

Technical Report

**INTENSIVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY
TRAINING FIELD/WINTHROP SQUARE PARK**

Boston, MA

Joseph Bagley

Submitted to:

Boston Parks and Recreation Department

1010 Massachusetts Avenue

Boston, MA 02118

Submitted by:

City Archaeology Program

Boston Landmarks Commission

City Hall, Room 805

Boston, MA 02201



City of Boston
ARCHAEOLOGY

MANAGEMENT ABSTRACT

At the urging of the Charlestown Preservation Society and with the full cooperation of the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, the City of Boston Archaeology program was brought into the planning stage of the restoration and landscape improvement master plan for Charlestown's historic Training Field (Winthrop Square) Park. The results of this survey are indicative of the great potential parks in Boston have for yet-undocumented significant archaeological sites.

The Park has been an active participant in Charlestown's history since the 17th century functioning over nearly 300 years as a cow pasture, militia training field, school house, open gathering space, and a place of memorial. This is the park's first archaeological survey.

An archaeological survey was conducted over a period of three consecutive weeks in September of 2013. In total, 49 50x50cm (20x20 inch) shovel test pits were excavated to a depth of 120 cm (4 feet) or until the digging was impeded by immovable objects. In total, 24,172 artifacts were recovered and cataloged. This dig was supported by a donated Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey conducted by Geophysical Survey Systems, Inc. The test pits were placed on a 10-meter grid with 5m bracketing test pits with significant deposits.

Eight sites were documented. Mishawum 1 is a Native lithic workstation of unknown age. Mishawum 2 is a Woodland period resource processing area with Native pottery. The Training Field School site is a municipal school house located on the western portion of the site next to the Training Field Firehouse and Gun House sites. All three of these sites were built around 1827 and removed from the park in 1847. Finally, a mid-19th century fountain (Training Field Fountain site) and large late 18th early 19th century trash deposit were encountered (Breeds Hill Slope site).

Overall, a deep fill deposit was encountered across the entire Park extending in all locations within the park to a minimum depth of 50 cmbs. This deposit appears to consist mostly of deep sub-soils excavated from somewhere outside of the Park and re-deposited onto the Park.

The report recommends archaeological survey in any area where excavations will extend below 50cms (20 inches) or where areas will be capped preventing future access to possible archaeological deposits. Any future work within the upper 50 cms (20 inches) that does not extend into or solidly cap (pavement, concrete, etc.) deeper deposits may proceed without archaeological survey.

Acknowledgements

This project is the result of the coordination between the Boston Landmarks Commission, Charlestown Preservation Society, and Boston Parks and Recreation Department. The Parks Department staff are thanked for their willingness to work with the City Archaeologist, coordinate with scheduling, provide valuable maps, and offer of vehicles and storage area during field excavations. Excavations would not have been possible without a dedicated and professional team of volunteer archaeologists. These volunteers include included Danielle Cathcart, Eric Fahey, Ellen Blake, Paul Pironti, Marj Radin, Sarah Keklak, Rosemary Pinelas, Aileen Balasalle, Justin Thomas, Justin Warrenfeltz, Kristina Traudt, Dustin Thomas, Maggie Klejbuk, Devora Glover, Naomi Riddiford, Sonia Martinez, Leila Elihu, Kalila Herring, Julia Gaynor, Michele DiPalo, Taryn Westerkamp, Shannon Ryan, Trish Baggott, Ian Gillerman, Ann O'Connell, Julie Finn, Melissa Geise, Elaine Abrams, Deborah Faire, Julie Hall, Rhonda Moore, Maureen Madigan, Jeff Higgins, Terry Phelps, Robin Sully, Jerry Cross, Elissa Fix, Sarah Blanchard, and David Hennessey. Volunteer Ground Penetrating Radar was graciously provided by Sara Gale of GSSI. Fieldwork and morale was greatly improved by frequent visits by Judith McDonough.

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

In response to proposed park landscape improvements under development by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department (Parks) and at the urging of the Charlestown Preservation Society (CPS), the City Archaeology Program (CAP), under the direction of Joseph Bagley, City Archaeologist, and a team of volunteers has completed an intensive archaeological survey of the Training Field Park in the Charlestown Neighborhood of Boston, Massachusetts (Figure 1). The Parks Department is proposing to improve the public enjoyment and appearance of the park by remediating water runoff and soil erosion throughout the Park. These improvements are in developmental stage and will be mitigated by the results of this survey; however, possible improvements include processes with below-ground impacts. These include soil aeration to improve grass growth and reduce soil compaction, installation of drains and cisterns to capture water prior to its movement across the park, widening pathways, installation and modification of curbing, and possible removal of invasive plant species. Because these modifications cover most of the park, the area of potential effect (APE) includes the entire Training Field Park (Figure 1).



Figure 1- Project APE (red) and location within Charlestown neighborhood of Boston

This report documents the results of the intensive archaeological survey, which includes a review of background information gathered prior to the project, a summary of field results, and a management summary regarding the project area. The goal of this project is to identify areas of preserved archaeological resources and make recommendations regarding the possible need for further testing in the area.

Scope and Authority

While not under the jurisdiction of the Boston Landmarks Commission, this project is entirely within city-owned property. Due to the insistence of the Charlestown Preservation Society, Parks invited the CAP to conduct the archaeological investigation. The City Archaeologist determined the park to be sensitive for Native American, Colonial, Revolutionary, and later cultural deposits. The archaeological survey was conducted by the City Archaeologist and a team of volunteers September 3-21, 2013 under State Archaeologist's permit number 3407 issued by the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) (Appendix A). The methodology employed in this archaeological survey conforms to standards and guidelines set forth in *Public Planning and Environment Review: Archaeology and Historic Preservation*, Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC 1985) and the guidelines established by the National Park Service in the *Recovery of Scientific, Prehistoric, Historic, and Archaeological Data* (36 CFR Part 66).

Project Personnel

Personnel involved with this project included Joseph Bagley (principal investigator, project archaeologist, field supervisor, lab supervisor). A team of volunteer field technicians from local graduate archaeology programs, the City Archaeology Program, and the local Charlestown community included Danielle Cathcart, Eric Fahey, Ellen Blake, Paul Pironti, Marj Radin, Sarah Keklak, Rosemary Pinelas, Aileen Balasalle, Justin Thomas, Justin Warrenfeltz, Kristina Traudt,

Dustin Thomas, Maggie Klejbuk, Devora Glover, Naomi Riddiford, Sonia Martinez, Leila Elihu, Kalila Herring, Julia Gaynor, Michele DiPalo, Taryn Westerkamp, Shannon Ryan, Trish Baggott, Ian Gillerman, Ann O'Connell, Julie Finn, Melissa Geise, Elaine Abrams, Deborah Faire, Julie Hall, Rhonda Moore, Maureen Madigan, Jeff Higgins, Terry Phelps, Robin Sully, Jerry Cross, Elissa Fix, Sarah Blanchard, and David Hennessey.

Disposition of Project Materials

All project information, materials, and documents are on file at the City Archaeology Lab, 201 Rivermoor St., West Roxbury, MA.

CHAPTER 2- RESEARCH DESIGN AND FIELDWORK METHODS

Goals

The goal of this intensive archaeological survey was to identify cultural materials in intact contexts within the project area. In order to determine the location and identification of these materials, three techniques were employed. These were archival research, a walkover-survey of the project area, and a subsurface archaeological investigation within the project area.

Archival research included the examination of historic documents to determine the sensitivity of the area. A walkover-survey helped to determine the overall preservation and sensitivity of the project area, and the field excavations allowed for the documentation of actual preservation conditions of the project area and record present archaeological materials.

Final determinations of significance are based on National Park Service standards (NPS 1983).

Archival Research

State Records

The Massachusetts Historic Commission's archaeological site inventory was consulted to determine the location and significance of archaeological sites on and surrounding Boston Common. Cultural resource management reports were also consulted to review previous archaeological sensitivity and field reports. Neither archaeological sites nor archaeological surveys were found with regards to the Training Field.

Professional Publications

No professional publications were found that significant or useful information.

Maps

Historic Maps provided valuable background information on the use of the project area over time.

Environmental Data

Bedrock and surficial geology GIS layers provided information on the status of physical structure of the landscape within the project and confirmed the project area as located on original, not made, land.

Walkover Survey

A walkover survey was conducted to visually examine the current conditions of the project area. The primary goal of this survey was to determine the extent of historic period disturbances to the project area including pathway distribution, erosion, and drainage.

Sensitivity

With the exception of a 1820 schoolhouse, the Training Field Park had never been developed. Multiple path arrangements had occurred on the park throughout its history, but these were determined to have minor impacts because of the lack of pavement or development of foundations for the pathways.

