40 YEARS OF ARCHAEOLOGY AT THE PRUDENCE CRANDALL MUSEUM, CANTERBURY, CONNECTICUT

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Abstract

The Prudence Crandall Museum, in Canterbury, Connecticut is one of four museums run by the state. It also is a National Historic Landmark, a member of the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, and a State-designated Archaeological Preserve. The property is best known as the ~~home~~ site of Prudence Crandall's Canterbury Female Boarding School, a school of higher education for young African American women. The school, which faced fierce opposition, operated from 1833-1834, played a role in shaping the nation and is the interpretive focus of the Museum. Both before and after the school period, however, the site served as a residence and in the 18th-century, the grounds also hosted a mercantile shop. Since the late 1970s, the state of Connecticut has conducted several phases of renovations to the house and grounds and each was preceded by an archaeological investigation. Two remote sensing surveys have also been carried out on the property. The archaeological work indicates that the Museum grounds contain a complex cultural landscape reflecting almost 300 years of continuous occupation and landscape change. Here we present a summary of the archaeological work carried out over the last 40 years and outline avenues of future inquiry for the site and collections.

INTRODUCTION

The Prudence Crandall Museum is located at the intersection of routes 14 and 169 in the town of Canterbury in Connecticut's "Quiet Corner," and within the National Park Service Last Green Valley Heritage Corridor (Figure 1). The Museum, which is a National Historic Landmark and a State-designated Archaeological Preserve, is the original site of a higher education academy and boarding school for young African American women founded by Prudence Crandall in 1833. Prudence Crandall's school met with fierce opposition and survived for less than two years, but it was revolutionary in the struggle for African American equality. In 1969 the State of Connecticut purchased the house for use as a museum to showcase the history of the school. The Museum opened to the public in 1984 and in 1995 the Connecticut General Assembly designated Prudence Crandall as the state's official heroine.

Although it is best known as the location of the school, the property served as a private residence for most of its existence. The current house, which contained Crandall's school, was built c. 1805, but the property has a history of occupation dating back to at least the mid-18th century. There was also a mercantile shop on the lot during the second half of the 18th century.

In the more than 50 years since the state purchased the site, the house and property have required numerous restorations, and each set of restorations was proceeded by archaeological work. The archaeological investigations have ranged from small, targeted surveys to large, extensive excavations. Here, we present a history of the property and the Museum and provide a comprehensive summary of the archaeological investigations carried out to date, including the most recent excavations and GPR survey conducted in 2020 by the Office of State Archaeology (OSA) and by Heritage Consultants, LLC (Heritage) in 2021. The archaeological investigations on the Prudence Crandall Museum property reflect the long history of occupation at the site and provide information about the property's use a residence, mercantile shop, school, and museum.

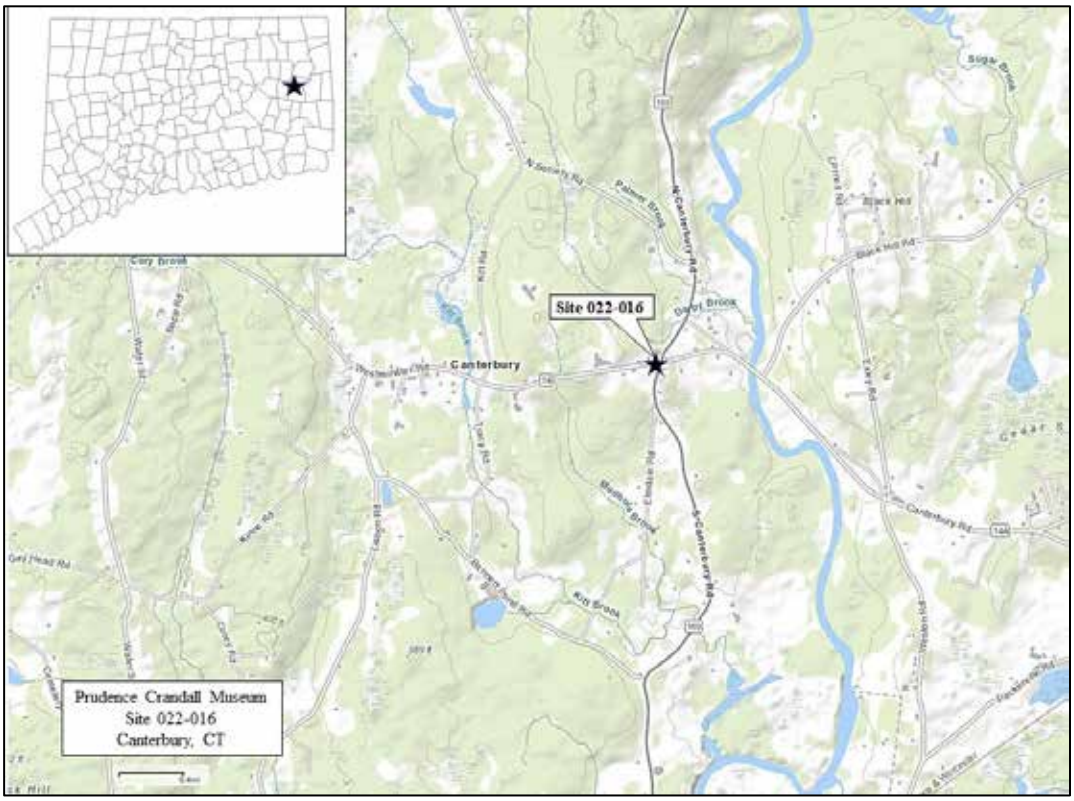

Figure 1: Location of the Prudence Crandall Museum, Canterbury, Connecticut

HISTORY OF THE PRUDENCE CRANDALL MUSEUM PROPERTY

Land Records

The first known land transaction regarding the Museum property was recorded in Canterbury land records in 1754. That year, Gideon Cobb obtained 1 1/3 acres from his wife's father and grandfather, John Dyer and William Fitch. The deed indicates that there was already a house on the property at this time, "where said Cobb now lives" (CLR 6:169-170). In 1759 Cobb transferred the property to Aaron Cleveland, and the deed indicates that the lot included a "dwelling house, shop, and colehouse" (CLR 6:368).

During the remainder of the 18th century, the property changed hands several times. In 1760, shortly after receiving it himself, Cleveland transferred the entire 1 1/3-acre property to Stephen Backus, who then split it into two lots. He transferred 1/3 of an acre with "shop bounded north and east by highways" to Elisha Payne (Paine), who quickly transferred that part of the property to Nathan Waldow (Waldo) (CLR 7:86, 205). In 1789, Waldo transferred the smaller lot, now described as containing a "merchant shop bounded north and east by highways" to Jedidiah Johnson and Luther Paine (CLR 10:315). By 1796, Backus had also transferred the larger, one-acre property to Luther Paine. Paine then purchased the smaller lot from his partner, Jedidiah Johnson (CLR 13:15-17, 89-90).

Paine reunited the two properties by 1798, likely with the goal of building a new residence. He constructed the current house in about 1805. Unfortunately, there is no clear record of the fate of the original house or shop mentioned in the land records. Both structures were likely demolished

to facilitate construction of Paine's new dwelling. Luther Paine owned the property, which encompassed a "dwelling house, barn, chaise [carriage house], wood house and other outbuildings" (CLR 20:197), for more than 30 years, until his death in 1830. His wife Sibbel passed away a year later, and the property was sold out of the Paine family.

In 1832, the mortgage passed to Samuel Hough, who then released it to Jedidiah Johnson, the executor of Paine's estate. It was listed at 3/4 of an acre; it remains unclear what happened to the remaining approximately half acre from the original transactions. That same year, Johnson sold the house to Prudence Crandall, with Samuel Hough again holding the mortgage (CLR 05; 20: 506-507). Crandall owned the house until August of 1834, when she married a Baptist minister, Reverend Calvin Philleo, who, under the laws of coverture, became sole owner of the property upon their marriage. When the school closed a few months later, Philleo transferred 3/4 of an acre "with a dwelling house, barn, and other buildings standing on the same" to James Aspenwall (CLR 21:271). Aspenwall was Jedidiah Johnson's son-in-law.

For more than a century after the school closed, the house served as a private residence. It changed hands several times in the 19th century. In 1837, Aspenwall transferred the property to Charles Warner in 1837 (CLR 21:270; CLR 22:91). Three years later, Warner sold the property to Joseph Palmer, who held the property until 1879. At that time, Thomas Clarke purchased the property, and it remained in his family until 1923 when the Robinson family purchased the house. Nathalie Pierce bought the property from the estate of Walter Robinson in 1945. In 1958 the last private owners, the Godson family, purchased the property. They sold it to the State of Connecticut in 1969 for development into a museum dedicated to Prudence Crandall's school (Harper 2008; Sportman 2014).

