



NEWSLETTER

BRUNSWICK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P. O. BOX 22, WINNABOW, NORTH CAROLINA

Vol. VIII, No. 2

May, 1968

SOME NOTES ON ST. PHILIPS ANGLICAN CHURCH AT BRUNSWICK TOWN

Brunswick Town was begun in 1726, and within two years the first minister, John Lapierre had arrived. In 1729 an act was passed directing that the church of New Hanover County be built in Brunswick. By 1736 the church was built, and James Murray attended services there. Five years later an act provided for the creation of St. Philips Parish and the building of a new church to be financed by a poll tax. In 1745 James Moir was the minister at Brunswick and was living in the garret of the chapel, eating his meals in the taverns and public houses of the town, very much against his inclination.

By 1754 St. Philips Church was under construction and the brick work was completed above the window level. Five years later the church was still not finished, and a lottery was authorized to provide money to complete it. Reverend John McDowell tells us that in 1760 several gentlemen of Brunswick were interested in the completion of the church. These were Colonel William Dry, Collector of Port Brunswick; Captain Richard Quince, a prominent merchant in Brunswick; and Governor Arthur Dobbs, who proposed to make St. Philips the King's Chapel in North Carolina. It was probably through the influence of these men that a second lottery was held, and the proceeds from the slaves and other effects taken from the Spaniards who attacked Brunswick in 1748 was applied to the church fund.

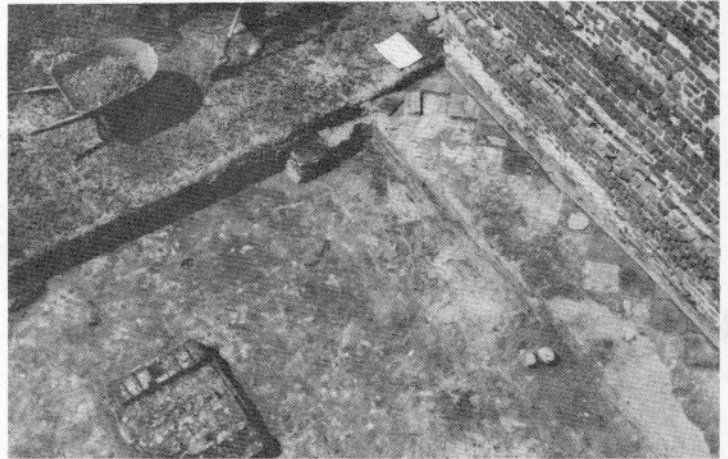
By July 1760 the church was almost completed when lightning struck the roof and it collapsed. By 1762 the old chapel in use since the 1730's was repaired. Thomas Dick, a Brunswick carpenter, was placed in charge of repairing the roof and belfry of the new church. Reverend McDowell died during this year and was buried in the graveyard at St. Philips Church. Three years later the church was still not completed when Governor Dobbs died and was buried inside.

Governor William Tryon moved into "Castle Dobbs" at Brunswick, and became interested in the completion of the church. He paid for the sashes and glass, which were brought from England. Reverend Barnett moved into "Castle Tryon", as he called "Russellborough" the Governor's mansion, and was a guest of the governor. He was the minister who dedicated the church, assisted by Reverend Mr. Wills of Wilmington, when it was finally completed in 1768. On May 24, 1768, on Whit Tuesday, St. Philips Church was dedicated, two centuries ago this year.

When Brunswick Town was burned in 1775, St. Philips Church was probably also destroyed at that time. When Confederate Fort Anderson was built across the ruins of Brunswick Town in 1862, the ruins of the church were planned as part of the fort. During the bombardment of Fort Anderson in February, 1865, naval shells struck the church but did little damage. The Confederate dead from the bombardment were placed inside its walls where they were found by the capturing Union troops.

When St. Philips Church was excavated in the summer of 1966 the footings for the roof support were found, along with those supporting the wooden floor. Tile walks were found around the walls and down the center aisle. Twelve burials were found inside the walls; eleven at the chancel end of the church; and one at the north end. Among those at the chancel end was the grave of Governor Arthur Dobbs, and an infant burial that may have been the son of Governor William Tryon.

