

SUMMER 2005 HOLLOW STABILIZATION REPORT #4, August 29, 2005

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REPAIRING THE HOLLOW DWELLING STEP BY STEP, *continued* -

1. The new east hearth girt received consolidates in the checked north end and tenon. The wide tenon will need two wooden pegs to fasten it into the sill mortise, and one of these treenails will travel through the consolidated check with less potential of the end splitting off. The splicing of new bottoms onto all of the remaining in situ studs as well as the sawing and adzing of false tenons on some and the corner posts on the north wall continued to near completion. Although it made them more difficult to work on, APVA carpenter Mike Adams left eight of the thirteen studs hanging from the first-floor girt to avoid removing interior paneling, especially that in small pieces behind the stairs and beside the back door.
2. Stonemasons Edward Ashby, Miguel, Francisco & Alejandro returned to further masonry work on 8/25.
 - A.) Gap at SW front corner of south foundation - they disassembled the failed foundation to the ground in the cellar, then dug a deeper footing two feet below the frost line, poured in a cement footer and wrote 2005 in the top. This new footing will support the foundation they will restore up to the sill here, using clay, lime and sand mortar. The new structurally-sound corner will join on the east the six-foot wide section of the period-one foundation that is the only safe, solid portion remaining of the 1763-64 masonry wall. Plans are to leave this six-foot section intact with some repointing using matching lime putty to distinguish it as original from the redder clay-colored 2005 mortar.
 - B.) The stonemasons removed the rest of the east side foundation, dug a footer down two-feet below the frost line and poured a cement footing to support the wall they will rebuild using clay, lime and sand mortar at this end. Cinder block piers temporarily serve as supports for the east girt that Mike inserted and the connecting summer beam. The SE corner of the foundation remains in place as support for the joining front and side sills at this time. Edward plans to remove this unstable corner and again dig new deeper footers, pour cement and rebuild the wall perhaps finishing in week twelve, depending upon the status of work on the east side.
 - C.) Francisco raised his new front foundation, site of the gap shown in Report 3, higher.



SW front corner of the foundation and the dated cement footer in the right photograph, 25 August 2005. Note the projecting stones at the left-west of the hole in the west-end foundation represent a Portland cement reconstruction of the corner. The stonemasons will be removing this failing and improperly-built corner and restoring the foundation using the proper clay, lime putty and sand mortar in the coming weeks. The only solid section of the period-one foundation is shown to the right-east of the gap. This is the original portion that will remain with the only intervention of repointing in matching light mortar.



East side after further removal of deteriorated foundation, 25 August 2005. Miguel on the right has laid two broken clay pipes and an 1806 US draped bust large penny on the cement footer for the photographer to show the linear location where he found the artifacts in the soil. Outside in the sunlight, a wooden crochet ball, wet stones and a large nail may be seen. Photographs of the pipes are shown on the last page. APVA archaeologists can date through measurement of the pipe stems, and the larger pipe has a maker's signature: "Gambier Paris *M". J. Gambier established a pipe-making factory in Paris in the late eighteenth century, how late remains under study.

4. The previously started mortises to receive the original floor joists in the new sill were chiseled to a finish. Several narrow stud mortises were drilled and chiseled out to complete the rectangular opening. Starting on Wednesday, August 24th and stopping on the 25th, Mike put his last signature adzing stroke to this significant framing member on the cellar inside plane.
5. August 25, 2005 – Edward, Mike, Francisco, Miguel and Alejandro moved the new band-sawn, partly adzed and mortised white oak sill into its nearly final position on the north back elevation. It took them just forty minutes before they stepped back and admired their impressive feat. Mike has a few more mortises to cut for studs that were removed from the girt and by the middle or end of the last week of August, the sill and its uprights and downbraces should be ready for joining.



Using a log cart in the left view above, Edward and Mike are rolling the new white oak south sill down the line to the back of the building. In the right view, Alejandro and Miguel have joined their labors to the hefty task, August 25, 2005.

Miguel and Alejandro share the weight burden at the west end in the left picture. Alejandro assists Edward as he forces the sill back to the west to more closely align with the corner post position Mike is watching, 8/25/2005.



Mike has to lift the west end while the timber is being driven toward him. The photograph on the right shows the sill where Mike wants it to finish the ends of the studs.





During inspection of the front portion of the west side chimney sill, the period-one carpenter's patch of a mistakenly-placed downbrace mortise was discovered. The infill block of wood was just set loosely into the mortise. Also of interest, there should be a stud between the corner post and the left downbrace as there is at the north side of the chimney, but there is no evidence of a smaller mortise for one.



Views of the clay pipes. Balancing the pipe, the 1806 large cent is lying on a Baltimore-Markham railway token. The 1953 Danish dime was lying on the ground in front of the house where the demolished two-story dwelling stood.