

Chapter 6

Block 8, Lots 1-2

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Schoolhouse research background

In the early decades of New Philadelphia's settlement, Illinois law did not provide for the education of the children of African-American residents of the state. To overcome this racial bias in the state law and related public funding, Frank McWorter and residents of New Philadelphia worked to provide a schoolhouse for educating the African-American children of the town in the 1850s and 1860s. They may have done so by subverting the existing laws and channeling the resources for a township-supported schoolhouse facility for this additional purpose.

For many small towns in the nineteenth century, the schoolhouse served as an important focus of community life. Area children would gather there for lessons, to be sure, but the building could also serve as a public space for meetings and social gatherings, particularly in a town without its own church. However, in a community like New Philadelphia, with residents of different races, the schoolhouse *could* be a site where segregation and internal divisions were more clearly manifested.

The laws of the state of Illinois specified that school funds be apportioned according to the number of "white" school-age children in a given district. Over the years there were several attempts to divert taxes paid by African-American residents of the state to the schooling of African-American children, but these were largely unsuccessful (McCaul 1987). Educational historian Robert McCaul estimates that merely 10% of black children were in public school at mid-century, whereas the figure for white children was closer to 80% (McCaul 1987:46).

In 1847, "sundry" citizens of Pike County petitioned that the free-schools law be amended so that "the black and colored children of our State may have an equal benefit of the money appropriated by law to school purposes, or so amend the law as to exempt the property of blacks" (McCaul 1987:37). The Illinois General Assembly was not moved. Given these circumstances, it would be no surprise if Frank McWorter together with other members of his family attempted to establish a school that would serve the African-American children of New Philadelphia. As historian Juliet Walker notes, in 1848 Frank McWorter was arranging for the development of the Free Will Baptist Seminary to serve as a school and church for the town. The decision seems prescient on his part, as a year later the Illinois General Assembly affirmed the exclusion of black children from state-sponsored schools (Walker 1983:136). Such private efforts by free people of color to provide schooling opportunities for themselves and their children were typical of mid-century educational activism (Agbe-Davies 2002).

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Several sources of information contributed to the search for the schoolhouse. First, consider the information that comes from oral history. Former resident Lorraine “Larry” Burdick described a square within the town site bounded by Broad Way, Main, Ann, and King Streets (i.e., Block 8), further stating that “[the square] originally had two schools, one black school and one white school” (Burdick n.d.). On the other hand, local historian Grace Matteson recorded testimony from area resident Irene Butler Brown that there was “a schoolhouse for colored people near the center of the town of Philadelphia on block 12” (Matteson 1964).

Burdick’s account did not specify whether the “two schools” were facing the square (possibly in Block 9) or within it (in Block 8). Several other sources placed a school on the east side of the town’s square or park (i.e., in Block 9). Matteson did not indicate if her source specified Block 12, or if that specific location came from her own interpretation of a verbal description or visit to the site. Block 12 is not necessarily near the center of town, but it is due south of Block 9, which is associated with the schoolhouse via the Kimbrews in Matteson’s own narrative.

Also according to Matteson, the schoolhouse was purchased by George and Martin Kimbrew (also “Kimbro”) who converted it into a residence. A Martin “Kinebra” appears in the Hadley County Tax Records of 1888 for Block 9, Lot 4, but nowhere else in the town, suggesting that Block 9, Lot 4 was his residence. These factors led archaeologists to believe that perhaps Matteson may have conflated Blocks 12 and 9, and that the search should commence with Block 9, Lot 4—the parcel associated with the Kimbrews.

Archaeologists searched for remains of this schoolhouse in the area of Block 9, Lot 4, in 2005 (Shackel 2006a) and located the remains of a stone footer, or pier. However, that single feature provided inconclusive proof of a schoolhouse.

Another line of evidence indicating where the schoolhouse may have been was uncovered in deed provisions. Figure 6.1 shows an excerpt of a deed recording an earlier sale in 1858 by John and Agnes Kellum of Block 8, Lots 1 and 2 with the exception of a parcel for use as a schoolhouse location (Pike County Deed Books 1820-1938: vol 55, p. 49). Therefore survey and excavations in 2008 and 2011 focused on the southern half of Block 8, Lots 1 and 2. Such documentary evidence is discussed in greater detail in the next section “Block 8, Lots 1-2 History.”

New Philadelphia project historian Claire Martin has compiled the following account of the transactions concerning Block 8, Lots 1 and 2 during the nineteenth century, most of which reserved portions of the land for use in hosting a schoolhouse. None of these deed provisions expressly stated that a schoolhouse had been constructed on either of those lots; the deed entries instead make references to a portion of the land as a “schoolhouse lot” or dedicated “for schoolhouse” use.

