Report on Archaeological Survey and Testing at Peter Lee House Site and Lewis Quarter

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Contents

Introduction

This report describes archaeological survey and test excavations at sites situated within the African-American Community of Africatown. Today, Africatown is located in the northeastern corner of Mobile, Alabama and includes sections of the communities and districts of Plateau, Pritchard, and Happy Hill. The project team, led by Dr. Neil Norman of the College of William and Mary, conducted fieldwork in July and August 2010. The goals of the project were threefold: 1) determine if archaeological deposits are present at sites associated with the founders of Africatown, 2) evaluate if any resulting archaeological deposits are intact and stratified, thus providing valuable information on the community, and comparative material for researcher investigating Africa and its Diaspora, and 3) evaluate what factors have impacted archaeological material in the past and determine if similar issues, moving forward, present a threat to the sites. This project was generously funded by a special grant from the Alabama State Historical Preservation Office and Ms. Dora Finley, President of the Mobile African American Heritage Trail. In turn, it was facilitated at a local level by the Mobile Historical Development Commission and the Museum of Mobile. The project team benefited greatly from in-kind donations of a Ground Penetrating Radar System (GPR), GPR technicians, as well as food, drinks, and tents for two archaeological fielddays from Daphne Utilities.

The archaeological field team focused research efforts on the Peter Lee House site and Lewis Quarter, the historic home of Charlie, or Charlee, Lewis. As part of these research efforts 23,600 artifacts were excavated, washed, cataloged, analyzed, and packaged for curation.

Historical overview

In 1863, President Lincoln outlawed slavery in the ten states of the Confederacy; however, it was not until congress ratified the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution in 1865 that slavery was officially outlawed throughout the United States of America. Although the institution of slavery was legal in North America until this very late date, the trade of captives across the Atlantic had been outlawed decades earlier; America barred the importation of enslaved individuals in 1808. Nonetheless, slavers ran American, French, and British blockades attempting to ferry their illegal cargo to the American South, Caribbean, and South America. The year 1860 marks the date when the last documented slaver made its way from the West African coast to the Americas, thus bringing to a close the institution of the Atlantic Slave trade that had been in place since 1502. Africatown was intimately involved in this turning point in World and American history.

The *Clotilda* departed Mobile in 1859 and after running anti-slavery blockades in North America, the Caribbean, and Africa, it moored off the West African coastal trading town of Ouidah. The West African coast is infamous for contributing millions of Africans to slave

societies in the Americas; Ouidah was one of the busiest points of trade. Indeed for a period between the early 17th and late 18th century, it contributed the most captives to the Americas, and double that of the next closest contender: the port city of Luanda in modern-day Angola.

At Ouidah the captain of the *Clotilda*, William Foster, negotiated the purchase of approximately 110 individuals drawn from up to 800 miles from the coast. When the *Clotilda* arrived at Mobile Bay in 1860 its owner and financier, Timothy Meaher, arranged their sale and dispersion. The *Clotilda* survivors spent five years in slavery and after emancipation in 1865 many returned to Mobile; specifically, they settled near the Meaher Estate. After purchasing their homesteads, they set about building the community that they called "Africatown". In 1869, survivors from the *Clotilda* voyage founded the Union Baptist Church as a place of worship and a center of the community. Across the street, they founded Plateau Cemetery as a place to bury their dead and venerate African ancestors. Residents of Africatown negotiated this social space within the constraints of the post-Civil War and Jim Crow American South, and worked to keep their community viable despite the economic reshuffling that followed the American Civil War.

The narrative history of Africatown represents one of the vanishing few examples where enslaved African and *freedmen* recorded the African States and Kingdoms from which they were forcibly removed. Indeed, although numerous firsthand accounts exist of the horrors of the middle passage and the challenges of reconstituting life within the constraints of slavery, few accounts exist that can precisely correlate Africans in the Diaspora to the cities, towns, and countryside communities from which they were removed. Africatown presents one of these rare cases.

Gumpa was born into Dahomean royalty in the early 19th century. He was descended from kings Agaja, Glele, and Guezo and a contemporary of king Benhazin. Arguably, these historical figures are the most infamous African kings involved in selling captives to European traders. Unquestionably, the royal house of Dahomey profited mightily from the trans-Atlantic slave trade. Today, palace complexes associated with the kings above are found at Abomey in the Republic of Benin, West Africa. The palace complex at Abomey is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the highest honor currently available to designate an archaeological or historical site. However, Gumpa spent most of his life 90 km south of Abomey at the coastal trading center at Ouidah. He lived at the Dahomean administrative complex at Ouidah, which can be found today near the Catholic Basilica and Temple of the Python. On a daily basis, Gumpa managed the trade of captives and represented the Dahomean royal line in such exchanges. In 1859, Gumpa fell out of favor with his family in Abomey. Due to a prohibition of spilling royal blood, Gumpa was traded into the Middle Passage aboard the slaver *Clotida*. Today, a family house still stands in Ouidah that relates to the royal line associated with Gumpa, likewise a chimney stands at a highpoint above Africatown that local oral history suggest relates to a house Gumpa built for himself and his newly-constituted family.

Gumpa, or Peter Lee as he was known in Mobile, served as the *de facto* political leader of the community. This despite his association with the king of Dahomey, who many *Clotilda* survivors remember as the one who had commissioned raiders to capture the *Clotilda* group. Today, very little remains of the Peter Lee House Site other than the iconic chimney that has been featured in countless newspaper articles and several scholarly books. Yet, the archaeological remains of the site hold the potential to speak to the materiality of political authority, African continuities, and the reestablishment of life within the constraints of the diaspora.

Peter Lee House

Pedestrian Survey

The project started with a pedestrian survey of the property, which occupies a high ridge line overlooking Bay Bridge Road and Peter Lee Road. A standing house occupies the central portion of the project area. The standing structure appears to be an early 20th century shotgun house with more recent additions. The house was last occupied in the 1990s by Mrs. Francis Marshall, a direct descendent of Peter Lee. Today, the house is vacant. The lot is relatively flat and grades from highpoints near the standing structure downsloap to the north, east, and south. The Southern edge of the property abuts a bulkhead and culvert. Both were added when Bay Bridge Road was expanded to accommodate traffic from Africatown-Cochran Bridge.

Stands of trees, some of them over 200 years old, along the southwestern corner of the property contained heavy concentrations of modern refuse and collapsed cinder block structures. The pedestrian survey revealed property boundary survey monuments marked “Meaher” at the west, northwest and north central edges of the property. The location of these monuments is included on the project map.

The southern half of the property is an open field that is connected to Peter Lee Road by a driveway/path that bisects the central portion of the site as well as the north central portion of the field. The driveway exhibits exposed clay subsoil, as do the southwestern edge of the property along the road. However, in all other areas, especially those underneath the old-growth trees, soils appeared intact. The shovel test pit survey largely confirmed these visual findings.

Shovel Test Pit Survey

Project team members conducted a Shovel Test Pit (STP) survey of the entire property (Figures 1-3). Survey transects were placed systematically at 5 meter intervals along the southern half of the project area and 10 meter intervals in the norther half of the project area. It was decided in the field that 5 meter intervals near the housesite would help of clarify soil anomalies that were

encountered at the first three excavated STPs (N465, E 505; N465, E 510; N 465, E 520). The 30 x 30 cm wide circular STPs were excavated to sterile subsoil, or obstruction by brick, roots, or large pipes.

In general, the survey results suggested that soil is intact throughout the site and that archaeological deposits tend to be intact and stratified. However, some areas presented better conditions than others. All STPs along the N 465 line exhibited heavy disturbance associated with the construction of the bulkhead and associated chain-link fence. Several of the STPs along this line exhibited 1.5 meters of mottled clay fill with 1980s plastic soda bottles and rubble from broken pipes. Historically, the open field at the southern half of the site has served as a parking lot for nearby restaurants. Correspondingly, soils in STPs throughout this area was exceedingly compact. Nonetheless, the soils recorded around the chimney were stratified and less compact than the surrounding area

Soils located below large trees to the east and south west of the site were intact, not compact, and loamy. This suggests relatively little modification in the last 75 years and no mechanical grading or modification. Soils along the driveway were very compact and often contained clam and oyster shells. These shells probably served as stabilizing material for the driveway before the area was paved.

