

Multidisciplinary Landscape Research at Tannenbaum Historic Park, Guilford County, North Carolina

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*****Note: Full text of article below**

MULTIDISCIPLINARY LANDSCAPE RESEARCH AT TANNENBAUM HISTORIC PARK, GUILFORD COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

by
**Linda France Stine, Roy S. Stine,
and Kristen S. Selikoff**

Abstract

Interdisciplinary research demonstrates that the extant Hoskins log cabin (31GF413**), at Tannenbaum Historic Park in Greensboro, North Carolina, is located on or near an eighteenth-century house site. The Park is part of the Guilford Courthouse Battlefield National Historic Landmark and is believed to be the location where General Cornwallis formed the first British line of attack which proceeded into the current Guilford Courthouse National Military Park. Archaeology and Geography faculty and students from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro used a landscape perspective, geographic information systems, and historical archaeology to explore the occupation of this farm from the American Revolution to the present.

Background

Over the past 15 years the city of Greensboro has undergone dramatic urban development. This has threatened the cultural integrity of the Guilford Courthouse National Military Park (GUCO) and associated Tannenbaum Historic Park (THP) and Country Park. These parklands are the only protected lands that remain of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, an important turning point in the American Revolution.

Throughout 1999–2003, several related multidisciplinary research projects have been undertaken by Geography and Anthropology faculty and students at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG) in conjunction with staff from Guilford Courthouse National Military Park, the National Park Service’s Southeast Archeological Center (SEAC), and other specialists (dendrochronologist, historians) working for Tannenbaum Historic Park. In particular, UNCG geographers were asked to develop a Geographic Information System (GIS) to guide management and protection of historic, cultural, and environmental resources in and around the Guilford Courthouse National Military Park. UNCG archaeologists were asked to assess and integrate results of a previous archaeological testing project at Tannenbaum Historic Park (e.g., Abbott 1984), begin a new

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program of archaeological research at the site, and to create an archaeological protocol for that park (Stine 2000; Stine and Selikoff 2000; Stine et al. 2001).

In 2002, UNCG archaeologists were told that grading was planned near the Hoskins House (31GF413**), the extant log structure at Tannenbaum Historic Park. As 1999 fieldwork had uncovered midden and features, a program of shovel testing was planned using UNCG students (Stine and Adamson 2003). Research results at Guilford Courthouse National Military Park are reported elsewhere (Stine et al. 1999, 2001). This paper summarizes the work related to Tannenbaum Historic Park.

The Battle of Guilford Courthouse

In early 1781, American commander Nathaniel Greene chose Guilford Courthouse and environs as the place to make his stand against British forces commanded by Lord Cornwallis. Guilford Courthouse, constructed in 1771, was a well-known regional landmark. The building was located on high ground overlooking the intersection of two important transportation routes (Salisbury [New Garden] Road and Retreat [Reedy Fork] Road). A small Colonial settlement was established in the immediate vicinity of the courthouse (GUCO 1998; Hatch 1970, 1971; Ward 1976). This settlement, later renamed Martinville, served as the county seat. The nearby farmlands of Joseph Hoskins were used as a staging ground for the British troops. Hoskins' open fields were found on either side of the main road, in the uplands overlooking Horse Pen Creek (Figure 1). This map, attributed to British engineer Henry Haldane, depicts two structures south of the Old Salisbury Road, now New Garden Road (Stine and Selikoff 2000:30). Based on extensive historic research, the smaller and larger building symbols have been interpreted as Hoskins' farmhouse and an outbuilding (e.g., Hatch 1970:77-79; see also Tarleton [1787] battle map reprinted in Hatch 1970:Plate 1).

On March 15, 1781, the Battle of Guilford Courthouse began. General Greene placed his first line of defense in the wooded elevations further to the east, behind a split-rail fence. After a sharp series of exchanges, British forces broke the first line and drove forward through the forest to engage the Continental Army's second line. The British eventually pressed and broke the American third and last line in the open fields surrounding Guilford Courthouse.

The British were the victors of the two-hour battle, but the victory was bittersweet. Greene was able to escape with his men to the north, and Cornwallis lost too many men and supplies to retain an effective fighting

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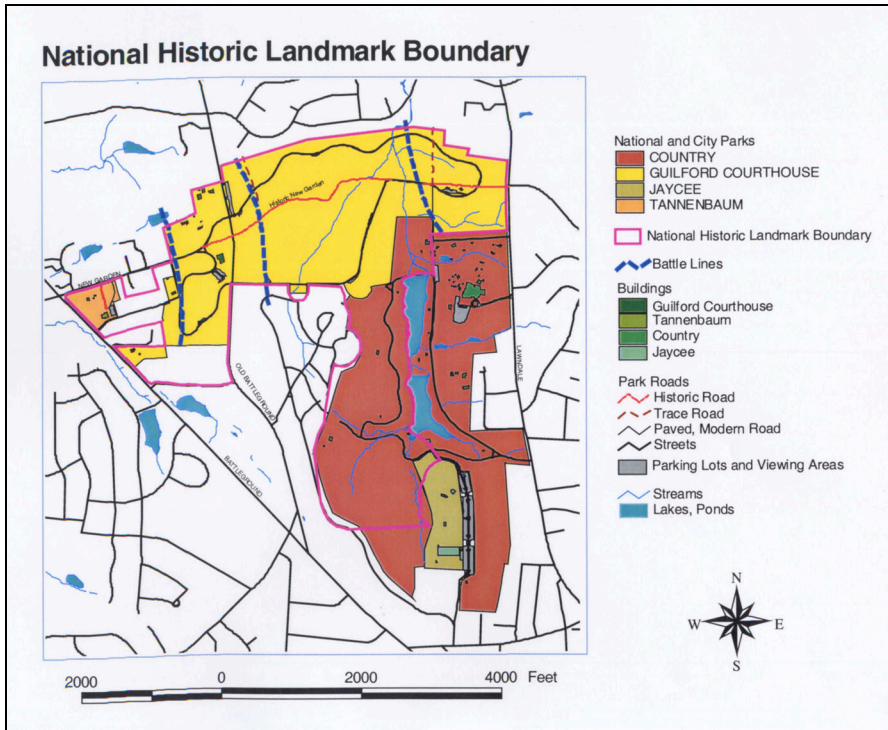


Figure 2. Guilford Courthouse Battlefield National Historic Landmark boundary.

force in the Carolinas. Afterward, Cornwallis returned to Wilmington and eventually removed his forces to Yorktown, Virginia, where he met ultimate defeat in 1781 (Lautzenheiser:1990:29–34; Newlin 1977; Powell 1989; Stine et al. 2001).

Tannenbaum Historic Park

The core of Joseph Hoskins' original 150-acre farmstead was purchased by the nonprofit Guilford Battleground Company in 1984 with help from the Tannenbaum-Sternberger Foundation and local government funding. They deeded the 7.69 acres to Greensboro Parks and Recreation Department in 1988 and the park was named Tannenbaum Historic Park (Figure 2). Approximately sixty percent of the preserved battlefield is found in Greensboro's Country Park, also managed by the Parks and Recreation Department (Schlosser 2000:B1–B2; Stine and Selikoff 2000; Stine et al. 2001). A total of 220 acres covered by the engagement have

been incorporated into the Guilford Courthouse National Military Park. These entities were awarded National Landmark status in 2001, based in part on the results of related multidisciplinary research projects at Tannenbaum Historic Park and Guilford Courthouse National Military Park (Piedmont Land Conservancy 2002; Schlosser 2001).

In 1999, the Tannenbaum-Sternberger Foundation awarded a grant to the Guilford Battleground Company, a nonprofit citizen's group supporting the preservation and interpretation of the battlefield. Part of the grant was awarded in turn to Tannenbaum Historic Park to enhance the park's exhibits and interpretive programs using new data collected from historic, archaeological, and architectural research (Stine and Selikoff 2000:1, 3).

