

**A REPORT ON THE 2016
ARCHAEOLOGICAL TESTING
AT
THE CAPTAIN BANGS HALLET HOUSE
YARMOUTH PORT, MA**

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Introduction

Upon reading in the newspaper that the Historical Society of Old Yarmouth (HSOY) was hoping to do some work to stabilize a portion of the 1840 Bangs Hallet House in Yarmouth Port, the Plymouth Archaeological Rediscovery Project (PARP) volunteered to conduct one day of archaeological testing at the site. The purpose of this testing was to examine the archaeological record of the use of the property, as it is preserved in the soils in the immediate vicinity of the house. It was known that the house was built in the first half of the nineteenth century, but when exactly was not known. There was also the tradition that a portion of the current structure had incorporated an earlier building, possibly dating to as early as 1740, that had existed on the property. What PARP hoped to do was to determine the archaeological potential of the property, to examine the types of artifacts that were used by the occupants of the house, to examine the possibility of an earlier occupation of the land and to provide the HSOY with some recommendations as to what can be done to protect the archaeological and architectural records.

House History

The house was probably built by Thomas Thacher ca. 1840. Thacher was from Boston and apparently he, and subsequently his brother Henry, summered in Yarmouth Port. Thomas was identified as a merchant in Yarmouth in 1838 (*Barnstable Patriot* Wednesday September 19, 1838). He later appears as the guardian of Henry C. Thacher who was charged with selling a piece of his land in Hyannis (*Barnstable Patriot* December 16, 1846 to January 13, 1847) and was the lawyer in charge of dissolving the co-partnership of Crocker, Sears and Company, also in 1847 (*Barnstable Patriot* January 20, 1847 to March 17, 1847). He was involved with at least two railroads in the 1840s and 50s, serving as a stockholder of the Cheshire Railroad in Keene, New Hampshire and providing support for a plan to build a dyke in Barnstable Harbor for an extension of the Cape Cod Railroad (*Barnstable Patriot* May 5, 1857; September 12, 1849; March 5, 1850). He also was the vice president of a social group for Cape Codders living in Boston (*Barnstable Patriot* May 20, 1851). Thacher eventually moved to New York, and his death in 1861 was also noted in the *Barnstable Patriot* (September 3, 1861).

A brief examination in 2016 of the building's architecture (as visible in the cellar beneath the main house and the kitchen ell) indicates that the entire frame for the sill of the house and addition was one build with both sections sharing the same sill frame. This seems to indicate that the kitchen ell was part of the original nineteenth century building, being built at the same time as the main house. Locating the kitchen in a separate part of the house, and including in that same part rooms on the second floor above the kitchen, indicate that it was built for a family with servants versus one without. Thomas Thacher is known to have had at least two servants in his household in the 1850.

The house was probably originally built as a summer home by the Thachers of Boston and was known to have been sold to Captain Allen Hallet Knowles by Thomas Thacher in 1850 for \$2600.00 (Barnstable County Registry of Deeds [BCRD] Book 48, p. 325) (Appendix A). The land was described as having buildings on it and being bound by the land of Thomas Thacher on one side, the highway on another, and the lands of George and Frederick Matthews on a third. An unspecified type of outbuilding was noted being near one corner of the lot. Knowles was noted in the 1860 census as having \$3000.00 in real estate and \$12,000.00 in personal, as compared to his neighbors Reuben Ryder who had \$1000.00 in real and \$700.00 in personal and Henry Thacher who had \$3000.00 in real and \$50,000.00 in personal. Henry Charles Thacher was the son of Henry Thacher who was the son of Peter Thacher who was the brother of Captain Bang's Hallet's mother Anner Thacher (both children of Lt Peter Thacher).

Knowles lived in the house from 1850-1863, at which time he sold the house to Bangs Hallet for \$3000.00 (BCRD Book 82 P. 16) (Appendix A). The property is described as being containing the dwelling house and other buildings. The property was bounded by George Matthews on the north side and Henry C. Thacher, Thomas' brother, on the south side. Knowles' wife Caroline was recorded purchasing Bangs Hallet's house the same day (December 22, 1863) for \$5000.00 (BCRD Book 82 P. 539) (Appendix A), meaning that Bangs Hallet made a \$2000.00 profit on the sale. Their house was bordered by Amos Otis, Ezekiel Hallet, and Nathaniel Cogswell. Bangs and Anna Hallet lived in their new house until the late nineteenth century, with Anna dying in 1887 and Bangs in 1893.

Bangs Hallet was the son of Edward Bangs Hallet and Anner Thacher. He was born on August 30, 1807 and married Anna Eldredge in 1829. The couple had eight children, six of whom died in infancy or early childhood (**Table 1**). Bangs Hallet was identified in the state and federal census as a Master Mariner and is believed to have spent at least 30 years at sea, beginning soon after his marriage and ending before 1863 when they purchased the house from the Knowles.

Table 1. Bangs and Anna's Children

Name	Date of Birth	Date of Death	Notes
Amelia	1830	1906	Married John Hawes 1852
Anna	1835	1869	Married Tripp of Fairhaven Died "of consumption of the bowels"
Infant Son	1837	1837	
Infant Son	1838	1838	
Mary Ann	1843	1846	Died of Dysentery
Infant Son	1844	1844	
Infant Son	1846	1846	Died of "fits"
Infant Daughter	1852	1852	

The 1870 census was the first one that recorded the Hallets living at the house on Strawberry Lane. On this census he is listed as a seaman with \$4000.00 in real estate and \$1000.00 in personal estate. His neighbor Henry C. Thatcher's estate was valued at \$150,000.00 real and \$300,000.00 personal. The Hallet's other neighbor, George Matthews, had an estate valued at \$3000.00 real and \$12,000.00 personal in the same year. In 1880, Henry Thacher was identified as a cotton and wool broker with three servants, Bangs Hallet was identified as a retired shipmaster, and their other neighbor was now Lucy Eldredge and James Hallet, who was identified as a shop keeper.

A review of the references to Bangs and Anna Hallet in the *Barnstable Patriot* newspaper, was used to provide further details about their lives (**Table 2**).