Prudence Crandall's Canterbury Female Boarding School

Prudence Crandall was born 1803 in Hopkinton, Rhode Island and moved to Canterbury, Connecticut when she was a child. Raised a Quaker, Crandall attended the New England Yearly Meeting School, a Quaker boarding school in Providence (now the Moses Brown School), where she received a broad education that included traditionally male subjects like Latin, arithmetic, and science. Crandall became a teacher, and in 1831 she established a boarding school for girls in Canterbury, where she provided a curriculum that was on par with contemporary male academies.

In 1832, Prudence Crandall was approached by a young Black woman named Sarah Harris who asked to attend the school. Encouraged by conversations with both Harris and Maria Davis, a free Black woman who worked for Crandall and shared copies of the abolitionist newspaper *The Liberator* with her, Crandall agreed to admit Harris. When Canterbury residents protested the school's integration and parents threatened to withdraw their daughters, Crandall closed her school and reopened in 1833 for Black and Brown students. Students traveled to Canterbury from several states, including Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and New York to enroll in the new school.

The backlash to the new school was swift. Crandall's neighbor, an influential lawyer and politician named Andrew Judson, led the opposition. With Judson's strong support, the Connecticut General Assembly passed the "Black Law" in May of 1833. This law prevented out-of-state Black and Brown people from attending school in Connecticut towns without local town approval. In July, Prudence Crandall was arrested for violating the law and spent a night in jail. Her first trial ended in a hung jury, but at her next trial she was found guilty of violating the "Black Law." All in all, Crandall faced three court trials before the case was dismissed.

Although Prudence Crandall's school overcame legal hurdles, local resistance remained strong. Violence against the school increased from throwing eggs and rocks through windows to an arson attempt and fouling the well with horse manure, preventing students and teachers from accessing fresh water. Then, in September of 1834, a mob of men attacked the house. Crandall's friend and supporter, Unitarian Minister Samuel J. May (1869:71), described the incident:

> "About twelve o'clock, on the night of the 9th of September, Miss Crandall's house was assaulted by a number of persons with heavy clubs and iron bars; five window sashes were demolished, and ninety panes of glass dashed to pieces."

The attack terrorized Crandall and the students and finally convinced Crandall and her supporters that it was too dangerous to continue operating the school; it closed the next day.

Although the school was short-lived, the Canterbury Female Boarding School was a success, and its story is much larger than the events that occurred in 1833 and 1834. The school was the site of racial and gender violence, and Crandall's trial served as the first systemic court case for African American citizenship, thirty years before the Civil War. These events not only made national and international news in the 1830s but helped coalesce the abolitionist movement (Crandall opened her school for Black and Brown students in April of 1833 and the American Anti-Slavery Society formed in December of that same year). The court case regarding the school, *Crandall v. Connecticut,* impacted two U.S. Supreme Court decisions: *Dred Scott v. Sandford* and *Brown v. Board of Education, Topeka* and laid the framework for the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Many of the students went on to become educators, reformers, and leaders in their communities. Mary Harris (m. Williams), younger sister of Sarah Harris, helped found Straight University, now Dillard University, an HBCU; Mary Miles (m. Bibb) became the first Black female journalist in Canada when she and her husband, Henry Bibb, founded the newspaper *Voice of the Fugitive* and helped to establish the Home Refugee Society in Canada to support self-emancipated African Americans begin a new life in Canada; and Sarah Harris (m. Fayerweather), worked with Frederick Douglass and the Underground Railroad.

The Prudence Crandall (or Luther Paine) House

The current house on the property was constructed around 1805 by Luther Paine (Figure 2). It is a high-style federal structure, and it is similar to other Canterbury houses known as the "Canterbury group," which are traditionally attributed to a master-builder named Joseph Dyer (Dana 1923). Bryan Clark Green and James Sexton (2008), who studied the house and developed an historic structure report, disagree with this contention. They argue that while the structures in the Canterbury group share some similar features, there is insufficient evidence to claim they were all designed by a single architect or builder.

The house is prominently situated in the center of Canterbury across from the meeting house and near the green. It includes an eight-room, 2.5-story main structure and a seven-room, 1.5-story ell at the rear. The house has a gable-on-hip roof, an elaborate frontispiece, and a central Palladian window over the entrance (Miller 1989; Green and Sexton 2008). An initial evaluation of the structure's architectural details, including the original architectural fabric and paint analysis was conducted during the restoration program in the late 1970s and early 1980s. At the time, researchers concluded that the ell likely predated the main portion of the house and may have been moved to its present when the main house was built (Poirier et al. 1981). However, the most recent

architectural assessment of the house concluded that the main part of the house and the ell were probably built at the same time (Green and Sexton 2008).

In the past, many have referred to the house on the property as the Elisha Payne (or Paine) House; in fact, it is listed that way on the original Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS, CT-163) documentation and National Register of Historic Places form (Miller 1989). However, the naming error is likely due to confusion between two different men who were associated with the property: Luther Paine and Elisha Payne. Elisha Payne left Canterbury for northern New England in 1774 and had nothing to do with the construction of the extant house, while Luther Paine occupied the property at the turn of the 19th century.

Figure 2. Photograph of the Luther Paine House, ca. 1940; Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS)

Residents of the Prudence Crandall Property (ca. 1750s-1832)

As discussed in the previous section, the Canterbury land records indicate that the property was occupied by several households both before and after Prudence Crandall's school. A brief review of what is known about these other individuals and households is important for contextualizing the archaeological record of the site, which includes archaeological materials that both pre- and post-date the school.

Gideon and Abigail Cobb (ca. 1753-1759)

Gideon Cobb (1718-1798) and his wife Abigail Dyer Cobb (1718-1808) married in Canterbury in 1739 and had nine children. Land records indicate that the Cobb family was on the property in the early 1750s. Although Abigail's father and grandfather officially transferred the property to the Cobbs in 1754, the deed indicated that the family was already living in a house on the lot at that time (CLR 6:169-170). The presence of a shop on the property suggests that Gideon Cobb was probably involved in a mercantile business. Based on available documentation, the family likely moved to Canterbury in 1752 or 1753. Birth records indicate that the couple's sixth child, Joshua, was born in Norwich, Connecticut in 1751 (Vital Records of Norwich Connecticut:

215), while their seventh child, Wealthy Ann, was born in Canterbury in 1753 (Barbour Collection 2010: 170). The Cobbs remained on the property until 1759, when Gideon Cobb transferred the property to Aaron Cleveland, who quickly turned it over to Stephen Backus.

Stephen Backus (ca. 1760-1796)

The occupation history of the property between 1760 and 1796 is less clear. The land records regarding Stephen Backus' purchase of the land are incomplete. Chain of title research by Green and Sexton (2008) indicates that Backus received the entire 1 1/3-acre lot from Aaron Cleveland in 1760. At that time, the property included a house, barn, shop, and outbuildings. The 1/3-acre portion with the shop was immediately sold to Elisha Payne and Nathan Waldo. The other acre remained with the Backus family until the sale to Luther Paine in 1796, suggesting that the house on the property was probably occupied by members of the Backus family or perhaps their tenants during this time.

Elisha Payne and Nathan Waldo (ca. 1760-1789)

Elisha Payne and Nathan Waldo were business partners who ran the shop on the Crandall property for many years. Elisha Payne was born in Canterbury in 1731. He graduated from Yale College in 1750, then studied law and attained admission to the bar. Payne married Anna Waldo in 1753. He was active in politics and local civic life and served in the Connecticut Assembly in the 1760s. In addition to his law practice and political career, Payne also ran a successful mercantile business with his brother-in-law, Nathan Waldo (Waldow), out of the shop on the Crandall property. Their partnership in the shop began around 1760.

Nathan Waldo managed their joint business. He was born in Scotland, Connecticut, in 1740. In 1763, Waldo married Elisha Payne's sister, Zerviah. The couple had 13 children, but sadly, all died as infants or young children. Like Payne, Waldo was a prominent member of the Canterbury community and active in civic and religious affairs.

Although their mercantile business was successful, both Payne and Waldo developed an early interest in northern New England. Waldo was an absent proprietor of Hartford, Vermont in 1768. From his home in Connecticut, he bought and sold large tracts of land in Vermont and New Hampshire. Waldo moved to Orange, New Hampshire, around 1789, the same year he transferred the shop on the Crandall property to Luther Paine and Jedidiah Johnson. Elisha Payne relocated to northern New England in 1774, where he continued his career in politics and civic life, holding many prominent political offices in both Vermont and New Hampshire. In Vermont, he served as Lieutenant Governor and Chief Justice of the state Supreme Court (Lincoln 1902: 226-229).

