

TRACING LARRIMORE POINT THROUGH TIME: EXCAVATIONS AT 18AN1065

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Abstract

During 1997 and 1998, *Anne Arundel County's Lost Towns Project* conducted testing and salvage archeology at Larrimore Point (18AN1065). This was an effort to expand their knowledge of London Town, a tobacco port established in 1683 along the South River. Instead of only recovering data pertaining to the town's colonial layout and population, excavations yielded features and artifacts representing occupations of the site from the Late Woodland period to present day.

Excavations at Larrimore Point consisted of two stages. The initial stage started in July 1997 with geophysical and shovel test pit surveys. Geophysical surveys included both ground-penetrating radar and magnetometer. The second phase of the project, lasting approximately 20 days during September through October of 1998, consisted of a ground-penetrating survey, shovel testing, and the excavation of 17.5 x 5-foot square test units. This research identified the remnants of three historic structures dating from the seventeenth through the nineteenth centuries, as well as a large Late Woodland oyster shell midden with associated storage pits.

The research regarding Larrimore Point provided *The Lost Towns Project* insight into the layout and use of property over five centuries. This fosters understanding not only about the tobacco port town, but also about the inhabitants who lived in the area before and after the London Town community.

Introduction

The Lost Towns Project dedicates itself to the archival and archeological research of early town settlements in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. Included in this scope is the extensive excavation of London Town Park in Edgewater, Maryland. London Town Park consists of 23 of the original 100 acres allotted to "London Town," a town created by the Maryland General Assembly in order to establish an urban trade center. Eager to learn more about the town, *The Lost Towns Project* maintains healthy relationships with the surrounding neighbors residing on the property that was originally part of London Town.

In 1997, Walter Larrimore approached the Project staff with the possibility of testing his property. The plot is part of the original acreage of London Town, and is a valuable resource for learning more about London Town. Geo-

physical and shovel testing began on the private property that same year. Staff historians searched the archives for information regarding the Point, as well as documentation about the highly refurbished eighteenth-century house that still stands on the property. Archeologists recovered eighteenth-century artifacts that alluded to colonial occupation and located a large prehistoric shell midden, as well.

The following year, *The Lost Towns Project* learned the lot adjacent to Mr. Larrimore's property recently changed hands. The new owners intended to raze the existing circa 1930s house, grade the property, and construct a new home with a pool. When the Project approached the new owners, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Tranchida, with the prospect of salvage excavation, they agreed. Excavations lasted approximately 20 days before the bulldozers replaced the archeologists. During those days, the crew concentrated on two main areas: the east lawn, containing a large prehistoric oyster shell midden and late seventeenth ironstone chimney foundation; and the west lawn, containing a brick-lined subterranean structure containing seventeenth-century destruction debris and the nineteenth-century remains of another structure.

This paper documents the investigations at Larrimore Point undertaken by the staff and volunteers of *Anne Arundel County's Lost Towns Project*. It discusses the Project's research concerning London Town beyond the county park. It also probes into the function of the property both before and after the town.

Site Setting

Larrimore Point is located in Edgewater, southern Anne Arundel County, Maryland. The site occupies the northeastern tip of the Londontown peninsula, a narrow neck of land projecting into the intersection of the South River and Glebe Bay, and provides a dramatic view down the South River to the Chesapeake Bay (Figure 1).

The Larrimore property consists of approximately one acre. It consists of generally flat topography up to the bluff, then drops 30 feet to the South River. A heavily renovated mid-eighteenth-century gambrel-roofed home currently exists on the property, although no outbuildings related to this house survive. Along the eroded bank are large concrete pipes and deposits of nineteenth and twentieth-century refuse. Walter Larrimore, who grew up on the property, remembered there was a drainage ditch along the northern boundary of our survey area. He also sug-

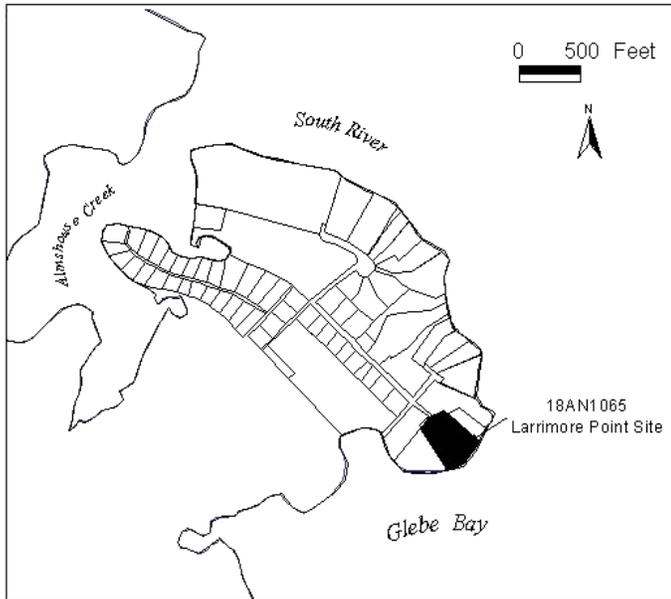


FIGURE 1. Location map, Londontown Peninsula.

gested that the pile of large cobbles located in the center of the survey area was probably rubble from a former summer kitchen that was associated with the eighteenth-century house (West and Cox 1997).

The Tranchida property is larger, approximately 1.75 acres, and retains a graceful, then abrupt slope to the shore. There is also a slight downward slope along the western property line. At the time of excavation, a small brick house, built circa 1930, stood at the crest of the hill (Figure 2). A later brick garage was located west of the house. Both structures were razed in November of 1998. A new home is currently under construction in their place.

Because the sites are on residential properties, the area is clear from most trees and underbrush. Only the edges of the properties contain deciduous and coniferous trees, mainly oak, cedar, and pine. The rest of the property consists of open lawn in order to keep the picturesque view of the water free from obstruction.

The soils on Larrimore Point consist primarily of Monmouth clay loam (Kirby and Matthews 1973), although the soils closest to the water on the east sides of the properties consist of mostly silty sands. All four areas of excavation were disturbed in some form or another through plowing, grading, and the excavation of pits, demonstrating the intensive use of this property over time.



FIGURE 2. View of excavations on the east lawn.

