

1995 Field School summary

We began this season by opening up six 2.5 x 2.5 meter plowzone squares north and east of the Randolph Kitchen foundation. The coordinates were 175N 162.5E, 175N 167.5E, 175N 172.5E, 175N 175N, 172.5N 175E, 172.5N 172.5E and the remaining eastern half of 172.5 170E. These were trowelled clean and datum depths were taken. The plowzone is very shallow in this area less than one foot (31 cm). Cultural material is still present in the soil below the plowzone, probably part of the large trash middens surrounding the Randolph buildings. The features uncovered in this area were Features 95-1, 95-3, and 95-4. **Feature 95-3** is half of a probable post that is still partially covered by remaining plowzone. It was mapped on the large map and not excavated. **Feature 95-1** is a 40 x 40 cm round post hole with 19th century material. No mold was evident. It was completely excavated. Between Feature 95-1 and 95-3 is **Feature 95-4**, an amorphous feature filled with brick fragments, small cobbles and dark organic soil. This feature was mapped and not excavated. It is probably a just low depression filled with trash.

The goals for the 1995 field season were to continue excavations of the ca. 1630's Thomas Harris house, specifically to find the eastern and western ends of the house. The northern and southern walls had been found in previous field seasons. There is a 18th century brick kitchen foundation from the Randolph period sitting halfway on top of the Harris cellar/house foundations as well as numerous intrusions from the 1670's Bacon occupation. These later features and fills are an inextricable part of the whole and many were encountered in different years in different proveniences on the site. With 20/20 hindsight it is clear that some of these features are large wash and later fill deposits covering both the Bacon fortification and the Harris foundation. Over the years a numerous different feature numbers were assigned to these large features. Many of these different feature numbers are redundant. The features that were excavated this year were continuations of these previously identified fills and wash lenses.

We began by narrowing the baulk supporting the southern wall of the brick kitchen foundation from the Randolph period. This required going through several layers of Randolph/Bacon fills and the Harris destruction layer on both the interior and the exterior of the brick kitchen. The Randolph/Bacon fills do not have the same feature numbers on the interior and exterior. The exterior fills were assigned according to a 1991 profile drawing of the area, Features 91-46, 91-47. East of the kitchen a thick "landscaping" fill was assigned Feature 94-8. On the interior of the kitchen walls over the Harris destruction (F94-28) the fills are Features 91-31 through 91-34. The fills over the large feature originally called "Bacon's ditch" are 94-12 and 94-17. These fills were all removed at the same time. Careful excavation and recording having been done in previous years. Stopped when we reached the Harris Destruction layer (F94-28) and excavated it separately (EU's 10025, 10029).

Reducing the baulks revealed more architectural elements of the Harris cellar. Two brick features that were previously encountered, Features 93-46 and 94-32, are chimney cheeks for a large hearth beside (north) of the bake oven.

We expanded an exploratory trench (trench 93-4), east of the Randolph and Harris foundations. The trench cut through a series of discreet ash and fill layers, Features 94-8 (fill), 94-11(ash), **95-5** (ash), **95-6** (fill) and **95-15** (slump/wash). Excavation of these features revealed a 3 x 3.5 meter bowl shaped hole, approximately 1 1/2 meters below current ground level. The “pit” **Feature 95-13** was originally excavated into subsoil. The bottom is uneven. It resembles a borrow pit. A small portion of the western edge is still covered by the earth baulk left for the brick kitchen foundation. Unfortunately the small visible portion of the eastern Harris wall **Feature 95-14** also continues under the same earth baulk. The baulk obscures any visible connection between the two. **Feature 95-13** (the pit) is within 30 cm of the eastern Harris wall. It does not seem large enough to be a borrow pit for brick clay considering the amount of brick used in the Harris foundation. We had originally thought that it might be a bulkhead entrance to the Harris cellar. The uneven bowl shape does not lend credibility to this idea and the bottom is curving up on all sides instead of going straight into the Harris cellar. At this time the artifacts are inconclusive. The few ceramics that were recovered could have been Harris or Bacon occupation. There was a large flat ferrous object, probably a portion of a breastplate recovered from one of the ash lenses, Feature 94-11. The fills were similar to deposits associated with the Harris destruction. **Feature 95-13** was completely excavated and mapped.

The western edge of the Harris cellar has been truncated by a later deposit. The fills above (F94-12, 94-17, **95-2**, 94-29) and the position of this feature led us to believe it was part of Nathaniel Bacon’s fortification. Bacon’s ditch runs north/south, west of the bake oven (F93-4, associated with the Harris House) interrupting the western edge of the Harris cellar floor. The portion of the “ditch” that interrupts the Harris floor is no ditch at all, but a very large hole/room?/separate building?/fortification feature? This feature, **Feature 95-18** is bounded on the north by subsoil and east by the Harris house. The subsoil delineating the shape of this feature was cut along the same linear line as the north edge of the Harris house. It appears to continue under the western room of the Randolph kitchen. The western dividing wall of the kitchen (feature 94-1) and its builder’s trench **Feature 95-8** intrude into the fills (Feature 95-2, 94-12, 94-17) above **Feature 95-18**.