Table 2. *Barnstable Patriot* references to Bangs and Anna Hallet

Date	Event
1848	old ship <i>Herber</i> in Boston, commanded by Hallet
1862	Yarmouth Institute president Addressed war meeting on committee for July 4 th celebration, gave speech at celebration Talked at the Congregational Conference about the "Sailor's Cause"
1864	elected to Truant Commission

- 1866 Delegate to Congregational Convention
 1869 Friends surprised couple on their 40th wedding anniversary
 1870 He and his wife injured seriously in a carriage crash
 1871 Delegate at Republican Convention
 1872 Shipping Commissioner New Bedford and Barnstable
 1873 Delegate at Republican Caucus
 Delegate at the Congregational Convention
 1874 Delegate at Republican Caucus
 Delegate at the Congregational Convention
 Representative at the Congregational Convention
 1875 Delegate at Republican Caucus
 1877 Vice President of the Unitarian Conference
 1879 Delegate at Republican Caucus
 Celebrated 50th wedding anniversary
 1880 Donated Chinese lanterns to exhibit
 Wife was the head of the sewing circle
 1881 Returned from visit to Fairhaven
 Visited Fairhaven
 Besse Hawes of Fairhaven visiting them in Yarmouth Port
 1882 Returned from Fairhaven
 Joanne Tripp of Fairhaven visiting them in Yarmouth Port
 1883 Moderator at the Congregational Convention
 Gave July 4th speech
 Celebrated his brother's wedding anniversary
 1884 Shipping Commissioner
 Delegate for state convention
 Resigned as Shipping Commissioner
 1885 Listed as a tax payer in Yarmouth
 1886 Went to Boston
 Recovering from serious illness
 Noted as having window in his tree after gale
 1887 Wife Anna died
 1888 Went to Fairhaven in the winter with his daughter
 Tried to rent Yarmouth house
 1889 Caroline Gorham was to rent house in Yarmouth, but then did not
 Was writing a book "30 Years a Commander"
 Councilor of Democratic caucus (Henry C. Thacher chairman)
 1890 Improving in health
 Returned from Fairhaven
 1891 Sick with Pneumonia
 Was one of five people over 80 years old present at local party
 1892 Opened his house for the season
 Went to Fairhaven
 Visited Grover Cleveland when he arrived at Gray Gables
 Died
 1893 Henry Thacher bought his house

Bangs Hallet first appeared in the *Barnstable Patriot* in 1848, and did not appear again until he retired ca. 1862. At this time he was reported to have been the president of the Yarmouth Institute, was a public society that promoted literary improvement and topics of public concern, having been created in December of 1843 in Yarmouth (Swift 1884: 228). Through the years he was consistently involved with the Congregational Convention between 1862 and 1874 and again in 1883 as well as the Republican Caucus from 1871-1879. He appears to have become a Democrat later in life, being noted as a councilor for the Democratic Caucus in 1889 and meeting Democratic President Grover Cleveland at Gray Gables in Bourne in 1892.

In 1872 Bangs Hallet served as the first Shipping Commissioner for the New Bedford and Barnstable areas. The Shipping Commissioner was a Federal government position created as a result of the 1872 Shipping Commissioners Act. This act was intended to ensure that sailors weren't "forcibly or unknowingly signed on by a crimp" (a crimp being someone who kidnapped [shanghaied] a sailor, usually by rendering him unconscious, forging his signature on the ship's articles, and being paid with "blood money" per body delivered to a ship). Under the new law, sailors had to a sailor had to sign on to a ship in the presence of a federal shipping commissioner.

One of the interesting findings from the *Barnstable Patriot* research, was that Bangs Hallet changed his political affiliation in the late nineteenth century, switching from a Republican to a Democrat. The possible reasons for his switch, as possibly evidenced by looking at what each party believed in the period, has the potential to offer a bit of personal perspective on his mindset.

The late nineteenth century was an exciting time for political involvement in America with 80-90% of eligible voters consistently participating in local and national elections at a time when there was really little difference between the two political parties. The Republican Party first appeared in 1856 and had as its platform, stopping the spread of slavery into the western territories. The Republican party soon became the dominant party in the North. After the Civil War, the Republican (or Grand Old Party [GOP]) promoted industrial development through high tariffs and government activism to foster economic development. They supported moralistic policies based on Protestant values and generally supported legislation restricting the sale and use of alcohol and adhering to the Biblical mandate of no work (and no open businesses) on Sundays. Republicans generally favored industrialists, bankers and railroad interests.

The Democratic Party began after the War of 1812, and until the Civil War, they were the country's majority party, generally favoring a controlled, minimalistic federal government and states' rights over Federal ones. The Democratic party refused to take a strong stand against slavery in the 1850s, and soon became viewed as pro-Southern. Following the Civil War, the party saw a resurgence in popularity that lasted into the 1890s. They maintained a small government stance and felt that it was wrong for the Federal government to attempt to regulate religious beliefs and an individual's behavior. The Democrats also favored tariffs on imported goods only for revenue to support a limited, minimalist government. The high tariffs favored by the Republicans resulted in high prices for imported versus domestic goods, thus favoring farmers and domestic producers. Democrats saw the high tariff as a burdensome tax on consumers.

The Election of 1884 marked a change in National politics with Democrat Grover Cleveland being the first of his party to be elected since 1856. Republicans had split into three factions by this time (Mugwumps, Stalwarts, and Half-Breeds) who each supported different things. Democrat Cleveland had earned a reputation for honesty, courage, and moderation (social conservatism), thus the

Democrats put forth a candidate with upstanding principles (except for a child he had fathered out of wedlock years earlier- which he subsequently acknowledged and provided evidence that he had supported the child, thus effectively silencing critics). Cleveland was a fiscal conservative who fought political corruption, patronage and bossism. He was pro-business and opposed high tariffs, Free Silver, inflation, imperialism, and subsidies to business, farmers, or veterans.

It is not known if Bangs Hallet voted for Cleveland in 1884, but he was noted as being a councilor for the Democratic Caucus in 1889 and he met Cleveland in 1892. By the 1880s, Hallet may have been put off by the factionalism of the party that he had supported since at least 1871, and had decided to put his support behind a more pro-business, and honest party that matched his personal views more closely than the republicans did by this point.

Anna Hallet died in 1887 and it seems that just prior to her death, both of their healths may have been deteriorating. The couple began spending more time with their daughter's family in Fairhaven beginning in 1880/ 1881, eventually spending the winters there and summers in Yarmouth Port. In 1888, Bangs Hallet tried to rent out the house on Strawberry Lane. The advertisement in the *Barnstable Patriot* ran throughout the year:

Furnished House to Let!



A TWO STORY HOUSE, situated in Yarmouth Port, Mass., containing ten rooms, all nicely furnished. The house is pleasantly located, and has good wells of water and cistern. For further particulars inquire of

**BANGS HALLETT,
Yarmouth Port, May 1st, 1888.**

The advertisement indicates that the house had both a well and a cistern for water collected by the gutters and drain pipes and stored in an underground tank close to the house. It appears that Hallet had one serious possible renter, a Caroline Gorham, who decided for an unknown reason, to not rent the house after all. Hallet was now spending winters in Fairhaven, where he was probably working on his autobiography, which the *Patriot* noted was to be called "30 Years a Commander" and which, it seems, was never finished or at least never published. Hallet's health continued to plague him, and he finally passed away in 1893. The *Patriot* reported that his house was subsequently bought by his neighbor Henry C. Thacher. It was subsequently used as a guest house by the Thacher family until it was given to the Historical Society of Old Yarmouth in 1953.

2016 Archaeological Testing

A total of six 50 cm-square shovel test pits were excavated on April 21, 2016 in the yards around the Bangs Hallet House (**Figure 1**). The locations of the units were judgmentally selective in order to provide a good initial sample of the various yards around the house and to get a general assessment of where activities were being carried out. We wanted to see how deep the soil horizons were, if there was evidence of trash disposal around the house, and how the different yards were used. All the units were 50-cm-square and were dug to the junction of the natural B1 subsoil.

