

Report on the 2019 Excavations at the Sack Family House in Providence, RI

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Introduction



Figure 1: Avery Lord aerial photograph from 1939 showing the then-extant Sack house, associated carriage house, and surroundings.

The first semester of 2019 marked the 5th consecutive fall in which Brown University students have excavated the foundation of a house at the northeast corner of the intersection of Lloyd and Hope streets in the College Hill neighborhood of Providence. The team of excavators consisted of 18 undergraduates enrolled in *ARCH 1900: The Archaeology of College Hill*, and

their graduate instructors, Alex Marko and Anna Soifer. This field season is the 14th iteration of this course which has previously excavated significant historical sites in Providence, such as the First Baptist Church, the John Brown House, Hope College and the Quiet Green. The Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World offers this course to familiarize students with the foundations of archaeological fieldwork and analysis as well as meaningfully connect students to their local heritage. Thematic issues such as the entanglements between past and present, community archaeology, the stewardship of archaeological data in the digital age, and the significance of the material culture of the past were explored heavily both in the context of class discussions and when performing fieldwork. In addition to the 2.5 hour weekly class devoted to field and laboratory work, the course includes a weekly one hour discussion section informed by students' writing responses to readings about pertinent archaeological themes and topics. At the end of the semester, students in the course are tasked with collaboratively producing the season's site report. This site report will focus on and offer initial interpretations of the excavations and findings from the field and lab portions of the course.

The excavations of the site and locations of the trenches are based off of archival materials and the use of spatial information technologies. More specifically, important information is preserved in the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of 1899. These maps, originally a public safety resource for the greater Providence area, hold information regarding the base plan and compound floor of the Sack house. Through these maps, the team has been able to locate the compound wall and the internal and external localities of the house. The maps and some photographs found at the Rhode Island Historical Society also contain information regarding the demarcations of the front porch of the house and some architectural details of the external house, respectively. The Sack House had an associated carriage house towards the southwest corner of the land plot near the intersection of Hope and Lloyd Street.

The Sack Family house is the primary site of our excavations and was built in 1884 by A. Albert Sack, a significant personality in both the wool industry and the artistic and social scenes of Providence in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Sack was born in Hansfelde, Germany on August 16, 1843 and immigrated to the American Northeast in 1864 to construct, plan, and operate several wool-mills in the Providence area (Hall 1901). He married Alice Roberts Davis of Andover, MA in 1879. In Providence, Sack maintained positions against the unionization of his workers in the Lymanville Company Mill, which he owned, and several records reference the harsh, punitive measures he administered upon workers who went on strike (Connors 2012). However, Sack also was a proponent of the desegregated workplace and was known prominently in the circles of the Providence Art Club, Providence Athletic Association, and the Providence Liederkrantz (The Providence Directory 1895). The occupants of the house, which was located at 245 Hope St., consisted primarily of the Sack family—Albert and Alice Sack (nee. Davis), and their children, A. Albert Junior and George. The couple also had a daughter named Florence, but she passed away at less than three months old (Rhode Island Historical Cemetery Commission). Additionally, the family had multiple cooks, servants, and maids, associated with the residence, most notably butler John Bevan and nurse Annie Oakes (The Providence Directory 1895; 1903; 1905; 1909; 1921-1922). A census from 1900 lists seven household members: A. Albert, "Head"; Alice R., "Wife"; George, "Son"; Albert Jr., "Son"; Rosa Guthrie, "Housekeeper"; Jennie Taylor, "Nurse"; and Margaret Maloney, "Cook" (U.S. Census

Bureau 1900). As the two members who likely interacted with the Sack family most often on a daily basis, Bevan and Oakes spent much time around the house and interacting with the younger members of the Sack family. The dynamic nature and wide range of staff associated with the household demonstrates a significant turnover rate regarding the individuals who were employed by the Sack family. However, the family itself remained in the house through the deaths of both Albert and Alice. Albert died on April 21st, 1925 of Lobar Pneumonia. Alice lived nearly eight years longer, perishing on November 4th, 1933 from a fractured hip. Both of their deaths took place in Providence, and are potentially part of the story of the Moses Brown site (Rhode Island Historical Cemetery Commission). The Sack house was occupied members of the Sack family until the Moses Brown School purchased the property, and later demolished the building, in 1939 for the purpose of constructing a new sports field.

In addition to on-site digging, students within the course were granted various opportunities to engage with the community. Students facilitated a site visit from Dr. Dunseth's *Environmental Archaeology* course at Brown University, which came to the site to take soil samples. In addition, undergraduates welcomed middle schoolers from St. Mark's Preparatory School in Southborough, MA and a group of sixth-graders from the Moses Brown School. The Moses Brown class was given a basic introduction to archaeology and archaeological terms, while the St. Mark's group gained a more hands-on experience in learning the techniques behind proper archaeological excavation. Perhaps our largest community engagement event was the Community Archaeology Day held during Brown University's Parents Weekend (October 18th- 20th, 2019). Over the course of the day, the site gained about 50 visitors comprising of student families, younger members of the community who were interested in learning more about archaeology, and faculty members associated with the Joukowsky Institute. During Community Archaeology Day, our visitors were able to speak to students and take part in the excavation process.

By the end of the excavation season in the fall of 2019, the *Archaeology of College Hill* class has opened a total of 12 trenches at the Moses Brown site over 5 years. The initial excavations of the Sack house (trenches MB1 and MB2) in the fall of 2015 were led by Catie Steidl and Eve Dewan, who used the Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (shown below) to guide trench placement. Their excavations were off of their supposed placement within the house, but still served a purpose. Now, Steidl and Dewan were familiar with the stratigraphic layers present at the site, and also aware of the need to locate the footprint of the house in real space.. The next year, Eve Dewan and Miriam Rothenburg used ground-penetrating radar loaned by Dr. Leach at the University of Connecticut to identify the location the foundation wall. MB3 was opened directly on what was found to be an underground wall, demonstrating the usefulness and accuracy of the radar. MB4 was placed inside of the house and did not discover any features at all. In 2017, Alex Marko and Miriam Rothenburg re-excavated MB3 to further analyze the architecture uncovered in the previous year. They also opened two new trenches, MB5 and MB6 that successfully dug through cultural layers and into the virgin soil beneath. The final layer lacked artifacts, giving the class a sense of what existed before the house's construction. In 2018, led by Alex Marko and Evan Levine, the class continued to explore the wall found in previous years with MB7 and MB8, which were placed along its trajectory but

spaced out by a few meters. Another trench, MB9, was opened in an area thought to be squarely inside of the house. While MB8 didn't discover much extant architecture, MB7 and MB9 revealed large features and allowed a comparison to be made between soils on the inside and outside of the house. As a result, the class was able to quickly determine what areas to prioritize, giving them the best chance to find artifacts that would add to the knowledge of the site. Georeferencing the trench data with historical maps of the site also gave the class a good understanding of the footprint of the house. This year, under the direction of Alex Marko and Anna Soifer, the class opened three new trenches, MB10, MB11, and MB12. MB10 was deliberately placed directly on a foundation wall to get some contrast between the context inside the house and outside the house in the same trench. It was successful, and the class successfully dug to the basement floor. MB11 was placed squarely inside the house, finding many ceramic artifacts beneath the rubble. MB12 was a double-wide trench dug south of the two previous trench. It fell at the porch area in the house, and the foundation wall ended up running right through it.

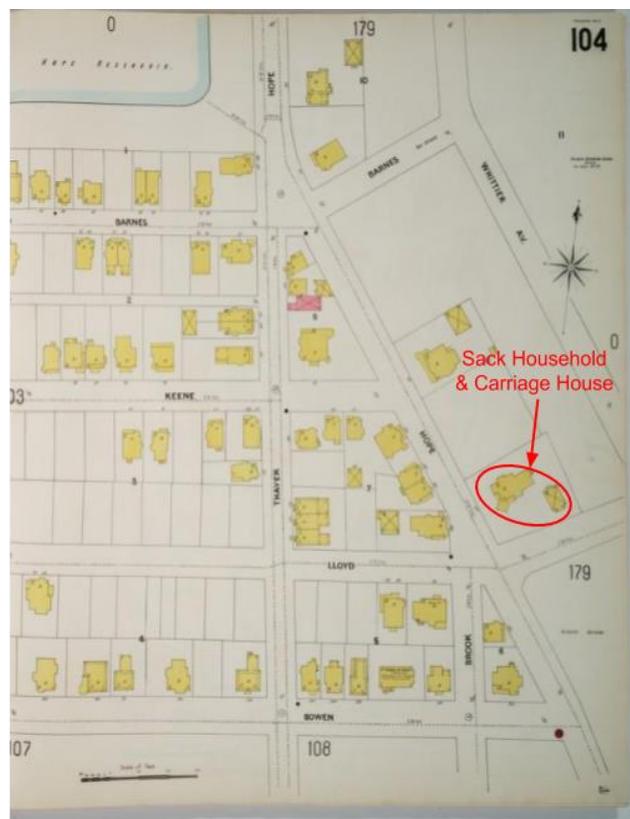


Figure 2: Map of Sack house and associated Carriage House. From Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1899

Methodology

The 2019 field season began on the 11th of September and ended on the 30th of October and was composed of six sessions of excavation with additional sessions interspersed outside of the designated weekly excavations. The 2019 field season mainly consisted of a group of 18 undergraduate students enrolled in the Brown University course "The Archaeology of College Hill," 1 instructor (Archaeology PhD candidate Alex Marko), and 1 teaching assistant (Archaeology PhD student Anna Soifer). The class spent most Wednesdays (6 classes), starting September 11th, 2019, at the site excavating from 3:00-5:30pm. Two Wednesdays were cancelled due to extreme rain and weather conditions, so a few extra makeup sessions were available to students as extra credit held either earlier in the day or on the weekends. There were also many guests visiting and excavating at the site including community members, parents, and professors from our Community Archaeology Day on Saturday, October 17th (during Brown's Family Weekend), local middle & high school students shadowing archaeologists for class projects, the 6th grade social studies classes of Moses Brown School and the archaeology elective class of St. Mark's School in Massachusetts, who visited on a field trip. The site was also visited by Brown University's Environmental Archaeology class who took soil samples to analyze.

