

FINAL REPORT

JUNE 9, 2004

**DATA RECOVERY AT THE
WEST FAMILY CEMETERY (44AX183),
BLOCK 2, HOFFMAN PROPERTIES,
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA**

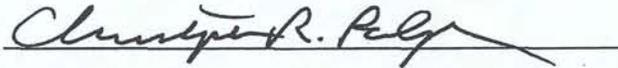
PREPARED FOR:

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BLOCK 2, HOFFMAN PROPERTIES,
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Final Report



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ABSTRACT

The archeological investigations at the West Family Cemetery (44AX183) were conducted between December 1999 and July 2002 by R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., on behalf of Hoffman Management, Inc. The site was located on the Hoffman Property, an approximately 60 ac tract in the West End section of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, that lies east of Telegraph Road and extends from the existing Southern Railroad right-of-way south to the Capital Beltway (I-95/495). Planned commercial development of the Hoffman property included construction of a Cineplex complex; expansion of adjacent surface parking areas; and reconfiguration or installation of new utility lines, all of which had the potential to adversely affect archeological resources. The archeological study was required as a condition of site development under the City of Alexandria's archeological ordinance, and under those chapters of the Code of Virginia [10.1-2305, 57-38, 57-39, and 58-2] that govern the treatment of cemeteries. Legal authorization to conduct the investigations was provided under the terms of an archeological permit from the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and a Burial Excavation Permit issued by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources to Hoffman Management, Inc. All work conformed to standards established in the *Guidelines for Archeological Investigations in Virginia* (VDHR 1996), and the *City of Alexandria Archaeological Standards*.

The principal component of West Family Cemetery site, a brick vault structure (Feature 1), initially was located during the monitored excavation of a new utility line on the Hoffman property. Preliminary testing of the fill within this feature confirmed its function as a burial vault. Documentary research established that the West Family historically had owned the property from ca. 1750 through 1806, and that at least two West family members had been buried in the vault in the 1780s. Mechanized stripping of a 50 x 100 ft area around the vault feature revealed seven additional graves (Features 200-204; 207-208) exterior to and east of the vault structure, as well as a capped brick drain (Feature 2) extending south from the vault. Mid-twentieth century development activity--specifically, the establishment of a ca. 1940s mobile home park--had truncated all of the exterior burials severely, and had collapsed the roof of the vault itself. Because development plans for the Hoffman Property precluded avoidance of the vault and the associated exterior burials, VDHR issued a permit that authorized the documentation, excavation, and removal of all human remains from the cemetery site.

Osteological analyses conducted in the field and at the Radford University anthropological laboratories determined that the badly commingled human remains recovered from the vault represented at least seven individuals, including 2 adult males, 3 adult females, one juvenile/adolescent, and one infant. One of the adult males was Col. George West, who served as the official surveyor for Loudoun County and held commissions in that county's militia during the Revolution; his death and place of burial were noted in the *Alexandria Gazette*. One of the adult females was Sybil West, widow of Hugh West, whose death and place of burial were documented in 1787. Documentation also suggested that one of the other females might be Sybil West Carlyle, who, with her infant daughter may have been buried with her own family when she died of consumption in 1769. The identities of the three remaining individuals could not be ascertained, based upon data contained in available genealogical resources and primary source materials.

The poorly preserved remains in the seven individual burials east of the vault severely hampered specific osteological assessment; characterization of these individuals therefore was based primarily upon

general measures of stature and robusticity. Four of these burials were determined to represent one adult female, two adult males, and an infant; the three remaining burials were too badly preserved to permit determinations of age or sex. All individuals had been interred in plain pine coffins, and all but two had been wrapped in shrouds prior to burial. The east-west orientation and the overall tiered configuration of the burials in this group generally conformed to those observed for similar cemeteries. One group of three shafts, which included the graves of one adult male and the adult female (the two clothed individuals) bracketing the child's grave, apparently denotes a family group; artifacts recovered from the adult male burial in this group suggested a possible African-American association. Although none of the available documentation offered clues to the identities of the seven individuals outside of the vault, the fact that these burials were located outside of a 20 x 20 ft perimeter "reserved" in 1793 by Thomas West around "his" family vault argues strongly that they probably were not family members.

The 14 individuals removed from the West Family Cemetery were reinterred at Pohick Church, the original church of the Truro Parish, in October, 2003. Their reburial at the Pohick site commemorates and preserves the historically documented relationship between the West Family and this Anglican parish, on whose vestry Hugh West served for over a decade.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of the Phase I/II archeological testing and Phase III data recovery/mitigation of the West Family Cemetery (44AX183), located on the Hoffman Properties, between Mill Road and Eisenhower Avenue, in the City of Alexandria, Virginia. Archeological testing and data recovery were conducted between December 1999 and June 2000 by R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., on behalf of Hoffman Management, Inc.; subsequent laboratory analyses, including osteological analysis of the remains recovered from the cemetery, extended from June 2000 until July 2001. The investigations were conducted in compliance with the historic preservation ordinance of the City of Alexandria, and under terms of an archeological permit issued by the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and a burial excavation permit issued by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. The study complies with the archeological ordinance of the City of Alexandria, and conforms to the *City of Alexandria Archaeological Standards* and the *Secretary of Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation*.

Nature of the Project

The West Family Cemetery (44AX183) straddles the borderline of Blocks 2 and 4 of the Hoffman development parcel, an approximately 60 ac, 10 block tract in the west end of the City of Alexandria (Figures 1 and 2). The Hoffman Development tract is bounded on the north by the Southern Railroad property, on the west by Telegraph Road, on the east by Hooff's Run Drive, and on the south by the Capital Beltway (I-95) and Cameron Run/Great Hunting Creek. Mill Road, a four-lane thoroughfare, forms the northern boundary of Block 2.

The initial feature associated with this site (Feature 1), a brick burial vault, first was identified in December 1999 as Goodwin & Associates, Inc. archeologists monitored the excavation of a waterline relocation corridor along the northern perimeter of Block 4 of the Hoffman properties. Following consultation with Alexandria Archaeology, a portion of the vault feature and an associated drain feature were tested and recorded to ascertain the extent of the features and to determine whether human remains were present. Once the presence of human remains had been verified, a burial excavation permit was procured from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) as required by Virginia state code; all human remains were removed from the site in May-June 2000.

Research Design and Methodology

Five objectives were established for this study. These included: (1) verification of the nature and contents of the brick vault; (2) establishment of the lateral parameters of the associated cemetery; (3) archeological documentation of all features and removal of the remains within the site; (4) analysis of all remains and artifacts recovered from the site, including an osteological analysis of the human remains; and (5) completion of a technical report on the project. These objectives were achieved

through a combination of background research; Phase I – III archeological field work; and formal data analyses. A substantial public information component accompanied completion of the project; post-excavation analytical and reburial arrangements were coordinated with West family descendants.

Christopher R. Polglase, M.A., ABD, served as Principal Investigator and supervised all aspects of the study. Martha R. Williams, M.A., M.Ed., managed the project, conducted the archival research, and managed the public information session at the site; David F. Soldo, M.A., and Christian Davenport, M. A., supervised excavations in the field. Andrew Madsen, M.A., supervised the laboratory analysis of the non-human remains recovered from the site, and advised on conservation measures to be applied in the field. Drs. Clifford and Donna Boyd of Radford University conducted the principal osteological analysis of the human remains, and Dr. Douglas Owsley provided supplementary osteological data; Justine Woodard McKnight, B.A., provided the botanical analyses of floral materials obtained during excavation; and Christian Davenport, M.A., analyzed the non-human faunal assemblage. Barry Warthen, John Shuster and Brian Stone generated the graphic material in the report, and Sharon Little produced it.

Organization of the Report

Chapter I of this report provides an overview of the study, including a discussion of the nature of the project and the project objectives. Chapter II develops the historical context for the project area, including an overview of relevant cemetery studies previously undertaken within the City of Alexandria and the Chesapeake Tidewater region. Chapter III discusses the field and analytical methods utilized to complete the project. Chapter IV presents the results of the field investigations and laboratory analyses undertaken in connection with the project, and presents interpretations and a comparative context. Chapter V summarizes the study.

Eight appendices follow the main body of this report. Appendix A contains the full text of the burial permit application filed with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. The formal archeological site form filed with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources constitutes Appendix B. Appendices C – F, respectively, present the results of the principal osteological analyses of the recovered human remains; recovered wood and botanical specimens; the non-human faunal remains; and the supplemental analyses of the recovered human remains.. Appendix G presents a complete archeological inventory, while Appendix H contains the public information package that was developed for the public interpretation event. Appendix I contains résumés of key project personnel.

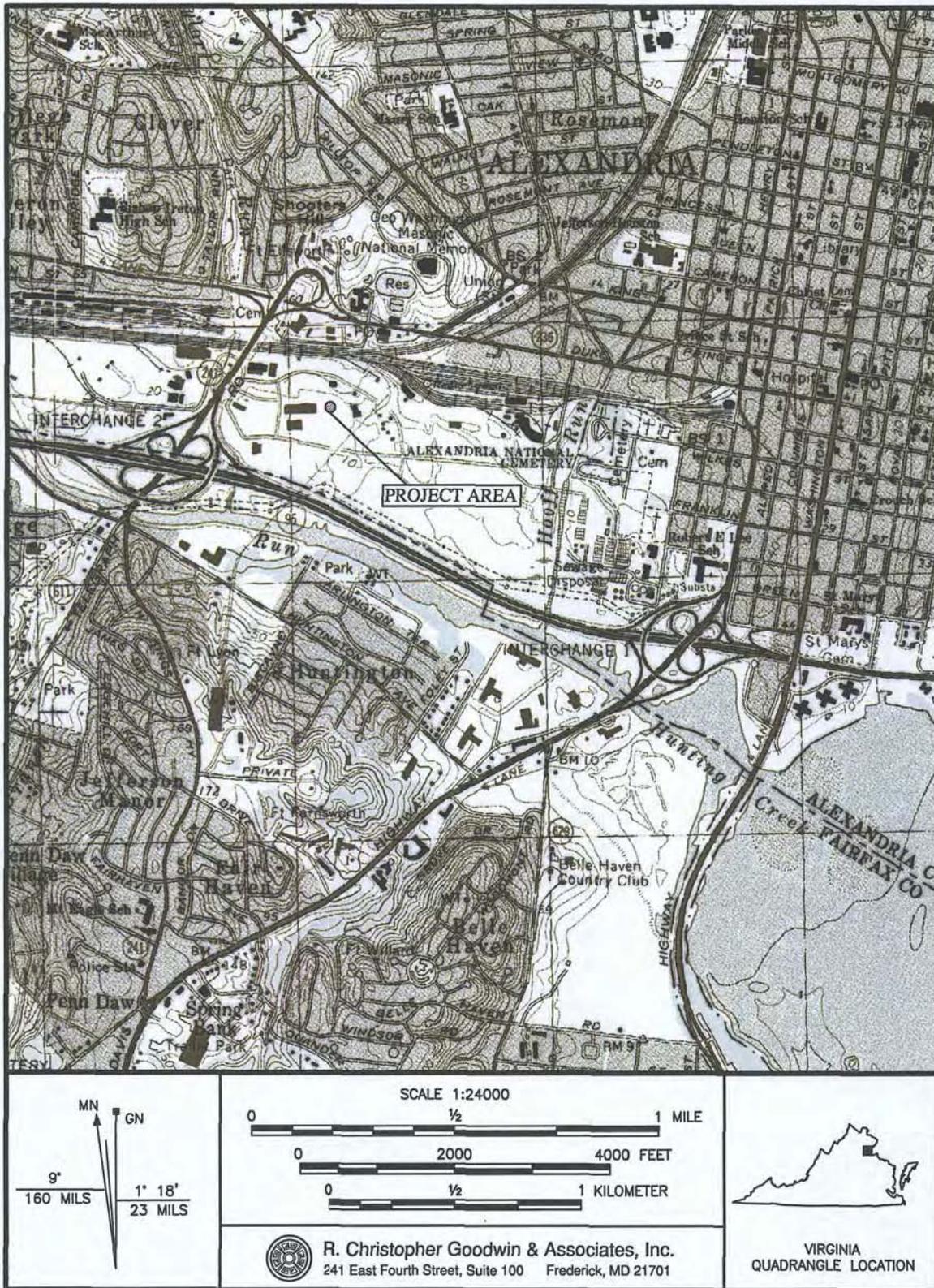


Figure 1. Excerpt from 1983 Photorevised USGS Alexandria, Virginia, 7.5' quadrangle showing the location of the project area

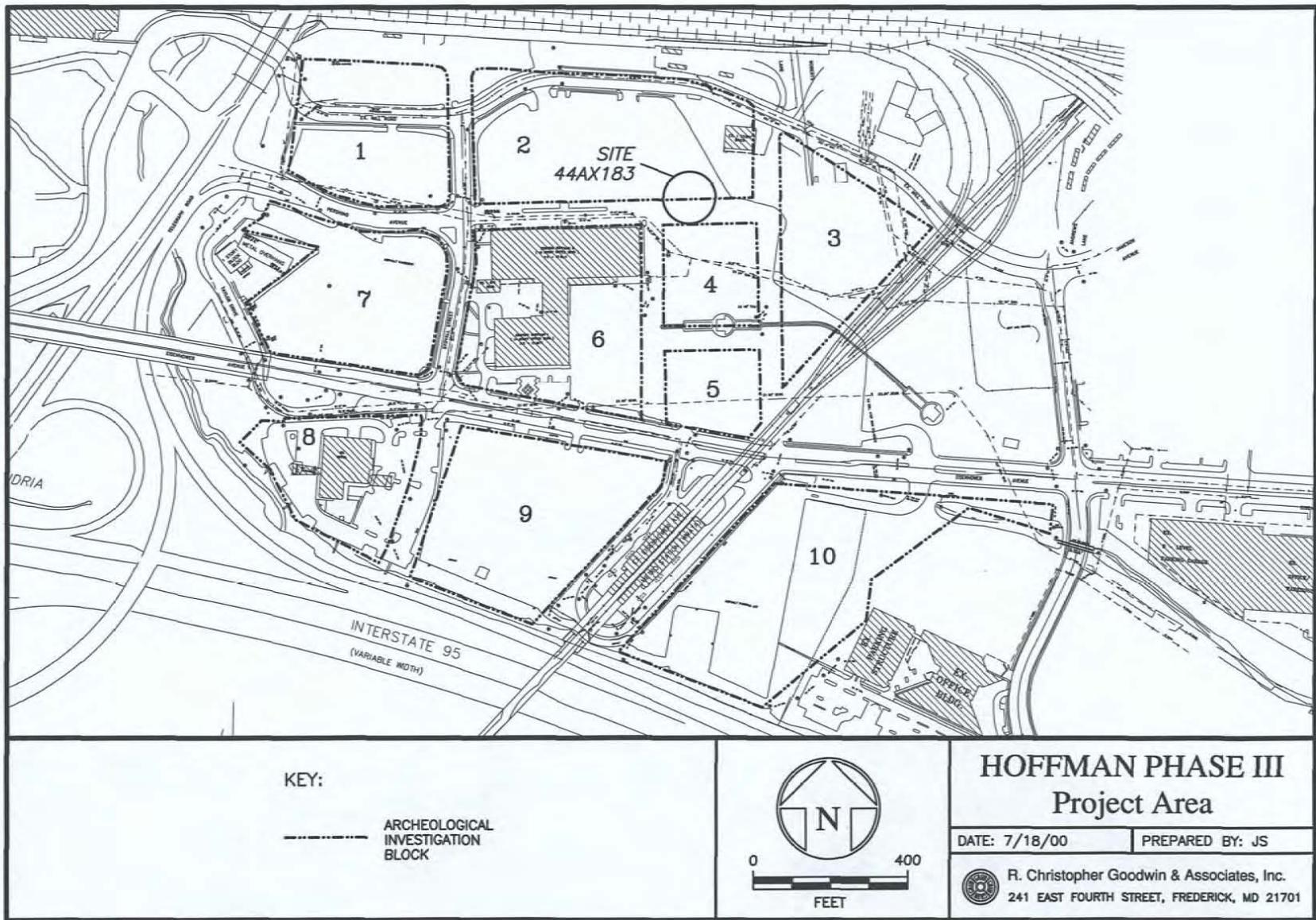


Figure 2. Project area map showing block division of the Hoffman Management property in Alexandria, Virginia, and general location of the West Family Cemetery (44AX183)

CHAPTER II

HISTORIC BACKGROUND

Three objectives governed the direction of the archival research undertaken for this project. Looking at the results of similar studies conducted on comparable sites in the Chesapeake Tidewater region would facilitate the development of a context for eighteenth century mortuary practices and demographic data, and ultimately enable comparisons between the results of these and other studies. Development of a basic understanding of the functional and temporal development of the Hoffman property was essential. Finally, understanding the somewhat convoluted genealogy of the West family would facilitate identification of specific individuals (where preservation was adequate) interred within the site. The results of this directed archival research are presented in this chapter.

Previous Investigations

Regional Cemetery Studies

Although numerous studies of eighteenth and nineteenth century cemeteries have been undertaken in the Chesapeake Tidewater region, relatively few were suitable for use as comparative studies in pursuing the research objectives for the West Family cemetery study. The majority of the cemetery studies reviewed at the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) consisted of Phase I identification studies; that is, they were conducted primarily to establish the presence or absence of potential interments within a specific project area. Moreover, a considerable number concerned examination of cemeteries that temporally or typologically were not analogous to Site 44AX183, a late eighteenth to early nineteenth century rural family burial ground. Thus, only those studies that offered some sort of comparative information—as, for example, those that detailed information on cemetery configuration or that offered comparative osteological data—have been referenced in the present study. Only nine of the listed studies advanced beyond the general identification level and involved focused archeological testing or data recovery with accompanying osteological analysis. The studies examined for this report are presented in Table 1.

Alexandria Cemetery Studies

There have been a number of cemetery investigations within the City of Alexandria itself. The earliest involved the documentation and removal of bodies from two family cemeteries in the northern end of the city—Summer Hill and Preston Plantation (Bromberg et al. 2000:14-15). No osteological studies were performed in connection with these removals.

Five cemeteries within the present city limits have been investigated archeologically. The Black Baptist Cemetery, located in Alexandria's West End, was studied in two stages in 1991-1992. Mechanized removal of overburden soils revealed a total of 27 graves, none of which were

Table 1. Summary of Selected Regional Cemetery Studies

Year	Author(s)	Title	Cemetery Date(s)	Cemetery Type	Investigation Level	Comments/Summary
1982	Catlin, Plog, Hardy, and Ward	<i>An Historic Cemetery in Albemarle County, Virginia: Archeological Investigation of Site 44AB7</i>	18 th -19 th centuries	Rural, community	Phase III	Multi-year project designed to define limits of cemetery and test hypotheses about social stratification as reflected in cemetery layout. Cemetery reportedly held Revolutionary War German POWs, and possibly some slaves.
1984	Dent, Ford, Hughes, Angel, and Beck	<i>Archeological Investigations at the Carroll Family Tomb I Saint Anne's Church Yard, Annapolis, MD</i>	Late 18 th – early 19 th century	Urban, church-related	Phase III	Intensive examination and forensic analysis of burials in Carroll Family vault. 6 interments included 3 males, 2 females, 1 child. Some skeletal remains disturbed and disarticulated due to partial rupture of vault, possibly during reinterments. Hexagonal coffins, bodies shroud wrapped.
1985	Garrow	<i>Archaeological Testing of the Addison Family Cemetery, Oxon Hill, MD</i>	18 th century	Rural, family	Phase I	No remains removed or analyzed. Survey documented 6 individual grave shafts; 1 subsurface brick structure (probable vault); and 1 slab type grave cover. Profile of one grave shaft documented possible planks covering coffin.
1988	Shackel and Galke	<i>Excavations at St. Anne's Churchyard, 18AP43, Church Circle, Annapolis, MD</i>	Mid-18 th century	Urban, church-related	Phase II	3 test units spanned Bordley family burial vault. Four interments (2 male, 1 female, 1 unidentified); stacked hexagonal coffins; bodies shroud wrapped. Possible reinterments.
1991	Ryder and Egghart	<i>Phase II Archeological Evaluation of 44AB384, an Unnamed Cemetery located along Route 866 in Albemarle County, VA</i>	Unidentified	Rural, community (?)	Phase II	No excavations; mapping only. Survey identified 60 graves based on surface indications. Orientation of some graves deviated from true east-west due to site topography.

Year	Author(s)	Title	Cemetery Date(s)	Cemetery Type	Investigation Level	Comments/Summary
1992	Crowell, Heston, Walker, Pappas, and Martin	<i>Archaeological Excavation of Burials at the Marshall/Jones Family Cemetery, Compressor Station #167, South Hill, VA</i>	1799-mid 19 th century	Rural, family	Phase III	18 individual burial shafts; identifiable remains included 2 infants, 4 females, 1 male; all thought to be Caucasian. Some remains previously disinterred; many burials severely truncated by previous grading. Most coffin/casket furniture and hardware characteristic of later mass-produced types. Clothing items and grave goods present.
1993	McLearen and Boyd	<i>Phase II Cultural Resource Significance Evaluation of the Mt. Zion Church Cemetery (44SP209), Spotsylvania County, VA</i>	20 th century	Rural, church	Phase II	No excavations; mapping only. Mt. Zion is an African-American congregation.
1994	Geier and McCleary	<i>Phase II Historical Significance Evaluation of the John Dillard Farmstead (44HR148), Dillard Family Cemetery (44HR149) and Richardson-Hodge (44HR146) Sites on the Property of the Richardson Industrial Park Tract, Henry County, VA</i>	Unknown	Rural; family	Phase II	No excavations; mapping only. Archival study suggested that a spatially segregated section for slave or tenant burials might be present near principal burial ground.
1995	Koski-Karell	<i>Archeological Phase I Survey and Phase II Evaluation Investigations of Site 18AN951 at the Home Depot Project Area, 149 Defense Highway, Ann Arundel County, MD</i>	18 th century	Rural; isolate (family?)	Phase I/II	No remains removed. Identified and documented collapsed brick "grave enclosure."
1995	Kiser, Mouer, and Boyd	<i>An Historic Cemetery in Isle of Wight County, Virginia: Evaluation of 44IW162</i>	18 th century?	Rural; isolate (family?)	Phase I/II	Combination of shovel testing, stripping, remote sensing and hand excavation identified 12 burials consisting of 6 adults and 6 subadults. No forensic analysis.
1996	Bushey and Ryder	<i>Management Summary for the Jesse Mitchell Cemetery</i>	Unidentified	Rural, family	Phase IA	Survey and archival background study only.

Year	Author(s)	Title	Cemetery Date(s)	Cemetery Type	Investigation Level	Comments/Summary
		<i>(44PW930), Rt. 688, Prince William County, VA</i>				
1994	Bromberg et al.	<i>Queen Street Quaker Cemetery</i>	Late 18 th – early 19 th century	Urban, church-related	Phase II/III	156 burials identified; 41 burials analyzed in situ; no exhumations
1998	Hazzard	<i>An Archaeological Survey of a Golansville Cemetery, Site 44CE322, Caroline County, VA</i>	1739-1853	Rural, church-related	Phase I	Mechanical stripping revealed 15 graves ranged in 7 rows, some family clusters. No removal or forensic analysis performed.
2000	Crist, Henry, Joseph, Pitts, Catts, Caton, Washburn, and Norris	<i>With Death Came Liberty: Archaeology and History of the Sam Goode Cemetery, Mecklenburg County, VA</i>	Ca. 1840-1920	Rural, Community	Data recovery; removal and reinterment	Entailed removal and forensic analysis of 155 African-American burials, 45% subadults, from reservoir area. Preservation very poor, limiting forensic results. Some "African-American" oriented grave goods recovered. Pathologies noted on well-preserved specimens.
2001	Slaughter and Manning-Sterling	<i>Data Recovery at 18CR239, the Sykesville Law Enforcement Driver Training Facility, Sykesville, Carroll County, MD</i>	1790-1825	Rural, multi-family	Data recovery	Removal and analysis of 14 burials, including 7 adult females, 4 adult males, 3 subadults. Documented cemetery layout with kinship clusters.
2003	Creveling	Personal communication	Late 18 th – early 19 th century	Rural, family	Data recovery	Excavation and reconstruction of Thompson family burial vault (8 x 17 x 8) in rear yard of standing house. Vault had subcrypt. Nine individuals, including 1 male, 2 females, 2 adolescents, 4 infants <8 months. Burials in standard hexagonal coffins.

excavated further (Bromberg 2000:15). At the Freedmen's Cemetery, on the southern periphery of the city, recent excavations by URS Greiner, conducted in connection with the Wilson Bridge Replacement study, identified a total of 74 grave shafts out of an estimated 1,200+ burials; again, none of these were removed or subjected to osteological studies. The single burial examined at the Bloxham Family cemetery was that of a male thought to be William Whaley, a family relative who died in 1870. Like the interments at 44AX183, the burials in many of these cemeteries had sustained damage as a result of subsequent twentieth century development within and near the site boundaries (Bromberg et al. 2000:15-17).

Investigations at two cemeteries in Alexandria provided temporal and osteological data that were roughly compatible with the data obtained during the present study: Christ Church Cemetery and the Quaker Cemetery. The Christ Church, located at Washington and Cameron streets in what is now the center of the City, was established as a part of the Anglican Fairfax Parish around 1765. The present church building was completed ca. 1773, although some burials could predate the church's construction, since the 1-ac church property had been acquired from John Alexander five years earlier (Wright and Pippenger 1996:54, 60). Interments within this burying ground therefore span the period between the establishment of the parish church and ca. 1809, when the right of burial in this cemetery ceased, and Christ Church subsequently established a "satellite" burying ground on Wilkes Street, outside of the then city limits (Wright and Pippenger 1996:89). The poorly preserved remains at this cemetery, which consisted only of a "few bone fragments and teeth," provided very limited osteological data.

The burials at the Quaker Cemetery, located on West Queen Street on land donated to the congregation by Thomas West in 1784, yielded similarly sparse osteological results. In addition, the site stewards placed severe restrictions on exhumation, requiring that most analyses be made in the field. As a result of these restrictions and the poor preservation of most of the remains, the remains of only 41 of the 156 identified burials were subjected to analysis (Bromberg et al. 2000:ii).

Hoffman Property History

Fairfax County deed records provided the first documentary evidence that a vault might be present on the former Cameron Farm property. In 1791, Thomas West granted permission for William Bird to construct a head race for his mill, provided that the race did not come within twenty feet of West's "vault" (Fairfax County Deeds T-1:113). A century and a half later, oral records of the Roberts family again alluded to the presence of a vault feature. James Roberts, grandson of Robert Roberts (Alexandria Archaeology Research Center [AARC] files, Cameron Mills: Roberts to Harris 1945), sketched the layout of the Roberts farm as he remembered it from his youth. He mentioned the existence of a "vault" and mapped it in an area west of the mill structures (Figure 3); however, he was uncertain as to the function of the feature, suggesting that it could be either an "ammo" or a "burial" vault. Aerial photos dating from the 1920s (Figure 4) also appear to show that the general area where Mr. Roberts' map had indicated the vault's location was under cultivation during that time; the location of Feature 1 closely approximates that of the tree that is visible in the 1920s photograph. These initial data initiated the development of a partial chain of title (Table 2) and a landuse history for the Hoffman property.

Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries

The tract that today includes the Hoffman Properties first was patented in 1678, when Carr and Simpson jointly acquired a rectangular 627-ac grant that extended northwest from Great Hunting

**Table 2. Partial Chain of Title: West Properties/Cameron Farm/Cameron Mills
(1754-1848)**

Year	Grantor	Grantee	Source	Comments
1754	Hugh West	John West	WB B:74	"the plantation on which I now live" and adjoining properties purchased from Terrett and Mason.
1777	John West	Thomas West	WB D:4	"my tract of land whereon my mother lives, containing 627 acres, and ½ the land purchased from Terrett"
1788	Thomas West	John Bronough	County Court papers: loose papers	13-year lease of dwelling and 60 acres built for Augustus de la Rue on south side of turnpike and west of branch of Great Hunting Creek.
1790	Thomas West	William Bird	DB T1:114, 125	8 acres. For mill and mill race. "Canal" not to exceed 26 ft wide; <i>cannot come within 10 ft of West's house or 20 ft of West's vault</i> ; segment through West's yard must be covered with stone, timber, and sod.
1791	Thomas West	William Ward	DB T1:94	Plot of land on the Colchester and Georgetown Roads, between Alexandria and Cameron.
1793	Thomas West	Stump and Ricketts	DB W1:284	22 acres of Carr/Simpson grant, " <i>saving and reserving unto Thomas West and his heirs the vault made use of for interment of the family and 20 ft around sd vault, and access to the vault for purpose of interring any dead body of the family of Thomas West, and privilege of repairing the vault when necessary.</i> "
1795	Thomas West	Lodowick Tresler	DB Y1:45	2 acre triangular parcel between Old Colchester Road, Georgetown Road, and the turnpike road.
1798	Thomas West	Hepburn & Dundas	DB A2:533	80 acres. Sells to satisfy debt of £204. Described as "part of land on Great Hunting Creek" immediately west of land sold to Stump and Ricketts.
1798	Thomas West	Samuel Hulls	DB B2:278	6 acres. "Land on which Hull now dwells", on west side of Colchester Road and east of Peter Wise's meadow.
1799	Thomas West	Catherine West (daughter)	DB B2:188	70 acres. Described as lying along Little River Turnpike and bounded by O'Meara and Watson's land. Part of Thomas West's inheritance.
1798	Thomas West	J. T. Ricketts	DB B2:467	1 acre and 10 poles on north side of mill race adjoining land sold to Stump and Ricketts in 1793.
1799	Thomas West	Thomas Redmon	DB B2:485	5 acres. Begins at Turnpike Road, east to within 50 ft of Richett's fence, then along the old Colchester Road, then north to beginning.