At the north corner of the church the grave of an adult was found, but the fact that the water table is only a few feet deep had resulted in all trace of the burial being gone. The absence of coffin nails indicates that this burial was not in a coffin, and may represent the grave of a Confederate soldier, possibly killed in one of the earlier bombardments of Fort Anderson. The fact that the burial was in the north corner of the church in the walkway area, and that the grave fill contained rubble from the burned church, adds to the validity of this interpretation.



View of the north corner of St. Philips Church during excavation showing the large roof support footing and the smaller floor support footings. In the lower right corner the dark grave fill with two stones can be seen for the burial thought to be of a Confederate soldier. The right edge of the grave fill can be seen as a light outline due to the fact that this half of the grave was cleaned the previous day and had time to dry out. This fact is well known to historical archaeologists working in sand sites, and an area is often cleaned and then allowed to stand over-night so as to allow such areas to dry out in order to reveal additional old pit features not easily seen when first an area is cleaned.

The following was given in a talk by Mr. Stanley South on February 12, 1968.

RESTORATION ARCHAEOLOGY AT THE PACA HOUSE, ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

In 1965, Historic Annapolis, Inc. acquired the large brick structure that had once been the home of William Paca, signer of the Declaration of Independence. In the twentieth century, the building had been the front of a large hotel known as Carvel Hall. This hotel has been razed and restoration of the Paca House and garden is underway. The architect responsible for the restoration of the house is James Burch, AIA, who has been carrying out a detailed examination of the structure for many months. Realizing the need for archaeological work to accompany the study his office was making of the building itself, Mr. Burch, through Contract Archaeology, Inc. of Washington, D. C. made plans for a combination study designed to reveal information about the house and its occupants through historical and archaeological research. Although originally conceived as a team effort involving an historian and an archaeologist, this writer agreed to carry out both studies in a four-month period, as well as recording, through photographs, the evidence being examined by the architects in the house itself. The work was done on a sub-contract basis for Contract Archaeology, Inc.

This approach of combining the information produced through architectural examination, historical research, and archaeology, represents the ideal situation for the study of an historic structure for the purpose of restoration. All possible care and deliberation is being exercised in the study of this building, and only after all the evidence has been gathered will the architect finally attempt to make his working drawings for the restoration. A complete report on the historical research, the archaeological work, and the photographic study of the architectural clues has been written and turned over to the architect. This volume constitutes one of the cornerstones for the restoration, a necessary one in competent efforts at the preservation of our heritage through historic structures. This paper is a review of the work carried out on this project from June to September, 1967.

The Paca House is a large brick country house built on Prince George Street in Annapolis, representing only one of a number of fine homes built in the mid-eighteenth century by gentlemen of wealth and position in that city. The historical research revealed that it was built by William Paca, beginning in 1763, and was probably completed enough for occupancy by 1765. It was the home of William Paca and his wife, Mary Chew, until her death in 1774. After that time, Paca was away from Annapolis a great deal, concerned with the affairs of the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. He sold the house, in 1780, to a fellow attorney, Thomas Jenings, who made it the home for his large family until his death in 1796. The Jenings heirs rented the house to Baron Henri de Stier in 1797, who was the only aristocrat ever to live there. Throughout most of the nineteenth century, the house was rental property, serving during the last quarter of that century as a boarding house, and climaxed as rental property by the construction of Carvel Hall Hotel shortly after the turn of the twentieth century.

In 1878, the west wing was raised an additional floor, and in 1890, the east wing and hyphen were also raised to accommodate more boarders. These additions will be removed, and the hitchen wing and the office wing restored to their original one-story-and-garret appearance. During the removal of nineteenth century lathing in the ceiling of the main house, the architect discovered a note placed there by a

carpenter who was carrying out alterations. The note stated, "This attic story was finished for Mrs. Dr. Kennedy By James L. Taylor, Carpenter, June, 1885". It was Mrs. Kennedy who operated the boarding house.

The historical research was carried out in Annapolis, Washington, Philadelphia, and Baltimore, in order to recover as much data as possible about the occupants of the Paca House, with emphasis, of course, on William Paca. The Paca family history was followed into the mid-seventeenth century to William Paca's great-grandfather, Robert Peaker. The next step in this direction would be research in three counties in England where the Peaker family has been situated for centuries. Along with the genealogical research, emphasis was placed on personal interests and qualities of the man, William Paca, such as his interest in the Jockey Club, and his membership in an early social group known as the Homony Club. His activities in the field of public affairs as a prominent lawyer and judge, signer of the Declaration of Independence and governor of Maryland were not emphasized in this study since these phases of the activity of the man have been frequently covered by historians.