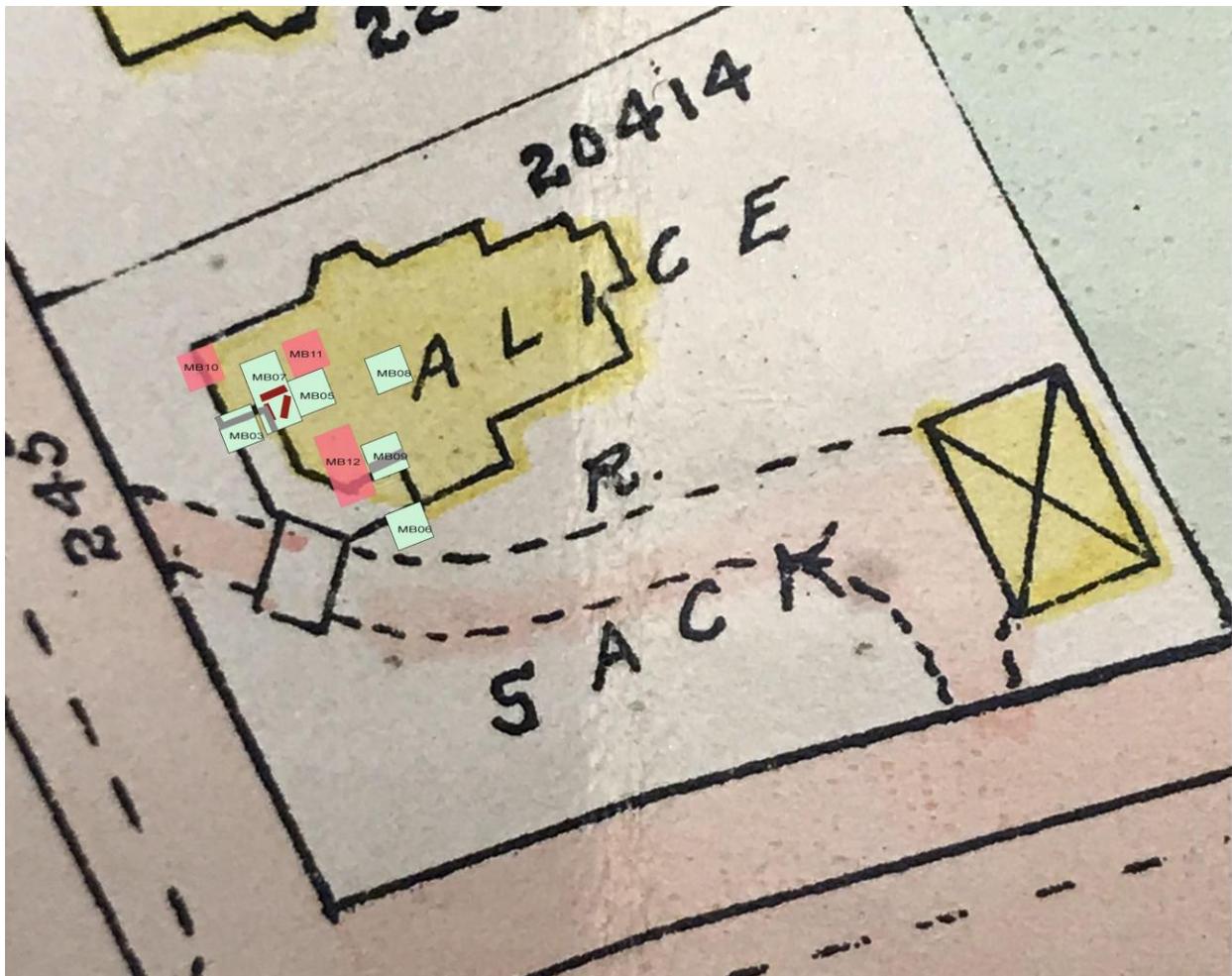


Figure 3: Trench locations overlain on georeferenced 1900 Sanborn Fire Insurance map. 2019 trenches appear in red, previous trenches in green. Note that trenches from the initial seasons at Moses Brown are not included, as they were not spatially recorded.

The trenches were located on the soccer fields of the Moses Brown school, at the corner of Hope St. and Lloyd Ave. in Providence, Rhode Island, and were placed in a generally North-South configuration. After comparing the directionality with the findings of the drones used to take pictures at the end, the set point for north was found to be a few degrees off. The trenches were named MB-10, MB-11, and MB-12 as a continuation of the trench numbering system used at this site in the past few years. Trenches MB-10 and MB-11 were placed on the northern extent of the land we worked on, and MB-12 was placed on the southern extent and made double the size. MB-10 straddled an external wall of the structure near its northwest corner allowing the findings of differences in soil and artifacts to be seen on both sides (outside the wall, as opposed to inside the wall). MB-11 was placed entirely within the house, adjacent to the prior MB-05 and MB-07, while MB-12 was placed next to MB-09, spanning the wall at the southwest corner of the house. MB-10 was discovered to contain a portion of the western border wall of the house. In MB-11, rubble from the demolition of the house was discovered and it was confirmed that the trench was entirely on the interior of the house. MB-12 was found to be close to the porch, with a diagonal wall found lying across the trench and a clear division between the inside and outside of the house as also seen in soil changes.

Before excavating any of the trenches, the top soil was removed using shovels and elevations were recorded in each trench. Elevations were taken with leveled lines extended from datum points at the southwest corner of each trench. The elevation of the center was also measured by repeating the process halfway between to diagonal sides of the trench. Everytime a new locus was uncovered, elevation measurements were taken and recorded using the same method described above. Elevations were then taken again at the end of excavation.

Most of the excavation was executed using trowels to prevent the destruction of artifacts and to avoid missing major objects. Shovels were also occasionally used, especially in MB-12 which had a large amount of topsoil and took longer to trowel due to its size. The soil was placed in buckets placed around each trench, which were then taken to be sieved through $\frac{1}{4}$ mesh screens in order to find artifacts initially missed by the excavators (or that were too small to be seen at first glance). Pickaxes were also sometimes used to break through compact soil, as well as root cutters which were used to cut roots whose presence made them hard to trowel. We also used brushes to clean off the architecture, mainly the walls, to make them presentable for pictures. Tools and materials were stored in a shed next to the Moses Brown soccer fields, provided to us by the Moses Brown groundskeeping department.

This year, the class used a new system of documentation, using a database on three iPads, one for each trench. Two of the devices were acquired through Brown's Salomon Curricular Development Mini-Grant and additional funding from the Joukowsky Institute, while the third was a loaned personal device of PhD student, and course instructor, Alex Marko. The database, developed by the Joukowsky Institute's Dr. Laurel Bestock and Research Associate Lutz Klein,

allowed the team to organize artifacts in each locus right away, as well as take pictures of and draw each trench. The physical artifacts were placed in plastic storage bags on site, and labelled with the trench number, locus number, artifact bag number within that locus, and artifact class (i.e. ceramic, metal, etc.). For instance, in locus 2 of unit 12, pieces of ceramic (the second material found in this locus) were placed in a bag labelled "MB12-002-2: Ceramic." The quantity of each object was recorded in the database, in addition to a brief summary of what the object was, how it looked, and how many pieces there were.

Pictures of each trench were taken at the start of excavation, after the discovery of each new locus, and on the last day of excavation. Students also made drawings of the trenches and loci on the iPads, which were later redrawn over orthophotos of the trenches at the end of the season. Following the last day of excavation, the class returned to the site to take pictures with a DJI Phantom 3 drone of each of the trenches, which were later used to put together the 3D images of the trenches (including what the trenches looked like from underneath the ground). When taking each picture, it was ensured that there were no shadows of people or movable objects in the shot, and a directional arrow was placed in the trench pointing north.

To identify new loci, students used the Munsell Soil Chart by taking a soil sample and comparing it to the colors in the book. New loci were also classified by the different textures of the soil and different architectural structures were placed in their own loci. Oftentimes there would be multiple loci in each area of a trench, which was especially seen on either side of the wall in MB-10 signifying the difference between the inside and the outside of the house.

In between excavation days, each trench was covered with tarp to help preserve its contents from outside stressors such as the weather. Rocks were used to keep the tarps down, and then were removed at the start of each day at the field. Following the last day of excavation, all the trenches were covered with geotextile and backfilled with soil taken out of them and large rocks. MB-10 will be excavated again next year by the next class, so no rocks were placed in this trench during backfilling.

Once the 2019 field season ended, the class switched over to completing lab work on the 6th of November. Lab work was conducted at the Carriage House, a building that belongs to Brown University's Anthropology Department and has the facilities and resources to properly clean the artifacts found from the site. Before any lab work was undergone, the class separated into three groups which coincided with the three trenches on the site. Each group was responsible for going through the bags of artifacts found in each locus of their assigned trench and comparing what was observed with the data inputted into the database. The database was updated according to what was observed, so that if there were any discrepancies between the observation and the data stored in the database, it would be immediately corrected. If an object or bag was missing, there was a note inputted to the registrar so that anyone reviewing the database would be aware.

Lab work consisted mostly of cleaning the artifacts that had been found either by wet brushing or dry brushing the object depending on its material composition. Wet brushing required

a water basin and a toothbrush. The toothbrush was first dampened with the water inside the water basin and then used to gently scrub the artifact. If the artifact was deemed durable, the artifact was then dipped into the water basin to rid the artifact of dirt more efficiently. When the water in the water basin became dark or cloudy, the water was changed so that artifacts could be seen clearly when dipped into the water basin. Artifacts that were wet brushed composed of materials such as ceramic, plastic and brick. Some small finds artifacts were also wet brushed including a shell and a bullet casing found in MB12. Dry brushing required only a dry brush that was separate from those used for wet brushing. The pressure with which the artifacts were brushed varied depending on the fragility of the object. For example, artifacts that had inscriptions or markings on them were brushed with a lighter hand than artifacts such as nails. Artifacts that were dry brushed composed of materials such as wood, plaster and metal. Some small finds artifacts that were made of glass, such as the jam jar found in MB10, were also dry brushed to preserve the jar's label. Nails were cleaned with a wire dry brush to effectively remove rust. An artifact was deemed clean once no further dirt, grime or rust could be removed from the artifact. Once the artifacts were cleaned, they were placed on a mesh tray to dry. It was important that when cleaning the artifacts, it was done by locus to make sure that artifacts from the same locus were grouped together when placed to dry by labelling each tray with the locus number written on masking tape. Once the artifacts were dry, pictures of the artifacts found in the same loci were taken against a black background to ensure maximum visibility of the artifacts. Individual photos were taken of individual small finds or diagnostic objects grouped together (i.e. all tiles from a context bearing the "BRUNT" maker's mark were photographed together).

Once pictures of the cleaned artifacts were taken, they were rebagged in clean storage bags which were relabelled according to their trench, loci and artifact bag number (refer above for detailed labelling convention). These bags of artifacts were then placed in boxes with bags from the same trench stored together. All of the artifacts found at the Moses Brown Site for the 2019 field season are currently being stored in the Carriage house alongside the artifacts found at the Moses Brown site from previous years' field seasons. Some will also be displayed in a final project exhibition in the Joukowsky Institute put together by Archaeology of College Hill student Nidhi Bhaskar.

Several artifacts that were deemed as small finds in the database that had been cleaned and dried were then researched and any information found from this research was inputted into the database along with a description of the artifact's physical attributes and measurements. Artifacts were researched by looking for any maker's mark, typological information, or indications of use. For example, a silver-plated fork found in MB10 had an inscription that appeared to be "Wallingford Co. ai/2 Heavy", which allowed for a Google search of the inscription. The search of the inscription resulted in the Wallingford Co. Silverware catalog and through stylistic comparison, it was determined that the fork was part of company's "Windsor" series dating back to 1907. Some artifacts, despite having clear labels about what the artifact was and who it was manufactured by, produced inconclusive research results and so only their physical attributes and measurements were inputted into the database.

Each artifact was also measured on each side using a ruler with centimeter measurements. After researching each object, another picture was taken with a reference bar to show how big the artifact was compared to this point. The pictures were then uploaded to the database so that they could be added to the rest of the information on each object. For research purposes students used their personal laptops to find details on an object, often using sites provided by the instructors of the course such *The Society for Historical Archaeology*, *Jefferson Patterson Museum Guide*, and *What is that Thing?* to name a few. For artifacts that did not apply to the research found on these sites, more information was obtained through other websites discovered through Internet and Google searches.

