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ARCHEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF A WALL REPLACEMENT ALONG NORTH COLUMBUS STREET, CHRIST CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

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INTRODUCTION

During March of 2002, archeologists from Thunderbird Archeological Associates, Inc., were involved in monitoring construction activities at Christ Church in Alexandria, Virginia. Christ Church is located at 118 North Washington Street and has been recorded as 44AX88 and is listed as a National Historic Landmark. The location of Christ Church is seen on Figure 1.

The destruction and subsequent replacement of the churchyard wall bordering Columbus Street required the presence of archeologists to identify the presence of any graves that might have been covered by the original wall construction and to prevent any further disturbance to these burials. The preservation and recordation of previously undocumented graves were the primary objectives of the project.

CHRIST CHURCH BACKGROUND

Only a brief summary of the history of Christ Church is presented here. For details the reader is referred to Creveling 1987, De Rossi 1985, and John Milner Associates 1978 and 1979.

In 1765, the parcel of land on which Christ Church now stands was donated by John Alexander to the newly created Fairfax Parish for the construction of a church (John Milner Associates 1979: A.4). By 1766, building plans were underway and, in 1773, the "Church in Alexandria" or "lower church" (in relation to the falls of the Potomac), as it was then known, was completed (John Milner Associates 1979: A.2). The church has been the parish of many well known Alexandria residents over the past two centuries, the most famous of these being George Washington. While not actually a resident of Alexandria, it seems that Washington and the town were quite fond of one another and that he was a devoted member of Christ Church (*ibid.*: A.5). Many alterations have been made to the property over the years. These changes include the construction of several related structures to the south of the property as well as alterations to the church itself, including the construction of a gallery circa 1785 and the addition of a bell tower at the west end of the building in the early nineteenth century.

Burials in the church yard were conducted even before the church was complete. The first recorded burial is that of Elizabeth Young in November of 1766 (DeRossi 1985). A city ordinance halted burials at the site for most people by 1804, although occasional interments continued until 1809 (limited to those who could pay a twenty dollar fee). Since 1809, only three exceptions have been made to the ban on burials at Christ Church; these were the 1839 burial of Charles Bennett, the 1879 re-interment of 34 Confederate soldiers, and the 1986 burial of a parishioner's cremated remains (Creveling 1987: 31-32). No plan or map is known to exist of the location of graves at Christ Church. Indeed, construction and recent archeological investigations have provided evidence for the existence of graves well beyond the current church boundaries (Greenhorne & O'Mara Inc. 1999). It is believed that graves exist under all three streets that border the church property and that possibly hundreds of burials are unaccounted for (De Rossi 1985).

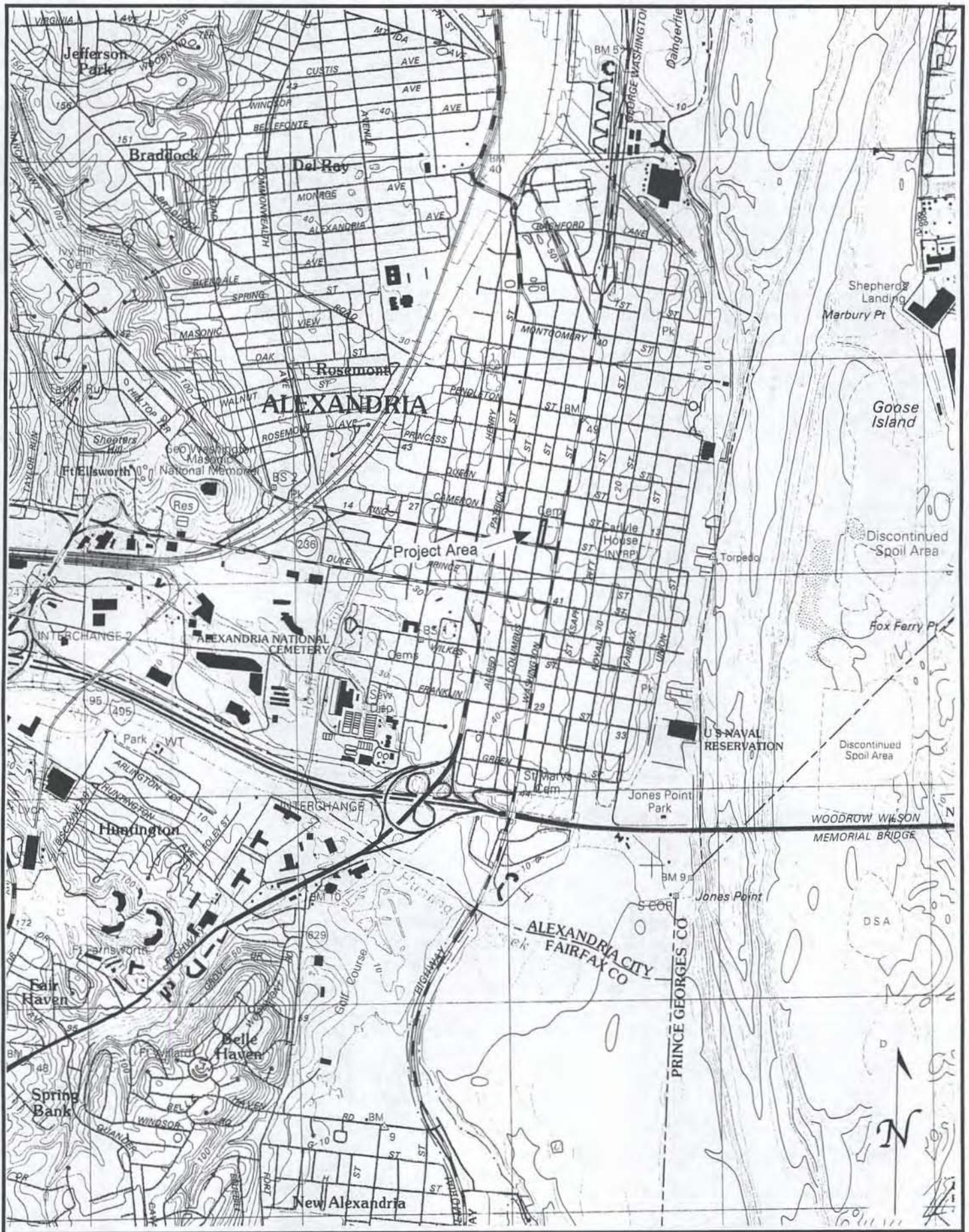


FIGURE 1
 Portion of U.S.G.S. 1994 Alexandria, VA-DC-MD 7.5'
 Quadrangle Showing the Project Area
 Scale: 1" = 2000'

Walls or fences appear to have existed around the church from at least the early nineteenth century. In 1806, a "new" fence was installed along the south boundary of the church yard, signifying the probability that an "old" fence may have previously existed (John Milner Associates 1979: 5). In 1829, a brick and iron rail wall and gate were constructed at the east side of the church along Washington Street (ibid.: 6). A wooden fence existed along the north and west property boundaries until 1877, when a wall matching the 1829 construction was erected along Cameron and Columbus Streets (ibid.: 9). The Washington Street wall was demolished due to its poor condition and was subsequently reconstructed in 1998. The Cameron Street wall was demolished in April of 2000 and is currently being rebuilt. The original 1877 wall still exists along Columbus Street.