Year	Grantor	Grantee	Source	Comments
1801	Thomas West	Leip	DB G2:46	3 ½ acres bought from Thomas Redmon bounded by Little River Turnpike, Stump and Ricketts land, and Old Colchester Road.
1804	Thomas West	William DeVaughn	DB E2:311	3 acres north of turnpike road adjacent to Amos Alexander's 6 acres.
1804	Peyton, Alexander and Scott, commissioners	J. T. Ricketts	DB E2:446	Sale at auction to settle debt owed to Dundas and Hepburn. Total of 180 acres on Great Hunting Creek and Old Colchester Road.
1804	Thomas West	Stump and Ricketts	DB E2:462	A total of 76 acres of "firm land and marsh". . . bounded partially by Colchester Road and the run at Great Hunting Creek. Deed mentions West's "necessary" and a garden.
1805	Thomas West	Thomas West, Jr.	WB 1:499	Part of Carr and Simpson grant ("the land on which I now live").
1834	John Ricketts	Richard Windsor	DB B3:109	150-acre "parcel of land on which Ricketts resides, known as Cameron, plus two additional parcels. Bounded by Little River Turnpike, Great Hunting Creek, Colchester Road, and Cameron Mills Lane leading from turnpike to Great Hunting Creek.
1837	Heirs of Herman Stump (Harford County, Maryland)	Richard Windsor	DB D3:215	5/6 of the tract called "The Mills," including a parcel east of the road that leads from Little River Turnpike to the mills, then south to Great Hunting Creek.
1848	Richard and Ann Windsor	Reuben and Robert Roberts	DB M3:215	146+ acres, property called "Cameron" on which are situated the Cameron Mills, being land conveyed to Windsor from heirs of John Stump and J.T. Ricketts.

Creek. Simpson subsequently repatented this same tract in January of 1694/5 (Mitchell 1977:245). Comparisons of the Carr-Simpson land grant with current project area maps suggests that the West property included all of Hoffman Blocks 1, 2, 6, and 7, and the northern portions of Blocks 3 and 4. The West Family burial vault is located nearly at the dividing line between Blocks 2 and 4 (Figure 2).

In 1698, Simpson divided this large tract and sold the northern 313 ac to Major John West of Stafford County (Mitchell 1977; Sorenson 1990). The southern portion of the tract subsequently changed hands several times before John's grandson, Hugh West, purchased it from Col. George Mason of Gunston Hall in 1753. Although the latter parcel later was the subject of litigation among various members of the West family, Hugh West retained possession of the tract. He ultimately bequeathed it and adjacent properties he had purchased to his heirs, including his son John West, who in turn left the property to his eldest son, Thomas. A partial chain of title for the subsequent owners of the West family property is included as Table 2 of this report.

Thomas West apparently suffered a series of financial reverses beginning in the 1790s. To cover his debts, he began to mortgage and later sell portions of this property to a variety of

individuals, including William Bird and Stump and Ricketts (Table 2). By 1804 (the year before he died), West apparently was so strapped financially that the remainder of the Carr-Simpson grant was sold at public auction to satisfy his debts (*Alexandria Daily Advertiser* 1804) (Figure 5). The purchasers of these remaining lands were, predictably, the partners Stump and Ricketts, the owners of Cameron Mills.

Although Fairfax County land records contain no plats of Thomas West's property or the mills that later were built upon it, they do record two deeds that reference the existence of a "vault." In the first transaction in 1790, Thomas West leased to William Bird a parcel of 8 ac, together with all "houses, buildings, woods, ways, passages, waters, watercourses, etc." Most importantly for the present investigations, this land transfer permitted William Bird to dig a mill race to power "any mill or mills which the sd William Bird. . .may build. . .," but specified that the canal/mill race had to be located "no closer than 10 ft to Thomas West's house, nor closer than 20 ft to Thomas West's 'vault'" (Deeds T-1:113). Two years later, Thomas sold another 22 ac to the milling firm of Stump and Ricketts, William Bird's partners. This second sale document not only specified that a 20 ft x 20 ft area around the family vault was excluded from the sale, but it also reserved to West and his heirs the right of free access to the vault for the purpose of repairing it or interring other family members (Deeds W-1:284).

After the West family relinquished its interest in the property, the location of the family burial vault faded into obscurity. The location of the West's mansion house also remained unknown until the recent discovery of a diary written by a member of the Roberts family ca. 1899. In his discussion of the property, the diarist notes that the West family mansion was still standing and in relatively good condition in 1848 when the Roberts' acquired the property, but that it had been used as a barn. By 1899, however, the diarist reported that all that was left of the colonial landscape was an aged pear tree; the mansion and a well had been filled and farmed over (Jean Roberts Harris to Dr. Pamela Cressey [forward to Francine Bromberg, Stephen Shephard and Martha Williams]: 12/04/2002).

Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries

Between 1804 and 1848, much of the former West property was developed as a mill complex jointly owned by Stump and Ricketts and then by Richard Windsor. In 1848, Windsor sold the 146-ac parcel of land, now called "Cameron," including the mills, to Reuben and Robert F. Roberts, Quaker brothers from New Jersey. The Roberts brothers sold the eastern mill building to the newly formed Alexandria Water Company in 1851, but they continued to operate at least one of the mills in partnership with Edmund Hunt until 1894. Descendants of the Roberts family lived at Cameron Farm through the mid-1940s (Jean Burke, Personal Communication, March, 2000).

During the late nineteenth century, "Cameron Farm" included both the mill and an active agricultural complex. The 1850 Federal census indicated that three families occupied adjacent houses on the property: Reuben Roberts, the miller; Joseph Allen, a male [mail] driver; and Robert Roberts, whose occupation was designated as "farmer" (United States Census, Population Schedule for Fairfax County 1850). An undated mid-nineteenth century survey plat, showing the proposed Manassas Gap Railroad right of way, depicted the mill; a "cow house" and a "barn" immediately south of the millrace; two dwelling houses; and some "frame houses" around Roberts Lane as landmarks for the survey. Maps of the Civil War era and the early twentieth century also show a variety of additional buildings within the Cameron Farm complex, although the locations of these features varied over time.

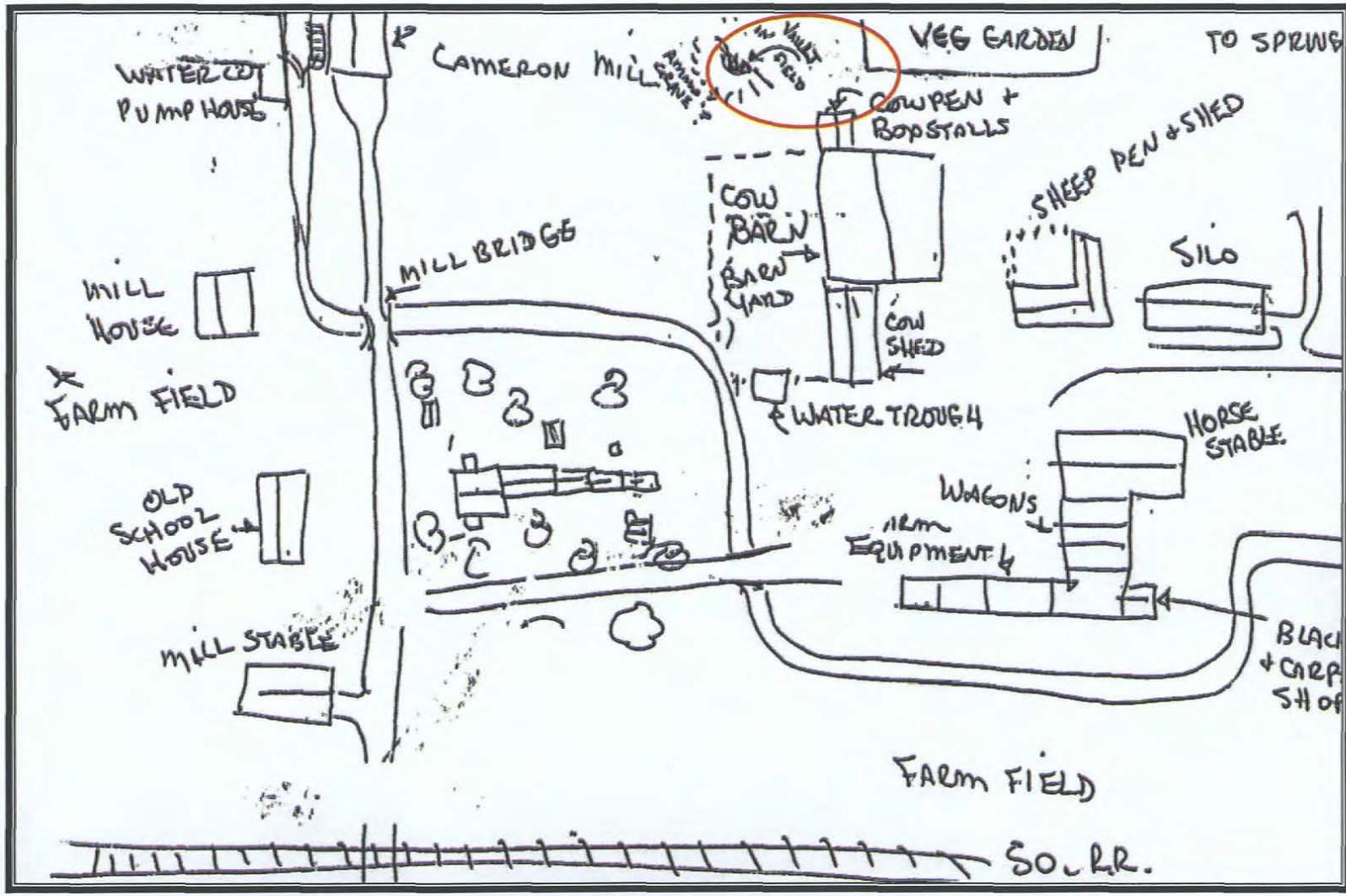


Figure 3. James Roberts' 1945 sketch of Cameron Farm and Mills, showing location of vault structure



Figure 4. Part of a 1927 aerial view of western Alexandria, showing Cameron Farm in relation to the Southern Railroad yards. Red circle indicates approximate location of vault (Courtesy of Virginia Room, Kate Waller Barrett Branch, Alexandria Public Library)

PUBLIC SALE OF LANDS.

By virtue of a decree of the Court of the United States for the fifth circuit Virginia district, in the suit of Hepburn and Dundas against Thomas West, in chancery—will be sold on the premises to the highest bidder, at Public Auction, for ready money, on Monday the 20th of August next, at 12 o'clock A.M. if fair, if not, the next fair day at the same hour.

A TRACT OF LAND,

situate on Hunting Creek, in the County of Fairfax and Commonwealth of Virginia, within one mile of the town of Alexandria, and near to the Cameron Mills, whereon major Thomas West now resides, supposed to contain from fifty to eighty acres.

Also,

on the same day will be offered for sale, *The residue of said Thos. West's Land,* lying on the northwest line of the patent of Carr and Simpson, adjacent to the tract before mentioned, not disposed of by the said Thomas West at the time certain mortgages were made by him to Hepburn and Dundas.

Richard M. Scott, }
F. Peyton, }
Amos Alexander, }
Clerks

July 12, '44

Figure 5. 1804 *Alexandria Daily Advertiser* public sale notice for Thomas West's property at Cameron

In a 1945 letter, James Roberts, grandson of Robert Roberts, described and sketched the layout of the Cameron Farm as it appeared ca. 1900. Roberts' sketch map (Figure 3) located what he termed a "vault in (a) field [ammo? grave?]" located at an unknown distance, west of the mill complex and south of the agricultural service buildings of the farm. The feature undoubtedly represented Thomas West's "vault," referenced in his 1791 and 1793 deeds to Stump and Ricketts and William Bird. Roberts family descendants indicate that they remember some sort of "mound" west of the mill site and south of the main farm complex, although they were unsure of its contents (Jean Burke, personal communication, March 2000).

The Roberts family sold Cameron Farm after World War II, and the property was subdivided. The northern half of what became the Hoffman tract housed an extensive trailer park, and a variety of other light industrial buildings were constructed along Mill Road. In common with other areas investigated in the West End of Alexandria (Cromwell 1989; Cromwell et al. 1989; Alexandria Archaeology 1994; Walker et al. 1996), such development almost certainly entailed moderate to severe landform modifications, including filling, grading, building demolition and construction, and installation of underground utilities. It is likely that the intensive nineteenth century agricultural use of the property and subsequent twentieth century re-development severely impacted or destroyed most remnants of earlier occupations.

Genealogy and History of the West Family of Alexandria, Virginia

The property history developed in the preceding section indicated that the original owners and occupants of this property were several generations of the West Family, one of whom, Hugh West, was an original trustee of the City of Alexandria. The genealogical and documentary information that follows (Table 3) is intended to provide insights not only into the family history, but also to present data that could clarify the identities of individuals who might be interred in the West Family cemetery. However, this section does not attempt to replicate an entire West Family genealogy; it excludes those branches and descendants of the family that appear not to have had any direct or close indirect relationship to the property.

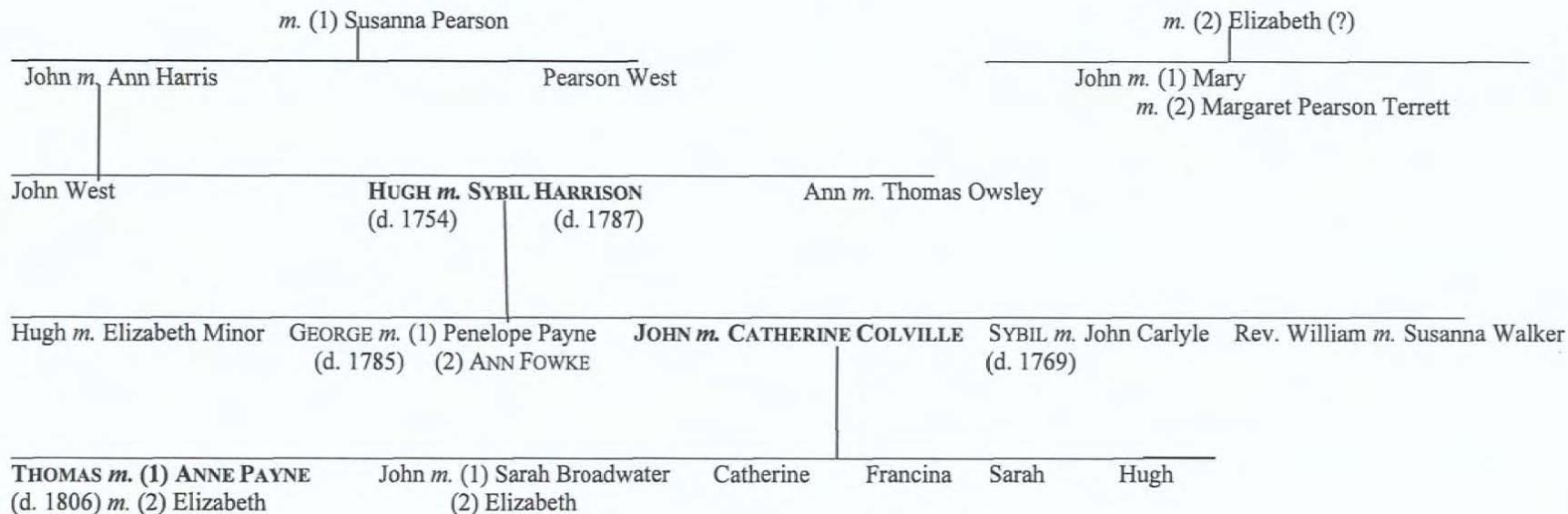
First Generation (John West (I) of Stafford County)

Relatively little is known about the ancestry of the West family progenitor, "Major" John West (I). Sorensen (1990:172a) contends that he may have been the eldest son of John and Susannah (Cocke) West of Northumberland County. What is clear is that he acquired rather extensive landholdings in what was then Stafford County, Virginia, including approximately one half of the acreage that originally encompassed the Hoffman Properties project area, during the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. "Major" West was married twice, first to Susannah Pearson and second to Elizabeth (possibly Semmes [Bish 2002]) very late in life. West's first marriage produced two sons, John (IIa) and Pearson; the second union produced another son, also named John (IIb) (Sorensen 1990:172a, 220). Pearson, who was referenced only once in Stafford County militia records (Sorensen 1990:173), apparently died intestate; John (IIa), who married Ann Harris and had three children (John [III], Hugh, and Ann), also predeceased his father. Like his father, John (IIb), the product of West's second marriage also married twice.

"Major" West's will, probated in 1716 in Stafford County and later transcribed in a set of records known as the "Land Records of Long Standing," (King 1938:102-105; Sorensen 1990:172a) provides perhaps the most complete insight into the eldest West's familial relationships, activities, and properties, many of which were located within what is now Fairfax County. His surviving son John

Table 3. PARTIAL GENEALOGY OF THE WEST FAMILY OF ALEXANDRIA AND FAIRFAX

John West of Stafford County
Died 1716



- Notes: (1) **Entries in bold are documented owners of the property.**
 (2) ENTRIES IN CAPITAL LETTERS ARE POTENTIAL IDENTITIES OF THOSE INTERRED IN THE WEST CEMETERY. SYBIL HARRISON WEST AND GEORGE WEST ARE DOCUMENTED INTERMENTS IN CEMETERY.
 (3) THOMAS WEST SOLD ALMOST ALL OF THE ALEXANDRIA PROPERTIES IN 1805 AT A SHERIFF'S SALE TO JOHN RICKETTS

(IIb) profited most from his father's largesse, being presented with: (1) "all lands and real estate on Hunting Creek branches about 2,000 acres;" (2) 500 acres at Pamunkey; (3) all lands above Falls of the Potomac; (4) "my plantation" after his wife dies; (5) all my other real estate on the South side of Hunting Creek not otherwise disposed of; (6) three Negroes; (7) all silver "Plate;" and (8) half of his remaining personal estate not devised to others, the other half going to his widow Elizabeth.

West also provided for the grandchildren fathered by his first son John (IIa). To grandson John (III), he devised "313 acres of Land Lying on the north side of great Hunting Creek, being the Land I bought of John Sim[p]son," and 3,000 pounds of tobacco (King 1938/9:219). The 313½ -acre tract comprised half of a 627-acre patent granted to John Simpson in 1694 or 1695 and purchased by Major West in 1698 (Mitchell 1977:41). To his grandson Hugh West, he bequeathed "300 acres lying on the north side of Acquatinck [sic] Creek. . . aforesaid land purchased of William Greene." A survey executed for the case of French Mason vs. Daniel McCarty in 1748 (Figure 6) clearly depicts the location of "Mr. Hugh West's tenement," a property that today would lie within the present day grounds of Fort Belvoir (Mitchell 1977:64). Both grandsons also received 3,000 pounds of tobacco. The elder West also stipulated that, in the event that either grandson died without legal heirs, their portions were to revert to his son John (IIb) (King 1938/9). Clearly, this instruction was never followed, for in time, the apparent disregard for this provision as it applied to the Carr-Simpson property gave rise to a court case between John (IIb) and Hugh West and his heirs (Sorenson 1990:172a).

Of all of West's real properties, the most relevant to the present project were those located in the vicinity of Great Hunting Creek and its tributaries. Two of his son John's (IIb) properties clearly did not encompass the project area. The 2,000-ac bequest on the "Hunting Creek branches" undoubtedly referred to part of a 4,639-ac tract patented jointly in 1706 by West, William and Thomas Harrison, and Thomas Pearson along Backlick and Holmes runs, the two major tributaries of Cameron Run/Great Hunting Creek (Mitchell 1977:281). The real estate on the "South side of Hunting Creek" involved several tracts located at the confluence of Great Hunting Creek and the Potomac River that John West (IIb) obtained under warrant in 1762 (Mitchell 1977:284), and on which he apparently resided (Figure 7). However, the 313½-ac grant to grandson John (III) did include the project area.

Major John West (I) probably did not reside on any of the properties along Hunting Creek. He clearly gave to his wife the separate plantation on which he resided, the location of which has not been ascertained. As a result, Major John West probably was not, as some have inferred (Bish 2002), one of the individuals interred in the West Family vault.

Second Generation (John West (IIa) and John West (IIb))

The two sons of John I named John, together with his other son Pearson (Sorenson 1990:173), constituted the second generation of the family that become associated with the project area. The senior West's will makes it clear John (IIa), the product of John West's (I) marriage to Susannah Pearson, did not survive his father, but that he did leave *three small children* as a result of his marriage to Anne Harris. These grandchildren were three of the heirs mentioned in their grandfather's will.

John West (IIb), the "son" mentioned so prominently in the elder West's will, evidently was a small child when his father died in 1716. The last stipulation of the elder West's will bears out this hypothesis, for it specifies that Major West's friends, Captain Thomas Harrison and Simon Pearson, were to assist his wife, and that his wife was to "bring up and educate my son John West in the reformed religion of the Church of England" (King 1938/39).

John West (IIb), the half-uncle of Hugh West, rose to prominence in mid-eighteenth century Fairfax County. By the time of his death in 1777, he held the title of Colonel and maintained such a close association with George Washington that he requested Washington to serve as guardian of his only son, Roger (Fairfax County Wills D:25-33). Roger West ultimately inherited all of his father's real property and slaves, including his "dwelling plantation" (225 ac) and a second 295-acre tract ("part sunken, part high"); my "old quarter" (450 ac) then being tenanted by an overseer, Benjamin Boylston; and "my new quarter", a 458-ac property located "on the road where Conner McGuire teaches school." Figure 7 depicts a 1789 survey of Roger West's landholdings on the south side of Hunting Creek. Notably absent from the list of properties, however, was the 313 ½ -ac tract that John (IIb) was to have inherited if John (III), brother of Hugh West, died without heirs. The snub rankled for years; John's (IIb) will (1777) referred to the tract as being "in the possession of my kinsman, John West Jr which his father (e.g., Hugh) recovered from us."

Third Generation (Hugh West, John West (III), Ann West Owsley)

Hugh West was born in Stafford County, Virginia, about 1705, and married Sybil Harrison in 1725 (Hiatt and Scott 1994:238). Hugh died in 1754, but his widow lived on for some three decades, dying at age 83 in 1787. Hugh and Sybil West produced five children, including John, Jr. (IV) (d. 1776), Hugh (died 1767), George (d. 1786), William (b. 1737 - d. 1791), and Sybil (d. 1769) (Sorensen 1990:177-178); genealogical records in the Fairfax County Judicial Archives also suggest that Hugh and Sybil may have had another daughter named Margaret. Because of his brother John's (III) premature death and his sister Ann's marriage to Thomas Owsley, Hugh West emerged as the most prominent family member of his generation within the religious, economic, and social hierarchy of eighteenth century Northern Virginia.

As a landowner, Hugh West's influence expanded far beyond the original inheritance that he had received from his grandfather, John (I). One of his most significant acquisitions was a 100-acre portion of Margaret Brent's original (1662) 700-acre land grant that formed the nucleus of the town of Alexandria. This tract in fact at one time had belonged to Hugh's grandfather, John (I), who purchased it in 1703 and rented it to John Symmers [sic]. At his death, John (I) divided this 100-acre lot between Benjamin and John Blake; the latter Blake subsequently sold it to Simon Pearson in 1728, and Hugh West purchased the tract from Pearson's heir Thomas "many years later." The boundaries of this tract were the major issue in a trespass suit brought in 1763 against John Spinks by Sybil (I) West, Hugh's widow. In that suit, John Summers, the former tenant, described the property as the place "where formerly a tobacco house and orchard stood and that first house built above that place was the old 60-foot warehouse built for Simon Pearson" and witnessed that the property extended from "the place where Mr. William Ramsay's garden now is. . .to the Gut (inlet) commonly called Ralph's Gut." One of the boundaries of this tract was "Queens [sic] street" (Mitchell 1977:35-36); today, this grant encompasses an area of Alexandria known as "West's Point." From this point, a ferry ran across the Potomac River to Maryland. West thus was a major landowner in the City of Alexandria and one of the town's first trustees (Miller 1991:241); moreover, the point where his tobacco warehouse stood became a prominent landmark in the newly created town.