Archaeological and GIS Research Design

UNCG archaeologists' research design was grounded in landscape archaeology, the study of "how people shaped and were shaped by the land within a dynamic cultural and natural context" (Zierden and Stine 1997:xi). Investigations focused on identifying the major sequence of landscape change at Tannenbaum Historic Park. Researchers created comparative data sets based on archaeological, documentary, and other kinds of data sources. A geographic information systems (GIS) database was created for the park to help analyze collected maps, aerial photographs, and digital data using a landscape perspective. Understanding land-use patterns from initial colonial settlement through the twentieth century, for example, helped in the interpretation of archaeological remains. Archaeological evidence concerning Hoskins' colonial piedmont farmstead was important since little comparative data were present in the region (Stine and Selikoff 2000:23-27). More prosaic questions to be addressed included: (1) determining if diachronic changes in the landscape had obliterated evidence of previous occupations; (2) dating the assemblage; and (3) determining the function(s) of the site.

Research Results

Deed Research Results

At this project's outset, researchers were given access to a partial chain-of-title for the Tannenbaum Historic Park property. A research priority was to verify the sequence of landowners and to expand it as necessary. Project historians concentrated on the eighteenth-century documentary evidence. The results of their study are found in separate

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Table 1. Tannenbaum Historic Park Deed Research Results.

Date	Grantor	Grantee	Acreage	Notes
12-01-1753	J.E. Granville	R. Donnell	560	Rowan County
11-14-1774	R. and M. Mitchell	James Ross	150	both sides of road Horsepen Creek
05-18-1778	J. and M. Ross	J. Hoskins	150	both sides of road Horsepen Creek
07-01-1869	Ellis Hoskins	J.E. Hoskins	170	mentions road
05-02-1878	L.M. Scott	Naomi Ward	170	to pay debts of J.E. Hoskins (admin.)
11-10-1890	Naomi Ward	Theo. Hoskins	170	
02-16-1901	Theo. Hoskins	Susie Hoskins	145	lands near the battle
04-22-1925	S.B. Hoskins	S.F. White	54	
08-18-1961	E.P. Bradley	Burke Davis	?	Center Grove Twp.
09-15-1971	W.B. Davis	F.D. Wyrick	?	

reports (Stebbens 1998, 2000; Stebbins and Hiatt 2000). This project focused on collecting information on the sequence of property owners over time and concomitant transformations in the size of the deeded holdings. Methods used and the full sequence are provided elsewhere (Stine and Selikoff 2000:39-47). Some of the results of this study are detailed in Table 1.

The first major division of the Granville Grant land occurred in 1774, with the Mitchell-Ross transaction. James Ross bought 150 acres “on Horsepen Creek and both sides of the main road” (Guilford County Deed Book [GCDB] 1:285). Joseph Hoskins bought this tract in 1778 from Ross (GCDB 1:439), and he was the owner of the property during the 1781 Battle of Guilford Courthouse.

The 1778 Joseph Hoskins’ deed also describes the land as being 150 acres on “Horsepen Creek, and on both sides of the main road,” which is modern New Garden Road. Numerous studies of the Hoskins’ farm at the time of the battle have been undertaken, and there is little doubt that this property was once part of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse (e.g., Baker 1995:32; Hatch 1970). This documentation includes a review of different versions of the British map sketched immediately after the battle (e.g., Figure 1).

Joseph Hoskins’ land was then divided between his sons according to his 1799 will. Son John Hoskins received 100 acres of land located south of the 150-acre farmstead which were near, but not contiguous to, the

Hoskins' farm. The other two sons, Joseph and Ellis, received the parcel of land where their father had lived, equally divided between them. The actual amount of land given to sons Joseph and Ellis is not stated. One presumes that each received 75 acres. Hoskins stipulated that son Joseph have the section containing the house (Guilford County Records, File #.0166; Stebbens and Hiatt 2000; Webster 1979:28). This is the only mention of a structure on the property.

Hoskins and wife Hannah had eight children at the time of his death: daughters Elizabeth, Hannah, Ann, and Mary; and sons John, Eli, Joseph, and Ellis. Joseph provided his wife with the rights of the farmstead, including a mare and saddle and bed and furniture. His daughters received material goods such as spinning wheels, cooking pots, bedsteads, livestock, and sometimes money. His younger son Eli received money and was placed in a trade while the remaining sons received land (Stebbens 2000; Webster 1979:28). By 1803 a neighbor was placed as executor of the estate and guardians of the children, now described as orphans (Stebbens 2000).

It is interesting that although there is a ninety-one year period between the Joseph Hoskins' deed and the next, when his son Ellis transferred three tracts to his son J.E. Hoskins of Woodford County, KY, these lands remain in the Hoskins' family hands. It remains unclear how Ellis seemingly ended up with all of the original Joseph Hoskins' farmlands. It is known that Joseph Hoskins (Ellis' brother) purchased adjoining lands in 1828 (Hatch 1970:77, footnote 4). This unbroken chain of title continues until the early twentieth century (Table 1) with one exception. This is when two administrators are noted as holding the property for J.E. Hoskins' debts. The land is next sold, however, to a Hoskins' descendant when the Ward tract was sold to Theodosia Hoskins in 1890. (The relationship of Naomi Ward to J. E. Hoskins is as yet undetermined, but she is listed as "administrator" as is L.M. Scott [Stebbens 2000]). Susie B. Hoskins then received most of the land from Theodosia Hoskins in 1901.

The 1925 transaction between Susie B. Hoskins and S. F. White consisted of 54 acres. An informant interview with S. F. White's daughter revealed that Mr. White bought 100 acres from Ms. Hoskins before April 22, 1925. Also, she indicated that Ms. Hoskins kept 40 to 45 acres of this land, which was eventually added to the Guilford Courthouse National Military Park (Mrs. White Woods, personal communication 1999). These deeds, not found at this time, should be located in order to clarify these points.

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Maps, Photographs, and Oral History

Intensive map and deed research uncovered some rare sources such as the version of the Haldane sketch map, presented earlier (Figure 1). The original sketch of the “Battle of Guildford Courthouse,” drawn in 1781, was located at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC, by the project geographer. A photocopy of the original 1781 sketch map has been obtained from the Library of Congress. This was scanned and digitally enhanced to produce Figure 1. The map was the precursor for British Lieutenant Colonel Banastre Tarleton’s map of the battle (1787) which was based on the map attributed to Haldane. A Guilford Courthouse National Military Park historian had previously located another version of Haldane’s map in the Clement’s Library at the University of Michigan (Tom Baker, personal communication 1999).

The battlefield map has been geo-referenced to modern landscape features, including the extant Hoskins House, to help determine if New Garden Road follows the path of the Old Salisbury Road (Figure 3). Results suggest that the modern road follows the general path of the historic road and, by implication, that the historic Hoskins’ cabin was once located in the same general vicinity as the standing structure at Tannenbaum Historic Park (Stine et al. 1999).

Investigations uncovered a 1937 aerial photo from the City of Greensboro Tax Record Department. This photo is the earliest known for the area and shows the property prior to the construction of Battleground Avenue (U.S. Hwy. 220) in 1941, which subsequently divided Hoskins’ farm. It also shows the old Hoskins Drive intact. The 1937 photo is helpful in determining the location of large features such as roads, but structures are difficult to see. Other sources include aerial photos from 1955, 1970, and 1995. These photos, plus the 1937 image, illustrate the changing project landscape during the twentieth century (Figure 4). The 1995 photos are geo-referenced orthophotos obtained from the City of Greensboro. The 1970 photo is difficult to analyze, due to the low-resolution scan provided by the Guilford County GIS Department. The 1955 aerial photo is located at the Guilford County Soil Conservation Service. Researchers were only able to obtain a poor quality photocopy. The best quality aerial photos are the 1995 orthophotos, which were used extensively in this project. (The original negatives of the other earlier aerial photos have been located at the National Archives in College Park, MD. These may be obtained digitally, and will hopefully be obtained for future, more precise analysis.)