In terms of artifacts, concentrations of architectural material (e.g., bricks, mortar fragments, nails, architectural shingles) were located in the southern half of the site. Specifically, there were heavy concentrations of architectural material surrounding the chimney and at STPs (N 480, E 510; N485, E550). At STP N 485, E550, the test was terminated after project team members encountered brick. In the northern half of the site, artifact concentrations were much less dense, apart from tests near N560, E510 where a mid-20th century trash midden made excavation difficult. Tests in the northern half of the site along the E520 and E530 lines exhibited friable, sandy soils 1.75 m in depth. Mr. Frank Marshall, a co-owner of the site and a direct descendant of Peter Lee, suggested that his parents reserved this area for the community children to play baseball. Quite probably, it was filled with sand to provide a flat playing surface. STPs along Peter Lee Road in the northern half of the site exhibited heavily modified and mottled matrices, suggesting that road construction, paving, and curbing episodes have severely impacted archaeological materials.

In general, late 19th and early 20th century archaeological material (e.g., pearlware ceramic vessel fragments, patent medicine bottles, coins) clustered near the chimney and at the eastern edge of the site. These areas were the focus of archaeological test units excavations described below.

Archaeological Testing

Archaeological testing was focused on hotspots identified through the STP testing efforts (Figures 1-3). All units were excavated to sterile subsoil, or layers and levels where heavy concentrations of features were encountered. Units were excavated in natural levels, and arbitrary 10 cm levels. All features were excavated to sterile subsoil, or were terminated when excavators deemed that further excavation might impact the horizontal integrity of the site. That is to say, once identified, archaeological features were evaluated and excavated (e.g., post holes/molds) when it was deemed that no contextual horizontal information would be lost, excavation continued to sterile subsoil. As mentioned in the introduction, the scope of the project was archaeological testing and thus to identify and evaluate intact archaeological material rather than exposing large block excavations.

Unit 1

Test Unit 1 was excavated as 1x1 m square with a subdatum placed in the northeastern corner of the unit. The unit was placed near the standing chimney to sample a slight micro-depression that was identified during the pedestrian survey. Initially, this area was designated as an architectural mound associated with a collapsed structure. A layer of sod was removed and preserved for replacement. Directly below the root burden, excavators encountered Layer 1, a brown (7.5 YR 4/1) sandy loam with some silt (Figure 4). This layer was excavated to an average 22 cmbsd. Layer 1 quickly graded to Layer 2, a brown (10 YR 4/3) sandy clay that was heavily mottled with building rubble, including concentrations of brick, mortar, glass, coal, and architectural shingles. Layer 2 was terminated at an average depth of 38 cmbsd when excavators encountered a sheet midden, Feature 1, described below. Layers 1 and 2 contained a mix of architectural materials and domestic items such as colorless and colored bottle glass, milkglass, wire nails, ironstone ceramics, and plastic buttons.

Feature 1, the sealed sheet midden exhibited a horizontal bloom of refuse (e.g., whole Royal Crown Cola Bottle, clinkers from coal fires, patent medicine bottles, medium animal bones) that appeared to have been deposited over several decades within a dry sandy matrix (Figure 5). Given that the artifacts exhibited little erosion and deleterious effect of exposure to rainfall and given the orientation of the chimney and its proximity to the chimney and given the poured cement landing located nearby, this feature was interpreted as the material that collected accretionally under the back porch. The feature fill is a light brown (10 YR 5/6) silty clay loam with common mottles of clay. After exposing the sheet midden, the feature was mapped, fragile artifacts such as the RC bottle removed, and the unit backfilled until large block excavations can expose a larger window across this feature. A rebar spike was driven into the subdatum.

Table ,1 Test Unit 1 Artifact Summary

Material	Ct	Wt	Comments
Mortar	1	0	
Asbestos Tile	9	15	
Brick	169	205	
Bottle Glass	301	939	**RC cola bottle, clear, brown, lavender**
Flat Glass	13	17	**Colorless**
Nails	61	110	**Unidentified**
Metal Objects	148	131	**Scale, slag, copper grommet, unid**
Salt-gl Stoneware	1	0	
Ironstone	19	56	
Porcelain	3	2	
and UID ceramics			
Plastic	92	37	
Coal	21	3	
Clinker	1	0	
Flint	2	35	**Cobble**
Sandstone	14	20	
Quartz	13	9	
Other rock	8	15	**pebbles**
Bone	4	2	
Shell	8	11	
Wood	2	0	**burned**
Wood	1	0	
Rubber	1	4	

Unit 2

Test Unit 2 was excavated as a 1x1 m with a 10 cm x 30 cm extension. The unit was situated to explore STPs in the area that encountered brick and architectural rubble. A unit subdatum was established at NW corner of the unit. Directly below a heavy leaf litter, excavators encountered Layer 1, a black (7.5 YR 2.5/1) dry silty loam with charcoal and coal (Figure 6). Layer 1 was terminated at 22 cmbsd. At this transitional point, excavators encountered an articulated brick floor, designated Feature 2 in the field. Excavations continued along the west edge of the unit in order to expose the base of the bricks. At this point, a 10 x 30 cm extension was excavated along the south wall to expose clusters of artifacts, including a diagnostic Coke bottle (Figure 7). Excavators left the articulated bricks in place and continued to their west where they encountered a layer change, Layer 3, which exhibited a mottled 5 YR 5/8 yellowish red compact sand clay cap was recorded abutting the brick flooring. Excavators recorded the floor as 1 course deep and the unit exposed 6 rows north-south and a maximum of 5 bricks wide east west. Probing 5 m south and 3 m northeast indicate that the bricks continue to at least this extent.

Artifact concentrations dropped dramatically in Layer 3, which terminated at 28 cmbsd. Apparently, the prepared layer of clay was placed beside the bricks to provide support. Just below the clay cap, excavators recorded Layer 4, a dark yellowish brown (10 YR ¾) silty sand. Artifacts included bottle glass, patent medicine bottles, wire nails, numerous buttons, pant rivets, and a 1946 dime. Within this unit matrix, excavators encountered Feature 3, a post stain at 36 cmbsd. The level was excavated to 37 cmbsd to create a flat base and the feature bisected with the western half excavated to an irregular, but solid base that panned out at 56 cmbsd. The unit was terminated after the excavation of the feature in order not to compromise the integrity of the brick floor. A rebar post was driven into the NW corner of the unit at the subdatum.

Table 2, Test Unit 2 Artifact Summary

Material	Ct	Wt	Comments
Mortar	19	121	
Brick	39	1703	
Bottle Glass	154	695	Including Patent Medicine bottle, Laurel Miss Coke bottle,
Nails	94	245	Wire and indeterminate
Metal Objects	95	183	Including large fastener, copper bracelet, other copper, ferrous, and non-ferrous unidentified objects
Ceramics:			
Salt-glazed stoneware	1	11	
Pearlware	1	4	
Ironstone	10	9	
Porcelain	2	16	
Earthenware	1	1	
Clinkers	65	89	

Unit 3

Test Unit 3 was excavated as a 1m x1m square to explore an area where STPs indicated older artifact and some architectural materials. Excavators placed the unit subdatum at the NE corner of unit. The sod was cut and saved to recap the unit. Below the root burden, excavators encountered Layer 1,a brown (7.5 YR 4/1) sandy loam with some silt . Before the first level was completed, excavators encountered Layer 2, a dark grayish brown (2.5 Y 4/2) sandy clay loam in north and east portion of the unit. The remainder of the unit exhibited, Layer 3, a heavily mottled dark yellowish brown (10 YR 3/6) sandy clay loam 10YR 3/6 sandy clay. Layer 3 was excavated to the base of layer in arbitrary levels, and it was determined that layer 3 represented a clay cap, similar to the one encountered in Unit 2, placed over Layer 2 soils. Layer 2 soils were then excavated to the base of layer at 33 cmbsd. At this depth, the unit graded in to Layer 4 soils, a yellowish brown (10 YR 5/6) dry sandy clay. This soil was very compact with artifacts recovered only in the upper portion of the layer. At the base of the level, excavators encountered Feature 4, a broad sheet midden extending across the face of the unit. Feature fill was excavated

and screened separately (Figure 8). The feature exhibited mortar and ash. Layer 4 level 1proved to be sterile except for clinkers and charcoal at the transitional zone between the feature and subsoil. The unit was terminated at 38 cmbsd after the excavation of a 10 cm sterile level. In terms of the research focus of the project, Layer 2 contained a range of domestic items from the targeted research period including 19th century porcelain, mortar, and a lead comb fragment. It is quite probable that the Feature 4 relates to an ash pit associated with occupational phases at the site that was later covered with clay and the detritus of later occupational phases (Figure 9).

