

The Waterfront Archaeology Project operates as a Field School for Memorial University of Newfoundland archaeology students, under the direction of Dr. Peter Pope of the Archaeology Unit. Students surveyed seven sites in 1997, carrying out excavations at three downtown sites, including King's Beach/Harbourside Park and Temperance Street. In 1998 we excavated remains of the early fishery at Waldegrave Street Parking, the site of the new St John's Convention Centre and amid the disturbed rubble of 20th-century demolitions, we uncovered some undisturbed evidence of a 17th-century planters establishment at 327 Water Street.

Field Season 1997

The summer started with a significant boost from City Hall. In July the St. John's Municipal Council accepted the recommendation of City Planning Committee that they will advise the Provincial Cultural Heritage Division of development projects in a defined waterfront area. The Waterfront Archaeology Project has, in turn, agreed to help Cultural Heritage with assessments in this area, defined on the basis of historic and archaeological sensitivity.

The City Engineering Department put these promises to work during our field season, when they invited us to carry out surveys at several development sites in or near the designated Waterfront Area. Survey at two parking projects, Prince Street (CjAe-29) and Bell Street (CjAe-30) suggested there were no significant archaeological resources at risk. A revisit to Kenny's (CjAe-17), recovered materials from a 19th/20th century forge, with some 18th-century materials, in the form of Gray Westerwald stonewares. The latter help to clarify the 18th-century occupation of the town but since the site itself is a redeposit associated with construction of about 1900, our assessment again is that development will not threaten significant archaeological remains.

The Waterfront Archaeology Project operated as a Field School for Memorial University of Newfoundland archaeology students, under the direction of Dr. Peter Pope of the Archaeology Unit, assisted by graduate students Amanda Crompton and John Wicks. We began the season at King's Beach (Harbourside Park CjAe-12) but recent fill to a depth of almost 3 m precluded further work at this time, given our limited budget for backhoe work. Our testing indicates that whatever remains of the King's Wharf is deeply stratified.

A week of survey work followed. This included the development assessments already mentioned; the identification of two 19th-century sites, 62 Water Street (CjAe-28) and Temperance Street (CjAe-31), as well as recovery of late 18th-century glass during a revisit to 325/327 Water Street (CjAe-8), near the Murray's Premises. These wine bottles may have surfaced during demolition at the site a few years ago. A test excavation near Water Street did not locate a source context, but did suggest that builders about 1840 cut into the natural slope. The area southwards, to the stone quayside identified in 1993, merits further attention pending redevelopment.

We spent most of our energy on extensive shovel and trowel excavations at Temperance Street. This site consists of the rear lots of the well-known stone houses built by the

master mason of Cabot Tower. Large hardwood shade trees indicate that little has disturbed these lots since they were laid out after the great fire of 1892. Shovel test pits located fire rubble to depths of over 2 m, indicating extensive re-landscaping after the great fire. Finds of tin-glazed and other early modern earthenwares in tests at the bottom of the slope encouraged us to expand our excavations there, until we had several square meters exposed to sterile soil at a depth of almost 3 m. We found no early features, except a disused sewage system, dating sometime before the great fire. Nor did we locate the contexts from which our early finds were strays. We do have the basis for reconstructing the early 19th-century landscape and we have tested the most easterly part of the City's designated Waterfront Area. Since the lots are not accessible by backhoe a crew matching our 20 or so was actually necessary to do this. (We were, unfortunately, denied access to one of the lots and the adjacent Matchless Paint property.)

Students cleaned and numbered over 6000 artifacts, under the supervision of Paula French, our conservation assistant. The leather boots retrieved from Temperance Street will probably be our biggest conservation challenge. We have a fine range of late 19th-century bottles from that site, many of local design and several complete. In general this year's excavations confirm the considerable depth of cultural deposits along Water Street. We continue to work at survey rather than detailed areal excavation but, without a wonderful increase in funding, this is probably all that is practical. It is also what is most needed, as the archaeological resources of the Waterfront Area remain largely unmapped. The City has now recognized that the handful of sites identified to date are not by themselves the archaeological resources to be protected but are, instead, a sample which suggests the rich potential of the area -- to be developed as the times permit.

The St John's Waterfront Archaeology Project was largely funded through Memorial University of Newfoundland, thanks to ISER, the Vice-President's Research Fund, the Smallwood Centre for Newfoundland Studies, and the Office of the Dean of Arts. Cultural Resources Division of the Newfoundland Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation supported some of our conservation costs and we received contributions in kind from the City of St John's, the MUN Archaeology Unit, the Newfoundland Museum, Past Present Consulting and Rick Paige.

Field Season 1998

Waldegrave Street Parking Lot

The Waterfront Archaeology Project operates in conjunction with the Field School for Memorial University of Newfoundland archaeology students, under the direction of Dr. Peter Pope of the Archaeology Unit, assisted by graduate students Amanda Crompton and John Wicks. After consultation with the City Engineering Department we sought and obtained permission from City Council to test areas in and around the Waldegrave Street Parking lot (CjAe-33), now slated for re-development as a Convention Centre. The area is adjacent to the Kenny's site (CjAe-17), tested in 1993 and 1997, which we revisited for

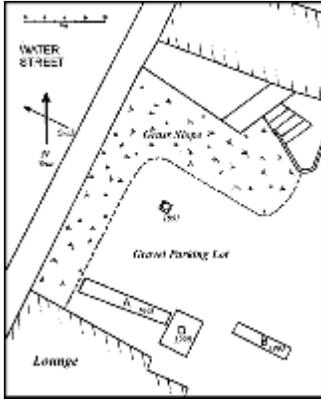
a surface collection and which again showed mid-18th- and 19th-century materials. The nearby Waldegrave Street Parking area is a shallow low-lying depression, at the west end of George Street, not far inland from the original harbourfront. Historic maps indicate that it was not developed as an urban streetscape until the 19th century. Earlier maps indicate that by the early 18th century the fringe of this formerly marshy area was covered in fish flakes.

We opened three excavations at Waldegrave Street Parking, each about 3 m by 3 m. We excavated Test A, in the lawn area where George Street used to extend to the west of Queen Street, by hand, with shovel and trowel. This test was located between a 19th-century water line and a 19th-century sewage line and uncovered various fill strata containing a large quantity of 19th-century materials, particularly glass and refined earthenwares (REW). Underlying these fills we uncovered an earlier cultural deposit, itself overlying a thick, apparently undisturbed, peaty stratum. This showed a number of interesting cultural features: it was crudely paved with rocks to the eastward end and elsewhere pock-marked with small depressions, which appeared to be animal and human footprints. Within the deposit, we uncovered a large quantity of wooden artifacts, likely the remains of a fish flake. Ceramic evidence of North Devon coarse earthenwares (CEW) and Westerwald coarse stonewares (CSW) suggests a 17th century dating.

We used a backhoe to open Test B in a grassed area northeast of the Waldegrave Street Parking pavement. Under a thick deposit of recent fills the backhoe uncovered a series of 19th-century secondary deposits. As the test then exceeded 2 m in depth, we lined it with a specially-constructed plywood safety box, before continuing with a trowel excavation. Further excavation uncovered a thin peaty soil overlying a thick layer of gray clay. Both strata contained well-preserved wood and leather artifacts, including a very handsome late-18th century shoe, of a quality likely to have belonged to a merchant. A number of shoes were recovered, perhaps inadvertently lost on the fringes of this damp harbourside fen, while bottle glass and CSW sherds recovered are more likely to have been dumped deliberately. We also used a backhoe to open Test C in the paved southeast corner of the Waldegrave Street Parking Area. Excavation here indicated that early soils down to sterile gravel were removed during construction of the paved parking area, a few years ago. A small deposit of late 19th-century material was recovered from the footings of a concrete foundation wall on the eastern edge of the pavement.

Recommendations: These intensive tests at the site suggest there is likely little of archaeological interest under the asphalt pavement in the Waldegrave Street Parking area and that development here will not require archaeological mitigation, although a "watching brief" might be appropriate in case there are remnant cultural strata. The landscaped area surrounding Test A is another matter, since we recovered features relating to the early fishery: something which is very rare archaeologically. Full archaeological recording should precede or accompany any redevelopment that would disturb subsoils between the paved parking area and Queen Street.

[327 Water Street](#)



Site Plan for CjAe-08
327 Water Street.