However, for the present study, another tract of land acquired by Hugh West, the Carr-Simpson grant, is of the most interest. The Simpson half of this property comprised the disputed 313½ acre tract that John (I) had left to his grandson, John (III). When John West (III) died without legal heirs, this property theoretically was to have passed to his uncle, John West (IIb), who sold it to John Minor in 1735 (Deeds Book C-1:136). Minor sold the 313½ acres back to John West (IIb) in 1750 for £65 sterling. Despite these transactions, Hugh West occupied this property, and the Virginia State courts upheld his heirs' rights to the property in 1786. Hugh West purchased the other half of the Carr-

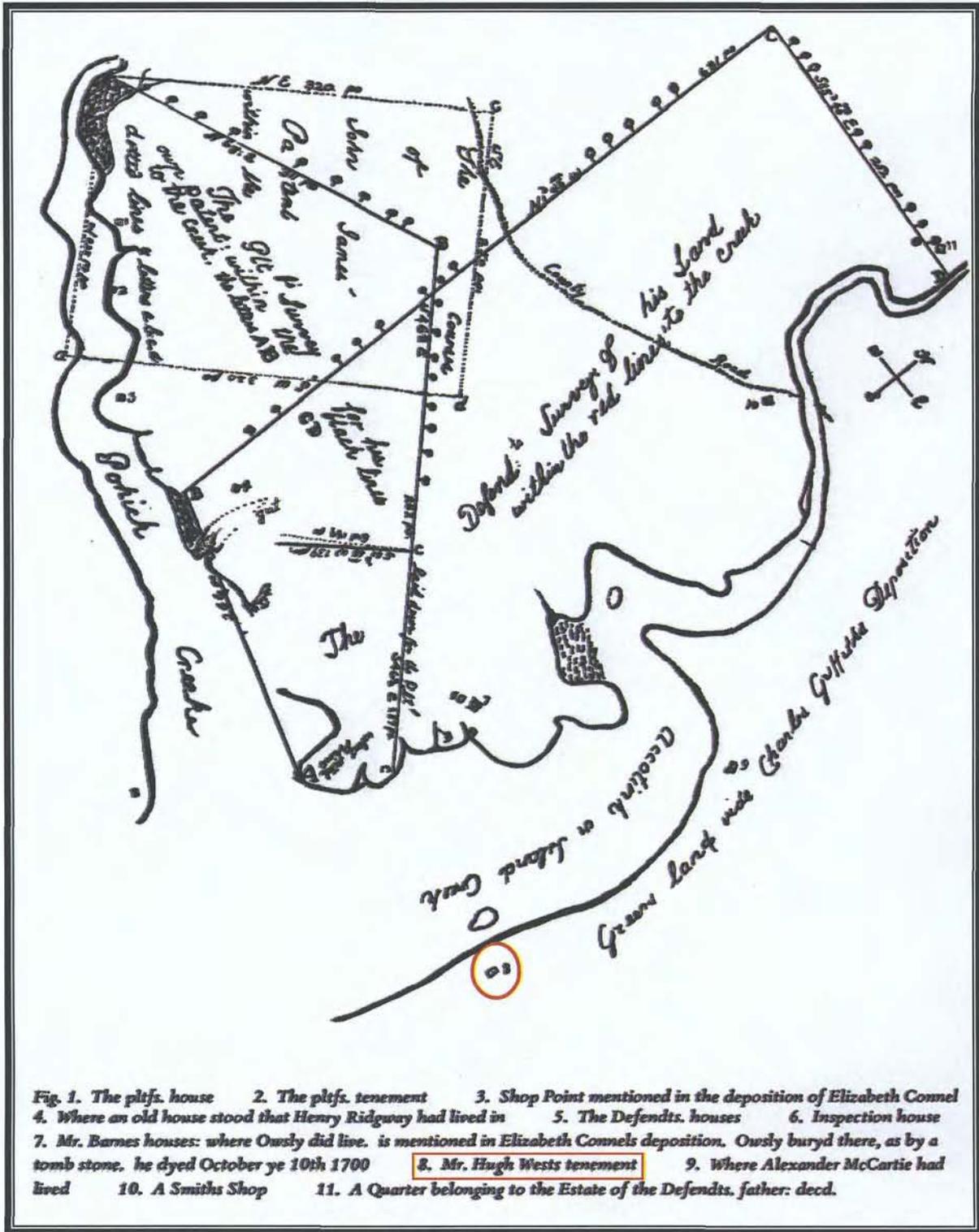


Figure 6. Mason/McCarty survey of 1748, showing the location of "Mr. Hugh Wests tenement" on the north side of Accotink Creek (from Mitchell 1977)

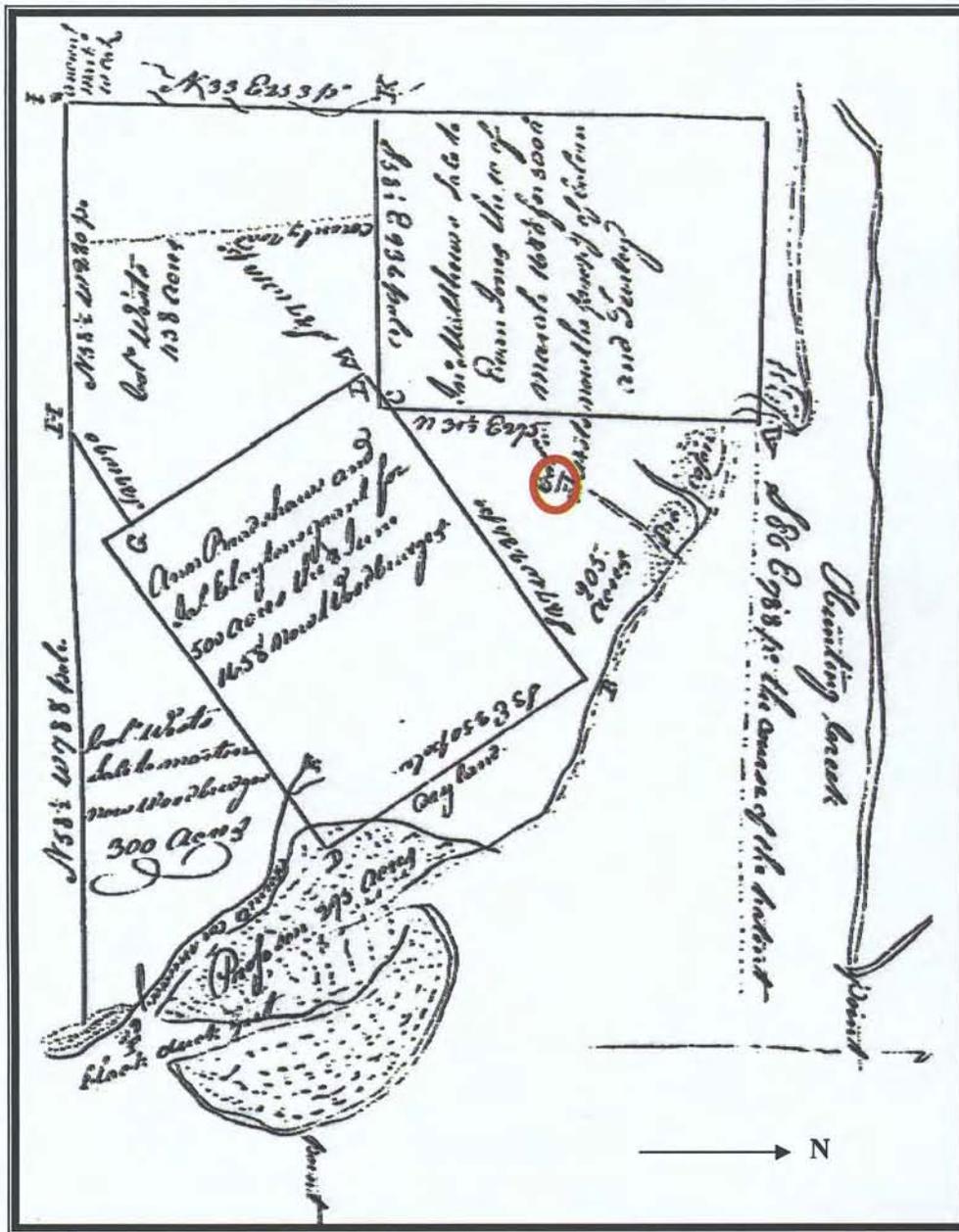


Figure 7. 1787 Survey of Roger West's properties, showing the location of "Col. West's" house on the south bank of Great Hunting Creek (from Mitchell 1977)

Simpson grant from Col. George Mason of Gunston Hall in 1753 (Mitchell 1977:41). Together, the reunited 627-ac property passed intact to Hugh West's son and grandson.

The inventories of Hugh West's personal possessions (Wills Book B:74) reflect the upper class lifestyle that he enjoyed, just as his will documented the vast amount of property that he had amassed during his lifetime. These inventories reflected two sides of his personal affairs. The first demonstrated that Hugh enjoyed the best that an affluent mid-eighteenth century household could afford; the list of possessions included a large amount of glass tableware, "Chiney," "Delph" crockery, pewter ware and silverware, together with six Negro slaves and one indentured servant. The second inventory reflected Hugh's life as a planter; there were eight slaves on his plantation, and his livestock included horses, pigs, cows, and sheep (Wills Book B:77,80).

As befitted individuals of their socio-economic status, Hugh and Sybil West were prominently involved in the affairs of the local Truro Parish. Hugh himself served on the Parish vestry during the last ten years of his life (1744-1754), although his association with the congregation dated more than a decade prior to that time (Wright and Pippenger 1996:104). For more than a decade after his death, his widow continued to support the parish by contributing funds to defray the cost of "elements for churches" (Wright and Pippenger 1996:99, *passim*). Although the two extant churches of Truro Parish were not constructed until the late 1760s (Pohick [1768] and the Falls Church [1769]) (Netherton et al. 1978; Conley 1994:204), it is possible that Sybil (I) West's monies helped to defray the cost of both.

Although Sybil West (I) retained the use and benefit of all of her husband's real and personal property as long as she did not remarry, his vast landholdings ultimately were distributed among his three sons and one daughter (Stone 1928:2). Son John (IV) received "the plantation on which I now live," plus the adjacent properties that Hugh had purchased from Terrett and Mason and other parcels on Accotink and Piney runs. To his son Hugh (II), he left properties on Scott's Run (in the McLean/Tyson's Corner area), while son George inherited all of his father's lands on Goose Creek and Catoctin in Loudoun County. Daughter Sybil (II) West [Carlyle] also received a substantial bequest, including "the Lotts in Alexandria Town where my Ordinary and Warehouses now are & the benefit of the Ferry."

Sybil (I) West survived her husband for over three decades, and during that time, she acquired property in her own right. At her death, she left an "Estate which by my own care and diligence since the decease of my dear husband has been acquired by me and is at my disposal" mainly to her son William and to several of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren (Sparacio and Sparacio 1988:57). Her obituary in the *Alexandria Gazette* read: "Died. Mrs. Sybil West, in the 83rd year of her age, This venerable Lady was one of the first inhabitants of this Town, and through life supported the Character of a pious Christian. Her remains were interred in the Family Vault, near this Town, on Thursday last, attended by a numerous Collection of Relatives and Friends" (*Alexandria Gazette*, June 7, 1787). Her death notice is especially relevant to the present study, for it is one of only two documents that mention the family burial vault in the present project area.

Fourth Generation (John West, Jr. (IV), Sibyl (II) West Carlyle, Hugh West, Jr., William West, George West)

John West, Jr. The eldest son of Hugh and Sybil West and the grandson of John (IIa) and Ann Harris West (Sorensen 1990:174, 185) was an assistant surveyor for Fairfax County and laid off the town of Alexandria in 1749 with the aid of a young George Washington (Sorensen 1990:176). He also served as a Fairfax County delegate to the House of Burgesses, a Justice of the Peace for Fairfax,

Fairfax County sheriff, member of the Fairfax Committee of Safety during the Revolution, and Clerk of the Truro Parish Vestry between 1756 and 1764 (Miller 1991:242; Wright and Pippinger 1996:101). Between 1768 and 1773, John West also played a major role in establishing Christ Episcopal Church in Alexandria, and he purchased a pew there in 1773 (Wright and Pippinger 1996:54-69).

“Captain” John West, Jr. (IV) lived at “West’s Grove” near what became the Town of Alexandria, probably southeast of the project area. There is some confusion about the location of this plantation. Sorensen (1990:176) maintains that the property was on Little Hunting Creek; one entry in Miller (1991:241 [“James C. West”]) locates the tract on the south bank of Great Hunting Creek, but another (Miller 1991:242 [John West]) places the properties at the West End of Alexandria. The bulk of the evidence related to Captain West’s land acquisitions suggests, however, that “West’s Grove” lay north of Great Hunting Creek and west of “Harrison’s Gut,” now known as “Hooff’s Run” (Williams et al. 2002).

John West (IV) had inherited much of his father’s real property, including all of the 627 acre Carr-Simpson grant. Like his father, Captain West expanded his real property holdings, and by 1760, owned a total of 1,440 acres in Fairfax County, some lots in the town of Alexandria, and 25 slaves (Sorensen 1990:176; Mitchell 1987). Beginning in 1762, West also purchased several parcels on the south side of the main road that led west from Alexandria (Mitchell 1977:60); Figure 8 depicts West’s house just north of the boundary of one of these parcels. Eventually subdivided, the land in this area formed the nucleus of the West End section of Alexandria (Williams et al. 2002).

By 1771, however, John may have moved back onto his father’s property. An entry in his estate accounts (Fairfax County Estate Accounts Book 9:225) shows that he (and his estate) paid to Sybil West a total of £1,587.15.0 “for the use of her plantation House, Plantation utensils and house furniture from the year 1771 to the year 1780 inclusive, pursuant to the reservation made by the said Sybil when she gave up the possession of them to Capt. John West.”

John West, Jr. married Catherine Colville, daughter of John Colville and Mary Foster (Sorensen 1990:176), and together the couple had six children: Thomas, John (V), Hugh, Francina, Sarah, and Catherine, who had already married Baldwin Dade by the time her father died. Hugh, Francina, and Sarah all were minors at the time of their father’s death (Estate Accounts Book 9:225). Thomas, the eldest son, received the bulk of his father’s holdings near Alexandria, including the 627½ acre Carr-Simpson tract; John (V) received land adjacent to that tract, including the area that developed into the West End community (Williams et al. 2002); and son Hugh received a tract of 400 acres elsewhere in Fairfax County. The remainder of John’s estate, including some lands that John (IV) had purchased in Ohio, was divided among all of his children (Wills Book D:4-6).

George West. Although John West, Jr.’s brother George resided in the project area toward the end of his life, he lived for most of his life on his estate of Hollyfields in Loudoun County, presumably on the property that his father had bequeathed to him. George West was Loudoun County’s first surveyor. He rose through the ranks of the Loudoun County Militia from Captain in 1777 to Colonel in 1782 (Phillips 1996). George was married first to Penelope Payne and second to Ann (Dade) Fowke. Although Stone (1928) and Sorensen (1990:177) have reversed the sequence of these marriages, West’s will clearly mentioned that “the burial ground of my first wife, Penelope Payne” was located on his Loudoun property.

George West died in 1786, one year after the passing of his wife, Ann (*Alexandria Gazette* 1785). His obituary notes both where he died and where he was interred: "DIED At Cameron, deservedly regretted, Col. George West - His remains were on Sunday last deposited in the Family Vault, after a suitable sermon on the mournful Occasion was delivered by the Rev. Dr. Griffith to a

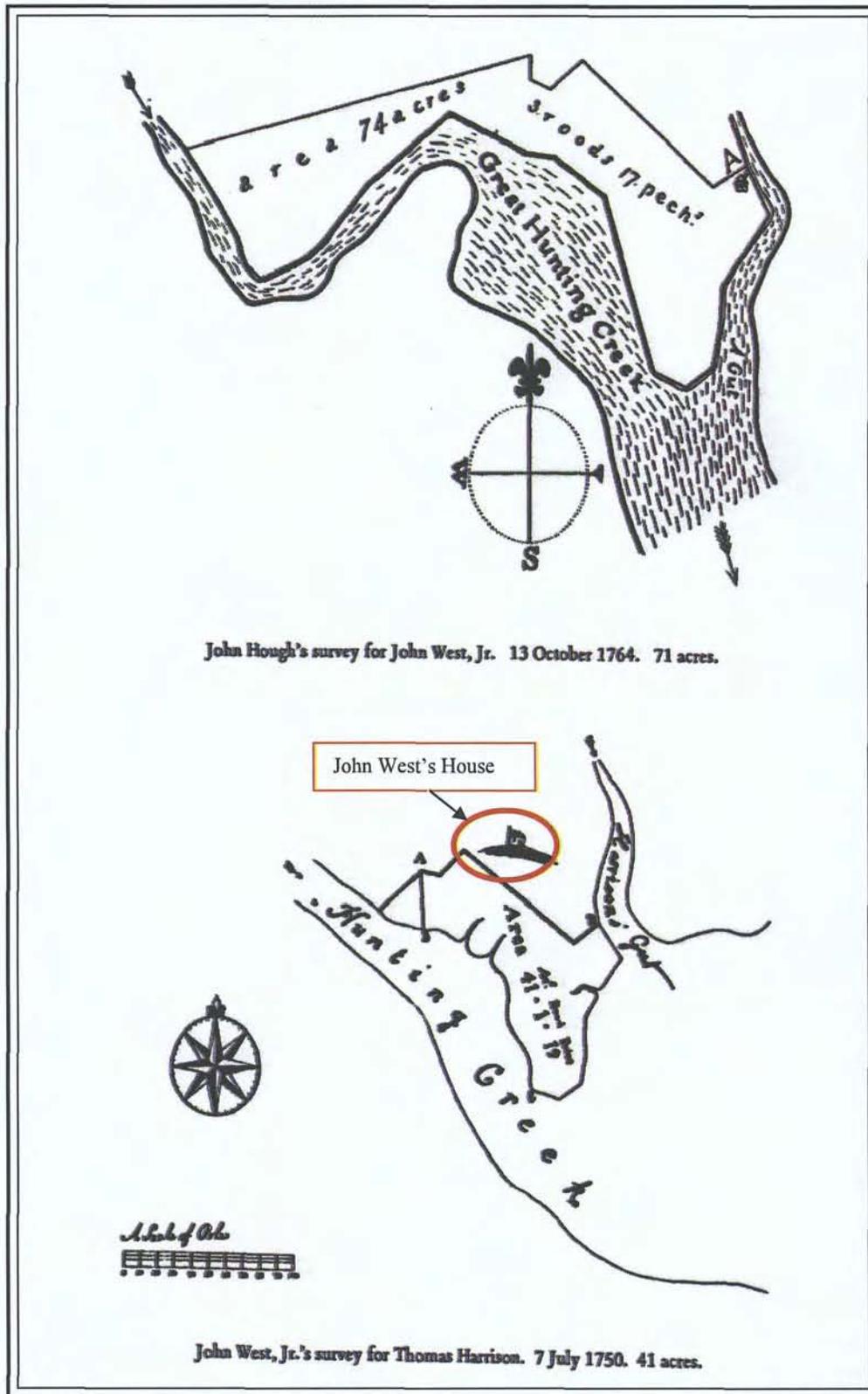


Figure 8. Surveys of Harrison and West properties west of Alexandria, showing the presumed location of John West, Jr.'s plantation house at "West's Grove"(from Mitchell, 1977)

large respectable audience" (Alexandria Gazette, 1786). Because both of West's marriages were childless, his nephews received his properties, including the acreage on Scott's Run, his Hollyfield plantation in Loudoun County, and the Alexandria town lots bequeathed to him by his father (Wills Book E:134). Fairfax County Court Minutes (1791-1793:K-4) indicate that committees appointed by the county court eventually supervised the distribution of these bequests.

William West. Another of John West, Jr.'s siblings, William was born in 1739. Ordained an Anglican clergyman in London in 1761, William earned a Doctor of Divinity degree from Washington College in Maryland. He served parishes in Ann Arundel, St. Mary's, and Harford counties in Maryland before taking his last post as rector of St. Paul's Parish in Baltimore. His marriage to Susanna Walker produced five children, two of whom died in infancy. Susanna West, "amiable consort of the Rev. Dr. William West," died in 1787 (Lloyd House Library Staff 1997:3); William West died in Baltimore in 1791 and was interred in a vault in Saint Paul's Episcopal Church in Baltimore (Sorensen 1990:177, 186). Despite the fact that he resided most of his life outside of Fairfax County, Rev. West was a valued member of the West family. He was one of the three executors of his brother John's estate (Wills Book D:4-6). His mother, Sybil, held him in particular esteem, for she appointed him "to take into his possession all my papers memorandums and property that may be with me at the time of my death to prepare such a statement of my affairs and concerns as he shall think proper for the inspection and use of my Executors" (Sparacio and Sparacio 1988.:57).

Hugh West, Jr. John West, Jr.'s brother, Hugh (IV) inherited his father's properties on Scott's Run. Miller (1991:241) indicates that Hugh was an attorney and served briefly as a Fairfax County delegate to the Virginia House of Burgesses. He married Elizabeth Minor of Fairfax County (Sorensen 1990:177; Hiatt and Scott 1994:238). Prior to his relatively early demise in 1767, Hugh and his wife had three daughters: Sybil, Jemima, and Sarah.

Sybil West. It is unlikely that John West, Jr.'s sister, Sybil (II) resided on the Cameron property as an adult. She married the prominent Alexandria merchant, Colonel John Carlyle, whose first wife had been Sarah Fairfax (Sorensen 1990:178). This marriage ended abruptly in 1769, when Sybil succumbed to consumption shortly after delivering her second child, who also did not survive (Munson 1986).

Fifth Generation: Thomas West (I), John West (V)

Because only two of John West, Jr.'s sons--Thomas West and John West (V)—inherited land on the western edge of what became the City of Alexandria, this genealogical discussion will conclude with their generation.

Most of the property that John West (V) inherited from his father lay east of the old 627-ac Carr-Simpson grant and the western boundaries of Alexandria. At his death in 1806, John divided his West End properties into six equal portions. His heirs included three children by his first wife, Sarah Broadwater (George William, Catherine ["Kitty"], and Sarah), two other daughters (Matilda and Mary), and his second wife, Elizabeth (Wills Book I:540; Sorensen 1990:189).

John apparently did not reside in Alexandria in his later years. Rather he was living near what is now the City of Falls Church, on a property that belonged to Charles Broadwater, his father-in-law. Broadwater's will, also proved in 1806, left to his three grandchildren (George, Kitty and Sally) a 300-ac tract on North Run (now known as Tripp's Run) "being the land on which John West now resides" (Wills Book I:472). Sorensen (1990:189) further notes that John's son, George William, died in 1871 and was buried on his property, also in Falls Church.

Thomas West inherited his father's "Track of land whereon my Mother (meaning Sybil West, John's mother) Lives, containing Six hundred & twenty seven acres" plus "half of the Land purchased of Terrett" (Wills Book D:4). This bequest included all of the original Carr-Simpson landgrant that had been reunited by Hugh West in 1750, and included all of what is today the Hoffman property. Both Sybil West and Thomas West appeared in a 1783 census that listed the heads of families in Fairfax County. Sybil was listed as a lone head of household, but with no dwelling or other buildings. Thomas' household, on the other hand, included 8 "souls" and his physical property included a dwelling and six other (unspecified) buildings (United States Bureau of the Census 1908:86). These census data suggest that Sybil West was part of her grandson's household. They also provide the only available picture of the physical makeup of the West family plantation.

Like his father and grandfather before him, Thomas West was both a planter and a publicly spirited citizen; unlike his forbears, however, his financial affairs were ruinous, as reflected in the fact that, by the time of his death, he had lost much of the inheritance left to him by his father, John West, Jr. One can only speculate on the sources of his troubles; however, his Revolutionary War service, which necessitated his frequent absence from his plantations, undoubtedly contributed to his financial woes.

"Captain" Thomas West was commissioned in November 1776, and actively led a company of the 10th Virginia Regiment through 1778. During this period, he participated in the Battles of Germantown, Brandywine, Monmouth, and White Plains, and was posted to Valley Forge for the first half of the year 1778. Although West's official service record indicates that he resigned his commission in September 1778, affidavits filed some years later all attested to the fact that he remained "in Actual Service and stood as a Supernum(er)ary Officer" until the close of the war (Sprouse 1991: Thomas West/Depositions of William Henderson and others).

Beyond his military career, Thomas West also contributed to the welfare of his extended family, as well as to the Alexandria community as a whole. Not only was he one of the executors of his father's estate, he also served as guardian for one of his minor sisters, Sarah West (Estate Accounts Book 9:225), and he undoubtedly took care of his grandmother Sybil West until her death in 1787.

The 1782-1783 Census data for Fairfax County clearly document that Sybil West lived with her grandson. Thomas West headed a household of "8 souls" that occupied a complex of one dwelling and six outbuildings. Sybil West, an independent head of household listed immediately after Thomas West was credited with no separate dwelling or real property (United States Bureau of the Census 1908).

In the community, West served on the vestry of Christ Church in Alexandria (where his father had purchased one of the original pews) in 1785 (Wright and Pippinger 1996:88). One year earlier, he also contributed materially to another religious community in the city—the Society of Friends—by selling to them (for 5 shillings) a ½ acre lot on the north side of Queen Street for the purpose of establishing a (new) Quaker cemetery (Pippinger 1992:57). Portions of this cemetery were investigated in 1994 during an expansion of the Kate Waller Barrett Branch of the Alexandria Public Library (Bromberg et al. 2000).

Thomas West married twice: first to Anne Payne in 1779, and second to Elizabeth. His first wife, Anne Payne West, died in 1788 (Sorensen 1990:179). Together, Thomas and Anne had four children: Thomas, Ann ("Nancy"), Catherine Maria, and John Hood West (Sorensen 1990:188). Thomas West wrote his last will and testament plus a codicil in November 1805 (Wills Book I:499). The Fairfax County resident, who was then almost 50 years old, still lived on what was left of the Carr-Simpson tract. Once the owner of numerous properties in Fairfax County, Alexandria, the town of

Bath, and the state of Kentucky, he had lost many of them through debtor sales in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. He bequeathed his remaining properties, including “the land on which I now live,” “all the lands I own adjoining the City of Alexandria,” the 100-ac “Blakes Tract” at West’s Point, his half interest in the Pearson tract, and a 500-ac tract “laid off for the officers of the Virginia Regiment at the mouth of the Great Kanawha River” in what is now West Virginia or Ohio, to his son, Thomas (II).

Documentary evidence and information obtained through conversations with West descendants (Flo Larson Redmond, Personal Communication, December 2002; Bish 2002) suggest strongly that Thomas West (II) may have moved to the West Virginia/Ohio area, although the other West siblings remained in Northern Virginia. A review of the Name Indices in the Fairfax County Judicial Archives found no entries for “Thomas West” after approximately 1808, suggesting that he had left that area. Moreover, numerous Wests claiming Fairfax County as their birthplace have been recorded as living in Clermont and Brown counties in Ohio, east of Cincinnati along the Ohio River, by the 1820s (Bish 2002). It is not beyond the realm of possibility that Thomas West (II), like so many other residents of older eastern states, pulled up stakes and sought new opportunities and fertile lands on the trans-Appalachian frontier.



CHAPTER III

METHODS

Archival Methods

Much preliminary archival research, including creation of a chain-of-title for the Hoffman property, had been completed prior to the onset of the investigations at Site 44AX183. Therefore, the archival research conducted specifically for this study focused first on determining the actual or potential identities of the individuals that were interred in the West Family Cemetery, and secondly on obtaining data from other contemporaneous cemetery excavations in the Mid-Atlantic region for use in generating comparative interpretations of this site. Documentary clues to the identities of West Family members interred at the site were obtained from contemporary obituary notices; secondary genealogical sources and family files; primary documents such as wills, estate inventories, and official court minutes of Fairfax County; and published vestry records for Anglican congregations of the period. Similar cemetery studies that had been reported in professionally produced archeological reports and in other professional literature yielded comparative archeological data.

Numerous repositories and individuals furnished information that supported this research effort. Reports on previous archeological investigations at cemeteries within the City of Alexandria were obtained from Alexandria Archaeology; additional sources on other cemetery investigations in the region were reviewed at the archives of the VDHR and the MHT. Professional archeological journals yielded specialized reports relevant to burial practices and artifacts that have been characterized as potentially diagnostic of African-American culture. Wills and other official records pertaining to several generations of the West Family were obtained at the Fairfax County Judicial Archives and at the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond. The Virginia Rooms at the Fairfax County and Alexandria City libraries provided a wealth of source material not only about general local history, but also about the genealogy and history of the West Family. Finally, several family descendants shared the data that they had accumulated through their own genealogical and historical research.

Field Methods

Phase I Identification

When Feature 1 first was discovered, the feature was recorded in profile and was photodocumented. Some of the asphalt surface immediately above the feature itself also was removed to prepare for possible further investigations. Measures then were implemented to protect the feature until further exploratory investigations aimed at determining the precise function of the feature could be arranged; these protective strategies included placement of heavy sheet iron across the surface of the vault feature, and installation of portable chain-link construction fencing around the site. The protective fencing remained in place for the duration of the study.

Phase II Evaluation

Phase II evaluation of the site, undertaken in collaboration with the staff of Alexandria Archaeology, was designed to verify whether human remains were present within Feature 1. To facilitate this investigation, all but 4 – 6 in of the disturbed soils that overlay the surface of the feature first were removed mechanically; the remaining overburden then was removed manually to expose the lateral extent of the brick walls and the feature fill. A plan view and a more detailed profile were drawn; and the exposed surface of the feature was photodocumented extensively. Temporary datum for the site was established along the outside of the west wall of Feature 1; datum coordinates (N1801.0/E1822.5) were expressed in relation to the permanent Hoffman property datum (N2000/E2000), which previously had been located at the northeastern corner of the Hoffman II building (Figure 2). This site datum was assigned an arbitrary elevation of 100 ft amsl; all other elevation readings were recorded with reference to this central datum point.

A 20 in (50 cm) wide test trench then was established inside and adjacent to the west wall of the feature. Four levels of vault fill were removed from this exploratory trench, using a small hand pick for the uppermost two levels, and trowels for levels 3 and 4. All soils were screened through ¼ in (0.625 cm) hardware mesh. Excavations were suspended when human remains were encountered. Following preparation of a detailed data recovery plan, a burial permit from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) (Appendix A) was sought, and the West Family Cemetery site was registered formally as Site 44AX183 (Appendix B).

Feature 2 in Block 4, a line of laid bricks that extended due south of the brick vault, also was investigated at this time. Portions of the surface of this feature were exposed mechanically to establish its linear extent, and a single test unit was excavated across one section to document its structure and ascertain its function.

Phase III Mitigation/Data Recovery

Phase III data recovery was undertaken following receipt of the burial permit from VDHR. The objectives of the Phase III field studies were: (1) to determine and document the limits and extent of additional features and burials, if any, in the vicinity of the previously identified vault feature; (2) to confirm through excavation the nature of additional identified features; and (3) to document and remove for analysis any human remains at the site.

To accomplish the first objective, the original research design submitted with the burial permit application had specified that a 100 x 100 ft area north, east, and west of the vault feature was to be stripped mechanically, using a backhoe with a “clean” bucket, to expose additional features. Following consultation with Alexandria Archaeology, however, this area was reduced by about one-third, when it became obvious that prior grading and construction activities had removed original surfaces down to level of sterile clay sub-soil. Because the area south of the vault already had been excavated and monitored, no additional stripping was required in Block 4.

