INVENTORY OF ARTIFACT FINDS
FROM THE 1975-1976 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION
AT THE JETHRO COFFIN HOUSE
NANTUCKET, MASSACHUSETTS

Photo 1: East end of Jethro Coffin House Looking South, showing location of excavation.

DIG DIRECTOR AND PHOTOGRAPHER: DR. SELINA JOHNSON
INVENTORIED BY: MARLO JACOBSON, J. CLINTON ANDREWS, LOUISE HUSSEY, AND
ELIZABETH A. LITTLE,
ARCHAEOLOGY COMMITTEE, NANTUCKET HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, NANTUCKET, MA 02554.
1985
Clockwise from top left: Photo 2. Anderson; Photo 3. Little and Anderson; Photo 4. unknown; Photo 5. Anderson and Johnson, showing the laying out of grid and excavation in relation to house.
(Clockwise) Photo 6, looking NW showing Dr. Johnson; Photo 7, looking NE with visitors; Photo 8, looking W, with visitors.
(From Top) Photo 9, SE corner of NOE2 (Bag 1 and 2); Photo 10, shard (Bag 1.1); Photo 11, four shards (Bag 2.2a); Photo 12, slate pencil (Bag 2.4).

All artifacts were donated to the NHA in 1978 by Dr. Selina Johnson. They have been stored at the Nantucket Historical Association, Archaeology Committee storage space, in two brown grocery sacks, containing individually numbered bags, all from square NOE2. A substantial amount of information was labelled on the bags, and the original labels have been retained in the new packaging in plastic baggies.

A field notebook of the details of the finds and the stratigraphy, recorded by Dr. Johnson during the excavation, could provide data necessary for further study of these finds. This notebook has not yet been located.

BAG 1. 7/29/75. 40 cm square. Section A to 10 cm level at SE corner.
1.1. large shard pottery. blue and mauve pattern. 2 green & white shards, 4 thin glass shards. 2 plaster, frag. base clay pipe, 10 iron nails, 5 shell, 3 bone frags. 4 oz.
1.2. plaster, white, and plaster, yellow., brick, slag, coal, pebbles. 11 oz.
1.3. plaster, yellow, white, coal, slag, pebbles, brick. 14 oz.

BAG 2. 7/30/75, 40 cm sq. Section A to 10-25 cm depth.
2.1. a) Animal bone, unidentified, b) quahog shell. <1 oz
2.2. a) pottery shards, 5 dk blue on cream, intricate pattern, 4 med & light blue flower pattern on cream. 2 cream, 2 dark red brown glazed earthenware, 1 yellowish, 1 tan.
b) glass: 5 clear thin, 2 clear thick, 4 green thin,
c) 2 frags clay pipe, d) 1 flat pottery, e) greenish stone. 3 oz
2.3. pebbles, yellow plaster, brick, white plaster, coal. 1 lb 7 oz
2.4. iron nails, pegs, tacks. 2 oz
2.5. slag, plaster. 13 oz
2.6 (in Bag 2.4). slate pencil (JCA). <1 oz
(Clockwise from top left) Photo 13, Bag 3 (clay marbles); Photo 14, Bag 3 (rectangular pottery shard); Photo 15 and Photo 16, possibly Bag 3.
BAG 3. 40 cm square. 40-80 cm from sw corner of square within balk, 7/31/74, 8/1/75-8/4/75.

3.1. 15-35 cm depth sec. A. animal bones, quahog shells. 6 oz

3.2. 10-15 cm depth, 2 clay marbles. <1 oz

3.3. a) pottery shards: 1 large piece, eggshell w. green leaf border design, 1 cream w. dk. blue & green border design, 1 pale gray green, 12 cream, 1 lt. green w. dk. blue & green marking on one side, 1 dk. orange glazed, 1 blue & white marble design, 1 thick orange clay w. some tan glaze.

b) 3 green thin, 1 brown thick, c) 1 piece of melted vase, d) 5 pieces of clay pipe. 2 oz

3.4. iron nails, pegs, etc. 6 oz

3.5. brick, yellow plaster ?, pebbles, coal, slag, mortar. 1 lb 7 oz

3.6. brick, large pieces 1 lb 10 oz

3.7. coal. 1 lb 3 oz

Photo 17, shards from Bag 3.3a; Photo 18, clay marbles (Bag 3.2) and clay pipe stems (Bag 3.3d).
(Clockwise from top left) Photo 19, SW corner (Bag 4?); Photo 20, (same?); Photo 21, shard from 4a.6; Photo 22, glass from 5.5; Photo 23, (Bag 4?).
BAG 4.

