D.C. Historic Preservation Office, DCRA/BLRA
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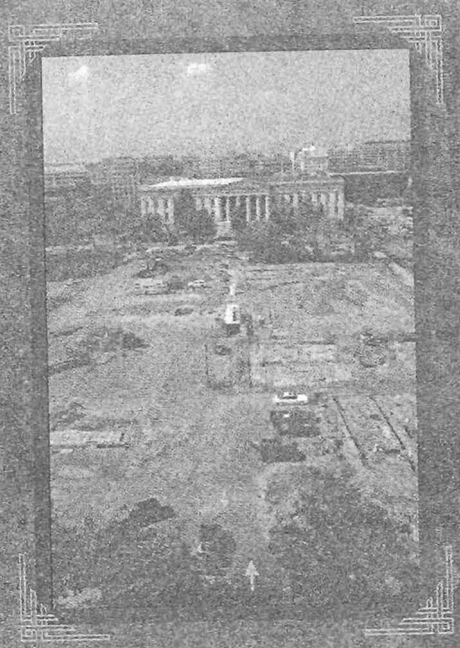
Washington, D.C. 20002

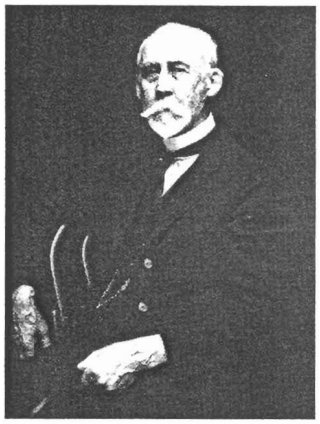


ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Washington, D.C.

Archaeology in the District of Columbia

A vast number of archaeological resources have been identified and more await discovery in the District of Columbia. Many of these resources lie beneath the streets we walk on every day. There has been long-standing interest in archaeology in the District of Columbia. In the late 19th century, excitement was generated by the discovery of Native American artifacts by farmers plowing their fields. This fascination with the past resulted in the founding of the Anthropological Society of Washington. William Henry Holmes (1846 – 1933), curator of the U. S. National Museum (now the Museum of Natural History), was the forefather of archaeology in Washington, D.C. He conducted an extensive archaeological survey of the Potomac River, identifying many sites and examining stone quarries where early Native Americans harvested raw materials for stone tool manufacture. His studies were thorough and laid the groundwork for today's archaeological studies.



William Henry Holmes
(Courtesy of the National Museum of American Art)

This pamphlet serves as an overview of archaeology in the District. For more information or if you think you have found an archaeological site, please contact the Historic Preservation Division by mail at the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, 941 North Capitol Street NE, Room 2500, Washington, DC 20002 or by phone at 202-442-4570. To volunteer or participate, contact the *Washington Archaeological Society* at 202-442-4663.

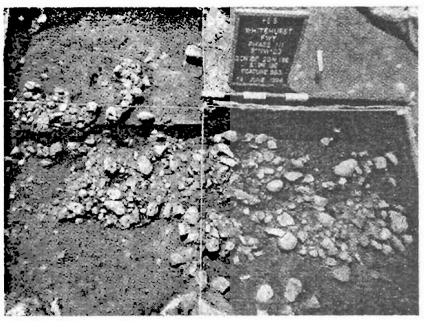
William Henry Holmes and avocational archaeologists *(Courtesy National Museum of American Art)*

Libraries, museums, and other repositories provide information about the past. There are several other places that researchers and the interested public can learn about historical and prehistoric archaeological resources of the District and environs, including: District of Columbia Archives, Historical Society of Washington, DC, Library of Congress, Martin Luther King Library's Washingtoniana Room, National Archives, and Washington Archaeological Society.

What is Archaeology and Why is it Conducted?

Archaeology is the process by which we recover information that is important to understanding our past. In order to do this, archaeologists study material remains, including artifacts and features, which were left behind by people in the past. Artifacts are objects made and used by people. Both stone tools and ceramic plates are examples of artifacts. Features are areas used or made by man that cannot be removed from an archaeological site. A house foundation and a trash pit are both examples of features. Locations where concentrations of artifacts and/or features are found are known as archaeological sites. Archaeologists are especially interested in exploring and preserving archaeological sites that are intact, or in situ; that is, the artifacts and features are in their original location. Artifacts that are in situ help us to identify areas where specific activities were taking place, which assists archaeologists in the understanding of past human behavior.

Archaeologists excavate prehistoric site



Prehistoric hearth feature

Archaeology is also the tangible record of our past and supplements and confirms historic documents. When no written documentation exists to describe people who lived in the past, the archaeological record may be the only information that remains. Therefore, when construction projects take place in the city, important cultural resources may be at risk of being destroyed. By conducting archaeology prior to a development project, we can ensure that we don't lose this record of our past and that construction can take place. National, state, and local historic preservation laws were passed in the 20th century because our cultural resources were disappearing rapidly due to the development occurring throughout the country. These laws have made us all accountable for the past.