History

The first evidence of occupation at Larrimore Point does not occur until the Middle Woodland period (400 B.C. – A.D. 800), although Paleo-Indian, Archaic, and Early Woodland sites are commonly found elsewhere in Anne Arundel County. By this time, local people engaged in horticulture, plant gathering, hunting, fishing, and oystering (Cox, West, and Moser 1997). When Gonzales, the first European known to have explored the Chesapeake region, arrived in 1588, the native people had moved into permanent villages inland and reserved nomadic camps along the shoreline for hunting and fishing.

Three historic events are important in understanding the beginnings of London Town. In 1634, Cecil Calvert, the second Lord Baltimore, sent a group of colonists in an effort to settle Maryland. In 1649, a group from Virginia settled Providence, an effort to escape religious prosecution. Lord Baltimore encouraged the move in order to increase Maryland's population. This was the first settlement in Anne Arundel County. Lastly, in 1683, the Maryland General Assembly passed an act to create urban trade centers through designated town sites. Titled "An Act for Advancing the Trade of Tobacco," this legislation designated "London Town" on a tract of land called "Scorton." The town was laid out on 100 acres, divided into approximately one-acre lots. The act required a minimum of a 20 x 20-foot structure be built on the property within one year of purchase or the land would be forfeited. This was to further ensure the development and success of the town, as well as a hedge against land speculation.

By the 1730s, London Town thrived; merchants, skilled tradesmen, and inn and ferry keepers represented a large percentage of the population. Tobacco trade was the backbone of the economy. Two ferries and five roads leading into and out of London provided a population ready to purchase goods and services. By this time, between 40 and 50 lots were purchased and developed (Kerns 1999). By the 1750s, however, merchants were beginning to leave London Town for a variety of reasons. A series of economic depressions, failing tobacco crops, the rise of nearby Baltimore as an important port town with a much more diverse economy, and Annapolis' increasingly important government role all contributed to the decline of London Town. A series of wars, including the French and Indian War, King George's War, and the Revolutionary War, also repressed trade. Land deeds dating from the 1780s indicate lot consolidation, undoubtedly the result of these economic crises. By the 1820s, there were only a few owners of large tracts of land. One of the major landowners, James Larrimore, purchased most of the northern portion of the peninsula between 1801 and 1809. Around 1828, he agreed to sell ten acres to Anne Arundel County. These ten acres, along with 13 more

acres acquired by 1985, now make up London Town County Park. The properties adjacent to the park, part of the original 100 acres, are now residential neighborhoods.

Larrimore Point

The documentary evidence regarding Larrimore Point is sparse, and involves piecing together land deeds to interpret the chain of title. The location of two roads, Shipping Street and Lumbur Street, still is debated, but the properties excavated appear to lie within the boundaries of Taylor's Lot, or Lot 101, and possibly Lot 28.

Taylor's Lot was located on the corner of Fleet and Shipping Streets. Sometime before 1697, Richard Jones Sr. sold his lot to Colonel Thomas Taylor. Jones was a captain, whose property was worth over 4000 pounds at the time of his death in 1714 (Kerns 1999). Slaves made up over 50 percent of his wealth. There is no additional information about Colonel Thomas Taylor, although the deeds use his name to reference the lot through 1727. In 1703, Taylor sold the lot to David Macklefresh, ferry master, ordinary owner, and London Town's second largest landholder at the end of the seventeenth century (Kerns 1999). In 1711, David Macklefresh died, and his son Thomas inherited the lot. The last reference to this property is in a land deed dated 1726/7. In the document, Thomas Macklefresh sold the lot to Samuel Peele, who was the most prominent London Town merchant during the early town period (Kerns 1999).

The direct chain of title is then lost, as a lot number was then given to the property. A tenuous relationship connects Taylor's Lot to Lot 101. The deed from 1726/7 states that Taylor's Lot "bounds on the northwest with the lot whereon Samuel Peel now lives, on the northeast with Fleet Street, on the southeast with Shipping Creek, originally laid out for one acre more or less" (SY1, 251; 1726/7). Samuel Peele purchased Lot 28 in 1717. The deed describing this transaction states the lot "...adjoin[s] to the lot granted to Colonel Thomas Taylor, then the possession of Richard Jones..." (IB2, 405; 1717). We know from the 1717 deed that Lot 28 and Taylor's Lot are adjacent. The 1737 deed lumps Lots 101 and 28 together, inferring their close proximity. There is no previous mention of Lot 101 before William Peele's ownership, so there is no record of his purchasing the lot. This is probably because he inherited the lot from Samuel called "Taylor's Lot."

In 1733, Samuel Peele died, leaving Lots 42, 28, and 101 to his brother William Peele. In 1737, William Peele conveyed as a deed of gift the proceeds of these same lots to his nephew Roger Peele, with the stipulation that the properties must be handed down through male heirs. In this deed, Lot 101 is specifically noted as being the location of the dwelling place of William Peele (EI3, 151; 1737).

There are no references to Lots 101 or 28 after 1737. James Larrimore started buying London Town property in 1801, owning most of the northern peninsula by 1809. He sold this property by 1828, with the exception of Larrimore Point. The descendants of James Larrimore owned the property until 1997, when they sold one of the divisions to the Tranchidas.

The acceptance of this interpretation dating the site to early town formation is appealing, but does make an assumption. Town period "Fleet Street" must be present-day "Widow's Mite Road." The present-day landscape supports this hypothesis, as do historical and present-day maps. Excavations occurred at the end of Widow's Mite Road, and the placement of Taylor's Lot's is at the end of Fleet Street. This is a very convenient and supportable interpretation.

This chain of title provides evidence for early town period occupation of Larrimore Point. It also suggests that prominent members of the London Town community, namely Thomas Macklefresh and Samuel Peele, owned the lots. The information the Point provides about London Town beyond the park made it a valuable research project, as well as an important salvage excavation.

Methodology and Findings

Excavation techniques differed between the Larrimore and Tranchida properties due to the circumstances of the excavations. The Larrimore property was, and is, not in any particular danger of being destroyed. For this reason, staff employed a variety of non-invasive survey methods to answer questions regarding this area of the site. Excavations on the Tranchida property, however, were conducted under tremendous time pressures. Never knowing when the bulldozers were going to arrive, excavations were careful, but fast-paced. The following describes the differences in excavation methodologies, as well as the results of the testing and excavations.

