

## Chapter 4

### Research on Block 13, Lots 3 and 4

#### *George Calfas*

### History Block 13, Lots 3 and 4

#### Oral history and the written record

Squire McWorter acquired the deed to Block 13, Lots 3 and 4 in 1854. Squire died in 1855 and his wife Louisa continued to live in the house until her death in 1883 (see tax records below). The 1850 Federal Census classifies Squire and Louisa as mulatto with five children. Mary A., classified as white, 22 years old, and English, lived in their household. In the 1855 State Census, Squire is classified black with 11 household members, and livestock valued at \$165. This McWorter family is not listed in the 1860 Federal Census, although in the 1865 State Census Louisa is classified as black with a total of four members in the household and livestock valued at \$300.

In 1870 Louisa is classified as mulatto (45 years old) with her children Lucy and George. Kessiah Clark lived in Louisa's house. She is noted as 70 years old and mulatto. Her 30-year-old son Thomas is classified as white and also living in the household. Willie Jones, a six year old mulatto boy from Illinois resided in the house. In 1880 Louisa is noted as the head of the household with her son George (28), and daughter Lucy J. (34). They are all described as mulatto. Kessiah Clark (76 years old) is noted as boarding in the house along with Charles Jones, a 15 year old mulatto boy who is listed as an abandoned child, and a laborer from Illinois.

The earliest tax assessments in 1867 indicate that Louisa McWorter owned Lots 1–8 in Block 13 and they were valued at \$16 with \$150 of improvements, which probably includes a house and associated outbuildings. The following year, the lots and improvements were valued at \$40 and \$200, respectively. After Louisa died in 1883, the deed was transferred to her son George, who then transferred the property in 1883 to Lucy McKinney, Louisa's daughter. Lucy and her family lived in the house until the early twentieth century.

Virgil Burdick owned the house by 1930 and rented the house and outbuildings. According to Larry Burdick's late twentieth-century written account of the town, he described the house having a full basement, and a large single story structure on the rear of the house that served as the kitchen. A barn and a well also existed on the property. The house burned on December 7, 1937 (Burdick 1992).

#### DEED TRANSACTIONS

Block 13 Lots 3 – 4\*

<i>Year</i>	<i>Seller</i>	<i>Purchaser</i>	<i>Reference (page, line)</i>
1854	Frank McWorter	Squire McWorter	58, 1
1883	George McWorter	Lucy McKinney	58, 2

1915	Thomas McWorter	Alonzo Leonard	58, 3
1915	Thomas McWorter	Siegle	58, 4
1915	Christena Watts	Siegle	58, 5
1915	Eliza Brown	Siegle	58, 6
1915	Siegle/Strauss	Aaron Malone	58, 7
1916	Shelby McWorter	A. E. Malone	58, 8
1919	George McWorter	John Siegle	58, 10
1924	George McWorter	John Siegle	58, 11
1925	Shelby McWorter	John Siegle	58, 9
1925	George McWorter	John Siegle	58, 12
1927	Master in Chancery	John Siegle	58, 13
1930	Emma Siegle	Virgil Burdick	58, 14

(\*note: both lots 3 & 4 are sold together from 1854 – 1930)

HADLEY TOWNSHIP RECORDS

Block 13, Lots 3-4

<i>Year</i>	<i>Name Assessed</i>	<i>Value of Lot</i>	<i>Improvements</i>
1867	Louisa McWorter (Lots 1–8)	\$16.00	\$150.00
1868	Louisa McWorter (Lots 1–8)	\$40.00	\$200.00
1869	Louisa McWorter (Lots 1–8)	\$40.00	\$200.00
1870	Louisa McWorter (Lots 1–8)	\$0.00	\$200.00
1871	Louisa McWorter (Lots 1–8)	\$0.00	\$ 50.00
1872	Louisa McWorter (Lots 1–8)	\$0.00	\$200.00
1875	Louisa McWorter (Lots 1–8)	--	\$200.00
1878	Louisa McWorter (Lots 1–8)	--	\$350.00
1883	Louisa McWorter/Lucy J. McKinney (Lots 1–8)	--	\$375 (Louisa McWorter's name crossed out)
1888	Lucy J. McKinney (Lots 1–8)	--	\$350.00

1850 FEDERAL CENSUS (Block 13, Lots 3-4)

NAME	FIRST NAME	AGE	SEX	RACE	OCCUPATION
<i>McWorter</i>	Squire	33	M	M	Farmer
	Louisa	26	F	M	not given