Table 3, Test Unit 3 Artifact Summary

PLH Test Unit 3	Ct	Wt	Comments
Mortar	5	109	
Brick	34	215	
Bottle Glass	51	117	
Nails	3	7	wire
Metal Objects	28	38	
Ceramics:			
Lead-glazed stoneware	1	6	
ironstone	17	39	
porcelain	4	10	
Glazed Earthenware	1	1	
Clinkers	13	49	

Unit 4

Test Unit 4 was excavated as a 1x1 m square under the shade of a small cluster of trees in the southwest corner of the site. The test unit was oriented to explore a heavy concentrations of 19th and 20th century artifacts. The unit was located just north of a concrete survey monument marked “Meaher”. A unit subdatum was established in the NW corner of unit. After clearing the overburden of accumulated branches and leaf litter, excavators encountered Layer 1 soils, a very dark grayish brown (10 YR 3/2) dry silty loam (Figure 10). In keeping with the findings of STPs in the area, artifact counts were very dense throughout Layer 1 with heavy concentrations of architectural materials, clinkers, bottle and window glass ceramics, several butchered medium animal bones, clam and oyster shell. At 22 cmbsd excavators encountered a layer change to Layer 2 soils which exhibited a very dark brown (2.5 Y 3/.2) sandy silt which continued to 30 cmbsd. The midden deposits continued through Layer 2 and concentrations of toys and other domestic refuse increased through the layer. At 30 cmbsd, excavators encountered Layer 3soils, a olive yellow (2.5 Y 6/6) dry sandy silt mottled with light olive brown (2.5 y 5/4) sandy silt. Within Layer 3, excavators encountered Features 5, 6, and 7 at 40 cmbsd. The features were circular soil stains of strong brown (7.5 YR 5/6) very silty loam. Feature 7 was bisected, mapped, and excavated. The feature appears to be a posthole/postmold relating to the early

occupational phases of the site that was later occupied as a rodent burrow. Feature 7 exhibited a maximum depth of 52 cmbsd.

Table 4, Test Unit 4 Artifact Summary

PLH Test Unit 4	Ct	Wt	Comments
Mortar	58	40	
Brick	47	35	
Bottle Glass	395	117	
Nails	120	364	
Metal Objects	177	213	
Ceramics:			
Ironstone	3	7	
Porcelain	12	17	
Creamwear/whitewear	1	4	
Clinkers	115	137	

Unit 5

Test Unit 5 was excavated as a 1x1 m square to explore the northern half of the site and a concentration of 19th century artifacts recovered at STP N540 E530. The unit subdatum was established in the northeastern corner of the unit. In terms of setting, the unit was placed in the open portion of a grove that Frank Marshall suggested the Lee children used as a baseball field. After removing and reserving a layer of sod, excavators immediately encountered Layer 1 soils, a dark grayish brown (10 YR 4/2) fine sandy loam with common pebbles mixed throughout the unit matrix. Layer 1 soils continued to 16 cmbsd where soils graded to Layer 2, a light brownish gray (2.5 Y 6/2) fine sand with very little loam or clay. At 30 cmbsd soils conditions shifted rapidly to a yellowish brown (10 YR 5/8) compact sand with no artifacts. The unit was terminated at 40 cmbsd after the excavation of a sterile level. In terms of artifacts, Unit 5 exhibited a low concentration of material with a few clinkers, bricks, and metal objects.

Table 5, Test Unit 5 Artifact Summary

PLH Test Unit 5	Ct	Wt	Comments
Mortar	3	17	
Brick	137	188	
Bottle Glass	77	96	
Nails	29	100	
Metal Objects	58	204	Including iron tack and barrel hoop fragment
Ceramics:			
Ironstone	5	7	
Porcelain	3	6	
Clinkers	3	10	

Mapping

Project team members used a Topcon digital laser transit to generate point data. STPs, test unit subdatum, survey monuments, corner of structures, centerlines of roads, trees over 50 cm in diameter, and tree lines were plotted on the fieldmap. The northing and easting grid coordinates at each STP were established using a compass and pulled tape. Often, it was necessary to offset STPs from their planned position, as trees, piles of cinder blocks and other obstruction prevented completion of the shovel test in that locale. A site datum, poured concrete surrounding a Magnaspike survey point, was established in the central area of the cleared field in the southern half of the site. Subdata were placed throughout the site and at each of the archaeological test units.

Re-pointing of Chimney

During the pedestrian survey, project team members noted that the chimney was visibly leaning. Most concerning, foot-wide voids were visible throughout the chimney face and firebox (Figures 11 and 12). The chimney was thickly overgrown with weeds and vines, which provided some structural support. A local mason was hired to clear the vines and repoint the chimney in hopes that this emergency stabilization would protect the chimney for 5-15 years. All vegetation was cleared from the chimney and then the joints and gaps in the brick were filled with new mortar. Although an attempt was made to match the soft lime mortar present in the joints, the resulting historic masonry resulted in a harder joint that was desired.

Recommendation

The Peter Lee House site exhibits major modifications to the late 19th to early 20th century phases of settlement along the north, south, and west sides. The construction of the Marshall House site, Bay Bridge Road, and additions to Peter Lee Road have had deleterious effects on the underlying

archaeological material. Most distressing, the extension of Bay Bridge Road caused at least half of the Peter Lee House to be lost. Fortunately, feature bearing archaeological deposits dating to the period when Peter Lee lived at the site are present north and east of the Lee chimney. Given the prominent role of Peter Lee, or Gumpa as he was known during his life as an African royal, in local and world history, this site is an excellent candidate for the National Register of Historical Places. Action should be taken to ensure that archaeological deposits are not disturbed by further construction, modification, development, parking, or staging. If disturbance is inevitable, Phase III (archaeological data recovery) Research should be undertaken to generate as much data as possible from the site. Likewise, as the only standing remnant of a structure associated with a *Clotilda* survivor, every effort should be made to preserve and protect the Chimney. This may require addressing issues with repointing and/or disassembling the chimney so that it can be mapped, studied, and rebuilt brick-by-brick.

Lewis Quarter

Lewis Quarter is remembered as the home site of Charlie, or Charlee, Lewis. Lewis was one of the survivors of the *Clotilda* crossing and served as a community leader of Africatown. Lewis Quarter was founded in the late 19th century and according to family historian Mrs. Lorna Woods, the Quarter grew rapidly to accommodate approximately 20 families with marriage or kinship ties to the Lewis family. Today, 8 houses are still occupied in the Quarter and most of these structures were built in the early-20th century. The Quarter is surrounded on the East and West by processing and staging facilities owned by Gulf Lumber Company. The North boundary of the property is a railway line (Figure 13).

