

FIVE ARTIFACT STUDIES

by

Audrey Noël Hume, Merry W. Abbott, Robert H. McNulty,
Isabel Davies, and Edward Chappell

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The Eighteenth-Century Shoe Buckle

Merry W. Abbott

Introduction

Over a period of more than forty years, archaeologists of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation have recovered in their excavations many ornamental dress items. In addition to beads, buttons, and rings, various types of buckles for different uses have been found. The most common of the buckles are those that were worn on shoes. For years the buckles have accumulated and been stored in archaeological study collections. The following report represents the results of a study, emphasizing buckles recovered from Williamsburg sites, undertaken in order to produce for archaeologists and historians a basic guide to these ever-present colonial artifacts.

The report's first section relates to the history of the British shoe buckle during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries; the second discusses buckles in colonial Virginia from documentary and archaeological evidence; and the third comprises the nomenclature of the buckle and a typology drawn from the collections of the Department of Archaeology of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and of the United States National Park Service at Jamestown.

History of the Shoe Buckle

Worn as early as the fourteenth century, shoe buckles became common in England during the early 1500s,¹ but judging from those to be seen on marble effigies and church brasses of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, they were then "serviceable rather than handsome."² In the late 1500s, however, they were replaced by rosettes and ribbon ties, which con-

tinued in vogue throughout most of the seventeenth century. According to William Hone's *Every-Day Book* (1827), shoe buckles were "revived before the Revolution of 1689, remained fashionable till after the French Revolution in 1789; and finally became extinct before the close of the eighteenth century."³

On January 22, 1659, Samuel Pepys wrote: "This day I began to put on buckles to my shoes."⁴ G. Bernard Hughes, in *Small Antique Silverware*, quotes from a later *London Gazette* wherein it is noted that: "Certain foolish young men have begun to fasten their shoes and knee bands with buckles instead of ribbons . . . which surely every man will own were more decent than these new-fangled, unseemly clasps or buckles."⁵

The *London Gazette* notwithstanding, in the years following the Restoration the ornamental shoe buckle steadily increased in popularity. The new emphasis on fashion and luxury brought to England by Charles II from the court of Louis XIV helped to establish the craft of bucklemaking in England by the late seventeenth century. It developed rapidly, especially in Birmingham after being introduced there from Staffordshire in the 1680s.⁶

Shoe buckles were fashioned of many different materials—from gold and silver to copper, brass, pinchbeck,⁷ pewter, and iron. They were often elabo-

3. Hone, *Every-Day Book*, 2:677–78.

4. *The Diary of Samuel Pepys*, ed. Ernest Rhys, 2 vols. (London, 1920), 1:11.

5. Hughes, *Small Antique Silverware*, p. 176. No date for this quotation is cited.

6. Henry Hamilton, *The English Brass and Copper Industries to 1800*, (London, 1967), p. 130.

7. Pinchbeck is an alloy of four parts copper and one part zinc, named for its inventor, Christopher Pinchbeck, an eighteenth-century English watchmaker. Alice Morse Earle, *Two Centuries of Costume in America*, 2 vols. (New York, 1903), 1:381.

1. William Hone, *The Every-Day Book*, 2 vols. (London, 1827), 2:677.

2. G. Bernard Hughes, *Small Antique Silverware* (London, 1957), p. 176.

rately cast, engraved, enameled, plated,⁸ gilded,⁹ or set with paste jewels¹⁰ or with precious or semi-precious stones. Thus, an individual's taste and social status could be deduced from the materials and style of his buckles.¹¹

In England during the late seventeenth century, buckles ornamenting the shoe were basically small; square, oblong, or oval in shape; and ranged from smoothly plain to jeweled, the latter typically set with square-cut stones.¹² Those of the early eighteenth century also remained small, and were usually square or oblong. C. W. Cunnington has said that they were basic daytime jewelry for the man, and that laced shoes, though sometimes worn by women, were rarely worn by men.¹³

Buckles began to be cast in rococo designs of great intricacy and delicacy after about 1730.¹⁴ The fashionable shapes were most often square through the 1750s; and square, oblong, or oval from about 1760 to 1775.¹⁵ Those for men were about 2 inches to 2½ inches from side to side,¹⁶ and women's were somewhat smaller. Various examples of mid-

eighteenth-century shapes and designs may be seen in the works of William Hogarth, particularly in such paintings as the *Marriage à la Mode* series that was completed in 1745.

Jeweled buckles, frequently in silver, were solid set until about 1750, when the backs were opened to distinguish true stones from pastes. Many different sizes, colors, and shapes of gems or pastes were set closely together to render an effect of beauty and elegance (see figs. 1 and 2). Pastes were most effective for daytime jewelry, for by artificial light they lost much of their brillance.¹⁷

Birmingham, well established in the buckle trade by the first quarter of the eighteenth century, is said to have turned out in the latter half of the 1700s "2,500,000 pairs [of buckles] annually by not less than 4,000 employed, at the average value of 2s. 6d. per pair."¹⁸ In the second half of the century, the process of plating light copper articles with silver, developed by Thomas Bolsover of Sheffield in 1742, was used extensively by Birmingham buckle manufacturers. However, it was the stamping machine, invented by John Pickering in 1769 and improved by Richard Ford of Birmingham, that revolutionized the trade; buckle faces could thereafter be pressed from prepared dies.¹⁹

By the end of the third quarter of the century, buckles had attained an exceptionally large size, and in 1777 it was reported that: "All our young fops of quality, and even the lowest of our people in London, wear coach-harness buckles, the latter in brass, white metal, and pinchbeck; the former in silver weighing 8 or 10 ounces."²⁰ Rectangular in shape, they were often smoothly burnished and without design. The largest were called Artois buckles, named for the Comte d'Artois, brother of Louis XVI, who set the fashion.²¹ It was also noted in 1777 that: "The Artois buckles are becoming universal for ladies and gentlemen, the size of some worn at Court were enormous."²² Large buckles were equally fashionable for

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8. In *The New and Complete American Encyclopaedia, or Universal Dictionary of Arts and Sciences*, 7 vols. (New York: 1805–11), plating is defined as: "the art of covering baser metals with a thin plate of silver either for use or for ornament." The effect of silver was also achieved by tinning which is defined in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica, or A Dictionary of Arts and Sciences*, 3 vols. (Edinburgh: 1771) as: "the covering or lining any thing with melted tin, or with tin reduced to a very fine leaf."
 9. Gilding is defined by Samuel Johnson, in *A Dictionary of the English Language*, 2 vols. (London: 1755), as: "Gold laid on any surface by way of ornament."
 10. In Ephraim Chambers, *Cyclopaedia: or, an Universal Dictionary of Arts and Sciences*, 4 vols. (London: 1779–86) pastes are defined as: "a sort of composition of the glass kind, made from calcined crystal, lead, and metallic preparations, to imitate the several natural gems. These are no way inferior to the native stones, when carefully made and well polished, in brightness or transparency, but want their hardness." It is further explained that by a series of different processes. "All the gems are thus imitated in *paste*, by the same way of working as the making of the coloured glasses, and this is so hard, that they very much approach to the natural gems."
 11. Joan Evans, *A History of Jewellery, 1100–1870* (London, 1952), p. 179.
 12. Hughes, *Small Antique Silverware*, p. 178.
 13. C. Willett and Phillis Cunnington, *Handbook of English Costume in the Eighteenth Century* (London, 1964), p. 80.
 14. Ivor Noël Hume, *A Guide to Artifacts of Colonial America* (New York, 1970), p. 86.
 15. Cunnington, *English Costume*, p. 229.
 16. These measurements are based on those of stratified examples. See figures 9 through 16.

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17. Hughes, *Small Antique Silverware*, p. 179.
 18. *Columbian Cyclopedie* (New York, 1892), s.v. "buckles."
 19. Hamilton, *Brass and Copper Industries*, pp. 267–69, 274.
 20. Cunnington, *English Costume*, p. 229, citing *The Gentleman's and London Magazine*.
 21. Ibid.
 22. Ibid., p. 392, citing *The Gentleman's and London Magazine or Monthly Chronologer*.

children, as can be seen in Thomas Gainsborough's 1784 painting of Edward and William Tomkinson.

Buckles in France in the last quarter of the eighteenth century reflected the social and political feelings of the period. After the fall of the Bastille in 1789, many were inscribed in relief with such commemorative or political slogans as "A LA BASTILLE" and "AU TIERS ÉTAT."²³ But as the revolutionists began to simplify costume, shoestrings commonly replaced buckles.

English sympathizers with the French Revolution began to change fashion by absorbing the more simplified dress of the revolutionists,²⁴ and thus the popularity of buckles declined. In 1791 bucklemakers of Birmingham, Walsall, and Woverhampton petitioned the Prince of Wales for his assistance, warning of the damage to the trade "consequent on the fashion of wearing strings."²⁵ The prince promised his assistance and tried to set an example by continuing to wear buckles himself, but their popularity was not recaptured.²⁶

Shoe Buckles in Colonial Virginia

Shoe buckles were commonplace in Virginia in the eighteenth century, and they were often considered important enough to be mentioned in wills and estate appraisements, and to be reported in the newspapers as stolen articles. Thus, for example, "8 pr of Shoe buckles" figure in the 1701 estate appraisal of Richard Dunbar of York County, Virginia; while Henry Hayward of York County left to John Crofts in 1709: "15 paire of Shoebuckles Large, 3 Doz paire of Small Do. . . ."²⁷ At the top of the social scale, the 1770 inventory of the estate of Lord Botetourt listed buckles made from a variety of materials. Recorded along with other of the governor's personal belongings valuable enough to be sent home to England were: "one Pair of Paste buckles, one red Leather Case [containing] a pair of Stone Shoe and

Knee Buckles, . . . one Pair of Stone Shoe & Knee Buckles, . . . two setts of New steel shoe & Knee Buckles, one Pair of cutt steel shoe & Knee Buckles. . . ."²⁸ Reported in a 1779 *Virginia Gazette* as stolen from Edith Thomas was "a pair of square paste shoe buckles. . . ."²⁹

Taking advantage of the *Virginia Gazette* to announce the arrival of new merchandise, Williamsburg shop owners advertised the importation and sale of shoe buckles from 1746 until 1780. Notices in the early 1770s appeared most frequently under the names of Catherine Rathell and James Geddy, Jr. As suggested by the *Gazette* advertisements, the most popular buckles were paste, stone, silver, plated, gilded, and pinchbeck. Typical advertisements read:

Womens Shoc Buckles, and handsome Girdle Ditto, neatly set with fine Stones, Mens Shoe and Kne Buckles. . . .

July 31, 1746. Frances Webb.³⁰

Paste Shoc, Knee, and Stock Buckles; . . . fashionable Silver and Pinchbeck Buckles; . . .

June 4, 1772. James Geddy, Jr.³¹

stone, silver, gilt, and pinchbeck, both shoe and knee buckles. . . .

May 26, 1774. C. Rathell.³²

pinchbeck shoe and stock buckles, plated do. . . .

October 16, 1779. John and William Rowsay.³³

These advertisements sometimes specified buckles for children, and an invoice from Robert Carter Nicholas of Williamsburg to John Norton, merchant of London, suggests that shoe buckles were fashionable for the colonial child. Dated September 6, 1768, the invoice, called for "12 pr. Children Pinchback shoe Buckles. . . ."³⁴

The price that a colonial Virginian may have paid for a fashionable shoe buckle is indicated in an in-

28. "An Inventory of the Personal Estate of his Excellency Lord Botetourt began to be taken the 24th of octr., 1770," Botetourt Papers, Virginia State Library Archives. As quoted in the "Research Report on the Governor's Palace," Ms. report, Department of Research, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, pp. 190 and 205.

29. *Virginia Gazette* (Dixon and Nicolson), Oct. 23, 1779, p. 3.

30. Ibid., (Parks), July 31, 1746, p. 6.

31. Ibid., (Purdie and Dixon), June 4, 1772, p. 3.

32. Ibid., (Rind), May 26, 1774, p. 1.

33. Ibid., (Dixon and Nicolson), Oct. 16, 1779, p. 3.

34. Frances Norton Mason, ed., *John Norton and Sons: Merchants of London and Virginia* (Richmond, 1937), p. 72.

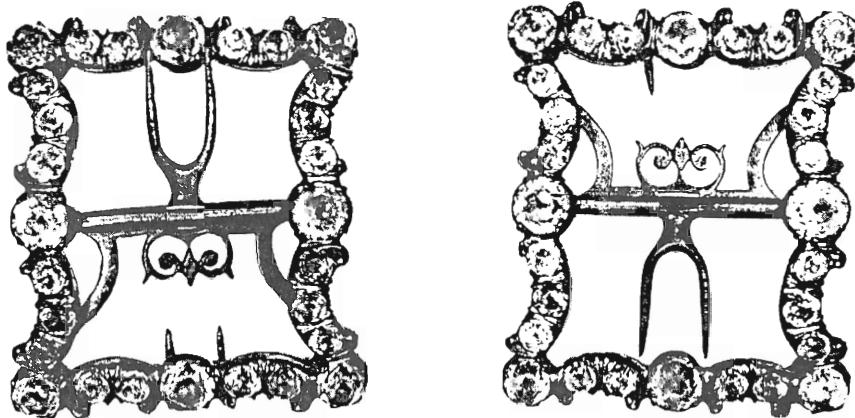


Figure 1. English shoe buckles with paste and silver frames and steel backpieces. Note the decorative chapes. Second half of the eighteenth century. Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Department of Collections, number 1947-315.

voice from Catherine Rathell to John Norton, dated December 29, 1771. She asked for:

8 pair of very best Neat Paste Shoe Buckles from 30/ to 50/ a pair.... 18 pair of Plaited Carved Shoe Buckles. I bought them in London last July for 2/ a pr.³⁵

In January of 1772, Mrs. Rathell noted in a letter to Mr. Norton a certain style of wearing buckles. In asking for the latest fashion in shoes, she observed that "the gentlemen Now Call frequently for Shoes with long hind Quarters, and that Buckle Low on the foot."³⁶

Documentary (as well as archaeological) evidence shows that shoe buckles were not only worn but made in Virginia during the eighteenth century. Thus, for example, it is known that John Coke, a Williamsburg silver- and goldsmith, who worked on his property near the Capitol, produced at least one pair of shoe buckles. Mrs. Ann Moody, wife of Mathew Moody, innkeeper at Capitol Landing, stated (probably in 1752/53) that John Custis had given her a pair of silver shoe buckles made by John Coke and engraved

with "In Memory of John Custis."³⁷ It is interesting to note that the only silver buckle frame in the Williamsburg archaeological collection was found in excavations at the Custis site (fig. 3; also fig. 13, no. 9).