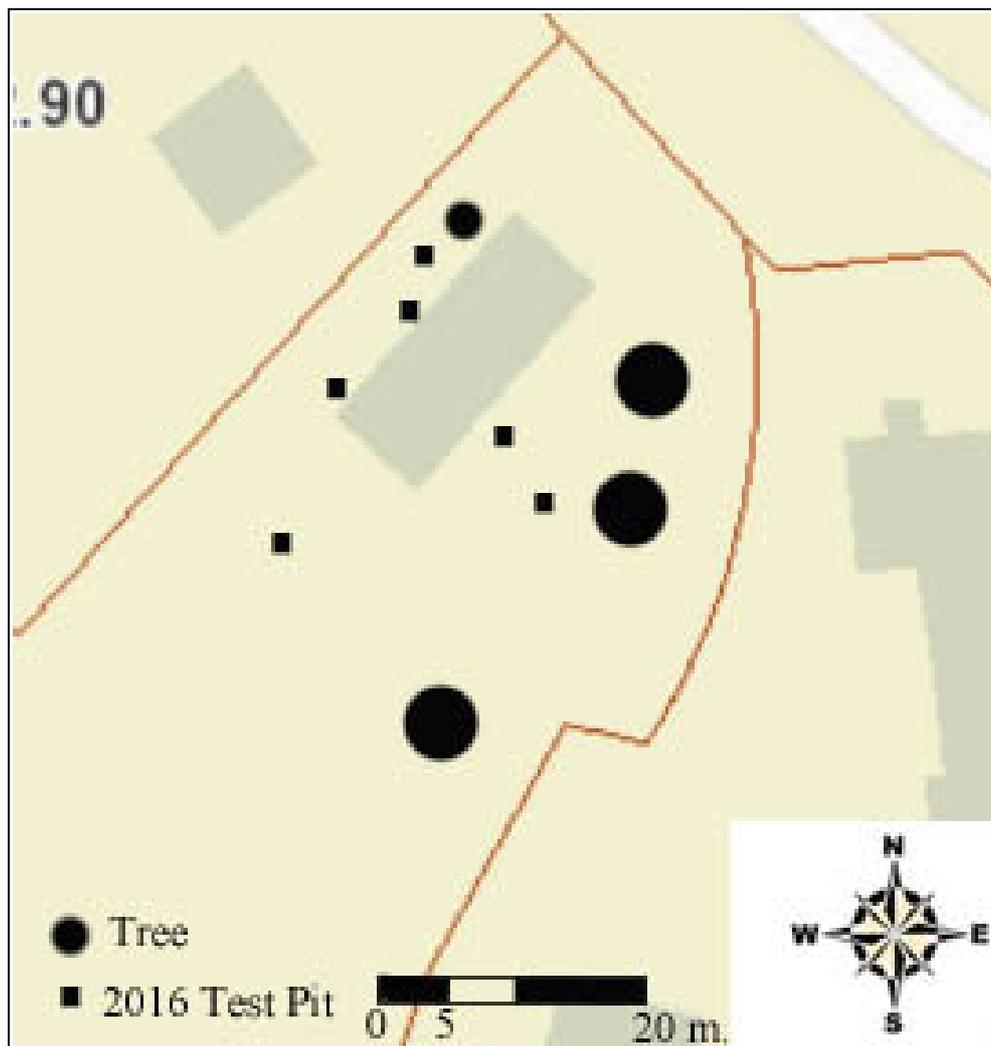


Figure 1. Locations of the 2016 test pits at the Bangs Hallet House (Gray rectangle in middle of map)

Unit 1

This unit was placed on the southeast side of the house in the yard at a location 6 meters from the southwest corner of the house and 8.2 meters southeast of it (**Figure 1**). The stratigraphy that the excavation revealed consisted of 20 cm of dark brown fill, apparently deposited to raise the level of this yard, followed by 20 more centimeters of older fill, followed by a layer of cobbles and rock that rested on top of a 10 cm thick layer of original topsoil. These upper “A horizon” soils represent the soil that accumulated or was added during the historic occupation of the property. Below 50 cm, a sterile “B1 horizon” that was dark yellow brown in color, was found. No difference was found in the types of artifacts found in the upper layers versus the lower ones, so it appears that the added soil layers occurred as one event in the nineteenth century.

Unit 2

This unit was placed on the southeast side of the house in the yard at a location 7 meters from the southwest corner of the house and 3 meters southeast of it beneath one of the flagstones of the

walkway to the back door (**Figure 1**). The stratigraphy that the excavation revealed consisted of 20 cm of dark brown fill, apparently deposited to raise the level of this yard, followed by 20 more centimeters of older fill, followed by a layer of cobbles and rock that rested on top of a 10 cm thick layer of dark brown soil. At 50 cm the soils consistency, which previously had been a sandy loam, changed to a fine sandy loam with less gravel but some fist-sized rocks. This horizon continued to 70 cm where the B1 horizon was encountered. The B1 was excavated to 80 cm with no artifacts being recovered from within it. No difference was found in the types of artifacts found in the upper layers versus the lower ones, so it appears that the added soil layers occurred as one event in the nineteenth century. The only difference in artifacts was a concentration of nineteenth century shingle or clapboard close to the surface- evidence of a major reshingling or residing episode at some period in the recent past.

Unit 3

This unit was placed on the northwest side of the house in the yard at a location 7 meters from the northeast corner of the house and 1.5 meters northwest of it (**Figure 1**). The stratigraphy that the excavation revealed was much less complex than on the other side of the house, consisting of 30 cm of dark brown topsoil, followed by the dark yellow brown B1 horizon. Soils in the southern half of the unit appeared to have been disturbed for the upper 10 cm, possibly by work associated with the building foundation. The recovered artifacts came from the top 30 cm of the unit and were all consistent with a nineteenth century date.

Unit 4

This unit was placed on the northwest side of the house in the yard at a location 4.5 meters from the northeast corner of the house and 4 meters northwest of it (**Figure 1**). The stratigraphy that the excavation revealed consisted of 20 cm of dark brown topsoil followed by the B1 subsoil. Nineteenth and twentieth century artifacts were recovered from the top 20 cm of this unit. Overall, the units on the northwest side of the house appear to represent undisturbed/ unmodified soil profiles with no filling episodes present.

Unit 5

This unit was placed on the northwest side of the kitchen ell near the wall of this part of the house at a point 2 meters from the northwest corner of the kitchen ell and 1 meter northwest of it (**Figure 1**). The stratigraphy that the excavation revealed consisted of 15 cm of dark brown topsoil followed by the B1 horizon. Apparently when the kitchen ell was built, it was cut into the natural ground slope present in this portion of the yard. Most of the artifacts were consistent with the nineteenth century occupation of the property, with the exception of the oldest artifact recovered from the entire dig- a tobacco pipe stem manufactured in the late seventeenth to early eighteenth century.

Unit 6

This unit was placed at the base of the slope directly to the southwest of the back door of the house in order to investigate the possibility that refuse was being disposed of from the kitchen over the side of the slope into the lower wetland area present here (**Figure 1**). The stratigraphy consisted of 30 cm of recent dark brown colored slope wash, followed by 30 cm of yellow brown sandy wash, followed by 20 cm of dark yellow brown older slope wash. This lower wash rested on top of a black hydric soil typically encountered in wetland areas. A few modern artifacts were recovered from the top slope wash level.

