

Chapter 8

Research on Block 13, Lot 4

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Block 13, Lot 4 History

Louisa Clark was the daughter of Kezia Clark, born in 1824 in Spencer County, Kentucky. She was manumitted with her mother at the age of 12 months. Louisa married Squire McWorter in Pike County in 1843. By 1850, Squire, Louisa, and their three children were living within the town limits of New Philadelphia in the same household as Squire's late brother Frank Jr.'s wife Mary A. and her two children. By 1853, all of Block 13 (which had previously been listed as owned by Frank McWorter) is officially owned by Squire McWorter, with only Lot 4 showing improvement, meaning the McWorter home was built on that lot and likely between 1845 and 1853 (Martin 2010; United States Bureau of the Census (USBC) 1850). (It is noted that relying on census data could result in some inaccuracies due to historical problems such as reporting errors and/or racism on the part of the census takers. However, due to the lack of that type of data from any other source, both federal and state census data are used.)

Upon the death of her husband in 1855, Louisa became the head of the household and the sole owner and manager of the eight town lots on which she, her five children, and occasionally other family members lived, as well as other parcels of farm land throughout the township. In the 1857 Tax Collector's Book for Pike County, the improvement (house) on Lot 4 is not mentioned as it was in previous years, which may indicate that the home was destroyed or demolished, though there is no mention of this in other historical documents. Through excavations in the summer of 2011 it is hypothesized that this first home burned down, as evidenced by a pronounced ash, charcoal, and burned artifact layer discovered near the bottom of the cellar feature.

In the 1860 federal census, Louisa (though often referred to as Eliza) McWorter is listed on the agriculture schedule for Hadley County as farming 120 acres, with 410 unimproved acres. She owned machinery, horses, mules and swine, and her farm produced wheat, corn, oats, Irish potatoes, hay, and molasses (Martin 2010; United States Bureau of the Census 1860a, 1860b). Also in the 1860 census, Louisa McWorter and her household (including her sons, mother, and two of her brothers and their families) are listed as all living in Quincy, Illinois; no longer within New Philadelphia, though she and her family continued to farm the land surrounding the town.

The 1867 Hadley Township Tax Assessor's Book once again lists an improvement on Block 13 for approximately the same value as the previous house. If this indicates a new home built on the property, it would have been built between 1860 and 1867. In the 1870 federal census, Louisa and her household (her adult children Lucy and George, her brother Thomas Clark, her

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mother Kezia Clark, and a foster son Willie Jones) moved back into New Philadelphia, presumably into the house on Block 13. Louisa is also again listed on the agricultural schedule as farming 96 acres and owning 24 unimproved acres. She also owned machinery, wagons, horses, milk cows, beef cattle, and swine. Her farm produced wheat, corn, oats, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, butter, and molasses (Martin 2010; United States Bureau of the Census 1870a, 1870b).

Once again listed in the 1880 Federal Census Agricultural Schedule, Louisa's farm then consisted of 120 tilled acres, one acre of meadow, and 40 acres of wood. She owned machinery, wagons, horses, mules, milk cows, cattle, sheep, swine, and poultry. She paid out \$200 in wages for farm labor, possibly to hired hands or to her adult children. Her farm produced hay, butter, wool, eggs, wheat, corn, oats, apples, and timber. Not greatly changed from the previous census, Louisa's household consisted of herself, her children Lucy and George, her mother Kezia Clark, and her foster son Charles W. (Willie) Jones (Martin 2010; United States Bureau of the Census (USBC) 1880).

Louisa Clark McWorter was listed as the head of her household on the state and federal census records from her husband's death in 1855 until her own death on February 18, 1883 at her home in New Philadelphia. At her death, Louisa McWorter owned approximately 120 acres of farmland outside of New Philadelphia and roughly six entire blocks within the town boundary. After her death, her daughter Lucy J. McKinney purchased Block 13 (including the house) from the estate. The property remained within the McWorter family through the 1920s, though it changed hands several times. Virgil Burdick owned the land which was Block 13 by 1930 and was renting 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 itself burned on December 7, 1937, and was never rebuilt (Burdick n.d.; *Barry Adage* 8 December 1937). It is important to note that throughout the occupancy of New Philadelphia, the house on Block 13 was always the highest-valued residence on the tax rolls within New Philadelphia, which likely means it was the largest house in the town (Martin 2010).