In January of 1770, William Nelson of Yorktown wrote to John Norton:

I now wear a good Suit of Cloth of my Son's Wool, manufactured, as well as my Shirts in Albemarle & Augusta Counties; my Shoes, Hose, Buckles, Wigg & Hat &c., of our own Country: and in these we improve every Year in Quantity as well as Quality.³⁸

Perhaps Nelson bought his buckles from the shop of the Geddy family in Williamsburg. The *Virginia Gazette* advertisements give no indication of shoe buckle manufacture at the mid-eighteenth-century brass-working shop of the Geddy family, and although James Geddy, Jr. did advertise some "Country made" work, he did not specifically mention shoe

35. *Ibid.*, p. 211.

36. *Ibid.*, p. 217.

37. "Custis Manuscripts," Virginia Historical Society, Richmond; from the Ms. report on Custis Square by Mary A. Stephenson, Department of Research, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, October, 1959.

38. Rutherford Goodwin, *A Brief and True Report Concerning Williamsburg in Virginia* (Richmond, 1941), p. 64.

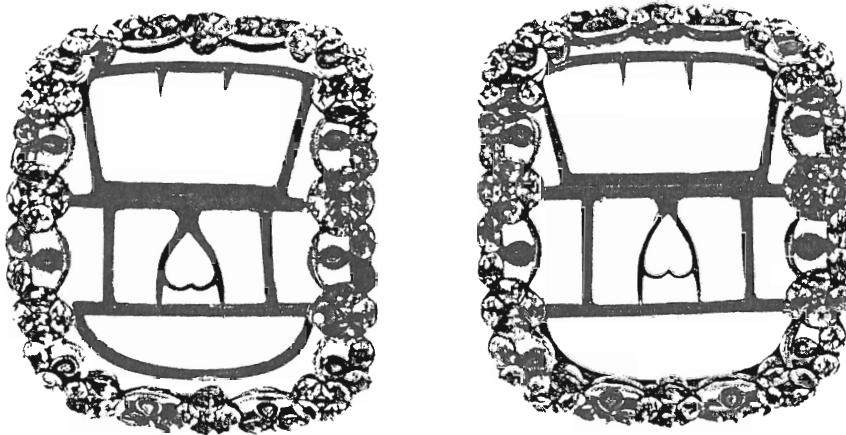


Figure 2. English or Continental shoe buckles with frames made of gold, silver, pastes, and blue enamel and with steel backpieces. Note the attachment under the shortened tongue. This type of fastening does not occur on Williamsburg archaeological specimens. 1740–70. Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Department of Collections, number 1969–63.

buckles. However, archaeological evidence proves that they were produced by craftsmen in the brass foundry on that site, for several unfinished or spoiled examples were found there in 1967 excavations. Ornately decorated, and often of filigree, buckles made at the Geddy foundry are of comparable quality to those of English manufacture (fig. 4; also fig. 10, no. 4 and fig. 14, no. 1).

A plated copper buckle found on the Geddy site, but not necessarily made there, is an example of the commemorative types that seem to have found some favor among colonial Americans. It is ornamented in relief with the words L[OUISBOURG] TAKEN BY ADMIRAL BOSCAWEN JULY TH 26 1758, entwined with foliate decoration between corner portraits of the British admiral, and commemorating his capture of Louisbourg, the mighty French fortress on Cape Breton Island overlooking the southern entrance to the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The victory, which depended a great deal on American colonial forces, opened the gate to the St. Lawrence, and helped shatter French colonial power in North America.³⁹

39. Goldwin Smith, *A History of England* (New York, 1966), pp. 437 and 441.

The presence of this buckle on a Virginia site is explained by the importance of the victory to English America, and the popularity of the admiral in the colonies⁴⁰ (fig. 5; also fig. 16, no. 1).

A pewter buckle found in excavations at Rosewell plantation in Gloucester County, Virginia, provides an example of a politically inspired design. This specimen is decorated in relief on either side with a hogshead flanked by flowers, and by the words NO EXCISE at the top and bottom. That slogan, first popular in 1733 when Robert Walpole's proposed excise bill was withdrawn, materialized again in 1763 with the English radical John Wilkes's protests against the imposition of an excise tax on cider. It is almost certainly to the latter date that this buckle belongs. Wilkes had much support in the colonies and was popular as a champion of the people's rights,

40. Belonging also to the commemorative type of shoe buckle is a copper-alloy fragment that was found in the Bronx, New York City, by Mr. Donald Troiani of Pound Ridge, New York. The fragment is decorated in relief with the inscription SUC[CESS TO THE KING OF PRUSSIA with corner portraits of King Frederick II. It dates from the Seven Years' War as does the Louisbourg example.

which probably accounts for the presence of this buckle on an American site (fig. 6).⁴¹

Of the buckles found in Virginia, most are of brass or copper, often elaborately molded, chased, or engraved, while a few of the more elaborate were plated. As plating or tinning were practices often used to make inexpensive metals look like solid silver,⁴² it is probable that many of the apparently un-plated brass or copper buckles found in excavations had lost their "silver" coating in the ground. For example, an ornate, plated buckle found at the Hubard site in Williamsburg has a twin, but without plating, from excavations at Jamestown (fig. 14, no. 4).

Iron shoe buckles are occasionally recovered from colonial sites (figs. 17 and 18). They were inexpensive and nearly always simple in shape with little or no decoration. One specimen recovered from the Public Hospital debris in Williamsburg was contained within a brick fragment, suggesting that it came from the shoe of a brickmaking artisan (fig. 9, no. 9).⁴³ Steel was a more costly material; it was suitable for intricate and delicate engraving, and when highly polished it resembled silver.⁴⁴ Pewter buckles, as previously noted, are also found on colonial sites. The alloy was inexpensive; but it resembled silver and lent itself to delicate and elaborate molding.

Three paste buckles have been recovered in archaeological excavations in Williamsburg. The pastes, of which little faceting remains, are solid set in brass, and those of one buckle show evidence of having been backed with a red coloring, perhaps to make them resemble rubies.⁴⁵ Compared to the more fashionable and costly jeweled buckles used during the eighteenth century, these are rather poor examples (fig. 16, nos. 3, 4, 5).

41. Ivor Noël Hume, "Excavations at Rosewell, Gloucester County, Virginia, 1957-1959," *United States National Museum Bulletin No. 225* (Washington, D. C., 1962), pp. 166-68. Although this specimen was originally described as a shoe buckle, it has since been decided that it is probably a hat or knee buckle.

42. See note no. 8 above.

43. 6419. E.R.1736A-4.C. This buckle measures 1½ inches from top to bottom, and 1½ inches from side to side.

44. "... two sets of New steel shoe & Knee Buckles, one Pair of cutt steel shoe and Knee Buckles." Cf. "An Inventory of the Personal Estate of his Excellency Lord Botetourt began to be taken the 24th of octr., 1770."

45. Ivor Noël Hume, "The Anthony Hay Site: Report on Archaeological Excavations of 1959-1960," Ms. report, 3 vols.; vol. 3, "The Artifacts," part I, fig. 13, no. 7.

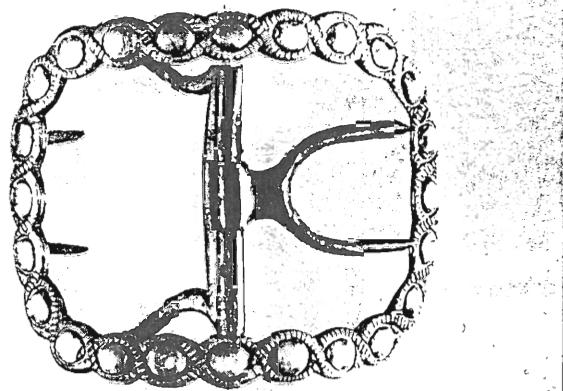
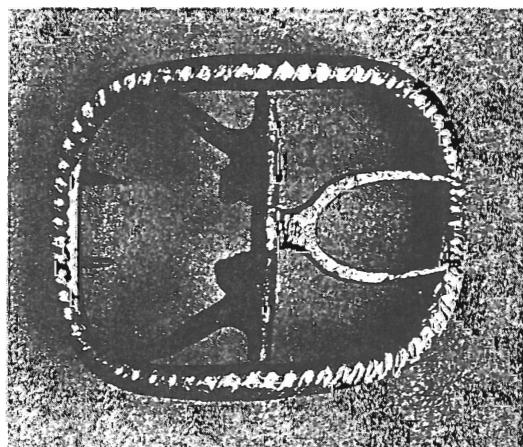


Figure 3. Two intact buckles from Williamsburg excavations. Top: Silver-framed specimen with steel chape and tongue, found in the well on the John Custis site. This unmarked buckle may be of local manufacture, but is closely paralleled by an English example bearing the date letter for 1745 (see fig. 13, no. 9). Below: Brass-framed buckle with iron or steel chape and tongue, found in the well at the Anthony Hay site and in a context of about 1800 (see fig. 13, no. 10).



Judging from archaeological evidence, a decrease in the popularity of shoe buckles in Williamsburg closely mirrored the changing fashions in France and England. Buckles are rarely found in American archaeological contexts dating after 1815,⁴⁶ probably because shoestrings had gradually taken the place of buckles at the turn of the eighteenth century. President Jefferson, a French sympathizer, irritated conservatives by wearing shoe laces; and at the White House Mammoth Cheese Affair in 1802, according to the *New York Evening Post*, he was "dressed in

46. Ivor Noël Hume, *Guide to Artifacts*, p. 86.

his suit of customary black, with shoes that laced tight round the ankle and closed with a neat leathern string.”⁴⁷

Nomenclature

Diderot's eighteenth-century French encyclopedia describes the shoe buckle as having four parts: the frame or frontpiece; the chape; the tongue; and the pin—the latter three forming the backpiece.⁴⁸ As is to be seen in figure 7, the typical eighteenth-century shoe had a tapering strap rising from each side of the heel, one of which crossed over the other when buckled.⁴⁹ The chape, a toothed loop, secured the shoe's lower strap. The double-tined tongue, the tips of which rested on the upper part of the frame, held the upper strap, and thus the tine tips were the only part of the backpiece showing on the buckled shoe. Both tongue and chape pivoted independently and were attached to a pin that spanned the width of the frame (see fig. 8 ; also fig. 17 and fig. 18).⁵⁰

Typology

The shoe buckles illustrated in *Archaeological Investigation of Fort Ligonier* by Jacob L. Grimm showed many basic similarities to those studied for this report; and although his specimens do not cover as broad a period, Mr. Grimm's typology has been employed as a foundation upon which to build this classification.

The Williamsburg collection falls into seven basic groups, which are subdivided into eleven styles. Because the groups generally cover a broad time span, the buckles often vary in size within a group. A number of specimens of each category are illustrated to show basic styles and size variations. The archaeologi-

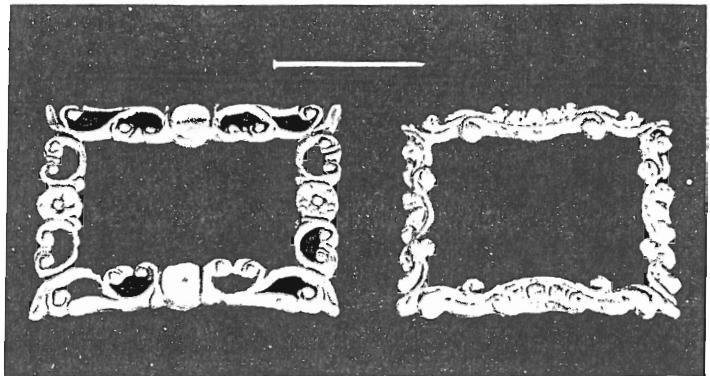


Figure 4. Copper-alloy shoe buckle frames made in Williamsburg by the Geddy brass founders. Neither example has been drilled with pin terminal holes. Note that on the left frame, the right round area has a completed hand-tooled rosette and the one opposite has been similarly worked on, but the discs at the top and bottom have been left blank (see fig. 10, no. 4, and fig. 14, no. 1)

cal sources of those from Williamsburg excavations are shown in the listed descriptions by their excavation register and catalogue numbers, thus: 2784. E.R.1004B-9.L. The first set of figures (2784) represents the department's catalogue number; the following set of numbers (1004) denotes the area within the site; the letter “B” the stratum or feature; and the “9.L.” refers to the archaeological area in Williamsburg. The United States National Park Service buckles, on the other hand, are identified by a “J” (Jamestown) followed by their catalogue numbers.

The excavation register stratum date, referred to as the archaeological context date, is also presented in the descriptions when available. Stratum dating is based on the most recent artifact found within a layer; therefore, the archaeological date of the buckle is based on the estimated time at which it was discarded, not when it was manufactured or in use, and is known as the *terminus post quem*. Some of the buckles illustrated were found in disturbed deposits or came from unrecorded contexts. Probable dates are given for these specimens, as well as for those that are recognizably of an earlier date than the archaeologically provided *terminus post quem*.

