

VIEW FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL: THE EARLY 18TH CENTURY HOMESITE OF THE TALBOTT FAMILY

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Abstract

In early 2001, during a Phase I archeological survey required by Anne Arundel County, archeologists discovered the location of an early 18th century domestic dwelling. *The Lost Towns Project* subsequently investigated the Willson site, under the direction of Al Luckenbach. Property owners encouraged the *Lost Towns Project* to return to their property in the spring of 2002 and continue researching the site. This research included supplementary archival and property research, and a limited phase II investigation. Fieldwork was conducted under the authors' supervision. Excavations uncovered evidence for at least three structures; an oblong trash-filled cellar with earthen stairs underneath the earliest structure on site; a rectangular, wood-lined, trash-filled root cellar underneath a presumed earthfast dwelling; and a continuous 25 by 20-foot brick foundation for a large building with a full cellar and a 6 ft. wide interior fireplace. A legal plat note protects the site, which limits subsurface disturbance within a designated area without the permission of the County Archaeologist in Anne Arundel County's Planning and Zoning Office.

Introduction

The Willson site, an early 18th century domestic complex was discovered during a Phase I archeological survey required by Anne Arundel County under Article 26, Title 3-109 of the Anne Arundel County Subdivision Code (Gibb 2001). *The Lost Towns Project* revisited the site at the request of the property owner in the spring of 2002 and expanded the research to include supplementary archival and property research, and a limited Phase II investigation. The property owners recently completed construction of their new home adjacent to the site which was placed to carefully avoid disturbing 18AN1188.

The Willson site was home to John and Mary Talbott, who married in 1707. Although John died in 1725, Mary continued to live on the site until the 1760s. Her son John acquired title to the parcel in 1735 when his mother remarried, though it appears that she continued to live on the site. John lived on the property until 1755, when he moved to Baltimore to join his brother, Edward, and sold the 260-acre Poplar Knowle tract to Samuel Galloway III, who went on to build "Tulip Hill" on the same parcel (MSA

AA Co. Land Records, Liber BB #1, folio 149-151; 1756).

Excavations uncovered evidence for three domestic structures. All features were sampled and the assemblage recovered from them offers insight into the lives of the Talbott family. In particular, the considerable assemblage recovered from three sealed features provides a significant comparative collection for the first half of the 18th century. Likewise, varied ceramic and glass assemblages offer an opportunity to consider the Talbotts' lifestyle. Architectural evidence discovered at the Willson site offers a possible insight into the progression of house construction for an upper class planter in colonial Anne Arundel County.

Historical Setting

While Poplar Knowle was originally laid out by John Brownton, Christopher Rowles, and Richard Moseby in 1652 (MSA, AA Co Land Records, Liber A,B, and H, Nov 4, 1652), the first occupation of the land occurs when Richard and his wife Elizabeth (Ewen) Talbott acquire the 260-acre parcel in 1659 (MSA, AA Co. Land Records, Liber #4, folio 102; Sept. 14, 1659; see Figure 1). The Poplar Knowle parcel subsequently remained in the Talbott

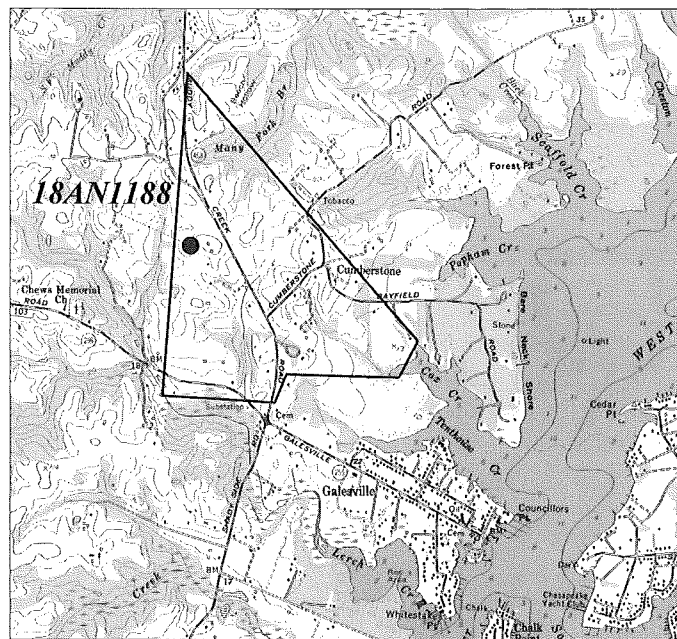


FIGURE 1. The 260-acre Poplar Knowle parcel (1659) overlaid on modern USGS map of the Galesville vicinity.

family for almost 100 years.

Richard and Elizabeth Talbott had three sons—John, Richard, and Edward. Archival evidence indicates that the first two generations of Talbotts lived somewhere on the 260-acre parcel, but no archeological evidence of this occupation has been discovered thus far (MSA, AA Co Will Book, Liber # 6, folio 13, Feb. 6, 1692).

The Talbotts were Quakers, with patriarch Richard Talbott adopting the faith in the movement's early years. This early Quakerism, which was quickly spreading to the New World in the 1660s and 1670s through the proselytizing of George Fox, held strongly to the tenets that religion and the word of God could be directly accessed by everyone. This was a dynamic and empowering movement that counted among its followers many of the most influential men and women of Maryland's early history. The Galesville area was a well-known center for Quakerism, as the yearly meetings were held there well into the 18th century (Kelly 1963).

Edward's son, John, is associated with the archeological site discovered on the Willson property. Though both of Edward's sons (John and Edward) received 130 acres of Poplar Knowle upon their father's death in 1689, young Edward soon moved to Baltimore County and his brother John retained ownership of the entire 260 acres (MSA, AA Co. Probate Wills, Liber #6, folio 13; Feb 6 1692). John likely began construction of his homesite soon thereafter and by the time of his marriage to Elizabeth Galloway in 1704, the property had at least one structure on it. It appears that Elizabeth died soon after their marriage, likely in the birth of their first son (also named John), who was born in 1706. John remarried Mary Waters in

1707 and they had the first of their three children in 1708.

John died in 1725, leaving the property to his wife and his sons. Mary Talbott was remarried to John Webster in 1735, and her son, John Talbott, took ownership of Poplar Knowle. Keeping in mind that John's mother was a Galloway, it is not surprising that this fourth generation of Talbotts lived on Poplar Knowle until 1755, when John moved to Baltimore and sold Poplar Knowle to planter, merchant, slave trader, and relative Samuel Galloway III (1720-1785). Galloway and his wife Anne Chew immediately began construction of the Tulip Hill mansion just over one-half mile from the Talbott homesite. Galloway grew up adjacent to the parcel and was no doubt familiar with the land and its environs as he immediately renamed the land for its stately stand of tulip poplar trees. This five-part Georgian mansion still stands today, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (Figure 2).

