

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE
SOUTH PORTICO AT GERRARD HALL ON THE
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
AT CHAPEL HILL CAMPUS**

by

R. P. Stephen Davis, Jr.
and
Brett H. Riggs

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ABSTRACT

Archaeological investigations were undertaken between October 1, 2005 and January 27, 2006 at Gerrard Hall (31OR567**; RLA-Or 445) on the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill campus, Orange County, North Carolina. Gerrard Hall was constructed between 1822 and 1837, and is the fifth oldest building on the UNC campus. Archaeological research was prompted by the planned renovation of Gerrard Hall, and its specific objectives were to: (1) expose and document the foundations of a portico which stood on the south side of the building from its construction until about 1900; and (2) identify and sample archaeological deposits associated with and perhaps predating Gerrard Hall.

An excavation of six one-meter squares, supplemented by subsurface detection using a steel soil probe, was sufficient to determine the placement and overall configuration of the portico foundation, despite numerous recent disturbances and the fact that the foundation now supports a modern brick wall. The second goal was only partially achieved, in that light construction debris was discovered near the top of a sand fill within the portico footprint but no intact soils other than subsoil were encountered. Given these results, no additional archaeological investigation is recommended.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Over six days between October 31, 2005, and January 27, 2006, staff and students of the Research Laboratories of Archaeology undertook an archaeological investigation at Gerrard Hall (31OR567**; RLA-Or 445) on the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill campus, Orange County, North Carolina (Figures 1 and 2). The archaeological investigation was prompted by the planned renovation of Gerrard Hall, which will restore the building's interior, add central air conditioning, and reconstruct the south portico which was torn down about 1900 (Figures 3 and 4). The purpose of the investigation was to: (1) expose and document the original portico foundations; and (2) sample archaeological deposits beneath the original portico which might contain artifacts and other materials associated with and perhaps predating Gerrard Hall.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

As a contributing structure in the Chapel Hill Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, Gerrard Hall is one of the oldest buildings on the University of North Carolina campus. It was built between 1822 and 1837, and is located beside South Building near the center of the original campus. Because of financial difficulties in 1825, work on the building was halted and did not resume until a decade later. Its completion in 1837 was made possible by the sale of land donated to the university by Major Charles Gerrard (Allcott 1986:26).

At the time of its construction, the campus consisted of only five buildings—Old East, Person Hall, South Building, Steward's Hall (the first dining hall), and the

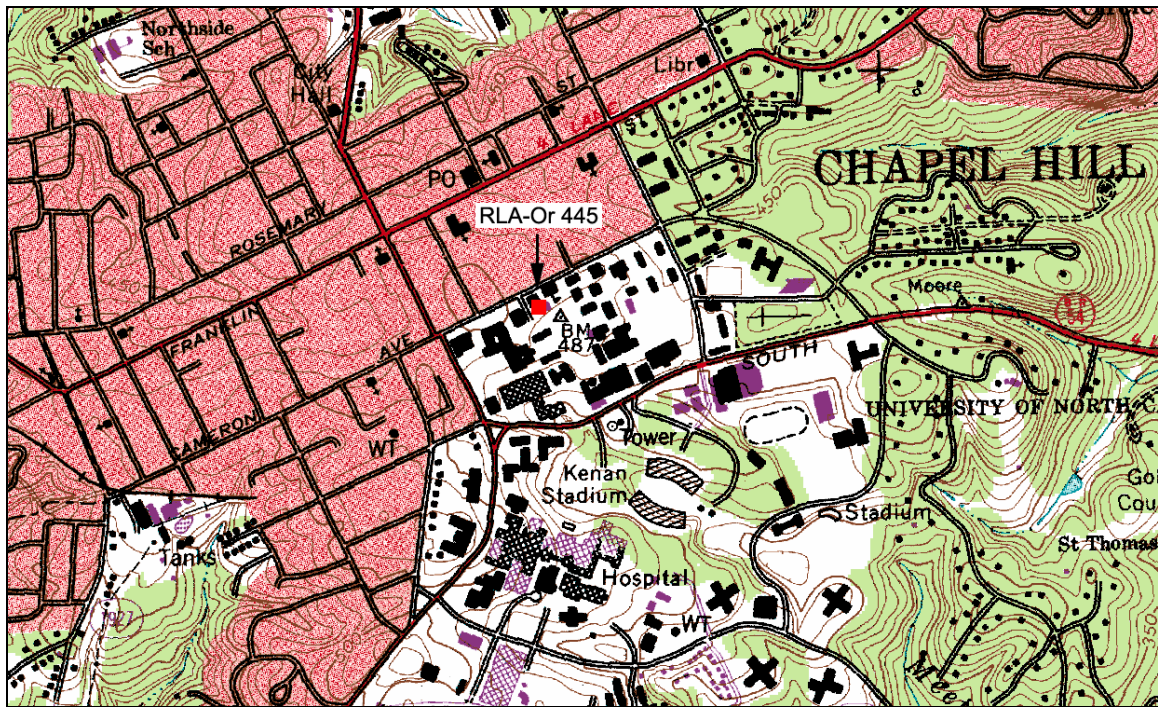


Figure 1. Section of the Chapel Hill USGS 7.5' quadrangle showing the location of site (31OR567**;
RLA-Or 445) (UTM 17/675807/3975658).