Lewis Quarter is shaded by a thick stand of old-growth trees located on Gulf Lumber property east and southeast of the Quarter. According to family members, the grove was sold to Gulf Lumber in the 1980s and contains a knoll upon which Lewis Quarter families buried their dead. According to Mrs. Woods, this burial plot holds the remains of Charlie Lewis, along with at least one Buffalo Soldier. A deep drainage separates Lewis Quarter from the knoll, and a visual inspection—s it is outside the project area—of this zone indicates that it contains a heavy concentration of 19th and 20th century archaeological material.

Pedestrian Survey

For the first phase of the project, project team members walked the Lewis Quarter property and noted artifact and architectural hotspots on the project map. The central portion of the site (i.e., the area occupied by the eight houses and surrounding yards) appears to be heavily modified with concrete house pads, graded driveways, a central graded car path, and excavations for

waterlines. In sum, the central area of the Quarter exhibits substantial recent residential development. However, a less developed 6 m wide band surrounds the Quarter.

Residents of Lewis Quarter asked that the project team focus efforts on this band and behind the houses in the extreme northwest corner of the Quarter. Likewise, residents asked that archaeological efforts avoid the yards and houses in the western and west central portion of the project area. In keeping with these requests, the shovel test pit survey, mapping, and test excavations were focused away from the central portion of the site.

Shovel Test Pit Survey

One single STP transect was run along the less developed band surrounding the Quarter. The test interval was 10 m and the STPs were excavated to sterile subsoil. Along the northern portion of the Quarter, soils were deep (up to 1.85 m) silty sands. However, artifacts were concentrated in the upper 60 cm of the excavations. Artifact hotspots included the north central, northwestern, and northeastern portions of the project area. Field technicians also places a line of STPs within the large football-shaped wedge of grass in the south central portion of the project area. Mrs. Woods suggested that this was the house pad for the Charlie Lewis house and the corresponding artifacts from the STPs dated from the late 19th or early 18th century. Unfortunately, soils in this area were relatively eroded, extending only 40 cm below ground surface. Given the deep deposits at the northwest/northcentral portion of the project area, and given the known 18th 19th century deposits in this area, archaeological efforts were focused on a subsurface brick feature in northwest corner of the project area.

Archaeological Testing

Archaeological test excavations were conducted in backyard of Mr. Gary Autry and Mrs. Leona Warnsley, both located in the northwest corner of the project area (Figure 14).

Unit 1

Unit 1 was a 1 by 2 meter unit placed to explore a subsurface brick feature behind Mr. Autry's house. Mrs. Lorna Woods suggested that the house was associated with one of Charlie Lewis' sons and that Charlie helped, both economically and physically, to build the house. In turn, the house was reported to have served as one of the first African American Masonic lodges in Mobile.

The subdatum was placed at the NW corner of the unit and upon excavation, technicians encountered Layer 1 soils a dark bown (7.5 YR 3/2) sandy loam with an incredibly heavy concentration of metal, brick, window glass, bottle glass and bone. All artifacts exhibited burning in the field and there was a heavy concentration of burned wood and charred material in

the unit throughout the unit matrix. Within the first layer, excavators encountered articulated bricks in the northern half of the excavation. This feature was designated Feature 1 and layer 1 soils were excavated to reveal the shape and orientation of the bricks (Figure 15). Layer 1 soils continued to 20 cm where soils graded to Layer 2, a black (7.5 YR 2.5/1) sandy loam. At 23 centimeters bsd, excavators encountered Layer 3 soils a very dark gray (10 YR 3/1) sandy silt located in the central portion of the unit. The unit matrix contained a white clay smoking pipe several railroad spikes, a patent medicine bottle all just south of a double firebox that emerged in the northern half of the unit. After excavating just south of the firebox to reveal the base of the brick feature (i.e., the three brick high/course articulated stub of the fire box), the unit was terminated so as not to damage the integrity of the brick feature.

Table 6, Test Unit 1 Artifact Summary

Lewis Quarter Test Unit 1	Ct	Wt	Comments
Mortar	2211	1821	
Brick	936	4960	
Bottle Glass	237	529	Includes molded medicine bottle
Nails	333	676	mostly wire and Unidentified nails, a few cut nails
Metal Objects	224	955	Railroad spikes, harness bit, union royal alloy button, electrical wires, buckle, batteries
Ceramics:			
whiteware	4	19	includes a hand-painted fragment
stoneware	2	121	
ironstone	5	7	
porcelain	5	7	
earthenware	4	4	some burned
ceramic tile	1	2	
Clinker	658	269	

Unit 2

The location for Unit 2 as chosen based on Ms. Woods suggestion that a possible midden associated with the structure/firebox explored with Unit 1 was once located in the back of Mrs. Wornsley's yard. Despite the fact that STPs indicated light concentrations of material in this area, an exploratory 1 x 1 m excavation was placed to search for other features associated with the house site. Unfortunately, the unit was similar to nearby STPs and exhibited a very light concentration of artifactual and architectural materials.

The subdatum for this 1 x 1 m unit was placed in the SW corner of the unit. Upon removing the sod, excavators encountered Layer 1 soils, a dark grayish brown (10 YR 4/2) sandy loam with mottling and a heavy root mat. At 20 cmbsd excavators encountered Layer 2 soils, a grayish

brown (2.5 Y 5/2) silty loam. Artifact counts dropped markedly in Layer 2 level excavations. As artifact counts dropped, unit soils graded into an extremely compact sandy clay. At 25 cmbsd, excavators encountered Layer 3 soils a light yellowish-brown (2.5 Y 6/3) silty sand with mottles of red, white, and gray sandy clay. After the excavation of a negative level, the unit was terminated at 56 cmbsd.

Table 7, Test Unit 2 Artifact Summary

Lewis Quarter Test Unit 2	Ct	Wt	Comments
Mortar	157	157	
Brick	241	374	
Bottle Glass	127	334	
Nails	299	520	Mostly wire, some cut
Metal Objects	703	671	Mainly scale and concretions
Ceramics:			
Ironstone	1	7	
Porcelain	2	0	
Clinker	147	114	

Recommendations

Similar to the Peter Lee House site, Lewis Quarter exhibits intact archaeological features associated with survivors of the *Clotilda* crossing. These archaeological deposits have been negatively impacted by recent construction activities. In terms of connections to the African continent, the cluster of metal objects, glass bottles, and smoking pipes under the floor near the hearth is similar in content, context, and structuration to protective bundles of cosmologically charged items placed near hearth space in the Middle Atlantic area, American South, and West Africa. Much more research in the area will be required to confirm this isolated and preliminary finding. Nonetheless, given the prominent role of Charlie Lewis in local and world history, this site is an excellent candidate for the National Register of Historical Places. As part of the discussion for a National Register nomination, the standing late 19th/early 20th century structure in the northeast corner of the project area should also be evaluated. Action should be taken to ensure that archaeological and architectural resources are not disturbed by further construction, modification, development, parking, or staging. If disturbance is inevitable, Phase III (archaeological data recovery) should be conducted to generate as much data from the site as possible. Moreover, given the fact that Lewis Quarter is now owned by multiple landowners, every effort should be made to engage property owners in a discussion on future plans for development and historical resource preservation.