Lucy	5	F	M	not given
Squire	3	M	M	not given
George	1	M	M	not given
Mary A.	22	F	W	not given
Mary A.	3	F	M	not given
Lucy	0.4	F	M	not given

1855 STATE CENSUS (Block 13, Lots 3-4)

NAME	FIRST NAME	RACE	NO. IN HOUSEHOLD
<i>McWorter</i>	S.	B	11

1865 STATE CENSUS (Block 13, Lots 3-4)

NAME	FIRST NAME	RACE	NO. IN HOUSEHOLD
<i>McWorter</i>	Louisa	B	4

1870 FEDERAL CENSUS (Block 13, Lots 3-4)

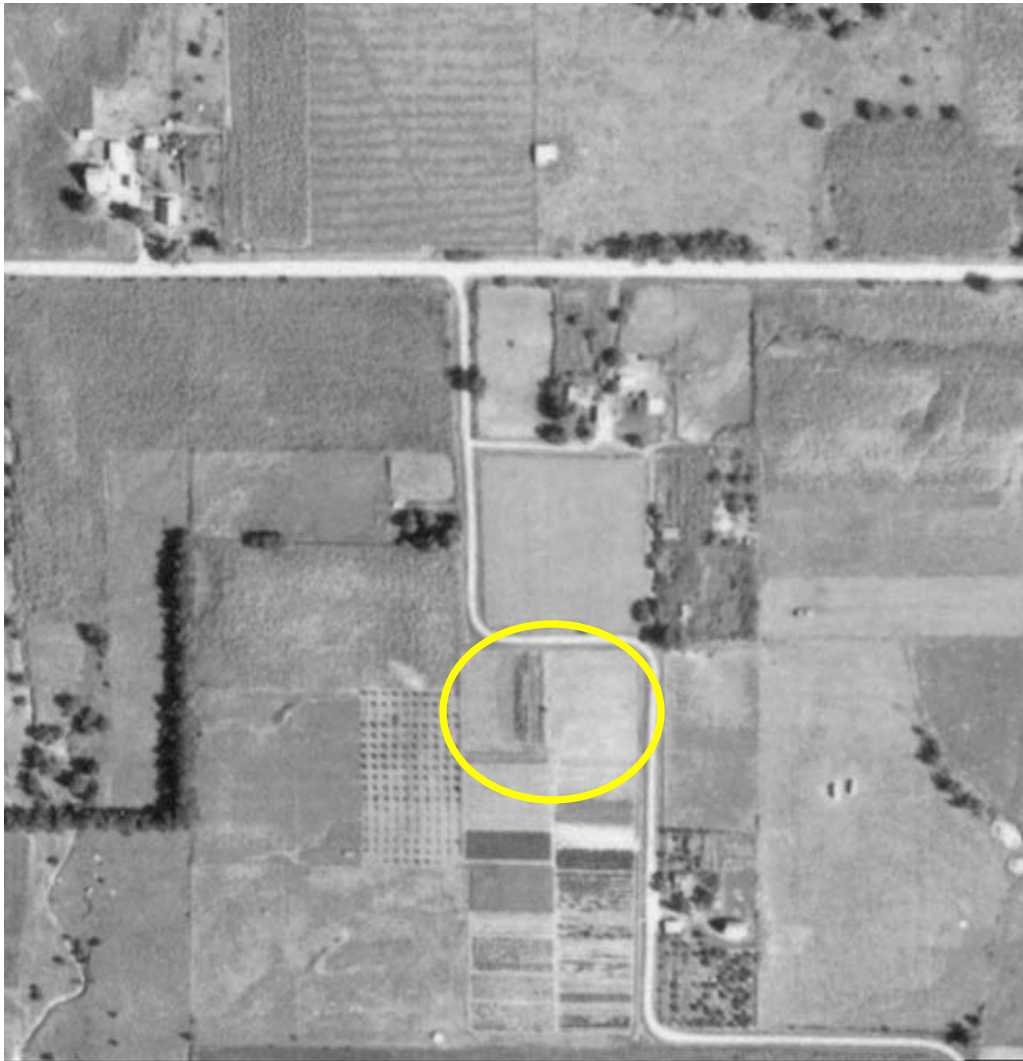
NAME	FIRST NAME	AGE	SEX	RACE	OCCUPATION
<i>McWorter</i>	Louisa	45	F	M	Keeping house
	Lucy	22	F	M	At home
	George	21	M	M	Farmer
<i>Clark</i>	Thomas	30	M	W	Farmer
	Kezia	70	F	M	Not Given