Larrimore Property

The initial investigations of Larrimore Point involved both geophysical survey and shovel testing on Walter Larrimore's property. Mapping of the one-acre plot was conducted with the aid of the Global Positioning System. Using computerized mapping platforms and GIS, digital readings were exported from GPS software, called Pfinder, and integrated with other maps in GIS. This created a complete map of the property. Three methods of surveying were conducted on the Larrimore property based on the grid set up with the GIS. These surveys include: magnetometer, ground-penetrating radar, and shovel testing. A

full review of these investigations can be found in West and Cox (1997).

Images produced from the magnetometer data identified several large magnetic anomalies, although the severe shortage of rain before and during the survey, combined with the mixture of fine sandy soil, resulted in poor field conditions for magnetic surveying. Further complicating this survey were two metal storage sheds at the southwest corner of the survey area, as well as the presence of unknown buried cables and ditches across the site.

Ground-penetrating radar followed the magnetic survey. Analysis of radar data helped locate three subsurface anomalies. These disturbances appear to relate to the property's nineteenth and twentieth-century occupation.

Staff and volunteers of *The Lost Towns Project* also performed a shovel test survey on grid at 25-foot intervals, according to Maryland State guidelines. This survey recovered a low percentage of colonial artifacts, and a higher level of both prehistoric and nineteenth-century artifacts. Two features also were documented.

These survey methods were chosen because they offered the most amount of information with the least amount of impact on the site. The availability of this land for future investigations made a survey, instead of intensive Phase III excavation, the most logical methodology. The results of these tests reflect the use of the property in the late eighteenth and nineteenth century. Excavations on the Tranchida property, however, were very different from these surveys. The two properties are different not only in method of archeological excavation, but also in the data and interpretations.

Tranchida Property

Archeologists and volunteers came to the Tranchida property with no idea how long they would be able to investigate the location. Armed only with the knowledge that at some point in the near future the current house would be razed and replaced with a much larger house, initial testing began by extending the grid already set up on the adjacent Larrimore property. Using the GIS, corners of the property lines and the existing house were mapped. Project staff and volunteers then conducted a ground-penetrating radar survey. Consisting of a 60 x 100-foot area, 13 lines were surveyed in the east lawn. Based on the outcome of this survey and topography, the crew dug eight shovel test pits. Results from the radar and shovel test pits made it clear that 5 x 5-foot units were necessary. A series of 17.5 of these units were dug. Excavations focused on three areas on the Tranchida property: the east lawn, an area directly west of the small brick house, and an area located beside the driveway in the west lawn (Figure 3).

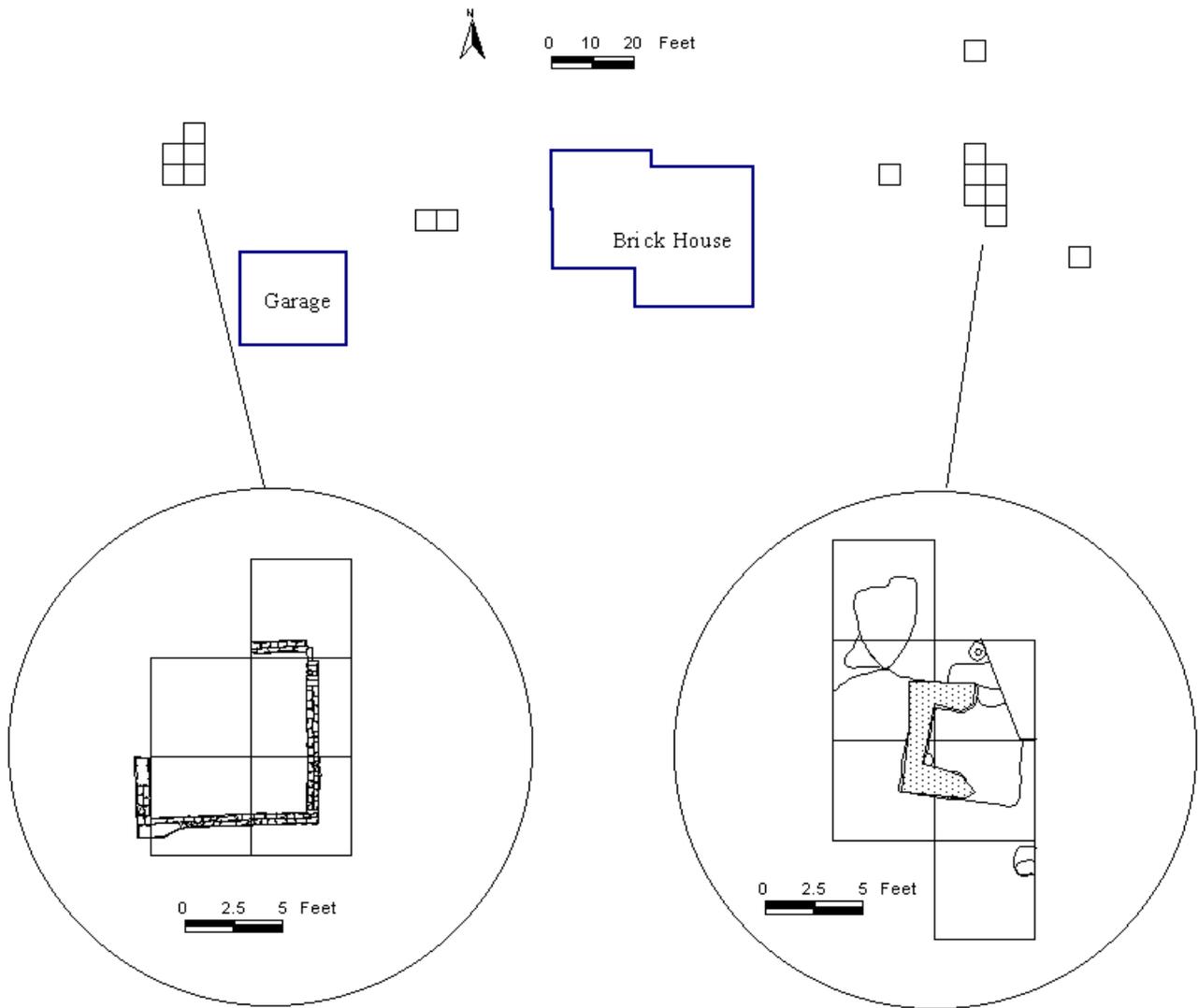


FIGURE 3. Site map, illustrating unit and feature locations.