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 |

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, Lot 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, Lot 3-4)

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

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

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

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

| 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> | Kezia | 76 | F | M | Mother |
| <i>Jones</i> | Charles | 15 | M | M | Abandoned child |

Archaeology on Block 13

Lot 3

Archaeological investigation began when the excavation team inserted one-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 within the space of A25, making complete core sections unobtainable. Due to these factors the archaeologists decided to insert excavation units to further test A25. The team inserted eight excavation units (EU11-18) and subsequently discovered Feature 40 (Figure 8.1).

The plow zone 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 above 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, 12, 16 and 17 from Units 13, 14, 15, and 18 to provide a natural boundary for the feature bisect (Figure 8.2). The baulk later provided an ample resource in determining the feature profile.

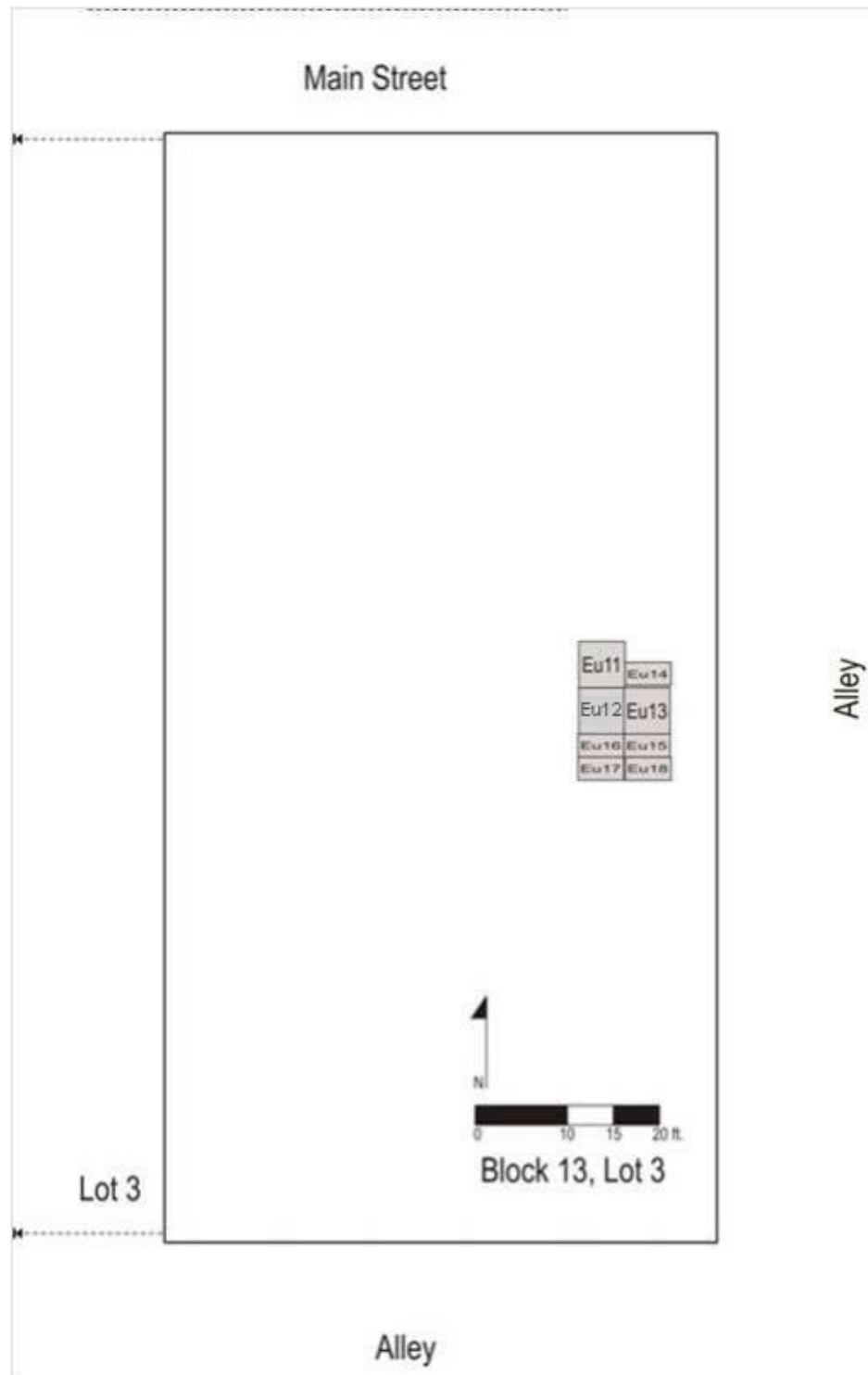


Figure 8.1. *Excavation units in Block 13, Lot 3, in 2010 field season (Illustration by George Calfas).*

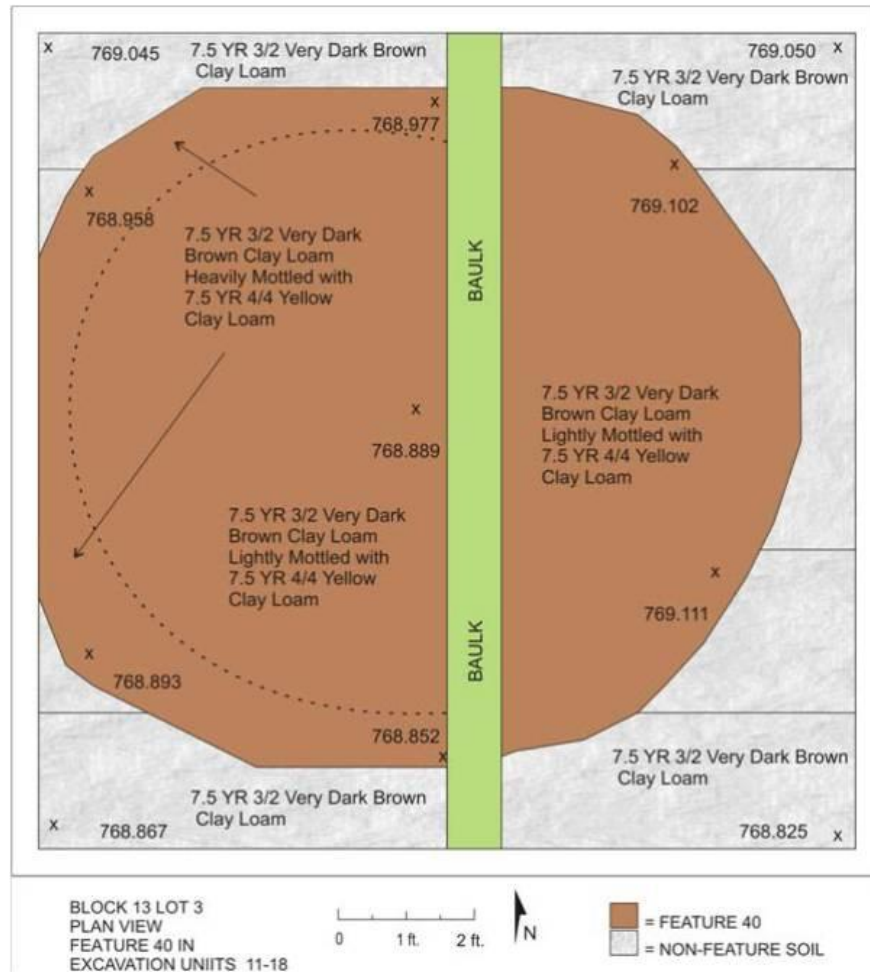


Figure 8.2. Plan view of Feature 40 (Illustration by George Calfas).