Luther and Sibbel Dyer Pain (ca. 1796-1832)

Luther Paine (1760-1830) was a businessman and politician. He and his wife, Sibbel Dyer Paine (1761-1831), lived on the property for more than 30 years and built the existing house. Census records indicate that the couple had eight children, Nancy (b.1786), Laura (b. 1788), Maria (b.1791), Thomas (b. 1793), and Elijah (b. 1803), as well as a boy and a girl who died in infancy. The Paine family lived in the house until the early 1830s, when Luther and Sibbel Paine passed away.

Throughout the family's tenure, the Paine household was large. Census research conducted by Green and Sexton (2008) indicates that in the early 1800s, the nuclear family occupied the house, and they may have had a female servant or adult female relative living with them. By 1820, Luther and Sibbel, now in their early 60s, lived with two young adults (probably unmarried adult

children), and a boy and a girl between the ages of 10 and 16. By 1830, the Paine household was clearly multi-generational. Along with the Paines, there were two adult women, three children under 10, and a boy aged 10-15. Luther Paine died in 1830 and Sibbel passed away a year later. By 1832, Jedidiah Johnson, Paine's business partner and the executor of the Paine estate, sold the house to Prudence Crandall.

Prudence Crandall (ca. 1831-1834)

Prudence Crandall's first school opened in 1831, although she didn't own the property until January of 1832. Crandall and the students' occupation of the house from 1831-1834 brought a less traditional household to the property. With the school, the household was large, and female dominated. The pupils and staff were girls and women, although Crandall hired at least one male handyman and one male teacher. Prudence Crandall married Calvin Philleo just a month before the school closed, but overall, the school period is marked by a distinct lack of male presence at the site.

Other Residents (ca. 1834-1969)

After Crandall sold the house in the fall of 1834, it once again reverted to a private residence and remained one through the 19th and much of the 20th century. During those years it changed hands several times. James Aspenwall, who was Jedidiah Johnson's son-in-law, purchased the house in 1834. In 1837, Aspenwall sold the property to Charles Warren, and three years later, Warren sold it Joseph Palmer. Palmer held the property for thirty years, until he sold it to Thomas G. Clarke. Clark was a deacon in the local church, and his wife, Cressida Judson Clarke, was the niece of Andrew Judson, once Prudence Crandall's chief antagonist. The property remained in the Clarke family until 1923, when it was purchased by the Robinson family. They held the property for 22 years and made several changes to the landscaping, including installation of a fountain in the front yard. After the Robinsons, Natalie Pierce purchased the property in 1945 and ran an antiques business from the barn. Then, in 1958, Admiral and Mrs. William Godson bought the property and lived there for 11 years, until they sold the house to the State of Connecticut in 1969 (Poirier et al. 1994; CLR vol. 21-23, 27, 32, 34, 36, 39, 40, 47, 53).

The Prudence Crandall Museum (1969-2019)

In 1969 the Godsons sold the house to the State of Connecticut for use as a museum to educate the public about Prudence Crandall and the historical significance of her school. The Connecticut Historical Commission (CHC; now the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism or CCT) gradually made improvements to the house, some of which are detailed in the discussion of the archaeological work, below. The Museum officially opened to the public in 1984.

The first floor of the museum was exhibited as a traditional historic house: partial-period rooms with historic furniture and the usual accompanying items such as candles, tea sets, vases, faux food, and reproduction clothing. These rooms also housed display cases and moveable wooden exhibit panels, and there was a ten-minute close-captioned introductory video for visitors to watch before the tour. A fourth room served as a gift shop selling books, historic toys, candles, soaps, postcards, and other souvenir items. The second floor of the museum housed traditional exhibits: two semi-permanent, one temporary/changing, an installation of a "period dormitory," and a research library that housed a few rare, some old, and mostly secondary books. None of the second floor exhibits or resouces were accessible to visitors unable to use the staircase.

The museum shared a chronological narrative of the life of Prudence Crandall, and the tumultuous seventeen months that she ran her school for young African American women. Along with Crandall's story, guided tours focused on 19th-century learning, architecture in Canterbury, Connecticut, and abolitionist activities by mostly white Americans. Research was conducted on the students of the Canterbury School, but it was predominantly genealogical, and not shared as part of the first-floor guided tour. Programs included historic crafts, teas, and other aspects of life in the 1830s. However, there were no primary sources or historical records of furnishing plans of Prudence Crandall's school, and most of the artifacts on display had no connection to the school, the students, the teachers, or their supporters. When the Museum closed at the end of the 2019 for the most significant restoration work since the 1970s, the staff began work on a reinterpretation of the school's important history.

PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT THE PRUDENCE CRANDALL HOUSE

In the more than 50 years that the Prudence Crandall house and property has been managed by the State of Connecticut, it has been the subject of several archaeological investigations. The archaeological testing and larger excavations were conducted as part of renovation and maintenance projects carried out by the state to develop the house as museum and maintain it through the years. The following section details those archaeological investigations in chronological order, with a discussion of the purpose, methods, and results of each.

Initial Excavations (1978 & 1981)

In the late 1970s, the CCT initiated extensive renovations at the Prudence Crandall House to ready the property for use as a state museum. The renovation work focused on several areas around the structure. Moisture was entering the cellar, causing the sills and lower clapboards to rot and the foundation needed repairs. As is common in many historic houses in Connecticut, the Crandall house foundation is constructed of dressed, dry-laid fieldstone with dry-laid field stone walls lining the cellar below. The planned repairs included installation of a large concrete bulkhead, measuring three feet wide and four feet deep, around the perimeter of the house foundation in an attempt to strengthen the walls and prevent moisture from seeping into the cellar. Renovation work was also carried out in the cellar interior, where a polyfilm vapor barrier was installed approximately four inches below the existing dirt floor. Finally, a handicapped access ramp was installed from the parking area to the rear entrance of the house to improve accessibility for museum visitors. The ramp required extensive ground disturbance; a 100-foot-long trench measuring eight feet wide and four feet deep was excavated from the parking lot to the museum's entrance (Poirier et al 1981, 1994).

At the time of the initial renovation work, archaeological excavations were carried out on the property to mitigate the loss of any important archaeological deposits that might be impacted by the substantial repairs and to better inform the renovation efforts with information about original materials and construction techniques (Poirier et al. 1981). Students from the University of Connecticut (UConn) and Central Connecticut State University (CCSU), conducted the archaeological investigation under the direction of SHPO Staff Archaeologist David A. Poirier and Robert R. Gradie, a graduate student studying historical archaeology at UConn. The archaeological work focused on areas that would be impacted by construction: the area around the foundation, the

cellar floor, and the location of the access ramp**.** The results of these investigations were presented in two unpublished manuscripts (Poirier et al. 1981, 1994) and are summarized here.

Foundation Excavations

A series of 5-x-5-foot (2-x-2m), hand-excavated test excavations were placed along the exterior walls of the Crandall house to explore the area slated for foundation repairs and the concrete bulkhead installation (Figure 3). The excavations reached a depth of approximately 60cm (two feet) below surface. The excavators recovered a range of artifacts around the foundation, including ceramics, large quantities of shattered window glass, slate pencil fragments, and machine-cut nails. The domestic artifacts were interpreted as broadcast refuse, trash that was thrown out of windows and doors or scattered in the yard (Poirier et al. 1981). The nails were attributed to past renovations, most likely replacement of clapboards and roof shingles. The recovery of a large quantity of window glass (n=1845) is significant in light of the history of Prudence Crandall's school. Window glass fragments are commonly found at historic house sites, and are generally interpreted as the result of past window replacements. However, the quantity of glass found around the Crandall house suggest that here, it may be associated with the September 1834 attack on the school (Poirier et al. 1981, 1994). Other artifacts recovered around the foundations include a mix of 18th-and 19th-century ceramics, architectural materials; 19th- and 20th-century bottle glass fragments; a small and fragmented faunal assemblage; personal items including 18th- and 19th-century kaolin pipe fragments, 19th-and 20th-century small denomination coins, 18th-20th century clothing fasteners, slate board and slate and graphite pencil fragments, and a red glass bead. The assemblage also included coal, cinder, and a small quantity of modern debris.