All features and potential grave shafts exposed by mechanical stripping then were troweled manually to define their shapes more accurately. Soil stains or anomalies that appeared to represent grave shafts were assigned a “200” series feature number; all other features numbered sequentially as they were exposed, beginning with #70 (Table 4). All exposed features were recorded on an overall site map (Figure 9), and each was assigned a coordinate designation taken at the center of the feature. The outline of each potential grave shaft also was photographed and mapped, and elevations were

Table 4. Site 44AX183: Feature Log

Feature No.	Feature Description	Coordinates	Comments/interpretation
1	Burial vault	N1801.0/E18225 (Feature Datum)	Excavated (TUs 1, 2, 3)
70	Gravel and cobble concentration	N1776.0/E1867.0	Concentration caused by erosion.
71	Soil Anomaly	N1770.5/E1868.0	Not Excavated
72	Soil Anomaly	N1776.3/E1869.7	Not Excavated
73	Post Mold	N1779.9/E1866.3	Not Excavated
74	Post Mold	N1779.9/E1869.8	Not Excavated
75	Post Mold	N1780.4/1869.4	Not Excavated
76	Post Mold	N1783.5/E1852.7	Not Excavated
77	Post Mold	N1803.2/E1866.7	Not Excavated
78	Post Mold	N1816.0/E1865.3	Not Excavated
79	Post Mold	N1773.0/E1825.7	Not Excavated
90	Post Mold	N1828.0/E1863.7	Not Excavated
91	Post Mold	N1822.3/E1862.9	Not Excavated
92	Post Mold	N1819.2/E1863.2	Not Excavated
93	Post Mold	N1828.8/E1854.2	Not Excavated
94	Post Mold	N1827.5/E1849.0	Not Excavated
95	Possible Gravestone	N1828.7/E1844.2	Not Excavated
96	Double Post Mold	N1827.1/E1848.5	Not Excavated
97	Rectangular Soil Stain	N1808.5/E1883.0	Not Excavated
98	Rectangular Soil Stain	N1821.6/E1848.2	Not Excavated
99	Circular Stain	N1823.2/E1842.7	Not Excavated
100	Post Mold	N1778.6/E1876.6	Not Excavated
101	Post Mold	N1781.9/E1879.0	Not Excavated
102	Post Mold	N1786.6/E1881.0	Not Excavated
103	Post Mold	N1788.0/E1882.7	Not Excavated
104	Post Mold	N1785.4/E1883.4	Not Excavated
105	Post Mold	N1778.0/E1881.0	Not Excavated
106	Post Mold	N1823.6/E1843.5	Not Excavated
107	Post Mold	N1821.5/E1872.0	Not Excavated
200	Burial	N1802.8/E1871.0	Female, impacted by construction activities
201	Burial	N1802.0/E1852.5	Unknown, heavily impacted by previous construction activities.
202	Burial	N1802.9/E1862.5	Male
203	Burial	N1805.5/E1862.5	Juvenile
204	Burial	N1807.5/E1863.0	Female, minimally impacted by construction activities.
205	Soil anomaly	N1818.0/E1871.0	Stain caused by landscaping activities.
206	Soil Anomaly	N1784.0/E1856.0	Anomaly caused by erosion.
207	Burial	N1807.5/E1873.0	Unknown
208	Burial	N1811.5/E1862.5	Unknown, partially impacted by previous construction activities

established for pertinent locations prior to excavation. Excavation and removal of all remains within the cemetery proceeded immediately following this overall investigation.

Exterior burials. When possible, the contents of the individual burial shafts outside of the vault were removed in two levels. Level 1 consisted of the shaft fill that remained above the coffin lid and any surviving remains; Level 2 included all soils below the coffin lid within the coffin interior. A two-liter soil sample was retained from Level 1 for flotation, and wood samples for species identification were taken from the interior of each shaft, depending on the degree of preservation therein. At least one wood sample was retained for material identification.

Bone preservation within the individual grave shafts was extremely poor. Because these remains ultimately were to be removed from the site, the major bones within each burial were consolidated with Polyvinyl Acetate (PVA) to facilitate their removal; this treatment was undertaken after consultation with conservators at VDHR and under the supervision of Goodwin & Associates, Inc.'s trained conservator. After all the remains within a single shaft had been exposed, a plan view map was prepared to permit accurate point-proveniencing of the location of each skeletal member. Three sets of photographs were taken for each feature, and all forensic data for each burial were recorded on a burial record form.

When documentation was complete, the human remains and associated artifacts were prepared for removal. Single bones were removed individually when preservation permitted. In cases where preservation was poor, block sections were removed by excavating a small trench around a group of bones and undercutting the block so that the bone and surrounding soil matrix could be lifted as a single unit. The bones or blocks then were wrapped in foam and taped securely to minimize deterioration or breakage during transport to the laboratory. In instances when the bones were extremely fragile the wrapped remains were stabilized with sand in plastic containers to minimize the effect of vibration during transport. Individual field specimen (FS) numbers were assigned to all remains to facilitate tracking during analysis.

Vault Excavation. Excavation procedures for the burial vault differed significantly from those used for the exterior single-shaft burials. The upper levels of the preliminary test unit (TU 1) had been removed during the Phase II investigations to ascertain the presence or absence of human remains. The Phase III methodology extended the organizational format adopted during the Phase II process. The remaining vault fill first was subdivided into two additional test units to impose tighter horizontal control within the vault; Level 1 in Test Units 2 and 3 then was removed to the same level as that exposed in TU 1. Once the surface fill in these units had been removed to the same level as in TU 1, excavation proceeded in arbitrary 0.5 ft. levels where possible. However, due to the way in which the bones and rubble had been deposited, some levels were shallower to enhance accuracy in mapping and facilitate bone removal.

All bones or groups of bones were mapped, point-provenienced, assigned individual field specimen (FS) numbers, and removed individually. Photographs were taken for each level. The remains were prepared for transport either by bagging or by wrapping in foam, depending on the degree of preservation. In general, because the remains within the vault were better preserved than were those in the exterior burials, all bones were removed individually and no block style removal was necessary.

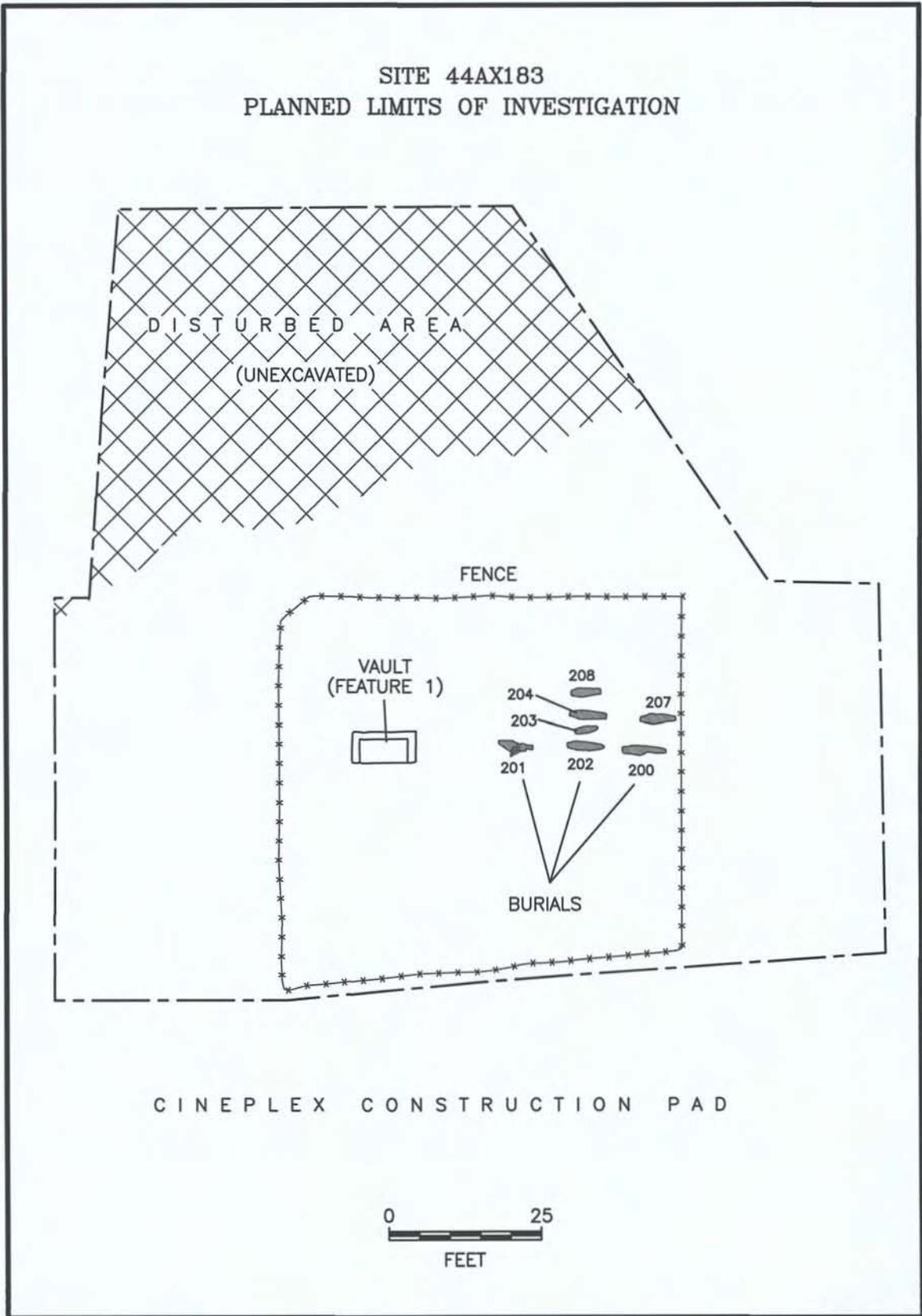


Figure 9. Site 44AX183: Overall site map showing extent of stripped area and locations of Feature 1 and associated burial shafts

Laboratory Processing

Laboratory processing of the materials recovered from Site 44AX183 consisted primarily of applying additional recovery techniques to obtain materials for data analysis, as specified in the research design presented in the burial permit application (Appendix A). All of the soils recovered from Level 1 of each exterior burial were water screened through 0.625 cm (¼ in) hardware mesh, and flotation samples were taken for botanical analysis. The matrices recovered from Level 2 of these burials was water-screened through 0.312 cm (⅛ in) mesh to recover small skeletal fragments and other cultural material.

In addition, all fill material from the vault was bagged, labeled, and transported to the laboratories of Goodwin & Associates, Inc. This material also was waterscreened to recover additional human remains and small artifacts. Cultural artifacts obtained from discrete burials or burial shafts (e.g., coffin furniture, shroud pins, clothing parts, and jewelry) were identified as to type, material, number, provenience, and other significant character-defining attributes, and entered into a computerized data inventory (Appendix G).

Two iron alloy artifacts of coffin hardware (FS#232 and FS#268) were subjected to conservation treatment to facilitate their identification. The four-stage treatment process included: (1) electrolytic reduction to clean and stabilize the artifact; (2) mechanical cleaning to remove remaining loose superficial corrosion products; (3) surface treatment with tannic acid solution to produce a stable, natural black metallic iron appearance; and (4) application of microcrystalline wax to seal the surface and retard further corrosion. Full treatment records were kept for these procedures, and instructions for curation of the conserved artifacts were developed for enclosure with the collection.

Following completion of the final technical report on the excavations, all non-human remains, the bone samples recovered for future DNA testing, and all records resulting from the excavation of Site 44AX183 were turned over to Alexandria Archaeology for long-term curation and storage. The human remains from the West Family Cemetery were reinterred at the Pohick Church cemetery in Mount Vernon, Virginia, in October 2003.

Specialized Analyses

Three principal objectives were established for the specialized analyses undertaken for this study: (1) to obtain forensic data for the individuals interred within the vault and in the exterior burials, to the extent that preservation of the remains permitted; (2) to obtain data that would facilitate identification of the individuals interred within the cemetery; and (3) to obtain data that would permit comparison of the individual and collective results of specialized analyses with similar data obtained from contemporaneous burials in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Preliminary Field Analysis. Because preservation of the remains within the individual exterior burial shafts was poor, forensic anthropologists Drs. Clifford and Donna Boyd conducted a preliminary in situ analysis of these remains and of some skeletal members that were initially removed from the vault. The remains that already had been removed were sent with the Boyds to their anthropological laboratories at Radford University in Virginia. Preliminary identification and analysis of other human remains from the vault were made as excavations proceeded by analysts/excavators with prior training in skeletal analysis, although these identifications were considered tentative pending completion of additional detailed formal analyses.

Osteological Analysis. Following completion of the excavations and waterscreening of the vault and graveshaft fills, all recovered human remains were stabilized and transported to Radford University for further analysis, together with photographic and scaled drawings of each individual burial and each level of the vault. Both cranial and post-cranial members were evaluated to determine, where possible, the age, sex, racial affiliation, and physical morphology of the deceased. Remains also were examined for evidence of pathologies, trauma, and/or skeletal abnormalities resulting from nutritional deficiencies, stress, or other cultural and environmental factors. The formal report on the osteological analysis (Boyd and Boyd 2001) is presented as Appendix C of this report.

In addition, in 2003, with the full agreement of a committee of West family descendants, a set of bone samples suitable for future DNA testing were obtained from the remains of individuals in the vault by forensic anthropologists from the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. The procedure required reanalysis of these skeletal remains; the raw data sheets resulting from this procedure are presented in Appendix F (Owsley 2003).

Botanical Analysis. Botanical analyses were performed on wood samples and other biological specimens recovered during waterscreening of the fill of the vault and the exterior burials of the cemetery. The retained wood samples were analyzed to ascertain the species utilized for coffin construction; botanical specimens recovered through waterscreening and flotation from burial shaft fills were analyzed to assess seasonality and to identify botanical species present in the historic landscape at the time of burial. The methods utilized for these analyses and the results thereof are reported in Appendix D of this report (McKnight 2001).

Faunal Analysis. A total of 4,667 pieces (961.37 grams) of non-human faunal material were analyzed from selected proveniences within the burial vault. The objectives of this study were to identify recovered faunal material and to analyze the faunal assemblage relative to its spatial distribution within the vault feature. Elements within the faunal subassemblage were sorted by taxonomic class (i.e. mammal, aves, reptile, etc.) and by size. Where possible, specimens then were identified further to one or more of the following taxonomic levels: class, order, family, genus or species. A full discussion of the methods used in this analysis, and the results obtained, are contained in Appendix E of this report (Davenport 2001).

Public Interpretation

In recognition of the significant role that the West Family played in the history of the City of Alexandria, and consistent with the commitment of the City of Alexandria and its archaeology program to inform and educate the public about the archeology and history of the City, a major on-site public information event was arranged in June 2000, at the close of the excavations at the site. To forestall any potential for site damage or disturbance of the remains, no public announcement was made about the discovery of Site 44AX183 until excavation and data recovery were almost complete.

Public disclosure of the excavations on the Hoffman property occurred in June 2000, when a press conference was held at the site. Advance announcements of this media event were distributed to all the major television and print media in the Washington metropolitan area through the public affairs office of the City of Alexandria. Participants in this press conference included members of Goodwin & Associates, Inc.'s, field crew, the staff of Alexandria Archaeology, a representative of Hoffman Management, Inc., and one West family descendant. Four television stations, one radio station, and three newspapers sent representatives to the conference; each press representative was

supplied with a packet that explained the significance of the site and the West family, the research objectives and methods of the work, and the overall legal framework that governed the conduct of the excavations (Appendix H). In addition, a representative of Goodwin & Associates, Inc. was interviewed separately for a morning news segment on the local NBC affiliate, and the Associated Press carried a brief news item on the site.

Following the public disclosure of the discovery of the West Family Cemetery, several additional West Family descendants identified themselves and expressed a desire to view the ongoing investigations first hand. As a result, an additional site open house was arranged specifically for this family group (Figure 10).





Figure 10. West Family descendants confer with representatives of Hoffman Management, Alexandria Archaeology, and Goodwin & Associates at the cemetery site

CHAPTER IV

RESULTS OF INVESTIGATIONS

"The Parishes being of Great Extent. . . many dead Corpses cannot be conveyed to the Church to be buried so that it is customary to bury in Gardens or Orchards, where whole Families lye interred together."

Reverend Hugh Jones (1724)

The Phase I and II investigations and Phase III data recovery of the remains from the West Family Cemetery were conducted between December 1999 and June 2000. Osteological analysis of the human remains and laboratory analysis of other classes of artifacts continued through July 2001, with supplemental analysis of the human remains occurring in June, 2003. This chapter presents the combined results of these studies. It also presents insights into the known and possible identities of some of the individuals interred within the cemetery, and places the data derived from the studies within a broader contextual framework of similar studies conducted within the Mid-Atlantic region.

Phase I Results

The West Family burial vault (Feature 1/Block 4) first was identified in December 1999 during monitoring of excavations associated with the relocation of a water line along the northern perimeter of Block 4 of the Hoffman Properties (Figure 2). The feature initially resembled the brick foundation of a basemented building or structure that had been excavated directly into subsoil and that had been filled after the destruction of the building's superstructure. Although archival documentation had intimated that some sort of brick vault had been located in this approximate area of the former Cameron Farm property (Figures 3 and 4), none of the direct physical evidence exposed at this time suggested that Feature 1 was indeed that vault.

In profile, Feature 1 measured approximately 10 ft wide on its exterior and 8 ft on its interior, and was oriented east to west; because the northern portion of the feature was not exposed at this time, no lateral north-south dimensions could be ascertained. The approximately 1 ft thick exposed walls were constructed of interlocking bricks that had been joined with sand-lime mortar. No brick "floor" was evident, but a stratum of what appeared to be decayed wood extended across the bottom of the fill on the interior of the feature. This horizontal band tentatively was identified as either a plank floor or the remains of wooden structural elements that had collapsed into the feature fill. This wood "stratum" was not continuous in profile, probably because it had been impacted by the backhoe.

The fill within the structure consisted of a dark gray clay that contained occasional brickbats and brick fragments, large pieces of wood, occasional fragments of bottle glass, and other unidentified objects. The discernable stratigraphy of the deposit suggested that the upper courses of the structure's foundation had not been bulldozed, but had collapsed, since all of the visible bricks were located within the feature rather than outside of it. The feature fill appeared to be generally homogenous; it was distinctively different from the soils that surrounded the exterior of the structure; and it did not appear to have been introduced intentionally. The absence of charcoal in the fill matrix suggested that the structure had not been destroyed by fire. The disturbed nature of the surface soils that overlay and surrounded Feature 1 suggested that some grading or other construction activity had taken place, probably in association with the installation of the ca. 1940s trailer court or subsequent preparation of the overlying asphalt-surfaced parking lot.

Feature 1 was profiled and photographed, and a portion of the overlying asphalt surface also was removed in anticipation of further investigations. The surrounding area then was fenced and the structural remains were covered until further investigations could be organized to determine its function more precisely.

Phase II Results

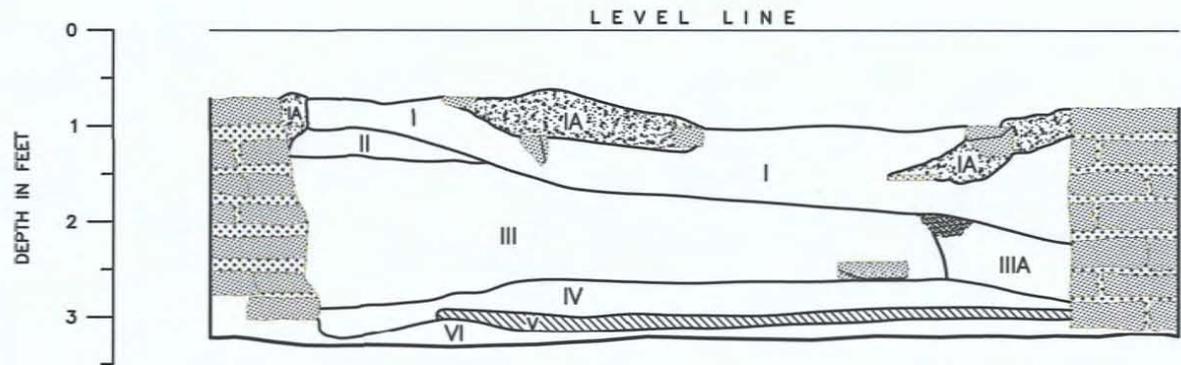
In February 2000, the staff of Alexandria Archaeology authorized test excavations to ascertain whether Feature 1 indeed was Thomas West's burial vault, as historic documentation had suggested. Phase II evaluation entailed the mechanical and manual removal of overburden across the area around the feature, and detailed documentation, including preparation of a more detailed profile (Figure 11). This newly executed profile indicated that, excluding the wood that extended across the base of the structure's interior; the feature fill was composed of four primary strata, and that the bottom of the feature had been excavated into mixed sterile gleyed marine clays.

A narrow capped brick drain south of the principal feature, which apparently had been cut during the utility line excavation, also was exposed and mapped at this time (Figure 12). The drain, designated as Feature 2/Block 4, which was severed during excavation for the waterline, undoubtedly served to drain the vault. Because subsequent removal of the contents of the vault itself revealed no evidence of a floor drain, it is believed that this brick drain intersected the south wall of the vault and acted as a sort of overflow outlet.

Initial plans had proposed excavation of a 24" wide north-south trench across the mid-section of Feature 1. However, exposure of the feature in plan view and the discovery that the overlying brick rubble apparently represented debris from the inward collapse of the feature walls and roof led to modification of the original excavation strategy. To document the architectural characteristics of the structure and enhance interpretation of the processes by which it had been destroyed, the first rubble stratum was removed across the entire feature in 0.5 ft (15 cm) increments. Removal of this brick overburden revealed that the interior of the feature, including part of its vaulted roof, had remained relatively intact despite the construction activities that had taken place immediately above it. A plan view (Figure 13) was drawn at the base of Stratum I and elevations of pertinent brick "formations" were recorded to indicate how they had collapsed inward.

Following the documentation and removal of the first stratum, a temporary datum for the entire site was established along the exterior of the western wall, and a 20 in (50 cm) wide test trench was established inside and adjacent to the west wall. This placement was adopted because, since Christian burials generally faced east, it was felt that testing the western end of the feature offered the highest potential for exposing human remains, particularly the teeth and cranium, if remains

HOFFMAN WATERLINE
 BLOCK 4, FEATURE 1 (BURIAL VAULT)
 NORTH WALL PROFILE



- I. 10YR 4/2 DARK GRAYISH BROWN SANDY CLAY
- IA. BRICK RUBBLE POCKETS
- II. 10YR 6/6 YELLOWISH BROWN SANDY CLAY
- III. 10YR 4/6 DARK YELLOWISH BROWN SANDY CLAY MOTTLED WITH 5% 10YR 6/1 GRAY CLAY, WITH 25% GRAVEL
- IIIA. 10YR 4/6 DARK YELLOWISH BROWN SANDY CLAY (STRATUM III), MIXED WITH 10YR 4/1 DARK GRAY SILTY LOAM
- IV. 10YR 3/1 VERY DARK GRAY CLAY
- V. 10YR 2/1 BLACK WOOD
- VI. 10YR 4/6 DARK YELLOWISH BROWN WET SANDY CLAY MOTTLED WITH 10YR 6/1 GRAY CLAY AND 5B 6/1 BLUIISH GRAY SANDY CLAY

KEY:

-  BRICK
-  MORTAR
-  BRICK RUBBLE
-  CONCRETE



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Figure 11. Profile of Feature 1/Block 4 (Vault) exposed during utilities relocation monitoring in Block 4

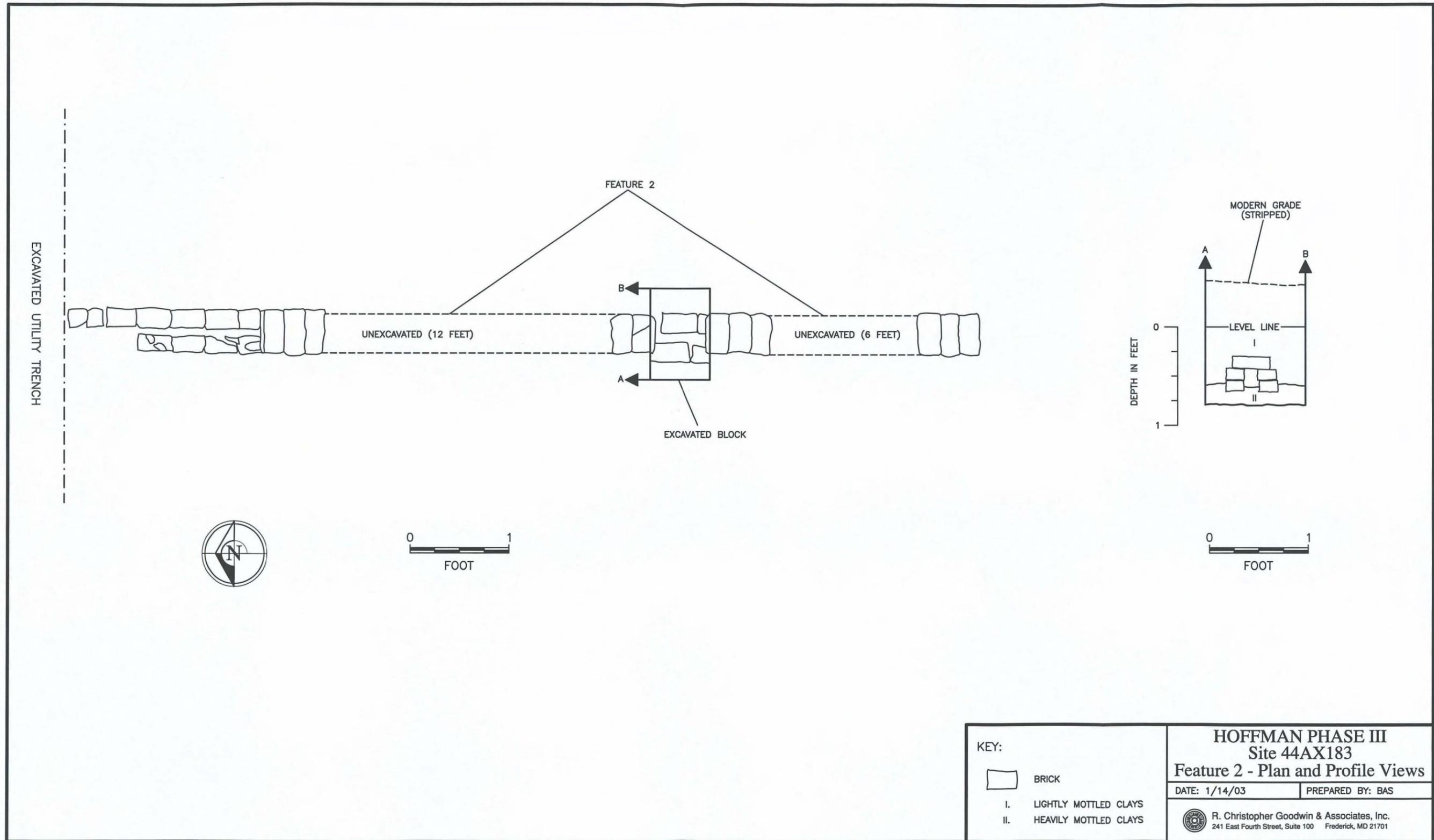
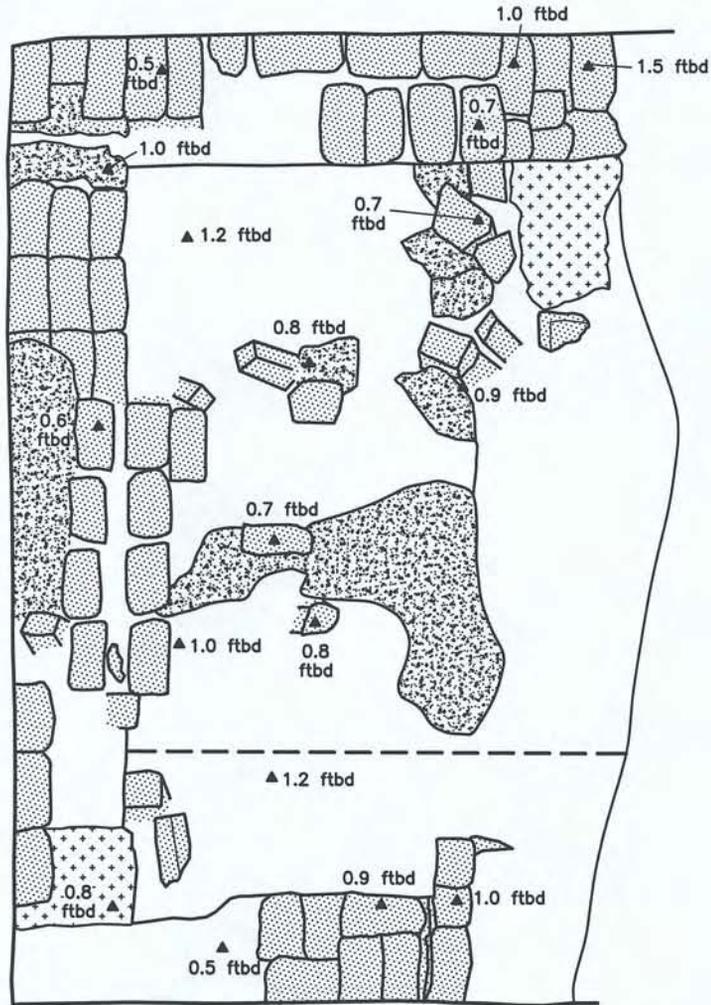


Figure 12. Plan view and profile: Feature 2/Block 4 (Brick drain)

HOFFMAN WATERLINE
 BLOCK 4, FEATURE 1
 PLAN VIEW AT BASE OF LEVEL 1 (1.2 FTBD)



- KEY:
-  BRICK
 -  BRICK RUBBLE
 -  MORTAR
 -  LIMIT OF TEST TRENCH



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Figure 13. Plan view: Feature 1/Block 4, with Stratum I removed

indeed were present. Four levels of fill were removed from this exploratory trench, using a small hand pick for the uppermost two levels, and trowels for levels 3 and 4. The soil matrix throughout contained moderate to heavy amounts of bricks, including “bull-nose” bricks; brick fragments; cobbles and stones; and oyster shell mortar.