Measurements given in the descriptions are: top to bottom; side to side, including the curvature of the frame; and the width and thickness of the metal itself. Unfortunately, many of the specimens are fragmentary. If a top to bottom section is incom-

47. Alice Morse Earle, *Two Centuries of Costume in America*, 2 vols., 1:383.

48. Denis Diderot, *Encyclopédie ou Dictionnaire Raisonné des Sciences, des Arts et des Métiers*, s.v. “Chape, (Fondue.)”

49. The earliest examples of shoes in the Williamsburg archaeological collection were found in the Post Office well, E.R.386L-15.A. and E.R.386S-15.A., and come from contexts of the first quarter of the eighteenth century. These shoes do not have straps for buckles; they have short attachments for shoe ties.

50. Diderot, loc. cit.

plete, it is impossible to give the height; but, if a fragment is complete from a corner to the pin terminal, that dimension has been doubled to give an approximate side to side measurement.

The descriptions also include the type, noteworthy features, and, of course, the material from which the buckles were made. In the absence of chemical analysis, copper-alloy frames with a yellow tinge are identified as brass, and those with a reddish color are described as high copper-alloy.

Type I

This group includes plain brass and high copper-alloy frames with flat or convex faces and right-angle corners. The sides, top, and bottom edges are straight. They measure between $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches and $1\frac{7}{8}$ inches from top to bottom, and from $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches to $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches from side to side. The metal width is from $\frac{1}{8}$ inch to $\frac{3}{8}$ inch, and the metal thickness is from $\frac{3}{32}$ inch to $\frac{1}{8}$ inch.

Type I-A

These buckles resemble type I, except that they are made entirely of iron.

Type II

All decorated brass and high copper-alloy frames with right-angle corners are included in this group. The decorations range from simple notching and grooving to elaborately molded and chased geometric and foliate designs. Most have straight edges. They measure between $1\frac{5}{16}$ inches and 2 inches from top to bottom, and side measurements are from $1\frac{5}{8}$ inches to $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches. The metal width varies from $\frac{1}{8}$ inch to $\frac{3}{8}$ inch, and the metal thickness is from $1/16$ inch to $\frac{1}{8}$ inch.

Type III

These brass buckle frames have plain convex or flat faces and rounded corners. Although most of the buckles in this group have straight, or nearly straight, top and bottom edges and convex sides, two studied have concave sides and top and bottom edges. From top to bottom they measure between $1\frac{7}{16}$ inches and 2 inches, and from side to side between $1\frac{7}{8}$ inches and $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches. The metal width varies according to design in the individual buckle, but

generally it ranges between $\frac{1}{8}$ inch and $\frac{5}{8}$ inch. The metal thickness varies from $1/16$ inch to $5/32$ inch.

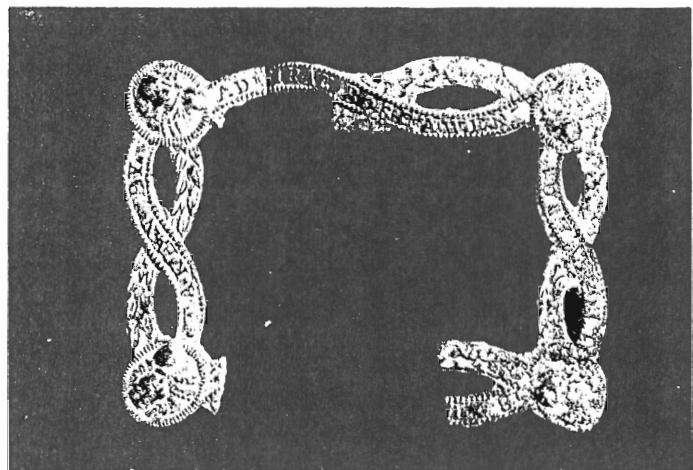


Figure 5. Silver-plated copper-alloy buckle frame commemorating the defeat of the French fortress of Louisbourg in Nova Scotia by Admiral Boscawen in 1758. This buckle was found in excavations at the James Geddy site in Williamsburg. (See fig. 16, no. 1)

Type III-A

These buckles differ from type III only in that they are of iron.

Type IV

Included in this category are all decorated buckle frames with rounded corners. Most are of brass, some are high copper-alloy, and some are silver or tin plated. They range from rectangular to oval in shape; and as in type II, the decorations range from simple notching and grooving to elaborate relief foliate and geometric designs. Design elements cause many of these buckles to be irregular in outline. They measure between $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches and $2\frac{1}{16}$ inches from top to bottom, and 2 inches to 3 inches from side to side. The metal width varies from $3/16$ inch to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, the thickness from $1/16$ inch to $\frac{1}{8}$ inch.

Type IV-A

This buckle frame is comparable to type IV, except that it is of silver. The backpiece is steel.



Figure 6. This pewter buckle frame bearing the political slogan NO EXCISE was found in excavations at Rosewell plantation in Gloucester County, Virginia, 1763-70. Enlarged twice actual size.

Type V

All openwork brass and high copper-alloy frames are included in this category. They are square, rectangular, or oval in shape. Except for a few of the late eighteenth century, most are elaborately molded and chased. One is silver plated. They measure between $1\frac{5}{8}$ inches and $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches from top to bottom, and between 2 inches and 4 inches from side to side. The frame is irregular in most of the buckles due to design; therefore, the metal width varies in the individual buckle (in two as much as $\frac{1}{4}$ inch). In general, it varies from $\frac{1}{4}$ inch to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, and the metal thickness from $1/16$ inch to $1/8$ inch.

Type V-A

Only one buckle of this type was studied. It differs from type V in that it is entirely of iron.

Type VI

The two buckle frames studied for this category are political or commemorative buckles. Both are

copper-alloy, one with openwork decoration and traces of silver plating.

Type VII

These are paste buckles. The pastes, solid set in brass, are all badly worn, but there is evidence of faceting.

Figure 9—Shoe Buckle Frames, Type I and I-A

1. Rectangular brass frame with plain convex face. Probably second quarter eighteenth century. Top to bottom, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches; side to side, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches. Metal width, $\frac{1}{8}$ inch; thickness, $\frac{1}{8}$ inch. 6315. E.R.726-11.E.; Type I; Disturbed deposit.
2. Rectangular brass frame with plain convex face. Probably mid-eighteenth century. Top to bottom, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches; side to side, 2 inches. Metal width, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch; thickness, $\frac{1}{8}$ inch. 6316-20.A.21.; Type I; No archaeological dating.
3. Rectangular high copper-alloy frame with convex face and grooved exterior edge. Probably mid-eighteenth century. Top to bottom, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches; side to side, $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches. Metal width, $3/16$ inch; thickness, $3/32$ inch. 6317. E.R.1338G-19.B.; Type I; Archaeological context: post-1790.
4. Fragment of a rectangular brass frame with convex face and grooved exterior edge. Probably mid-eighteenth century. Top to bottom, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches; side to side, $2\frac{1}{16}$ inches. Average metal width, $\frac{1}{4}$ inch; thickness, $\frac{1}{8}$ inch. 6318. E.R.992C-19.B.; Type I; Archaeological context: post-1830.
5. Rectangular high copper-alloy frame with convex face and grooved exterior edge. Probably mid-eighteenth century. Top to bottom, $1\frac{7}{8}$ inches; side to side, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches. Metal width, $3/16$ inch; thickness, $\frac{1}{8}$ inch. 6319. E.R.209-28.D.; Type I; Archaeological context: ca.1775.



Figure 7. Man's leather shoe found in excavations at the Anthony Hay site where it had been discarded in the second quarter of the eighteenth century. The lower strap was secured by the chape, and the upper strap was fastened over the lower by the tongue (see fig. 8). Length 8½ inches. 2556. E.R.243W-28.D.

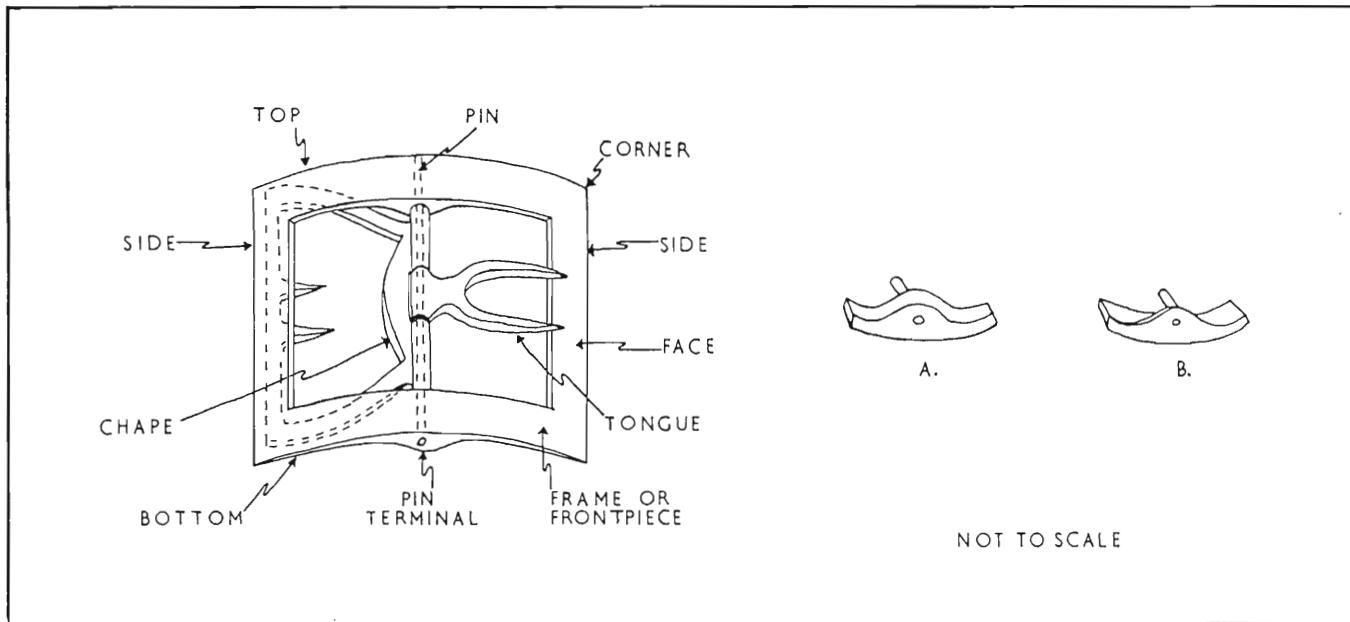


Figure 8. Left: Shoe buckle nomenclature. Right: Pin terminal comparison. (See footnote 51.) A. Terminal type common throughout eighteenth century. B. Terminal found on buckles only from late eighteenth-century contexts. The earliest stratified example of this type in the Williamsburg archaeological collection dates post 1770 (see fig. 15, no. 2).

6. Large rectangular brass frame with plain flat face and late pin terminals. Last quarter eighteenth century.

Top to bottom, 1½ inches; side to 3½ inches. Metal width, 3/8 inch; thickness, 3/32 inch.
6320-19.B.; Type I; No archaeological dating.

Jacob L. Grimm, in *Archaeological Investigation of Fort Ligonier, 1960-1965*, has provided a comparison of pin terminals of the Fort Ligonier (1758-66) buckles with those found at the John Bridges Tavern site (1775-90). On the back-side of the frame, top and bottom center, of 1760 buckles, a hole was drilled through a ridge which spanned the metal width. Those from 1790 contexts had thin flanges of metal at the middle outer edge of the top and bottom backside with a hole drilled through them (see fig. 8).⁵¹ However, a *terminus post quem* of 1790 is not a conclusive date for the latter terminal style; for the earliest

stratified Williamsburg example is from a post-1770 context.

7. Large rectangular brass frame with smoothly burnished flat face. Its size suggests a late eighteenth-century date.

Top to bottom, 1¾ inches; side to side, 3½ inches. Metal width, 5/16 inch; thickness, 1/8 inch.
6321-2.J.1.; Type I; No archaeological dating.

8. Rectangular iron frame with flat face. A fragment of the iron chape remains.

Top to bottom, 1⅓ inches; side to side, 2½ inches. Metal width, approximately 5/16 inch; thickness, 3/8 inch.
6322. E.R.1638L-2.H.; Type I-A; Archaeological context: post-1770.

9. Rectangular iron buckle with narrow face, slightly more concavo-convex at one side than the other. One tine is missing and the ogee-sided and flattened chape is almost entirely embedded in brick. The shape suggests that this may have been designed for a woman's shoe, but it had been baked

51. Jacob L. Grimm, *Archaeological Investigation of Fort Ligonier, 1960-1965* (Pittsburg, 1970), pp. 48 and 62.

into one of the bricks used in the construction of Williamsburg's Public Hospital for the Insane. It is supposed, therefore, that the buckle came from the shoe of one of the brickmakers and was inadvertently picked up with clay being pressed into the mold.

Top to bottom, 1 1/4 inches; side to side, 1 7/16 inches. Average metal width, 1/4 inch; thickness, 1/16 to 3/16 inch.