1880 FEDERAL CENSUS (Block 13, Lots 3 and 4)

NAME	FIRST NAME	AGE	SEX	RACE	OCCUPATION
<i>McWorter</i>	Louisa	54	F	M	Keeping house
	Lucy J.	34	F	M	At home
	George	28	M	M	Farm laborer
<i>Clark</i>	Kasiah	76	F	M	Mother
<i>Jones</i>	Charles	15	M	M	abandoned child

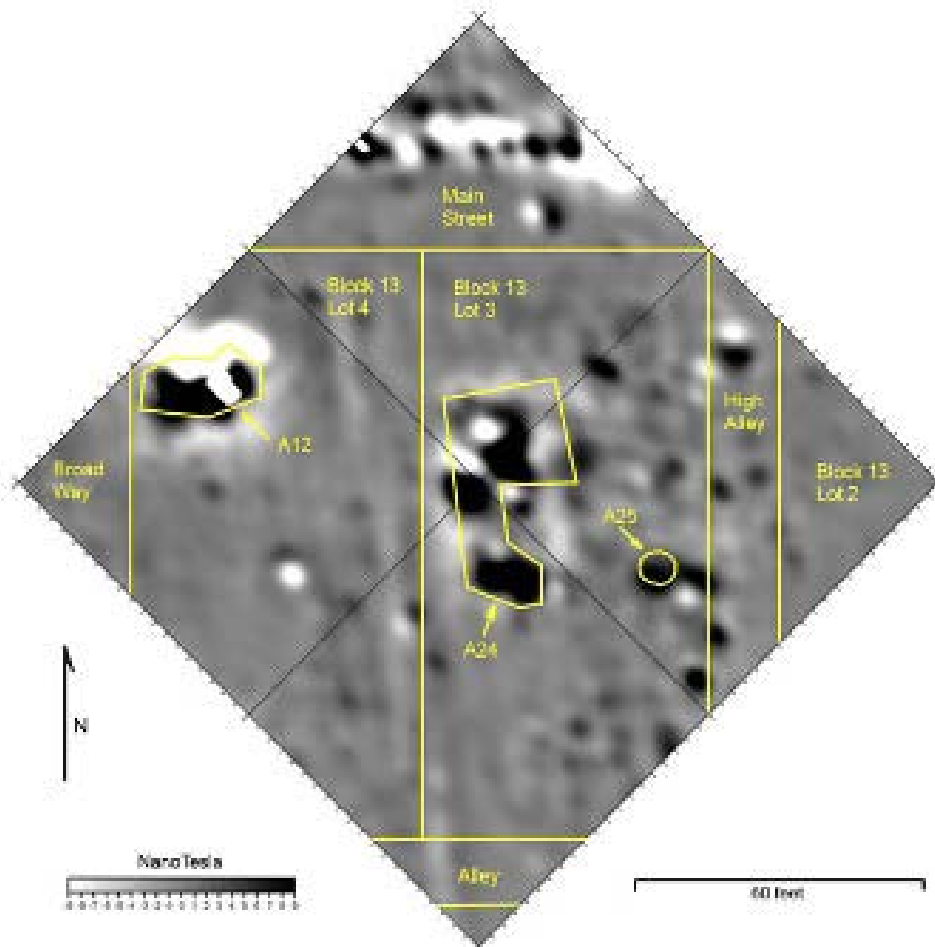
## Archaeology on Block 13

During the 2002-2003 walkover survey the archaeology team found a large concentration of artifacts in Lots 3 and 4 (Gwaltney 2004). A heavy concentration of cut nails, all suggesting the presence of a domestic structure in the vicinity. The lot and buildings were owned by McWorter family members from the mid- nineteenth century into the early twentieth century. Louisa took in boarders and this tradition may have continued into the twentieth century since oral and written accounts refer to the building as the “hotel.” Similar sources indicate that the domestic building and a barn burned to the ground in 1937, and there were no visible signatures of any structures on the lot in a 1939 aerial photograph (Figure 4.1).



