CALVERT INTERIM REPORT 1

PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF FEATURES FROM PERIOD 1 ASSOCIATED WITH POSTHOLE BUILDING(S) AT THE CALVERT SITE, ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

Anne Yentsch
Historic Annapolis, Inc.

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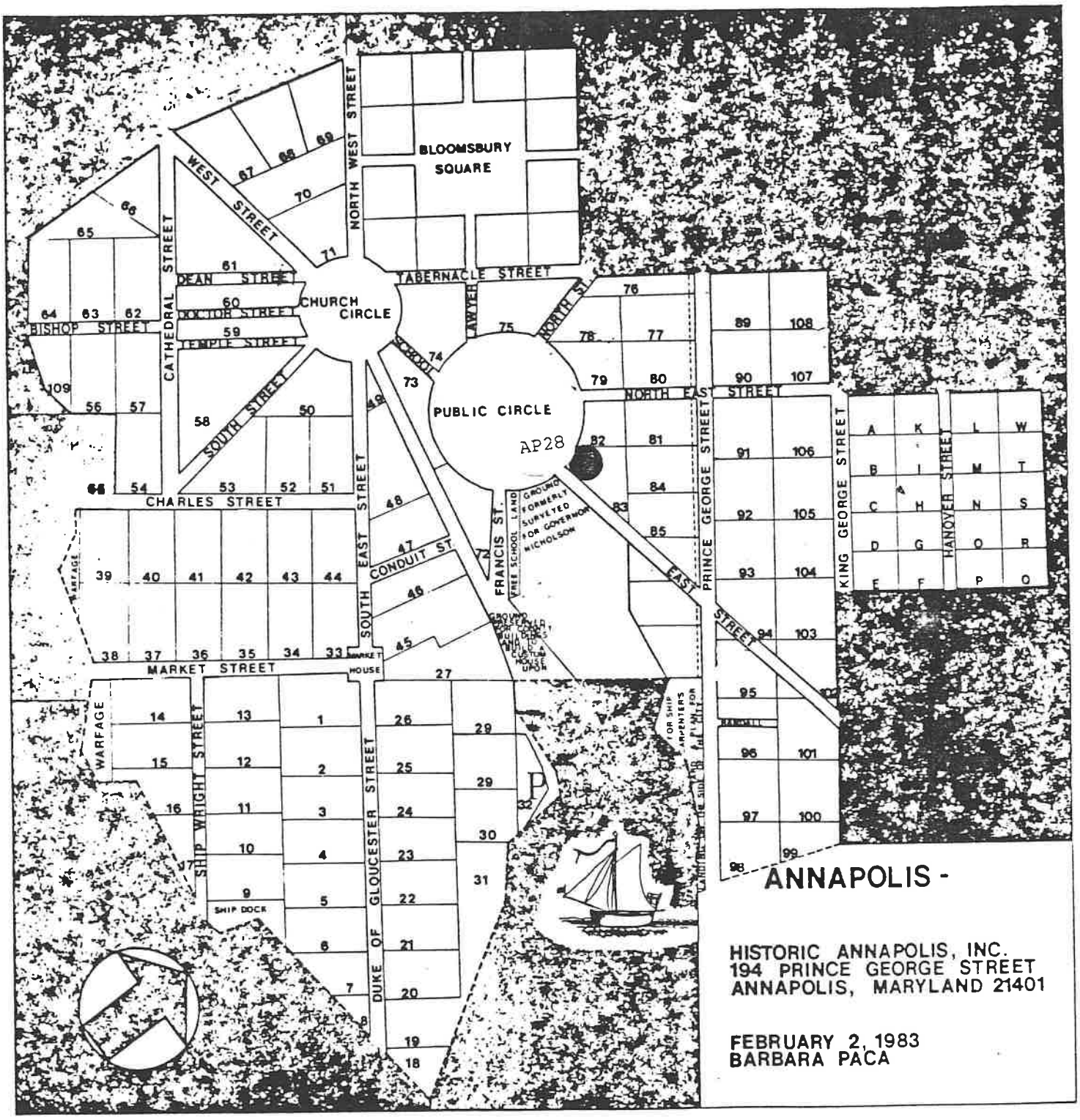
Introduction

This is the first of a series of interim reports being prepared on the Calvert Site. As interim reports, their objectives are twofold: (1) To provide detailed information, in preliminary form, on particular aspects of the analysis of material from the Calvert Site to staff members at Historic Annapolis, Inc. (including those who may not be familiar with the methods, theories, and findings of historical archaeology). (2) To summarize what is known to date and hence to serve as planning documents for and, in some cases, preliminary manuscripts of chapters that will be included in the final report on the Calvert Site.

The Calvert Site is located on State Circle in the center of the Historic District of Maryland's capital (see Figure 1). It is a complex, urban site whose first occupation in the late seventeenth century coincides with the earliest growth of the town of Annapolis in the present northeast quadrant of the city. It is this period (or Period 1) that is of concern in this report. Occupation of the site also includes six other distinct occupations (Period 2: 1727-1748; Period 3: 1748-1770; Period 4: 1770-1785; Period 5: 1785-1813; Period 6: 1814-1840; Period 7 (the Claude era): 1840-1970). Activities associated with the later periods obliterated and/or hid from view features associated with the earliest period. The quantitative increase in material remains dating to the eighteenth century (110,000 artifacts) masks the much smaller number (less than 1,000, i.e., less than 1% of the total recovered material) that are identified with the Period 1 occupation. Like the history of the city, which exists only in fragmentary form for the period 1649-1704, the archaeological record of the Calvert Site during Period 1 is also fragmentary.

This report summarizes what is known to date about the late seventeenth/early eighteenth century posthole features that were found. These are among the earliest evidence of construction that we have been able to identify in the archaeological record for the site and within the town as a whole; they may predate the c. 1690-1720 brick house, the first story front and side walls plus remnants of the back (east) wall of which still remain intact in the fabric of the present standing structure (i.e., the Governor Calvert House Hotel). There are no extant remains of any posthole building(s) contained within the



MAP I: Plan of City Based on 1718 Stoddert Survey.

Governor Calvert House Hotel as these were dismantled in the eighteenth century. This posthole building(s) may have been built as early as 1680-90 or as late as c. 1710 as there is archaeological evidence of use of the site beginning c. 1680, but documentary research to date has not revealed the chain of ownership in the seventeenth century.

To provide a context for understanding the archaeological interpretation of the features discussed in this report, a brief site history is given first. This will be followed by a general discussion of postholes as archaeological features. Because the presence/absence of key ceramic wares that are sensitive time markers is used to date features at the site, a brief discussion of this approach (not widely used at historical archaeological sites) is given under the section on archaeological evidencne. Finally the way in which the archaeological evidence relates to the historical information we possess at this time is considered.[1]

Site History

Anne Arundel County was formed by an act of the General Assembly in 1650; its inhabitants were a small group of Puritans who moved north from the Norfolk-Nansemond region of Virginia. Another group of religious dissidents, Quakers, also moved into the County in the third quarter of the seventeenth century. The first inhabitants of Arundeltown (as Annapolis was originally known) were drawn this population. In 1683, the tract of land known as Arundeltown was selected as a site for future development under the Province of Maryland's Town Act. Presumably, at this time, no more than half a dozen families were living in Annapolis (Baker 1983). In March 1684/85, Arundelton was resurveyed, and lots were numbered.[2] These lot numbers, however, were changed twice and the precise sequence, i.e., from the 1684/85 Beard survey numbers to the 1718 Stoddard survey lot numbers is not known. It is also evident that size of lots shifted from one survey to the next with the greatest deviation probably occuring between the 1684/85 Beard survey and the intervening survey (and this is of particular concern to because of the large dimensions given for Lot 102 (not a Stoddard lot number) adjoining the Calvert site in 1702). At the same time, Baker's research demonstrates that there is a general fit between the Fleet/North/Prince George/East/King George Street configuration of the Stoddert survey and the earlier Beard Survey (Baker in press).