6419. E.R.1736A-4.C.; Type I-A; Archaeological context: 1771-1773.

Figure 10—Shoe Buckle Frames, Type II

1. Rectangular brass frame decorated with simple low-relief "M" motif in middle of each side. Probably second quarter eighteenth century. Top to bottom, 1 5/16 inches; side to side, 1 5/8 inches. Average metal width, 1/8 inch; thickness, 3/32 inch. 6323. E.R.926A-4.B.; Type II; Archaeological context: post-1820.
2. Rectangular brass frame decorated with incised

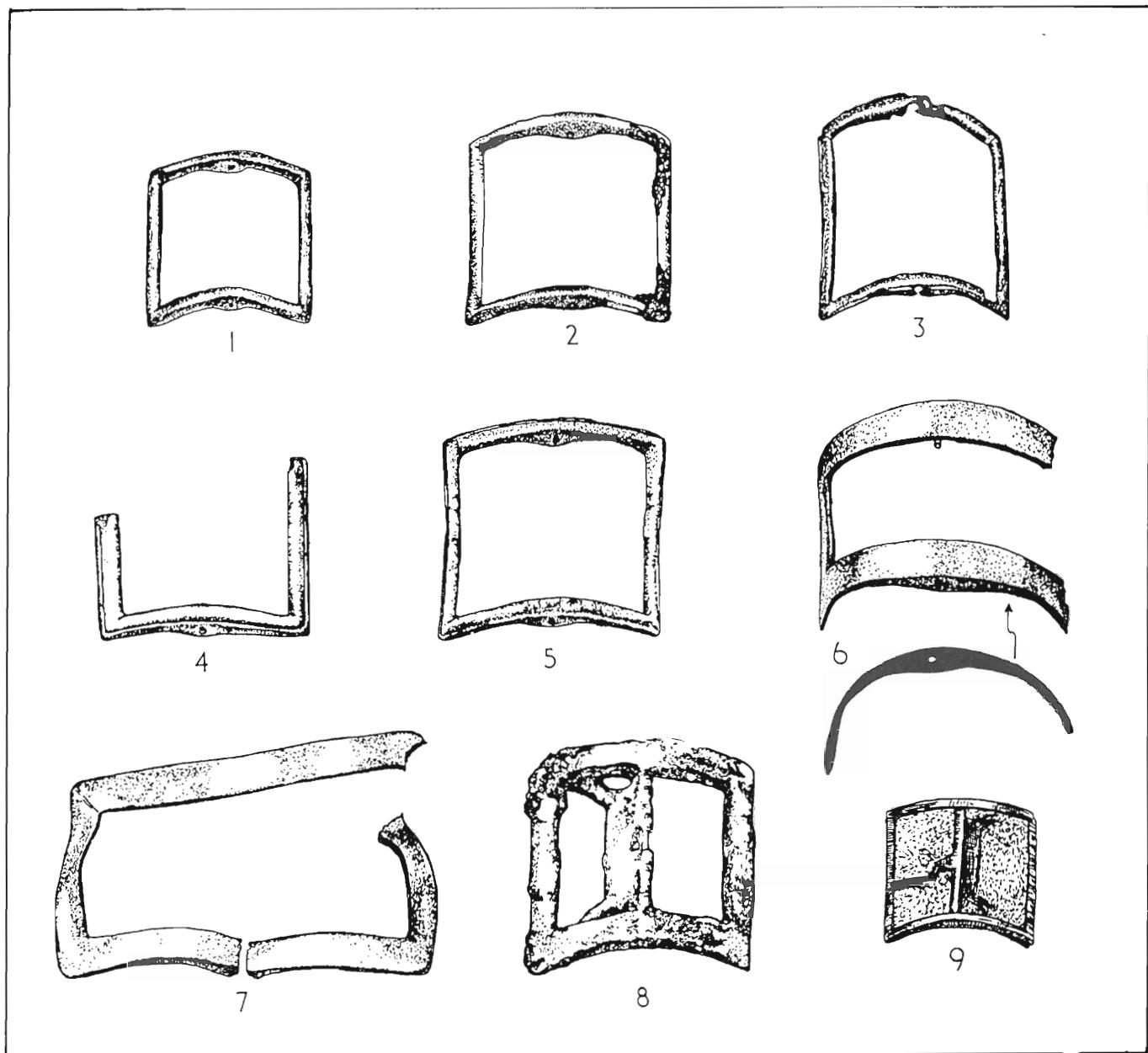
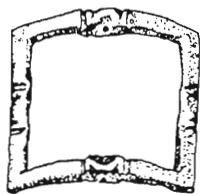


Figure 9. Type I, copper-alloy shoe buckles, nos. 1-7; type I-A, iron shoe buckles, nos. 8-9.



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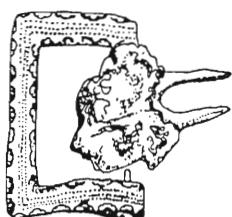
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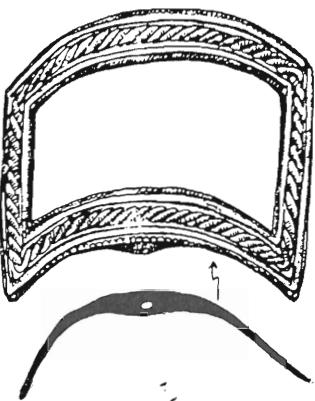
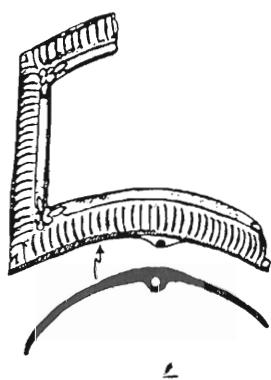


Figure 10. Type II, copper-alloy shoe buckles. No. 7 is tin-plated.

- foliate design in corners and indentures in the face. Probably mid-eighteenth century.
 Top to bottom, 1½ inches; side to side, 2 inches. Average metal width, ¼ inch; thickness, ⅛ inch.
 6324. E.R.1393–2.R.; Type II; Disturbed deposit.
3. Fragment of a butterfly-form brass frame decorated with ornamental grooves at the center side.
 Top to bottom, 1¾ inches. Average metal width, 3/16 inch; thickness, 3/32 inch.
 6325. E.R.200–28.D.; Type II; Archaeological context: ca.1780.
4. Rectangular brass frame from the Geddy site decorated with high-relief geometric and foliate designs and sculptured edges. The pin terminal holes have not been drilled, indicating that this is an unfinished Geddy product. Mid-eighteenth century.
 Top to bottom, 1½ inches; side to side, 1¾ inches. Average metal width, ¼ inch; thickness, 3/32 inch.
 5373. E.R.1351Q–19.B.; Type II; Archaeological context: post–1785.
5. Fragment of a rectangular brass frame decorated with low-relief beading and floral designs. The iron tongue is still connected.
 Top to bottom, 1½ inches; side to side, probably 2 inches. Average metal width, ¼ inch; thickness, ⅛ inch.
 6326. E.R.192–28.D.; Type II; Archaeological context: ca.1750–70.
6. Fragment of a high copper-alloy frame decorated with low-relief diamonds framed by rope. A similar fragment is pictured in *Archaeological Investigation of Fort Ligonier* by Jacob L. Grimm, page 52, plate 11, number 11.
 Top to bottom, 1½ inches. Metal width, 5/16 inch; thickness 1/16 inch.
 6327. E.R.230C–28.D.; Type II; Archaeological context: ca.1765–75.
7. Fragment of a tin-plated brass frame decorated with relief squares and circles and corner foliage. Probably mid-eighteenth century. An identical buckle without plating was found at Wetherburn's Tavern (5903. E.R. 1030E–9.N.) in a post–1815 context. A close parallel appears in *Archaeological Investigation of Fort Ligonier*, page 54, plate 12, number 11.
 Top to bottom, 1¾ inches. Metal width, 5/16 inch; thickness, 1/16 inch.
 6328. C.G.141H.; Type II; Archaeological context: ca.1780–1800.
8. Fragment of a brass frame decorated with low-relief diamond shapes and circles.
 Top to bottom, 1¾ inches. Metal width, ¾ inch; thickness, 3/32 inch.
 6329. E.R.1328J–19.B.; Type II; Archaeological context: post–1770.
9. Fragment of brass frame decorated with incised foliate designs in the corners and fluting and depressions on each side. Probably mid-eighteenth century.
 Top to bottom, 1½ inches; side to side, probably 2 inches. Average metal width, ¼ inch; thickness 3/32 inch.
 6330. E.R.961–28.D.; Type II; Disturbed deposit.
10. Fragment of brass frame decorated with notching on the inner edges, diagonal grooves in the corners, and fluting. Probably mid-eighteenth century.
 Top to bottom, 2 inches. Metal width, approximately ¼ inch; thickness, 1/16 inch.
 6332. E.R.979–17.G.; Type II; Disturbed deposit.
11. Fragment of a high copper-alloy frame decorated with simple notched corner foliage.
 Top to bottom, 1 15/16 inches. Metal width, ¼ inch; thickness, 3/32 inch.
 6331. E.R.1380J–19.B.; Type II; Archaeological context: post–1760.
12. Two fragments of a rectangular brass frame decorated with grooves and hatched pads.
 Top to bottom, 1¾ inches; side to side, 2 inches. Metal width varies from ⅛ inch to ¼ inch; thickness from 3/32 inch to ⅛ inch.
 6333. E.R. 191–28.D.; Type II; Disturbed deposit. 6333. E.R. 243L–28.D.; Type II; Archaeological context: ca. 1760–70.
13. Fragment of a brass frame decorated with parallel grooves across the width of the frame.

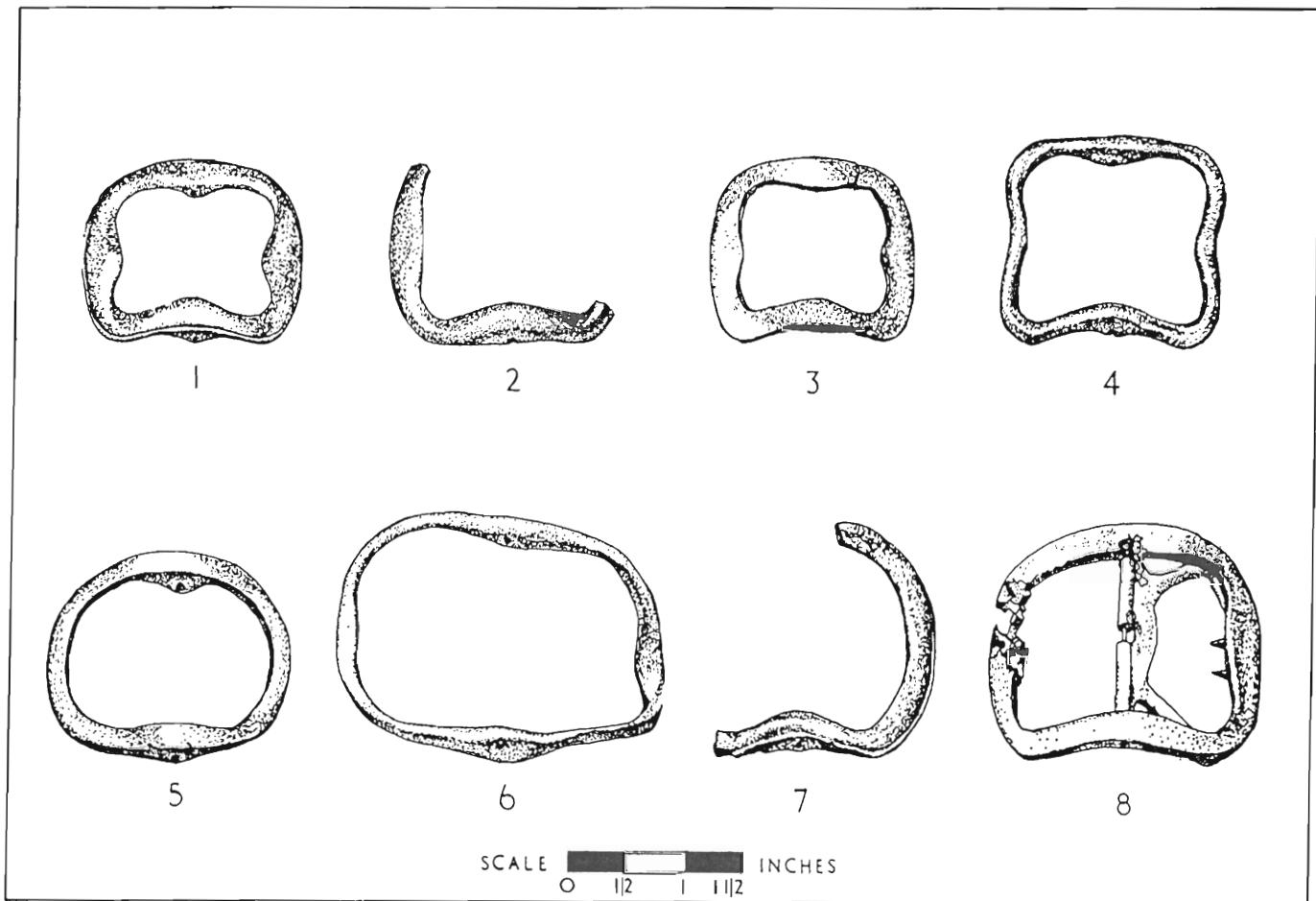


Figure 11. Type III, copper-alloy shoe buckles, nos. 1-7; Type III-A, iron shoe buckle, no. 8.

Side to side, 2 inches. Metal width, $\frac{1}{8}$ inch; thickness $\frac{1}{8}$ inch.

6334. E.R.1337L-19.B.; Type II; Archaeological context: post-1755.

14. Rectangular brass frame decorated with relief parallel lines, rope, and interior corner flowers. Top to bottom, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches, side to side, probably $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches. Metal width, $\frac{3}{8}$ inch; thickness, $\frac{1}{16}$ inch.

6335. E.R.850V-4.B.; Type II; Archaeological context: post-1790.

15. Rectangular high copper-alloy frame decorated with rope-twist design between two raised ridges and dotted edges. The pin terminal style and size indicate a late eighteenth-century date.