**Figure 4.1.** *This excerpt of a 1939 aerial photograph from the U.S.D.A. archives shows the landscape of the New Philadelphia town site at that time. The yellow outline indicates the locations of Block 13, lots 3 and 4.*

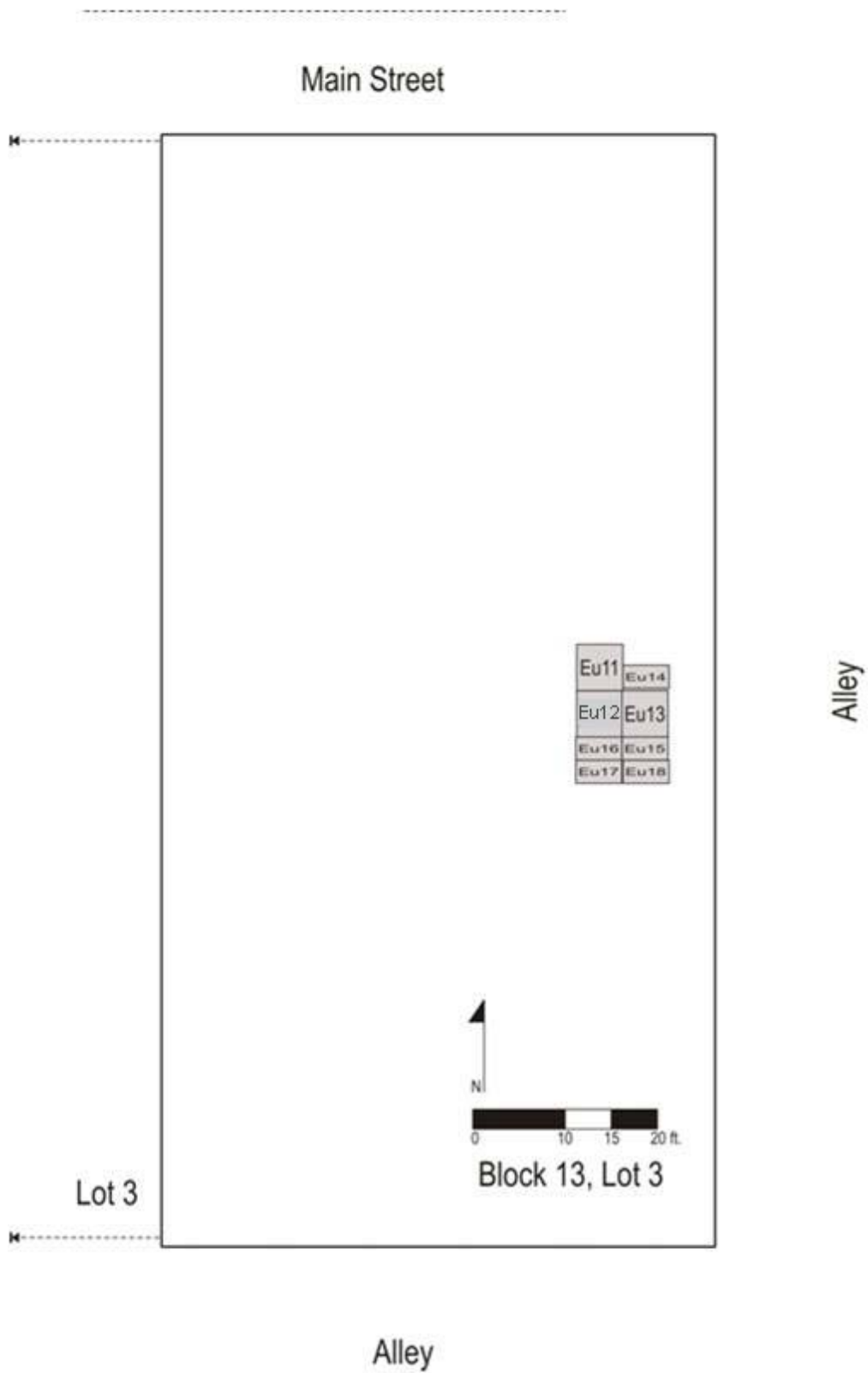
The electrical resistivity geophysical survey conducted in June 2004 identified many anomalies throughout Block 13, Lots 3 and 4 (Figure 4.2; Hargrave 2006). Some may be the signature of the McWorter house and associated outbuildings, including a barn and a well. The archaeology team concentrated on Anomaly 12 in Lot 4 and Anomalies 25 in Lot 3. The latter group of anomalies cluster and form a square shape. The archaeological investigations set out to ground truth these anomalies (Figure 4.2).