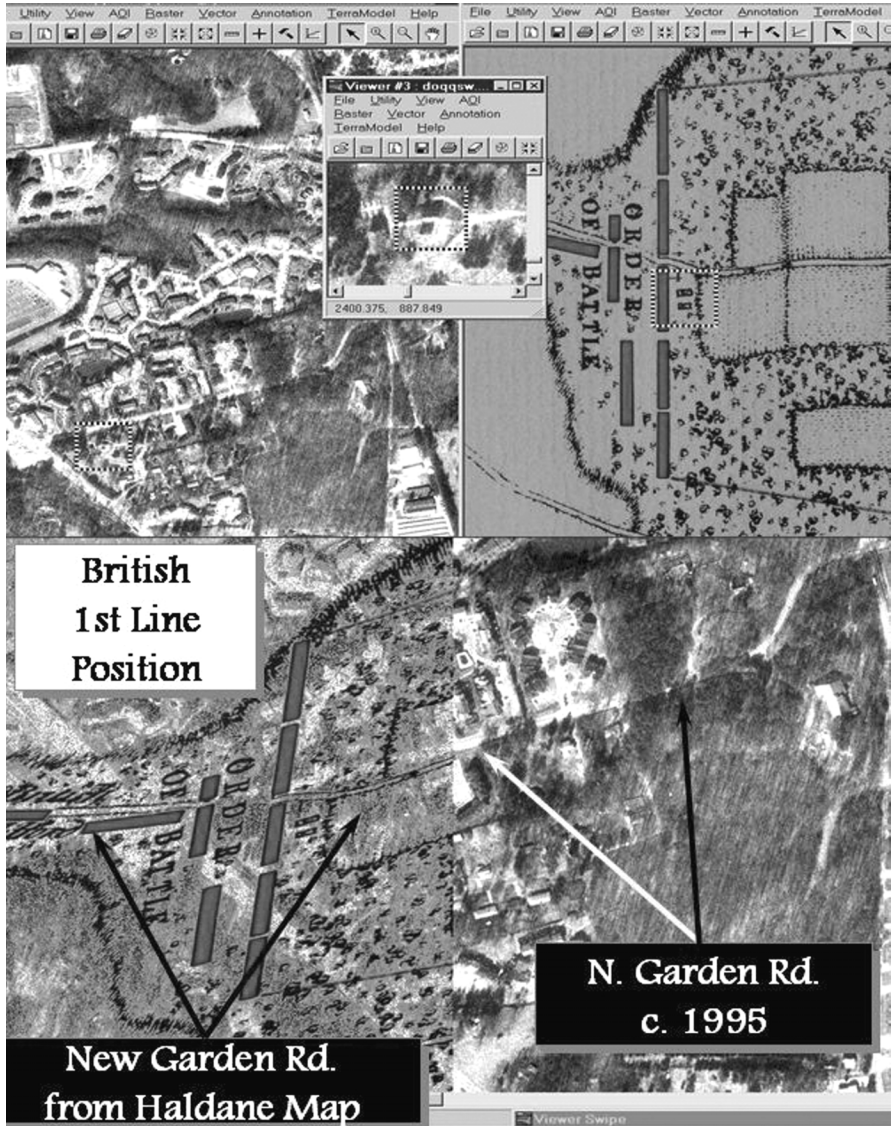


Figure 3. Haldane map overlain on 1995 orthophoto.

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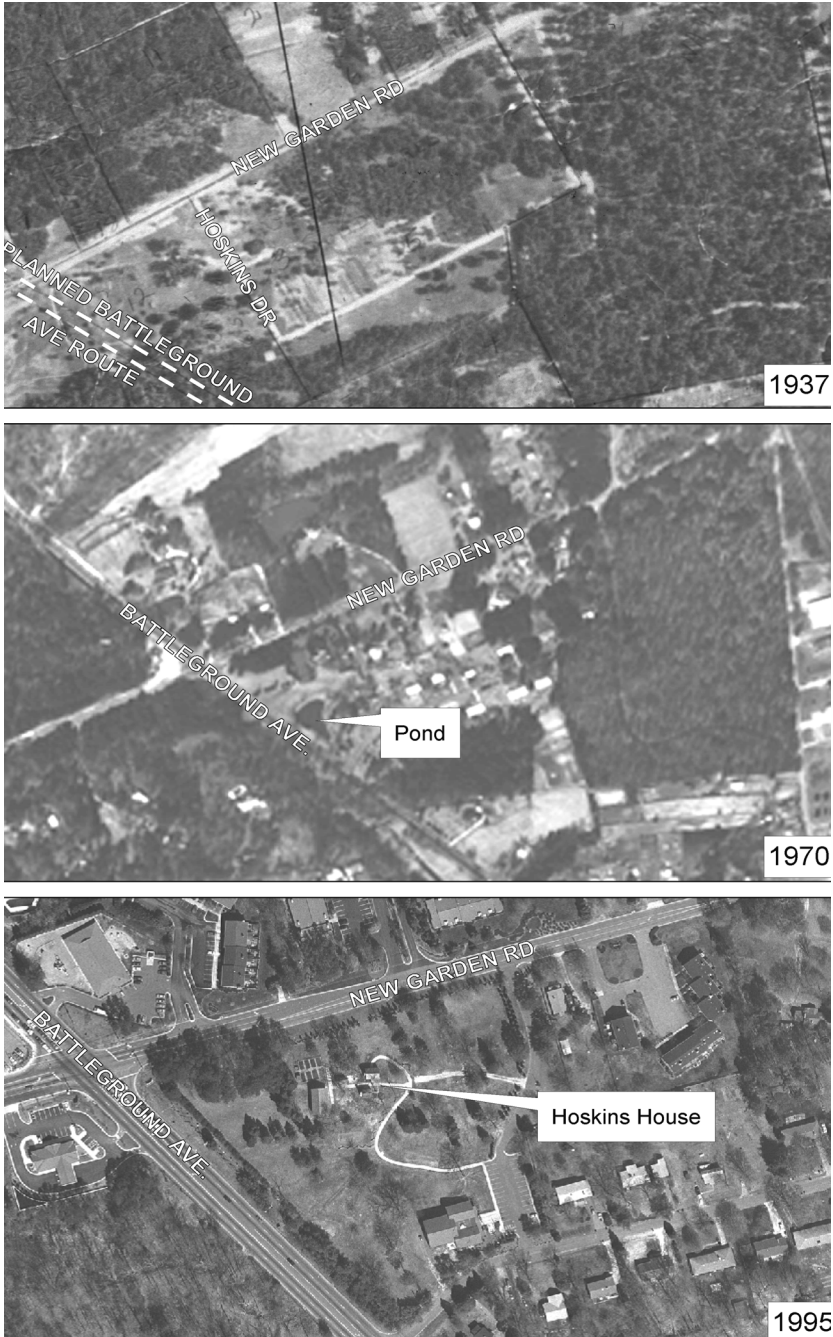


Figure 4. 1937, 1970, and 1995 aerial photos showing identifiable features/roads.

The 1937 photo shows the property before the construction of U.S. 220. New Garden Road (then called Guilford College-Battleground Road) is clearly evident. Looking at the southwestern area of the photo, it is seen that the planned route of the highway would cut through an existing driveway leading south from New Garden Road. This (as well as the deed research) indicates that the property extended much farther to the west than it does today. It should be noted that some researchers have mentioned the possibility that in 1781 a portion of the Great Salisbury Road (New Garden) may have run just south of the Hoskins' house. This is generally discounted by members of the Hoskins family and other researchers (Hoskins 1938). A dirt drive or road remnant visible in the 1937 photograph south of the house may be the debated feature. Another driveway may be seen leading from New Garden Road running southeast to the area in which the Hoskins House should be. A structure is not discernable, but the landscaping and clearing in the trees indicate that one is present. This driveway also leads to Hoskins Drive, which is mentioned in many of the deeds and shown on the 1926 survey. This served as the western boundary of the Green Acres subdivision. Liberty Lane (now Green Acres Lane) is also clearly shown. It is obvious that the area was still relatively undeveloped. Pastured land is evident on the Hoskins property, and farmland may be seen north of New Garden Road. Many areas are still forested. The landscape is primarily agrarian.

The 1970 aerial photograph is important because it is the closest to pre-restoration uncovered to date. The quality is not very good, but large features may still be seen. By 1970 the landscape had changed drastically. New Garden Road and Battleground Avenue are still evident. But the most important feature shown here is the pond located on the property. This was filled-in before restoration in the 1980s, sometime after the 1984 Wake Forest archaeology project was conducted. There are very few accounts of the exact location of the pond in other sources. The rest of the surrounding area is much more developed, depicting a residential instead of agricultural landscape. A small airport runway may be seen to the north of New Garden Road. Also, a large pond (filled just prior to construction of Brassfield shopping center) is evident to the northwest.

The 1995 aerial photograph shows the modern landscape at Tannenbaum Historic Park. The pond has been filled. Commercial and residential development is seen encroaching upon the Park.

