CULTURAL RESOURCE ANALYSTS, INC.

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July 27, 2001

Dr. Robert F. Maslowski
Archaeologist
Huntington District Corps of Engineers
502 Eighth Street
Huntington, West Virginia 25701-2070

RE: Archaeological Testing, Albert Gallatin Jenkins House at Greenbottom, Cabell County, West Virginia (Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc. Contract Publication Series WV01-82)

Dear Dr. Maslowski:

This letter report is submitted per the Scope of Work (Scope) for the above referenced project (Attachment 1). Provided is a summary of the methodology and testing results, including photographs and a plan map of the Albert Gallatin Jenkins House (Jenkins House) showing the location of the test units.

Required Services

At the request of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc. was contracted to excavate two archaeological test units at the Jenkins House. The goals of the excavation were to 1) determine the depth and width of the builder's trench associated with the house, and 2) evaluate how wide a drainage ditch could be excavated without disturbing archaeological deposits (Attachment 1). The information required to address these goals was to be obtained through the excavation of two hand excavated test units. One unit was to be placed on the riverward (north) side of the house, and the other on the opposite side (south) toward Route 2. Each unit would be 2.0-x-0.5 m (6.6-x-1.6 ft) in size, with depth of excavation extending to the base of the foundation. Screening of excavated soil was not required, as only visible artifacts were to be collected.

Work Effort

Through coordination with Dr. Robert Maslowski, fieldwork was scheduled for July 23-24, 2001. Archaeological investigations, completed by William Updike and Michael Orr, consisted of the excavation of the two test units discussed above. However, the size of the units was increased to 1.0-x-2.0 m (3.3-x-6.6 ft) in order to accommodate the depth to which they extended, that is, 0.5 m (1.6 ft) wide trenches were too narrow for efficient excavation. The location of the units is shown in Figure 1. After being excavated, photographed, and mapped, both units were backfilled.