Below-ground Testing

Archaeologists excavated 49 50x50 cm test pits within the project area (Figure 2). A transect (TR1) was extended from the southern corner of the park near the entrance at Common and Park Streets to the eastern entrance of the park at the corner of Adams and Park Streets along the narrow grassy border between Park street and the pathway running parallel to the road. Two judgmental test pits (JTPs) was placed near the center of two small rectangular grass patches on the northeaster side park along Adams Street avoiding large exposed tree root systems. For the remaining park area, a datum of N100 E100 was established at the intersection of two lines measuring 15 meters from the southern and western corners of the Civil War Monument located near the center of the park. A 10 meter grid was established from the site datum. Additional test pits were excavated at 5 meter arrays around test pits with significant features, deposits, or artifacts. All pit locations were subject to the boundaries of the park, existing structures, trees, monuments, buried utilities, and gardens, and adjustments were made accordingly where possible to avoid these obstacles.

Test pits were excavated with shovel in 10 cm levels within soil horizons do a minimal depth of 120 cm or until impeded by immovable objects. All soils were screened through ¼ inch mesh. Materials collected were bagged and tagged with their depth and associated horizon. Profiles were drawn of each test pit and soil colors recorded using a Munsell soil book on City Archaeology Program standard forms.

Photos were taken prior to excavations to document present locations, and during excavations to document fieldwork. Photos were taken of numerous test pit profiles to document stratigraphic horizons.

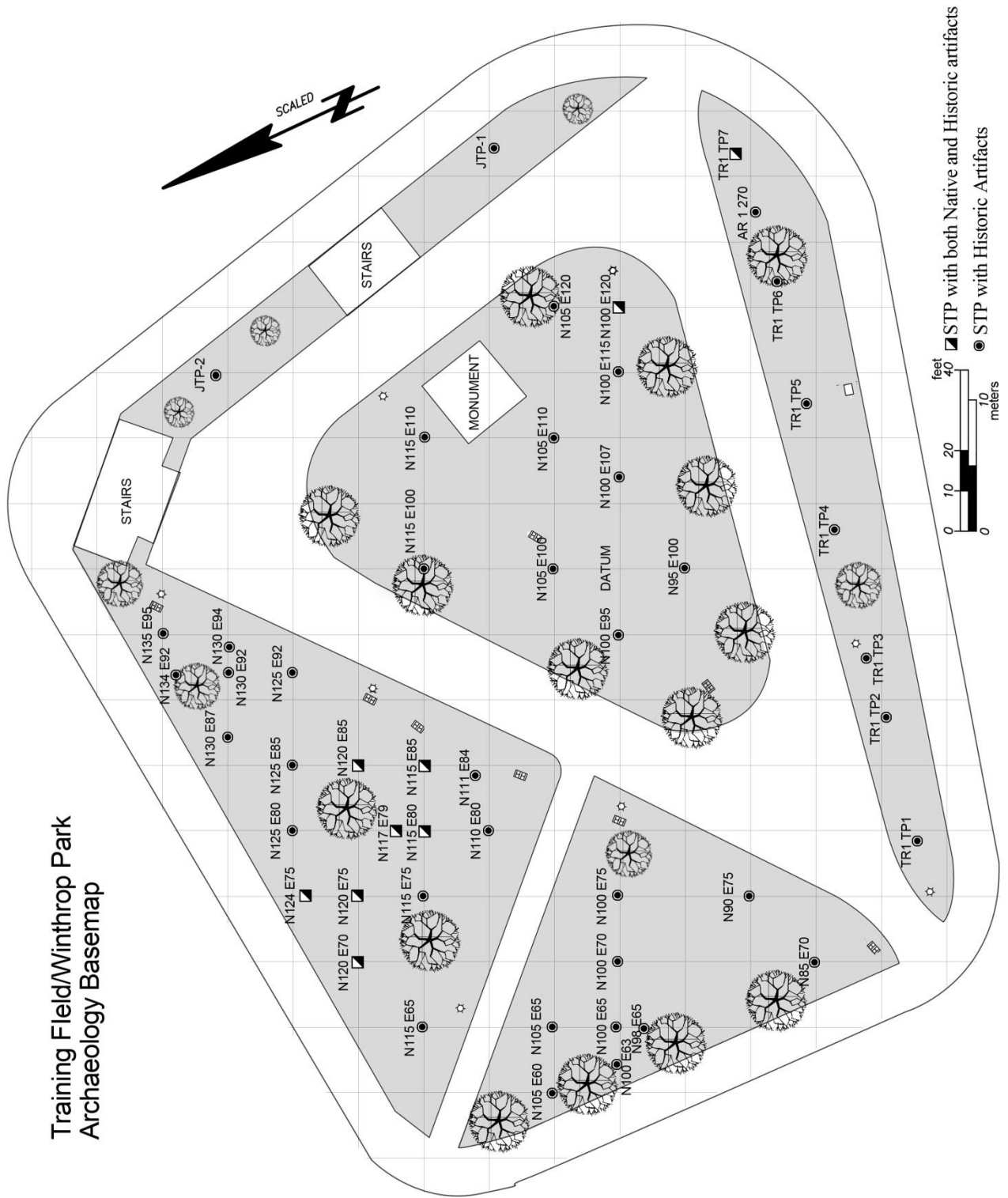


Figure 2- Archaeology Base map showing test pit locations

Lab Processing

All artifacts were processed at the City Archaeology Lab. Wet or dry brushing was used, where appropriate, followed by a minimum of two day drying period on drying racks. All artifacts were re-bagged by artifact lot and labeled with their full provenience information.

Catalog and Curation

After processing, all artifacts were cataloged using the Massachusetts Artifact Tracking System (MATS). Once cataloged, the artifacts were boxed by provenience and are permanently stored within the City Lab's curatorial facility in accordance with state and federal curation guidelines.

CHAPTER 3: ENVIRONMENTAL BACKGROUND

Physiography and Topography

The Training Field Park lies within the New England Coastal Lowland physiographic zone. The soils overlie bedrock of Cambridge and Braintree argillite with later glacial drumlin and till deposits capping the bedrock. The Park lies at the outlet of the Charles River near the confluence of the Charles and Mystic rivers, within the Boston Basin and Charles River drainage basin, on a peninsula of land at the mouth of the Charles (Figure 1).

Soils

The Park is located on the southern slope of Breeds Hill, and was once approximately 150 meters from the shoreline at the former Town Dock of Charlestown, now filled. The park slopes downward from north to south and rainwater travels down Park Street, through the north entrance to the Park, and through the project area eroding soils. Soils in the project area are eroding glacial deposits associated with the formation of Breeds Hill.

Topography

The project area lies on a natural topographic hill about 10 meters above sea level. The slope is continuous across the entire park.

Flora

The current conditions the Training Field are a carefully constructed park landscape. Within the project area are several mature London Plane trees, Norway maple, and oak as well as scattered ornamental trees.

CHAPTER 4: RESULTS

Archival

Archival research provided little contemporary evidence of the park's use as a training field during the Colonial and Revolutionary period of Boston's history though it is clear that the area behind Charlestown village heading toward Breeds Hill was used as the town Training Field and common land for animal grazing. However, the continual referrals to the park as the Training Field in all subsequent documents make clear its use in the past. It is likely that due to its nature as an occasional usage outside of pasture land prior to the Revolution is the cause of this relative lack of information.

Training Field Park is located on the Freedom trail almost equal distance between the Bunker Hill memorial and City Square in Charlestown. The park itself is roughly diamond shaped with its four corners facing the cardinal directions. The park is bounded by Winthrop Street to the northwest, Adams Street to the northeast, and Common Streets on its southeast and southwest border. The park is relatively small measuring just over 3,200 meters or just over .75 acres, though early historic maps of Charlestown are inconsistent in depicting the size of the park, possibly indicating that it was larger in the past.

The Training Field area was set aside in the 1640s to be used as open pasture and land upon which local militia can muster and train. It has remained relatively undeveloped since, with the exception of a school house, firehouse, and gun house, which were built on and removed from the park in the middle of the 19th century. The park itself has undergone several layout and pathway changes over the past 400 years, which may have had significant below-ground impacts, though the level of impact remains undocumented. The proposed work will remain within the current configuration of pathways, though modifications to the landscape, treescape, and repair to walkways will have potential impacts on below-ground resources, if they exist.

The project area lies within dense concentrations of archaeological resources related to the Bunker Hill monument, Central Artery North Arterial, and Charlestown Naval Yard, which provide documentation of a near-continuous and significant human occupation of the area for

many thousands of years. The property in question has never been archaeologically surveyed, though its documented history of use and high potential for preserved soils demonstrates high archaeological sensitivity.