Environmental Setting

John Talbott's homesite was located on a high terrace (100 feet above mean sea level), off of present-day Muddy Creek Road (Rte. 468) just north of Cumberstone Road. The knoll is adjacent to a still-flowing springhead and has an inviting flat top of nearly two acres with steep slopes extending out on three of the four sides (Figure 3). The project area lies in Maryland's Western Coastal Plain and soils are predominantly Marr fine sandy loams. The area under investigation has, until recently, been a plowed agricultural field. The historic Poplar Knowle parcel had water frontage on both the West River and Browns Creek. The site is in the colonial heart of southern Anne Arundel County, one mile from Popham Creek, a navigable branch

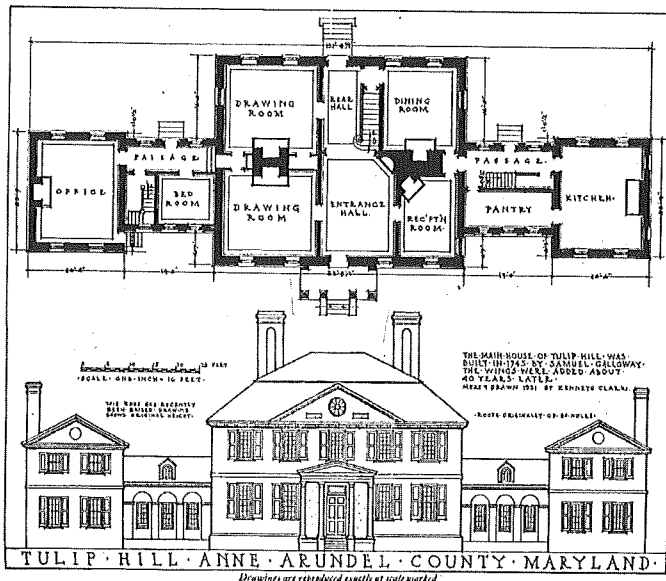


FIGURE 2. Floor plan and elevation of Tulip Hill.



FIGURE 3. The Willson site prior to excavations or construction (spring 2001), facing northeast.

of the West River, and 1½ miles from the center of present-day Galesville. There are more than 30 registered archeological sites and 15 historic structures located within two miles of the Willson site, attesting to the rich history of the area (MHT Maryland Inventory of Historical Properties and Archeological Site Files).

Archeological Investigations

A preliminary Phase I survey of the Willson Property was conducted as a requirement of the Anne Arundel County Planning and Zoning office. This Phase I survey identified the property as an early 18th century domestic homesite and strongly suggested the presence of intact subsurface features (Gibb 2001). After consulting with the property owner, the proposed limits of disturbance for construction were revised to avoid impact to this site, based upon boundaries identified during the Phase I survey. Upon final approval of the plat, the property owner contacted the Planning and Zoning office and requested further information on the potential and significance of the Willson site (L.J. Willson, personal communications, 2001). At his invitation, the *Lost Towns Project* began a limited Phase II survey to better document this intact and rich early 18th century domestic site. *Lost Towns Project* historians conducted additional archival research and the archeology team proposed a limited survey methodology to better understand the activity areas on site, determine the nature and number of structures that may have once stood there, and to obtain a sample of the 18th century material culture of the Talbott family.

Geophysical Testing and Results

The *Lost Towns Project* team began their investigations of the site with geophysical equipment. A limited survey on the hilltop allowed the team to develop a more reliable sense for the site's structure and provided more precise dimensions. The site was ideal for geophysical survey as there were few modern intrusions, except for an old barbed wire fence along the easternmost edge of the site. The site boundaries identified in the Phase I survey were surveyed using a magnetometer, an instrument which measures the relative magnetism of the soils beneath it, resulting in a contour map showing areas of high to low concentration. Magnetism can be altered by disturbed soils, concentrations of artifacts (particularly items that have been highly fired like ceramics or brick), and, most obviously, large concentrations of ferrous material such as nails or large metal implements. Results indicated that the largest magnetic anomalies were located towards the southwest of the knoll, with extreme peaks of magnetism being observed within a 20 by 30-foot area. Weak mono-polar anomalies were noted towards the northeast (Figure 4).

Based upon the results of the magnetometer survey, the team selected limited areas to run the ground-penetrating radar (GPR). This instrument sends a radar signal into the ground at a rapid rate and records the speed at which the radar signal returns, which provides a three-dimensional view into the ground over which the instrument is run. The results for each transect are represented on a computer screen and provide a snapshot of the soil's strati-

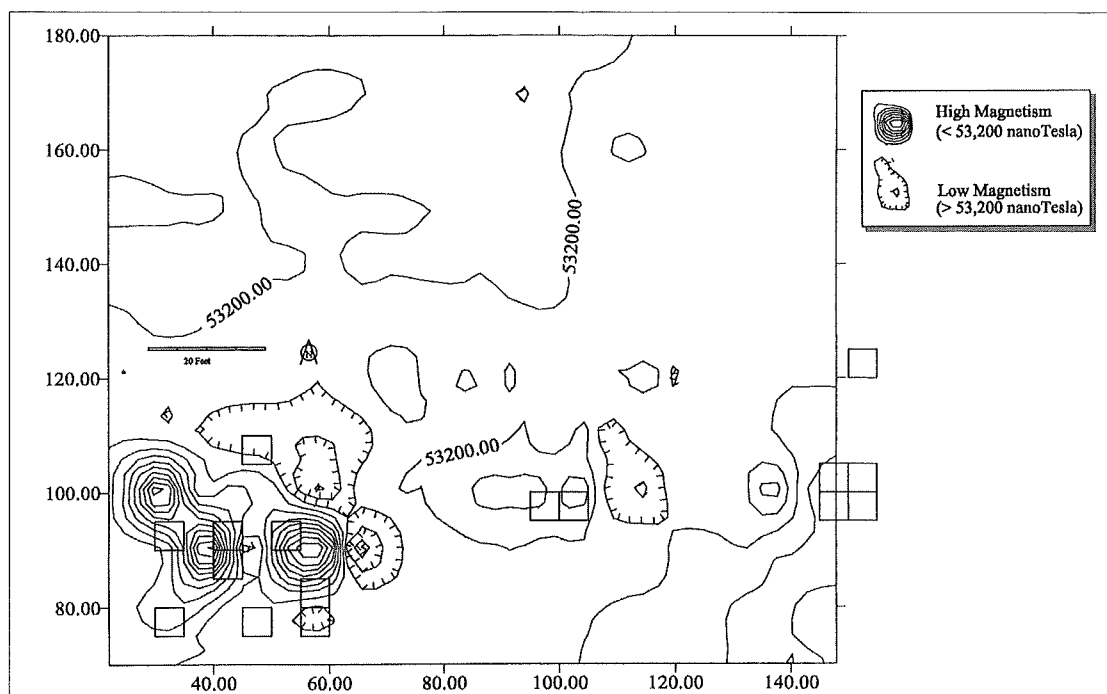


FIGURE 4. Magnetometer survey results from 18AN1188.

graphic characteristics. After calibration, GPR offers an approximate depth of recognizable features, such as pits or foundations. Because GPR is a much slower survey technique, a small survey area was selected based upon the magnetometer results, focusing upon the strong results acquired in the southwest quadrant of the knoll. Results indicated a very disturbed subsurface, with several linear features located within 6 to 18 inches of the surface.

Phase II Methods

Initial excavations were focused on the area that returned positive geophysical results. This information strongly suggested that the southwest quadrant was the most archeologically active and offered the most promise for identifying subsurface features. While the first of the units were being excavated, fifteen supplemental shovel test pits were dug at closer intervals. This survey further narrowed the activity area on-site and, though inconsistent with the geophysical results, indicated artifact concentrations were slightly denser toward the eastern portion of the site.