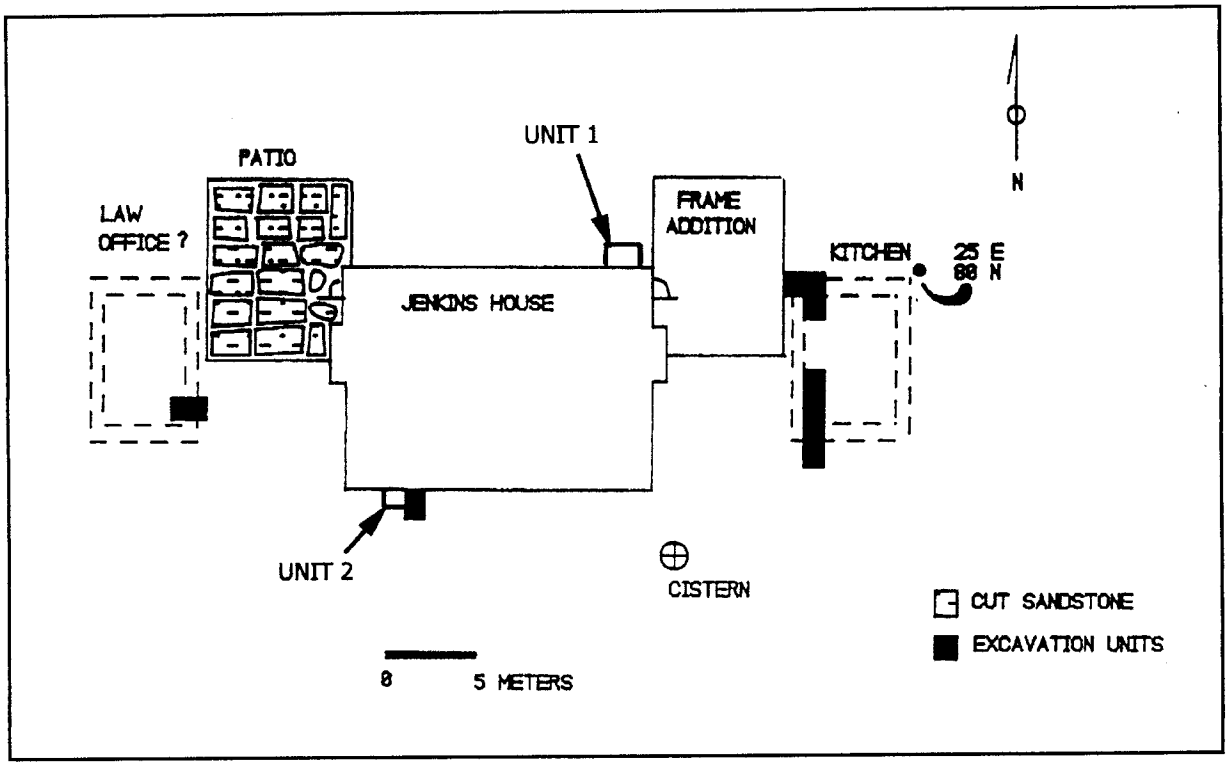

Figure 1

Results

Excavation Unit 1

Unit 1 was placed 1.0 m (3.3 ft) west of the northeast corner of the 1835 portion of the house, adjacent to the stone and frame addition (Figure 1). The unit was oriented with the long axis parallel to the north wall of the house (Figure 2). Immediately below the present ground surface an iron pipe, representing a probable gas line, was encountered directly adjacent to the foundation (Figure 2). Another iron pipe, again probably a gas line, was encountered running parallel to the north wall of the unit (Figure 2). This pipe was encountered approximately 10 cm (3.3 in) below the present ground surface, and is probably the same pipe observed entering the wall of the stone and frame addition. Furthermore, on the basis of a "T" joint identified in the northwest part of the unit, it is evident that the pipe extends an unknown distance to the west and north (Figure 2).

Beginning approximately 10 cm (3.3 in) below the present ground surface, a 8 to 12 cm (2.4-3.5 in) wide builder's trench was distinguished from the surrounding soil matrix by its lighter color and mottled appearance (Figure 2). The matrix for this feature was brown (7.5YR4/4) with mottles of topsoil being very dark grayish brown (10YR3/2) (Figure 2). Texture was fine clayey silt loam. This feature extended to the base of the foundation, approximately 80 cm (24.2 in) below its point of recognition (Figure 3). From the present ground surface to the bottom of the builder's trench the depth was approximately 1.0 m (3.3 ft). The masonry wall below the present ground surface was undressed sandstone, three courses thick with irregular joints filled with poorly made mortar, seemingly a mix of sand with small amounts of lime (Figure 4). The narrowness of the builder's suggests that the excavation for the basement of the Jenkins House was made to nearly the correct size for the foundation, with the foundation walls being constructed

very close to the sides of the excavation. The excavation did not encounter any evidence for a wide footer or a former drainage system at the base of the foundation wall.

Two distinct soil horizons were identified. The upper horizon consisted of a very dark grayish brown (10YR3/2) silt loam A horizon with archaeological inclusions dating from the Historic and Late Prehistoric periods. The A horizon was thick, with average depth being 56 cm (16.9 in) below present ground surface. Associated artifacts classes included historic window glass, coal cinder, and minor amounts of whiteware/ironstone, as well as prehistoric shell tempered Fort Ancient pottery, debitage, one ground stone celt, and a piece of worked hematite. The underlying Bw horizon was dark yellowish brown (10YR4/6) with silty sand texture. This horizon appeared to extend beyond the base of the excavation at 1.2 m (3.8 ft) below the present ground surface. No historic or prehistoric inclusions or features were identified in association with this horizon.

Excavation Unit 2

Unit 2 was placed approximately 2.4 m (7.8 ft) east of the southwest corner of the 1835 portion of the Jenkins House (Figure 2). The unit was oriented with the long axis parallel to the south wall of the house. Beginning approximately 20 cm (6.6 in) below the present ground surface, a builder's trench feature could be discerned (Figure 5). Like the builder's trench recorded in Unit 1, it was 8 to 12 cm (2.4-3.5 in) wide with a mottled brown (7.5YR4/4) and very dark grayish brown (10YR3/2) clayey silt loam fill. The trench feature extended to the base of the wall, or approximately 70 cm (2.3 ft) below the point of recognition and 90 cm (2.9 ft) below ground surface. The masonry wall below the present ground surface was undressed sandstone, three courses thick with irregular joints filled with low quality mortar (Figure 6). The latter appeared to be made from sand with a small amount of lime present in the mix.