Excavations continued to an approximate depth of 4.0 ft. bsl. The excavation team interpreted Feature 40 as a well due to the shape and the materials discovered during field work (Figure 8.3). There were approximately 275 artifacts found within Feature 40, with date ranges falling within the latter-half of the nineteenth century through the early twentieth century.



Figure 8.3. *Profile view of Feature 40 (Photograph courtesy of NPAP).*

The majority of the stones have flat finished surfaces that would have been ideal for foundations or wall construction (see Figure 8.4). The stones likely originated from the nearby cellar foundation (Figures 8.3 and 8.4). Archaeologists were unable to reach the bottom of Feature 40



Figure 8.4. *Feature 40 photograph illustrating stones from within feature (Photograph courtesy of NPAP).*

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.

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 plow zone over Feature 40 was the uniform button of an Enlisted Civil War soldier (Figure 8.5). 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 or Squire McWorter. Both Squire and Thomas served in the U.S. Colored Infantry and both had ties to Block 13.



Figure 8.5. *Photograph of button from Civil War uniform recovered from Feature 40 (Photograph courtesy of NPAP).*

Lot 4

2010 Excavation

Excavation of Block 13, Lot 4 continued research begun during the 2005 field season (see Shackel 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 (EU 1-6) in order to pick up where the previous team had left off (Figure 8.6). 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.

Excavation Unit 7, a 5x5 ft. unit, was inserted adjacent to and east of EU 4. At approximately 2.5 ft. 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 builder's trench which was 10YR 5/4 yellowish brown clay while the remaining soil in the 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 8.7).

