

Annual Status Report, Calendar Year 2014, George Washington's

Boyhood Home National Historic Landmark

("Ferry Farm")

44ST-174

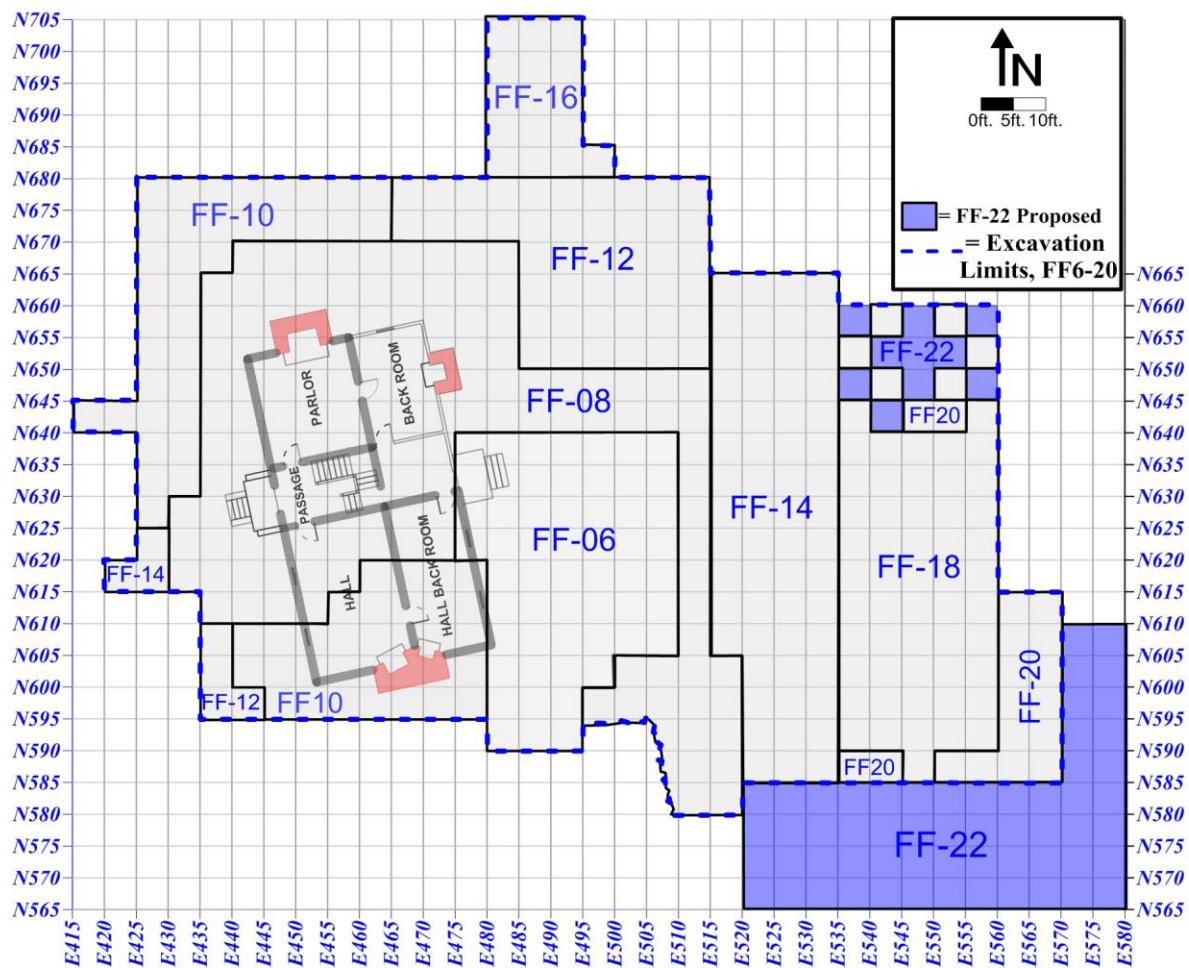
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The members of the archaeology department at Ferry Farm had another productive year in 2014. They conducted a large scale excavation at the Washington Farm from May into August. Other accomplishments include progress in the areas of archives, standard laboratory processing, artifact conservation, specialist analysis, and curation. The department members continued working on a draft of the 2011 field season. They also made a number of presentations to the public and to peers.



Field Work- FF22 Block

The excavation of a large block located on the road side (east) of the Washington House was undertaken in 2014. This dig was a continuation and extension of the excavation block started in 2012 and resumed in 2013 which focused on locating outbuildings and activity areas associated with the Washington house. The project started in May and continued until early August. Field schools from University of South Florida and Virginia Commonwealth University joined paid staff and a small number of volunteers to conduct this excavation. Staff member Laura Galke supervised the field work. See Preliminary Summary of Work 2014 Field Season at Ferry Farm (44ST174) DHR File No. 2000-1681. Highlights of the excavation include excavating two apparently undisturbed {analysis is ongoing} prehistoric features (Feature #121 and #37), each dating from the early woodland period (1,200-500 BC). A cellar filled during the Washington family occupation, was also excavated. Based upon the remains recovered in the field, and field-based observations of the architectural remains associated with the cellar, its depth, size, and location, the structure associated with this cellar may have been the storehouse, mentioned in Augustine Washington's probate inventory. The team also excavated a sequence of sheet refuse layers dating from the twentieth century to the early colonial period.