Archaeological surveys during the Central Artery North Arterial (Big Dig) survey revealed Native American presence in Charlestown between the Late Archaic and Early Woodland periods (6,000-2,000 BP) (Ritchie 1984; Shaw et al. 1984) likely utilizing the diverse resources available at this location where the Charles and Mystic rivers converge.

The first European occupation of Charlestown began with John Winthrop in 1629, which has been the focus of extensive archaeological survey at the nearby City Square Archaeological District (Gallagher et al 1994). In the 1640s, the land within the park was set aside for use as a pasture and to muster and train a local militia. During the Battle of Bunker Hill, which occurred on Breeds Hill just 130 meters northwest of the park, the park was likely a place through which troops passed and possibly stayed as it was open land in the relatively densely developed area of Charlestown, though its direct role in the battle is not documented. Since the entire town of Charlestown burned during the battle on June 17th, 1775, including the structures around the park, it is likely that the park itself experienced some sort of fire damage.

In 1827, nearly 50 years after the war, the Training Field School, a firehouse, and a gun house were built on the western corner of the park (Figure 3) now the corner of Winthrop and Common streets. By the mid-19th century however, it was decided that the parks appearance was negatively impacted by the presence of the school, and it was physically relocated across the street. The school was a 2.5 story brick building, 3x5 bays in dimension. The building itself still exists across the street. All three structures were removed in the middle of the 19th century representing a relatively short potential deposition period of about 20 years. All buildings were removed from the park by 1848.

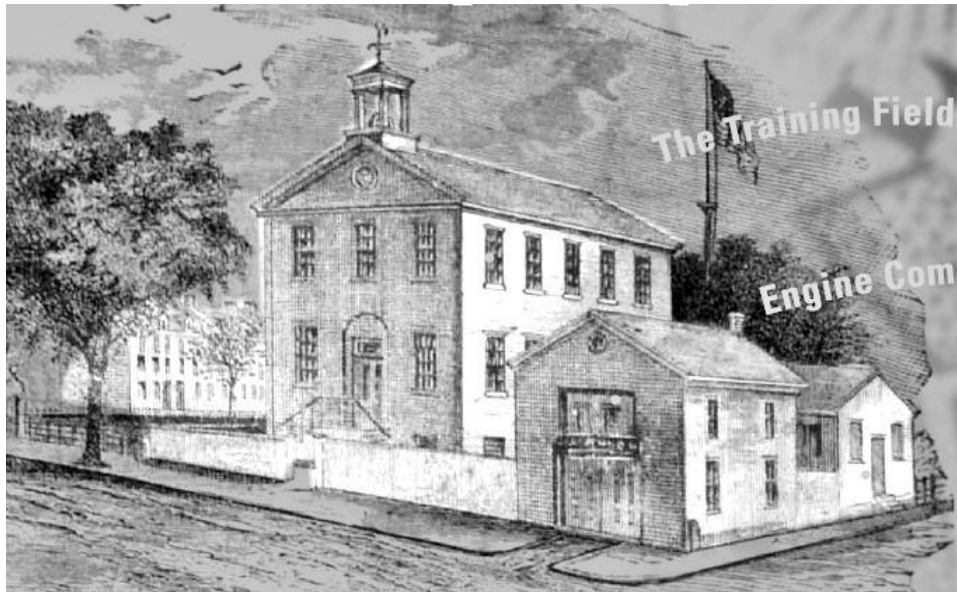
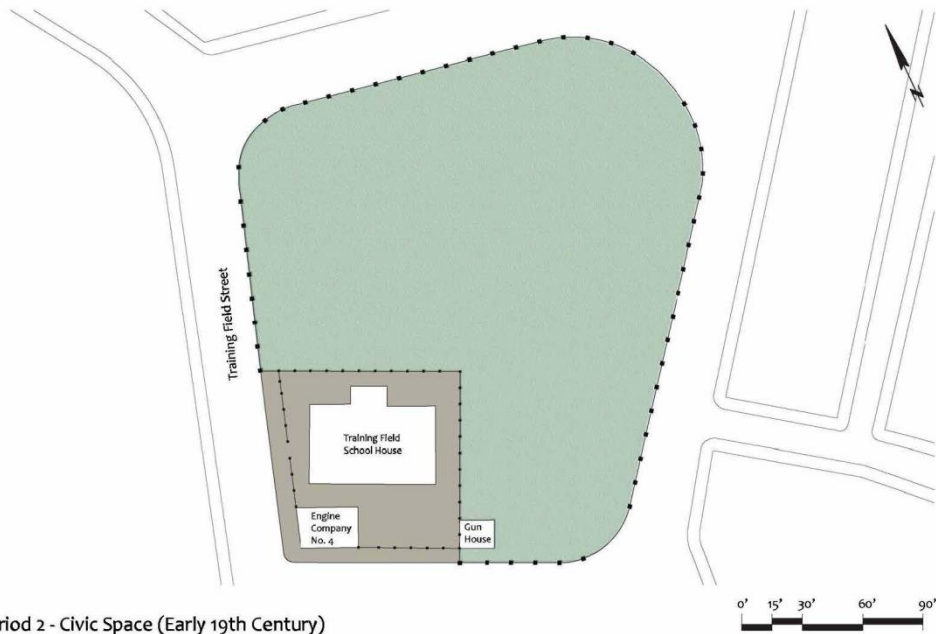


Figure 3 Structures located in the Training Field in the mid-19th century (left to right): Training Field School, Firehouse, and Gun House. *Account of 2nd Re-Union of the Graduates of the Training Field School in Charlestown held January 18, 1882.* Charlestown branch, Boston Public Library collection.

While the structures were standing within the park, no formal pathways existed, though it is highly likely foot-paths were created from daily use (Figure 4). In the 1840s, the park was named “Winthrop Square,” a name that is rarely used today, and formal pathways had been established across the park transforming the land into a formal urban park (Figure 5Figure 4).

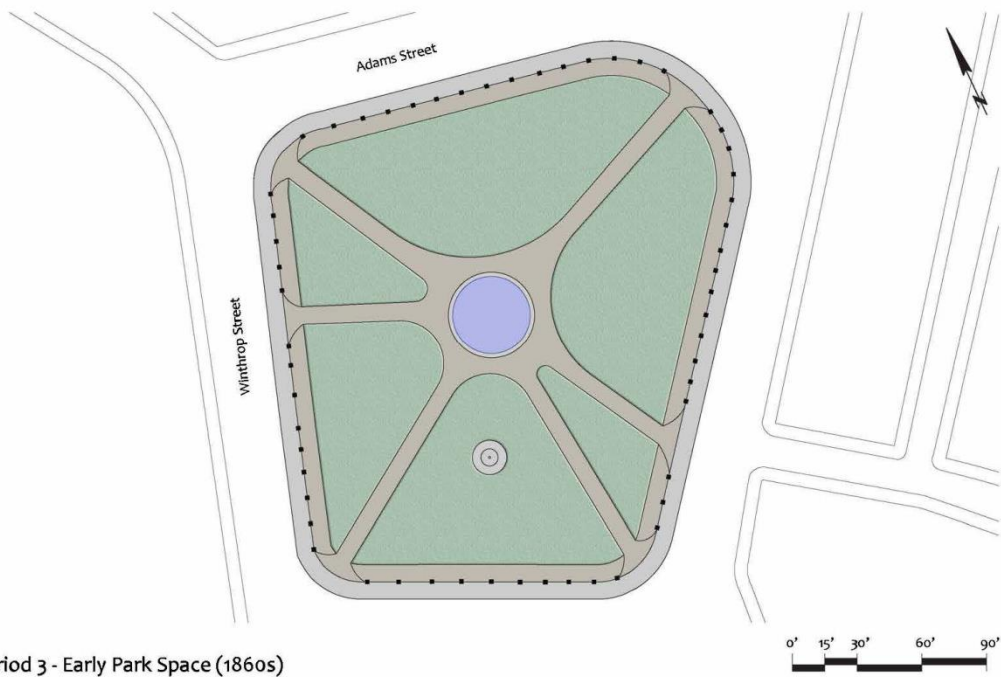
This layout remained until the construction of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument in the northeast portion of the park in 1871. This layout modified the parks focus in its pathways to the new monument (Figure 6).

In 1919, the park was reconfigured again, this time the pathways connected various corners and streets surrounding the park for ease of pedestrians, with the monument, in its original location, located within an open area (Figure 7). This overall design remains with a more recent renovation in the 1950s adding a path in the western corner of the park and minor modifications to entrance areas (Figure 8).



Period 2 - Civic Space (Early 19th Century)

Figure 4- Early 19th century park plan, courtesy of the Charlestown Preservation Society, Building locations estimated.



