ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE 175 WATER STREET BLOCK
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Prepared by Soil Systems, Inc.
Project Number 16-481
Robert Fox, Jr.
Fox and Fowle Architects, P.C.
192 Lexington Avenue
New York, New York 10016

Re: 175 Water-Fox and Fowle Project Number 80-41

Dear Bob:

Attached is a copy of the interim report presenting the results of field investigations of the 175 Water Street block. We trust that it will meet with your approval and that you will have the copies which are enclosed forwarded to the office of the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission.

Many thanks for your support and patience. The final report of the project will be forthcoming upon completion.

Sincerely,

Joan H. Geismar, Ph.D.
Principal Investigator

March 12, 1982

enc.
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Interim Report  February 25, 1982

Joan H. Geismar, Ph.D.  Principal Investigator
Steven Nicklas  Field Director
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Joan Geismar and Steven Nicklas
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INTRODUCTION

This report briefly outlines the results of archaeological fieldwork conducted to date at the 175 Water Street block (Block 71) in the lower part of the Borough of Manhattan, New York, New York. The block is bounded north by John Street (Burling Slip), east by Front Street, south by Fletcher Street, and west by Water Street (Fig. 1). Field investigation of the backyard area of this block, the main focus of this report, was begun October 28, 1981 and completed January 31, 1982.

During the last three weeks of scheduled excavation, a merchant ship, probably built sometime in the late 17th or early 18th century, was discovered outside the backyard area; a good portion of the vessel lies within the confines of the site block. It is anticipated that these sections of the ship will be excavated by March 3, 1982. The field investigations from this part of the project, which are merely touched upon here, will be presented more fully in a subsequent report.

The 175 Water Street block is reclaimed land located on the fringe of the South Street Seaport Historic District, an historically and archaeologically important area listed on the National Register of Historic Places. While the 175 Water Street block is not included in this listing, the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, recognizing the block's place in the evolution of New York City's commercial history, required that historical and archaeological investigation precede proposed development. The aim was to fulfill the requirement of a Conditional Negative Declaration issued by the City of
Fig. 1. SITE MAP--175 WATER STREET BLOCK--KEY

- support column
- lot wall
- deep test
- lot number
- limits of ship excavation
- property line

Note: site map produced by Leonid Shmookler
New York relative to the scheduled construction. Currently, preparation for construction of a 30-story office building by the 175 Water Street Partners has begun on the block.

**BRIEF SUMMARY**

Preliminary documentation (Friedlander 1981) verified the block's commercial history, tying it to the mid- to late 18th-century development of New York City's commercial district and to episodes in the building of the city's landmass. Beginning in 1736, water lot grants were issued mainly to merchants already established in the area. For at least 30 years, or until 1773, which was the earliest possible time of construction of Block 72 immediately to the east (Friedlander 1981:7), the east side of the 175 Water Street block fronted on the East River, a prime property in an age dependent on water transportation. Land development in the area continued, with two blocks subsequently added to the landmass. South Street, currently the easternmost street in the area, was completed by 1810 (Friedlander 1981:12). This section of the city endured as a commercial center well into the 19th century.

Although Block 71 apparently saw mixed commercial and residential use early in its history, the buildings were ultimately used for light industry and warehousing until their demolition in 1960 (Friedlander 1981:17). Since 1960, the block has served as a parking lot.

As outlined in the scope of work for the project, questions of chronology and economics were major concerns of the archaeological investigation. These questions related to
land-building episodes as well as to the utilization of this block over time. The research design was tailored to analyze questions concerning trade networks, product availability, and the block's land construction history—all within the framework of a site chronology. In addition, the artifact record would reflect the state of preservation afforded by an urban site sealed for twenty years by an asphalt parking lot. And, finally, these data would provide a means to correlate the archaeological and historic record.

To research these problems, a two-part field method was used, calling first for testing and then for mitigation based on the results of the testing. Archaeological investigation focused on the backyards of the block because it was anticipated that this area would provide the most useful data. Historic documentation and the archaeological investigation of the Telco site, located one block north of the 175 Water Street block where preservation of the yards was found to be excellent, provided the rationale for the investigation.

Originally, three weeks were allotted for the testing phase and nine for mitigation. Initially, the crew comprised the field director, Steven Nicklas, two field supervisors, Valerie DeCarlo and Anne Donadeo, 18 field technicians, and the principal investigator, Joan Geismar. A concurrent artifact processing lab was planned with Penny Seabury as the director, aided by two lab technicians. However, in an attempt to compensate for a four-week delay in the start of the project and to accommodate the well-preserved condition of the site
which became apparent in the testing phase, the crew was increased by the addition of a third supervisor, Jay Cohen, and enlarged to a field crew averaging 35 field technicians working daily. The lab crew was also expanded from two technicians to four. It should be noted, however, that although fieldwork started in late October, a concurrent laboratory was not in operation until early December.

The field investigation is outlined in the following section; detailed lot descriptions are in the appendix. Although artifact analysis is just beginning, preliminary findings from this investigation can be summarized as follows:

1. The archaeological chronology for the backyard section of the 175 Water Street block begins as early as 1740, but the construction history reflected in the yards apparently divided structurally and chronologically along a north-south line. Not surprisingly, the western segment of this area appears to predate the eastern part, the former being of mid-18th-century construction and the latter falling predominantly within a late 18th- to early 19th-century time frame. The yards on the block were used at least through the 1860's, with alterations, including basement construction and building extensions, traceable to the late 19th century, and into the 20th.

2. The block appears to have been a predominantly mercantile area comprising, for example, china and glass shops as well as possible warehouse spaces. Based on the archaeology, only one yard appeared to have been a residence.
3. The structural development of the landmass found within the area of testing and mitigation includes an early episode of wharf building to the west and examples of cofferdam and possible bulkhead construction extending east. Many of these land-making procedures were seen for the first time in the context of contiguous, discrete yards. In addition, a well-preserved late 17th- to early 18th-century cargo vessel, undoubtedly a derelict by the time of its deposit within the site block, was apparently used as part of the fill operation that extended the land to the east. This ship represents both a unique facet of early American maritime history and a rarely seen example of 18th-century land construction techniques.

FIELD INVESTIGATIONS

Yard Testing

It was anticipated that the yards on the 175 Water Street block would be relatively undisturbed and that field investigation of this area would provide data useful for resolving the research questions. It is in the yards of 18th- and 19th-century buildings that the cisterns and privies are located; once these features were no longer in use, they often became trash receptacles, and it is here that chronological and economic artifactual data associated with building occupations are to be found. The yard area, therefore, appeared a likely place to recover information needed to address questions of chronology over time, and to correlate economic data within these chronologies. Consequently, the testing phase called for removal of asphalt from a strip indicated as the block's yard.
area on 19th-century maps. A section approximately 192 feet long (north-south) and 32 feet wide was scheduled for asphalt removal during this phase; in fact, a slightly shorter and wider strip was initially opened.

On the morning of October 28, 1982, with an archaeological field crew in attendance, asphalt stripping was begun with heavy equipment, in this case a 977 loader and operator (Plate 1). To save time, a second machine and operator were brought into the operation.

It quickly became apparent that the published maps delineating the block's building lots were quite accurate. As anticipated, walls defining lots and yards approximately 20 feet wide were found within the designated strip (Fig. 1). Moreover, these remnants of contiguous brick and stone building walls, and their yard extensions, were excellently preserved.

Where possible, yards were cleared of 20th-century demolition debris, again using heavy equipment—mainly a Case 850B with a 24-inch bucket. Only in lots 32 and 33, where high yard elevations precluded heavy concentrations of modern building debris, was hand excavation and screening of samples through a quarter-inch mesh screen begun almost immediately. The exposed areas in most of the other lots appeared to be basements filled with demolition material.

Detailed lot descriptions and feature locations are in the appendix. It should be noted here that, with the exception of the lots 32 and 33, basements dug into yards of buildings facing Front Street were deeper than those on the Water Street
side. Therefore, since it was imperative in this phase to determine which yards would provide the most comprehensive information and were best suited for further excavation, the test strip was widened to include more of the Water Street yards and lengthened to test the lots facing Fletcher and John Streets (Plate 2).

Once demolition debris was removed, a 190 Dynahoe and hammer were used to break through the cement basement floors to reach underlying yard deposits. Often multiple floor layers were encountered. These were obviously an attempt to control water seepage in an area affected by fluctuating river tides and a high water table. For example, two levels of cement flooring had been installed in lot 23 when the yard was altered to become a basement. Water problems encountered during fieldwork, once yard levels were reached, made dewatering necessary to facilitate excavation. To lower the water level throughout the yards, a sump in lot 14 was pumped; often individual features also required pumping.

By the end of the testing period, three yards on the Front Street side of the block, lots 30, 32, and 33, and a cistern--the sole remnant of the yard in lot 36--were either being excavated or were scheduled for excavation. On the Water Street side, lots 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23 were slated for excavation. Testing combined with documentation or problems of access eliminated all yards fronting on Fletcher and John Streets from the sample.

By this time, many features--privies, cisterns, and several
PLATE 2. View of the 175 Water Street block backyard area, the focus of initial archaeological investigation. Photo taken towards the end of the 3 week testing phase. Water Street is to the right of the photograph and Front street can be seen on the left.
puzzling features, perhaps sumps or drains--had been located. Also at this stage of the field investigations, construction of a scaffold and tarp structure was begun over the excavation units to provide weather protection.