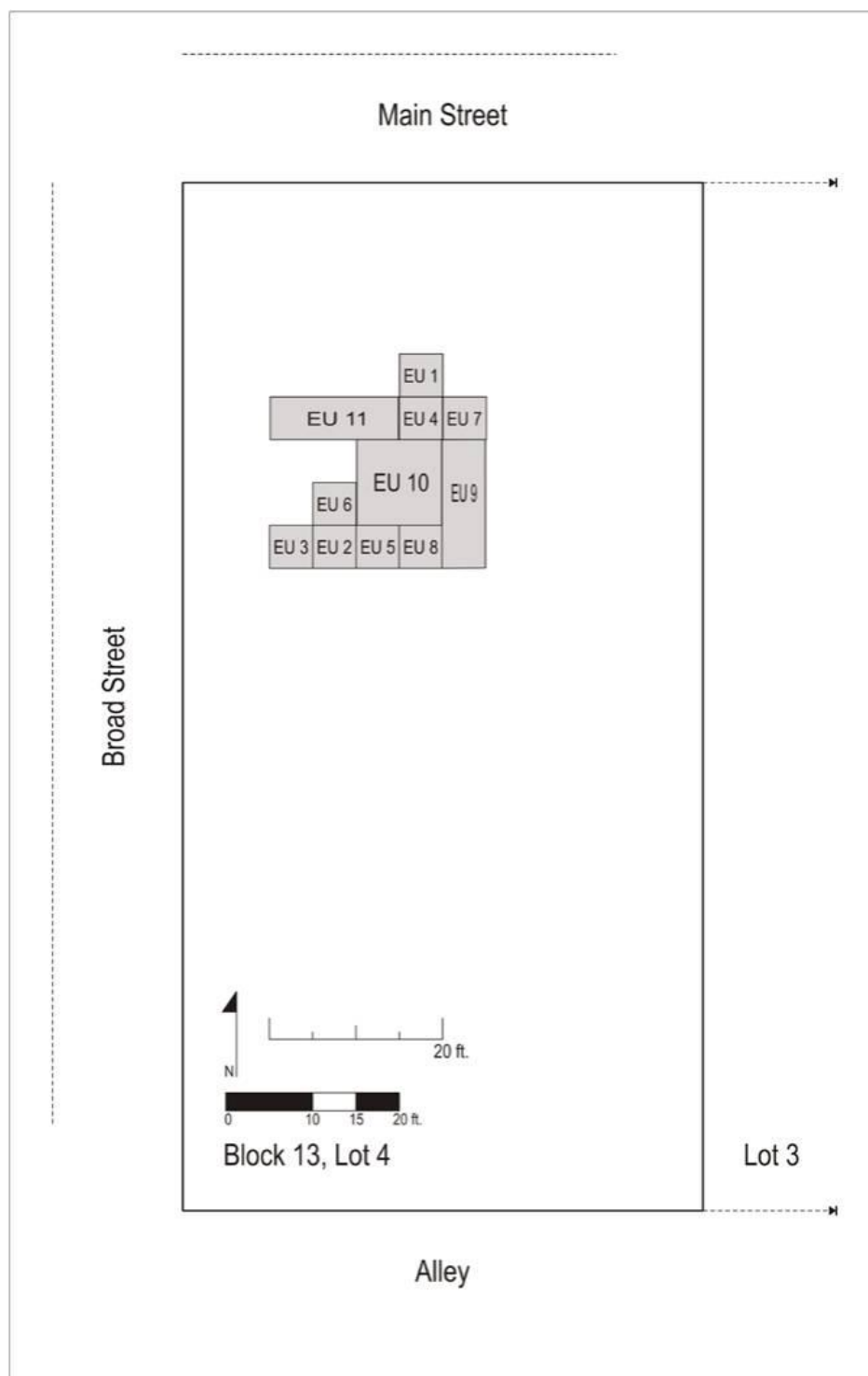


Figure 8.6. *Excavation units in Block 13, Lot 4, in 2010 field season (Illustration by George Calfas).*

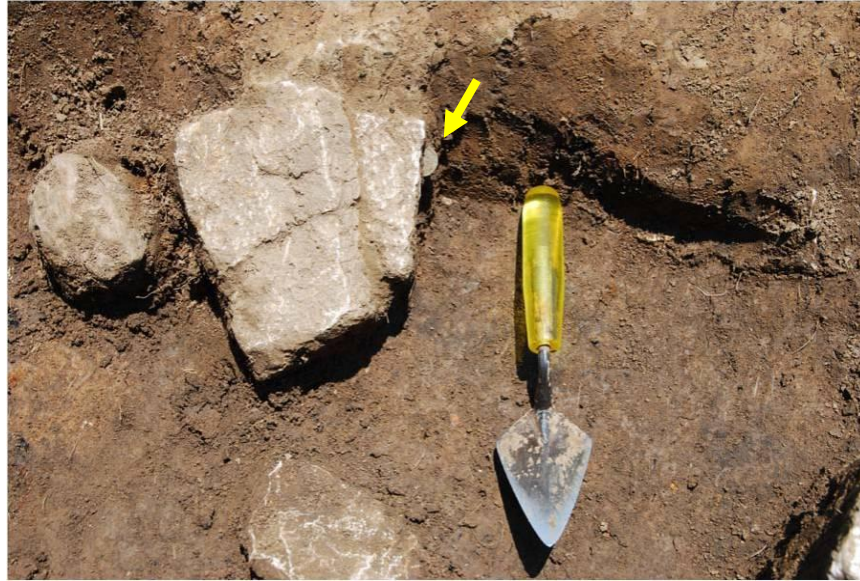


Figure 8.7. Penny embedded with foundation stone remains
(Photograph by Anna Agbe-Davies).

With the northern and southeastern corners located, the team inserted a 5x15 foot excavation unit (EU 9) to uncover the entire eastern wall. After the removal of the plow zone the team encountered large amounts of ceramics, glass, brick, and mortar (Figure 8.8). The material in this area was burned. The bricks appear to have fallen from south to north and in one singular event.

Research continued toward the center of the house foundation in order to uncover and determine the depth of the cellar. EU 10, a 10x10 ft. unit, was placed adjacent to and west of EU 9. The eastern portion of EU 10 continued to display evidence of burning and high artifact densities. The western portion of EU 10 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 EU 4 in order to determine the location of the northern foundation wall and the overall length of the house. Excavation Unit 11 was a 5x15 ft. 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 767.260 amsl or 2.5 ft bsl. Soil in the northern section was mostly 10 YR 3/2 dark brown and displayed only slight variation in color.