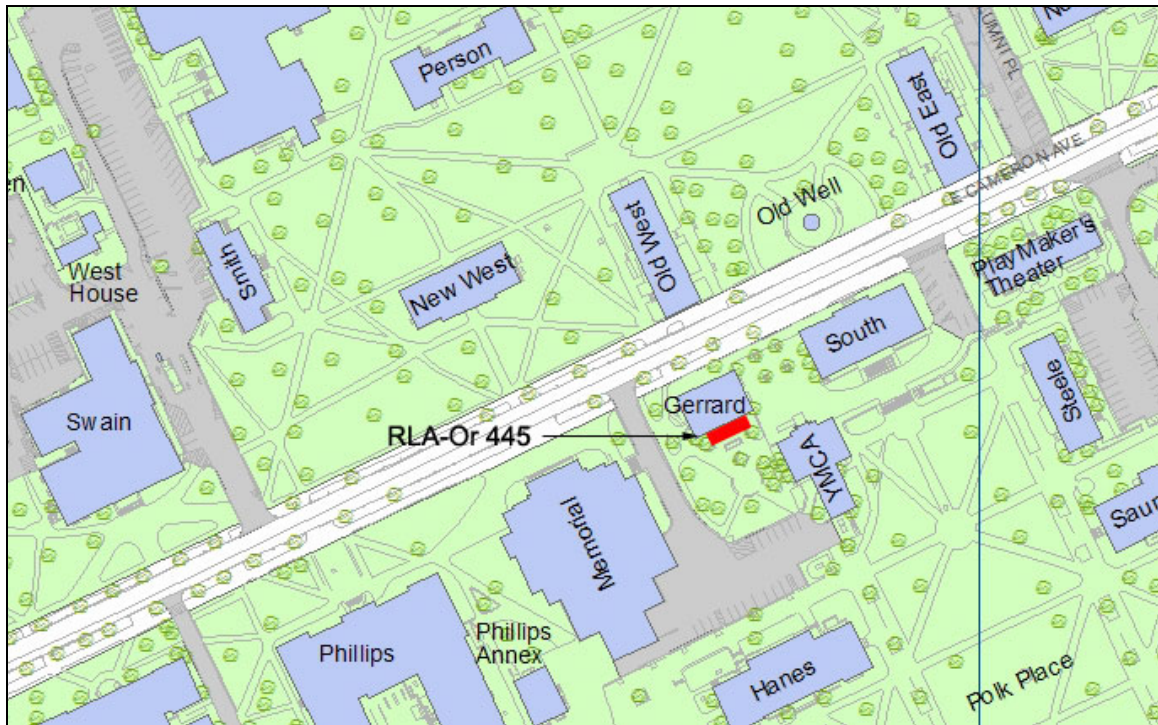


Figure 2. Map of the central campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill showing the location of Gerrard Hall and the archaeological remains of the south portico (31OR567**;
RLA-Or 445) (in red). North is to the top of drawing. Courtesy of UNC Facilities Services.



Figure 3. View of Gerrard Hall in the late 1800s, before removal of the south portico (from Battle 1907:280). Note the central doorway beneath the portico. View to the northeast.

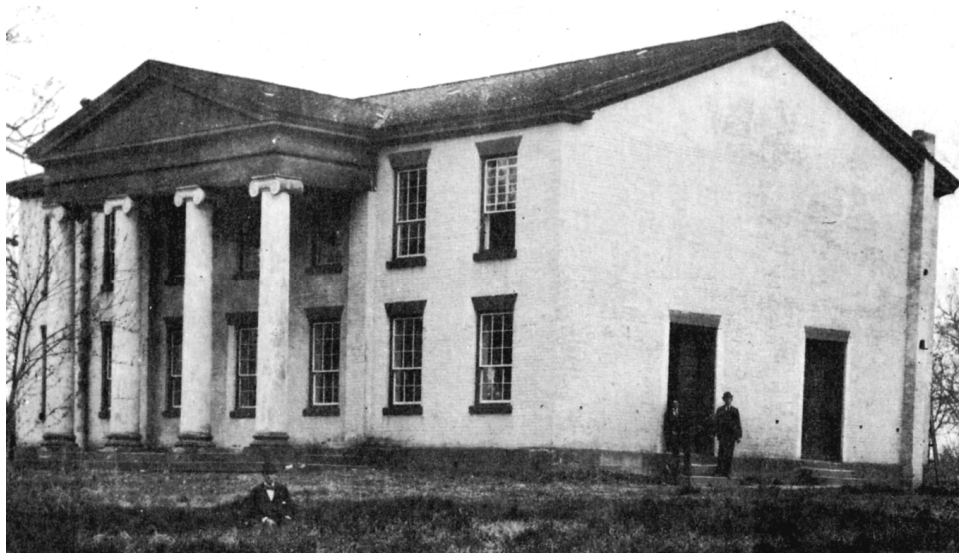


Figure 4. View of Gerrard Hall in about 1900, before removal of the south portico but after the portico doorway had been abandoned (from Powell 1979:114). The two doors on the east side (at right) apparently were not part of the original design (despite Henderson's [1949:89] statement to the contrary) and do not appear in early drawings of the building (see Powell 1979:44, 75). View to the northwest.

President's House. The latter two structures are no longer standing. Old West, which stands opposite the Old Well from Old East and across Cameron Avenue from Gerrard Hall, also was constructed in 1822. Gerrard Hall originally was built to replace Person Hall as the university chapel and for a time was known as New Chapel. It now serves the campus as a small lecture hall.

The construction of Gerrard Hall was part of a larger project that included the building of Old West and renovations to South Building. According to Kemp P. Battle (1907:281–282), the faculty were opposed to this early expansion of the campus, arguing instead that money should be spent purchasing “books and apparatus.” In a letter to the trustees, Professor Elisha Mitchell (quoted in Battle 1907:281) remarked that “The first impression of enlightened strangers is uniformly favorable. But when we show them our library and inform them that we have little or no philosophical apparatus, we sink even more than is reasonable in their estimation.”

The original construction plan, proposed by President Joseph Caldwell in 1821, called for three new buildings—two along the south side of Cameron Avenue just west of South Building and one to the north, near current Swain Hall, and facing Old East. The purpose of this plan was to create a southern approach to the campus and included the realignment of the existing road from Raleigh. According to Allcott (1986:24), “This group of buildings would indeed have made an impressive sight for legislators and other visitors arriving from Raleigh. But Caldwell’s plan . . . ignored the existing north–south axis of the campus, and left Person Hall standing alone by itself.”

When architect William Nichols was subsequently hired to design and implement the new construction, he proposed an alternate plan which preserved the north–south axis and also created a southern “face” for the campus. His plan called for three new buildings—Old West, Gerrard Hall, and Smith Hall (now Playmakers Theatre)—as well as renovations to South Building and construction of a belfry near the present site of the Old Well. A more appealing southern approach to campus was to be created by building south-facing porticos on Gerrard and Smith halls.

Construction began on both Gerrard Hall and Old West in 1822; however, Smith Hall, designed by Alexander Jackson Davis with an east-facing rather than south-facing portico, was not built until 1850. During the 1840s, Davis also designed and

implemented other changes to the campus plan, including north extensions to both Old East and Old West, and he proposed additional changes to Gerrard Hall which were never carried out. One of these was to add a west-facing portico to this building in order to match the portico he planned for the east end of Smith Hall.