It appears that the excavation for the basement of the Jenkins house was made to nearly the correct size for the foundation, then the foundation walls were constructed very close to the sides of the excavation. This method left a very small builder's trench feature outside of the foundation wall (Figure 7). Excavation of Unit 2 failed to encounter any evidence for a wide footer or a former drainage system at the base of the foundation wall. However, in addition to the south wall of the Jenkins House, a second architectural feature was identified. This feature consisted of a 20 cm (6.6 in) wide sandstone wall oriented perpendicular to the south wall of the Jenkins House (Figure 8). The top of this feature was defined approximately 20 cm (6.6 in) below the present ground surface. This structural feature appears to represent a retaining wall for a second bulkhead entry into the basement of the house. A sandstone step was encountered inside the feature, and an entrance, located beneath an existing window, was filled with brick. Similar to Unit 1, an iron pipe was encountered 20 cm (6.6 in) below the current ground surface. This may also be a former gas line that runs in an excavated trench aligned parallel to the wall of the bulkhead entrance (Figure 8).

Two soil horizons were identified in Unit 2. The A horizon, which extended to about 40 cm (15.7 in) below surface, consisted of a very dark grayish brown (10YR3/2) silt loam, with identifiable archaeological inclusions dating from the Historic and Late Prehistoric periods. However, in closer proximity to the foundation wall, this horizon (or at least dark soil) extended to a depth of approximately 90 cm (35.4 in). Natural processes of soil formation can not explain this extreme variation in depth over such a small area. As such, it is probable that its extended depth near the house wall is the result of an unknown historic disturbance. The installation of a gas line in this area resulted in additional disturbance to the soil profile, making it difficult to make detailed interpretations. Artifacts associated with the A horizon consisted of historic window glass, coal cinder, and minor amounts of whiteware/ironstone ceramics, as well as prehistoric shell tempered Ft. Ancient pottery and chert debitage.

The underlying Bw horizon was dark yellowish brown (10YR4/6) with silty sand texture. This horizon extended to the base of the excavation at a depth of 96 cm (37.8 in) below the present ground surface. Archaeological inclusions were not identified in association with this horizon.

Conclusions

On the basis of the small amount of area exposed by the excavation of Units 1 and 2, the following conclusions can be made. First, there is a high probability that excavations required for the drainage system will encounter gas lines and other modern emplacements, as well as the remains of architectural features important for the interpretation of the Jenkins House. Second, based on the presence of Late Prehistoric artifacts and the general intactness of the soil profile, the possibility exists that prehistoric features will be encountered by future excavations. In all likelihood features would be located at or near the surface within the A horizon, as no evidence for archaeological materials was observed in the B horizon. And, third, in order to lessen the potential for impacting intact archaeological deposits, the excavation trench for the drainage system should be placed within the builder's trench, which as discussed in the report, does not extend more than 30.5 cm (12 in) from the walls.