The first human remains were encountered within Level 4, at a depth of 2 ft below site datum (Figure 14), when a long bone tentatively identified as a humerus was discovered at the base of the eastern wall of the exploratory trench. Subsequent removal of several pieces of brick rubble, done in consultation with staff archaeologists from the City of Alexandria, revealed portions of two small rib bones. At that point, excavations were suspended, a detailed data recovery plan was prepared, and application was made for a burial permit from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) (Appendix A). The site also was registered with VDHR as Site 44AX183 (Appendix B).

Phase III Mitigation

Because previous work on the Hoffman properties had been conducted in several stages and in different areas, a central datum (N2000/E2000) for the entire Hoffman property previously had been established at the northeastern corner of the existing Hoffman II building (Figure 2); all grid coordinates for Site 44AX183 were expressed relative to this central datum. The principal datum for the cemetery site (N1801.0/E1822.5; 100 ft amsl) was located immediately outside the west wall of the burial vault, and several intermediate grid references also were established around the burial vault and near other features to facilitate feature mapping. Elevations within the site were recorded relative to the central datum point using a transit.

Field Methods

The research design for the Phase III work entailed mechanical stripping to define the site boundaries and identify features. After the features and possible grave shafts were delineated, their locations were recorded on an overall site map (Figure 9), and each was numbered individually (Table 4). The contents of the individual burial shafts outside of the vault were exposed, recorded, photo documented, drawn to scale, and removed in 2 levels, as outlined in Chapter II. The contents of the vault were removed in arbitrary 0.5 ft. levels within three test units established laterally over the vault fill. The bones or groups of bones and other significant features and artifacts exposed at each level were mapped, photographed, point-provenienced, assigned individual field specimen (FS) numbers, and removed individually.

Results

The West Family cemetery originally occupied the south-facing slope of a low hill that overlooked the swampy floodplain bordering the north side of Cameron Run. During the mid-twentieth century development of the Hoffman property, the original elevation of the hill at this point had been graded to an elevation of between 24 and 25 ft amsl, while the former pastures and swamp to the south had been drained and filled to create a more moderate grade to accommodate site development and parking. North of the vault area, the original slope also had been modified during development of the post-World War II trailer park.

Features. Mechanical stripping of the area surrounding the burial vault revealed nine potential grave-shafts (Figure 9) (Table 5) and 28 other features. The majority of these other features represented post molds or amorphous soil stains. Of the nine possible grave shafts that were designated as “200” series features, seven were found to contain human remains; testing revealed that the remaining two (Features 205 and 206) were soil anomalies that closely resembled grave shafts. Feature 205 represented the remains of landscaping activities that most likely occurred when the project area was a trailer park; Feature 206 was a soil stain created by a large tree root. Two other features slightly resembled grave shafts in appearance but lacked definition after exposure. Feature 70 was a gravel and cobble concentration with the appropriate dimensions for a grave shaft; however, excavation revealed that this feature was the result of erosion. Feature 71, a medium sized dark soil stain that also resembled a small grave shaft, subsequently was determined to be the result of root activity.

**Table 5. Site 44AX183, Feature 1 (Burial Vault), Base of Level 2:
Mapped Field Specimens**

FS No.	Description	Elevation (Ft Below Datum)	FS No.	Description	Elevation (Ft Below Datum)
21	Right Innominate, Male	2.35 – 3.4	22	Rib Fragment	2.05 – 2.35
23	Left Femur	1.85 – 2.05	24	Femur Fragments	
25	Rib Fragments	2.25 – 2.3	26	Clavicle, First Rib	1.95 – 2.1
27	Rib Fragment	1.9 – 2.0	28	Rib Fragment	1.9
29	Rib Fragments (3)	2.3 – 2.35	30	Rib Fragments	2.3 – 2.4
31	Rib Fragments (2)	2.2 – 2.3	32	Rib with Artic Facet	2.1 – 2.15
33	Rib Fragment	2.1	36	Ulna	2.0 – 2.1
37	Radius (Right)	2.15 – 2.3	38	Radius (Left)	2.05 – 2.25
39	Humerus (Left)	2.15	40	Humerus (Right)	1.65 – 1.70
41	Rib Fragments	1.70 – 1.80	43	Innominate Female (Right)	1.70 – 1.80

The most prominent feature of the site was the West Family burial vault, which previously had been designated as Feature 1/Block 4. The upper portion of this feature also had been truncated during previous construction episodes. The exterior dimensions of the vault were 10 ft (east-west) by 6.1 ft (north-south); available interior space measured 8 ft by 5.1 ft. The brick walls of the feature were laid in English bond, and were joined with sand-lime mortar. Walls were slightly more than one foot thick. Surviving architectural evidence also suggested that the roof of the vault had been domed or arched; grooved bricks, which often were used in the construction of domed or arched structures, were recovered from the vault fill, and a small portion of the vault arch remained intact at the top of the northern wall of the feature.

At initial discovery, it appeared that numerous fragments of relatively well-preserved wood had been covered by and contained within the fill of the vault itself, and the horizontal band of wood at the base of the vault fill had been interpreted as a possible plank floor. Further excavation during the Phase II testing revealed a wooden structural element that resembled a floor joist extending north-south along the inside of the west wall of the structure (Figure 15). This framing member either could have supported the ends of what appeared to be a number of decayed planks that apparently were aligned in an east-west orientation, or it may have supported coffins directly. The

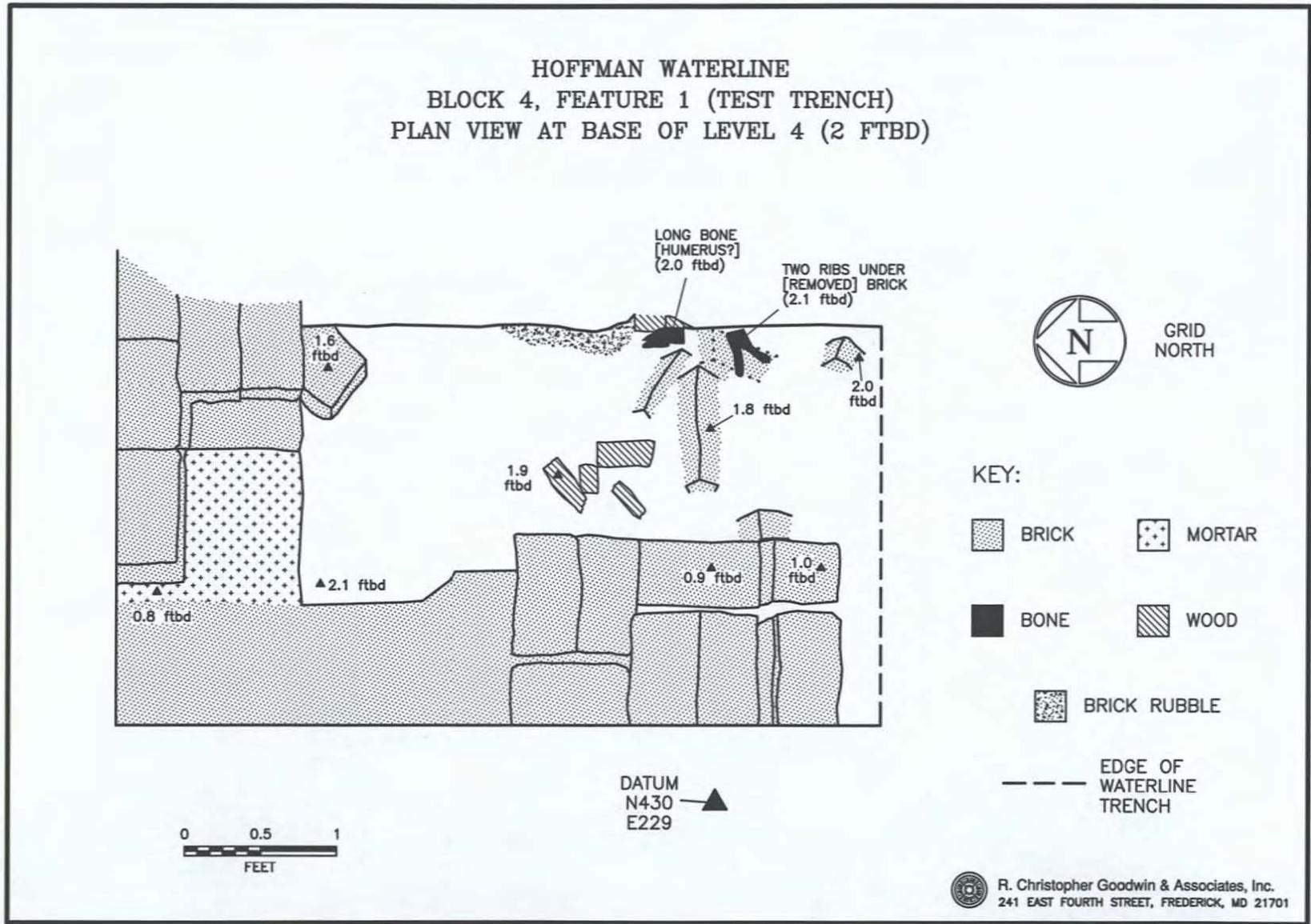


Figure 14. Plan view of Feature 1/Block 4 (Burial Vault) during Phase II testing, showing features exposed at Level 4 within Test Unit 1



Figure 15. Site 44AX183: Feature 1, Test Unit 1: Possible wooden floor joists in situ

layer of sand and several aligned bricks that were found immediately below the wooden floor remnants suggested a possible construction sequence: first, a sand sub-floor was installed over the clay subsoil; bricks then were placed on this sand layer; and finally the floor planks, shelves, or coffins were set atop these bricks. Such an arrangement would have facilitated drainage during periods when the water table was higher than normal.

The remaining foundation walls of the structure provided no direct evidence of an entry into the vault, thereby raising the question of how the structure was accessed. One possible explanation is that the vault was banked into the original hillslope, and was entered through a door in the (now missing) south wall. Comparing various elevations within the cemetery site provided some support for this hypothesis. The bases of the exterior burial shafts all lay at approximately the same elevation as the top of the remaining vault structure; the bottom of the vault was approximately three feet lower than the bases of the grave shafts. Grave shafts normally are excavated to a depth of approximately six feet below the surrounding ground surface. This suggests that the elevation of the terrain surrounding the cemetery formerly was six feet higher than at present, and therefore nine feet higher than the bottom of the vault. Entry through the roof, or through any other wall except the southern one, would have resulted in a nine-foot "drop" to the vault floor. This would have posed serious difficulties when additional interments occurred.

Research into local and regional excavations of similar vault structures offered an alternative hypothesis to explain how the problem of accessing vault structures was solved. In 1984, Dent et al. studied the Carroll Family vault at St. Anne's Churchyard in Annapolis, Maryland, a structure similar in design and dimensions to the West Family vault. The Carroll vault contained the remains of at least five persons, including Mrs. Margaret Carroll (d. 1817), and the disarticulated remains of three adult males, one middle-aged female, and one pre-pubescent child. Documentary research had indicated that Mrs. Carroll had been the first individual to be interred in the vault, and that the remains of the other individuals (tentatively identified as Dr. Charles Carroll, Charles Carroll the Barrister, and John Henry Carroll—all of whom had predeceased Margaret Carroll) had been moved from other gravesites and placed in the vault some time later. Structural evidence noted on the inside of the largely intact vault arch suggested that the roof of the structure had been repaired. Researchers therefore surmised that the coffins of the five later burials had been placed in the vault by breaching its roof (Dent et al. 1984). Post-construction burials at the West Family vault may have been handled in a similar fashion.

Stratigraphy. As previously mentioned, both documentation and photographic evidence indicated that the original topography around the West Cemetery site had been modified at least twice during the mid-twentieth century: first, during the construction of a residential trailer park during the late 1940s and early 1950s, and subsequently in the 1960s by construction of the parking areas for the Hoffman office complex. Together these activities had lowered the original slope around the cemetery by as much as six ft. As a result, only two natural undisturbed soil strata remained beneath the 0.5-1.0 ft layer of modern gravel, concrete, and asphalt that covered the extant parking lot. These included a yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sandy clay subsoil which underlay the entire cemetery area and into which both the vault and the exterior burial shafts had been excavated. Below this, a sterile light olive brown (2.5Y 5/4) sandy clay was visible immediately below the burial vault; a similar stratum also had been observed during monitoring of construction activities in parts of Block 4, immediately south of the vault.

The fill materials within the seven exterior grave shafts generally represented a mixture of the soils that originally had been used to backfill each shaft mixed with disturbed modern soils that had been deposited during the modern construction episodes referenced above. This fill layer consisted of a stratum of disturbed yellowish brown (10YR 5/8) loamy clay, mixed with brownish

yellow (10YR 6/6) sandy clay and gray (10YR 6/1) clay. The view that the shaft fills represented redeposited disturbed soils that originated elsewhere on the site was supported by the data generated by McKnight's (2001) (Appendix D) ethnobotanical analysis of selected soil samples; the species identified in these samples represented an array of opportunistic, first-stage plants and shrubs that characteristically take root in cleared and abandoned environments.

The burials in each shaft, which generally included the collapsed coffin lids and/or the human remains themselves, ranged in depth from 0.0 – 1.45 ft below the mechanically exposed surface. One grave (Feature 201) had been truncated or compressed so severely that almost no grave shaft remained.

The fill within the vault appears to have resulted from a combination of post-depositional colluvial activity; the collapse of the vault's superstructure, with consequent commingling of the vault contents; and the introduction of some modern fill material. Strata within the vault were identified principally by the proportion of intrusive materials, rather than by visibly discrete, stratigraphically distinguishable soil layers. The topmost stratum consisted of a gray (10YR 5/1) clay that contained approximately 20 per cent shell and brick; its contents appeared to represent a mixture of the remains of the collapsed vault roof and the overburden that had covered the vault. Stratum II, also a gray (10YR 5/1) clay, contained continued high proportions of brick, but fewer shells; it also encompassed a deposit of cobbles that was located in the northeastern corner of the structure and appeared to slope down from that corner towards the center of the feature. This stratum may in part represent a fill episode that occurred as a result of erosion through a weakened portion or partial breach in the vault structure, possibly during post-construction interments, as suggested above (Dent et al. 1984). The third stratum was a grayish brown (10YR 5/2) silty clay that contained random brickbats and cobbles at the surface and surrounded several in situ brick and large stones. Gradual soil accretion, which may have resulted from blockage of the drain along the southern wall, may account for this stratum, which apparently protected some of the remains from the direct effects of the roof collapse. A thin lens of sand lay atop the sterile light olive brown (2.5Y 5/4) sandy clay that underlay the brick foundation of the entire structure.

Human remains were recovered from the three upper strata within the vault. The severely disarticulated and commingled remains from the upper two strata had been scattered most severely by the impact of the roof collapse. The third stratum contained the semi-articulated remains of at least one adult female and the disarticulated remains of one or more children/adolescents.

Exterior Burials. The seven exterior burial shafts all were identified within an area that extended approximately 45 ft east of the eastern wall of the vault. There was no evidence of additional burials north or west of the vault, although it is possible that additional graves may have been entirely destroyed by the construction episodes referenced above. All of the individual burials had been truncated and further compressed by the weight of the fill within the burial shafts to such a degree that the combined remains of some coffins and individuals had been compressed into a vertical space of only two or three inches. Natural processes also impacted the condition of the human remains; in particular, bone preservation had been affected by the continuously fluctuating water table in the area. In many instances, the combination of compression and moisture had caused the remains to deteriorate to the point that little more than a stain or powder remained.

The seven exterior burials were arranged in three "tiers" (Figure 9). Feature 201, a single burial located approximately 15 ft east of the vault, represented the first tier. Grading had impacted this burial so severely that little remained except several small bones and the bottom of the coffin; if any additional burials had been located in this tier at one time, they had been completely graded away. The second tier contained four individuals: a male (Feature 202); a female (Feature 204); one

adult (Feature 208) whose gender could not be ascertained; and one adolescent (Feature 203). The burials in this tier had not been impacted as severely by grading; portions of their coffin lids still remained within the feature matrix. The third tier contained two individuals (Features 200 and 207). All individuals had been interred according to standard Christian practice, with heads oriented west and feet pointing east.

Feature 200. Feature 200 (Figure 16) was located in the easternmost tier of the exterior burials at the extreme southeastern corner of the cemetery area. The overall dimensions of the burial feature were 5.8 x 2.0 ft.; the remains had been compressed to a thickness of 0.25 ft.

In addition to having been truncated due to extensive grading, a significant part of Feature 200 had been impacted both by post-depositional rodent burrows and by construction related to the waterline relocation project in December 1999. As a result, portions of the pelvis, the entire right leg, and the lower arms and hands of this individual were missing. Natural decomposition and ground water penetration also had accelerated bone deterioration; preservation was very poor and in many cases individual bones were unidentifiable. Where numerous bones had come into contact with one another, they often formed a conglomerate that could be excavated only as a block. In spite of the generally poor preservation, several long bones, including the upper right humerus, the left tibia, and portions of the cranium, including a partial mandible and eight teeth, were recovered.

Initial in situ evaluation of this individual had suggested that the remains represented those of a female. However, subsequent forensic analysis re-evaluated the remains as those of an adult male between 5'2" and 5'9" tall, based upon the length of the surviving long bones and the general robusticity of the surviving skeletal members. Analysis of the associated teeth recovered from this burial suggested only that this individual was "older." Because so little of the cranium had been preserved, determination of ethnicity based on cranial attributes was not possible.

Relatively little non-skeletal material was recovered from the fill of the remnant graveshaft and coffin in Feature 200. The recovery of 17 cut or wrought nails, one bail-type coffin handle, and numerous fragments of decayed wood all suggested that the individual interred within Feature 200 had been buried in a wooden coffin of indeterminate shape. The absence of associated clothing items such as buttons suggested that the body probably was wrapped in a shroud.

Feature 201. Feature 201 (Figure 17) also had been truncated severely; less than 0.1 in of the remains and small pieces of the bottom of the coffin remained intact. At initial exposure, this overall burial measured 5.65 ft in length; 1.5 ft in width at the shoulder; and 0.7 ft in width at the feet, suggesting that the coffin was hexagonal rather than rectangular. The surviving human remains consisted only of a few small unidentifiable bones, thus precluding determination of either age or sex. Designation of the individual as an adult was inferred based upon the dimensions of the graveshaft.

Non-skeletal materials recovered from the overburden fill within this graveshaft included a mixture of modern twentieth century materials and eighteenth to early nineteenth century items. These included one coffin nail; a brass button; one fragment of slip-dipped white salt-glazed stoneware; 20 machine cut nail fragments; and three pieces of modern linoleum. The severely truncated condition of this burial and the presence of modern artifacts in the sparse remaining feature fill supported a mid-twentieth century date for disruption of this feature. However, the recovery of mid-eighteenth century ceramics from the fill of the shaft also suggested that at least part of the fill had originated from a location that had been occupied at a much earlier date, perhaps elsewhere on the Hoffman property.

Feature 202. Feature 202 (Figure 18) was a burial shaft/coffin that measured approximately 6.0 ft in length x 1.6 ft in width at the hexagonal coffin joint. The landscaping activities associated with the construction and operation of the 1940's trailer park clearly had impacted this burial severely. A square fence post and a metal rod had been driven through the individual's upper chest, shoulder, and part of the cranium. The remaining bone was so poorly preserved that most portions of the individual had deteriorated to little more than organic stains. Of the entire skeleton, only a portion of the pelvis, the right humerus and both sets of fibulae and tibiae remained intact enough to permit forensic analysis. The individual was characterized as an adult male above the age of 23; the relative positions of the surviving skeletal members suggested that this body may have been interred face down. The practice of prone burial, which in some African cultures may carry negative connotations, has been reported at least one slave cemetery on Barbados (Handler 1996).

The artifact assemblage recovered from the shaft fill of Feature 202 represented a varied mix of architectural, faunal, and miscellaneous materials, including coal slag, twentieth-century machine-made bottle glass, window glass, and skeletal elements from a small reptile. However, the artifacts recovered from the burial itself were significantly different. A total of eight poorly preserved copper buttons were recovered from the coffin fill; the position of these buttons relative to the position of skeletal members suggested that they may have been sleeve buttons on a coat. A single hexagonal quartz crystal and an oddly shaped smoothed chert pebble (Figure 19) also were recovered from the interior fill of this coffin, the quartz being found immediately above the left scapula. Both quartz crystals and "unusual" stones have been identified by several researchers (e.g., Jamison 1995; Russell 1997:64, 74-5; Klingelhofer 1987:115-116) as possessing mystical powers or representing elements of African/African-American spiritual beliefs. Quartz crystals have been recovered from African-American sites in Annapolis and at Monticello; smoothed stones have been recovered from the slave quarters at the Garrison Plantation near Baltimore and from a nineteenth century African-American related deposit beneath the Charles Carroll House in Annapolis (Klingelhofer 1987:116; Russell 1997:64).

Feature 203. Feature 203 (Figures 20 and 21) represented the grave of an infant that was so severely degraded that all forensic analysis had to be done in the field. The poor state of preservation of these remains stems from the fact that, in general, juvenile skeletal material does not preserve as well as that of adults. Moreover, as other researchers (e.g., Slaughter and Manning-Sterling 2001:4.40) have observed, infant grave shafts often were not excavated as deeply as those for adults; in the case of Feature 203, the shallow depth of the grave shaft rendered the remains particularly susceptible to the effects of twentieth century land modification.

Little of this individual remained except for dark, organic stains in the region of a femur, the innominates, and ribs. Subsequent excavation of the removed block in the laboratory revealed a subadult mandible with fragile in situ dentition. Calcification development of one unerupted molar indicated an infant between 6 months and a year old, an age determination that correlated closely with the maximum femur length and overall grave dimensions recorded in the field. The strata overlying and surrounding this truncated grave shaft produced a total of 40 unidentifiable nails. The materials obtained from within the coffin itself consisted of only 8 coffin nails and a possible fragment of coffin wood.

The fact that this burial was situated between Feature 202, the adult male, and Feature 204, an adult female, suggests a possible familial relationship.

Feature 204. An adult (40+ years old) female was interred in Feature 204 (Figure 22), a 2.5 x 7.9 ft grave shaft that contained remnants of the 6.2 x 1.2 ft coffin (including a foot board) and what may have been an outer wooden shaft liner. These features collectively extended vertically

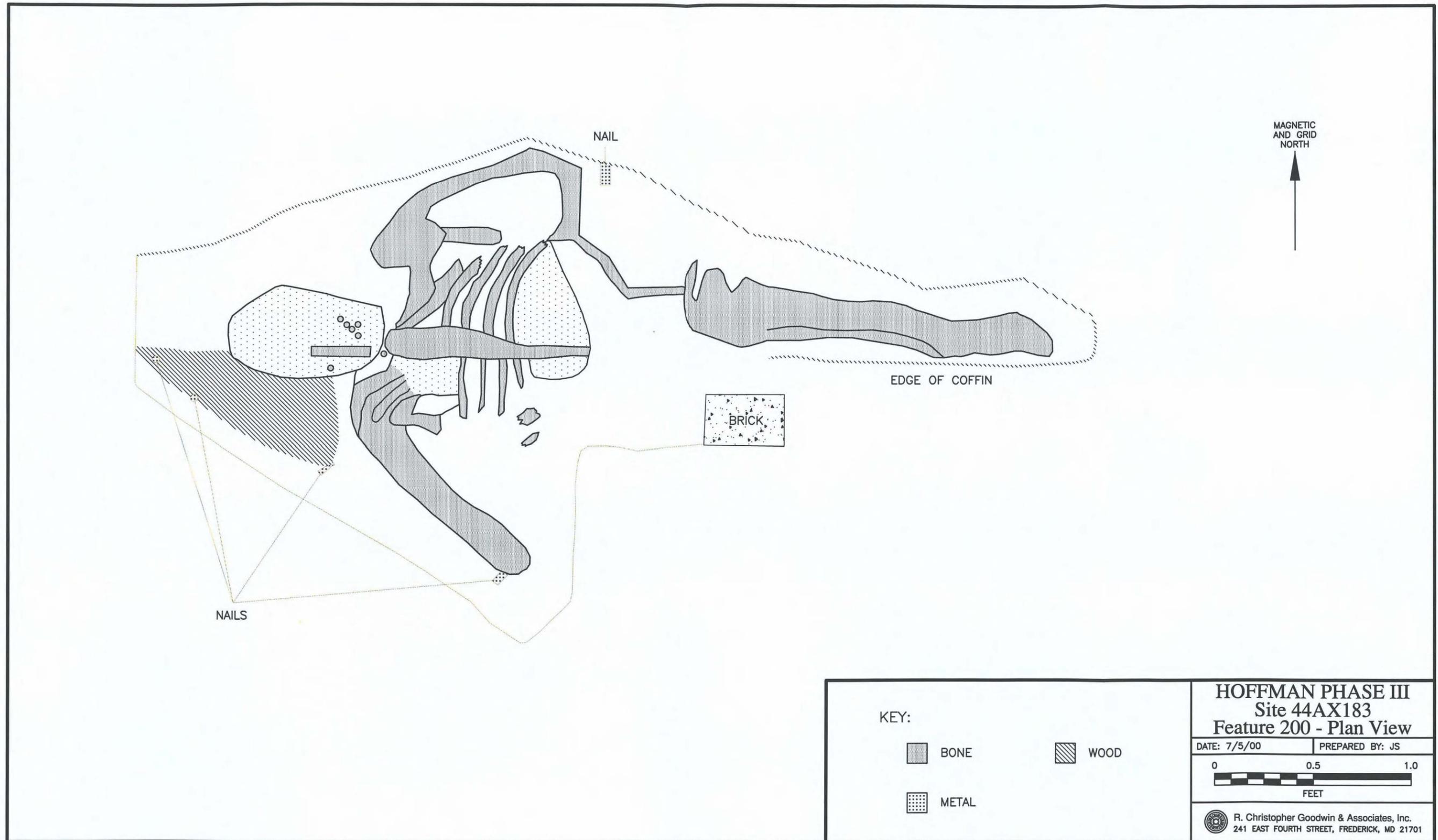


Figure 16. Site 44AX183: Plan View of Feature 200: Adult Male Exterior Burial



Figure 17. Site 44AX183: Photograph of Feature 201 (unidentified burial), showing impact of twentieth century landform modifications on preservation