Sixteen 5 x 5-foot units were eventually excavated at the Willson site in an attempt to identify structural remains of the Talbott occupation and to sample the material culture from the site. All units were excavated stratigraphically and screened through ¼-inch wire mesh by *Lost Towns Project* staff and volunteers. These excavations uncovered several features related to the Talbott occupation, each of which produced a rich assemblage of

early to mid-18th century domestic material culture.

Four features were identified and tested during excavations at the Willson site, including a 20 x 25-foot brick foundation, a full cellar within this brick building, a rectangular, wood-lined storage pit, and an oblong earthen cellar (Figure 5). While no structural postholes were identified, it is likely that the two pit features, located approximately 50 feet apart, were once underneath post-in-ground structures. Evidence for the three structures and the associated artifact assemblages indicate that the first structures on the site were erected over the oblong storage pit (Feature 7) and over the rectangular, wood-lined root cellar (Feature 6). The second building phase for the site included the construction of a substantial brick structure (Feature 2) over a full cellar (Feature 5). Documentation of these features with overhead photography was possible due to L. J. Willson's generous loan of a crane (Figure 6).

Sealed Features at the Willson Site

The key features tested at the Willson site are described below, along with a brief synopsis of the significant artifacts recovered from each context. This synopsis includes information on diagnostic artifacts, pertinent minimum vessel data for both ceramics and glass, and notes regarding special finds.

Feature 7 (ca. 1700-1725)

The oblong earthen pit reached a depth of more than 4 feet and was 11 feet long by 7 feet wide, oriented in

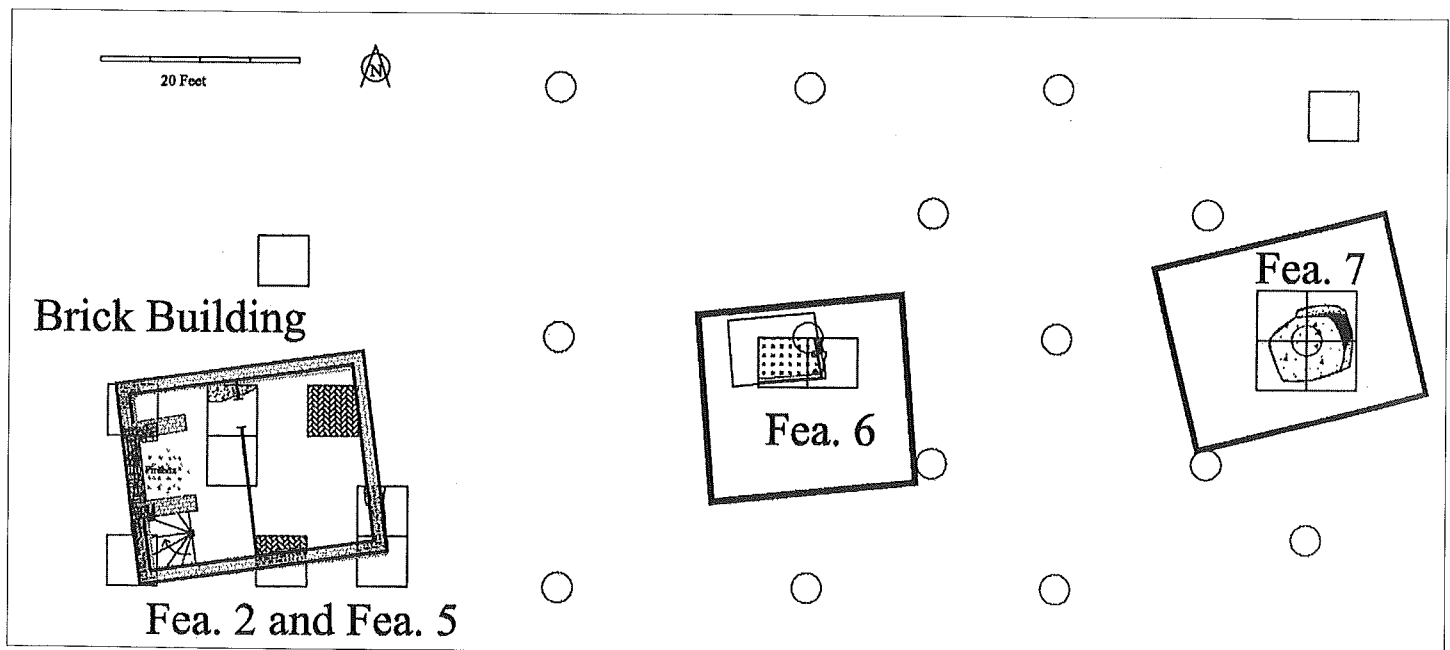


FIGURE 5. The primary features identified at the Willson site. Sixteen units and fifteen supplemental shovel test pits were excavated during the six-month field session. Test units to uncover the western wall of the brick building were also excavated.

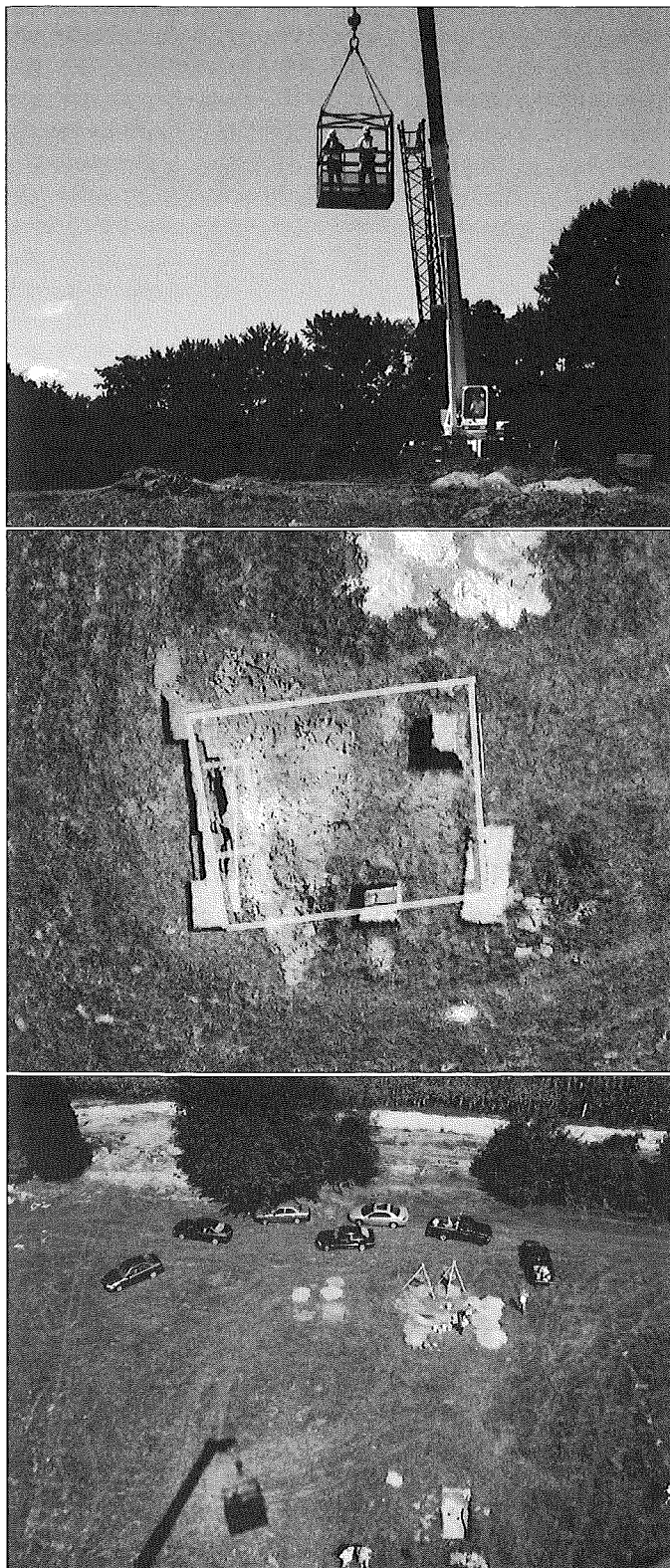


FIGURE 6. *Top*, a crane was donated by Mr. Willson for site documentation. *Middle*, the brick building, with a superimposed line delineating the 25 by 20-foot dimensions of the structure. *Bottom*, Feature 6 in the foreground and Feature 7 towards the vehicles (looking east).