Of particular interest in regard to the formal garden known to have been located at the rear of the Paca House is the painting by Charles W. Peale of Paca, in the background of which there is a two-story summer house, a smaller house (probably the bath house), a bridge with a Chinese Chippendale motif railing, and a brick wall with vertical slots along its length. A photograph made from the dome of the Maryland State House in the late nineteenth century reveals the fact that a slotted brick wall such as shown in this painting separated the Paca House garden from King George Street. From this correlation we know that the scene depicted by Peale was indeed at the Prince George Street house, and from this the architect in charge of the restoration of the garden, and the landscape gardener, are able to obtain valuable information for restoration of the garden.

Of similar value are sketches made of the Paca House by F. B. Mayer in 1872, and photographs taken before the east wing and hyphen were raised in 1890. These are significant to the architect responsible for the restoration of the house, providing information, as to its original appearance, not available elsewhere.

The architectural study has involved the removal of floors to reveal earlier floors, removal of reinforced concrete floors to reveal old ground surfaces beneath, under which archaeological work was then carried out, and removal of later wall surfaces to reveal those earlier ones beneath. The archaeologist and architect literally worked side by side in the examination of hearths, walls, and floors in an effort at understanding of the story to be revealed at the Paca House.

Through removal of plaster from walls old doorways were revealed, as well as clues to original positioning of windows and floor levels. Study in the top floor of the main house revealed that there had originally been five dormers instead of the three there today. The outline of shelving against the exterior of the main house, with eighteenth century type plaster applied after the shelves were in place produced evidence pointing toward an eighteenth century date for the widening of the east hyphen. This is the sort of evidence being studied in the architectural examination of the house.

The archaeological goals were to establish the original grades in the area of the Paca House, both those present at the time construction began, as well as the grade originally established after construction of the house was complete. Through a series of squares all around the house, this information was revealed. The area of the Paca House was an orange clay hill at the time construction began in 1763, no original topsoil being found in place anywhere on the site. Because construction was beginning at a subsoil level, ie. on a hard compact clay, the builders felt that there was little need for construction ditches, so they sat the building on the surface of the ground in most instances, adding fill against the house after construction was completed in order to landscape the area and force drainage away from the building.

Besides the goal of determining original grades, the determination of the function of the two wings was desired, as well as the recovery of information relative to walks, old entrances, and any other features of significance that would aid in an understanding of the history of the house. Many questions were asked by the architect and the archaeologist, but only a small percentage were able to be completely answered, as is usually the case. New questions were also raised in the process of answering others.

In the process of excavation at the rear of the west wing a brick surface drain was found two feet below present grade. This drain passed beneath a later brick lined walk containing mid-nineteenth century objects. In one area the drain had been partially removed in order to construct a plant bed, the outline of which could be clearly seen against the orange clay subsoil. The plant bed contained numerous fragments of wall plaster, along with ceramic types dating from 1790 to 1805, indicating that repairs were very likely made to the house during this period. From the historical records we know that Baron de Stier made repairs to the house in 1797 and 1798, and from this we might conjecture that it was from these repairs that the plaster came to be in the plant bed. We know also that the Baron brought his own gardener with him from Antwerp, Holland when he came to America.

From the work around the west wing we find that almost no kitchen midden material was thrown into the yard here, ruling out this wing as the kitchen. However, in front of the west wing a walk of coal ash was discovered leading to a window. From an examination of this area of the brick wall beneath the window, it became apparent that a window had originally been here, and that it had been converted into a doorway, then back into a window again. From artifacts lying over the walk it was possible to determine that the change from a window to a door had occurred during the second decade of the nineteenth century, during the ownership of the house by Lewis Neth.

In front of the west hyphen a walk composed of oyster shells was found. Among these shells was a quantity of broken china dating from 1790 to 1805, indicating the period for the accumulation of this midden. The period of its accumulation would indicate that it was probably taken from a midden deposit of Thomas Jenings who lived in the house from 1780 until his death in 1796. The walk could have been built by a later occupant using oyster shell midden from the dump area used by Jenings.