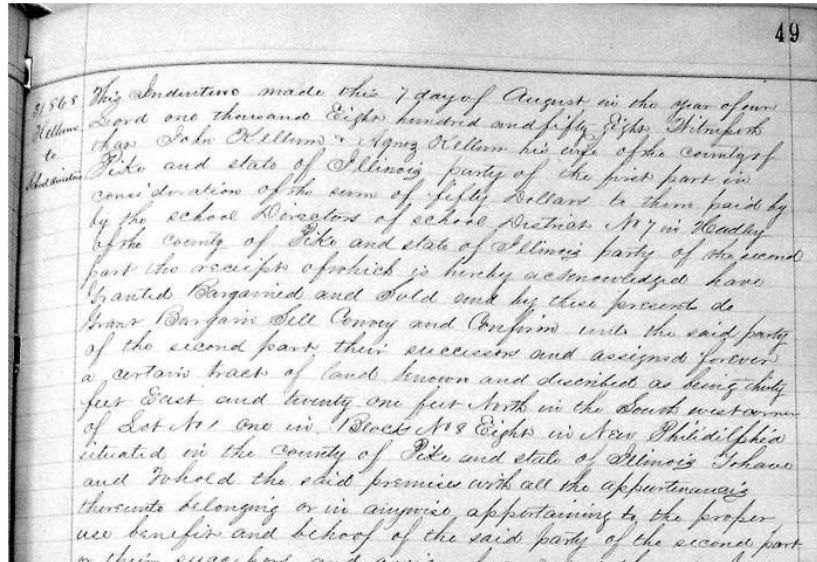


Figure 6.1. Excerpt of 1858 Deed (PCDR, Vol. 55, p. 49).

In 1858, John and Agnes Kellum recorded a deed of transfer provided in part as follows:

This Indenture made this 7 day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand Eight hundred and fifty Eight, Witessth that John Kellum & Agnez [sic] Kellum his wife of the county of Pike and state of Illinois, party of the first part in consideration of the sum of fifty Dollars to them paid by the school Directors of school District No. 7 in Hadley of the county of Pike and state of Illinois party of the second part the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged have Granted Bargained and Sold and by these presents do Grant Bargain Sell Convey and Confirm unto the said party of the second part, their successors and assigned forever a certain tract of land known and described as being thirty feet East and twenty one feet North in the South west corner of Lot No 1 one in Block No 8 Eight in New Philadelphia situated in the county of Pike and state of Illinois. I shaws and behold the said premises with all the appurtenances therunto belonging or in anywise appertaining to the proper use benefit and behoof of the said party of the second part or their successors and assigns forever.

(PCDR, Vol. 55, p. 49)

On October 12, 1859, the Kellum family sold Lots 1 and 2 to John Kellum's mother Elizabeth for \$325.00, making no mention of reserving any portion for the location of a schoolhouse (Pike County Deed Books 1820-1938: Vol. 57, p. 363). On December 15, 1860, Elizabeth Kellum sold Lots 1 and 2 to Sarah McWorter for \$200.00, "with the exception of Twenty (20) feet East and (21) Twenty one feet within the South west corner of lot No One (1) in Block No Eight (8)" (Pike County Deed Books 1820-1938: Vol. 59, p. 237).

On October 15, 1860, Sarah McWorter sold Lots 1 and 2 to A. B. Cobb for \$200.00, but the deed made no mention of a school tract (Pike County Deed Books 1820-1938: Vol. 89, p. 223). These deed records were not filed until 1874, which likely accounts for the chronological discrepancies between transactions. A. B. and Laura Cobb sold the lots to Alexander Beard/Baird for \$250 on November 7, 1870; again with no mention of a school tract (Pike County Deed Books 1820-1938: Vol. 89, p. 224). But on October 12, 1874, Alexander and Mary Beard sold the lots to

Cordelia Racy, “except twenty one (21) feet by thirty (30) out of the South West corner for Schoolhouse” (Pike County Deed Books 1820-1938: Vol. 87, p. 130).

On November 21, 1881, the executor of Cordelia Racy’s estate sold the lots for \$125.00 to William D. McKinney, “excepting a school House lot in the South West Corner 21 by 30 feet” (Pike County Deed Books 1820-1938: Vol. 101, p. 299). On May 10, 1887, William McKinney sold Lots 1 and 2 to James McKinney for \$75.00, “excepting a School House lot in the South West corner 21 by 30 feet” (Pike County Deed Books 1820-1938: Vol. 113, p. 266). On October 22, 1902, James McKinney sold Lots 1, 2, 7 and 8 in Block 8 to William Butler for \$80.00, but the deed of transfer made no mention of a schoolhouse portion (Pike County Deed Books 1820-1938: Vol. 147, p. 123).

Block 8, Lots 1-2 History

One can combine evidence from deed entries with additional data from census and tax records to develop an integrated chronology of Block 8, Lots 1 and 2. The first owner of Block 8, Lots 1 and 2 following the patenting of the town was Christopher Luce. He purchased these lots in 1840 and was shown living in Hadley Township in 1850 with his wife Sally and two sons, one a farmer of 15. The three elder Luces were born in New England, the youngest (age 8) in Illinois. All were designated “white” on the U.S. census. Luce was a Baptist preacher and had contracted with Frank McWorter to build the Baptist seminary that the latter envisioned for the town. Luce did not fulfill his contract, leading to a lawsuit in 1851 (Walker 1983:138-139). No subsequent censuses include Luces in Hadley Township.

Clarissa Arnold owned the property in 1857. Clarissa may have been a member of the household of Calvin Arnold. He was listed in the 1855 State Census as the white head of a household of six people. John Kellum, who purchased the property in 1857 from Clarissa Arnold, is also listed in the 1855 Illinois state census. He was the “white” head of a household of three in the 1855 state census. In the 1860 federal census, his mother Elizabeth, who by then had purchased the property from him, headed a household that included four young adults and two smaller boys born since the last census.