After several weeks work on City property we moved our centre of operations to the vacant gravel lot at 327 Water Street (CjAe-08), just west of the Murray Premises, with the enthusiastic co-operation of the owner, Wayne Kelly. Excavations here in 1993 had uncovered 16th-, 17th- and 18th-century materials, in disturbed contexts, as well as a stone-paved quayside of about 1830. A 1993 test within the foundations of the late 19th-century building formerly on the site, used as Lee's shoe store until it burned ca. 1990, indicated that the demolition which followed the fire had destroyed all cultural strata below the building. Our initial 3 m by 3 m backhoe test in 1998, on the harbour side of these foundations, indicated that backhoe work during demolition

had seriously disturbed cultural strata outside the 19th century structure. The mixture of wood and brick rubble with burned 20th-century shoes and early modern ceramics in the disturbed strata indicates that the demolition contractor buried at least part of the 20th-century fire rubble in this harbourside lot. It also strongly suggests that, when he did so, he disturbed 17th- and 18th-century archaeological contexts. We retired the backhoe when it reached an undisturbed context in one part of the original test. Trowel excavation then uncovered a thick deposit of household debris including CEW, CSW, clay tobacco pipes and some bottle glass, dating between 1660 and about 1695. By this time the Field School was over and a smaller hired crew of Blair Temple and Mike Walsh, ably assisted by volunteers Rick Gaulton and Tammy Wheeler, used shovel and trowel to expand the excavation to the east, eventually uncovering a strip of undisturbed strata about 1.5 m wide and 3 m long. This deposit was almost entirely surrounded by the disturbance unnecessarily inflicted on the site a few years ago. The unusually high proportion of high status tin-glazed wares ("delft" or "faience") as well as the recovery of an early silver coin and a piece of gentleman's jewelry, in the form of a gold "point" or lace tip, suggests that this material probably related to a relatively well-off resident household, rather than to migratory crews. Southwood's map of St John's in 1675 shows a plantation in the area, belonging to Thomas Oxford and this secondary deposit might well be a product of the Oxford household.

The key strata were punctuated by post moulds, interpretable as remnants of successive stages or wharves. The surface of the 17th-century strata contains charcoal and melted ceramics, which might reflect the burning of St John's by French forces in 1696/7. Curiously enough, these late 17th-century strata lie directly on sterile gravel: a puzzling situation because St John's harbour was well developed by 1660 and materials of that date should overlie some natural soil, if not earlier cultural strata. It began to look as if any such earlier strata had been cleared by deliberate cutting into the slope of the harbourfront ca. 1660 and this hypothesis was confirmed when we fully exposed the sterile level to find its surface unnaturally erratic, as well as being pock-marked with early post-moulds, truncated by cutting before renewed cultural deposition in the later 17th century.

Recommendations: The early capital investment in harbour improvement, represented by this cutting episode, must have created quite a bit of fill, which it would be very interesting to find. One might guess that it ended up not too far away, and likely closer to the water, in order to make land. This is only one of the reasons why the 327 Water Street merits further archaeological attention, as soon as funding permits. Incidental finds in 1993 and 1997 suggesting an early occupation in this area have panned out: we found gold (literally!) and this site holds great potential to shed light on the early development of the port of St John's.

Torbay

As part of the Field School in Archaeology, the crew spent a day on the Torbay waterfront (CjAe-34), at the invitation of the Torbay Heritage Committee. We had a very good day for surface collection, since heavy rain had scrubbed eroding banks and gullies the night before. Surface collection in the area south of the main river recovered 18th and 19th century materials, notably Westerwald CSW of the mid 18th century. Further materials of like date were recovered from shovel test pits in this area and to the northeast of the smaller brook flowing into Torbay Bay. Excavation in the silted pond near the mouth of the larger river recovered late 20th-century plastic materials under 80 cm of fine clay overlying sterile gravel subsoil. This confirms the impression given by a review of historic photographs: the silting of this former pond is a very recent phenomenon. This silting is likely a result of suburban development of the river valley, associated clearance of woods, and consequent widespread disturbance and soil erosion.

Recommendation Early modern materials dating at least as early as the first half of the 18th century are widely scattered around the Torbay waterfront area. It was not possible to determine the focus of these early occupations in the course of a one day survey. The area is not under threat of major redevelopment but further research is indicated, when possible, at this potentially-interesting site.

Renews and Port Kirwin

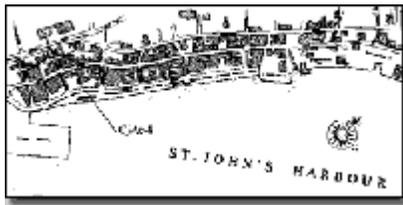
As a fortuitous result of Field School field trips to Renews and Port Kirwin, two further sites were identified on the basis of incidental finds. Neither find was a result of systematic surface survey but simply of trekking around historic sites: the Mount at Renews (CfAf-5), excavated by Steve Mills in 1993, and the graveyard at Port Kirwin, which has headstones dating as early as the 1740s. At Renews we recovered the base of a 17th-century North Devon CEW tall pot, eroding from a bank at the edge of a seaside meadow (CfAf-16). This was about 0.5 km east of the Mount. At Port Kirwin we recovered assorted bottle glass, tobacco pipes and 17th-century CEW and CSW eroding from a peaty bank in a recently-cut ditch between the newly-improved waterfront road and the old cemetery. It seems likely that Port Kirwin may well be the site of 17th-century Fermeuse, for which planters and fishing establishments are well-attested in the documentary record.

Preliminary Summary

Students cleaned and numbered over 5000 artifacts, under the supervision of Scott Andrews, our conservation assistant. The leather shoes and many wooden artifacts retrieved from the lawn area at Waldegrave Street Parking will probably be our biggest conservation challenge. We have a wide range of ceramics from that site as well the very interesting ceramic sample from 327 Water Street, with its high count of tin-glazed vessels. The Water Street site also yielded a good sample of pipe bowls, dating between 1660 and 1690. Our silver coin remains unidentified but it is certainly very old and we are hopeful that cleaning and an x-ray will permit identification. The very promising results from intensive excavation at 327 Water Street are an excellent example of the possibilities of urban archaeology on the St John's Waterfront, where we have the full cooperation of informed, historically-aware, property-owners. The disturbed strata here represent the unnecessary loss of 17th- and 18th-century archaeological contexts -- a clear example of why it is so important for the City and the Province to regulate mechanical excavation in the harbour area. The excavations at Waldegrave Street Parking are a good example of what can result from cooperation between the City and the MUN Archaeology Unit: an important development area has been assessed and a restricted archaeologically-sensitive area identified.

The St John's Waterfront Archaeology Project is largely funded through Memorial University of Newfoundland, thanks to the University Endowment Fund, the Smallwood Centre for Newfoundland Studies, the Office of the Dean of Arts and ISER. The Culture and Heritage Division of the Newfoundland Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation supported some of our conservation costs and we received contributions in kind from the City of St John's, the MUN Archaeology Unit and Past Present Consulting. The Waterfront Archaeology Project is an initiative of the Heritage Outreach Project, sponsored jointly by Memorial University and Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency.

Site Location and History

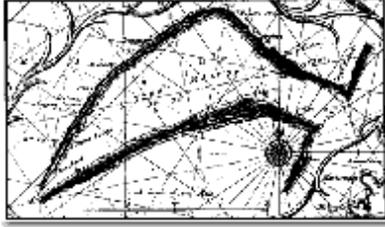


Location of CjAe-08
[View Detail \(46KB\)](#)

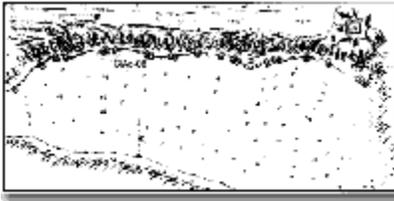
CjAe-08 is on the south side of Water Street, in the City of St. John's, just west of the Murray's Premises, accessible on foot by stairs from Water Street or in a vehicle from Bishop's Cove (See map). This is the former location of Lee's Shoes, at 327 Water Street, which burned down before 1993. The adjacent 325 Water Street was subsequently demolished, so that the area now forms a wider gap in the range of buildings

on the harbour side of Water Street, altogether about 15 x 20 m. The soil surface is disturbed by the recent demolition work and subsequent filling, grading and snow removal. It forms a more or less level gravel surface at about 2 m above sea level and about 2.5 m below Water Street. There is a sodded earth berm about 3 m wide and almost as deep recently placed against the retaining wall between the site and Water Street. To the south the site is surrounded by the asphalt pavement of the Murray's Premises parking lot.

One local historian has concluded that the area between Beck's Cove and Bishops Cove was part of the Oxford Plantation, dating back to the early seventeenth century ([O'Neill 1976: 819](#)).