Black basalt bowl from site 51NW103

The cultural remains that are found by archaeologists when excavating a site can be divided into two time periods: prehistoric and historic. Prehistoric or pre-contact archaeological sites are Native American sites that predate written records. Native American remains as old as 12,000 years have been found in this region. Prehistoric archaeology provides knowledge of the lives of the Native Americans who occupied the area and exploited bountiful resources before European Contact. Historical archaeological sites include European, African American, and Native American sites in existence since the time of European Contact. The District saw its first intensive historic occupation and development in the late 1700s. The archaeological record documents and enhances this vibrant history.

Most archaeology done today in the District of Columbia is done in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966.

Mandates Governing Archaeology

Section 106 of the NHPA

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 was signed into law to ensure that Federal agencies consider the impact of their project on any cultural resources. Section 106 of the NHPA outlines the process that a federal agency must follow to comply with the law. The NHPA created the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, an independent Federal agency, to regulate cultural resources issues. The law also mandated a State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in each state. One of the duties of the SHPO is to provide guidance to agencies and companies that perform archaeology in the jurisdiction. The Historic Preservation Division of the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs serves this purpose for the District. The implementing legislation for Section 106 clearly explains what must be done to mitigate any adverse effects (impact) to National Register eligible archaeological resource(s). Actions such as excavation, avoidance, or preservation of a site are considered to be adequate mitigation. Section 106 is the main legal provision under which archaeology is conducted in the District.

Archaeology under Section 106 is typically performed in a phased approach. A Phase I archaeological survey is conducted to identify whether or not any archaeological remains are present. If artifacts and features are discovered, Phase II archaeological testing is conducted to determine whether a site is intact, and to define its boundaries. If an archaeological site is considered significant, or important for what information it contains according to criteria developed by the National Register of Historic Places, then that site is eligible for listing on the National Register (a list of important archaeological and architectural resources in the US). Therefore, the federal agency must consider options to mitigate the impact to the resource. It is considered an ideal situation if the site can be avoided and left undisturbed. If not, Phase III data recovery excavations must be conducted. A data recovery plan is developed to describe what can be learned from the site and propose methods for its study. The goal of the excavation is to recover sufficient information to understand and interpret a site.

Since data recovery is the most intense study of a site, archaeologists look at a combination of sources to help understand what occurred at the site. Archaeologists study primary historic documents to learn more about the occupants of a site, develop a comprehensive field approach, recover the artifacts and record their distribution across the site, note the soil composition and color, describe, photograph, map and draw features, gather floral and faunal material and use all this information to understand and explain every aspect of the site and its occupants.

The final stage of the Section 106 process is the completion of an archaeological site report, which documents all the information obtained about the site. Because archaeology is a destructive process, once excavated a site is destroyed. The report is the only comprehensive record that describes and explains activities on a site. This information is available to archaeologists and to the public. "Guidelines for Archaeological Excavations in the District of Columbia" have been developed which standardizes the process.

Case Study: Excavation at the Whitehurst Freeway

In the early 1980s, during the planning stages for repairs and renovations to the Whitehurst Freeway, a preliminary archaeological study occurred. In 1991, a Phase I survey was conducted in the areas at either end of the Freeway that would be impacted by ramp removal and replacement. Archaeological resources were identified, and a Phase II testing program was performed in 1993. Some of these resources were determined to be significant, and could not be avoided by the project. In 1996-1997, Phase III data recovery was conducted.

Archaeological resources were found on both ends of the Freeway. On the west, or Georgetown end of the freeway, just west of Key Bridge, features discovered included foundations of 18th century warehouses. These warehouses originally were built as tobacco warehouses and later modified for the storage of grain, coal, and other items shipped from Maryland down the C&O Canal to the Georgetown Waterfront for export.

On the east, or Foggy Bottom end of the freeway, many more resources were found, including the remains of a house built for Thomas Peter in circa (ca.) 1795. Thomas Peter, the son of the mayor of Georgetown, Robert Peter, was married to Martha Parke Custis, the granddaughter of Martha Custis Washington. The Peters eventually moved to Tudor Place in Georgetown. The artifacts dating to 1795 can be associated with life at the Peter House. This excavation helps to explain what they were eating and drinking, what types of wares they were using, and what medicines or personal care items they used. Artifacts recovered included pearlware plates and silverware from the Peter table. Some of the meat in their diet included pork, beef, oysters, and turtle. Personal items they once owned included several coins, a tobacco pipe, a gaming piece and a marble.

Peter House

Other resources discovered on the Foggy Bottom end of the Freeway included an early 19th century brewery that became a bottling company later in the century. An underground lager beer cellar was part of the early brewery and was one of the earliest examples in the south. Impacts to the cellar were avoided and it was preserved in place. The mid-19th century Cammack and Decker Lime Kiln also was discovered, along with the late 19th century Dyer Planing Mill. The kiln was avoided during construction, as well. Since avoidance was possible in this instance, extensive historic research was not conducted on these resources, and these features have been preserved for future study.