Sincerely,

William D. Updike, RPA
Staff Archaeologist

C. Michael Anslinger, RPA
Vice-President of Operations – West Virginia

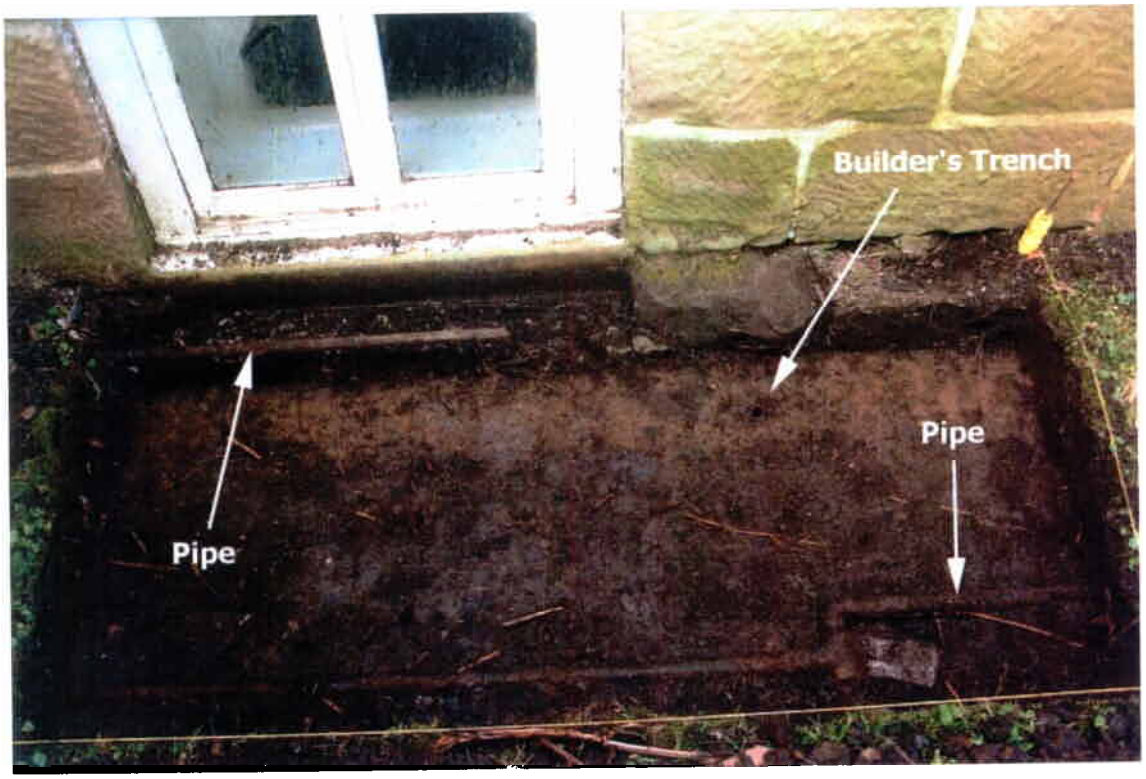

Figure 2: Plan of Unit 1 at 20 cm below surface.

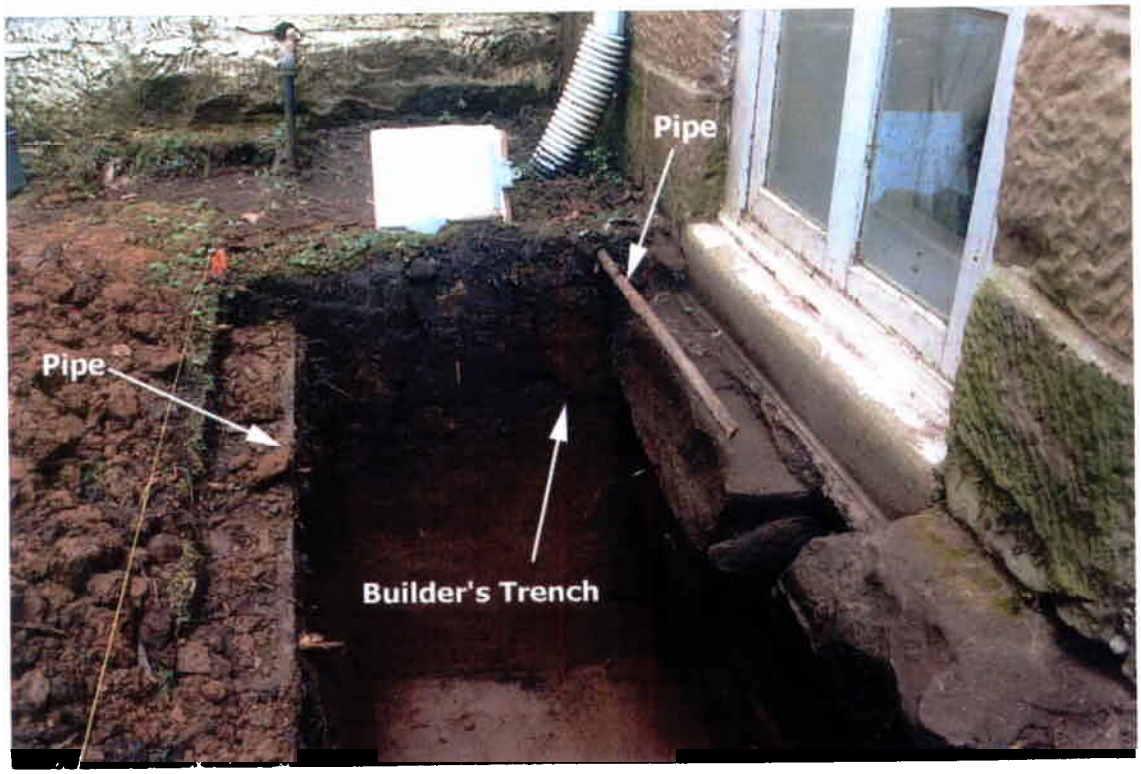

Figure 3: Unit 1 at 1.2 m below surface.