Area One: The East Lawn

Five 5 x 5-foot units were scattered across the east lawn, with judgmental locations based on topography and radar results. Units were excavated based on natural stratigraphy, with each layer independently excavated and recorded with elevations, descriptions, and material recovered noted. Results from two of these units led to the excavation of four adjacent units, all averaging approximately one foot in depth below ground surface. Plowzone was removed in all six units, composed of dark brown (10YR 4/3) sandy silt with a high percentage of crushed oyster shell. Artifacts found in the plowzone cover a wide date range, varying from the Late Woodland period to the mid-nineteenth century. The ceramic date ranges concentrate

on the years 1690-1775, which correspond with the formation, development, heyday, and demise of London Town. Artifacts from the plowzone consist of nineteenth-century ceramics, including whiteware, yellow ware, and American brown and blue and gray stonewares; eighteenth-century ceramics, including pearlware, creamware, Buckley, Jackfield, white salt-glazed stoneware, English brown stoneware, Staffordshire slipware, and Westerwald; and seventeenth-century ceramics, including Rhenish Brown, Italian Slipware, North Devon sgraffito, North Devon gravel-tempered, Borderware, and tin-glazed earthenware. Non-ceramic artifacts in the plowzone consisted of pipe fragments, case, round, and medicine bottle glass fragments, lamp chimney glass, table glass, iron and shell buttons, a buckle, nails, window glass, brass tacks, a thimble, and aboriginal pot-

tery (Table 1). One of the pipes had an “IF” marked on its stem, which is often attributed to James Fox. Fox manufactured pipes in Bristol, England from 1651 to 1669. The Chalkley site in Anne Arundel County recovered similarly marked pipes, but has a later date, 1677 to 1685. Other pipe makers also have the same initials, so the origination of the pipe does not necessarily link to James Fox (Luckenbach et al. 1995).

Once the plowzone was removed, two major components were identified. Area One contained an oyster shell midden and evidence of a historic structure.

Oyster Shell Midden and Associated Pits. Work on the adjacent Larrimore lot had revealed an oyster shell midden containing prehistoric pottery and lithic materials. The Tranchida property contained a continuation of this large feature, as well as two associated prehistoric storage pits. Every unit excavated in this area contained remnants of the midden. The stratigraphy generally consisted of a sod/topsoil layer, followed by a plowzone layer containing a large percentage of crushed oyster shell. Two units con-

tained subsoil below plowzone. In the other seven units, however, whole oyster shells followed this disturbed layer, indicating the undisturbed shell midden. A buried “A” horizon was found in the three units excavated beneath the midden. In these situations, this layer was underlain by sandy subsoil.

The unit closest to the water contained two shell-filled storage pits. One of these pits (Feature 5) was along the north wall of the unit and was bisected. It was approximately 2.5 feet wide and extended less than one foot into the subsoil. It was just over half a foot deep. The other pit (Feature 2) was 1.5 feet wide and extended slightly into the south wall of the unit. It was less than one foot deep. The feature was completely excavated, with the exception of a small southern section that extended into the wall.

Both the midden and plowed portions of the midden contained a high number of aboriginal pottery fragments. The appearance of ceramics defines the Woodland stage (200 B.C. to A.D. 1600) in prehistoric chronologies. Divided into three periods, Early, Middle, and Late, this stage provides the archeologist an opportunity to look at different types of ceramics — including their temper and decoration — to interpret the time, space, and cultural dynamics of the peoples making the pottery. In the case of the aboriginal pottery found at Larrimore Point, the overwhelming majority of ceramics comes from one type of pottery: the Townsend series. There were a few exceptions to this type, however.

The earliest type of ceramic found at the site is Mockley Cord-marked. This type of ceramic defines the Selby Bay (A.D. 200-800) phase of the Middle Woodland period (Gibb and Hines 1997; Persinger and Gibb 1996). Mockley ceramics are tempered with coarse crushed oyster shell, comprising about 20% to 30% of the paste. The vessels are coil constructed, medium to large in size, relatively thick throughout the vessel, and have rounded or semi-conical bases. Often the only evidence of oyster shell temper is the abscesses left behind after the shell decomposed. Vessels from the beginning of the period are predominantly cord-marked, then were gradually replaced by net-impressed treatments. The fragments of Mockley Cord-marked found at Larrimore Point were concentrated in one area and comprise 11% of the collection. Not excavated archeologically, but rather with a backhoe grading the property, these fragments appear to comprise one vessel.

The two other types of aboriginal pottery found in the oyster shell midden date to the Late Woodland period (A.D. 800-1600). This period is marked by the widely accepted use of horticulture as a means of subsistence. It is divided into two phases: Little Round Bay (A.D. 800-1250) and Sullivans Cove (A.D. 1250-1600). Three percent of the aboriginal ceramics found at Larrimore Point appear to be part of the Potomac Creek complex, which is

TABLE 1. Artifact totals, east lawn.

TYPE	QTY.
Porcelain	11
American Blue and Grey	4
American Brown	3
English Brown Stoneware	16
White Salt-Glazed Stoneware	4
Westerwald	15
Rhenish Brown Stoneware	9
Yellowware	3
Whiteware	66
Pearlware	27
Jackfield	1
Creamware	9
Tin-Glazed Earthenware	34
Staffordshire Slipware	2
North Devon Sgraffito	1
Borderware	15
North Devon Gravel-Tempered	18
North Italian Slipware	1
Coarse Red-Bodied Earthenware	88
Aboriginal Pottery	376
Pipe Fragments	268
Personal Other	9
Bottle Glass	229
Table/Lamp/Medicine Bottle Glass	67
Flat Glass	275
Joining Material	656
Miscellaneous Metal/Metal Objects	112
Faunal Material	1422
Lithics	68

contemporaneous with the Sullivans Cove phase. This is a coil constructed ceramic, thinly potted, with a fine quartz temper. One fragment of this pottery was incised with an elaborate "V" decoration.