Figure 8.8. *Remains located beneath plow-zone in EU 9
(Photograph courtesy of NPAP).*

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 foundation stones were approximately 1.25 ft. bsl whereas the northern foundation stones were nearly 2.5 ft. bsl. Coupled with the excavations in Block 13, Lot 3 it is feasible that foundation 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 white ware 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.

2011 Excavation

The 2011 excavations laid in an excavation trench, 5 ft. wide x 35 ft. long, which bisected the cellar feature (Feature 12), but actually excavated slightly less than half of the cellar fill. Excavating half or less of a feature was done in accordance with National Park Service regulations, a process which has been followed throughout all excavations at the site. The southern edge of the trench was placed approximately two feet north of the southern wall of the cellar, which brought the northern wall of the trench to the approximate middle line of the feature. The trench was placed in such a manner as to investigate the stratigraphy of the cellar in profile on both sides of the trench, as it provides more information about occupation layers in the cellar fill, rather than exposing the remains of the southern foundation wall, constructed of dry-stack fieldstones.

Within the trench, five of the seven total units were within the feature (6, 13, 14, 15, and 16), while two units were placed outside the limits of the feature (12 and 17) for a control view of the surrounding sterile soil and in the hopes of seeing a more definite eastern and western edge of the cellar. The excavation team first removed the backfill from the previously dug units (6, 14 and 15 which were the southern half of Unit 10 in 2010, and 16, which was the middle 5x5 of Unit 9 in 2010) in order to pick up where the previous team had left off (Figure 8.9). After cleaning the wall and floor of these units, the team began excavating in them in earnest as well as in the adjacent new units.

Aside from varying densities of artifacts, there were few changes in the soil stratigraphy throughout the depth of the trench. Culturally sterile soil was reached at an average of 4.5 ft. below surface level across the trench. At an average of four ft. below surface level, a layer of ash was discovered, containing bits of burned wood, large burned logs which appeared to have fallen in situ, and a multitude of burned and melted artifacts just above the ash layer (Figure 8.10). This combination of remains is interpreted as the answer for the house's initial "disappearance" on the tax rolls; it likely burned down, prompting the family to move to Quincy for a few years. They seem to have returned to New Philadelphia and rebuilt the house on the same foundation, as artifacts closer to the surface have date ranges putting them further forward in time. This re-built house is the one which burned down in the early 1930's, once the house and land was no longer owned by the McWorter family (*Barry Adage* 8 December 1937).