Yard testing revealed that the southeast yard had apparently been extensively filled and leveled in the nineteenth century, presumably when the house was built, and that this yard was originally up to 1 to 2 feet lower than it is today. The northwest yard, on the other hand, was at approximately the same height as it had been in the nineteenth century. The soils in this yard were found to have generally followed the same slope to the west as they do today. When the house was constructed, soil fill was probably brought to the site from a nearby location, and possibly from the excavation for the cellar beneath the house, and used to fill in the southeast yard. The filling and leveling appear to have occurred within a relatively short amount of time and only involved rich upper soils with no sandy lower subsoils being used.

Artifact Analysis

A total of 300 artifacts were recovered from the six units (**Table 3**). The majority of these pieces (n=187/ 62%) came from Unit 2. While most of the artifacts dated from the nineteenth century

Table 3. Artifacts recovered in 2016

Artifact	U1	U2	U3	U4	U5	U6
White Salt Glazed Stoneware (1740-1775)	1					
Creamware (1762-1820)	2	6	1			
Pearlware (1790-1840)	2	6	1		1	
Whiteware (1820-1900+)	1	14				
Yellowware (1840-1890)				1		
Redware (18th-20 th century)	3	12	13	1		3
Hand Wrought Nail (Pre 1830)		1				
Machine Cut Nail (1830-1880)	4	61	3		5	1
Brick (19 th century)	1	39	1	4		
Window Glass (18th-20 th century)	4	14	6		7	
Vessel Glass (18th-20 th century)	1	3			1	
Bone	2	13				
Shell		1				
Coal (19 th century)	14	11	6	4		
Tobacco Pipe Stem 6/64" (1680-1710)					1	
Tobacco Pipe Stem 5/64" (1710-1890)		1			1	
Tobacco Pipe Stem 4/64" (1750-1890)			1			
Tobacco Pipe Bowl (18th-19 th century)		1				
Window Putty		1				
Shoe Lace Gromet (19 th century)		1				
Lead Flashing (18th-20 th century)		1				
Tin				1		
Wire Nail (1890+)						

a few (creamware, white salt glazed stoneware, a hand wrought nail, and pipe stems) were found to either date earlier than this or to have date ranges that could date them to an occupation before ca. 1840.

Architectural Artifacts

The majority of the artifacts recovered were architectural in nature- nails, window glass, brick, flashing, and window putty and most dated to the nineteenth century. The range of material was typical of what would be found during construction and maintenance of a historic building. One piece of window glass was of a darker, aqua, color, indicating that it may date to the eighteenth century, and one nail was hand wrought, which is a type that would not have generally remained in use in 1840.

Foodways Artifacts

Most of the artifacts in this class were ceramics used food storage, processing, and consumption. The redware vessels, the cheap utilitarian wares of the day, was represented by a black glazed mug, a storage pot and and a milk pan (**Figure 2**). Redware was used for everyday service vessels and generally dates to before ca. 1850 when potters, after years of competing with cheaper imported refined ceramics, virtually ceased making the utilitarian wares and either shut up shop or switched to making flowerpots out of the same clay. The vessels recovered could date to the eighteenth century and are of the type commonly found in households that were processing their own produce (milkpans for letting cream settle out of fresh milk and storage pots for butter or pickles) and would not generally be expected to be found in a ca. 1840 household of a well off family. Fragments of flowerpots were found in the northwest yard and in Unit 6 and probably represent vessels broken and discarded in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries (**Figure 3**).

Most of the other refined ceramics were typical of table wares in the late eighteenth to early nineteenth century, consisting of creamwares and pearlwares, with some pieces that weren't manufactured until definitely in the nineteenth century (the whiteware and the yellowware). Amongst the earlier pieces was one piece of white salt-glazed stoneware, a ceramic type produced in England from 1740 to the 1770s, and the earliest ware recovered at the site. The context of this find was within the uppermost fill layer in Unit 1 and not within any sort of undisturbed eighteenth century deposit. This makes it hard to evaluate the significance of such a piece, as it could have easily arrived at the site with some topsoil used to fill in this portion of the yard. The creamware and pearlware, which generally have production dates before 1840, are more indicative of on site use and disposal. Only a few vessel forms were identified (a creamware plate, tea cup, and mug and a pearlware plate, mug, and two tea saucers) (**Figures 4 and 5**) and these may have been discarded at the site, as these were the days before plastic cups and plates, either by the workers building the house (old plates and cups having been brought by the workers and then discarded) or by either people living on the site before the Thachers, or by the Thachers during the earliest years of their occupation (possibly even being old wares used by servants). The fact that these ceramics all co-occur with other nineteenth century artifacts favors the use of old wares in the nineteenth century versus an earlier occupation, but further excavations could help clear up the origin of these early ceramics. The later nineteenth century ceramics (the whitewares that were first produced in 1820 and continue to be produced today) (**Figure 6**) were very limited in number, the assemblage comprising one plate and one tea cup, and again, could be related to the building or early occupation of the house.

The other evidence of foodways were a few burned (the calcined pieces) and unburned bone fragments from cattle, sheep, and unidentified medium-sized mammal) indicate that some refuse from meals was being deposited in the yard, but at very low quantities. The occupants of the house appear to have actively tried to keep the yard clean.



Figure 2. Redware sherds (Top: Milk pan; Bottom: Storage Pot)



Figure 3. Flowerpot sherds from Unit 6



Figure 4. Creamware (Top Right: Plate; Bottom Right: Cup; Left: Representative example of a plate)