**Yard Mitigation**

In order to provide comparable samples in the mitigation phase, to include yard areas not obviously feature specific or feature related, and to ensure that "original" landfill was reached in at least one segment of each yard, a two part sampling strategy was undertaken. With four exceptions, each exposed yard was first divided into four equal sections; one of these quarters was then arbitrarily selected for stratigraphic hand excavation down to what was considered primary landfill (that is, to fill material used for land construction rather than that associated with occupation debris). Feature complexity in these well-used yards sometimes made it difficult to carry these excavations to completion, and often "original" landfill was hard to define; but generally these excavations were successfully executed.

To compensate for bias introduced by the arbitrary selection of the unit to be sampled, shovel clearing in the remaining sections of each yard was then undertaken. Features located in this manner--such as privies, cisterns, barrels, sumps, and other occupation-related constructions--were sampled. Samples screened from these features ranged from 25 to 50 to 100 percent, depending on the nature of the feature and the time available for this activity. In this manner, all the
yards under investigation were sampled to landfill and all exposed features were documented and tested. In addition to the location of occupation-related features, this strategy provided a remarkably clear picture of structural elements within the yard area.

The four exceptions to this general sampling procedure were yards 36, 33, 32, and 19. As noted above, the sole remnant of the yard in lot 36 was a cistern; this mortar-lined rectangular brick feature was excavated entirely. In accordance with the original scope of work which called for 100 percent excavation of one yard, the yard in lot 33—the largest, least altered, and perhaps most representative of the yards as they once were—was chosen for total excavation. The yards in lots 32 and 19 were defined in the testing phase as walled areas too small for sectioning and were therefore also scheduled for 100 percent excavation. Actually, further work indicated that both were segments of larger yards. Except for the small walled area, however, the greater portion of lot 32, facing on Front Street, had been altered to depths which tended to preclude further investigation. A second section of the yard in lot 19, a Water Street lot, was, in fact, sectioned and sampled.

From the testing and mitigation phases of this field investigation, 28 occupation-related features were located (see appendix for specific information). This number does not include the architectural features found in lot 33, such as wooden, brick, and tin floors, or builder's trenches (which were also found in other yards); nor does it include occupation
floors. These are strata with debris apparently scattered by the lot’s occupants rather than lumped as in landfill deposits. The occupation-related features included are five brick or stone cisterns, all lined with mortar (two circular and three rectangular) and a large wooden vat which also may have been a cistern; ten stone privies (eight rectangular and two circular); four wooden "boxes" (either rectangular or square); six barrels (all apparently of wood, but one with only the metal hoops remaining); and two unidentified small circular features of dry-laid stone. Noteworthy is the absence of any obvious patterning in the placement of cisterns and privies in the yards, which had not been anticipated. At the Telco site one block north, albeit with a somewhat later time frame than the 175 Water Street block, privies were consistently found on the right and cisterns on the left as one faced the back of the yard (Rockman 1981).

In addition to these occupation-related features, structural elements which can be attributed to landfill operations were also exposed (Plate 3). These included a log wharf spreading across five contiguous lots on the Water Street side of the block, three wooden cofferdams (debris-filled box-like constructions used in land-making operations), six sumps or drains, and five spread footer complexes—mainly wall supports.

In all, these field investigations provided a clear picture of feature-intensive urban yards constructed on structurally sophisticated landfill. One aspect of landfill operations which remained a question was the technique used to hold fill in
PLATE 3. Structural elements revealed in lot 23, including a foundation beam (thin arrow), spread footers (thick arrow), and log wharfing. These elements were found in five contiguous yards on the Water Street side of the block.
place on the Front Street side of the block. This question may have been answered with the subsequent discovery of the ship. Apparently this derelict vessel was incorporated into the land-making operation as cribbing to stabilize fill.

Deep Tests

Concurrent with yard mitigation, three deep tests were dug outside the immediate excavation area to establish the depth of river bottom throughout the site and to sample fill outside the mitigation area. Chosen in part to coincide with pile cluster sites for the proposed building and in part dependent on accessibility, test locations were as dispersed as possible. The deep test procedure and results are as follows.

As in yard testing and mitigation, heavy equipment was used to clear 20th-century building debris and to remove the modern floors from a chosen deep test site. Below these modern levels, a trench, approximately 30 inches wide and 10 feet long, was dug with a Dynahoe 190 equipped with a 30-inch bucket. With an archaeological team in attendance, generally one backhoe bucket of fill material from measured one foot vertical intervals was saved as a sample. Since the deep test trenches extended well below the water table, all of them required dewatering. This was a critical factor determining the depth of the trench and the degree of detail possible in recording observations. From the sample material, the equivalent of seven excavation buckets (a sample measure used throughout mitigation) was saved and subsequently wet-screened; flotation samples were also collected.
Originally, four deep tests were scheduled; but, because of limitations imposed by the protective covering over the mitigation area and because one of the tests comprised a double trench, only three tests were ultimately undertaken.

The first test, in lot 14, was the furthest south and west. Its site was the basement of a building facing Fletcher Street which had been altered to an extreme precluding mitigation. Dewatering of this trench posed no difficulties, and the test was quickly completed. The 10-foot by 30-inch trench reached a grey sand, apparently river bottom, at approximately seven feet below the cement floor.

The second, a double test designated 29/30 north and south, extended ten feet north and ten feet south from the wall dividing lots 29 and 30. Located just east of the mitigation area, this was the most northern test in the sample. Testing exposed a foundation beam and spread footers supporting the common wall between the two lots. Since historic documentation implied that the landfill in lot 29 post-dated that in lot 30, a difference between the two was anticipated. This information also suggested that a bulkhead or pier might be encountered in this test. The former proved to be the case; no evidence for the latter was found.

The fill in lot 30 (29/30 south) was a fairly dense, perhaps harbor-related material extending to depths of approximately 15 feet below the cement floor. Much of it comprised cast off bottles, some of them corked but broken, and shoe leather—common components of harbor fill. This
material, possibly dredge-related, was intermixed with an assemblage of ceramics. This trench was stable enough for the dirt walls to be profiled. The fill from lot 29 (29/30 north), however, was totally unstable upon dewatering, and appeared relatively devoid of ceramic material. This test extended to a depth of 13 feet below the cement floor.

Because the depth to river bottom pushed the backhoe to its limits, both tests were somewhat difficult to complete. In these trenches, the sandy level found in lot 14 was not encountered; instead, a heavy gray silt was reached which was considered river bottom.

The final, most easterly, deep test was dug in lot 33. As with the others, placement was somewhat arbitrary. In addition to information about river bottom at this location, it was hoped that the structure associated with the well-preserved yard in this lot might be found. Since the trench was approximately aligned with bulkhead construction found on the Telco site one block north, it was also possible that a similar construction would lie within this segment of the block.

Almost immediately, wooden construction was encountered below the cement floor; piling tied into horizontal planking suggested a form of cribbing or bulkhead. But, as testing continued, it became apparent from the inward curve of the construction at a depth of approximately four feet, and from a horsehair and pitch matting covering the western side of the planking, that it was perhaps the side of a ship (Plate 4). This identification was confirmed by Norman Brouwer from the
PLATE 4. Exterior port side of the late-17th or early-18th century derelict merchant vessel discovered during testing on the 175 Water Street block. Heavy planking was at first believed to be cribbing or bulkhead constructed in the landfill process. Note bottom of test trench in lower right corner of picture (arrow).
South Street Seaport Museum.

The deep test continued to what was considered river bottom, a coarse light gray sand on which this segment of the ship rested. Given its extreme eastern location, the 12-foot depth of the test was shallower than expected, suggesting the ship might be resting on a sandbar. Subsequent identification of the sand as ship's ballast of Caribbean origin (Watts 1982: personal communication) further suggests that this sand may relate to the ship's use in landfill maneuvers. This remains a question.

The deep tests indicate that river bottom depths, and therefore fill depths, were variable throughout the site. And, indeed, the nature of the fill itself varied, implying several fill episodes and a river bottom which may have been naturally eccentric. It may also indicate a river bottom altered by dredging and fill operations which built land and deepened river channels for shipping activities. Analysis of the fill material from these tests will provide chronologies for these episodes which should prove fruitful in understanding some of these maneuvers.

The Ship

Nautical archaeologists, Warren Riess and Sheli Smith, were called in to excavate the ship; Gordon Watts was also a consultant to the excavation. Because excavation is still in progress at this writing, this interim report on field investigations will only briefly outline preliminary findings. They will mainly relate the ship to construction of the landmass
that is the 175 Water Street block; its maritime history will be presented after the excavation is completed.

Apparently the ship served as a fill stabilizer for the Front Street side of the block. During excavation of the yard in lot 33, neither wharfing nor cofferdam constructions were located, and the exact method of landfill remained an unknown until the ship was uncovered and fill procedures suggested.