FIELD METHODOLOGY

The scope of the project at Christ Church consisted of continuous monitoring of construction activities related to the circa 200 foot long west or Columbus Street wall. Archeologists were present throughout the destruction of the former wall and the debris resulting from the destruction of the old wall was scraped from the trench to assure that no excavation was performed beyond previously disturbed contexts. Once the rubble and debris related to the old wall was removed, archeologists troweled the trench walls and floor in order to determine if graves were present within the impact area. The identification of areas in which no graves were present allowed the construction crew to continue with planned excavation in these negative spaces. Further excavation was halted, if planned, where graves were present and Alexandria Archaeology and officials of Christ Church were notified so that any scheduled construction plans could be altered to allow preservation of the burials.

Measurements were taken using the U.S.G.S. marker at the northeast corner of Cameron and Washington Streets as a datum point. Measured plan drawings were made of the burials encountered.

No artifacts were recovered from the investigation beyond brick and mortar rubble associated with the demolition of the wall.

RESULTS OF THE FIELD INVESTIGATIONS

The project area is located along North Columbus Street and lies on the western edge of the Christ Church property (Figure 1). The monitoring described herein was necessitated by the replacement of a brick wall along North Columbus Street. Brick sidewalks bordered the wall on both sides. The sidewalk on the interior of the church property is circa 6-10 inches above the sidewalk bordering North Columbus Street.

A total of 33 graves, represented by coffin remains or grave shafts, were located within the North Columbus Street wall replacement area. All of the graves were oriented east-west, as is customary for Christian burials. The trench for the wall replacement measured circa 150.5 feet long and varied from 2.5-4 feet wide. It was oriented at roughly 24 degrees.

Most of the burials were found on the floor of the wall replacement trench and were represented only by the grave shaft. As the burials were exposed at the base of the wall which was being removed, construction plans were changed, as necessary, to avoid disturbance of the graves. The shafts were mapped and photographed. However, earlier construction had reached coffin levels in several graves and human remains were identified in four graves. These were mapped and photographed as well. No additional impacts occurred to these graves which were left as they were found.

Coffin stains were typically visible as dark outlines, sometimes in a clear hexagonal shape that conforms to the coffin shape. All grave shafts were visible as mottled soil fill intrusive into the underlying very old clays. The sterile clay soils within the trench were generally in the [2.5 Y] olive yellow range in the Munsell color chart. The visibility of the shafts varied as most of the organics had been leached. The visibility also varied with soil moisture and how long the grave shaft had been exposed. In several cases, tapping the soil over the grave produced a "hollow" sound, while tapping outside the grave produced no such sound as the soils were evidently more compact.

Specifics for the individual graves are:

Grave 1

Grave 1 was represented by a grave shaft that appeared at the base of post-interment organic and gravel fill at the first structural pier (Figure 2). It was visible at just under two feet below the present Columbus Street sidewalk or at .65 feet below datum. Only 4.5 feet of the shaft was exposed; this spanned the width of the wall trench. The visible shaft was narrow, measuring about 1.5 to 2 feet in width. The soils within the shaft were similar in color to the adjacent undisturbed soil, but were slightly darker, much less compact and lacked the structure of the sterile soil. The location of the grave shaft on the walls of the trench was marked by gray streaks in the wall profile. The streaks appear to have resulted from water percolating along the grave shaft.

Grave 2

Grave 2, represented by a very faint grave shaft, lay approximately 1.5 feet north of Grave 1 (Figure 2). The shaft was defined at .45 feet below datum and circa 2 feet below the level of the current sidewalk. The shaft was 2.5 feet long, spanning the width of the trench, and 2.0 feet wide. The sides converged slightly towards the east wall. Soils were similar to those seen in Grave 1.