It was not until excavation was carried out to the east of the east wing of the house that material was found that could definitely be associated with the builder of the house, William Paca. Here, beside the door to this wing, a pile of oyster shells was found. Mixed with the shells and found were fragments of Oriental porcelain, salt-glazed stoneware, delft, faience, and cream-

ware, all types of the 1760's and 1770's, definitely establishing this deposit as that accumulated during the occupation of the house by William Paca. This midden was found to extend along the side of the house, beneath twentieth century bays that had been added to the wing. The presence of this deposit here definitely established this wing as the kitchen.

Of particular interest here was the discovery that this wing was built on the stone foundation of an earlier structure, the early building having been some feet shorter than the Paca House wing. Another significant discovery was the fact that a drain passed from inside the wing through the brick wall, and into an underground pipe made of bricks. This drain was stopped up by oyster shells that had been thrown into the drain opening, causing a slowing of the drainage. Gradually, it completely stopped with fish bones and scales and other small fragments from the kitchen. From the ceramic fragments recovered from this drain it became apparent that it was not used as a drain much after 1785, and therefore was apparently clogged during the use of the house by Thomas Jenings.

During the excavation inside the east wing a small brick storage box was found in the position that was just beneath the original stairs to the garret. This was apparently a secret hiding place, perhaps used by certain trusted servants. From excavation in the area of the east wall of the east wing a fault line was revealed, paralleling the wall, with an open crack occurring at the edge of the original construction ditch. This open crack in the soil was seen as a result of the raising of the wing in 1890, at which time a greater weight was added to the foundation wall, causing it to tilt slightly outward due to the fact that the brick bearing wall sat on the outer edge of the original stone foundation. As this wall gradually leaned out during the years after 1890, cracks appeared, and it showed signs of possible collapse. It was in the early years of the twentieth century, therefore, that the owners apparently saw the necessity of somehow buttressing the east wall to prevent its collapse. To do this they constructed two bays, which, in effect, provided four buttressing walls, supporting the leaning wing wall. From this interpretation of the fault seen in the ground, plus a study of the wing wall itself, the archaeologist was able to recommend to the architect that during the restoration of this wing, these buttresses be left in place until the second floor addition was removed, then; with this weight gone, the buttressing bays could then be removed.

Excavation in the front yard of this wing revealed a brick cistern sealed with a stone placed over the cemented dome. When this stone was moved it was found that the cistern was twenty feet deep, and had eight feet of quicksand inside. Pipes leading into the cistern were traced to the corner of the house, where they had once fed rain water from the roof of the house into the cistern. It was probably constructed in the nineteenth century. Fill over the capstone produced artifacts from the late nineteenth century, indicating that this was the period during which the use of the cistern was stopped.

In front of the east hyphen another oyster shell walk was found, matching that on the opposite side of the house. Beneath this walk, as beneath the other, was evidence that the original walk had been of brick. This walk at present stops at a window, but closure bricks, plus 1790 to 1805 period ceramics in the the walk, point toward a doorway here at an early date, before the present window was installed. A brick steps was also found here, leading down to the lowered floor of the hyphen. This steps dates from the nineteenth century; however, the original doorway having been at ground level.

In front of the house and parallel with it the remains of a brick wall was found. This was apparently a low retaining wall, possibly designed to prevent erosion of the front yard of the house. It was torn down in the nineteenth century and replaced by a brick wall closer to the street. The fact that this brick wall passed over one of the shell walks in the front yard allowed its construction date to be fixed. Beneath the wall, in the shell walk, fragments of creamware and pearlware were recovered that would indicate that the wall was constructed probably between 1780 and 1790, during the period of Thomas Jenings' use of the house, and was not built until after William Paca sold the house.

From this short summary of the work carried out at the Paca House in Annapolis during the summer of 1967, some of the problems and accomplishments of a restoration archaeology project are highlighted. As more work is undertaken by responsible agencies toward the restoration of historic structures, an ever increasing need will be felt for historic site archaeologists who are skilled not only in the competent excavation and interpretation of archaeological squares, but who can undertake to correlate the information so gained with the architectural examination and historical documentation, relative to a standing building.

Thus, the historic site archaeologist's particular emphasis on the systematic recovery of data from the earth, interpreted through analogy with information recovered through historical research, and correlated with evidence revealed in standing historic buildings, enables him to meet the challenge of restoration archaeology.

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