Briefly, it appears that a derelict cargo vessel was used as a bulkhead to contain landfill. Evidence of "shipworms" (actually mollusks) of warm water varieties (*Teredo mindenensis*, *Bankia carinata*, and *Bankia campanulata*) embedded in the ship's protective outer sheathing (Stone 1982: personal communication; Turner 1981) suggest it was once involved in Caribbean trade. Prior to the Revolutionary War, the islands of the Caribbean were a source, and New York City a market, for European goods. It was a common practice to tap islands such as Saint Eustatius and Montserrat for these products which were then brought into the colonies without taxes (Dethlefsen 1982: personal communication). Artifacts recovered from the fill in and around the ship tentatively date its use as part of a land building operation sometime after 1746, but probably prior to 1773, a time when the Caribbean trade was in progress. Analysis of the fill material from the ship and from lot 33 should further pinpoint the time of this maneuver. A thorough documentation of the ship's maritime history remains to be done.
PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS

Field investigations of the yard area of the 175 Water Street block were successfully concluded on January 31, 1982. At this writing, excavation of a derelict late 17th- or early 18th-century cargo vessel used in the landfill process is in progress. This interim report, by definition, can only present the tentative results of these investigations.

The unusually well-preserved backyard area of the block exceeded expectations, providing unique examples of early urban land building and occupational activities. Land construction techniques—the wharves, cofferdams, bulkheads, and landfill episodes—were particularly well defined. Occupational features, such as the dry-laid stone privies and the mortared brick or stone and wooden cisterns, displayed an unexpected variety and randomness of distribution; the wooden barrels and boxes and the stone and brick sumps or drains remain somewhat enigmatic. Architectural features often suggest long-gone building elements, and landfill offers a diverse chronological and economic record. The ship, in addition to being a maritime phenomenon, represents an unprecedented view of a known landfill technique (Brouwer 1980) never clearly seen in the context of a New York City block. In all, archaeological investigation of the 175 Water Street block was extremely productive and successful.

The data recovered from this site are expected to provide more than adequate information to address the questions raised in the research design for these investigations. For example, chronologies derived from analysis of the extensive artifactual
material recovered from the site should provide a solid framework for examining economic questions of trade patterns and product availability over time. Even at this stage of the investigation, several research questions can be answered unequivocally: obviously preservation under a parking lot can be excellent; and correlation of the historic and archaeological record has been an element of the investigation from its inception and will continue to be so, each body of data enhancing and expanding the other.

These investigations will not only provide information about the inception and evolution of the 175 Water Street block as an urban entity, they will also offer data for interpreting and comparing other archaeological sites in New York City (for example, Rockman 1981; Kardas and Larrabee 1979; Pickman and others 1981) and elsewhere. These data, in turn, should augment the understanding of the regional development of a complex urban environment. Although every archaeological site is unique and productive to varying degrees, the field investigations of the 175 Water Street site are potentially a source of unprecedented information.
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APPENDIX
Detailed Lot Descriptions

Steven Nicklas  Field Director
LOTS 14 & 14a
(20 & 18 Fletcher Street)
Excavation Began: 23 November 1981

The backhoe removed all fill in the area of lot 14, and it soon became apparent that the basement area of the lot had been extended with the structure, thus removing the higher backyard deposits. It was also clear that the structure on lot 14 had been combined with the structure on lot 14a, resulting in the establishment of one structure with a common basement and no internal dividing walls.

Once the concrete floor had been exposed, a section of the floor in lot 14a was selected for one of the deep tests. Soon after the floor was broken through, a section large enough for the deep test was removed. The first level below the concrete floor was a thin layer of reddish-brown sand and brick. It was obviously part of the latest fill below the floor and as such was not sampled. Samples were taken, however, at arbitrary 12-inch levels under the above-described fill, beginning at approximately 24 inches below the top of the concrete floor. The next level was original landfill, thus indicating that the basement extension apparently removed all traces of the backyard deposits.

The following procedure was used to obtain the landfill samples. One backhoe bucket of landfill was removed from each 12-inch level, and one wheelbarrowful of landfill was wet screened from each of these.
Excavation continued to a depth of 108 inches or 218 inches below the top of the lot walls, at which point river bottom was reached.

LOT 18
(165 Water Street)
Excavation Began: 16 November 1981

After the walls of lot 18 were defined with the use of a backhoe, a concrete floor was discovered under the 20th-century destruction debris. The concrete floor was broken with the Dynahoe and removed later that day with a backhoe. A well-preserved flagstone floor was located directly below the concrete floor of the basement area. The recovered artifacts suggest that the concrete floor was a 20th-century extension of the basement area of the house. The flagstone floor however, was probably a late 19th-century paved backyard area.

On 25 November 1981, excavation units were established in lot 18 as soon as the flagstone floor was removed. Work first started in units 2 and 3, located in the southeast and northwest corners of the lot. The first locus encountered under the flagstone floor in unit 2 was 18.2.001, which consisted of a medium brown to reddish-brown mottled silty sand. This fill level contained a large amount of rubble as well as 19th- and 18th-century artifacts. It was approximately one inch thick.

Three different loci were found below this level: 18.2.002, 18.2.003, and 18.2.005. Loci 18.2.002 and 18.2.003 were thick
layers of brown silty sand that contained numerous 18th-century artifacts. Locus 18.2.005 consisted of two layers of wooden planks that were partly in loci 18.2.002 and 18.2.003. More planks, 18.2.007, were located under 18.2.005. This second set of planks was apparently resting on soil representing some type of surface. This supposition is based on the fact that the planks were flat and that several artifacts also appeared to be resting flat. The surface was numbered locus 18.2.006 and was a light brown layer of clayey silt which also contained numerous 18th-century artifacts.

Locus 18.2.018 was also beneath 18.2.002. This locus was identified as a privy wall, partially covered by the planks of 18.2.007 and 18.2.005. As soon as the privy was identified, excavation started within this feature. The first two loci encountered were 18.2.008 and 18.2.013, both lying under 18.2.006. Locus 18.2.008 consisted of a thin layer of yellow silt containing 18th-century cultural material, while locus 18.2.013 was identified as several wooden planks probably related to loci 18.2.005 and 18.2.007. Beneath these planks were loci 18.2.009 and 18.2.014, the first artifact-rich fill loci within the feature. Locus 18.2.009 in particular typifies an 18th-century privy deposit. Under this, locus 18.2.010 was exposed. This layer of privy fill consisted of bluish-gray clayey silt and contained numerous 18th century artifacts. The next two loci encountered, 18.2.011 and 18.2.012, were the last which were related to the feature's life as a privy. They were both thick layers of probable "night soil" and, as expected, they
contained numerous 18th-century artifacts. Original landfill was located beneath 18.2.012.

Along the northern edge of the excavation unit, a wooden box, locus 18.2.017, was found under locus 18.2.003. The southern side of the box was exposed during the excavation of the northern half of the unit, while the remainder of the box extended into the area of unit 1 and was excavated later.

The privy, 18.2.018, occupied most of the southern half of the excavation unit; however a considerable amount of excavation occurred in the northern half of the unit as well. Locus 18.2.004, a mid-to late 18th-century fill deposit, was located under locus 18.2.003. Below, but also contiguous to 18.2.004, were loci 18.2.019, 18.2.020, and 18.2.021, all of which were thin layers or pockets of sandy 18th-century fill. Directly below 18.2.004 was locus 18.2.022 which covered most of the northern half of the excavation unit. Below 18.2.022 the following fill loci were excavated: 18.2.024, 18.2.025, 18.2.026, 18.2.027, and 18.2.030. These loci were unrelated to any feature, but at the same time were not "original land fill". They were contemporaneous to the features in the unit and could represent the secondary fill into which the features were dug.

Unit 2 was the area chosen for 100 percent excavation in lot 18; the remainder of the lot was partially sampled. Unit 3 for example, in which excavation was started along with unit 2 on 25 November 1981, was stripped (50 percent screening) of its overburden 18.3.001, thus exposing all 19th- and 18th-century features below. This effort resulted in the
uncovering of half of a sandstone cistern, 18.3.006, which extended into unit 4 as locus 18.4.002, as well as a builder's trench for both the cistern and the back wall of the structure.

The same procedure was carried out in unit 4 except that after the overburden 18.4.001, was removed and the cistern exposed, the unit was tested to establish a date for its construction. The first locus, 18.4.004, a layer of sandy silt below 18.4.001 and within the cistern, was removed. This locus proved to contain both 19th- and 18th-century cultural material. Below 18.4.004 was locus 18.4.007, the sandstone floor of the cistern, which was removed with a pick axe and sledge hammer. Following was locus 18.4.008, a double layer of brick and mortar with some large stones, probably part of the cistern base. Below the brick was a layer of brown clayey silt, 18.4.009, which contained 18th-century artifacts, and 18.4.010, the spread footers of the structure's back wall.

The final unit to be excavated in lot 18 was unit 1. This contained the remainder of the wooden box discovered in unit 2 and the probable base of some sort of late 19th-century feature. Both of these features were located under the surface fill layer of 18.1.001. Five loci, 18.1.004, 18.1.006, 18.1.007, 18.1.008, and 18.1.009, were fill layers within the wooden box 18.1.010 (18.2.017 in unit 2). The top three loci were all layers of reddish-orange sand. The fourth locus, 18.1.008, was a layer of "night soil" which contained numerous late 18th-century artifacts. The final locus in this sequence was 18.1.009, which was the top of the "original land fill".
The second feature encountered in unit 1 was an unidentifiable, rectangular late 19th-century installation. At first the wall, locus 18.1.002, gave the feature a "privy-like" appearance. However, it soon became apparent that the nature of the fill precluded any possibility of this. In fact, after further examination, it was obvious that the wall itself was unlike other privy walls encountered during the project. The 19th-century date for the feature is based on several 1850-1870 bottles and bottle fragments recovered from the fill layers.