[1]The excavation at this site was funded by an emergency grant (RO-20600-83) from the National Endowment for the Humanities, by the Maryland Committee for the Preservation of the Capital City, by the Annapolis Institute, by the Colonial Dames of America, Chapter 1, by the Society for the Preservation of Maryland Antiquities, the City of Annapolis, and Historic Inns of Annapolis, Inc.

[2]The reconstruction of the early layout of the city was completed as part of a research and development grant made to Historic Annapolis, Inc. by the National Endowment for the Humanities in 1977 (RS-0067-79-0738).

The general belief has been that the locus of settlement in these early years was along Acton creek (originally Todd's Creek) in the southeast sector of town and that the nucleus of the settlement was a family of ship builders. Shipwright Street, one of the earliest streets in the city, is a remnant of this occupation (see Figure 1). The presence of beads often used as part of the Indian Trade, a few 7/64" pipestems, and the remains of a posthole building are tantalizing clues, however, that may point toward another dimension of life in the early community.

In 1694, Arundelton was chosen as the new provincial capital by Sir Francis Nicholson who made modifications to the original town plan, creating a baroque plan with circles and diagonal streets such as those incorporated into the City of London plan created by Sir Christopher Wren after the great London fire of 1666. Nicholson chose two adjacent natural hills as sites of special prominence for religious buildings (Church Circle) and public buildings (State Circle, called Public Circle in the early eighteenth century). The Calvert Site lies on the northeast side of the latter circle and our initial assumption was that the site was oriented to the circle, laid out in accord with the Nicholson plan.

With the construction of the first State House in 1696 and the church in 1700 (Riley 1887), the Nicholson plan and the prominence it gave to state buildings (Yentsch and McKee in press) dominated the physical lay-out of the town. Buildings in the town included "a parcel of wooden houses" (quoted in Riley 1887: 58), presumably of both posthole and frame construction. There is no mention in this c. 1700 description of any brick homes nor do the words of Ebenezer Cook's 1708 description of Annapolis suggest the presence of brick houses. Houses built elsewhere in Maryland in the seventeenth century were frequently of wooden construction (Carson et al 1981). They were also often built on high land, in close proximity to spring heads, thus ensuring a ready supply of potable water (Smolek and Clark 1982). There is evidence that there were springs in the general vicinity of the Calvert Site which might have prompted settlement in that particular region of the town, away from Shipwright Street, early in the town's history.

The earliest specific information that we have located about the ownership of Lot 83 (Stoddard lot number), the Annapolis parcel on which the Calvert Site stands, is a statement contained within a deed conveying property on the adjacent lot to Alexander Dehineyossa (innholder) from Nicholas Sporne dated 1702 which notes the existence of a corner post on land that belonged to (or was owned previously by) Samuel Chew. Presumably this was a corner post at the northeast corner of Lot 83. To date we have not been able to locate any other documents that link the property to a specific Samuel Chew, but the most likely individual is the Samual Chew (born 1660) who was the son of the first Samual Chew (died 1676/77) who moved to Maryland from Virginia. The second Samuel Chew was a wealthy Quaker merchant active in Annapolis, who married in 1682 and who died in 1718. He could have built a substantial dwelling in the late seventeenth century. He could have built a small brick house. He had the means to chose between the two and at this time we do not know enough about him to assess the liklihood of either choice. This is unfortunate given the revised estimate of the date of the earliest portion of the brick house on the site.

If Chew owned the property in the seventeenth century, then either he or his heirs conveyed it to William Taylard before Taylard's death in 1711, although it may also have passed through more than one set of owners as our trace on Taylard (which is not complete) indicates that he purchased more than one Annapolis lot in partnership with Richard Jones, Sr. Taylard also purchased (as sole owner) Lot 92 from William Holland in 1701. This lot fronted on Prince George Street and abutted Lot 82. It seems that Taylard was a small scale entrepreneur/land speculator. Originally living in St. Mary's City, he was admitted to the Provincial Court in 1695, and represented St. Mary's City at the legislature from 1697-1700. Taylard married the widow of Richard Lewellyn at St. Mary's in 1698 or 1699 and became Clerk of the Anne Arundel County Court in 1702/03. In later records, he is also called a "gentleman". Taylard's wife, Audrey, inherited his property at his death in 1711. His probate inventory contains little indication of wealth; his personal possessions were minimal. The Widow Taylard sold Lot 82 to Philamon Hemsley in October 1718; she was living then in St. Mary's City .

Hemsley's probate inventory of 1720 (although he died earlier--between October 1718 and November 1719) gives the contents of his house in Annapolis. The inventory was not room by room and it is difficult to gain an impression of the size or shape of the building from reading it. It is notable that there were a minimum of three sleeping chambers (assuming that each complete set of bed clothes, curtains, and bed was contained in a separate chamber) and that the family owned a large quantity of delft and Chinese porcelain including six small Chinese porcelain flower pots. If one compares the amount of delft and porcelain listed in the Hemsley inventory (10% earthenware, 45% porcelain, 45% delft) with quantities found at Chesapeake archaeological sites for the same time period (Yentsch, in press), one would have to conclude that the level of conspicuous consumption in the Hemsley household was far higher than the average.

Hemsley's widow (Mary, formerly married to Alexander Contee) married her third spouse, William Rogers c. 1723. At this point, the property was conveyed to a mutal friend, Thomas Larkin, who reconveyed it back to William and Mary Rogers as a means of clearing the title. By the time of Roger's mortgage to Charles Calvert in 1727, Mary had died. The value of the property rose almost tenfold between 1718 and 1727; it is unclear at this time to what extent this reflects inflation, rising land values, and/or property improvements.

Charles Calvert came into possession of the title to the property in 1728. In 1731, his cousin Edward Henry Calvert (brother to Governor Benedict Leonard Calvert) died and his household possesions in Annapolis were inventoried. These same furnishings are shown, in roughly the same configuration (indicative of furniture arrangement), as the possessions of Charles Calvert in his inventory after his death on February 2, 1733/34. Since Charles Calvert was resident in Annapolis for 10 years prior to his acquisition of the Calvert lot and since the acquisition coincided with the arrival of both Benedict Leonard Calvert and Edward Henry Calvert, it is possible the house was originally intended for their use rather than Captain Calvert's use. In 1732, Lord Baltimore visited Maryland

and stayed in Annapolis (at an unspecified location, possibly the Calvert house). After Charles Calvert's death, Onorio Razolini who had the care of the two, orphaned Calvert daughters, petitioned the Court for funds (35 pounds) to repair the dwelling (i.e., in 1738). In 1748, Elizabeth Calvert came of age and married her cousin, Benedict Calvert. This date provides the dividing point between Periods 2 and 3 at the site. The dividing point between Period 1 and Period 2 is the acquisition of title by Charles Calvert in 1728.