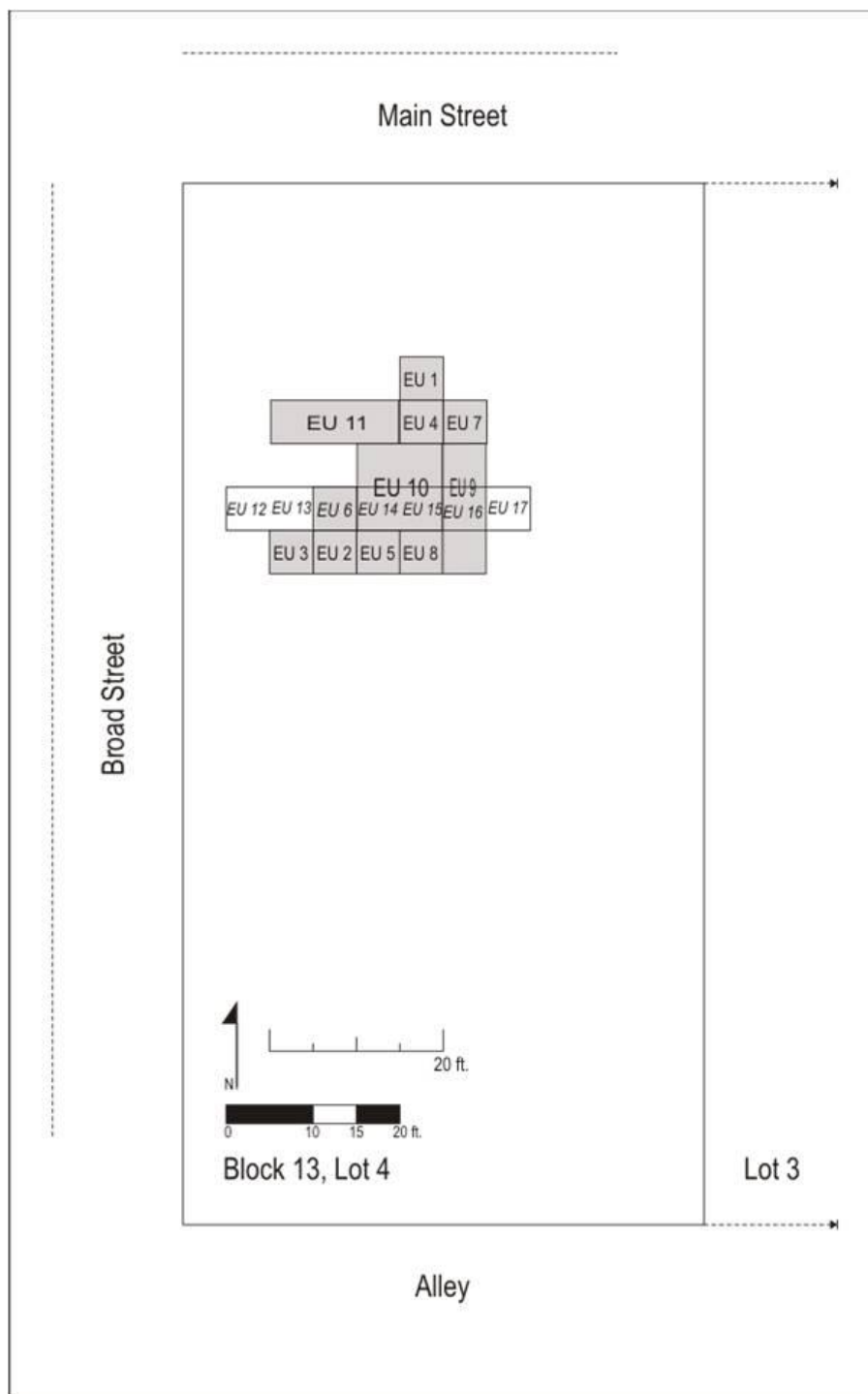


Figure 8.9. Excavation units in Block 13, Lot 4. 2011 units (in *italics*) superimposed on 2010 units (Illustration by Kathryn Fay).



Figure 8.10. *Ash layer near bottom of Feature 12 (Photograph courtesy NPAP).*

Beginning at the bottom of the previous seasons' excavation, the three center units of the trench displayed an average one-foot thick concentration of artifacts. The range of dates from these and the artifacts from the other units within the trench fall within the latter-half of the nineteenth century, approximately 1850 until 1900. This relative date range puts the excavated artifacts within the period of McWorter family's occupation of the house site.

The eastern and western ends of the feature showed evidence of a partially collapsed cellar wall/house foundation made of dry stacked fieldstones. There were portions of bricks and mortar in the feature fill, and though there were not enough to argue for a brick foundation, it is likely that the fireplace/chimney stack was constructed of brick. The eastern and western boundaries, having been further explored this season, align with the general dimensions of the cellar uncovered in the previous excavation season; that of a roughly 20-foot square cellar. This size cellar, along with the overall depth of the feature, argues that the Louisa McWorter home had a full basement, not just a shallow storage cellar. This matches oral history reports of the home in the 1930s, which stated the home had a full basement. There may have been an exterior access door to the basement, remnants of which may have been discovered in the 2010 season. There was also a post mold discovered in the southeast corner of Unit 17, the easternmost unit of the trench (Figure 8.11). It was roughly six ft. from the edge of the feature, and may be the remains of a lean-to kitchen, which was mentioned in the oral historical accounts of the property in the 1930s.