Elizabeth Kellum sold the lot back to the McWorter family in 1860, to another woman, Sarah McWorter. Sarah, a “mulatto” woman well into her thirties, appeared in the 1850 census as a member of a household that included her father and mother and at least two of her children, an adult daughter and a young girl. In 1860, she resided in her mother’s household. She became the family head ten years after her ownership of the lots, in 1870.

A.B. Cobb purchased the lot from Sarah McWorter in 1860, the same year in which she purchased it, suggesting it was an investment rather than a residence for her. She conveyed some form of interest in the property to Cobb in 1860, but remained responsible for tax payments on the property listed for 1867 and 1868, according to the Hadley Township Tax Assessments. Her 1867 assessment was for property valued at eight dollars. One year later, the value was for a total of \$100.00, including improvements.

The Cobb family was headed by Arden, a physician from the Northeast. His wife Emily, along with their three small boys, was born in Illinois. They appeared in the 1860 census as “white.” In 1870, the year Cobb sold the lot, the family included two of the previously-listed children as well as an older girl (13) and a little boy. The new Mrs. Cobb (Laura) apparently brought at least one child to the marriage. Cobb assessment in 1869 was for property valued at \$100.00 as well, but the value dropped to \$35.00 in 1870.

Alexander Baird, a painter, who purchased the lot from A.B. Cobb in 1870 does not appear in the census for that year. However, given his age and birthplace as listed in the 1880 census, it is likely he was the son of other Bairds who resided in Hadley Township in 1860. In 1870, he would have been 31. Mary Baird was his wife in 1880, if she were the mother of his son, who would have been five in 1870, then would have been his wife at the time of his purchase of the lots. All of the members of the Baird family were listed as “white.” From 1871 through 1878 Alexander Baird was assessed for improvements. The value of the property was generally constant, increasing somewhat through the 1870s.

Cordelia Racy purchased the lot from Alexander Baird in 1874. Several Racys appeared in the 1850 census. Cordelia was listed only in the census of 1880, when she was a middle-aged widow, and the head of a household that included only her disabled adult son. They were both listed as “white.” She was born in the Northeast, he was a native Illinoisan. She bought the lot six years prior to the census.

N. V. Hadsell was a 35-year-old farmer in 1850, which would have made him 66 in 1881, the year he sold the lots to William McKinney as the executor for Cordelia Racy’s estate. James McKinney purchased the lot from him in 1887. By 1888 the assessed value decreased to \$75.00. The McKinneys, neither of whom appears in the 1880 census for Hadley Township, owned the property into the twentieth century, when James McKinney sold it to William Butler. Butler was the father of Irene Butler Brown whose reminiscences, as indicated above, inform our understanding of the location of the New Philadelphia school.

The following tables contain deed, census, and tax data related to Block 8, Lots 1-2.

DEED TRANSACTIONS

<i>Year</i>	<i>Seller</i>	<i>Purchaser</i>	<i>Reference (page, line)</i>
1840	Frank McWorter	Christopher Luce	54, 1
1857	Clarissa Arnold	John Kellum	54, 4
1857	Clarissa Arnold	John Kellum	54, 4
1859	John Kellum	Elizabeth Kellum	54, 6
1860	Elizabeth Kellum	Sarah McWorter	54, 7
1860	Sarah McWorter	A. B. Cobb	54, 12
1870	A. B. Cobb	Alex Baird	54, 13
1874	Alexander Baird	Cordelia Racy	54, 11
1876	Judith Armstead	Solomon McWorter	54, 14
1881	N. V. Hadsell	William McKinney	54, 21
1887	William McKinney	James McKinney	54, 23
1902	James McKinney	William Butler	54, 25
1911	William Butler	Alonzo Leonard	54, 26
1919	William Butler	John Siegle	54, 33
1924	William Butler	John Siegle	54, 34
1927	Irene B. Brown	John Siegle	54, 36
1928	John Siegle	William Butler	54, 37
1930	Emma Siegle	Virgil Burdick	54, 39

HADLEY TOWNSHIP RECORDS

<i>Year</i>	<i>Name Assessed</i>	<i>Value of Lot</i>	<i>Improvements</i>	<i>Total</i>
1867	Sarah McWorter	\$3.00	\$5.00	8.00
1868	Sarah McWorter (Lots 1 & 2)	10.00	100.00	110.00
1869	A. B. Cobb (Lots 1 & 2)	10.00	100.00	110.00
1870	A. B. Cobb (Lots 1 & 2)	00.00	35.00	35.00
1871	Alexander Baird (Lots 1 & 2)	00.00	100.00	100.00
1872	Alexander Baird (Lots 1 & 2)	10.00	90.00	100.00
1875	Alexander Baird (Lots 1 & 2)	00.00	blank	200.00
1878	Alexander Baird & Cordelia Racy (Lots 1 & 2)	00.00	150.00	150.00
1883	W.D. McKinney (Lots 1 & 2)	00.00	125.00	125.00
1888	James McKinney (Lots 1 & 2)	00.00	75.00	75.00

1850 FEDERAL CENSUS

NAME	FIRST NAME	AGE	SEX	RACE	OCCUPATION	ORIGIN
Luce	C. S.	45	M	W	Bapt. Preacher	ME
	Sally P.	41	F	W	Blank	NH
	George D.B.	15	M	W	Farmer	ME
	Moses A.	8	M	W	Blank	IL