a southwest to northeast direction. At the northeastern side of the pit, earthen steps leading out of the cellar hole were identified while excavating the first of three sections of the pit. Though roughly dug out from the clay earth, each step had recognizable measurements— $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches on the tread and almost 8 inches on the rise. The pit was almost certainly underneath an earthfast structure (Figure 7).

The cellar had four notable deposition layers, though cross-mends have been identified throughout all of the layers, indicating a rapid filling sequence. The soils ranged from brown sandy loam to pale brown to brown ashy loam with inclusions of light brown and gray soils. All primary deposition layers had varying degrees of charcoal inclusions, from flecking throughout, to large chunks of charcoal and even burnt wood fragments. The lowermost stratum had a higher concentration of clayey soils but lacked dense charcoal concentrations, particularly along the walls of the unit, which can be attributed to wall slump from when the pit was open during the colonial period.

A minimum of 31 ceramic and 14 glass vessels, as well as faunal, architectural, and a unique assortment of personal items, were recovered from all layers of the cellar. Twenty-three (74%) of the ceramic vessels were earthenwares, seven (23%) were stonewares, and one (3%) vessel was porcelain. The majority of the identifiable earthenwares were tin-glazed earthenware vessels including dishes, basins, a cup, a porringer, and a punch bowl. Three redware pots, an Iberian storage jar, and a nearly intact redware pipken were also recovered. Four Rhenish blue and gray stoneware jugs, two of which were sprig-molded and decorated with cobalt and manganese coloring, one English brown stoneware mug, and a white salt-glazed saucer made up the identifiable stoneware vessels (Figure 8).



FIGURE 7. Eastern wall of Feature 7, fully excavated. Shallow steps were carved into the subsoil and, though unexcavated, appear to extend into the profile wall.



FIGURE 8. Rhenish blue and gray stoneware jug base with sprig-molding (*upper left*), redware pipkin (*top right*), tin-glazed earthenware punch bowl (*bottom left*), and English brown stoneware mug with “AR” stamp (*bottom right*).

The mean ceramic date for Feature 7 was 1710.

Several vessels exhibited motifs or markings supporting the mean ceramic date. The motifs of the tin-glazed punch bowl strongly resemble dated examples from 1701, 1711, and 1728 (Lipski and Archer 1984: 213, 239, 248). Additionally, the English brown stoneware mug bears an “AR” stamp standing for Queen Anne who reigned from 1702-1714. Two small sherds of a white salt-glazed saucer indicate the cellar was filled in after 1720, though the sherds contributed less than 1% (count or weight) of the Feature 7 ceramics, which suggests that it was filled in not long after 1720, especially considering the frequency of white salt-glazed stonewares in the surrounding plowzone. Interestingly, 82% of the identifiable vessel forms were used for the table as opposed to only 18% for the kitchen, which implies that another area of the site was used for food preparation or storage.

Fourteen glass vessels (12 olive round bottles, one olive case bottle, and one clear wine glass) were also recovered from Feature 7. The round bottles with identifiable shapes were onion bottles whose forms were most

common between 1705 and 1715. Moreover, the wine glass stem was consistent with forms dating between 1700 and 1730 (Dumbrell 1983; Noël Hume 1991).

All layers were rich in artifacts, though the upper layers had a notably high concentration of faunal materials. The faunal materials were recovered from a silty loam soil with frequent ash and charcoal inclusions, indicating that the deposit likely originated from the periodic cleaning of the Talbotts’ fireplace. Six hundred thirty-five ounces of faunal remains were recovered—including pigs, cows, one horse, turtles, fowl, large fish, crabs, and oysters—indicating a varied diet.

Personal-use items recovered include clothing items such as white metal cuff links, a white metal button, and three iron buckles; sewing items such as scissors and two copper straight pins (1 tinned); and other items such as a bone-handled knife, an iron spoon, a fork, a decorative copper bed warmer lid, and 866 pipe fragments (Figure 9).

The bed warmer lid was recovered intact and offers one of the more visually interesting artifacts from the site. This bed warmer was constructed of copper and had

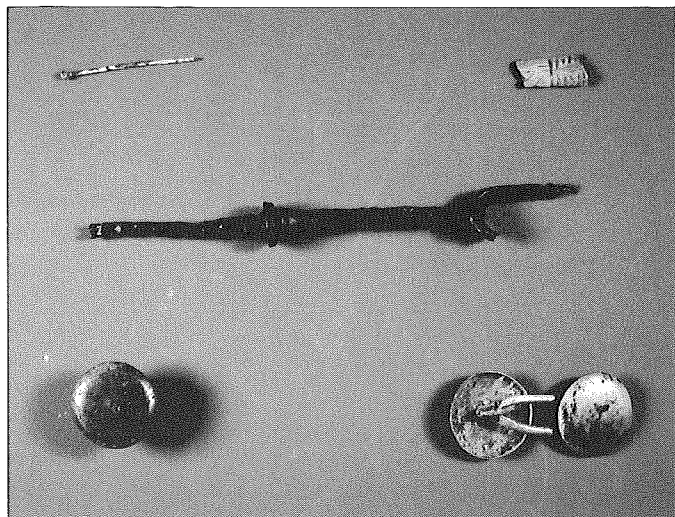


FIGURE 9. Personal items from Feature 7. Tinned straight pin (*upper left*), carved bone handle fragment (*upper right*), iron fork (*middle*), tinned button (*bottom left*), and white metal cuff links (*bottom right*).

a punched star motif with a small floral design stamped between each of the stars points (Figure 10). Its base would have been of iron and the attachment point for a handle was still visible. The warmer would have been filled with hot coals and placed in one's bed to warm the sheets.

Additionally, Feature 7 contained 408 measurable pipe bore fragments and ten makers' marks, which are discussed in detail later in this paper. Several horse-related items were recovered, including a stirrup, two snaffle bits, and a cheek boss. Sixteen English flint flakes were also excavated from the feature.

Numerous and varied ceramic and glass vessels and an assortment of personal items were recovered from all layers of the cellar. This material culture can be directly associated with John Talbott and his family. The diagnostics discussed above suggest that the cellar was filled ca. 1725, which corresponds to the death of John Talbott. John was survived by his wife, three sons, and one daughter, who continued to live on the property, though it appears that around the time of John's death they abandoned this building and moved into the large brick building as their primary domestic structure.