Top to bottom, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches; side to side, $3\frac{1}{4}$

inches. Metal width, $\frac{3}{8}$ inch; thickness, $\frac{3}{32}$ inch.

1943-2.B.1.; Type II; No archaeological dating.

Figure 11—Shoe Buckle Frames, Type III and III-A

1. Rectangular brass frame with straight top and bottom edges, convex sides, and simple grooved exterior edge. A larger buckle frame of the same style was found in excavations at the Geddy site (E.R.1369F-19.B.) in a post-1785 context. It is marked on the reverse with two incised P's, one being enclosed in a square.

Top to bottom, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches; side to side, $1\frac{7}{8}$

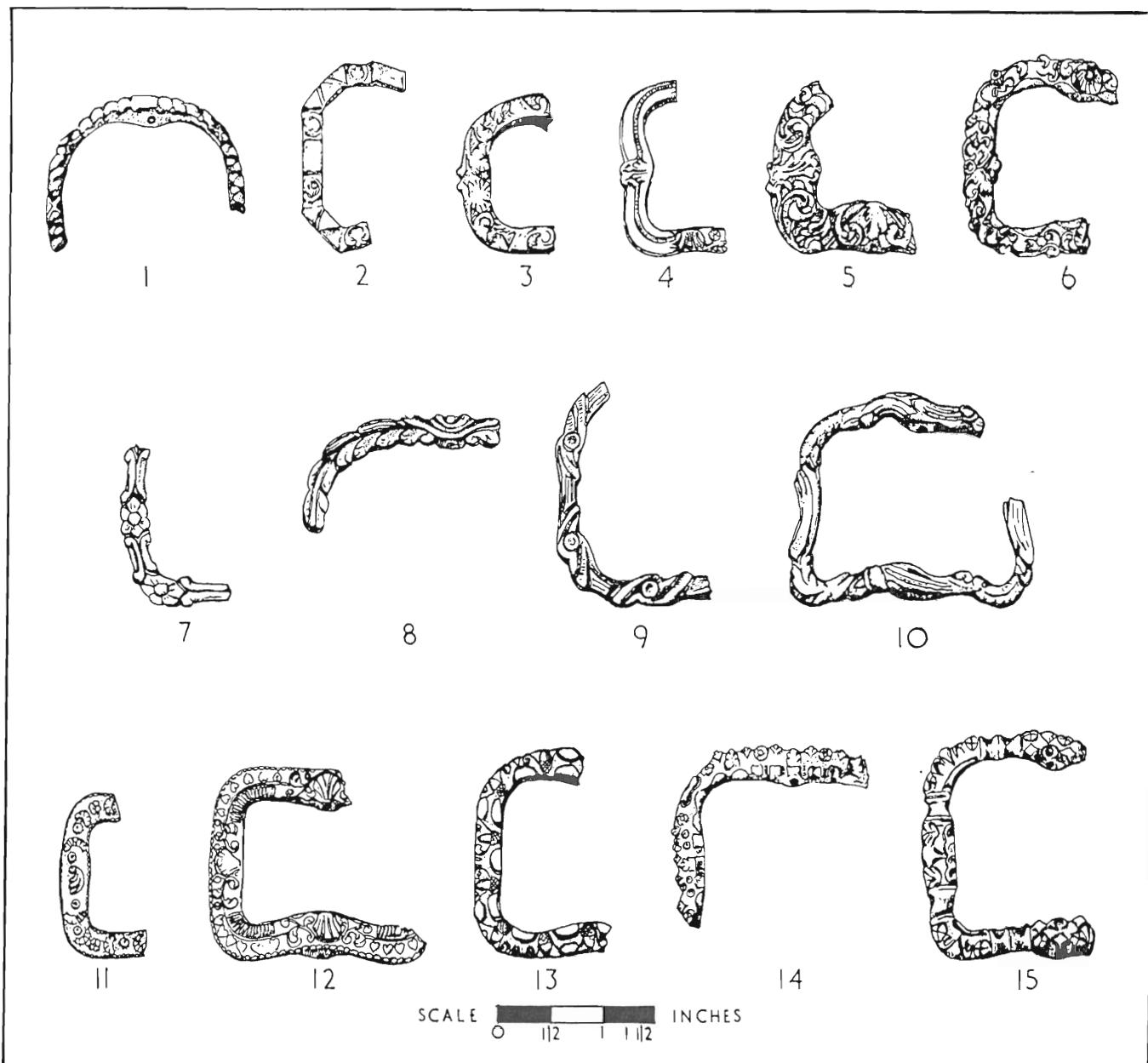


Figure 12. Type IV, copper-alloy shoe buckles. Nos. 3 & 13 are tin plated.

inches. Metal width varies from $\frac{1}{4}$ inch to $\frac{3}{8}$ inch; thickness, $\frac{1}{16}$ inch.

6337. E.R.229-28.D.; Type III; Archaeological context: ca. 1750.

2. Fragment of a rectangular brass frame with straight bottom edge and convex side. Probably mid-eighteenth century.

Top to bottom, $1\frac{9}{16}$ inches; side to side, 2 inches. Metal width varies from $\frac{3}{16}$ inch to

$\frac{5}{16}$ inch; thickness, from $\frac{3}{32}$ inch to $\frac{1}{8}$ inch. 6338. E.R.1380G-19.B.; Type III; Archaeological context: post-1770.

3. Rectangular brass frame with straight top and bottom edges, convex sides, and flat face. Probably mid-eighteenth century.

Top to bottom, $1\frac{7}{16}$ inches; side to side, $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches. Metal width varies from $\frac{3}{16}$ inch to $\frac{5}{16}$ inch; thickness, $\frac{1}{16}$ inch.

- 6339-10.A.; Type III; No archaeological dating.
4. Rectangular brass frame with concave sides and convex face.
Top to bottom, 1 $\frac{5}{8}$ inches; side to side, 2 inches.
Metal width, 3/16 inch; thickness, $\frac{1}{8}$ inch.
6343. E.R.1337L-19.B.; Type III; Archaeological context: post-1755.
5. Oval brass frame with flat face. Probably mid-eighteenth century.
Top to bottom, 1 $\frac{5}{8}$ inches; side to side, 2 $\frac{1}{8}$ inches. Metal width varies from 3/16 inch to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch; thickness 3/32 inch.
6340-18.H.; Type III; No archaeological dating.
6. Large oval brass frame twisted from original shape. Probably third quarter eighteenth century.
Top to bottom, 1 $\frac{7}{8}$ inches; side to side, 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches. Metal width varies from 3/16 inch to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch; thickness 3/32 inch.
7. Fragment of an oval brass frame with straight bottom edge and convex side, and simple grooved exterior edge. Probably third quarter eighteenth century.
Top to bottom, 1 $\frac{7}{8}$ inches; side to side, 2 inches.
Metal width varies from 3/16 inch to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch; thickness, 3/32 inch.
6342. E.R.237A-28.D.; Type III; Disturbed deposit.
8. Oval iron frame with straight top and bottom edges and convex sides. Part of the iron chape is connected.
Top to bottom, 1 $\frac{7}{8}$ inches; side to side, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

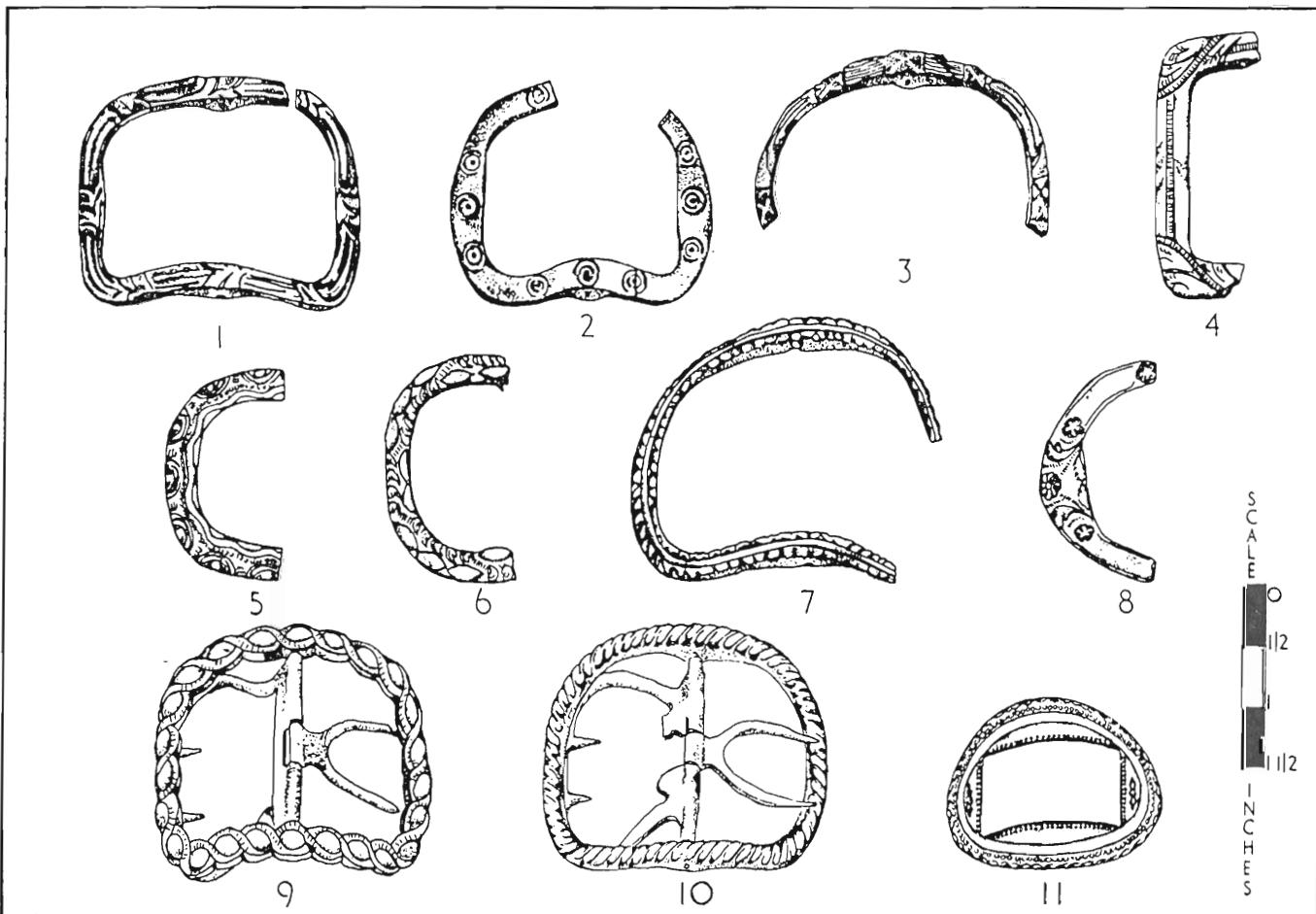


Figure 13. Type IV, copper-alloy shoe buckles, nos. 1-8, 10, and 11; Type IV-A, silver shoe buckle, no. 9. Nos. 4 and 8 are plated.

inches. Metal width varies from 3/16 inch to 5/16 inch; thickness, from 3/32 inch to 1/8 inch.
6344. E.R.1570D-2.P.; Type III-A; Archaeological context: post-1770.

Figure 12—Shoe Buckle Frames, Type IV

1. Fragment of an oval brass frame decorated with indented exterior and interior edges and X's in corners. Probably mid-eighteenth century. Side to side, 2 3/8 inches. Metal width, 3/16 inch, thickness, 1/8 inch.
6345. E.R.1390F-2.R.; Type IV; Archaeological context: post-1775.
2. Fragment of a brass frame decorated with molded wreaths and rough grooves.
Top to bottom 1 3/4 inches. Metal width, 1/4 inch; thickness, 3/32 inch.
6346. E.R.192-28.D.; Type IV; Archaeological contexts: ca.1750-70.
3. Fragment of a rectangular tin-plated brass frame decorated with incised foliage and hatched lines.
Top to bottom, 1 3/8 inches; side to side, probably 2 inches. Metal width varies from 1/4 inch to 3/8 inch; thickness, from 3/32 inch to 1/8 inch.
6347. E.R.1355Y-19.B.; Type IV; Archaeological context: post-1760.
4. Fragment of a rectangular brass frame decorated with rope and chased-relief foliage designs.
Top to bottom, 1 5/8 inches; side to side, probably 2 inches. Average metal width, 1/4 inch; thickness, 3/32 inch.
6348. E.R.1331Z-19.B.; Type IV; Archaeological context: post-1750.
5. Fragment of a rectangular brass frame decorated with a crude rococo design.
Top to bottom, 1 5/8 inches; side to side, probably 2 inches. Metal width varies from 7/16 inch to 1/2 inch; thickness, from 1/16 inch to 1/8 inch.
5902. E.R.1001E-9.N.; Type IV; Archaeological context: post-1750.
6. Fragment of a rectangular high copper-alloy frame decorated with relief foliate designs and scallop shell motifs.
Top to bottom, 1 3/4 inches; side to side, prob-
- ably 2 1/2 inches. Metal width varies from 5/16 inch to 1/2 inch; thickness, 3/16 inch.
6349. E.R.1368J-19.B.; Type IV; Archaeological context: post-1765.
7. Fragment of a brass frame decorated with molded and chased flower and scroll motifs.
Probably mid-eighteenth century. Metal width, 1/4 inch; thickness, 3/32 inch.
6350. E.R.987-19.B.; Type IV; Disturbed deposit.
8. Fragment of a brass frame decorated with chased foliage and depressed wavy lines. Probably third quarter eighteenth century. Side to side, probably 2 3/4 inches. Metal width, 1/4 inch; thickness, 3/32 inch.
6351. E.R.908-4.B.; Type IV; Disturbed deposit.
9. Fragment of a brass frame decorated with cut circle motifs and grooves.
Top to bottom, 2 inches; side to side, probably 3 inches. Metal width varies from 3/16 inch to 1/4 inch; thickness, 3/32 inch.
6352. E.R.268A-28.D.; Type IV; Archaeological context: pre-1780.
10. Fragment of a rectangular high copper-alloy frame decorated with traces of wavy line incising.
Top to bottom, 1 7/8 inches; side to side, 2 1/2 inches. Metal width varies from 3/16 inch to 5/16 inch; thickness, 1/8 inch.
6353. E.R. 1425J-18.C.; Type IV; Archaeological context: post-1750.
11. Fragment of rectangular high copper-alloy frame decorated with high-relief floral and foliate designs. Probably second quarter eighteenth century.
Top to bottom, 1 9/16 inches. Average metal width, 1/4 inch; thickness, 1/8 inch.
6354. E.R.200-28.D.; Type IV; Archaeological context: ca.1780.
12. Fragment of a rectangular high copper-alloy frame decorated in relief with scalloped edges, hearts, foliate, and shell motifs. Probably mid-eighteenth century.
Top to bottom, 1 3/4 inches; side to side, 2 1/4