To summarize the historical information, we know the occupants of the site from c. 1700 onwards. We have insufficient information on the history of the site in the late seventeenth century (and also need more general information about the history of that locale or neighborhood as an entity). Yet the artifact analysis (possible now that we have available the computerized data for the entire site) also suggests the earlier occupation of the site that we initially suspected when we requested emergency funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities in 1982.

The archaeological evidence for the earlier occupation consists of a series of postholes located in the present front yard of the site and beneath the c. 1765 addition. Those associated with Period 1 are shown in Figure 2. One should note that they appear in the areas of the site which are shown in white and that most of the site is shown under a dotted overlay. This overlay designates those portions of the site where construction disturbance, the standing building, and other, later eighteenth century features either destroyed or prevented access to the Period 1 deposits. It is easiest to understand the archaeological information recovered from excavation of the postholes shown in Figure 2 if one thinks of postholes as having a natural life cycle and, at given points in this cycle, of containing a variety of archaeological and architectural evidence. After summarizing this cycle for those who are not familiar with post-in-the-ground building techniques, the specific evidence found at the Calvert Site will be discussed.

The Life Cycle of a Posthole

Postholes come into being when someone either builds a fence or an earthfast building. They are holes dug into the ground to enable one to erect a post in the earth. Figure 3 shows the framing of a building that is supported on such posts. The size of these holes vary--they were very large in the seventeenth century; today mechanical posthole diggers create holes almost precisely the size of the post itself. Once the hole is opened, the post is placed in it and then the space surrounding the post is packed with earth. This 'packing' soil usually contains small pieces of buildng material already on site, but it may also contain other artifacts such as datable ceramics. The date for the most recent of these artifacts provide the archaeologist with a beginning date for the life cycle of the posthole (i.e., a terminus post quem or date after which the building was constructed).

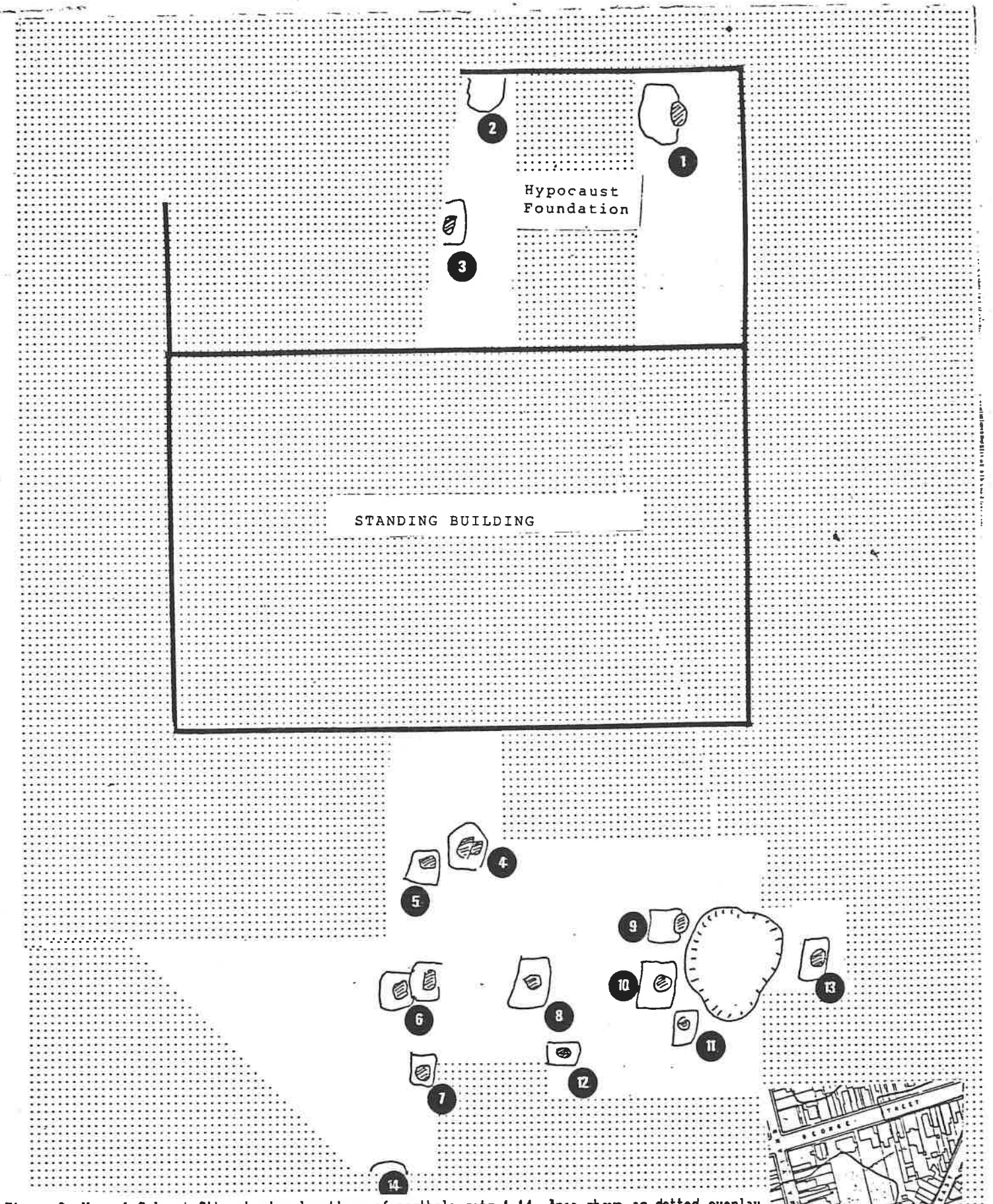


Figure 2. Map of Calvert Site showing locations of posthole sets 1-14. Area shown as dotted overlay represents portions of the site that were covered by later features, by the standing structure, and/or by construction areas, or destroyed by construction work at the site. State Circle lies adjacent to the site; posthole 14 is the remains of a mid-eighteenth century gatepost at the entrance to the Circle. The orientation of the standing structure to the Circle is shown in the inset.