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Historic Photographs and Interviews

The present Hoskins House is a two-story, 18 x 24 ft, V-notched log cabin. The structure has had numerous additions and renovations over the years. Some of these changes can be observed through historic photographs (Figures 5, 6, 7, and 8). A sense of the landscape at a few key moments in time is provided through interviews with past landowners or their descendants. Information concerning the footprint of the cabin and its additions and associated room functions over time was also collected, but are detailed elsewhere (Stine and Selikoff 2000).

On May 19, 1939, Mr. W. I. Tilley (once a Hoskins' neighbor) photographed the Hoskins farmhouse (Figure 5a–b). Both photographs are views to the southwest facing the northeast corner of the house. The landscape shows grassed fields, with the house in a small stand of trees on the west and northwest. The foundation of the structure can not be ascertained. The porch appears to be about eight feet wide. The porch foundation is difficult to see, as the floor sits very close to the ground. The ground slopes significantly to the west. A small object is visible west of the house and downhill from the house's upland rise. This appears to be an arched-shaped, temporary structure.

Mrs. White Woods, daughter of former owner S.F. White, was interviewed on December 6, 1999. She stated that Susie Bell Hoskins owned the property (about 140 acres) that she had received from her grandmother, Theodosia Hoskins (GCDB142:281 records it as 145 acres in 1901). Suzie and her family gave some land for the Guilford Courthouse National Military Park (about 40 acres). Suzie's brother and his wife, and not Suzie, actually lived in the Hoskins House.

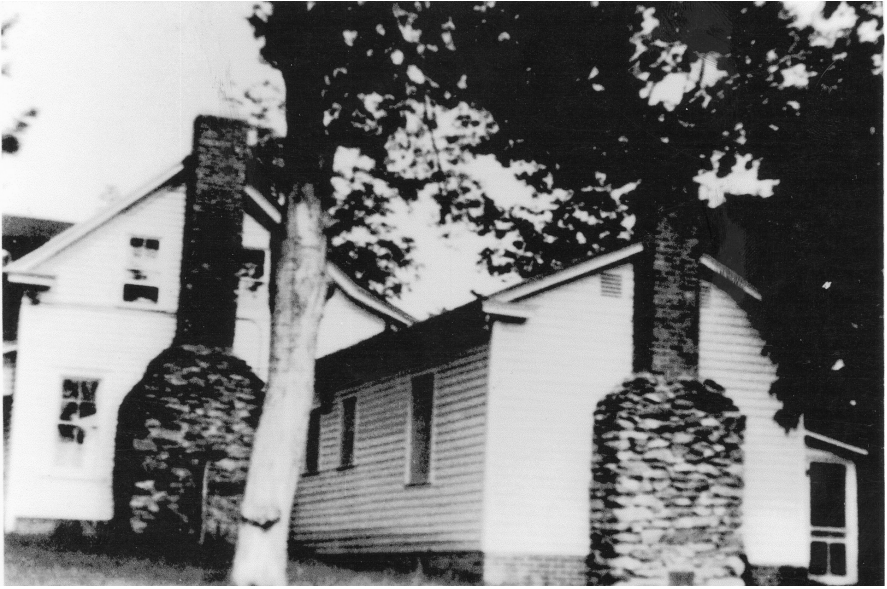
Mrs. Woods recalls that the Hoskins House had an attached kitchen. A photograph in her possession shows this addition. It depicts a single-story, vertical-boarded structure resting on brick piers. The south side of this addition has what appears to be a shed attachment. It is difficult to judge from the photograph, but it looks as if the kitchen addition somehow incorporated the Hoskins' chimney or was built directly in front of the chimney's western side.

The Hoskins' farm had a garden and orchard in an elevated area near Horsepen Creek, just west of Tannenbaum Historic Park. Mrs. Woods recalls that the Hoskins' spring, located south of the extant structure, was "rocked" neatly and that seven associated springs were located nearby, under and west of modern U.S. 220 (Battleground Avenue). Mrs. Woods does not recall any barn at the Hoskins farm. She says that an old log

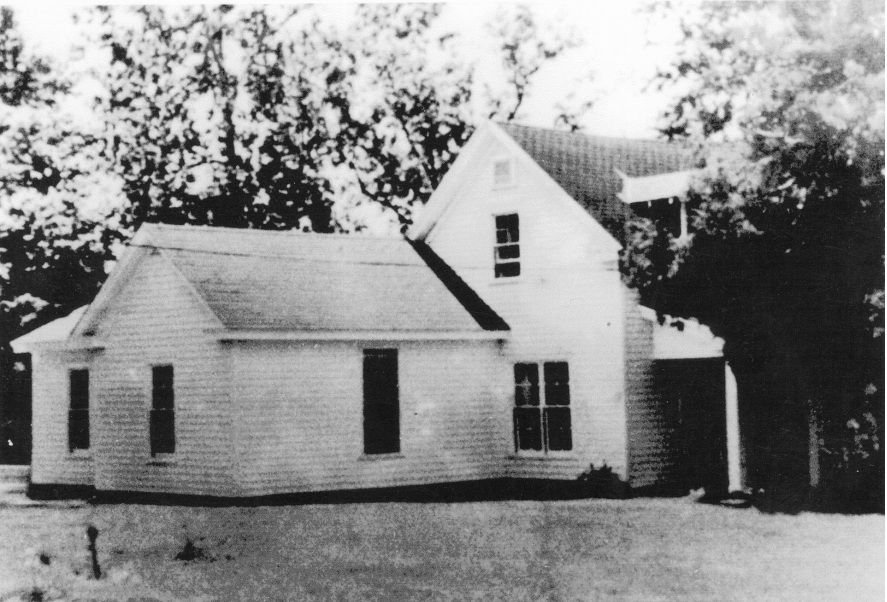


Figure 5. Two photos of the Hoskins House in 1939 (view to southwest).

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a



b

Figure 6. Photographs taken in 1954 of (a) the west addition (looking east-southeast) and (b) the east addition (looking south-southwest).



Figure 7. Photograph taken in 1983 of the Hoskins House with bricked northern façade.

house once stood in the southwest portion of the Hoskins' property. This log home was later used as a barn. (It is not yet clear if the Hoskins moved the previous owners out of this house and later used it for a barn, or if Mrs. Woods' parents were the ones who did so.) (Note: Baker [1995:59] discusses the Guilford Courthouse National Military Park's December 18, 1956 purchase of a house on a 0.69 acre lot on Liberty Lane/Green Acres Drive for the Park historian, a position that was not filled until some years later. This may be the same place.)

Mrs. Woods' parents, S. F. and Mary White, purchased 100 acres of farmland from Susie B. Hoskins in the early 1920s. This included the extant cabin and springs that are now part of Tannenbaum Historic Park. Her father, S. F. White, decided to subdivide part of the farmland. He developed plans for Green Acres, a development which led to a significant alteration of the landscape in the immediate project area. Mr. White arranged new financing for the development with Susie B. Hoskins using 54 of these acres as collateral (GCDB 484:501). Before he began the Green Acres development he sold Mr. Tilley some land just west of the Hoskins House. Mr. Tilley constructed a frame bungalow there in the 1920s. Mrs. White has photographs of the Tilley house, a western view

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a



b

Figure 8. Photographs of the Hoskins House during the 1980s restoration, showing (a) the south face and (b) the north face.

taken from the Hoskins cabin. It shows that the area was mostly open field.

The original Hoskins' driveway west of the cabin was expanded and lengthened to become Hoskins Drive. Renters of Mr. S. F. White lived in the Hoskins House before Mr. White sold the land to his son, Wilmer in 1937 (GCDB 995:68). The attached kitchen was "tore away" sometime after Mrs. Woods' brother, Wilmer White, sold the Hoskins place. Her brother left the Hoskins homestead in 1942.

Two photographs (Figure 6a–b) are presented to illustrate the condition of the Hoskins House in 1954 (North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Archives and History, accession #N.84.2.939.940). The first figure depicts the western or chimney façade. The frame house and addition have matching stone chimney foundations with brick stacks. The addition or west wing has a contiguous brick foundation. The foundation to the original building looks contiguous as well. A screen porch is visible south of the western addition. The second photograph shows the house from the opposite angle, with a view to the northeast. The front porch looks like it could be the same as the porch in the 1939 Tilley photographs. The house foundation is hard to see but appears to be a solid unit of brick or stone. The northeast corner of both the house and the eastern addition are very close to the ground. This illustrates the yard's slope.

