

Chapter 1

Introduction

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Frank McWorter, also known as “Free Frank,” was a remarkable man. The town that he established is only a part of his legacy, which included purchasing his own freedom and that of generations of his family. But it was in part by acquiring land on the frontier, establishing the town, and selling the lots, that he furthered his ambition to free his children and their families from slavery. The town, “New Philadelphia,” or sometimes just “Philadelphia,” was an experiment of sorts, a community composed of African-American and European-American residents decades before the abolition of slavery in the United States. Descendants of McWorter also point to the town’s location—so close to the slave state of Missouri. Could he have intended his town to serve also as a conduit to freedom for people escaping slavery?

McWorter platted New Philadelphia in 1836. At the same time, he petitioned the Illinois legislature to confirm his right to conduct business and enter into contracts—a necessary step for an African American in a state still controlled by Black Codes. The town was established in Pike County, Illinois, just south of McWorter’s own farmstead. New Philadelphia covered 42 acres divided into 20 blocks with 8 lots in each, except for the western column of half blocks with only 4 lots each. There were 144 lots, total, each measuring 60 by 120 feet.

The site, cultivated, but no longer occupied by the middle of the twentieth century, presents a unique opportunity for archaeologists. Few settlements occupied by free African Americans have been excavated. The comparison of New Philadelphia with the more widely-studied plantations and segregated cities of the same era expands our understanding of social relations in that turbulent era.

The story of the town’s founding is described in *Free Frank: A Black Pioneer on the Antebellum Frontier* (Walker 1983). A new phase of research began with the historical and archaeological studies undertaken at the behest of the New Philadelphia Association, starting in 2002. Research from 2004 to 2006 was supported in part by a grant from the National Science Foundation and its Research Experiences for Undergraduates program (NSF-REU Grant number 0353550). A second NSF-REU was awarded in 2008 (Grant number 0752834). Reports on prior research are available on two linked websites dedicated to the New Philadelphia archaeology project (www.heritage.umd.edu/ and www.histarch.uiuc.edu/NP/). The present document presents developments and findings for the 2008, 2010 and 2011 field seasons, supplementing the interim reports for 2008 (Fennell 2009c) and 2010 (Agbe-Davies 2011).

The 2011 season marked the final year of research sponsored by the NSF-REU grant of 2008. The project was co-directed by Anna Agbe-Davies (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill [UNC]), Christopher Fennell (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign [UIUC]), and Terrance

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Martin (Illinois State Museum [ISM]). The twin goals of the project continue to be 1) exploring the nature of social relationships in this frontier town through archaeological and documentary research, and 2) ensuring the preservation and protection of the site. The major research objectives also remain consistent, to:

- understand New Philadelphia's founding and its development as an integrated town
- explore and contrast dietary patterns between households of different ethnic and regional backgrounds via the examination of faunal and botanical remains
- reconstruct the town landscape and the use of town lots, with the understanding that the different ethnic and regional backgrounds of the town's households may have an influential role
- elucidate the consumer choices made by households in this frontier context, with particular attention to the role played by markets and structural racism

Research and related developments preceding the 2011 excavation season

Archaeological work from the 2004 through 2011 field seasons uncovered over 150,000 artifacts, faunal and floral remains, and the locations of 21 structures, including numerous residences, a grocery, and a blacksmith operation. Based on our investigations and analysis of data to date, a number of general findings can be summarized here. These findings have also been detailed in earlier reports to the NSF and in our members' publications in books, peer-reviewed journal articles, and other media, including television and online.

Archaeology revealed early house sites not indicated in historic-period documents, such as deeds, tax ledgers, and census records. Most structures and occupation sites appear to have been concentrated in the landscape covered by the north-central portion of the town plan.

There appears to have been no spatial segregation based on race within the town. The locations of residences and businesses of African Americans and European Americans were spatially interspersed in the town during the nineteenth century. The town residents did experience the impacts of segregation in their cemeteries and their schools. We uncovered no archaeological evidence of violent destruction of properties within the town, even though the community was located within a region sharply impacted by racial strife.

Residents enjoyed access to local, regional, and international commodities from the outset of settlement of the town. Ceramic housewares were similar in style, expense levels, and types of assemblages across house sites of both African-American and European-American families. There may have been some variations in dietary and culinary practices based on the region of origin or ethnic background of particular families who moved to New Philadelphia.

The town suffered dispersal of its population after it was bypassed by the construction of a regional railroad in 1869-1870. Persuasive evidence indicates that this bypassing of the town was motivated by racial dynamics.