Prehistoric stone pendants

The pre-contact occupation at the site was extensive and dated to the Middle and Late Woodland Period (ca. 700 – 1300 AD). The site included areas where stone tools were made; hearths or campfires were present, and an area where fish may have been dried and smoked. One of the most important discoveries made from this excavation and, from the District and environs was a pre-contact ceremonial feature, a cremation burial. An individual of high status was buried with ceremonial objects including preserved fabric, an antler headdress, drilled shark's teeth, a wooden bead, stone pendants, and other special objects. This ceremonial feature was a highly significant find for the area.

People are often fascinated that sites like this still exist, since it is a popular assumption that years of historic and modern occupation in a city destroy most prehistoric resources. Yet often, urban fill which has been placed on the site over many years protects, rather than destroys, important resources.

If archaeology had not been conducted prior to the Whitehurst Freeway improvements, this important information about prehistory and history in the District would have been lost forever.

Case Study: MCI Arena

Archaeological excavations were conducted at the site of the MCI Arena, downtown in the two blocks bounded by 6th, 7th, F, and G Streets. After the Phase I survey and Phase II testing were conducted in the spring of 1995 and the resources were considered to be significant, a plan was designed for data recovery at this site.

Archaeologist excavates at MCI Arena site

Upon completion of the Phase III work, over 80,000 artifacts and animal bones were recovered from several backyards on the block. Some of the lots were occupied in the early 19th century, some after the Civil War, and some through the 19th century. The residents also differed in social status and ethnicity.

Prior to the days of garbage collection and landfills, people threw their trash in their backyards. Archaeologists look for this trash to learn about the occupants of a site. This trash was spread around the yard, buried in pits or used to fill features which were no longer in use.

In addition to the large number of artifacts recovered, three cisterns and two wells were discovered, one of which was in the backyard of Matthew Emery, the first Mayor of the District. Often these deep features were used for garbage disposal when they were no longer used for water. Unlike the small fragments of material that archaeologists find in backyards, the trash found in wells and cisterns are almost whole pieces, and may provide different kinds of information on residents of a site. Although these particular wells and cisterns contained few artifacts, their discovery was fortunate since very few cisterns and even fewer wells have been found in the District. The discovery of the artifacts and the deep features enabled the archaeologists to study how people in the 19th century obtained and stored water and how utilities developed; what sanitation practices were like in the 19th century; and how people used their backyard space.

Case Study: Federal Triangle and American Indian Museum

Excavations took place at the site now occupied by the Ronald Reagan building, on 14th and Pennsylvania Avenues. In the 19th century this area was in the vicinity of the White House but was not considered a desirable part of town. At the beginning of the 19th century when the neighborhood started developing, the terrain was boggy and the Washington Canal ran along the southern boundary of the neighborhood. The Canal silted up because it was used for garbage disposal.

By the mid-19th century, the neighborhood was known for gambling, drinking, thieving, brawling and prostitution. Thirty brothels were recorded on 11th, 12th, 13th, C, D, and E Streets during the Civil War. A number of working class families also lived on the same blocks. By the 1870s, more working class families and boarders lived in the area, with just a few brothels remaining. Census records indicate a racially and ethnically mixed neighborhood with European, English, Irish immigrants, as well as native born white and black residents. By the 1890s, the neighborhood changed once again and prostitutes inhabited the area. By the 1900s, brothels were the primary establishments of the neighborhood.

The archaeological excavations focused on examining artifact collections from the working class and the brothel households to see if there were similarities and differences. A study of the artifact collections revealed differences in the types and numbers of artifacts. From the animal bones collected, the archaeologists noted that beef, in the form of individual steaks and roasts, was more common in the brothel households. These particular meat cuts may have been too costly for a working class household. Individual cuts indicated that they were served as individual meals, most likely for the residents or visiting clients who ate at the brothel. The ceramics from the brothel households showed that they spent little on dishes for the table and the same was true for the working class families. However, the working class households had more cups and saucers in their collections, indicating the importance of taking tea and dining together as a family. Differences in clothing were evidenced by buttons found in both collections. Buttons from the working class households were primarily porcelain from undergarments and plain outer garments. Porcelain buttons were present in the brothel collection, but also found were black glass buttons and beads, an indication that the members of the brothels were able to afford fancy clothes and dressed stylishly. Lighting glass (from hurricane lamps) appeared in greater numbers in the brothel collection, an indication that the brothels used a lot of artificial light in the evenings, more than the lighting needed by working class households.

At another excavation across town at the site of the new National Museum of the American Indian, between 3rd and 4th Streets, Jefferson Drive and Maryland Avenue, S.W., archaeologists found another area once occupied by brothels.

Historical research on this site indicated that one of the lots contained a brothel owned by Mary Ann Hall from 1840 – 1870. According to the census records, Mary Ann was a single woman in her early twenties when she built her dwelling at 349 Maryland Avenue, S.W. In the 1840s, she more than doubled the worth of her business, which she used to make improvements to her property. This increasing value of her property and her obvious success suggests that she operated a large brothel and served a high-paying clientele.

