

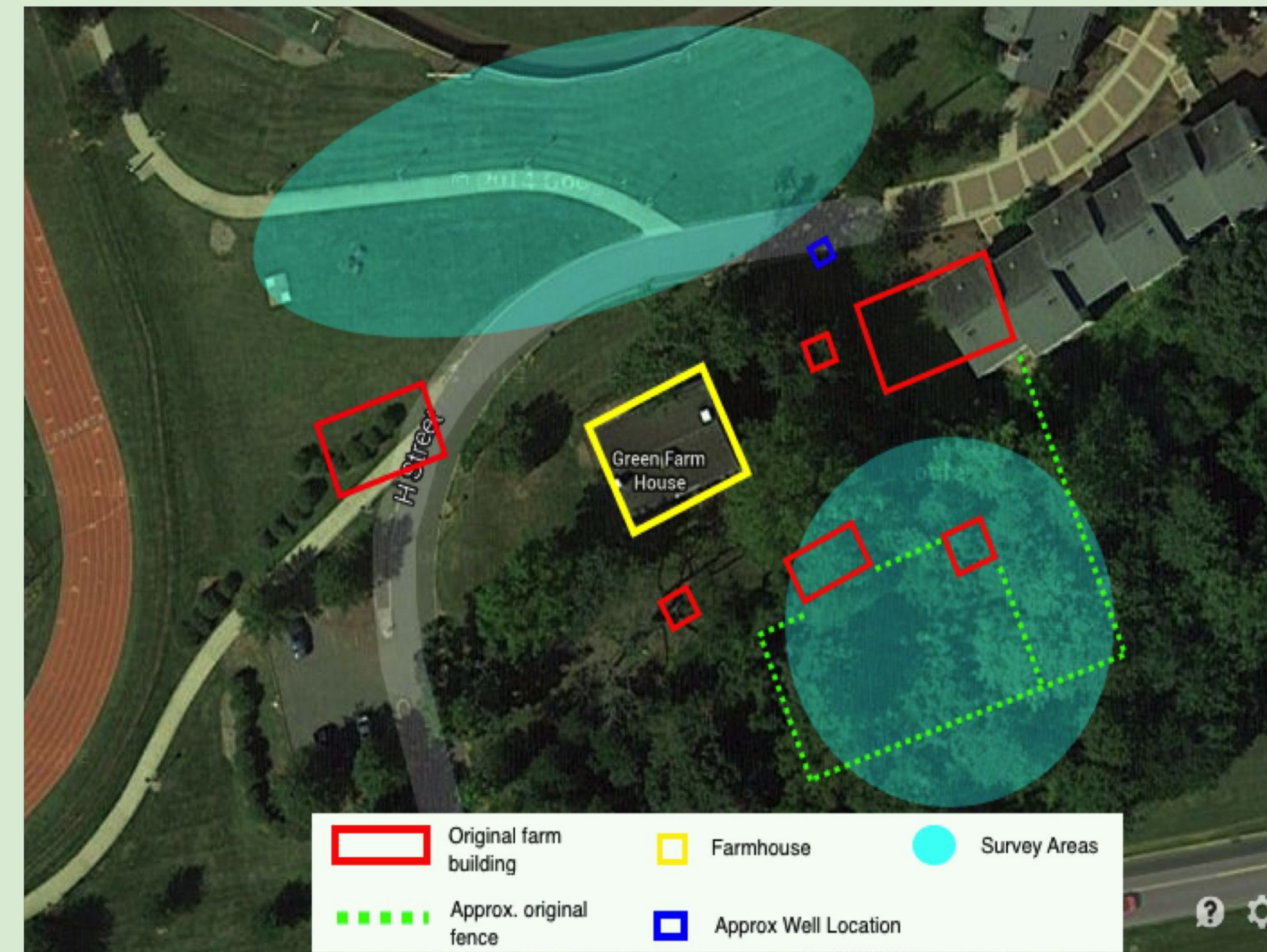
Excavations in the Southeast Yard of the William Green Plantation

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William Green Plantation

The William Green Farmhouse was built in three sections in the 1720s, 1780s, and 1830s. It is the only surviving building from the original plantation. The smokehouse stood off the southwest corner of the house, and recent efforts have continued to locate its foundation.



Original Plantation Landscape

This map shows the approximate locations of the original buildings and structures as they would have been laid out on the plantation. The exact locations of several structures are still unknown and will require more research.