Period 3 - Early Park Space (1860s)

Figure 5- 1860s park plan, courtesy of the Charlestown Preservation Society, not to scale.

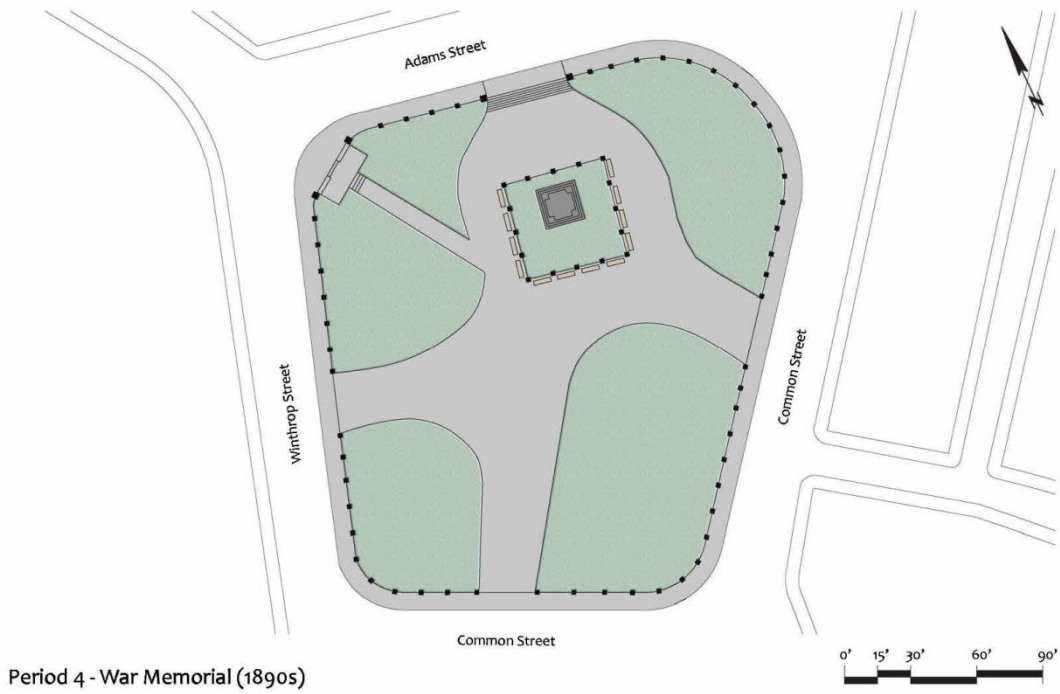


Figure 6- Post 1870 park plan, to scale, courtesy of the Charlestown Preservation Society.



Figure 7- 1919 park plan, to scale, courtesy of the Charlestown Preservation Society.



Figure 8- Contemporary park plan, to scale, courtesy of the Charlestown Preservation Society.

Walkover Survey

Prior to the commencement of the intensive survey, a walkover survey was conducted in the Training Field Park. Other than existing pathways and trees, the overall park appeared to be relatively intact with the exception of an area on the northern half of the park near two large Norway Maples that has active erosion exposing late 19th and early 20th century ceramic materials.

Subsurface Testing Methodology

In total, 49 test pits were excavated within the Training Field for this Intensive (locational) archaeological survey (see test pit profiles in Appendix C). Excavations began with a 10-meter interval transect along the southeastern edge of the project area, modified slightly due to the presence of a large tree near one test pit. It became clear within the first day of excavations that a very deep layer of fill was present in this area. Due to the depth of buried A soils within the area, all STPs were excavated to a minimum depth of 120 cmbs. None of the test pits in

Transect 1 reached C soils though B soils coupled with a precipitous drop-off in artifact counts were found in most suggesting that subsoils were nearly reached in most test pits. Test Pit 7, the last in the transect and the pit located closest to the eastern entrance to the park contained Native stone tool flakes found in A and B1 soils between 60 and 110cmbs.

Upon the completion of the first transect, the remaining test pits were laid out on a grid whose datum (N100 E100) was located at a point 15 meters from the western and southern corners of the Civil War statue. This point lies directly in front of the statue near the center of the park overall and allowed for easy visibility for both crew members and total station when measuring and laying out pits.

JTP 1 and 2 were placed along the eastern portion of the park within small rectangular areas along Park Street on a steeply curved hill. These pits were placed to determine if the hill upon which the pits were located was fill or natural land. JTP 1 contained fill deposits down to 120 cmbs, and JTP 2 contained fill deposits down to 140cmbs. Neither found buried A soils indicating great amounts of fill added to the area to raise Park Street above the current grade of Training Field Park.

Within the fenced-in triangular area composing a large portion of the park including the Civil War monument, a baseline of 7 test pits were dug on a 10 meter grid (N115 E100, N115 E110, N105 E100, N105 E110, N100 E95, N100 E107, N100 E120, and N95 E100). N100 E120 tested positive for both Native American and Colonial period cultural materials. TP N105 E120 and N100 E115 were excavated at a 5 meter array North and West of this Test Pit; both were negative for Native materials. Due to the position of the first positive pit within the corner of the grassy triangular area, it was not possible to place the east and south array pit within an un-paved area.

In the western triangular area of park, a baseline of five test pits was excavated (N105 E60, N100 E65, N100 E75, N90 E75, and N85 E70). An array around N100 E65 was excavated due to the presence of a layer of bricks arranged in an apparent pathway, some off-set due to the presence of large oak trees and the boundary of the park (N105 E65, N100 E63, N98 E65, and N100 E70). None of these test pits tested positive for the brick feature or other historic features.

The remaining northern triangular area of the park was dominated by two mature Norway Maple trees. A baseline of 7 test pits on a 10 meter grid were excavated, off-set slightly due to the edge of grass and the presence of buried utilities along pathways (N135 N95, N130 E92, N124 E75, N125 E85, N125 E92, N115 E65, N115 E75, N115 E85). Due to the presence of both Native and historic features, discussed in detail in a later section, an additional 11 test pits were excavated in the northern triangle (N134 E92, N130 E87, N130 E92, N125 E80, N120 E70, N120 E85, N117 E79, N115 E80, N110 E80).

Altogether, archaeologists executed complete coverage of non-paved areas within the Training Field Park at a 10 meter radius around test pits. Due to extensive testing around positive pits, archaeologists also accomplished near-complete coverage of the park's unpaved surfaces at a 5-meter radius. Therefore, **we are highly confident that this archaeological survey provides a complete, accurate, and high quality assessment of the archaeological resources contained within the Training Field Park.**

Assemblage Summary and Interpretation

In total, **eight new archaeological sites were identified as a result of this archaeological survey including two Native American and six post-1629 sites (figure 9).** These are discussed in detail, below.

Mishawum 1 site

The two Native sites encountered during archeological survey are the Mishawum 1 and Mishawum 2 sites. Both represent relatively small resource processing areas. Mishawum 1 is located near the eastern entrance to the park (Figure 9) and was first encountered in Test Pit 7 of the original transect. TP7 produced a Melrose green rhyolite and argillite flake between 80 and 90 cmbs and two rhyolite flakes between 110 and 120 cmbs, all within the A soils. Nearby, test pit N100 E120 produced 22 flakes. In both test pits, lithics appeared in levels with the densest quantity of late 17th and early 18th century cultural materials. While this could indicate historic disturbances to the Native resources in this area, it is equally probable that given the dense concentrations of early historic ceramics in these areas, this area is likely one of the