The majority of the aboriginal pottery found in the remnants of the oyster shell midden, however, are from the Townsend series. Making up 86% of the collection, this type of pottery dates to the first phase of the Late Woodland period. The ceramics are tempered with small fragments of oyster shell, are coil constructed and thinly potted. They are generally wide-mouthed jars with rounded or semi-conoidal bases. They generally have smooth interiors, but have various defining treatments on the exteriors of the pots. Griffith (1980) defined four different types, with eleven more specific varieties, in his studies of this type of pottery's decorative motifs. They are as follows:

1. Rappahannock Fabric Impressed
 - Fabric impressed over entire vessel
2. Townsend Corded
 - Direct cord impressed, horizontal bands along rim
 - Pseudo-cord impressed, horizontal bands along rim
 - Pseudo-cord impressed, horizontal bands along rim, pseudo-cord impressed oblique lines on body
3. Townsend "Herringbone"
 - Pseudo-cord impressed, horizontal bands along rim, incised herringbone or zigzag on body
4. Rappahannock Incised
 - Horizontal bands along rim
 - Horizontal bands along rim, single, discrete lines on body
 - Horizontal bands along rim, any combination of two or more discrete lines of any type on body
 - Horizontal bands along rim, complex geometrics on body
 - Squares, horizontal and vertical lines along rim, horizontal and vertical lines on body
 - Discrete horizontal and oblique lines along rim
 - Complex geometric designs along rim
 - Horizontal bands with overlying embellishments of other elements along rim, body may or may not be decorated.

Analysis of the collection of Rappahannock pottery from the midden at Larrimore Point identified several representations of Griffith's divisions. The most common type found is Rappahannock Fabric Impressed. While Griffith states that this type of pottery is not particularly diagnostic, he does attribute to it the dates A.D. 1045 to A.D. 1360. Townsend Corded was also found, with horizontal cord-impressed bands found along the rim. Griffith (1980:31) states that "all direct cord features and sites post-date AD 1360." Also represented in the assemblage are varying types of Rappahannock Incised pottery. These have horizontal bands incised along the rim, with a combination of

two or more discrete lines of any type on the body. Horizontal bands along the rim with a series of complex geometrics on the body consisting of incised triangles also were found. As for the dating of this last type of decorative motif, Griffith states that the "...incised tradition is partially contemporaneous with [the cord tradition], but has a much longer and more complex history (Griffith 1980:33).

Although vesselization is pending, the majority of the aboriginal pottery dates to the first half of the Late Woodland period, with a small percentage of pottery dating both before and after this time period.

Lithics were found in both the shell midden and disturbed shell midden. Of the 66 lithic fragments recovered, 68% were composed of quartz material, 23% made from chert, and 9% from quartzite. The majority of the lithics were debitage. One fragment of quartzite was a core, while another could have been manipulated for use as a scraper. Three quartz projectile point fragments were found, all of which have been identified as Levanna. These points also date to the first half of the Late Woodland period, or the Little Round Bay phase. The absence of rhyolite alludes to a post-Middle Woodland occupation, as rhyolite is normally associated with that period's pottery types.

The storage pits contained minimal amounts of artifacts other than crushed and complete oyster shell. Feature 5, the bisected pit, contained the bones of a small bird of an unidentified species, three fragments of Rappahannock fabric-impressed pottery, and a fragment of an awl, which was fashioned from an antler, sharpened, and burned. Feature 2, the completely excavated pit, contained even less material. Other than crushed and complete oyster shell, bones from a larger bird of an unidentified species and charcoal were the only other artifacts found.

Some colonial artifacts also were found in the midden. This prehistoric deposit was a living surface for the early town period inhabitants. Ceramics like North Devon Gravel Tempered, North Devon Sgraffito, North Italian Slipware, Westerwald, and minimal amounts of tingle glazed earthenware were present. These ceramics have the mean date of 1689. Three marked pipes also were found. The first, marked "LE," often is attributed to Llewellyn Evans, dated 1661-1689 (Alexander 1979). The second stem has a "W" and could be linked to one of two William Evanses (1600-1697) (Alexander 1979, 1983; Callage et al. 1999; Hurry and Keeler 1991). The last pipe has a *fleur-de-lis* on its heel. These types of marks generally date from 1640-1670. These artifacts reflect the early historic occupation of the site, as early town occupants moved onto the Point and lived above the prehistoric shell midden.

The pits and shell midden identify Larrimore Point as the location of significant Native American activity prior to the establishment of London Town. The assemblage dates primarily to the first half of the Late Woodland

period, as the ceramic assemblage and lack of rhyolite material suggests. The lack of significant quantities of lithics suggests Native Americans used this area for the collection and consumption of oysters, rather than tool manufacturing and maintenance.

Structure One. Six of the nine 5 x 5-foot units excavated contained evidence of a late seventeenth-century structure. The structure is composed of an ironstone chimney foundation and hearth with a posthole and mold, which the colonial builder had to dig through the oyster shell midden. Although time restraints restricted the crew's ability to fully investigate the dimensions and function of the edifice, the artifacts associated with the building appear to date to the beginning of London Town.

After removing the sod/topsoil and the plowzone containing crushed oyster shell, archeologists discovered the remains of an approximately 6 x 6-foot chimney foundation and hearth. The chimney foundation was made of ironstone and mortar remnants. The interior opening of the chimney was three feet wide, with the hearth made of decomposing shell mortar. This feature was oriented west-northwest according to grid north.

Towards the end of the excavations at Larrimore Point, a unit south of the fireplace was excavated. After removing the plowed soil containing crushed oyster shells down to the interface with the whole shell, archeologists discovered a posthole along the east wall. The posthole with mold was bisected. The posthole was 1.5 feet wide, consisting of silt and fine sand with very occasional whole and crushed oyster inclusions. The mold was just over one-half foot wide, consisting of silty sand with very frequent whole and crushed oyster and charcoal. While the orientation of this posthole/mold cannot be confirmed or denied to be the same as the fireplace, the alignment of the feature to the structural base seems to suggest they were related.

A 3.5 x 3-foot ashy deposit containing charcoal also was located, just northwest of the chimney. This feature was probably related to the fireplace.

The artifacts associated with this structure date to the early formation of London Town. Once plowzone was removed, archeologists uncovered minimal but diagnostic artifacts. One fragment each of Border Ware and undecorated tin-glazed earthenware comprise the entire historic ceramic assemblage directly associated with the chimney base. Other artifacts recovered around the chimney foundation include: six white clay tobacco pipe fragments, 55 small and decomposing fragments of olive green bottle glass including one bottle base, 23 wrought nails, one piece of window glass, bird bones, oyster shell, chert and quartz debitage, and one sherd of Rappahannock fabric-impressed pottery.

The artifacts contained in the posthole and mold provide a few more clues about the date of the structure.

The postmold contained one fragment of Border Ware and six pieces of Rappahannock fabric-impressed pottery. It also contained two fragments of olive green bottle glass, one tack, three wrought nails, one small fragment of yellow brick, faunal material, and oyster shells. The posthole contained only two olive green bottle glass fragments, faunal material, and oyster shell.