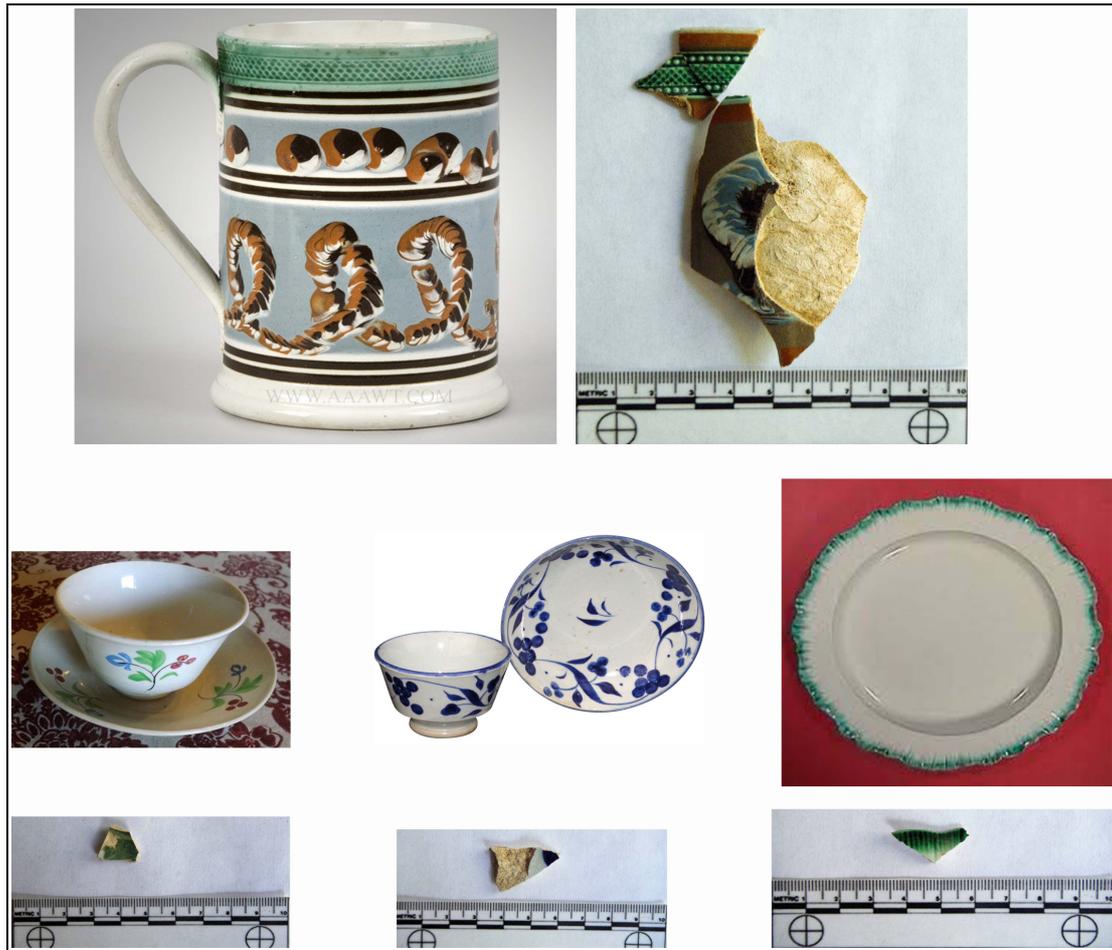


Figure 5. Pearlware vessels



Figure 6. Whiteware cup

Glass vessels were also poorly represented with one or two bottles being present, one drinking glass, and one medicine bottle. The medicine bottle is a type typically used before the middle of the nineteenth century, while the other vessels could date to any time during the century (**Figure 7**).

Heating Residue

Thirty-five pieces of burned and unburned coal were recovered from both the northwest and southeast yards. Coal was commonly used as a fuel source in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and the recovery of these fragments from the yards indicates that hearth refuse (possibly along with a limited amount of other domestic refuse) was being discarded in the yards during the occupation of the house.

Personal Items

Personal items were limited to four pieces of tobacco pipe stem and one piece of bowl. Tobacco pipes are beloved by archaeologists because of how such a simple and readily discarded artifact can be used to help date a site. This is because the size of the holes in the stems (the stem bore) changed at a regular rate over time. When pipes were first introduced in the 1580s, the stems were short, meaning the stem bores could be relatively large (9/64"), by 1620 the bore had shrunk to 8/64", a size it maintained until about 1650 when they measured 7/64". By the middle of the seventeenth century the stems had become more fashionably longer as smoking became more commonly used as a recreational drug and people wanted a cooler smoke, thus a longer stem. The 7/64" stem bore was maintained until 1680 when they it was reduced to 6/64" until 1710, and then, through the eighteenth century, was reduced further to 5/64" and finally 4/64" by 1750. Unfortunately, pipes continued to be made throughout the nineteenth century with the bore size becoming less consistent in size, generally randomly ranging between 5 and 4/64" with some 6/64" being known to occur as well (**Figure 8**).

At the Bangs Hallet House, one stem with a 6/64", two with 5/64", and one with a 4/64" stem bore were found. Theoretically, the 6/64" stem could date as early as 1680-1710, but when one looks at the lack of any other artifacts that date that early, it is more probable that this pipe probably dates to the nineteenth century and was one of the aberrant pipe bores that occurred at that time. The other pipe stems could date to the eighteenth century, as both those bore sizes have been found to date to between 1710 and 1800, but again, they may also date to the nineteenth century.

Conclusion

The present study sought to examine the occupation of the Bangs Hallet House from two perspectives: documentary and archaeological. Examination of deeds, census records, and most importantly, issues of the *Barnstable Patriot*, provided abundant information that can be combined with what is already known about the occupants of the house. Archaeologically, the limited archaeological testing carried out at the Bangs Hallet House was designed to provide a gross examination of refuse disposal around the house and the archaeological potential present at the site. Testing found that the greatest concentration of artifacts exist in the southeast yard within layers of fill that are believed to have been deposited here during the construction of the house in the 1840s. The fill is believed to have been used to level this yard as it may have presented a more undulating topography transitioning between the low knoll on which the Bangs Hallet House sits and the one to the south on which Henry Thacher's house is believed to have sat. The northwest yard presents a less modified version of what the ground surface looked like prior to the construction of the house. The area outside of the kitchen door and the terrace on that side of the house has apparently been leveled with some fill being deposited to the southwest into the adjacent wetlands.

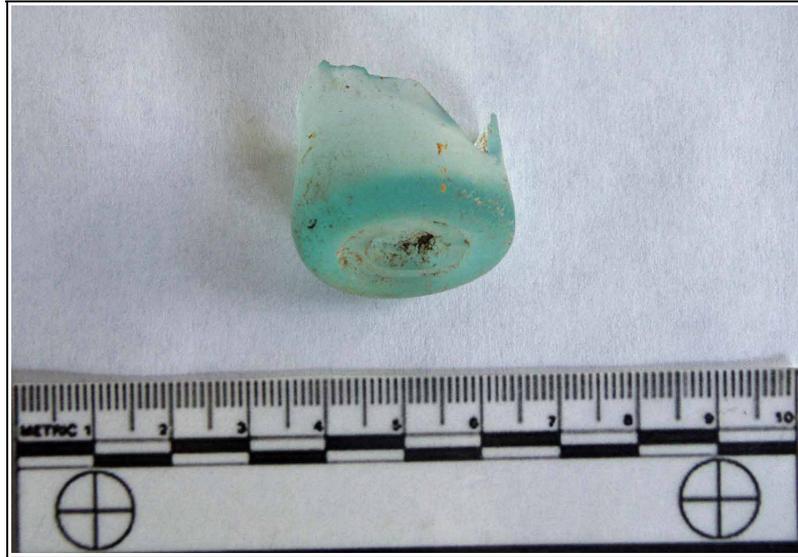


Figure 7. Medicine bottle base



Figure 8. Tobacco pipe stems

The majority of the artifacts recovered were found to date to the nineteenth century and were associated with the construction and maintenance of the structure. The majority of the domestic artifacts were found to date slightly earlier than the traditional 1840 date attributed to the building. This incongruity between the architectural and the foodways and personal artifacts is interpreted as having resulted from either one or a combination of the following factors:

- the use and discard of older ceramics by the workmen who built the building
- the use and discard of earlier ceramics by the servants who are assumed to have lived in the house with the Thachers
- the presence of an undocumented earlier occupation on or around the site

Of these three possibilities, the first seems most likely, but the third can not be ruled out. Undocumented tradition states that there was an earlier house on the site when the present structure was built ca. 1840 and that the cellar kitchen represents this older building. It is possible that an older building, dating from the middle eighteenth to early nineteenth century could have been present and this would account for the earlier material that was recovered.

