

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS
OF THE CITY TAVERN SITE, INHP:
AN OVERVIEW

PLEASE RETURN TO:
TECHNICAL INFORMATION CENTER
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



TEMPLE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19122

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

November 20, 1974

Dr. John L. Cotter
Regional Archaeologist
Northeast Region
National Park Service
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

Dear Dr. Cotter:

In accordance with National Park Service Professional Services Contract No. CX-2000-4-0026, for the archaeological investigation of the City Tavern Site, Independence National Historical Park, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, I here forward an overview of a report presently in preparation and due within six (6) months after final payment of the construction contract. I would like to take this opportunity to extend a sincere thank you, to you and to those individuals who assisted the archaeological investigations. We were most grateful for the support, assistance, generosity, and optimism displayed by all Park Service personnel with whom we had reason to associate.

The report presently in preparation of those archaeological investigations conducted during the late spring, and late summer and early fall, 1974, will include the following: 1) A "Foreword" prepared by Dr. Jacob W. Gruber, Professor, Department of Anthropology, Temple University (presently being negotiated); 2) "Acknowledgments"; 3) "Introduction"; 4) "Approaches" to the archaeological investigations; 5) "Methodologies" utilized; 6) "Archaeological

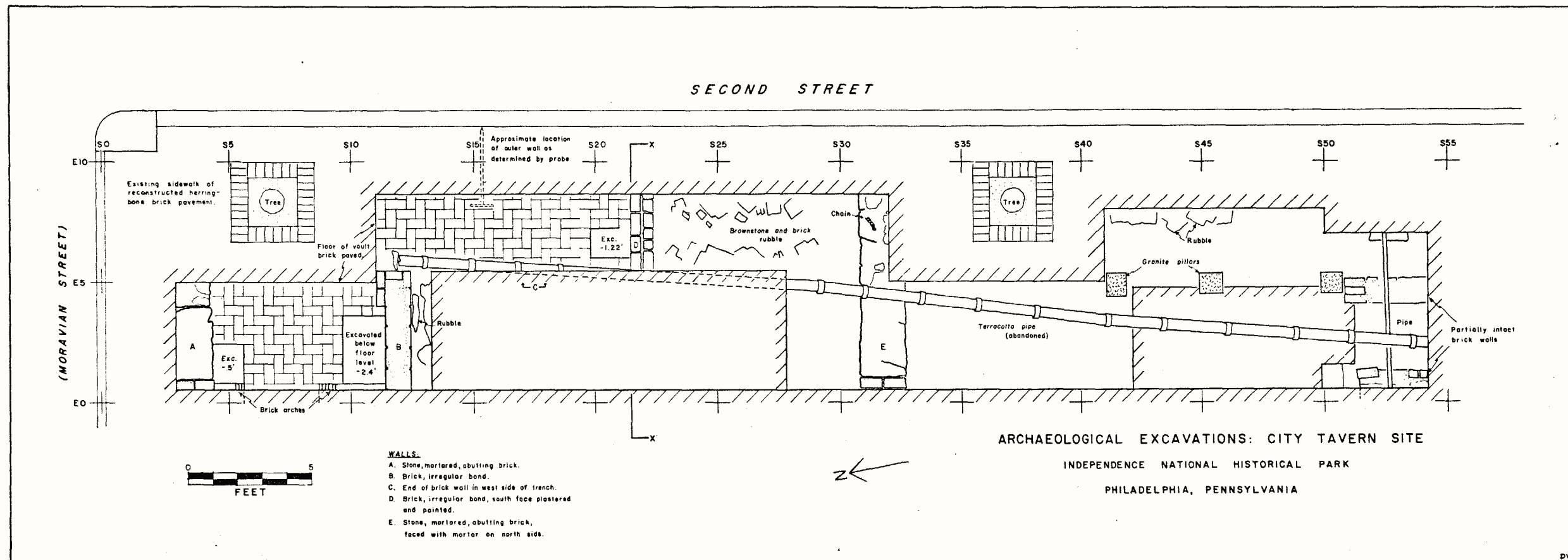


Figure 1. Archaeological excavations, City Tavern Site, sidewalk area.