LOT 19
(167 Water Street)
Excavation Began: 4 November 1981

The walls of lot 19 were defined with a backhoe. Once they were exposed and drawn, work began on the excavation of the 20th-century fill which could not be removed with the heavy machinery. This 12-inch layer of fill (locus 19.0.002) consisted almost exclusively of coal dust. It contained a limited number of 20th-century artifacts including such things as window glass, fabric, and plastic syringe caps. Under the coal dust, a flagstone floor (locus 19.0.003) was uncovered. This floor sealed the entire backyard area of units 1 and 2. The artifacts recovered from locus 19.0.003 indicate a late 19th- or early 20th-century date for the construction of the floor.

Once the floor had been removed, the backyard was divided
into two excavation units: unit 1 in the south, and 2 in the north. A third unit was established in the basement area of the lot, west of units 1 and 2, on 18 November 1981 after the concrete floor of the basement was broken and removed by the backhoe.

During the testing phase only unit 1 was excavated. The first locus encountered, 19.1.001, was a fill layer of light brown and tan fine sand mottled with mortar and ash. It contained predominantly early 19th-century cultural material. In the process of removing this fill, several features were uncovered. These loci included 19.1.005, a dressed stone wall that the south lot wall appears to be founded on; loci 19.1.002, 19.1.003, 19.1.006 and 19.1.007, which were all fill layers below 19.1.001; and locus 19.1.004, a circular brick and mortar structure located near the baulk between units 1 and 2, which probably functioned as a sump for 19.0.003, the flagstone floor. Four thin layers of brown-gray silty sand were located below the above mentioned fill layers. All of these loci, 19.1.008, 19.1.009, 19.1.010 and 19.1.011, contained artifacts that were dated in the field to the middle of the 19th century, and in the case of 19.1.010 and possibly 19.1.011, perhaps as late as 1875.

After all of the fill loci were removed, a new five-layer sequence was uncovered. All of these loci, 19.1.012, 19.1.013, 19.1.015, 19.1.016, and 19.1.017, shared what was basically a common matrix of gray-brown silty sand. The artifacts recovered indicate continuity with the above layers: all early 19th-century.
It is important, however, to note that the two deepest loci in this sequence, 19.1.017 and 19.1.013, were separated from one another by a long wooden plank that was later identified as a section of cofferdam.

Below 19.1.017, on the eastern side of the plank, a sequence of three loci was excavated: 19.1.020, 19.1.022 and 19.1.023. All were gray or grayish-brown silty sand and contained early to mid-18th-century artifactual material. These three loci are most likely part of the original landfill.

Below 19.1.013, on the western side of the plank, a sequence of fourteen loci was excavated. All of these loci were probably part of the original landfill as well. Most loci were a grayish-brown or gray layers of silty sand or sandy silt. All of them contained early to mid-18th century artifacts.

After the excavation of unit 1 was finished, work began on unit 2. The first locus recovered from unit 2 was 19.2.001, a fill layer identical to the first locus encountered in unit 1 (19.1.001). Two distinct loci were noted below this, 19.2.002 and 19.2.003. Locus 19.2.002 was a layer of dark brown silty sand with numerous inclusions of brick and mortar rubble. Based on field ceramic identification, the locus contains late 18th- to early 19th-century cultural material. Locus 19.2.003 was a layer of reddish-brown sand with inclusions of decomposing mortar and late 18th-century artifacts. Underneath 19.2.002 and 19.2.003, was locus 19.2.005, a layer
of gray-brown silty sand that covered the entire unit. From the field ceramic identification, the locus appears to date to the late 18th century.

The remaining loci within this unit can, for the most part, be grouped into two sequences, all located under locus 19.2.005. The first sequence encountered during the course of the excavation consisted of four grey-brown sandy loci: 19.2.007, 19.2.009, 19.2.012 and 19.2.016. These loci were located in the north and east of unit 2. All cultural material within this sequence seems to date to the late 18th century. The second sequence contained five loci that were layers of rust-red sandy fill: 19.2.008, 19.2.011, 19.2.013, 19.2.015 and 19.2.017. These loci contained cultural material from the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

Excavation continued under the gray-brown sequence in the north and east. The first locus encountered, 19.2.019, was a possible pit or builder's trench. This locus was a brown to grayish-brown layer of silty sand located along the north wall. It was identified as being intrusive because it contained a J. Bourne Denby beer bottle (1833-1860) and also several sherds of pearlware. After the removal of locus 19.2.019 it was decided to excavate a trench along the west wall under the rust-red sequence. In all, five loci were removed from the area of the trench: 19.2.020, 19.2.021, 19.2.022, 19.2.023 and 19.2.024. All of these loci were part of the original landfill.

Since units 1 and 2 did not contain any living surfaces
other than the flagstone floor, 19.0.003, or any features other than the late 19th-century sump, 19.1.004, it was hoped that excavation in unit 3 would result in the location of backyard deposits. As mentioned above, work began in unit 3 on 18 November 1981. As soon as the first locus, 19.3.001, was removed, privy walls, 19.3.021, came into view. Since the feature's dimensions were defined, excavation was first limited to within the privy. A total of nine fill loci were excavated from the area of the privy. The cultural material included artifacts from the late 18th and early 19th centuries. It is important to note that this particular privy cut into the cribbing and wharf complex. Some limited excavation was also done outside of the privy. In most cases the removal of several thin fill loci resulted in the exposure of large sections of the cribbing/wharf complex.

LOT 20
(169 Water Street)
Excavation Began: 6 November 1981

Backhoe excavation of the south-east basement area of lot 20 uncovered a small room approximately 8 x 15 feet. The back and south side walls of this room were constructed of fieldstone, while its northern wall was red brick. The floor, located below the 20th-century destruction debris, was made of flagstone. Based on the construction materials used and the floor's elevation, it was identified as probably being
part of the backyard area for this lot.

Fill was then removed with a backhoe in the north-east section of the lot. This action revealed an approximately 12 x 15 foot basement area with a double wooden floor. This floor was at a slightly lower depth than the flagstone floor described above. The fieldstone wall in the backyard area of lot 20 also functioned as the back lot wall for the basement area. However, the sections of this wall that extended into the basement area were reinforced with a thin concrete facing. Both rooms had doorways in their western walls.

The two sections of lot #20 were divided into excavation units on December 14. As soon as this task was finished, excavation started in unit 1 (units 1-4 were in the backyard area) and in unit 7 (units 5-8 were in the basement area). For the sake of clarity the excavation of units 1-4 will be discussed first.

Once the fieldstone floor had been photographed and mapped, it was removed. In the process of removing the floor, it was discovered that one of the stones had a small square hole cut into the center of it. Under this stone a sump was discovered. At first it was thought that this structure functioned as a cistern. However, its construction out of loose fieldstone precludes any possibility that the installation was a cistern. The sump itself was assigned the locus number 20.01.006. The removal of the remaining stones exposed locus 20.01.001 which extended over the entire unit except where the top of locus 20.01.006 was exposed. Locus 20.01.001 was a
layer of brown/orange sandy silt. Artifacts recovered from this locus suggest a date in the late 19th century. This also means that the flagstone floor and the associated sump can not pre-date this period.

Two loci were located below 20.01.001, both of which were also adjacent to locus 20.01.006. One, locus 20.01.002, was orange sand and the other, 20.01.003, brown silty sand. Both of these loci contained late 19th-century, as well as earlier, cultural material. Locus 20.01.004, dark brown silt, was located under both loci 20.01.002 and 20.01.003. This locus was closely associated with the sump and could represent leakage from 20.01.006.

At this point it became impossible to excavate in unit 1 without removing the entire sump. Therefore, it was decided to start excavation in unit 3. Unit 3 was a comparatively simple unit. It contained four fill loci, 20.03.001, 20.03.002, 20.03.003, and 20.03.005. Locus 20.03.004 was a builder's trench for the brick wall that divided the backyard from the basement area. Loci 20.03.001 and 20.03.002 contained no diagnostic cultural material. However, all of the remaining loci in unit 3 contained artifacts from the late 18th to the mid 19th centuries.

Unit 4 was next excavated. The stratigraphy in unit 4 was more highly disturbed and mottled than it was in unit 3; however, it was basically the same and certainly contained the same cultural material.

Unit 2, the unit chosen to be excavated 100% in this half
of lot 20, was the most complex unit encountered in the backyard area. Locus 20.02.001, which was the same in all four units, extended over the entire surface of unit 2. Under 20.02.001, loci 20.02.002 and 20.02.003 were located, both of them the same as those encountered in unit 1. Loci 20.02.004 and 20.02.005 were under 20.02.002. Locus 20.02.004 was a layer of orange sand between the area of the sump installation (identified as 20.02.007 in unit 2) and the unit's east wall. Adjacent to 20.02.004 and above 20.02.007 was locus 20.02.005 which was a layer of black silt identical to locus 20.01.004 in unit 1. After excavation started in and around the sump installation described above, it became apparent that the late 19th- or early 20th-century sump was built into an early (first quarter or of the 19th century) privy. Four loci were removed from within the privy, 20.02.008, 20.02.009, 20.02.011, and 20.02.012. All four contained cultural material that was no later than the first quarter of the 19th century. It should be noted that a U.S. 1799 Half Eagle 5 dollar gold piece was recovered from locus 20.02.012. The area outside of the privy was exposed through two loci, at which point original landfill was reached.