This apparently has created some confusion as to who designed and built Gerrard Hall's south portico, and when it was built (see Henderson 1949:88–89; Powell 1979:75; Schumann 1985:87). According to Archibald Henderson (1949:88),

Gerrard Hall was the plainest of brick structures, with an unattractive hip-roof, the eaves barely projecting beyond the walls, plain rectangular windows, and doors at the east front which were mere openings in the wall. Because of the proposed new highway, the Trustees decided to have Gerrard Hall face to the south; and the services of a skilled architect were required to draft plans for a remodeled structure with southern exposure.... [Alexander Jackson] Davis, a meticulous and talented draftsman, a versatile designer, and already famous as a leading spirit in the Greek Revival of architecture in the United States, was engaged to undertake the work of remodeling Gerrard Hall.... The portico, according to Davis, was completed in 1844.

Following Henderson's lead, Schumann (1985:87) depicts Gerrard Hall as "the ugly duckling of the campus which architects tried to transform into a swan with Greek Revival adornments in 1844, only to have the trimmings ripped off by a later generation."

Others, including John Allcott and Ford Peatross, attribute the portico's design and construction to William Nichols, the original architect, and this position is supported by documentary evidence and extant architectural details, both of which indicate that the portico was part of the original design and was constructed at the same time as the rest of the building. According to Peatross (1979:12–13),

The portico of "New Chapel", modeled after the Temple on the Illissus as recorded by Stuart and Revett, has generally been attributed to A. J. Davis. That Nichols was practicing in a full Greek Revival idiom at this early date is confirmed, however, by both stonecarver John Robb's dated receipts for his work on the capitals and bases of that portico, and Davis' own drawings dated ca. 1849–50 for the enlargement of the building which not only show the "south portico" already in place, but also proposed repeating it on a western extension.

Allcott (1986:25–26) argues that Nichols' major contribution to the university's architecture was the introduction of Romantic Classicism, and that this is exemplified by

the New Chapel, which “evoked the spirit of ancient classical times through its Ionic portico and rectangular windows and door as in Greek architecture, the whole in ‘stone’ suggested by tan wash.”

Unfortunately, Nichols’ plan to create a southern “face” to the university campus was never carried through, and Gerrard Hall was left somewhat stranded, facing the “wrong” direction. The campus gradually expanded northward and along Cameron Avenue with the construction of Smith Hall, New East, New West, Memorial Hall, and Alumni Building, and the campus’s wooded southern edge remained just beyond Gerrard Hall’s portico. The envisioned south approach road from Raleigh was surveyed but never built (Allcott 1986:26).

By 1900, the Gerrard Hall portico had fallen into disrepair and the trustees voted to remove it. In discussing improvement to the campus in 1900-01, Battle (1912:595-596) notes:

Gerrard Hall or the Chapel was reroofed and the interior renovated. The stiff backed pews gave way to chairs, the old doors walled up and two doors opened on the east, the “bull pen” made a thing of the past. The old decayed porch and massive columns on the south side, erected when there was a futile effort to make the University plant front the south, were pulled down. Intimation was given that they would be re-erected over the eastern doors, but the intention has been delayed, if not abandoned.

Today, Gerrard Hall is a small, plain, two-story brick building measuring 66.2 ft by 45.1 ft (20.2 m by 13.8 m), and it rests on a foundation of dressed stones set in a builder’s trench (Figures 5 and 6). Consequently, it was assumed that the portico was similarly constructed and that the basal members of that foundation should have survived any subsequent ground disturbances. Given Gerrard Hall’s age and location near the heart of the original campus, it was expected that an excavation would yield artifacts from the earliest years of the university and could provide insights into the life of the university community at that time.

Initial mapping and an examination of historical photographs indicated that the portico covered an area of about 30 sq meters along the south wall of Gerrard Hall. Two extant pilasters spaced 8.2 m (26.85 ft) apart (center to center) on the south wall mark the portico’s east and west sides, and photographs indicate that the front of the portico roof,



Figure 5. View of the north side of Gerrard Hall looking across Cameron Avenue.



Figure 6. View of south side of Gerrard Hall where the portico once stood. Note the brick pilasters. The area of excavation is between the building and the low brick wall.

supported by four large Ionic columns, was located about 3.26 m (10.7 ft) from the building's south wall (see Figures 3 and 4).

PRELIMINARY AUGER TESTING

Preliminary subsurface testing was undertaken using a 3/4-inch diameter Oakfield soil sampling auger. The purpose of this investigation was to examine buried soils within the project area and locate the buried foundations. This work confirmed the presence of buried foundation stones at the front edge of the former portico, and also identified a deposit of relatively clean, coarse sand beneath the portico. Based on the auger samples, taken at several locations within the presumed footprint of the portico, this sand appeared to have been brought in to create an elevated platform to support the portico floor. The greater depth of the sand deposit, relative to the depth of topsoil (underlain by clay subsoil) beyond the portico's footprint, further indicated that the topsoil and upper subsoil inside the portico were removed before the sand was deposited. These results suggested that the potential for intact, artifact-bearing soils in the area once covered by the portico was much lower than initially anticipated. This was in fact borne out by later excavation.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

The excavation area lies within a 3.05-m (10-ft) wide prepared shrubbery bed between the south wall of Gerrard Hall and a bricked patio flanked by a low brick wall. Azalea bushes have been planted along this wall; larger stumps between the azaleas and Gerrard Hall attest to earlier plantings of holly trees. Several of the azaleas were removed to facilitate the fieldwork.

Prior to excavation, a grid of one-meter squares was laid out along the south wall of Gerrard Hall (Figure 7). This defined a 10 m (east–west) by 3 m (north–south) area containing 30 potential one-meter excavation units. A reference point located one meter south and one meter east of the east pilaster was assigned a grid coordinate of 100R100 and another reference point was placed 10 m to the west, and just southwest of the west pilaster, at 100R90. Both reference points, as well as all excavation unit corners, were marked with steel gutter spikes. All horizontal and vertical controls were maintained



Figure 7. Laying out the first excavation units at Gerrard Hall.



Figure 8. Cleaning Squares 99R99 and 99R100 at the base of Level 2. View to southeast.

with a laser transit, or total station, and the 100R90 reference point was used as the transit station. Excavation units were designated by the coordinate of their southeast corners. The surface elevation of the 100R100 point was assigned an arbitrary elevation of 100.00 m, and all subsequent elevation readings were relative to that point.

Based upon the preliminary investigation of the project area, the first two excavation units were laid out over the east edge of the original portico (Squares 99R99 and 99R100). These units were excavated simultaneously by natural level and all excavated soil was dry-screened through ¼-inch mesh to retrieve artifacts (Figure 8).