Description of the fills over or in **Feature 95-18**

There is a 10-20 centimeter layer, Feature 94-12, of Randolph kitchen debris under F54 (the kitchen cobble floor, partially removed in 1994). **Feature 95-2** is the corresponding feature number to Feature 94-12 on the western side of the wall (F94-1). Since these features were not touching they were not assigned the same feature number. Many Randolph period artifacts (wine bottle seals, kitchen utensils, bones) were recovered, particularly from Feature 95-2. On the eastern side of F94-1(wall) the kitchen layer F94-12 was excavated with the large fill layer below it F94-17, because we had carefully excavated these fills separately in 1994. We have yet to determine whether this western room of the Randolph kitchen was an addition and Feature 94-1 was originally an exterior wall. **Feature 95-8** (the builders trench) was completely excavated in 1995, a cut nail, brick and mortar, Bacon tiles, bone and ball clay pipe fragments were recovered.

Feature 94-17 is covered by Features 95-2 and 94-12. Where we excavated this year, east of Feature 94-1 (wall), it is approximately 70 cm thick over Feature 94-29. Both features slope slightly to the south. Feature 94-29 is a series of sand and wash layers approximately 80 cm thick laying over subsoil. Feature 94-17 and Feature 94-29 are full of earthenware roofing tiles (presumably from the Bacon occupation). While excavating Feature 94-17 west of Feature 94-1, we found a portion of the northern edge of Feature 95-18 (large hole). It is delineated by an ash layer with burned mortar brick and a stack of roofing tiles. It is not known at this time whether Feature 94-29 (wash) is under Feature 94-17 under the western room of the Randolph kitchen. The new ash layer (**Feature 95-19**) was encountered during the last day of excavation.

List of previous features that were excavated this year

Feature 94-19 River cobbles pressed into mud south east corner of Randolph kitchen

Feature 93-14 brick drainage feature south east corner of Randolph kitchen.

Bacon and Randolph fills, 91-31 thru 91-34, 91-46, 91-47, 91-65, 91-66 94-8, 94-12, 94-17, 94-29, 91-47, 91-49, 91-51, 91-52, 91-58, 91-59

Harris destruction Feature 94-28, 93-42, 94-11

post hole and mold Feature 94-20

More 1995 Features

Feature 95-7 is a pocket of wash lenses that extend over the east wall (Feature 95-14) of the Harris house and between the east wall and the subsoil. The soil is very sandy with clear lensing episodes. There were very small brick and charcoal fragments throughout the feature. The only artifacts recovered were; 1 5/64 ball clay pipe stem, a pipe clay bowl fragment, a local pipe stem fragment, 1 brick, 1 mortar, and 2 flakes. This fill is notable due to its lack of the large brick and charcoal fragments associated with the rest of the Harris destruction layers. It also partially covers part of Feature 94-28 the main Harris destruction layer and can still be seen in the profile of the southern kitchen wall baulk.

Feature 95-10 is a possible scaffold post hole that was uncovered after the removal of Feature 95-2. The northern half of the post hole was disturbed by the robbers trench of the north kitchen wall. It was not discovered until after the removal of Feature 95-2. The contents of the fill were removed with Feature 95-2.

Feature 95-11 is a square post hole wedged in between the two floor levels of the Harris house (Features 94-33 and 93-29) and at the western end of Feature 95-12 (the northwest chimney cheek). It is approximately 20 cm by 20 cm. It was excavated at the same time as the destruction layer (Feature 94-28). There was no indication of the post until the layer was level with the floor. The fill was ash deposits and wash lenses. A few wood splinters were recovered and a "bracing stone" in the northeast corner.

Feature 95-12 is a course of header bricks keyed into Feature 94-32(northeast cheek), possible northwest cheek for Harris house H-shaped hearth.

Feature 95-14 is the east wall of the Harris house, one brick thick, all headers. A length of 1 meter and 20 centimeters disappears under the baulk left for the Randolph kitchen. There is a 75 centimeter gap or robbed area in the wall. The remaining 38 centimeters merges into a small intact portion of the south brick wall forming the southeast corner of the Harris house.

Feature 95-16 is the slumped ash deposit filling the firebox (Feature 93-45) for the Harris house. A silver Elizabeth I sixpence dated 1575 was recovered as well as tin-enamelled earthenware, Westerwald, lead-glazed earthenware, local pipe fragments, 1 ball clay pipe fragment, a hoe blade, nails, case bottle glass, a flint, a few brick and mortar fragments, and bone. Three distinct layers of wash, ash, and wash. Ash layer heavy with burnt wood. Top layers sandy and loose, bottom layers more clay-like.

Feature 95-17 brick southwest chimney cheek for Harris house H-shaped hearth. This feature is adjacent (north) to the bake oven (Feature 93-4). The visible portion is 6 1/2 bricks long and 2 bricks wide.