1855 STATE CENSUS

NAME	FIRST NAME	RACE	NO. IN HOUSEHOLD
Kellum	John	W	3
Arnold	Calvin	W	6

1860 FEDERAL CENSUS

NAME	FIRST NAME	AGE	SEX	RACE	OCCUPATION	ORIGIN
Kellum	Elizabeth	59	F	W	Farming	NJ
	Marcus	22	M	W	Farming	OH
	Alonzo	16	M	W	Farming	IL
	Ziba	17	M	W	Farming	OH
	Melinda	23	F	W	Housework	NY
	William	3	M	W	-	IL
	Emry	8	M	W	-	IL
Cobb	Arden	31	M	W	Physician	NY
	Emily	20	F	W	Housework	IL
	Wilbur	6	M	W	Blank	IL
	David	3	M	W	Blank	IL
	Albert	1	M	W	Blank	IL
McWorter	Lucy	90	F	M	Carries on farm	VA
	Sarah	49	F	M	Housework	KY
	Solomon	46	M	M	Farmwork	KY
	Permelia	21	F	M	Housework	KY
	Calvin	24	M	M	Farmwork	KY
	Comodor	16	M	M	Farmwork	KY
	Robert	10	M	M	-	KY

1865 STATE CENSUS

NAME	FIRST NAME	RACE	NO. IN HOUSEHOLD
Kellum	E.	W	3
Cobb	A. B.	W	6
McWorter	S.	B	5

1870 FEDERAL CENSUS

NAME	FIRST NAME	AGE	SEX	RACE	OCCUPATION	ORIGIN
Cobb	A. B.	38	M	W	Physician	NY
	Laura	35	F	W	Keeping house	IL
	Wilber	15	M	W	At home	IL
	Laura	13	F	W	Blank	IL
	Albert	9	M	W	Blank	IL
	Francis	6	F	W	Blank	IL

Immediately south of Block 8, Lots 1 and 2, lies Lot 8 of that block (Figure 6.2). The following table provides the history of land transactions concerning that neighboring tract. No features or significant artifacts were recovered in 2008 from the single excavation unit on Block 8, Lot 8.

For further discussion of the individuals associated with that lot, the reader is referred to [Chapter 5](#) of the technical report for the 2008 season (Agbe-Davies 2009).

DEED TRANSACTIONS

<i>Year</i>	<i>Seller</i>	<i>Purchaser</i>	<i>Reference (page, line)</i>
1853	Sarah Hull	David Green	54, 2
1871	James Vokes	Solomon McWorter	54, 9
1872	Lucy McWorter	Solomon McWorter	54, 8
1876	Sarah McWorter	Solomon McWorter	54, 10
1876	Judith Armstead	Solomon McWorter	54, 14
1876	Lucy Vond	Solomon McWorter	54, 17
1876	John Johnson	Solomon McWorter	54, 18
1878	Solomon McWorter	William Bower	54, 16
1879	James Bower	Frederick Shipman	54, 19
1886	Marcus Kellum	James McKinney	54, 24
1902	James McKinney	William Butler	54, 25
1911	William Butler	Alonzo Leonard	54, 26
1919	William Butler	John Siegle	54, 33
1924	William Butler	John Siegle	54, 34
1927	Irene Butler Brown	John Siegle	54, 36
1928	John Siegle	William Butler	54, 37
1930	Emma Siegle	Virgil Burdick	54, 40

Block 8, Lots 1-2 Archaeology

In 2006, archaeological work on Block 8, Lots 1 and 2 focused on a residential structure with a large cellar feature at the northern edge of Lot 2. An electric resistivity survey undertaken in 2005 by Michael Hargrave had shown a strong indication of cultural remains, labeled as anomaly A43 in Figure 6.2. Anomaly A43 was excavated in the 2006 field season and proved to be the remains of a residential site.

The cellar feature measured about 18.6 ft. by 16 ft., and had underlain a house with plaster walls, dating from the 1850s. The house was dismantled and the cellar filled around the time of Sarah McWorter’s ownership of the property in the 1860. The final filling, with a collapsed stone foundation and chimney remains, occurred in the early 1870s. The investigation of that residence is discussed in detail in the 2006 report (Shackel 2006b: chapters 3E and 4).

Block 8 was undertaken in the 2008 field season in collaboration with a group of geophysicists and archaeologists from “Time Team America,” a documentary television program. PBS and Oregon Public Broadcasting produce the show, based on a long-running and highly successful series in the United Kingdom. Time Team America challenges a collaborative group of historians, geophysicists, and archaeologists to spend three days in the field to answer some puzzle concerning a specific archaeological site, often working with a long-term archaeology project, like New Philadelphia. The team researchers commit to applying the same protocols and standards of practice as the academic archaeologists in charge when addressing such a particular

question at the site. Stakeholders, such as some of the descendants of Frank McWorter and members of the New Philadelphia Association, agreed that participation would benefit the project, and so fieldwork commenced (see Figures 6.3 and 6.4).

