio area and the cellar space. Additionally, archaeological work revealed a posthole on the current patio with a single piece of 18th century tin-glazed earthenware in the fill. In 2013, Brent Fortenberry continued his work at Verdmont with the excavation of the "Verdmont Ruin" in an area that has been known as the kitchen garden. Digging revealed the remains of the outbuilding from the earliest period of occupation of the site.

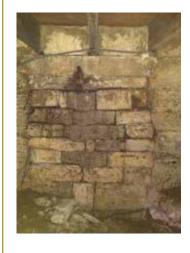
Verdmont north facade



Excavations behind Verdmont Cottage in 2006

Animal enclosure found in 2007

Blocked door from patio to the cottage cellar

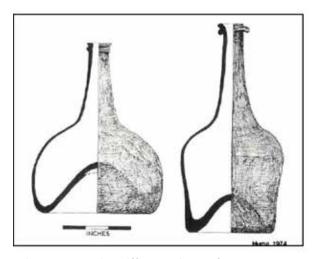


Appendix

Bottles & Stemware

The Evolution of the Wine Bottle

Early wine bottles were hand-blown and tooled with a 'kick-up' and pontil scar were the pontil rod held the bottle as it was blown and shaped. Later bottles were moulded into forms in a number of pieces, and then melded together.



Wine bottles with different kick-up from the second quarter of the 18th century



Dutch/Belgian case or case-gin bottles (1750-1880)



Drinking-glass stems likely to be found on colonial and early Federal sites

Porcelains



PORCELAIN, CANTON



PORCELAIN, CHING POLYCHROME OVER-GLAZE



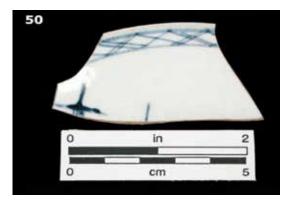
PORCELAIN, BROWN



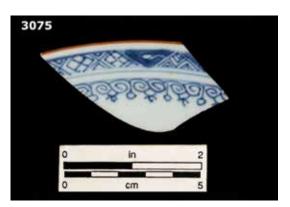
PORCELAIN, BONE CHINA



PORCELAIN, POLYCHROME CHINESE



PORCELAIN, ENGLISH SOFT PASTE



PORCELAIN, CHING BLUE ON WHITE



PORCELAIN, DEHUA WHITE

Stoneware



STONEWARE, RHENISH BLUE AND GRAY



STONEWARE, WHITE SALT GLAZED



STONEWARE, DEBASED SCRATCH BLUE



STONEWARE, ELERS-TYPE

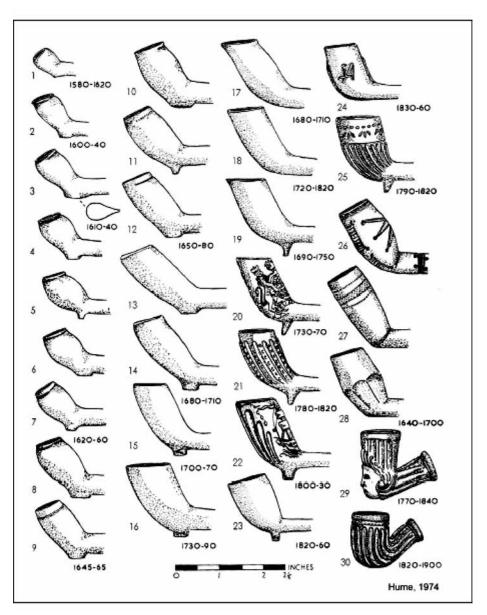


STONEWARE, "FULHAM TYPE" BROWN SALT GLAZED

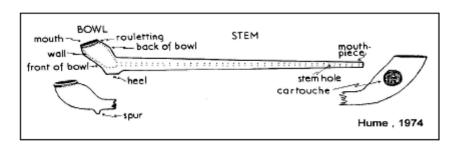


STONEWARE, AMERICAN

Clay Tobacco Pipes

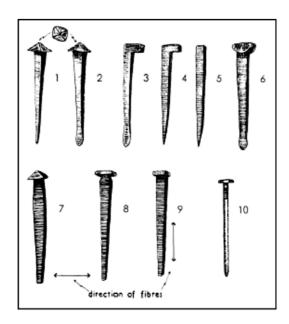


Different pipe bowls (1580-1900)



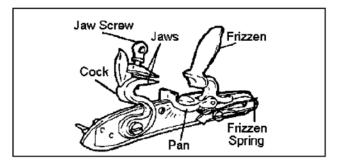
Parts of a clay pipe

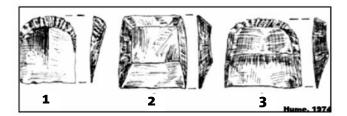
Miscellaneous Artefacts



Nails: Wrought nails, cut nails, wire drawn with different nail heads

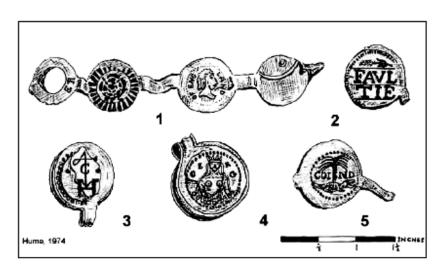
Gun Parts





Gunflints

- 1. Gunspall
- 2. English Gunflint, gray prismatic type
- 3. French Gunflint, round back and pale brown



Lead-ball seals

- 1. Four-part official seal of James II
- 2. Alnager's seal of uncertain date
- 3. Typical merchant's seal (17th-18th century)
- 4. Arms of Mercer's Company of London or perhaps the 'Indian Queen' crest of Virginia; probably 18th century
- 5. Emblem of the French India Company; 18th century

Glossary

Archaeologist: someone who studies and excavates the remains of past cultures

Artefact: an object made by a human being, typically an item of archaeological, cultural or historical interest

Articulated: made up of two or more sections connected by a flexible joint

Association: the relationship between archaeological finds on a given site

Baroque: relating or belonging to a style of art and architecture which originated around 1600 in Rome, Italy

Bedrock: the solid rock beneath a layer of soil, rock fragments, or gravel

Ceramics: a hard brittle material made by firing clay and similar substance

Context: consists of three primary pieces of information: matrix, provenance and association

Earthenware: pottery made of fairly coarse-textured baked clay that is fired at a very low temperature

Ecofact: artefacts of biological origin such as scallop shells or fishbones, used or modified by humans

Excavate: the act of digging into the ground, measuring and recording information while looking for archaeological remains from the past

Footprint: the shape and size of the area a building or feature occupies

Fossils: the remains of an animal or plant preserved from an earlier era inside a rock or other geologic deposit, often as an impression or in a petrified state

Inscription: a sequence of words or letters written, printed or engraved on a surface

Matrix: the physical medium that surrounds the piece of archaeological find, whether it is sand, clay or limestone

Memorial: something that is intended to remind people of somebody who has died or an event in which people died, such as a statue, speech or ceremony

Provenance: the 3-D location of an archaeological find

Subterranean: existing or situated below ground level

Symmetrical: relating to or having both sides the same

Vernacular: the local architecture of a place or people, especially the architectural style that is used for ordinary houses as opposed to large official or commercial buildings

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