The Earliest map of St. John's in 1675.
([Southwood 1689](#)) [Detailed \(47 KB\)](#)



1698 Naval chart showing St. John's Harbour
([Anon. 1698](#)) [Detailed \(38 KB\)](#)

The area is shown with a number of stages or wharves as well as landward structures in Southwood's map of St John's in 1675 ([Southwood 1689](#)). Three planters are named ([Oxford, Joyner and Hoppings](#)), although it is unclear which plantation is closest to the site. To complicate matters, "Joyner" does not turn up on census lists of the period, although Oxford and Hoppings, or at least "Hopkins", do ([Berry 1675](#)). The [1698 naval chart](#) of St. John's shows wharves only, but such lack of cultural detail is typical of this map ([Anon 1698](#)). A French map of 1736, recording St John's as it was before the siege of 1708/1709, indicates that there was no lack of shoreward structures in the area at the time ([Anon 1736](#)). The whole area west of Beck's Cove was relatively flat, offering potential for gardens and pasture. In 18th-century maps the area is well-developed ([Anon. 1728, Bramham and Hylton 1751](#)). The area was densely developed by the early 19th century, until the fire of 1817 swept through the waterfront ([Eaststaff 1807, Walkins 1817](#)). At various times the firms of Ayre & Marshall and Shirran & Pippy controlled the property. In the early nineteenth century the company of Stabb, Rowe and Holmwood occupied 325-7 Water Street, after 1857 the firm of Alan Goodridge and Sons. On the fire insurance plan of 1880 two outbuildings are shown, occupying most of the area behind the Water Street premises ([Goad 1880](#)). By this time the area was about 40 m from the harbour. The layout of the site was not much different after the 1892 fire and remained stable through the first half of the 20th century ([Goad 1902, Ryan 1942](#)).

Previous Archaeological Investigation.

The 1993 Harbour Survey opened two tests, A and B, and the latter uncovered a stone-paved quay, now roughly in the middle of the harbour side of the present unpaved open site. Stratified early modern materials, including ceramics and glass, survived undisturbed, despite 150 years of reconstruction in the area. Artifact analysis suggests that this quayside was constructed between 1820 and 1835, which would indicate that the waterfront of this period was about 30 m south of Water Street in this part of town. Our preliminary testing also uncovered some very early materials, for example part of a thumb-decorated Totnes *CEW* pot, likely 16th-century, indicating the presence of disturbed earlier contexts ([Pope 1995](#)).

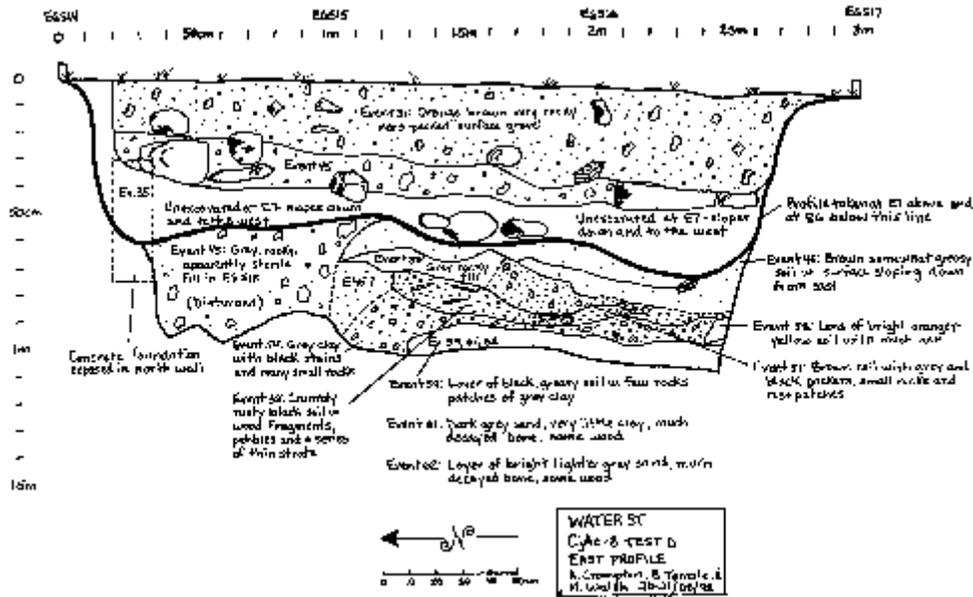
The 1997 investigations at the site consisted of two surface collections and excavation of a one meter square, Test C. Surface recovery of bottles dating to various periods after

1725 suggested disturbance of 18th-century contexts, probably by demolition work following the fire at Lee's Shoes. The excavation of Test C indicated that the eastern part of the site (i.e. 325 Water Street) was not totally disturbed by demolition excavation, as was the northwestern part of the site (327 Water Street). Here a deposit of residential debris, in the form of a bottle and service vessels, dating about 1800 to 1840, overlies sterile soil. It would appear that development towards the north of the site, in the early 19th century, involved cutting into the natural slope, so that there are no underlying remains of earlier occupations (Pope 1998a).

Survey and Excavations ([See Profile of Test D](#))

We made our initial 3 m by 3 m backhoe Test D on the harbour side of the cement foundation (Event 35) that had marked the southward limit of Test A in 1993. This earlier mechanical test had returned only sterile gravel fill, suggesting that demolition work on Lee's Shoes had completely removed all cultural deposits. At Test D in 1998, the backhoe removed the rocky, hard-packed, very disturbed, surface gravel fill, identified as Event 31 and equivalent to Event 21 at test C in 1997. At about 30 cm db, this exposed an underlying Event 32, a dark brown oily-smelling fill with much brick debris. When this was removed the backhoe uncovered Event 33, a gray-black burned soil with much wood. In places the backhoe also exposed Event 34, a soft brown rocky soil. Later hand excavation suggested that it was deposited recently, at the same time as the overlying Event 33. These very disturbed fills indicated that demolition had seriously disturbed cultural strata outside the demolished 19th-century structure, but we did collect many interesting 17th- and 18th-century artifacts from redeposited fill.

We retired the backhoe and with shovels removed the bulk of Event 33 uncovered an undisturbed context in the central eastern part of the original test, initially identified as Event 36, a crumbly black cultural soil, with the feel of both sand and peat. Its surface contained enough burned or melted materials to suggest that it may represent a fire horizon. No sooner had we identified this undisturbed context than the Field School was over, replaced by a smaller hired crew of Blair Temple and Mike Walsh, ably assisted by volunteers Rick Gaulton and Tammy Wheeler, under the direction of John Wicks. This team used shovel and trowel to expand the excavation to the east, eventually uncovering a strip of undisturbed strata about 1.5 m wide (north to south) and 3 m long (east to west). This included Events 54 and 59, a stained gray clay with an underlying dark greasy deposit, as well as further sandy/peaty cultural strata closely related to Event 36 and perhaps equivalent to it: Events 61, 62 and 63, together with related post features. These essentially undisturbed cultural deposits were almost entirely surrounded by the disturbance unnecessarily inflicted on the site a few years ago, reflected in a confused series of fills. Besides Events 32, 33 and 34, uncovered by the backhoe on our first day of testing, these included Events 37, 40 to 45, 48, 50, and 56. The disturbed fills extended deeply along the northern, western and southern boundaries of the test.



The East Profile of Test D, CjAe-08.

[Close Window](#)

CjAe-08 327 Water Sreet - Lee's Area D 1998 Events

| Event | Db min | Db max | Below | Next | Over | Same | Description |
|-------|-----------|-----------|-------|------|------|------|---|
| 31 | 0 | 35 | | | 32 | 21 | Orange brown very rocky hard-packed surface gravel |
| 32 | 9 | 60 | 31 | 35 | 33 | | Brown black rocky rubble fill with much brick. Smells oily |
| 33 | 55 | 99 | 32 | 35 | 34 | 41 | Black-grey soft packed soil, much construction material, some of it burnt |
| 34 | 88 | 99 | 33 | 36 | 40 | 37 | Brown, somewhat greasy soil with smaller rocks. |
| 35 | 30 | | 31 | 38 | | | Concrete foundation wall exposed in north wall of Test D |
| 36 | 51 | 100 | 33 | 34 | 38 | | Crumbly rusty black soil with wood fragments, pebbles and a series of thin strata |
| 37 | 95 | 101 | 34 | | 40 | 34 | Dense, compacted yellow brown heavy clay with rocks but few protrusions |
| 38 | 95 | | 36 | 40 | | | Grey-sterile looking but with loose gravel |
| 39 | 70 | 90 | 34 | | 38 | | Three stakes in situ in E36, resting on top of E 38 |