Squares 99R99 and 99R100, Level 1

The uppermost soil in Squares 99R99 and 99R100, designated Level 1, was a dark brown humus layer deposited by university landscapers and extended from 10 cm to 14 cm below the ground surface. Level 1 (in both units) contained several recent artifacts, including 19 window glass fragments, 12 glass bottle and jar fragments, one lamp glass fragment, a piece of pressed-molded glass, three wire nails, a brick fragment, a 1991 quarter, and a 1992 penny. Also found (but not kept) were aluminum pull tabs, a rubber shoe heel, numerous pieces of window glazing, and plastic snack wrappers.

Squares 99R99 and 99R100, Level 2

At the base of Level 1, the soil abruptly changed to a mottled yellowish brown sand that was designated Level 2. It was 8–14 cm thick and contained a brass screw, two cut nails, seven wire nails, 85 window glass fragments, 17 bottle fragments, 1 whiteware sherd, 2 stoneware sherds, two coal fragments, and five small brick fragments. As with the soil in Level 1, this soil represents recently deposited fill. At the south edge of both excavation units, it capped the top of a utility trench containing telephone lines (Figures 9 and 10).

Squares 99R99 and 99R100, Feature 1

Within Sq. 99R100 and the east half of Sq. 99R99, Level 2 was underlain by a large soil disturbance that was designated Feature 1. Because it lay directly south of the east pilaster, it was initially interpreted as part of the filled-in builder's trench for the



Figure 9. Photographic mosaic of Squares 99R99 and 99R100 at the base of Level 2. North is to the top of photo. Excavation measures 1 m (east-west) by 2 m (north-south).

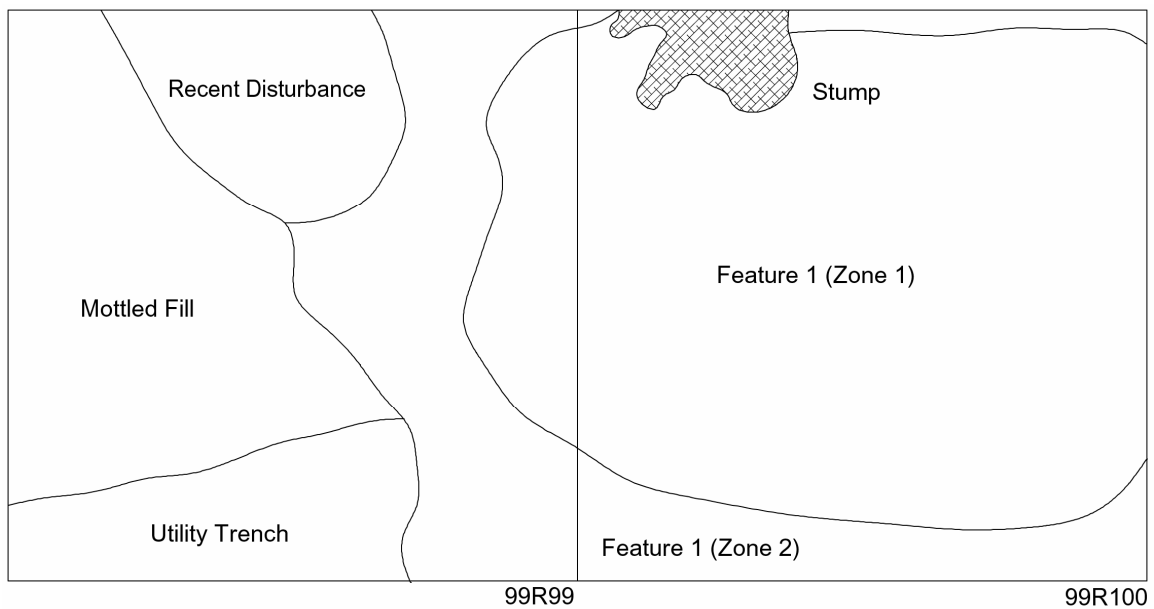


Figure 10. Excavation plan of Squares 99R99 and 99R100 at the base of Level 2. North is to the top of drawing. Excavation measures 1 m (east-west) by 2 m (north-south).

portico; however, it also turned out to be a recent disturbance. A mottled yellowish brown sandy fill, nearly identical to soil in Level 2, covered the top of Feature 1 in Sq. 99R100 and was removed as Zone 1. Zone 1 was only about 10 cm thick and represents Level 2 slump into the top of the feature. It contained six cut nails, 11 window glass fragments, eight bottle fragments, eight brick fragments, three pieces of coal, and 23 coal slag fragments.

Beneath Zone 1, and at the western edge of Feature 1 in Sq. 99R99, the fill was a dark brown silty sand mottled with clayey sand. This soil was designated Zone 2. Zone 2 was excavated to a depth of about 10 cm, at which point the feature became much smaller and better defined as a roughly square, 80-cm by 80-cm disturbance with rounded corners. Most of the artifacts recovered from the Gerrard Hall excavation came from this zone and include: eight whiteware sherds, two stoneware sherds, one lead-glazed earthenware sherd, 104 window glass, 35 bottle and jar glass fragments, seven lamp glass fragments, one press-molded glass fragment, one glass tumbler fragment, 12 wire nails, two cut nails, 10 unidentified iron fragments, two window glazing fragments, two roofing slate fragments, 22 brick fragments, nine pieces of coal, 42 pieces of slag, and one prehistoric stone flake.

The edges of Feature 1 at the base of Zone 2 were distinct, and the south edge intruded the trench containing telephone lines at the south edge of Sq. 99R100. Both characteristics, as well as the artifact content of Zone 2, indicate that Feature 1 was a modern disturbance. Zone 3 was augered to a depth of about 50 cm without hitting the bottom, so it was decided not to excavate this feature any further (Figures 11 and 12).

Squares 99R99 and 99R100, Recent Disturbance

Although excavation within Feature 1 was terminated, three distinct archaeological deposits remained within Squares 99R99 and 99R100. The first of these, initially observed at the base of Level 2 and actually intruding the west edge of Feature 1, was a small (30 cm diameter), roughly circular, recent disturbance with distinct edges. It was filled with brown silty sand and was 20 cm deep. Artifacts recovered from this fill consisted of one wire nail, one window glass fragment, and a piece of ceramic tile.



Figure 11. Photographic mosaic of Squares 99R99 and 99R100 after removing Zones 1 and 2 of Feature 1. North is to the top of photo. Excavation measures 1 m (east-west) by 2 m (north-south).