In addition to the recovered artifacts, the archaeological work around the foundation uncovered four buried archaeological features, including three that shed light on aspects of the house construction. First, the excavators identified an ash pit beneath a first-floor window on the main façade of the house. The nature and location of this feature suggests that ashes may have been dumped out of the window. The excavations also revealed key structural aspects of the foundation. First, a builders' trench that paralleled the fieldstone foundation was identified along the south elevation. Then, the excavators discovered that in order to strengthen the cellar wall and direct rain and runoff from the roof away from the cellar, a series of large dripstones were laid against the exterior cellar walls when the house was constructed (see Figure 3). The dripstones were designed to draw water away from the house and minimize water damage to the sills over time. As more historic houses have been investigated archaeologically, this technique is recognized as a common and effective characteristic of colonial-era house construction. A similar drip apron was identified along the front elevation of the Spencer-Peirce-Little House in Newburyport, Massachusetts by archaeologists from Boston University (Beaudry 1995) and the Cady-Copp Homestead in Putnam, Connecticut (Harper et al. 2005). The discovery of the drip stones at the Crandall House was crucial to the renovation project, as it forced a change in the plans for the new concrete bulkhead. The contractor altered the bulkhead design to accommodate the dripstones and ensure a strong structural bond with the foundation (Poirier et al 1981:15).

The soil stratigraphy in the excavation units along the south elevation of the house suggested previous attempts to mitigate the drainage problems around the foundation. The upper fill soils in these areas contained dense gravel, possibly placed there to elevate the ground surface and facilitate drainage. Poirier et al. (1994) reported that these excavation units also contained stratigraphic data which suggested an 18th-century occupation layer. The manuscript does not provide details regarding the soil stratigraphy, but references a 1723 Hibernian half penny to

provide an 18th-century date. It is unclear what types of cultural materials were recovered with the coin and whether they were in good stratigraphic context (Poirier et al 1994).

In addition to the archaeological investigation around the foundation, the archaeologists also monitored the excavation for new stairs at the north entry. They identified a feature related to the construction of the north entrance stairway. A concentration of debris consisting of brick, mortar, and large bottle glass fragments were set down, presumably as a footing for the stairs. The monitoring work also revealed several buried soil strata, including a dark lens of charcoal that was encountered at about 84-96cm below surface overlying a fire-reddened layer of sterile sand and gravel. These strata were interpreted as evidence that the property had originally be cleared by burning vegetation (Poirier and Gradie n.d.; Poirier et al 1981:14-16). Forest burnings were a common practice in the colonial period and burned soil at other 18th-century house sites in Connecticut has been interpreted as evidence of possible forest burning events (Harper et al. 2005, 2007; Harper and Harper 2007). However, subsequent excavations across the property have failed to reveal additional evidence of extensive burning, and this feature should be re-evaluated in terms of those results. It is worth noting that much of the subsoil encountered in the south yard area in 2020 was red in color, likely due to the presence of oxidized ferric iron oxides in the soil. It is also possible that the burned soil represents a localized natural burning event, or it may have been a pre-contact period cultural feature that was not recognized as such at the time of excavation.

Finally, the excavations revealed an informal, modern-period flagstone walkway at the entry to the ell's cellar entrance (Poirier et al. 1981; Figure 4). This 20th-century feature was also encountered during the 2014 investigation relation to the installation of a dry well (see below).

Figure 3: Archaeologists excavating around the foundation, ca. 1978. Note the large, flat "drip stones" along the exterior foundation wall.

Figure 4: 20th-century decorative stone walkway shallowly buried outside of the cellar entrance.

Cellar Excavations

Archaeological excavations were conducted in the Prudence Crandall house cellar prior to the installation of the polyfilm vapor barrier below the existing cellar floor (Poirier et al 1981, 1994). Test units placed in the cellar demonstrated that most of the cellar floor had been subjected to significant previous disturbance; very little archaeological material was recovered from those excavations. The exception was an excavation unit placed in the dirt floor adjacent to the stone fireplace in the cellar of the house's ell portion. There, the excavators encountered in situ timber flooring elements, a layer of gray clay, and a small artifact assemblage. The recovered materials included faunal remains, ceramic sherds, a green painted nut shell fragment, a bead, a hand-made straight pint, and several slate pencil fragments. The types of ceramics recovered are not outlined in the two papers by Poirier et al., but the authors indicated that the materials demonstrated early 19th-century use of the fireplace. They also drew a reasonable association between the slate pencils and Crandall's school; it is also possible, of course, that the pencils date to other occupations, as there were children in the house both before and after the school period.

Access Ramp Excavations

The planned access ramp installation required machine excavation of an eight foot-wide, four-foot deep trench that extended approximately 100 feet through the side yard on the south side of the house (Figure 5). The ramp was designed to connect the parking area at the rear (west) side of the house, with the entrance on the south façade of the ell. The access ramp trench unfortunately disturbed a large portion of the south and west yards. At the time, limited archaeological work was carried out within the trench to mitigate some of that disturbance.

Figure 5: Photograph showing the extensive trench excavated prior to the installation of the access ramp in the early 1980s.

The trench revealed the remains of an intact, but abandoned 20th-century sewer system. Additionally, the archaeologists identified one significant cultural feature that was partially truncated by the trench excavation. The feature consisted of a dark soil stain with a dense concentration of late 18th-to early 19th-century refuse, comprised primarily of large ceramic sherds and glass fragments (Figure 6). Poirier et al. (1981:17) reported that approximately 25% of the feature was mechanically excavated during construction, while a later manuscript (Poirier et al. 1994) indicated that approximately 40% of the feature was excavated at this time. The portion of the feature within the trench was salvaged, rather than excavated with archaeological methods. The archaeologists recovered all of the artifacts within the trench and were also able to record the physical dimensions and soil stratigraphy of the exposed part of the feature Poirier et al. 1981, 1994). However, the notes from that excavation have been lost the measurements are currently unknown.

At the time of Poirier et al.'s (1981) report, analysis of the feature from the access ramp trench was in progress. It was tentatively identified as a refuse midden or trash pit. Over the years, the feature and its contents have been examined and interpreted twice, first by Robert Gradie, David Poirier, and Maron Leonard (Poirier et al. 1994). No definitive of report of this analysis was filed with CTSHPO or OSA, but some of the data and results were included in various other reports

over the years (Gradie and Poirier, n.d.; Gradie 1985). The most comprehensive report of their analysis was presented in an article draft that was submitted to the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology (CNEHA) journal, put never revised and published. Some of the material from the feature was included in a 1993 exhibit at the Crandall Museum (Kozlowski and Poirier 1997:41).

The article draft indicates that the midden or pit feature contained approximately 9,000 artifacts, including 6,751 ceramic sherds, 928 pieces of window glass, 845 green bottle glass fragments, and 60 clear or light green bottle glass fragments, along with smaller numbers of table glass fragments, cutlery, buttons, nails, and iron fragments (Poirier et al. 1994). An attempt was made to cross-mend as much of the assemblage as possible, and the authors calculated that the feature contained a minimum of 407 distinct ceramic and glass vessels of variable completeness.

Figure 6: Large cultural feature identified as a trash midden or privy. Found in the in the access ramp trench.

The assemblage included 44 different ceramic types, including Chinese porcelain, tin-glazed earthenware, British and American stonewares, coarse and refined red earthenwares, yellowwares, creamwares, pearlwares, and whitewares. The vessels included an assortment of forms related to dining, tea wares, food storage, dairying, and hygiene. In place of the common mean ceramic data formula that is widely employed by historical archaeologists, the researchers used a partial probability distribution formula developed by Albert F. Bartovics (1981). This method provides a mean date as well as a date range of probability based on the beginning and end manufacture dates of the ceramics in the assemblage. The formula then combines all of the known dates for the diagnostic ceramics in the assemblage. With this method, the authors calculated a mean date of 1808 for the ceramic assemblage with date range of 1797.5 to 1827.5, and attributed the materials to the Paine family's occupation (Poirier et al. 1994, 18). Within the ceramic assemblage, the authors identified a set of creamware plates, a set of pearlware plates, and two pearlware tea settings. In addition to the ceramics, the feature contained a sizeable assemblage of

broken glass. The recovered glass included fragments of at least 18 black glass wine bottles, four case bottles, five free-blown olive green bottles with ovoid bases, five pharmaceutical bottles, a condiment bottle, 48 tumblers or drinking glasses, eight stemmed drinking glasses, and a desert glass. Fragments of three bone handled serving knives and three bone-handled forks were also recovered, along with a socketed hoe.

The researchers felt that all of the artifacts recovered from the feature dated to the late 18th and early 19th centuries, corresponding to the Paine family's tenure. They suggested that the feature was most likely a privy used by Prudence Crandall's students and felt that the artifacts were probably left in the house by the Paines and then cleaned out and thrown in the privy when Crandall took over the house in 1832 (Poirier et al. 1994: 21). The small number of later 19th-century ceramics in the assemblage, which included sherds of whiteware and ironstone, led Poirier et al. to hypothesize that the feature remained in use until ca. 1850.