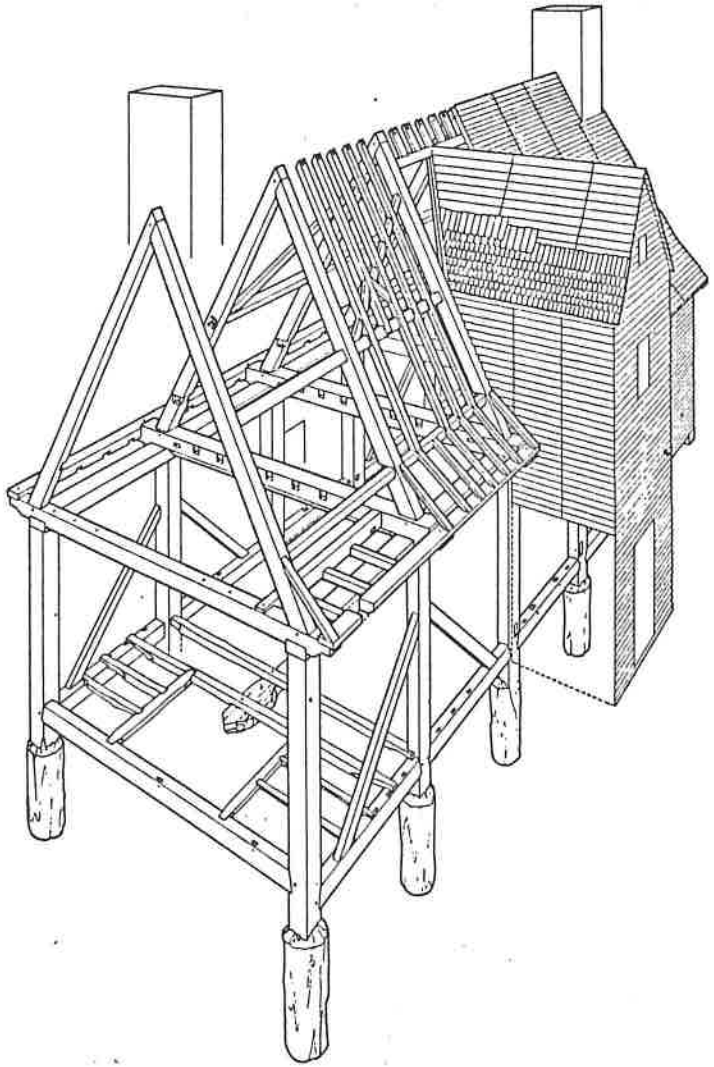


Fig. 4. Perspective view of the frame of Cedar Park, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, as built in 1702. (Drawing, Cary Carson and Chinh Hoang.)

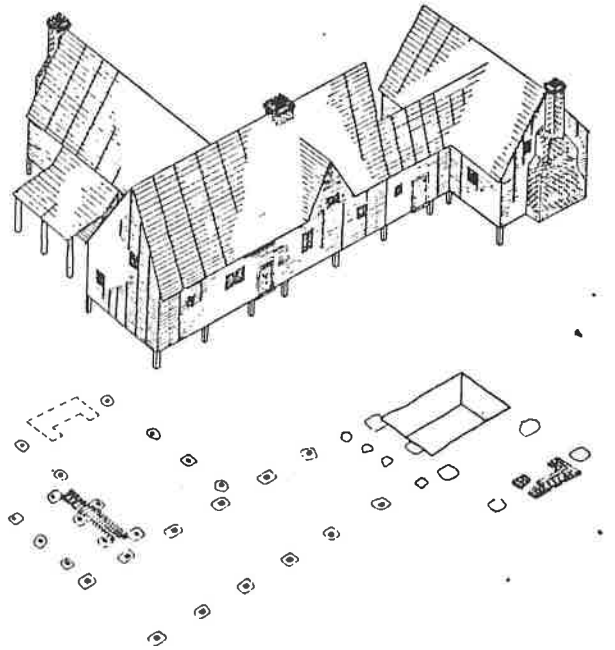


Figure 44 Archaeological plan and artist's reconstruction of the Pettus manor, Littletown.

Figure 3. Perspective view of the frame of Cedar Park, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, as built in 1702. From Carson et al (1981) and view of Pettus manor (from Kelso 1984).

Posts, being wooden, disintegrate in the soil and may be attacked by termites or other wood-loving bugs thus developing, in some, a need for repairs or replacement. Recognizing this and that different types of wood would last longer than others, black locust was frequently chosen for its durability above other types of timber (see Carson et al 1981, p. 156). The life of a posthole was not long under normal conditions and hence the form of architecture with which they are associated is called "impermanent" (Carson et al 1981). Thus one sign of a long-lived posthole building would be evidence of a series of repairs such as Fraser Neiman found at The Clifts Plantation (1980, pp. 54-66). We have only three sets of posts at the Calvert Site which show signs of repair work or replacement, but this is, in itself, evidence of a building that stood for 10-20 years or possibly somewhat longer. Again, artifacts that find their way into the holes dug to expose the post and replace it may be useful in dating the timing of the repair work. Because these holes must be placed close to the original postholes, they often cut through the original hole leaving evidence of superpositioning in the stratification.

Once the useful life of a building is over, it may be abandoned or replaced. Sometimes its life may end rather violently (for example, by fire) and sometimes its life may end more peacefully (for example, when a family leaves a home in the country to move to a new location and the house, abandoned, gradually rots away). When a house disintegrates through gradual decay, the posts themselves rot and leave a distinctive dark color in the soil marking the space they once occupied. This is called the "postmold". In such a case the posthole surrounding the post is not disturbed and the artifacts within it date only the construction of the building. Again, when a house burns, while there might be charcoal left in the postmold, one primarily finds postholes and postmolds that tell of the date of construction rather than of the destruction of the building. (This will be found elsewhere on the site.) It is my impression, although it is not discussed explicitly in many of the research reports that I have read, that these are the more common ends to the postmolds and postholes that are the remains of country dwellings.

Of course, if a family reused a site as the location for their new home, they might also tear down the old-fashioned earthfast structure to replace it with a newer home of frame or brick construction. They could also keep it intact and attach the new home to the older one as a wing. While the latter would not leave an immediate imprint in the soil related to the posts, the former would leave a characteristic set of marks on the original postholes. Pulling out the posts would disturb the postholes surrounding them and would create new, smaller holes of the same approximate dimensions (or perhaps somewhat larger) as the original posts set within the postholes. If these mold-holes were filled with earth and then the surface surrounding or covering the location of the post were leveled with fill, one would have debris that dated the destruction of the posts and the disturbance of their postholes. Or, if one sawed off the posts approximately level with the ground and then filled any depression that was left to make the ground level, one would also have evidence that could be used to date the destruction of

a building. In either case, there would be some disturbance of the original posthole.

The relation of these variations in posthole life cycles to dating a sequence of events at an archaeological site is as follows:

A. If one finds a posthole (undisturbed) and postmold stain (from wood-rot), the artifacts in the posthole will date the erection of the post; there will be no artifacts in the postmold which will consist only of a soil stain left by the disintegrating wood. Dating for the destruction of the building must be obtained through other sources.

B. If one finds a posthole (disburbed at more than surface levels) and postmold (disturbed) with evidence of secondary posthole and postmold, this sequence of events indicates repairs to the building and replacement of the posts (cf. Set 6, Figure 2).

C. If one finds a posthole (either disturbed at surface or throughout) and a postmold filled with a secondary deposition of soil, artifacts in the base of the posthole (if undisturbed) will date the erection of the post; artifacts at the surface of the posthole and within the postmold will date the destruction of the building. This sequence of events is probably best read if the posthole/postmold is excavated with a cross-section through both posthold and postmold and through the surface 'leveling' midden (when present) as this most readily reveals the sequence of activities. We followed, however, the more usual strategy of "last in, first out" in our work at the Calvert Site and do not have detailed cross-sections, although the postholes and postmolds (when distinguisable in the soil) were excavated separately and in discrete levels.

Archaeological Evidence for the Life Cycles of the Postholes at the Calvert Site

Of the 14 sets of postholes and postmolds shown in Figure 2, most contain archaeological evidence of a life cycle congruent with "C" above. It means that the archaeological information we recovered is more useful in dating the destruction of the posthole structure than in firmly establishing its date of construction.