- inches. Metal width, $\frac{3}{8}$ inches; thickness, approximately $\frac{3}{32}$ inch.
6355-13.A.; Type IV; No archaeological dating.
13. Fragment of a rectangular tin-plated brass frame decorated in relief with discs, foliated scrolls, and acorn nuts. Probably mid-eighteenth century.
Top to bottom, 2 inches; side to side, probably $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Metal width, approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ inch; thickness, $\frac{3}{32}$ inch.
6356-2.M.3.; Type IV; No archaeological dating.
14. Fragment of a rectangular high copper-alloy frame decorated with relief geometric and foliate motifs. Probably mid-eighteenth century.
Top to bottom, probably $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches; side to side, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Metal width, approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ inch; thickness, $\frac{1}{8}$ inch.
6357. E.R.157A-27.A.; Type IV; Disturbed deposit.
15. Fragment of a rectangular brass frame decorated in relief with simple molded and chased designs and geometric shapes. Probably third quarter eighteenth century.
Top to bottom, approximately $2\frac{1}{16}$ inches; side to side, probably $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Metal width varies from $\frac{1}{4}$ inch to $\frac{5}{16}$ inch; thickness, $\frac{1}{8}$ inch.
6358-20.A.17; Type IV; No archaeological dating.
- Top to bottom, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches; side to side, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Metal width varies from $\frac{1}{4}$ inch to $\frac{5}{16}$ inch; thickness, $\frac{1}{16}$ inch.
5901. E.R.1047A-9.N.; Type IV; Archaeological context: post-1830.
5901. E.R. 1044-9.N.; Type IV; Disturbed deposit.
- Top to bottom, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches; side to side, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches. Metal width varies from $\frac{1}{4}$ inch to $\frac{5}{16}$ inch; thickness, $\frac{1}{16}$ inch.
5901. E.R.1047A-9.N.; Type IV; Archaeological context: post-1830.
3. Fragment of an oval high copper-alloy frame decorated with fluting interrupted by incised X's. Probably third quarter eighteenth century. Side to side, $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches. Metal width, $\frac{3}{16}$ inch; thickness, $\frac{3}{32}$ inch.
6360. E.R.850H-4.B.; Type IV; Archaeological context: post-1810.
4. Fragment of a rectangular, silver-plated high copper-alloy frame decorated with incised rope and leaflike designs. Probably third quarter eighteenth century.
Top to bottom, $2\frac{3}{16}$ inches. Metal width, $\frac{5}{16}$ inch; thickness, $\frac{1}{8}$ inch.
6361-8.E.; Type IV; No archaeological dating.
5. Fragment of an oval brass frame decorated with low-relief scroll, beading, and cherubs.
Top to bottom, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches. Metal width, $\frac{1}{4}$ inch; thickness, $\frac{1}{16}$ inch.
6362. E.R.192-28.D.; Type IV; Archaeological context: 1750-70.
6. Fragment of an oval brass frame decorated with relief discs and foliate motifs.
Top to bottom, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches; side to side, probably $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Metal width, $\frac{1}{4}$ inch; thickness, $\frac{1}{8}$ inch.
6363. E.R.1574Y-2.P.; Type IV; Archaeological context: post-1770.
7. Oval brass frame decorated with indented interior and exterior edges and fluting. Probably third quarter eighteenth century.
Top to bottom, $1\frac{7}{8}$ inches; side to side, 3 inches. Metal width, $\frac{1}{4}$ inch; thickness, $\frac{1}{8}$ inch.
6364-27.B.; Type IV; No archaeological dating.
8. Fragment of an oval, tin-plated, brass frame decorated in high-relief with a floral ornament.
Top to bottom, $1\frac{7}{8}$ inches. Metal width varies from $\frac{1}{4}$ inch to $\frac{3}{8}$ inch; thickness, $\frac{1}{16}$ inch.

Figure 13—Shoe Buckle Frames, Type IV and IV-A

1. Rectangular brass frame decorated with shallow linear design.
Top to bottom, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches; side to side, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Average metal width, $\frac{1}{4}$ inch; thickness, $\frac{1}{16}$ inch.
5900. E.R.1054G-9.N.; Type IV; Archaeological context: post-1750.
6359. E.R.1174F-9.P.; Type IV; Archaeological context: post-1760.
2. Rectangular brass frame decorated with circles enclosing dots. Probably mid-eighteenth century.

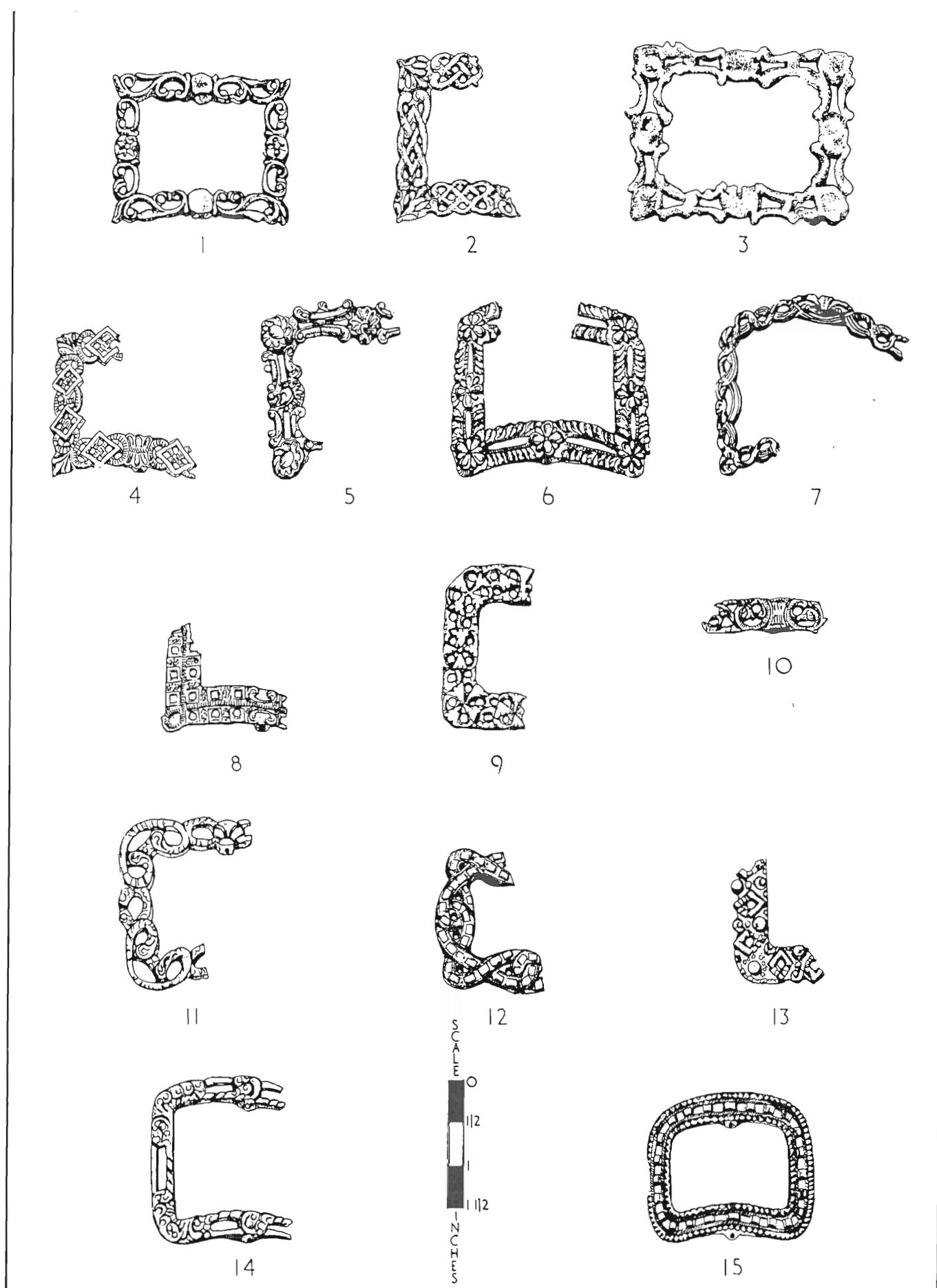


Figure 14. Type V, copper-alloy shoe buckles, nos. 1 & 2, 4-15; no. 4 is silver plated. Type V-A, iron shoe buckle, no. 3.

6365. E.R.230C-28.D.; Type IV; Archaeological context: ca. 1765-75.
9. Rectangular silver frame decorated with entwining rope bordering raised discs (fig. 3). The steel chape and tongue are still connected. The frame is worn on one side; therefore it likely was used by one who habitually crossed his feet. This buckle closely parallels an English specimen, bearing the date letter for 1745, which is illustrated in *The Antique Dealer and Collectors Guide*, volume 23, number 8, March 1969, page 104.
 Top to bottom, 1 13/16 inches; side to side, 2 5/8 inches. Metal width varies from 1/8 inch to 1/4 inch; thickness, 1/8 inch.
 5223. E.R.850V-4.B.; Type IV-A; Archaeological context: post-1790.
10. Rectangular brass frame decorated with ridges (fig. 3). The iron backpiece remains, and the chape bears an illegible mark. Probably mid-eighteenth century.
 Top to bottom, 1 13/16 inches; side to side, 2 5/8 inches. Metal width, 3/16 inch; thickness, 1/8 inch.
 2557. E.R.361M-28.D.; Type IV; Archaeological context: ca.1800.
11. Oval high copper-alloy buckle frame decorated with indented exterior edges and with low-relief beading and flowers. The pin terminal style is of a late eighteenth-century date.
 Top to bottom, 1 3/4 inches; side to side, 2 inches. Metal width varies from 3/16 inch to 3/8 inch; thickness, 1/16 inch.
 6366-20.A.; Type IV; No archaeological dating.
- Similar to this is a fragment without the rosettes that was also found at the Geddy site (E.R. 1329L-19.B.) in a post-1740 context.
 Top to bottom, 1 5/8 inches; side to side, 2 1/16 inches. Average metal width, 5/16 inch; thickness, 3/32 inch.
 5372. E.R.1353E-19.B.; Type V; Archaeological context: post-1760.
2. Fragment of a rectangular high copper-alloy frame decorated with traces of molded foliate ornament.
 Top to bottom, 1 15/16 inches; side to side, probably 2 1/2 inches. Average metal width, 3/8 inch; thickness, 3/32 inch.
 6367. E.R.230F-28.D.; Type V; Archaeological context: ca.1765.
3. An unusual openwork rectangular iron frame found in excavations at Jamestown. Iron buckles were generally simple in shape with little decoration.
 Top to bottom, 2 inches; side to side, 2 5/8 inches. Metal width varies from 1/4 inch to 1/2 inch; thickness, 1/8 inch.
 J5192; Type V-A; No archaeological dating.
4. Fragment of a rectangular, silver-plated brass frame decorated with a leaf in each corner and filigree ornamentation of diamonds and circles in between. A fragment of an identical frame was found at Wetherburn's Tavern (6214. E.R.1116B-9.N.) in a deposit made in the mid-eighteenth century. Also an identical buckle (J9214) without plating was found at Jamestown, lot B69, and is in the United States National Park Service collection.
 Top to bottom, 1 1/2 inches; side to side, probably 2 inches. Average metal width, 1/4 inch; thickness, 3/32 inch.
 6219. E.R.1573G-2.P.; Type V; Archaeological context: post-1765.

Figure 14—Shoe Buckle Frames, Type V and V-A

1. Rectangular high copper-alloy frame made at the Geddy foundry. It is ornamented with scroll decoration separated by round flat areas in the center of each side. The left disc has been tooled to resemble a flower, the right was being similarly worked, and the top and bottom blanks had not been touched. The pin terminal holes have not been drilled (see fig. 4, left example).
5. Fragment of a rectangular brass frame decorated with relief floral and foliate motifs and foliated scrolls.
 Top to bottom, 1 7/8 inches; side to side, probably 2 1/2 inches. Average metal width, 3/8 inch; thickness varies from 1/16 inch to 1/8 inch.
 6368. E.R.1573G-2.P.; Type V; Archaeological context: post-1765.