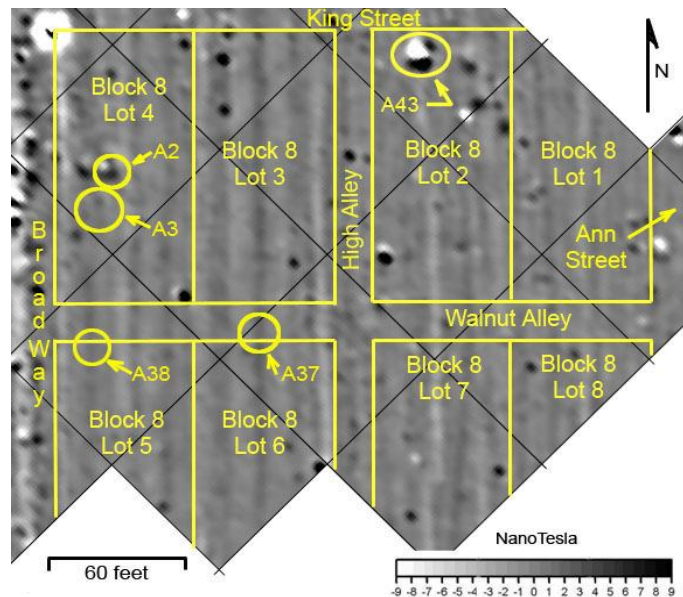


Figure 6.2. Resistivity Survey of Block 8, Lots 1 and 2 in 2005 and 2006 (Image by Michael Hargrave; overlay by Christopher Fennell).

Time Team America's archaeological investigation was conducted over the course of three working days in June 2008, during which the process and results were filmed for the New Philadelphia episode of their television program (Oregon Public Broadcasting 2009). The Time



Figure 6.3. Time Team America archaeologists and film crew working on Block 8, Lots 1-2, June, 2008 (Photograph by Joe Conover).

Team America crew included Jeff Brown, Colin Campbell, Eric Deetz, Bryan Haley, Adrien Hannus, Luke Pecoraro, Chelsea Rose, Julie Schablitsky, and Meg Watters. They worked along with a local crew headed up by Rochelle Lurie and Catherine Bird.



Figure 6.4. *Time Team America's helicopter crew obtained aerial views of the town site and surrounding landscape (Photograph by Joe Conover).*

Geophysical prospection played a large role in selection of excavation areas. Archaeologists knew that the southwest corner of Block 8, Lot 1 was an important target area, but units were also placed nearby in order to follow-up on information obtained via geophysical survey techniques. Margaret Watters and Bryan Haley conducted the geophysical surveys for Time Team, in consultation with Michael Hargrave. Figure 6.5 depicts the results obtained in the thermal infrared (TIR) survey in this area, and also indicates the locations of excavation units placed by Time Team to investigate anomalies observed in the data results of the TIR, ground penetrating radar (GPR), electric resistivity, and magnetic gradiometry surveys.



Figure 6.5. TIR image map of part of Block 8, with locations of excavation units indicated (Image by Margaret Watters; label overlay by Christopher Fennell).

The specialists used GPR to identify an anomaly at the southern edge of Block 8, Lot 1, which archaeologists tested with two adjacent 5 ft. x 5 ft. units, one within the lot, and the second to the south, in Walnut Alley (Figure 6.6). The plow zone was removed in two arbitrary levels of 0.5 ft. until subsoil was reached. Flat glass, brick fragments, and cut nails suggest a structure from the appropriate time period, but archaeologists did not uncover any architectural features below the plow zone. Underneath Level A2, which extended to 1.0 ft. below the ground surface, archaeologists identified several plow scars running north-south through the two units.