Preservation

Participants in the New Philadelphia project successfully nominated the town site to [the National Register of Historic Places](#) in 2005. This list of “historic places worthy of preservation” also includes the Frank McWorter grave site—successfully nominated in 1988 by Dr. Juliet Walker. In 2008 the National Historic Landmarks Committee voted unanimously to approve the nomination of the New Philadelphia town site for [National Historic Landmark](#) status. The designation was granted in January 2009 (see NPS [website](#) 2009). This successful application was officially supported by numerous elected representatives including, from Illinois: Senators Richard Durbin and Barack Obama; U.S. Representatives Ray LaHood and John Shimkus; State Senators Deanna Demuzio, Emil Jones, Jr., and John Sullivan; and State Representatives Jil Tracy and Mary Flowers, among others. Notably, Sen. Obama’s support letter was submitted in Autumn 2008, in the midst of his very busy and successful presidential campaign.

Additional legislation was introduced by U.S. Senator Roland Burris and U.S. Representative Aaron Schock. These two acts (S. 1629 and H.R. 5455) sought to authorize funding for activities including “determining the suitability and feasibility of designating the study area as a unit of the National Park System.” These legislative initiatives were continued more recently. Congressman Schock introduced the *New Philadelphia, Illinois, Study Act*, H.R. 930 in the 113th Congress to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a feasibility study, and U.S. Senators Mark Kirk and Richard Durbin introduced a companion bill, S.1328, to the Senate in July, 2013. These legislative efforts are ongoing. At the local level, the New Philadelphia Association has coordinated development of a walking trail and accompanying brochure at the town site.

[The Archaeological Conservancy](#) finalized the purchase of approximately nine acres of the town site, another important step for the site’s preservation. The parcel includes Blocks 2, 3, 8, and 9 and the Conservancy’s mission will ensure that the archaeological site at New Philadelphia will be protected for future generations to explore and enjoy.

2008-2010 research activities

On February 28, 2008, members of the McWorter family, other descendant family members, and members of the local community, gathered at the Lincoln Presidential Library, to commemorate African-American History Month. The group presented the Library with a bronze bust of Frank McWorter, sculpted by Shirley McWorter Moss, and a bound, eleven-volume set of archival papers and archaeology reports.

Also in early 2008, co-director Anna Agbe-Davies reported to the New Philadelphia Association and others on the New Philadelphia research team that the Time Team America program had expressed an interest in undertaking archaeological research and filming an episode at the site of the town founded by Frank McWorter. Members of the local and descendant communities as well as the research team were very enthusiastic about this opportunity. The Time Team program in the United Kingdom enjoyed an excellent reputation for employing rigorous, scientific methods, and in educating large-scale, public audiences in the techniques and results of archaeological and historical research.

We communicated to the producers of Time Team America, including director Graham Dixon, that such a project would mean taking a research approach consistent with our past work and the status of the town site on the National Register of Historic Places, maintaining the archaeological integrity of the town site. This included, for example, limiting excavations to the bisecting of cultural features, so that we always leave one half of each cultural feature intact for preservation and future study. Because the Illinois State Museum (ISM) is the designated curator for all archaeological, faunal, and floral remains from the New Philadelphia town site, all materials obtained by Time Team America were also to be curated by ISM. The Time Team America producers and archaeologists agreed entirely with all these recommendations, which were consistent with the overall approaches the program had taken at other sites as well.

As researchers, we consult regularly with members of the descendant and local communities on their views for the goals of the archaeological and historical research using principles of civic engagement. We have been as transparent as possible in formulating and communicating our research questions and we have made our archaeological and historical data readily available to the public through our public archaeology internet sites. We explained that we wished to see the Time Team project take a similar approach, with a commitment to making data publicly available. They again agreed whole-heartedly, and the results of their research, undertaken simultaneously with the 2008 field school, have been disseminated both through their [internet publications](#) and their television program. The show was broadcast nation-wide on July 22, 2009, and in repeat broadcasts thereafter, including community-based discussions in 2010 and 2011.

Such broad dissemination and discussion of the subjects and lessons of New Philadelphia are not unusual. Our research team members have worked continually to engage debates on these subjects throughout the United States and abroad. For example, our research questions, findings, and interpretative debates have been the subject of keynote talks and public debate in locations as diverse as South Africa, Israel, China, and Taiwan.

The overall plan for the research components of our ten-week field school in the summer of 2008 included new ground-based geophysical surveys in the first week, followed by four weeks of excavations and surveys at the town site, and a subsequent five weeks of laboratory research and analysis of the material, faunal, and floral remains at the Illinois State Museum's Research and Collections Center in Springfield. The spring of 2008 was marked by unusually high rainfall, providing very good conditions for geophysical surveys. In past years at New Philadelphia, low moisture content in the ground surface made the process of obtaining and interpreting such geophysical data very challenging. Among other results obtained in the week of May 27, 2008, Michael Hargrave obtained vivid data in the area of Block 3, Lot 4, on the north edge of the town site, which was later explored by two of our excavation teams.