**Figure 4.2.** Magnetic gradient survey, Block 13, Lots 2-4, with anomalies highlighted (Hargrave 2006: fig. 31).

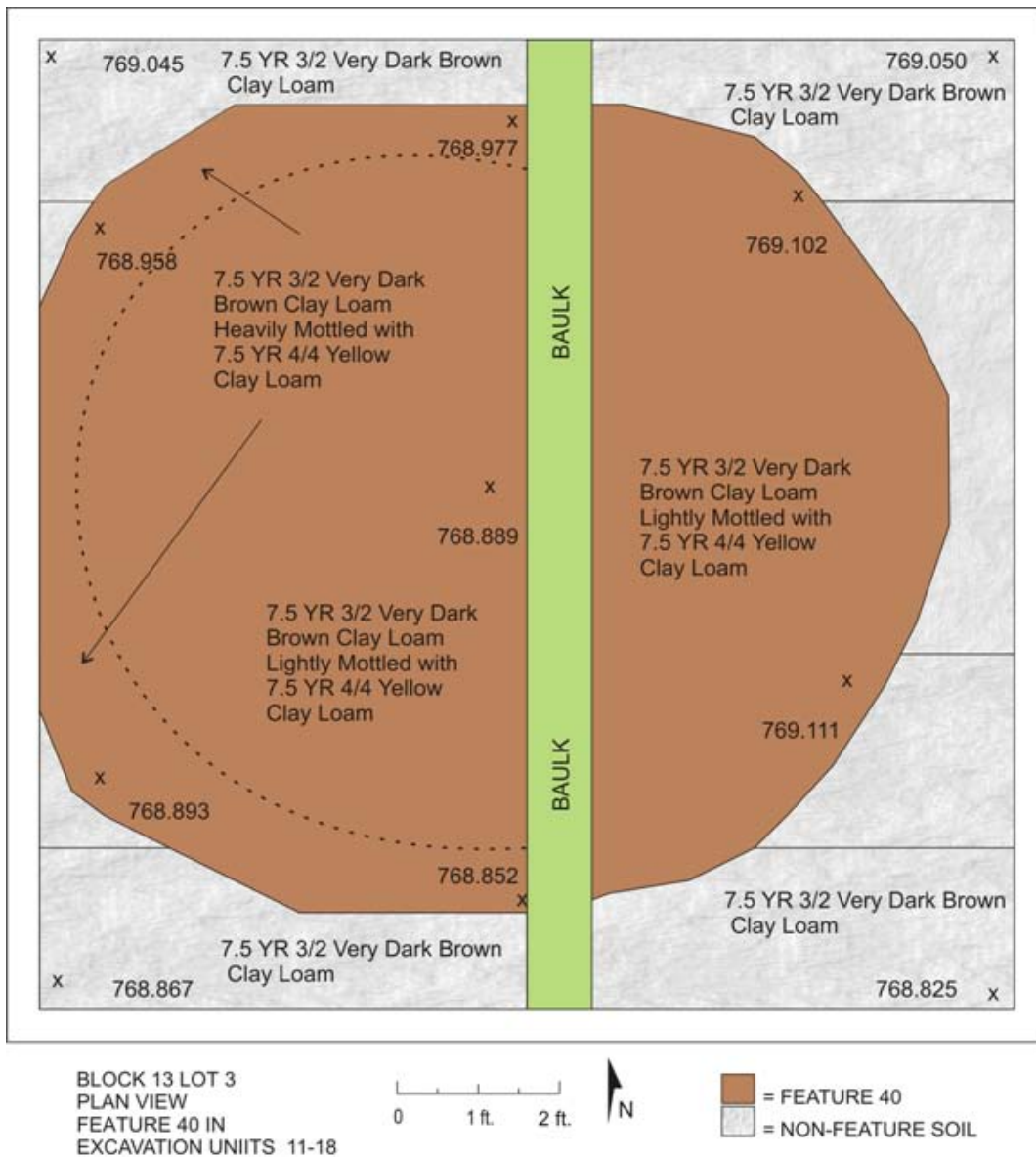
### Lot 3

Archaeological investigation began when the excavation team inserted 1-inch soil core test probes into the space occupied by geophysical Anomaly A25. The team established a grid at one foot intervals that extended beyond the anomaly's borders to detect buried features or soil color changes. Anomaly A25 displayed varied soil colors, the space within A25 is 7.5 YR 3/2 (dark brown) mottled with 7.5 YR 4/6 (strong brown). Stone was encountered in within the space of A25, making complete core sections unobtainable. Due to these factors the archaeologists decided to insert excavation units to further test A-25. The team inserted eight excavation units (EU11-18) and subsequently discovered Feature 40 (Figure 4.3).



