

**Appendix R — Site Tour Script for 2002-2004 Field Seasons**

18AP93 and 18AP94  
HAF Brown Bag Lecture Series – Summer Field School  
M. Palus 7-17-02

## **1. Tom introduces the field school**

Cooperative project between UMDCP and HAF

Peg Wallace and the Annapolis Maritime Museum

Homeowners David Barnes and Bart Swan—Each purchased their homes in the mid-1990s, prior knowledge of archaeology and of their home sites as potential archaeological sites.

The operation of the field school

Public Days—Advertised tours at both sites, visitation at both sites over two weekends was about 50 people (27 for 110 Chesapeake, about the same for 119 Chester). We asked guests to register and fill out a short questionnaire—How many from Eastport? How many from Annapolis? How many can we call?

St. Mary's field school visits Annapolis archaeological sites

## **2. Brief history of Eastport Community**

Completing our second summer of work in Eastport—how do we design research, how do we decide what to look for?

Idea: what do we want to learn by doing archaeology in Eastport?

Some good possibilities—In the eighteenth century this peninsula, called Horn Point, was a farm connected to Benjamin Ogle, who was governor of Maryland from 1798—1801. During the Revolutionary War there were fortifications on Horn Point.

What we have decided to pursue is the community that exists on this peninsula today. We wanted to study this community archaeologically, rather than look through it for something earlier.

The difference between trying to imagine how this neighborhood developed, how the existing community began and took shape, how the conditions that we see today in Eastport—who lives there, who works there, who is connected with the community—originated out of the nineteenth and early twentieth century... and trying to imagine the peninsula without this community, as farmland with scattered home sites.

These other possibilities for archaeological research are entirely legitimate and respectable. The choice was of telling one story or another—because history is always written as a story peopled with characters, w/ plots, settings, etc.—and we decided at the outset that this was the story that we wanted to tell.

Eastport was designed by investors from Annapolis, and also Baltimore. The street plan of Eastport, and the size of the home lots—all of this was planned in advance of the actual community, just like the downtown of Annapolis was planned. Although the community filled in gradually, this planning represents a real break in the history of the way people used this land—and this is where our story starts. This happened in 1868.

In that year, a group of investors from Annapolis and Baltimore formed the Mutual Building Association of Annapolis and bought just over 100 acres of farm land on this peninsula. They subdivided it, creating 256 parcels of roughly the same size, and many of the house lots in Eastport sit on lots that are still this size. These investors built the first Spa Creek Bridge, and laid out and named the streets: Severn, Chesapeake, Chester and Eastern Avenues, and number streets one through six.

This is the original plat for the community, drawn in 1868, and the properties that we investigated fall here, on Lot no. 165 (199 Chester Ave) and on Lot no. 145 (110 Chesapeake).

At the end of the nineteenth century, Annapolis is being overshadowed by Baltimore, in part due to the shallow harbor here. The people in Annapolis who had invested themselves in the city wanted to make it a successful place: as they were diminishing as a center for commerce—no shipping remained—investors tried to establish industry, first a glass factory in Eastport in 1885. To establish industry, you need labor, and to establish labor, you need a place for them to live. That's what we think this [show the 1868 plat again] is all about.

What actually happens in Annapolis is quite different—industry never really prospers, with the exception of **oystering**—the factories that these investors imagined would make Annapolis a successful place are floating on the water, the big oyster dredgers. Eastport, designed in the 1860s as a place for labor to settle becomes something different. There are laborers, at the USNA, in the oyster navy, or who work on farms in surrounding Anne Arundel County. But not everyone works for a wage. A lot of people get their income from other activities. Oystering can be done as a one-man operation. There is also boat-building, a tradition which requires craftsmanship and has continued in Eastport since the nineteenth century. As a craft, building wooden boats is very different from factory-style labor. So one of the most significant things that we were able to learn archaeologically is how people in Eastport fit with the wider economy of Annapolis, and how they made their living and lived in this community in the late 1800s and 1900s.

#### 110 Chesapeake Avenue—Land Use Details

This property was purchased from the Mutual Building Association by an Irish immigrant named Luke Burns, who came to America in 1856. Burns purchased this lot, and two adjacent lots in 1881 for \$150.00, so at that time these individual lots were selling for \$50.00.

Burns was born in Ireland in 1838, and immigrated to the United States in 1856. We know from the U. S. Census of 1900 that he was widowed at that time, living on one of these three lots with his daughter named Bridget, who was born in Maryland and was 20 years old at the time. Bridget has no occupation listed in the census, but Luke Burns was working as a fireman at the glass factory here in Eastport—he fed the furnaces in the glass factory, and that is really hard work. He also sells his land in Eastport soon after the turn of the century, which probably represents financial hardship.

He sold the home site at 110 Chesapeake in 1901, with the house, to a man named George Blatchford, who was an enlisted man on a vessel called “the Gloucester.” The Gloucester was a small sailing vessel, which had actually started life as a yacht belonging to J. P. Morgan—it had been recommissioned by the Navy and saw action in the Spanish-American War, so Blatchford was probably a veteran. In the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> C. the Gloucester was stationed at the USNA as a training vessel, and Blatchford was a deck hand on the vessel.

Blatchford, who came to America from Scotland in 1863, moved here with his wife and two step-sons, who had retained their family name Churchill. The oldest son is listed on the 1910 census as a waterman, and his son, William Glennis Churchill lived out his life at 110 Chesapeake with a sister, named Shirley Churchill. She sold this property to the current homeowner, so it stayed in that family for nearly 100 years, over three generations starting with George Blatchford and his wife.

**Census records have been valuable to us—they’ve allowed us to understand certain things about Eastport in the early twentieth century. The 1910 census is actually keyed to the street addresses—it is basically a complete directory for Eastport in 1910, and it gives people’s ages, place of birth, occupations, whether they can read or write, and whether they own or rent their own homes.**

Here’s just a sample of who’s living nearby to George Blatchford and his family in 1910:

- Marylanders, Virginians and New Yorkers
- Two German families and two English families; two of the Germans are telephone linemen working for the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company most likely—two German brothers are butchers at the slaughterhouse that replaced the glass factory, and another brother in the same family drives a meat wagon for the slaughterhouse.
- House Keepers
- Carpenters
- Watermen, but no shuckers
- And a few people with their own money, possibly retirees.
- More than half owned their own homes.**

## 119 Chester Avenue—Land Use History (a somewhat different story)

119 Chester is the western half of Lot 165 on this plat. This property was one of ten lots— basically this entire block from Chester to Eastern Avenue— won by two businessmen in Baltimore as part of a settlement in a law suit. In 1881 they sell all ten lots to another Baltimorean named David Carroll, and more than ten years later he sells this single lot to a man named Jeremiah Lanahan, for \$127.50. That price probably reflects some improvements to the property, possibly this house or another structure, a barn that is present on an early map. Lanahan's family own this parcel of land until 1908, but we haven't been able to find them on the U. S. Census for Maryland either in 1900 or 1910. Consequently we don't know very much about them, and we're not sure that they're living here.

In 1908, Jeremiah Lanahan's daughter sells the western half of the parcel to a couple in Baltimore, and after that it is occupied by a series of renters. We know that there is a well on this side of the lot, because until after 1945 the deed to this lot states that the resident **must share the use of the well** with the occupant of the person living next door.

The Census that was taken in 1910 is actually keyed to the street addresses, so we were able to look and see exactly who is living here in those days. In 1910 there are two families living in this house, including an African-American woman named Emily Johnson, who had two sons ages 22 and 20, and four daughters between the ages of 19 and 11. Also living in the house was a 65 year-old widow named Mary Hill, and her son Samuel, age 33, who was a farm laborer and had never married. Everyone in Emily Johnson's family worked: Emily was a laundress for a private family, and probably worked in their home. Her sons were both watermen, and two daughters were servants in Annapolis homes. The youngest daughters, being 14 and 11, probably helped the mother with her duties and maintained the home.

This is just the people who are living in this neighborhood in the early twentieth century—here is who is living on this block in 1910:

- They are carpenters and apprentice carpenters, watermen, cooks for private families in Annapolis, day laborers and farm laborers, a photographer and a salesman.
- They are all born in Maryland, with one family from Virginia.
- About half of them are African American, **all of whom rent their homes**; a higher proportion of whites owned their homes, around 80%.

As we understand it, a series of owners in the early twentieth century rents out this house until around 1928. In that year the property is purchased by an Eastport man named Rawlings, who is a carpenter living in his parent's home on the 1910 census. Because he and his family are local, we are assuming that he actually lives in this house until 1968, after which it is sold to Bill and Luciene Pfefferkorn, who again operate it as a rental.

### **3. Archaeological Questions**

So in 1900 you have a community of working class people, both black and white, some renting and some owning their own homes, on the next peninsula over from Annapolis. It was known as Eastport since at least 1888 (Horn Point, Severn City). It was not formally a part of the city of Annapolis until it was annexed in the 1950s, **but it there was certainly more connecting it to the city than that bridge over Spa Creek**. In our research in Eastport, we have tried to understand two things:

First, we have tried to understand the people who lived at these two properties, **as working people**. Second, we want to understand how this community was **connected** to Annapolis. These two questions have guided our excavations here since last summer.