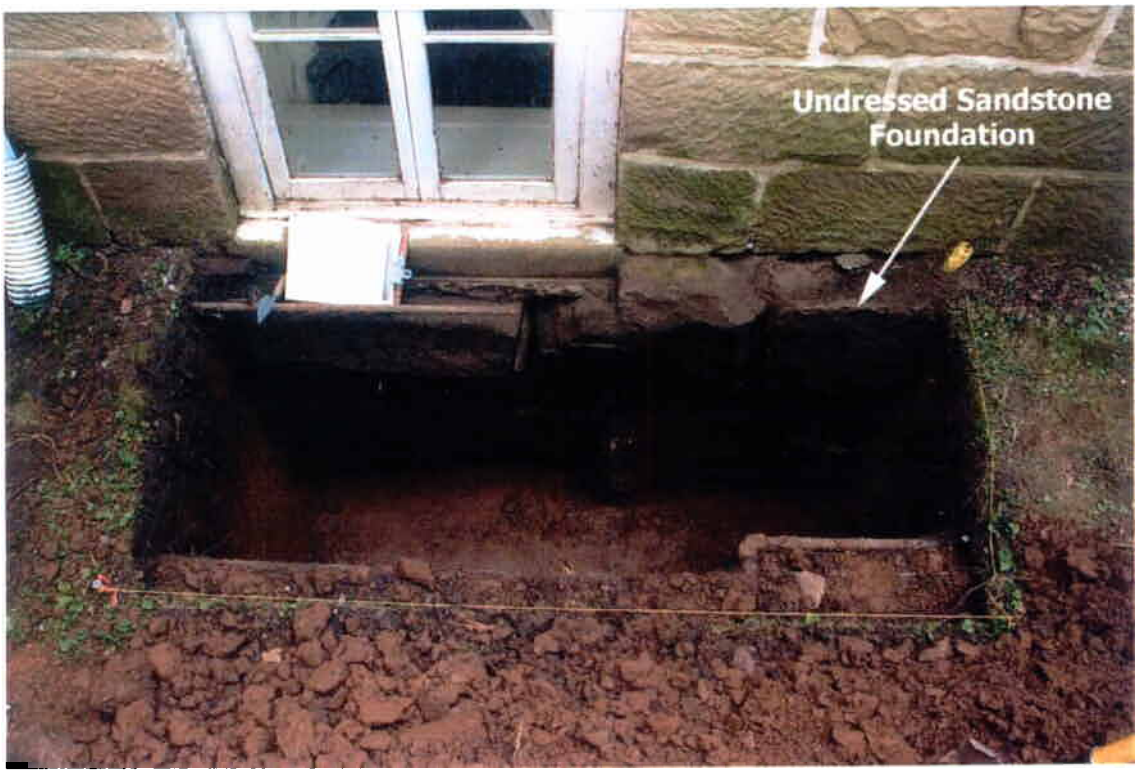

Figure 4: Unit 1 at 1.2 m below surface.