These two artifact assemblages lead to the conclusion that this was a seventeenth-century town period structure. The posthole contained very little material, indicating that the builders did not dig through a long-occupied historic living surface in order to plant the posts of the building. The oyster shell was the only obstacle in building the structure, as they had to lay their chimney base directly on the midden and dig through the shells to build the frame. Border Ware (see Pearce 1992), like the fragment found in the postmold, usually dates to the last quarter of the seventeenth century in Anne Arundel County, further supporting a late seventeenth-century date for the structure. The artifacts do not provide any insight as to the function of the building, although since it was heated it is assumed to be domestic.

After *The Lost Towns Project* crew left the site, bulldozers continued the job of excavation with other goals in mind: to raze the standing structures, grade the property, and dig a basement. In doing so, the bulldozers uncovered another feature. This appeared to have been a depression in the ground filled with eighteenth-century refuse. Artifacts were recovered by screening the backdirt of the bulldozer and the remnants of the feature. The ceramics recovered reflect a 1740-1775 occupation, and include fragments of white salt-glazed stoneware hollow vessels, English brown stoneware, Rhenish blue and gray and brown stoneware, Staffordshire slipware, tin-glazed earthenware, porcelain, coarse red-bodied earthenware including a unique thumb-decorated fragment (Figure 4), and manganese-

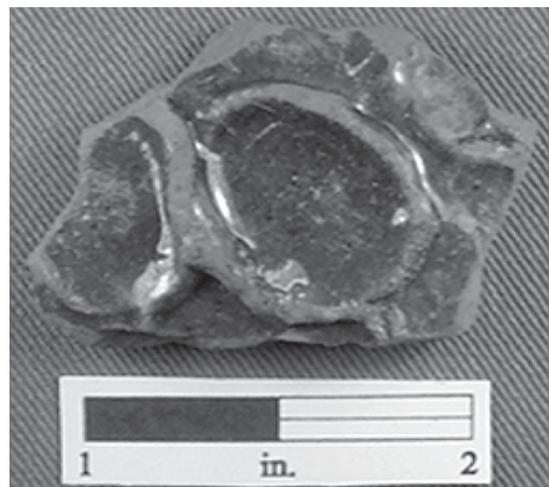


FIGURE 4. Coarse lead-glazed, red-bodied earthenware with thumbprint decoration.

decorated Whieldonware (Table 2). One ginger beer bottle fragment was also found, reflecting a later occupation of the site and the method of artifact recovery. Other artifacts recovered include Dutch yellow brick, English flint debitage, faunal material, wrought nails, iron spikes, a red earthenware tile, white clay pipe fragments, window glass, medicine bottle fragments, table glass, iron tacks, and a collection of Mockley aboriginal pottery, most likely from a single vessel. This assemblage may reflect the change in ownership of the property in 1737, when William Peele deeded the proceeds of the property to his nephew Roger Peele. Roger Peele may have made improvements to the property.

Area Two: West of the Brick House

The Lost Towns Project staff and volunteers also focused on an area directly adjacent to the small brick house. Archeologists investigated a depression in the topography of this area by digging a shovel test pit approximately 18 inches in diameter. Upon uncovering brick rubble less than one foot deep, the crew opened two adjacent 5 x 5-foot units, with the westernmost unit incorporating the test pit. The sod/topsoil was removed, revealing a substantial level of disturbed soil containing tarpaper and soda and beer bottles. Once this fill layer containing twentieth-century trash was removed, the two units revealed the foundations of another structure, Structure Two, probably relating to the nineteenth-century occupation of Larrimore Point.

TABLE 2. Artifact totals, salvaged deposit.

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>QTY.</u>
Porcelain	5
American Brown	1
White Salt-Glazed Stoneware	9
English Brown Stoneware	2
Westerwald	2
Rhenish Brown	2
Whieldon	1
Tin-Glazed Earthenware	24
Staffordshire Slipware	7
Coarse Red-Bodied Earthenware	29
Aboriginal Pottery	69
Pipe Fragments	29
Bottle Glass	2
Table/Medicine Bottle Glass	2
Flat Glass	12
Joining Material	73
Miscellaneous Metal Objects/Fragments	14
Faunal Material	470
Lithics	10

Structure Two. Approximately one foot below the surface, staff uncovered the north earthen edge and the east brick wall of a subterranean structure. Dug approximately one foot into the natural subsoil, the structure appeared to have brick walls and wooden sills. Inside the building's footprint was over one-half foot of the twentieth-century fill. Below this fill was one-half foot of architectural debris.

Concentrations of handmade brickbats along the east wall were excavated. This exposed a one-course line of brick parallel to the east wall, 2.5 feet away. The area between the east wall and this second line of brick was excavated, revealing the floor. Made up of burned reddish brown soil, charcoal, mortar, and ashy deposits, this is interpreted as a firebox. Lying on the floor were two hollow iron fragments measuring 8.75 and 12.5 inches long and 4 inches in diameter. Their function is unknown, although they may be pieces of a stovepipe. Located just outside the building was a large iron stove door, which may be associated with this area.

Located along the north wall was another concentration of brickbats, two of which were Dutch yellow "klinker" brick. Also included in this area was a perfectly square section of yellow sand surrounded on two sides by iron strips. This feature was excavated, but proved to be only 0.05 feet deep. There were no diagnostic artifacts associated with the feature. The concentration of brick along the wall was not excavated, but it appeared to lie directly on the floor of the structure. The floor was earthen, and consisted of light olive brown (2.5Y 5/6) clay sand, the subsoil of this area.

Because neither the south nor the west walls were uncovered, the dimensions of this subterranean foundation are unknown. The base of the foundation is approximately two feet below the present ground surface, with a brick wall consisting of six courses representing the east wall. The northern wall appears to have been earthen, with the remains of a wooden sill and post still in situ. It is oriented grid north.

Dating this structure is problematic. The majority of artifacts recovered in this structure were not related to the building itself, but rather twentieth century fill. None of the twentieth-century material was saved. Included in the brick rubble along the east wall were one fragment of red-bodied earthenware with no glaze, clear bottle glass fragments, a chandelier crystal, miscellaneous unidentified iron fragments, 11 fragments of wrought nails, and window glass (Table 3). The survival of the wood sill and post in sandy soil *could* suggest that it is not a town-related structure, but the date of the construction and life of the edifice is not known. The building is hypothesized to be a nineteenth-century structure that survived into the twentieth century.