To answer the first question, we have looked for deposits and features—such as fence lines, outbuildings and privies—that we can associate with either Emily Johnson, or another tenant. We mapped the entire site last summer, and started a grid system for recording locations on the site by two coordinates, and by elevation. So that when discoveries are made they can be labeled with locational information called **provenience**, or the three-dimensional location on the site. Within this grid, we have excavated five-foot by five-foot square units, carefully removing the soil layers one at a time. We run all the soil we excavate through 1/4 inch mesh screens, and collect all of the artifacts from each layer in each unit in a separate bag. Digging this way allows us to separate what is in soil that is deposited recently, for instance fill put down by the current homeowner, from artifacts that are in soils deposited earlier. We work carefully because as we are excavating the site, we are taking it apart—one excavation unit can never be excavated again. For that reason we record everything very carefully: how we are excavating, what tools we are using, what we are finding and where we are finding it. After excavation is completed, the artifacts will be washed, dried, counted, analyzed and the data will contribute to a report that will detail all of our discoveries at these two sites.

What we are looking for is material that people left here on the site: imagine that the site is a crime scene and you'll understand our methods perfectly. We will use what we find—ceramics that these people put on their tables, glasses they drank out of, bottled beverages that they purchased, medicines, bones from the meat that they put on the table, the toys that their children played with, buttons off their clothing, and so on, to say something anthropological about them, and about Eastport more broadly. We will try and understand the how Eastporters lived, based on what we find at these sites.

At one of our sites, the Chester street property, and probably at a lot of other properties in Eastport, we have an additional problem to explore, which is disproportionate home ownership among whites and blacks. By the design of the Annapolitans who planned Eastport, everyone here is supposed to be more or less the same—**it is all labor**. The people who live here are in the same economic class. The design for this community does not include black neighborhoods and white neighborhoods. It does not have lots set aside for churches and businesses (though some wharves and boatyards were already present on the waterfront). So if that is the case, how did differences between African American Eastporters and White Eastporters come about?

What we have to explain—and we will have failed if we cannot—is how race came about in Eastport, what it came to mean, and at this site we have the opportunity to understand through

the archaeological record how African Americans dealt with this. In other words, where did they fit in their community? How were they systematically made to rent rather than own—because surely that is what is taking place—and how did they manage and prosper in that racist environment?

Three basic discoveries:

Money, paying rent or paying a mortgage

The picker's check—we know from research that was done by Jane McWilliams that workers in the glass factory in Eastport supplemented their wages with glass—they made glass sculptures, brick-a-brack, and sold or traded them, they took home glass bottles and traded them, and so forth. That is pretty much standard for artisans who work in a factory setting in the nineteenth century. Industries like glass bottle making, potting, metal-working and such require skilled labor, and there is often an opportunity for factory workers to work on side projects and make a little extra money. What's important here is that this isn't so much extra money, but objects that can be used in barter—they are as good as money, but instead of currency they are products of an individual's labor and skill.

Some industries you do not have this freedom to work on the side for yourself. For instance, the cotton mills in Massachusetts are terribly strict, every minute is accounted for. You see the same thing in other mechanized factories that rely on machines more than hand labor. You see the same thing in mining. Often in a mining operation labor is paid with company money—instead of a cash wage you are paid in tokens or script that can be used like credit at the company store.

One item that we found at 119 Chester Avenue is a picker's token or a picker's check.

First—no surprise. We already knew that farm labor was paid in this way...but what is interesting is the possibility when these tokens go back to the community. Did they still have value in the community, as credit in the farm store? Did they circulate in the community, within the family, or among families? Possible.

Same as the glass factory—not cash.

Another issue—home ownership. You can't pay off a mortgage with credit, you can't pay rent with picker's checks.

Middle-class values in a working-class community—front lawns

Connections to Annapolis—modernization and sewer lines

This is a section of a sewer plan dating to 1933. Do you remember our second research question: **what was the relationship between Eastport and Annapolis, and how was Eastport connected to Annapolis?** One way that we've tried to answer that question is by looking at public utilities, like sewers.

This property is 119 Chester [show on sewer map], where you're standing. Unlike the rest of the properties, there is nothing entered into these plans, suggesting to us that the property was not occupied. We know there was a fire here in the early twentieth century, and that the house was badly burned, so it may have been a ruin in 1933 when these plans were made. When sewer lines were installed between 1933 and 1937, they were extended along the side of the house and entered an extension in the back. That's the case with most of the older houses in Eastport. What that tells us is that people had already moved their toilets inside their houses, before the sewer lines were put in. Here is one house that is still using a privy, and sewer lines were not put into the house, but out to the privy in the yard! But there are hardly any privies in this part of Eastport in 1933.

That's important, because it says that people living in Eastport—whether they rented or owned—had a home life that resembled the way people lived in modern homes in downtown Annapolis, at least as far as the toilet was concerned. This raises a lot of questions for us: why were sewers necessary? It seems like an obvious question, but the answer isn't obvious. People weren't walking out to the outhouse in Eastport in 1930. Sewers haven't necessarily improved sanitation either, because Eastport hasn't been settled more densely since the 1930s—you have some lots being subdivided, but there is still a lot of open space and a you have big yards. Why sewers?

The answer may be the connection that they provided to Annapolis, by extending the infrastructure of Annapolis to this community. A Sanitary Commission was established in the City of Annapolis in the early 1930s, and initiated a city-wide sewer project between 1933 and 1937. Even though Eastport was a part of Anne Arundel County, it was included in this large sewer project. What we don't know is how connections were made to individual houses: did the city workers run this line out the this privy? Or was this done by the homeowner? Was anything done with this utility that isn't on city plans? Those are some of the questions we can answer by actually getting down and digging out the pipe trench itself.

What we have seen here is a hand-excavated trench with a pipe that has been replaced. In a unit that was excavated last summer, we identified another trench exactly like this one, extending past the house into the rear of the yard. This may indicate that they had one of these late privies in this house, or had an outbuilding that was plumbed.

Two units excavated into the contemporary lawn have shown us something interesting. Last summer we put a unit around the side of the house, near the birdbath. It had no features, and the soils very much resembled the soils in this unit, which is completed. What the unit around by the birdbath contained, however, was a large quantity of animal bone—food waste. It seems as though it was being taken out into that part of the yard to be fed to animals (maybe chickens?), or thrown there from the kitchen. In either case, it would not have been a lawn as we understand it.

This unit, in the front of the house, had hardly any animal bone, and really very few artifacts that weren't dropped here during one phase of construction or another. What that tells us is that, unlike the side yard, this **has** been a lawn for a long time, like it is today. That tells us that the Churchills presented their home to their neighbors in a certain way. A nice front lawn and toilets inside the house: those are two things that make modern suburbs!

**127 Chester Avenue—Site Tour Script**  
M. Palus and J. Shellenhamer 6/15/03

Three aids: 1) blow-up of Duvall plat of Horn Point, 2) sequence of Sanborn maps, 3) blow up of census page from 1910 showing Alexander Dennis and family, Meade and family.

**1. In the front yard/front porch**

Welcome!

[Introduce yourself—who are you, where do you go to school, etc.]

This excavation is being conducted through the University of Maryland as an archaeology field school. It is also part of a long term research project called Archaeology in Annapolis, which has held field schools to do archaeology in public in the city for the past twenty-two years. Archaeology in Annapolis has looked at sites within the historic district, most recently at the Upton Scott House on Shipwright Street, and in the lot next to the Banneker-Douglas Museum on Franklin Street<sup>1</sup>. In the last few years, we began to look at Eastport, and we were welcomed by Peg Wallace, who until recently directed the Eastport Maritime Museum next to McNasby's, and has provided a great deal of leadership for **public history** in this community. Have you ever met Peg Wallace?

Why are we digging here? All of the sites we are excavating this summer are privately owned. After our first few summers of work, we began contacting home owners who expressed an interest in hosting our field school. As a result, four properties were included in the research this summer: this home, 127 Chester Avenue (Eleanor Niermann), 201 Chesapeake Avenue (Greg Barranco and Allison Porter) and later in the summer, homes at 512 Second Street (Jane Arthur) and 102 Chesapeake Avenue (Todd Kamens and Barbara Patoka). All of these homeowners welcomed us out of a genuine interest in what we might learn about the history of this community, and were prepared for us to undertake the excavation that you will see in the back yard...

So: our research in Eastport (starting in the summer of 2001) is the first systematic investigation into the archaeology of the peninsula. We had to ask the question, what can we learn about this community using the techniques we and other archaeologists use to recover information about the past? To understand what we could learn, we had to ask, **what is Eastport?**

It's a lot of things. In the eighteenth century this peninsula, called Horn Point, was a farm connected to Benjamin Ogle, who was governor of Maryland from 1798—1801. During the Revolutionary War there were fortifications on Horn Point. **What we are interested in is not the farm or the fort, but the existing community called Eastport.** The history of this community begins in **1868**. In that year, a group of investors from Annapolis and Baltimore

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<sup>1</sup> Note that this site has been in the news this spring and summer—the BD Museum planned an expansion into the adjacent open lot, and we excavated it ahead of construction. Then some neighbors filed suit to stop the construction, saying that the proposed work was out of character with the neighborhood. BD Museum won the suit, and now it's in appeal. Very ugly. Don't be surprised if someone mentions it.

formed the Mutual Building Association of Annapolis and bought just over 100 acres of farm land on this peninsula. They subdivided it, creating 256 parcels of roughly the same size, about four times the size of this property today, and these investors built the first Spa Creek Bridge, and laid out and named the streets: Severn, Chesapeake, Chester and Eastern Avenues, and number streets one through six.