Resistivity Survey (1985)

In June of 1985, Robert Gradie, a UConn graduate student who had been involved in the 1981 archaeological work, returned to the Prudence Crandall property to carry out a remote sensing survey of the yard area along the completed access ramp using electrical resistivity. The purpose of this investigation was to try and locate the remaining portion of the feature that was found when the trench for the ramp was initially excavated. The work was carried out for the CHC (Gradie 1985) and it represents an early application of remote sensing techniques in an archaeological investigation in Connecticut. Although there is no extant report detailing the results of the survey, a letter from Gradie to Howard Miller at CHC summarizes the survey and includes a small hand-drawn map of the results (Gradie 1985; Figure 7).

Electrical resistivity is a method of remote sensing that measures the apparent electrical resistivity of subsurface materials. It is a non-invasive survey method that can help to identify buried anomalies. During a resistivity survey, electrical current is injected into the ground through a pair of current electrodes and the potential difference is measured between a pair of potential electrodes. Resistivity of subsurface materials varies with their water content and composition. The apparent resistivity measured during the survey is the average resistivity of all subsurface materials that influence the flow of the current. The resulting data is collected, processed, and can be used to produce contour maps that show both lateral variations in resistivity, and variations by depth (Utility Survey Corp 2017). This information can help to identify subsurface conditions across the survey area and to identify anomalous locations that may represent archaeological features or deposits.

Gradie's (1985) letter summarizes anomalies found during the survey and the hand-drawn map shows the locations of high and low resistivity in the survey area. The letter indicates that the survey detected an anomaly in the "vicinity of the previously discovered deposit," referring to the feature originally identified in the access ramp trench. Gradie stated that while he believed that the anomaly likely represented the remaining part of the feature, that conclusion could only be tentative without additional archaeological investigation of the area. He also noted that the survey identified two additional, similar anomalies along the eastern margin of the access ramp and the expressed the possibility that the anomalies picked up in the survey might, therefore, be related to the recent construction rather than archaeological deposits.

In addition to the anomalies near the ramp, the resistivity survey also picked up what Gradie (1985) termed a, "curious pattern of high resistance anomalies in the backyard," and that the readings were consistent with packed gravel. Based on this information, he speculated that the

anomalies might represent buried paths from a formal garden. However, he was again clear to note that this interpretation was speculative and additional archaeological work would be necessary to test the idea.

Despite the results of the survey and Robert Gradie's recommendations for additional archaeological work, no additional work was carried out at the site in the 1980s or 1990s, largely due to the lack of ground-disturbing construction or renovations during this period. In fact, the yard near the access ramp was not revisited by archaeologists until the most recent investigations which were carried out in 2020 and 2021 and discussed below.

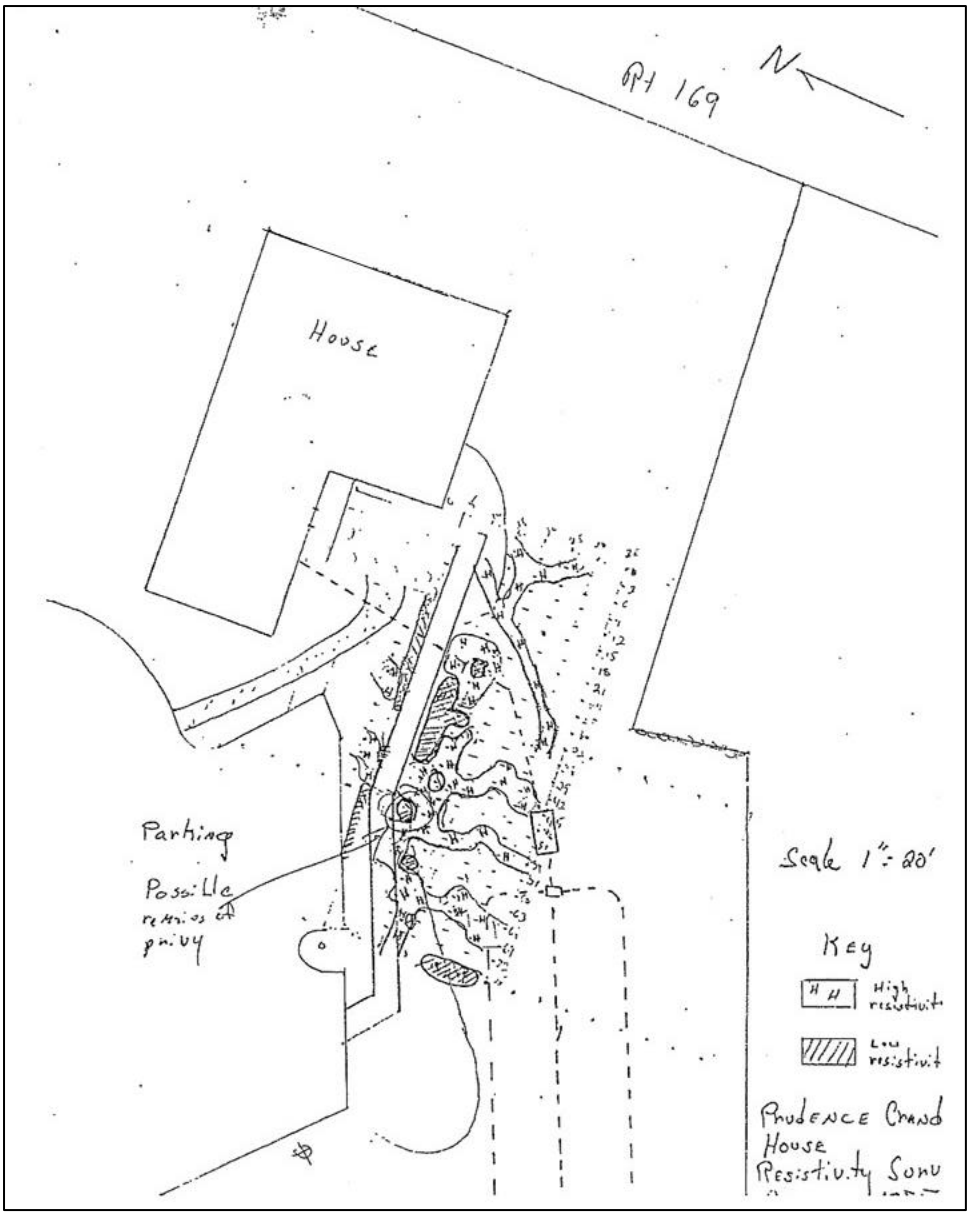

Figure 7: Hand-drawn map of 1985 resistivity survey results (Gradie 1985).

Analysis of Access Ramp Feature (2008)

A second analysis of the feature contents was completed in 2008 by Dr. Ross Harper of Archaeological and Historical Services, Inc. (AHS). The 2008 (re-)analysis was initiated by the former Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism (CCT), now the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). CCT contracted AHS to "assess and discuss the identification, use, significance, research and interpretive possibilities" of the feature assemblage (Harper 2008: 1).

Harper (2008: 5) provides additional information about the feature gleaned from personal communications with David Poirier. The 2008 report reaffirms that the size, shape, and depth of the feature are not known, and that the soils were described as "dark and loamy." Harper's summary indicates that excavation of the feature was limited to the upper section; the archaeologists did not complete the excavation of the feature and they never reached its terminus. Additionally, there was no available field paperwork related to the excavation of the feature such as notes, drawings, photographs, or level forms. To this day, we have been unable to locate any of the paperwork and these materials are presumed to be permanently lost.

Harper concurs with the ceramic date range previously calculated for the assemblage and indicates that other recovered artifact types fall within a similar date range. He notes, however, that given the date range, there is a possibility that some of the feature materials may have come from Prudence Crandall's school.

In his discussion of the feature assemblage, Harper (2008: 6) notes that there are a small number of 18th-century ceramic artifacts, such as delftware (1600-1800) and English white salt-glazed stoneware (1720-1805) within the assemblage. These materials, which trend earlier than the rest of the recovered ceramics, are attributed to earlier 18th-century occupations of the property and may have been unintentionally integrated into the feature through soil disturbance due to cryoturbation, bioturbation, erosion or other natural or cultural factors. However (likely due to its near-completeness), the 18th-century Astbury teapot (1725-1750) that was recovered from the deposit was interpreted as a probable family heirloom (Harper 2008:7; Figure 8).