Past owner Burke Davis was contacted by phone on December 16, 1999. Mr. Davis says that the remaining original Hoskins' acreage consisted of the one front acre when he purchased the cabin in 1951 (GCDB 1402:625). He later added about two acres of corner land. He also was able to purchase a narrow strip of land south of the house and parallel to U.S. 220 (Battleground Avenue). Mr. Davis and his wife soon owned about five acres.

When Mr. Davis purchased the house, the only outbuilding on the property was a three-sided shed near the property line by the spring, maybe 30 ft from the house. This shed was open to the east. The south or back of the Hoskins House had a shed attached. He thought that the shed dated to around 1800 because of the large locust timbers and mortise-and-tenon joints used in its construction. In 1952, he added two wings to the house. On the eastern side was a one-story bedroom addition and on the west an addition to the right of the chimney. This room crowded the stone chimney, but it did not cover it. On the rear or southern elevation, there was a green porch with a sloped concrete floor. This was maybe 12 ft wide.

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In 1955 Mr. Davis decided to construct a brick façade around the original board-covered log house in order to better preserve and protect the historic structure. He also modified the plan by building a new east wing and by changing the western wing.

Mr. Davis put in a well for the house, since the water supply had previously been by way of a ¾-inch pipe connected to a neighbor's house. The new well was placed close to the western side of the house, maybe 12–16 ft due west of the chimney. To the west of the house were a retaining wall and a large tennis court.

David Wyrick bought the Burke Davis tract in 1971. The greatest expansion of the Hoskins complex occurred under his residency in the 1970s and 1980s. Mr. Wyrick added an office complex attached to the south room in the east wing and a large master bedroom complex to the southwest room of the west wing (Figure 7). The house utilities (e.g., hot water heater) were located in the basement. Wyrick constructed a covered, separate entrance to those facilities in the southwest corner of the back (south) shed porch in the 1970s. He later built a large carport with a storage area on the eastern side, detached from the new office addition.

The landscape during the Wyrick occupation (ca. 1971–1984) was primarily residential. The family had a few horses and kept much of the back acreage in pasture. There was an impermanent structure for the horses, like an open shed, located west of the old tennis court area in a stand of pines and cedars. The tennis court asphalt was removed and the area re-seeded and fenced. A wooden fence demarcated the front yard. Mr. Wyrick and Mr. Moore (neighbor to the east) shared their driveway (Hoskins Drive remnant) but had separate, short drives off that main driveway. Mr. Wyrick had a small metal shed just at his turn. He had his car “turn-around” graveled. There was a curved brick retaining wall demarcating the parking area. The Moore house, there for at least 25 years before 1971, was located close to the Wyrick car park.

Mr. Wyrick has many pictures of the general landscape. Brick steps led up to the patio, and there was a stone retaining wall at their base. The septic tank was just southeast of this area, under the west colonnade to the office. Mr. Wyrick graveled over the septic tank area. The septic field was to the southwest, downhill from the house.

Wyrick sold the land to the Guilford Battleground Company in 1985. The Battleground Company also bought the George Moore and Jess Ferrill properties at the same time. The chain-of-title for the Ferrill property is not clear and needs to be clarified through more research. The George Moore property, however, is known to have been part of the Green Acres subdivision. His name was also mentioned many times in informant

interviews and in deeds since the 1950s. His house, along with the Ferrill house and outbuildings, was demolished during restoration of the Park. All of these tracts were then sold to the City of Greensboro in 1988 to eventually form Tannenbaum Historic Park.

Mr. Si Rothrock was the Hoskins House preservationist/restorer for the project in 1986–1987. He was interviewed at Tannenbaum Historic Park on October 19, 1999. Mr. Rothrock stated that two men had taken down most of the twentieth-century additions to the house before he became involved with the project. The brick patio rubble was still visible (Figure 8a). Mr. Rothrock also stated that the original stone and brick chimney was not disturbed during renovations. This is clear from one of the photographs, which shows ivy still clinging to the masonry (Figure 8b). Ed Deaton (personal communication 1999) of Greensboro Parks and Recreation had sterile, yellow sandy fill brought in to some parts of the site to cover muddy soils. Mr. Rothrock said that remaining fill and brick rubble was hauled off-site, not spread or dumped on the property.

Over the years, Tannenbaum Historic Park personnel have worked on the grounds by adding topsoil, grading, and seeding. They have also added sidewalks, picnic tables, and other conveniences for the public. Major structural changes include building a visitor's center southeast of the Hoskins House, building a typical log kitchen south of the historic log house, and relocating a log barn from southern Guilford County to the Park.

Wake Forest Archaeology at Tannenbaum Historic Park

During project discussions, it was revealed that Wake Forest archaeologists had been hired by the Guilford Battleground Company in May of 1984 to search for one or two purported mass British graves stemming from the March 15, 1781 Battle of Guilford Courthouse (Abbott 1984). Dr. Ned Woodall served as the principal director, and the fieldwork was directed by Lea Abbott. The results of the Wake Forest work are detailed elsewhere (Abbott 1984; Stine and Selikoff 2000). This is a brief summary. Although no graves were found, the Wake Forest investigations uncovered cultural features, artifacts, and fill episodes. Materials included a few non-diagnostic, prehistoric lithic artifacts manufactured of local material (metavolcanic); eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century ceramics such as creamware and pearlware, wrought nails, and olive glass; and greater amounts of nineteenth- and twentieth-century ceramics, glass, and marbles (Stine and Selikoff 2000:Appendix B). The frequency of artifacts by functional group (following South 1977:Table 4) supports the

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interpretation that this was an historic farmstead or plantation site (Stine and Selikoff 2000:66). A total of 773 historic artifacts and six prehistoric lithic artifacts were recovered during this work.

Five trenches (designated Trenches F, I, K, M, and N) revealed important subsurface assemblages or features. All five are located behind (south) of the Hoskins House complex (Stine and Selikoff 2000:Figure 7). For example, at about 13–20 cm below the ground surface in Trench N, archaeologists discovered a layer of artifacts and gravel. This appears to be the remains of a walkway, perhaps of the path leading to the spring. The two-meter-wide feature is located about eight meters northeast of the southwest end of the trench (Abbott 1984:50). A total of 195 artifacts were collected at this provenience. It appears that all were found in association with the walkway feature (Abbott 1984:52–53). Another example is found in Trench I, located near the Moore house, where evidence for an 11–15 cm thick gravel roadbed was uncovered. This was most likely part of Hoskins Drive or perhaps the Tilley driveway. No artifacts were recovered from the trench's feature fill.

GIS at Tannenbaum Historic Park

There were some questions that could be answered using GIS methods, such as; Where were the Wyrick-Davis house additions located in regards to the modern landscape? Where were the Wake Forest project trenches and auger tests located? Have physical and natural features changed? If they have changed, where are they located? Major obstacles had to be overcome. None of the maps have the same scale, and features did change through the years. For these reasons, an accurate base map had to be created in order to obtain the standards of accuracy wanted for geographical analysis.

A recent geo-referenced, or spatially corrected, orthophoto was chosen as the base map for the project. This 1:2400 or 1"=200' scale aerial photo, acquired from the City of Greensboro, was flown in 1995 and was the most recent image available. The aerial orthophotos are accurate to ± 4 ft. They are referenced in the State Plane Coordinate system for North Carolina, zone 3200 using the North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83). The spheroid used is GRS80 and the measuring unit is in feet (City of Greensboro, GIS Division). Planimetric maps, such as road centerlines and edges, were also obtained from the City of Greensboro GIS Division. These digital maps included tax property boundaries for the Park, as well as roads, paved areas, and building footprints, and they contain a higher accuracy rating than the aerial photographs. Figure 9 shows the Park

boundaries, roads, and buildings on the orthophoto. The orthophotos and planimetric maps serve as the foundation map upon which all subsequent geographic analysis and georectification and/or registration was based.