| | | | | | | | |
|----|----|-----|----|----|----|----|--|
| 40 | 89 | | 33 | 38 | | | Grey-brown gravelly soil, much large rock, brick, planks, and other rubbish |
| 41 | 25 | 54 | 41 | | 42 | 33 | Light brown fill, large angular rocks and much gravel |
| 42 | 54 | 68 | | | 36 | 33 | Sticky brown soil with orange brown pockets, very few rocks |
| 43 | 28 | 80 | 33 | 35 | | | Coarse grey-brown gravelly soil with fist-sized rcks. |
| 44 | 77 | 87 | 32 | 36 | | | Light grey brown granular soil with dark grey stains. Much material from building. |
| 45 | 14 | 88 | 32 | 63 | | | Grey, rocky, apparent sterile fill in E6S15. |
| 46 | 26 | 63 | 32 | 50 | 36 | | Brown somewhat greasy soil, with surface sloping donw from east |
| 47 | 28 | 45 | 44 | 46 | | | Rock wall in E7S16-17 wall. Not excavated, so Dbs max taken from profile |
| 48 | 70 | 82 | 41 | 63 | | | Grey black fill with shoes, wood and brick. Called Ev.45 in later level sheets |
| 49 | 36 | 83 | 42 | 61 | | | Post mold. 25 cm. diameter, centered ae E5.45, S15.80. Sat on sterile in E 61. |
| 50 | 54 | 66 | 42 | 51 | 36 | | Grey rocky fill. |
| 51 | 54 | 61 | 42 | 50 | 36 | | Brwon soil with grey and black pockets, small rocks and rust patches. |
| 52 | 69 | 75 | | 36 | | | Two rounded stakes? laying flat together, protruding from E6 wall. |
| 53 | 59 | 103 | 36 | 63 | | | Post, with associated posthole (Ev.65), in E4S16 |
| 54 | 69 | 79 | 36 | 36 | 59 | | Grey clay with black stains and many small rocks |
| 55 | 75 | 94 | 54 | | 63 | | Post mold in E4S16, beginning below surface of Ev. 54, ending in Ev. 63 |
| 56 | 77 | | | 45 | | 45 | Not a post: instead is wood from destruction level. |
| 57 | 72 | 88 | 36 | | 63 | | Wood stake in E4S17, ending in Ev. 63 |
| 58 | 70 | 80 | 33 | 36 | 61 | | Lens of bright orangey-yellow soil with much ash. Similar to 1993 event? |
| 59 | 71 | 82 | 54 | 45 | 61 | | Layer of black, greasy soil with few rocks, patches of grey clay |
| 60 | 70 | 91 | 54 | 63 | | | Wooden stake first uncovered in Ev. 54, E5S16. No associated |

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------|----|-----|----|----|----|--|--|
| | | | | | | | posthole. |
| 61 | 73 | 88 | 59 | 45 | 62 | | Dark grey sand, very little clay, much decayed bone, and wood chips. |
| 62 | 81 | 88 | 61 | 45 | 63 | | Layer of bright lighter grey sand. Much decayed bone, some wood. |
| 63 | 80 | 101 | 62 | 45 | | | Black peaty soil with many wood chips, with black sand just before sterile soil. |
| 64 | 90 | 103 | 63 | | | | Post mold in E4S16 |
| 65 | 92 | 103 | 63 | | | | Posthole associated with Ev. 53. About 28 cm in diameter. |
| 66 | 95 | 108 | 63 | | | | Postmold in E4S16. Consists of some degraded wood and sticky brown soil. |
| 67 | 95 | 110 | 63 | | | | Postmold with some remnant wood and sticky brown soil, in E4S17. |
| 68 | 90 | 104 | 63 | | | | Postmold in E4-5S17. Little remnant wood, mucky brown soil. |
| 69 | 85 | | 62 | | | | Postmold in E5S16. Some degraded wood remains. |
| 99 | 0 | 110 | | | | | Artifacts foun in black dirt. |

CjAe-08 327 Water Sreet - Lee's Area D 1998 Events

| Event | Dbs min | Dbs max | After | Before |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|
| 31 | 0 | 35 | 1993 | |
| 32 | 9 | 60 | 1990 | |
| 33 | 55 | 99 | 1990 | |
| 34 | 88 | 99 | 1990 | |
| 35 | 30 | | 1892 | 1990 |
| 36 | 51 | 100 | 1660 | 1710 |
| 37 | 95 | 101 | 1990 | |
| 38 | 95 | | | 1710 |
| 39 | 70 | 90 | 1710 | 1990 |
| 40 | 89 | | 1990 | |
| 41 | 25 | 54 | 1990 | |
| 42 | 54 | 68 | 1990 | |
| 43 | 28 | 80 | 1990 | |
| 44 | 77 | 87 | 1990 | |
| 45 | 14 | 88 | 1990 | |
| 46 | 26 | 63 | 1784 | 1800 |

| | | | | |
|----|----|-----|------|------|
| 47 | 28 | 45 | 1784 | |
| 48 | 70 | 82 | 1990 | |
| 49 | 36 | 83 | 1700 | 1990 |
| 50 | 54 | 66 | 1990 | |
| 51 | 54 | 61 | | 1990 |
| 52 | 69 | 75 | 1660 | 1710 |
| 53 | 59 | 103 | | 1665 |
| 54 | 69 | 79 | 1500 | 1660 |
| 55 | 75 | 94 | 1660 | 1710 |
| 56 | 77 | | 1990 | |
| 57 | 72 | 88 | 1660 | 1710 |
| 58 | 70 | 80 | | |
| 59 | 71 | 82 | 1660 | 1690 |
| 60 | 70 | 91 | 1660 | 1710 |
| 61 | 73 | 88 | 1575 | 1700 |
| 62 | 81 | 88 | 1660 | 1700 |
| 63 | 80 | 101 | 1660 | 1700 |
| 64 | 90 | 103 | | 1660 |
| 65 | 92 | 103 | | 1660 |
| 66 | 95 | 108 | | 1660 |
| 67 | 95 | 110 | | 1660 |
| 68 | 90 | 104 | | 1660 |
| 69 | 85 | | | 1660 |
| 99 | 0 | 110 | 1990 | |

Features

The 1998 excavations lie just south of Event 35, a concrete wall running roughly east/west by our grid, and likely related to the harbour-facing back wall of the structures shown on 20th-century insurance maps (e.g. Goad 1902). We had not reached its footing at our deepest excavation to more than 1 m db. We located another, earlier stone wall (Event 47), running roughly north/south by our grid, just at the furthest western extent of Test D, in E7S16 and E7S17. We left this wall in *situ*, but a greasy brown soil adjacent to the west (Event 46) may provide an indication of its period in use.

The key undisturbed cultural strata (Events 36, 54, 61, 62, and 63) were punctuated by post moulds, interpretable as remnants of successive stages or wharves. The row of three round wooden stakes completely penetrating Event 36 in E2S16 and E3S16 are clearly

related and were collectively designated Feature 39. Another large post, Feature 49, appeared in the recently disturbed fill of Event 41 in E5S16 and also penetrated the key cultural stratum Event 36. This large decayed post is probably not related to Feature 52, two round posts lying in the same excavation unit E5S16, but horizontally within Event 36. Another wooden post, Feature 53 in E4S16, and its associated post-hole, Feature 65, are more likely to be related, as Feature 53 was first exposed in Event 36. Feature 57 is another wooden stake, first identified under a ferrous conglomerate in the key cultural stratum, Event 36.

Event 55 is a probable post-mould in E4S16. It contains recent materials, e.g. modern window glass. Event 56 was initially identified as a feature within the disturbed fill of Event 45 but turned out to be part of that debris-filled stratum.

Complete excavation of the lowest stratified cultural deposits uncovered several more wooden stakes or posts, all penetrating the sterile glacial clay/gravel subsoil but truncated below the related cultural strata of Events 54, 62 and 63. These include Feature 60 in E5S16, the well-preserved tip of a sharpened softwood post underlying Event 54; Feature 64, a post-mould in sterile soil within E4S16, under Event 63; Features 66, 67 and 68, a group of seemingly-related wooden stakes driven into the subsoil below Event 63 in E4S16, E4S17 and E5S17; as well as Feature 69, a similar feature under the related Event 62, in E5S16.

Artifact Analysis

Assemblages recovered from Test D fell into two categories:

1. essentially undisturbed cultural deposits of materials typical of the second half of the 17th century.
2. disturbed fills with mixtures, in varying proportions, of 16th-, 17th-, 18th-, 19th-, and 20th-century materials.

It will be convenient to discuss the 17th-century materials first, since the mixed deposits incorporate material matching closely that from the undisturbed 17th-century contexts.

17th Century

Trowel excavation of the early undisturbed contexts identified as Events 36, 54, and 59 to 63 recovered a rich deposit of early modern materials including CEW, CSW, Tin-glazed CEW, clay tobacco pipes, bottle glass, and various flints.

Artifacts from Other Periods

Excavation of the disturbed fills at Test D recovered numerous artifacts the dating of

which clearly indicates that they originated in some context other than the late-17th-century deposits which made up Event 36 etc. These are discussed here by artifact class.