Unit 7 was chosen to be completely excavated. It was the first unit to be excavated in the basement area of lot 20. However, excavation could start in the unit only after both sets of wooden planks and a concrete floor that was below them were removed. After this was accomplished with the help of the backhoe, units were established and excavation started.
After the wooden and concrete floors were removed, it became obvious that the basement extension had removed all but the deepest deposits in the units.

The first locus encountered in the excavation of unit 7 was 20.07.001. Locus 20.07.001 was a thin layer of dark brown silt that covered the entire unit. The locus contained no cultural material later than the last quarter of the 18th century. Below 20.07.001 were several loci (later to be combined) consisting of orange sand as well as a few pockets of brown silt. None of these loci contained any artifacts later than the late 18th century. All of the above mentioned loci rested, at least in part, on locus 20.07.007. Locus 20.07.007 was a layer of stone rubble and wood trash, and, as such, contained no artifacts. Underlying 20.07.007 was locus 20.07.008 which was an 18th-century deposit of orange sand that covered the entire unit. Below 20.07.008 was locus 20.07.009, a layer of brown sandy silt, which also dates to the late 18th century. The final fill locus encountered in unit 7 was 20.07.013/014 (combined later). This locus was a layer of dark brown and gray sandy silt resting above the cribbing/wharf complex and in several places on spread footers.

Unit 8 was the next unit to be excavated. This was done in order to trace the cribbing/wharf complex to see if it extended to the south. The sequence of fill encountered in unit 8 was basically the same as the fill in unit 7. However, approximately one foot west of the eastern unit edge, a long wooden plank standing on its side was located under locus
20.03.001. After the excavation of units 5 and 6, it became clear that this plank was part of the western wall of a large wooden box that possibly functioned as a cofferdam in the landfill.

After the completion of unit 8, excavation was started in unit 5 and resulted in the discovery of one of the few mid-19th century features in the block. Underneath the top locus, 20.05.001, which was the same throughout the entire basement area, three fill loci were located. Along with these fill loci, a privy wall (20.05.009) and the north side of the box described above were located and identified. Locus 20.05.002 was identified as the fill outside of the privy and box areas. It was an 11 to 20 inch deep layer of dark brown sandy silt with cultural inclusions dating to the late 18th century. The second fill layer encountered below locus 20.05.001 was locus 20.05.003, a 1 to 6 inch thick layer of gray sand located above and around the stones of 20.05.009. It also contained late 18th-century artifacts. The third fill locus was 20.05.004 which was found within the small area of the wooden box that extended into unit 5. The material culture from this locus also dated to the last quarter of the 18th century.

Locus 20.05.005 was the first fill locus found in the privy (20.05.009). This thick fill layer contained artifacts from the third quarter of the 19th century. Directly below 20.05.005 were loci 20.05.006 and 20.05.007 (later combined). Both loci were layers of brown silt also containing mid- to late 19th-century cultural material. One artifact of special
note was a U.S. 5 cent piece that was issued sometime between 1860 and 1888 (an absolute date will probably be forthcoming after the coin is cleaned).

Locus 20.05.008 was located below 20.05.006/007. It was identified as a thick layer of black silt which was probably night soil. This locus contained artifacts from the late 18th to the late 19th centuries. Below 20.05.008 was locus 20.05.013, which was identified as original landfill.

The final unit to be excavated in lot 20 was unit 6. All of the excavation in unit 6 was carried out within the area of the box. The top locus (20.06.001), which was the same as 001 in units 5, 7 and 8, was shoveled off to expose the remaining walls of the box. The following sequence of loci was located below 20.06.001: 20.06.002, 20.06.003, and 20.06.004. Each of these gray/brown fill layers in turn covered the entire excavation area. Based on the cultural material recovered from the loci, they all date to the last quarter of the 18th century or possibly the first quarter of the 19th century. Below 20.06.004 were five other loci, all of which were probably original mid-18th-century landfill.

Lot 21
(171 Water Street)

Excavation Began: 18 November 1981

At first the backhoe removed only a section of the basement fill. The area excavated was in the southeast section of the
lot. After approximately 4 feet of fill was removed from the basement, a red brick floor was encountered. The bricks were all post-1850, while the floor construction was post-1867 (according to the Perris and Brown Insurance Map). Soon after the floor was exposed, the remainder of the fill was removed. After the bricks were photographed and drawn, they were removed. At this point excavation units were established and excavation started. Unit 1 was located in the northeast corner of the lot.

The first locus encountered in the excavation of unit 1 was locus 21.01.001, a layer of dark brown silty sand that covered the entire unit. It contained numerous small 18th- and 19th-century artifacts. Below 21.01.001 were privy walls, locus 21.01.004. This feature was located in the northeast corner of the unit. The top fill locus within the walls of the privy (21.01.003) was described as medium brown silty sand, with inclusions of 18th- and early 19th-century artifacts. Locus 21.01.005, located directly below 21.01.003, was a thick layer of dark brown silty sand with inclusions of a large number of artifacts from the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The last locus to be excavated from within the privy (21.01.004) was locus 21.01.008, later identified as part of the original land-fill.

Soon after the excavation of the first privy in unit 1, two more features were located. These features were 21.01.009, a circular stone feature (possibly a sump), and 21.01.015, another privy wall.
As the excavation continued it became apparent that privy 21.01.004 was constructed after privy 21.01.015, and that, in fact, privy 21.01.004 had been constructed within the walls of privy 21.01.015. Locus 21.01.009, the possible sump, was also located within the walls of privy 21.01.015. Based on the observed relationships between other sumps and surfaces on the site, it can be assumed that locus 21.01.009 was constructed within privy 21.01.015 for drainage purposes. Its construction postdates both privies, but predates the brick floor. It was probably associated with another floor that was destroyed by the construction of the brick one.

The first fill layer encountered within the second privy (21.01.015) was locus 21.01.002. This locus was described as a thick layer of dark brown sand with numerous inclusions of late 18th- to early 19th-century artifacts. Directly below locus 21.01.002 was locus 21.01.010. Locus 21.01.010 was described as a layer of dark brown coarse sand (possibly night soil). This locus contained a very large number of late 18th-century artifacts. Below locus 21.01.010, locus 21.01.011 was encountered. This locus was described as a layer of very dark brown to black silty sand. It also contained a large number of late 18th-century artifacts. Three more thin fill loci were encountered before original landfill and the cribbing/wharf complex were reached. All of these loci shared most of the characteristics of locus 21.01.011.

During the course of excavation in unit 1, which was selected to be completely excavated, work had simultaneously
started in units 2 and 4. The first locus excavated from the surface of unit 4 (located in the southeast corner of the lot) was locus 21.04.001. This locus, which covered the entire unit, consisted of a 2 to 3 inch layer of brown silty sand. It was identical to locus 21.04.001 in all 3 of the other excavation units. One artifact of note that helps in dating locus 21.04.001 as well as the brick floor above, is an 1890 American 5 cent piece.

Five loci were located below locus 21.04.001. The first of these loci to be excavated was locus 21.04.002. This locus was described as a layer of brick, stone, and mortar, intermixed with sandy silt. Locus 21.04.002 was located along the west lot wall. This wall was at one time the back wall for the structure; however, when the building was extended to the east, the wall was destroyed. Locus 21.04.002 was probably destruction debris left behind after the wall was removed. The locus contained cultural material from both the 18th and 19th centuries.

The next locus encountered within unit 4 was locus 21.04.003. Locus 21.04.003 was located just to the east of locus 21.04.002. It was described as a 10 inch thick layer of brown clayey silt with mortar. This locus contained artifactual material from both the 18th and 19th centuries. It was probably deposited in order to level the backyard area prior to the construction of the brick floor.

Two of the three remaining loci below locus 21.04.001 can be combined. These loci, 21.04.004 and 21.04.006, were
identified as a builder's trench for the south lot wall (21.04.006), and a small layer of associated overflow (21.04.004). Both of these loci contained mixed cultural material from both the 18th and 19th centuries.

At this point it is important to note that the builder's trench, 21.04.006, cut through fill loci 21.04.002 and 21.04.003. This indicates that the south lot wall was constructed after the enlargement of the building and the associated destruction of the structure's rear wall. Prior to the extension of the building there is no evidence for the existence of a common wall between lots 21 and 20.

Locus 21.04.005 was the last locus below 21.04.001 within unit 4. It was described as a semi-circular feature located on the east side of the excavation unit. Only a small portion of the feature extended into unit 4; most of it was located on the west side of unit 2. No excavation was carried out in locus 21.04.005.

A cobbled surface, 21.04.007, was found below all of the above mentioned fill loci. This locus covered all of unit 4 except for the area of locus 21.04.005 and a small area in the northeast section of the unit (21.04.008). Locus 21.04.008 was adjacent to 21.04.007. It consisted of a layer of brown silt and was not excavated.

Excavation started in unit 2 (located in the southeast corner of the lot) in an effort to locate and identify the remainder of the semi-circular feature, 21.04.005, that was discovered in unit 4. The first locus encountered in the
excavation of unit 2 was locus 21.02.001, a layer of dark brown sandy fill that covered 75 percent of the unit. The locus was 4 to 6 inches thick and contained numerous artifacts from the 18th and 19th centuries. A small, dark brown circular stain, 21.02.004, was located within locus 21.02.001 and was later identified as a sump. It was located directly below a round hole that had been in the surface of the brick floor.