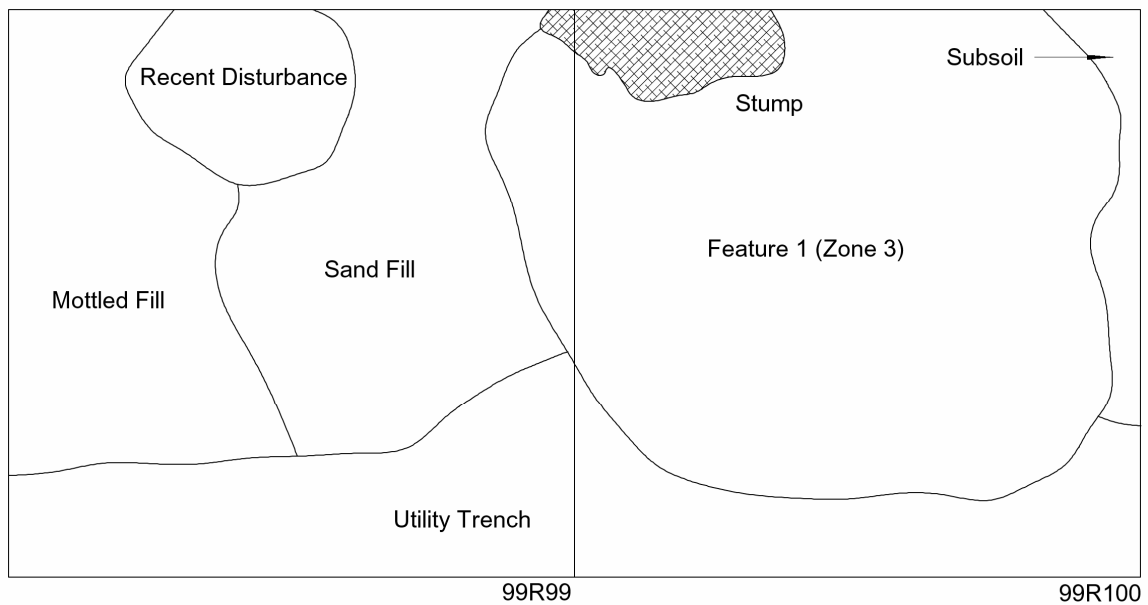


Figure 12. Excavation plan of Squares 99R99 and 99R100 after removing Zones 1 and 2 of Feature 1. North is to the top of drawing. Excavation measures 1 m (east-west) by 2 m (north-south).

Squares 99R99 and 99R100, Mottled Lens

Beneath Level 2 in the west half of Square 99R99 and the west edge of Zone 2 within Feature 1 was a lens of mottled fill consisting of reddish yellow sandy clay, brownish yellow clayey sand, and brown silty sand. This lens was 10–15 cm thick, and 12 window glass fragments and a large stone-dressing flake were found while excavating it. This soil lens likely represents spoil dirt from a nearby builder's trench and rested upon a thick layer of coarse sand fill. This fill is associated with the construction of the portico and will be discussed later.

Squares 99R99 and 99R100, Utility Trench #1

Finally, a linear disturbance comprised of mixed reddish yellow sandy clay, dark brown silty sand, and brownish yellow clayey sand extended across the south edges of both excavation units. It was intruded by the south edge of Feature 1 and initially was thought to be a filled-in builder's trench. It was later discovered to be a utility trench that contained active telephone lines. Consequently, it was not excavated.

Squares 98R99 and 98R100, Exposing the Stone Foundations

Once it was determined that Feature 1 was a modern disturbance and that none of the archaeological deposits exposed within Squares 99R99 and 99R100 represented the remains of the portico foundation, it was decided to excavate the two units to the south, designated Squares 98R99 and 98R100. These units are located where the portico's southeast column stood. Given that all of the upper deposits (i.e., Levels 1 and 2, Feature 1, and the utility trench) in the first two units were of modern origin, these soils were removed without sifting. The uppermost stones of the column foundation were encountered at about 97.7R99, 10 cm below surface at the base of Level 1 (Figure 13). At this level, the south halves of both units contained a light brown mottled fill which, upon further excavation, turned out to be a second utility trench for a telephone line (designated Utility Trench #2). Because this utility trench had been dug atop the foundation for the front of the portico, most of the upper foundation stones had been removed. Despite this, the two-inch diameter steel pipe containing the telephone line was only about 20 cm below surface.



Figure 13. Top of foundation partially exposed in Squares 98R99 and 98R100. View to north.



Figure 14. Excavating around the foundation in Squares 98R99 and 98R100. View to west.

The remaining disturbed fill overlying the foundation was then removed with shovels and trowels (Figure 14). This soil was not screened. While the upper surface of the foundation was very irregular due to intrusive disturbances, all basal members were present, so that a complete outline of the foundation's north edge and east end could be determined. It was not possible to determine the south edge because the foundation extended beneath the low brick wall at the edge of the shrubbery bed. Where the upper stones had been removed, the stone surfaces beneath them were covered with a lime-and-sand mortar. This mortar also was observed in all visible joints between foundation stones. Other loose stones flanked the north edge of the foundation and provide a suggestive outline for a builder's trench; however, the fill beneath them was uniform and no trench edge could be identified (Figures 15 and 16).

The configuration of the stones set in mortar indicates that the portico columns were supported by square footers measuring almost 4 ft by 4 ft and connected by a 2–3 ft wide foundation. Later excavation beneath Feature 1, as well as systematic soil probing where the west end of the portico stood, revealed that both the east and west sides of the portico also were supported by stone foundations.

Squares 98R97 and 98R98, Tracing the Foundation

In order to determine if the interior columns were similarly supported by large square footers, two additional one-meter units were excavated to the west of Square 98R99. These were excavated in a manner similar to Squares 98R99 and 98R100. All soil was removed to expose the foundation stones, and this soil, representing modern disturbances, was not sifted (Figures 17, 18, and 19). The only artifact retrieved while exposing the foundation stones in these units was a 1909 Lincoln penny that fell out of the disturbed fill overlying the foundation (and beneath the low brick wall) at about 98.0R97.5.

The excavation of Utility Trench #2 along the top of the foundation also resulted in the removal of the upper stones in these units, but the basal stones were still intact. Utility Trench #1's construction resulted in more extensive disturbance of the second column footer; however, the basal members of this column support also were present. Interestingly, a section of what appears to be a boxed-in wooden conduit was exposed



Figure 15. Squares 98R99, 98R100, 99R99, and 99R100 with foundation exposed. View to southeast.



Figure 16. Photographic mosaic of Squares 98R99, 98R100, 99R99, and 99R100 after exposing the top of the portico foundation. North is to the top of photo. Excavation measures 2 m (east-west) by 2 m (north-south).



Figure 17. Expanding the excavation to the west to expose the portico foundation. Note that the low brick wall flanking the brick patio to the south was built upon the old foundation. View to southwest.