Discussions

Artifact analysis suggests that the undisturbed contexts excavated at Test D in 1998 represent a household midden dating between about 1665 and 1695. A pipe of 1660 to 1670 is the earliest datable artifact from these events and helps to place the approximate date in which this occupation began. Besides the clay tobacco pipe bowls, the ceramics (*CEW*, *CSW* and Tin-glazed *CEW*), the wine bottles and the beverage glass are all typical of this period. The melted coin we recovered is, unfortunately, not from a secure context but if it is, as it seems to be, a King William III shilling, then it could have been minted in 1696 and might then have melted when French and Canadian forces burned St John's in the winter of 1696/1697 (Williams, 1987). The upper surface of Event 36, the youngest secure context, contained charcoal, as well as melted artifacts and it may well represent this destruction horizon. Alternatively burned materials might reflect the sack of St John's in 1704 or even 1708/1709, but given the absence of early 18th-century forms (e.g. Bristol-Staffordshire *CEW*, bottles or pipes of the period) these alternatives seem less likely.

Curiously enough, our 17th-century strata lie directly on sterile glacial soil: a puzzling situation because St John's harbour was well developed by 1665 and materials of that and later date should overlie some natural soil, if not earlier cultural strata. As we approached the sterile sub-soil it began to look as if any such earlier strata had been cleared by deliberate cutting into the slope of the harbourfront ca. 1665 and this hypothesis was confirmed when we fully exposed the sterile level to find its surface unnaturally erratic, as well as being pock-marked with early post-moulds, truncated by cutting before renewed cultural deposition after 1665. Early capital investment in harbour improvement, represented by this episode of soil leveling, must have created quite a bit of fill -- fill which it would be very interesting to find. It probably ended up not too far away, likely closer to the water, in order to make land.

The widely ranging dates of materials recovered from the disturbed fills leave no doubt that CjAe-08 has been continually occupied since the days of the 16th-century migratory European fishery, through to the development of a complex Victorian port town in the 19th century (Pope 1991). We recovered a Mexican tin-glazed bowl which is likely 16th-century, as well as what appear to be Breton or possibly Basque *CEW* cook pots of this period. We have a tin-glazed porringer of 1600-1650, as well a Donyatt *CEW* pot typical of 1700- 1750, Westerwald *CSW* of 1700-1775, *RSW* of 1740-1780, plenty of 19th-century *REW* and bottles dating, in overlapping periods, from 1700-1720 right through to 1785-1810, with an outlier datable after 1820. Many of the materials recovered from the disturbed fills were surely once part of the same 17th-century deposits discussed above.

We have, in fact, several cross-mends to prove this. The mixture of wood and brick rubble, burned 20th-century shoes and ceramics of various periods in the disturbed strata indicates that the demolition contractor buried at least part of the 20th-century fire rubble in this harbourside lot. It also strongly suggests that, when he did so, he disturbed archaeological contexts of the 16th-, 17th- and 18th- centuries.

The unusually high proportion of high status tin-glazed wares ("maiolica", "delft" or "faience") as well as the recovery of a piece of gentleman's jewelry, in the form of the gilded "point" or lace tip, suggests that the excavated material is probably the refuse of a relatively well-off resident household, rather than of migratory crews (cf. Penney 1998). The relatively weak representation of bottle glass and Westerwald CSW, a ware which typically occurs in beverage service forms, may indicate that this was not a typical planter household, most of which operated tipping houses, but one wealthy enough either to forgo this sideline or to keep it far enough from the family domicile to separate the deposit of household and tipping house debris. Southwood's map of St John's in 1675 shows a plantation in the area, belonging to Thomas Oxford, who was one of the leading planters of the period, and this secondary deposit might well be a product of the Oxford household (cf. Oxford 1679). The relatively high representation of ointment pots recovered is suggestive of expenditure on health and another possible indication of relative wealth.

The presence of several pieces of Mexican and/or Spanish tin-glazed maiolica, possibly from Seville, is suggestive, especially in contrast to ceramic assemblages recovered from 17th-century Ferryland, where Portuguese maiolica is much more common than Spanish pieces. This suggests export links to southern Spain, at least for the St John's fishing plantation in question. The provenance of the clay tobacco pipes also sheds some light on trade connections, for there is a strong representation of Exeter forms. Together with the presence of Totnes CEW, a good marker for contact with nearby Dartmouth (Allan and Pope 1990), we have strong archaeological evidence for the commercial dominance of South Devon ports in St John's in the later 17th century.

Recommendations

The identification of undisturbed 17th-century contexts at CjAe-08 and CjAe-33 marks a turning-point in the archaeology of St. John's. We now have field evidence that early contexts have survived centuries of waterfront development. It is also all too clear that serious damage had been done to our archaeological heritage by recent unsupervised excavation, particularly demolition, in the harbour area.

1. *It is strongly recommended that the Engineering and Planning Office of the City of St John's enforce its ban on unsupervised excavation of sites in the archaeologically -sensitive area defined by order of City Council in the summer of 1997.*

The later 17th-century plantation, tentatively identified as Thomas Oxford's, excavated at 327 Water Street is of major historical interest, as the early social and economic history

of St John's has not been adequately explored. The evidence of investment in harbour development in this period is itself significant as an indication of commercial investment in a permanent settlement. We remain uncertain where the earlier strata, removed ca 1665, were redeposited but a best guess would be immediately towards the harbour from Test D. The property owner, Mr. Wayne Kelly, has a genuine interest in the history of the site and is very supportive of our research. These are some of the reasons why 327 Water Street, CjAe-08, merits further archaeological attention, as soon as funding permits. Incidental finds in 1993 and 1997 suggesting an early occupation in this area have panned out: we literally found gold (or at least gilt) and 327 Water Street holds great potential to shed further light on the early development of St John's both as a port and as a permanent settlement.

- 2. Further archaeological research at CjAe-08 is recommended, with special attention paid to the area adjacent to Test D.*

Acknowledgements

The Waterfront Archaeology Project operates as a Field School for Memorial University of Newfoundland archaeology students. Students excavated, cleaned and numbered about 3000 artifacts, under the supervision of our conservation assistant, Scott Andrews, working with the advice of the Archaeology Unit Conservator, Cathy Mathias.

The Project acknowledges with thanks the cooperation of Wayne Kelly in facilitating access to the site. The principal investigator would also like to thank Rick Gaulton and Tammy Wheeler for volunteering at the site.

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Director | Peter Pope |
| Crew Chief | John Wicks |
| Registrar | Amanda Crompton |
| Conservation Assistant | Scott Andrews |

Field School Participants

| | | | |
|---------------|------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Geoff Gallant | Steve Gillespie | John Hong | Jennifer Mercer |
| Mike Mercer | Tamlin Morrisey | Tom Oliver | Mark Penney |
| Lorne Rogers | Matthew Simmonds | Peter Simms | Carolyn Stokes |
| Blair Temple | Tammy Wheeler | Mike Walsh | |

Post-Field School Field Crew

Blair Temple
Mike Walsh

volunteers:

Rick Gaulton
Tammy Wheeler

Cataloguers

Amanda Crompton
Blair Temple

Lee Ann Gosse
Matthew Simmonds

Eleanor Stoddart

Illustrations

Amanda Crompton Peter Pope

Carolyn Stokes

Funding

MUN Endowment Fund

Smallwood Centre for Newfoundland Studies, MUN

Dean of Arts, MUN

Culture and Heritage Division,

Newfoundland Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation

ISER, Memorial University of Newfoundland (1997 carryover)

Contribution in Kind

City of St. John's

MUN Archaeology Unit

Past Present Consulting

References - Page 1

Allan, John P.

1984

Medieval and Post-Medieval Finds from Exeter, 1971-1980. Exeter Archaeological Reports, no. 3. Exeter, Devon : Exeter City Council and Exeter University.

Allan, J.P., and Peter Pope

- 1990 A New Class of South-west English Pottery in North America. *Post-Medieval Archaeology* 24: 51- 59.
- Anon.
- 1698 A Draught of St John's Harbour with the soundings. British Library, K. Top. CXIX 103, copy NAC, NMC 65.
- 1728 A Plan of St John's Harbour in Newfoundland. Public Record Office, London, War Office WO 78/307.
- 1736 Plan du Port et du fort de Saint Jean... [ca. 1708]. Archives Nationales, Paris. Copy, CNS 168.
- Berry, Captain Sir John
- 1675 A List of the Planters Names with an account of their Concerns. PRO, CO 1/35 (17ii), 149v-156. Copy, MHA 16-C-2-035.
- Bramham, J., and Edmund Scott Hylton
- 1751 Plan of St. John's Harbour in Newfoundland. British Library, K. Top. CXIX 104. Copy: NAC, NMC 18046.
- Collard, Elizabeth
- 1984 *Nineteenth-Century Pottery and Porcelain in Canada*, 2nd ed. Montreal and Kingston: McGill Queen's University Press.
- Coleman-Smith, R., and T. Pearson
- 1988 *Excavations in the Donyatt Potteries*. London: Phillimore.
- Dumbrell, Roger
- 1983 *Understanding Antique Wine Bottles*. Woodbridge, Suffolk: Antique Collectors Club.
- Eaststaff, J.G.W.
- 1807 *Map of the Town and Harbour of St. John's...* Public Record Office, London. Copy: NAC, NMC 18047.
- Gaimster, David
- 1997 *German Stoneware 1200-1900, Archaeology and Cultural History*. London: British Museum Press.