**Figure 4.3.** Excavation units in Block 13, Lot 3, in 2010 field season. Illustration by George Calfas.

The plowzone for EUs 11-18 was 7.5 YR 3/2 dark brown in color and yielded large numbers of historical artifacts such as glass and ceramics. At approximately 768.954 average mean sea level (amsl) or 1.1 ft. below surface level (bsl), Feature 40 became visible. Feature 40 was circular in shape and displayed 7.5 YR 3/2 dark brown and 7.5 YR 4/4 brown clay loam mottling. After determining the extent of Feature 40 archaeologists chose to section the feature and continued excavations in the eastern portion. The team decided to use the baulk separating Excavation Units 11, 14, 16 and 17 from Units to provide a natural boundary for the feature bisect (Figure 4.4). The baulk later provided an ample resource in determining the feature profile.



**Figure 4.4.** Plan view of Feature 40. Illustration by George Calfas.

Excavations continued to an approximate depth of 4.0 ft. bsl. The excavation team interprets Feature 40 to have been a well due to the shape and the materials discovered during field work (Figure 4.5). There were approximately 275 artifacts found within Feature 40, with date ranges falling within the latter half of the 19th century through the early 20th century.



**Figure 4.5.** *Profile view of Feature 40.*

The majority of the stones have flat finished surfaces that would have been ideal for foundations or wall construction (see Figure 4.6). The stones likely originated from the nearby cellar foundation (Figures 4.5 and 4.6). Archaeologists were unable to reach the bottom of Feature 40 to confirm that it was in fact a well; however the soils did become moist at the lower depths due to the increasing proximity of the water table. The Burdick memory map displays a well in the general location of Feature 40.





**Figure 4.6.** *Feature 40 photograph illustrating stones from within feature.*

General and architectural metal hardware and ceramic vessels made up a large portion of the artifacts, with glass vessel sherds having a relatively low count. Several portions of smoking pipes were found, as well as a portion of a doorknob (dating to 1878 or later) and a portion of a glass food canning jar finish (wax ring seal finish) dating from 1850-1890.

One of the more interesting artifacts discovered in the plowzone over Feature 40 was the uniform button of an Enlisted Civil War soldier (Figure 4.7). During the 2005 field season excavators discovered a similar button once belonging to a Civil War Officer's uniform approximately 25 ft. away. The discovery of these buttons helps explain that some of the New Philadelphia townspeople were involved in the fight for freedom. Documentary research shows that these buttons could have belonged to one of two men, Thomas Clark and Squire McWorter. Both Squire and Thomas served in the U.S. Colored Infantry and both had ties to Block 13.