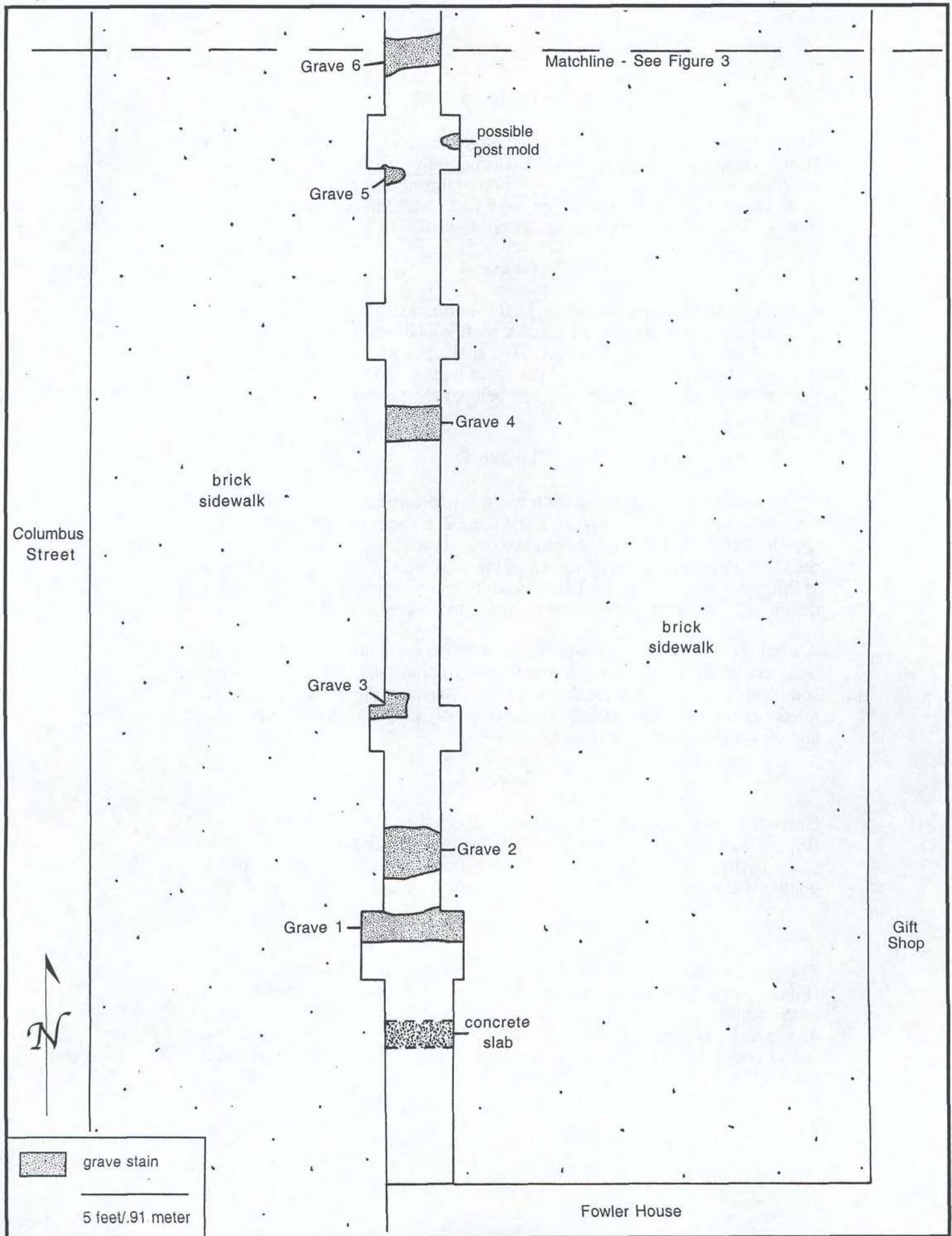


FIGURE 2
Portion of Plan Map Showing Graves 1 - 6

Grave 3

A grave shaft, first discerned at .6 feet below datum, marked the location of Grave 3 (Figure 2). The grave shaft was partially situated within the second structural pier of the wall. Only a portion of the eastern end of the grave shaft, approximately 1.5 feet of the "foot end", extended into the construction trench. The soils were similar to Graves 1 and 2.

Grave 4

Grave 4 was noted approximately 11 feet north of Grave 3 (Figure 2 and Plate 1). This grave was marked by a grave shaft which was similar to the previous three in color and texture. The shaft spanned the width of the trench, exposing circa 2.5 feet of the grave length. The shaft lay at a depth of .15 feet below datum and about 2 feet below the Cameron Street sidewalk surface.

Grave 5

Grave 5 was represented by a stain when was present at the southern edge of the fourth structural pier (Figure 2 and Plate 2). The stain marking Grave 5 appeared to be the extreme eastern end of a grave shaft. Only about 1 foot of the shaft was visible, extending out of the west wall of the trench. The shaft at this point was only about 1 foot in width and was noted at .15 feet below datum. The color and texture were similar to the previous graves.

A small, semi-circular stain was noted along the east wall of the trench, 2 feet northeast of Grave 5 and within the fourth structural pier (Figure 2). The soils within the feature were darker than the surrounding subsoil and the feature contained charcoal and brick fragments. It appeared to be a post mold and was left in place after mapping.

Grave 6

Grave 6, represented by a shaft, was approximately 4.5 feet north of Grave 5 (Figure 2 and Plate 3). It was circa 1.5 feet in width and spanned the width of the trench. The color was slightly darker than the previous graves and texture was softer and less compact. The shaft lay at .65 feet below datum.

Grave 7

The grave shaft marking Grave 7 was approximately 3.5 feet north of Grave 6 (Figure 3 and Plate 4). It was circa 1.75 feet in width and spanned the width of the trench. The color and texture were similar to Grave 6, being slightly darker and less compact than the previous graves. The shaft was measured at .1 feet above datum. A rectangular stain was noted at the eastern end of the shaft. The cause or origin of the stain is not known.

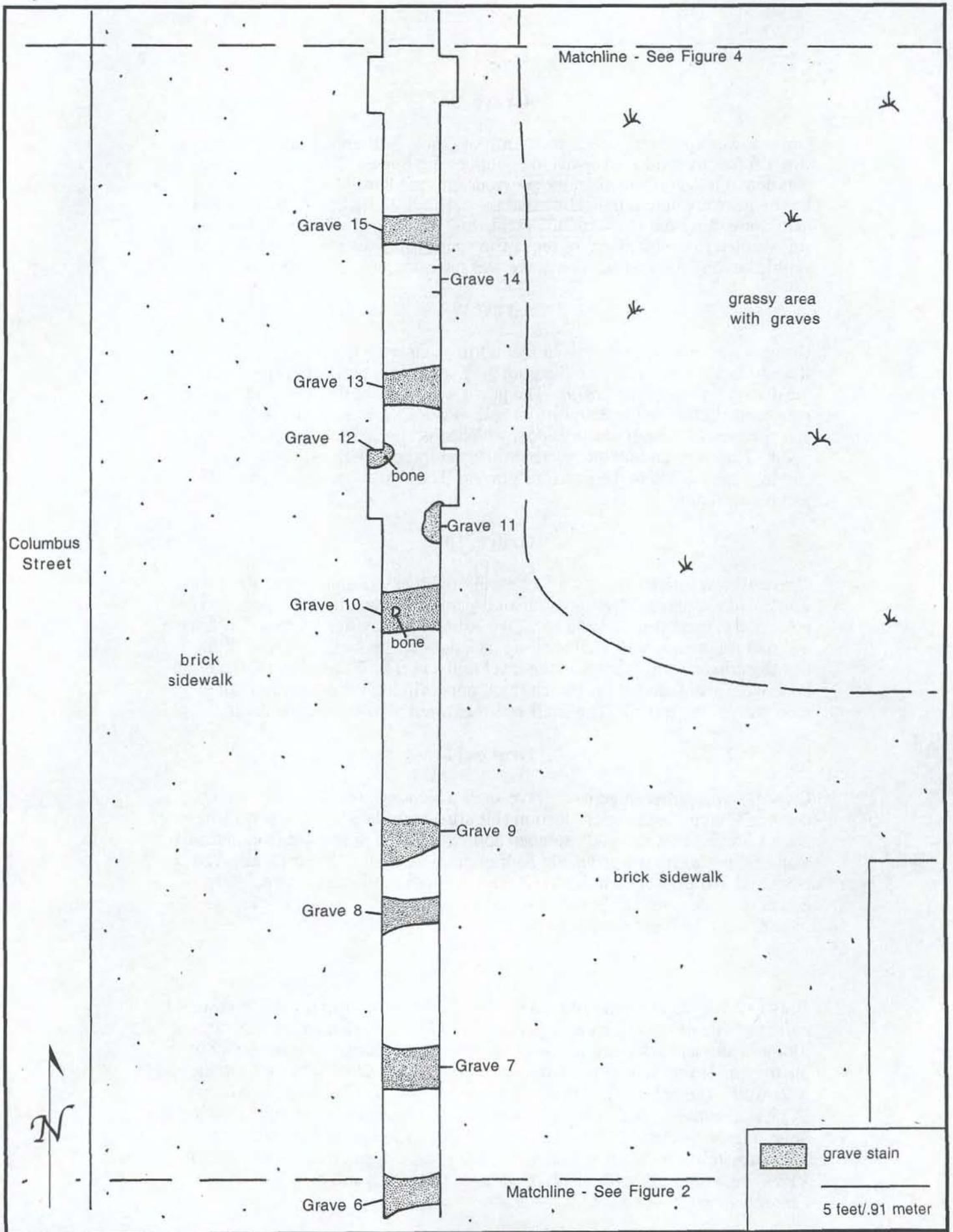


FIGURE 3
Portion of Plan Map Showing Graves 6 - 15

Grave 8

Grave 8 was approximately 5 feet north of Grave 7 (Figure 3 and Plate 5). It was 1.5 feet in width and spans the width of the trench. The soil was much darker and less compact than the previous graves. Rusted nails and nail fragments were noted, indicating that the coffin itself had been disturbed. The nails were observed at less than 2 feet below the current sidewalk. The dark soil seemed to be the extent of the coffin stain, while the grave shaft was not visible beyond the coffin. The grave was measured at .15 feet below datum.