Trench MB10

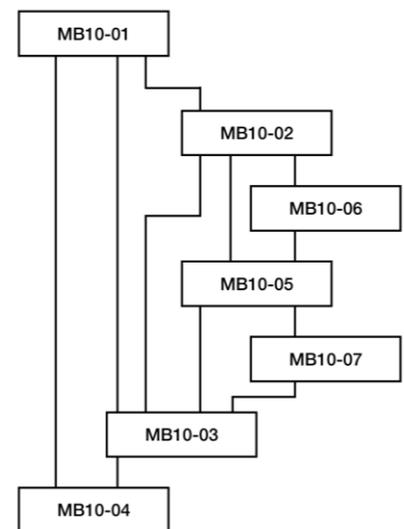


Figure 4: Orthophoto of MB10 at the end of excavation.

Description and Objectives

MB10 is a 2x2 meter trench on the northwestern corner of the plot and Sack House. This trench was chosen as an interesting area to investigate due to its supposed positioning at the corner of the house where two foundational walls intersect. However, upon further digging, the trench was not placed directly over the corner due to technical mapping difficulties. In reality, we were digging around a section of the western wall of the house, just below the intersection with the northern wall. While we did not encounter the exact area of architecture we hoped for, the trench was quite complex as can be seen by its harris matrix. Fairly quickly into our excavation, we encountered a stone architectural feature. There were some loose stones that appeared to meet the wall at a 90° angle. However, as we dug deeper, we discovered that these stones were indeed free and not a part of the architectural feature. Thus, we confirmed that the wall was not the corner and just part of the western face of the house. As pictured in the appendix, the western side of the trench is the outside of the house and the eastern side is the inside of the house. As the majority of the artifacts were found in the contexts on the inside of the house (MB10-02, MB10-05, MB10-06, and MB10-07), we concluded that during demolition, the house was pushed in from the outside so many pieces and building materials fell into the contexts on the interior. MB10-07, uncovered on the very last day of digging, is still somewhat of a mystery to us. We found a void below a large flat rock resting on a circular pipe within the matrix of MB10-05. Here, we found several of our most interesting and intact artifacts, including a Mirabal jam jar with preserved labels.

The position of the trench was very purposeful; our objective was to uncover the corner of the house, and in doing so, have more of the wall to excavate and hopefully find artifacts that had fallen into the corner of the house and been forgotten during the days that the Sack family lived there. Maybe the southwest corner of the Sack house was home to the Sack childrens' favorite reading nook, their pet cat's favorite place to curl up, or the location of Mr. Sack's secret hiding spot under the floorboards! Though this sounds a bit tongue-in-cheek, this hypothesis can be grounded in the evidence that we have. Looking at the photograph of the house before it was demolished, it seems that this area was near or possibly even contained the main fireplace based on the location of the chimney. As families tend to congregate in front of the fire, and cozy reading spots tend to also be in front of the fire in a cold New England home, there is a high possibility that this could have been the case in the Sack family household. However, we unfortunately did not end up figuring out what the use of this corner was because we inaccurately marked where the house was positioned and the trench ended up being on a segment of the western wall rather than the southwest corner (though there's no guarantee that if we had found the corner, it would have necessarily answered our questions). We had no specific goal as to what we would find, but we were excited to unearth whatever MB10 had in store for us, and we knew it was sure to be a wild ride! By the end of our work at the site, the most notable findings from the seven different loci of MB10 included: a stone wall running through the middle of the trench, pieces of slate, bricks,



nails, pieces of glass, pieces of a pencil, pieces of ceramic, red colored marble, a fork, broken glass bottles, and a Mirabel strawberry jam jar.

MB10-01:

MB10-01, the topsoil of the Moses Brown sports field, was opened on September 11th. This was the first context discovered after removing the overlying sod. Although it is a concern that while removing sod with shovels one might lose artifacts, we are fairly confident these potential losses would not fall into the age range of the Sack House objects of interest. Additionally, the sod was likely disturbed by the use of the field for soccer, so it would not provide much contextual information pertaining to the Sack House had we treated it as its own context. The opening elevations were as follows: SW (1): 9cm bd, NE (2): 10cm bd, NW (3): 11cm bd, SE (4): 9cm bd, center (5): 11



Figure 6: MB10-01 Opening photo

cm bd. Under the sod, the soil was brown, soft, and dry. While we did not encounter many artifacts in MB10-001, we did encounter tree roots and lots of rock. Some pockets of the context were more sandy in composition than the surrounding areas. Large, flat rocks, running north-south, were observed to be poking through the middle of the context. While Alex was initially hesitant to call this a wall, we later confirmed these rock formations to be the beginnings of MB10-003, the architectural feature of the context. MB 10-001 was closed with the opening of contexts MB10-02, MB10-03 , and MB10-04 on October 16th. At this point, the architectural wall (MB 10-003) divided the soil between that of the inside of the house (MB 10-004) and that of the outside of the house (MB 10-002). Thus, MB10-01 was completely excavated. Despite being very close to the top, there were a lot of small artifacts found. During the sieving and troweling process, we discovered several small pieces of slate (approx. 8 cm across), some assorted plastic, pieces of red brick, a sherd of porcelain, some small shards of glass, part of a rusted iron nut, pieces of a pencil, foil, a singular rusted nail, and an interesting cylindrical rock. Unfortunately, none of these artifacts qualified as small finds. The artifacts in MB10-01 offered an interesting juxtaposition between Moses Brown school and the Sack House. Elements like the plastic and pencil were indeed modern; however, the sherd of porcelain may have been from the Sack House.

MB10-02:

After the joy of cracking through the green grassy top layer and first context of soil we reached our second context. The new context appeared first on the eastern half of the unit, at a higher elevation to the emergence of western half of the context required slightly more time and

labour to uncover. The opening elevations were NE 12cm, SE 16.5cm. To achieve a controlled and thorough examination of the excavated soil we continued the use of hand trowels moving at small, standard increments. The soil itself was a lighter brown than observed in MB10-01. Within the soil we encountered small to medium sized rock inclusions and were still excavating roots. Despite the shallow nature of the context we discovered many different artifacts. Most interestingly we encountered a small bone fragment, however do to its small size we were unable to determine what species the bone belonged to or what type of bone it might be. Two pieces of green broken glass were dug up but are too small to be able to determine what they are fragments from. Another interesting discovery was a 4 cm x 4 cm fragment of ceramic pottery with blue paint and a white glaze. Other pieces of ceramic include twenty-five red fragments which were glazed with a black paint of varying sizes. Two fragments of brick were also unearthed. One round nail head measuring 5 cm was discovered.

The brown soil matrix of this context is clearly distinct from the destruction layers, marked by their almost pure white mortar/plaster matrix, that fill the interior of the structure's basement below. The presence of materials dating to the Sack house, however, does suggest that the layer was established before the final infilling of the field at the corner of Hope and Lloyd. This layer, then, appears to be a post-destruction fill laid down at some point between the demolition of the Sack house and the sodding that finally converted the space into a sports field for the Moses Brown School.

MB10-03:

MB10-03 was opened on October 16th, 2019. At first, we came upon some big stones and thought they were just floating stones. However, we started to unearth a lot of stones in the same place and became hopeful that it was a wall. Soon enough, we started to find enough large stones packed tightly together in a long, rectangular formation; thus, it was safe to say we had uncovered a wall of the Sack house! We categorized this stone wall running through the center of the trench as MB10-03. The wall ran from north to south through the center of MB10. The wall's width is about 50cm, its distance from the eastern extent of the trench is about 80cm, and its distance from the western extent of the trench is about 70cm. See picture below for an image of Context 3. The wall is built of roughly shaped, natural stones that are arranged to make a flat surface. The stones are mortared together, as we can tell from the surviving white plaster in the interior face. Because we hit the bottom of the wall on our last day of digging, we know that the wall is about 1.3m tall and that it rests on a poured concrete floor (with some red colored marble).

MB10-04:

MB10-04 was also opened on October 16th, at the same time as MB10-02 and MB10-03. This context is the soil that was on the outside of the wall of the Sack Family House on the west side of the trench. In this locus, the soil is slightly more orange than MB10-02, is finer grained, and looser. The opening elevations were 14.5 cm at the SW edge and 11cm at the NW

edge. In this Context, we did not find many artifacts because the demolition process pushed the debris into the context on the inside of the house. In the photo on the right, MB10-04 is on the left, MB10-03 is in the middle, and MB10-02 is on the right. There was significantly less artifacts, specifically building materials, but there were some interesting finds. One small find was a piece of white high-fired ceramic with potentially slag on either side. Additionally, there was several pieces of coal, brick, white glazed ceramic pieces, a small clear glass shard, a small washer, and a thick rusted nail with a round head. The artifacts that were found were largely contained near the top of the context or directly next to the wall. We believe that this is due to the fact that the layer was either cut for the construction of the wall or that fill was added after the construction of the wall.

MB10-05:

As we delved into this new context on October 26th, 2019, we noticed a similar composition to the context above, being made up of a dark brown matrix. On the Eastern side observed more plaster residue mixed point in the excavation we encountered mostly heavy materials used in the construction of the house. Heavy building materials include six slabs of pink-hued marble, several largely intact bricks, many fragments of what appears to be paper insulation, slate roof tile fragments, glass shards ranging from very small to medium sized, four chunks of metal, a coil of wire, and a preserved piece of wood. The most diagnostic discovery was three pieces of a broken mug, made of whiteware with a transfer printed blue design. The first piece is 4.2 cm x 5 cm with a protrusion perpendicular to the base of the mug. On the exterior is a printed blue design that appears to be floral. The second piece is the largest at 8 cm x 7 cm with an indentation with a circumference of 0.3 cm on one end. The third piece is the smallest at 3 cm x 1.3 cm with blue printed detailing on the outside depicting a stem and a partial flower petal.



Figure 7: MB10-02. -03. & -

of the wall we into the soil.. At this

MB10-06:

This square patch in the middle of context 5 (as noted by the black and white arrow in the trench) became a new context, context 6. Context 6 was unfortunately recorded poorly, mostly because we realized there wasn't much to it after we started digging it (and because of

the fact that it was opened on our final day of digging, and we were impatient and hasty to find an artifact.) This new context was on the southern third of the eastern third of the unit, behind locus 2. The soil was light brown and clay-like - similar to locus 4, but slightly lighter brown in color. MB10-06 is merely a lens of yellowish soil on top of MB10-05 that didn't yield any artifacts, but it is important to record its existence nonetheless.

MB10-07:

The final context was MB 10-007. This locus was opened on November 6th, 2019. Under a large flat rock in the rubble of MB 10-005, there is a void about 15cm in depth. We discovered this locus on the last day of digging when we utilized the shovels. Alex was able to fully excavate this hole after the last day of class. The layer begins beneath a horizontally placed slate stone that extends perpendicular from the lowest exposed portion of the wall. This locus is the fill of that area, still largely made up of the rubble matrix



Figure 8: MB10-06, the yellow patch near north arrow



from above but separated by a dense layer of corrugated paper/cardboard or perhaps insulation

Figure 9: MB10-07, from left to right: interior of the void, covering from above, and relationship to wall MR10-03

of some sort. The stone seemed to be resting on top of a cylindrical item, likely a downpipe from the house's plumbing system.