Five loci were located below locus 21.02.001. The first of these was locus 21.02.006, described as part of the builder's trench that was located along the south wall within unit 4. The next locus excavated was 21.02.002, identified as a builder's trench located along the east lot wall. The next locus encountered was 21.02.003. This locus, located in the northeast area of the unit, was identified as a layer of clayey silt with mixed cultural material from both the 18th and 19th centuries. Locus 21.02.009 was located partially below 21.02.003, but also below locus 21.02.001. This locus was identified as the remainder of the round feature (now identified as a privy) that was located in unit 4. A coal and cinder pit, 21.02.005, was cut into the surface of the privy 21.02.009. Although this pit contained ceramics and glass, no field identification was given.

Locus 21.02.007 was located in the northern third of the excavation unit under loci 21.02.002, 21.02.003, 21.02.005, and 21.02.006. It was also adjacent to privy 21.02.009. Locus 21.02.007 was identified as a layer of brown silt with inclusions
of mortar and charcoal. It contained mixed cultural material from both the 18th and 19th centuries.

Locus number 21.02.009 was assigned to not only the top courses of the privy wall but also to the top fill layer within the wall. This locus was a reddish brown silty sand 11 to 15 inches thick. Locus 21.02.004, mentioned above, cuts into locus 21.02.009 and continues down into the original landfill. This sump (21.02.004) was constructed sometime during the late 19th or early 20th century; however, based on the artifacts recovered from within the sump, it was filled in during the destruction of the building (c. 1960). Below locus 21.02.009, four loci were excavated from within the area of the privy (these loci do not include three that were within the sump). Three of these loci were cultural fill deposits within the privy which all contained 18th/19th century artifactual material. The last locus to be excavated in this sequence was locus 21.02.016, which was identified as original landfill.

The final unit to be excavated within lot 21 was unit 3 (located in the northwest). The first sequence of loci to be excavated in unit 3 consisted of four fill loci, each of which in turn covered the entire unit. All four loci (21.03.001, 21.03.002, 21.03.003, and 21.02.004) were described as being brownish layers of sandy silt that contained mixed artifactual material from both the 18th and 19th centuries. Locus 21.03.004 extended to a layer of cobbles identical to those in unit 4 (21.04.007). This locus, 21.03.006, covered most of the unit's surface with the exception of a small area along
the unit's eastern edge, where the westernmost privy wall (privy wall 21.01.015) extended into unit 3, and a builder's trench located against the lot's northern wall. A small probe was then cut into 21.03.006. This probe, 21.03.005, extended to part of the cribbing/wharf complex.

LOT 22
(173 Water Street)
Excavation Began: 10 November 1981

At first the backhoe removed only a small section of the basement fill in the northeast corner of the lot, exposing a concrete floor which was covered with about half a foot of water. Several days later, the remainder of the fill was removed. In the process of excavation, two large support pillars had to be removed from the basement area. Relatively speaking, the basement area of lot 22 was very deep and as a result there was little hope of finding intact deposits below the concrete floor.

Descriptive work in lot 22 had started long before the excavation in the basement area (6 Nov.). It was at this time that the triangular brick feature along the north wall in the northeast corner of the lot was described and identified as unit 1. Limited excavation occurred within the unit, in which two loci were removed. These loci were 22.01.001 and 22.01.002. Locus 22.01.001 was a 23-inch layer of 20th-century brick rubble, while 22.01.002 (which was under 22.01.001) was
a 30-inch layer of coal dust. Locus 22.01.002 also contained several bottles from the early 20th century. At this point the feature was tentatively identified as a late 19th-century coal chute, and excavation stopped.

On 2 December, it was decided to remove the concrete floor despite its obvious depth, and to establish four excavation units within the basement area. By the end of 3 December, excavation had started in the most likely area, unit 2. It soon became apparent that most of the unit was within the walls of an early 19th-century privy. The first locus encountered within the unit was 22.02.001. This locus covered the entire surface of the unit including the privy walls (22.02.016). It was a 1 to 6 inch layer of brown/gray sandy fill that contained artifacts from the last quarter of the 18th and early 19th centuries.

Loci 22.02.002, 22.02.003, and 22.02.005 (later combined) were three layers of dark brown silt located directly below locus 22.02.001. They also contained late 18th-and early 19th-century cultural material. Below and contiguous to these three loci were loci 22.02.006 and 22.02.009. Locus 22.02.006 was a fill layer within 22.02.009. It was identical to the three mentioned above; however, it is separated from the others by locus 22.02.009 which was identified as a barrel. Locus 22.02.007 was a layer of black silt (night soil) that was located under locus 22.02.005. It covered the entire area of the privy except in the barrel (22.02.009). However, in the barrel (under 22.02.006) was a layer of black silt identical
to that in 22.02.007. Because this fill (22.02.012) was within the barrel, it was assigned a different number.

Both loci 22.02.007 and 22.02.12 contained large amounts of 18th-and early 19th-century cultural material. Locus 22.02.008 was located below 22.02.007. It was identified as a late 18th-century fill layer that covered the entire unit except 22.02.009. Locus 22.02.010 was located below 22.02.008 and adjacent to the base of 22.02.009. This locus was a layer of light tan clayey silt that surrounded the base of the barrel (Note: very similar to the barrel in lot 33 unit 1). The two remaining loci below 22.02.008 were 22.02.013 and 22.02.014, both of which were original landfill.

After unit 2 was completed, units 3 and 5 were started. This was done in an effort to locate more sections of the cribbing/wharf complex and also because the units were in the western half of the lot. Excavation stopped almost as soon as it started for the cribbing/wharf complex was hit directly under the first locus in both units. The final unit in lot 22 to be excavated was unit 4. The excavation area was limited because of several large timbers or foundation beams that had probably been used as supports for the two pillars that were removed earlier by the backhoe. Below locus 22.04.001, which was identical to locus 001 in unit 2, there was a sequence of six fill loci within small privy (22.04.009) along the north wall. All of the loci within the privy contained late 18th- and early 19th-century cultural material. Just to the south of the privy under 22.04.001 and part of 22.04.002 was locus
22.04.003, a light gray layer of silt containing the late 18th-century artifacts. There was also an unidentified wooden feature that ran north-south from 22.04.003 into the privy 22.04.009. This may be part of a cofferdam/bulkhead.

LOT 23
(175 Water Street)
Excavation Began: 10 November 1981

After the 20th-century destruction debris was removed from the basement area of the lot by the backhoe, a 16 foot 6 inch x 14 foot 6 inch concrete basement floor became visible. This meant that the earlier backyard area of the lot had been truncated by the extension of the structure's basement.

As in unit 1 of lot 22, the first excavation unit in lot 23 was not started in the basement area of the lot. Unit 1 of lot 23 was established in what was probably a late 19th-century coal chute. This feature, unlike the one in lot 22, was rectangular in shape. It was built up against the southern lot wall in the southeast corner of the lot.

Soon after the lot's concrete floor was exposed it was removed with the help of the backhoe. At this point excavation units were established within the area of the 18th- and early 19th-century backyard. In the process of removing the basement floor, several features were located and identified. The best preserved feature, a privy, was located in unit 5. It was therefore in unit 5 that excavation started.
The stones of the privy wall (23.05.019) were visible from the surface, so we were able to limit the area of excavation to the feature itself (at first the southern half). A total of 11 fill loci were excavated in the privy. These loci ranged from sandy silts to clay, and for the most part were brown or gray brown in color. The artifactual material was all 18th- and early 19th-century. After the excavation in the privy reached original landfill, work in the unit stopped.

Excavation was then started in unit 4. The first feature identified in unit 4 was a cistern base, which became visible as soon as the concrete floor was removed. Within the area of the cistern wall (23.04.020), there were two loci above the actual cistern base, 23.04.001 and 23.04.002. Both of these loci were full of destruction debris and contained cultural material from the late 18th to the mid-19th centuries. The next two loci, 23.04.003 and 23.04.004, were the mortar and the flagstone floor of the cistern. Neither of these loci contained any artifacts. Beneath the flagstone floor (23.04.004), there were two layers of sand, 23.04.006 and 23.04.007, both of which contained 19th-century cultural material. Beneath 23.04.007, a second cistern floor (23.04.008 and 23.04.027) was located. These loci (combined later) were apparently part of the structural makeup of the cistern. Before this early 19th-century cistern had been constructed, the area served as a trash pit for discarded and broken ceramics and glassware. This supposition is supported by a series of 15 fill loci and three associated loci that have been tentatively identified as
surfaces. These loci were part of a pit that had apparently been cut into the original landfill. All of the ceramics and glass recovered from the pit appear to date from the early to middle 18th century. Another 18th-century feature was located in the northwest corner of unit 4 under locus 23.04.009. The feature was identified as a small privy which was half in unit 4 and extends into unit 5 where it was cut by a stone and brick mortared wall running east-west near the south wall of unit 5. The privy contained eight fill loci, the top two of which (23.04.010 and 23.04.011) included cultural material that was identified in the field as early 19th-century. However, the remaining six loci contained exclusively middle to late 18th-century artifacts.