At almost all posthole locations, we first uncovered a layer of dark humic soil with a heavy artifact/rubble content. This overlay and spread beyond the dimensions of the posthole as revealed at lower levels. I believe this layer of fill was used to "level" the yard surface and bring the depressions associated with the postholes up to the general surface level of the yard prior to subsequent landscaping activity. In some cases, especially in sets 1 and 2, this layer extended to the base of the original posthole indicating disturbance throughout,

but in others it lay above a redder soil layer with a lower artifact content (i.e. the original posthole) that contained within it a demarcation of a darker, artifact-filled postmold (created in the secondary process of removing the post as the building was dismantled). In some cases, the postmolds were visible only in the very base of the posthole, penetrating subsoil to a deeper point than the posthole.

Most of these postholes contain only modest amounts of artifacts, although the ones showing the most disturbance (i.e., sets 1 and 2) also contained large quantities of bone and brick. Neither bone nor brick is especially helpful in dating the age of the postholes. The ceramic artifacts found in the base of the postholes, in the postmold fill and in the midden fill are the best clues that we possess to the age of the structures they represent (see Table 1).

Two postholes contained large sherds of sgraffito, a lead-glazed earthenware produced in North Deveon; Staffordshire slipwares are notable in their absence from the posthole deposits. These ceramic types were especially popular in the last quarter of the seventeenth century, but are also found in small quantities throughout the first half of the eighteenth century on Chesapeake sites (cf. Neiman 1980, Apendix I). The sgraffitos and North Devon gravel-tempered wares appear before the slipwares. Neiman uses the absence of the Staffordshire slipwares to distinguish pre 1685 deposits from later ones. Beaudry (personal communication) also feels the absence of these wares is significant on seventeenth century sites. Something that should also be kept in mind is the fact that the bore dimaters of pipestems were usually 7/64" from 1650-1680 and 6/64 from 1680-1710 (see Noel-Hume 1969, p. 298). These are present in these features, although 5/64" pipestems also are found in 50% of these features.

Chinese porcelain is present in half of the posthole deposits; the frequencies from one feature to another are low (an average of 1 sherd), but it is the presence of this expensive ware in forms associated with the consumption of tea that is significant and which make me hesitant to link the posthole fill to the Taylard occupation. Blue and grey Westerwald stoneware is found only in the postmold and midden fill. Only one posthole deposit contains any English brown-bodied stoneware sherds, although these wares together with Nottingham-type stonewares are consistently represented in the postmold fill and midden deposits (Table 1). The dominant ceramic was delft which formed 52% of the total ceramic assemblage for the set of features associated with the posthole building/buildings (Yentsch, in press). However, note in Table 1 below that the majority of the features also contain very small quantities of white saltglazed stoneware.

Also note the difference in the artifact assemblages between those deposits from the base of the postholes and the postmold fill and/or 'leveling' midden deposits at the surface levels of the postholes that also reach down, to varying depths, into some of the postholes themselves). The demolition of the posthole building created an archaeological context in which mixing occurred (i.e. artifacts from one discrete layer--in this case the original posthole fill--were recombined

Table 1. A presence/absence matrix for pipestems and ceramic assemblages recovered from posthole features at the Calvert Site, Annapolis, M
Sherds are tabulated according to size and the presence of more than one sherd is also noted.

	POSTHOLE DEPOSITS												POSTMOLD AND MIDDEN DEPOSITS										
	1	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	11	(Tree)
Pipestems, 7/64"															●		⊙						
Pipestems, 6/64"						⊙	⊙		●					⊙			●			●			
Pipestems, 5/64"			●	●	●		⊙	⊙	●		●			●	●			●	●	●			●
Pipestems, 4/64"				⊙																			⊙
Earthenware, miscellaneous	●	●	●	●	●	⊙		●	●	⊙	●			●	●		●	●		●			●
Domestic trailed slipware									●		●											●	
Delft - 17th century				●	●																		
Delft - 18th century																							
Delft - undesignated	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●		●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	●
Chinese porcelain					○	○	●		○	○			●		○				●	●	●	○	●
N. Devon gravel-tempered			●		●			⊙	○		○			●	○		⊙						
N. Devon sgraffito								●	⊙														
Staffordshire slipware													●	●				○		○			○
Rhenish stoneware					●		○							⊙			⊙						
Westerwald (blue & gray)														⊙	⊙			⊙					
Burselm stoneware																							
Nottingham stoneware																		○	●	⊙			●
Other English brown stoneware		●												⊙	●								
Black-glazed redware					●										⊙					⊙			●
Slip-dipped white saltglaze																			⊙				
Buckley redware																							
Rogers ware														●									
Plain white saltglaze			○		⊙	⊙			●		●	⊙	●	●			○	○	○				
Decorated fine white saltglaze											●	⊙											
Molded fine white saltglaze																					⊙		
Scratch blue													○										
Other, later wares (creamwares, pearlwares, etc)													○		○					○			●

⊙ = one large sherd; ● = more than one large sherd; ○ = one small sherd; • = more than one small sherd. Combinations of large and smal

with those from other layers). The compexity created by these processes makes the analysis of these features difficult. We are in the process of analyzing the mixing in these assemblages using a technique utilized by classical archaeologists (see Gregory Johnson's work, especially 1973, also see Hole and Shaw, 1967; Marquardt, 1978). This technique takes into account, using a weighted presence-absence system of analysis, variability in sample size and in sherd size.

We will also interpret these materials using a mode of cross-dating (i.e., when we have material available to us from more than one site in the region which show the ceramic sherd frequencies by percentages for similar features, we will compare our individual feature assemblages to these to see in which cases the percentages vary significantly).

For example, Neiman (1980, pp. 25-30) has divided the features from the Clifts Plantation into four chronological phases based on the presence/absence of key ceramic types (Table 3).

Table 3A. A Condensed Presence-Absence Seriation (from Neiman 1980, p. 26).

Associated Ceramics	1670-85 Phase 1	1685-1705 Phase 2	1705-20 Phase 3	1720-30 Phase 4
Morgan Jones (domestic)	X	X	X	X
Delft	X	X	X	X
N. Devon gravel-tempered ware	X	X	X	X
Rhenish brown stoneware	X	X	X	X
N. Devon sgraffito	X	X	X	X
Staffordshire slipware		X	X	X
Burslem stoneware			X	X
Nottingham stoneware			X	X
Staffordshire brown stoneware			X	X
Westerwald (Rhenish Blue/Gray)			X	X
Black-glazed redware (Staffordshire?)			X	X
Slip-dipped white saltglazed stoneware				X
Buckley redware				X
Fine white saltglazed stoneware				X

Table 3B. Percentage of Ceramic Assemblage According to Ware Type (from Neiman 1980, Appendix 1.