Based on the limited information available about the feature, Harper (2008:9) concluded that it was intentionally dug, contains artifacts predominately from the early to mid-19th century, and those artifacts were intentionally placed within the feature. He notes that only certain types of artifacts are included in the feature fill. No evidence of animal bones, shell, nails, brick, mortar, or ash was recovered, even though such materials are commonly found in 18th- and 19th-century trash deposits and are found in other areas of the site. Harper viewed the lack of these artifact types as intentional and meaningful and suggested that specific material types were chosen for functional reasons that are most likely related to use of the feature as a privy. However, he stressed that without more information about the form of the feature, the identification is only tentative.

Past work on privies indicates that large assemblages of artifacts like ceramics and glass containers were often intentionally deposited in 19th-century privies in Philadelphia and Baltimore to facilitate the percolation of liquid waste into a lower vault, while trapping the solid waste above the artifacts. This practice helped to reduce unpleasant odors and permitted the solid waste or "night soil" from 19th-century privies to be collected and sold for fertilizer (Harper 2008: 9-10; Roberts and Barrett 1984). While it is unknown if night soil from the Crandall property was ever collected and sold, Harper found evidence of the practice in contemporary Connecticut, in the form of a newspaper advertisement from Hartford (*Hartford Daily Courant* 1855).

Harper's (2008:10-14) artifact analysis provides more detail than the previous work by Poirier et al. (1994) and contextualizes the assemblage within the framework of early 19th-century

foodways in New England. Working with the vessels previously cross-mended by Robert Gradie and David Poirier, he assessed the overall assemblage as fairly typical of Connecticut households from the 1820s to 1840s. He noted that tea wares were among the most common ceramic vessels in the assemblage, reflecting the important cultural role of tea in late 18th- and early 19th-century America. Tea wares from the feature assemblage include a variety of Chinese porcelain, creamware, and pearlware tea bowls, saucers, and creamers (Figure 8). The assemblage also contained tea pots in Astbury, pearlware, and black glazed red earthenware. References to tea and coffee were found Luther Paine's probate and in store records of Prudence Crandall's purchases, indicating that both households regularly consumed the beverages.

Figure 8: Mended tea wares recovered from the access ramp feature, including Astbury teapot (center), Chinese porcelain tea bowl and saucer, polychrome hand painted pearlware creamer and tea bowl, blue transfer print pearlware tea bowl, China Glaze creamer and saucer. Photo by AHS, Inc. (Harper 2008).

Other well-represented ceramic tablewares included plates, soup plates, and small muffins and twifflers. The assemblage also contains mugs, tankards, pitchers, bowls, and basins, as well as a mustard pot and two salt cellars. Creamware patterns, based on plate rims, included both Royal and plain, and pearlware rims included green and blue shell-edged and scalloped-edged types. In addition to tablewares, the feature assemblage also contained utilitarian lead-glazed red earthenware forms and large fragments of bottle glass. The red earthenware vessels included the remains of several milk pans for dairying, as well as butter pots, which were used for food storage. The bottles found in the privy likely held a variety of liquids including wine, liquor, cider, vinegar, and beer (Figure 9).

Finally, Harper (2008:14) addressed the personal items found in the feature deposit (Figure 10). One of the most interesting artifacts in the assemblage is a nearly complete enameled porcelain box with the image of two women in Regency-era dresses on the lid. Other feminine items also were recovered, including straight pins and glass beads. Two artifacts with the Classical/Revival style imagery that was popular in the first half of the 19th century also were recovered. These include a kaolin pipe bowl with a Classical Greek/Roman figure and a glass seal with a bust of a Greek/Roman man's head.

The contract to re-analyze the feature assemblage also required an assessment of the collection's research potential. Harper concluded that overall, the artifacts from the feature date primarily from the late 18th century to the 1830s, with a few artifacts from the 1850s. Given the date range, the feature fill is most likely associated with the Paine family's occupation of the property, but the materials represented in the assemblage probably also reflect the types of vessels, styles, and patterns that Prudence Crandall would have used at her school in the early 1830s. While this makes it difficult to definitively assign the assemblage to either household, it means that the assemblage is a valuable educational resource for the Museum. The archaeological assemblage provides a window into the material culture of the early 19th century and provides an authentic vehicle for site interpretation in terms of "foodways, farming practices, social ritual, decorative arts, economics, global trade, and daily life" (Harper 2008:15).

Figure 9: Mended glass and ceramic vessels from the access ramp feature: (a) 10" tall case bottle and pearlware pitcher with annular, "marbled" and mocha dendritic "fern" motifs; (b) tankard with an annular and mocha dendritic design and polychrome hand-painted polychrome pearlware bowl with floral motif; (c) Royal pattern creamware muffin and green shell-edged muffin. Photo by AHS, Inc. (Harper 2008).

Figure 10: Personal artifacts recovered from the access ramp feature: (a) kaolin pipe bowl with a Classical Greek/Roman figure and a glass seal with a bust of a Greek/Roman man's head; (b) enameled porcelain box; (c) large brass button, glass beads, and straight pins. Photos by AHS, Inc. (Harper 2008).

Dry Well Survey (2014)

The next archaeological investigation carried out on the Prudence Crandall Museum property was in 2014. That summer, the museum installed a dry well system on the west elevation of the house between the ell's cellar entrance and the parking lot (Figure 11). In 2014, the ground surface in this area was flat and level from the edge of the parking lot to the cellar door. Immediately south of the door, was a low stone retaining wall and south of the retaining wall, the ground surface sloped up to meet the grade of the south yard.

Archaeological Survey

Installation of the dry well required the use of a backhoe to excavate a pit measuring approximately 8.5m (28 ft) long, 3m (10 ft) wide, and 1.2m (4 ft) deep. The DECD, which oversees the state museums, contracted AHS, Inc. to conduct an archaeological investigation and monitor the dry-well installation. The purpose of the archaeological work was to locate all potentially significant buried archaeological resources within the planned location of the dry well installation (Sportman 2014). As the area that was to be impacted by the dry well installation was relatively small, the archaeological survey was limited in scope. It included five 50cm-x-50cm shovel test pits and one 1m-x-1m excavation unit placed adjacent to a test pit that contained a possible stone paving feature.

Four of the test pits, J1, J2, J3, and J4, contained a thick layer of topsoil that appears to characterize much of the area between the parking lot and ell cellar door. This soil layer, which was rich in artifacts, extended down to the interface with the subsoil, suggesting that the area had been heavily landscaped. The soil had a uniform appearance and contained a mix of 18th- and 19th-century domestic and architectural materials, including ceramics, window and vessel glass, a kaolin pipe stem, bone, coal, brick, nails, and mortar. The consistency of the soil color and texture and the mixed artifact assemblage suggested that previous landscaping activities destroyed much

of the stratigraphic integrity in this part of the property. Only shovel test pit J5, which was excavated near the edge of the parking lot, contained a different soil profile. The stratigraphy in this pit was more complex, and included four thin layers of fill atop the subsoil. These soils were also artifact-rich, and contained a mix of domestic and architectural materials similar to what was found in J1 - J4. The different soil stratigraphy in J5 is likely related to both past landscaping and construction of the parking area.

STP J3, which was placed in the pathway leading up to the ell cellar door, contained a portion of the decorative stone walkway that found during the original excavations. The stones were uncovered at 10cm below the ground surface. This walkway, which was comprised of numerous small, thin pieces of stone in a "patchwork" pattern, has been interpreted as a 20th century feature (Poirier et al 1981).

A second possible feature was identified in STP J2, which revealed three large, flat stones at about 25cm below surface. This test pit was intentionally placed adjacent to a section of re-built brick visible in ell's cellar wall. The stones were interpreted as a possible paving related to an old coal door. To further explore the stone paving, J2 was expanded into a 1m-x-1m excavation unit, with J2 as the northeast quadrant. Excavation of the unit revealed the flat stones did not extend much beyond the existing test pit. Stratigraphically, the stones look to have been set at the base of the landscaping fill, just above the interface with the subsoil. As with the other test pits, J2 and Unit 1 contained a rich assemblage of 18th- and 19th-century artifacts.

Following the excavation of Unit 1, a photograph of the area around the ell's cellar entrance area from the 1970s was found in the museum archives (Figure 12). The picture showed a very different landscape in that part of the property, with the whole area at a level grade. There was no retaining wall south of the cellar door and the ground surface south of the doorway did not slope up towards the south yard. This photograph showed that the landscaping fill encountered across the project area during the Dry Well survey was likely very recent and was probably related to the Museum renovations in the early 1980s. This information raised questions about the origins of the landscaping fill and associated artifacts.