This is the original plat for the community, drawn in 1868, and this property falls here, on Lot no. 167. 127 Chester is the eastern end of Lot 167 on this plat, and the original lot extended from here to the corner of Chester Avenue and Second Street, where the coffee shop is located. You can see how the lots have been subdivided. Lot 167 was one of ten lots—basically this entire block from Chester behind us to Eastern Avenue—won by two businessmen in Baltimore as part of a settlement in a law suit. In 1881 they sell all ten lots to another Baltimorean named David Carroll, and more than ten years later he sells this lot alone to a man named Richard G. Meade, probably as an undeveloped parcel of land.

The Meades--Richard G. Meade is a carpenter, his sons are carpenters. He probably bought this piece of land as an investment in 1893; Current homeowner says this house was constructed in 1903, and if that is so then the parcel sat more or less empty for ten years.

The house that stands here now is similar to many of the small wood-frame homes in Eastport. Who was building all of these houses?!! Well, the Meades were building some of them. Richard Meade and several of his sons were carpenters. If you will glance up the street (away from the café) to 114 Chester Avenue—the house with the wrap around porch—one of Meade's sons named Brooke was living in that house with his wife in 1910, he owned the house free and clear. Also across the street on the same side of the block where we're standing, at 113 Chester, that's where Richard Meade lived with his family in 1910, with his wife of some 30 years, two sons who were carpenters and apprentice carpenters, and a third son who was a photographer. Also living in Richard Meade's household, was a white SERVANT named Ida Claude, a 38-year old widow.

The differences between the house at 127 Chester, and the houses that the Meades lived in up the street are clear. The houses they built for themselves have a cross-shape plan with a wide front porch. They are not large, but they have an identifiable style other than “vernacular” or “rowhouse”. They probably built those houses for themselves. This structure, in contrast, was probably built specifically to rent, or to sell to working-class folks as a residence. It may also have been built on contract, for an individual who purchased the land from the Meades in the first decade of the twentieth century, but only lived here for a few years.

At this point, we'd like to raise two points:

- 1) What is Eastport? At the outset, Eastport is an investment. We've discussed two approaches to turning a profit in Eastport. The first is **land speculation**, which went on frequently after the place was first platted in 1868. People from Annapolis or from Baltimore purchased land specifically to resell it at a greater price, or to subdivide and sell individual lots. The second is through **developing property to rent** out. In addition, The Mutual Building Association of Annapolis, and probably other banks in the area, would mortgage homes for people, so there is a

third way to profit from this community early in its history, through **money-lending**. Before 1868, none of that was possible.

2) What do people say Eastport is? It is predominantly remembered as working-class. That is largely true. But we want you to understand that some people managed to climb out of the working class and attain wealth, such that Eastport had working-class **but also middle-class families**. The Meades are a good example. As a family they owned land all over the peninsula, while much of the community either had mortgages on their homes, or rented their homes. Further, Richard Meade made sure that his sons remained in the middle class by apprenticing them as carpenters—they elevated themselves by virtue of that status as craftsmen, and perhaps through membership in a trade union. Not everyone in Eastport could accomplish this, and we are keenly interested in learning the details of how some families succeeded in accumulating wealth, while others did not.

Land was wealth in Eastport; like a trade, it was something you could pass on to family members. It provided some security. **Institutions** also provided a measure of security and helped to build community in Eastport, and that leads us to another important part of the history of this house...

In 1908 three Methodist Episcopal churches buy this property for use as a parsonage. These churches owned this lot clean through to 1996, when it was purchased by the current owner and renovated. The archaeology of this African-American parsonage, and the material left behind by subsequent clergy, is basically what we're looking for at this site.

Please follow me into the back yard, where there is some shade!

## **2. Move to back deck behind the house (find props and pointer). Keep folks up on the deck.**

The Census that was taken in 1910 is actually keyed to the street addresses, so we were able to look and see exactly who is living here in those days.

In 1910, and presumably starting when these three churches purchased this property in 1908, this house was the residence of an African-American Methodist clergyman named Alexander Dennis. In 1910 Dennis was 70 years old, living here with his wife Sarah and a twenty-year old daughter named Mary. Mary was born in Washington D. C., as was Sarah, so we believe this family moved to Eastport from Washington specifically to serve the church. Here is what the 1908 title has to say about it:

“...the trustees of the following churches, [including] Mt. Zion Methodist Episcopal Church at Eastport, John Wesley M. E. Church at Annapolis Neck, and Fowlers Memorial M. E. Church near Best Gate...comprising the Eastport Circuit of the Washington Annual Methodist Episcopal Conference...the said trustees, bodies corporate, being desirous to purchase a house and lot to be used as a parsonage for the minister in charge of the said churches...”

So Dennis is coming into Eastport in a position of considerable responsibility, at quite an advanced age. Why did he leave Washington to come here? It wouldn't have been "retirement" exactly. We might learn more about that as we continue working here.

What would he have thought of Eastport? How would he fit in with this community?

Eastport had 1500 residents at the time of the 1910 census, and about 80% of that, 1100 individual men, women and children, is white-skinned people. A smaller proportion is comprised of African-Americans, which are distinguished on the census as either "black" or "mullato." This is the other 400 individuals, a little more than 20% of the community.

In 1910, the City of Annapolis (which did not include Eastport) had a population of 8600 individuals, over 37% of which was African-American (3200 persons). Can we assume—if Eastport represents the opportunity to own land and thereby accumulate wealth—that this opportunity was not extended to African-Americans in the same way?

Of the 400 African Americans in Eastport, about half lived in homes that they owned or mortgaged, and half rented their homes. African-Americans are predominantly living on the Back Creek side of the peninsula, including three blocks of Chester Avenue and around three blocks of Eastern Avenue, and on blocks of Second and Third Streets that run between them. This block, on Chester Avenue, was predominantly white, while the block of Second Street around the corner was predominantly black.

Some questions: Can archaeology tell us how African Americans benefited from owning homes in Eastport, as opposed to renting them? Second, how did the Dennises, as middle class African-Americans and as spiritual, political and social leaders within the community distinguish themselves via choices made in household purchases and furnishings: packaged foods, beverages, medicines, personal hygiene, customs of dress, dining and recreation, and so on.

Comparison with what we know about African Americans in other parts of Annapolis, for instance the Maynard-Burgess house on Duke of Gloucester Street across from City Hall.

To answer the first question, we have looked for deposits and features—such as fence lines, outbuildings and privies—that we can associate with either Alexander Dennis, his family, or another tenant. We mapped the entire site, and started a grid system for recording locations on the site by two coordinates, and by elevation. So that when discoveries are made they can be labeled with locational information called **provenience**, or the three-dimensional location on the site. Within this grid, we have excavated five-foot by five-foot square units, carefully removing the soil layers one at a time. We run all the soil we excavate through 1/4 inch mesh screens, and collect all of the artifacts from each layer in each unit in a separate bag. Digging this way allows us to separate what is in soil that is deposited recently, for instance fill put down by the current homeowner, from artifacts that are in soils deposited earlier, by the Dennises or another occupant. We work carefully because as we are excavating the site, we are taking it apart—one excavation unit can never be excavated again. For that reason we record everything very carefully: how we are excavating, what tools we are using, what we are finding and where we are

finding it. After excavation is completed, the artifacts will be washed, dried, counted, analyzed and the data will contribute to a report that will detail all of our discoveries at these four sites.

What we are looking for is material that people left here on the site: imagine that the site is a crime scene and you'll understand our methods perfectly. We will use what we find—ceramics that these people put on their tables, glasses they drank out of, bottled beverages that they purchased, medicines, bones from the meat that they put on the table, buttons off their clothing, and so on, to say something anthropological about them, and about Eastport more broadly. We will try and understand the how Eastporters lived, based on what we find at these sites.

We should be so lucky to make a discovery like that. But that's what we're trying to do at this site. Now let me show you some of the things that we have done this summer:

Detail the excavations—this you'll have to come up with yourself...

The Sanborn maps and the potential privy in the back of the yard--was it a privy or wasn't it? Show the Sanborn maps and how every house on the block has a little outbuilding, probably representing a privy...

In this case, we know that some of the properties in Eastport were using privies up until the 1930s, when the first sewers were put in by the City. The plans for those sewer lines actually show several privies, and they are usually along the fence lines of the property. Old privies are frequently filled with trash, especially after the privy is abandoned. A good collection of artifacts from a privy or trash pit will tell you a lot about the family (or families) that were living in the house, so we used these shovel test pits to try and find one at this site.

**[Show off the finds and explain what they are.]** We haven't yet completed an analysis of these materials, but hope that they will allow us to understand what is happening here socially—because these materials can tell us what the occupants of this house did on an everyday basis, they can tell us a lot about this community.

### **3. Take Questions.**

### **4. Ask if they will sign our visitor log, and fill out a short questionnaire.**

**110 Chesapeake Avenue—Site Tour Script**  
M. Palus 6/19/02

**1. In the front yard, in the driveway:**

Welcome!

This excavation is being conducted through the University of Maryland as a field school. It is also part of a long term research project called Archaeology in Annapolis, which has held field schools to do archaeology in public in the city for the past twenty-two years. In the past, Archaeology in Annapolis has looked at sites within the historic district, most recently at the Upton Scott House on Shipwright Street, and last summer at the Courthouse Block next to the Banneker-Douglas Museum on Franklin Street.

