

Excavations on Lot 74



In June of 1996, the Lost Towns Project began excavations on Lot 74 in search of possible buildings. The crew exposed “features” or stains in the soil for 26 postholes, a long shallow ditch, a clay borrow pit, and a cellar hole. The building “footprint” or pattern of postholes that emerged provided evidence for a 20 by 20-foot earthfast structure and two fencelines that once stood on the site.

Hundreds of glass and ceramic shards, bone fragments, and architectural debris such as nails and bricks were recovered. Early ceramics, including white salt-glazed stoneware, creamware, and pearlware indicate that this site was occupied during the height of the town’s existence.

One unique artifact recovered from the site is a patriotic cuff link produced during the French and Indian War (1755 to 1762). The motto on the link “Success to the British Fleet,” also appears on delftware punch bowls of the period.



Reconstructing “Lord Mayor’s Tenement”

Willie Graham, an accomplished and respected architectural historian with the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, drafted detailed plans for Lord Mayor’s Tenement, the first building in the London Town historic village (calendar cover). Graham designed the two-story, two-room earthfast structure using the project’s archaeological grid map and supporting field research.



(Lord Mayor’s photos, Ward Brockett.)



Russ Steele, a North Carolina master housewright, directed the reconstruction effort, enlisting the support of the Annapolis Woodworkers Guild and community volunteers. The opportunity to observe skilled craftsmen work with early tools and natural materials has provided fascinating insights into colonial architecture and life in the early Chesapeake.

The Lord Mayor’s Tenement is an important educational tool at Historic London Town and Gardens. A working kitchen and hearth are used for colonial cooking demonstrations, which include vegetables and fruit grown in the nearby gardens. Russ and his volunteers are now preparing to reconstruct another town dwelling, the William Brown Carpenter Shop.