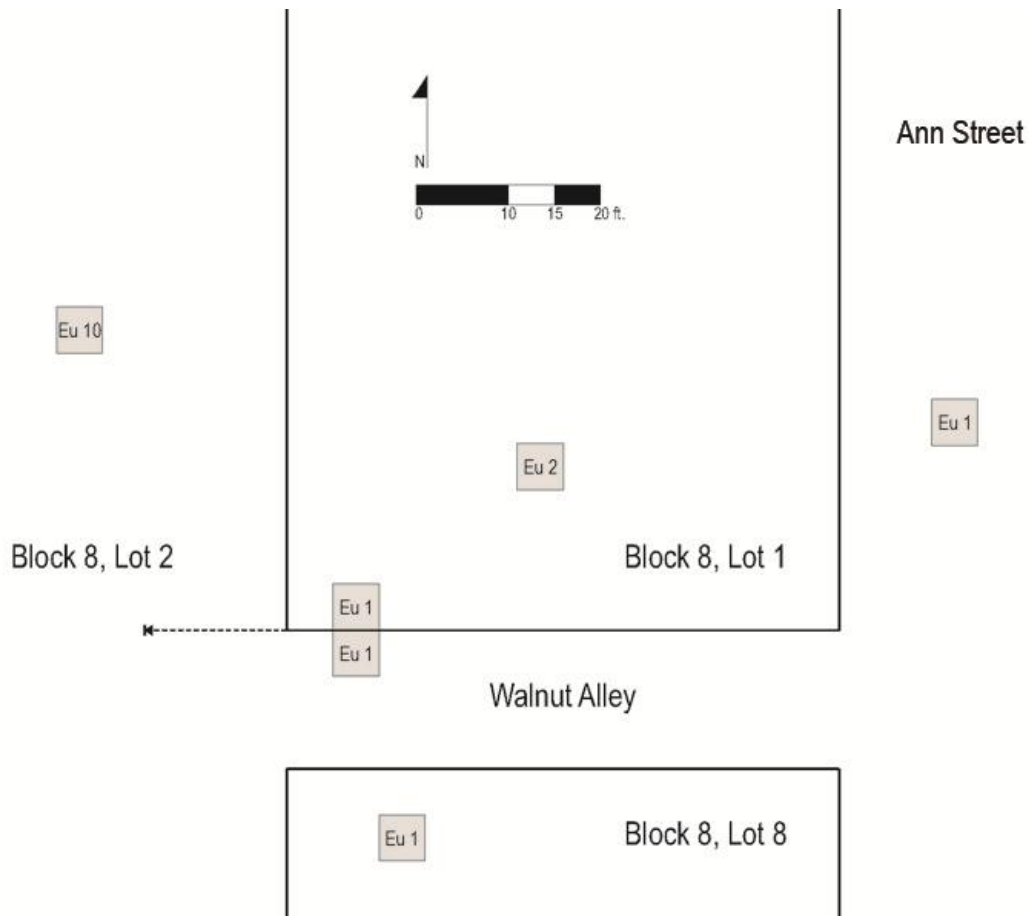


Figure 6.6. Map of excavation units placed by Time Team in the area of Lots 1 and 2 on Block 8 and surrounding vicinity. Following protocols used by the New Philadelphia Archaeology Project, Time Team labeled these units in consecutive order within each lot or within the space of a platted alley or street. Thus “EU 1” in Walnut Alley was the first unit placed within the space of that alley, and the contiguous “EU 1” in Block 8, Lot 1, was the first unit placed within the space of that adjacent lot (Image by Anna Agbe-Davies and Christopher Fennell).

Archaeologists identified a second anomaly in the southern section of Block 8, Lot 1, using a resistivity survey. No artifacts came from the first 0.5 ft. arbitrary level of the 5 ft. x 5 ft. excavation unit (EU 2 in Block 8, Lot 1, see Figure 6.6). Level A2 included unidentified nail fragments and brick fragments in the silty loam matrix, in addition to lamp chimney and flat glass. There was no feature present to account for the resistivity anomaly.

Magnetic gradiometry suggested the location of a 5 ft. x 5 ft. excavation unit in what had been Ann Street, just to the east of Block 8, Lot 1 (Figure 6.6). The plow zone was removed in two arbitrary levels of 0.5 ft. each, and a third level that terminated on the top of subsoil, identified by the appearance of several features in the yellowish brown silty clay. (Figure 6.7).

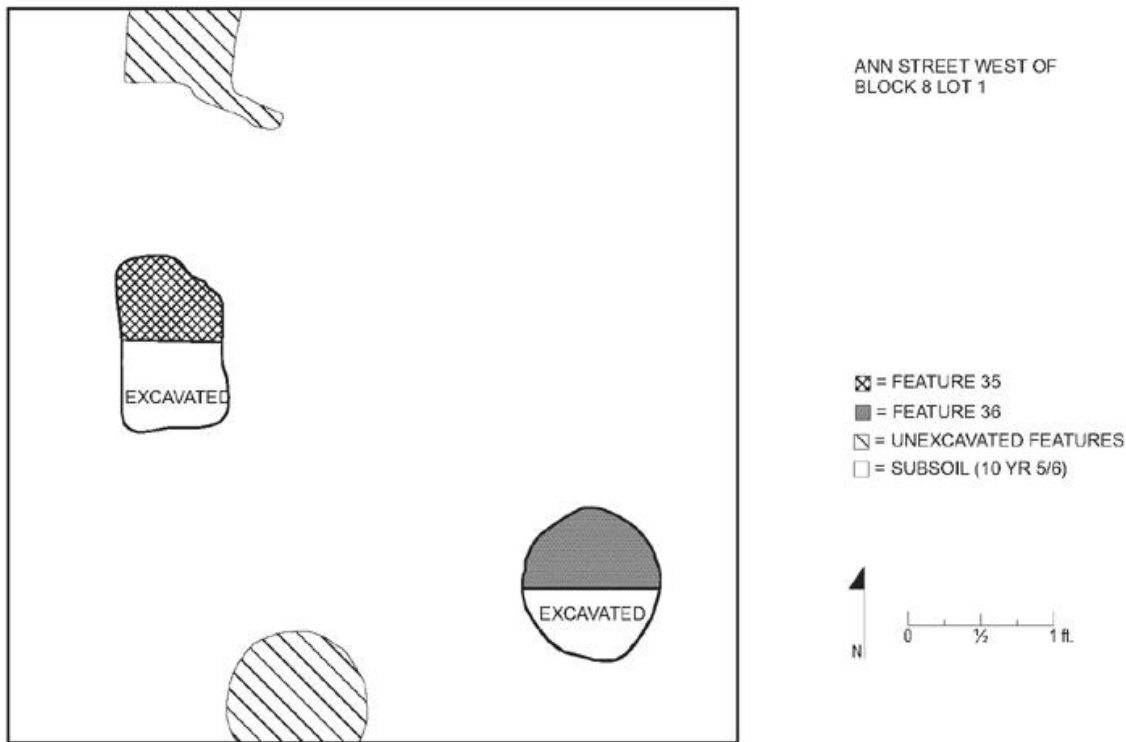


Figure 6.7. Plan view of Features 35 (on left) and 36 (on right) (Image by Anna Agbe-Davies).

Feature 35. Feature 35 appeared initially to be a small post hole or post mold measuring 0.7 ft. x 1.2 ft. (Figure 6.7). However, once archaeologists bisected it, the deposit was revealed to be less than 0.1 ft. thick. Excavators did not remove any artifacts from the feature fill, and their final interpretation was that Feature 35 was a segment of a plow scar that had been distorted through animal burrowing or other non-cultural activity. A second similar feature (shown on the upper edge of Figure 6.7) did not receive an identifying number, nor was it excavated.