Legal papers generated during the settlement of Mary Ann Hall's estate after her death in 1886 were located in the D.C. Archives. The data in these papers provided an assessment of the madam's financial status and included a room-by-room inventory of her former brothel. Hall had accumulated real estate worth more than $20,000, bond and securities worth about $67,000 and she had no debts. The appraisal of her belongings provides a glimpse of how a high-class, 19th century brothel was furnished, with oil paintings, china vases, marble-topped tables, an icebox and Brussels carpets.

Mary Ann Hall is buried in Congressional Cemetery. Her grave is marked by a large and dignified gravestone that features a female figure mourning over an urn. An adjacent gravestone commemorates her mother and a sister who both died in the 1860s.

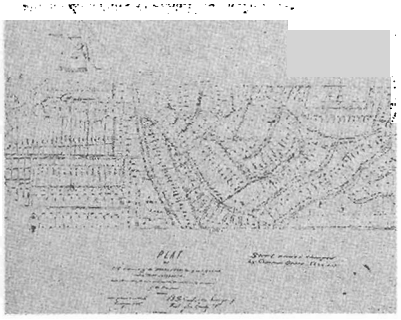
The archaeological information retrieved from the excavation served to complement the information gathered from the documentary sources. Comparison of the artifacts collected from this site with others in the District indicate that the occupants of Maryland Avenue were enjoying a higher standard of living than the working-class and middle-class residents around the city. The information from the study of the ceramics, bottles, seeds, and bones provide a picture of their lifestyle. Tables were set with expensive ironstone and porcelain dishes; fruits, nuts, meats, domestic and wild fowl, fish, and turtle were served and champagne flowed.

Case Study: Howard Road

When archaeology was conducted at Howard Road before construction of the Anacostia Metro Station a site was found that contained both pre-contact and historic components.

Located in Barrys Farm, this was an area purchased by the Freedman's Bureau after the Civil War. The Bureau, in turn, sold

one-acre parcels to the newly freed slaves, with the provision that they build their houses to certain specifications. It appears that the owners expanded upon the original house models soon after purchase. Most of the housing development at Barrys Farm occurred between 1880 and 1920, prosperous years for the Howard Road neighborhood.



Map of Barry's farm

Artifacts were recovered from excavations in the backyards of the occupants, and from a well. A study of the animal bone found at the site revealed that the meat eaten most often was pork and, to a lesser extent, beef. Because entire carcasses of pigs were found it is possible that they were raising pigs on site. A study of plant materials, including seeds and pollen showed that grape, peach, plum, cherry, elderberry, pumpkin, watermelon and bean were being eaten and suggested that some of these items may have been grown at home. Ceramics found in the well showed that the family was able to buy only small quantities of household goods at one time. The discovery of a large number of discarded nails and broken window glass showed that the houses were repaired and added to quite often.

A pre-contact Native American camp also was found at the site. The entire Anacostia area is known for its extensive Native American occupation, first recorded in 1608 by English explorers from Jamestown. A large village, known as Nacochtanke, was documented as existing on the east bank of the Anacostia River near the Metro station. The site that was excavated was much smaller than Nacochtanke and had been used periodically for almost 6,000 years. Archaeologists think this spot was attractive to Native Americans for two main reasons: it yielded the raw materials to make stone tools and it was located near Stickfoot Branch, a fresh water stream that fed into the Anacostia River. Both fish and animals living there would have been available food resources.

Local District Preservation: D.C. Law 2-144

The District of Columbia has its own historic preservation ordinance, called the Historic Landmark and Historic District Protection Act of 1978, or D.C. Law 2-144. Most of the landmarks that are designated in the District are historic buildings, structures, districts, or above ground aesthetic objects. However, an archaeological site can qualify for landmark designation, as it can contain information about historic or pre-contact events.

The Historic Preservation Division (HPD) serves as staff to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO); the Mayor's Agent; and the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB), an 11- member body appointed by the Mayor. The HPRB advises the Mayor's Agent on cases subject to Law 2-144, in addition to other responsibilities. The Mayor's Agent acts on behalf of the Mayor, and reviews permits that involve historic properties.

When private development occurs in an historic district it is reviewed by the HPRB. On occasion, the HPRB has recommended that archaeology be included as part of the project. The developers have complied with this recommendation, at their own expense. The benefits both to the public and the developer have been great.