Percentage of ceramic assemblage	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4
Morgan Jones (domestic)	66.5	16.5	7.1	1.1
Delft	9.2	13.4	33.0	39.5
N. Devon gravel-tempered ware	4.1	18.6	26.2	11.5
Rhenish brown stoneware	1.0	4.1	3.4	4.9
N. Devon sgraffito	0.5	14.4	8.8	4.9
Other	18.8	17.5		
Staffordshire Slipware		15.5	6.1	8.1
Bursiem stoneware			2.7	1.3
Nottingham			3.7	2.3
Staffordshire brown stoneware			1.7	4.2
Westerwald			2.0	8.0
Black-glazed redware (Staffordshire?)				1.6
Slip-dipped white saltglazed stoneware				5.9
Buckley				1.8
N.England slipware				2.9
William Rogers				2.4
White saltglaze				5.5
Sample size	(218)	(97)	(294)	(1644)

This division can be particularly useful in determining the age of the posthole building at the Calvert Site. You will note that only five ceramic types are found in his earliest phase (1670-1685) and that these five with the addition of Staffordshire combed slipwares comprise the set of ceramic types associated with his second phase (1685-1705). We have no Staffordshire combed slipwares in the posthole features. Additions to the set of ceramics associated with Neiman's third set of ceramics (i.e. Phase 3, 1705-1720) include English stonewares. While their earliest production dates were probably in the 1690s (Oswald, Hildyard & Hughes 1983), brown stonewares such as Nottingham and Burselm were certainly in production by the first decade of the eighteenth century. These do appear in the artifact assemblages associated with the features shown in Table 1, but with one exception they are all found in the postmold fill or midden fill. The relative absence of English brown-bodied stonewares and Staffordshire combed slipwares suggests a construction date for the posthole building/buildings in the seventeenth century.

The presence of sherds of fine white saltglazed wares also are critical in assessing the age of the posthole building. Archaeologists from the City Museum, Stoke-on-Trent have recovered sherds of slip-dipped white stoneware mugs from contexts that date to c. 1710 (Mountfort, 1971); the earliest extant dated piece of fine white saltgazed ware is a loving cup inscribed 1720. In my mind, this would

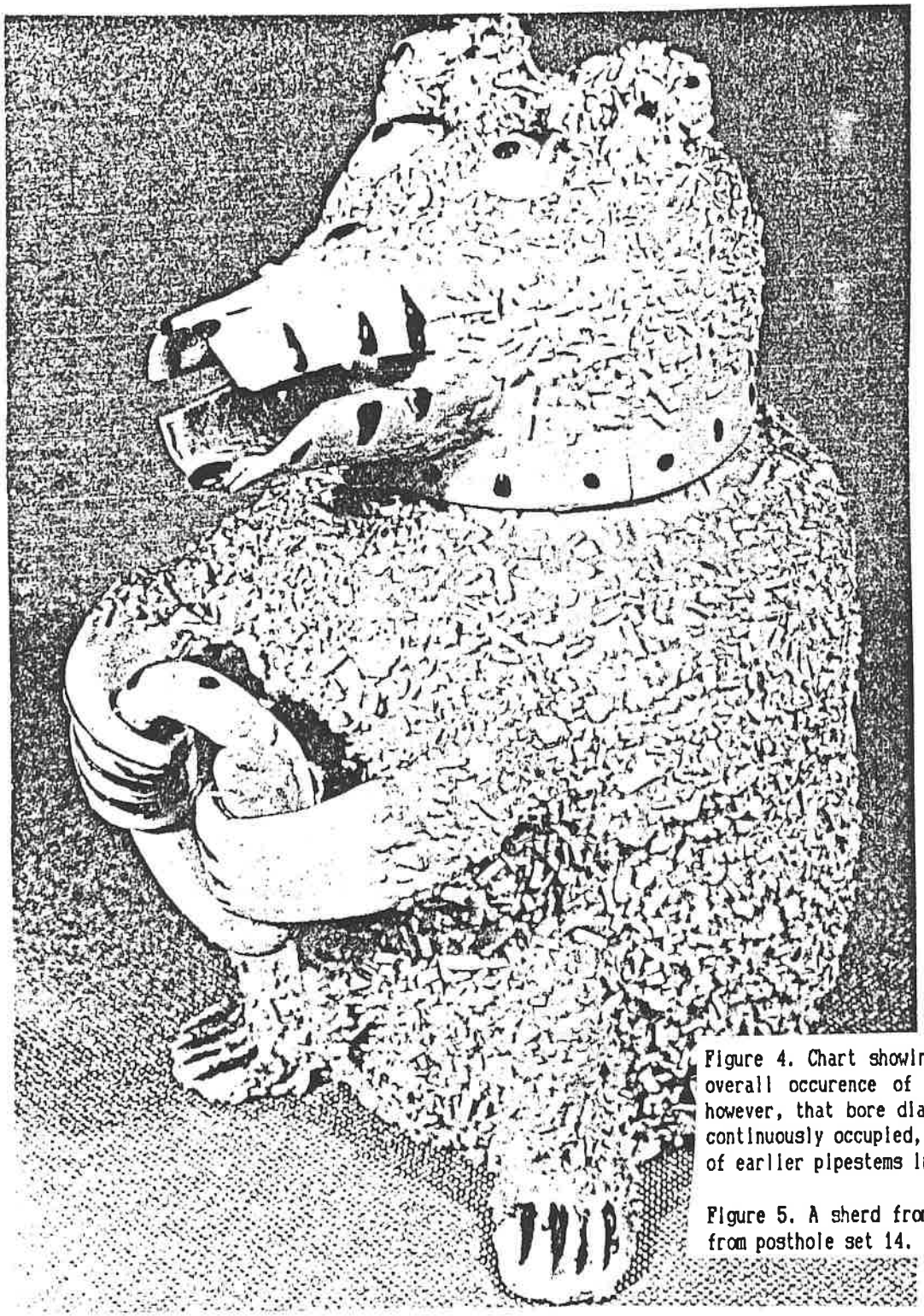
be consistent with a production date that begins slightly earlier (i.e., between 1710 and 1720), but the key question is actually how early white saltglazed stonewares were shipped to the New World and when they began to enter the archaeological record on Chesapeake sites.

Archaeologists did recover a few sherds at Corotoman on the Northern Neck of Virginia which burned in 1729 (Guerrant 1980; Hudgins 1982). Neiman concluded that the paucity of white saltglazed stoneware (two vessels/106 sherds or 6.4% of the total ceramic assemblage) in his artifact sample from Phase IV indicated an occupation that ended circa 1730. I believe that the presence of this ceramic type in small amounts in the features associated with the posthole building at the Calvert Site indicates an occupation that ended at the very latest with the purchase of the property in 1728 by Captain Charles Calvert. The posthole building was torn down as part of a sequence of landscaping or building activity associated with the brick house and its component parts that still stands on the lot. As the posts from the building were removed from the ground, their postholes were disturbed and their postmolds were filled with earth--the presence in these of the white saltglazed wares marks the end of their life cycle.

One might argue, in the absence of detailed cross-sections, that the presence of the white saltglazed wares indicates a terminus post quem of c. 1728 marking the start of a building erected within the earthfast, posthole tradition. However, there is no evidence of any later disturbance (i.e. those ceramic types associated with the period 1730-1760 are not found in association with any of the posthole features in sets 1-11). They are, on the other hand, found in the posthole fill of Sets 12 and 14 with the sherd in the later being a particularly interesting one (see Figure 5).