The broad range of artifacts recovered, including personal items, horse hardware, domestic items, faunal materials, and architectural items, indicates a multi-purpose structure that served as a home, sleeping quarters, kitchen, and even storage for livestock-related items. Perhaps the structure was originally used as a domestic dwelling and its use changed over time, resulting in an intermingled assemblage that suggests a simple multi-purpose earthfast building that was intensively used by the Talbott family.

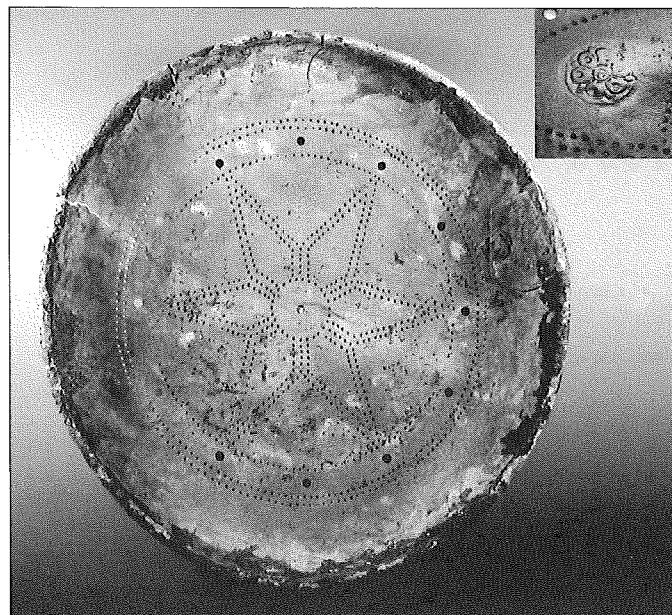


FIGURE 10. A brass decorative bedwarmer recovered from Feature 7. Note the stamped star detail.

Feature 6 (ca. 1710-1725)

Feature 6 was a shallow pit identified in two adjacent 5 x 5-foot excavations units. The exposed portion of this feature was excavated and reached a depth of approximately 2½ feet below ground surface. One corner of the earthen pit was exposed, indicating a rectangular feature extending 7 feet west to the excavation wall and almost 4 feet north to the excavation wall.

Feature 6 exhibited remains of a wood lining that was supported by small posts on the interior. Approximately one foot from the north excavation unit wall, the wood lining was replaced with a crudely laid-up brick wall (Figure 11). The earthen wall on the east side of the feature showed signs of collapsing and the brick wall was likely an attempt to hold it up. Apparently this was unsuccessful. The brick wall, which leaned precariously into the feature, had an additional support mechanism in the form of a wooden wall, which was evident in the north profile of the excavation unit. Additionally, two large post molds (with no related post holes) were found approximately 1½ feet apart inside the corner of the pit. It is unclear whether these posts were structural or used for shoring up the wall of the pit.

Feature 6 had two primary deposition layers that were mainly ashy silt soils with occasional artifacts. The feature also had a shallow clay layer on the floor and a silty loam stratum along the earthen cellar wall. The layer along the wall extended from the floor to the top of the feature and was likely formed from the decomposition of the wood lining. The shallow pit was likely a root cellar, used to store food. Root cellars were frequently placed near hearths and



FIGURE 11. Profile of the north wall of Feature 6 showing the canted brick wall and remnants of a wood lining.

Feature 6 was filled with ample charcoal-rich ash deposits.

The artifacts recovered from Feature 6 include 12 ceramic vessels, 4 glass vessels (1 round bottle, 1 case bottle, 1 medicinal bottle, and 1 wineglass), a kettle, 2 brass furniture tacks, a brass button, an iron buckle, 175 pipe fragments, and various faunal and architectural remains. Fifty percent of the ceramic vessels recovered were tin-glazed earthenware, including a dish, a cup, and a punch bowl; 33% were stoneware mugs, including three English brown and one Rhenish blue and gray. The Rhenish mug bore a "GR," likely standing for the first King George who reigned from 1714 to 1727 (Figure 12). The remaining two vessels were a borderware dish and a red earthenware milk pan. Among the pipes, one bore the mark of John Willson, who made pipes in Bristol from 1707 to 1722 (Fox 1999:186). Animals such as pigs, deer, fish, turtles, birds, oysters, and crabs composed the faunal remains. The architectural remains were chiefly nails, although a stock lock, some window glass, and three window leads (one bearing a date of 1710) were also found.

The dated window lead suggests that this building was constructed shortly after 1710 while other diagnostics

recovered indicate a filling date of circa 1725 (similar to Feature 7). Interestingly, with the exception of one kitchen vessel, all vessels were used for eating. With the addition of the stock lock, furniture tacks, clothing items, and window glass, the artifacts suggest a domestic structure. This building is contemporaneous with the structure associated with Feature 7 and appears to have been built after John Talbott married his second wife and they began to expand their family.

Feature 2—The Brick Building and Feature 5—Cellar

The Talbott family constructed a substantial brick building by 1720 and, though John Talbott passed away around the time of its completion, his son John occupied the house until 1755. This brick structure was probably 1½ stories tall, with a loft, an interior fireplace, and a full cellar. The dimensions and placement of the fireplace suggest that the building had a hall and parlor plan. Three of the four corners of the 25 by 20-foot brick foundation were exposed. Most of the foundation is 1½ courses wide, and extends over 4 feet below the ground surface. Evidence

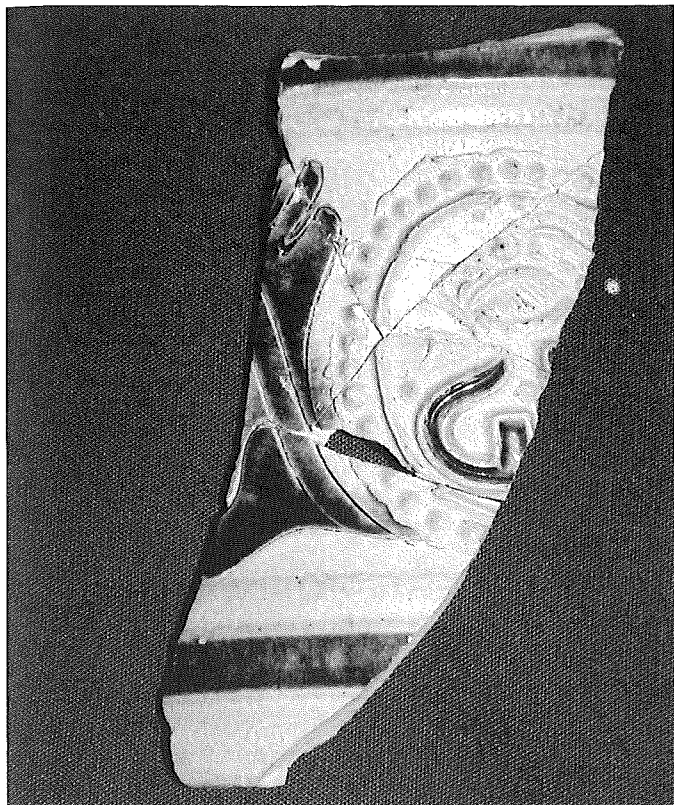


FIGURE 12. Fragment of a Rhenish blue and gray mug with the inscription "GR."

for the remaining part of the foundation was encountered as shallow as 6 inches below the surface, while the majority of the foundation was as deep as 2 feet. On the west wall of the building, the foundation widens to a full 2 courses to accommodate an interior brick chimney base that extends into the interior of the building. This chimney base is slightly offset on the exterior wall, located 8 feet from the southwest corner and 6 feet from the northwest corner. The loft was likely accessed through a stairwell to the southwest of the chimney. The interior of the firebox is 6 feet wide (Figure 13).