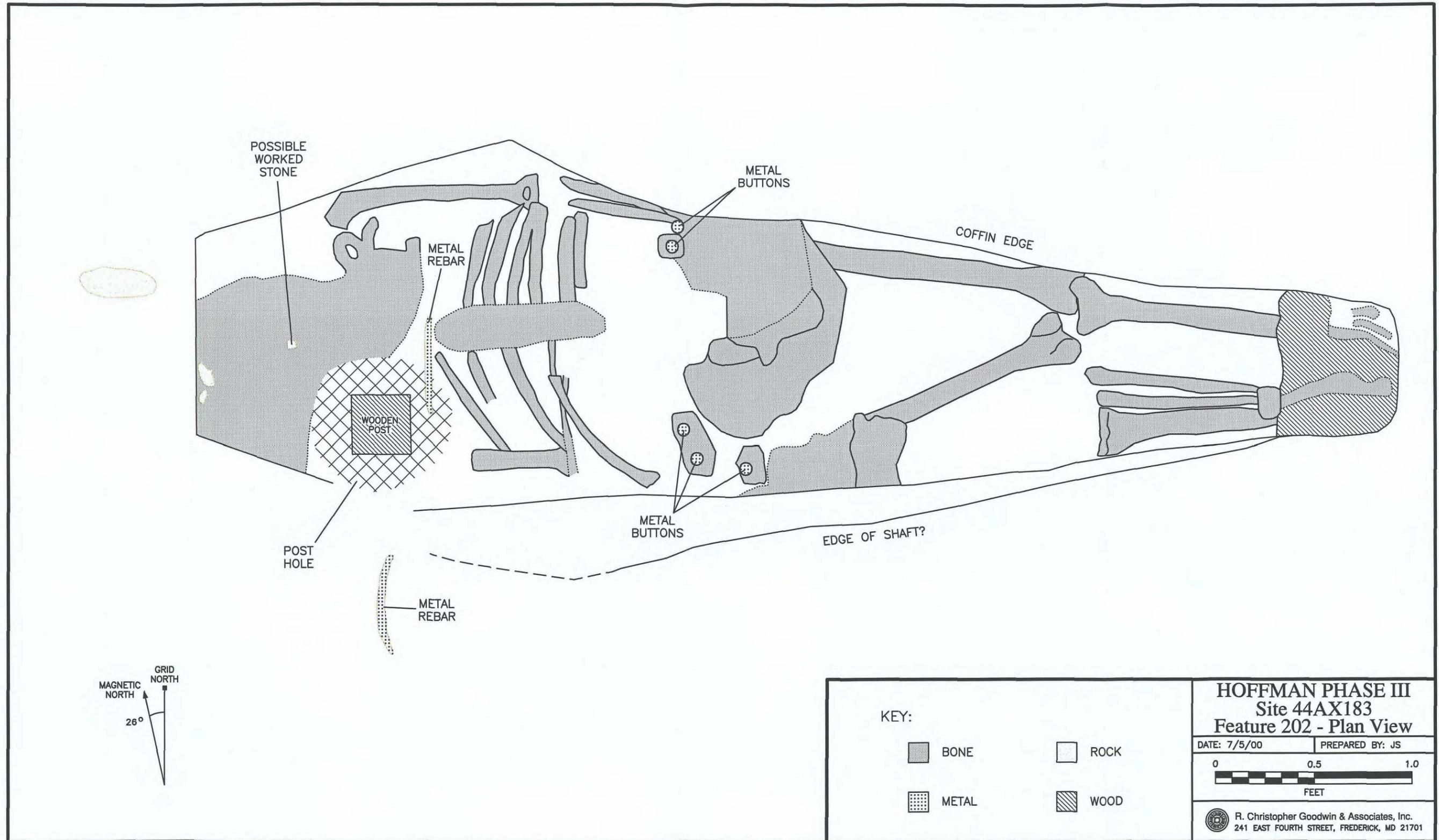


Figure 18. Site 44AX183: Plan View of Feature 202: Adult Male

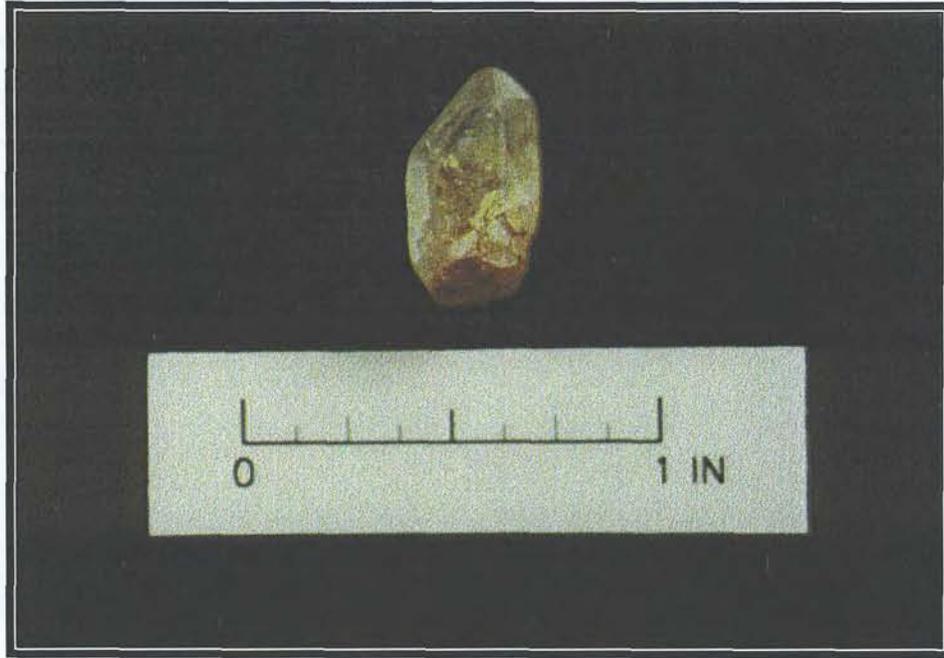


Figure 19. Feature 202 (adult male): Quartz crystal and chert "charm stone" interred with remains

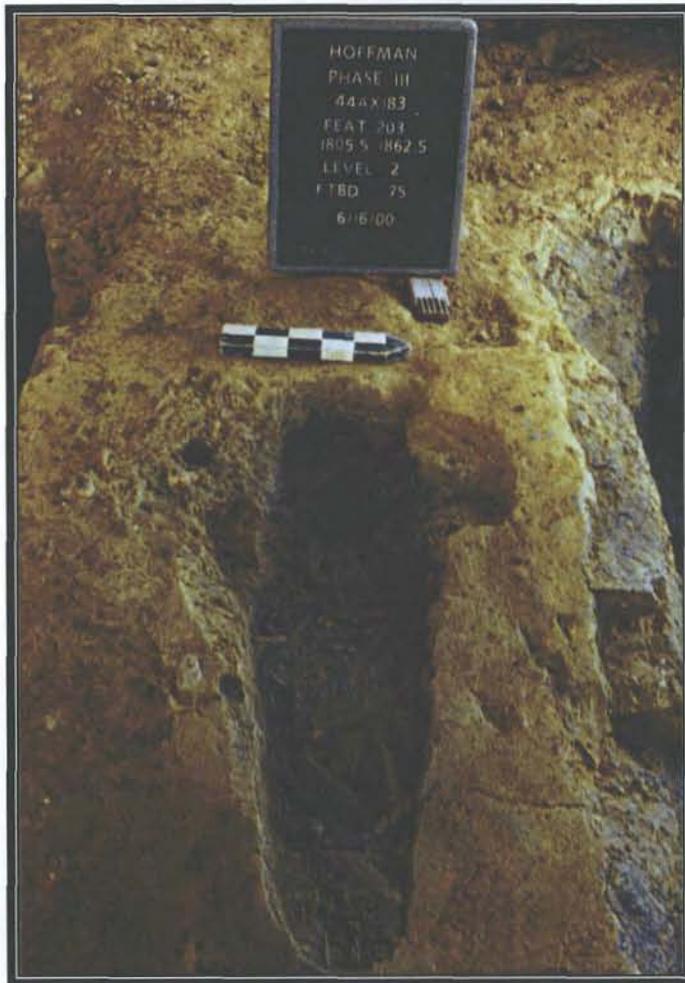


Figure 20. Site 44AX183: Photograph of Feature 203 (Juvenile), showing extent of deterioration

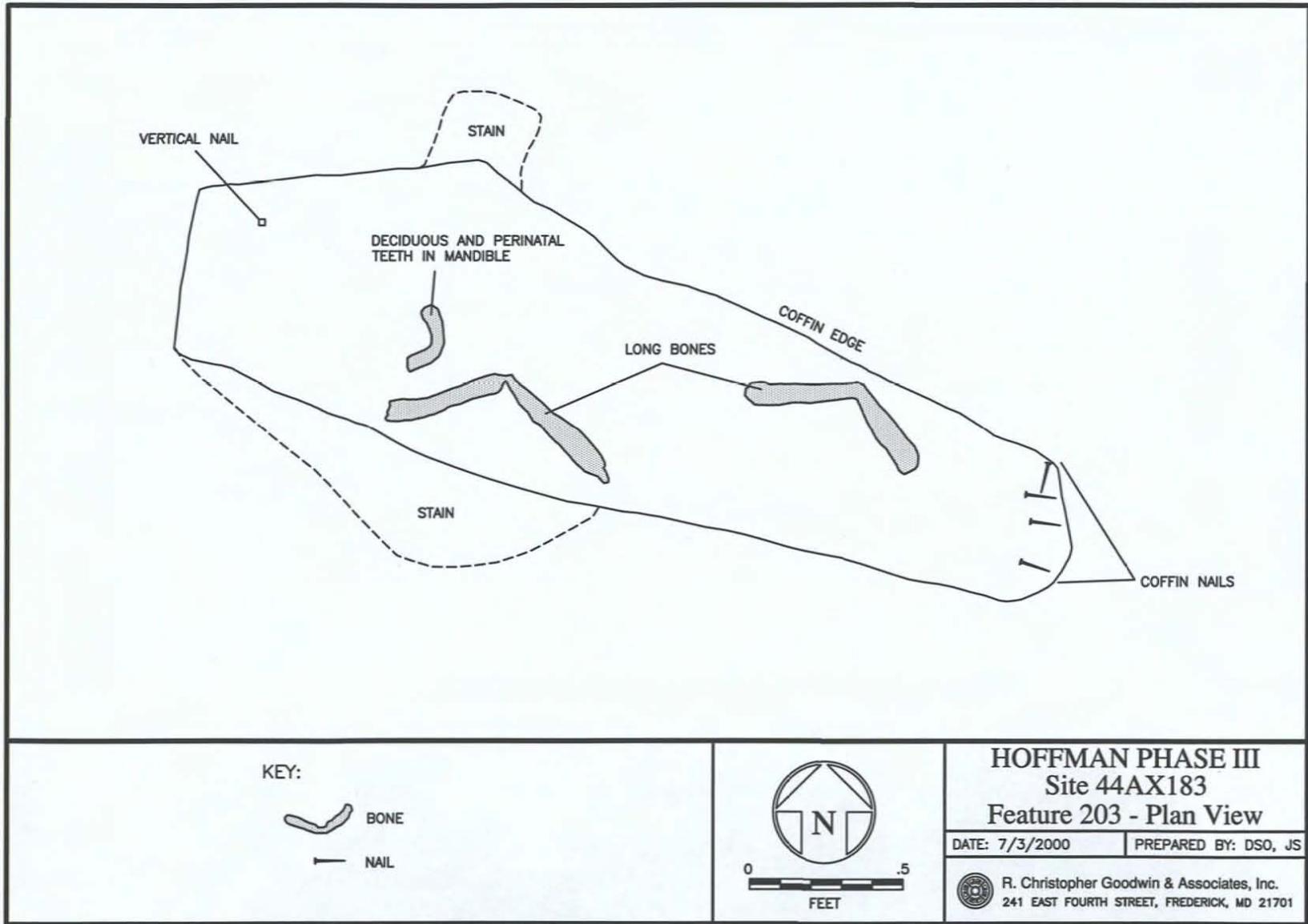


Figure 21. Site 44AX183: Plan View of Feature 203: Juvenile

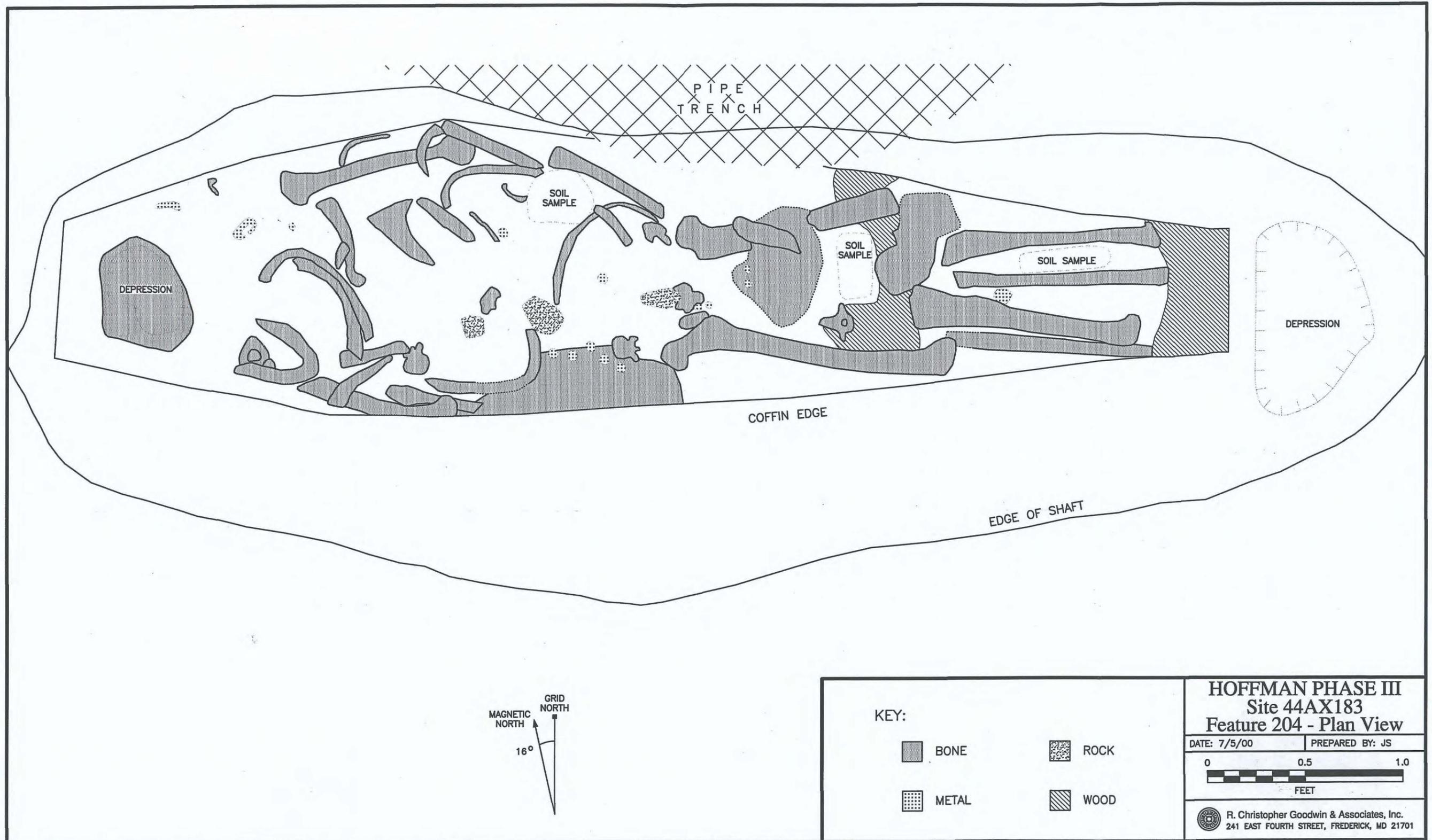


Figure 22. Site 44AX183: Plan View of Feature 204 Burial: Adult Female



Figure 23. Feature 204 (adult female): Set of copper alloy buttons, possibly from a dress.

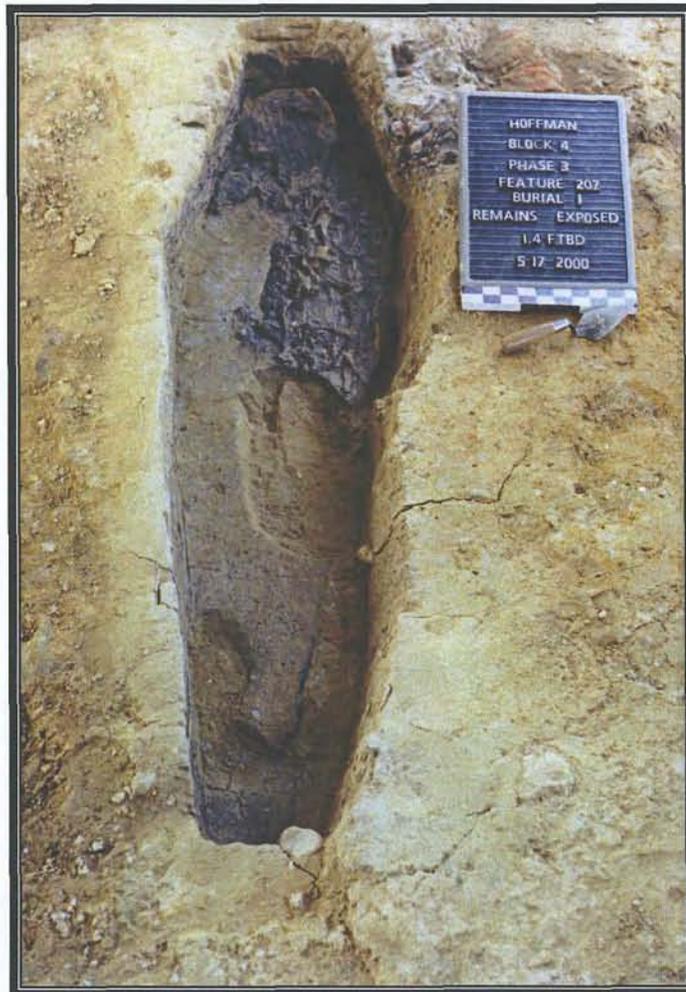


Figure 24. Site 44AX183: Photograph of Feature 207 (unidentified burial), showing extent of impact from mid-twentieth century sewer line construction

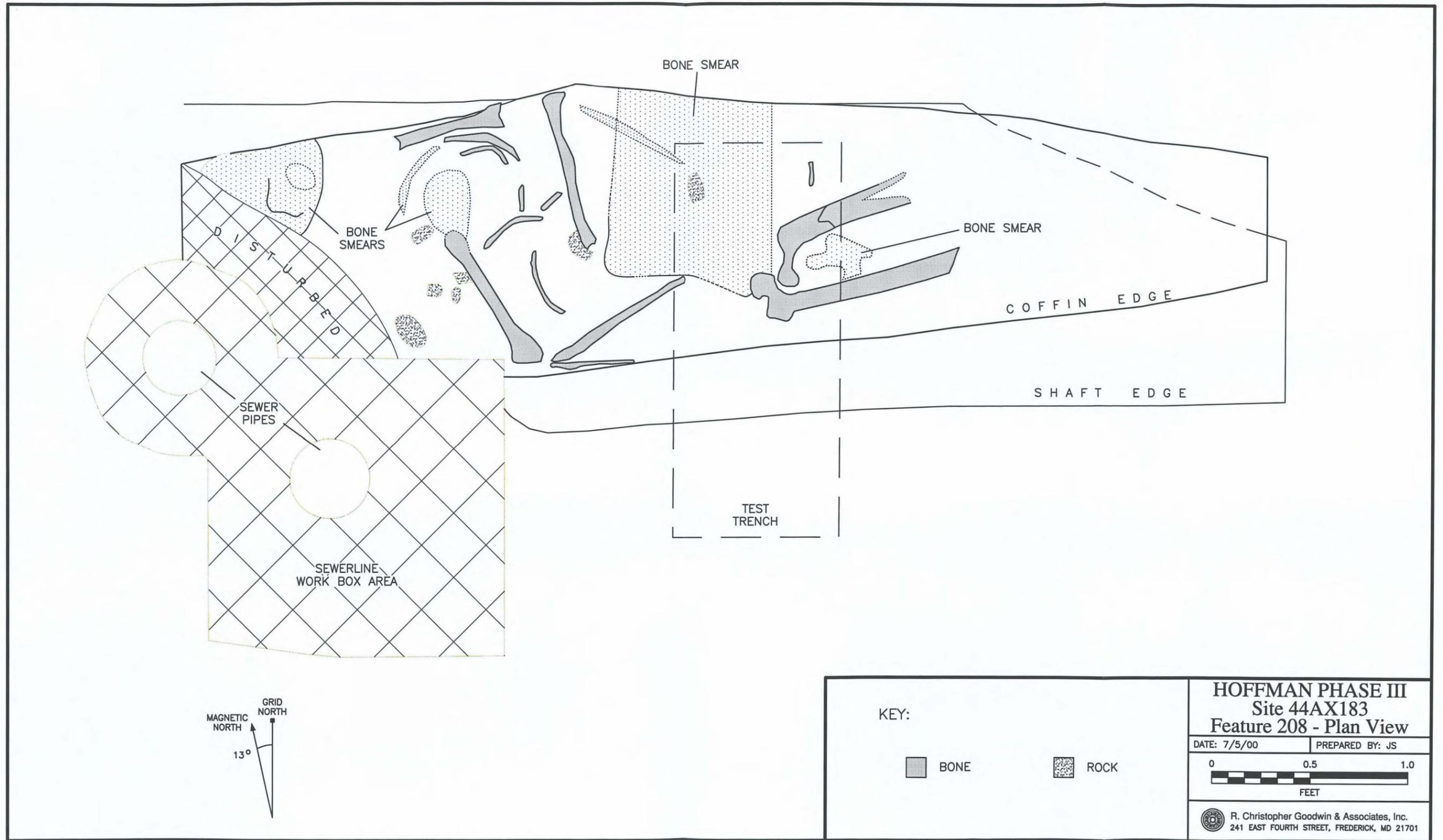


Figure 25. Site 44AX183: Plan View of Feature 208 (unidentified burial), showing extent of impact from mid-twentieth century sewer line construction

from 1.55 ft to 1.85 ft bsd (below site datum). During initial excavation, the skeletal remains in this feature appeared to have the highest quality of bone preservation of any of the exterior burials. All of the long bones and pelvis were intact, as was most of the cranium, including the mandible, and most of the upper torso and limbs, including the clavicle, some ribs, humeri and radii. The body was extended, and the relative positions of the distal ends of the radii/ulnae suggested that the individual's hands may have been folded at the waist. The good state of in situ preservation was due primarily to the fact that, because the shaft had been excavated more deeply, Feature 204 was the only burial of the seven that had not been severely disturbed by twentieth century construction activity. Excavators also noted some possible evidence suggesting that this individual may have been embalmed with mercury; however, HAZMAT tests of samples from the surrounding soil matrix revealed only trace amounts (13.3 $\mu\text{g/l}$) of mercury.

Forensic analysis in the field noted the wide sciatic notch and "gracile" nature of the other skeletal members of this burial. These characteristics are indicators of female gender. However, despite the intact state of the remains in situ, the forensic team rated overall bone preservation as "Poor," thus precluding any more precise determination of age or assessment of pathology.

The fill within this burial yielded more artifacts than did any of the other exterior interments. A total of 29 coffin nails, 11 copper alloy or brass plated metal buttons (Figure 23), a fragmentary silver or silver plated shoe buckle, several fragments of dark green bottle glass, and two pieces of metal also tentatively identified as silver were recovered. The two fragmentary silver pieces, found in the upper thoracic area near a copper or copper alloy button, were interpreted as the possible remains of a necklace or brooch. Like the male in Feature 202, this individual had been buried in clothing rather than a shroud; the obviously matched buttons found in association with this individual appeared to be small dress buttons.

Feature 207. Feature 207 (Figure 24), a roughly hexagonal coffin measuring approximately 6.0 x 1.5 ft, had been heavily impacted by the excavation of a utility line that serviced the 1940's era trailer park. A sewer line trench ran lengthwise through the northern side of the burial; as a result, the entire left side of the individual below the scapula had been removed. Although preservation of the remaining skeletal material was extremely poor, portions of the mandible, the right pelvis, left and right upper arms, left lower arm, and right femur could be distinguished in situ. These remains adhered to the bottom of the coffin. The only artifacts recovered with this burial were a possible shroud pin, some dark green bottle glass, and seven coffin nails. Neither the age nor the gender of the individual interred within Feature 207 could be ascertained, nor was the bone sufficiently well preserved to permit an assessment of pathologies.

Feature 208. The overall dimensions of Feature 208 (Figure 25) were 5.5 x 1.6 ft, and the remaining coffin wood and human remains had been compressed into a deposit that measured only 0.6 ft in thickness. This burial had been severely impacted by the same sewer line that had disturbed Feature 207. In addition to the sewer line itself, two sewer risers had been placed near the cranium and upper torso area; construction activities for the placement of these risers had destroyed most of the cranium and a large portion of the right shoulder. The right humerus was the only intact and recognizable long bone. Because all other bones were either badly fragmented or unidentifiable, the age, sex, or pathology of this individual could not be evaluated. The associated artifact assemblage recovered from this feature consisted entirely of 11 coffin nails; no personal or clothing related items were noted.

Vault Burials. Preservation of the skeletal remains from within the vault was superior to the condition of the remains within the individual exterior burials, primarily because the depth of the vault itself had partially protected the remains from the most severe and direct impacts of modern construction. The degree of preservation of the remains from the vault was evaluated during osteological analysis using a three-point scale, with 1 representing an optimum figure of <75 per cent intactness, and 3 representing remains that were >25 per cent intact. The preservation assessment ratings for all human remains recovered from the vault are presented in the bone inventory appended to the full osteological analysis report (Boyd and Boyd 2001) (Appendix C).

Despite the generally better preservation, most of the skeletal material recovered from the vault had been fragmented and disarticulated by the collapse of the vault roof and possible subsequent rodent and animal activity. Human remains were distributed somewhat randomly throughout all levels of the vault fill, although the majority were concentrated in excavation levels 2-4 (Figures 26– 28) (Tables 5-7). It was therefore not possible in many cases to associate specific skeletal components with discrete individuals.

**Table 6. Site 44 AX183, Feature 1 (Burial Vault), Base of Level 3:
Mapped Field Specimens**

FS No.	Description	Elevation (Ft Below Datum)	FS No.	Description	Elevation (Ft Below Datum)
44	Rib	2.4	45	Rib	2.4
46	Rib	2.4	47	Rib	2.4
48	Clavicle, Female (Left)	2.4	49	Rib	2.4
50	Rib	2.4	51	Rib	2.4
52	Rib	2.4	53	Rib	2.4
59	Cervical Vertebra	2.45	60	Perinatal (with pathology)	2.4
61	Humerus, Female (Left)	2.15 – 2.25	62	Tibia (Bovine)	2.45 – 2.55
65	Humerus (Right)	2.0 – 2.20	67	Humerus (Right)	2.3 – 2.4

Preliminary analysis of the remains in the vault suggested that at least five individuals (two adult males, one adult female, one adolescent between six and ten years of age, and an infant under the age of one) had been interred within the structure. Most, if not all, had been interred in pine coffins (McKnight 2001) (Appendix D). Post-excavation analyses of the skeletal materials recovered during excavation and through waterscreening of the vault fill (Appendices C and D) provided evidence for at least two additional individuals, bringing the total number of individuals to seven or eight, including two adult males, three-four adult females of varying ages, one juvenile, and one infant.