Figure 1 Peter Lee House Overview

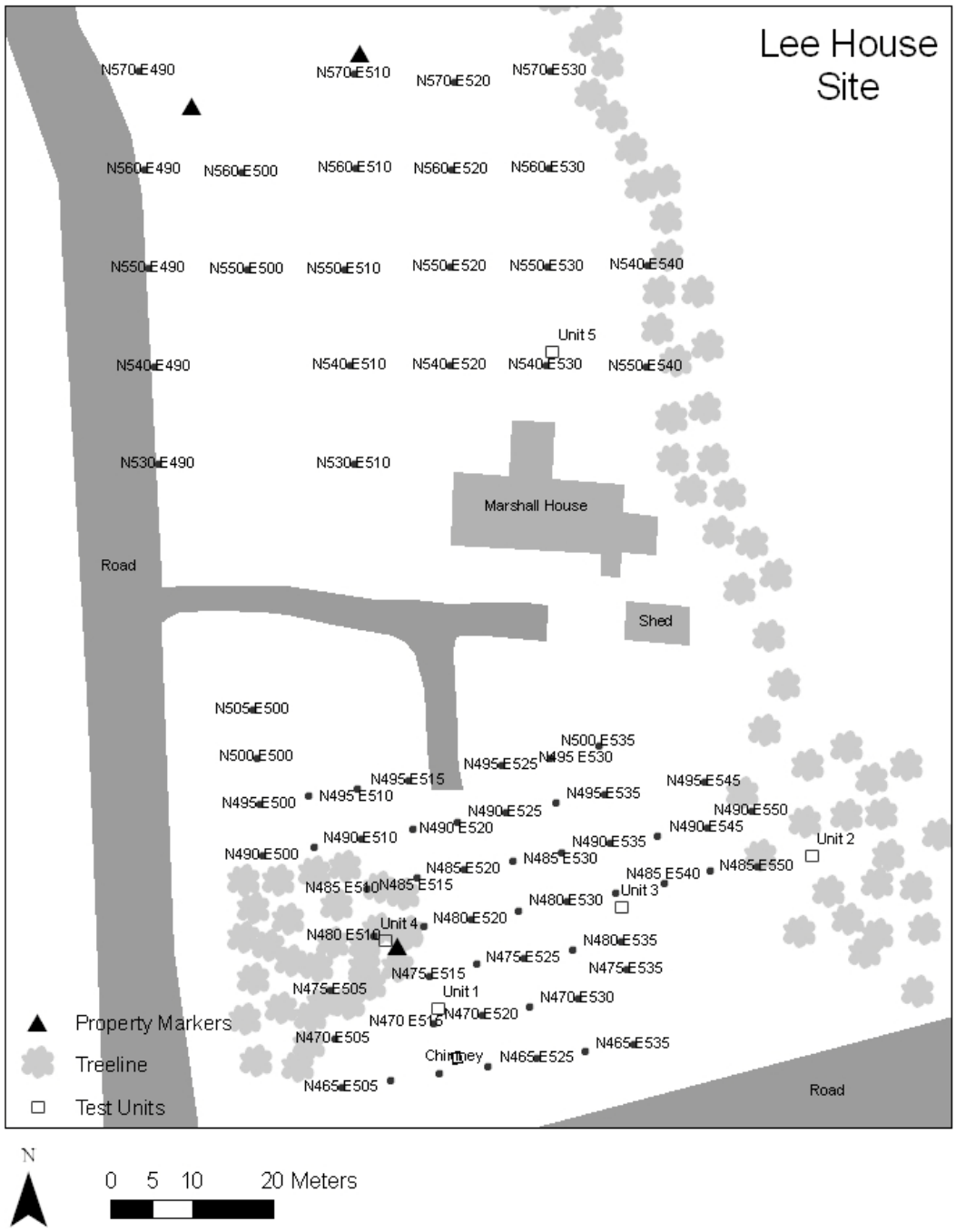


Figure 2 Peter Lee House South Portion

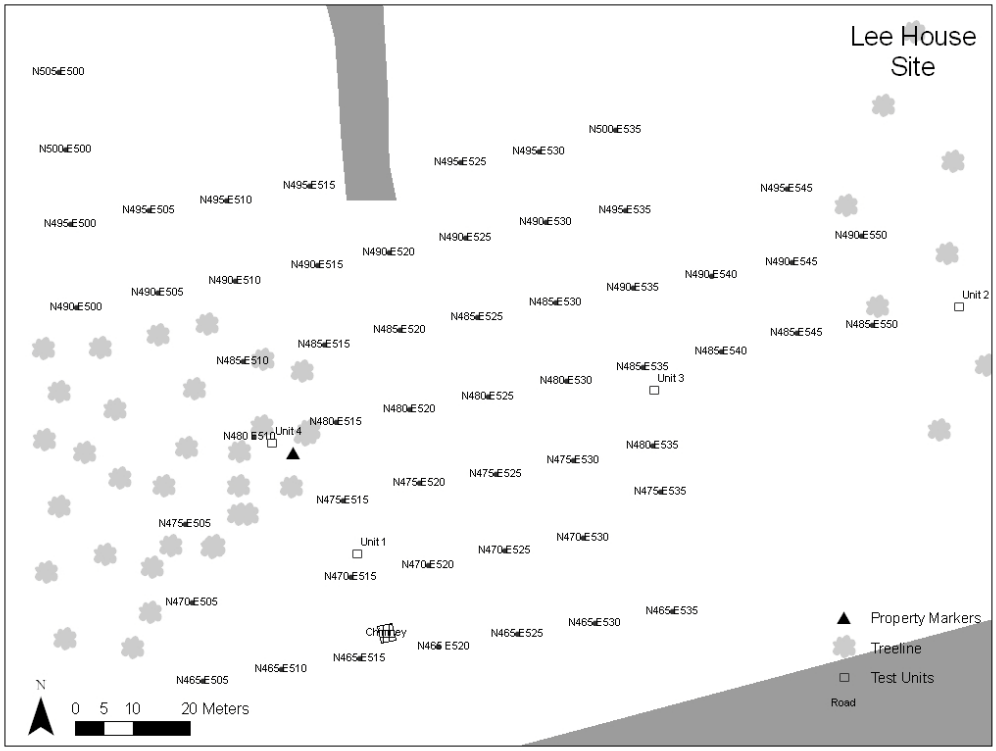


Figure 3 Peter Lee House North Portion

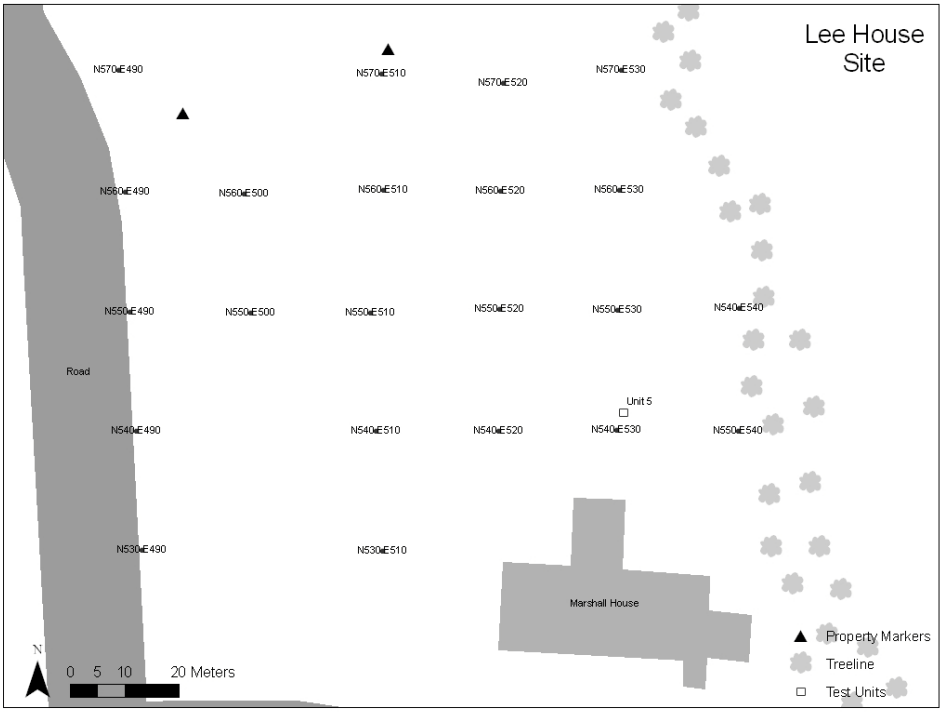


Figure 4 Peter Lee House Test Unit 1 North Wall Profile

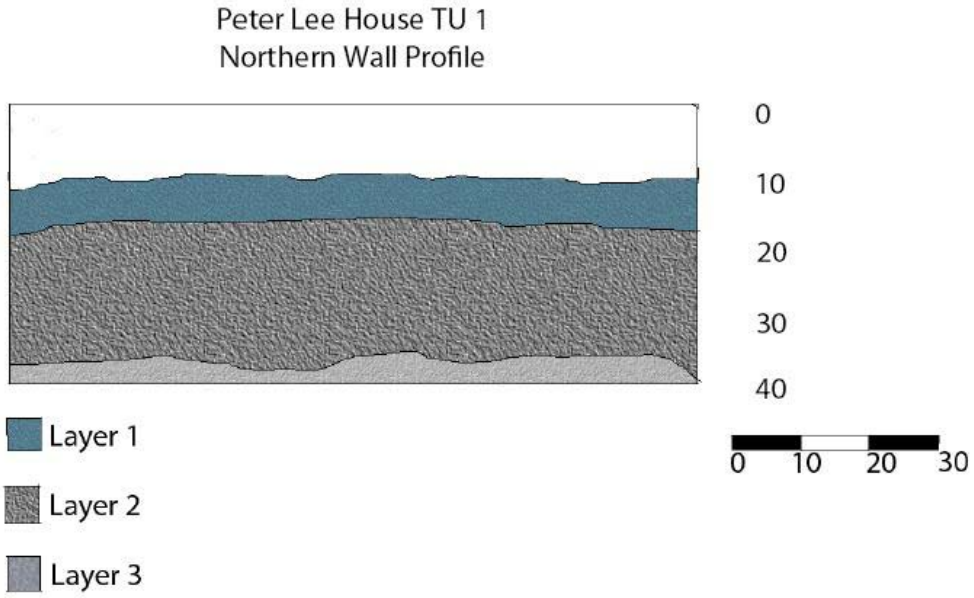


Figure 5 Peter Lee House Test Unit 1 Feature 1