Excavations both in and around the brick building offered diagnostics that suggest the building construction began in the second decade of the 1700s. Artifacts included ample architectural debris related to the demise of the house. Several test units on the interior of the building revealed a full cellar that once existed below the floorboards of the house. This cellar was tested in several areas, including on the interior of the southern wall of the building, in Unit 5, and a full 5 x 5-foot sample (Feature 5) in the northwest quarter of the building in Unit 3.

Feature 5 was identified in Unit 3 and was excavated stratigraphically to a depth of 4 feet below the ground surface. The feature was primarily burned demolition debris that fell into the cellar. As such, the ceramic and glass assemblages used in the minimum vessel counts below



FIGURE 13. The interior of the west wall of the brick building showing the 6-foot wide interior firebox.

should be considered carefully when compared to the cellar features (Feature 6 and 7) which are representative of occupation debris, as opposed to demolition debris.

The stratigraphy revealed a very clear deposition sequence that provided valuable information regarding the demise of this structure (Figure 14). As in the surrounding area, relatively few diagnostics were recovered from the cellar excavations. The demolition layers reveal that the house essentially fell in on itself. Near the bottom of the feature was a layer of charcoal-rich soil (stratum F), with a thin lens of burned chunks of wood (stratum E). This likely represents the floorboards falling into the cellar. The layer immediately above was dense with mortar (tempered with shell) and plaster (both rough and finish coat), likely representative of the interior walls of the building collapsing into the open cellar (stratum D). The layers overlying the mortar and plaster consisted of dense inclusions of large brick bats and brick chunks—the debris from the buildings exterior walls (strata C and B). The uppermost layers consisted of primarily plowzone with fragmented architectural debris and occasional artifacts (stratum A).

Ceramic vessels recovered from this sampling of Feature 5 included five English brown stonewares (20%), six white salt-glazed stonewares (24%), one Rhenish stoneware (4%), four porcelain vessels (16%), and nine lead-glazed earthenwares (36%) including creamware, Whieldonware, Staffordshire-like slipware, North Devon gravel-tempered earthenware, borderware, and tin-glazed earthenware. All identifiable vessel forms were tablewares, suggesting that the kitchen facilities were elsewhere. In

addition, 34 pipe fragments were recovered from the cellar along with three olive round bottles, one olive case bottle, one clear bottle, and one medicinal bottle. Two hundred fourteen sherds, or 3.14 ounces, of window glass and a plethora of burnt nails were also recovered.

The presence of a few feather-edged creamware sherds ($n=4$) provides an abandonment date for this building after 1765. This date is closely aligned with the transfer of the Poplar Knowle parcel from the Talbott family to Samuel Galloway in 1755. During the early construction of the main block of Tulip Hill, which is believed to have begun in 1756 and was completed in 1762, John's mother Mary (Talbott) Webster continued to live on Poplar Knowle. Her occupation of the site after the Talbotts sold the property attests to the close relationship between long-time residents of the West River area.

Samuel Galloway III was the great-grandson of Richard Galloway, who came to the West River area in the 1650s. His heirs lived alongside the Talbott heirs for many generations. Samuel Galloway III grew up on the Cumberstone peninsula and was very familiar with the adjacent Poplar Knowle parcel. The deed transferring Poplar Knowle to Galloway had a provision that "the said Samuel Galloway, his heirs or assigns shall not nor will at any time hereafter in anywise molest or disturb a certain Mary Webster of Anne Arundel County, widow in here peaceable possession of enjoyment of or in her dower for the rest of her life" (MSA, AACo Land Records, Liber BB#1, folio 149-151, 1756). A letter to Samuel Galloway in the late 1750s suggests that Mary Talbott Webster took care of Galloway's young son, Sammy. Though Mary Webster's date of death has not been found in archival records, it would be reasonable to assume that the end date for occupation of the Talbotts' Poplar Knowle house in the mid-1760s coincides with her passing (Kelly 1965).

Artifact Overview

Artifacts from excavations at the Willson site were processed and stored at the Anne Arundel County Laboratory. Artifacts were washed, labeled, and catalogued in the fall of 2002 by intern Lauren Franz, under the supervision of co-author Shawn Sharpe. Mean ceramic dates for each feature and the site as a whole were calculated. An overview of the faunal assemblage and a discussion of the tobacco pipes are presented below as well. Minimum vessel counts for ceramics and glass were based upon rim and/or base sherds, depending upon the ceramic or glass vessel type. Unique types represented by a single sherd were given a vessel number regardless of the absence of a rim or base.

In an attempt to better understand the Talbotts' use of the site, artifacts were divided into groups that might better represent their activities and use areas. The arti-

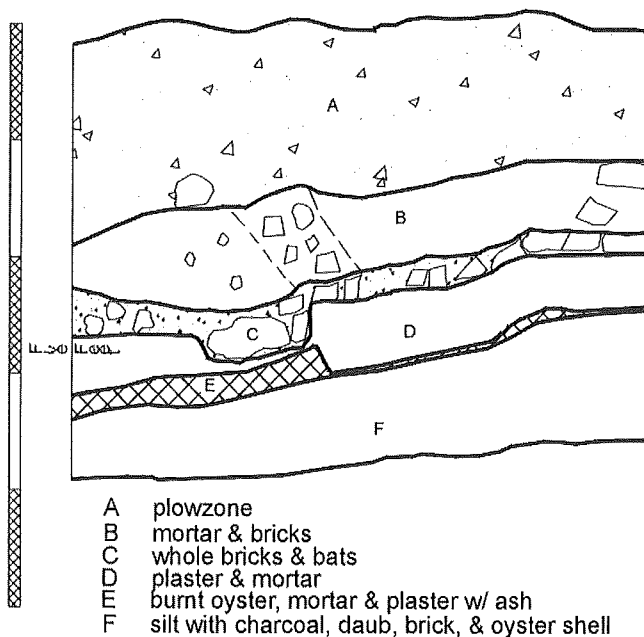


FIGURE 14. Feature 5 profile, north wall.

facts were grouped into the following categories: architectural, furniture, kitchen, activities, and personal items that were compared by both count and weight (see Appendix A).

Architectural items include glass, metal, and masonry (excluding brick) and accounted for 494.16 oz., or 19.5%, of the assemblage. As brick was overly abundant at the site only a small sample was saved; therefore brick was excluded from the architectural items totals. Furniture items include household and interior decorative items, such as upholstery tacks, fasteners, and hasps (0.22 oz./0.01%). The kitchen category was the largest, including floral and faunal materials, ceramics, glassware, and metal items (1905.36 oz./75.19%). Activity items included those used for transportation, games, arms, and tools (25.06 oz./0.99%). The final category covered personal items, such as clothing and tobacco-related objects (116.45 oz./4.6%).