Last summer, we began to look at Eastport, and we were welcomed by Peg Wallace, who directs the Eastport Maritime Museum and has provided a great deal of leadership for **public history** in this community. Have you ever met Peg Wallace?

Peg was acquainted with two homeowners on the peninsula in Eastport, who she thought would have us as their guests for several weeks to excavate on their property, and last summer Archaeology in Annapolis conducted its first season of fieldwork in Eastport, at this site, owned by David Barnes, and another site at 119 Chester Avenue, which I invite you to see when this tour is finished.

**2. Move to some shade in the back yard, near the porch—props and a pointer will be waiting there.**

So: last summer we were accepted as guests and began fieldwork. We had to ask the question, what can we learn about this community using the techniques we and other archaeologists use to recover information about the past? To understand what we could learn, we had to ask, **what is Eastport?**

It's a lot of things. In the eighteenth century this peninsula, called Horn Point, was a farm connected to Benjamin Ogle, who was governor of Maryland from 1798—1801. During the Revolutionary War there were fortifications on Horn Point. **What we are interested in is not the farm or the fort, but the existing community called Eastport.** The history of this community begins in **1868**. In that year, a group of investors from Annapolis and Baltimore formed the Mutual Building Association of Annapolis and bought just over 100 acres of farm land on this peninsula. They subdivided it, creating 256 parcels of roughly the same size, about the size of this property today, and these investors laid out and named the streets: Severn, Chesapeake, Chester and Eastern Avenues, and number streets one through six.

This is the original plat for the community, drawn in 1868, and this property falls here, on Lot no. 145. This property was purchased from the Mutual Building Association by an Irish immigrant named Luke Burns, who came to America in 1856. Burns purchased this lot, and two

adjacent lots in 1881 for \$150.00, so at that time these individual lots were selling for \$50.00, probably without improvements.

We don't know what he did with these three lots, but in 1900 we know from the U. S. Census that he was working as a fireman at the glass factory here in Eastport, so he was probably living on one of them—he fed the furnaces in the glass factory, and that is really hard work. By the turn of the century Burns was 62 years old and a widow. He sold this land in 1901, with the house, to a man named George Blatchford, who was an enlisted man on a vessel called “the Gloucester.” Blatchford, who came to America from Scotland in 1863, moved here with his wife and two step-sons, who had retained their family name Churchill. The oldest son is listed on the 1910 census as a waterman, and his son, William Glennis Churchill who lived out his life here was a waterman. A descendent, named Shirley Churchill sold this property to the current homeowner, so it stayed in that family for nearly 100 years, over three generations starting with George Blatchford and his wife.

We believe that this is what Eastport was supposed to be. Remember the 1868 plat of the neighborhood—256 parcels of the same size and probably close to the same value, meaning 256 working families of about the same means. Here's who was living on this block in 1910:

- Marylanders, Virginians and New Yorkers
- Two German families and two English families
- House Keepers
- Carpenters
- Two telephone linemen
- Several butchers, and a meat-wagon driver—the glass factory from the last century had been converted into a large slaughterhouse by this time...
- Watermen, but no shuckers
- And a few people with their own money, possibly retirees.
- More than half owned their own homes.

Here's what we think: at the end of the nineteenth century, Annapolis is being overshadowed by Baltimore, in part due to the shallow harbor here. The people in Annapolis who had invested themselves in the city wanted to make it a successful place: as they were diminishing as a center for commerce—no shipping remained—investors tried to establish industry, first a glass factory in Eastport in 1885. To establish industry, you need labor, and to establish labor, you need a place for them to live. That's what we think this [show the 1868 plat again] is all about.

So in 1900 you have a community of working class people, both black and white, some renting and some owning their own homes, on the next peninsula over from Annapolis. It was known as Eastport since at least 1888. It was not formally a part of the city of Annapolis until it was annexed in the 1950s, **but it there was certainly more connecting it to the city than that bridge over Spa Creek.** In our research in Eastport, we have tried to understand two things:

First, we have tried to understand the people who lived at these two properties as working people. Second, we want to understand how this community was connected to Annapolis. These two questions have guided our excavations here since last summer.

To answer the first question, we have looked for deposits and features—such as fence lines, outbuildings and privies—that we can associate with either Burns or with the Churchills. We mapped the entire site last summer, and started a grid system for recording locations on the site by two coordinates, and by elevation. So that when discoveries are made they can be labeled with locational information called **provenience**, or the three-dimensional location on the site. Within this grid, we have excavated five-foot by five-foot square units, carefully removing the soil layers one at a time. We run all the soil we excavate through 1/4 inch screens, and collect all of the artifacts from each layer in each unit in a separate bag. Digging this way allows us to separate what is in soil that is deposited recently, for instance fill put down by the current homeowner, from artifacts that are in soils deposited earlier, but the Burns or the Churchills. We work carefully because as we are excavating the site, we are taking it apart—one excavation unit can never be excavated again. For that reason we record everything very carefully: how we are excavating, what tools we are using, what we are finding and where we are finding it. After excavation is completed, the artifacts will be washed, dried, counted, analyzed and the data will contribute to a report that will detail all of our discoveries at these two sites.

What we are looking for is material that people left here on the site: imagine that the site is a crime scene and you'll understand our methods perfectly. We will use what we find—ceramics that these people put on their tables, glasses they drank out of, bottled beverages that they purchased, medicines, bones from the meat that they put on the table, the toys that their children played with, buttons off their clothing, and so on, to say something anthropological about them, and about Eastport more broadly. We will try and understand the how Eastporters lived, based on what we find at these sites.

Now let me show you some of the things that we have done this summer:

**3. Walk to rear of the yard, in front of the existing garage so that they can see down to Unit 8.**

We have three excavations open—in addition, we have excavated about 30 small test holes along the fence lines at this property. The purpose of the test holes or **shovel test pits** is to find deposits that we have no other way of finding. In this case, we know that some of the properties in Eastport were using privies up until the 1930s, when the first sewers were put in by the City. The plans for those sewer lines actually show several privies, and they are usually along the fence lines of the property. Old privies are frequently filled with trash, especially after the privy is abandoned. A good collection of artifacts from a privy or trash pit will tell you a lot about the family (or families) that were living in the house, so we used these shovel test pits to try and find one at this site. So far, we haven't found one. We did find a deposit of trash buried in this corner of the property (improvise...).

**4. Move towards front of house, in the driveway shade near Unit 6.**

This unit was placed here alongside the house to tell us two things: first, it will show the construction of the foundation, and possibly tell us when the house was built based on artifacts that we find associated with the foundation. A builder's trench is visible along the house, and we are excavating it as a separate provenience. This unit was also placed here to find the sewer lines that serve this house.

This is a section of a sewer plan dating to 1933. Do you remember our second research question: **what was the relationship between Eastport and Annapolis, and how was Eastport connected to Annapolis?** One way that we've tried to answer that question is by looking at public utilities, like sewers.

This property is 110 Chesapeake, where you're standing. When sewer lines were installed, they were extended along the side of the house and entered an extension in the back. That's the case with most of the older houses in Eastport. What that tells us is that people had already moved their toilets inside their houses, before the sewer lines were put in. Here is one house that is still using a privy, and sewer lines were not put into the house, but out to the privy in the yard! But there are hardly any privies in this part of Eastport in 1933.

That's important, because it says that people living in Eastport had a home life that resembled the way people lived in modern homes in downtown Annapolis, at least as far as the toilet was concerned. This raises a lot of questions for us: why were sewers necessary? It seems like an obvious question, but the answer isn't obvious. People weren't walking out to the outhouse in Eastport in 1930. Sewers haven't necessarily improved sanitation either, because Eastport hasn't been settled more densely since the 1930s—you have some lots being subdivided, but there is still a lot of open space and a you have big yards. Why sewers?

The answer may be the connection that they provided to Annapolis, by extending the infrastructure of Annapolis to this community. A Sanitary Commission was established in the City of Annapolis in the early 1930s, and initiated a city-wide sewer project between 1933 and 1937. Even though Eastport was a part of Anne Arundel County, it was included in this large sewer project. What we don't know is how connections were made to individual houses: did the city workers run this line out the this privy? Or was this done by the homeowner? Was anything done with this utility that isn't on city plans? Those are some of the questions we can answer by looking for evidence of public utilities.

In this case, we learned that the homeowner replaced this line several years ago. What you see here is the original trench re-excavated, with new line put into the ground. Since we know that this deposit is modern, we have stopped excavating it and started focusing on the soils in the other half of the unit.

##### **5. Move around to the front yard—no shade unfortunately.**

Two units excavated into the contemporary lawn have shown us something interesting. Last summer we put a unit around the side of the house, near the birdbath. It had no features, and the soils very much resembled the soils in this unit, which is completed. What the unit around by the birdbath contained, however, was a large quantity of animal bone—food waste. It seems as

though it was being taken out into that part of the yard to be fed to animals (maybe chickens?), or thrown there from the kitchen. In either case, it would not have been a lawn as we understand it.

This unit, in the front of the house, had hardly any animal bone, and really very few artifacts that weren't dropped here during one phase of construction or another. What that tells us is that, unlike the side yard, this **has** been a lawn for a long time, like it is today. That tells us that the Churchills presented their home to their neighbors in a certain way. A nice front lawn and toilets inside the house: those are two things that make modern suburbs!