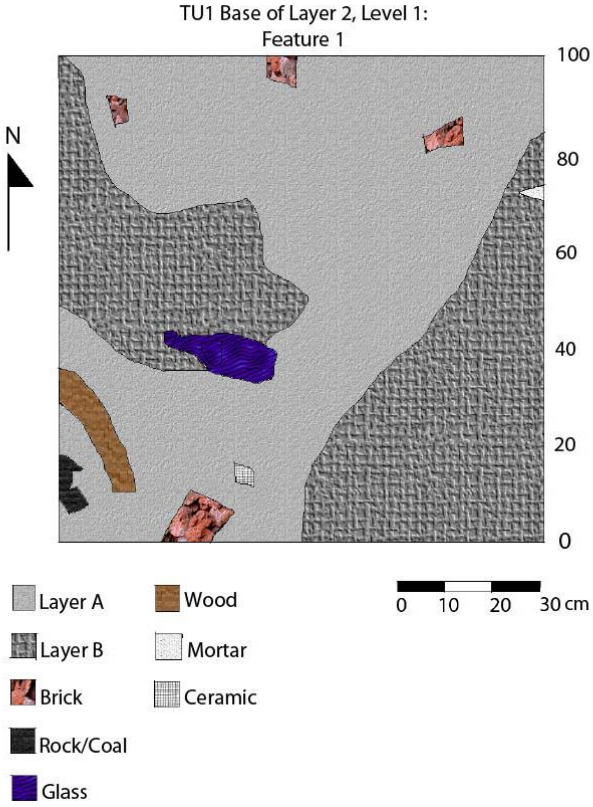


Figure 6 Peter Lee House Test Unit 2 Western Wall Profile

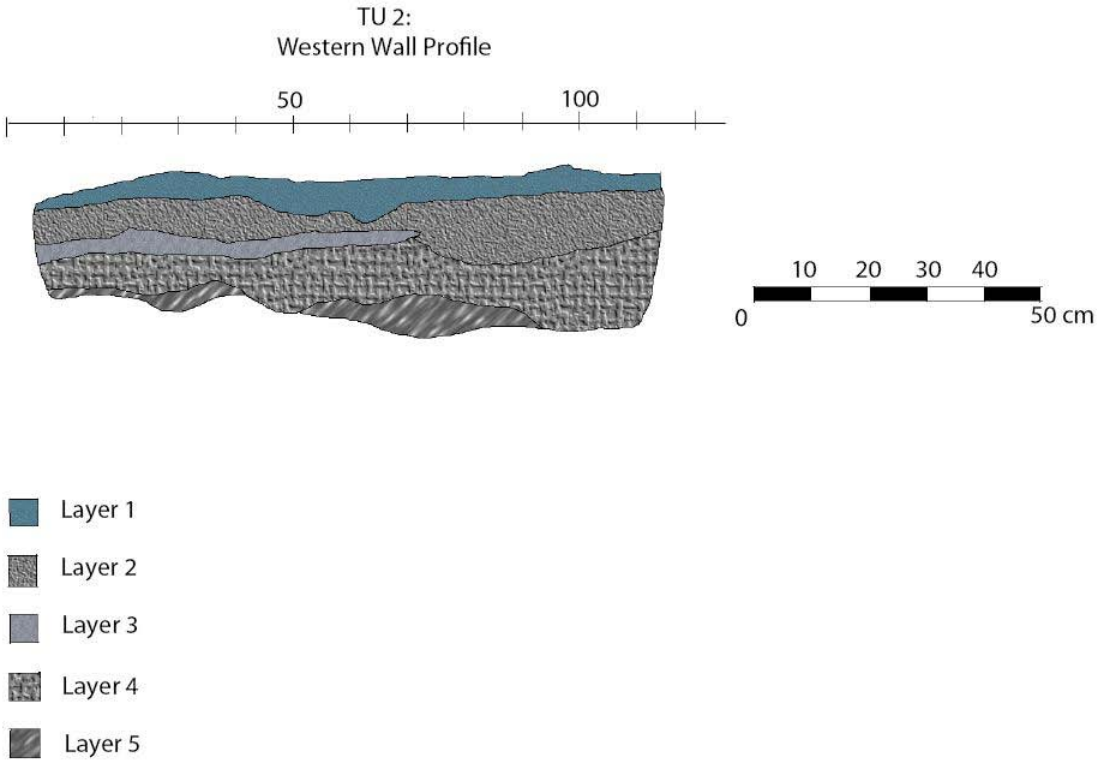


Figure 7 Peter Lee House Test Unit 2 Brick Floor

Figure 8 Peter Lee House Test Unit 3 Layer 4

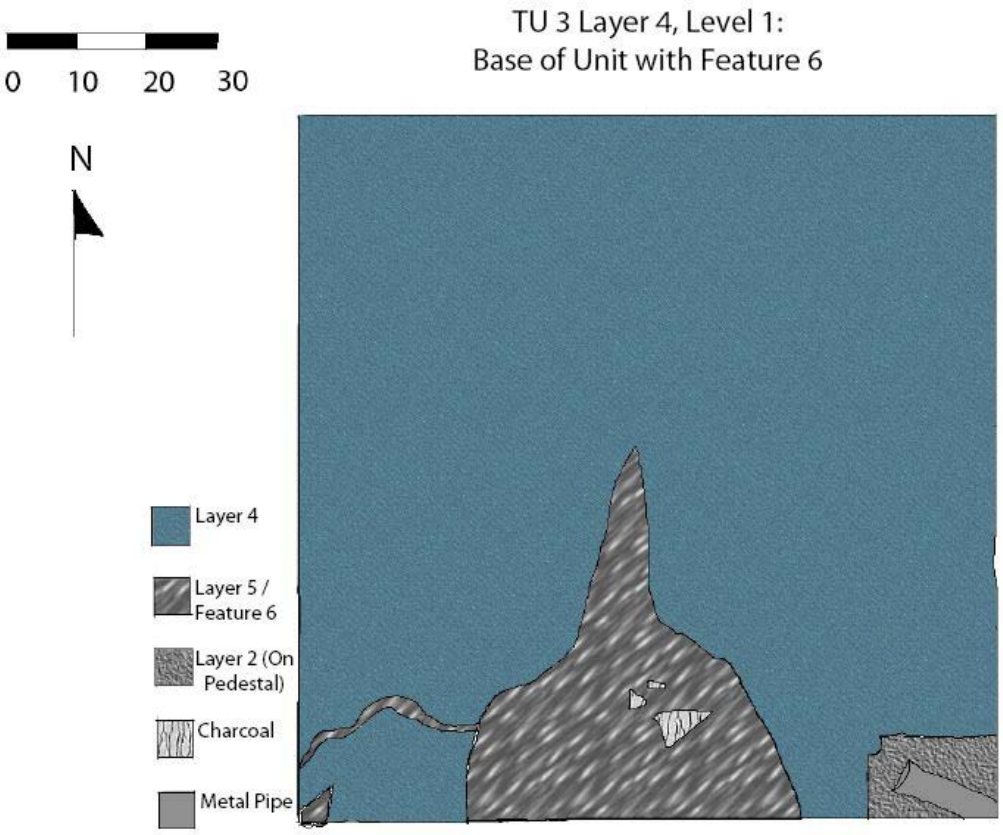


Figure 9 Peter Lee House Test Unit 3 South Profile