Laboratory Work

Artifact Processing Completion as of Nov. 1, 2015:

| | FF-18 (2012) | FF-20 (2013) | FF-22 (2014) |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Washing | 100% | 100% | 8.6% |
| Cataloguing | 100% | 97% | 0% |
| Labeling | 100% | 94.5% | 0% |
| Storage | 100% | 94.5% | 0% |

The department discontinued cataloging its finds in Re:Discovery this year and migrated all of its artifact catalog data into an Access database created and maintained by the department.

Ferry Farm Mending:

Westerwald: Completed

American Gray: Completed

White Salt Glazed-Debased Scratch Blue: Completed

The department also created an Access database for ceramic vessels and started cataloging Westerwald vessels in it.

Conservation

1. Condition assessment reports and examination of flat file map and drawing archive for preventative conservation effort.
2. Coordinated conservation efforts for 10 metal and composite artifacts with Howard Wellman Conservation in Halethorpe, Maryland (those items are scheduled for encasement in Escal film with RP 3-A Agent).
3. Worked with Emily Williams at Colonial Williamsburg to x-ray several iron fragments of a vessel to determine identification and conservation needs.
4. Implement preventative conservation efforts collecting atmospheric data for the Visitor Center building in new areas by gathering systematic hygrometer.
5. Digital photographs were downloaded and labeled.

Student Assistance

The department provided data and guidance for two student essays and a student presentation at the ASV annual meetings.

Honor's Thesis, Ashley McQuiston Beneath Washington's Feet: A Study and Analysis of Prehistory at Ferry Farm. Virginia Commonwealth University.

M.A. Thesis. Meghan Reddick, MA Thesis, used Ferry Farm bale seals as part of her Master's Thesis on 18th-century shoe labels, April 2014. History of Decorative Arts.

ASV Presentation, Vivian Hite, *I Cannot Tell a Lie: The Educational Benefits of 3D Printed Artifacts for Public Archaeology at George Washington's Ferry Farm*. Richmond, VA.

Specialist Analysis

Faunal - The faunal remains recovered in a root cellar situated inside the Washington House (and dating to the Washington occupation) was analyzed by Brad Hatch of University of Tennessee. A report was produced and is now on file.

Small Finds - Laura Galke conducted small finds analysis.

Ceramics and Glass - Mara Kaktins conducted ceramics and glass research on objects recovered from Ferry Farm.

Public Presentations

Ferry Farm staff presented formal papers at various conferences including Mid-Atlantic Archaeology Conference, Archaeological Society of Virginia annual conference, the Council of Northeast Historical Archaeology annual conference, Society of Historical Archaeology annual conference, the Reconstructive and Experimental Archaeology Conference, Winterthur Fellows Program, and the Society of American Archaeology conference. Department members also presented numerous public talks to a variety of groups including seniors, students, and the general public.

Publications and Submissions

Laura Galke. Ceramics: Colonoware. Encyclopedia of Global Archaeology, edited by Clair Smith.

Laura Galke. COVA newsletter submission, Oct 2014, Residue on Wig Hair Curlers from George Washington's Boyhood Home.

Laura Galke. CNEHA newsletter submission, Oct 2014 Residue on Wig Hair Curlers from George Washington's Boyhood Home.

Marquis, Melanie and Mara Kaktins. New Results on Old Glue at Ferry Farm: Utilizing Mass Spectrometry and Experimental Archaeology to Analyze Archaeological Glue Residues Recovered from Mary Washington's Ceramics. In American Ceramics Circle, Fall 2014

Fraser, Daniel, Mara Kaktins and Ruth Ann Armitage. 18th-Century Glue Recipes: Towards Identifying Glue Residues from Ferry Farm, George Washington's Boyhood Home. In Archaeological Chemistry VIII, Oxford University Press, Washington DC. 2013.

Consultation

Provided advise and expertise to a number of organizations including Dovetail Cultural Resource Group and Bellegrove Plantation, University of Mary Washington Department of Historic Preservation, National Park Service, Chrisalysis Archaeology and URS.

Report Production

The department is preparing the draft report of the 2011 field season for review by both the NPS and the Virginia SHPO office.

Collaborations

VCU 3D Artifact Scanning project in 2014 focused upon Projectile points, furniture hardware, and hand-molded wig hair curlers.

Collaborative effort with VCU (Laura Galke and Chris Stevenson) conducted infrared spectroscopy and SEM-EDAX analysis of residue on 9 wig hair curlers. Results suggest that mid-18th c hair powder

deposits (of two varieties) were preserved on three specimens. No analysis of this kind has been done on wig hair curlers before.

The chemical analysis on the historic glue residues in conjunction with Mara Kaktins, Dr. Armitage and Dr. Fraser of University of Michigan and Lourdes University respectively is ongoing. The latest results have determined that there is indeed animal protein similar to hide in at least one of the glues. Dr.'s Armitage and Fraser hope to continue testing the residues in the future.