Grave 9

Grave 9 was approximately 1.75 feet north of Grave 8 (Figure 3 and Plate 6). It was represented by two converging gray stains that probably represented the decayed sides of the coffin. The grave was wider at the west end and narrowed slightly to the east, or foot end. The grave was circa 2 feet in width and spanned the width of the trench, which was approximately 2.5 feet at this point. The color and texture were similar to Grave 6, being slightly darker and less compact than the previous graves. The shaft was measured at .35 feet below datum.

Grave 10

Grave 10 was approximately 8 feet north of Grave 9 (Figure 3 and Plate 7). The grave was circa 2 feet in width and spanned the width of the trench. The color and texture were similar to Grave 8, being darker and quite soft. Nails and nail fragments were visible along the edges of the dark stain, indicating that disturbance was present to the level of the coffin. Several small flakes of bone were also noted in the trench floor, approximately 6 inches from the west wall of the trench. The shaft was measured at .6 feet below datum.

Grave 11

Grave 11 was represented by a grave shaft which lay approximately 2 feet north of Grave 10, in a pier location (Figure 3 and Plate 8). The shaft was circa 1.75 feet in width and extended approximately .75 feet out from the east wall of the trench. It was visible both in the floor and in the east wall. The color and texture were similar to Grave 1, with the soils that were slightly darker and less compact than the surrounding subsoil. The shaft was measured at .55 feet below datum.

Grave 12

Grave 12 was approximately 1.75 feet north of Grave 11 in the northwest corner of one of the brick piers (Figure 3 and Plate 9). The grave was circa 1 foot in width and extended approximately .75 feet out from the west wall of the trench. It was visible primarily in the floor but could also be seen in the west wall. The color and texture were similar to Grave 8, being dark brown and less compact. The shaft was measured at .5 feet below datum. Two long bone fragments were visible in the grave shaft. The bone fragments were approximately 3 to 5 inches in length. The grave appeared to be disturbed by a PVC pipe running north-south adjacent to the trench and below the North Columbus Street sidewalk.

Grave 13

A grave shaft, which appeared at .65 feet below datum, marked the location of Grave 13 (Figure 3 and Plate 10). The shaft measured approximately 1.5 feet in width. Soils within the shaft were similar in color to the adjacent subsoil but were much less compact and lacked the structure of the sterile soil.

Grave 14

Grave 14 appeared in the east trench wall at .55 feet above datum, 2.5 feet north of Grave 13 (Figure 3 and Plate 11). The shaft denoting this grave was not visible in the trench floor. It measured approximately 1.75 feet in width. Soils within the shaft were brown in color, and slightly darker and much less compact than the adjacent undisturbed soil.

Grave 15

Grave 15 was approximately 1 foot north of Grave 14 (Figure 3 and Plate 12). The grave shaft was 2.5 feet long and 1.5 feet wide and spanned the width of the trench. It was defined at .45 feet below datum and circa 2.5 feet below the level of the current sidewalk. The soils were similar to those in Grave 1, being only slightly darker than the subsoil around the shaft.

Grave 16

This grave was approximately 11.5 feet north of Grave 15, in the location of a former structural pier (Figure 4 and Plate 13). The grave shaft was circa 2 feet in width and extended approximately 1.75 feet out from the east wall of the trench. It was visible both in the floor and in the east wall. The color and texture were darker and softer than the surrounding sterile subsoil and were delineated by grayish water leached soil indicating the grave shaft limits. The shaft was identified at 2.5 feet above datum.

Grave 17

Grave 17 appeared in the east trench wall at the same elevation as the site datum and 2 feet north of Grave 16 (Figure 4 and Plate 14). The shaft was irregular in shape and measured approximately 1.5 feet in width. The soils within the shaft were brown in color, and slightly darker and less compact than the adjacent undisturbed soil. The grave was identified slightly to the north of a pipe that ran east-west perpendicular to the trench.

Grave 18

Grave 18 appeared in the trench floor, 2 feet north of Grave 17, extending approximately 1.5 feet out from the west wall (Figure 4 and Plate 15). The grave lay at .15 feet above datum. The shaft measured approximately 1.75 feet in width. The soils within the shaft were brown in color and slightly darker than the surrounding subsoil.