Case Study: Ninth and E Streets

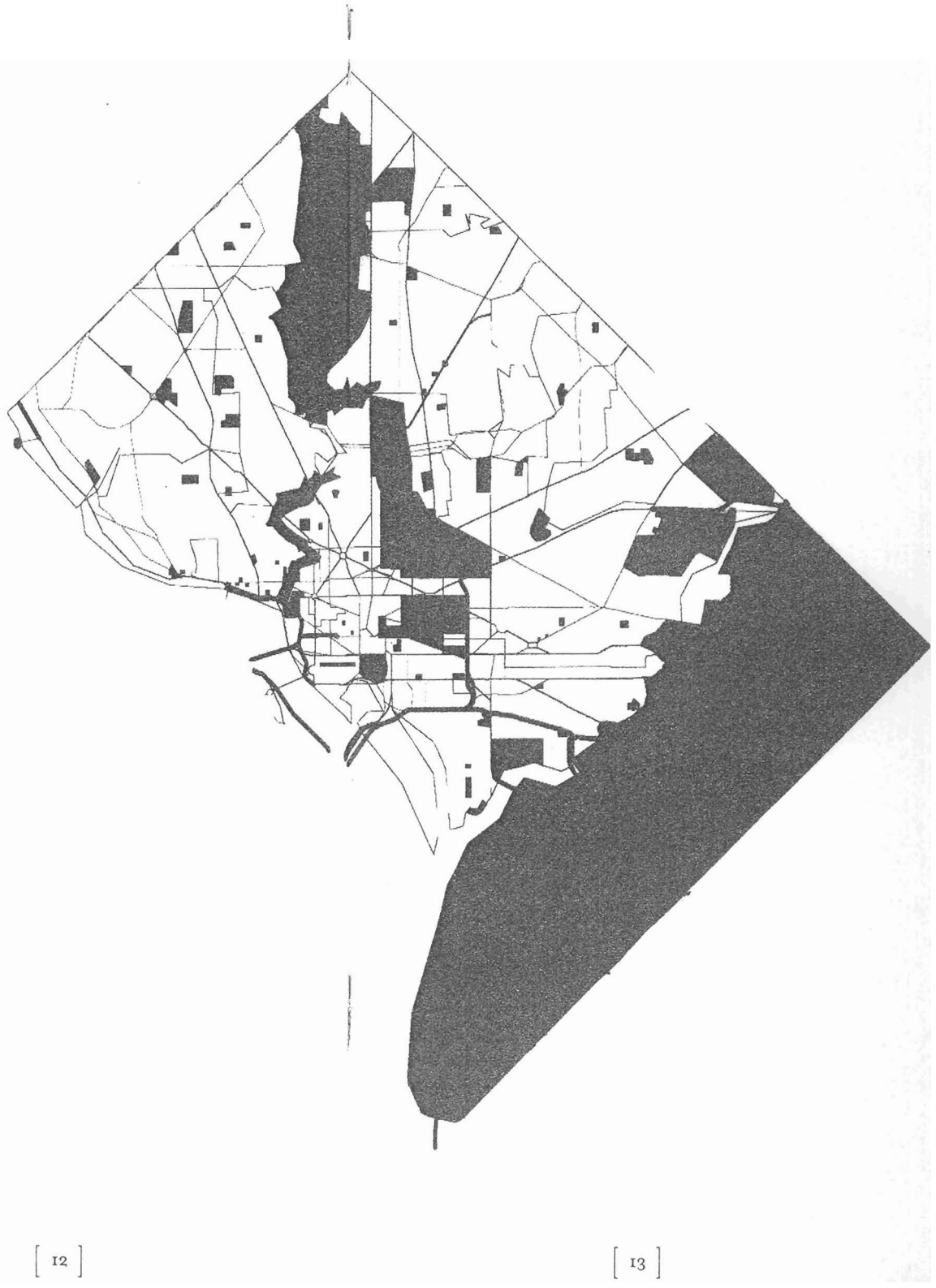
In 1987, archaeology was conducted at Ninth and E Streets, N.W. under DC Law 2-144. Twelve buildings on the site were scheduled for demolition to make way for the construction of an office building. As the area is located within the Downtown Historic District, the HPRB decided that demolition of the buildings required mitigation. In order to compensate for the loss of these important buildings, the developer agreed to do archaeological testing at the site. Excavations were conducted in the interiors of the buildings, as well as in the alley to the rear and an "above ground" archaeological survey took place in a few of the buildings to be razed. The above ground survey consisted of collecting material that was left behind by some of the former occupants.

Advertisement of Shedd's Baths from the 1886 Washington City Directory

Historical research revealed that this area was home to many of Washington's early newspapers. Between 1795 – 1860, five newspapers were published on this block. In 1800, four houses were located on the Square, one of which was located on the corner of 9th and E Streets. This was owned by John Crocker and was rented by Assistant Postmaster General Abraham Bradley for use as a Post Office. In 1813, Joseph Gales, editor of the National Intelligencer newspaper, moved into the Crocker House. In addition to Gales position as editor of the newspaper, he was mayor of the city from 1827 – 1830 and was quite prominent in Washington political and social circles. In the 1830s, and until after the Civil War, this area became more residential with some boarding houses and a few retail shops. By the end of the Civil War, major improvements to the city were made: streets were regraded; sidewalks were

Approximate Locations of all Archaeological Sites in the District

Major roads and water sources are shown for reference.



improved, and many new buildings were constructed. It was during this period that the character of 9th Street changed from residential to retail. By 1898, this area was the premier retailing district in Washington with its center at 9th and F Streets. In the 1940s, this area changed again, with a migration of businesses farther northwest. Many went out of business, and what once was a busy area was now filled with small clothing shops, restaurants and abandoned buildings. After 1950, many changes took place in this area of the District, including the relocation of the FBI's headquarters to the neighboring block, the development of the National Portrait Gallery at 10th and F, and the building of Martin Luther King Library further north on 9th Street.