The educational components of the ten-week field school included discussions among the participants on issues of race and racism in American history and contemporary society. Our discussions included debates concerning facets of the social construction of concepts of race and the deployment of racial ideologies against different target groups in American history. Discussions also addressed evolving concepts within biological science of physiological and genetic variations among populations, research purporting to identify DNA links between

population locations over time, and arguments concerning the dangers of racial profiling in modern medical and pharmaceutical practices.

In the field we undertook systematic soil core sampling (with a one-inch diameter sampler) at the locations of new anomalies identified by geophysical surveys in the week of May 27, and selecting some of those areas for excavation later in the season. We also expanded survey and excavations in the area of Block 3, Lot 4, owned for a period of time by Alexander Clark and located near a lime slacking pit uncovered as Feature 2 during the 2004 excavations.

Excavations resumed in Block 7, Lot 1, for which a newly discovered tax record from 1845 listed a higher value assessment that might indicate the presence of building at a time when Frank McWorter owned the parcel. We ground-truthed previously identified geophysical anomalies A8, A9, and A36 in the area of King Street north of Block 8, and anomalies A37 and A38 in the space platted for Walnut Alley on the northern edge of Block 8, Lots 5 and 6. We also employed a hammer-driven, soil core sampler (with two-inch diameter and up to six feet in sample length) to test thermal anomalies from the aerial survey and anomalies identified in ground-based geophysical surveys, and to explore the stratigraphic profiles of earthen terraces on the west side of the town site.

The summer included a series of public speakers and audience discussions on the theme *African-American Heritage in the Midwest* held in June and July of 2008. This program provided a forum for lectures and broad audience discussions of subjects concerning African-American history and struggles for freedom and equality in ongoing efforts to combat racism in American society. This forum contributed to a broad, collaborative project of archaeologists, historians, and members of the local and descendant communities to place such topics of African-American accomplishments in greater focus within our national memory and heritage. The program was sponsored by the New Philadelphia Association, Sprague's Kinderhook Lodge, and the Illinois State Museum, with the support of a grant from the Illinois Humanities Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Illinois General Assembly.

With grant support from the Community Informatics Initiative at the University of Illinois, in 2009 PI Christopher Fennell also designed and launched a new cluster of interactive internet resources for enhancing the involvement of national, regional, local, and descendant communities in the ongoing research efforts of the New Philadelphia Archaeology Project. These resources, which utilize Web 2.0 applications, can be accessed on the internet at <http://www.histarch.uiuc.edu/NP/>.

Although there was no excavation in 2009, the New Philadelphia project speaker series continued, supported by grants from the Illinois Humanities Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Illinois General Assembly. The six lectures in the series addressed such topics as the undergraduate experience of the NSF-REU program, the use of technology in public outreach and presentation, inequality and the built environment in nineteenth-century Illinois, and the life and accomplishments of Harriet Tubman.

In May 2010, Fennell obtained a grant from the University of Illinois to support a LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) survey of the New Philadelphia town site and surrounding landscape.

This survey is an important compliment to other survey techniques that have been used to identify significant archaeological features within the town. Furthermore, it provides detailed topographic information for comparison with the original town plat, which should help to establish how much of the town was ultimately developed as planned.

Planning for the 2010 excavation season included an introductory week of geophysical survey and four weeks of excavation at the town site. The remaining five weeks were devoted to artifact identification, cataloguing, and analysis at the Illinois State Museum Research and Collection Center in Springfield. The research team established a number of priorities through discussions including consulting specialists and community stakeholders.

Excavators targeted Block 12 for geophysical survey and excavation. A shovel test pit survey of Lots 1-4 indicated a likely nineteenth-century occupation of the parcel. It also provided an opportunity to follow up on oral history evidence that placed the town's school house on this block.

A number of surveys were conducted during the 2010 season. The first used large-bore hammer-driven core sampling to: 1) test thermal anomalies identified in the 2008 low-aerial survey; and, 2) further investigate modern agricultural terraces on the western side of town site. Excavators also undertook core sampling and targeted excavation at the northern edge of the east-most of the agricultural terraces on the western side of New Philadelphia, where large-bore core sampling in 2008 revealed intact stratigraphic profiles. We also initiated geophysical surveys on Blocks 11, 12, and 13 and commenced systematic core sampling of newly-identified anomalies, following up with excavation as warranted.