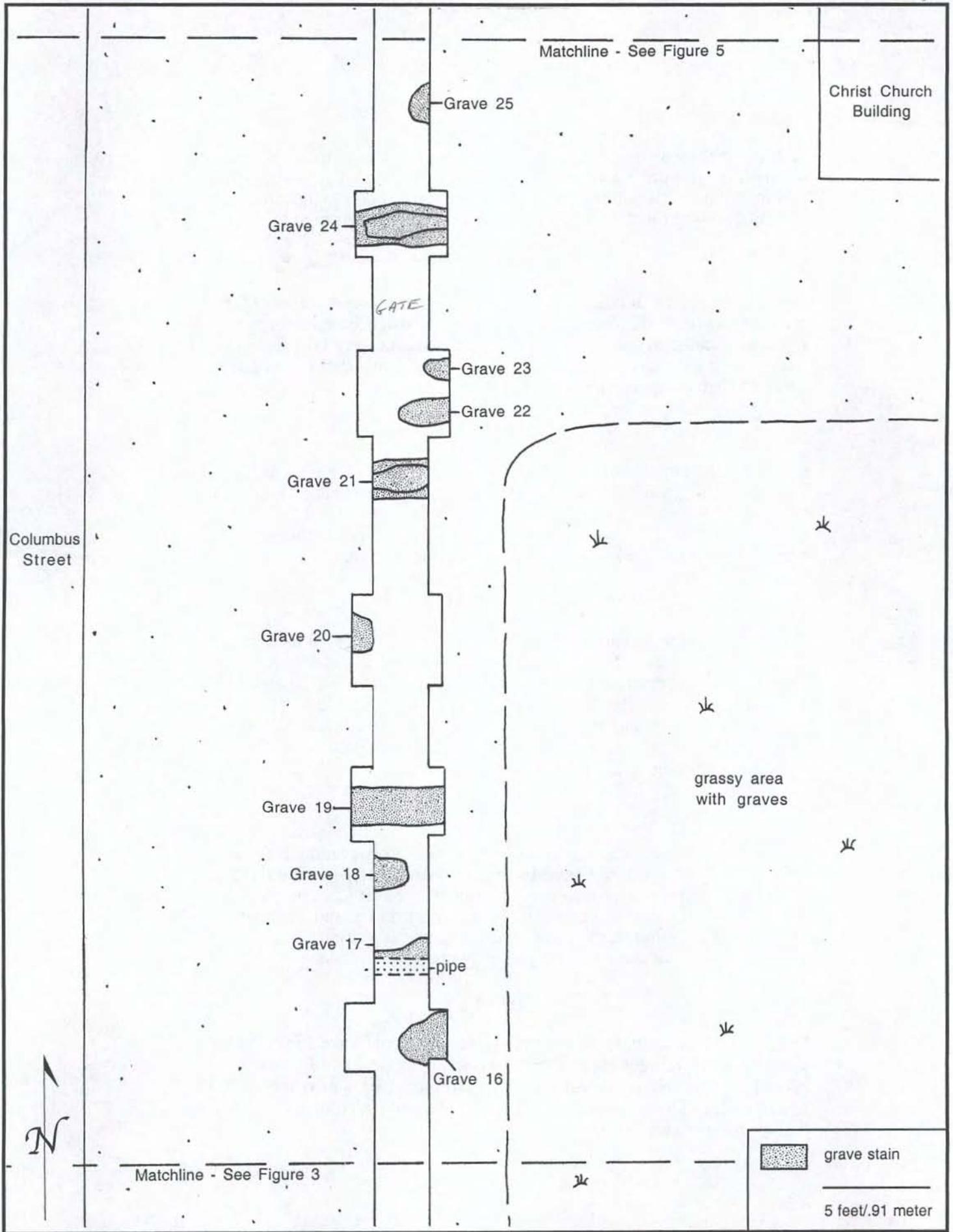


FIGURE 4
 Portion of Plan Map Showing Graves 16 - 25

Grave 19

Grave 19 was marked by a grave shaft which lay in the location of a former structural pier, approximately 1.5 feet north of Grave 18 (Figure 4). The shaft was 2.5 feet long, spanning the width of the trench, and 1.5 feet wide. The shaft was defined at .5 feet above the USGS datum and circa 2.5 feet below the level of the current sidewalk. The soils were like that of the surrounding subsoil in color, with the softer texture being the discerning characteristic.

Grave 20

This grave shaft was approximately 6 feet north of Grave 19 (Figure 4). Grave 20 was circa 1.75 feet in width and extended approximately 1 foot out from the west wall of the trench and under a former structural pier. It was visible both in the floor and in the west wall. The color and texture were darker and softer than the surrounding sterile subsoil and were delineated by grayish water leached soils indicating the grave shaft limits. The shaft was identified at .15 feet above datum

Grave 21

Grave 21 spanned the length of the trench floor, 6 feet north of Grave 20 (Figure 4 and Plate 16). The grave was identified at .25 feet below datum. The edges of an hexagonal coffin were easily discernable as grayish stains that converged at the east and west ends. The coffin stain measured approximately 1.5 feet in width. Nails were present along the coffin edges and within the grave matrix. The grave shaft was brown in color and softer in texture than the subsoil.

Grave 22

Grave 22 extended approximately 2 feet in the trench floor from the east wall (Figure 4 and Plate 17). It was 1.5 feet north of Grave 21, in the area of the new gate placement. There was considerable disturbance here from construction of the previous gate. Soils were quite wet and contained a large amount of brick and mortar rubble. Once the disturbed soil was removed, the dark brown stain that defined the coffin was visible as were rusted iron fragments. The coffin was approximately 1.5 feet in width. The coffin was at .25 feet below datum and less than 3 feet below the current church yard surface.

Grave 23

Both a coffin stain and a grave shaft identified Grave 23, which was 1 foot north of Grave 22 and was also in the location of the new gate (Figure 4 and Plate 18). This grave extended slightly more than 1 foot into the trench floor from the east wall. Soils were similar to those at Grave 22 and there was considerable disturbance here as well. Again, the dark brown stain that defined the coffin was visible along with several rusted nail fragments. The portion of the coffin that was exposed was approximately 1 foot in width. Like Grave 22, the coffin was at .25 feet below datum and less than 3 feet below the current church yard surface. A single small human tooth fragment was observed in the western edge of the coffin stain.

Grave 24

Grave 24 spanned the width of the trench floor (Figure 4 and Plate 19). It lay 5 feet north of Grave 23 and stains from the grave shaft as well as the coffin were identified. The grave was noted at .05 feet above datum. A dark gray brown stain marked the coffin edges, which converged at the east and west ends, outlining an hexagonal coffin. The coffin stain measured approximately 1.5 feet in width, while the grave shaft was circa 2 feet wide. The grave was located at a structural pier and consequently the trench was wider at this point. The coffin appeared to measure about 4 feet in length. Nails were present along the coffin edges and within the central portion of the grave. The grave shaft was brown in color and softer in texture than the surrounding subsoil.

Grave 25

Only a portion of Grave 25 was noted, extending out from the eastern wall of the trench approximately 3.5 feet north of Grave 24 (Figure 4). This grave shaft was 1 foot long and 1.5 to 2 feet wide and the shaft was primarily visible in the floor of the trench. The shaft was defined at .15 feet below the USGS datum and circa 2 feet below the level of the current sidewalk. The soil here was much like that of the surrounding subsoil in color with the softer texture and water leached shaft edges being the discerning characteristics.

Grave 26

Grave 26 was 3 feet long and 1.5 feet wide, spanning the width of the trench (Figure 5 and Plate 20). The grave was approximately 9 feet north of Grave 25. The grave shaft was defined at .15 feet above the USGS datum and about 2 feet below the current sidewalk. The soils within the shaft were similar to those of the surrounding subsoil in color, with the slightly less compact texture and gray water leached marks defining the shaft edges.

Grave 27

Grave 27 extended into the trench approximately .5 feet from the east wall and 7.5 feet north of Grave 26 (Figure 5 and Plate 21). It was primarily visible in the floor of the trench, with two small water leached stains marking the shaft edges visible in the wall. The shaft was defined at .35 feet above the USGS datum and less than 2 feet below the current sidewalk. The soils were similar in color to that of the surrounding subsoil with a slightly softer texture.

Grave 28

The feature, delineated Grave 28, spanned the width of the trench, approximately 11 feet north of Grave 27 (Figure 5 and Plate 21). It was visible only in the floor of the trench and was quite narrow. It is possible that it is related to some other type of disturbance, such as a drain or water pipe, however the soil characteristics and orientation were similar to many of the other graves. The shaft was measured at .15 feet above the USGS datum. The soils were again similar in color to that of the surrounding subsoil with a slightly softer texture.