In the void beneath flat stone, we found a treasure trove of artifacts. To the right is our collection of small finds. Among our most prized and informative possessions from the entire dig. Six shards of glass from one bottle were uncovered. We believe they are from a bottle of "Moses Atwood's Jaundice Bitters" due to the unique shape of a bottle, having twelve sides. Three pieces of a green-tinted glass plate were uncovered. Another bottom piece of a bottle with a diameter of 5 cm was founded, believed to be a

lightning fruit jar as the center had "PUTMAN" written, the maker's mark for Henry W. Putnam who had invented the lightning stopper in 1857 (Lockhart et al. 2016). Putnam produced glass objects himself at a factory in Vermont, and this base appears to belong to a jam or preserves jar.. The most intact glass item recovered from the site is another jar of jam, bearing a front label that reads "1 LB. Net



Figure 10: Artifacts from MB10-7

MIRABEL Strawberry." The rear label also identifies the producer as a company based in Somerville, MA, though we have yet to find any information about the company. Another piece of a marmalade jar was unearthed, stoneware in nature with a partial flower pattern and three written words "FOR MARMALADE" and "1862". The jar was matched to that of the James Keiller & Son's Company of Dundee, Scotland. The surviving text references medals awarded to the company at a trade show in London in 1862. The visible design of the fragment matches that of a jar that also bore reference to another award given in Vienna in 1873. This jar corresponds to a period of growth for the company, especially in the US market, between 1873 and roughly 1898. Further dating marks were likely present on the jar, as series codes were included on such objects, however such a mark is not preserved here (Maling Collector's Society 2000). A different small piece of ceramic was uncovered that was blue and white. A small piece of mortar was discovered. A metal fork with silver plating was uncovered with rust on the areas the silver has fallen off. The backside appears to have written on it "Wallingford Co. ai/2 Heavy". This leads us to believe it was manufactured by Wallace Bros. Silver Co (Buse n.d.), which is still a company that has rebranded as Wallace Silversmiths Inc. The shape of the fork was also compared to a collection of the company's wares from a collector's website and appears to match the "Windsor" line, produced beginning in 1907.

Context MB10-07 appears to be the sole surviving use context of the Sack home yet discovered; while the materials here have clearly been somewhat displaced from their original location, the density of food related items suggests the assemblage here is the result of some sort of basement storage. It remains unclear, however, how the area came to be protected by a flat stone resting atop a ceramic downpipe; whether the space was intentionally arranged or happenstance cannot be determined without further excavation of the area. Fortunately, current excavation plans call for the area to be re-excavated in the fall semester of 2020 under Anna Soifer.

Trench MB11



Figure 11: Orthophoto of MB10 at the end of excavation

Description and Objectives:

Trench MB11, a 2x2 meter plot directly north of trench MB12 was selected in order to investigate the interior of the Sack house. As expected, no architectural features were found during the course of the fieldwork. Although the exact measurements of the interior of the house are unknown, the previous year's digs, the other concurrent trenches, and the contents of MB11 provide sufficient supporting evidence to confirm it is entirely within the structure. The most visual evidence stems from a white plaster integrated into the MB11 soil matrix. This same matrix abuts architectural features only on the side that defines the inside of the house in trenches MB10 and MB12. Moreover, items commonly associated with the interior of a house were found among the three contexts present. These include personal effects, decorative tile, and other small objects described below.

Once the sod and modern soils were cleared, we encountered light colored, clay-like soils with intermittent finds of plastic or small brick. Beyond the surface, the loci were characterized by slopes and uneven layering in the stratigraphic contexts. Although the three individual contexts of MB11 were not level with one another, they each covered the entirety of the trench as can be seen in the figures depicting MB11 in Appendix A. As a stratigraphically simple trench, MB 11 has a straightforward harris matrix with easily identifiable brick, nails, plaster, and other rubble materials comprising the bulk of the collected objects. Because various small finds and more detailed objects were discovered amidst this rubble material, and this soil matrix is only identified in the interior of the house, our hypothesis is that the demolition of the structure ultimately resulted in the rubble being pushed to the interior of the house. This is a logical explanation of why course rubble material was found in large quantities along with the other small finds. These finds help contextualize the Sack house more.

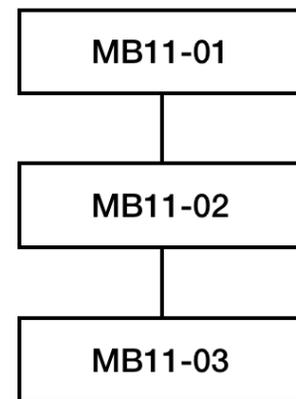


Figure 12: Harris

MB11-01:

MB11-01 was a layer of topsoil consisting of mostly soft and dry dirt. It was exposed by removing the layer of sod. Given that the sod's roots were connected to the topsoil, it is quite likely that part of this context was removed with the sod which could have resulted in the loss of artifacts. However, any artifacts potentially lost would likely be from after the time that the Sack house was demolished given the stratigraphic proximity to the surface. This context contained many small roots and small stones. The opening elevations of MB11-01 were NW: 10 cm, NE: 6cm, SW: 11cm, SE: 9cm, and center: 9cm below datum. Its closing elevations were NW: 12.7cm, NE: 8.9cm, SW: 21.4cm, SE: 13.8cm, and center: 9.9cm below datum. MB11-01 was opened and elevations were taken on September 11, 2019, but excavation did not begin until

September 18, 2019. On September 18, 2019 signs of the second context (MB11-02) were discovered along the eastern edge of the trench when a light brown clay-like soil was uncovered. This soil was distinctly different in appearance and texture from the soil that comprised MB11-01. Excavators used the technique of digging from the known to the unknown by starting at the eastern edge of the trench and expanding the discovery of the clay-like light brown soil. MB11-01 was closed with the definition of MB11-02 on September 25, 2019. The entirety of Context 1 MB11-01 was excavated with trowels and all soil was sieved. There were 10 small pieces of white plastic (of various sizes) and a rounded brick fragment found in this context. No further information could be determined in the lab regarding these artifacts as they contained no easily identifiable markings or characteristics beyond their material and color. None of the items collected from MB11-01 were



Figure 13: MB11-01 Opening

small finds. The presence of modern plastic in MB11-02 would suggest that the plastic found in MB11-01 is also modern. Although this plastic was most likely produced after the Sack house was demolished (given its material and stratigraphic location), it is possible that the brick fragment found in this context (MB11-01) was, in fact, a piece of the structure, especially given the prevalence of brick in the next stratigraphic layer (MB11-02) along with other likely components of the house. Perhaps there was some mixing of the soil which caused the brick fragment (likely from the Sack house) to settle into MB11-01. Otherwise, the stratigraphic location of the locus (MB11-01) and the concentration of modern artifacts found in it would suggest that, although it contained one likely historic find, it was primarily formed after the demolition of the Sack house.

MB11-02:

MB11-02 consisted of a clay-like soil with a light brown color (Munsell color 10YR 5/3). Opened September 25, 2019, MB11-02 was first discovered on the eastern side of the trench. This context was sloped from north to south, which follows the natural slope of the surrounding area. This is evidenced by the opening elevations for MB11-02: NE 8.9 cm, NW 12.7 cm, SE 13.8 cm, SW 21.4 cm, Center 9.9 cm below datum. Within the context, medium sized rocks were prevalent throughout the trench but especially concentrated on the north side of the unit. Additionally, a number of trees stand within 10 meters of the trench, so that prevalent roots were not a surprise. Other finds for MB11-02 include 11 bricks, 35 nails, 11 slate roof tile fragments, 8 modern hard plastic fragments, 6 soft plastic fragments, 1 piece of string, 1 conical rubber

object, 11 pieces of mortar, 7 pieces of tile, and a small find made of ceramic and labeled T.CO. These finds are consistent with the fact that we had dug through the topsoil and fill layers (MB11-00 and MB11-01). The presence of modern, hard plastic in tandem with rubble material



Figure 14: MB11-02 Opening photo

such as slate roof tiles or brick fragments suggest that this context may include both modern and historic objects from the Sack house in the same stratigraphic layer possibly due to soil mixing over time. After three days of digging MB11-02 was closed on October 19, 2019 with the definition of MB11-03. The closing elevations for MB11-02 were: NE 28.5 cm, NW 31 cm, SW 42 cm, SE 24 cm, and Center 32.5 cm below datum.

MB11-03:

Opened on October 19 2019, MB11-003 was marked by a

distinct transition from the previous clayey light brown soil of MB11-002 to a much lighter grey-brown color, as the dominant material in the matrix of this context was white plaster. The abundance of plaster in the matrix resulted in softer and more crumbly soil. While this context appeared all the way across trench MB11, the depth at which it began varied considerably with no connection to modern surface topography. However, it is likely that the topography may correlate with topography at the time of the demolition. The opening elevations for MB11-002 were SW 42 cm bd, NW 31 cm bd, NE 28.5 cm bd, SE 24 cm bd, and center 32.5 cm bd. Due to the abrupt change in matrix composition, the transition from MB11-002 to MB11-003 can be observed as a sharp line in the trench's stratigraphic profile.

Of the contexts of this trench (MB11), MB11-003 had the most collected material both in terms of type and volume. The majority of the collected materials were building materials such as brick, slate, ceramic electrical insulators, nails, mortar, and plaster amongst other things. However, there were also items that yielded more insight into the decorative elements of the home. A large number of approximately 3x5 inches and rectangular tiles and a variety of other types of decorative tiles were found in this context. Several of the longer white, rectangular subway tiles were labelled "35 PARDEE GRIP BACK." These were sourced to the C. Pardee Works, Inc., a tile and ceramic manufacturer located in Perth Amboy, New Jersey ("The C. Pardee Works, Inc : manufacturers of white wall tile, ceramics and Grueby-Faience," 1924). Several smaller, rectangular tiles with blue-green glaze on the front and "Old Bridge" on the back were also found. These were sourced to Old Bridge Tile Company, another tile manufacturer located in Old Bridge, New Jersey ("New Jersey Industrial Directory," 1912). In terms of spatial distribution, more collected materials came from the south end of the trench while the north end had numerous large floating stones. Along the East to West axis of the

trench, MB11-003 had a fairly homogeneous distribution of collected materials. The increased number of stones in the north half of this context is consistent with MB11's proximity to the north exterior wall of the home. Based on the location of the house on the Sanborn map, this trench should be within the house. It is likely that these stones are a result of the inward collapse of the wall as they are of the same type and size as those found within the foundation walls. In the southeast corner of MB11-03 there was a large collection of bricks, including preserved column of mortared bricks measuring 0.5x0.25x0.25 meters laying diagonally within the mortar fill. It could not be determined if this was a preserved section of a wall which had collapsed or perhaps a fireplace as we were not able to excavate the entire object. Around this stack of bricks was a high concentration of tile, loose bricks, and slate, as well as a small plastic "Hickok" box discussed later.

Within a context that had many small finds, three items stand out in their uniqueness. Two embossed figural tile fragments were found which belonged to a 15 cm x 15 cm square tile. Upon further inspection and research in the lab, this tile was identified as a Minton Hollins tile from the Stoke on Trent factory in England. This tile was the "fire" tile as part of the Air and Fire collection.