4A.1. Square 4. 10-25 cm. shell (quahog), bone frags. 1 beef scapula. 5 oz
4B.2. 25-50 cm. small animal bones, clam, quahog, oyster shell. 7 oz
4B.3. 10-20 cm. plaster, brick. 1 lb 1 oz
4B.4. Square 4. 25-50 cm. pebbles and stones. 6 oz
4B.5. Square 4. 25-50 cm. pottery, china, glass, plaster (containing seaweed), nails, brick. 14 oz
4B.6. 25-50 cm. pottery, glass, clay pipe stem, bone. 3 oz
4B.7. 40 cm square 4. 10-18 cm. pottery, glass, clay pipe stem, bone. 3 oz
4B.8. 10-20 cm. poor grade coal, cheapest grade coke, not economically used, i.e., it could have been saved and reburned (JCA). 1 lb 6 oz
4B.9. 10-25 cm. stones. 2 lb 6 oz
4B.10. 25-50 cm. coal, charcoal, cinders. 1 lb 5 oz

BAG 5. 40 cm, B. Rifkind, 8/6 and 8/8/75.

5.1. Brick, slag, pebbles, coal, white plaster, yellow plaster, white flat plaster. 11 oz
5.2. animal bone 4 oz
5.3. brick, white mortar, yellow mortar?, coal, slag, pebbles. 1 lb 9 oz
5.4. coprolites (cat). <1 oz
5.5. a) pottery shards: 8 cream, 1 dark red brown glazed, 1 no glaze, 1 cream w. blue marking, 1 cream w. grey marking, 2 grey-green glaze, 1 green marking.
b) glass fragments: 1 brown, very thick, 2 brown green thick, 4 green thin, 9 clear thin.
5.6. a) iron nails & tacks, b) quahog shells 1 oz
(Clockwise from top left) Photo 24, Shard (Bag 6.2a); Photo 25, Small Stemmed quartz point (Bag 7.5); Photo 26, Bag 7 (writing); Photo 27, Bag 7?.


6.2. a) Historic pottery shards: 4 creamware with brown pattern, 20 cream, 2 tan earthenware, 1 blue, 1 mustard, 6 white, 1 mustard & brown, 1 grey, 1 grey w. dark orange. b) glass frags: 7 thin clear glass, 1 thick clear glass, 3 green thin glass. c) 4 clay pipe frags. d) 1 piece melted vase, looks like vitrified glass & metal. 1 oz

6.3. a) pieces of coals, slag, burned pottery, insulation, or plaster. b) 6 pieces of lead (?) cylinders; assorted pieces brick and stone, c) iron nails, tacks, 13 oz

6.4. a) quahog shell, b) plaster. 3 oz

BAG 7. 40 cm square, 8/8, 8/15, 8/16, 8/18, 8/75.

7.1. animal bones 2 oz

7.2. quahog shell <1 oz

7.3. a) 2 stems claypipe, b) 2 points from slate pencil <1 oz

7.4. iron nails, pegs, tacks, etc. 6 oz

7.5. white quartz Small Stemmed Point, Late Archaic projectile, well-made, smallish, 2 cm or less in length. Greater than 3000 years old.

7.6. Brick, mortar, slag, yellow plaster ?, coal, pebbles 1 lb 8 oz

7.7. a) pottery shards: 1 green & white marble design, 1 blue & white flower ? design, 1 dk & med. blue, 1 wht & green, 1 some lt. blue glaze, 2 grey, 6 no glaze, 1 some tan glaze, 13 cream.

b) glass frags: 10 clear thin, 1 brown green thin. <1 oz
(Clockwise from top left) Photo 28, showing visitors; Photo 29 and 30, showing an excavation at NE corner of J. Coffin house; Photo 31, sifted soil.
BAG 8.

8.1. ceramics, clay pipe, glass, wooden button, bone, nails, animal tooth, quahog, oyster, brick, stone, mortar, coal. 1 lb 2 oz

8.2. Heavy Stuff: brick, slag, mortar.

stones, 15 oz

nails, 4 oz

BAG 11.

11.1. pebbles, slag, plaster, nails, glass, pottery. 1 lb 4 oz

Photo 32, Bag 8 (wooden button); Photo 33, Bag 8?.