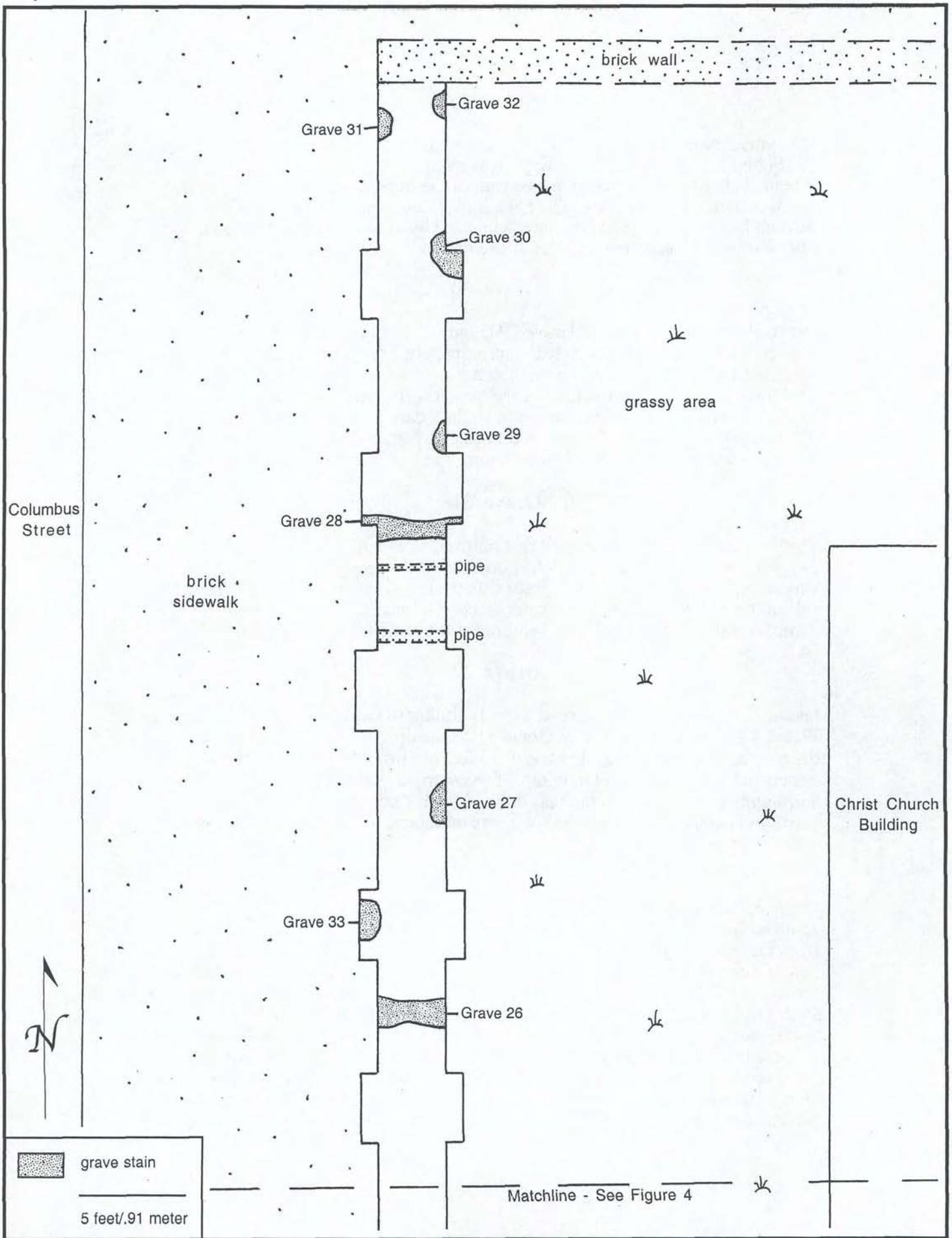


FIGURE 5
Portion of Plan Map Showing Graves 26 - 32

Grave 29

This grave, represented by a shaft, was approximately 3 feet north of Grave 28 (Figure 5 and Plate 22). Grave 29 was circa 1.5 feet in width and extended about .75 feet from the east wall of the trench. It was visible both in the floor and in the east wall. The color and texture were similar to the surrounding sterile subsoil but were delineated by gray water leached soils. The shaft was measured at .15 feet above datum.

Grave 30

Grave 30 was 6 feet north of Grave 29 (Figure 5 and Plate 23). It was marked by a grave shaft which was approximately 2 feet in width and extended 1 foot out from the east wall of a pier location within the trench. The grave was visible in the floor of the trench with some evidence of darker soil in the wall above. The color was a slightly darker brown than the surrounding sterile subsoil and was delineated by grayish water leached soil. The shaft was noted at .1 feet below datum.

Grave 31

The shaft of Grave 31 was circa 4 feet north of Grave 30 (Figure 5 and Plate 24). Grave 31 extended about .5 feet out from the west wall of the trench and was circa 1.5 feet in width. The color was similar to the surrounding sterile subsoil but was marked by gray water leached soils and a slightly less compact texture. The shaft was measured at the same level as the datum.

Grave 32

Grave 32, also marked by a grave shaft, is similar to Grave 31 (Figure 5 and Plate 24). It was nearly east of Grave 31 on the opposite wall and floor of the trench. The grave extended about .75 feet out from the east wall of the trench and was circa 1. feet in width. The color was similar to the surrounding sterile subsoil but was defined by the gray water leached soils and a less compact texture. The shaft was measured at .15 feet above datum.

Grave 33

Grave 33 was located approximately 3 feet north of Grave 26 and 3.5 feet south of Grave 27 and was identified as an existing pier was being removed from the trench (Figure 5 and Plate 25). At approximately 1.15 feet above datum, several bone fragments were observed in a concentration of soft dark brown soil. The bone had been broken prior to the current demolition as no fresh breaks were observed. The fragments appeared to be a portion of a pelvis, while two small fragments of long bone were observed circa 10 inches to the south within the pier area. Several rusted nail fragments were also observed in the vicinity. The soil here contained brick and mortar fragments along with sand and gravel. A utility pipe was observed under the Columbus Street sidewalk at less than 1 foot from the bone fragments and the bones lay

less than 1 foot below the current sidewalk level. The location and condition of the bones along with the soil composition, including brick and mortar, seemed to indicate some prior disturbance to this grave. Possibly the installation of utilities below the sidewalk or the sidewalk construction itself contributed to the disturbed condition of the grave.

A copy of the Scope of Work is included as an Appendix I. The project was monitored throughout and all other requirements were completed.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Construction monitoring was undertaken in connection with the demolition of a brick wall associated with Christ Church along Columbus Street. After the initial removal of the wall by construction crews, the surface of the trench in which the wall was located was scraped and examined for grave stains. Thirty-three graves were found, most marked by grave shafts. Nine graves were exposed to the level of the coffin, with a coffin outline visible and/or nail fragments observed. Four of those nine graves included human remains. All excavations were halted at the level of the graves and the graves were avoided.