Figure 15: Minton Hollins "Fire" tile as found in MB11-003 versus the same tile from an [auction website](#)

The second such notable find from MB11-03 was a small figurine of the Johnnie Walker mascot, 2-3 cm long. Initially, in the field it was identified as possible tin soldier left behind by the Sack family children. However, it turned out to be neither tin nor a soldier. It is possibly a pin because of a protrusion on the back of the figurine and is probably made of an early, dense bakelite plastic because the red colored sections remained red even when surface layers were scratched off. In addition, the round face and thicker physique of the Johnny Walker mascot situates the making of this novelty item between 1908 and 1928, the year the striding man was adopted as the logo and the year the logo was first substantially redesigned respectively. (Vinepair Staff, 2017)

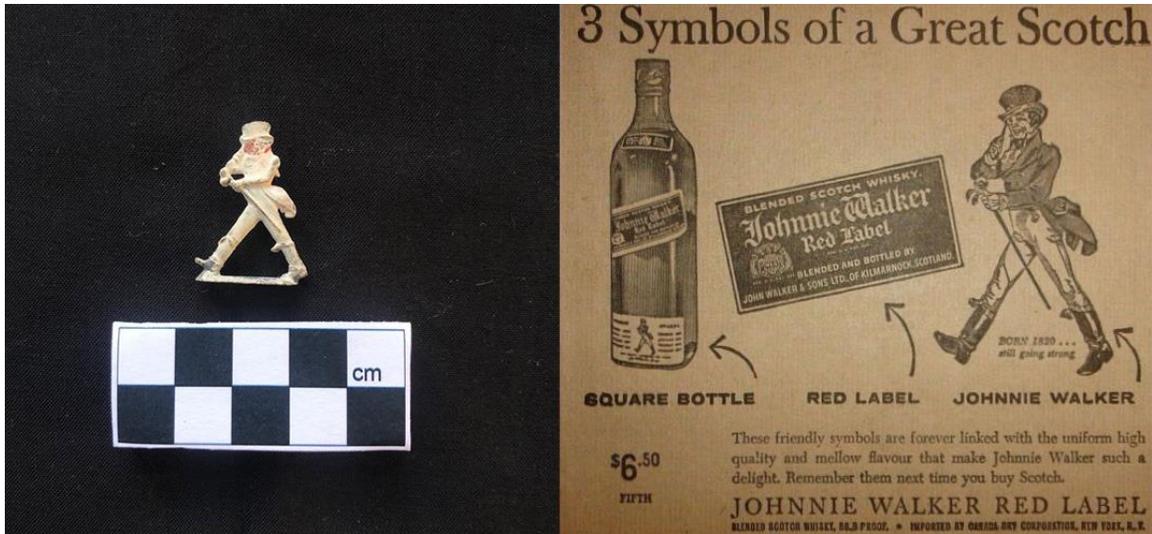


Figure 16: Johnnie Walker figurine found in MB11-03 next to an illustration from a Johnnie Walker Red Label advertisement.

The third notable find from MB11-03 was a small 8 x 6 cm black plastic box, mentioned earlier. The lid was absent. After cleaning, some company marks were discernible on the interior of the box: the word “HICKOK” under a shield design crest. On the bottom of the box were the words “MADE IN U.S.A.”

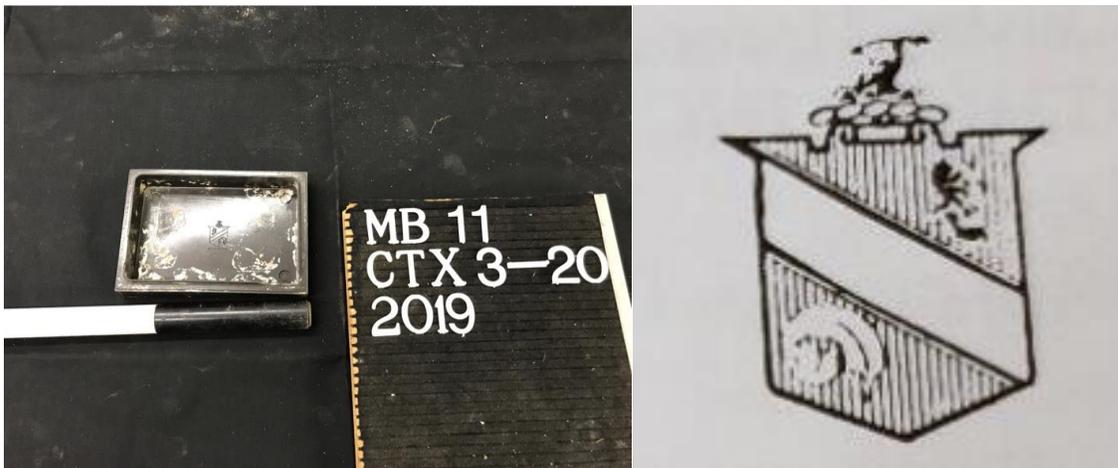


Figure 17: From left to right: Image of the interior of the box found in MB11-03, showing the Hickok company name and crest, the Hickok company crest, from an [auction website](#)

Further research revealed that “HICKOK” likely refers to the Hickok Manufacturing Company, a men’s jewelry company founded in 1909 in Rochester, New York by S. Rae Hickok (Rinker, 2013). Our particular find is likely made of black Bakelite and probably housed cuff links, tie bars, or even cigarettes (Rinker, 1991). Although the company’s goods seem to have become most popular in the mid-20th century, after the destruction of the Sack house, the design of this particular box (being made of black Bakelite and stamped with the company crest) suggests it was manufactured in the earlier years of the company (“Hickok Jewelry”). This leads

us to believe that it likely belonged to someone within the Sack family and was not discarded at a later time and naturally mixed into the stratigraphic layers of the house. Even so, it could have belonged to any of the Sack family men, Albert or either of his two sons, Albert Jr. or George, since all three men were of age to own such an item by this time. Although much of the house's materials were likely mixed up in its destruction, since they were just thrown into the basement, the existence of this box might suggest that MB11 was in the same proximity as either a bedroom, a den/living room, or a study, since these are the most likely places to find a jewelry or cigarette box.

Trench MB12



Figure 18: Orthophoto of MB12 at the end of excavation

Description and Objectives

Trench MB12, a 2 meter by 4 meter plot, was placed directly south of trench MB011 and southeast of MB11 (see fig. 3). We expected to find in this trench a foundational wall running north to south, with the interior of the house to the east of this wall and the exterior of the house (under the porch) to the west of this wall. We believed this because of our finding of an east-west wall running through MB09, to the east, last year and our geolocation equipment, which put this trench as containing the north-south foundation wall on the southwest corner of the house. Our objective in this trench was to solidify our understanding of the location of the Sack house as well as investigating the junction between the porch and house proper and whether objects might have been preserved in situ in the corners of the porch.

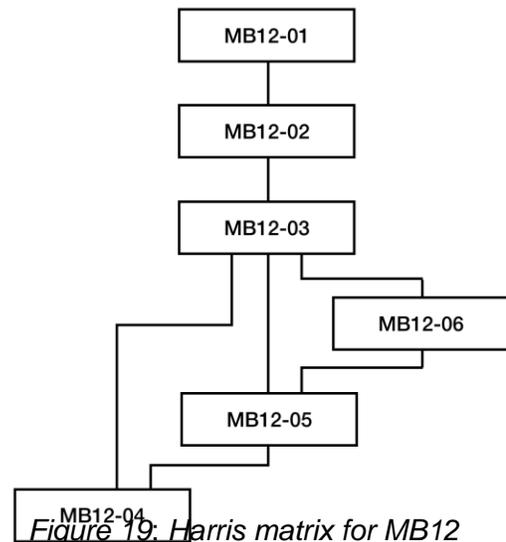
We did indeed find a thick foundational wall made from rock. However, to our surprise, it ran east to west through the trench, and turned slightly northwards on the east side of the trench. This tells us that the location of the house is off from where we had previously thought. This wall, combined with the east-west wall running through MB-09 to the east, combined with our maps (fig. 3) led us to determine the position of this trench in relation to the house. This can be clearly seen in fig. 3.

In unearthing this wall, we encountered six contexts. In order of our finding them, they were: a topsoil layer that ran all the way across the top few centimeters of the trench (MB12-01); a similar but darker, more moist soil for the few centimeters below that (MB12-02); a light-brown, claylike soil below that (MB12-03); below that, a similar soil context making up the southernmost part of the trench (MB12-04); to the north of that, the rock foundation wall (MB12-05); to the north of that, a gray-white mix of plaster and debris (MB12-06).

There were not many unique artifacts in MB012 such as MB011's Johnnie Walker figurine or MB010's fork. Instead, our main finds were lots of nails and plaster, and brick surrounding the foundation wall. As a result, our main takeaways had to do with the location (west of where we had thought) and destruction of the Sack House (the southern wall was pushed inwards).

MB12-01:

MB12-01 was the first context discovered after removing the sod. It was opened on September 11, 2019 and closed on September 25, 2019. MB12-01 is topsoil, soft and damp, and contained many small rocks and worms and grubs. The opening elevations for this context were SW: 9cm, NW: 8cm, NE: 8cm, SE: 11cm, and center: 13cm below datum. This context covers the entire area of the trench. MB12 being the largest unit among the others, it took more



time to excavate each context. It was important not to dig straight down along the edge due to the risk of collapsing during excavation.



Figure 20: MB12-01 Opening photo

Surprisingly, MB12-01 yielded several artifacts including a small piece of shell, a slate fragment, a ziptie, a nutrition label fragment, a piece of pvc pipe, a piece of styrofoam, a band aid, and glass fragments. Considering the fact that MB12-01 was formed during the modern times, most of those artifacts are not from Sack house but rather Moses Brown athletic activity or the maintenance of the field. However, some disturbance of underlying deposits seems to have brought earlier materials into even this most recent deposit.

MB12-02:

Opened on September 25, 2019 and closed on October 19, 2019, MB12-02 was a minor deviation from the previous context. While its dark, moist soil was similar to that of MB12-01, this locus was characterized by prevalent rocks of various sizes. The opening elevations for this context were SW: 12cm, NW: 17cm, NE: 13cm, SE: 10cm, and center: 15cm below datum. Like the previous context, this context covered the entire area of the trench. Due to time constraints and the low number of artifacts expected to be uncovered in this locus based off of finds from previous years' trenches at this depths, much of the digging in MB12-02 was done with shovels rather than trowels. As we were not expecting to encounter any architectural features for a while, we deemed this less-careful form of digging suitable for our needs.



Figure 21: Opening photo of MB12-02 on 9/25/2019

MB12-02 yielded many more artifacts than context 1. Notable was the lack of plastic finds, indicating that we were beginning to dig up older soil and were closer to the remains of the Sack house. Several of our collected materials were architectural in nature, including 41 pieces of brick, 3 pieces of slate, 38 nails, and 5 pieces of asphalt. Other finds may have also been from the remains of the Sack house, including 5 pieces of charcoal, a piece of slag, 3 sherds of ceramics, and 2 shards of glass. The one small find that turned up in this context was the top of a pencil with its lead still intact, found on October 16, 2019.