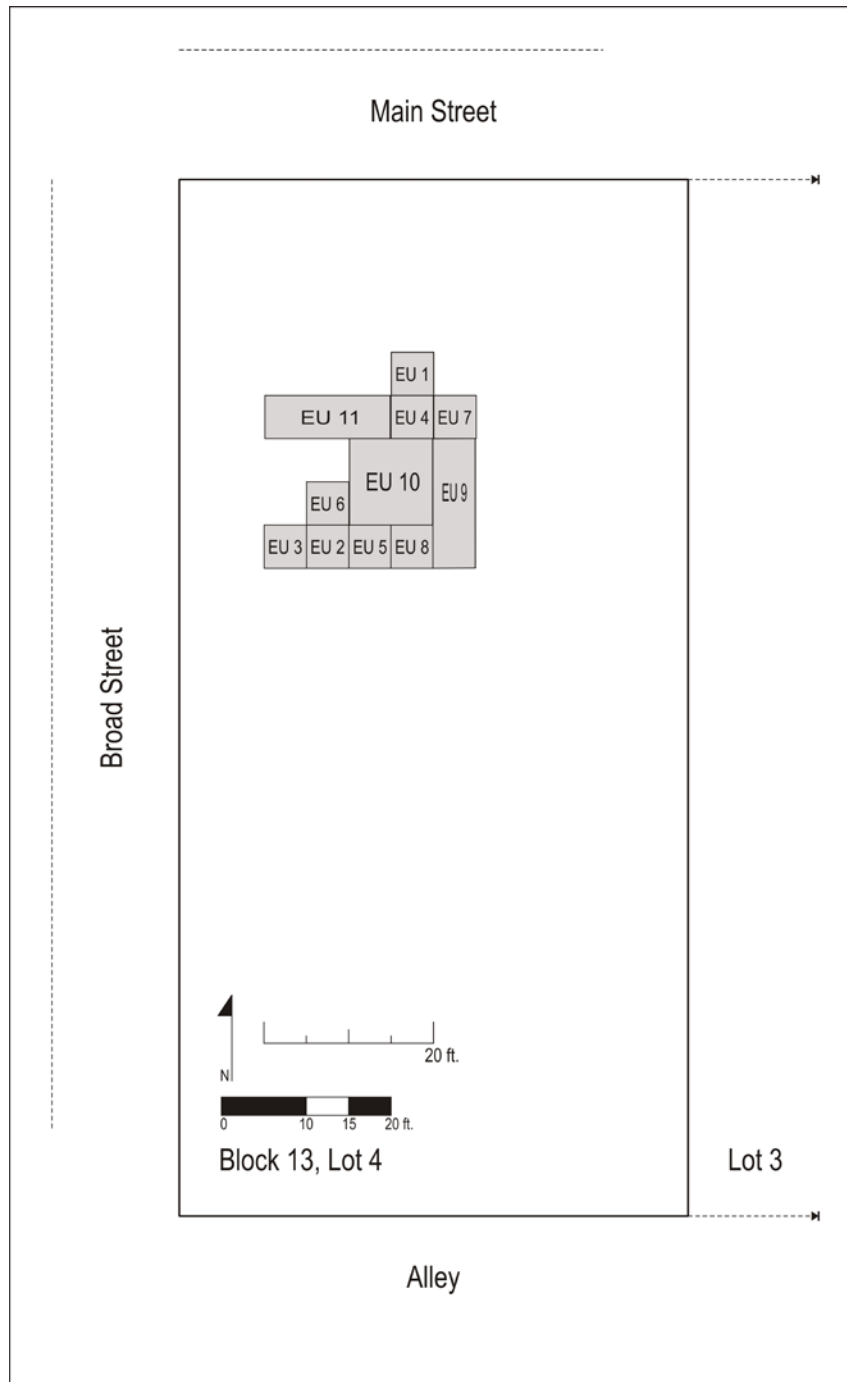


**Figure 4.7.** *Photograph of button from Civil War uniform recovered from Feature 40.*

#### **Lot 4**

Excavation of Block 13 Lot 4 continued research begun during the 2005 field season (see Shackel et al. 2006). During the 2005 field work, excavation teams discovered a portion of the house foundation which once belonged to Louisa McWorter, indicated by the before mentioned deed records. In 2010 archaeologists set out to expose the entire foundation in order to learn the full dimensions of the 1870s home.

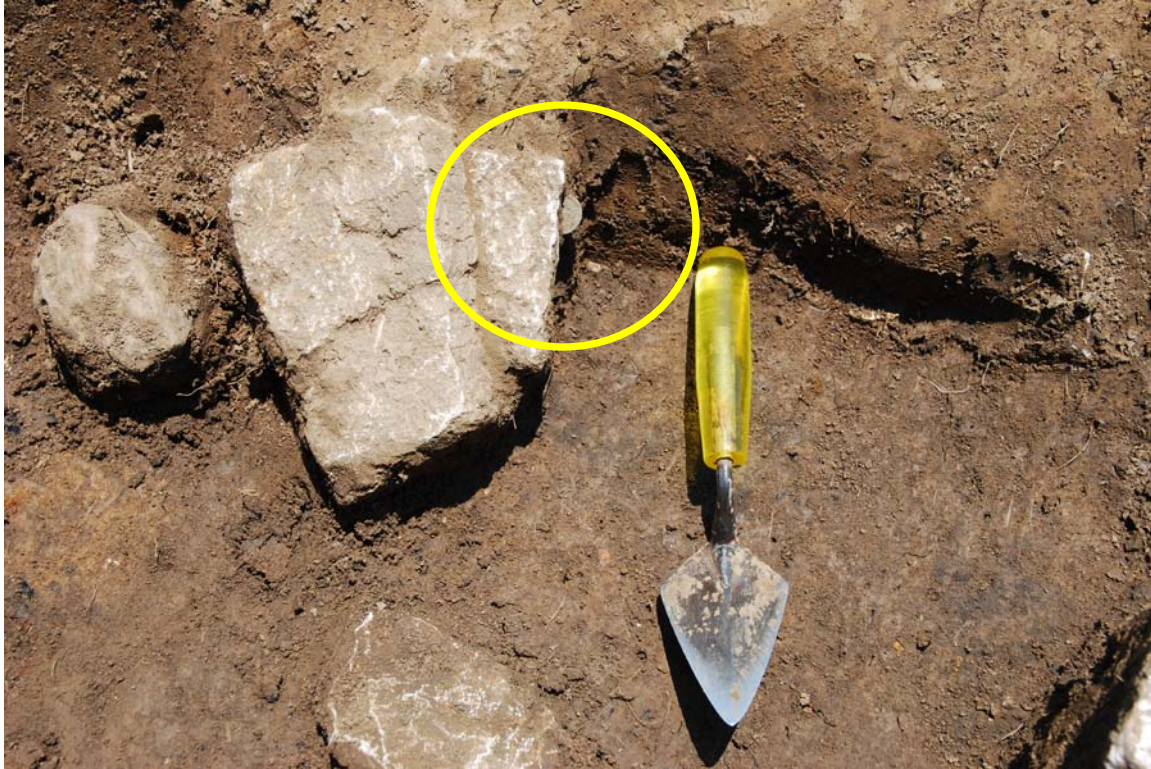
The excavation team first removed the back fill from the six excavation units (EU1-6) in order to pick up where the previous team had left off (Figure 4.8). Removing the back fill would provide a clearer picture of the foundation construction by season's end. After cleaning the wall and floor of the units the team inserted additional units to discover the eastern portion of the foundation. Geophysics aided the team in 2005 and based on the dimensions of anomaly A12; it seemed that the foundation extended beyond the area excavated in 2005 by only a few feet.