So, here is the question: if this was a modern suburb, when did it get that way, and how did it get that way? What we have learned so far is that the City Planners of Annapolis had very little to do with it—it happened independently of Annapolis, and it had nothing to do with what Annapolis wanted Eastport to be.

**6. Take Questions.**

**7. Ask if they will sign our visitor log, and fill out a short questionnaire.**

## 520 Third Street—Site Tour Script Summer 2004

**Three aids:** (1) Blow-up of 1868 Duvall Plat of Horn Point, (2) Sequence of Sanborn maps, (3) blow up of L. P. Kelly & Sons advertisement from the Evening Capital and Maryland Gazette, 1910.

**The route:** (1) Brick patio at rear of house, where foam-board panels will be ready, (2) the grassy area in the back yard, for an overview of the archaeology, (3) Close-up of Units 1, 3 and 4 and a description of those finds and features, (4) return to the brick patio to look at artifacts, take questions.

### Some guidelines:

1. Keep visitors in the shade if you can.
2. Keep them moving—spend five minutes or less standing in one spot, if that’s practical.
3. Ask them questions, and have something handy to write down what you learn. Don’t let them sit and listen to you, get them talking and find out if they can contribute something new and interesting—make them into participants rather than listeners!
4. If anyone does give you valuable information, get their telephone number and street address if you can so we can contact them again in the future.
5. Ask them to sign our register before they leave or before the tour begins; ask them to complete a questionnaire before they leave, and thank them for visiting.

### 1. Welcome!

[Introduce yourself—who are you, where do you go to school, etc. Also, move people into the shady spot on the brick patio in the back yard.]

This excavation is being conducted by the University of Maryland as an archaeology field school. It is also part of a long term research project called **Archaeology in Annapolis**, which has held field schools to do archaeology in public in the city for the past twenty-four years.

In 2001, we began to look at Eastport, and we were welcomed by a woman named Peg Wallace, who until recently directed the Annapolis Maritime Museum at the end of Second Street at **McNasby’s Oyster House**, and has provided a great deal of leadership for **public history** in this community. We are working here as partners with the Historic Annapolis Foundation and the Annapolis Maritime Museum here in Eastport. We are also happy to be guests with the folks who live in the house on this property.

Why are we digging here? **We dig home lots in Eastport because they have not been paved over, and because the best way to learn about Eastporters is to look in places where they have actually lived. That’s where we find the best evidence.** All of the sites we are excavating this summer are privately owned. After our first few summers of work, we began contacting home owners who expressed an interest in hosting our field school. **As a result, we have investigated eight (8) private homes in Eastport, including two this summer: this one**

at 520 Third Street, home of a family named Langdon [they might know Jeanne Langdon from the Eastport Civic Association], and another one at 108 Eastern Avenue (not far from where mayor Ellen Moyer lives), home to a couple named Sarah Lewallen and Mark Beaudry. All of these homeowners welcomed us out of a genuine interest in what we might learn about the history of this community. The work we are doing does not cost these folks anything, however it is an inconvenience and it takes some time for the lawns to recover. So we're grateful that Eastport homeowners have taken a real interest.

If anyone asks, here are the street addresses where we've worked, all around the 100 block of Chesapeake and Chester Avenues:

201 Chesapeake Avenue  
110 Chesapeake Avenue  
102 Chesapeake Avenue  
119 Chester Avenue  
127 Chester Avenue  
512 Second Street

Our research in Eastport (starting in the summer of 2001) is the **first systematic investigation** into the archaeology of the peninsula. We had to ask the question, what can we learn about this community using the techniques we and other archaeologists use to recover information about the past? To understand what we could learn, we had to ask, **what is Eastport?**

It's a lot of things. In the eighteenth century this peninsula, called Horn Point, was a farm connected to Benjamin Ogle, who was governor of Maryland from 1798—1801. During the Revolutionary War there were fortifications on Horn Point. **What we are interested in is not the farm or the fort, but the existing community called Eastport.** The history of this community begins in **1868**. In that year, a group of investors from Annapolis and Baltimore formed the **Mutual Building Association of Annapolis** and bought just over 100 acres of farm land on this peninsula. They subdivided it, creating 256 parcels of roughly the same size, about four times the size of this property today, and these investors built the first Spa Creek Bridge, and laid out and named the streets: Severn, Chesapeake, Chester and Eastern Avenues, and number streets one through six.

[Show the location of 520 Third Street on the 1868 Duvall Plat]

**First sale of this land was in 1887** to an Annapolitan named William Taylor of James for \$219.00, "being the agreed value of his entire stock" in the Mutual Building Association of Annapolis. Undeveloped lots are selling for ca. \$50.00 apiece around 1880, and Taylor's purchase of four lots (Nos. 72-75) is consistent with this.

So William Taylor of James was an investor, not a part of the leadership of the Mutual Building Association of Annapolis but holder of some number of shares, probably just one or two. Fourteen investors are named on the original articles of incorporation, and Taylor is not one of them. Initially the corporation put out 1000 shares or less, each at par value of \$125.00 in 1868, meaning that the corporation started out with something

like \$125,000.00, except that the shares were paid off in weekly installments of \$0.25 and so on. At that rate, each share “matured” in a little less than a year.

Note: “The President” or the 101 1/4 acres purchased by the Mutual Building Association came for a price of \$11,125.00 in fee simple. A lot of capital was left over if they had sold 1000 shares of stock, and in truth they probably didn’t!

Taylor immediately sells Lots 73, 74 and 75 to an Eastport woman named Mary E. Lockett, for \$225.00, yielding him a small profit.

[Point out the locations of all these lots on the Duvall Plat from 1868—they will be marked]

The Lockett family owns this land for about ten years, and we are uncertain whether they built anything on the property or not. We are finding some artifacts that date to the mid- or late-nineteenth century, including white clay pipestems that become rare after the American Civil War (clay pipes in the later nineteenth century have absurdly long stems and are smoked by gentlemen, or they have reed stems rather than clay ones, hence the pipe is really just a clay bowl with a reed to take smoke into the mouth), and also a penny found on-site dating to 1865. There is the possibility that we are encountering deposits that date to the Civil War era or earlier—there was activity on this peninsula before there was a community here, and we would be thrilled to encounter something like that.

We have also found wasters (fused porcelain plates) from the glass factory on this site—because the glass factory was closed by 1903, that indicates some activity here during the first decade of the twentieth century.

Our emphasis is on one family that lived at this property for more than forty years. **In 1896, Mary Lockett and husband Thaddeus transfer the title to Levin P. Kelly and his wife Julia Kelly for part of Lot No. 74** measuring 165’x22.5’ for \$148.00. That sale price might indicate a house with a dwelling existing on it, or some other improvements. But its ambiguous and it’s a pretty low sale price.

The Locketts sell a separate and adjacent piece of land to Julie Kelly in 1900, of the same dimensions (165’x22.5’) **doubling the size of their lot, to 165’x45’, probably representing all of lot 74 and essentially the current dimensions of the property.**

**The Kelly family retains the land and house at 520 Third Street from 1896 to the mid-twentieth century. We can therefore firmly associate things we are finding, including the pit filled with trash in Units 1 and 3, with the Kellys.**

## **2. Some information about the Kelly Family:**

[Move group to the yard with a view of Units 1 and 3, in the shade if possible. Unit 2 should be boarded over by Friday for safety!]

Levin and Julia Kelly, both born in Maryland, purchase the lot at 520 Third Street in 1896 and 1900. They have then a lot measuring 165 x 45 ft.

At the time of the 1900 Census, the Kelly's have four (4) sons and one (1) daughter, ages 2-11. Levin is 34 years old, and Julia is 33. She had her first child as a 22-year old woman. Her youngest was born while the family resided here. Levin's occupation is listed in 1900 as a sailor; he can read and write, as can his wife, and the three oldest children are attending school. The family has a mortgage on their house, which is probably the house present on the site today, minus a few additions.

[Run through the series of Sanborn maps for the property, showing various outbuildings in the back yard]

By 1910 Levin Kelly has started a business called **L. P. Kelly & Sons** [Show the advertisement from the Eve. Cap.], selling coal and wood for fuel, as well as sand and gravel. Two sons, named Clausen and Charles, are working for the family business as salesman and book-keeper, respectively. Their business is located on Severn Avenue in Eastport—they did not run their business out of their home here. The Kellys paid off their mortgage on this house by 1910 as well. **Julia has lost an older daughter named Sara**, who was born in 1891 and would be 19 by this time had she survived; **she has also given birth to a daughter named Elizabeth** who is 6 y.a. in 1910. Otherwise the household is intact.

There are other Kellys living in Eastport, with of one large family on Chesapeake Avenue headed by a couple named Thomas and Mary, who are close to the same age as Levin and Julia and might be related. There is also a 40-year old widow Laura Kelly who is a housekeeper with a family on Severn Avenue. This might represent an extended Kelly clan in Eastport. **All of them are Americans, not Irish, though ethnically they are probably Irish.** Julia's father is an Irish immigrant, and he spoke the Gaelic language, but Levin is at least a third-generation American, and the children are third or fourth generation Americans, depending on how you figure.