References - Page 2

Goad, C.

- 1880 Insurance Plan of the City of St John's, Newfoundland. Sheet 7. Copy, PANL.
- 1902 Insurance Plan of the City of St John's, Newfoundland. Sheet 7. Copy, NAC, IP/PA/140/1902.
- Grant, A., and D. Jemmett
- 1985 Pipes and Pipemaking in Barnstaple Devon. In *The Archaeology of the Clay Tobacco Pipe*, vol. 9, part 2, *More Pipes from the Midlands and Southern England*. Ed. Peter Davey. Pp. 439-553. B.A.R., British series, 146. Oxford.
- Gusset, Gerard
- 1980 *Stoneware: White Salt-Glazed, Rhenish and Dry Body*. Parks Canada, History and Archaeology. Ottawa.
- Higgins, D.A.
- 1985 Clay Tobacco Pipes from Shepton Mallet, Somerset. In *The Archaeology of the Clay Tobacco Pipe*, vol. 9, part 2, *More Pipes from the Midlands and Southern England*. Ed. Peter Davey. Pp. 435-438. B.A.R., British series. Oxford: B.A.R.
- Hong, John
- 1998 *Ballast Flint [CjAe-08 and CjAe-33]*. Student paper, on file, Waterfront Archaeology Project.
- Jones, Olive R.
- 1986 *Cylindrical English Wine and Beer Bottles 1735 - 1850*. Studies in Archaeology Architecture and History. Ottawa: Parks Canada
- Lister, Florence C, and Robert H. Lister
- 1978 *The First Mexican Maiolicas: Imported and Locally Produced*. *Historical Archaeology* 12:1- 24.
- Mackay, James
- 1984 *A History of Modern English Coinage*. London: Longman.
- Noel Hume, Ivor
- 1969 *A Guide to the Artifacts of Colonial America*. New York: Knopf.
- O'Neill, Paul
- 1976 *A Seaport Legacy: The Story of St John's, Newfoundland*. Erin, ON:

Press Porcepic.

References - Page 3

Oswald, Adrian

- 1975 Clay Pipes for the Archaeologist. British Archaeological Reports, British series, 14. Oxford.
- 1984 The Clay Pipes. In Medieval and Post-Medieval Finds from Exeter, 1971-1980. Ed. J.P. Allan. Pp. 279-293. Exeter: Exeter City Council and University of Exeter.

Oxford, Thomas

- 1679 The most humble Petition [to Charles II in Council], PRO, CO 1/43 (40), 64. Copy: MHA 16-C- 2-011.

Penney, Mark

- 1998 An Examination of Artifacts [from CjAe-08] Which Held Economic Value and Status. Student paper, on file, Waterfront Archaeology Project.

Pope, Peter E.

- 1991 St John's Harbour Area Archaeological Potential. Unpub. report to City of St. John's, on file CNS.
- 1992 The South Avalon Planters, 1630 to 1700: Residence, Labour, Demand and Exchange in Seventeenth-Century Newfoundland. Unpub. Ph.D. diss., MUN.
- 1995 Final Report, St. John's Harbour Area Archaeological Survey, 1993. Unpub. report, on file CNS.
- 1998a 1997 Excavations at 325-7 Water Street (CjAe- 8). Site report on file, Culture and Heritage Division and CNS.
- 1998b How Misleading Are Pipe Stem Bore Dates? Questions Raised by Finds in St John's, Newfoundland. Unpub. paper, Council for Northeastern Historical Archaeology, Montreal, October 1998.

Roberts, Adrienne

- 1998 An Analysis of the Clay Pipes from CjAe-8. Student paper, on file, Waterfront Archaeology Project.

Ryan, W.P.

- 1941 Map of St. John's Newfoundland from official plans... Copy, NMC

Simmonds, Matthew

1998 Westerwald and CjAe-8, Test D. Student paper, on file, Waterfront Archaeology Project.

References - Page 4

Simms, Peter

1998 Chesapeake Pipes [from CjAe-08]. Student paper, on file, Waterfront Archaeology Project.

Southwood, Henry

1689 A New Chart of the Trading Part of Newfoundland, in John Thornton, *The English Pilot*, vol. 4. London, 1689. CNS map 21.

Stoddart, Eleanor

1998 Wine Bottles and Westerwald: Signs of Drinking in St John's? Student paper, on file, Waterfront Archaeology Project.

Temple, Blair

1998 A Dating Analysis of Clay Pipe Bowls and Heels from CjAe-08 (Test D), 327 Water Street. Student paper, on file, Waterfront Archaeology Project.

Walsh, Michael

1998 Analysis of Tin-glazed Earthenware Recovered from CjAe-8, Test D, Event 33. Student paper, on file, Waterfront Archaeology Project.

Wheeler, Tammy

1998 325 Water Street, CjAe-08 Test D, Glass Wine Bottle Analysis. Student paper, on file, Waterfront Archaeology Project.

Wicks, John

1999 Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-century Bottle Glass from Ferryland, Newfoundland. M.A. thesis, MUN.

Williams, Alan F.

1987 Father Baudoin's War: D'Iberville's Campaigns in Acadia and

Newfoundland 1696, 1697. St. John's: Department of Geography, MUN.

Site Location and History

The site is south of New Gower Street, in the City of St. John's, and was in and around the City parking lot, bounded by Waldegrave Street to the east, Queen Street to the west, and Water Street to the south. The Waldegrave Street parking area was a shallow low-lying depression, at the west end of George Street, not far inland from the original harbourfront. The site sloped gently from north to south with an elevation of 4 to 6 m above sea level.

An early 18th-century bird's-eye view map of St John's shows fish flakes in this area, and stages on the nearby waterfront. Inland a few dwellings are shown on what would eventually become New Gower Street (Anon. 1728). By the mid-18th century the fringe of this formerly marshy area was covered in fish flakes (Bramham and Hylton 1751). Maps of the early 19th century suggest that there was little urban development as yet in the area, although Water Street was densely developed in places and a scatter of houses remained to the northwest (Eaststaff 1807). This low-lying wet area was finally developed with a streetscape of small houses and shops sometime before 1850 (Noad 1849). The district escaped the Great Fire of 1892 but was demolished in the 1970s and 1980s and eventually designated by the City as a parking area. In 1999 the site was redeveloped as a Convention Centre, but in 1998 it was mostly an asphalt pavement, apart from the perimeters and the lawn area which remains next to Queen Street, across from the west end of George.

Previous Archaeological Investigation

The area is adjacent to the Kenny's site (CjAe-17), tested in 1993 and 1997, which we revisited for a surface collection and which again showed 18th- and 19th-century materials (Pope 1995, 1998a).

Survey and Excavations

After consultation with the City Engineering Department we sought and obtained permission from City Council to test areas in and around the Waldegrave Street Parking lot, since this area was rumoured to be slated for re-development as a Convention Centre. The development was announced before we began excavations in July 1998. We opened three excavations, each about 3 m by 3 m.

Test A

This was the most important of our tests at CjAe- 33. We opened Test A by hand, with shovel and trowel, in the lawn area where George Street used to extend to the west of Queen Street. Without machinery, our backhoe operator Bill Miller helped us delineate the test area by identifying both a water line and a sewage line. His estimate of the location of these 19th- century features was accurate to within 10-20 cm, which was impressive given the equipment he had used: a piece of wire for dousing. At any rate, we were able to dig between these, so that they ran undisturbed along the northern and southern (grid) boundaries of the test. We excavated various fill strata (Events 3, 6-8, 15, 17-and 19). Underlying these fills we uncovered earlier cultural deposits (Events 21 and 25), which themselves lay on a thick peaty stratum (Event 26), immediately above the sterile clay of the original coastal fen (Event 32).

Test B

We used a backhoe to open Test B in a grassed area northeast of the Waldegrave Street Parking pavement. Under a thick deposit of recent fills the backhoe uncovered a series of 19th-century secondary deposits (Events 4, 10 and 11). As the test then exceeded 2 m in depth, we lined it with a specially-constructed, portable, plywood, safety-box, before continuing with a trowel excavation. (See photos of safety box.) Further excavation uncovered several peat and clay soils (Events 12-14, 20, 22 and 23) overlying a sterile deposit of gray clay and gravel (Event 24).