There is also a slender trace of the earliest occupation of this site in the artifact contents of the soil layers adjacent to the postholes. It can be best seen when one considers the bore diameters in the stems of the clay pipes that were discarded on site. Archaeologists working in the Chesapeake have used used these bore diameters for more than 30 years to help them establish occupation sequences. The bore is the hole in the pipe through which the smoke is drawn. These bores became consistently narrower over time. Thus pipe stems associated with sites dating to 1600-1650 have bore diameters in the range of 9/64" and 8/64" with a smattering of stems with 7/64" bores. During the period 1650-1680 one finds the largest quantities of 7/64" bore diameter pipestems followed by a peak for 6/64" between 1680 and 1710. Narrower pipestems (5/64") appear between 1680 and 1710, but are most prevalent in the first half of the eighteenth century. The smallest bore diameters (4/64") are associated with sites of the later eighteenth century as shown in the graph (originally compiled by Harrington, 1954, but drawn here from the illustration in Noel-Hume 1969, p.298). An excellent example of the way pipestems are used to date sites is provided in Deetz (in press).

In the excavation units surrounding Feature 5, the hypocaust (which cut into the subsoil through earlier layers), one sees pipestems with two different bore



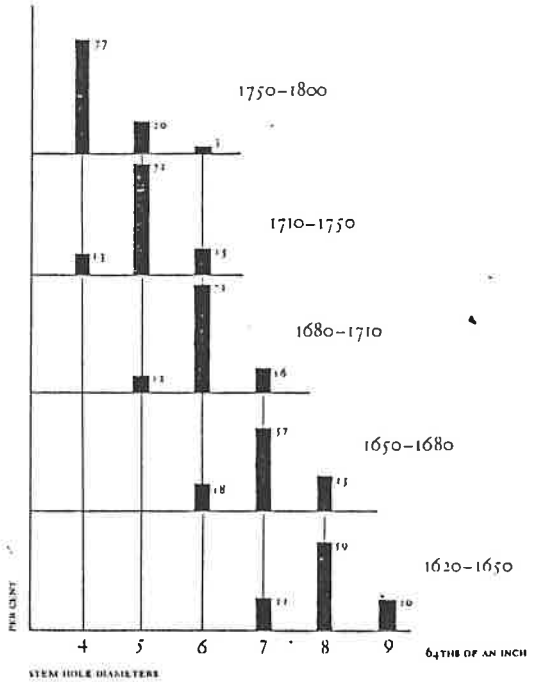


Figure 4. Chart showing variations in pipestem hole diameters from Noel-Hume (1969). Note that the overall occurence of 7/64" pipestems disappears between 1680 and 1720. There is some evidence, however, that bore diameter size varied according to placement on the pipe. Also, on sites that are continuously occupied, mixing of earlier levels with later ones will result in the continued presence of earlier pipestems in the later deposits.

Figure 5. A sherd from the shoulder/lip of a jug similar to the one illustrated here was recovered from posthole set 14.

diameters are prevalent: 5/64" and 7/64". The presence of the 5/64" stems can be easily explained. They were discarded after the destruction of the posthole building and are primarily found in layers that also contain white saltglazed stoneware and the later creamwares. The 7/64" pipestems are found in these same layers in small percentages (which is what one would expect on a site where earlier layers were disturbed by later activity), but they are also present in the deeper layers--layers which contain those ceramics associated with Neiman's Phase 1 and Phase 2 assemblages. There are almost no pipestems with 6/64" bore diameters, but if this part of the site was covered by a building during the years 1680-1710, then there might be little opportunity for discarded pipes to find their way into the archaeological record unless they fell, literally, through the floorboards. So the absence of the 6/64" pipestems also tells us something about the placement of buildings at this site.

During the winter and spring further analysis of the yard surfaces associated with the Period 1 and Period 2 occupation of the site is planned. This information will also provide us with additional means for evaluating the age of the posthole building(s).

How the Archaeological Evidence Fits with the Historical Data

While posthole buildings have been extensively studied in the rural Chesapeake (see the summary in Carson et al, 1981), less is known about their presence in towns and cities. Posthole dwellings were prevalent in St. Mary's City in the seventeenth century and erected as late as circa 1720 (the John Hicks Site) in that town. Closer to Annapolis, an architectural study of Cedar Park in Anne Arundel County indicated that it was a posthole building erected in 1702. On Middle Plantation, also in Anne Arundel County, a later posthole building was built to house a tenant circa 1720. Yet, it is Carson's belief (and he cites evidence to support this position) that by the turn of the century, buildings of frame construction were more fashionable and more frequently built. This suggests a seventeenth century construction date or a date very early in the eighteenth century for the posthole building on the Calvert Site. The known occupants of the site during those years include (a) unknown individuals, possibly the Chews, in the seventeenth; (b) William Taylard in the early eighteenth century; (c) Philamon Hemsley and his wife and her third husband in the later part of the first quarter of the eighteenth century.

Given the thumbnail sketch of events in the lives of these various owners presented in the Site History of the lot at State Circle, it is possible to set aside certain sets of years as ones in which it is unlikely that major changes were made to the buildings on the site. For example, the period between Charles Calvert's death in 1733/34 and the marriage of Elizabeth Calvert in 1748 is unlikely to be one in which major episodes of building/rennovation occurred. Conversely the years between his purchase of the property and his death are likely to be ones in which major changes occurred and, given the arrival of his legtimate Calvert

cousins in the late 1720s and the visit of Lord Baltimore in 1732, another impetus for property improvement was also present. Thus 1728-1732 is a span of time when one would expect to see evidence of construction activity; this corresponds nicely with the archaeological evidence as well (i.e. with the presence of a significant number of sherds of white saltglazed stoneware in the fill beneath a brick paved domestic work yard and drainage system which indicates it was built c. 1730 and with the dating of the hypocaust which formed the heating element of a small orangery).

Working backwards in time, one would not expect the years when Mary Contee Hemsley was a widow to be ones in which major building was undertaken (although we do have lead window cames with dates of 1720 and 1721), while 1718-1719, the year associated with the initial ownership of the property by Philamon Hemsley would be a more likely period for construction activity as would the years immediately after William Rogers marriage to Mary Hemsley (i.e., 1722-23). Using a similar line of reasoning (i.e., that widows are not likely to undertake extensive rennovation on their own), the years between William Taylards death in 1711 and the sale of the property in 1718 were also ones when one would expect to find little evidence of building activity. Conversely, the years c. 1700-1711, when Taylard came to own the lot, pinpoint the span of time when he might have built on the land.

This information can be usefully related to the ceramic data on the features associated with the posthole building for there are three sets of years when construction was likely to have occurred. These are (1) 1728-32, (2) 1718-19, and (3) prior to 1711, perhaps beginning circa 1702, but possibly as early as the 1680s . Features associated with #1 would contain small quantities of fine white saltglazed stonewares, true Buckley wares, and possibly domestic pottery produced at William Rogers kiln in Yorktown. Features associated with #2 might contain slip-dipped white saltglazed stoneware mugs and should, if their assemblages are similar to those at the Clifts Plantation reported by Neiman (1980), contain English brown stonewares. They would not contain true Buckley wares nor Rogers pottery. There would be very little difference between their contents and those of features associated with #3 unless this period actually began in the 1680s rather than c. 1702 in which case there would be no English stonewares and very few combed slipwares. Conversely, the occurrence of English stonewares and combed slipwares should rise over time if the pattern observed at the Clifts is representative of the broader Chesapeake.