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PLATES



PLATE 1
View of Grave 4



PLATE 2
View of Grave 5



PLATE 3
View of Grave 6



PLATE 4
View of Grave 7



PLATE 5
View of Grave 8



PLATE 6
View of Grave 9



PLATE 7
View of Grave 10

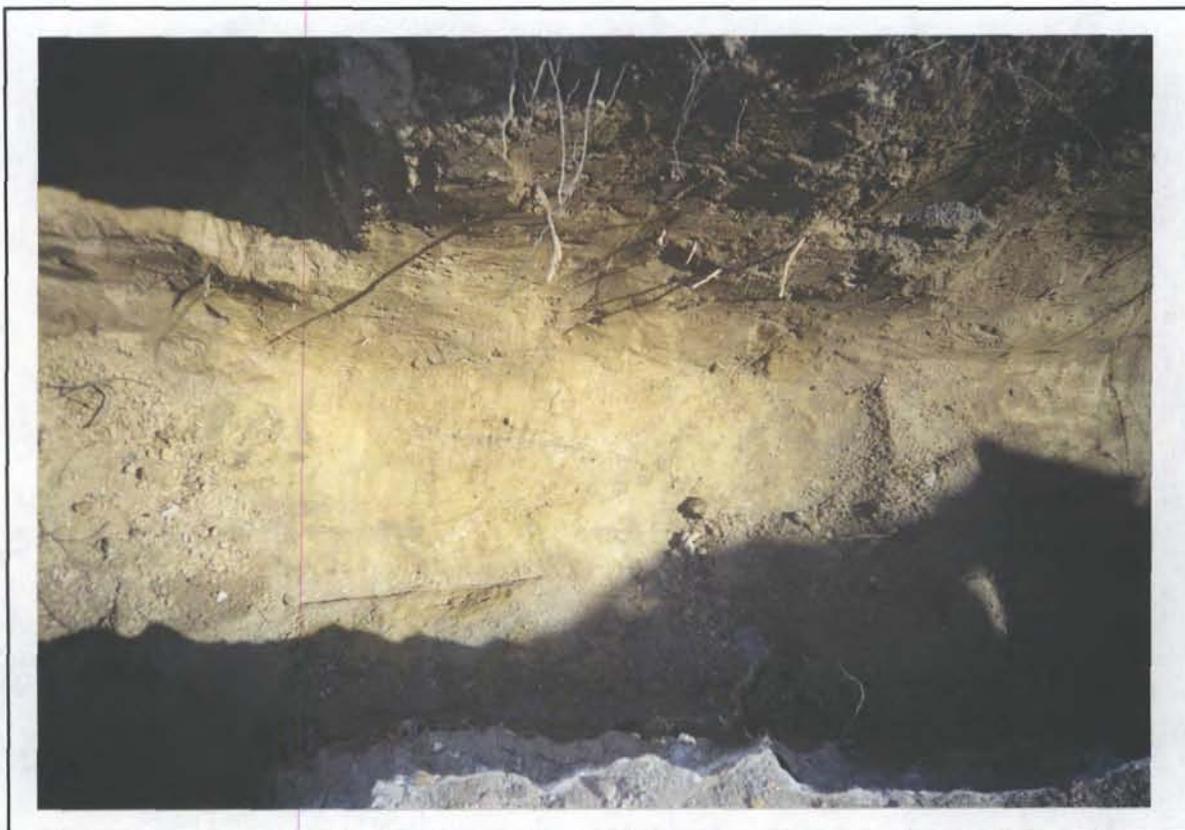


PLATE 8
View of Grave 11



PLATE 9
View of Grave 12



PLATE 10
View of Grave 13

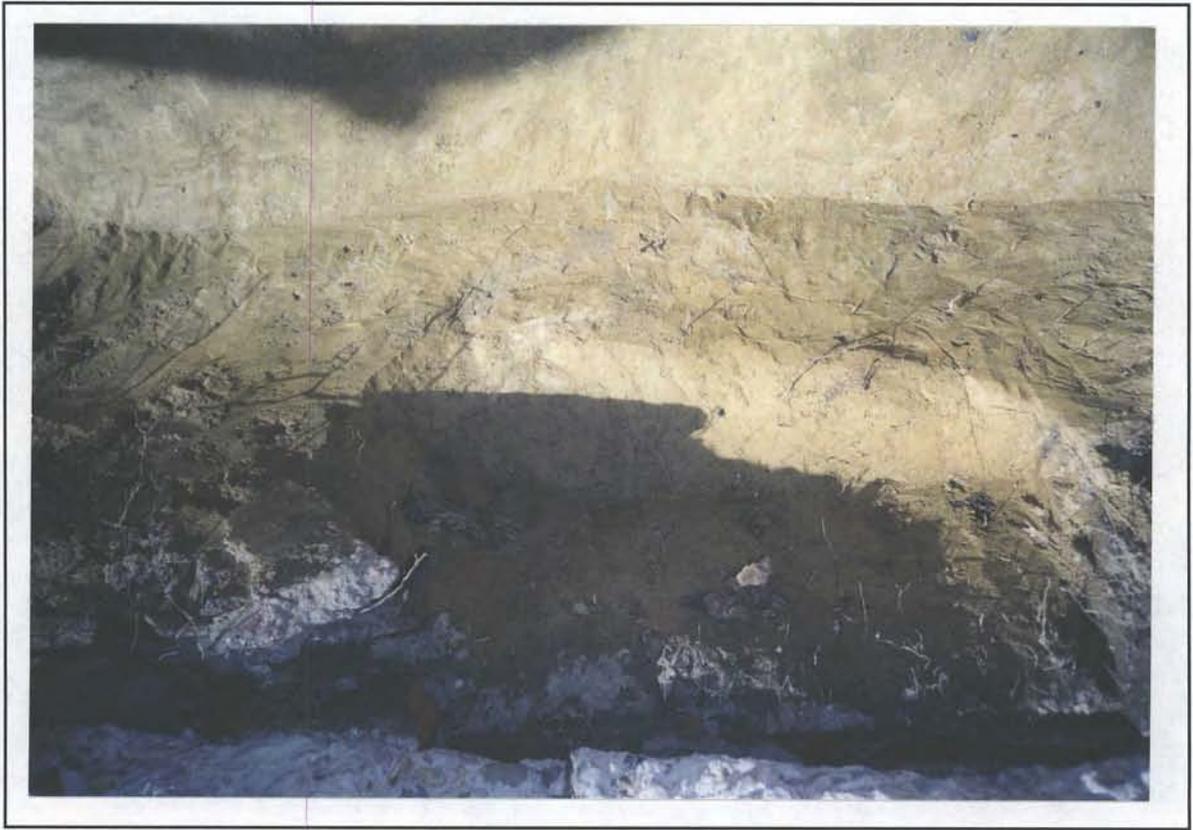


PLATE 11
View of Grave 14



PLATE 12
View of Grave 15



PLATE 13
View of Grave 16



PLATE 14
View of Grave 17



PLATE 15
View of Grave 18



PLATE 16
View of Grave 21

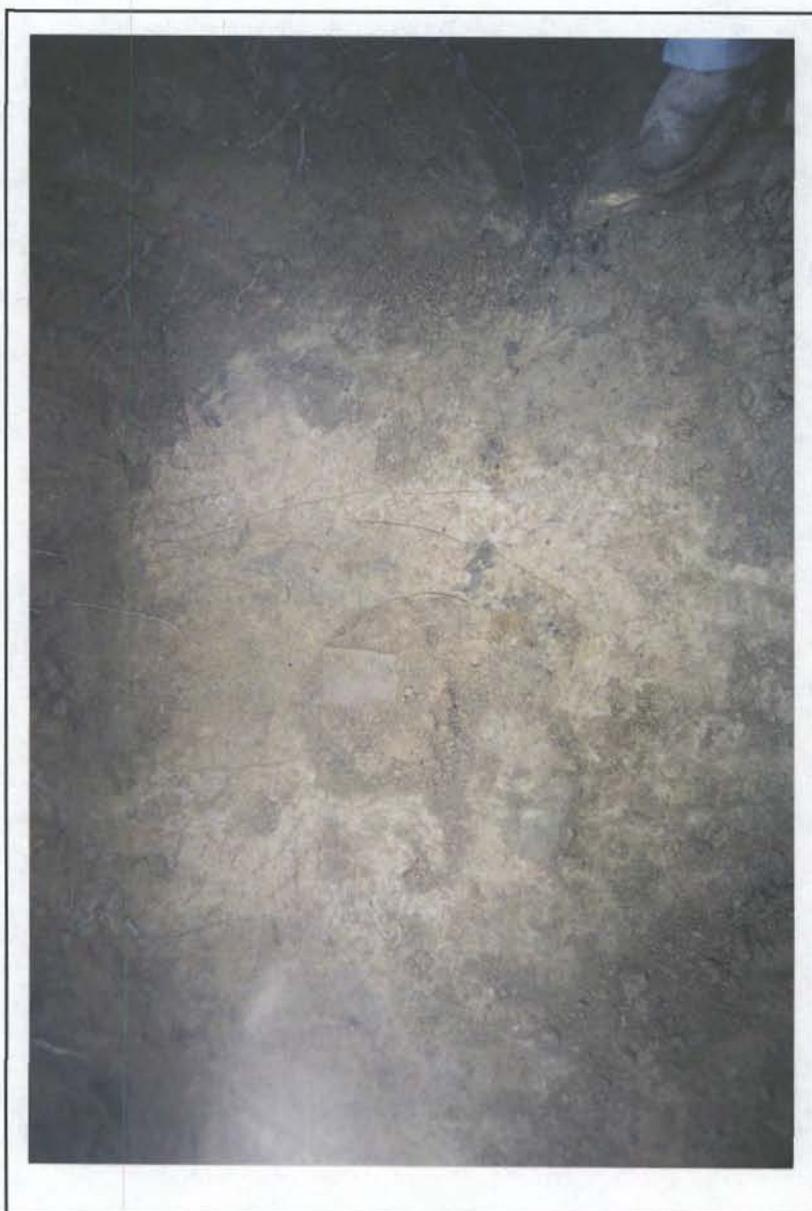


PLATE 17
View of Grave 22



PLATE 18
View of Grave 23



PLATE 19
View of Grave 24



PLATE 20
View of Grave 26



PLATE 21
View of Graves 27 and 28



PLATE 22
View of Grave 29



PLATE 23
View of Grave 30



PLATE 24
View of Graves 31 and 32



PLATE 25
View of Grave 33

APPENDIX I
Scope of Work

Introduction

The Scope of Work proposed herein is necessitated by the replacement of a brick wall along North Columbus Street, Christ Church, Alexandria, Virginia. Christ Church and the associated churchyard have been recorded as 44AX88 and is a National Historic Landmark. The church was built from 1763-1767 and interments began in the late 1760s.

The section of the wall to be replaced at this time is located along North Columbus Street, on the west side of the church yard and cemetery. Prior to 1787, it does not appear as if the cemetery was enclosed as it was at this time that the vestry considered forming a subscription fund to enclose it (John Milner Associates 1978:5). In 1844, the vertical board fencing documented by 1865 photographs was erected along the North Columbus Street side of the cemetery (John Milner Associates 1978:7). This appears to be the first enclosure in this location. A gate as present on the North Columbus side in 1865 as well (John Milner Associates 1978:8). The existing wall was erected in 1898 when a brick and iron fence was built along the east, north and west sides of the yard (John Milner Associates 1978:9).

The destruction and subsequent removal of the wall bordering North Columbus Street requires an archeological investigation to identify any graves which may have been covered by the original wall construction and to prevent any further disturbance to these burials. The preservation and recordation of previously undocumented graves will be the primary objective of the investigation.

It is anticipated that burials may be present. In the 1980s, Alexandria Archeology conducted excavations in the churchyard in connection with the proposed expansion of a parish house (Creveling 1987). Over 30 burials were found. During the replacement of a wall along Washington Street in 1998, 12 burials were documented (Ward and McCarthy 199). Archeological work conducted in 2000 in connection with the replacement of a wall along Cameron Street resulted in the discovery of four graves as well as a French drain (Gardner and Clem 2000).