We also initiated a geophysical survey, with follow-up core sampling and excavation, on Block 11, Lots 1-2. This would be the first investigation of the easternmost reaches of the town. Documentary research indicated that these particular lots were owned by Josephus Turpin, who later served in the 29th Colored Infantry during the Civil War (C.F. Martin, pers. comm. 2010).

Finally, and most prominently, the excavation team continued core sampling of geophysical anomalies and excavation of the cellar identified on Block 13. This feature was discovered in 2005 and appears to be the remains of the dwelling of Louisa McWorter and her household.

Since 2010, the New Philadelphia project has included collaboration with geoscientists from the University of Iowa. "Geoscience" refers to "earth processes, earth history, and environmental sustainability using physical, chemical, and biological methods" (<http://geoscience.clas.uiowa.edu/>). E. Arthur Bettis is advisor to Mary Kathryn Rocheford, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Geoscience, University of Iowa. The focus of Rocheford's dissertation research is on the landscape and environmental history of the New Philadelphia town site. She served as a team supervisor and instructor for field school interns in the 2010 and 2011 field school programs, supervising activities related to geoscience theories and methods. The geoscience work builds upon the primary research questions of the New Philadelphia Archaeology Project and includes comparative analyses of the multiple data sets of geophysical and archaeological evidence compiled in this multi-year program. Laboratory analyses of Rocheford's data sets are ongoing.

Different land-use types can be expected to have different effects on the physical and chemical properties of soils and potentially to produce physical and chemical “signatures” indicative of these land uses. To evaluate such phenomena, soil and micromorphology samples were collected from different land-use areas within the New Philadelphia town site. The properties of the soil samples (e.g., bulk density, moisture content, organic matter content, particle size distribution, pH, and cation exchange capacity) are being quantified to differentiate discrete periods of historic land use. Reconstructing the spatial and temporal pattern of various land-use activities across the landscape can be accomplished through investigations of ethnographic and historic maps and documents and remotely sensed data such as aerial thermal infrared and LiDAR surveys. Interpretation of these sources must be ground-truthed by surface walkover surveys and one or more non-destructive geophysical surveys such as electrical resistivity, magnetometry, or ground-penetrating radar. This multi-prong analysis of soil characteristics will be used to design a framework for the interpretation of the effects of different land-use practices on soil characteristics at the site over time.

The purpose of this geoscience research is to evaluate the effects of historic land uses on soil characteristics to address research questions such as the following:

1. What are the spatial and temporal contexts for the biological, physical and chemical characteristics of the soils across this landscape?
2. What have been the impacts (e.g., erosion/deposition rates, soil productivity) of different land-use activities across the town site over time?
3. Can the effects of different historic landscape modifications (e.g., historic settlement vs. restoration/modern agriculture) be differentiated?
4. How might these data sets be used to inform sustainable land-use practices both within the individual locations and for the surrounding geographic region?

In the 2010 field season, hand-driven AMS soil core samples were collected at New Philadelphia to investigate thermal anomalies identified in a thermal infrared (TIR) survey conducted by Bryan Haley of the University of Mississippi and Tommy Hailey of Northwest State University in 2008. Descriptions and interpretation of the cores and recommendations for future investigation were included in the 2010 online report in “Chapter 6: [Geoarchaeological Investigations of New Philadelphia: Soil Core Testing of Thermal Infrared Anomalies](#)” (Rocheford 2011). AMS cores provided an inexpensive method for quick assessment of the archaeological potential at the core location. In addition, this method was useful in the identification of disturbed versus undisturbed soil profile locations for further investigation.

Based on characteristics of the AMS cores, geophysical data, and on-site observations, Rocheford and Bettis collected eight soil core samples using the three-inch diameter, six-foot long, trailer-mounted power cylinder in the Fall of 2010. This power cylinder core sampling device avoids the compaction of samples experienced using the hand-held and slide-hammer-driven AMS equipment. These power cylinder samples were also curated in plastic wrap and stored for future laboratory analysis.

The summer speaker series continued in 2010 with a program that included a variety of speakers on the theme *Navigating Landscapes of Struggle and Freedom*. The theme was particularly appropriate for the first year that the series was designated the *Marvin J. and Thomas Leo Likes*

Memorial Lecture Series, in honor of two individuals who did so much to provide crucial surveying assistance in the project's early years, and continued to offer advice as the archaeological investigations moved forward. The talks were sponsored by the New Philadelphia Association, Sprague's Kinderhook Lodge in Pike County, and the Illinois State Museum Research and Collections Center in Springfield.