Test C

We also used a backhoe to open Test C in the paved southeast corner of the Waldegrave Street Parking Area. Excavation here indicated that early soils down to sterile gravel were removed during construction of the paved parking area, a few years ago and replaced with gravel fill (Event 28). A small cultural deposit (Event 30) was located next to a buried concrete foundation wall (Event 29) which formed the eastern edge of the test.

Features

Test A

Excavation of the younger events in Test A identified at least one probable road surface (Event 5). Event 26, the peat deposit, showed a number of interesting cultural features: it was crudely paved with rocks to the eastward end and elsewhere pock- marked with small depressions, which appeared to be animal and human footprints. (See photos and plan.) Within this deposit and those immediately overlying it (Events 21 and 25), we uncovered many wooden artifacts, some of which resemble the remains of a fish flake.

Artifact Analysis

(For details see tables of lots and of objects by lot and event, on file at the Culture and Heritage Division and CNS.)

Test A

The younger fill strata (Events 3, 6-8, 15, and 17- 19) contained a large quantity of 19th-century materials, particularly glass and refined earthenwares (REW). The underlying earlier cultural deposits, Events 21 and 25, as well as Event 26, the natural peat on which Events 21 and 25 lie, all contained water-logged wooden artifacts. These include a net float (21D2500), what appears to be the remains of a netting needle (26D2739 and 2745) various wood chips and a number of softwood sticks, about 30 cm long, cut at both ends (e.g. 23D2321, 2323, 2330 and 2343). We also recovered pointed stakes (e.g. 26D2233), a wooden crutch support (26D2230) and what appears to be a reinforcing brace. (See photos of wooden artifacts.) Although very interesting, these wooden artifacts are difficult to date. Excavators did recover sherds of North Devon CEW (26E2125) and Westerwald CSW (26S2126) from the Event 26 peat, suggesting 17th- or early 18th-century deposition for material from the peat itself.

Test B

The lowest natural peat and clay strata (Events 12- 14, 20, 22 and 23) contained well-preserved wood and leather artifacts, including a very handsome late-18th century boot (13L754), of a quality likely to have belonged to a merchant. A number of shoes were recovered, perhaps inadvertently lost on the fringes of this damp harbourside fen, while bottle glass (e.g. 14B1725) and CSW recovered are more likely to have been deliberately dumped. Most of the artifacts were recovered from the overlying fill strata and much of this material is typical of the first half of the 19th century.

Test C

Some late 19th-century REW and bottle glass was recovered from the small deposit of black cultural soil (Event 30) near the footings of the concrete foundation wall (Event 29) on the eastern edge of the pavement. The bottles were mostly 3-part molded, likely dating 1809-1885 (e.g. 30B1565, 1569 and 1570). Excavators did recover two sherds of earlier CEW, which could date to the late 17th or early 18th century: Merida CEW (30E1582) and North Devon Coarse CEW (30E1583).

Discussions

Many of the fill events at Tests A and B seem to date between 1820 and 1850, with decorated REW vessels, bottles and a few clay tobacco pipes of the period. (On the bottles, see Gillespie 1998.) These fill events of the first half of the 19th century include Events 7, 8 and 15 to 19 in test A; Events 12 to 14 and 20 in test B; as well as Event 30 in test C. Most of the material from Events 10 and 11 in test B can also be dated to this

period, though there is also a much more modern component present in these events, suggesting that they are recent redeposits of 19th- century fills. Event 21 in test A as well as Events 22 and 23 in Test B are similar, with a slightly earlier look, dating from the late 18th century to 1850. All together these events might be interpreted as deliberate fills dumped in a sparsely-occupied low and wet area of the city before 1850. This process of filling may well have been accelerated by the fires of 1817 and 1846, which would have created quantities of fill. This interpretation is supported by charcoal and other burned materials from Event 8 in Test A, and also from Events 11 and 13 in B. The predominance of fill of the period 1820 to 1850 is quite consistent with the cartographic record, which suggests that the originally low-lying and swampy CjAe-33 area was developed as an urban neighbourhood in the 1840s, probably following the fire of 1846 (Eaststaff 1807, Noad 1849).

Although most of the material from Event 21 in Test A would have been in use between 1820 and 1850, the stratum does contain an admixture of earlier materials, including North Devon Coarse and South Somerset CEWs, Rhenish Brown and English Brown CSWs as well as portions of an English Onion-style wine bottle of 1680- 1710. Event 21 also yielded three tinder flints (Rogers 1998) and the wooden net float. Event 14 in Test B has a similar mixture of earlier materials, most artifacts probably used about 1820 to 1850 but the stratum also containing sherds of a late 17th- or 18th- century incised Westerwald CSW mug and of a similar jug, a sherd of sprig-moulded Westerwald CSW, dating probably 1600-1700 (Stokes 1998), and the base of an English Onion-style wine bottle of 1680-1710. Event 30, the only cultural material uncovered in Test C also contains an early component in the form of Merida and North Devon Coarse CEW. These sparse earlier components suggest an occupation somewhere near the site, from the later half of the seventeenth century and through the eighteenth -- as did similar finds at the adjacent Kenny's site, CjAe-17 (Pope 1998a). Early maps of the area depict a few planter households in the New Gower Street area and it is quite likely that these operated as tipping houses, as almost all planter households did in this period. Finds of bottle glass, Westerwald drinking vessels and Merida CEW are all consistent with such an interpretation.

The organic materials recovered from the lower and wetter strata of Tests A and B are not fully conserved and will merit further analysis when PEG and freeze- drying treatment is complete and it is possible to handle the materials in a dry state. In the meantime a preliminary inventory of the wooden materials recovered from Test A indicates that a surprisingly large amount is artifactual. Many of these artifacts are chips of softwood and fragments of cut branches, together probably best explained as debris from the construction of wooden fishing flakes, which were conventionally surfaced with fir or spruce boughs (Gallant 1998). (Wood in the round prepared for firewood is more likely to have been delimbed where it was cut.) This interpretation is supported by the presence of the sharpened stake and the Y-crutch suitable for supporting a horizontal pole frame, as well as by the cartographic record which indicates flakes in the area along what would become Queen Street in the first detailed maps of St John's (Anon. 1728, Bramham and Hylton 1751, Newhook 1998). The net float and the netting needle are nice verifications that the site remained part of the fishery for centuries. They are, as well, unusual

survivals of significant artifact types. We have not been able to determine the purpose of the softwood sticks that have been cut or sharpened at both ends.

The leather material recovered includes an almost complete shoe from Test B (13L754). This is undergoing specialized treatment by Cathy Mathias at the Ferryland conservation lab. Despite the context, which appears to date consist of a fill deposit of REW and so on, in use about 1820 to 1850, this appears to be an 18th- century gentleman's shoe, hence probably a result of redeposition in the 19th century.

Recommendations

On the basis of the excavations conducted on the site, the preliminary report on the 1998 Field Season concluded that there was unlikely to be much of archaeological interest under the asphalt pavement in the Waldegrave Street Parking area and that development there would not require archaeological mitigation, apart from a "watching brief" during redevelopment (Pope 1998b). Such observations were carried out by John Wicks in 1999. The landscaped area surrounding Test A, opposite the end of George Street, is another matter, since we recovered features relating to the early fishery -- something which is very rare archaeologically (Faulkner 1985). Our preliminary report suggested that full archaeological recording should precede or accompany any redevelopment that would disturb subsoils between the paved parking area and Queen Street and the City Engineering Office subsequently gave assurances that the Convention Centre development would avoid disturbance of the deeper strata in this area. Pending further survey work in the area, it should be assumed that the whole west side of Queen Street north of Test A has potential archaeological significance.

Acknowledgements

The Waterfront Archaeology Project operated as a Field School for Memorial University of Newfoundland archaeology students, under the direction of Dr. Peter Pope of the Archaeology Unit. Students excavated, cleaned and numbered over 5000 artifacts, under the supervision of our conservation assistant, working with the advice of the Archaeology Unit Conservator, Cathy Mathias.

The Project acknowledges with thanks the cooperation of the City of St John's in facilitating access to the site. The principal investigator would also like to thank Bill Miller of Miller's Excavating for sharing his knowledge of the city below ground.