Individual A. This female, estimated to have been between 25 and 30 years old at the time of her death, was the most completely preserved and articulated skeleton within the vault. Her wooden coffin apparently had been placed upon a row of brick piers on the floor in the center of the vault (Figure 29), and her remains were semi-articulated (Figure 28), indicating that they were relatively close to their original position. The body was oriented east to west. The upper torso and pelvic elements were located between the center and the western end of the vault in Test Unit 2, while the lower extremities were recovered almost exclusively from Test Unit 3. Elements of this individual were recovered from Levels 2 – 5 in Test Unit 2, and from Levels 4 and 5 in Test Unit 3,

**Table 7. Site 44AX183, Feature 1 (Burial Vault), Base of Level 4:
Mapped Field Specimens**

FS No.	Description	Elevation (Ft Below Datum)
76	Phalanx	2.7
78	Vertebrae Fragments	2.7
80	Rib	2.8
82	Vertebra	2.75
84	Nail	2.95
86	Scapula Fragment	2.75
88	Nail	2.8
90	Nail	2.8
96	Bone fragment	2.5
98	Bone Fragment	2.6
100	Bone Fragment	2.55
102	Metatarsal	2.5 – 2.6
104	Pelvis (Juvenile)	2.5 – 2.55
106	Nail	2.5 – 2.65
109	Rib	2.55
111	Nail	2.8
113	Nails (2)	2.5
115	Phalanx	2.65 – 2.75
117	Glass and Nail	2.5
119	Femur, Distal end (Juvenile)	2.65
121	Unidentified Bone	2.65
123	Unidentified Bone	2.6
125	Clavicle (Juvenile)	2.8
127	Metatarsal	2.55
129	Metatarsal	2.55
131	Calcaneus	2.3
133	Metatarsal	2.65
135	Metatarsal	2.65
137	Patella	2.6
141	Unidentified Bone Fragment	2.25 – 2.26
143	Tarsal	2.23
145	Fibula (Right)	2.2 – 2.35
147	Fibula (Left)	2.4 – 2.55
151	Rib Fragments	2.55
153	Rib	2.50
155	Phalanx	2.53
160	Thoracic Vertebra	2.50
165	Phalanges, Carpal, and Metacarpal	2.70
167	Femur (Left)	2.4 – 2.5
169	Innominate (Left)	2.35 – 2.40
171	Innominate (Right) and Unidentified Bone Fragments	2.5
173	Metal Plate Fragments	2.6 – 2.7

FS No.	Description	Elevation (Ft Below Datum)
77	Tooth	2.75
79	Vertebra	2.75
81	Phalanx	2.85
83	Tibia Fragments	2.65
85	Unidentified Long Bones (3)	2.65
87	Nail	2.8
89	Unidentified Bone	2.7
95	Bone Fragment	2.3
97	Bone Fragment	2.35
99	Bone Fragment	2.25
101	Tarsal	2.5
103	Metatarsal	2.5 – 2.6
105	Horseshoe	2.55 – 2.65
108	Mandible Fragments (2)	2.55 – 2.8
110	Vertebra	2.7
112	Unidentified Bone	2.5
114	Ulna (Juvenile)	2.6 – 2.7
116	Phalanx	2.75
118	Bone Fragments	2.75
120	Bone Fragment	2.5
122	First Rib (Juvenile)	2.7
124	Metatarsal	2.62
126	First Phalanx	2.7
128	Phalanx	2.55
130	Tarsal	2.55
132	Tarsal	2.5
134	Metatarsal	2.65
136	Metatarsal	2.65
140	Talus	2.25 – 2.65
142	Unidentified Bone Fragment	2.26
144	Tibia (Right)	2.2 – 2.28
146	Tibia (Left)	2.35 – 2.45
150	Phalange	2.48
152	Unidentified Bone Fragments	2.50
154	Vertebra Fragment	2.53
156	Rib Fragments	2.40
163	Vertebrae and Ribs	2.35 – 2.50
166	Lumbar Vertebra	2.60
168	Femur (Right)	2.35 – 2.58
170	Sacrum	2.4
172	Lumbar Vertebra	2.4 – 2.5
175	Radius and Ulna (Right)	2.6 – 2.8

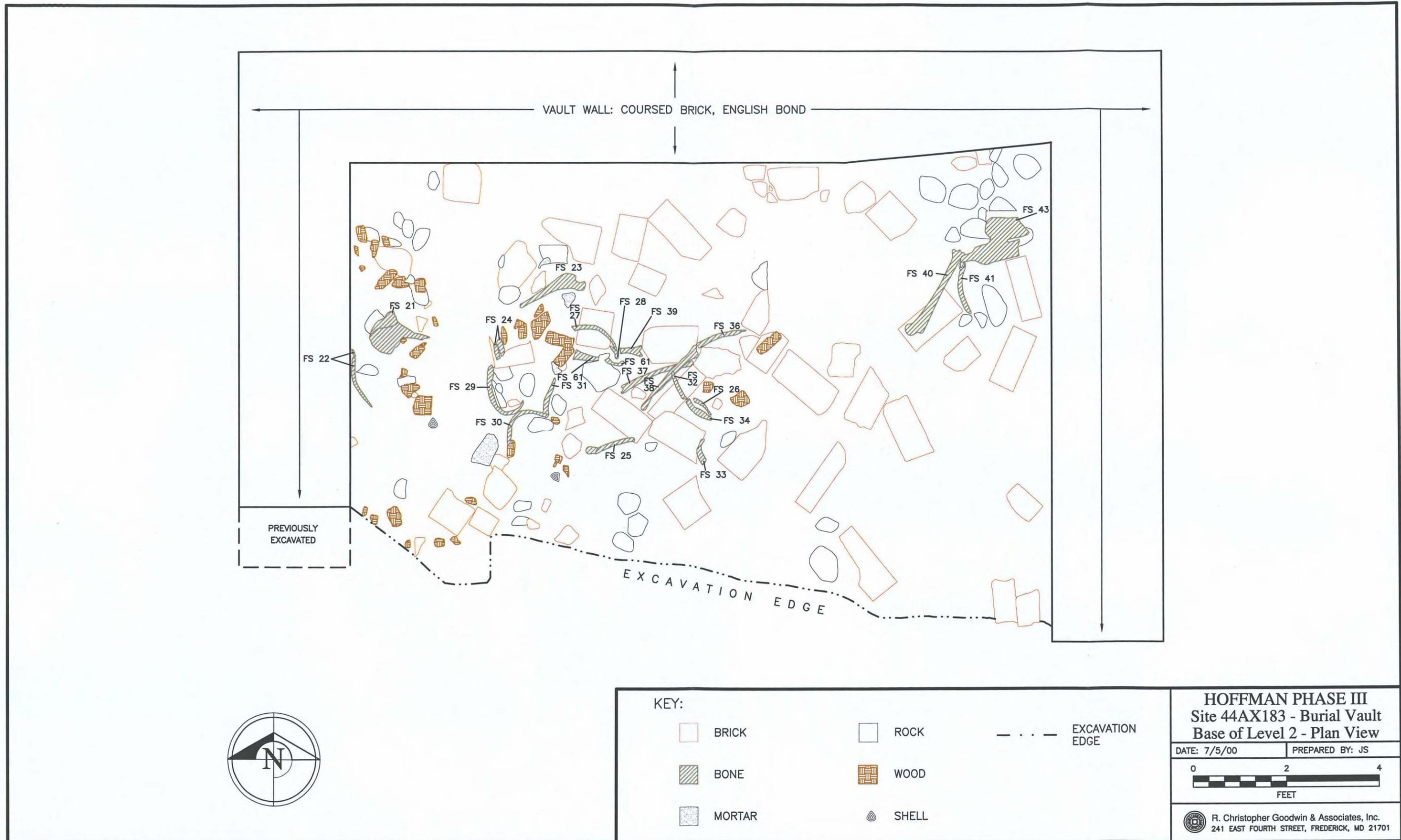


Figure 26. Site 44AX183, Feature 1, Test Units 1-3, Level 2: Plan View

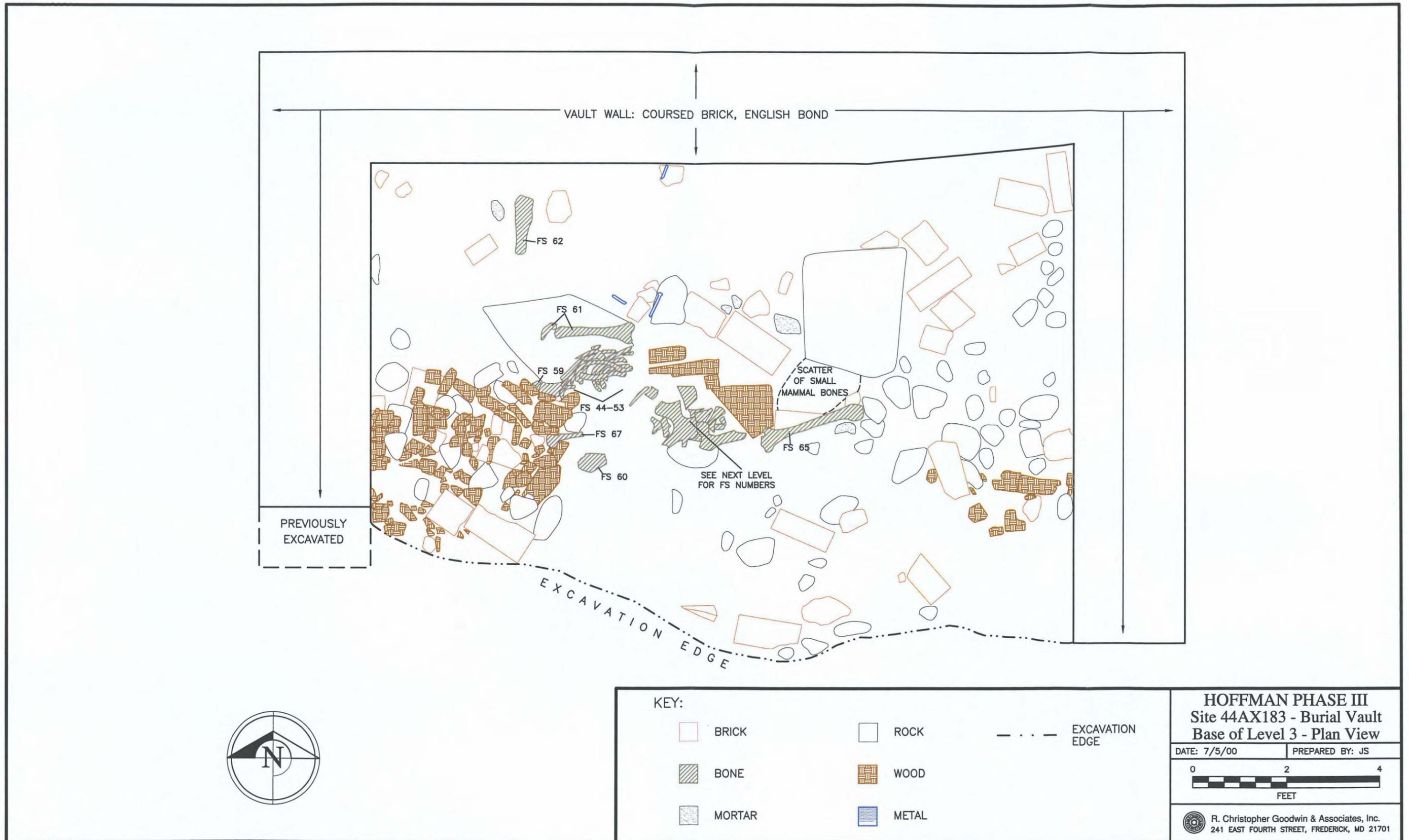


Figure 27. Site 44AX183, Feature 1, Test Units 1-3, Level 3: Plan View

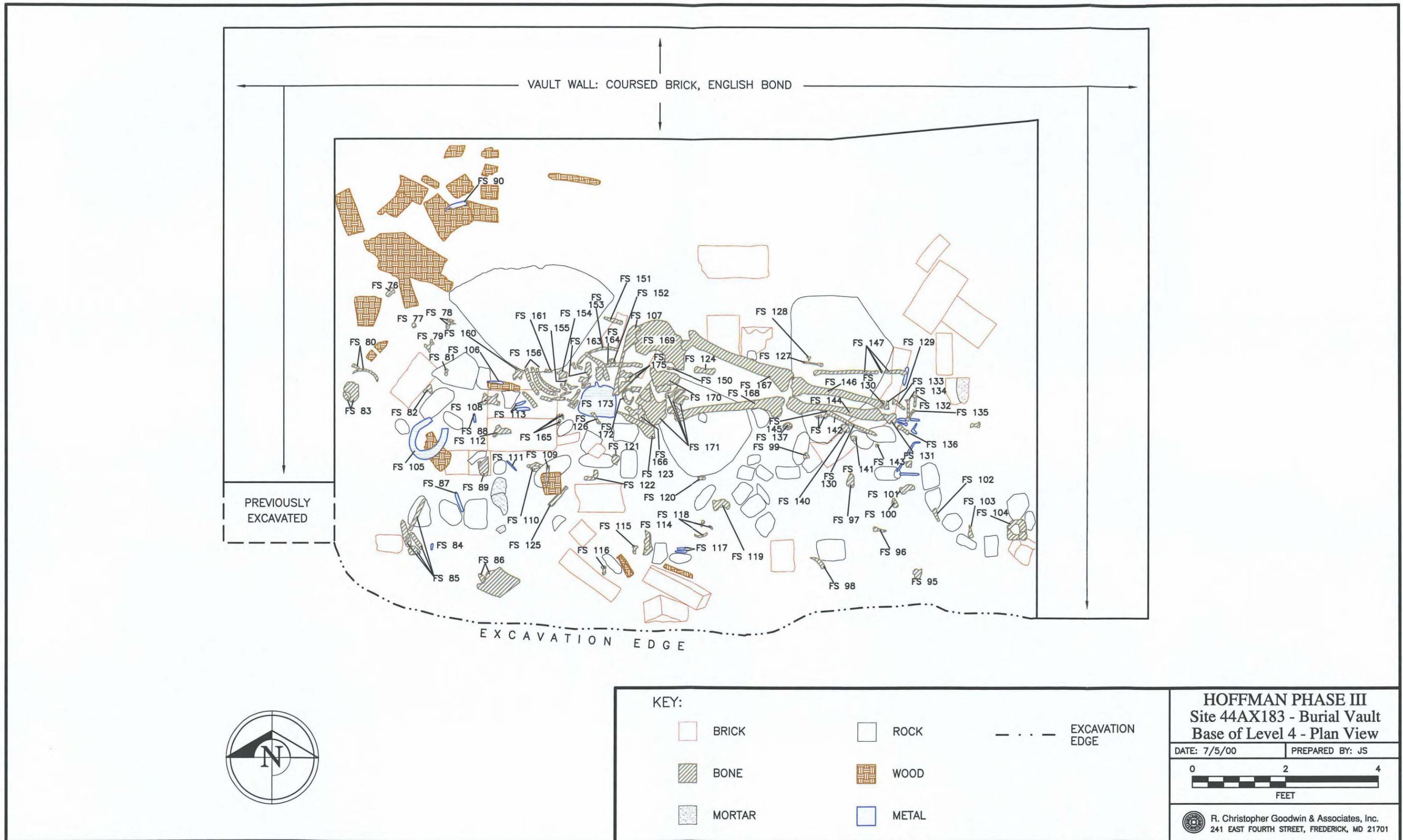


Figure 28. Site 44AX183, Feature 1, Test Units 1-3, Level 4: Plan View showing semi-articulated skeleton of Individual A

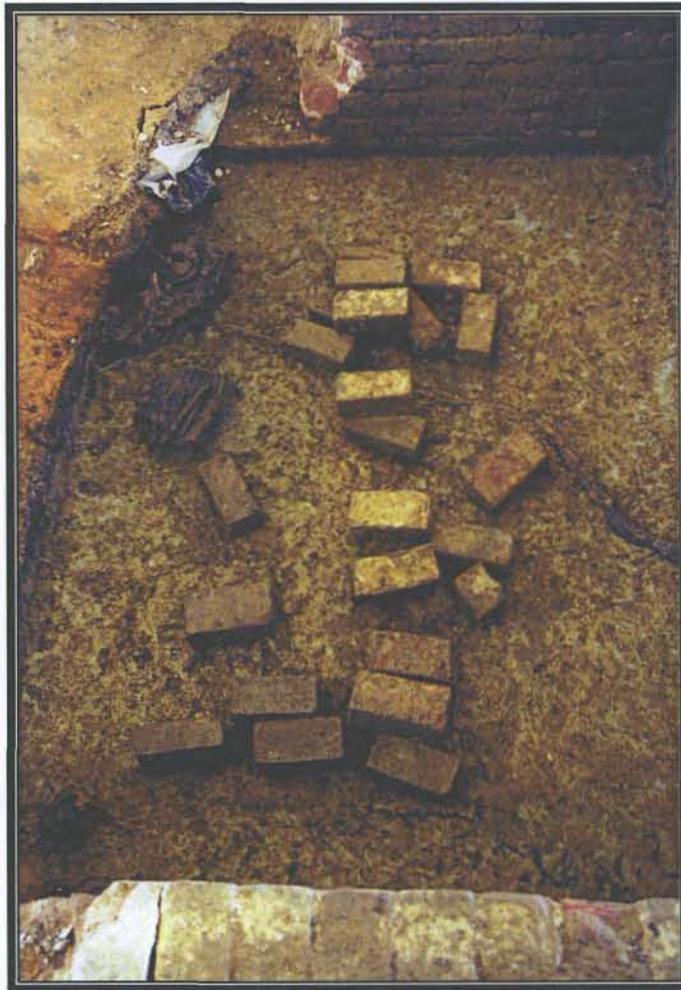


Figure 29. Site 44AX183: Feature 1, Test Units 1-3: Remains of possible brick piers on floor of vault (orientation west)

the vertical distribution of the bones suggesting the degree of impact from collapse of the vault roof. Pathological analysis of the remains of this woman indicated two small bone lesions in one lumbar vertebra (Appendix C:Figure 3) and in a foot bone; the spinal lesions did not result from stress or activity, but instead could have resulted from a variety of infections, including tuberculosis (Dr. Clifford Boyd, Personal Communication, January 2003). Owsley (2003) also noted that Individual A exhibited possible “rib modification due to corset/stays.” In common with most of the other individuals within the vault, she also suffered from dental caries and had lost at least one tooth.

Individual B. Individual B was represented by portions of a right innominate recovered from Test Unit 1, Level 2, at the western end of the vault. Osteological analysis indicated that this individual was a female, based upon the width of the sciatic notch and presence of parturition pitting. Evidence of slight osteoarthritis and application of various age scoring methodologies to the remains also suggested that this woman was an adult of somewhat advanced age, probably over 48 years old. None of the other remains recovered from the vault could be linked conclusively with Individual B.

Individual C. The remains associated with this individual, assessed as an older (ca. 40 - 55 years of age) adult male, were recovered from the upper fill strata in the northeastern corner of the vault (Test Unit 3/Level 2)(Figure 26). Skeletal members linked to this individual included portions of the right half of the pelvis (innominate), two right ribs and the upper right arm. The estimated stature of the individual, based upon formulae related to the length of the humerus, suggested that he stood approximately 5 ft 8 in. Age estimates were based upon the degree of osteoarthritic lipping and deterioration of the pelvic elements. No other skeletal remains recovered from the vault could be linked conclusively with Individual C; however, several skeletal members associated with Individual F (see below) were recovered from this same context. No items of personal attire or other grave goods were found in direct association with the remains of Individual C.

Individual D. Classified as an adult male of undetermined age, but deemed to be slightly older than Individual C (Owsley 2003), the four long bones associated with this individual were recovered from Level 2 of Test Unit 2. The robusticity of the remains and their relative lengths helped to determine both the individual’s gender and his relative height, which was estimated at approximately 5 ft 10 in. Some of the skeletal members associated with Individual F (see below) also were recovered from this context. No other skeletal remains recovered from the vault could be linked conclusively with Individual C, nor could any items of personal attire or grave goods be associated directly with the remains of this individual.

Individual E. The remains of Individual E, a young to middle adult female, were represented primarily by a largely complete but crushed cranium and several bones of the upper torso and limbs, all of which were recovered from the southernmost extent of the vault fill (Test Unit 2, Level 6). Her age, as assessed through analysis of the dentition, appeared to be similar to that of Individual A (25-38 years old). Boyd and Boyd (2001:11) note that this individual may have suffered from severe dental infections that apparently had spread into the bony facial structure, as evidenced by signs of osteitis of the right and left parietal. They further suggest that such infections “may have been factors contributing to the death of this individual.”

Individual E was the only individual for whom a direct association could be made between skeletal elements and non-skeletal artifacts. After the cranium of this individual had been crushed, presumably when the upper portions of the vault caved in, the bone fragments adhered to the bottom of her wooden coffin. To minimize further fragmentation, the cranium was removed *en bloc* on the wooden coffin bottom, and the remaining elements subsequently were separated from the coffin wood in the laboratory. Removal of the last fragments of the cranium revealed a single gold hoop

earing beneath the right mastoid process and a fragment of fabric adhering to a coffin nail (Figure 30).

Individual F. The disarticulated remains of Individual F were the second most complete set of skeletal elements in the vault, although the remains of the individual were recovered from all test units and all levels. Analysis of the distributions of the scattered remains, however, suggested that it too probably was interred in an east-west orientation. The preponderance of skeletal elements recovered from Test Units 1 and 2 (N=38; 92.1 per cent) represented the individual's thoracic and head regions; all but one bone from the individual's lower extremities were recovered from Test Unit 3, at the easternmost third of the vault. Assessment of the surviving dentition (worn deciduous teeth and unerupted adult molars) and the unfused pelvic members (Boyd and Boyd 2001:17) (Appendix C) associated with Individual F suggested that the individual was a juvenile, probably between 5 and 7 ½ years old at time of death. In terms of pathologies, the forensic evidence also documented that Individual F had suffered a fractured or broken rib some time prior to his/her demise, since the break area exhibited signs of at least partial healing (Boyd and Boyd 2001:18)(Appendix C).

Individual G was identified as an infant, possibly a newborn, based upon the recovery of a very fragmentary undeveloped deciduous incisor and a small fragment of facial/cranial bone material. Both remains were recovered from waterscreened soil samples taken from Levels 3 and 4 of Test Unit 3. In subsequent discussions about the possible age of these remains, one member of the forensic team characterized them as "almost fetal" (Dr. Clifford Boyd, Personal Communication, June 2001).

Reanalysis undertaken in 2003 during the collection of DNA bone samples also raised the possibility of one additional individual in the vault. This assessment was based upon the recognition and isolation of the ankylosed middle and distal phalanges of one individual of advanced ("geriatric") age (Owsley 2003)(Appendix F).

Non-human artifacts. A wide variety of artifacts were recovered from the fill of the West Family burial vault. Many of the smaller items, including non-human faunal remains, were recovered during the waterscreening process. In general, the total artifact assemblage can most usefully be classified into two major groups: mortuary and personal items related directly to the interment of the individuals in the vault, and those classes of artifacts that could not be related specifically to burials or individuals.

Items associated directly with the interment of the seven individuals in the vault included fragments of coffin wood; coffin nails and (possibly) screws; two badly corroded coffin handles that later were conserved (Figure 31); brass upholstery tacks (Figure 32); personal and clothing related items (Figure 33); several fragments of unidentified flat ferrous material; and (possibly) sheet lead. Coffin nails were the most numerous item recovered in this category (N=436); 180 of these (41.3 per cent) were identified as "cut," suggesting that some coffins had been constructed during the early nineteenth century. Because none of the coffins from the vault was intact, it was not possible (except as noted above with Individual F) to associate any of these items directly with a specific burial receptacle or individual. Moreover, the distribution of coffin nails within the vault fill, which were present in almost every level of each excavation unit, provides an example of the degree to which the rupture and subsequent infilling of the vault disrupted the placement and integrity of the coffins inside.



Figure 30. Artifacts associated with Individual F, West Family Vault. Top: portions of cranium and gold earring; Bottom: fabric adhering to coffin nail on remnant coffin bottom

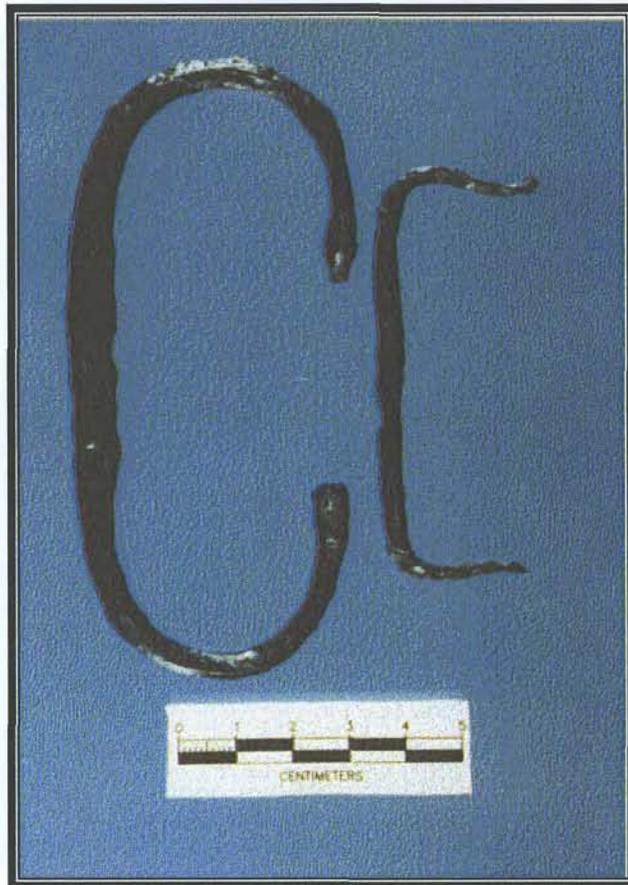


Figure 31. Bail type coffin handles. Top: Before conservation; Bottom: after conservation



Figure 32. Assorted brass upholstery tacks recovered from burial vault, West Family Cemetery



Figure 33. Assorted buttons recovered from vault fill. Left: globe-shaped glass; Middle: bone button back with four holes; Right: copper alloy disk type

Given that the West's generally were considered one of Alexandria's leading families, the individuals interred in the vault were buried rather unostentatiously. For example, analysis of several wood samples recovered from waterscreened vault fill indicated that all burial furniture was pine (McKnight 2001) (Appendix D). This revelation was somewhat surprising, since one would have expected that at least some coffins for members of such a distinguished family would have been fashioned from "choicer" varieties of wood, such as oak, cedar, or mahogany (Bromberg et al. 1998:114; Slaughter and Manning-Sterling 2001). The coffins themselves also apparently were not highly ornamented; only 16 brass tacks, one of which was found still embedded in an intact strip of narrow wooden molding, were recovered from the vault. Brass tacks and molding strips often were used to add decorative elements to an otherwise plain coffin (Bromberg et al. 1998:113-114). The small number of ornamental tacks, especially when compared with the large numbers of coffin nails, suggests that, at best, only one coffin carried such ornamentation. The two bail type handles (Figure 31) found within the vault fill were unornamented ferrous metal. Finally, the relative absence of buttons recovered from the vault fill suggests that all of the individuals interred therein had been buried in shrouds rather than fully clothed. Given the great difference in type (compared to the buttons recovered from the exterior burials), it is likely that the buttons shown in Figure 33 represent intrusive items that were introduced into the vault fill during or after the vault was breached, rather than clothing items related directly to any individual interred within the vault.

Analyses of some major components of the non-burial associated artifact assemblage suggest that much of the fill within the vault and in the remnant exterior grave shafts probably originated elsewhere on the Hoffman property. For example, a substantial subassemblage of non-human faunal remains (N=1,698), much of it in fragmentary condition, was recovered during excavation or waterscreening. Every class of vertebrate fauna, including fish, reptiles, amphibians, birds, and mammals, was represented in this subassemblage. Identified species included cattle (*Bos taurus*), pig (*Sus scrofa*), squirrel (*Sciurus* sp.), raccoon (*Procyon locor*), turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*), chicken (*Gallus gallus*), goose (*Anas* sp.), and voles (*Microtus* sp.) and other rodents; the largest cattle bone had been butchered. Although some components of this subassemblage (e.g., mice) may have been present as a result of having burrowed into the vault fill, the presence of domesticated species that normally are utilized as food suggests that the point of origin for much of the vault fill was elsewhere on the property.

The glass, ceramics, and nails found within the vault fill substantiate this hypothesis further, and also shed light on the time frame in which the major disturbance to the vault occurred. For example, fragments of machine-made bottle glass and wire-type finish nails, all indicative of twentieth century occupation, were recovered from several levels of vault fill, including 15 from Level 5 alone. Fragments of five types of ceramics, including pearlware, whiteware, glazed red earthenware, creamware, and domestic brown stoneware, also were recovered; temporally, they span a period from the late eighteenth through the early twentieth century. The recovery of these items from the same contexts supports a twentieth century *terminus post quem* for the entire fill deposit. At the same time, the presence of earlier items in the ceramic subassemblage suggests that the vault fill originated at some location that had been occupied during the early nineteenth century or even earlier.

One particular item in the non-mortuary assemblage demonstrated that the vault and the exterior graveshafts had been truncated at the same time, and also reinforced the hypothesis that the fill within both graveshafts and vault had originated elsewhere on the property. Fragments of a square, mold-blown, embossed bottle were recovered from nearly every level of fill within the vault, and from the shaft fill of two exterior graves (Features 204 and 207); together, these crossmended to form the nearly complete, dateable container shown in Figure 34. Udolpho Wolfe's "Aromatic Schnapps/Schiedam," an alcoholic patent remedy, first was manufactured in New York City ca.

1850. It was still being manufactured in 1865, sixty years after Thomas West sold his property, when 48 bottles of the same "remedy" went down with the steamer *Bertrand* in the Missouri River (Switzer 1974:49).

It is unlikely (although not impossible) that a bottle of this type would have been introduced deliberately into a burial structure during an interment. Rather, as with the ceramics noted above, patent medicines generally are more closely associated with domestic sites. Moreover, the relatively recent age of this item, when compared with the presumed pre-1806 date range for the burials, tends to substantiate the view that the fills in both the burial vault and the exterior burial shafts represent a different type, time period, and location.

Discussion/Interpretation

The remains of fourteen (possibly fifteen) individuals were recovered from the burial vault and adjacent exterior grave shafts that together comprised the site designated as the West Family Cemetery (44AX183). Although this site initially was identified during pre-construction site preparation and utilities relocation work during the winter of 1999, both the stratigraphic and artifactual evidence indicated that earlier mid-twentieth century landscape modifications and continued exposure of its remains to various natural processes had severely degraded the integrity of all the burials within the cemetery. In the case of the burial vault, the arched roof and upper courses of the structure had collapsed, and the human remains within had been commingled. All of the exterior burials had been truncated, some very severely. The results of the extensive cutting and filling that accompanied these twentieth century construction activities were particularly evident in the condition of both the human remains in the cemetery, and the non-mortuary artifacts recovered along with them. Most of the skeletal material was either extremely fragmented or was so thoroughly decomposed and degraded that little identifiable bone remained intact. Most of the non-human faunal material, glass, and ceramics also was very fragmented, suggesting that such items had been subjected to rough treatment.

Identification

The most basic issue to be addressed in this study concerns the identities of the 14 individuals that were interred in the vault and in the exterior burials.

Two of the seven individuals interred in the family vault were documented by obituary references in local late eighteenth century newspapers. In April, 1786, the *Alexandria Gazette* reported the passing of George West, uncle of the then-property owner, Thomas West: "At Cameron, deservedly regretted, Col. George West. His remains were on Sunday last, deposited in the Family Vault, after a suitable sermon on the mournful Occasion was delivered by the Rev. Dr. Griffith to a large respectable audience". Somewhat over a year later, the *Gazette* (June 7, 1787) reported: "Died. Mrs. Sybil West, in the 83d year of her age. This Venerable lady was one of the first inhabitants of this Town, and through life supported the Character of a pious Christian. Her remains were interred in the Family Vault, near this town, on Thursday last, attended by a numerous Collection of Relations and Friends." George West undoubtedly was one of the two adult males (Individuals C and D) identified within the vault; although the age and gender profile for Individual B could connote parts of Sybil's remains, the highly degenerated fifth finger phalanges identified by Owsley (2003) definitely conform in terms of age.