GIS Methods. A variety of hardcopy maps were chosen for analysis according to historic content and accuracy. These maps were scanned and geo-referenced to the base map. In the georectification process, the analyst takes known points from an accurate map (in this case the orthophotos and planimetric maps), locates the same points on the historic maps and uses mathematical models within the computer software (ESRI, Inc. and Leica ERDAS, Inc.) to create geographically accurate maps.¹

To locate the footprint of the Wyrick-Davis house additions and concomitant roads and tax parcel lines, the 1986 Wilson survey of Liberty Park and the 1926 survey of “Green Acres” were scanned. These maps contained surveyed coordinates of all the above features. Fortunately, several of the surrounding property boundaries had not changed from the 1926, 1986, and 1995 plat maps. These geographic locations, in conjunction with other features such as roads, allowed for the georectification of the historic maps to the 1995 base maps. This process proved highly accurate, with the 1926 and 1986 tax plats matching precisely with the 1995 tax plats. From the historic maps, the locations of the house additions and the old Hoskins driveway could be placed on the orthophoto (Figure 9).

One of the tasks of the 1999 archaeological investigations was to determine the location of 1984 trenches and auger holes. Wake Forest archaeologists loaned the artifacts, field notes, field maps, correspondence, and photographs from the 1984 Hoskins project to UNCG researchers. A field map showing the location of 15 trenches (11 one-meter wide trenches and three two-meter wide trenches) and 18 auger tests (3-1/2 inches wide each) was examined (Abbott 1984:23–24, Figure 4). The trenches had been excavated using a monitored backhoe and a combination of shovel and trowel hand excavations (Abbott 1984:23). An attempt was made to correlate the published site map with a modern survey map of Tannenbaum Historic Park. This was difficult because the 1984 archaeology map used a stylized representation of the existing house complex depicting a rectangular structure instead of the ca. 1971–1984 three-sided outline. It was clear from the report that the southeast corner of the extant structure was used as an arbitrary datum. It was not clear which southeast corner was indicated: that of the cabin, the southeast office wing, or of the carport. The original field director of the 1984 project, Lea Abbott, was contacted.

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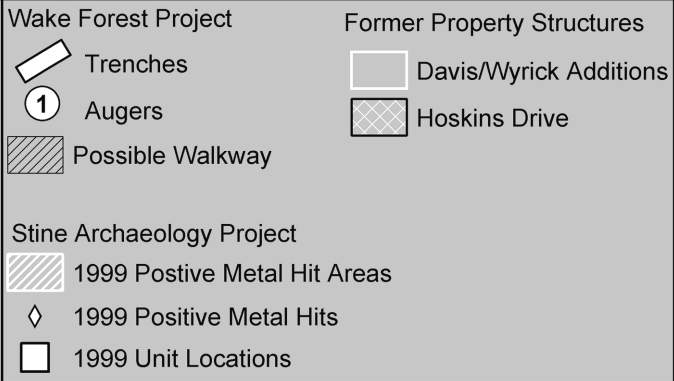
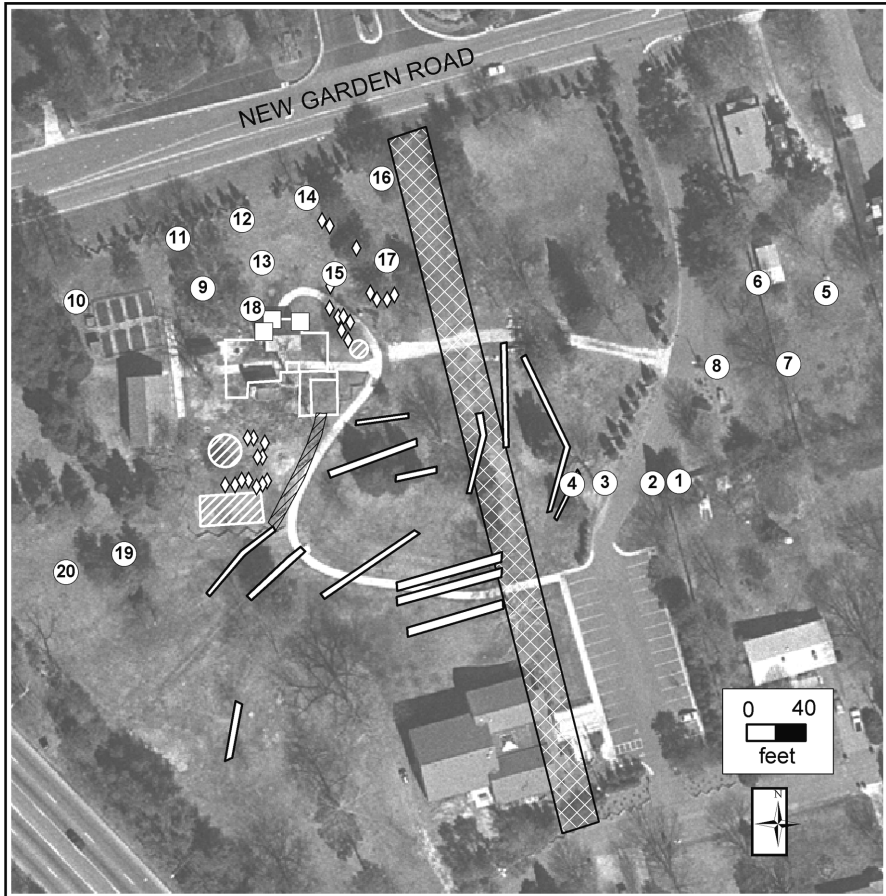


Figure 9. A portion of the archaeological reference map, showing Tannenbaum Historic Park.

Although the project occurred a while ago, he believes that the 1984 Wake datum was the southeast corner of the southeast wing of the house complex, and not the car port or the Hoskins' log house (which was still bricked) (Lea Abbott, personal communication 1999).

The accurate footprint of the Wyrick-Davis house generated from the Wilson survey of Liberty Park and the survey of "Green Acres," from above, gave the researchers the datum used by Wake Forest archaeologists. The original Wake Forest field map was constructed using an alidade and metric tapes. This map was converted to North Carolina State Plane in feet. Wake Forest archaeologists had mapped contour lines as well as a variety of features on the landscape, such as Sycamore and Osage orange trees. These cultural and natural landscape features were used to register the Wake Forest map to the 1995 orthophoto. This allowed the team to place the trench lines and auger tests on the current map. This process was not as geometrically accurate as using surveyed boundary lines, but it does give a close approximation of the locations of the excavations (Figure 9). Combining the maps and the historic aerial photographs gave clues to the changes in the natural and physical landscape.

By combining the different spatial datasets, past landscapes and topographic contours were compared to current landscapes and contours. It was clear that substantial filling had occurred in the middle and western portions of the project area. The one-acre pond has been filled in since the 1984 project, and a drainage system has been installed which extends from near the extant parking lot westward and down slope to the vicinity of the filled pond. This drainage system, with its large subterranean culverts, also changed the slope of the land. In addition, the tennis court had been covered with fill in about 1988 (Stine and Selikoff 2000). Mr. Jim Kirkpatrick, former president of the Guilford Battleground Company, visited Tannenbaum Historic Park on October 11, 1999. He walked the grounds and showed the general locations of the Wake Forest trenches to the 1999 researchers. The majority of trenches were not placed near the extant Hoskins House, but rather were located down slope and south of the main house. This also helped to verify the trench locations as derived from the GIS analysis.

The resulting illustration (Figure 9) demonstrates that all of the trenches were located south of the Hoskins House. Although most were located on what was Wyrick property, a few trenches were placed on what were Moore lands (east of old Hoskins Drive), and a few were excavated just north of what used to be the Ferrill house. Ten auger tests were completed in the front yard of the Hoskins House, between the house and

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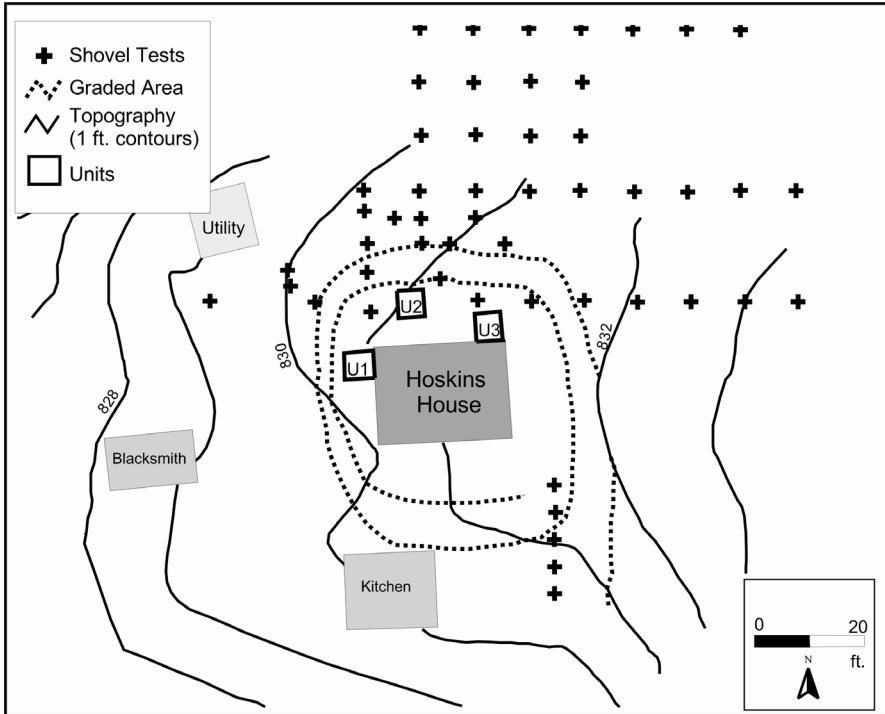


Figure 10. Map of the Hoskins House site showing excavation units, shovel tests, and graded area.