Faunal Analysis

The Willson site produced a large amount of faunal material, primarily oyster and mammal bone (56% and 43% respectively). Fish, bird, turtle, and crab were also present, though overshadowed by the plethora of oyster and mammals. To obtain a minimum oyster count, only the lower or left valve of the oyster shells were retained during excavations. The percentage of oyster shown above likely overstates the relative importance of oyster meat in the diet of the Talbotts due to oyster shells' ability to survive in the soil when compared to other faunal and organic food materials. As mammal bones are heavier and more robust than fish or birds, counts were used to obtain the percentages below. Mammals comprised 89% of the faunal assemblage at the Willson site, while fish (6%), bird (4%), and reptile (1%) rounded out the remainder.

The mammals include pig, horse, cow, deer and rodents. Based upon the number of jaws identified, the mammals consisted primarily of pig bones, both adult and juvenile (61% of the species identifiable mammalian assemblage); though numerous fragments of horse bone were recovered, only one complete jaw could be identified. It appears that the horse bone represents only one individual and, based upon the tooth wear, the animal was over 20 years old at death, a relatively advanced age for a horse. At least two cow jaws were identified, representing 8.4% of the identified mammalian assemblage. Deer was also present at 5.7%. Clearly, the Talbotts had established a domesticated food source, primarily of pigs, though occasionally they relied upon hunting wild game to supplement their diet.

Bird bones and fish scales and bones were also recovered, accounting for 4% and 6% of the faunal assemblage respectively. The bird bones were likely left from chickens and possibly wild fowl, though a more specialized

study of the bones is needed to confirm this. A notable quantity of turtle bones was recovered, primarily from Feature 7, and several fragments of crab claw were found in both Features 6 and 7. The nearby bountiful waters of the West River and the Bay were most certainly a regular and reliable source for the Talbotts' diet as seen in the fish bones, the oysters, and the crab claws.

Tobacco Pipes

One thousand five hundred and sixty-three tobacco pipes fragments were recovered from the Willson site, with 1065 (68.5%) being recovered from sealed and tightly dated contexts. Of the 1,563 fragments, 733 had measurable bore stems with which a date could be determined for the pipe collection (Table 1). The Binford date for the entire site was 1727.39, whereas the Hanson formula offered a date of 1723 (± 20 years) (Binford 1978; Hanson 1971). The Hanson formula #9 was used for calculating the date for 'all site' and Feature 5, while formula #6 was used for Features 6 and 7. The Hanson formula was used to supplement the Binford formula as it allows for a non-linear rate of change in the dates for pipe stem bores over time, whereas the Binford formula gives a constant rate (Binford 1978; Hanson 1971). Both methods confirm the dates derived from other sources. However, it should be noted that the low number of measurable bores in Features 5 and 6 could skew their results.

Fourteen pipes exhibited makers' marks that further assisted in determining a date for each feature's deposition. Feature 7 contained the majority of the makers' marks, with 10 being recovered. Five of these showed the mark of the second William Manby (1719-1763) (Oswald 1975:142). In addition, there was one WH (unknown maker), an IW for John Willson (1707-1722) (Fox 1999:186), and two Morris Phillips (1721-1739) (Oswald 1975:157). The final mark was illegible and could not be identified.

Feature 6 contained only one makers' mark—that of John Willson—a mark also seen in Feature 7. The presence of Willson mark in both the earlier Feature 7 and the slightly later Feature 6 argues for the continuity of occupation between these two features. The authors noted the coincidence of this pipemaker sharing the same name as

TABLE 1. Binford and Hanson pipe dates for the Willson site.

| CONTEXT | # OF PIPE BORES | BINFORD DATE | HANSON DATE |
|----------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|
| All site | 740 | 1728 | 1723 \pm 20 |
| Fea. 7 | 408 | 1725 | 1717 \pm 17 |
| Fea. 6 | 75 | 1732 | 1722 \pm 18 |
| Fea. 5 | 20 | 1739 | 1736 \pm 17 |

the current-day property owners, though further examination found no relation between the two. This mark and the similarity of ceramic and glass assemblages indicate that there was a gradual transition from the first structure built on site to the newer buildings. This would be expected on a homesite that was occupied by one family over a long period of time. Such gradual transition between living and work areas clouds any distinctive patterns of occupation between the two structures.

The remaining three marked or decorated pipes came from plowzone contexts and included one unidentifiable mark, one decorated pipe with rouletting and a circle, and one IF mark. The IF mark is notably similar to several known 17th century IF marks recovered from Anne Arundel County, yet the small pipe bore (5/64ths) strongly indicates that this is an 18th century pipe. In fact, the IF mark could represent one of no less than 24 English pipemakers. The most common attribution for this mark is the Bristol pipemaker James Fox, but his period of activity (ca. 1650-1690) is much too early for the occupation of this site (Luckenbach et al. 1995; Cox and Luckenbach 2002). Other possibilities might include James Fanyer (ca. 1717) or John Fryer (ca. 1723-54), though neither is known to have exported pipes to the colonies (Oswald 1976:153). One smoker's companion was also recovered from Feature 5.

Using pipe joints (where the stem meets the bowl), the minimum pipe count for the site was 98. A majority of these, 73% (n=72), were recovered from Feature 7. The two other sealed features offered relatively few pipes by comparison, with Feature 6 yielding 6% (n=6) and Feature 5 yielding 3% (n=3). The remainder of the pipes, 17% (n=17), came from the plowzone.

Two primary pipe bowl forms, based on the *Lost Towns* tobacco pipe classification system, were identified (Gadsby and Sharpe 2002). The *Lost Towns* typology was developed to better quantify the variations of bowl forms found throughout the colonial period, specifically in Anne Arundel County. The typology considers each pipe's material, construction technique, and form. The Willson site included 2 primary bowl forms as seen in Table 2, with a preponderance of the pipes registering as a *Lost Towns* Type 5—the ubiquitous heelless trade pipe.

TABLE 2. Pipe forms based upon the *Lost Towns* pipe typology for the Willson site.

| LOST TOWNS TYPE | WILLSON SITE |
|--|--------------|
| 3.0 (generic curved-sided heeled form) | 2 |
| 5.0 (generic heelless, trade pipe forms) | 1 |
| 5.05 | 1 |
| 5.1 | 2 |
| 5.11 | 4 |
| 5.121 | 9 |

This pipe distribution was comparable to Rumney's Tavern, 1700-1730 (Gryczkowski 2002), located just a few miles north of the Willson site. The Rumney's Tavern pipe assemblage consisted of 16 *Lost Towns* Type 3 variants and 68 *Lost Towns* Type 5 pipe forms. By comparison, the contemporaneous Rumney's Tavern assemblage had 19% Type 3 to 81% Type 5, while the domestic Willson site had a similar composition with 11% Type 3 to 88% Type 5 forms.

Of the major features, Feature 7 had the most variation in artifacts, although the distributions by functional artifact groups are similar between features. The greater variety in types is likely due to the fact that Feature 7 was completely excavated (ca. 200 cubic feet), whereas Features 5 and 6 were only sampled (ca. 70 and 50 cubic feet, respectively). One notable absence from the assemblage in Feature 7 was window glass, which was recovered from both Features 5 and 6. This implies that unlike the buildings associated with Features 5 and 6, the structure associated with Feature 7 had no glass windows. The minimum vessel count (MVC) was useful in comparing the features by date, use, and status. The MVC identified 89 individual ceramic vessels and 34 individual glass vessels. The glass assemblage exhibited a degree of variation and included 4 aqua medicinal bottles, 19 olive green round bottle glass, 5 olive case bottles, 4 wine or stem ware glass vessels, 1 clear bottle, and 1 yellow glass bottle.