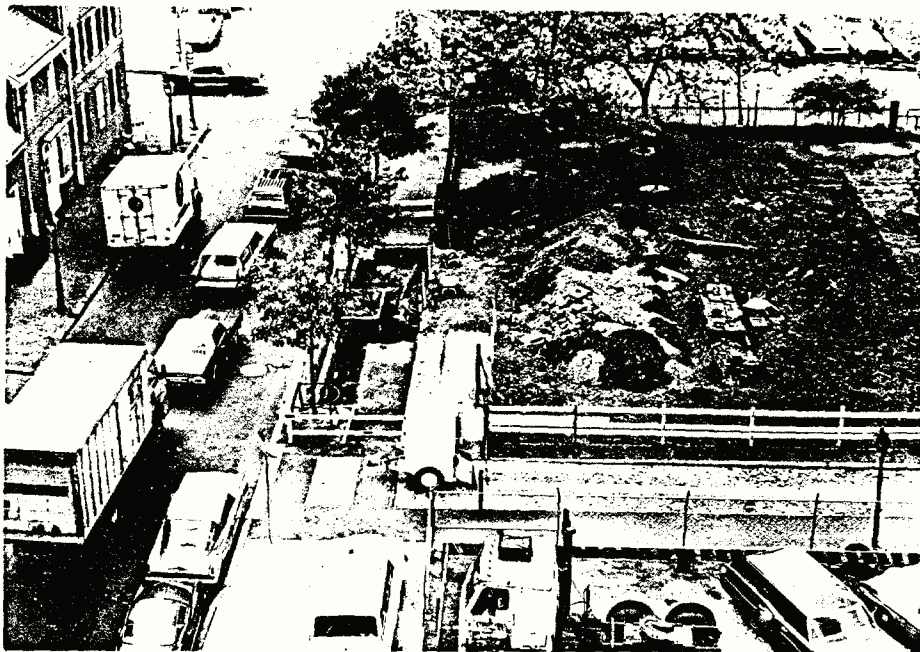


Figure 2. Archaeological excavations, City Tavern Site, sidewalk area; view south.

Evidences"; and 7) "Interpretations and Recommendations". It must be noted at the outset, that no archaeological evidences were uncovered which could be absolutely interpreted as having been associated with the City Tavern. Though evidences bearing upon the time and occupancy of the City Tavern appear negative, archaeological investigation of portions of the City Tavern Site area was most certainly warranted, in accordance with the report prepared by Penelope Batcheler (Penelope H. Batcheler, "Historic Structure Report, Architectural Data Section, City Tavern, Independence National Historical Park," Denver Service Center, Historic Preservation Team, National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, Denver, Colorado, October 1973, p. 57), as was expounded upon during my original meeting with you and Mrs. Batcheler.

The major portion of the City Tavern Site area archaeologically investigated was that sidewalk area immediately east of the City Tavern, south from Moravian (Gold)