New Garden Road, and two auger tests were dug down slope from the tennis court, about halfway to the horse pond. The remaining auger tests were placed a good distance west of the Hoskins House, east and south of the Moore house.

Archaeological Fieldwork Results at Tannenbaum Historic Park

Three 5 x 5 ft units were excavated in 1999 as part of initial research at the Hoskins House site (31GF413**) (Figure 10). This occurred after training sessions with Tannenbaum Historic Park staff and volunteers. The week-long work provided a test case to see if the site retained clarity or integrity after years of construction, occupation, and destruction (Glassow 1977). The site proved to contain intact features and a typical midden associated with a homestead (Stine and Selikoff 2000).

In 2002, the site director contacted UNCG to propose ways to mitigate planned earth-moving activities near the Hoskins' cabin. This was done,

but grading to improve drainage and remove mid- to late-1980s fill was well underway before the archaeological contract was signed or the archaeologist contacted (Stine and Adamson 2003). The situation was salvaged through volunteering and revamping the proposal. Bulldozing was monitored and both graded and soon-to-be graded areas were shovel-tested. Most of the northern yard was shovel-tested as part of this program to document fills, natural soils, and check artifact distributions by date and function (Figure 10). Some shovel tests were excavated concurrent to monitoring operations while others were excavated in a separate session of fieldwork in the fall, primarily in the northern yard (Figure 10). A total of 479 artifacts were recovered through shovel testing.

Specific details of Tannenbaum Historic Park fieldwork are found elsewhere (Stine and Selikoff 2000; Stine and Adamson 2003). Results are briefly summarized here. The sequence of house alterations and landscape changes over the course of about 220 years meant that more recent features, if present, may have obliterated evidence of previous features or midden soils. In 1999, Unit 1 was placed near the chimney on the cabin's west side, as archaeologists felt that this area had seen less building activity than others. The assumption was verified with upper levels of Unit 1 consisting of (from top to bottom): post-1980s Tannenbaum Historic Park occupation topsoil; a layer of sterile sand and rock fill; mottled pre-1980s topsoil and sand and rock fill; a domestic eighteenth- through twentieth-century midden; and subsoil, which was reached at about 1.0–1.3 ft below ground level. Evidence of construction and destruction of the 1954 brick façade was visible in a series of postholes and rubble, and the presence of a poured concrete foundation footing at about 1.0 ft below the ground surface. Fortunately, builders only dug a 0.8 ft wide trench near the cabin wall, leaving remaining soils intact. This footer did impact a small corner of the original stone chimney foundation. A rectangular posthole was located at the intersection of the two foundation features, beginning about 1.31 ft below the ground surface. It continued under the 1954 feature, thus predating it. Its final depth was 1.91 ft below the surface, and it contained no artifacts (Figure 11).

The other test units contained mid-twentieth century and recent foundation and utility features, as well as evidence of the destruction of the front brick porch and façade (Figure 10) (Stine and Selikoff 2000). These features obliterated most of the potential pre-mid-twentieth century features. Still, upper layer soils contained eighteenth- to twentieth-century artifacts in the disturbed fills. A portion of Unit 2 (located in the northwest yard) soils contained the type of house midden found in Unit 1 (Figure 10).

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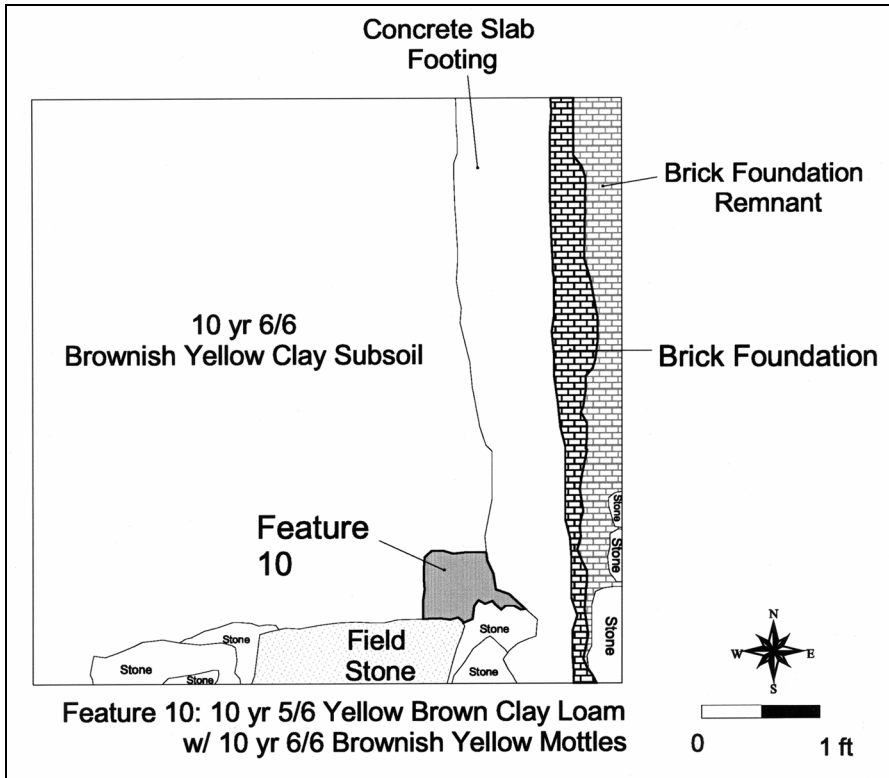


Figure 11. Excavation plan of Test Unit 1, showing Feature 10 (posthole) and foundation features.

Monitoring and shovel testing in 2002 confirmed that although portions of the Hoskins site have twentieth-century features that intrude subsoil, some evidence from earlier centuries remains (Stine and Adamson 2003). Areas of typical yard midden were noted during shovel testing in the northern yard, although utilities and some filling have impacted some sections of the front yard. Sterile sand and rock, typically found to a depth of 0.3–0.4 ft below the ground surface, extended less than 10 ft from the cabin walls. Only this fill was supposed to be originally graded to remove post-1980s soils blocking cabin vents; however, bulldozing removed from 0.4 to 1.26 ft of soil (Figure 10). The eastern and much of the northern project area was already cleared and grading underway when the archaeologist arrived.

Results of Archaeological Laboratory Analysis

Excavation of Units 1, 2, and 3 yielded a total of 1,437 artifacts. An additional 87 objects were cataloged from various surface proveniences at Tannenbaum Historic Park (Stine and Selikoff 2000:Appendix C). The accessioning system used conformed to the procedures used by the Office of State Archaeology (OSA) in Raleigh (OSA 1995), since the OSA laboratory was the ultimate curation facility for the 1999 collection. The 2002 project yielded 479 artifacts from both surface and shovel test proveniences. The following only highlights the finds; complete details and inventories are found elsewhere (Stine and Adamson 2003; Stine and Selikoff 2000).

Two 1999 artifacts were prehistoric: an undecorated coil-made potsherd and a small rhyolite thinning flake. Wake Forest's previous work produced a small collection of prehistoric tools and related metavolcanic stone debris (Abbott 1984; Stine and Selikoff 2000:Appendix B). These items and the flake discovered in 1999 testing are typical of lithic scatters found across the Carolina piedmont. In 2002 shovel testing, eight quartz items were found, including a flake and a potentially utilized flake (Stine and Adamson 2003).