The lectures gave the students an opportunity to hear cutting-edge research from a range of experts, but were also geared toward a general audience. Students, New Philadelphia Association members, Pike County residents, and McWorter family members, descendants of families who resided at New Philadelphia, along with many others formed a lively and attentive audience. Talks were presented by Michael Hargrave and Carl Carlson-Drexler (U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, Construction Engineering Research Laboratory, Champaign, Illinois), Andrew Agha (Brockington and Associates, Cultural Resource Consultants), Norman D. Ellerbrock, PLS (Likes Land Surveyors, Inc.), Paul A. Shackel (University of Maryland, College Park), Anna S. Agbe-Davies (UNC), Terry Ransom (Illinois Underground Railroad Research Network) and Christopher Fennell (UIUC), Rebecca Ginsburg (UIUC), and John Michael Vlach (George Washington University).

In November, 2010, a backhoe was used to excavate a trench through an agricultural terrace ridge constructed in the 1990s. This excavation trench was 15 m long. Rocheford recorded a profile description and collected of bulk soil and micromorphological samples from each exposed soil horizon within that sample.

Overview of 2011 research and educational activities

After discussions among members of the research team, community stakeholders, and consulting specialists, the following five priorities were selected to be focused upon in our 2011 field season:

(1) Follow up on prior explorations on Lots 1 and 2 of Block 8 to search for any evidence of a schoolhouse. This facility may have served the African-American families in New Philadelphia from the 1850s through 1874. A number of historical documents, including an array of deed records, provide strong indications that this small structure was located on Block 8, Lot 1. Geophysical surveys and limited excavations in earlier field seasons had not uncovered evidence of such a structure. A rotating team of excavators worked in the 2011 field season to conduct a systematic shovel test pit survey of the space of Block 8, Lot 1 to thoroughly explore that area for subsurface remains.

(2) Reopen and complete excavation units that were opened in Lots 3 and 4 of Block 12 in the 2010 field season, but were not completed due to the high water content in the ground. A systematic shovel test pit survey conducted in 2005 provided evidence of possible house site remains in Block 12, Lots 3 and 4. Geophysical surveys were attempted in this area in the 2010 field season, but with limited success, again due to saturation of that area during that field season from rainfall.

(3) Initiate a bisection of a cellar feature identified as the house site of Louisa McWorter on Block 13, Lots 3 and 4. This feature was investigated in 2005 and again in 2010. During the 2010 field season, work focused on fully exposing and mapping the horizontal, “plan-view” dimensions of the foundation walls and cellar of the house in Lot 4. In the 2011 field season, we concentrated teams of excavators to complete a linear sample of the cellar fill and create a contiguous profile of the deposit by excavating adjacent, five-foot square excavation units arrayed in a line from east to west across the central portion of the foundation and cellar space.

(4) Continue the program of geoscience investigations across the town site. This element of the project was undertaken by geoscience specialist Mary Kathryn Rocheford, with the supervision of Arthur Bettis of the University of Iowa. Teams of NSF-REU interns assisted in collecting subsurface samples of soil and sediments using an array of soil core sampling methods.

(5) Identify, collect and analyze original documentary evidence concerning the town residents using the archives of the Pike County Courthouse. Project historian Claire Martin trained and supervised the interns in these research tasks.

The research methods and related findings for each of these initiatives are discussed in the appropriate chapters of this report.



Figure 1.1. *Our 2011 field school participants visited the McWorter cemetery near New Philadelphia on Memorial Day and placed flowers on Frank and Lucy McWorter’s grave sites in commemoration (Photograph courtesy Christopher Fennell).*

In 2011 our field team consisted of co-managers Anna Agbe-Davies (University of North Carolina), Terrance Martin (Illinois State Museum), and Christopher Fennell (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign [UIUC]). Kathryn Fay, a graduate student at UIUC, served as our Archaeology Laboratory Director and also supervised and assisted in the instruction of undergraduate interns in surveys and excavations. Mary Kathryn Rocheford, a graduate student at the University of Iowa, supervised rotating teams who assisted her in geoscience field work at the site. Annelise Morris, a graduate student at the University of California, Berkeley, supervised and assisted in the instruction of undergraduate interns in surveys and excavations (Figure 1.1).

The undergraduates participating in the NSF-REU program were divided into teams, each of which was supervised by project staff:

Team X

Kaila Akina (University of Idaho)
Shawn Fields (Wake Forest University)
Joseph Tonelli (Hofstra University)
Volunteer: Tom Winarski
Supervisors: Kathryn Fay and Annelise Morris

Team Y

Amanda Burt (University of California, Berkeley)
Thomas Glantz (University of Maryland, Baltimore)
Elizabeth Usherwood (New College of Florida)
Supervisor: Mary Kathryn Rocheford

Team Z

Hillary Christopher (University of New Hampshire)
Miriam Manda (Wesleyan University)
Antionette West (Howard University)
Supervisor: Terrance Martin

These students were the top candidates from a very competitive pool of over seventy applicants from universities across the U.S. As in past years, the cohort was a model of institutional, geographic, and cultural diversity. In accordance with the NSF-REU mission, a significant number of the interns were members of minorities underrepresented in the sciences and/or students attending universities where archaeological field programs were not available.