**Figure 4.8.** *Excavation units in Block 13, Lot 4, in 2010 field season. Illustration by George Calfas.*

Excavation Unit 7, a 5x5 foot unit, was inserted adjacent to and east of EU 4. At approximately 2.5 ft. below surface level (bsl) the team discovered the northeast corner of the foundation. EU 8 and 9 were inserted along what was assumed to be the southern portion of the east-west running foundation wall. The team was able to discover the builders trench which was 10YR 5/4

yellowish brown clay while the remaining soil in southeastern corner of the foundation was 10YR 3/2 very dark grayish brown sandy loam. In the southern corner the excavation team discovered an 1862 penny between foundation stones (Figure 4.9).



**Figure 4.9.** *Penny embedded with foundation stone remains. Photo by Anna Agbe-Davies.*

With the northern and south eastern corners located, the team inserted a 5x15 foot excavation unit (EU9) to uncover the entire eastern wall. After the removal of the plowzone the team encountered large amounts of ceramics, glass, brick and mortar (Figure 4.10). The material in this area was burned. The bricks appear to have fallen from south to north and in one singular event



**Figure 4.10.** *Remains located beneath plowzone in EU 9.*

Research continued toward the center of the house foundation in order to uncover and determine the depth of the cellar. EU10, a 10x10 foot unit, was placed adjacent to and west of EU9. The eastern portion of EU10 continued to display evidence of burning and high artifact densities. The western portion of EU10 contained fewer artifacts and following the ash and charcoal layer was much more difficult. Although the items in the cellar probably represent secondary fill, rather than a primary deposit, it is possible that the eastern portion of the house was an area of high activity. Due to the large quantity of burned brick, this may have been the location where the fireplace had been situated or may represent part of the burned remains of the house.

Excavation Unit 11 was inserted adjacent to EU4 in order to determine the location of the northern foundation wall and the overall length of the house. EU11 was a 5x15 foot unit which later had to be shortened due to time constraints. The team was able to discover a builder's

trench along the western wall and the foundation's northwestern corner at approximately 767.260amsl or 2.5 ft bsl. Soil in the northern section was mostly 10 YR 3/2 dark brown and displayed only slight variation in colors.

After the discovery of the three foundation corners it was determined that Louisa McWorter's home was approximately 20 ft. long east to west and 15 ft. long north to south. The southern foundations stones were approximately 1.25 ft. bsl whereas the northern foundations stones were nearly 2.5 ft. bsl. Coupled with the excavations in Block 13 Lot 3 it is feasible that foundations stones from the house were also used to fill the well or another nearby feature. Artifacts from the house were much like others throughout the site, but of interest was the amount of stoneware. The Louisa McWorter home has a 50-50% split between stoneware and whiteware vessels and a low density of glass products. Other house sites excavated in previous field seasons displayed large amounts of white ware and glass with less than 10% stoneware. This house site will be the subject of further investigations in the 2011 field season.

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