Further archaeological and architectural study would be necessary to determine which possibility is the most likley.

Recommendations

If the Historical Society of Old Yarmouth would like to learn more about this important property, the following recommendations would go a long way to achieving that goal.

1) Have a historical architectural survey conducted of the present building. The survey would examine the exposed architectural elements present beneath (in the cellar and cellar kitchen) and above (in the attics) of the house and determine if what is present is consistent with the idea of a single build or if elements from different time periods are present. Such a study could also include dendrochronological sampling (taking pencil thin cores of wood from timbers and using these to determine the date when the trees were felled and shaped into the present architectural elements) to help better understand the history of the house in its own words.

2) Conduct further archaeological testing around the building to further explore the possibility of an earlier occupation on the site. The data gathered thus far is tantalizing in that it suggests that an earlier occupation could be present and yet frustrating in that the evidence found thus far has come from fill contexts bearing nineteenth century material as well, and not from any solid eighteenth century/ pre-Thacher deposits. Such an investigation could even be held as a special event that the community could participate in.

3) Be mindful of any alterations within and around the structure and their potential to provide another clue that helps to better understand the building. Anytime that walls are taken down or holes are cut into them for the installation of wires, pipes, etc. efforts should be made to document anything exposed, even if what is exposed is just an old wall or seemingly unimportant timber, it could be another clue to the life history of the building. It is recommended that files be created relating to each alteration that occurs with photo and even a limited bit of narrative documentation. If something is cut out (a piece of lathe, or section of old timber), this should be saved or at least documented as well. Any changes outside the building that involve impacts to the soil record should be documented through photography, mapping the location of the disturbance, its nature and its

extent. Something as simple as planting a tree or deeply turning over a flower bed could have a significant impact on buried archaeological resources. Even limited screening of excavated soils and the collection of anything that looks odd would be considered a potentially important source of data to some future researcher.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the HSOY for giving me the opportunity to conduct some limited testing at the site and I hope that what I found is as interesting to you as it was to me.

References Cited

Swift, Charles Francis

1884 *History of Old Yarmouth: Comprising the Present Towns of Yarmouth and Dennis.*
Published for the author, Yarmouth Port, Massachusetts.

APPENDIX A
Property Deeds

Thacher to Knowles 1850

323.

Know all Men by these Presents, That I Thomas Thacher of Boston in the County of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts

IN CONSIDERATION OF Twenty six hundred dollars paid by Captain Allen B. Knowles of Yarmouth in the County of Barnstable and State of Massachusetts

the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, do hereby give, grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said Knowles a certain piece or parcel of land with the buildings thereon, lying and situated in said Yarmouth bounded and described in a certain plan drawn by S. J. Crane of Charleston and dated September 24, 1850, as follows, to-wit: Beginning at a small cherry tree on the southerly side of said Estate, running thence by hands of said Thomas Thacher and others S. 41° 11' W. 84.7 feet to a stake, thence by lands of said Thacher and others N. 50° 10' W. 113.7 feet to a stake, thence by lands of said Thacher and others and land of Frederick and George Matthews S. 48° 48' E. 113 feet to an out building, allowance of 0.5 feet being made for eaves on the southerly side and of 0.15 feet for weather boards on the southerly side, thence by lands of the said Matthews S. 38° 15' W. 20.67 feet allowance of 0.16 feet being made for weather boards on northerly side, thence by land of said Matthews S. 51° 5' E. 45.7 feet, thence by lands of said Matthews S. 49° 7' E. 46.8 feet thence by hand of said Matthews and on a curve of 35 feet radius 10.8 feet to a point, to S. 23° 27' E from last mentioned point, thence by the straight way S. 33° 55' E 54.5 feet, thence by said high way and on a curve of 18 feet radius 12 feet to a point, S. 57° 43' E from last mentioned point, thence by said high way S. 28° 43' E 8.4 feet, thence by land of said Thacher and others and on a curve of 112 feet radius 13.53 feet to a point, S. 24° 14' W from last mentioned point, thence by lands of said Thacher and others S. 35° 57' W 4.83 feet to point, the premises containing 29,000 square feet more or less, the course of the first above mentioned curve is about the E. side of the high way, and the course of the second curve is about the E. side of the high way, the said Knowles to have the right to enter upon the premises from the high way, and to have and to hold, the above granted premises, with the privileges and appurtenances thereto, unto the said Knowles, his

Heirs and Assigns, to their use and behoof forever. And the said Thacher for my self and my Heirs, Executors and Administrators, do covenant with the said Knowles for my self Heirs and Assigns, that I am lawfully seized in fee of the afore-granted Premises; that they are free from all incumbrances

That I have good right to sell and convey the same to the said Knowles as aforesaid; and that I will, and my Heirs, Executors and Administrators, shall WARRANT AND DEFEND the same to the said Knowles, his Heirs and Assigns forever, against the lawful claims and demands of all persons.

In Witness Whereof, I the said Thacher have hereunto set my hand and seal the twenty fourth day of September in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and fifty.

Suffolk, September 24 - 1850. Then personally appeared the above-named Thomas Thacher and acknowledged the above instrument to be his free act and deed; before me Southworth Shaw Justice of Peace.

BARNSTABLE, ss. Received December 31st 1850, and is recorded and compared. Attest, Lathrop Davis, Register.

Hallet to Knowles 1863

539

Know all Men by these Presents,

That I Bangs Hallet of Yarmouth, in the County of Barnstable and Commonwealth of Massachusetts. IN CONSIDERATION OF Five Thousand Dollars paid by Caroline D. Knowles of said Yarmouth, County and Commonwealth aforesaid -

5 Dollars. Caroline D. Knowles 5 Dollars.

the receipt, whereof is hereby acknowledged, do hereby give, grant, bargain, sell, and convey unto the said Caroline D. Knowles my Homestead, situated in that part of Yarmouth called Yarmouth Port, and is bounded as is described as follows to wit, Commencing at the North-East corner of the Homestead Estate of Nathaniel Cogswell, thence running Easterly by the County road, One hundred and nine ten feet to a post in Irons Otis's range, thence sets Southerly by lands of said Otis, and in range of a fence and wall to a corner, thence westerly ten feet and six inches to a corner thence running Southerly by lands of said Otis, and in range of a wall and fences to land of Ezekiel Hallet, thence westerly by land of said Ezekiel to a post at the South West corner of the premises, thence Northerly by land of said Ezekiel Hallet, Elizabeth E. Fowler, Watson Crowell, Peter Alden, and Elizabeth E. Fowler to land of Nathaniel Cogswell, thence Easterly twenty eight feet to a corner, thence Northerly by land of said Cogswell to the first mentioned bounds, together with a passage way two rods wide from the southerly end of said premises into Darius Pond so called, containing about eight acres, more or less, together with the privilege of drainage through other land of the said Nathaniel Cogswell as now used.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the above granted premises, with all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, to the said Caroline D. Knowles her Heirs and Assigns, use and behoof forever. And I the said Bangs Hallet for my self and my Heirs, Executors, and Administrators, do covenant with the said Caroline D. Knowles her Heirs and Assigns, that I am lawfully seized in fee simple of the afore-granted Premises; that they are free from all incumbrances

That I have good right to sell and convey the same to the said Caroline D. Knowles her Heirs and Assigns forever as aforesaid; and that I will, and my Heirs, Executors, and Administrators shall, WARRANT AND DEFEND the same to the said Caroline D. Knowles her Heirs and Assigns forever, against the lawful claims and demands of all persons.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I the said Bangs Hallet and Anna Hallet wife of said Bangs in token of her release of all right and title of or to both donor and donee in the granted premises have hereunto set our hand and seal this twenty second day of December in the year of our Lord Eighteen Hundred and Sixty Three.