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Director | Peter Pope |
| Crew Chief | John Wicks |
| Registrar | Amanda Crompton |

**Conservation
Assistant**

Scott Andrews

Field School Participants

| | | | |
|---------------|------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Geoff Gallant | Steve Gillespie | John Hong | Jennifer Mercer |
| Mike Mercer | Tamlin Morrisey | Tom Oliver | Mark Penney |
| Lorne Rogers | Matthew Simmonds | Peter Simms | Carolyn Stokes |
| Blair Temple | Tammy Wheeler | Mike Walsh | |

Cataloguers

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Amanda Crompton | Jamie Besso | Eleanor Stoddart |
| Blair Temple | Matthew Simmonds | |

Illustrations

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Amanda Crompton | Carolyn Stokes |
|-----------------|----------------|

Funding

MUN Endowment Fund
Smallwood Centre for Newfoundland Studies, MUN
Dean of Arts, MUN
Culture and Heritage Division,
Newfoundland Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation
ISER, Memorial University of Newfoundland (1997 carryover)

Contribution in Kind

City of St. John's
MUN Archaeology Unit
Past Present Consulting

References

- Anon.
1728 A Plan of St. John's Harbour in Newfoundland. Public Record Office, London (PRO), WO 78/307.
- Bramham, J., and Edmund Scott Hylton
1751 Plan of St. John's Harbour in Newfoundland. British Library, K. Top. CXIX 104. Copy: National Archives of Canada, NMC 18046.
- Eaststaff, J.G.W.
1807 Map of the Town and Harbour of St. John's. PRO. Copy: National Archives of Canada, NMC 18047.
- Faulkner, Alaric
1985 Archaeology of the Cod Fishery: Damiriscove Island. *Historical Archaeology* 19(2):57-86.
- Gallant, Geoffrey
1998 Investigations into Wood Samples Found in CjAe- 33 Event 26, Waldegrave Parking Test A. Unpublished student paper, on file Archaeology Unit, MUN.
- Gillespie, Steven
1998 Dating Bottle Glass, CjAe-33. Unpublished student paper, on file Archaeology Unit, MUN.
- Newhook, Rebecca
1998 Waldegrave Street, St. John's: a 17th-century Fishing Site. Unpublished student paper, on file Archaeology Unit, MUN.
- Noad, William R.
1849 Plan of St John's, Newfoundland from Actual Survey. PANL.
- Pope, Peter E..
1995 Final Report, St. John's Harbour Area Archaeological Survey, 1993. Past Present Consulting. Flatrock, NF.
1998a 1997 Excavations at Kenny's, CjAe-17. Site report on file, CNS and Culture and Heritage Division, Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation, Newfoundland and Labrador.
1998b Waterfront Archaeology Project, Field Season 1998. Preliminary report on file, Culture and Heritage Division.

Rogers, Lorne

1998

Tinderflint from Downtown St. John's. Unpublished student paper, on file Archaeology Unit, MUN.

Stokes, Carolyn M.

1998

A Brief Look at the Westerwald Material from CjAe-33, Tests A & B. Unpublished student paper, on file Archaeology Unit, MUN.

Site Location and History

The area surveyed was the western end of Torbay Bight, around the mouths of the two small rivers here. Torbay was used by migratory West- country fishing crews in the seventeenth century and resident planters were established by the 1660s (Yonge, 1963). Torbay has been continuously inhabited since this period. The population grew rapidly in the 18th century with the arrival of West-country and Irish immigrants (Codner, 1996). The waterfront area was intensively used for the fishery until the 1950s. (See photograph of the Torbay waterfront in the 1940s.) There have been no previous archaeological investigations of the waterfront area.

Survey and Excavations

As part of the Memorial University Field School in Archaeology, the crew spent 24 July, 1998 on the Torbay waterfront (CjAe-34), at the invitation of the Torbay Heritage Committee. We had a very good day for surface collection, since heavy rain had scrubbed eroding banks and gullies the night before. Survey locations were designated either Torbay North or Torbay South. The dividing line between them was established at a point of land jutting out into the sea, halfway between two rivers flowing into the harbour.

We started with a surface collection of Torbay South and recorded materials from various areas as Tests 1 through 9. After a morning break, we attempted a similar surface collection of Torbay North, and a small collection from the shore between the two areas (Test 10). Few artifacts remained on the surface in Torbay North, although a few were collected from the main trail to the northeast (Test 11). A shovel test (Test 12) at an evident area of human occupation near an apple tree uncovered some early material. A local resident, Mr. Bob Codner, informed us that this was the site of a house until about 30 years ago.

In the afternoon one team undertook judgmental shovel tests in Torbay South, while another team surveyed systematically the plateau below the small parking lot at the end of the North side trail. The team in Torbay North investigated the 7, 8 and 9 m contours above sea level, attempting a shovel test about every 10 m. Later in the afternoon we

tested along the north bank of the larger river, with the permission of the landowner, Mr. Robert Woodfine. Shovel tests near here in the silted pond near the mouth of this river indicated silt deposition to about 80 cm over sterile gravel. (See sketch of river survey area.)

Features

Several foundation features were observed in both Torbay South and Torbay North, but there was no clear indication that these predated the 20th century. The area is also intercut with footpaths and trails used by ATVs.

Artifact Analysis

Shovel testing and surface collection in Torbay North and South returned Brown Rhenish and Gray Westerwald CSW, REW Creamware, Pearlware, Shell-edge and Transfer-printed wares, as well as wine bottle glass and clay tobacco pipe stems. Most of this material might date as late as the mid-nineteenth century, but the presence of incised Westerwald CSW (1680-1800) and REW Creamware (1765-1820) in Torbay South suggests a late eighteenth- century component.

Torbay North returned similar material, but also a sherd of RSW English Scratch Blue (1725-1785) and a lot of REW Pearlware Underglaze Polychrome (1815-1850). We also collected a sherd of a Rhenish Brown CSW Bellarmine bottle, likely dating before 1700. Shovel tests in the silted pond in Torbay South recovered late 20th century artifacts, including a plastic Brookfield ice cream container of 1970s vintage, immediately above sterile at 80 cm dbs.

Discussions

Surface collection in Torbay South recovered later 18th and earlier 19th century materials, notably Westerwald CSW of the mid to late 18th century. Further materials of like date were recovered from shovel test pits in this area. Shovel tests in Torbay North recovered similar artifacts, with several of earlier date. The material recovered suggests that the Torbay waterfront, both North and South, was a residential area from about 1775 to about 1850. The focus of these scattered finds remains unclear, however. Later and earlier materials are scarce, suggesting that permanent residents in the earlier and more recent periods may have lived elsewhere.

Excavation in the silted pond near the river mouth recovered late 20th-century plastic materials under 80 cm of fine clay overlying sterile gravel subsoil. This confirms the impression given by historic photographs: the silting of this former pond is a very recent

phenomenon. This silting is likely a result of suburban development of the river valley, associated clearance of woods, and consequent widespread disturbance and soil erosion.

Recommendations

Early modern materials dating about 1775-1850 are widely scattered around the Torbay waterfront area. A few earlier artifacts were collected in Torbay North. It was not possible to determine the focus of these early occupations in the course of a one day survey. The area is not under threat of major redevelopment but further research is indicated, when possible, at this potentially-interesting site.

Acknowledgements

The Waterfront Archaeology Project operated as a Field School for Memorial University of Newfoundland archaeology students, under the direction of Dr. Peter Pope of the Archaeology Unit. Students excavated, cleaned and numbered over 5000 artifacts, under the supervision of our conservation assistant, working with the advice of the Archaeology Unit Conservator, Cathy Mathias.

The Project acknowledges with thanks the cooperation of Dr. Daniel Vickers and Mr. Bob Codner of the Torbay Heritage Committee and Mr. Robert Woodfine in facilitating access to the areas surveyed.

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Director | Peter Pope |
| Crew Chief | John Wicks |
| Registrar | Amanda Crompton |
| Conservation Assistant | Scott Andrews |

Field School Participants

| | | | |
|---------------|------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Geoff Gallant | Steve Gillespie | John Hong | Jennifer Mercer |
| Mike Mercer | Tamlin Morrisey | Tom Oliver | Mark Penney |
| Lorne Rogers | Matthew Simmonds | Peter Simms | Carolyn Stokes |
| Blair Temple | Tammy Wheeler | Mike Walsh | |

Cataloguers

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------|------------------|
| Amanda Crompton | Jamie Besso | Eleanor Stoddart |
|-----------------|-------------|------------------|

Funding

MUN Endowment Fund

Smallwood Centre for Newfoundland Studies, MUN

Dean of Arts, MUN

Culture and Heritage Division,

Newfoundland Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation

ISER, Memorial University of Newfoundland (1997 carryover)

Contribution in Kind

MUN Archaeology Unit

Past Present Consulting

Codner, Bob

1996 The History of Torbay. St John's: Harry Cuff.

Yonge, James,

1963 The Journal of James Yonge [1647-1721]. F.N.L. Poynter, ed.
London: Longmans.

Abbreviations

| | |
|-------------|--|
| CEW | Coarse Earthenware |
| CNS | Centre for Newfoundland Studies, MUN |
| CSW | Coarse Stoneware |
| db s | depth below surface |
| MHA | Maritime History Archive, MUN |
| MUN | Memorial University of Newfoundland |
| NAC | National Archives of Canada |
| NMC | National Map Collection, NAC |
| PANL | Public Archives of Newfoundland and Labrador |
| PRO | Public Record Office, London |
| REW | Refined Earthenware |
| RSW | Refined Stoneware |