MB12-03:

Opened on October 19, 2019 and closed on October 26, 2019, MB12-03 had the following opening elevations: SW: 24.5 cm, Center: 24.0cm, NE: 23.5cm, NW: 16.5cm, and SE: 19.5cm below datum. This context was characterized by light brown, clayey and grainy soil, and its color was described as yellowish brown. We were expecting to uncover a wall in the northern end of the trench, so we tried to be more careful in our excavation than we were when digging in MB12-02 by only using trowels to dig. The finds in this context were mostly similar in nature to MB12-02, but in a larger number. We uncovered 121 nails in this context, as well as large numbers of pieces of brick, asphalt, and slate roof tiles. We also began to encounter numerous chunks of plaster in this locus, possibly from the internal walls of the house. The appearance of these architectural artifacts was consistent with our belief that we were getting closer to uncovering an external wall of the Sack house. While 4 ceramic sherds and a glass shard were found, they were not particularly more prevalent in this context than in the previous one. New to this context, however, was some organic material, including 4 bone fragments and a shell. The bone fragments could have been household waste from the Sack family, further indicating that we were nearing the foundation of the house.

We encountered two interesting small finds in this context. One of them was a bullet casing, found on October 26, 2019. The casing was about 19mm in length and 6mm in diameter, with the letter “P” marked on the back. The casing also appeared to have a small notch on the back towards the edge, probably from a firing pin, indicating that it was a rimfire cartridge. After researching the dimensions of bullet casings, we came to the conclusion that this was a casing from a .22 extra long bullet. This conclusion makes sense in the context of the Sack house, since this specific type of bullet was only manufactured between 1880 and 1935, which is about the same time period as the house. While we were not definitively able to trace the bullet to a manufacturer, we discovered that the “P” marking was used by only one company in North America. Therefore, it is likely that this casing was manufactured by the Peters Cartridge Company of Cincinnati, OH.



Figure 22: Rear of bullet casing, with “P” marking and firing pin notch visible

Our other small find was much more confounding. On October 23, 2019, a candy wrapper was found embedded in the wall of the southwestern corner of the trench. According to a copyright date on the wrapper, it was manufactured no earlier than 2015. We were able to determine that the wrapper was from a Ghirardelli chocolate square. We were surprised to find a modern candy wrapper so deep in the trench, interspersed with artifacts from the Sack house. One initial theory we had was that the Moses Brown School dug a pit to hold a bonfire sometime in the past few years, and the wrapper fell into the hole when it was being backfilled. This theory was supported by the existence of several chunks of charcoal that were found in close vicinity to the wrapper, as well as the fact that the school is known to host bonfires on its sports fields. However, it was later discovered that MB12 was dug directly adjacent to the site of a trench from a previous year’s dig which had not been recorded on our map. We now believe that the wrapper fell into that trench before it was backfilled.



Figure 23: Candy wrapper embedded in wall of Southwest corner of MB12 on 10/23/2019 before removal

MB12-04:

MB12-04 was opened on October 23rd, 2019. The context was significant to MB12 because the shape of the wall started to be visible. MB12-04 is located on the south of the wall (MB12-05), which bends near southeast corner. Careful excavation was required not to damage the wall. MB12-04 stood out due to its gritty yellow clay. It was very sandy, meaning the particles were much smaller and dry. Opening elevations were SW:27cm, SE: 21.5cm, NE: 24cm, Wall Bend: 16cm, NW: 29cm below datum. The soil matrix and paucity of finds in this context confirm that MB12-04 is outside of the house and is comprised of the natural dirt found in that area. It is supported by the expected wall location found in house plans like those in Sanborn insurance maps and the similarity of the soil matrix here with those found in other contexts on the exterior of the house's foundation walls.



Figure 24: MB12-04 Opening photo

Though MB12-04 is confirmed as the outside of the house, a small number of artifacts were found. One terra cotta fragment, 2 pieces of white ceramic, 11 nails, and a piece of plaster. Even this limited assortment of artifacts was found in the topmost portions of the context, particularly in the area nearest the foundation wall (MB12-05). Due to its low significance and lack of time and labor force, the team decided to stop excavating south of the wall and rather focus on the inside of the house.

MB12-05:

Opened on October 26, 2019, this context consisted of a thick stone wall dividing MB12-04 and MB12-06. As most of the volume of the context was comprised of the stone wall, there weren't many finds, but the context nonetheless gave valuable information about the relationships of the contexts.

It was originally thought that MB12 would lie in the footprint of the porch area of the house. If this were the case, it would have exposed the westernmost portion of the inner wall, a portion that was mostly straight and oriented on a north-south line. However, when the wall was uncovered it instead turned at an angle and ran mostly east west. This suggested that the trench lay further east than originally thought, lying on the southernmost inner wall rather than over the westernmost inner wall.

The physical makeup of the wall was similar to that of the wall uncovered in MB10. It was about 50cm thick, and was comprised of large brown and grey stones. The wall's distance from the southern edge of the trench at the eastern side is around one meter, and the wall's distance from the southern edge of the trench at the western side is around two meters. If you look at the wall from west to east, it is at first straight, running at an angle to the southeast, and then turns at an acute angle northward at around 50cm from the eastern edge. It then turns

again at roughly a right angle back eastward where it leaves the trench. Between the stones were fillings of mortar that crumbled away and permeated the neighboring context (MB12-06). This resulted in a surrounding soil that felt almost sandy and was pale grey in color.

A pattern of concentric patterns was found atop the wall, perhaps left by the impression of a post or frame that rested on top of the wall and was fastened by mortar. The concentric circles might be the impression of wooden growth rings in the mortar. There were also occasional bricks lying alongside the stones. They were perhaps a layer lying on top of the stone foundation, or, owing to how scattered they were, rubble from other parts of the house such as the chimney.



Figure 25: Imprint in mortar at the top of foundation wall MB12-05

The one collected material was a small scrap of plastic, labelled as a candy wrapper. This is a strangely modern thing to find in this context. There are multiple possible explanations, of which I think the most likely are that either the wind carried a stray candy wrapper into the trench (as the date of collection was near Halloween), or there was a confusion of which context this find was associated with as it was entered in the database.

Particular emphasis was placed on the southeastern part of the wall where it changed direction. This was partially because it was the closest to the entrance of the Sack home but also because with limited time, deep excavation along the length of the wall was infeasible. We dug down roughly a meter along this portion of the wall. This allowed us to unearched several finds in the neighboring context (MB12-05), but we were unable to get to a floor. The context was closed during backfilling on November 20, 2019.

MB12-06:

MB12-06 was the last opened context in MB012, opened on October 26, 2019, and closed when we backfilled on November 20, 2019. We never reached the bottom of it. It had

opening elevations as follows: NW 31cm below dirt, NE 29cm BD, SE 20cm BD, SW 23cm BD, and center 27cm BD.

Instead of the light-brown, clayey soil of MB12-03 that was directly above it as well as to its north, MB12-06 contained a heavily degraded plaster mix of a gray-white color. As we dug down, we found many large chunks of stone as well as bricks, which were loose and mostly complete. Since we didn't open this context until the last week of our excavation and we wanted to unearth the shape of the wall (MB12-05) that borders this context to the south, we switched to using mostly shovels, rather than trowels, to dig.

We did not keep much of the plaster (only 12 large pieces of it) or the brick (6 large pieces), but still found many artifacts from this context. The choice to not keep much plaster or brick was due to the overwhelming amount of these we found: we deemed it unnecessary to keep them all as additional pieces wouldn't give us any extra information. In MB12-06, we found: 3 minute pieces of wood; 2 pieces of glazed stone; 19 pieces of metal; 83 rusted, circular-headed nails similar to the ones found in other contexts; 1 fragment of plastic; 39 small pieces of colored plaster; 30 pieces of ceramic; 3 shards of glass; and 1 possible metal coat hook.

Due to the many partially broken pieces of stone and brick, as well the concentration of what we guessed was degraded plaster, we believe this context to be the collapsed material that accrued when the house was demolished. It is easy to imagine this to be the reason why there are so many nails, pieces of ceramic, and fragments of metal, as well as just a couple fragments of glass, plastic, and wood. Given this analysis and the fact that the context south of the wall, MB012-04, is basically just dirt, we believe it likely that much of this material is from the wall (MB012-05) and that this wall was knocked inwards, towards the interior of the house.

Conclusions

The 2019 continuation of the excavation at Albert and Alice Sack's house on Hope Street resulted in the discovery of many relevant artifacts which successfully furthered our understanding of the construction and demolition of the dwelling. In addition, the artifacts found in and outside of the house have helped us to understand the way in which the Sack family lived day to day. Overall, we continued to find artifacts and features which support our interpretation of the structure of the house and the lifestyles of the Sack family members.

While the expected locations of architectural features were not confirmed by our excavations of MB10, MB11, and MB12, the features we did find produced a clearer, more precise understanding for the exact dimensions and spatial location of the Sack House before it was demolished. Specific discoveries have also determined locations that could benefit from further exploration during future excavations at the site.

The three units were useful both on their own and as a collective. We identified 7 loci in MB10, 3 loci in MB11, and 6 loci in MB12. Several of these loci could be correlated, such as the modern topsoil and turf (MB10-01, MB11-01, & MB12-01), the exterior of the house (MB10-04 & MB12-04), the rubble layer inside of the house (MB10-05, MB11-03, & MB12-06), and the stone walls (MB10-03 & MB12-05). While the exact location of some features was different than our pre-season expectations, the loci still provided a much clearer picture of the structure of the house and the differences in soil found within and outside of the house. MB10 yielded a stone

exterior foundation wall with clear differences in the types of artifacts found inside and outside of the house. In addition, the small, preserved pocket in MB10 in which the jam jar was found might provide hints to the structure of the basement: whether it was a constructed space or if it was formed by collapse. MB11 is thought to be entirely contained inside of the basement as it was filled with rubble and the soil/position are consistent with the interior of the house found in units MB10 and MB12. While this unit did not have a foundation wall, it did contain many tiles and bricks. MB12 was similar to MB10 in that it contained a stone foundation wall and clear divisions between the interior of the house and the exterior.

We recommend that future excavations at the site continue the progress made at MB10 in order to further investigate the area surrounding what is believed to be the basement floor discovered in MB10-07. The existence of the jam jar, fork, and other artifacts from MB10-07 might also suggest the presence of a kitchen or cellar here, which would be worth revealing upon future excavations. This could possibly give more information on the lives of not just the Sack family itself, but those who worked for them, such as a cook or butler, whom we know from census records the family employed.

We hope that future classes continue to engage with the Moses Brown School in order to discuss the benefits of future excavation and to work together on interpretation of the site. We also hope that future classes continue to involve the wider Providence and Brown University communities in order to share our findings, gather new interpretations, hopefully introduce more people to the field of archaeology, and possibly even find more sites to excavate within the city.