Signe C. Shaker and delivered in presence of Charles Shaker Job C. Tripp Bangs Hallet Anna Hallet

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Barnstable ss. December 22^d 1863 Then personally appeared the above named Bangs Hallet and acknowledged the above Instrument to be his free act and deed; before me, Charles Shaker JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.

BARNSTABLE, ss. Received December 30th 1863, and is recorded and compared Fredk. Scudder REGISTER.

APPENDIX B
Artifact Catalog

Unit	Depth	Count	Class	Material	Identification	Measurement	Notes	Date
1	20-40 cm	1	Ceramic	brick	Frag			19th cent.
1	20-40 cm	2	Ceramic	Creamware	Tea cup	10 cm Bdy Dia.	undec. Bdy	1762-1820
1	0-20 cm	1	Ceramic	Pearlware	Unk. Vess.		Undec. base Frag	1790-1820
1	20-40 cm	1	Ceramic	Pearlware	Tea Saucer		Int. hand painted blue floral	1790-1820
1	0-20 cm	1	Ceramic	Redware	Unk. Vess.		glz Missing	18th-19th cent.
1	40-50 cm	1	Ceramic	Redware	Mug	10 cm Bdy Dia.	Int. And Ext. black glz	late 18th to early 19th cent.
1	40-50 cm	1	Ceramic	Redware	Unk. Vess.		Int. missing, Ext. unglzd	18th-19th cent.
1	0-20 cm	1	Ceramic	White salt-glzd Stoneware	Tea Saucer	14 cm rim dia	Undec. rim	1740-1760
1	20-40 cm	1	Ceramic	Whiteware	Unk. Vess.		Undec. base Frag	Post 1820
1	0-20 cm	1	Faunal	Bone	Sheep Pelvis Frag		Chopped	18th-19th cent.
1	20-40 cm	1	Faunal	Bone	calc. Med. Mam. Fltbn		white	
1	20-40 cm	1	Glass	curved Vess. glass	bottle Bdy	10 cm Bdy Dia.	olive green wine/ champagne	19th cent.
1	0-20 cm	1	Glass	Flat Glass	Frag		Window, aqua	18th-19th cent.
1	20-40 cm	3	Glass	Flat Glass	Frag		window, light aqua	19th cent.
1	0-20 cm	2	Lithic	Coal	Frag		Burned	19th cent.
1	0-20 cm	3	Lithic	Coal	Frag		Unburned	19th cent.
1	20-40 cm	2	Lithic	Coal	Frag		Unburned	19th cent.
1	20-40 cm	4	Lithic	Coal	Frag		Burned	19th cent.
1	40-50 cm	1	Lithic	Coal	Frag		Unburned	19th cent.
1	40-50 cm	2	Lithic	Coal	Frag		Burned	19th cent.
1	0-20 cm	1	Metal	Iron	Mach.-cut nail	3.5 cm long	Shingle/ Clapboard Nail	1830-1880
1	20-40 cm	1	Metal	Iron	Mach.-cut nail shank			1830-1880
1	40-50 cm	1	Metal	Iron	Mach.-cut nail	3.5 cm long	Shingle/ Clapboard Nail	1830-1880
1	40-50 cm	1	Metal	Iron	Mach.-cut nail		Shank	1830-1880
Total		35						
	20-20 cm	6	Ceramic	brick	Frag			19th cent.
	220-40 cm	5	Ceramic	brick	Frag			19th cent.
	240-50 cm	19	Ceramic	brick	Frag			19th cent.
	250-70 cm	9	Ceramic	brick	Frag			19th cent.
	240-50 cm	1	Ceramic	Creamware	Mug	10 cm Bdy Dia.	molded Ext. bands- Leeds?	1762-1820
	240-50 cm	1	Ceramic	Creamware	plate	20 cm rim dia	undec. rim to base	1762-1820
	220-40 cm	2	Ceramic	Creamware	Unk. Vess.		undec. Bdy	1762-1820
	240-50 cm	2	Ceramic	Creamware	Unk. Vess.		undec. Bdy	1762-1820
	220-40 cm	1	Ceramic	Kaolin	Pipe Bowl		undec. Bdy	19th cent.
	220-40 cm	1	Ceramic	Kaolin	Pipe Stem	5/64" stem bore		1710-1890
	220-40 cm	3	Ceramic	Pearlware	Mug	10 cm rim dia	Ext. engine turned, molded	1820-1840
	240-50 cm	1	Ceramic	Pearlware	Mug handle		undec.	1790-1820
	240-50 cm	1	Ceramic	Pearlware	plate base		Undec. base Frag	1790-1820
	250-70 cm	1	Ceramic	Pearlware	Plate- green edged	18 cm rim dia	Regular scalloping	ca. 1820-1840
	20-20 cm	1	Ceramic	putty	window glazing			19th cent.
	240-50 cm	6	Ceramic	Redware	milkpan	30 cm rim dia	Int. tan glzd Ext. unglzd	18th-19th cent.
	220-40 cm	2	Ceramic	Redware	Mug	10 cm Bdy Dia.	Int. and Ext. black glzd	late 18th to early 19th cent.
	240-50 cm	1	Ceramic	Redware	Storage Pot	20 cm rim dia	Int. tan Ext. Unglzd/ burned	18th-19th cent.
	20-20 cm	1	Ceramic	Redware	Unk. Vess.		Int. missing, Ext. unglzd	18th-19th cent.
	250-70 cm	2	Ceramic	Redware	Unk. Vess.		Int. missing, Ext. unglzd	18th-19th cent.