Feature 36. Excavators described Feature 36 as perfectly round, and exactly 1.0 ft. in diameter in plan view (Figure 6.7). The bisection revealed that the feature had very straight sides and extended 1.0 ft. into the surrounding subsoil (Figures 6.8 and 6.9). No artifacts or inclusions were removed from the feature fill. The most reasonable explanation for such a feature is that it was dug with a mechanical posthole digger fairly recently. A second, similar feature (shown on the lower edge of Figure 6.7) was not given an identification number or excavated, given its probable comparability with Feature 36.

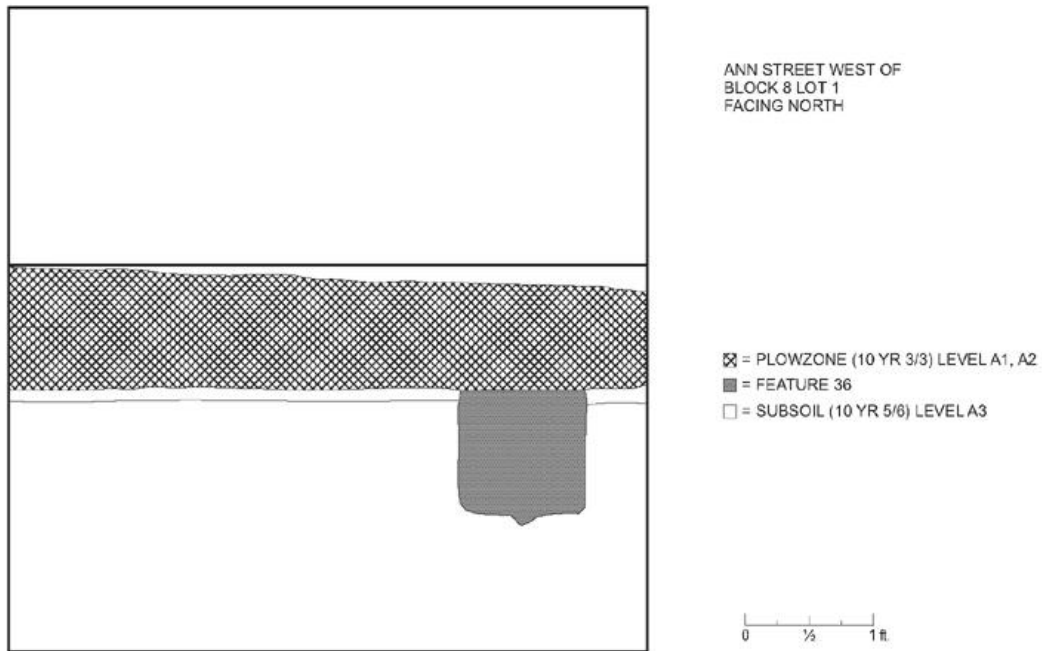


Figure 6.8. Profile view of Feature 36 (Image by Anna Agbe-Davies).



Figure 6.9. Feature 36 bisected in Excavation Unit 1 in the area of Ann Street east of Block 8, Lot 1 (Photograph by J. Eric Deetz).

On Block 8, Lot 2, geophysics experts identified an anomaly using TIR photography. Such an anomaly might indicate a large feature like a foundation that is composed of material different enough from the surrounding sediment that it warms or cools at a different rate than the matrix by which it is surrounded. Excavation Unit 10 was a 5 ft. x 5 ft. unit sited to test that anomaly

(see Figures 6.5 and 6.6). Archaeologists removed the plow zone in arbitrary levels of 0.5 ft. The first level (A1) included some architectural fragments. However, there were no artifacts or inclusions in the second level, and upon their removal, no features appeared in the subsoil beneath.

The final unit excavated by the Time Team America archaeologists was located in the northern portion of Block 8, Lot 8 (Figures 6.5 and 6.6). The decision to place a unit there was based on the magnetic gradient survey which identified an anomaly in that area. Excavation Unit 1 was a 5 ft. x 5 ft. square from which excavators removed the plow zone in two arbitrary levels of 0.5 ft. each. Level A1 included some white ware and yellow ware fragments as well as some architectural fragments. However, no finds came from the lower layer, and when it was removed, no features appeared in the subsoil beneath.

This collaborative effort by Time Team America allowed the New Philadelphia Archaeology Project to obtain data from a new portion of the town site, and to pursue leads regarding the location of a schoolhouse for the town's African-American children. Given the brevity of Time Team's research time, which was made more challenging by unusually rainy weather in June, 2008, we obtained very useful data about the landscape and sediment profiles on the eastern half of Block 8 that will help guide further investigations. Likewise, the geophysical data collected proved useful in planning for follow-up excavations several years later.

The tantalizing artifact assemblage, but lack of features in 2008, prompted a return to Block 8, Lot 1 with a different strategy in 2011. Participants in the field school excavated 0.5 ft. by 0.5 ft. shovel test pits on close intervals (5 ft.) in the southwest corner of the lot, the same 20 ft. by 30 ft. portion that was exempted in deed transactions as described above. Shovel test pits (STPs) at larger intervals (20 ft.) were excavated across the rest of the southern half of the lot (60 ft. by 60 ft.). There were no noticeable concentrations of artifacts to suggest a subsurface feature, nor did excavators encounter any features in the individual STPs.

