

Monticello-University of Virginia
Archaeological Field School 2023

Review: Weeks 1 and 2

1. Concepts

A. Soils and Sediments

Pedogenesis

Soil, sediment, plowzone, topsoil, subsoil, parent material

A, E, B, C horizons

Five soil-forming factors

Eluviation, illuviation,

alluvium, colluvium, fill, loess

Lithostratigraphic unit, pedostratigraphic unit, context

Clay, silt, sand, granules, pebbles, cobbles, boulders

Phi scale

USDA Soil Texture Triangle

B. Stratigraphy

Lithostratigraphy, biostratigraphy, ethnostratigraphy

Deposit

Principles of Superposition, Original Horizontality, Continuity

Context (Roskam's "Stratigraphic Units")

Interface

Harris Matrix

Stratigraphic correlation

Feature

Single-context plan

Top plan

C. Site and Artifact Analyses

Description vs. interpretation

Frequency vs. occurrence seriation

Mean ceramic dating

Harrington histogram

Binford formula

Type Fossils: TPQ, TAQ

D. Spatial Data

Stratified random sample design we are using at Site 30

Archaeological spatial structure

Site structure

General vs. special activity areas

Artifact size sorting

Artifact Size Index (ASI)

2. Historical Frameworks

The role of slavery in the emergence of the early-modern Atlantic economy and settlement of the Chesapeake

Piedmont vs. Coastal Plain (or Tidewater)

Swidden or slash-and-burn agriculture

Pattern, timing, and hypothesized causes of changes in slave housing on Mulberry Row and slave settlement on Monticello Mountain

Main research goals of this summer's fieldwork

Getting Word Project

Andrew Davenport's talk: methods of tracing ancestry and archival research

Gayle Jessup-White's talk: family descendant stories and connections to Monticello

3. Field Skills

Context Record, sediment description, elevations

Artifact recognition

Excavation technique (troweling, shoveling)

Plan drawing

Profile drawing

Identifying soil horizons and lithostratigraphic units, changing contexts

4. Lab Skills

Identification:

- Wrought, machine cut, wire nails

- Basic nail attributes

 - Heads: Rosehead, T-head, L-head, Machine cut square head

 - Tips: Chisel/shovel, blunt, rounded

- Earthenware, stoneware, porcelain

- Wine bottle glass, leaded glass, window glass

Identification of basic ceramic ware types (e.g., creamware, pearlware, white salt-glaze, etc.)

Approximate dates for ceramic ware types