In 1920 Levin and Julia Kelly are still living at this address with their oldest son, who is 30 in that year, three other sons and daughter Elizabeth. **Julia had her last child at the age of 41 years!** Kelly & Sons does not seem to be in business anymore in 1920. Levin Kelly is then a mariner on a freight boat, but the census indicates that he is working on his own account, meaning he works for himself and probably on his own boat. Two older sons are painters, and daughter Elizabeth, now age 16, is earning a wage as a tailor [why she is not called a "seamstress" we do not know]. **So, by 53 Levin Kelly is running a freight boat (an occupation that probably evolved naturally out of his coal and wood fuel business—their coal came "directly from the mines" and the wood came from Virginia, so he knows shipping) and three children are working for a wage as skilled workers. Julia Kelly is never listed with an occupation, but rather bears children throughout her life (she has 8 children between 1889 and 1914).**

The house stays in the Kelly family until the mid-twentieth century. Levin was born in 1866 and is probably deceased by the 1930s or 1940s, and the same goes for Julia who was born in 1867. **There are probably Kellys still living in Eastport—if you meet any, get their names!**

### 3. Move over for a closer look at Units 1, 3 and 4.

Here's some information about what we are finding, and what we're starting to think about it.

First, at all of the properties we have looked at, there is a layer underneath the sod that consists of topsoil that has accumulated gradually over the last hundred years or so, with artifacts from the earliest settlement on the land towards the bottom of that layer. **It is not usually material that dates back to 1868**, rather it is from the 1880s or the 1890s, when people actually moved onto most of these lots.

We dig one layer at a time, and that allows us to keep material deposited during one event or one period separate from artifacts in an earlier level. Artifacts deposited during different periods of time can be considered separately, as representing a part of the material conditions of life for people during one time or another. This is just how archaeologists think. Also, archaeology is **interpretive**, like psychology or reading tea leaves, and so what I'm going to talk about are some possible routes to interpreting what we've found.

In addition to the layer of soil deposited as topsoil all across the site, we've also found two distinct pits containing artifacts from different periods.

Within Units 1 and 3—the pit currently being excavated, containing...

Name some of the contents of this pit feature, including the two jars formerly containing **"Pond's" cold cream**. The Ponds jars date to different periods, one of them from before 1920 and the other one from about ten years earlier. This helps us to date the deposit to the first twenty years or so of the Kelly family living on the property, and it also indicates **brand loyalty**, and an interest in **beauty** and **femininity** (though the stuff has other uses, this is how its advertised). This is a woman's personal maintenance, and this may not be something that every woman in Eastport used on a regular basis. Julia Kelly seems to have used this product occasionally or more. Elsewhere on the property, fancy buttons and glass beads reveal the kinds of clothes that she or her children wore and maybe even made; one of Julia's daughters was a tailor, and she may have learned these skills from her mother; alternately, these things may be associated with the daughter's work rather than with the Julias.

**Another find** at this property is a variety of **toys**—a porcelain teacup handle, a toy car part, an unglazed porcelain doll's torso, and several clay and glass marbles.

A pattern is emerging:

Levin Kelly and his sons are very public in their lives, and we are able to learn a lot about them from historical documents. We know their professions, and we know about their business. In contrast, Julia Kelly is something of a mystery. **Her life is lived in private**. Archaeology is

especially good for getting information about persons who lived in the past without leaving behind many documents, like women and children.

Julie Kelly raised eight children in her lifetime, and seven of them lived to adulthood. A lot of that went on at this property. **This is a point on which archaeology can really talk. We're hoping to recover a sample of material that will help us say something about Julia Kelly's life here as a wife and mother. Beauty and domesticity don't come naturally to anyone.**

**Describe finds underneath the barn:** The homeowner agreed to tear down the barn, and underneath we found the footprint for an earlier structure, approximately the same dimensions. Mention the deep deposits along the fence. Hopefully before we begin tours on Friday, we will have more to say about that pit feature. **What is interesting is that the pit is producing some of the older materials from this site, for instance the clay pipestem fragments, which we haven't found yet anywhere in Eastport!**

**4. Return to the brick patio and show some of the artifacts we've found. They don't have to spend any more time with us if they don't want to. Thank them for visiting!**

**Chain of Title for 520 Third Street.**

Grantor	Grantee	Date	Reference	
			book	page
Jeanne L. Langdon, representing Palmer Langdon (deceased 2002)	Jeanne L. Langdon	March 20, 2003	14023	759
Arnold J. Gasper and Joan B. Gasper	Palmer Langdon	April 14, 2000	9755	362
Arnold J. Gasper	Arnold J. Gasper and Joan B. Gasper	January 20, 1994	6451	296
Richard E. Bessom and Sharon D. Long (aka Sharon D. Bessom)	Arnold J. Gasper	July 27, 1988	4687	730
Helen M. Brown	Richard E. Bessom and Sharon D. Long	December 9, 1986	4267	046
Sarah F. Gay Brown and Roland A. Brown, and Ferol E. Bondaruk and Paul J. Bondaruk	Willie Brown and Helen M. Brown, and Frances Hall, Joint Tenants	December 18, 1963	1718	345
Clausen P. Kelly, Josephine M. Kelly, Bernard A., Gertrude M., William E., Vera A., Kendrick L., and Beulah E. Kelly, and Elaine Jackson, James W. Jackson, Julie Kelly McBride, and George W. McBride	Sarah F. Gay and Elizabeth K. Pinkowski (Formerly Elizabeth K. Tankersley), tenants in common	January 31, 1950	559	7
Grace E. Roth (single)	Edward H. Kelly, Sarah F. Gay, and Elizabeth K. Tankersley	November 7, 1940	JHH 228	220
Thadeus F. Lockett and Mary E. Lockett (Lockette?)	Julie Kelly (married)	January 10, 1900	GW 16	273
Mary E. Lockett and Thaddeus F. Lockett	Levin. P. Kelly and Julie Kelly	July 28, 1896	GW 3	154
Mary E. Lockett and Thaddeus Lockett	Levin P. Kelly and Julia Kelly	May 21, 1896	GW 2	273
William Taylor of James	Mary E. Locket	April 23, 1887	SH 30	475
Mutual Building Association of Annapolis	William Taylor of James	February 18, 1887	SH 30	477

## 108 Eastern Avenue—Site Tour Script Summer 2004

**Three aids:** (1) Blow-up of 1868 Duvall Plat of Horn Point, (2) Sequence of Sanborn maps showing locations of various residences around Chester and Eastern Avenue, (3) Census pages from 1920 showing the residences along Eastern Avenue.

**The route:** (1) Front yard, adjacent to Unit 2 excavation for an introduction, (2) Back yard near where tools are stashed, where foam-board panels will be available, (3) Adjacent to Unit 1 near the barn for discussion of finds and features, (4) return them to the front yard.

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2. Keep them moving—spend five minutes or less standing in one spot, if that’s practical.
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### 1. Welcome!

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**named Sarah Lewallen and Mark Beaudry, and another one at 520 Third Street, home of a family named Langdon (Eastport visitors might know Jeanne Langdon from the Eastport Civic Association).** All of these homeowners welcomed us out of a genuine interest in what we might learn about the history of this community. The work we are doing does not cost these folks anything, however it is an inconvenience and it takes some time for the lawns to recover. So we're grateful that Eastport homeowners have taken a real interest.

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512 Second Street

Our research in Eastport (starting in the summer of 2001) is the **first systematic investigation** into the archaeology of the peninsula. We had to ask the question, what can we learn about this community using the techniques we and other archaeologists use to recover information about the past? To understand what we could learn, we had to ask, **what is Eastport?**

It's a lot of things. In the eighteenth century this peninsula, called Horn Point, was a farm connected to Benjamin Ogle, who was governor of Maryland from 1798—1801. During the Revolutionary War there were fortifications on Horn Point. **What we are interested in is not the farm or the fort, but the existing community called Eastport.** The history of this community begins in **1868**. In that year, a group of investors from Annapolis and Baltimore formed the **Mutual Building Association of Annapolis** and bought just over 100 acres of farm land on this peninsula. They subdivided it, creating 256 parcels of roughly the same size, about four times the size of this property today, and these investors built the first Spa Creek Bridge, and laid out and named the streets: Severn, Chesapeake, Chester and Eastern Avenues, and number streets one through six.

This is the original plat for the community, drawn in 1868, and this property falls here [show on 1868 plat—we'll provide the map]. This plot of land is actually developed quite late in the history of this community.

[Show Sanborn Fire Insurance maps of the property, indicating its late development—also point out the fact that the house on the property is shifted back to create a yard and room for a porch]

We feel that the house standing on this property was moved away from the street within ten years of being built, because of what we've been told by the neighbors and because of what we can see on these Sanborn maps. The first house at 108 Eastern was built right up against the sidewalk, without any real front yard—it was probably just about six or seven feet from the street. By 1930, the house has been moved back about 15 feet from its former location, creating the front yard here at the front. This excavation (**UNIT 1**) in the front yard is intended to find

the original footprint for the house, to help us determine its location and assign a date for its construction. **How's the evidence so far?**

[Move the group into the area where we store our tools and equipment]

## **2. Discuss the evolution of the property, basically the history of an empty lot.**

I mentioned that this land is developed rather late, and that's actually somewhat incongruous with the way this block is built up with homes after the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. **Mt. Zion Methodist Episcopal Church**, which was built in the 1880s and was/is the center of a community of African Americans in Eastport, is just around the corner on Second Street. Much of the land around it was settled by 1900, and the houses across the street on Eastern Avenue were built before 1910. In 1910 there were about 1500 people living in Eastport, and about 400 of them were black. The Black community in Eastport was primarily settled along Chester and Eastern Avenues; First street what mostly White, and from Chesapeake Avenue to Spa Creek was mostly white. Annapolis then was a separate city, and had a somewhat larger proportion of African Americans.