Training Field/Winthrop Park Archaeology Basemap

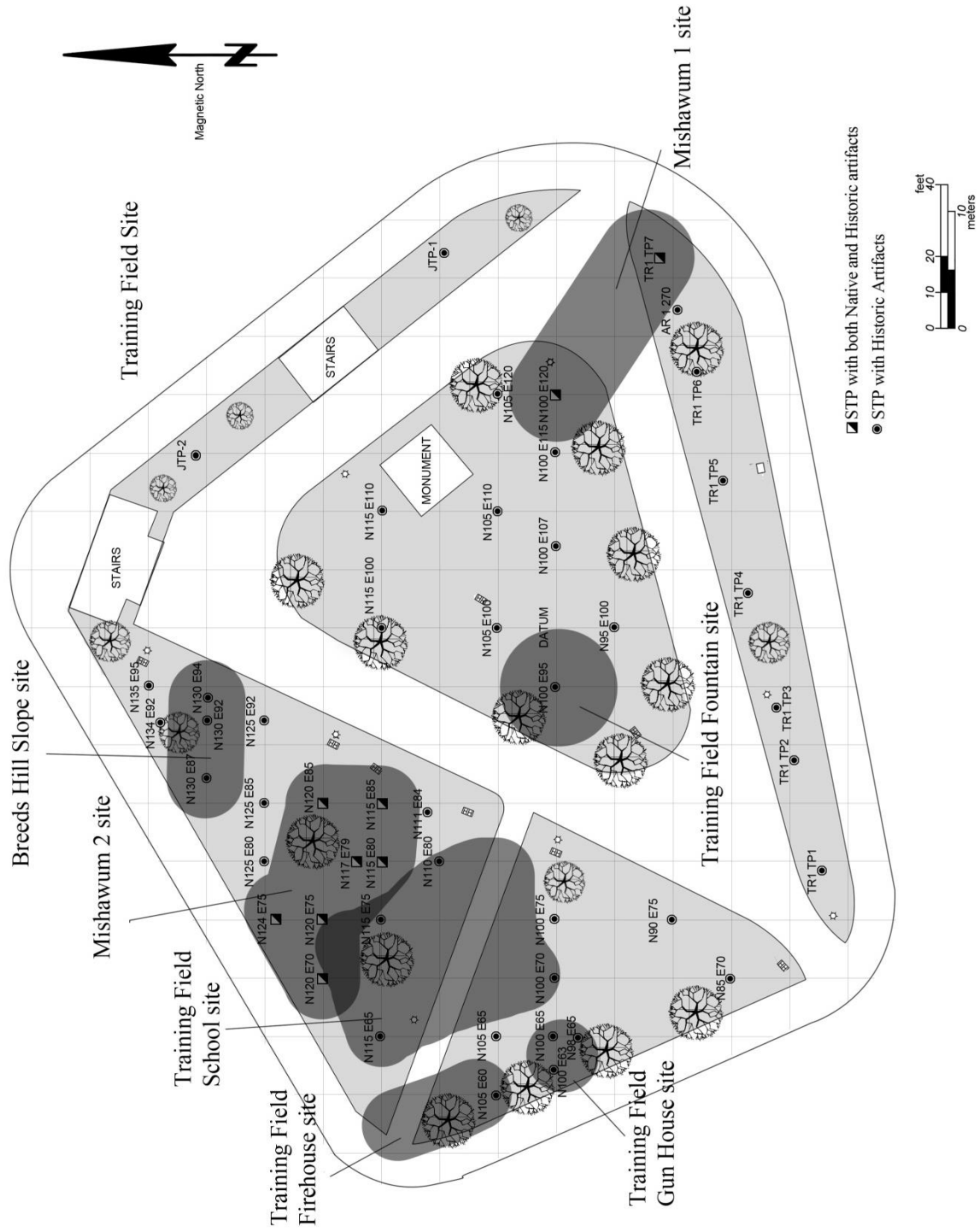


Figure 9- Map of archaeological sites documented during Intensive archaeological survey

most intact areas of the park under capping fill and historic and Native materials located in A deposits.

TP 7 was capped in 80 centimeters of fill, and N100 E120 was capped in 100 cm of fill. Though both pits were excavated to a depth of 130cmbs, neither pits reached sterile subsoils. Both pits show good preservation of buried deposits and concentrations of artifacts within A soils are greater than most other areas within the park making this area especially significant. Bounding pits excavated 5 meters from these two pits where space permitted did not reveal any additional Native materials to the west or north of these to positive test pits. Due to their proximity about 15m apart and their equal level of preservation, it is likely that these two pits are part of the same Native cultural use area, though the presence of an extensive concrete pathway between the two pits prevents testing to confirm.

Mishawum 1 likely represents a resource processing area, specifically the reduction and production of stone tools from local materials. All stone types found are local to the Boston Basin and could have been easily procured directly from natural outcrops, through trade, or through glacial transported cobbles to the vicinity. The presence of this site near both the shores of the Mystic and Charles Rivers situates the site at an idea location where river, harbor, open ocean, estuary, marine, upland, lowland, and overlook sites were all easily accessible. The presence of multiple types of lithics on the site indicates a site that was likely not used only once but returned to multiple times. Further excavations on Mishawum 1 will likely produce additional data that may allow archaeologists to distinguish additional activities preformed at the site, produce additional artifacts with forms that allow for dating, and finally establish any physical or temporal connection between Mishawum 1 and Mishawum 2, which will be discussed next.

Mishawum 2 site

Mishawum 2 is located approximately 30 meters west of Mishawum 1. Mishawum 1 was encountered in 7 positive pits located within the northwestern portion of the park near Winthrop St. between two extant mature Norway maple trees. Positive pits include N124 E75, N120 E70, N120 E75, N120 E85, N117 E79, N115 E80, and N115 E85. In all cases, a significant layer of fill was found above each buried A in these test pits ranging from 55cm in depth to 75 cm in

depth. It is notable that the pits with the least amount of fill are those within the area that has experienced the greatest amount of erosion. While this fill is currently protecting the archaeological sites buried beneath, it is clear that the erosion has an active impact on the park soils and will continue to do so until eventually it will be directly impacting these significant deposits.

In total, 13 flakes from lithic processing were found within Mishawum 2, along with three pieces of Native Pottery indicating a presence on the site during the Woodland period (3,000-400 BP) though more specific occupations are not possible without decorated pottery, and the lithic materials may be older than the pottery (figures 10-11). Regardless, Mishawum 2 represents a significant Native archaeological deposit on the western end of the Training Field Park.

In N134 E75, a large argillite fragment, possibly a raw material sample, was found 110-120 cmbs in B soils. N120 E70 contained, overall, very few artifacts, though a chert biface fragment of Onondaga flint from New York state was recovered 90-100 cmbs in A soils indicating, though inconclusively, a possible Middle Woodland period (1000-2000 BP) occupation when foreign lithics were prevalent in the area, and an argillite flake was found at 100-110 cmbs, also in the A. The overall lack of artifacts in this unit is likely due to its presence along Winthrop Street near or within the front yard of the former School House. It is possible that this area was kept clean of artifacts during its use.

N120 E75 contained Braintree and Blue Hills flakes 90-100 cmbs at the bottom of A soils and a argillite flake 100-110 cmbs in B soils. N120 E85 contained a rhyolite flake in upper fill deposits indicating some disturbances, possibly during excavations of the foundations for the nearby schoolhouse in 1820, a possible flake 70-80 cmbs, and three Native pottery fragments 90-100 cmbs. N117 E80 contains Blue Hills rhyolite flake 70-80 cmbs in a disturbed context. N115 E80 contained a large utilized Melrose Green flake tool at 90-100 cmbs, a rhyolite flake and possible biface tip 100-110 cmbs in A soils and some calcined bone. No B soils were found in N115 E80, but the overall lack of other artifacts in lower deposits where Native materials were found indicate this may be the most intact area within the site. Finally, N115 E85 produced a Melrose green rhyolite flake 90-100 cmbs in a buried A with calcined bone.



Figure 10- Large flake from Mishawum 2 site made from Melrose Green felsite

The proximity of the Mishawum 2 site to the Training Field School, discussed below, indicates that it may have been truncated by the construction of the school house's foundation. The presence of Native materials in the lower levels of fill on the site, and the presence of Native pottery in fill towards the western area of the park could indicate the removal and redeposition of Native artifact-containing soils from intact park deposits and their re-disposal onto the surface of the park around the schoolhouse.



Figure 11- Native American pottery fragments from Mishawum 2 site.

Like Mishawum 1, most of the Native artifacts were found in the same context of other later ceramics and historic artifacts; likely due to the heavy use of the park mixing upper levels of the A soil. Unlike Mishawum 1, these artifacts were found in numerous contiguous test pits;

however, this is likely due to the lack of pavement in the area. Together, these two Native sites speak of the presence of Native Americans across the landscape of Boston, and the high likelihood of archaeological preservation of early resources in areas that have not been previously developed.

Colonial and post-colonial resources

In total, 6 sites dating to the period after the arrival of European colonists in 1629 were identified on the Training Field. These include the Training Field Park (Winthrop Square), Breeds Hill Slope, Training Field Fountain, Training Field School, Old Engine Company 4 Firehouse, and Training Field Gun House, sites. These sites were identified through a combination of historical records and the results of this archaeological survey.

Training Field site

The Training Field site encompasses the entirety of the park, including the other sites listed above, but is meant more to represent the use of the park as outdoor open space during its post-1639 history. This site is bounded by the current borders of the park including paved areas, though once existed outside of the park. 18th century maps document that the southern and western boundaries of the park roughly correspond with the northern limits of the pre-Revolutionary town of Charlestown, whereas the eastern and northern edges of the Training Field extended north and east towards Breeds Hill. It is this “corner” position of the park that made it an ideal location for colonial militia mustering and the use of the park as a pasture as it was surrounded on two sides by the town. It is highly likely that the original Training Field and town pasture extended outside of the current park boundaries.