250-70 cm	1	Ceramic	Whiteware	plate		Undec. base Frag	Post 1820
240-50 cm	1	Ceramic	Whiteware	plate base		Undec. base Frag	Post 1820
20-20 cm	8	Ceramic	Whiteware	Tea cup	10 cm rim dia	undec. rim and Bdy	Post 1820
250-70 cm	1	Ceramic	Whiteware	Tea cup	10 cm rim dia	Undec. rim	Post 1820
220-40 cm	3	Ceramic	Whiteware	Unk. Vess.		undec. Bdy	Post 1820
20-20 cm	1	Faunal	Bone	calc. Med. Mam. Fltbn		white	18th-19th cent.
220-40 cm	2	Faunal	Bone	calc. Med. Mam. Fltbn		white	
220-40 cm	1	Faunal	Bone	cattle lumbar vertebra midsection			
240-50 cm	8	Faunal	Bone	cattle tibia midsection			
220-40 cm	1	Faunal	Bone	swine tibia midsection			
220-40 cm	1	Faunal	Shell	Soft Shell clam Bdy			
20-20 cm	1	Glass	curved Vess. glass	Bottle	10 cm Bdy Dia.	light olive	19th cent.
220-40 cm	1	Glass	curved Vess. glass	cup?	10 cm Bdy Dia.	clear Bdy	19th cent.
240-50 cm	1	Glass	curved Vess. glass	medicine bottle	6 cm base dia	hand blown light aqua	18th-early 19th cent.
240-50 cm	1	Glass	Flat Glass	Frag		window, light aqua	19th cent.
220-40 cm	3	Glass	Flat Glass	Frag		window, light aqua	19th cent.
250-70 cm	10	Glass	Flat Glass	Frag		window, light aqua	19th cent.
240-50 cm	1	Lithic	clinker	ash clinker			19th cent.
20-20 cm	1	Lithic	Coal	Frag		Unburned	19th cent.
220-40 cm	1	Lithic	Coal	Frag		Unburned	19th cent.
220-40 cm	1	Lithic	Coal	Frag		Burned	19th cent.
250-70 cm	1	Lithic	Coal	Frag		Burned	19th cent.
20-20 cm	6	Lithic	Coal	Frag		Burned	19th cent.
240-50 cm	1	Metal	brass	shoe lace gromet			19th cent.
240-50 cm	1	Metal	Iron	hand wrought nail	8 cm long	Framing nail	Pre 1820
20-20 cm	27	Metal	Iron	Mach.-cut nail	3.5 cm long	Shingle/ Clapboard Nail	1830-1880
220-40 cm	1	Metal	Iron	Mach.-cut nail	8 cm long	Framing nail	1830-1880
240-50 cm	1	Metal	Iron	Mach.-cut nail	3.5 cm long	Shingle/ Clapboard Nail	1830-1880
250-70 cm	1	Metal	Iron	Mach.-cut nail	6 cm long	Framing nail	1830-1880
20-20 cm	9	Metal	Iron	Mach.-cut nail heads/shanks		Shingle/ Clapboard Nail	1830-1880
220-40 cm	1	Metal	Iron	Mach.-cut nail heads/shanks		Framing nail	1830-1880
220-40 cm	4	Metal	Iron	Mach.-cut nail heads/shanks		Shingle/ Clapboard Nail	1830-1880
240-50 cm	2	Metal	Iron	Mach.-cut nail heads/shanks		Framing nail	1830-1880
240-50 cm	4	Metal	Iron	Mach.-cut nail heads/shanks		Shingle/ Clapboard Nail	1830-1880
250-70 cm	2	Metal	Iron	Mach.-cut nail heads/shanks		Framing nail	1830-1880
20-20 cm	1	Metal	Iron	Mach.-cut nail shank		Framing nail	1830-1880
220-40 cm	4	Metal	Iron	Mach.-cut nail shanks			1830-1880
250-70 cm	4	Metal	Iron	Mach.-cut nail shanks		Framing nail	1830-1880
240-50 cm	1	Metal	lead	flashing			19th cent.
20-20 cm	1	Metal	Tin	Frag			20th cent.
						worm pattern decorated and deep straight lines	
Total	187						
30-30 cm	1	Ceramic	brick	Frag			19th cent.
30-30 cm	1	Ceramic	Creamware	Unk. Vess.		Undec. base Frag	1762-1820
30-30 cm	1	Ceramic	Kaolin	Pipe Stem	4/64" stem bore		1750-1890

30-30 cm	1	Ceramic	Pearlware	Tea Saucer		Int. hand painted green floral	1820-1840
30-30 cm	11	Ceramic	Redware	Flowerpot Bdy		undec. Bdy	19th-20th cent.
30-30 cm	2	Ceramic	Redware	Unk. Vess.		Int. missing, Ext. unglzd	19th cent.
30-30 cm	1	Ceramic	Whiteware	Unk. Vess.		Undec. base Frag	Post 1820
30-30 cm	1	Ceramic	Yellowware	Unk. Vess.		Undec. base Frag	1840-1880
30-30 cm	1	Glass	Flat Glass	Frag		window, clear	20th cent.
30-30 cm	5	Glass	Flat Glass	Frag		window, light aqua	19th cent.
30-30 cm	6	Lithic	Coal	Frag		Unburned	19th cent.
30-30 cm	2	Metal	Iron	Mach.-cut nail	3.5 cm long	Shingle/ Clapboard Nail	1830-1880
30-30 cm	1	Metal	Iron	Mach.-cut nail heads/shanks		Shingle/ Clapboard Nail	1830-1880
Total	34						
40-20 cm	4	Ceramic	brick	Frag			19th cent.
40-20 cm	5	Ceramic	Redware	Flowerpot Bdy		undec.	19th-20th cent.
40-20 cm	1	Lithic	Coal	Frag		Burned	19th cent.
40-20 cm	3	Lithic	Coal	Frag		Unburned	19th cent.
40-20 cm	4	Metal	Iron	Mach.-cut nail	3.5 cm long	Shingle/ Clapboard Nail	1830-1880
40-20 cm	1	Metal	Iron	Mach.-cut nail heads/shanks		Framing nail	1830-1880
40-20 cm	4	Metal	Iron	Mach.-cut nail heads/shanks		Shingle/ Clapboard Nail	1830-1880
40-20 cm	2	Metal	Iron	wire nails	3.5 cm long	Shingle/ Clapboard Nail	Post 1890
Total	24						
5-0-15 cm	1	Ceramic	Kaolin	Pipe Stem	6/64" stem bore		1680-1710
5-0-15 cm	1	Ceramic	Kaolin	Pipe Stem	5/64" stem bore		1710-1890
5-0-15 cm	1	Ceramic	Whiteware	Cup handle		Molded lines	Post 1820
5-0-15 cm	1	Glass	curved Vess. glass	bottle Bdy		clear Bdy	20th cent.
5-0-15 cm	1	Glass	Flat Glass	Frag		window, clear	20th cent.
5-0-15 cm	6	Glass	Flat Glass	Frag		window, light aqua	19th cent.
5-0-15 cm	1	Metal	Iron	Mach.-cut nail	3.5 cm long	Shingle/ Clapboard Nail	1830-1880
5-0-15 cm	3	Metal	Iron	Mach.-cut nail heads/shanks		Shingle/ Clapboard Nail	1830-1880
5-0-15 cm	1	Metal	Iron	Mach.-cut nail shank		Shingle/ Clapboard Nail	1830-1880
Total	16						
60-30 cm	1	Ceramic	Redware	Flowerpot rim	20 cm rim dia	undec.	19th-20th cent.
60-30 cm	1	Ceramic	Redware	Flowerpot Bdy	10 cm Bdy Dia.	undec.	19th-20th cent.
60-30 cm	1	Ceramic	Redware	Flowerpot Bdy	20 cm Bdy dia	Incised lines encircling Bdy	19th-20th cent.
60-30 cm	1	Metal	Iron	Mach.-cut nail	5 cm long	Framing nail	1830-1880
Total	4						
Grand total	300						