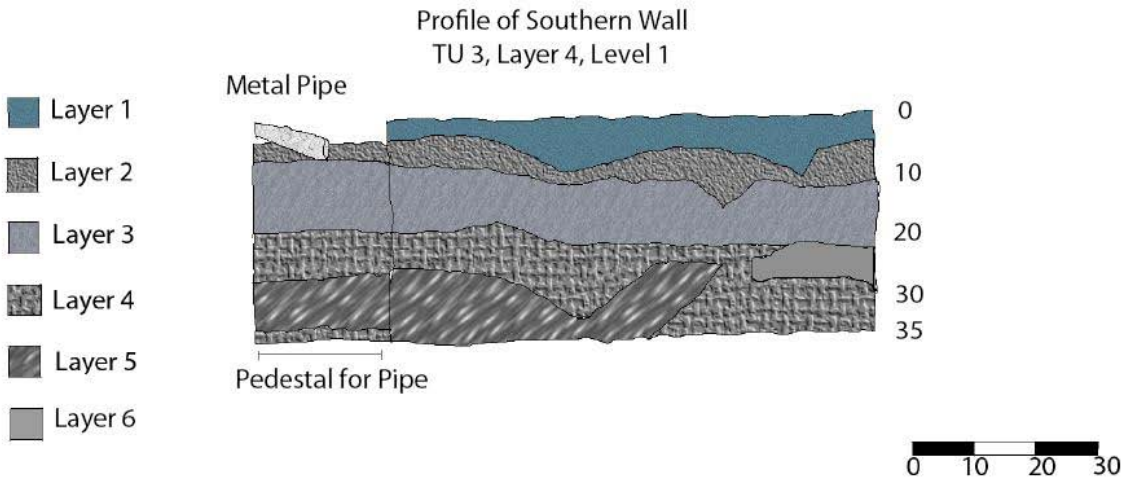


Figure 10 Peter Lee House Test Unit 4 South Profile

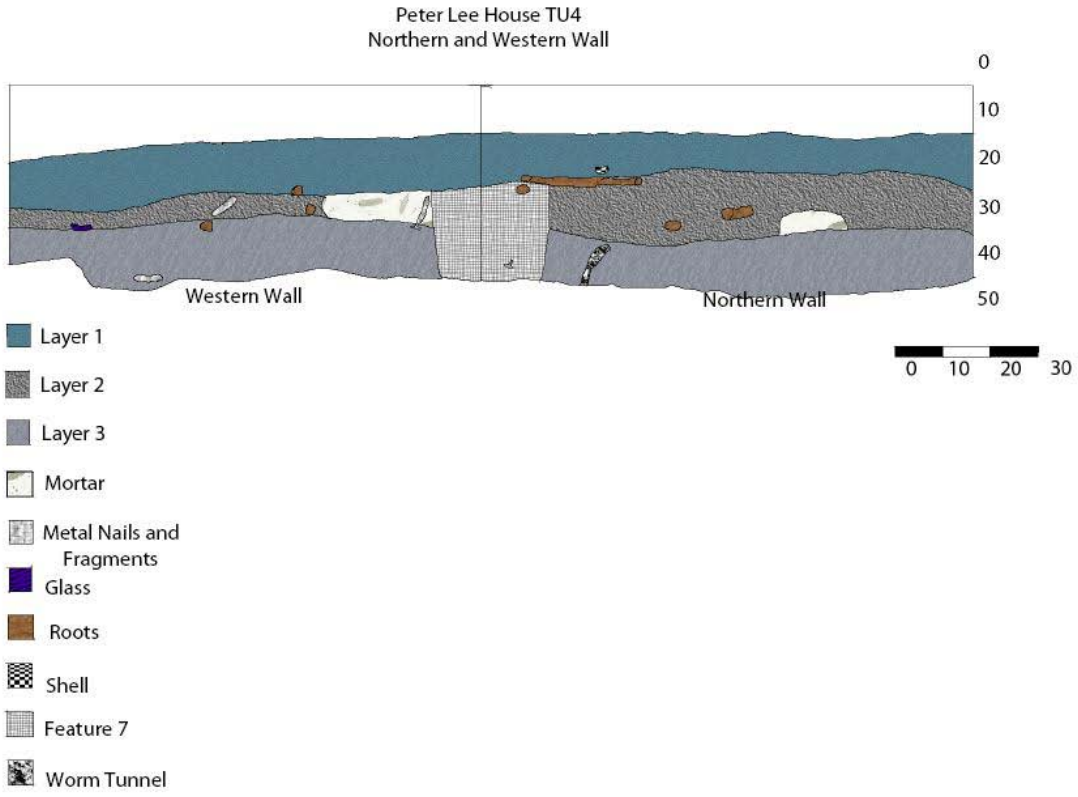


Figure 11 Peter Lee House Test Chimney Before Repointing

Figure 12 Peter Lee House Test Chimney After Repointing

Figure 13 Lewis Quarter Project Area

Figure 14 Lewis Test Units Excavations

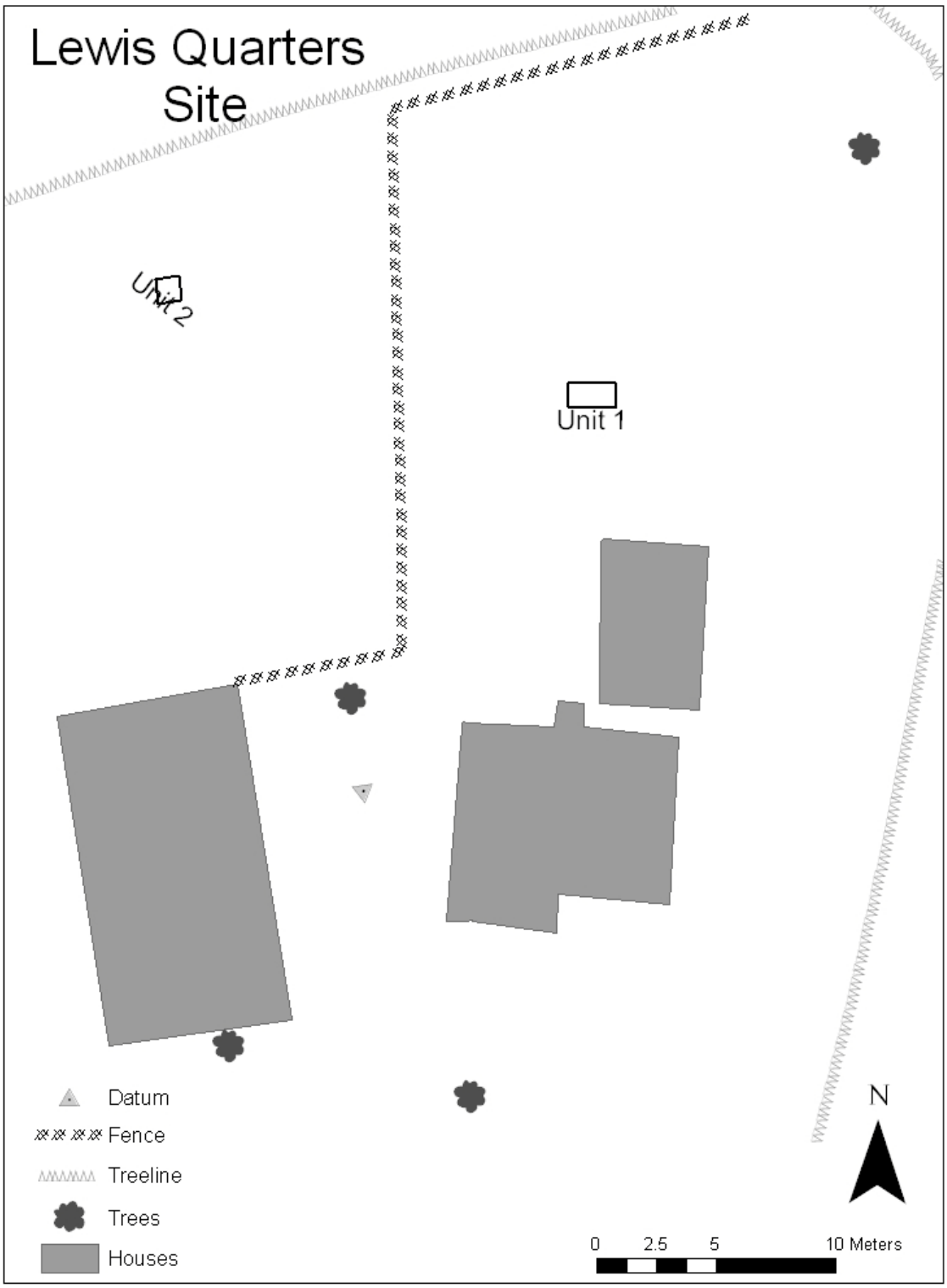