TABLE 3. Artifact totals, adjacent to house.

TYPE	QTY.
American Blue and Grey	1
Bristol-Slip Stoneware	1
Whiteware	3
Staffordshire Slipware	1
Coarse Red-Bodied Earthenware	6
Pipe Fragments	3
Bottle Glass	9
Flat Glass	3
Joining Material	28
Miscellaneous Metal Objects/Fragments	18
Faunal Material	6
Lithics	4

Area Three: West Lawn

While the crew excavated units in the east lawn, Walter Larrimore, landowner of the adjacent lot, visited the site. He mentioned a row of three bricks along the driveway in the west lawn. Although it appeared that they might be fill for the driveway, a shovel test pit was dug. The test pit yielded a large percentage of tin-glazed earthenware and exposed articulated brick. As a result, a portion of the crew investigated the brick and pottery's context. Two 5 x 5-foot units running north-south were set up to include this line of bricks and the shovel test pit. After removing the sod/topsoil from the units, a deposit of twentieth-century trash was uncovered, including empty glass "Clorox" bottles, metal fragments, cans, and even a piece of a newspaper with the year "1951." Once this deposit of twentieth-century trash was removed, a compact layer of mortar with plaster was revealed. Encased by mortared brick, it was the remains of a third structure on Larrimore Point.

Structure Three. After this first destruction layer was exposed, three more units to the east and a half unit to the west were opened to determine the dimensions of the structure. Excavation of these revealed the outline of a cellar. Its foundations extended nine by nine feet and its interior dimensions measured eight by eight feet. The foundations were two bricks wide, with the number of surviving courses varying depending on the location.

The cellar was filled with three distinct layers of architectural debris mixed with domestic artifacts (Table 4). Beneath the twentieth-century fill was a layer of mortar and plaster. Among this material was a high number of decorated tin-glazed earthenware, North Devon gravel-tempered ceramics, pipe stems and bowl fragments including one rouletted rim fragment, olive glass wine bottle fragments, a copper alloy button, a "Charles II" farthing dating

to 1674, lead shot, a knife blade fragment, animal bone, a pintle, and wrought nails. This layer of destruction material yielded the highest number of artifacts.

The next level of fill consisted of almost pure sand, containing significantly less cultural material than the previous stratum. Included in this assemblage were tin-glazed earthenware, North Devon gravel-tempered pottery, red-bodied earthenware with no glaze, Staffordshire slipware, manganese mottled ceramics, pipe stems, case bottle glass fragments, olive bottle glass, an unmarked bale seal, a Spanish four-reales cob coin dating to 1652, wrought nails, window glass, oyster shell, and Rappahannock fabric-impressed pottery.

Below this sand stratum was a compact layer of handmade brick and mortar rubble that was lying directly on the subterranean floor. Composed of brickbats, the absence of whole brick suggests the cannibalization of complete brick for use in alternate structures. Mixed among the architectural debris was plain and decorated tin-glazed earthenware, Rhenish brown stoneware, red-bodied earthenware with a clear lead glaze, Staffordshire slipware, white clay tobacco pipe stems and bowl fragments, olive green bottle glass, a straight pin, window glass, fragments of

TABLE 4. Artifact totals, west lawn.

TYPE	QTY.
Porcelain	1
American Brown	1
White Salt-Glazed Stoneware	2
English Brown Stoneware	3
Westerwald, Decorated	4
Rhenish Brown	1
Yellowware	2
Whiteware	7
Pearlware	1
Creamware	3
Staffordshire Slipware	35
Tin-Glazed Earthenware, Plain	31
Tin-Glazed Earthenware, Decorated	327
Manganese-Mottled Earthenware	1
North Devon Gravel-Tempered	8
Coarse Red-Bodied Earthenware	36
Aboriginal Pottery	3
Pipe Fragments	231
Personal Other	25
Bottle Glass	48
Table/Lamp/Medicine Bottle Glass	7
Flat Glass	69
Joining Material	221
Miscellaneous Metal Objects/Fragments	47
Faunal Material	658
Lithics	17

wrought nails, animal bone, oyster shell, Rappahannock fabric-impressed pottery, and the tip of a quartz projectile point that was not diagnostic. A dated lead window came also was discovered in this level, marked:

- I X I X I X I * W * M * 1680 * H B -
- B I X I X I X I -

Luckenbach and Gibb (1994 with 1999 Addendum) state that “window leads with the initials WM HB and dated to 1685 have been recovered from the St. John’s and van Sweringen sites in St. Mary’s City, Maryland (Hanna et al. 1992:42). The X’s appearing between each milling line are quite distinctive.” Other leaded window comes were found at Larrimore Point, one from the disturbed layer above the cellar fill with the same markings and five others with no maker’s marks.

The rubble was lying above a thin layer of silty sand above the cellar’s earthen floor. Excavation of this layer recovered artifacts and revealed microdeposits that were probably associated directly with the building, rather than the fill that was dumped inside it. Artifacts included: decorated and plain tin-glazed earthenware, Rhenish brown stoneware, a large percent of one Staffordshire slipware porringer, white clay pipe stems and bowls including one rouletted rim fragment, a nearly complete onion-shaped olive green glass wine bottle dating to circa 1690, a bone-handled iron knife, English flint, a complete iron adze, a window lead, wrought nail fragments, an iron spike, and animal bone.

The deposits of different types of soils lying directly on the subterranean floor are:

- Silty clay with mortar bits
- Ashy clay with iron bits and brick flecks
- Sand with brick bits
- Sand with iron fragments

The first two clay pockets contained no diagnostic material. The third deposit contained a white clay tobacco pipe stem and bowl fragments, olive green bottle glass, a brass furniture tack, lead shot, a wrought nail fragment, and faunal material. The last sand pocket contained white clay tobacco pipe stems, olive bottle glass, a copper alloy button, lead shot, several wrought nail fragments, and faunal material. These deposits are, assumedly, directly related to the building’s function. Their specific purposes are unknown.

There were also extremely interesting stains on the floor. These stains seem to relate directly to the structure of the building. They include linear wood remains extending the length of the floor, parallel and perpendicular to one another, and appear to represent floor joists. Nails on each end of each wood plank were in situ. The crew mapped the stains and noted the locations of the nails. After staff took photographs, they removed the linear features to reveal the entire floor. Included in the artifact assemblage,

in addition to the nails, were tin-glazed earthenware fragments, Staffordshire slipware, white clay tobacco pipe stems and bowl fragments, olive green bottle glass, a copper alloy button, lead shot, English flint, and a brass furniture tack. There was also a 0.5-foot square stain that may represent a post in the center of the building’s floor. It undoubtedly supported floorboards.