Each feature had many of the fashionable tablewares of the time, such as tin-glazed earthenwares (Features 6 and 7) and porcelain (Feature 5), with few kitchen-related forms. A notable difference between Features 6 and 7 and Feature 5 involved the variations in quantity of tin-glazed vessels. Feature 6 and 7 had a majority of tin-glaze earthenwares when compared to other types, while Feature 5 had only one tin-glazed vessel but many white salt-glazed and porcelain vessels. This variation, with the increase in white salt-glaze and porcelain, is a clear indicator of the later date attributed to Feature 5. Oddly, all of these features have a preponderance of tableware vessels as opposed to kitchen vessels, suggesting that the main food preparation area was elsewhere.

Feature Summary

Features 5, 6, and 7 may have each operated within primary residences, though logic dictates that they would not have functioned as such contemporaneously. Features 6 and 7 are problematic in that they are contemporary, adjacent to one another, and have remarkably similar assemblages.

The most likely explanation is that the structure associated with Feature 7 was the residence of John Talbott and his first wife, Elizabeth Galloway, built around the time of their marriage in 1704. Feature 6 was constructed circa 1710 (based upon the window lead date), coinciding closely



FIGURE 15. The Willson family and friends discover artifacts in their new front yard.

with John's marriage to his second wife, Mary, in 1707. After the construction of the structure associated with Feature 6, the Feature 7 building may have been relegated to a more secondary function. Both of these structures became defunct circa 1725 when the more substantial brick building was constructed.

Conclusions

The Willson site provided researchers with a valuable sample of the lifestyle of a Quaker family in the early 18th century. The items left behind suggest that they lived a comfortable life, one with ample food and attractive household goods. Additional excavations would supplement our current understanding of the two earthfast buildings and better explain their use and occupation. The brick foundation, which will remain in situ, offers valuable information into the construction of an early 18th century home. Additional testing on lands adjacent to the Willson site might also reveal the 17th century homesite(s) of the early generations of Talbotts.

The Willson site illustrates the transition from the earthfast construction of most homes in the late 17th and early 18th century to the construction of more substantial brick structures as the region became more prosperous and well established. John Talbott and his family first oc-

cupied a simple earthfast building, with an earthen cellar and an associated secondary outbuilding. As they became more prosperous and their family grew, they constructed a substantial brick home with a full brick-lined cellar and interior fireplace. This transition reflects the increasing wealth of the Talbotts and is representative of the growth in the West River area during the first half of the 18th century. The growing prosperity of the West River area is further magnified when one considers the home that was constructed on the Poplar Knowle parcel after the Talbotts' occupation. Tulip Hill remains one of the best-known examples of Georgian architecture from the colonial period.

The Willson site is now protected through a plat note on the approved Willson subdivision. Construction on the lot was carefully planned to avoid impact to the archeological site. This family has demonstrated a keen appreciation for their archeological site and the information it has to tell about the region's colonial past (Figure 15). Preservation of 18AN1188 has ensured that the site and the information it contains will be preserved for future generations and for scholarly study. As evidenced by the Willson Family conveyance subdivision, this region will soon see development pressures similar to the rest of Anne Arundel County and the metropolitan region, thus more intensive investigations of archeological sites in the area is not only warranted but necessary.

| Group | Type/ Subtype | Plowzone | | | All Site Total | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| | | count | count % | weight | count | count % | weight | weight % |
| Architectural | Glass | 66 | 6.0% | 0.86 | 362 | 9.8% | 4.86 | 1.0% |
| | Metal | | 0.0% | | | 0.0% | | 0.0% |
| | nails | 1028 | 93.5% | 119.86 | 3231 | 87.5% | 443.86 | 89.8% |
| | other | 6 | 0.5% | 2.12 | 36 | 1.0% | 41.62 | 8.4% |
| | Masonry | | 0.0% | | | 0.0% | | 0.0% |
| | Plaster | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | 63 | 1.7% | 8.68 | 1.8% |
| | Brick/Mortar | | 0.0% | | | 0.0% | | 0.0% |
| Subtotal | | 1100 | 23.1% | 122.84 | 3692 | 18.8% | 494.16 | 19.5% |
| Furniture | upholstery | 3 | 100.0% | 0.11 | 7 | 100.0% | 0.22 | 100.0% |
| | other | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | | 0.0% | | 0.0% |
| | Subtotal | 3 | 0.1% | 0.11 | 7 | 0.0% | 0.22 | 0.0% |
| Kitchen | Floral/ Faunal | 2209 | 71.1% | 158.8 | 11700 | 82.0% | 1372.24 | 72.0% |
| | Ceramics | | 0.0% | | | 0.0% | | 0.0% |
| | stoneware | 150 | 4.8% | 17.04 | 290 | 2.0% | 58.01 | 3.0% |
| | earthenware | 495 | 15.9% | 20.84 | 1171 | 8.2% | 120.29 | 6.3% |
| | porcelain | 13 | 0.4% | 0.28 | 27 | 0.2% | 1.41 | 0.1% |
| | Glasswares | | 0.0% | | | 0.0% | | 0.0% |
| | bottle glass | 164 | 5.3% | 24.09 | 902 | 6.3% | 318.14 | 16.7% |
| | medicinal glass | 69 | 2.2% | 1.97 | 163 | 1.1% | 8 | 0.4% |
| | stemwares | 7 | 31.8% | 0.17 | 13 | 27.1% | 0.74 | 3.0% |
| | Metal | | 0.0% | | | 0.0% | | 0.0% |
| | vessels | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | 1 | 0.0% | 23 | 1.2% |
| | utensils | 2 | 0.1% | 0.64 | 4 | 0.0% | 3.53 | 0.2% |
| Subtotal | | 3109 | 65.4% | 223.83 | 14271 | 72.7% | 1905.36 | 75.2% |
| Activities | Transportation | 2 | 9.1% | 2.71 | 7 | 14.6% | 22.42 | 89.5% |
| | Games | | 0.0% | | | 0.0% | | 0.0% |
| | Arms | | 0.0% | | | 0.0% | | 0.0% |
| | gun parts | 3 | 13.6% | 0.84 | | 0.0% | | 0.0% |
| | flint | 17 | 77.3% | 1.23 | 38 | 79.2% | 2.64 | 10.5% |
| | Tools | | 0.0% | | | 0.0% | | 0.0% |
| | Subtotal | | 22 | 0.5% | 4.78 | 48 | 0.2% | 25.06 |
| Personal | Clothing | | 0.0% | | | 0.0% | | 0.0% |
| | sewing | 1 | 0.2% | 0.04 | 3 | 0.2% | 2.44 | 2.1% |
| | fasteners | 7 | 1.3% | 1.84 | 18 | 1.1% | 3.96 | 3.4% |
| | Tobacco | 512 | 98.5% | 25.89 | 1588 | 98.7% | 110.05 | 94.5% |
| | Subtotal | 520 | 10.9% | 27.77 | 1609 | 8.2% | 116.45 | 4.6% |
| All Artifacts | | 4754 | 24.2% | 379.33 | 19627 | 100.0% | 2535.03 | 100.0% |

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