6. Rectangular brass frame decorated with low-relief floral and foliate designs. Fragments of an identical buckle were found in excavations at the Geddy site (E.R.1330H-19.B.) in a post-1755 context.
 Top to bottom measures 1 $\frac{7}{8}$ inches; side to side, 2 $\frac{5}{8}$ inches. Average metal width, 7/16 inch; thickness, $\frac{1}{8}$ inch.
 6370. E.R.1570D-2.P.; Type V; Archaeological context: post-1770.
 6370. E.R.1570E-2.P.; Type V; Archaeological context: post-1750.
 6370. E.R.1604J-2.P.; Type V; Archaeological context: post-1770.
 6370. E.R.1604P-2.P.; Type V; Archaeological context: post-1770.
7. Rectangular brass frame decorated with fluting and foliage designs.
 Top to bottom, 1 $\frac{7}{8}$ inches; side to side, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Average metal width, $\frac{1}{4}$ inch; thickness, $\frac{1}{8}$ inch.
 6371. E.R.1340E-19.A-B.; Type V; Archaeological context: post-1770.
8. Fragment of a brass frame decorated with molded rope, feather, and scroll motifs.
 Side to side, probably 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches. Metal width is 7/16 inch; thickness, 1/16 inch.
 6372. E.R.192-28.D.; Type V; Archaeological context: 1750-70.
9. Fragment of a rectangular brass frame decorated with low-relief triangles which form crosses.
 Top to bottom, 1 $\frac{7}{8}$ inches. Average metal width, 7/16 inch; thickness, $\frac{1}{8}$ inch.
 6376. E.R.806C-4.B.; Type V; Archaeological context: post-1765.
10. Fragment of an unfinished high copper-alloy frame from the Geddy site. The pin terminal hole has not been drilled. Metal width, $\frac{3}{8}$ inch; thickness, 1/16 inch.
 6373. E.R.1355D-19.B.; Type V; Archaeological context: post-1765.
11. Fragment of a rectangular brass frame decorated with foliated scrolls and scallop shells.
 Top to bottom, 2 inches; side to side, probably 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Average metal width, $\frac{3}{8}$ inch; thickness, $\frac{1}{8}$ inch.
6374. E.R.254E-28.D.; Type V; Archaeological context: ca.1770-75.
12. Fragment of a rectangular brass frame decorated with relief squares bordered by ropelike edges. A similar buckle appears in *Archaeological Investigation of Fort Ligonier*, page 52, plate 11, number 21.
 Top to bottom, 1 $\frac{5}{8}$ inches; side to side, probably 2 inches. Metal width varies from $\frac{1}{4}$ inch to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch; thickness, $\frac{1}{8}$ inch.
 6375. E.R.1353S-19.B.; Type V; Archaeological context: post-1770.
13. Fragment of a brass frame decorated with raised V's, squares, and circles.
 Average metal width, 7/16 inch; thickness varies from 1/16 inch to $\frac{1}{8}$ inch.
 6377. E.R.1337A-19.B.; Type V; Archaeological context: post-1830.
14. Fragment of a rectangular high copper-alloy frame decorated with engraved foliated scroll motifs.
 Top to bottom, 1 $\frac{7}{8}$ inches; side to side, probably 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches. Metal width, $\frac{1}{4}$ inch; thickness, 3/32 inch.
 6378. E.R.1328H-19.B.; Type V; Archaeological context: post-1750.
15. Brass frame consisting of two rectangular bars, each decorated with low-relief squares and rope, that are connected at equal intervals by squares.
 Top to bottom, 1 $\frac{5}{8}$ inches; side to side, 2 $\frac{1}{8}$ inches. Metal width, $\frac{3}{8}$ inch; thickness varies from 1/16 inch to 3/32 inch.
 1940-8.G.3.; Type V; No archaeological dating.

Figure 15—Shoe Buckle Frames, Type V

1. Fragment of a large rectangular brass frame consisting of two bars connected by circle motifs. The exterior bar is decorated with low-relief beading and the interior bar is plain. The pin terminal style is of a late eighteenth-century date.
 Top to bottom, 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches; side to side, probably 4 inches. Metal width, $\frac{3}{8}$ inch; thickness, 3/32 inch.
 6380. E.R.1352B-19.B.; Type V; Archaeological context: post-1825.

2. Fragment of a large brass frame consisting of two bars, each with a single groove, connected at regular intervals by discs. The pin terminal style is of a late eighteenth-century date.

Top to bottom, 2 1/16 inches; side to side, probably 4 inches. Metal width, 13/32 inch; thickness, 1/16 inch.

2624. E.R.695C-11.E.; Type V; Archaeological context: post-1770.

3. Fragment of a large brass frame consisting of two plain bars united by discs. The pin terminal style is of a late eighteenth-century date.

Top to bottom, 2 5/8 inches; side to side, probably 4 inches. Metal width, 5 1/8 inches; thickness 1/16 inch.

6381-17.F.; Type V; No archaeological dating.

4. Large rectangular high copper-alloy frame consisting of two plain bars connected by diamond

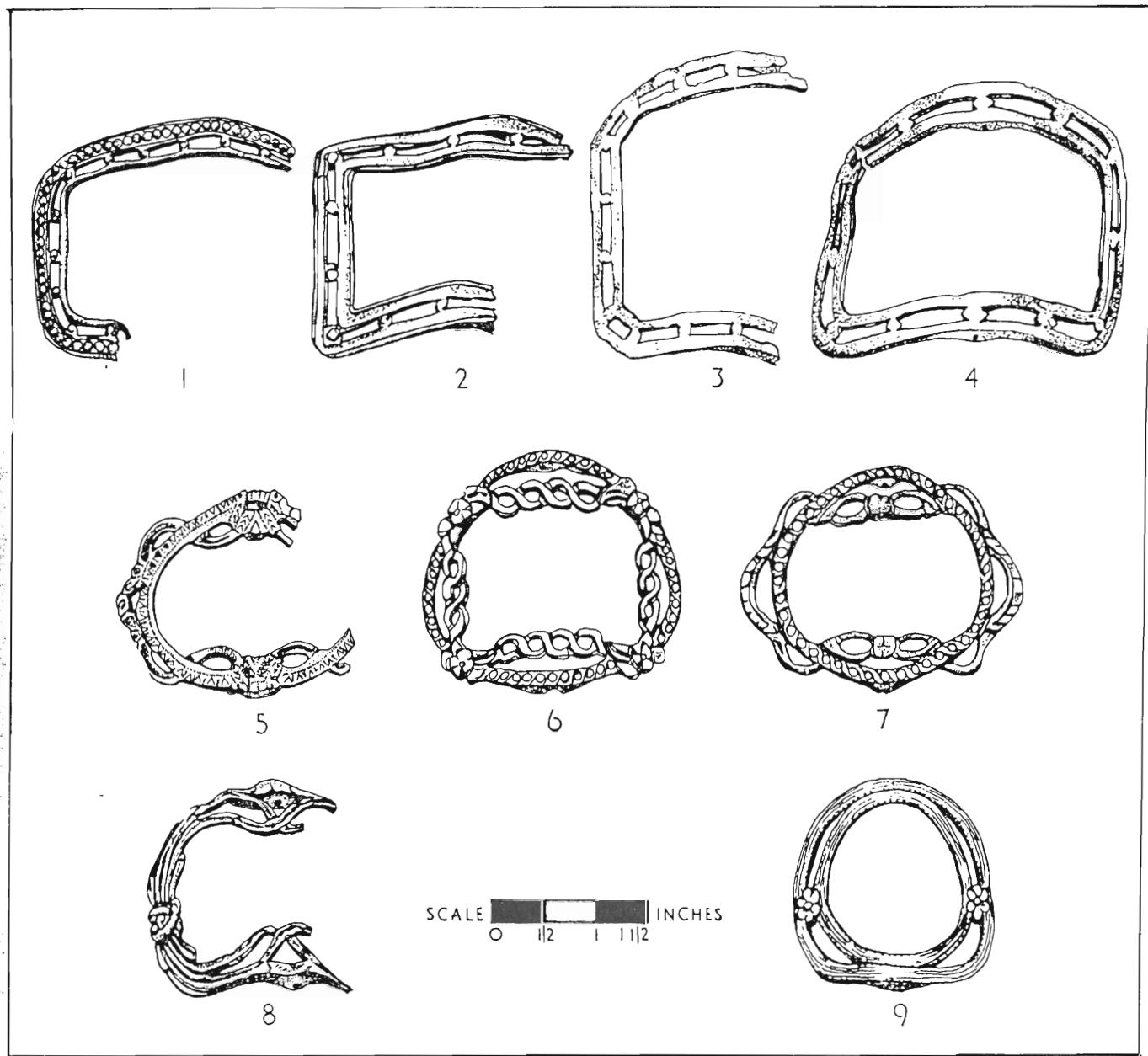


Figure 15. Type V, copper-alloy shoe buckles.

- motifs. Last quarter eighteenth century.
 Top to bottom, $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches; side to side, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Metal width, $\frac{3}{8}$ inch; thickness, $3/32$ inch.
3125. E.R.441-14.G.; Type V; Disturbed deposit.
5. Fragment of an oval brass frame decorated with grooves, notching and engraved foliate designs. Second half eighteenth century.
 Top to bottom, $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches; side to side, probably $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Metal width varies from $\frac{1}{4}$ inch to $\frac{3}{8}$ inch; thickness, $3/32$ inch.
 6382-20.A.19.; Type V; No archaeological dating.
6. Oval brass frame decorated with circle and floral motifs. The pin terminal style is of a late eighteenth-century date.⁵²
 Top to bottom, $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches; side to side, $2\frac{7}{8}$ inches. Metal width varies from $\frac{1}{4}$ inch to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch; thickness, $3/32$ inch.
 1941-17.C.; Type V; No archaeological dating.
7. Oval brass frame decorated with grooves, rosettes, and low-relief circles. Traces of silver-plating remain. The pin terminal style is of a late eighteenth-century date.
 Top to bottom, 2 inches; side to side, $2\frac{15}{16}$ inches. Metal width varies from $\frac{1}{4}$ inch to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch; thickness, $3/32$ inch.
 6336-20.A.; Type V; No archaeological dating.
8. Oval brass frame decorated with notching and grooving. The pin terminal style is of a late eighteenth-century date.
 Top to bottom, $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches; side to side, $2\frac{7}{8}$ inches. Metal width varies from $\frac{1}{4}$ inch to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch; thickness, $1/16$ inch.
 1931-20.A.8.; Type V; No archaeological dating.
9. Brass frame consisting of oval outer bar joined to a circular inner band at the top and bottom and connected at each side with a chased flower. The bars are grooved, and notched on the edges.
 Top to bottom, $1\frac{13}{16}$ inches; side to side, $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches. Metal width varies from $5/16$ inch to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch; thickness, $3/32$ inch.
 6386-20.A.; Type V; No archaeological dating.

52. This frame is similar to an English specimen made by John Lamb who was at work from 1783. Cf. Bernard and Therle Hughes, *Georgian Shoe Buckles* (London, 1972), pl. 2, lower right.

Figure 16—Shoe Buckle Frames, Type VI and VII; Plus Shoe Buckle Backpieces

1. Two fragments of a rectangular, silver-plated high copper-alloy frame decorated with two intertwining bands between corner portraits of Admiral Boscawen; one band of leaves (victor's laurels?) and the other bearing the words L[OUISBOURG] TAKEN BY/ADMIRAL BOSCAWEN/JULY TH 26 17/58. It was probably made soon after that victory.
 Top to bottom, $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches; side to side, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Metal width, $7/16$ inch; thickness, $3/32$ inch.
 5500. E.R.992D-19.B.; Type VI; Archaeological context: post-1830.
 5500. E.R.1380-19.B.; Type VI; Disturbed deposit.
2. Fragment of a brass frame decorated with a bust in each corner and with the letters . . . RD on the fragmented section and the word COMMERCE on the complete side. This is probably a variation of one of several popular eighteenth-century slogans dealing with commerce such as: "Success to trade and commerce." Probably third quarter eighteenth century.
 Top to bottom, $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches. Metal width, $5/16$ inch; thickness, $1/16$ inch.
 6387. E.R.1265A-29.G.; Type VI; Archaeological context: post-1830.
3. Fragment of a frame with pastes solid set in brass. The pastes are badly worn.
 Top to bottom, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Metal width, approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ inch; thickness, $3/16$ inch.
 6388. E.R.1348Q-19.B.; Type VII; Archaeological context: post-1780.
4. Fragment of a frame with pastes solid set in brass. There is a trace of red coloring behind the stones to give them a ruby appearance (see footnote 46).
 Side to side, probably $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches. Metal width, approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ inch; thickness, $3/16$ inch.
 6389. E.R.231C-28.D.; Type VII; Archaeological context: ca.1770-75.
5. Fragment of a frame with pastes solid set in brass. Side to side, probably 2 inches. Metal width, approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ inch; thickness, $3/16$ inch.