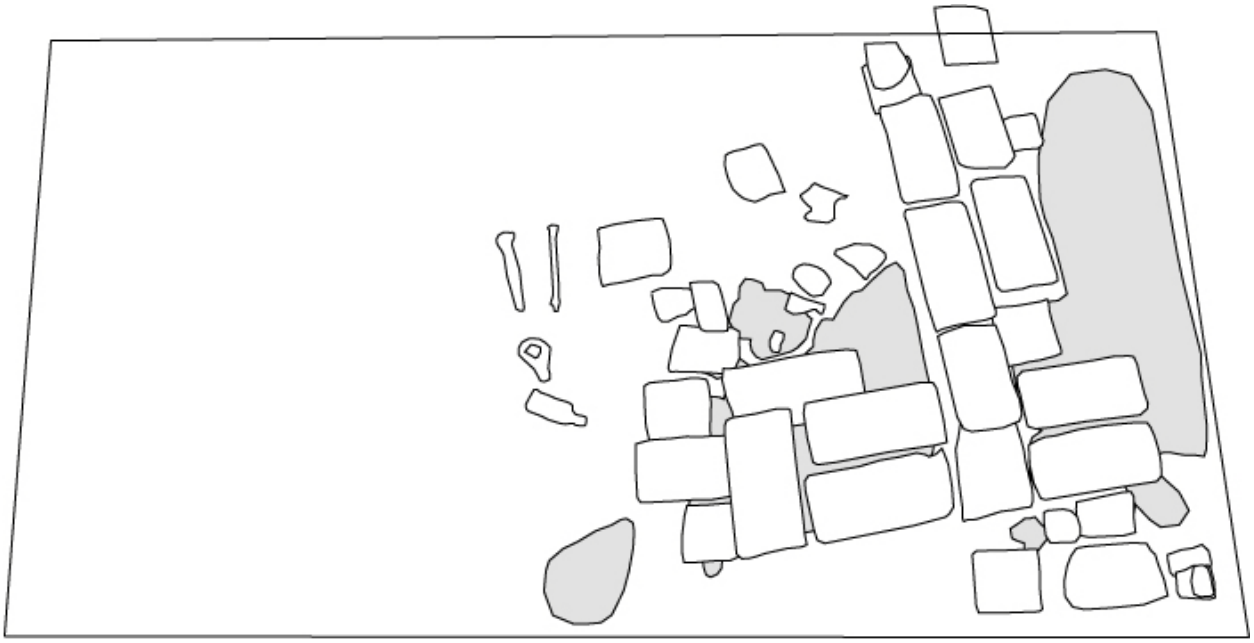
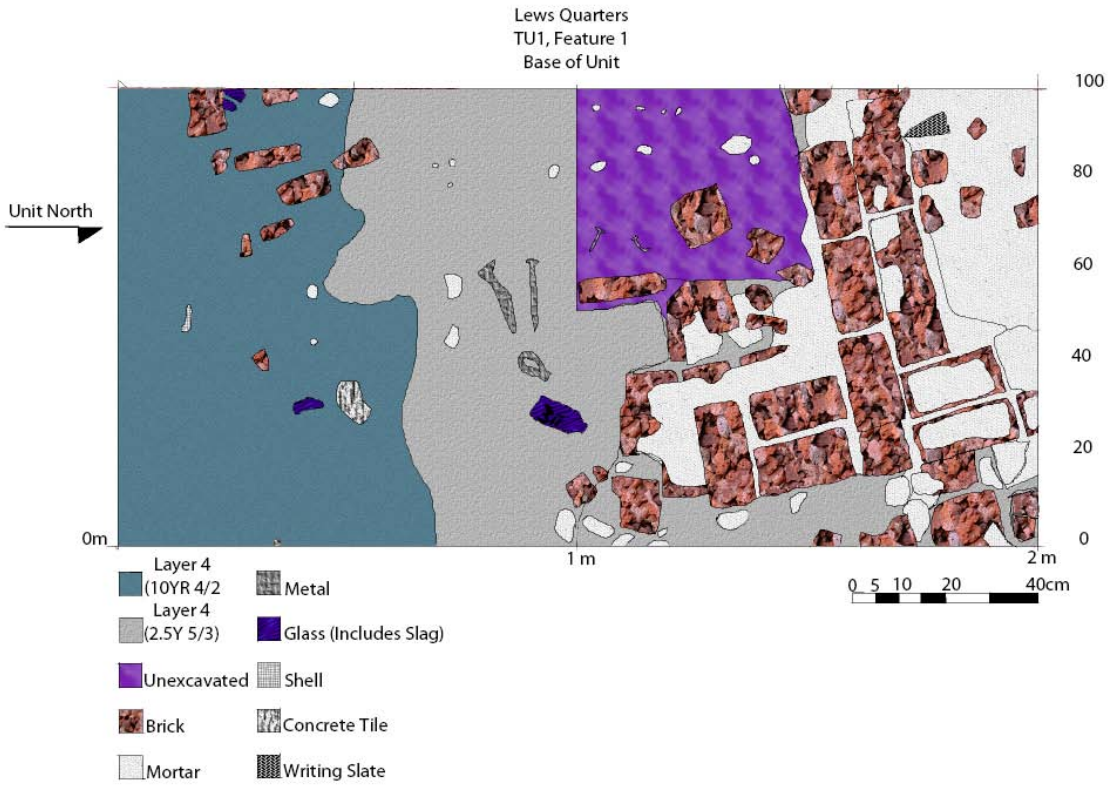


Figure 15 Lewis Quarter Test Unit 2, Fire Box Plan from Topcon and GIS




Lews Quarters
TU1, Feature 1
Base of Unit
Unit North
100
80
60
40
20
0
0m
1 m
2 m
0 5 10 20 40cm
Layer 4 (10YR 4/2
Layer 4 (2.5Y 5/3)
Unexcavated
Brick
Mortar
Metal
Glass (Includes Slag)
Shell
Concrete Tile
Writing Slate