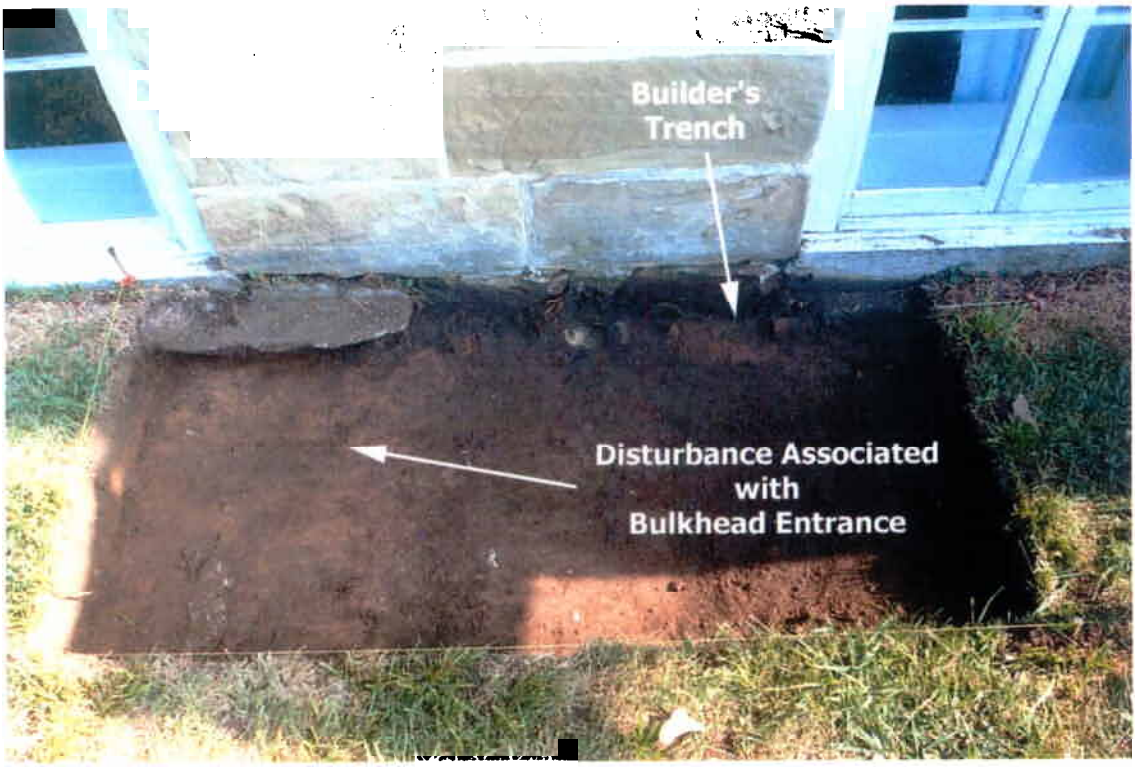

Figure 5: Unit 2 at 20 cm below surface.

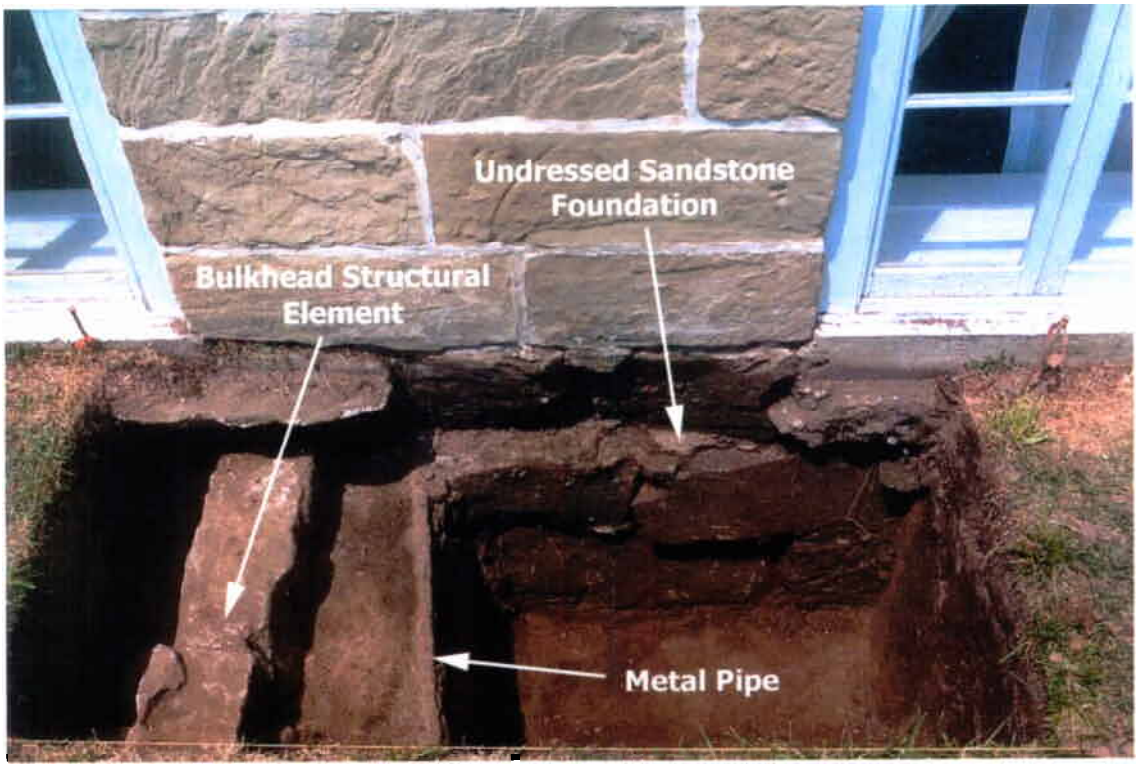

Figure 6: Unit 2.