Additional senior personnel participated in the project as well. Paul Schackel (Professor, University of Maryland, Department of Anthropology), Claire Martin (Research Associate at the Illinois State Museum), Marjorie Schroder (ISM Research Associate, plant remains), Christopher Widga (Assistant Curator of Geology ISM, consulted on samples), E. Arthur Bettis, III (Associate Professor, DGS, Department of Geoscience, University of Iowa).

The ten-week field school commenced on May 24, 2011 and concluded on July 29, 2011. Instruction in excavation and recording methods, artifact identification, archival research, and

laboratory analysis was complimented by field trips to nearby archaeological and heritage sites. During the field component of the project, all REU students received extensive training in geoscience and geophysical survey methods, soil core sampling and surface survey methods, excavation and the recording and collection of archaeological data. Skills in mapping with laser transit total station and high resolution GPS devices were also included. Detailed training in recording archaeological excavations with stratigraphic analysis, soil and sediment descriptions, and scientific form completion were also integral to the field school experience. After switching over to the laboratory portion of the project, REU students learned how to process and identify artifacts, cataloging them in a relational database. Specialized instruction included the curation, identification, cataloging, and analysis of faunal and floral remains.

Throughout the summer, students participated in discussion sessions that framed the project in light of larger issues such as race and racism, heritage, and public history. Several of these sessions used as their prompt videos, such as the PBS series “African-American Lives” and the New Philadelphia episode of “Time Team America,” or other reference points, such as the controversy surrounding remarks about reparations by leading African-American scholars, and proposed DNA profiling of university students in California. Other discussions included debates about future directions for heritage management and presentation at the town site.

On the first day of the field school Fennell, Terrance Martin, Claire Martin, and other senior personnel greeted the students and introduced them to the project. They provided an overview of the history of the site and the archaeology work that had been completed to date. They discussed field methods, site sampling strategies, and the project's data retrieval protocols.

REU students also received an orientation in historical documentary research. They learned how to identify, acquire, and critically evaluate primary and secondary resources in order to develop a sense of the history of New Philadelphia and the surrounding regions. Later in the summer, historian Claire Martin accompanied the REU students to the Pike County Courthouse in Pittsfield, as well as to the State Archives and the [Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum](#) in Springfield, and guided them in the use of documentary resources. At the end of the initial orientation discussions, students were divided into teams, and they discussed which town lots they would excavate and analyze. Staff members discussed the importance of research designs, and each team worked to develop a research design for their specific units of study.

Field work at the New Philadelphia site began during the first week. Geoscience surveys were conducted, with supervisors guiding the REU students in conducting geoscience core sample surveys within specific lots at the New Philadelphia site. Using the data from past geophysical surveys, the REU students learned how a noninvasive subsurface approach can help field investigations be more efficient in the discovery of buried architectural structural remains, refuse pits, and fence lines. The students then considered which subsurface anomalies would be tested and the techniques evaluated for their successful application at the New Philadelphia site. Similar methods using core sampling surveys of previously identified anomalies were also undertaken.

Using archaeological survey data, the results of geophysical and aerial thermal surveys, and documentary evidence, students and supervising archaeologists identified discrete concentrations of artifacts and likely structural remains within specific town lots. All of these data provided the

foundation for the student teams' excavations. Students worked in teams of three or more and each team excavated within a specific town lot under the supervision of Fennell, Martin, Agbe-Davies, and field assistants. Each team was also responsible for the cleaning, labeling, identification, and computer entry of the materials recovered from their town lot excavations.

During the 2011 field season, geoscience samples were collected from STPs in the systematic survey conducted in the area of Block 8, Lot 1. Also in 2011, NSF-REU interns assisted Rocheford and Bettis in collecting power cylinder soil core samples from across the town site. Locations were based on historical records and evaluation of geospatial data including: landscape position, soil classification, land use history, as well as areas identified for investigation from thermal infrared, electromagnetic survey, ground penetrating radar and LiDAR interpretations.

A variety of land-use areas were selected for data collection during the 2011 field season. These included relatively undisturbed contexts outside the perimeter of a cemetery associated with the town site and from parcels on the outer perimeter of the town. Samples were also collected from known residential sites within the town, and areas believed to have been used as gardens and orchards in the southern portion of the town site during the early twentieth century. Other locations consisted of possible pasture or corral spaces located near known residential spaces in Blocks 13 and 19. Laboratory and quantitative analyses of these data sets are still ongoing. These soil core samples were curated for transport to the ISM and University of Iowa laboratory facilities for detailed analyses by Rocheford.