Proposed Field Methodology

The work proposed herein will comply with the *City of Alexandria Archeological Standards*. The Scope of Work provided by Alexandria Archaeology in connection with Christ Church's replacement of the cemetery is followed here and what is contained in this document is essentially what was provided by Thunderbird Archeological Associates (TAA) on March 14, 2000, for this work.

The North Columbus Street wall is 201 feet in length (John Milner Associates 1978:13).

As this Scope of Work (see Attachment 1) is rather detailed, it will only be summarized. Basically, the Scope calls for:

1. The identification of graves shafts that the projected ground alteration may encounter.
2. Making a horizontal plan map of any grave shafts encountered as well as drawing profiles of grave shafts which are revealed in vertical excavation walls.
3. The excavation of grave shafts down to the top of the coffin (or bones, since the coffin may have dissolved years ago) or to the depth of the proposed disturbance, whichever comes first.
4. Consultation with the Office of Alexandria Archaeology.

All activities, features, grave shafts, etc., will be drawn as noted above, and photographed. Standard archeological records as pertains to grave identification will be kept.

Whenever grave shafts are encountered, Alexandria Archaeology and officials of Christ Church will be notified. The plan maps of any grave shafts will be given immediately to Christ Church officials so that any scheduled construction plans can be altered.

As the walls will be removed by the church contractors, the Consulting Archeologist's job will be to shovel scrape and hand trowel excavation floors to identify any intrusions by interment activities. In addition to the hand scraping of the area where the wall stands, the Consulting Archeologist will have to remove any fill which may be in areas where the new wall is planned; this will require excavation to the depth of the sub-soil to determine if graves are present.

Construction monitoring will also be undertaken of the remain excavation by the construction crew for the new wall to insure that any burials found remain protected.

Significant numbers of artifacts are not expected and any soil excavated will not be screened for the presence of artifacts. If artifacts are recovered, their disposition will be determined by Christ Church and Alexandria Archeology.

Reporting

A letter report will be prepared which will detail the results of the investigation. This letter report will include maps, profiles and photographs and will be sent to Alexandria Archeology and Christ Church.

REFERENCES CITED

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