The cistern, privy and trash pit were not the only features in unit 4. During the excavation of the cistern and pit, two wooden boxes were discovered, one (23.04.041) under part of the cistern and the other (23.04.062) under locus 23.04.009 outside of the cistern area in the southwest corner of the unit. Both of these boxes seemed to have functioned as either privies or trash bins. It is unlikely that either box was part of a cofferdam complex because of their small size. One of the boxes, 23.04.062, contained large amounts of early 19th-century ceramics, most of which will be restorable. The second box, 23.04.041, contained fragments of 18th-century ceramics.

The remaining two units, 2 and 3, were excavated at the same time in an effort to locate the cribbing/wharf complex, part of which extended into the western side of unit 4. In
unit 2 the top of the cribbing was reached at a depth of approximately 7 inches, while in unit 3, the cribbing was not reached at all. Several features were, however, located in unit 3. After the top locus, 23.03.001, was removed, a wooden barrel was located in the center of the unit. The fill within the barrel (23.03.002) contained late 18th-century artifacts. Part of the barrel was cut by a late 19th-century red brick sump (23.03.006), which was also located under 23.03.001. The two remaining loci that were uncovered by the removal of locus 23.02.001 were 23.03.003, a 1 to 5.5 inch layer of ashy silt, and a large wooden plank that ran along the southern edge of the unit.

LOT 30  
(176 Front Street)  
Excavation Began: 4 November 1981

On 29 October 1981, the brick rubble was removed from the basement of lot 20 with a backhoe. Three windows were exposed along the west wall of the basement. The interior width of these windows from south to north was 35 inches, 43.25 inches, and 44 inches, respectively. All three windows have the remains of wooden frames, half-inch screening, and iron bars. The basement's concrete floor was encountered 69 inches below the top of the foundation. Further work in the western half of the basement was considered futile due to the depth of the basement floor.
On 4 November 1981, the backhoe removed the fill from the rectangular area that was thought to be the backyard just beyond the western wall of the basement, and soon a layer of coal dust was found. This locus contained bottles from the 1940's. When a flagstone floor was uncovered, it became apparent that the area being excavated was indeed a backyard, even if it functioned as a yard only in the late 19th and early 20th centuries (as was the case in several other lots).

As soon as the flagstone floor was removed, the yard was divided into quadrants; unit 1 was in the southwest corner, unit 2 in the southeast corner, unit 3 in the northwest corner, and unit 4 in the northeast corner. In the process of removing the flagstone floor from the area of unit 3, a large cistern (2.5 x 4 feet) was uncovered. The cistern and its red brick walls made up most of the unit. A cast iron water pipe was located in the southeast corner of unit 3. This pipe ran from the cistern in unit 3 to a sump-like feature constructed of red bricks and stones in unit 2. The western edge of this feature (the sump) also extended slightly into unit 1. A red brick trough ran from the sump in unit 2 to the southeast corner of the unit and beyond. This indicates that the sump and its associated features are either contemporary to or pre-date the construction of the wall between the basement and backyard of lot 30.

Excavation started in unit 1 on 25 November. The first locus encountered was 30.01.001, which covered the entire surface area of unit 1, except the small section occupied by
the sump (30.01.016). The locus was a thick layer of brown sandy silt which contained several 20th-century artifacts. Loci 30.10.002, 30.01.003, and 30.01.004, were located under locus 30.01.001. All of these loci were part of the same fill episode. They were all layers of dark brown to black silt and contained late 18th-through 19th-century artifacts.

The next locus encountered was 30.01.005. This locus covered the entire excavation area. It consisted of a 1 to 6 inch layer of orange sand which contained very few artifacts. All of the loci encountered below 30.01.005 were probably part of the original landfill. One locus of note within the landfill was 30.01.011, a wooden barrel. Unit 2 was excavated down to the top of the original landfill. The first five loci encountered within unit 2 were the same as those previously excavated in unit 1, while locus 30.02.006 has been identified as landfill.

LOT 31
(174 Front Street)
Excavation Began: 6 November 1981

Like most of the lots in block 71, the basement of lot 31 was extended to the west when the structure was enlarged. Because of the depth of the basement floor there is little question that its construction resulted in the removal of any backyard deposits. However, in the process of removing the destruction debris, feature (31.01.002) was located in the southwest corner of the basement.
The feature consisted of a small brick and concrete wall, 31.01.002, connecting the western and southern walls of lot 31. The area enclosed by these walls became unit 1. After the walls of the unit were drawn, excavation commenced. The top locus in the unit was a layer of decayed wood, 31.01.001. Below the wood was a layer of sandy silt, 31.01.004, which was followed by a layer of coal dust, 31.01.003. Once the coal dust was removed, a concrete floor was uncovered. Based on the artifacts recovered from the unit, the feature was probably constructed in the late 19th century. Most likely it functioned as a coal bin.

LOT 32
(172 Front Street)
Excavation Began: 30 October 1981

The basement and backyard areas of lot 32 were both exposed and defined by the backhoe. Once the backyard area was defined, the backhoe was no longer used there because the area was too small for the bucket. The backhoe was used to excavate the basement area until the western half was cleared of debris.

The backhoe exposed two gaps in the western wall of the basement. These gaps apparently functioned as either two windows or two doorways. The western wall was constructed of dressed stone and mortar, while the north and south walls were constructed of fieldstone and mortared red brick. The water
The backyard area was cleared by hand; then it was drawn and divided into two excavation units. Unit 1 was located in the south while unit 2 was in the north. During the course of the project, excavation proceeded only in unit 2.

Locus 32.02.001, a layer of dark brown sandy silt, covered most of the unit. However, in the north 32.02.001 ran under the planks of locus 32.02.003. Both of these loci date to the 20th century. It is possible that the wooden planks of locus 32.03.003 were the remains of a wooden floor associated with a small outbuilding.

Two loci were located under 32.02.001: 32.02.024, a builder's trench located in the north of the unit against a wall (32.03.007) and 32.02.009, a mid- to late 19th-century layer of light brown sandy silt. Locus 32.02.024 was only the top layer in the builder's trench sequence that contained 32.02.023, 32.02.025, 32.02.026, and 32.02.027. All of these loci contained artifacts that date the trench and its associated wall (32.02.007) to the middle or even late 19th century. To the south of 32.02.024, locus 32.02.009 covered the remaining surface of the excavation unit. Below 32.02.009 was a mottled layer of black to brown sandy silt, 32.02.010/011 (combined later). Despite that fact that this locus contained a half penny of William III (1694-1702), the remainder of the artifacts indicate that the locus was deposited sometime during
the early to middle 19th century.

The only feature encountered in lot 32 was located below locus 32.02.010/011 in the northern half of the excavation unit. It was first identified as a wooden stain, but, as the excavation continued, the stain turned into the southern wall of a well-constructed wooden box. This box contained a sequence of seven fill loci, the last of which was original landfill. All of these loci, except for the last, contained cultural material that dates the fill within the feature to the last quarter of the 18th century through the first quarter of the 19th century. The actual function of this feature is still unknown, for its walls extend to the north and east outside of the area of the excavation unit. However, the artifactual material within the box indicates that it was filled at least 40 years, and possibly as many as 80 years, after the block was stabilized. Therefore, the artifacts within the fill preclude any possibility that the box was part of a cofferdam complex.

Locus 32.02.013, located just to the south of the box feature and also under 32.02.010/11, was the first locus in a sequence of late 18th- to early 19th-century fill loci. This sequence of 7 loci also reached original landfill, but at a much higher elevation than in the feature.
LOT 33
(170 Front Street)
Excavation Began: 30 October 1981

The rectangular backyard area of lot 33 was surrounded by a brick and fieldstone wall. This wall was 20 feet long (east-west) by 17 feet wide (north-south). A flagstone and brick footing abutted the interior side of the wall, and in places, fragments of a flagstone floor were found. The south and west side of the backyard area was surrounded by an L-shaped alley way approximately 3.5 feet wide. Its elevation and construction immediately suggested that lot 33 was the least-altered yard encountered on the block. After the walls of the lot were defined (by the backhoe) and drawn, four excavation units were established within the backyard and four others in the alley.

During the testing phase only two of the four excavation units were dug in the area of the backyard: units 2 and 3. Because the backhoe did not strip away all of the destruction debris (1959), the top loci of both units (2 and 3) contained 20th-century artifacts as well as those from the 19th and 18th centuries. However, there were no 20th-century artifacts recovered from below these top loci.

In unit 2, several feet of undisturbed 18th-century fill (33.02.003, 33.02.005, and 33.02.010) were excavated. The cultural material recovered from these loci included glass fragments, pipe fragments, imported porcelain, white salt-glazed
stoneware and creamware. Several coins were recovered as well, all of which were issued between 1787 and 1753.

In the course of removing this fill, a large fieldstone wall (the west wall of a large cistern later discovered in unit 9) and its associated builder's trench was found well below the level of the standing backyard wall. The fieldstone wall ran north-south along the eastern edge of unit 2. The discovery of the trench (33.02.011) provides evidence that the fill pre-dates the construction of the wall.

Resting directly below the 18th-century fill described above was a layer of gray brown sandy silt with inclusions of charcoal and ash. This locus, 33.02.016, was identified as a living surface. Parts of this same surface were later discovered in all of the units except for units 5, 6, and 7 located in the alley. The removal of locus 33.02.016 uncovered locus 33.02.017, which was also identified as a living surface. Locus 33.02.017 consisted of a four to five inch layer of orange sand that covered most of the lot. A third surface was located under 33.02.017 in the northern half of unit 2. This surface, 33.02.019, consisted of a wooden floor. It had been constructed over a thick layer of mid-18th-century fill (33.02.020). Below locus 33.02.020, was locus 33.02.021, which was identified as original landfill.