Figure 34. Two views of "UdolphoWolf's Aromatic Schnapps" bottle, crossmended from vault and exterior burials

The possible identities of one of the remaining females (probably Individual A) and the infant (Individual G) rely heavily on information obtained from secondary sources as it correlates with the skeletal evidence. In 1763, the only daughter of Hugh and Sybil West, also named Sybil, became the second wife of John Carlyle, a wealthy and prominent Alexandria merchant. Together, Sybil and John Carlyle had three children, none of whom survived. Their first son, William, lived only four days; their second son, John ("Little Jackey") was only 2 ½ years old when he passed away in 1765. Sybil herself died of "consumption" in 1769 shortly after having given birth to a female child (Munson 1986).

John Carlyle was buried in the Old Presbyterian Churchyard in Alexandria, next to his first wife, Sally Fairfax, as he had directed (Munson 1986:98-99, 105, 117). However, the Carlyle family plot contains no graves for wife Sybil or her deceased infant, nor have any references been found to indicate where Sibyl West Carlyle was laid to rest. In the West family vault, however, the remains of Individual A exhibited some unique characteristics that suggest a possible match with Sibyl Carlyle. Analysis characterized these remains as those of a young adult female (25-38 years old), whose pelvic bones showed signs of one or more pregnancies/deliveries and one of whose vertebrae contained lesions that may reflect the effects of consumption (Boyd and Boyd 2001:12-13; Dr. Clifford Boyd, Personal Communication, January 2003). Combined with the presence of Individual G (the newborn), such evidence, albeit circumstantial, establishes a strong possibility that one of the two younger adult females and the infant buried in the West family vault are Sybil West Carlyle and her infant daughter.

Identification of the remaining individuals is far more speculative. For example, the spouses of the two individuals known to have been interred in the family vault might have been placed with their partners. Hugh West, Sybil's husband and the grandfather of Thomas West, died in 1754 at the age of 50; the remains of the second adult male in the vault may be those of Hugh West. A brief August 1785, *Gazette* obituary also noted the passing of "Mrs. West, wife of George West Esquire;" this would have been Ann Dade Fowke West, George's second wife, whom he married ca. 1763 (Fairfax County Names Index). She may represent the other female (Individual E) interred within the vault. Another candidate for the unidentified male might be John West, Jr., son of Hugh and Sybil West, who is known to have utilized (if not lived upon) the Carr-Simpson property during his later years. Or, since at least one deed (Fairfax County Deeds T-1:113) clearly referred to "Thomas West's vault," the remaining adult male and female may in fact be Thomas West and his first wife, Anne Payne West, who died in 1788 at a relatively young age (Sorensen 1990:179).

Without more detailed genealogical information or DNA analysis, the identity of the 5 – 7 1/2 year old juvenile remains a mystery, except that he/she almost certainly was a West family member.

Exterior Burials. Although it is tempting to assume that the seven individuals buried separately outside the vault also represent members of the West Family, the clear weight of the archeological and documentary evidence indicates that this probably was not the case. It was not uncommon during the eighteenth century to bury trusted family retainers within or near the confines of family graveyards, although a degree of physical separation usually was maintained between immediate family members and the graves of unrelated individuals. Such physical separation would have been provided by limiting vault burial only to members of the immediate West Family while burying unrelated individuals outside of the vault. Moreover, the deed that reserved the West Family cemetery while transferring 22 ac from Thomas West to Stump and Ricketts set the dimensions of the reserved area around the family vault at 20 ft x 20 ft. Superimposing a 20 x 20 ft square centered precisely in the middle of the vault, over the burial-related features of this site demonstrates clearly that all exterior burials are located outside of the perimeter of the "reserved" area (Figure 35).

If the seven people interred outside the boundaries of the immediate West Family cemetery were not immediate family members, then who were they? As suggested in the preceding paragraph, they could have been close family servants, either indentured or slave. Kiser et al (1995:19) note the “persistent rumor” that paupers, slaves, tenants and others would use established family or church burial plots—sometimes without authorization—as places of burial for their family members, especially after the graveyard’s original owners had ceased to utilize the plot.

In this regard, three of the individual burials (Features 202, 203, and 204) contrast rather vividly with all of the others interred both within and outside of the vault. First, the relative position of these burials, which included one male, one female, and a child, suggests the type of family grouping that Slaughter and Manning-Sterling. (2001:4.35) noted in their excavations of 18CR239, a ca. 1790-1825 multi-family cemetery in Carroll County, Maryland. Secondly, the two adults apparently were the only individuals in the West Cemetery that had been interred in clothing rather than in shrouds. Finally, the recovery of a quartz crystal and a smoothed stone from the male burial in Feature 202 presents the distinct possibility that the adult male therein may have been of African-American descent. Both quartz crystals and unusual smoothed stones have been recovered from a number of African-American occupied sites. Numerous studies in the literature also suggest strongly that the burial of certain classes of items, including blue beads, amethyst crystals, tobacco pipes (Walsh 1997), and even dishes (McCarthy 1998; Bromberg et al. 1998) with the deceased individuals may represent a significant African-American cultural attribute.

The identities of the seven people buried next to the West family vault may never be known, but it is highly probable that none of them were related directly to the West family.

The West Family Cemetery in a Regional Context

Despite the generally poor condition of the features and remains associated with the West Family cemetery, it is possible to generate some broad comparisons between Site 44AX183 and other contemporaneous cemeteries in the Chesapeake region.

One major point of comparison concerns the overall configuration and design of the elements within the site. The general configuration of the vault and exterior burials within the West Family cemetery conforms in nearly all respects to patterns documented for both churchyard and family burial plots throughout the Chesapeake Tidewater. Regardless of time period, location, or ethnic or religious affiliation, the alignment of the graveshafts in nearly every case was east to west, following Christian tradition (Puckett 1926:94; Catlin et al. 1982:88; Garrow 1985; Crowell et al. 1991; Bromberg et al. 1998; Hazzard 1998; Crist et al. 2000). Alignments also generally were tiered, with sub-groupings within tiers reflecting familial, kinship, or even social groupings (Slaughter and Manning-Sterling 2001). Shackel and Galke (1988:45) maintain that seventeenth and early eighteenth century American burial grounds often were “haphazardly” arranged, and that a balanced and ordered—almost Georgian—approach to cemetery layout became common only after the early eighteenth century. Only Ryder and Egghart (1991) documented several deviations from this paradigm, ascribing the misalignment of several graves in the cemetery they surveyed to the hilly topography of the site.

The presence of a vault in the West cemetery also sets this site apart to some degree from many of its contemporaries. While not unknown, the interment of individuals in vault structures during the eighteenth century and early nineteenth centuries apparently was not the norm (Markell et al. 2002:100). Indeed, of the 17 corollary cemetery studies reviewed for this project, family vaults or

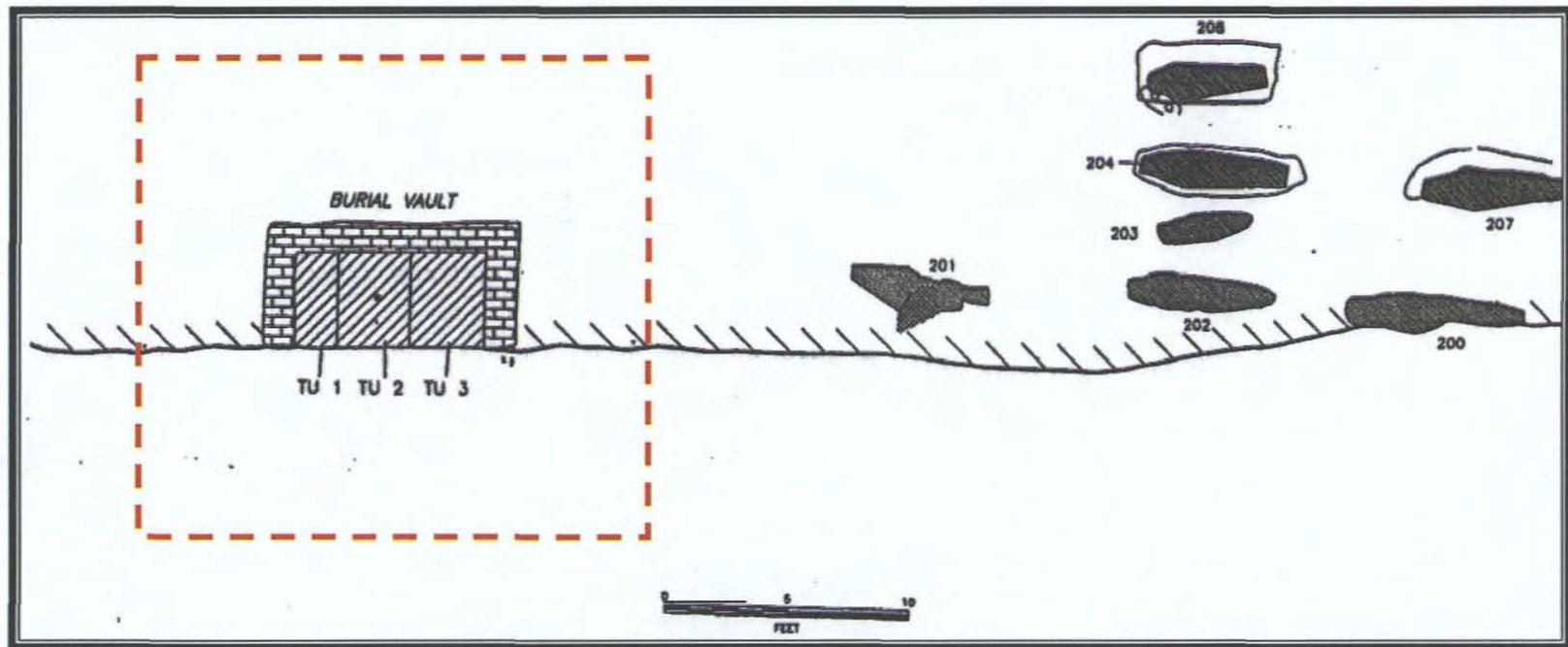


Figure 35. Schematic view of West Family Cemetery, with Thomas West's 20 x 20 ft reserved perimeter superimposed.

individual brick grave enclosures like the West Family vault were present at only six sites: Carroll (Dent et al. 1982); Bordley (Shackel and Galke 1988); Addison (Garrow 1985); Alexandria's Quaker cemetery (Bromberg et al. 1998); the unidentified single burial at Site 18AN951 (Koski-Karell 1995); and Darnell's Chance, the Thompson family vault (Donald Creveling, Personal Communication, January 2003). Four of the six examples cited above (e.g., Bordley, Carroll, Addison, and Thompson) are associated with families or individuals that were (or aspired to be) considered to be, like the Wests, among the social and economic elite of their respective communities.

All of the vaults or brick grave enclosures shared several basic traits, including their overall shape and form and the materials used for their construction: handmade brick (Figure 36), mortar, and interior wood framing. Their generally shallow depth below grade (generally ca. 3 ft) led former Smithsonian anthropologist Lawrence Angell to observe that "family vaults of the colonial period were relatively low structures" in which the "bodies and/or coffins frequently were stacked directly atop one another" (Dent et al. 1984). Variations, however, did occur. Overall size probably reflected, at least in part, the spatial needs of each individual family, but it is equally likely that less tangible factors, such as financial position or social aspirations, also played a part in dictating the physical attributes of a respective family's burial vault. For example, one might ponder why, with only nine interments, the Thompson family vault at Darnell's Chance was so very large (8 x 17 x 8 ft) (Creveling, Personal Communication, January 2003). One unique characteristic of the West family vault was that it was the only one that provided specifically for structural drainage (although one or more coffins in the Carroll vault in Annapolis apparently had been elevated on brick pedestals, similar to those that supported Individual A in the West family vault).

Turning to the characteristics of the individual burials, the remains interred in single graves outside of the West family vault all had been buried in minimally ornamented, hexagonal pine coffins. Hexagonal coffins apparently were the most common types utilized during this time period, although Slaughter and Manning-Sterling's (2001) investigation of the ca. 1790-1825 burials at the Sykesville (MD) Cemetery documented only rectangular forms. The coffin forms used to enclose the individuals interred in the West family vault could not be ascertained because none were intact; however, the artifactual evidence and botanical analysis of wood remains suggests that the pine coffins were only minimally ornamented, probably by applying wooden lathing to the exterior using brass upholstery tacks. The remains of a possible wooden coffin box, a protective device that Bromberg et al. (1998:392) maintain may have been "relatively common" and that was present in several burials in the Alexandria Quaker cemetery, were noted in only one of the exterior burials (Feature 204) at the West cemetery. In common with most of the cemeteries that provided comparative data, all but two of the individuals in the West Cemetery had been interred wrapped in shrouds; all of the shroud pins were of the wire-wound head variety (Figure 37).

The data provided by the osteological analysis of the West Family remains also can be compared with similar statistics recovered from several other cemeteries reviewed for this study (Tables 8 and 9). However, such comparisons are valid only in the most general sense, because of the high degree of variability among the differing samples; differences in organizing and presenting the data in each case; and the degree to which skeletal elements were preserved in each cemetery. These factors govern both the types of analyses that can be applied to a given population, and hence the results. During the 1985-1986 excavations at Alexandria's Christ Church Cemetery, for example, only a "few bone fragments and teeth" were recovered (Bromberg et al. 1998:12). Crist et al. (2000) were able to analyze only 25 per cent of the burials found at the mid-nineteenth to early twentieth century Sam Goode Cemetery. Slaughter and Manning-Sterling (2001:3.5) noted the "extreme fragility" of the bones in the 14 burials at Site 18CR239, while only one-third of the burials at the Marshall/Jones Cemetery could be subjected to osteological analysis (Crowell et al. 1992). At

the Quaker Cemetery in Alexandria, skeletal material was so poorly preserved that Kollman (1994) was able to characterize the dental remains of only 17 individuals. The most frequently mentioned contributing factors in determining the degree of bone preservation include soil acidity, exposure to frequent water fluctuations, and impacts from subsequent activities at the site (Crowell 1992; Bromberg et al. 1998:12), all factors that affected the results derived from the West Family Cemetery.

Nonetheless, Tables 8 and 9 attempt to compare the West Family cemetery results with selected data from other cemetery sites within the region. The data in Table 8 suggest first that if an individual could survive infancy, he/she generally could expect to attain their majority. Child mortality rates demonstrated in the sample populations seemed to improve over time, except for African-American children, who apparently succumbed over twice as frequently as did Caucasians, even into the nineteenth century. The osteological data from the West Family cemetery, albeit sparse, also suggest that the child-bearing years were inordinately perilous for younger female adults; 2 of the three identified females interred in the West Family vault did not survive beyond their 40s. Most female deaths seemed to occur in the "younger to middle adult" age ranges.

By far the most common pathologies reflected all the populations studied were dental problems, including dental caries and antemortem loss of teeth with resulting infections of the jaw and sinus areas. The frequently mentioned enamel hyperplasia indicates periods of nutritional or disease stress in the general population (Bromberg et al. 1998:428); both of the young adult females at the West cemetery seem to have suffered from similar childhood stresses (Boyd and Boyd 2001:Table 5). In the general population, few individuals during the eighteenth or early nineteenth centuries appear to have received dental care, but those interred during the later nineteenth century paid better attention to dental health, as demonstrated by the number of treated dental problems noted at Alexandria's Quaker Cemetery (Bromberg et al. 1998). Arthritis and other degenerative bone diseases, as well as generalized infections, also frequently affected the general health of late eighteenth or early nineteenth century populations; the members of the West family apparently were not exempt from these afflictions.



Figure 36. Hand-made bricks from vault interior, showing canine footprints produced during manufacture: West Family Cemetery (44AX183)



Figure 37. Representative shroud pin with wire-wrapped head (FS 239)

Table 8. The West Family Cemetery in a Regional Context: Comparative Ages at Death:

Cemetery/Site (Est. Date Range)	Estimated Age Brackets As Determined by Forensic Evidence						
	Total # of individuals	0-9 YO	10-19 YO	20-39 (YO) (Young adult)	40-59 (YO) (Middle Adult)	60+ (YO) (Older Adult)	Unidentified
West Family (ca. 1780-1806)	14	3 (21.4%)		2 (14.3%)	2 (14.3%)	1 (7.1%)	6 (42.9%)
Marshall Jones (1799-1841+)	15	2 (13.3%)	1 (6.7%)	2 (13.3%)	1 (6.7%)	1 (6.7%)	8 (53.3%)
Sam Goode** (ca. 1840-1920)	155	69 (45%) (infants/children)	Unspecified	Unspecified	Unspecified	Unspecified	85 (55%)
18CR239 (1790-1825)	14	3 (21.4%)		7 (50%)		4 (28.5%)	
Carroll (1817 - ?)	6	1 (16.7%)		1 (16.7%)	3 (50.1%)		1 (16.7%)
Quaker/Queen St.* (19 th century)	17	2 (11.8%)		2 (11.8%) ("Younger adults")	5 (29.4%) ("Older adults")		7 (41.2%)

*(from Kollman 1994)

**denotes African American burying ground

Table 9. The West Family Cemetery in a Regional Context: Comparative Pathologies

<i>Pathology</i>	West Family (1780(?)-1806)	Sam Goode** (ca. 1840-1920)	18CR239 (1790-1825)	Carroll Vault (1817 - ?)	Quaker/Queen St.* (19 th century)
Dental hypoplasia	X				X
Periodontitis; resorption	X	X			X
Dental caries	X	X			X
Dental pipe wear marks			X		X
Arthritis	X	X (Spinal)	X	X	
Bone lesions (TB)	(?)			X	
Bone lesions (general infection)	X	X	X		
Nutritional stress; malnutrition		X	X		
Limb deformity			X		
Osteoporosis		X	X		
Activity-related stress			X (Bending, squatting, etc)		
Bone trauma (break, fracture, dislocation, etc.)	X	X			
Anemia (incl. sickle cell)		X			

* Only dentition assessed (Kollman 1994)

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY

This report has presented the results of the archeological investigations and data recovery at the West Family Cemetery (44AX183), located on Blocks 2 and 4 of the Hoffman Property in the western part of the City of Alexandria, Virginia (Figures 1 and 2). Archeological excavation and analyses of the remains were undertaken between December 1999 and July 2002 by R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., on behalf of Hoffman Management, Inc. The study was required as a condition of site development under the City of Alexandria's archeological ordinance, and under those chapters of the Code of Virginia [10.1-2305, 57-38, 57-39, and 58-2] that govern the treatment of cemeteries. All work conformed to standards established in the *Guidelines for Archeological Investigations in Virginia* (VDHR 1996), and the *City of Alexandria Archaeological Standards*; legal authorization to conduct the investigations was provided under the terms of an archeological permit from the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and a Burial Excavation Permit issued by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources to Hoffman Management, Inc.

The West Family Cemetery site was located in the north-central section of an approximately 60 ac, 10 block tract that is bounded on the north by the Norfolk and Southern Railroad property, on the west by Telegraph Road, on the east by Hooff's Run Drive and on the south by the Capital Beltway (I-95/495) and Cameron Run/Great Hunting Creek. Mill Road, a four-lane thoroughfare, forms the northern boundary of Block 2. The cemetery site was located on the line between Blocks 2 and 4 of the Hoffman property. The development proposed for Block 4 included construction of a Cineplex complex; expansion of adjacent surface parking areas; and reconfiguration or installation of new utility lines. Activities related to the installation of new utility lines to service the Cineplex complex led to the discovery of a brick vault, the initial feature identified at the site.

The archeological investigations conducted for this project were designed to verify the nature and contents of the brick vault; establish the perimeter of the cemetery; document all features and remove all remains from the site; analyze remains and artifacts recovered from the site; and complete a technical report. These objectives were achieved through a combination of background research, which was designed primarily to identify the individuals interred within the cemetery; Phase I – III archeological field work; and formal data analyses, including complete osteological analysis of all recovered human remains.

Summary

Archival Results

Archival research concluded that the cemetery located on the Hoffman tract had been established by at least 1786, and perhaps earlier. The first documented historic occupation of what

became the Hoffman property dated from the mid-eighteenth century, when Hugh West acquired, through inheritance and purchase, a 627-acre tract originally known as the Carr-Simpson patent. This property stayed within the West Family until 1805, when Hugh West's grandson Thomas was forced to sell portions of his "Cameron Farm" to satisfy debts that he had incurred (Figure 5). Deed records indicate that the cemetery had been established prior to this sale.

Through the nineteenth and first half of the twentieth centuries, Cameron Farm continued to be utilized primarily for agricultural purposes (Figure 4). Following World War II, portions of what had been the West plantation were developed as formerly rural areas west of the City of Alexandria were drawn slowly into the sphere of the city's expanding western suburbs. In the immediate post-war period, a trailer park community was constructed on the property, followed later by commercial development as an office complex. These late twentieth century changes in function and land use severely impacted archeological remains of former structures, including the burials within the West Family cemetery.

Archeological Results

The West Family burial vault (Feature 1/Block 4) was discovered in December 1999 during the excavation of a utility trench along the northern perimeter of Block 4 of the Hoffman Properties (Figure 2). In profile, the brick feature measured approximately 10 ft in length. Its interior was filled with a dark gray clay matrix that contained occasional fragments and pieces of brick, decayed wood, bottle glass, and other unidentified objects. A stratum of decayed wood along the bottom of the feature appeared to represent the possible remains of a wood floor. Subsequent excavation of an exploratory test trench into the fill at the western end of the feature verified that human remains were present.

Further investigation of the vault and the area around it proceeded after a burial excavation permit was obtained from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. Mechanical stripping of an approximately 50 x 100 ft area around the vault perimeter revealed the presence of seven additional individual graves located some 15 ft east of the vault; additional manual exposure of an area south of the vault also documented a brick drain that apparently served to channel excessive moisture out of the vault.

Following documentation of the overall cemetery configuration, all remains were documented in situ and removed from the site. The seven individual burials, which had been severely impacted by mid-twentieth century construction, were mapped, photographed, documented on standard burial excavation forms, and subjected to preliminary osteological analysis prior to their removal. Three test units were established to organize excavation and removal of the fill within the vault interior, which contained numerous human bones that had been commingled with fragments of coffin wood, bricks from the vault itself, and other materials as a result of the collapse of the vault roof. As the vault fill was removed in 0.5 ft vertical increments or levels, the positions of human remains and significant associated artifacts within each exposed level were documented using scale drawings, photographs, and excavation level forms.

To ensure 100 per cent recovery of human remains and associated grave goods, all fill material from both the vault and the individual grave shafts was water screened; soil samples also were floated to provide material for ethnobotanical analysis. All excavated materials and samples were forwarded to specialized laboratories for analysis.

Interpretation

Excavation and analysis of the human remains indicated that a total of 14-15 individuals had been interred in the West Family Cemetery, at least seven in the brick burial vault and seven in individual graves just east of the vault. Of those individuals within the vault, three were adult females, two were adult males, one was a juvenile, and one was an infant. Although the poor condition of the remains hampered determination of the ages and genders of all those buried in the exterior graves, this portion of the cemetery accommodated at least two adult males, one female, and one child; three of the exterior burials probably represented a family group. All individuals, both within and outside of the vault, had been buried in pine coffins and, with two exceptions, all apparently had been wrapped in shrouds. The generally deteriorated and fragmented condition of the human remains severely limited the degree to which extensive pathological analyses could be performed.

Documentary research and/or forensic analysis established the identities of only four individuals. Contemporary published obituary notices identified two of the individuals in the vault as George West, Thomas West's uncle, who was buried in the vault in 1786, and Sybil West, Thomas West's grandmother, who died in 1787 at the age of 83. Subsequent comparison of the results of forensic analyses with West family genealogical data tentatively identified two other individuals in the vault as possibly representing Sybil West Carlyle and her infant daughter. The identities of the remaining individuals in the vault and the seven people buried in individual graves could not be ascertained. However, evidence based on review of common eighteenth century burial practices, combined with the artifactual data recovered from two of the external burials, suggests that the individuals buried in the exterior graves probably were not members of the immediate West family. Alternative suggestions for identification would be that of family retainers, an hypothesis underscored in at least one instance by the suggestion that one of the individuals buried outside of the vault may have been African-American.

Like many early family cemeteries whose locations have been forgotten over time, the West Family cemetery suffered greatly from the vicissitudes wrought by modern twentieth century development. Nonetheless, enough remained to determine that, in many respects, this small graveyard and its occupants were similar to countless others of their time and place. All of the burials followed the standard Christian practice of interring individuals in tiers or rows facing east. Family groups were buried together, in common with configurations noted in numerous other cemeteries elsewhere in the region. Where discernable, coffin shapes conformed to the typical eighteenth and early nineteenth century hexagonal form. And despite their favored social, political and economic status, the members of the West household suffered many of the same pathologies as their contemporaries: arthritis, childhood nutritional or stress diseases, broken bones, acute dental problems, and possibly even tuberculosis.

Yet some aspects of the archeological record set the West family and its burial ground apart from others of its day and time. As befitted their status as one of eighteenth century Northern Virginia's leading families, the Wests, even in death, tried to set themselves apart by constructing a specialized "receptacle"—a brick vault—in which to bury their departed loved ones. Relatively few families in eighteenth century Northern Virginia could afford to bury their dead in such permanent monuments. But the documentation and the archeological evidence also suggest that this visible external symbol of rank and privilege masked a deeper reality—that the economic fortunes of this once-prosperous family had declined rather precipitously over several generations. The small, crowded vault and the relatively unadorned pine coffins, devoid of any special markings or commemorative plaques, may have been, in the end, all that the family could afford.

Epilogue

Had it not been for the far-sighted archeological ordinance passed by the City of Alexandria, the individuals interred in the West Family cemetery may well have suffered the same ignominious fate that has visited too many last resting places throughout the State of Virginia—total annihilation. The West's story, however, ultimately came to a far more satisfying conclusion. Finally recognized for the leading role that they played in the founding of the city, the West family, along with those unnamed individuals who also were buried near the family plot, were reinterred in an honored and significant spot--beneath the cedars in the churchyard of Pohick Church, the permanently preserved symbol of the Anglican parish that Hugh and Sybil West served and nurtured over two and a half centuries ago.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The recovery of the remains from the West Family Cemetery could not have been completed without the assistance of numerous individuals and agencies. R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc. wish to acknowledge the continued patience, support and cooperation offered by Mr. Roger Kiper, Senior Vice-President, and others within the management and staff of Hoffman Management, Inc. For the City of Alexandria, Dr. Pamela Cressey, Dr. Stephen Shephard, and Ms. Francine Bromberg maintained constant communication and provided rapid feedback regarding archeological matters. Dr. Ethel Eaton of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources reviewed, approved, and issued the burial excavation permit that permitted the study to go forward without delay. Dr. Douglas Owsley, himself a descendant of the West Family of Alexandria, along with members of his staff, kindly agreed to utilize his forensic skills to facilitate achievement of some project objectives. Finally, Goodwin & Associates, Inc. acknowledge and appreciate the continued expressions of support, material assistance, and forbearance that the descendants of Hugh, Sybil, George, and all the other Wests have offered during the course of the project.

Outside specialized analyses not only were required for this project, but also added depth and dimension to the study. For their efficient and meticulous work, Goodwin & Associates, Inc. offers especial thanks to Drs. Clifford and Donna Boyd, Ph.D., who performed the osteological analysis; to Justine W. McKnight, B.A., for her prompt analysis of the botanical data and wood samples; and to our in-house faunal analyst, Christian Davenport, M. A., for sorting through and classifying more than 4,000 specimens.

Numerous research repositories were visited in the course of collecting background data for this project. Of these, the most critical for tracking down the property history and family genealogy were the archives maintained by Alexandria Archaeology; the public documents maintained at the Fairfax County Circuit Court Archives; and the numerous genealogical materials in the collections of the Virginia Rooms at the Fairfax County and Alexandria Public Libraries. Goodwin & Associates, Inc. appreciates the patience and cooperation afforded by their respective staffs. In addition, special thanks goes to Edith Estes Bradbury, who generously shared with us her boxes of collected family genealogical material, and James Munson, whose book helped to establish the link between John Carlyle's second wife, Sybil, and the West family.

Christopher R. Polglase, M.A., ABD, served as the Principal Investigator for this project, and supervised all aspects of the work. Martha R. Williams, M.A., M.Ed. managed the overall project and completed the archival background study. David Soldo, M.A., served admirably as Assistant Project Manager and Field Director for the project. Over the course of the six-month study, Goodwin & Associates, Inc.'s capable field staff included Christian Davenport, M. A., Kristin Bastis, B. A., Darlene Hassler, B. A., Henry Measells, B. A., and Jennifer Tobey, M. A. Jennifer Bornemann, B. A. and Darlene Hassler supervised and produced the artifact inventory, and artifact conservation and photography were handled by John Clarke, B. A., Andrew Madsen, M. A., and Peter Holmes, M. A. The logistical support provided by Meril Dunn ensured that field crews had all of the materials they needed. Barry Warthen, John Shuster, M.A., and Brian Stone, M.A., prepared the maps and figures for the report, and Sharon Little produced it.