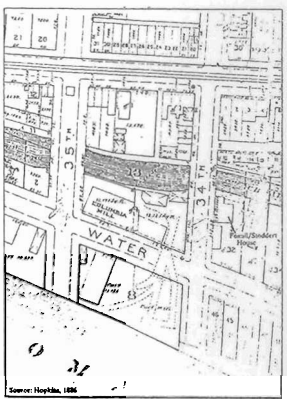
In addition to the usual approach of excavating in the backyards of the houses, excavation also took place within the basements of buildings. The remains of a cistern were uncovered and it was determined to have been in use during the Joseph Gales occupancy. Another interesting aspect of this particular excavation was the collection of material from the various offices and residences that were in the buildings. Five buildings were surveyed for material that reflected the use of the buildings over time. Material was found that dated from 1869 – 1987. Some of this material included a pawn broker's account records; accounts with the National Bank of Washington; posters and prints of President Jimmy Carter; hat forms from a hat making business; manuscripts about Harry O. White, a resident and manager of vaudeville acts; requests for auditions and jobs; files on singers; a tintype of a young girl; business cards, admission tickets; invitations; and posters that reflect the changing use of a theatre from vaudeville entertainment to pornographic movies.

Case Study:
3333 K Street/
Foxall Stoddert House

3333 K Street was the site of the Henry Foxall house, which was demolished in the 1920s. In 1987, archaeology was conducted here prior to construction of a new office building. The location had been used for a variety of maritime activities, as it was located close to the ferry landing at the foot of 34th Street. This location made the area attractive to entrepreneurs in the 1780s, all hopeful to enter the Georgetown maritime trade. One of these entrepreneurs was Benjamin Stoddert, who built a house on the property in the 1780s.

In the first few years of the 19th century, Henry Foxall purchased land and buildings from Stoddert. Foxall was a prominent citizen in Georgetown, having founded the Columbian Foundry, where munitions were manufactured for the War of 1812. By 1829, Foxall had died, and some of his land was taken to make way for the construction of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal through Georgetown.

The Foxall house was used as an office and boarding house until the mid-1850s, when the area was acquired by Alexander Ray, who ran a coal transporting business and controlled the docking basin for transport ships at this site. After the canal trade began to taper off in the late 19th century, the site became part of an industrial waterfront, a rough area composed of many different businesses. The once prominent Foxall house became a hideout for characters trying to elude police.



1886 Hopkins map showing Foxall/Stoddert House

The tax and census records indicated the presence of outbuildings on the site, including a carriage house and stables. Servants and slaves may have lived in the main house and in the outbuildings. The artifacts recovered from the excavation indicated domestic use with little or no materials related to food preparation (such as large stoneware vessels or canning jars) or related to gardening or stabling. This may mean that food was prepared in an outbuilding. Thus, the archaeological deposits may reflect materials used by the Foxall family in their daily activities within the main house. This project had a very interesting and unique development. A descendant of Henry Foxall was contacted and was able to identify some of the ceramics excavated from the site as the same pattern as those currently owned by family members. In addition, ledger books were available which identified this china as purchased by Henry Foxall during a trip to England in the 1820s.

Some of the artifacts collected predated the Foxall occupation of the site. Prior to the construction of his house, there was a warehouse on site. Artifacts such as wine bottles, wine testers, and glass beads may be associated with the warehouse.

A number of features also were uncovered at this site: the Foxall house foundation, a cistern associated with the use of the house by the Foxall family, trash deposits of the period, and the canal docking basin associated with the Ray family.

Some of the artifacts from this excavation were on display in the new building, allowing the public to share in the history of this site.

Case Study: Eighth and I Streets, N.W.

(Butt-Burnett Pottery)

In 1988, archaeology was conducted at the intersection of 8th and I Streets, N.W., prior to new construction. The area contained some parking lots and two large buildings with deep basements. Intact archaeological resources were predicted to be present under the asphalt parking lots.

The field survey and documentary research revealed that part of the site had been home to a 19th century pottery industry that manufactured salt-glazed stoneware. From 1830 to 1860 the lot was rented by Richard Butt, until 1843 when his business was taken over by Enoch Burnett. Not much information was found on Richard Butt, however, in discussions with an antique collector it was discovered that his pottery is highly collected and very expensive. More is known about Enoch Burnett. He lived in Philadelphia and had a pottery there until 1827, when he apprenticed with another potter in Baltimore. In 1842, Burnett went out on his own, came to Washington, D.C. and became a successful potter at the site on 8th and I Streets, N.W.