That said, the Training Field park possesses a remarkably well preserved landscape for an urban environment. With its minimal development history, it possesses much of its original A soils as shown by the presence of earlier Native sites within the park. Additionally, the original A soils are buried beneath a protective layer of clay fill, likely brought onto the site from excavations

outside of the park sometime around the time of the removal of the Training Field Schoolhouse in 1844.

With a Terminus Post Quem (TPQ) of 1840, there should be little to no ironstone ceramics or flow-blue whiteware present below the fill layers. Yellow ware, with a TPQ of 1830, should also be limited mostly to the fill above the A under this theory. In total, 86 ironstone, 29 flow blue, and 74 yellow ware ceramic sherds were found across the site. These materials were identified within both the fill and buried A soils indicating the strong likelihood that the fills were brought into the park after the removal of the Training Field School in 1844. Because of the large hole the school's cellar would have left behind, large quantities of fill were likely carted into the site to fill the hole. Because the primary goal of the school's removal was to restore the park-like appearance of the open space, this filling may have coincided with an overall re-surfacing of the park with fill and carted-in materials to "start fresh" with new landscaping.

While A soils were found in most pits (see Appendix C), excluding areas of heavy modification due to pathways and excavation/filling of cellar holes, the best preservation occurred in areas also coinciding with Native sites on the park. These areas not only produced the oldest artifacts including Staffordshire slipware, North Devon sgraffito, and Westerwald. They also contained deposits that consistently diminished with depth in A soils and increased in age with depth, as you would expect in more intact archaeological deposits. Due to extensive fill, it was not possible in some regions such as the northern portion of the park near the Breeds Hill Slope site and the area around the Civil War monument to excavate below A soils into B1 soils, indicating that additional deposits of intact parkland may be present in these locations, but would require significantly larger excavation units in order to properly expose these deeply buried deposits.

Later deposits including domestic waste (household ceramic and glass) represent casual deposition of waste in the park over two hundred years. While the park is known for its role as a militia training ground, relatively little late-18th century materials survive. Exceptions include a threaded flintlock jaw screw of a type typical of the Revolutionary War era and several gunflints which are all that remain to represent, physically, this time period in the park. Several musket balls were recovered, but all were from fill deposits, though their origin may have been during the Revolutionary War. Because this period represents a relatively brief time in the history of

the park, and because the overall destruction of the landscape including conflagration, which may have led to extensive erosion and runoff down Breeds Hill after the War, it is probable that relatively little remains of this period within the park, and what was left behind may have been scavenged or lost long ago.

Overall, the Training Field site represents a landscape that played a significant role in the daily lives of the people of Charlestown throughout its 400 year history as a public space. In its early history, casual dumping of domestic debris led to the gradual accumulation of artifacts while the park was used as pasture land and occasional militia training ground. During the war, the park was situated at a crossroads where British and American troops traveling to battle upon Breeds Hill may have passed within or in close proximity, and cannonballs and other artillery from fighting on all sides of the park likely landed in the park but were quickly scavenged for souvenirs or lost due to erosion. Soon after the war, the park returned to its passive use as Charlestown was rebuilt, eventually encompassing the park and gradually depositing additional household goods from nearby homes. In the early 19th century, three structures, discussed below, were added to the western portion of the park transforming the park from passive outdoor space to active municipal use. While apparently fenced, this use transformed the appearance and usability of the park to an extent that by 1840, the mayor of Charlestown decided to remove the structures and return the park to its more natural and open appearance. This was coupled with an episode of filling followed by the layout of the first formal pathways and a monumental fountain, discussed below, installed within the park. The outbreak and eventual end of the Civil War soon after led to a redesign of the park to accommodate commemorative space including a monumental granite sculpture on the eastern portion of the site and an expansion of the pathways within the park. The layout of pathways during this period emphasized the monument with pathways extending from entrances to the statue. Since promenading was a popular pastime in Victorian Boston, extra-wide pathways emphasized walking space over open grassland. As tastes changed, the pathways were reduced creating a pathway configuration that emphasized pedestrian travel through the park by connecting, directly, the passageways within the park making for a convenient pass through coupled with passive recreation space and much-needed green space within a rapidly developing and urbanized landscape.

Breeds Hill Slope Site

Breeds Hill Slope is located at the northern corner of the park near the entrance to the park at the corner of Winthrop and Adams streets. This site was identified in N130 E87, N130 E92 and N130 E94, but it poses some significant challenges for interpretation. The Breeds Hill Slope site is characterized by very dense deposits of late 18th and early 19th century household materials including the largest pieces of bone, ceramic, and glass recovered from the park. Despite excavating to between 120 and 130cmbs in the site, cultural materials continued to increase with depth and we were not able to reach sterile soils. To the north of the site, N134 E92 contained relatively few artifacts indicating the northern limit to the site, but N135 E95 was impeded by a buried utility and the edge of grassland was immediately west and east of the three positive test pits preventing the accurate determination of the western, eastern, and northern boundaries of the site.

Artifact discussion

This site appears to be a large-scale relatively concentrated dumping episode occurring roughly contemporarily with the construction of the Training Field School. Because excavations were not able to extend deep enough to find subsoil, it is not clear if this is a large pit filled with artifacts or if these artifacts sit in or on top of natural A soils. This is complicated by the location of this site on the slope of Breeds Hill. One would expect the deepest concentrations of material culture would not be found mid-slope on a significant hill. If these artifacts are located on top of natural soils, there must have been a significant terrace near the northern end of the park that has experienced massive filling in order to create the continuous slope now found between this area of the park and the crest of Breeds Hill (Bunker Hill Monument). If the artifacts are located within a large trash pit, there must have been some reason why a large open pit was located within this area of the park and then filled. Perhaps this area was the location of an undocumented structure with a foundation hole. Artifacts within the site do not appear to correspond with the war, so it is unlikely that this is a reconstruction-related trash pit. Most likely, it represents a large dumping episode from a house nearby; though all of this could be better explained with additional testing that covers a larger and deeper portion of the site.

Training Field Fountain

This site was first documented through photographic records, the same photos used to create the park layout shown in Figure 5. Because these were oblique photos, not drawn plans, the exact position, size, and orientation of the pathways and features in Figure 5 are a best estimate based on the photo. That said, what the photos do clearly show is a large central round fountain and pool located in the center of the park sometime between the 1840s removal of the Training Field School and the 1870s redesign of the park as a Civil War commemorative space.

This centrally-located fountain was encountered in N100 E95, almost exactly in the center of the park. The exact size of the fountain could not be determined because even at a 5 meter interval, an array of test pits around the positive pit would have been outside of the fountain. Regardless, this test pit encountered a thin lens of clay immediately followed by concrete at 80cmbs likely indicating the presence of the fountain. The presence of the concrete implies that the fountain is still partially preserved within the fill of the park. Additional survey including non-invasive Ground Penetrating Radar would provide further evidence of the size and exact location of the remaining portions of the fountain.

Training Field School site

The Training Field School was built in 1827 in the western corner of the Training Field Park. Just 20 years later, the same year Charlestown incorporated as a city, the local townspeople voted to move the school to a lot facing the park where it still resides today. Overall, the school that continued in its new location for the next 120 years until closing in 1967 has a far longer historic use than the original site; however, the original location presents a rare opportunity to study a school site with a very tight occupation date in the early 19th century. Somewhat because of this brief presence, relatively few artifacts that can be likely attributed to the school were recovered during excavations.

Deep fill deposits located in N115 E75, N115 E 65, and N110 E80 indicate the presence of the filled foundation within the Training Field Park. Due to the current pathway, electrical lighting equipment associated buried utilities, and several park benches, it was difficult to test within the area, but the schoolhouse easily fits within the area of the park, and coincides well with the contemporary drawing of the schoolhouse on the property.

The Native artifacts and well-preserved A soil in N120 E70 indicates that this test pit was located within the front yard of the schoolhouse. The low artifact count indicates that this area was kept relatively clean prior to the fill episode after the schoolhouse removal. The increased artifacts as well as the disturbed soils behind the schoolhouse in N100 E70 and N100 E75 indicate areas that were used more frequently. These test pits also contained the greatest number of artifacts associated with children and schools including marbles and slate pencils though nearly any of the artifacts behind and around the school may have related to the students or teachers at the school.