Figure 18. Photographic mosaic of Squares 98R97 and 98R98 after removing disturbed fill above the stone foundation for the south portico. Note the disturbed mottled fill from Utility Trench #1 at the top edge of the photograph. The steel pipe conduit crossing the top of the foundation was placed in Utility Trench #2. North is to the top of photo. Excavation measures 1 m (east-west) by 2 m (north-south).



Figure 19. Photographic mosaic of the completed excavation with foundation stones and rubble in place. North is to the right of photo. Excavation measures 4 m (east-west) by 2 m (north-south).



Figure 20. Cleaning the exposed portico foundation. View to east.



Figure 21. Composite photograph of the completed excavation, showing the southeast corner column foundation (at left) and the adjacent interior column foundation (at right). View to the south.

within Utility Trench #1 at the north edge of Square 98R97. Because it extended beyond the excavation, it was not explored further.

Once Squares 98R97 and 98R98 were completed, the entire exposed foundation was re-cleaned and all remaining rubble was removed (Figure 20). At the west end of the excavation, disturbed mottled fill associated with Utility Trench #1 was removed in order to expose the basal stones of the foundation that supported the interior column adjacent to the southeast corner column (Figure 21). This phase of cleaning revealed the original configuration of the portico's foundation (Figure 22).

Sand Deposit Beneath the Portico Floor

The mottled lens excavated in Square 99R99 covered a zone of yellowish brown, coarse sandy fill (Figure 23). At the top of this fill were a few small fragments of handmade brick and more numerous fragments of oyster shell. This fill was excavated in two zones, separated from one another by a thin band of reddish brown silt, and all of the fill was screened through ¼-inch mesh. Although about 30 cm of this fill zone was excavated, the artifacts were recovered from only the upper 10–15 cm. Excavation was terminated about 5–10 cm above the top of sandy clay subsoil (as indicated by probing with a soil auger).



Figure 22. Photographic mosaic of the completed excavation and portico foundation with rubble removed, but prior to removing the base (Zone 3) of Feature 1 (at lower right). North is to the right of photo. Excavation measures 4 m (east-west) by 2 m (north-south).



Figure 23. View of the west wall soil profile of Square 99R99, after removing the sand deposit that lay beneath the portico floor.

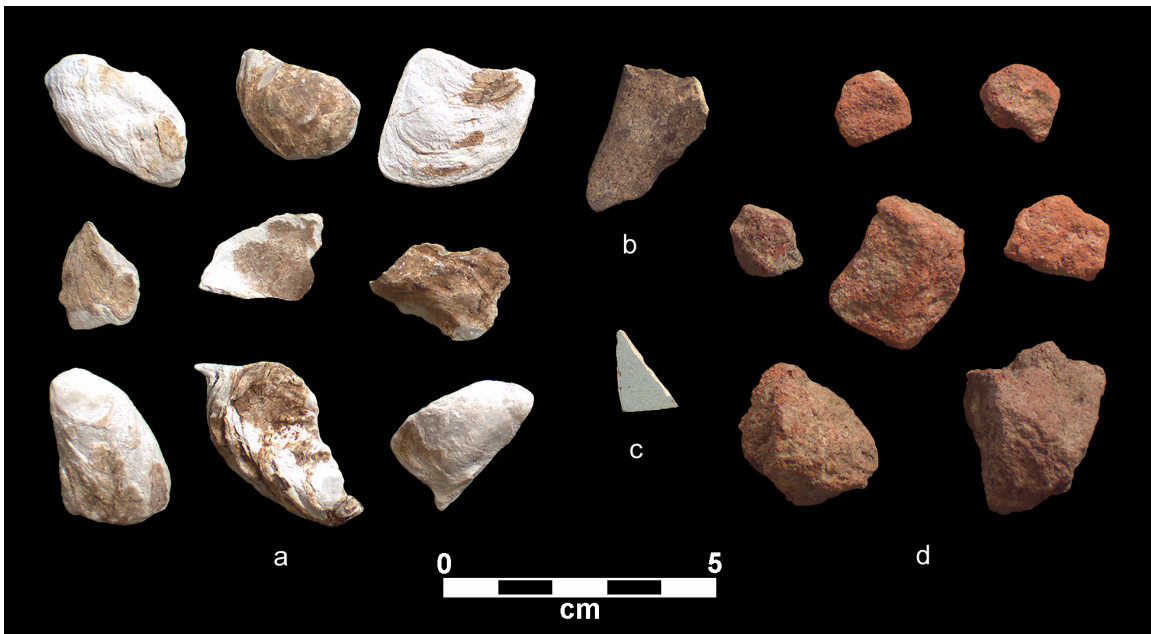


Figure 24. Artifacts recovered from the upper half of the sand deposit in Square 99R99: (a) oyster shell fragments; (b) animal bone; (c) pearlware sherd; and (d) handmade brick fragments. These artifacts likely date to the period of Gerrard Hall's construction.

The artifacts recovered from the coarse sandy fill include a small piece of thin window glass, a pearlware sherd, an animal bone fragment, 13 handmade brick fragments, 64 oyster shell fragments, and a prehistoric stone flake. These artifacts, with the exception of the stone flake, all appear to date to the period of construction, and the brick and shell (i.e., source of lime for the mortar) fragments likely are directly associated with the construction of Gerrard Hall (Figure 24).

These findings indicate that the original topsoil beneath the portico was removed (to a depth of about 80 cm below the present ground surface) and replaced with clean, coarse sand prior to the construction of the portico and prior to the completion of masonry work at Gerrard Hall. This sand probably was brought in originally to be used in making mortar. Because the top of the sand fill is well below the level necessary to support the elevated floor of the portico, it likely was capped by either fill dirt or rubble to create a suitable base. This overlying material would have been removed when the portico was demolished near the beginning of the twentieth century.

Additional undisturbed deposits of this coarse sand were encountered between the foundation and Utility Trench #1 in Squares 98R97 and 98R98. This fill also was excavated and screened, and contained four pieces of handmade brick and 79 small fragments of oyster shell.

East and West End Foundations

Following the completion of excavation, we returned to the site to verify the absence of stone foundations connecting the east and west column foundations to Gerrard Hall's south wall. This was done using a soil probe constructed of a flexible, 3/8-inch diameter steel rod with a welded handle. The first area examined was just south of the west pilaster. Using the excavation grid, lines spaced 30 cm apart (north to south) were probed at 10 cm intervals to ascertain the presence or absence of buried foundation stones.