[Show pages from the 1920 Census]

In 1920 the lower end of Eastern Avenue here was mixed—Black and White people were living nearby one another, because this was the boundary between two different segregated neighborhoods. The houses across the street and on towards the corner of Eastern and First were occupied by **Black Marylanders** who were oyster-tongers and shuckers, in some cases boatwrights, men whose wives took in laundry to make ends meet. This land may have stood empty for so long as a consequence of **segregation. Race has a geography**, and we might be able to learn about that by examining this property and others. We are trying to reconstruct **who lived where in Eastport, and we're also interested in places where no one lived**. This land might have been unfavorable to build on for other reasons as well—the water table is high, the land is too exposed to the weather, though structures on the opposite side of the street are even more exposed.

**This land was part of a block of ten lots**—basically this entire block from Chester behind us to Eastern Avenue—won by two businessmen in Baltimore as part of a settlement in a law suit. In 1880 they sold all ten lots (basically this entire block between Chester and Eastern, and First and Second Streets) to another Baltimorean named David Carroll, and about 25 years later Carroll sold four lots (**Lot Nos. 169, 170, 171 and 172—show the 1868 plat again**) to a man named Richard G. Meade for \$1,000.00 in cash, probably as an undeveloped parcel of land along Eastern Avenue measuring 132 ft deep and 340 ft wide. The Meade family is interesting, because they own a lot of land around this part of Chester and Eastern Avenue, and land is wealth in Eastport, even if no one is living on it, even if there is no dwelling there. This 1905 deed marks a speculative purchase by Meade—**this purchase is an investment in his and his children's future**.

**Meade already owned land in this area when he purchased four lots from Carroll. He bought a number of lots from Carroll in 1893, and he bought several more from Carroll in**

**1896. We believe after the 1905 purchase that he owned at least half of the block that this property sits on.**

**Remember: Land was wealth in Eastport; like a trade, it was something you could pass on to family members. It provided some security.**

**About the Meades:** Richard G. Meade is a carpenter, his sons are carpenters. At the time of the 1910 Census Richard Meade's household consists of himself and his wife Annie, one son named Maurice who is a house carpenter, and twin boys named Russell and Roland. Russell is apprenticed to learn carpentry (probably to his father), and Roland is a photographer. There is also a servant in the household who is white, named Ida Claude (widow, age 38).

The house that stands here now is similar to many of the small wood-frame homes in Eastport. Who was building all of these houses?!! Well, the Meades were building some of them.

-Richard Meade built and occupied the **salmon-colored house** on other side of the block, on Chester Avenue (point to it—it's at 113 Chester Avenue).

-His son lived in 114 Chester Avenue, the home of a woman named Jean Herndon today—the white clapboard house with the wrap-around porch—one of Meade's sons named Brooke was living in that house with his wife in 1910, he owned the house free and clear.

-The Meades seem to have also built a house on the opposite side of the block, at 127 Chester Avenue, which is different from the houses that Richard Meade and his sons built for themselves. It more resembles the “vernacular” style of construction seen all over Eastport. This structure was probably built specifically to rent, or to sell to working-class folks as a residence. In 1908 it became the Parsonage for Mt. Zion, just around the corner.

It appears as though Richard Meade and his wife owned the land here for 12 years and **did nothing with it**. The Meades owned land on both sides of this block—on Chester and Eastern Avenues—and on Chester Avenue they built houses for themselves and they developed land to sell or rent out. However, on Eastern Avenue they did nothing with the land.

In 1917, Meade sells portions of Lot Nos. 169 and 170 on Eastern Avenue to his niece or daughter **Susie** and her husband, named **Emory Bowen**. A lot measuring 132 x 50 ft is sold to the couple for a sum of \$10.00—**That's the lot we're standing on today**. Emory and Suzie Bowen took out a mortgage on the property with the Annapolis and Eastport Building Association about two days after the \$10 purchase from Meade, and this may have been money to construct a house on the property. It may have also been to pay Meade for the land if it was not transferred as a gift, within the family. In any case, they lose this land to the mortgage company (called the Annapolis and Eastport Building Association) almost immediately.

**The Gott Connection** (of Gott's Court fame—**optional material**):

In 1917 the Bowens take out a mortgage on the property at 108 Eastern Avenue, and in 1918 and 1919 it looks like the mortgage company takes the house and land when the tenants default on their mortgages. The mortgage company is the Annapolis and Eastport Building Association, and several members of the Gott family are involved financially.

Between 1907 and 1909 Winson Gott's father **Winston** built Gott's Court on the interior of the block bounded by West Street, Calvert Street and Northwest Street near Church Circle, where the Gott's Court Parking Garage is currently located. It consisted of a courtyard containing 25 connected frame houses, and it was predominantly occupied by African Americans. These units were occupied until 1957, but saw frequent changeover—between the 1910 and 1920 Census, 15 out of 18 occupied units in Gott's Court had different tenants. Winson Gott sold the land to the city in 1952, and soon thereafter Gott's Court was razed for parking.

**Thomas Gott** was involved with the Annapolis and Eastport Building Association, and was essentially a mortgage holder on the land at 108 Eastern Avenue from 1917 to 1919...**Winston Gott** acted as attorney for the building association on one of the deeds that we have, and may have served frequently. In other words, the Annapolis and Eastport Building Association may have been a family business!

**The land is transferred 6 times in the eight years between 1917 and 1925, each time for small sums of \$5.00 or \$10.00—that probably means that the Bank (or a building association) really owns the land throughout that period, since these transactions are between different families rather than within families.**

Richard Crandall, a carpenter who may have worked for Meade, buys the land at 108 Eastern Avenue in 1919, and it is uncertain whether he built the house or if it was already built when he arrived. Studying the tax assessments will help us determine this. Crandall isn't living in Eastport at the time of the 1910 Census. Richard Crandall is named on the 1920 Census as living here on Eastern Avenue. Also, we know from the census that by 1920, Richard G. Meade, now 65 years old, is living on Eastern Avenue at one of the houses next door. **Richard Meade does nothing with his land on Eastern Avenue for years, and eventually he gives his house on Chester Avenue to family and moves into a smaller dwelling next door to this one (which one we do not know).** He stays close to the family, but moves over to Eastern, to what appeared to be un-sellable land or undesirable land. [Use the Sanborn maps to show all this moving around]

That is something interesting we've been able to learn from the documents. Now let's talk about the archaeology.

[Move people over to the side of Unit 1 along the fence.]

### **3. 108 Eastern Avenue as a rental unit.**

After 1925 the land at 108 Eastern Avenue seems to be occupied by renters—Several of the names that are attached to the title between 1921 and the 1980s are people who live in other parts of Eastport, in Annapolis, around Anne Arundel County, or in Baltimore. Most of what we've found so far at this property belonged to people who owned no land. They rented this place for short periods of time, and we don't know their names or what they did for a living.

**This is a point on which archaeology can really talk.** Archaeology is especially good at getting information about people who are not mentioned in historical documents. Historians have ways of finding out about these kinds of folks indirectly, but we can recover information about them **very directly** by recovering material evidence for the way that they lived.

Here's some information about what we are finding, and what we're starting to think about it.

First, at all of the properties we have looked at, there is a layer underneath the sod that consists of topsoil that has accumulated gradually over the last hundred years or so, with artifacts from the earliest settlement on the land towards the bottom of that layer. **It is not usually material that dates back to 1868**, rather it is from the 1880s or the 1890s, when people actually moved onto most of these lots. Here we're unlikely to find anything from before 1920.

We dig one layer at a time, and that allows us to keep material deposited during one event or one period separate from artifacts in an earlier level. Artifacts deposited during different periods of time can be considered separately, as representing a part of the material conditions of life for people during one time or another. This is just how archaeologists think. Also, archaeology is **interpretive**, like psychology or reading tea leaves, and so what I'm going to talk about are some possible routes to interpreting what we've found.

In addition to the layer of soil deposited as topsoil all across the site, we've also found a distinct layer of domestic trash along the fence to the west of the west of the property.

**[Describe some of the finds—have them on hand to show.]**

In the last four years we've looked at the homes of community leaders and entrepreneurs in Eastport, but we've also looked at several rental units like this one, because we are interested in learning something about home ownership in Eastport.

About the people who lived here and rented their homes: we could say that they were poor, but how productive is that? What do we know about anybody after we've decided they are poor? Not a lot. What if we turn the question around, and ask this: **What were the benefits of owning your own home versus renting?**

-Shelter! You control your living conditions to the extent that you can afford to make improvements

-Financial stability—you can mortgage your home to raise money if you have to, potentially increasing your wealth and property through investments

-Family—your children can inherit from you, ensuring that they enjoy the stability and security that you did during your lifetime

**There may be other benefits (or consequences), and we expect that the material culture of homeowners will differ somewhat from that of renters.**

We assume that renters are too poor to own their homes, but why might some people CHOOSE to rent rather than own? What strategies would people employ to maximize benefits to themselves and their families while renting?

-Renters can make illicit or illegal modifications to the house or apartment that they occupy. To that extent they have some control over their own shelter

-Financial flexibility—you can move when you have to, and you can apply your resources to things other than the house that you live in (provided there is anything left in the till after you pay the rent!)