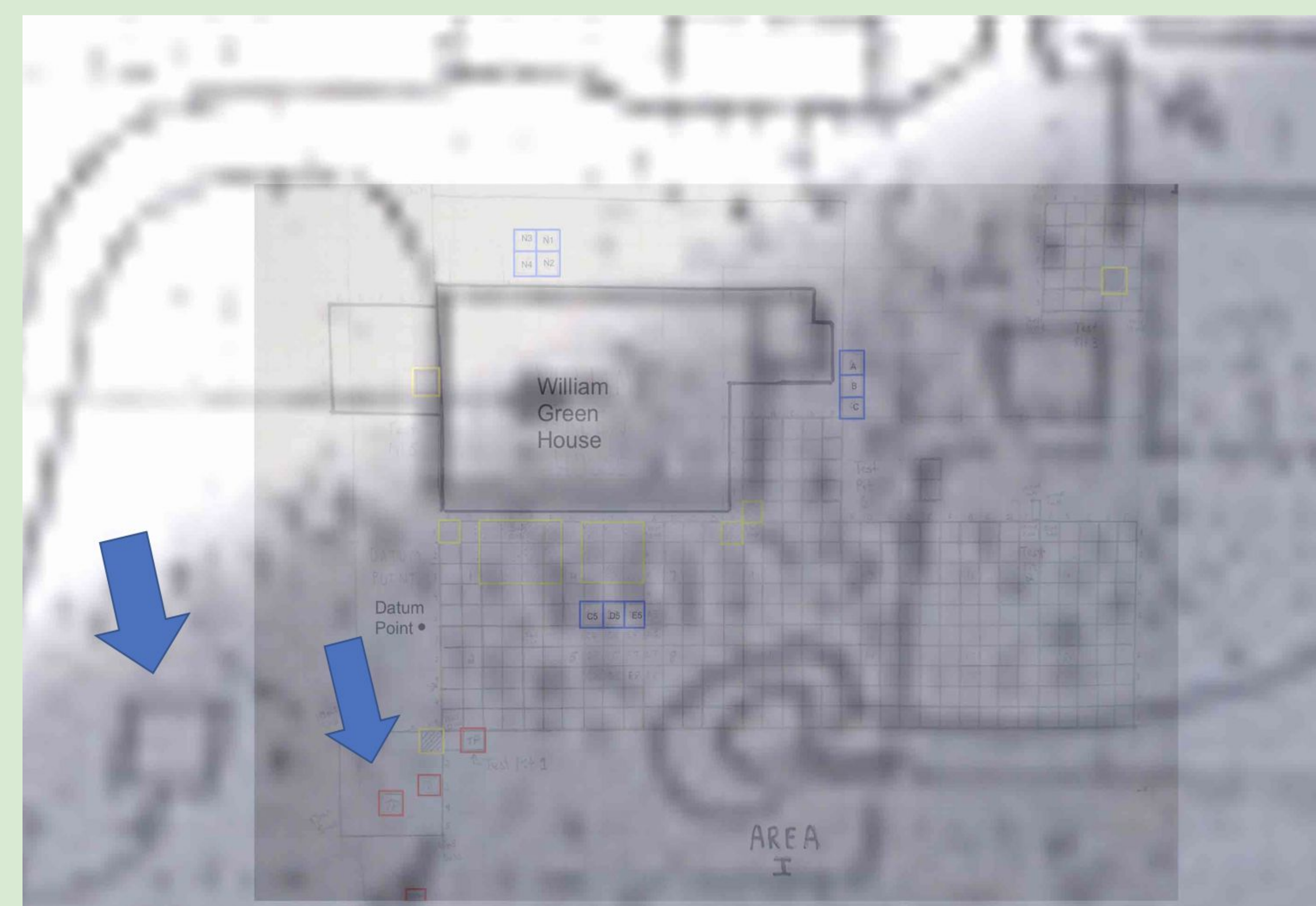
Previous Excavations

- 1990s - Professor Metz led multiple excavations in the south yard and east yard, including the barn
- 2015 - Dr. Leader led an excavation in the north, east, and south yards, including test pits in the southwest yard
- 2019 - Dr. Leader led another excavation in the east and south yard, including more test pits in the southwest yard



Methods

Grids were laid in the yard in 1 meter squares. The locations were selected carefully to try to maintain consistent with previous excavations. The squares were dug down to various depths, ranging from 10-20 cm. The test pits in the southwest yard were dug with shovels and went down to a depth of about 30-50 cm. Artifacts were collected from the squares as they were found, and more analysis needs to be performed to understand the full context of the site.



Overlaid Map with Smokehouse

This map shows the farmhouse in relation to other structures on the property.

2021 Excavations and Test Pits

In April 2021, 20 test pits were opened on the southwest side of the farmhouse in an effort to find evidence of the smokehouse. Measurements were scaled to the closest approximation based on the reference map, and test pits were dug in a loose grid formation around the area. After finding no evidence of the smokehouse (foundations, large quantities of charcoal, etc), more test pits were dug in a larger radius in the area. Other than a few artifacts, including a pipe stem and a few small ceramics, no evidence of a smokehouse or other structure was located.

So, where's the smokehouse?

Current efforts up to today have been unsuccessful in locating the foundations of the smokehouse. It is possible that when the structure was torn down, the foundations were also removed, although this is unlikely. More research and more test pits will be needed to find it.

References

- Leader, George M., and Jason Hammer. "The First Excavations of the Colonial William Green House, Ewing, New Jersey and Its Role as a Revolutionary War Billet." *Archaeological Society of New Jersey*, n.d.
- Hume, Ivor Noel. *A Guide to Artifacts of Colonial America*. Philadelphia, PA: Univ. of Pennsylvania Press, 1969.
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