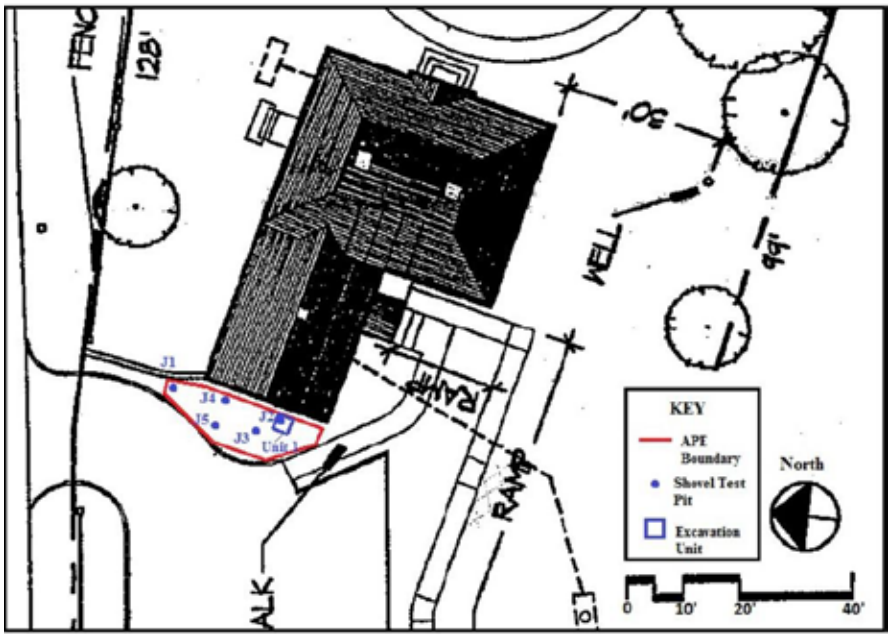

Figure 11: Site plan, showing the locations of the 2014 archeological testing on the east side of the house.

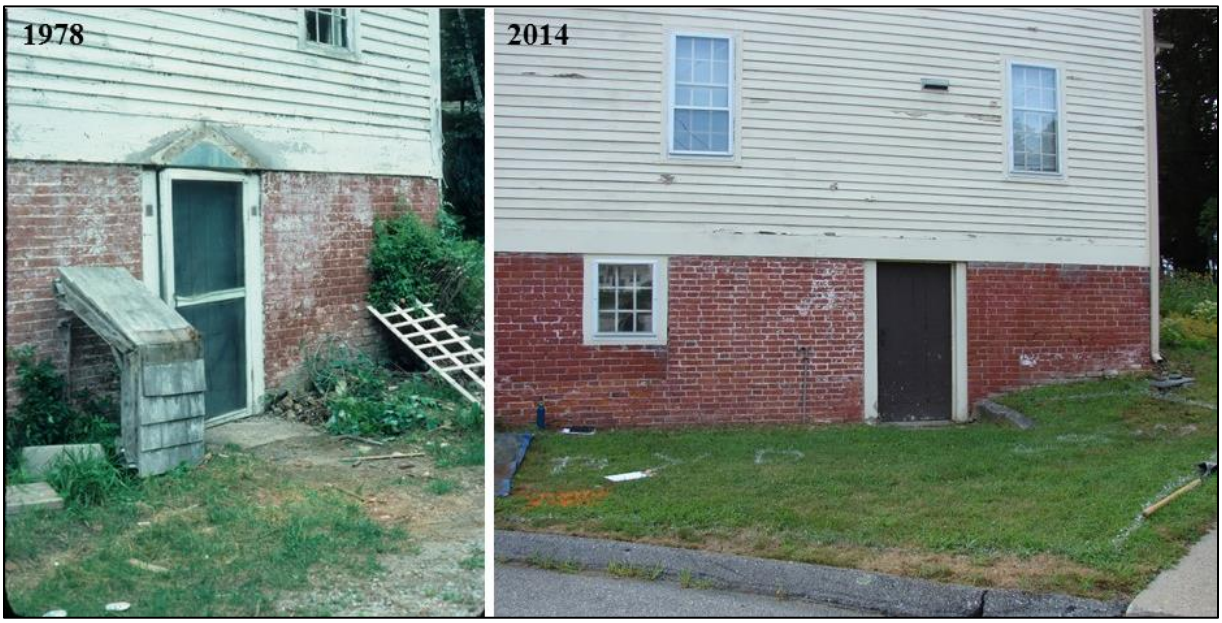

Figure 12: Cellar entrance on the west elevation of the house, in 1978 (left) and 2014 (right).

Material Culture

In the original report (Sportman 2014), the artifacts were analyzed in three groups: the materials recovered from J2/Unit 1, the artifacts found in STPs J1, J3, and J4; and the material recovered from J5 (Sportman 2014). However, given the consistency of the landscaping fill layer across the project area, it now seems more appropriate to discuss the artifacts here as a single assemblage.

A total of 3,270 artifacts were recovered during the Dry Well survey, with 1,531 (54.5%) excavated from J2/Unit 1. The artifacts included a mix of domestic, architectural, and personal materials (Figure 13), but the assemblage was dominated by ceramics, which comprised a little more than half of the total collection (n=1789; 54.7%) and were primarily small fragments, as were the recovered pieces of glass containers (n=6) and table glass (n=9). Architectural items included fragments of blue-green (n=394) and clear (n=209) window glass, brick and mortar fragments, and hand-wrought, machine-cut, and wire nails. A small number of faunal remains (n=20) also were recovered and included oyster and clam shell and unidentified calcined bone fragments. Coal fragments and coal ash were found across the project area, reflecting the use of coal as heating fuel beginning in the mid-19th century.

The assemblage also included a number of personal items including kaolin pipe fragments (n=14), slate board (n=32) and pencil (n=8) fragments (Figure 14), a graphite pencil fragment, a thimble, a brass buckle, brass and bone buttons, and a fragment of a minnie ball (post-1852) (Sportman 2014). All of the slate board and pencil fragments were recovered from J2/Unit 1, south of the cellar door and retaining wall.

The ceramics from the Dry Well survey are presented in Table 1. The mean ceramic date for the total assemblage is 1828. The range of materials is similar to those recovered from the feature in the access ramp area, but this assemblage contains more materials from the second half of the 19th-century. While many of the recovered ceramics date to the Paine and Crandall periods,

the presence of later materials like yellowware (1820-1900+), ironstone (1813-1900+), and domestic stonewares, reflects some mixing of the deposit. The range of artifacts is similar to those recovered in the access ramp feature.

Figure 13: Representative sample of artifacts recovered in the 2014 dry well survey. Ceramics (left) include Jackfield-like ware, untyped creamware, untyped redware, untyped porcelain, undecorated pearlware, blue transfer-printed pearlware, annular pearlware, and black transfer-printed whiteware. Other artifacts (right) include brass buckle fragment, brass thimble, bone button, hand-wrought lead nail, and clear glass stem-ware base/stem fragment.

Figure 14: Sample of slate board and pencil fragments recovered in the 2014 dry well survey.

Table 1. Summary of ceramic artifacts recovered in the 2014 dry well survey.

Ceramic Type	Description	Date Range	Count
English White Salt-Glazed Stoneware	untyped	1720-1805	4
Jackfield		1740-1780	4
Porcelain	Chinese underglaze blue	1660-1800	1
	untyped	~	31
	untyped transfer printed	~	1
Creamware	untyped	1762-1820	387
Pearlware	Annular	1790-1820	20
	Blue hand-painted underglaze	1780-1820	34
	Blue shell-edged	1780-1830	15
	Blue transfer printed	1795-1840	121
	Green shell-edged	1780-1840	1
	Hand-painted polychrome underglaze	1795-1820	21
	Mocha	1795-1840	16
	untyped	1780-1840	289
Whiteware	Annular	1920-1900+	1
	Black transfer-printed	1810-1900+	207
	Blue shell-edged	1820-1860	4
	Blue transfer-printed	1820-1900+	26
	Brown transfer-printed	1810-1900+	32
	Red transfer-printed	1830-1900+	3
	Hand-painted polychrome	1830-1900+	1
	untyped	1820-1900+	443
Yellowware	untyped	1820-1900+	52
Ironstone	untyped	1813-1900+	5
untyped Refined Earthenware		~	28
Domestic Stoneware	untyped	1730-1900	1
	Albany slip	1805-1900	1
Red Earthenware	unglazed		8
	unglazed (flower pot)		3
	unidentified lead glaze		1
	Black lead glaze		1
	Brown lead glaze		10
	Clear lead glaze		17
Total			**1789**

The installation of the dry well was conducted immediately following the archaeological survey and AHS monitored the work. No significant historical features or archaeological materials were identified during the archaeological monitoring, but the backhoe excavation did uncover a modern feature. An abandoned cement-lined well was found in the center of the project area. The well appears to be associated with a pipe that was visible along the face of the cellar wall of the ell and likely dates to the third quarter of the 20th century. Following the installation of the new dry well system, the excavated area was filled with gravel and covered with clean topsoil. The soils removed from the excavation were transported and deposited off-site (Sportman 2014).