Blue and gray salt-glazed stoneware from the Butt Pottery

Other components of the site included portions of mid-19th century rowhouses and a late-19th century stable. However, the decision was made that the component that contained the pottery was very important and subject to intensive archaeological excavation.

The archaeology successfully identified a waster pit (discarded pieces of stoneware unsuitable for sale) associated with the kiln. Nearly 3,000 pieces of American stoneware were recovered from the site. Most of the stoneware appeared to be crocks, jugs, and beer bottles. Many of the pieces of pottery had hand-painted cobalt blue decoration. There also were reddened stains in the soil, an indication that this area may have once been the location of the kiln for pottery manufacturing.

Federal Grant Program

Every State Historic Preservation Office in the US receives grant money as part of its Federal Apportionment in order that the SHPO office undertake specific activities. To support historic preservation activities, NHPA authorizes a federal program of matching grants-in-aid to assist states, tribal organizations, territories and protectorates, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. DCHPD has special funds allocated that can be used to assist subgrantees in certain projects.

There is a broad range of projects that meet the requirements of the grant program. Without exception, these revolve around community-based initiatives directed toward preservation awareness, outreach, and advocacy. Activities and supported projects generally fall into one of the following categories: historic resources survey and inventory; preservation planning; National Register nominations; and education and public awareness/outreach. A manual documents and outlines all the procedures associated with the DC Historic Preservation Grants program, and is available free at the DCHPD office.

Case Study: Anacostia/Barry's Farm Survey

The southeastern shore of the Anacostia River has been occupied for thousands of years. The very first inhabitants were Native Americans, and some of the very first historical records indicate that early explorers observed their villages along the shores of the Anacostia. In addition to the wealth of pre-contact resources in Anacostia, it also has a rich historical heritage, having been the site of Washington's first suburb in the mid-19th century, known as Uniontown. Remarkably, much of the architecture from Uniontown survives, and is contained within the boundaries of the Anacostia Historic District.

Located near Uniontown, on a 357-acre rural tract, was Barry's Farm, founded in 1867 as the Nation's only federally-established community of freed slaves.

Hopkins Real Estate map of Uniontown, 1887

In the late 1980s, it became apparent that modern development in the area was rapidly destroying historic and prehistoric archaeological sites in Anacostia. Grant money was used to undertake a massive survey of the remaining resources and to gather as much information as possible, including oral histories of some of Anacostia's oldest residents. A team including archaeologists, architectural historians, students, and local community members was involved in collecting information.

This project incorporated archaeology, architectural history, and oral history. The goal was to preserve as complete a picture as pos-

sible about Anacostia's past. After months of fieldwork, resources were identified pertaining to the prehistoric and historic occupation of the greater Anacostia/Barry's Farm area. The ultimate outgrowth of the survey project was a guidebook that contains this information and provides a plethora of facts about Anacostia's past. This guidebook can be read at the Martin Luther King Public Library and at the D. C. Historic Preservation Office.

A one-day archaeological excavation also was conducted in which members of the community and public schools were invited to participate. Although a limited amount of material was uncovered during this excavation, many people who had never had the opportunity to participate in archaeology learned the techniques of excavation, and the importance of recovering the past.

Case Study: Congress Heights Survey

In 1987 and 1988, a comprehensive survey of the Congress Heights community was conducted. The Congress Heights Community Association performed the survey. Sixteen volunteers participated in the survey, including architectural and cultural historians, archaeologists, as well as interested members of the public. A walking tour was held in the community to attract participants. Project goals included gathering important information about the history of the community, and formulating it all into a document from which community members, researchers, and others, could learn.

After the research materials were accumulated, the committee recommended that the information compiled be formulated into a booklet for the community. The booklet identified potential archaeological site locations, showed various styles of architecture, and provided information about the cultural history and prehistory of the community.

The level of energy dedicated to performing tasks required by this project was high, and everyone's efforts contributed to a successful end product.

Education Programs

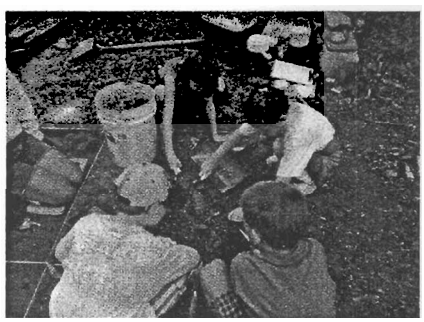
Archaeology demonstrates the importance of exploring the past in order to conserve it for the future. Hands-on archaeological activities such as school yard digs, classroom laboratories, research and field trips, among other activities, introduce young people to fascinating elements of the past. Boring history lessons become vibrant career options, and discovery of cultural heritage makes learning fun.

Archaeology is an excellent tool to get children interested in the past. It draws their interests back toward the earth and natural surroundings, piquing their desire to discover the earth's past, as well as their own.

