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Archaeologists have completed work in the eastern area of the Newman Street site. There, they found the remains of a mid- to late nineteenth century duplex noted on historic maps. Even though much of the building was gone, archaeologists uncovered the remains of the southern and western walls of the building as well as a brick and stone chimney base, which provided a fireplace in each side of the duplex.



Archaeologists are now investigating a brick dwelling to the west of the duplex remains and several features, including a well and possible frame kitchen. The brick dwelling, like the duplex to the east, is depicted on nineteenth century maps. However, archaeologists have determined that the building is much older based on the types of artifacts found in deeper levels within the foundation. Artifacts dating to the mid-eighteenth century were discovered below remnants of a wood floor and a layer of clay fill and on top of a brick floor.



Eighteenth century artifacts recovered from the brick dwelling include hand-painted tin-glaze earthenware, Rhenish stoneware, olive-green bottle glass, wrought nails, and a wig curler.

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No detailed maps from this era exist that would have told us where the 18th century building was located. However, deed and lease records from this time period indicate that a wigmaker named William Logan acquired a 99-year lease on the property in 1767 and likely built a more substantial building on the property soon after. Archaeologists have found a wig curler (pictured above) among the eighteenth-century artifacts. Wig curlers were originally made from white kaolin clay, which happens to be the same type of clay used to make tobacco pipes. While most curlers today are applied directly to hair, most historians agree that wig curlers were used almost exclusively for wigs. To make curls, wigmakers like William Logan would have rolled sections of the wig in strips of paper around the curlers before boiling the wig for approximately three hours. Once removed, the wig was then dried and baked in an oven.