The 1,435 remaining artifacts found in 1999 are historic. The potential primary function of each of these items has been determined, following the pioneering work of South (1977:Table 4). Table 2 lists the relative frequencies of artifacts by functional group. Investigations in 2002 yielded a similar distribution of functional groups (Stine and Adamson 2003:14–19).

A perusal of Table 2 reveals that items related to architecture were the most abundant, not surprising at a site where so many additions, remodeling, and tearing down of additions has occurred. All the years of building, rebuilding, and destruction left a lot of rubble, asphalt, concrete, and other building materials. Nails, for example, were common. Of all identifiable nails, wire nails comprise the majority (n=185), followed by machined cut (n=94). The former type is common in the region by 1890, the latter by the 1830s (Stine and Selikoff 2000:95). Eighteenth-century wrought nails were not found in 1999 or 2002, but the Wake Forest inventory includes wrought nails (Stine and Selikoff 2000:Appendix B).

The historic ceramics found range in date of manufacture from the eighteenth through the twentieth centuries. The Mean Ceramic Date (following South 1977) for the 1999 unit assemblage has been calculated as 1810 (Stine and Selikoff 2000:Table 5). The majority of manufacturing

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Table 2. Relative Artifact Percentages by Functional Group, 31GF413**.

Artifact Group	Count	Percentage
Kitchen	373	25.99
Architecture	973	67.80
Personal	8	0.56
Clothing	6	0.42
Furniture	4	0.28
Arms	3	0.21
Activities	24	1.67
Faunal	1	0.07
Fuel/By-products	14	0.98
Miscellaneous	29	2.02
Total	1,435	100.00

dates bracket the last two decades of the eighteenth century through the first three decades of the nineteenth century. The earliest recorded date of ceramic manufacture is for a fragment of hand-painted, polychrome overglazed porcelain, produced from ca. 1745–1795 with a mean date of 1770 (South 1977:210). The latest mean date of manufacture for an excavated ceramic is 1900 (decalcomania whiteware/ironstone, 1880–1920 [Majewski and O’Brien 1987:147]). The majority of ceramics from test unit excavations are varieties of pearlware, which was produced during the last two decades of the eighteenth century through the early decades of the nineteenth century.

The 1999 excavation ceramic assemblage compares favorably with the eighteenth- through twentieth-century artifact date range of the 1984 Wake Forest collection and the dates for the 19 ceramic artifacts found during shovel testing and grading in 2002 (Stine and Selikoff 2000; Stine and Adamson 2003). It confirms historic settlement on the knoll probably as early as the last quarter of the eighteenth century through the twentieth century. This date range was verified by other artifact classes.

Most importantly, the 2002 investigations found the first definite Revolutionary War-era military artifact, an all-purpose musket tool (Figure 12). It is unfortunate that it was uncovered by a bulldozer blade. A city surveyor spotted the artifact and, under the direction of the Park director, shot in the location of the find (Stine and Adamson 2003).

The potential of these archaeological deposits to shed light on the dates of site occupation and diachronic land-use, combined with Tannenbaum Historic Park’s inclusion in the National Historic Landmark

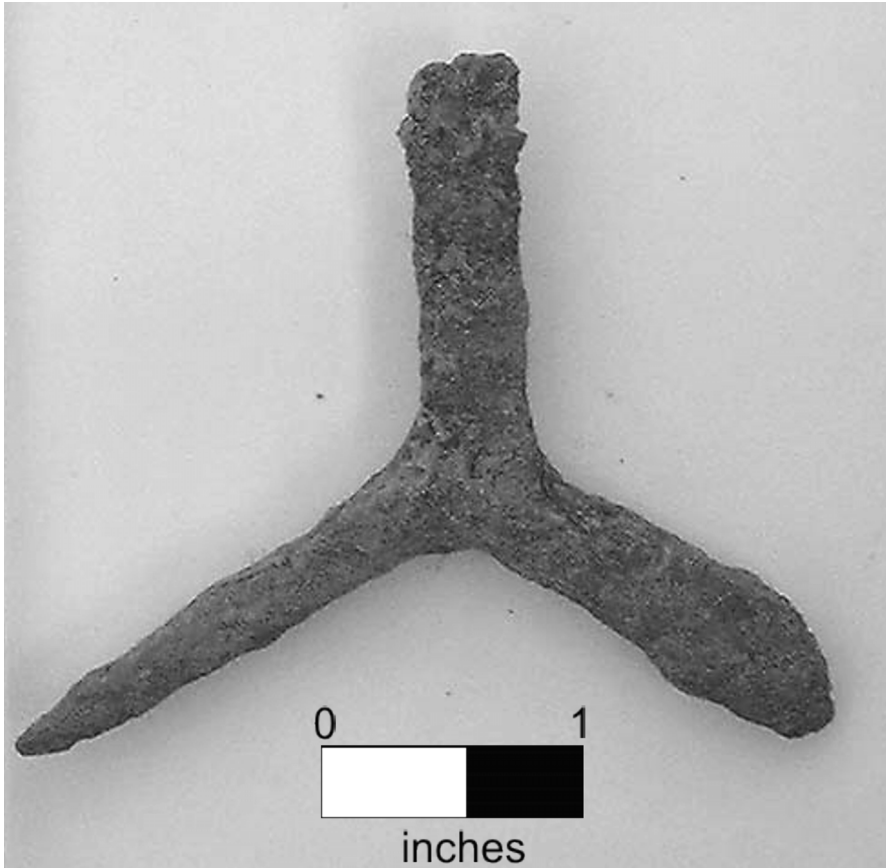


Figure 12. Musket tool found at the Hoskins House site. Courtesy of Harold Gunn, Tannenbaum Historic Park.

for the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, underlines the importance of protecting site 31GF413**. This was reiterated in a site protocol provided by UNCG archaeology to the Tannenbaum Historic Park (Stine 2000; see also Stine and Selikoff 2000).

The Hoskins' Farmstead

Historical archaeological research and GIS analysis at Tannenbaum Historic Park demonstrate changes in the historic landscape. The Hoskins cabin is sited on a knoll facing an historic road. Once, it was the location of a substantial eighteenth- and nineteenth-century farmstead. By the early

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twentieth-century the farm no longer encompassed the majority of the Hoskins family's initial holdings. The twentieth century saw the neighborhood develop into an increasingly urbanized residential area, and ultimately the core of the farmstead became a city park.

Dendrochronology results report an 1857 date for the chestnut logs of the extant Hoskins House (Heikkenen and Egan 2000). This may prove to be the case, although the report states "The year of best fit for the oak key-year pattern was highly significant when aligned with the area oak key-year pattern for the Chesapeake Bay" (Heikkenen and Egan 2000:abstract and p. 6). It is unknown if these data were checked against regional North Carolina sequences. On the other hand, Park service historians did report that in 1938 some Hoskins descendants stated that the extant cabin was the original Hoskins cabin built during the Colonial era. Other relatives believed that the original cabin had been taken down in the last two or three decades of the nineteenth century and that a new cabin was "erected on the same site" (as quoted in Hatch 1970:78).

Archaeological results do indicate an eighteenth- through mid-nineteenth-century farmstead presence on the knoll, continuing until the later decades of the twentieth century. Geographical and historical research results have revealed that portions of the site have seen major landscape alterations. Continuing multidisciplinary research, including an intensive shovel testing program, should reveal more details about the changing site settlement pattern over time.

Notes

¹ Software names are given not as an endorsement but to indicate the software used.

Acknowledgments. Archaeological and GIS research at Tannenbaum has been supported by the Tannenbaum-Sternburger Foundation, the Guilford Battleground Company, and Tannenbaum Historic Park, City of Greensboro, North Carolina. GIS research at Guilford Courthouse National Military Park has been sponsored by the National Park Service, Guilford Courthouse National Military Park. We would like to acknowledge the volunteers from UNCG, from Tannenbaum Historic Park, and from Guilford Courthouse National Military Park who participated in these projects. Past Guilford Courthouse National Military Park Superintendent Robert Vogel, and Tannenbaum Historic Park Director Adrienne Byrd have been steadfast in their support of this research.

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