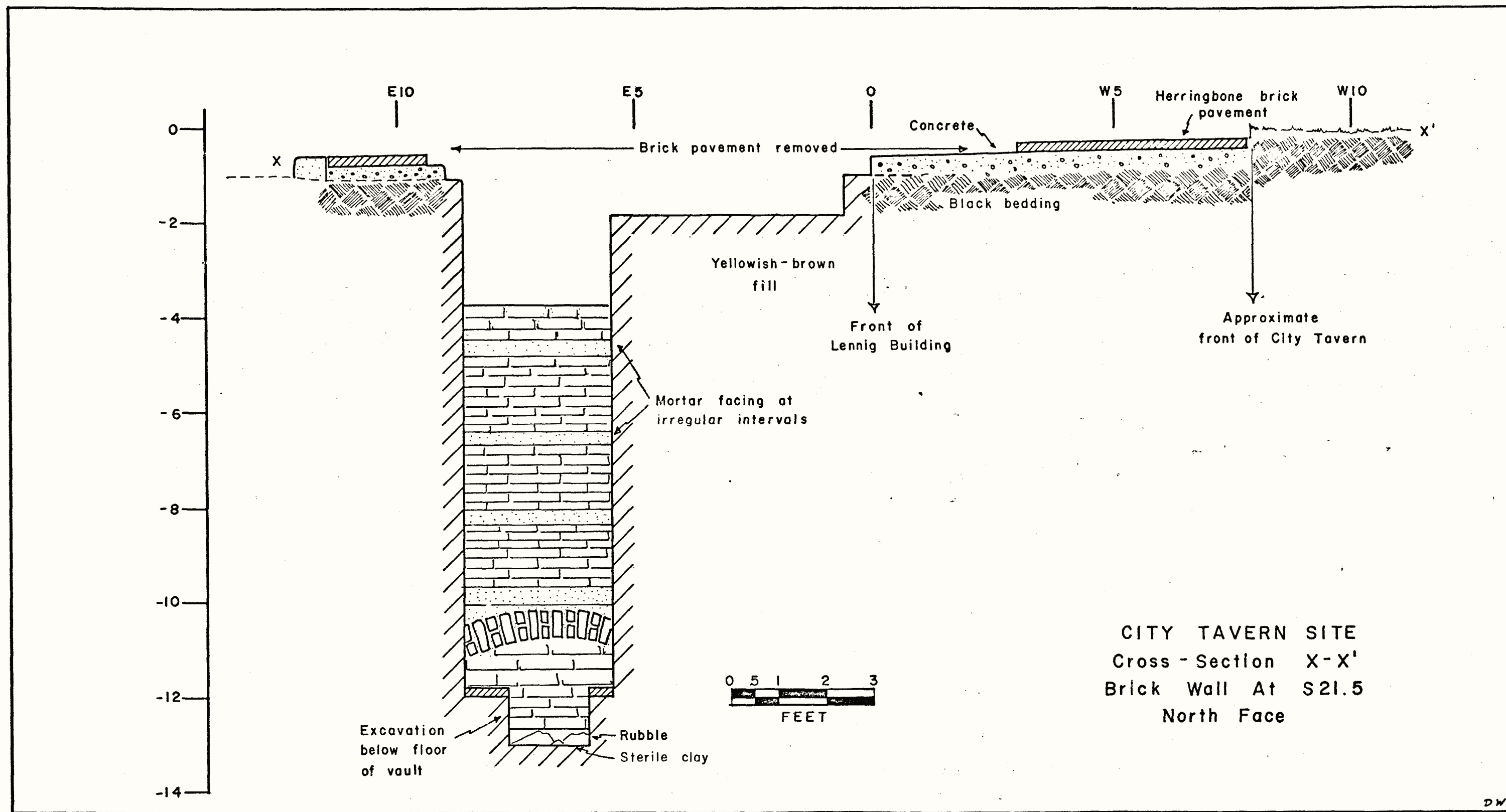


Figure 3. Archaeological excavations, City Tavern Site, sidewalk area; cross section.

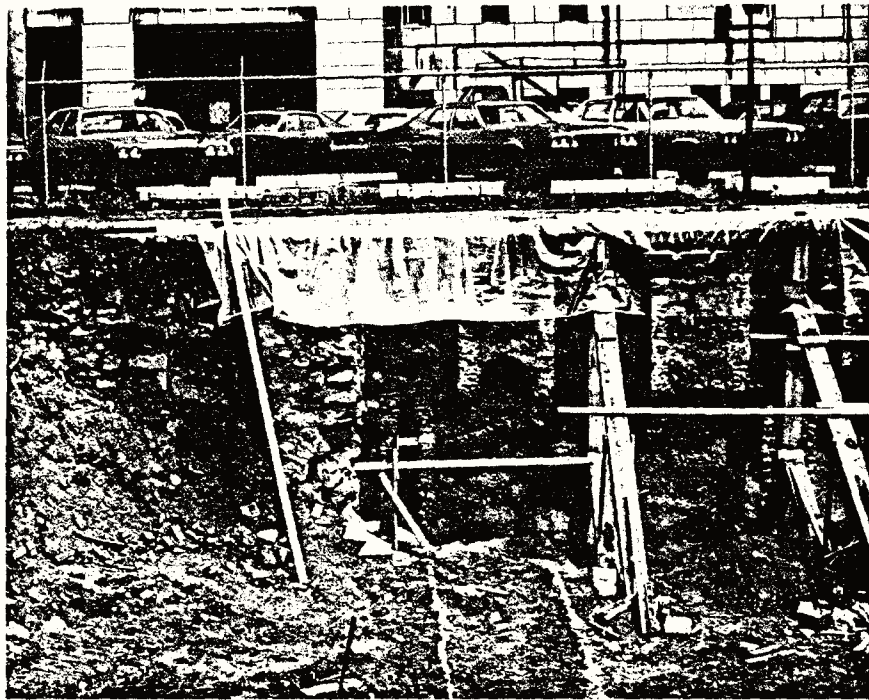


Figure 4. Portion of area excavated for basement and placement of footings; view north.