This area included one of the Time Team America excavation units (Block 8, Lot 1 Excavation Unit 1), and when the time came to place an additional excavation unit in Lot 1, archaeologists elected to excavate in an area that had several important characteristics. First, one nearby STP (number 2) had significantly better drainage than the surrounding STPs—suggesting it was not underlain by clayey subsoils like the rest of the Lot. Second, the area was surrounded by STPs with slightly higher than average numbers of artifacts. Third, the area selected was immediately adjacent to (north of) the Time Team excavation unit, and thus still within the area of the ground penetrating radar anomaly identified in 2008.

The northwest corner of the 5 ft. by 5 ft. excavation unit was 5 ft. east and 10 ft. north of the southwest corner of the lot. No features were found under the plow zone, however, and although most of the artifacts recovered could easily date to the period of interest, the presence of a modern rubber hose embedded in the north profile 0.85 ft. below the surface indicates a modern intrusion—perhaps explaining both the anomaly and the lack of clear evidence for a structure in this location.

A schoolhouse of that era was a very ephemeral structure to begin with. An observer described a schoolhouse he saw in Adams County, which borders Pike County to the north. In 1842 he observed:

The school House I visited was built of unhewn logs, in a beautiful grove of thick shade trees. The door had no fastening but was kept to by means of a chip. for windows a single log was left out on each side, which allowed the rain the day I was there to patter upon the heads of the hearty sons of the west. The chimney was commenced with logs but was not completed & there was on all sufficiency of light admitted by the means of the crevices between the logs, to enlighten the whole school even without windows. (Lawrence 1842)

Such a building would leave little in the way of architectural evidence, unless it had been set on piers or a stone foundation. Likewise, few artifacts would remain, as no bricks, window glass, or nails were used in this simple structure. Other surveys of rural schoolhouses in the early nineteenth-century Midwest paint a similar picture. Only after the Civil War did communities begin to invest significant effort and resources in school design and furnishings (Bird, et al. 2010; Rotman 2009:70, 75-77). The visitor to the Adams County School continued:

The floor & benches were made of puncheon these are logs hewn on one side & with the bark remaining on the other. there was one desk & that was made by inserting the edge of a wide board in the crevice between two logs. & there with their spines resting upon the desk & their legs dangling between heaven & earth sat the young aspirants for literary honors. (Lawrence 1842)

Many of the items that would be used in schoolhouses, either as part of their instructional function, or for other community purposes, would differ little from the artifacts from a dwelling site, particularly in this very early period of unspecialized structures and furnishings. Well-appointed schools may have had provisions for lighting, whether glass windows or lamps. Specially-made desks, and their associated hardware, are typical of later period schools. So how might artifacts be made to demonstrate the presence or absence of a schoolhouse? Very little comparative data is published (Gibb and Beisaw 2000). Descriptions of nineteenth-century Midwestern schoolhouse assemblages do not include proportions of education-related artifacts (Bird, et al. 2010; Rotman 2009).

Test excavations at a schoolhouse that was established in 1848 in Bermuda—interestingly, also for the children of former slaves—yielded a sample in which school-related artifacts were nearly 7% of all the items recovered (Agbe-Davies 2002). In the 20 ft. by 30 ft. parcel reserved for New Philadelphia's school, such items (essentially, slate fragments) made up only 0.9% of all artifacts. The discrepancy may be explained first by the great care and investment that went into the construction, and likely the furnishing, of the Old Elliot School, a stone building that is still standing, compared with what was likely a very ephemeral structure at New Philadelphia. Second, the Bermudian structure continued to serve as a school into the middle of the twentieth century, whereas any school located on Block 8, Lot 1 was only in use for a decade or two. Finally, the archaeological deposits at the Old Elliot School came from protected deposits within the foundation of the standing structure, while the Lot 1 artifacts came, without exception, from plow zone deposits.

Despite their paucity, the *distribution* of school-related artifacts is informative. Several features at New Philadelphia contained slate fragments, including Feature 18, Feature 19 and Feature 14 (see following table). The majority of slate fragments recovered from features come from lots in the immediate vicinity of Block 8, Lot 1, and could very well have included refuse derived originally from that location.

TABLE 6.1

Block and Lot	Feature number	Description	Estimated date	Citation
B3L7	18	Builder’s trench for a stone foundation	Mid 1880s	(Smith 2006)
B4L1	19	Cool storage vault or privy	1860s	(Shackel 2011:138-9)
B8L2	Feature 14	Cellar	1871	(Shackel 2011: 140-144)

Because it also can be used as roofing material, one cannot presume that all slate fragments represent “writing slates.” None of the fragments from New Philadelphia were scored with lines to guide penmanship, unlike examples at the Old Elliot School, (Agbe-Davies 2002). However, slate is also shaped into pencils, which archaeologists recovered from plow zone and feature contexts on Block 3, Lot 7, Block 4, Lot 1, Block 7, Lot 1, and Block 9, Lot 5 (see Table 6.1). From this distribution, we might conclude that the numerous slate fragments recovered from Block 13, were less likely to be related to instruction than those on Blocks 3, 4, 7, 8, and 9.

The official documentary record, in the form of deeds, places the schoolhouse in the southwestern corner of Block 8, Lot 1. However, there is no compelling structural evidence for a structure in that location. The artifacts are suggestive—slate fragments were recovered from features on adjacent lots—but not conclusive (for more on the schoolhouse research, see Agbe-Davies and Martin in press)

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