As in unit 2, several feet of undisturbed 18th-century fill (33.03.003, 33.03.004, 33.03.005, 33.03.006, and 33.03.010) were removed from the excavation unit. This fill contained the same general types of artifacts as were recovered from unit 2.
In addition, however, the recovery of four coins should be noted. All of these coins were issued between 1764 and 1788.

The gray living surface that was located in unit 2 was also found in unit 3, below the 18th-century fill. The surface was littered with broken artifacts, including 3/4 of a creamware plate, two smashed case gin bottles, numerous ceramic fragments, and a 1764 half-penny of King George III. The following loci were identified as being part of the surface: 33.03.023, 33.03.013, and 33.03.009.

An orange brick furnace, 33.03.015, was also located under the 18th-century fill. This locus consisted of a platform of orange bricks founded on a layer of stones and mortar (33.03.016). These stones, in turn, were founded on the orange sand living surface (33.03.025) that was located below the gray living surface.

A wooden floor, 33.03.029, was located below locus 33.03.025 in the southwest corner of the excavation unit. While locus 33.03.029 was not connected with the wooden floor located in the northern half of unit 2, it was probably associated. Original landfill, 33.03.030, was located below locus 33.03.029.

After the testing phase was completed, excavation started in units 1 and 4. Of all the units excavated in lot 33, unit 1 was the most complex. The following is a general description of the locus sequences within the unit.

As in the other three units, the top loci (33.01.001 and 33.01.002) of unit 1 contained 20th- and 19th-century inclusions. These loci were followed by an undisturbed layer of 18th-
The 18th-century fill, 33.01.003, covering most of the unit. Directly below locus 33.01.003, however, several features were located. These features included part of the orange brick platform first located in unit 3 (numbered 33.01.005 in unit 1) and its associated loci, as well as a straight-sided barrel cistern (33.01.016) and its associated loci.

The gray (33.01.017) and orange (33.01.019) living surfaces were also located in unit 1, but only along the east unit edge. Original landfill was located below all of these features.

The next unit to be excavated in the backyard was unit 4. Only the top locus, 33.04.001, contained any 20th-century inclusions. A large and complex sequence of 18th-century fill loci was located below locus 33.04.001. Loci 33.04.002 and 33.04.003 were the largest fill layers within the sequence; however, there were at least 15 others, most of which were later combined.

A mid-19th century feature, tentatively identified as a stoop, was located under locus 33.04.002 along the eastern wall of the unit. The feature, 33.04.010, was constructed from fieldstone without the use of mortar. A relatively large builder's trench (for the stoop) was also located. The trench, loci 33.04.021 and 33.04.036, cut into original landfill.

Both gray (33.04.033) and orange (33.03.035) living surfaces were located under the 18th-century fill. A wall, locus 33.04.034, which was located on the orange surface, was also located below the fill. Original landfill was reached soon after locus 33.04.035 was removed.
Excavation in unit 5, situated between the eastern half of lot 19 and unit 1 in the backyard of lot 33, began on 4 November 1981. Here, apparently, the backhoe was more successful in removing the 20th-century overburden, for the top locus in unit 5 contained only 19th-century cultural material. This locus, 33.5.001, was a 2 to 4 inch layer of brown sandy silt with inclusions of cinder, ash, brick fragments, and lenses of gray and tan sand. Below this locus were several layers of coal and cinders inter-mixed with pockets of ash and sand. These loci rested directly on top of a wood plank floor locus 33.05.006. In the eastern section of unit 5, another wooden floor, 33.05.005, was located. This floor was under 33.05.001, but above a thin layer of ash and cinder which separated it from the wooden planks of locus 33.05.006.

Just to the west of locus 33.05.006, a line of stones was identified as a possible privy wall. Subsequent excavation did indeed demonstrate that the line of stones, 33.05.033, was part of a privy.

A total of 17 different fill layers were excavated from within the privy in unit 5. Approximately a third of the privy extended into the area of unit 7; however, as one would expect, the stratigraphy appears to be identical in both units.

From the insurance maps we know that the brick wall around the backyard area of lot 33 was built before 1867. Since the wall was constructed over the privy's northern wall, it can be assumed that its construction postdates the filling of the privy. Judging from the ceramics found there, the privy dates
to sometime in the mid-19th century. This date is further supported by an 1865 Indian Head penny that was discovered in locus 33.05.015. There is little chance that the coin was intrusive, for locus 33.05.015 was not located near the surface. The privy did contain large amounts of late 18th-century artifacts; however, the loci that contained these artifacts were pockets within fill that contained artifactual material from the early to mid 19th century.

The remainder of unit 5, an area outside the privy, was excavated down to original landfill. A total of 21 fill layers were excavated from the eastern half of unit 5. Below these loci, an additional 11 layers identified as original landfill, were excavated. Several of the loci within this sequence were identified as builder's trenches for the privy and the south lot wall. The material culture recovered from this excavation reflects an early 19th-century date for the construction of the privy.

Unit 7 was established at the southwestern edge of the alley way, just to the west of unit 5. Excavation of a ring of stones in unit 5 began on 13 November 1981. This was what was thought to be the western edge of a cistern or privy. The ring of stones was found to extend into unit 7 and was tentatively identified as a privy. The area within unit 7 where excavation could take place was quite limited, amounting to slightly less than a third of the privy. The stratigraphy within the privy in unit 5 was identical to that in unit 7.

The third unit opened in the alley way was unit 6. Unit
6 was located at the eastern end of the alley. The top two loci were identical to those encountered in unit 5: 33.06.001, a layer of brown sandy silt with inclusions of cinder, ash, and lenses of gray and tan sand and 33.06.002, a floor of wooden planks. Below the wooden planks of locus 33.06.002, three gray to black fill loci were excavated. At this point the remains of a possible barrel (iron rings) were uncovered. The matrix within the barrel was orange/yellow clay, while outside the rings, the fill (33.06.007) was a layer of black/brown sandy silt with inclusions of rust and charcoal. A thin layer of brown sand, 33.06.009, was located below locus 33.06.007. However, below locus 33.06.009 a platform of orange bricks was uncovered. This feature was the southern half of the brick platform that was discovered in units 1 and 3. The gray living surface that was present in units 1 to 4 was also located in unit 6. Excavation of the barrel indicated that it, too, rested on this surface.

The final unit that was excavated in lot 33 was unit 9, at the northern end of the alley way. The top locus, 33.09.001, was a thick layer of dark brown silt containing 19th- and/or 20th-century cultural material. Locus 33.09.002, a dark brown layer of sandy silt (later combined with 33.09.001), covered the entire unit. After half of locus 33.09.002 was excavated, an east-west running wall was uncovered that divided the unit in two. The stone wall was well sealed with plaster on the northern face and had obviously been constructed as part of a cistern. This is the same wall extending into unit 2. Further
excavation in the northern half of unit 9 revealed the cistern's northern wall, as well. After the discovery of the cistern, excavation south of the wall stopped until the excavation of the cistern was completed. Locus 33.09.006 was found below 33.09.002 in the area of the cistern. This locus was a layer of red sand which covered the entire area of the cistern.

Locus 33.09.007, located below 33.09.006, was the last locus excavated from within the cistern. It consisted of a layer of grayish brown clayey silt deposited above the remains of the cistern's plastered floor and contained early to mid-19th-century artifactual material.

Once the cistern was finished, excavation resumed in the southern part of the unit. Locus 33.09.008 was the first fill layer encountered below locus 33.09.002 in the southern half of the cistern. The next locus excavated in this sequence was 33.09.009, which was identified as a builder's trench for the cistern wall. Locus 33.09.010 was found next and was identified as the orange living surface that had been present in most of the other units in the lot.

LOT 36
(164 Front Street)
Excavation Began: 13 November 1981

On 13 November unit 1 was established in the northwest corner of lot 36. This area was chosen because it was indicated on the 1867 Perris and Brown Insurance Map as a small walled
yard adjacent to the main structure. As soon as excavation started it became apparent that unit 1 was a square cistern.

The first locus encountered within the walls of the cistern was 36.01.001, a layer of tan sandy fill with inclusions of brick rubble. Based on the artifacts within the locus, it was probably deposited sometime in the 1870's. Below 36.01.001 were loci 36.01.002 and 36.01.003. Both of these loci were fill layers that also dated to the 1870's. Locus 36.01.004 was below 36.01.002 and 36.01.003. It was a green/brown layer of sandy silt which contained numerous inclusions of brick and mortar. Based on the latest artifactual material recovered from this locus, it was probably deposited in the mid-19th century. The next locus encountered was 36.01.005/006 (combined later). This layer covered the entire surface of the excavation area. It consisted of gray/brown sandy silt with some brick inclusions. The cultural material in this locus dated it to the early 19th century.

It is important to note that at this point the cistern walls stop. Apparently the bottom of the cistern was broken through when it was filled in. This could have been done so the cistern would no longer collect and hold standing water.

The artifactual material recovered from this feature indicate that the cistern was constructed in the early 19th century and probably filled in sometime in the 1870's.

The next locus, 36.01.009, was identified as original landfill.