Soil probing identified a continuous distribution of buried stones between the west pilaster and the projected location of the west column. Most of these stones were encountered from 30 cm to 60 cm below surface; however, some representing the west column foundation were less than 10 cm below surface. The distribution of buried stones

was up to 1.5 m wide, much wider than the original foundation would have been, and this suggests that considerable debris from the removal of the portico rests near the old foundation. This interpretation is consistent with the occurrence of numerous dislodged stones within the archaeological excavation around the east column foundation.

Additional probing was conducted between the archaeological excavation and the east pilaster, with similar results. This was followed up with extensive probing of Feature 1 to determine if remnants of a stone foundation lay beneath this disturbance. While in most instances the probe did not encounter buried stones, two clusters of possible foundation stones were encountered at the north and south edges of Square 99R100. Subsequent excavation of the lower portion (Zone 3) of Feature 1 revealed a foundation trench 61 cm (2 ft) wide from which most stones had been removed (Figures 25 to 27). This uniformly dug trench extended from the north wall of our excavation to the northeast side of the east column foundation. The original trench was dug to a depth of 85 cm below the present surface and extended into a stiff clay subsoil.

INTERPRETATION OF THE PORTICO FOUNDATION

The archaeological excavations at Gerrard Hall exposed most of the eastern one-third of the stone foundation that once supported the south portico. The south edge of the foundation could not be positively determined since it lay beneath the adjacent brick patio and low brick wall. Because the portico was a symmetrical structure, as revealed by early photographs (see Figures 3 and 4), the foundation most likely was also symmetrical. Consequently, the extent of the excavation is sufficient to determine the foundation's overall position and configuration.

The archaeology reveals that the portico foundation supported all three exterior sides and, together with the south wall foundation, formed a rectangular box. It consisted of a low wall, approximately 2 ft (0.61 m) wide, of field stones that was set in a 2-ft wide trench. This trench was dug to a depth of 85 cm (2.8 ft) below the present ground surface and intruded subsoil. Beneath each of the four columns, the stone foundation extended about 2 ft (0.61 m) toward Gerrard Hall, creating square piers. Stones within the foundation varied considerably in size, and the upper stones were held together with lime-and-sand mortar. None of the stones appeared to have been dressed. Although the



Figure 25. View of Square 99R100, with the builder's trench fully exposed after removing Feature 1. The trench is 61 cm (2 ft) wide and was dug to a stiff clay at 85 cm below surface. North is to the top of photo.



Figure 26. View of the east wall profile in Square 99R100, after exposing the builder's trench. The trench was dug through a sandy loam and into stiff subsoil clay. The overlying clayey fill appears to represent spoil dirt from the original trench excavation. Note the intrusion of Utility Trench #1 and the three exposed pipes containing telephone lines (at right). North is to the left of photo.



Figure 27. Photographic mosaic of the completed excavation and portico foundation with rubble and Feature 1 removed. Note the builder's trench (lower right) with only a few remaining foundation stones. North is to the right of photo. Excavation measures 4 m (east-west) by 2 m (north-south).

top of the foundation was largely missing, the flat, mortared stones at the east end of the foundation (beneath the east corner column) may represent a surface upon which dressed stone blocks were placed (see Figures 13 and 14). This stone surface was encountered less than 20 cm (0.66 ft) below the present ground surface.

The piers supporting the corner or end columns were approximately 4 ft by 4 ft (1.2 m by 1.2 m) while the piers for the two interior columns may have been slightly smaller (about 4 ft N–S by 3 ft 4 in E–W). The south edge of the foundation, representing the front of the portico's columns, was not exposed, but appears to be situated about 3.23 m (10 ft 7 in) beyond Gerrard Hall's south wall. This is based on the assumptions that the end column piers were square and that the surrounding foundation was uniformly 2 ft wide, as determined for the foundation at the east end.

The exposed foundation's position relative to the south wall of Gerrard Hall and the east pilaster along that wall is shown in Figure 28; the foundation's projected overall configuration and position with approximate dimensions are illustrated in Figure 29.

CONCLUSIONS

The overall goals of the Gerrard Hall excavation were to expose and document the remains of the portico foundation, and to identify and sample archaeological deposits that might be associated with or predate this building's period of construction. The first goal was accomplished through soil probing and the excavation of six one-meter squares, which were sufficient to determine the overall position and configuration of the foundation. As expected, the area had been extensively modified by modern activities but most of the basal elements of the foundation were undisturbed.

During the course of excavation, it was discovered that the original soil within the portico's footprint had been removed and replaced with coarse sand. Consequently, the second goal was only partially achieved, in that light construction debris was discovered near the top of this deposited sand but no intact soils other than subsoil were encountered. Furthermore, only a few of the artifacts recovered date to the general period when Gerrard Hall was built, and most of these came from the coarse sand deposit. Given these results, no additional archaeological investigation is recommended.