Figure 7: General view of Unit 2 at 0.9 m below surface.

Figure 8: Unit 2 at 0.9 m below surface.

Attachment 1

Scope of Work

Scope of Work
Archeological Testing
Albert Gallatin Jenkins House, Green Bottom
Cabell County, West Virginia

1. Background

Site 46CB41, the Jenkins House Site, is a multi-component site located on a second terrace 800 m south of the Ohio River at elevation 550' AMSL. The site includes the historic General Albert Gallatin Jenkins homestead. Maximum dimensions of the site are 100 m north/south and 300 m east/west (Hughes and Niquette 1989:139).

The site was originally described by Wilkins (1974) who excavated a 5 x 10 foot block during a survey made in advance of construction of West Virginia State Route 2. The block was excavated to a depth of 1.5 feet. It produced a low density of cultural artifacts and no features.

Test excavations at the Jenkins House site (Hughes and Niquette 1989) revealed intact historic features. The foundation of the original kitchen was exposed immediately east of the main house. Most historic material recovered was from the nineteenth century. Prehistoric materials recovered from the site consisted of Late Prehistoric pottery types, triangular points and mussel shell. Prehistoric material collected from the site includes 5 Madison projectile points, 1 drill, 23 bifaces, 1 celt, 1 groundstone fragment, 1 bone needle fragment and 534 ceramic sherds. Historic material from the site included ceramic fragments, container and window glass fragments, nails and various other hardware items, brick fragments and mortar fragments (Hughes and Niquette 1989).

2. Services Required.

The services required of the Contractor shall consist of the completion of two archeological test units to determine the depth and width of the builders trench associated with the house. One test excavation will be placed on the riverward side of the house and the other on the side facing Route 2. The two units will be hand excavated and will be approximately two meters long and .5 meters wide.

Dirt excavated from the units will be inspected for artifacts but will not be screened.
All work should be coordinated with the Greg Miller, the Jenkins Plantation Site Manager, telephone 304-762-1059.

The report will include results of the test excavations, a description of any artifacts found, and a evaluation of how wide a drainage ditch could be excavated without disturbing the archeological deposits.

The report will conform to the reporting standards of the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office.

3. Materials provided by the Government.

The Huntington District will provide the contractor with the following:

A. Detailed Topographic maps showing project area.

4. Reports.

The Contractor shall prepare a brief letter report following field work on results and interpretations for use in the interim coordination with the SHPO.

The Contractor shall prepare a draft report for the District and other agency review, and a final report that addresses all the comments resulting from the review and comment process.

Both draft and final reports shall be typed on 8 $^1/_2$ x 11-inch paper with 1-inch top and bottom margins, and a 1 $^1/_4$-inch-binding margin. The final report text shall be single-spaced and pagination shall conform to standard front to back printing requirements. The final report shall be typed on fully white, offset paper 60#. The reports shall be carefully proofread and edited by the Contractor to be reasonably free of error.

Photographs and illustrations shall be included when appropriate. All photographs included in the final report shall be originals; the draft reports may use good quality photocopy reproductions. Oversized figures shall be formatted to an 11 x 17-inch page size with adequate margins.

Report submittal. Four (4) copies of the draft report (three bound and one unbound) shall be submitted to the District for review and comment. One original unbound final copy and four (4) bound final copies of the report shall be submitted to the District. This final report shall be accompanied by one floppy disk or CD, formatted on an IBM compatible computer, containing two copies of the report, one using Microsoft Word or Word Perfect software and another in an ASCII-converted word-processing file.

Publishing Restrictions. Neither the Contractor nor his representative shall release or publish any sketch, photograph, report, or other material of any nature obtained or prepared under this contract without specific written approval of the Contracting Officer or his authorized Representative. Records of site locations are considered to be internal documents and are not for public distribution. All reports, drawings, maps, photographs, notes, and other material developed in the performance of this contract shall be and remain the sole property of the Government and may be used on any other work without additional compensation to the Contractor. The Contractor agrees not to assert any rights and not to establish any claim with respect thereto.

5. Schedule of Work.

The contractor shall follow this schedule:

July 23, 2001	Begin Work
July 27, 2001	Submit Letter Report
August 3, 20011	Submit Draft report
August 10, 2001	Submit Final Report