A rectangular brick feature containing a single piece of Albany Slipped stoneware (TPQ 1805 (Miller et. al 2000)) was found extending from A soils into B subsoils between 85 and 110 cmbs in N117 E80 and an expanded pit at N117 E79 (Figure 12). This feature measures approximately 50x50 cm and consists of a rectangular arrangement of mortared bricks, three courses tall, with infilling of brick fragments, mortar, and artifacts. It appears that this construction is the footing for some sort of structure, perhaps a temporary structure such as an outbuilding or privy that only needed corner-post foundations. Due to the TPQ date of its construction and location within the park it is highly likely that this structure is directly related to the school, perhaps its outhouse. Further excavations in the area would aid in determining the function of this structure.

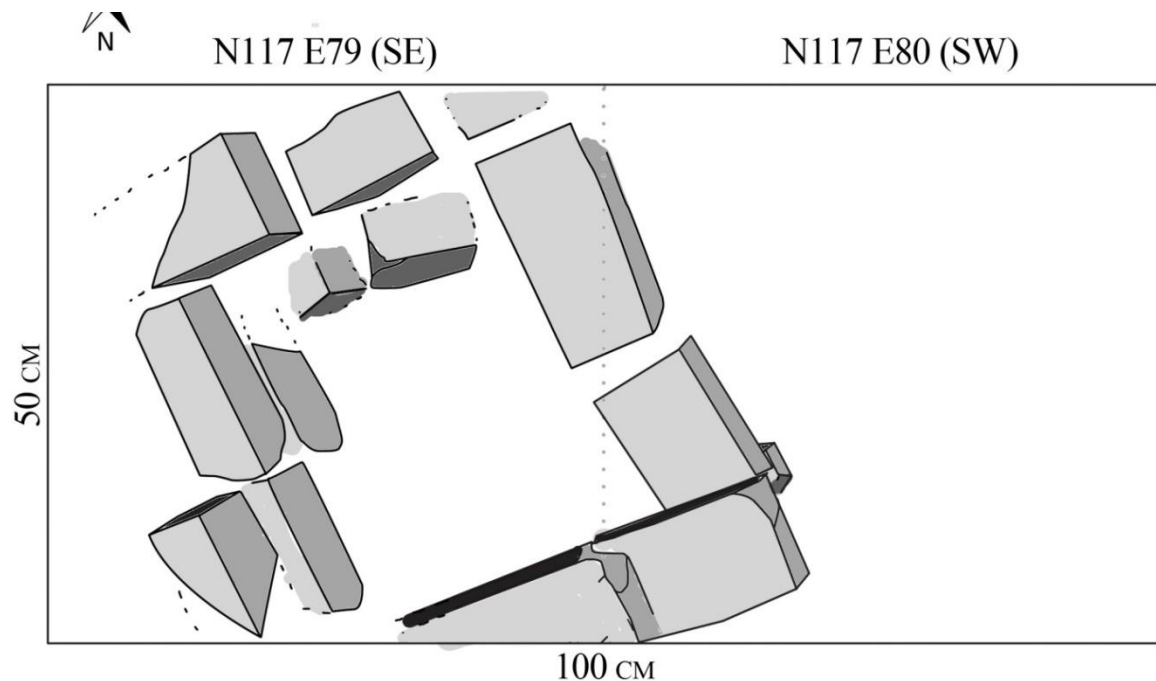


Figure 12- Brick feature in N117 E79 and E80

Finally, Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) used within this area of the park indicated the presence of a rectangular buried structure (figure 13). This shape appears to be a portion of the School House foundation, still remaining within the park. This report interprets the incompleteness of the foundation as a result of efforts to move the building. The two-story schoolhouse is made entirely out of brick, and moving the structure intact would have taken great effort in 1847. Movers would have needed to lift the building and move it across the open foundation. It is possible that part of the preparation for the move involved the removal of portions of the foundation in order to get under and eventually lift the structure off its footing. This may account for the partial preservation of the otherwise easily identifiable foundation fragment found in the Training Field School.

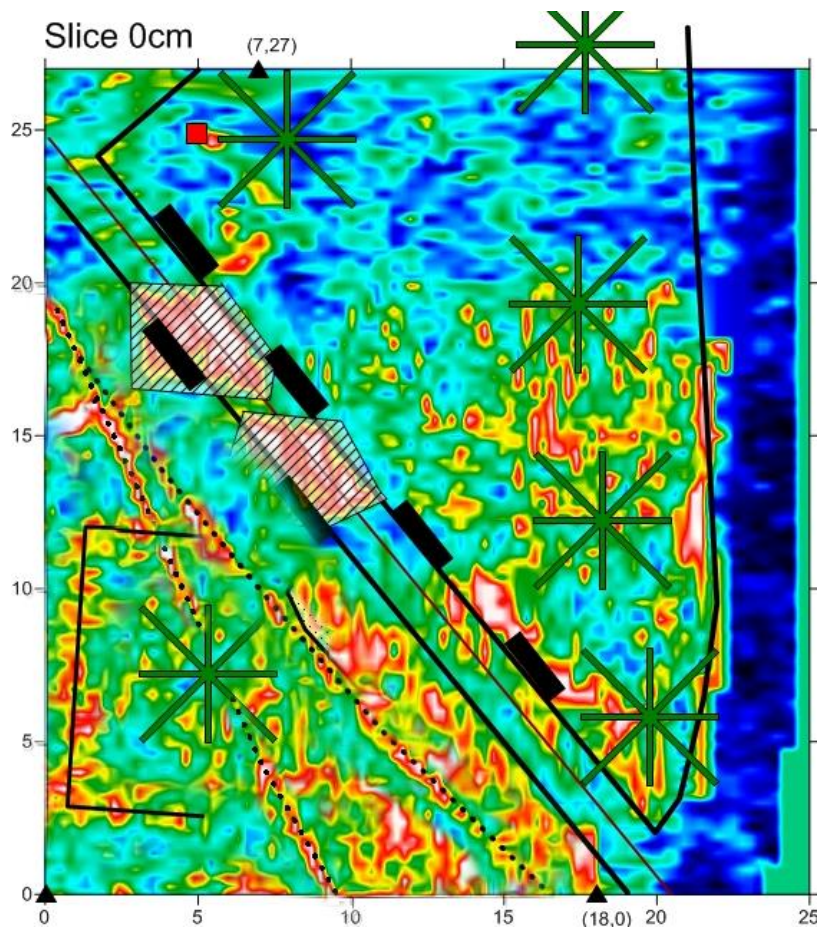


Figure 13- GPR slice (north to left) of west corner of Training Field park showing pathways and benches (central black elements), buried utilities (dotted line) and feature possibly associated with the foundations of the Training Field School (lower left)

Old Engine Company 4 Firehouse

Sometime during the existence of the Training Field School, likely built and removed at the same time, the extreme western-most corner of the park at the intersection of Winthrop and Common Streets sat the Old Engine Company 4 Firehouse. This firehouse along with the school and the nearby Gun House all sat within a square-shaped municipal area within the park, all later removed by 1847 to restore the park to its original appearance. Figure 3 shows the firehouse as a two-story building with a single garage bay facing Winthrop Street. While artistic liberties may have been taken, the firehouse appears to abut directly the sidewalks of Winthrop and Common Street. It is possible that the expansion of the sidewalks in this area has caused much of the firehouse site to lie under pavement and in areas that cannot be surveyed, archaeologically, without heavy equipment and concrete removal.

Only one test pit, N105 E60 was excavated within the vicinity of the Firehouse. A soils were not found in this pit, and at 120 cmbs the soils was too compact to allow for coring. Judging the size of the firehouse based on the image in Figure 3, it is possible that N105 E60 encountered a slab upon which the firehouse was built or the rear portion of the yard behind the firehouse where use and travel could have greatly compacted the soils. Either way, it is likely that this test pit represents a use area associated with the firehouse.

Within this test pit, artifacts are consistent and mixed down to 80 cmbs. 80-90 cm contained a large drop-off in the number of artifacts and quickly spiked 100-120 with soil colors representing a possible compacted A horizon. Artifacts included pearlware, creamware, bone, Nottingham stoneware and other household goods spanning the late 18th and early 19th centuries. This site is reminiscent of the Eliot Street fire station in Roxbury, which contained dense deposits of 19th century household goods to the rear of the property.

The Training Field Firehouse is one of two archaeologically tested firehouse sites in Boston (the other being Eustis St. in Roxbury). Though below-ground testing has been minimal, the historic records including drawings and maps provide adequate evidence for the sites existence and location. Further excavations in the area would provide additional information about this short-lived firehouse and the use around the structure by the firemen stationed within. Engine Company 4 was moved across the street in 1847 with the removal of the three structures from the

Training Field park. Local lore states that the actual building was moved to the location, but if this happened, it has since been re-built or significantly remodeled as it is currently a two-bay, three-story firehouse that is notably wider than the extant Training Field School.