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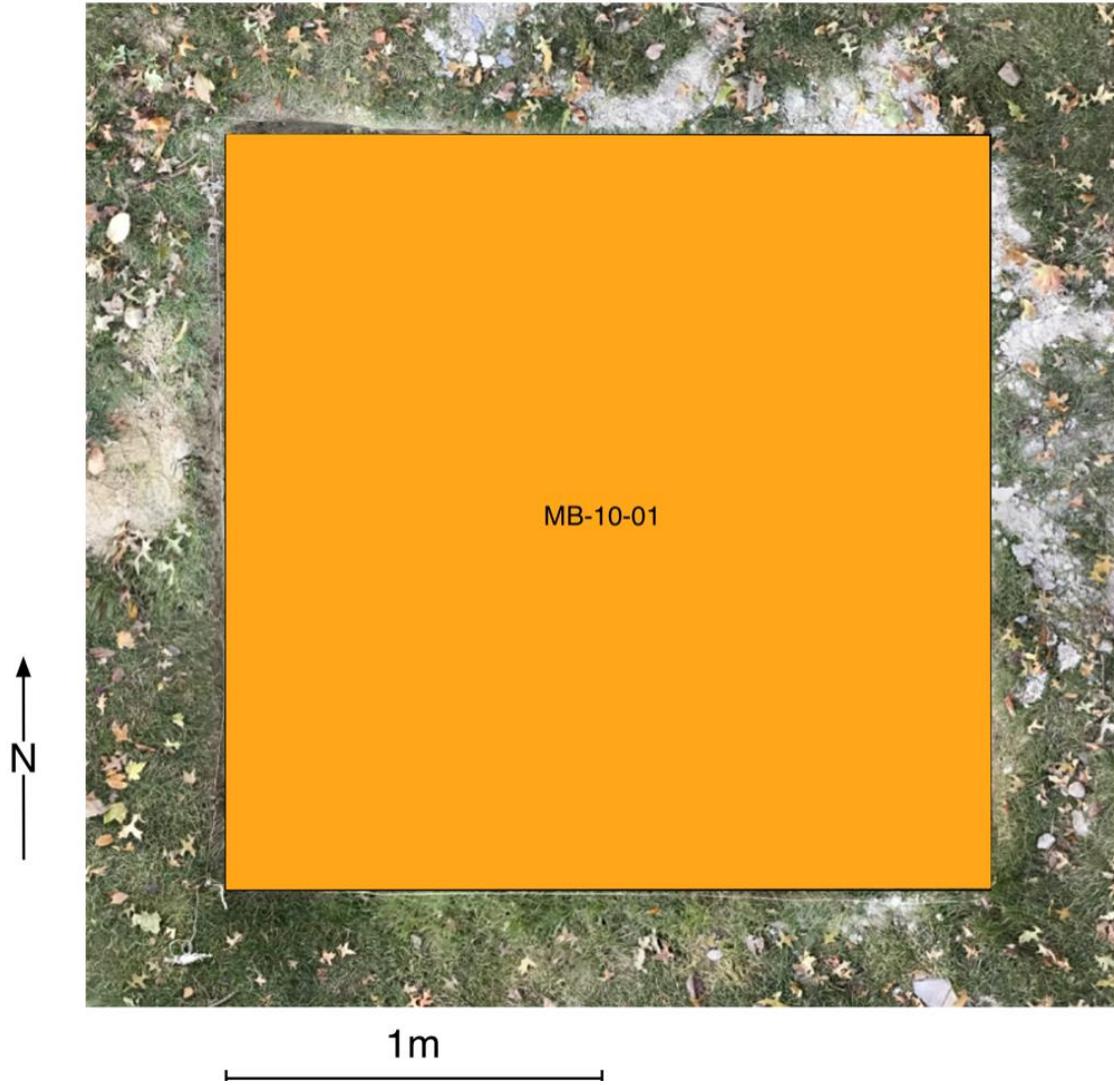
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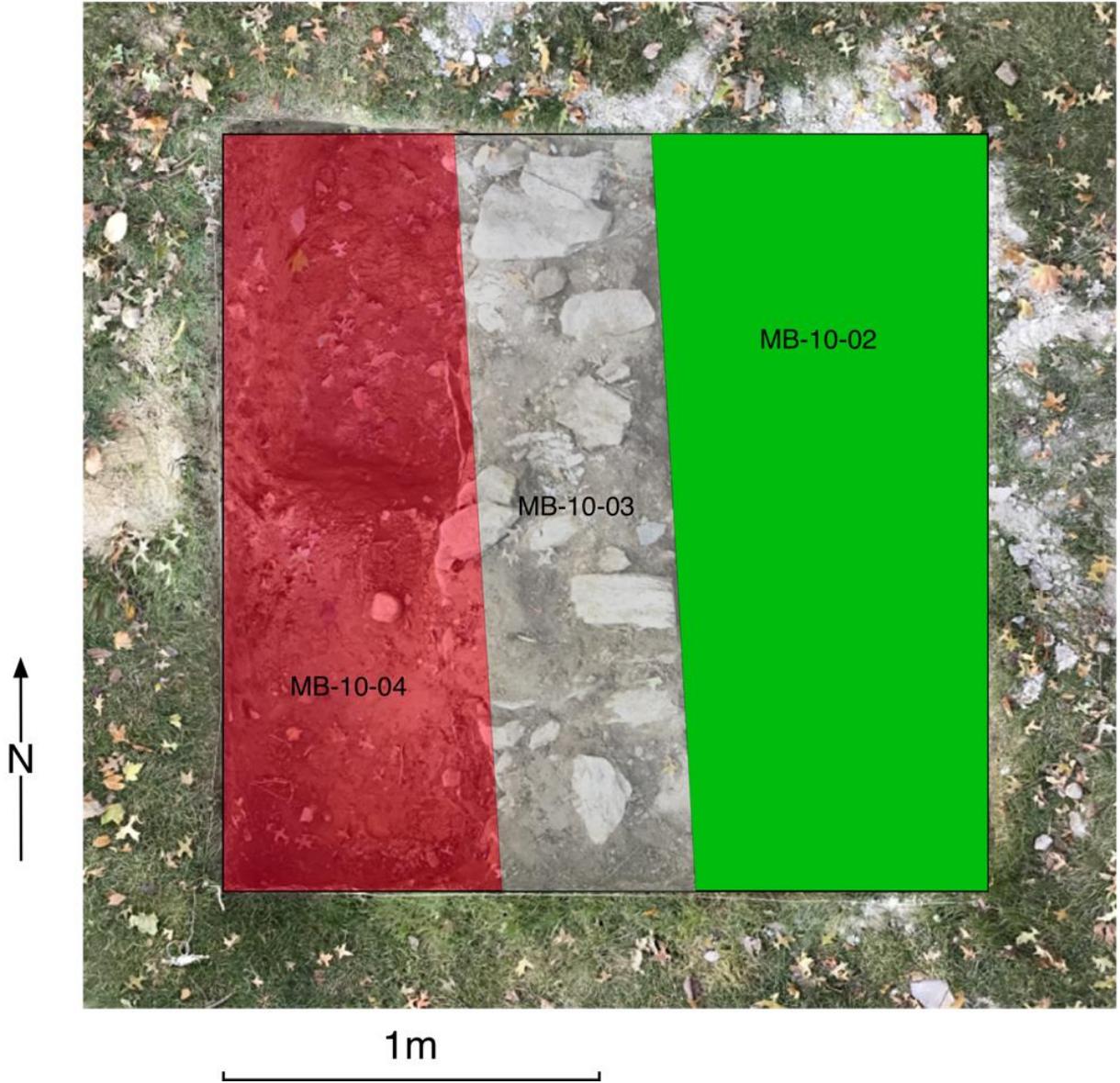
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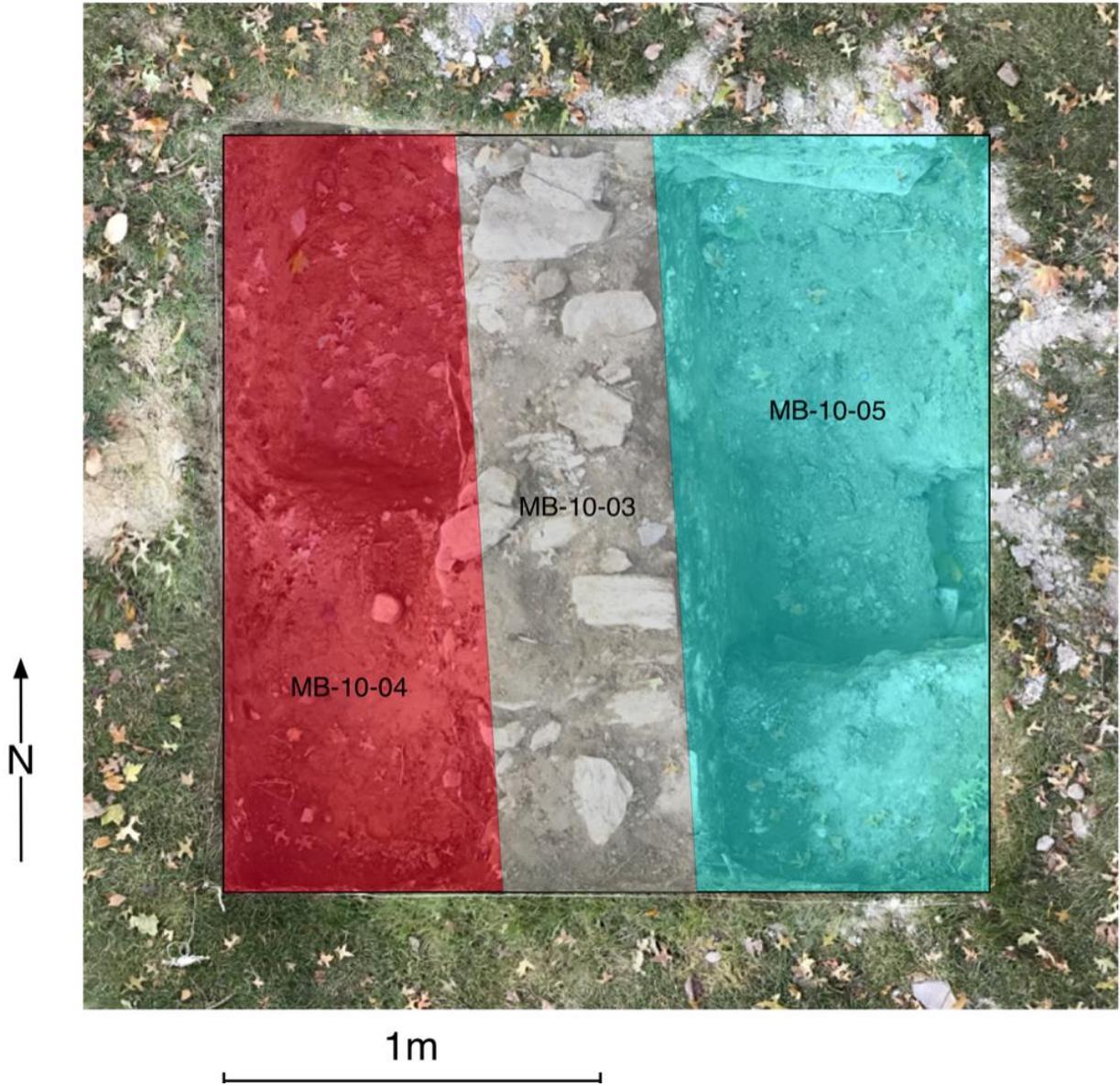
Appendix A: Locus Drawings