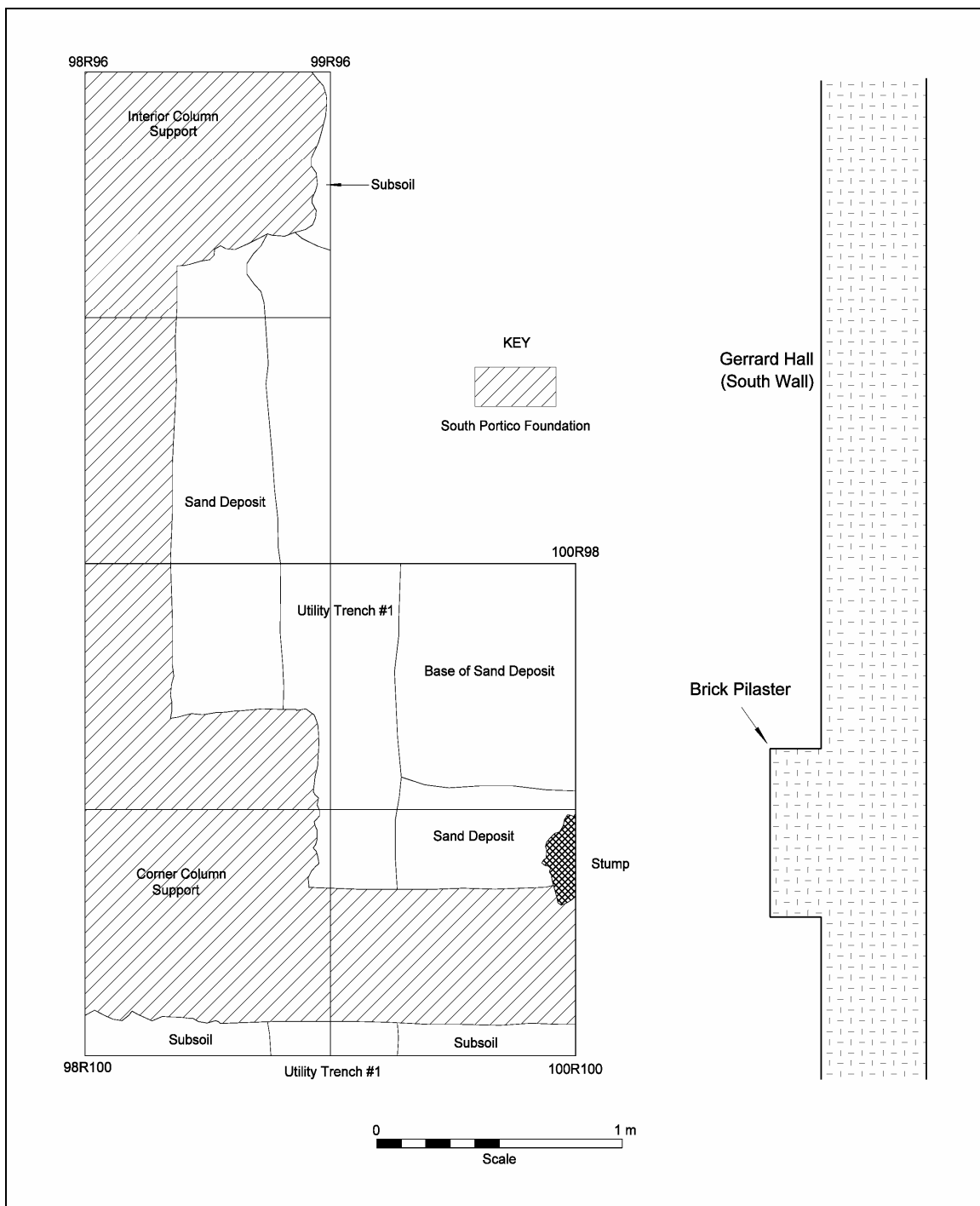


Figure 28. Final excavation plan after exposing the stone foundation and removing all dislodged rubble and overlying disturbances. North is to the right of the drawing. Excavation measures 4 m (east–west) by 2 m (north–south).

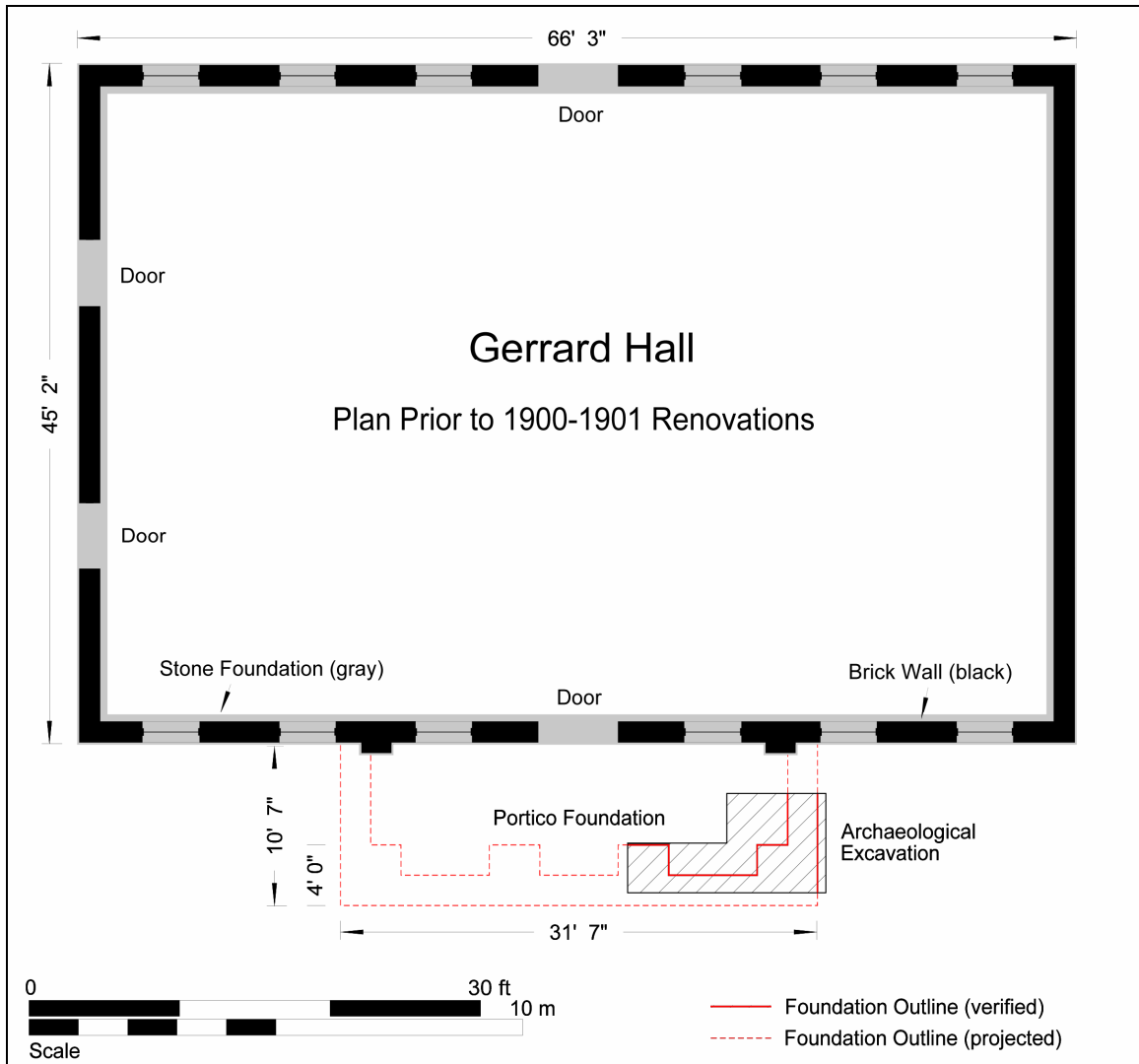


Figure 29. Plan of Gerrard Hall prior to the 1900–1901 renovations which removed the south portico, closed the north and south doorways, and created doorways on the east and west ends. The portico foundation, as revealed by archaeological excavation, is outlined in solid red. The dashed red line indicates the projected limits of the remaining foundation. North is to the top of drawing.

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