The floor of the structure consisted of a light yellowish brown (2.5Y 6/4) sandy clay. A one by one-foot section was excavated in the northeast corner of the building’s floor. Digging this “window” into the corner of the base provided some insight into the construction of the structure. A hole was originally dug slightly larger than 9 x 9-feet. The walls of the square structure then were laid directly on the level ground. After the mason constructed the walls to an undetermined height, the gap between the wall and excavated hole was filled with brickbats. This was especially apparent along the outside of the north wall, although only three courses survive in this section. The south wall contained the largest portion of intact wall, totaling six complete courses of brick (Figure 5). There are no apparent patterns of the use of whole and half bricks that encompass the walls, although both are present. It is oriented north-northwest.

The building’s date of construction can be tentatively concluded. It is not known whether the destruction fill found within the walls of the structure relates to the building itself or was a handy refuse receptacle for another nearby structure. Whatever the circumstance, the presence of two lead window comes dating to 1680, two coins dating to the third quarter of the seventeenth century, and early ceramic types and glass bottle forms suggest late seventeenth-century construction. The destruction of this building seems to have occurred surprisingly early, perhaps only a decade after construction. The building’s three fill layers contain generally the same types of artifacts, including domestic material and structural debris. This indicates the layers were placed in the cellar over a short period of time, if not all at once. These filling episodes probably relate to the land transaction from Colonel Thomas Taylor to David Macklefresh in 1703, when Macklefresh made improvements on the property. The artifacts that lay on the floor of the structure were primary deposits, dating the building to the formative years of London Town.

The function of this building is unknown. One possibility is that the structure was an outbuilding, such as a dairy. The building would have been small and subterranean, which would have been an attempt to keep the room cool. Only a few fragments of window glass were recovered, supporting the idea presented by Smith (1982) that dairies often used lattice work over window openings to aid in ventilation. The architectural debris found in the cellar also supports the dairy hypothesis. Walls of dairies were often lath and plastered, with shelves nailed to the



FIGURE 5. South wall of Structure Three.

frame. The presence of large quantities of plaster supports this, while the staining on the floor surface could represent dilapidated shelving. There are problems with this interpretation, however. Smith (1982) states that often dairies had brick- or stone-lined floors and were situated near water sources, such as a stream, both to aid in cooling milk. The floor of this structure was earthen and no such water source is now known to have existed on the property. In addition, few artifacts found were related to the possible function of a dairy, only three fragments of a milk pan. To the contrary, most of the ceramics found were refined and expensive to purchase. A large variety of exotic tin-glazed earthenwares comprise the majority of this percentage (Figure 6). Smith (1982) did state, however, that dairies were sometimes used for the storage of material goods in addition to the original function of the building. Alternatively, the structure could have functioned as a dairy, but was filled with domestic debris after destruction.

One alternate hypothesis for the function of this structure is that it was a cellar beneath a house. The units excavated did not investigate the ground beyond the boundaries of the cellar's brick walls, so this hypothesis can be neither confirmed nor denied.

In either case, the structure was an extremely early building for the region. Especially different from the surrounding known structures was the early use of brick for an outbuilding, a practice not widely used until the mid-eighteenth century in this area.

Conclusions

Excavations conducted at Larrimore Point by *Anne Arundel County's Lost Towns Project* began because of a desire to learn more about colonial London Town. They discovered, however, elements that represent a broader history of the area.

The first phase of the research, consisting of geophysical and limited shovel test pit surveys on the Larrimore



FIGURE 6. Samples of tin-glazed earthenware found in Structure Three's fill.

property, uncovered both Late Woodland and late eighteenth-century sites. These surveys provided insight into the practical use of geophysical technologies within archeology. They also provided information about Larrimore Point both before the town and the period of its demise.

The second phase of research, salvage archeology occurring on the Tranchida property, not only provided information about these two time periods, but also enhanced knowledge about the early town period. The prehistoric oyster shell midden with associated pits dates the main occupation of the site to the beginning of the Late Woodland period, with a possible Middle Woodland component. The bulldozer discovered another component of the site, dating to the mid-eighteenth century. Structures One and Three both date to the late seventeenth century. Because the act establishing London Town was passed in 1683, with its heyday occurring in the 1730s, the presence of these two buildings provides the earliest information available about the formation of the town. Structure One appears to be an earthfast structure with an ironstone chimney foundation of an unknown dimension. It was built through and above the prehistoric shell midden. Structure Three was either a subterranean outbuilding lined with brick, or a cellar beneath a larger structure. It contained a high volume of high quality refuse amongst the architectural debris – exotically decorated tin-glazed earthenware, Staffordshire slipware, cutlery, buttons, furniture tacks, window leads, and two mid-seventeenth-century coins all compose an impressive assemblage of artifacts. Unfortunately, it is difficult to assign a construction date to Structure Two. Containing burned soil and constructed of both brick and wooden beams and posts, the structure could have been some sort of nineteenth-century kitchen. None of these structures, however, appear to be related to one another and each has a different orientation. These buildings could represent structures on two different lots, Lots 28 and 101. Affluent individuals owned both of these properties during the formative years of London Town.

Archeological investigations make it increasingly clear that Larrimore Point always played a significant role in the peninsula's history. Individuals came to this setting around A.D. 800 to eat harvested oysters. They cracked them open with rocks while looking out at the bay. English settlers came to the Point in the seventeenth century, building structures of wood, ironstone, and brick, hoping to help generate a prosperous town. They lived with fine material goods surrounding them, and traveled up and down Fleet Street to the center of town and back to their homes. They could look out towards the water and know that ships coming in would bring people to visit their nearby shops and ordinaries, as well as materials with which to trade. By the 1750s, fewer and fewer merchants and service providers moved to and lived in London Town. As the area turned into mostly farmland, James Larrimore purchased

Larrimore Point by 1808. He, his family, and descendants dominated the Point until the late twentieth century. Now, instead of a modest eighteenth-century house, stands a large highly remodeled structure. In place of the small brick house that stood on the Tranchida property now lays a grandiose building, bearing down on its property boundaries with its vast rooms, garage, and pool. Larrimore Point played an integral role in the development of London Town. It also is an important resource for understanding the vast history of the region, right up to its present residential use.

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