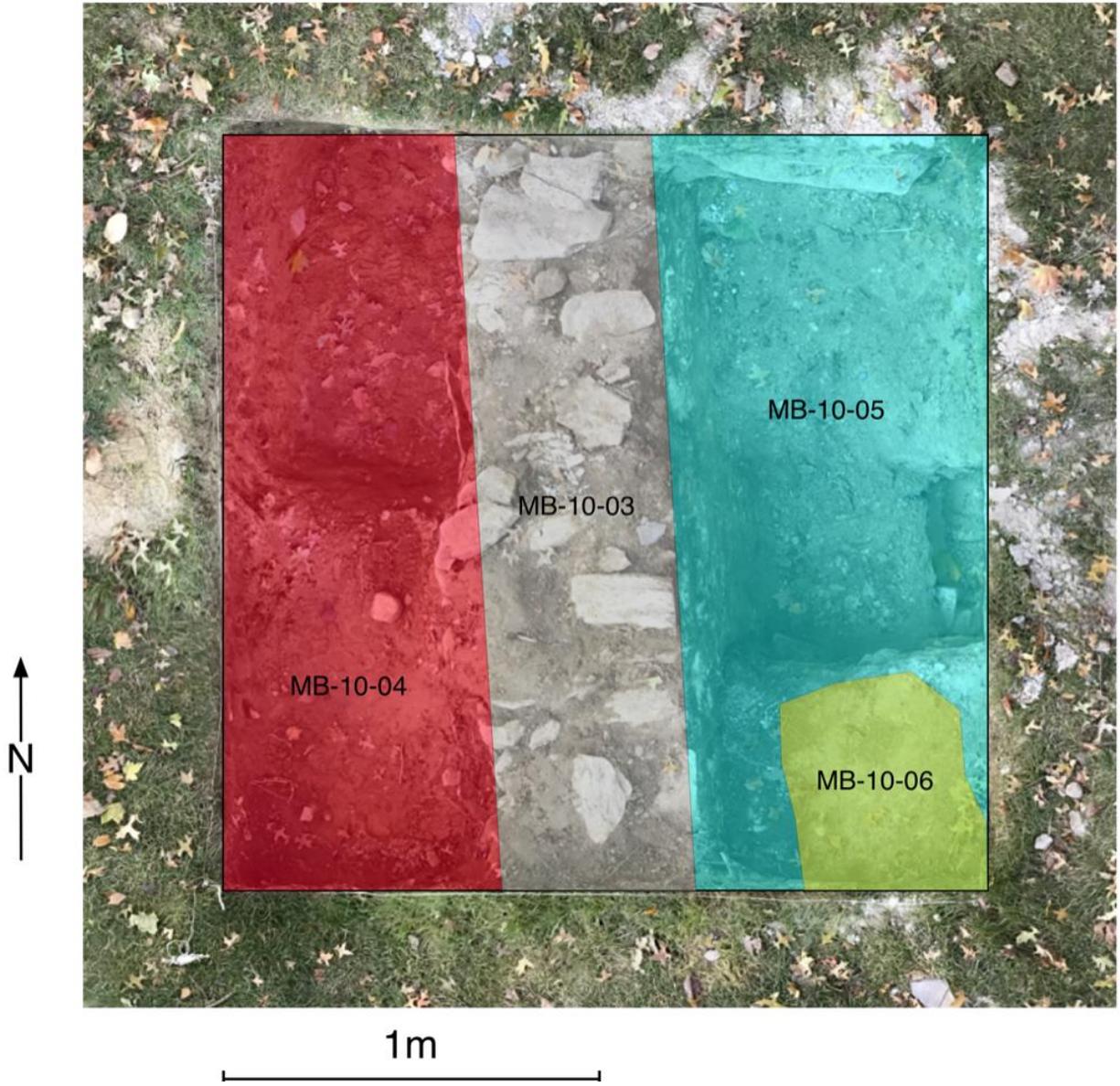
Opaque colors have been applied to end of season orthophotos for contexts that have been fully removed, while contexts still visible at the end of the season were overlain with transparent layers.

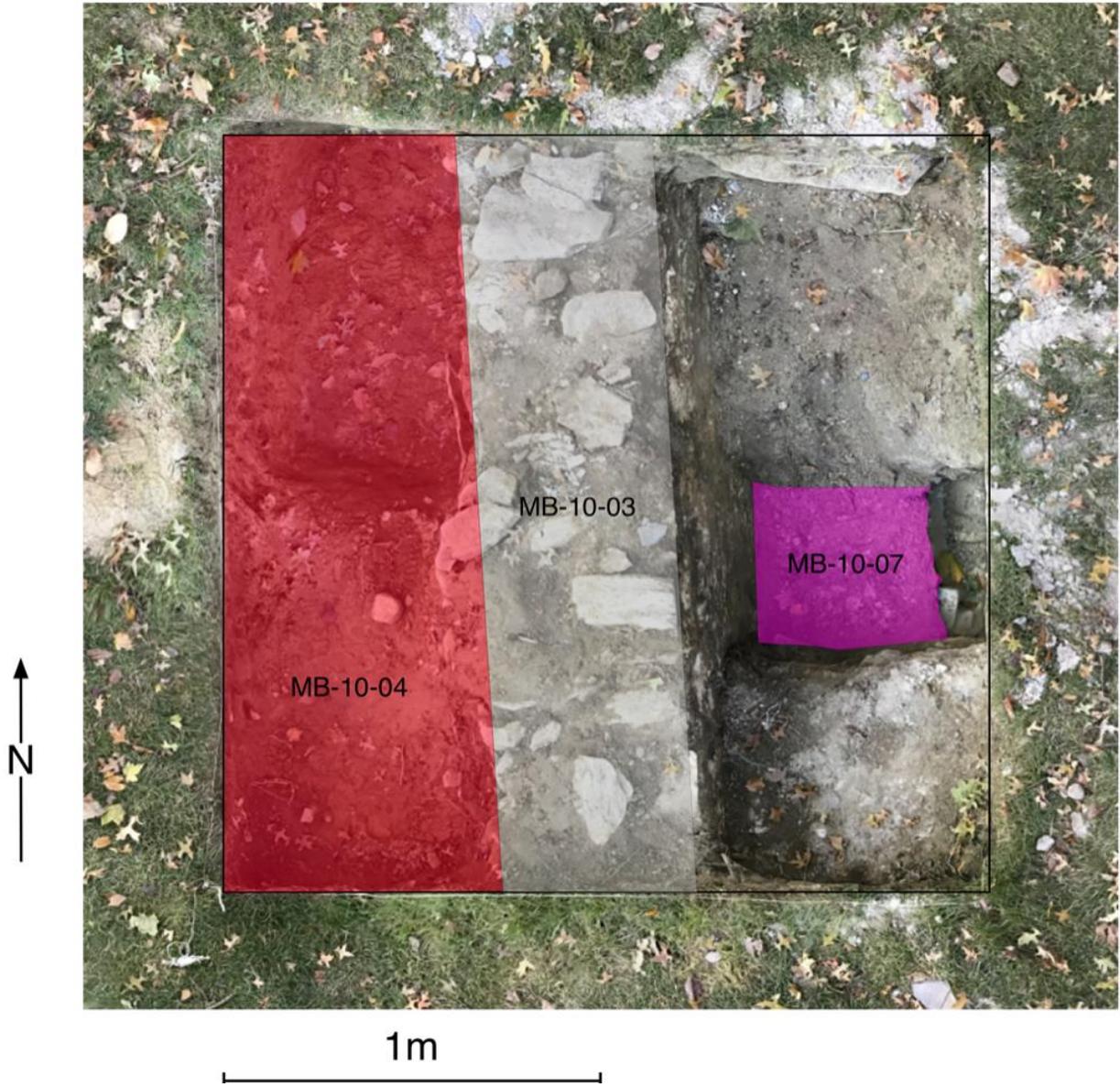
MB-10



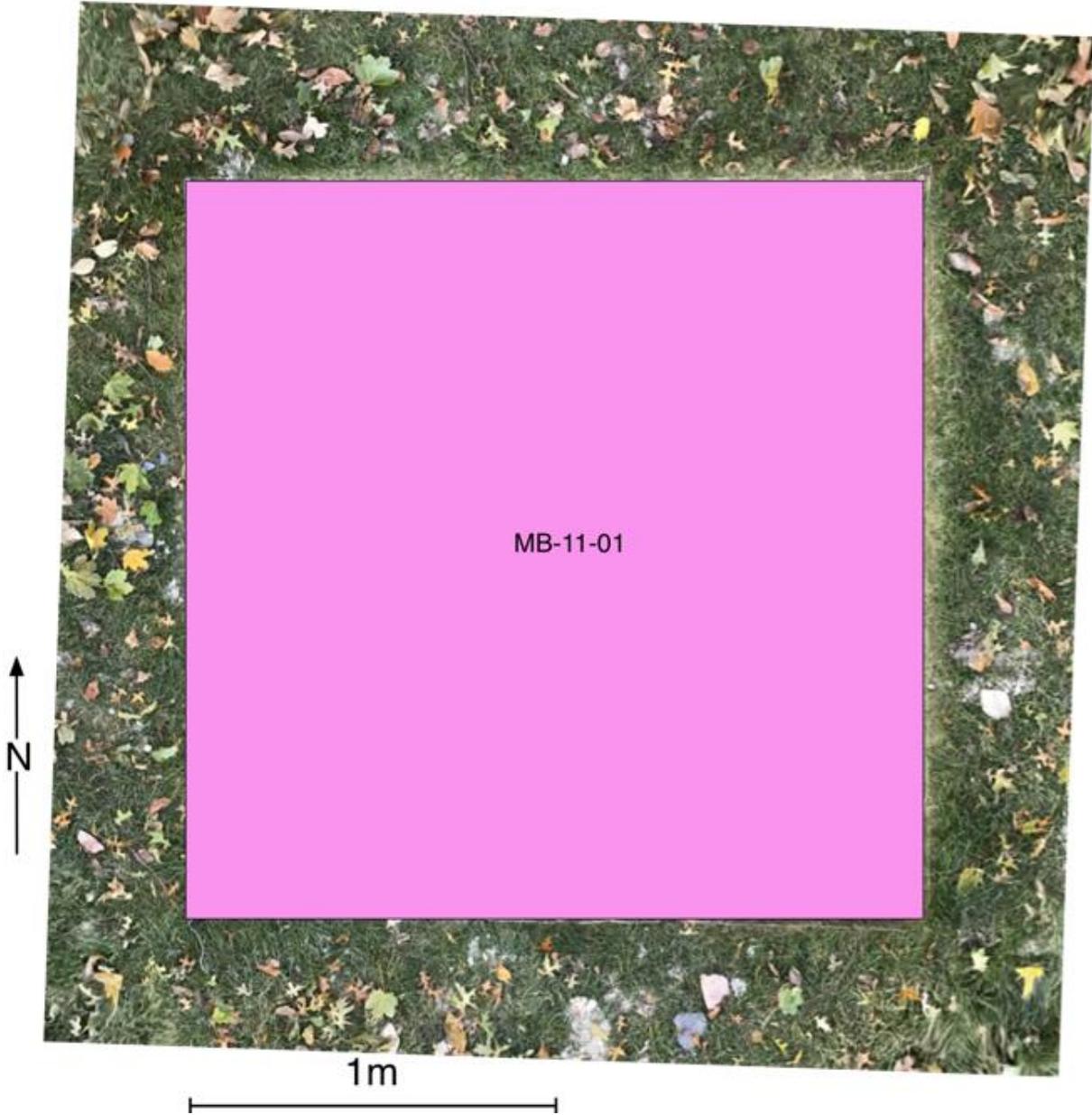








MB-11







MB-12