After the initial field processing was completed, students also worked as a team to analyze artifactual, archaeozoological, and archaeobotanical materials that they recovered. This second five-week phase of the ten-week field school was conducted at the Illinois State Museum's Research and Collections Center (RCC) in Springfield. The time at the RCC was divided between artifact processing and analysis, on the one hand, and scheduled exhibit tours and guest lectures on the other. Tours of the Illinois State Museum (ISM) and Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum emphasized the interdisciplinary nature of modern museum exhibit design and provided students with information about the cultural and natural history of the region. At other times, ISM professionals and other collaborating participants also provided overviews of their respective fields of study.

When the REU students worked in the laboratory facilities of the RCC, several of the ISM professionals helped to mentor them as they analyzed materials from the excavations. For example, Marjorie Schroeder, ISM Research Associate in the Landscape History Program, instructed the REU students in the methods of flotation to retrieve floral and micro-faunal remains and subsequent identification and analysis of those remains. Terrance Martin, ISM Curator and Chair of Anthropology, directed students in analyzing the faunal remains from the New Philadelphia site. Martin also discussed with the students the challenges of curating archaeological collections and the ethical considerations of collections management. The professionals' expertise provided an interdisciplinary focus for the field school along with personal guidance and instruction during the second five weeks of the project.

The summer of 2011 also included a series of public speakers and audience discussions on the theme of *Memory and Heart: Pasts and Presents of African-American Communities*. This series was funded in part by the Illinois Humanities Council, the National Endowment for the

Humanities, and the Illinois General Assembly. The talks were sponsored by the New Philadelphia Association, Sprague's Kinderhook Lodge in Pike County, and the Illinois State Museum Research and Collections Center in Springfield. The series of lectures and discussion included:

- Annelise Morris, doctoral student in archaeology, University of California, Berkeley *Social Networks and Social Lives: Examining the Lived Experiences of Free African Americans in Illinois*
- Dale Philips, National Park Service Superintendent for the Lincoln Home National Park *Teaching Histories and Present Aspirations at National, Regional, and Local Scales: How Heritage Sites Can Engage and Educate American Citizens*
- Mary Kathryn Rocheford, doctoral student in Geoscience at the University of Iowa *Geosciences Insights into the Past Landscapes of an African-American Community in Illinois*
- Edward González-Tennant, Monmouth University *New Archaeological Perspectives on Violence and Inequality: Engaging the 1923 Rosewood Race Riot in Historical Context*
- Vibert White, Associate Professor of History and Director of the Public History Program at the University of Central Florida *Mother Laura Adorkar Kofi: The Female Marcus Garvey, Adorkaville in Florida, and its Relationship with New Philadelphia*
- Paul Gardner, Midwest Regional Manager for the Archaeological Conservancy *Matters of Heart and Heritage: Challenges of Public Engagement, Conservation, and Stewardship*
- James Davis, Professor Emeritus in History at Illinois College *Illinois Frontiers, New Philadelphia, and the Challenges of National Landmark Status*

Impact

We continued to expand our publicly-engaged internet presence in 2010 and 2011. Fennell has also engaged as a primary participant in The Digital Archaeological Record (tDAR) project, <http://www.tdar.org>, to broadly disseminate the resources, findings, and data from the New Philadelphia project, available online at <http://core.tdar.org/project/3805>.

Based upon the success of the archaeological investigations in earlier years, the archaeology project succeeded in placing the town site of New Philadelphia on the National Register of Historic Places in 2005. In 2008, nomination of the town site to National Historic Landmark status was approved by the National Historic Landmarks committee in Washington, D.C. Patricia McWorter presented an eloquent and moving statement on behalf of the McWorter family at that hearing on the powerful legacies of New Philadelphia and its African-American founder, Frank McWorter (<http://www.anthro.illinois.edu/faculty/cfennell/NP/McWorterNHLstatement.html>). The nomination received final approval by the Secretary of the Interior on January 16, 2009, and the New Philadelphia town site is now recognized as a National Historic Landmark. The town site was also recently added to the National Park Service's "National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom."

Charlotte King, a graduate student at the University of Maryland, has also authored an excellent lesson plan based on the history of New Philadelphia as part of the National Park Service's Teaching with Historic Places program (<http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/twhp/>). Many college instructors utilize the New Philadelphia Archaeology Project's public history internet resources as lesson plans and research sources in their teaching of university students.