However, I don't believe it is necessary to differentiate between these features based on their artifact contents alone. One can also ask whether it would be reasonable for a wealthy merchant-planter--one who owned an extensive set of Chinese porcelain in a variety of forms (not simply tea cups and saucers large and small, but plates, flower pots, basins, dishes and a teapot) and an equally extensive set of delftware vessels to have built a home using an outmoded building technology. I feel it is unlikely Hemsley would have done so, however he might have built outbuildings using earthfast techniques. Since

post-in-the-ground homes were being built in the nearby Anne Arundel countryside as late as 1702 (the construction date for Cedar Park), it is more likely that William Taylard (or an even earlier owner) built the posthole structure represented by the sets of features described above. A closer look at the delft and Chinese porcelain found in association with these features may help us establish a tighter chronology that will distinguish between Taylard's occupation and the earlier lot owners.

What was the form of the posthole building/buildings?

This can not be answered with the data we have available. There are two possibilities, however, both of which are consistent with what is known about posthole buildings and late seventeenth/early eighteenth century houses. Medieval buildings were not symmetrical, but their basic core was rectangular (i.e., they were longer than they were wide). My impression, from looking carefully at the illustrations in John Harris' book on illustrations of English country houses is that wings were attached almost anywhere that an owner felt one would be useful. However, those dwellings that were built of post-in-the-ground construction ranged between 15 and 22 feet in width. Their length ranged from 18 feet to 60 feet in length. At the Calvert Site, I believe we have either (1) the remains of one long posthole building (60 x 22) cut at almost a 90 degree angle by the construction of the present brick building or (2) flanking wings/outbuildings of earthfast construction that were attached to a core building approximately 41 x 21, built in two sections, in the same location as the present building. Figure 6 shows the footprints of the various other posthole buildings for comparison (Stone 1982). If the posthole features were the remains of a long posthole building, it was one that was not oriented to the Circle. If they are the remains of smaller, posthole flanking outbuilding, then they may be oriented to the Circle and hence to the Nicholson town plan.

Yet, given the complexity of the site and its long history of use and reuse, it is remarkable that we can begin now to see the distinctive outlines of what was assuredly one of the earlier buildings in Annapolis emerge and, further, that as we define its outline in the soil we see links relating this home to its English antecedents--a home whose form also evokes the image of the town created by the Ebenzer Cook's burlesque verse of 1708, The Sot Weed Factor: "A City Situate on a Plain, Where scare a House will keep out Rain; the Buildings framed with Cyprus rare, Resembles much our Southwark Fair". When the Calverts ordered the demolition of this building on their town lot, they initiated a series of steps that almost eradicated all evidence of its existence.

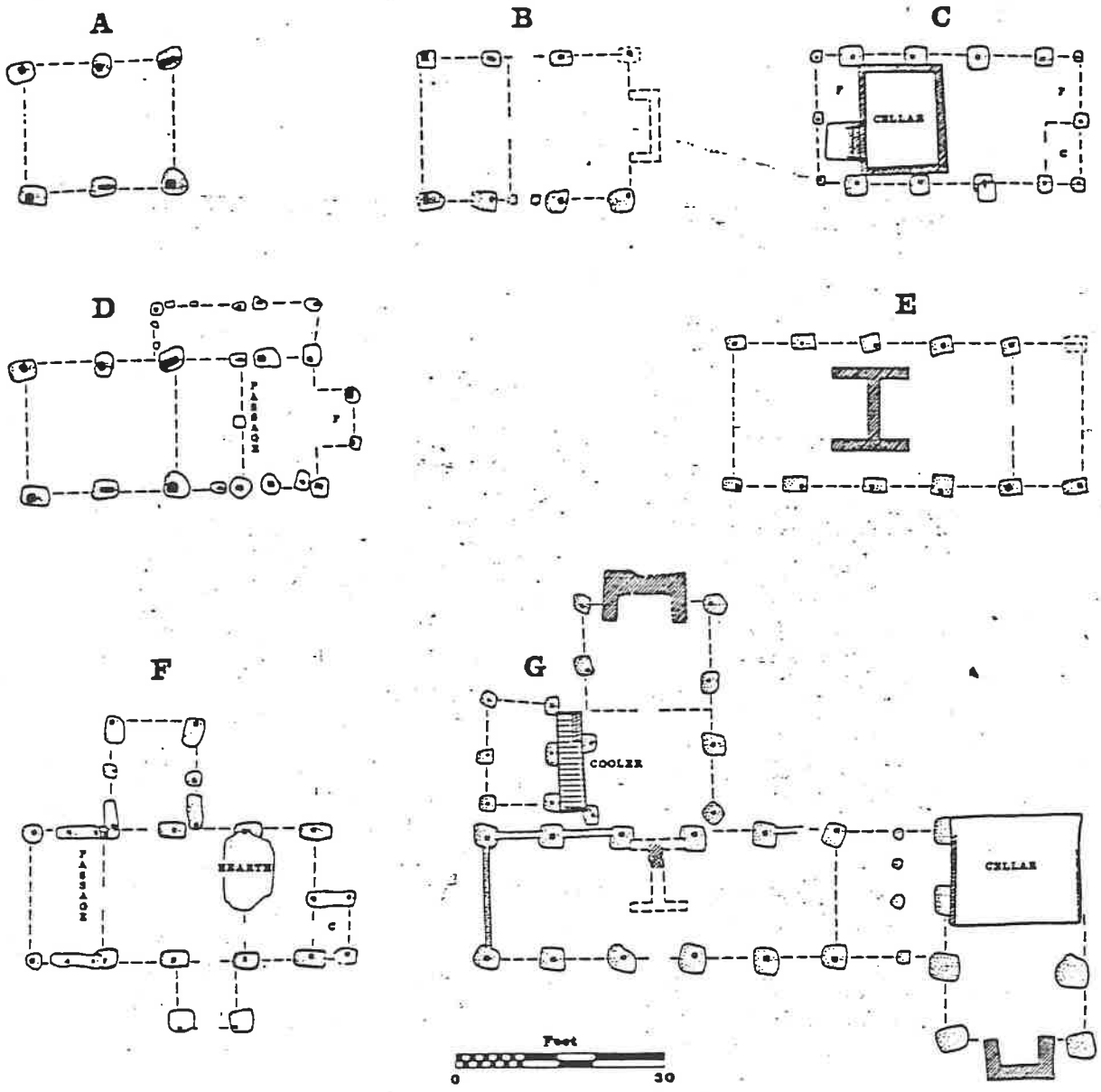


Fig. 6-8. Plan Types.

ONE ROOM
A. Martin's Hundred, Site A, c.1625 (44 JC 116, I. Noël Hume).
TWO ROOMS
B. St. John's Quarter, c.1665 (18 ST 1-23, Morrison and Stone).
C. Utopia Leasehold, c.1660 (44 JC 39, William M. Kelso).
CROSS PASSAGE
D. Martin's Hundred, Site A, as extended (see also Fig. 6-8A above).
THREE ROOMS
E. Hallowes Site, c.1670 (44 WM 6, W. T. Buchanan and E. F. Heite).
COMPLEX
F. Clifts Plantation, c.1670 (44 WM 33, Fraser D. Neiman).
ADDITIONS
G. Pettus Plantation, c.1640-1690 (44 JC 39, William M. Kelso).

Figure 6. Various footprints/building configurations of posthole buildings in the Chesapeake (from Stone 1982).

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