Street a distance of 54.2 feet, see Figures 1 and 2. Specific portions of this site area were excavated to a depth of 14.4 feet below the city datum ground line, see Figure 3. That area west of Second Street and south of Moravian (Gold) Street, which was excavated for the basement and placement of footings for the reconstructed City Tavern, was examined for structural evidences and soil pit intrusions beneath the floor of post-City Tavern buildings, see Figure 4.

Structural evidences uncovered during the course of our investigations appear to be associated with a post-City Tavern building, most certainly the Lennig Building, constructed in 1855. Artifacts date to the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, see Figures 5, 6, and 7. Brick, stone, and mortar, and soil and ash samples were obtained, being available for future reference or study.

It is suggested that no additional archaeological

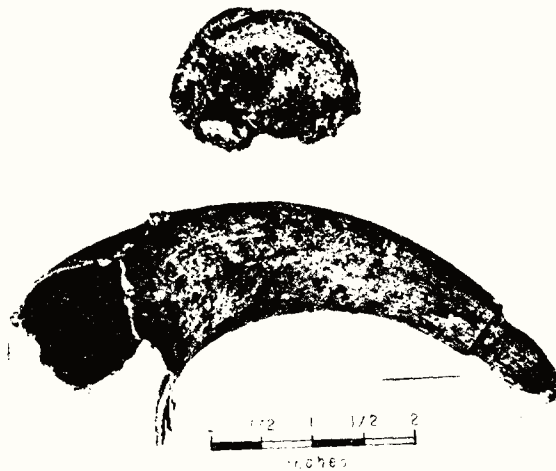
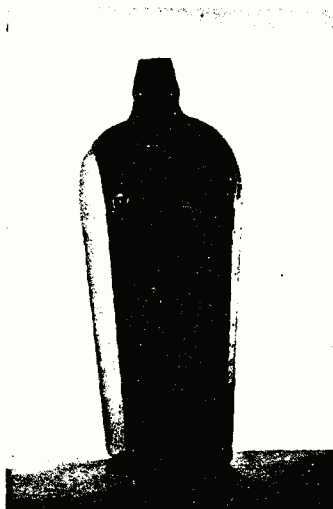


Figure 5. Powder horn; City Tavern, sidewalk area.

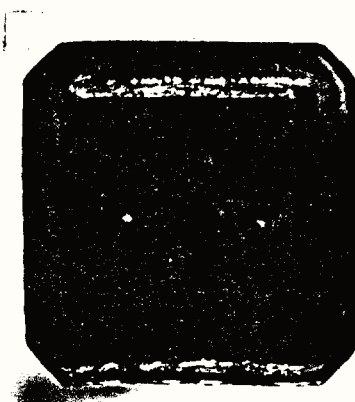


Figure 6. Reconstructed glass sign; City Tavern, sidewalk area.

investigations are warranted in that area between Moravian (Gold) Street and Walnut Street, from Second Street west 100 feet. It is recommended, however, that documentary evidences be examined relative to that portion of the City Tavern Site area west of the 1855 Lennig Building foundations to the present brick wall near Dock Street, and south from Moravian (Gold) Street a minimum of 55 feet. Should documentary evidences indicate the presence of portions



a



b

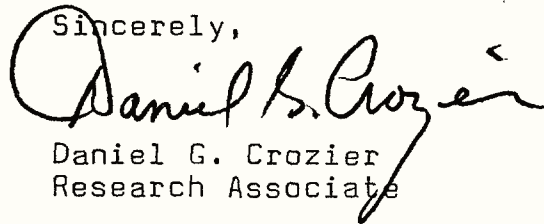


Figure 7. Two examples of bottles from City Tavern Site, sidewalk area: (a) case bottle, amber glass, ht. $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches; (b) milk bottle, ht. $9\frac{3}{4}$ inches. Bases are not to scale.

of land not disturbed by post-City Tavern buildings, such land areas should be archaeologically examined at some future time. It is recommended that if such an investigation is indicated, the investigation should post-date the completion of the reconstruction of the City Tavern.

The archaeological team and I were pleased to investigate a portion of the City Tavern Site area, to insure against the loss of any possible remaining historical evidences. It is interesting to note that the viewing public's reaction to these excavations was one of both a sincere interest in our search for pages of their history, and what appeared to be an increased attitude of responsibility as regards the preservation of their cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Daniel G. Crozier". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Daniel G. Crozier
Research Associate

DGC:dw