Figure 8.11. *Post mold in Unit 17 of Feature 12 (Photograph courtesy of NPAP).*

Several noticeable trends were evident in the artifact analysis of Feature 12, especially when the assemblage was compared to those of other house sites within New Philadelphia. In terms of relative percentages, Feature 12 yielded more stoneware than other features, perhaps suggesting that Louisa and her family were storing or cooking more food than others in town, due either to the larger number of people living in the house, or perhaps this was done as an extra income source or as work for others in town. There also seemed to be a much lower percentage of alcohol bottles than have been found in previous features, which could be the result of any number of personal choices made by the family. The large majority of identifiable bottles are from varieties of medicines or household use liquids such as machine oil. There also were a large number of clothing-related artifacts, such as buttons, pins, hook and eyes, buckles, and clips. As stated above, all datable artifacts could fall within a date range of the occupation of the home site by the McWorter family.

Flotation

Flotation of soil/sediment/cultural fill samples is a method commonly used in geoarchaeological investigations. Its purpose is to separate small floral and faunal materials from the surrounding material. In historical sites these remains can be used to interpret food procurement sources as well as consumption patterns.

Sixteen flotation samples were collected from Feature 12—the cellar in Block 13, Lot 4—and transported to the Illinois State Museum for flotation. Marjorie Schroeder demonstrated the procedure for water flotation to one of the 2011 NSF-REU student teams and I facilitated training the other two teams of students.

The water flotation procedure begins by measuring the volume of the fill sample and recording it on identification tags. Then a drum with a mesh screen at the base is nested into a larger drum that is filled with water. The sample is added to the nested drum and water is continuously pumped into the larger drum, agitating the sample. The water transports sample contents that are lighter than the specific gravity of water, which is 1, over a spout and into a fine mesh bag. Contents of the fill sample that do not float and are larger than the mesh at the base of the nested drum (heavy fraction) are rinsed until the water is clear of sediment and all floating material is removed. The float sample bag is hung to dry and the “heavy” fraction is dumped on newspaper and set aside to dry with their respective labels.

The “heavy” fraction may contain cultural artifacts and additional biological remains which can be separated by flotation in a “heavy” liquid. Zinc chloride (ZnCl), a standard heavy liquid, has a relative gravity of 1.62. Therefore, floral material heavier than water (e.g. seeds and some charcoal), but lighter than ZnCl floats and is skimmed off the top. Hillary Christopher, one of the 2011 NSF-REU students, worked with Schroeder to learn the heavy liquid flotation procedure and floral identification steps.

After ZnCl flotation, each fraction is rinsed several times with water to remove the toxic ZnCl and spread on newspaper to dry. Cultural artifacts are hand-picked from the heavy fraction and later catalogued. Each of these portions is weighed to calculate its respective percentage of the total sample. The ZnCl light fraction is added to the light fraction from water flotation for floral analysis and weighed to calculate its percentage of the total sample. Christopher documented the procedure, processed seven heavy fractions by ZnCl flotation, and identified the floral remains of one sample for her field school project. The remaining samples are accessioned at the Illinois State Museum for future analysis.

The first step of floral analysis is to separate the light fraction into three size classes: <0.5mm; 0.5 – 2 mm; and, >2 mm. Each fraction is weighed to determine its respective percentage. The <0.5 mm fraction is generally regarded as too small to have any diagnostic value. Analyzing every fragment in the 0.5 – 2mm fraction is time intensive; therefore, the standard method is to use a mechanical splitter to divide the sample. One portion is sampled for quantification and analysis of the charcoal and a quick scan is performed on the other portion to identify any unique particles not found in the sampled portion. The >2mm fraction is sorted, isolating bone fragments and charcoal from other plant remains. The bone fragments are labeled and bagged for zoological analysis. The >2mm fraction of charcoal provides the best opportunity for identification to the genus, so it is sorted between wood and non-wood. Then each piece is classified and placed in a labeled glass vial. Christopher (July, 2011) summarized her findings for one of the samples:

Within the >2mm portion, evidence of hazelnut, hickory, butternut, black walnut, corn kernels, corn cupules, and a grape seed. The 0.5 – 2 mm [portion] contained

poace (grass), purslane, and copperleaf. The wood was identified as bark, hickory, red oak, white oak, and unidentified oak.

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