This archaeology project has succeeded in communicating to local, regional, national, and global audiences the role of scientific methods and investigations in understanding the American past—and challenging racial ideologies in the present—. Investigations of the social history and past racial dynamics affecting New Philadelphia and surrounding region are providing a focus for interdisciplinary engagement which will be of regional and national interest. Historical and archaeological research focused on New Philadelphia already has been the subject of nation-wide media coverage and dialog, including news coverage by the Associated Press, Chicago Tribune, Los Angeles Times, Archaeology Magazine, American Archaeology Magazine, and Smithsonian Magazine, read by millions in the United States and other countries. The Public Broadcasting System, National Public Radio, and network news programs have broadcast television and radio coverage of the New Philadelphia Archaeological Project to tens of thousands of viewers and listeners. Such news coverage and public outreach efforts have dramatically increased many Americans' knowledge of the remarkable history of New Philadelphia and ongoing efforts to combat the formation of racial ideologies in today's society.

Publications

The project team continues to publish technical reports on all research undertaken for the New Philadelphia project, including analyses of excavated material, results of geophysical, surface, and shovel test surveys. We have also transcribed relevant census, tax assessment, deed, and newspaper information for use by colleagues and the general public. These reports and transcriptions are available via the Internet on sites hosted by the University of Maryland's Center for Heritage [Resource Studies](#) and the University of [Illinois](#).

Earlier reports about the New Philadelphia archaeological project include: the report on the [2008 field season](#) (Fennell 2009c); the [2010 report](#) (Agbe-Davies 2011); an [update](#) of the aerial thermal survey report (Fennell 2009a), and databases and transcriptions of historical documents uncovered in the course of research. These latter resources include: Hadley Township census data; New Philadelphia census data; deed records of New Philadelphia; Hadley Township tax assessments for New Philadelphia; and maps, surveys and plats related to New Philadelphia (all available from <http://www.anthro.illinois.edu/faculty/cfennell/NP/reports.html>). Recent articles written by members of the project have appeared in such publications as *Illinois Antiquity* (Fay, et al. 2009), *Living Museum* (Martin, et al. 2012), *Outdoors Illinois*, the Society for American Archaeology's *Archaeological Record*, The Society for Historical Archaeology's *Newsletter*, and the *African Diaspora Archaeology Network Newsletter*.

Members of the project have also presented numerous papers and posters about specific aspects of the project at regional, national, and international conferences. The results of one New Philadelphia conference symposium recently appeared in print as a special issue of *Historical Archaeology* "New Philadelphia: Racism, Community, and the Illinois Frontier" (Fennell et. al. 2010). Other professional conferences include those of the Society for American Archaeology,

Society for Historical Archaeology, Midwest Archaeological Conference, and Illinois Archaeological Survey. A number of those papers were written by undergraduate participants in the NSF-REU field schools. A full summary of presentations and other outreach can be found in the [Appendix](#): “Media and Conference Outreach Activities.”

Chapters about New Philadelphia have appeared in books about intangible heritage and the archaeology of post-Emancipation African America (Fennell 2009b; Fennell 2011). *New Philadelphia: An Archaeology of Race in the Heartland*, by Paul Shackel, was published in 2011.

Roadmap of chapters

The findings of the past three field seasons are contained in this comprehensive report, reprising and updating information from the 2008 and 2010 reports (Agbe-Davies 2011; Fennell 2009c) along with new information from the 2011 season. [Chapter 2](#), “Background History,” provides the historical context for the excavations at New Philadelphia. In [Chapter 3](#), “Excavation Methods,” we describe the excavation strategy that guided our research and describe the field and laboratory methods used in its execution. Chapters [4](#), [5](#), [6](#), [7](#), [8](#), and [9](#) describe the results of historical research and archaeological excavation on Blocks 3, 7, 8, 12, and 13, as well as excavation in what was once King Street. In [Chapter 10](#), “New Philadelphia National Historic Landmark Designation,” we recount preservation and recognition efforts, including the successful nomination of New Philadelphia as a National Historic Landmark. [Chapter 11](#) “Animal Remains from the New Philadelphia Site (11PK455), Pike County, Illinois: 2008-2011 Seasons,” reviews the faunal analysis undertaken to date. “Status of Geoarchaeological Investigations at New Philadelphia Historical Landmark,” [Chapter 12](#), describes the contributions of geological science to the field effort. [Chapter 13](#), “Surveys,” describes additional archaeological testing on blocks where archaeologists have yet to open up full-size excavation units. [Chapter 14](#), “Unit Summaries,” contains basic excavation data in the form of unit summaries. We also provide an [Appendix](#) that summaries media and conference outreach activities undertaken by project participants. The report section of the project web site presents a catalogue of the artifacts recovered during the 2008, 2010, and 2011 seasons.

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