Avalon and Maryland: The Comparative Historical Archaeology of the Seventeenth-Century New World Provinces of the Lords Baltimore (1621-1644)
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The focus of this project is a comparison of the two North American colonial settlements established by the first and second Lords Baltimore in the seventeenth century. The first settlement was founded in Newfoundland as the Province of Avalon which was based in Ferryland and established by Sir George Calvert (later the first Lord Baltimore) in 1621. The second colonial project, the Province of Maryland was founded substantially further south by the second Lord Baltimore, Cecil Calvert in 1634. Founded within little more than a decade by the same family in radically different regions of North America, the analysis and comparison of these two colonies can substantially add to an understanding of the diversity and commonalities in English North American colonization in the first half of the seventeenth century. This project will focus on the following objectives and lines of inquiry: (1) A comparison of the initial establishment of the two colonies, and a focus on the development of both Avalon and Maryland during the first decade of each settlement; (2) An investigation of the town planning of the two colonial sites focused on the placement of structures and the architectural choices made by colonists; (3) A comparison of the economies of the two settlements focusing on the environmental factors that were responsible for the staple resources (primarily cod in Newfoundland and furs and tobacco in Maryland) and how the acquisition of these staples affected the development of the two regions; and lastly (4) How the makeup of the populations in the two Provinces, including place of origin, socioeconomic status, gender, and interactions with Native populations further altered the colonial landscape.