Case Study: Sidwell Friends School

Sidwell Friends School is located on land that was once home to "America's first civil servant," Joseph Nourse. President Washington appointed Nourse as first Register of the US Treasury. As the capital of the republic relocated from New York to Philadelphia, and finally to Washington, Nourse was responsible for transporting all the money of the new United States down the Eastern Seaboard in a covered wagon. Early in his career, he lived in Georgetown, but in 1813 he relocated to the countryside.

Nourse purchased 130 acres of land along Tenleytown Road (present-day Wisconsin Avenue), as a wedding gift for his son Charles. They set about building a house from a stone quarry on the site ca. 1817 – 1827, and succeeded in erecting one of Washington's few extant late Georgian country homes. The house saw interesting historical events and experienced multiple occupations during the course of the next 150 years. Throughout the history of the house, prominent Washingtonians have lived in the house and visited the property. The house remained in the Nourse family until the 1920s, when it was sold to Admiral Grayson, President Wilson's personal physician. When the Admiral died, his widow leased the property to different prominent figures such as Count Andre de Limur, Attache to the French Embassy, and Allen Dulles, director of the CIA in 1954. Beginning in the 1940s, Sidwell Friends School leased the house, and in 1955 purchased the house and property outright. In order to finance the deal, Sidwell had to sell off eight acres located across Wisconsin Avenue that had been used for ball fields. After Sidwell acquired the house, it renamed it the "Zartman House," after Helen Zartman Jones, an original Sidwell Friends trustee. Currently, the building houses the school administration.



Students excavating archaeological site

Recognizing the amazing amount of historical information beneath the everyday footsteps of students, the school undertook an archaeology project on the site to try to learn how some of the past residents of this house lived. Funded by a grant from the D.C.

Humanities Council, students undertook their own archaeological project, digging test units, excavating features, and recording and cataloging artifacts with assistance from their teacher and the District Archaeologist.

Artifacts dating to the original occupation of the site by the Nourse family were found and research continues. Efforts are being made to identify a garden. Historic photographs indicate an elaborate seven-tiered garden, most of which has been graded away to provide space for a football field. Additional documentation must be gathered in order to discover when the garden was created and how it was used.

This study provided a fun way to involve students in discovering an important piece of their own history. Often, students are not introduced to field methods until they are at the college level. The long-range goal of this excavation is to have students in D. C. Public Schools participate in this activity. During the summer of 1999 Sidwell Friends Summer Camp offered this archaeological excavation as an activity for any students in the area that wanted to participate. For two weeks students from various schools in the area excavated this site. Next year this will be part of the Summer Camp program and also available to students who enroll in the Sidwell Summer Bridge program. Both programs are open to District high school students meeting certain requirements.

This sort of educational opportunity receives enthusiastic support from D.C. preservation officials and accolades from the archaeological community and the public.

In Conclusion

The goal of all archaeological projects is to document, record, and understand the lives of people in the past. To fulfill this goal, archaeologists recover the material culture that was left behind. It is a goal of archaeologists to make archaeological findings accessible to both the archaeological community and the interested public. Archaeological reports include written descriptions and graphics — including maps, line drawings, prints, and photographs. These reports go through a lengthy and **detailed** review process by many different parties representing many different interests. Once complete, a copy of each report is kept at the D.C. Historic Preservation Division Office and appointments can be made to access their files for research purposes. Additionally, most local libraries and historical societies maintain copies of these reports that are readily available to the public.

Archaeological excavation in downtown ***Washington, D.C.***

Just like architectural resources, archaeological resources can be listed as D.C. Landmarks (a local listing), as well as nominated for the National Register of Historic Places (Federal listing). This happens after a site has been identified and is considered significant. Of course, if a site is excavated it is destroyed, and therefore cannot be listed as a D.C. Landmark or put on the National Register. However, if the site or part of the site can be avoided, it can be listed as a Landmark and on the National Register. Two archaeological resources that are listed in the NRHP in D.C. include Woodlawn Cemetery and the Anthony Holmead site in Kalorama.

This brochure provides a window into the fascinating array of archaeological resources located in the District. Information is available on the Internet on standing structures and archaeological resources. A trip to the library, a museum, or the historical society will allow the past to unfold before you. In addition to the repositories listed in the front of this brochure, surrounding communities have their own historical associations and may be able to provide information about archaeological resources in the District. To investigate archaeology in other states, search the WEB, or visit the National Park Service site (www.NPS.gov).

Archaeology in the District

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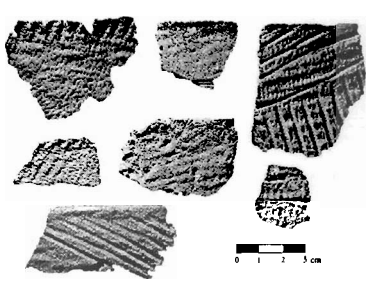

Prehistoric pottery

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