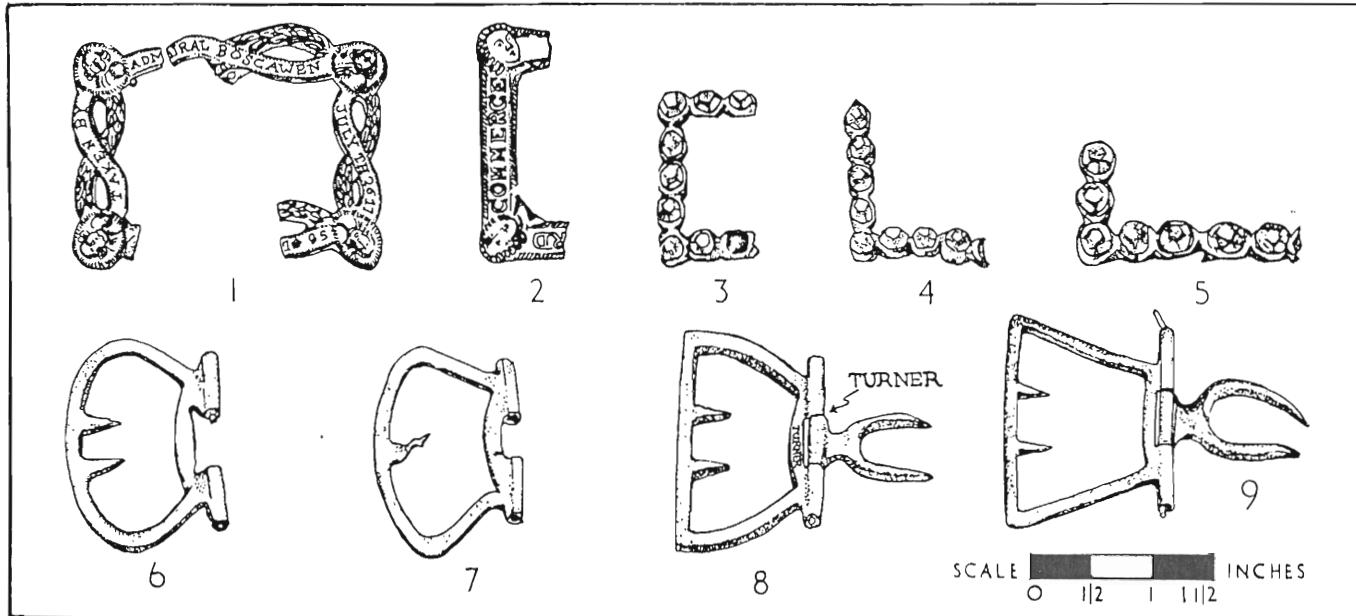


Figure 16. Type VI, political or commemorative shoe buckles, nos. 1 and 2; Type VII, paste shoe buckles, nos. 3-5; copper-alloy shoe buckle backpieces, nos. 6-9. No. 1 is silver plated.

6369. E.R.1570D-2.P.; Type VII; Archaeological context: post-1770.
6. Double-toothed brass chape probably for frame with convex sides..
 6391. E.R.1353E-19.B.; Archaeological context: post-1760.
 7. Single-toothed chape probably for frame with convex sides.
 6390. E.R.1353F-19.B.; Archaeological context: post-1770.
 8. Double-toothed brass chape and tongue probably for frame with straight sides. The two-pronged chape is marked TURNER.
 6392. E.R.1346J-19.B.; Archaeological context: post-1780.
 9. Double-toothed brass chape and tongue, probably for frame with straight sides.
 - 6379-13.K.4.; No archaeological dating.

Figures 17 and 18—A Group of Buckle Parts from the Printing Office Site

Among artifacts recovered from excavations at the site of the first Williamsburg printing office is a box

containing parts of forty-eight shoe buckles, comprising forty-six backpiece components, one oval frame of standard size, and one small frame of comparable shape. All the parts are of iron (or steel) and would seem to represent a merchant's or shoemaker's stock, the pins linking the chapes and tongues in some cases being left much longer than would be needed on assembled buckles (fig. 17, nos. 4 & 6; fig. 18, nos. 4, 5, & 7). That chapes and tongues were sold separately is attested to in an advertisement by Williamsburg storekeeper John Greenhow who in 1766 and 1771 offered for sale "Chapes and Tongues for Silver Buckles of most Sizes."⁵³

The circumstances of the recovery of these buckle parts are not known, but their obvious kinship and the fact that the artifacts have been stored as a group, indicate that they were found together. Furthermore, their relatively good condition suggests that they were retrieved from the protective silt of the adjacent stream rather than from within the printing office itself. Excavations were conducted on the site in 1938, 1952, and 1956, but unfortunately it is not known from which of these projects the buckle parts came.

53. *Virginia Gazette*, (Purdie), April 25, 1766, p. 2; and *Virginia Gazette*, (Purdie and Dixon), April 11, 1771, p. 3.

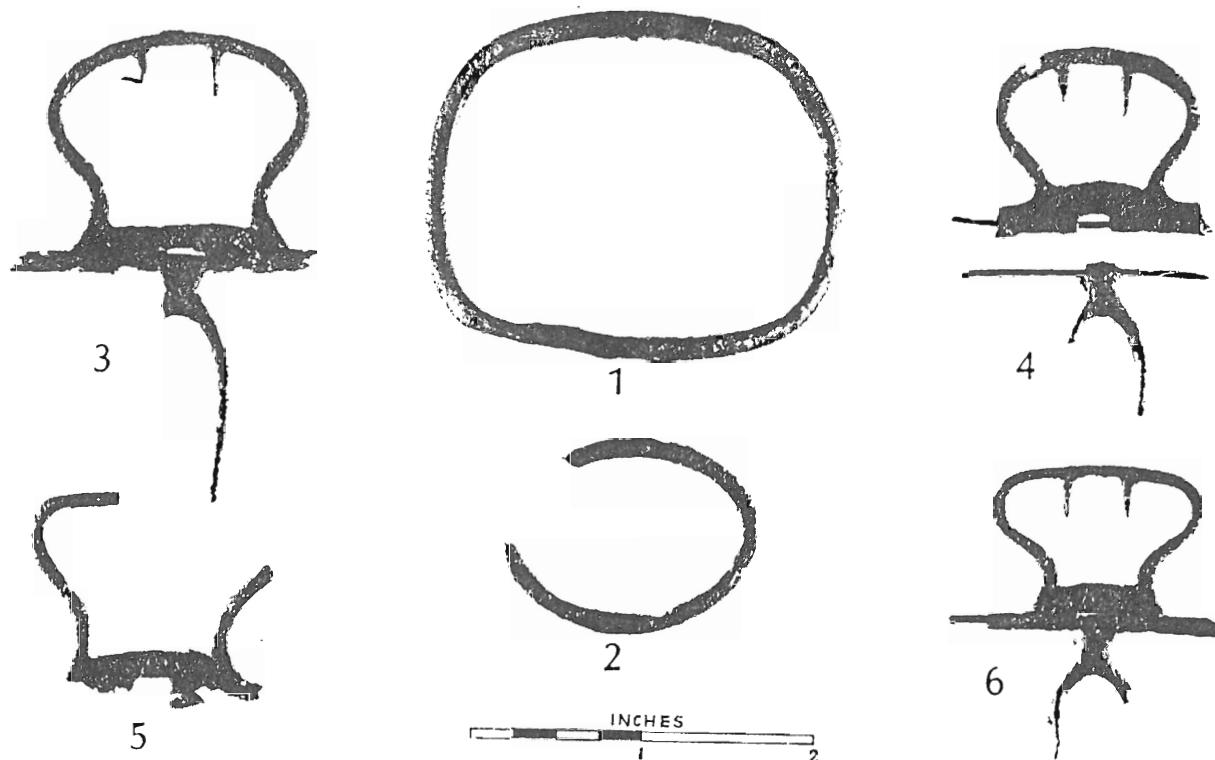


Figure 17. Iron or steel buckle frames and backpieces from the site of the Printing Office; second half of eighteenth century.

The illustrated examples depict all the types represented, the most obvious variations being between those with curving looped chapes for oval buckles, and those with straight-ended chapes for use with rectangular frames. Because the original range of sizes is not known, these examples are classified as large, medium, and small, and the number of identifiable specimens of each type in the collection follows the descriptions. As no archaeological provenance is recorded, the parts can only be assumed (on stylistic grounds) to date from the second half of the eighteenth century. They are catalogued as a group: 6544-18.H.

FIGURE 17

1. Oval frame, of standard size. (1)
Top to bottom, 2 inches; side to side, 2 7/16 inches. Metal width, 1/8 inch; thickness 1/18 inch. Type III-A.
2. Small oval frame, perhaps from a woman's shoe, possibly a hat or knee buckle. (1)

Top to bottom, 1½ inches; side to side, 1½ inches. Metal width 1/8 inch; thickness 1/16 inch. Type III-A.

3. Ogee-sided and curved-ended chape; large. (7)
4. Ogee-sided and curved-ended chape; small. (8) The specimen is shown with a matching, but separate tongue and pin.
5. Ogee-sided and flattened-ended chape; medium. (1)
6. Ogee-sided and flattened-ended chape; small. (4)

FIGURE 18

1. Angular chape, tapered; large. (6)
2. Angular chape, tapered; medium. (2)
3. Angular chape, tapered and convex; large. (1)

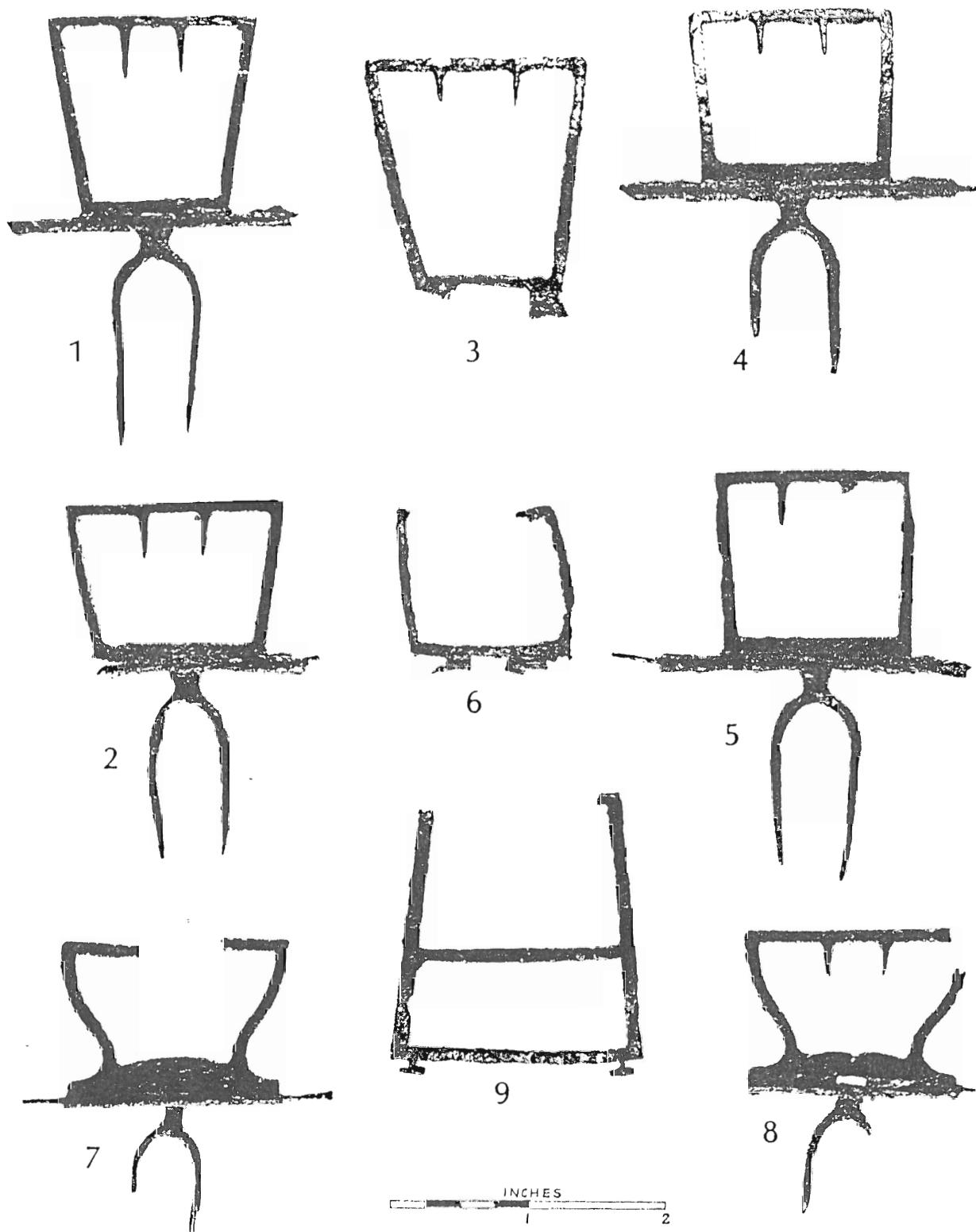


Figure 18. Iron or steel shoebuckle backpieces from the site of the Printing Office; second half of eighteenth century.

- 4-5. Angular chape, square; large. (8)
6. Angular chape, square and convex; small. (1)
- 7-8. Ogee-sided and straight-ended chape; large. (7)
9. Angular chape (?), tapered and convex, with stud mountings but no teeth; large. (1)

Appendix: Identification of Lot Numbers

- 2.B.1. Semple House
 2.H. Chiswell-Bucktrout House
 2.J.1 Timberlake and Dana lots
 2.M.3. Powell-Hallam House
 2.P. Hubard lot
 2.R. Morris House
 3.A. Allen-Byrd House
 4.B. Custis lot
 4.C. Public Hospital
 8.E. Blue Bell Tavern
 8.G.3. Draper House
 9.N. Wetherburn's Tavern
 9.P. Charlton House
 10.A. James Anderson House
 11.E. George Reid House
 13.A. Cutis-Maupin House
 13.K.4. Peter Scott lot
 14.G. Travis House
 15.A. Post Office
 17.C. John Crump's House and Burdett's Ordinary
 17.F. Rear of Golden Ball—William Randolph Lodging
 17.G. Scrivener House—Alexander Craig House
 18.C. Prentis Store
 18.H. Printing Office—Hunter's Store—Hunter's Tenement
 19.A-B. James Geddy, Norton-Cole lots
 19.B. James Geddy House
 20.A. Palace
 20.A.8. Palace—N.W. Room
 20.A.17. Palace—West Office
 20.A.19. Palace, West Court, outbuildings
 20.A.21. Palace, Kitchen, S.W. corner of terraces
 27.A. Coke-Garrett House
 27.B. Public Gaol
 28.D. Anthony Hay House and Cabinet Shop
 29.G. Dr. Gilmer lot
 C.G. Carter's Grove

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