-Family—Could we imagine that apartments or houses could be passed down through families? The shifting ownership of this land does not indicate new renters with each sale. Also, consider the act of “squatting” and withholding rent or underpaying as a system for managing the finances of a household. All of that should be taken into consideration here.

How does homeownership contribute to the health of the community? Is there not also a form of community among renters? **Can archaeology help us to think through any of this, by showing some of the material conditions of life in the past?** Yep.

**4. Return to the front yard. They don't have to spend any more time with us if they don't want to, but ask them to fill out a questionnaire. Thank them for visiting!**

**Table 2. Chain of Title for 108 Eastern Avenue.**

Grantor	Grantee	Date	Reference	
			Book	page
Chesapeake Bay Associates	Sarah G. Lewallen	July 31, 1995	7098	292
Bruce K. Gray and Robin Gray	Chesapeake Bay Associates	March 1, 1990	5035	799
Eric Sayles, Thomas Bennett, and Corrintha R. Bennett	Bruce K. Gray and Robin Gray	March 31, 1984	3716	578
Virginia Davis Bryant	Eric Sayles, Thomas P. Bennett, and Corrintha R. Bennett	November 1, 1982	3563	6
Virginia Davis Bryant, representing the estate of George Davis	Virginia Davis Bryant	March 23, 1972	2482	858
Norma F. Elliot, Widow, Norma Elliot McCannaughay and James W. McCannaughay	George Davis	July 29, 1960	1411	379
Louis M. Strauss, Trustee	Marcia Elliot (single)	September 16, 1953	783	294
Viola E. Hall and Harrell W. Hall, William L. Elliot and Hellen F. Elliot, and Benjamin P. Elliot and Doris Elliot, and Harry F. Elliot and Norma F. Elliot, and Marcia Elliot (single)	Louis M. Strauss, Trustee	September 16, 1953	783	277
Jesse H. Whitehurst (single)	Harry W. Elliot	May 28, 1938	FSR 180	474
William J. Christ and Carrie Christ	Jesse H. Whitehurst (Baltimore)	August 24, 1925	WMB 16	313
Emanuel J. Tople and Christian Faith Tople (wife)	William J. Christ and Carrie Christ	October 11, 1922	WNW 58	127
Richard St. Clair Crandall and Clara (Clare?) Leone Crandall	Emanuel J. Tople and Christian Faith Tople	May 11, 1921	WNW 38	476
Winson G. Gott, attorney for the Annapolis and Eastport Building Association of the City of Annapolis	Richard St. Clair Crandall	June 7, 1919	WNW 5	483
Emory G. Bowen and Susie M. Bowen, and the Annapolis and Eastport Building Association of the City of Annapolis, Mortgagee	Harvey H. Steele and Eva C. Steele	December 4, 1918	WNW 6	186
Richard G. Meade and Annie M. Meade	Emory G. Bowen and Susie M. Bowen	September 17, 1917	GW 140	140
David H. Carroll	Richard G. Meade	June 21, 1905	GW 42	327
Jeremiah Nicodemus, surviving partner of Jacob Heim, and Harriet E. Nicodemus	David H. Carroll	April 4, 1880	SH 17	323
Mutual Building Association of Annapolis	Jeremiah Nicodemus	1880	SH 17	322

## **Tour notes for 102 Chesapeake Avenue**

(M. Palus 6/25/2003)

This lot of land consists of the western half of Lot no. 144 on Duvall's Map.

\$327.00—one of the Mutual Building Association members cashes out his stock for this amount April 4, 1877. FOR THIS CREDIT he receives five discontinuous lots, numbered 90, 92 (facing on today's Third Street), 141, 143 (fronting on today's Second Street), and 144 (at the corner of First Street and Chesapeake Avenue). For that price, these are almost definitely undeveloped lots.

JOHN CANNON is not listed on the articles of incorporation for the Mutual Building Association as a member of the board of directors, and in any case that amount probably only means two or three shares (initially 1000 shares or less, each at par value of \$125.00 in 1868, means that the corporation started out with something like \$125,000.00, except that the shares were paid off in weekly installments of \$0.25 and so on. At that rate, each share "matured" in a little less than a year.

Note: "The President" or the 101 1/4 acres purchased by the Mutual Building Association came for a price of \$11,125.00 in fee simple. A lot of capital was left over if they sold 1000 shares of stock (they probably didn't).

Lot is sold by a number of people to a man named Charles J. Hibbard in 1882, for \$120.00. Still a very low price, probably reflecting little development. The same lot is sold to one Frederick Heinbuch five years later for \$1,000.00. So: the house on this property is probably built in the intervening five years. We're not sure this house looks like 1000 1887 dollars, so there might have been something else of value on the property.

Heinbuch lives on the property and conveys the land and house to his son and daughter-in-law in 1896 for one dollar. Some years later, in 1902, the elder Frederick Heinbuch is a widow and his son sells this lot for \$1,200.00 to William Harmon, who sells it six years later to a married couple named William and Margaret Williams. The sale price is \$1,600.00

At the time of the 1910 Census, only Margaret and a daughter are listed for this address (address 493 at the time of the 1910 Census). Margaret A. Williams, 35 year old white woman married 13 years (husband not listed on census) living in house with 12 year old daughter Margaret M. and Thomas B. (9 years). All Marylanders, owning their own home and living on their own income. Note that the Sanborn maps indicate that there is a grocery attached to the house at the time the Williamses buy it. The grocery is present on the 1908 Sanborn map only—it is constructed between 1903 and 1908, and torn down between 1908 and 1913 (it is possible that the Heinbuch family had constructed and operated the grocery, and that the Williamses simply tore it down when they bought the property in 1908).

The Williamses sell this land to a family named Lindhardt for \$10.00 in 1920. This may indicate that the Lindharts take over a mortgage for the Williams family (there is not indication of a familial relationship between the two). Frank and Francis Lindhart retain possession of the house until his death in 1965, and thereafter our interest begins to taper off.

SO ARCHAEOLOGICALLY we have the potential to encounter deposits associated with the Heinbuchs (1887-1902), the Williamses (1908-1920), and the Lindhardts (1920-1965). Keep in mind that we know very little about the Heinbuchs and Lindhardts, although with the Lindhardts especially we can learn a great deal talking to people who are still alive.

Points:

Can we learn something about who these people were by what they left behind?

The grocery that the Williamses (or the Heinbuchs) operated. What does that tell us? What would they have sold in the store? Did they employ anybody in their store? What would that mean for their standing in the community? **That is why we are digging in the driveway.**

In these associated outbuildings, we are hoping to find interpretable material from another period of occupation.

## **Tour Notes for 512 Second Street**

(M. Palus 6/25/2003)

This property (a small rectangle of Lot no. 101 on Duvall's plat map) is purchased from the Mutual Building Association by a Baltimore man in 1880, and it does not seem to be locally owned until 1885, when it is owned by an Annapolitan named Julius Hall, who purchases Lots 101, 105, 106, and 108 for \$250.00.

This portion of Lot 101 is purchased from Hall by a man named Robinson for \$200.00, probably representing improvements on the property. So Robinson either lived here or rented out the property, but he owned it from 1891 to 1910. We know he had to mortgage the property in 1906, and when it is sold in 1910 he doesn't make money from the sale, rather the mortgage (amounting to \$500.00) is assumed by another individual.

The house on the property is one of the duplex houses in this row that was moved to this neighborhood from the United States Naval Academy in the early twentieth century. We know that it was on the property in 1908, and it's probable that it was moved here when the USNA was redesigned and enlarged around the turn of the century—that's when many of the current buildings at the USNA were constructed (The Flagg design).

A possibility: he could have moved this duplex structure here, and in doing so razed earlier buildings that existed on the property?

In 1912 this property is purchased by a family named Collison. Some Collisons are living in Anne Arundel County, and some are living in Baltimore. The parcel stays with that family until 1955. In that year it is purchased by a lawyer in Annapolis named Woelfel, who takes over a mortgage from the Collisons. Woelfel himself owns parcels of land all over the county, and this one stays with his heirs until the 1980s.

Note: owning land and good credit! Another strategy for making money out of Eastport!!! Why would the Collisons be mortgaging and remortgaging their land? To raise capital for other projects!

In essence, this property is owned throughout its history by outsiders—People in Anne Arundel County, Annapolitans, or Baltimoreans. That being the case, what can we say about the people who lived here, based on historical documents?

The 1910 Census is keyed to the street addresses of the properties in Eastport. In that year, this house is occupied by William F. Branzell (50 year old white head-of-household), and wife Harriet A. (age 64, married to William 24 years). William listed as a waterman, mostly oysters. No occupation listed for Harriet; the couple is renting at 512 Second. Interesting point—Harriet has 11 children, two of which still alive in 1910! Other Branzells living in the neighborhood.

This block of Second Street was predominantly white, and mostly of the residents rented their homes. They included sailors in the Merchant Marine, a grocer, two house plasterers, a mail carrier, and other working-class folks. All were native Marylanders.

The Branzells never own this property, and one of our difficulties comes with the fact that many Eastporters rented rather than owning their homes. They do not appear on any of the titles, and it is really just luck that we know about the Branzells. So how should we think about renters?

We could say that they were poor, but how productive is that? What do we know about anybody after we've decided they are poor? Not a lot. What if we turn the question around, and ask this: **What were the benefits of owning your own home versus renting?**

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