Training Field Gun House

Figure 3 also illustrates a gun house behind the firehouse and to the side of the Training Field School. Test pit N105 E65 contained numerous layers of fill, possibly indicating the presence of a buried foundation to this structure. N100 E65 contained a single layer of bricks laid out in a pavement (Appendix C). These bricks do not appear to be structural and contain blue transfer pearlware in their same contexts. Very little artifacts were found below. B soils in N100 E65 and the array pit excavated to the west at N100 E62 indicate that natural soils are present eliminating these pits as containing foundation elements. The array pits around N100 E65 did not contain additional brick pavements and did contain B soils.

Little information outside of maps and the single drawing of the building in figure 5. Gun houses were locations within which guns and ammunition were stored. Built 7 years after the end of the War of 1812, it appears this structure was an insurance policy as no major domestic military events occurred until the Mexican-American war in 1846. Further excavations may determine if the structure was placed upon a formal foundation or pad, though GPR in figure 13 does not indicate the presence of a foundation. The brick pavement found in N100 E65 is likely a pathway constructed between the Gun house and the firehouse, or the path is behind the gun house. A contemporary 1810 gun house is currently standing in Marblehead, though others may also remain in nearby communities that could aid in understanding the design, scale, and use of these types of structures in the early 19th century.

Overall site conditions and fill deposits

Overall, the Training Field Park represents a relatively well-preserved historic landscape nestled within a densely developed historic community. Excavations across the park allow for an accurate and thorough understanding of the general history of the park and the events and deposits that represent this history, archaeologically. One ubiquitous presence within the park is fill. This fill, though extremely difficult to excavate due to its compactness and quantity of clay it

contains, serves to protect the significant natural horizons below as well as serves as an erosional buffer for these deposits. While erosion is a very real problem within the park, it is clear that to date none of the erosion has impacted the historic resources and archaeological sites in the park.

This fill contains a broad mixture of archaeological materials representing thousands of years of human presence. While this is significant in that the artifacts are illustrative of various activities, they do not provide accurate information on the park or any specific group or individual because we have no knowledge of where the fill originated. During the time after the removal of the Training Field School, the Bunker Hill Monument nearby was undergoing a landscape modification episode that may be the origin of the materials deposited upon the Training Field, though one would expect this to contain more military artifacts as these would have been occurring in greater quantity on the hill.

Most likely, this soil represents collective soils deposited as Charlestown re-grew after the war producing large quantities of clay-rich C soils mixed with historic materials from upper levels of yards excavated for cellar holes. Regardless, the sampling strategy employed upon the park has resulted in a broad sample of fill from all areas of the park.

Summary and Recommendations

All of the sites excavated within the Training Field Park are potentially National Register eligible, but further excavations would be needed to accurately assess their significance. The earliest occupants of Boston, the Native population of Massachusetts people, are documented at the Mishawum 1 and Mishawum 2 sites on the eastern and western ends of the park. To date, we know only that they processed stone tools of local and exotic materials and the Mishawum 2 site was occupied during the Woodland period due to the presence of Native pottery.

The early history of the park, which would have been located on the outskirts of the first permanently inhabited area of the city by Europeans beginning in 1629 is documented through 17th century ceramics including North Devon Sgraffito and early Westerwald ceramics in the eastern portion of the Training Field Site. The Revolutionary War is represented by a few

scattered military-related objects found in all areas of the park, though overall it is poorly represented within the cultural materials, likely due to scavenging and relic hunting.

The late 18th century is represented by a large trash dump in the northern corner of the park, the exact function, origin, or reason for this dump requires additional survey before it can be determined. It did occur rapidly due to air gaps in the fill the overall size of the artifacts, and their relatively tight dating.

The Training Field School, Firehouse, and Gun House sites represent municipal actions within the park in the early 19th century. These short-lived structures are significant in that they provide a very tightly dated deposit within a landscape that is relatively well preserved by filling soon after their removal. The presence of a pathway, benches, and utilities do make excavations in this area particularly challenging.

The park's history continues through the 18th century with a monumental fountain documented in the Training Field Fountain site. Later periods of the park are well represented through photographic and current conditions of the park which are relatively consistent since the final layout of pathways occurred in the early 20th century.

The following is a list of recommendations for each archaeological site identified in this report. Figure 9 is referenced throughout and should serve as a sensitivity map for future work in the park.

Training Field Park site

Below-ground impacts to the park should be avoided, wherever possible, and active erosion within the park should be mitigated. The shallowest transition between natural soils and fill appears to be 50cmbs (20 inches) within the park. If these mitigations have below-ground impacts, additional archaeological testing should be conducted in areas where below ground impacts exceed 50 cm (20 inches in depth) anywhere within the park with the exception of the extreme eastern parcels along Adams Street (where JTP 1 and 2 were dug) between the street and

the interior pathway running parallel to the street. In these areas, no additional archaeological testing is warranted.

Exceptions to the depth recommendation above are impacts that do not extend beyond 50cm, but will prevent access to buried A surfaces including paving, installing utility lines (water, electric, gas, etc.), and other activities determined by the City Archaeologist that will prevent access to potential archaeological resources in the park. Activities that require no additional archaeological activity include the removal, replacement, or modifications to soils within the park that do not exceed 50cms in depth within the park as these activities will not disturb buried land surfaces or prevent access in the future.

Training Field School site

Due to the presence of buried electrical utilities, paved pathways, and existing benches, additional testing is difficult or impossible in this area without extensive modifications to existing park infrastructure. This report recommends that below ground impacts in this area below 50 cm (20") be avoided. If future plans involve impacts below this depth or capping or otherwise preventing access further through additional paving and other activities determined by the City Archaeologist that will prevent access to archaeological resources, additional archaeological testing should be conducted. This report also recommends commemorative marking of the location either through interpretative signage or installations that mark the former outline or location of the Training Field School within this area of the park.

Training Field Firehouse site

Due to the presence of buried electrical utilities, paved pathways, and the possible presence of the Firehouse beneath mature oak trees, additional testing is difficult or impossible in this area without extensive modifications to existing park infrastructure. This report recommends that

below ground impacts in this area below 50 cm (20”) be avoided. If future plans involve impacts below this depth or capping or otherwise preventing access through additional paving and other activities determined by the City Archaeologist that will prevent access to archaeological resources, additional archaeological testing should be conducted. This report also recommends commemorative marking of the location either through interpretative signage or installations that mark the former outline or location of the Training Field Firehouse within this area of the park.

Training Field Gun House site

Due to the presence of buried electrical utilities, paved pathways, and the possible presence of the Gun House beneath mature oak trees, additional testing is difficult or impossible in this area without extensive modifications to existing park infrastructure. This report recommends that below ground impacts in this area below 50 cm (20”) be avoided. If future plans involve impacts below this depth or capping or otherwise preventing access through additional paving and other activities determined by the City Archaeologist that will prevent access to archaeological resources, additional archaeological testing should be conducted. This report also recommends commemorative marking of the location either through interpretative signage or installations that mark the former outline or location of the Training Field Firehouse within this area of the park.

Training Field Fountain site

Ground disturbance below 50cm and capping should be avoided within 5 meters of N100 E95. If this cannot be avoided, additional archaeological survey may be required to determine if below-ground impacts will include portions of the buried fountain. Additional ground penetrating radar is recommended within this area to determine the exact size and position of the fountain as well as its current conditions for future planning purposes. This report does not recommend commemorative marking of this sites location, though it is important that future planning take into account its location to avoid damaging what may remain of this historic element of the park.

Breeds Hill Slope site

Any below-ground impacts deeper than 60 cmbs or any future work that caps or otherwise prevents future archaeology within this site should be avoided. If it cannot be avoided, additional archaeological testing should be conducted to document and remove any potential archaeological deposits within this site prior to the commencement of planned work. No markers are recommended for this site.

Mishawum 1 site

Any below-ground impacts deeper than 50 cmbs or any future work that caps or otherwise prevents future archaeology within this site should be avoided. Any removal of pavement within this area should coincide with additional archaeological testing to determine the continuity of the Mishawum 1 site between the two positive test pits in this area. If excavations or capping cannot be avoided, additional archaeological testing should be conducted to document and remove any potential archaeological deposits within this site prior to the commencement of planned work. No markers are recommended for this site.

Mishawum 2 site

Any below-ground impacts deeper than 60 cmbs or any future work that caps or otherwise prevents future archaeology within this site should be avoided. If it cannot be avoided, additional archaeological testing should be conducted to document and remove any potential archaeological deposits within this site prior to the commencement of planned work. No markers are recommended for this site.

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Appendix A: State Archaeology Permit

Appendix B: Site Forms

Appendix C: Test Pit Profiles

Appendix D: Artifact Catalog

See Volumes IIa and IIb