Overall, the soil strata and recovered artifacts were similar across the small Dry Well project area, with materials ranging from the late 18th through the mid to late-19th century; the recovered artifacts date to the periods before, during, and after Prudence Crandall's school. Unlike

the large pieces of intentionally-placed ceramic and glass vessels recovered from the access ramp feature, these materials were highly fragmented, likely broken up by trampling. The variety and fragmented nature of the materials suggests that the fill used to landscape the Dry Well area may have originated from an area that once served as a trash midden that was used during multiple occupations of the house. The ca. 1970s photo of the Dry Well project area and the discovery of the cement well suggest that the landscaping fill was laid down in the second half of the 20th century. Some of the fill used to landscape this area may have originated in the access ramp area, which was machine-excavated when the ramp was built in 1981.

2020 Excavations

In the fall of 2020, the Office of State Archaeology (OSA) was asked to carry out limited excavations on the grounds of the Prudence Crandall Museum in support of extensive renovations to the museum. The archaeological work, which was carried out with volunteers from the Friends of the Office of State Archaeology (FOSA), included seven shovel test pits and a block of nine 1m-x-1m excavation units. The test pits were placed around the parking area and along a transect west of the house. The excavation block was placed in the planned location of a new condensation tank in the south yard (Figure 15; the locations of the 2020 test pits are not show on this map).

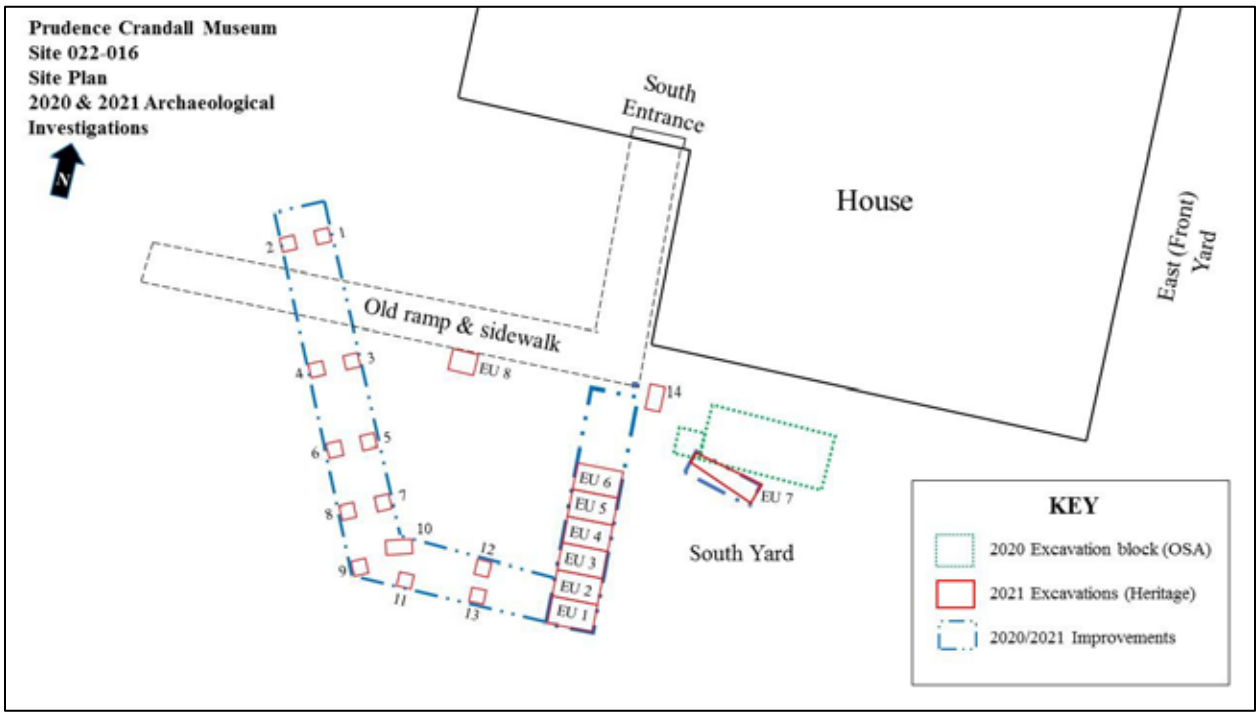

Figure 15: Schematic site plan, 2020 excavation block and 2021 STPs and Excavation Units.

Shovel Test Pits

The test pits were excavated in two transects. Transect 1 (T1) included five STPs placed at 5-meter intervals along a proposed drainage outfall line that extended west from the parking area into the field west of the house and south of the former barn. Transect 2 (T2), which included two STPs, was laid out in the grassy area between the parking lot and existing access ramp. The shovel

test pits measured 50-x-50cm square and were excavated in 10-centimeter levels with shovels and trowels by FOSA volunteers.

The first three shovel test pits along Transect 1 were similar in terms of soil stratigraphy and recovered cultural materials. STPs T1-T3 contained two to three layers of fill over buried Ap (plowzone) and B-horizon soils. The buried Ap was encountered at depths ranging from 25 to 36 cm below surface. Test pits T1-4 and T1-5 contained two layers of fill over truncated B-horizon subsoils. The subsoil in T1-5, which was farthest from the house, had hydric properties, reflecting the increasingly wet conditions west of the house. No cultural features were identified in any of the test pits. Artifacts were recovered from all of the test pits on Transect 1, but significantly less cultural material was recovered in T1-4 and T1-5, which were the farthest from the house. Most of the artifacts were recovered from the upper fill layers and included a mix of 18th- and 19th-century domestic, architectural, and personal items that were similar to those recovered in previous investigations at the site. Recovered ceramics included English white salt-glazed stoneware (1720-1805), Astbury (ca. 1720-1750), creamware (1762-1820), pearlware (1780-1840), stoneware (1730-1900), yellowware (1830-1900), porcelain, and redware. Fragments of window, container, and table glass also were recovered, along with kaolin pipes, nails, brick fragments, coal and coal ash, and small bone fragments.

The test pits on Transect 2, at the edge of the parking area, contained two layers of fill overlying apparently intact B_1 subsoils. The subsoil was encountered at about 32 cm below the current ground surface. The fill soils yielded artifact assemblages that included primarily late 18th- to 19th-century materials such as creamware, pearlware, yellowware, domestic stoneware, window and vessel glass, and architectural materials like nails and brick fragments. The assemblage is similar to the materials recovered in other previous excavations across the site.

Excavation Block Soils

The excavation units were laid out as a block in the planned location of the condensation tank south of the house. The southwest corner of the main house was used as the datum, and labeled N0E0. The units were laid out on a grid, four to five meters south of the house. A portion of the soil profile from the excavated area is shown in Figure 16. In general, the soils in the excavation block were very gravelly, with large quantities of angular rock. The yard of the house has been extensively landscaped over the years and that was reflected in the upper soil layers, where we found the mix of late 18th- through 20th-century artifacts in the topsoil/upper fill. This a pattern that seems to characterize this layer across the site. The artifacts included whiteware (ca. 1820-1900), pearlware (1780-1840), creamware (1762-1820), redware, machine-cut and wire nails, window and bottle glass, and coal.

Below the topsoil/Fill 1 stratum, we designated a Fill 2 layer that was found throughout much of the block. Fill 2 consisted of dark brown sandy loam and extended from about 10-20 cmbs. In the eastern and central part of the excavation, this soil layer produced a moderate quantity of mostly 19th-century artifacts, including pearlware. The strata below this layer varied across the block. There were several layers of soil below Fill 2 in the eastern part of the block, including a thin layer of dark yellowish brown fine silty sandy with gravel, and a lens of what appeared to be mixed B and C horizon soils. The latter materials appear to have been excavated from another location on site (perhaps the existing house cellar). Below this layer, extending to a depth of about 50-60cmbs was a layer of reddish (strong brown) soil with gravel and angular rocks that was designated Fill 3. In the eastern part of the block this stratum sat atop what appeared to be bedrock. Moving west through the block, however, this soil was encountered a much shallower depth,

directly below Fill 2. Fill 3 contained a moderate density of cultural materials including whiteware (1820-1900), pearlware (1780-1840), creamware (1762-1820), redware, window and bottle glass, nails, and several slate pencil fragments. The pencils may have been associated with Prudence Crandall's school or they may have been used by the children of other occupants of the house.

In the southwest portion of the block, the reddish Fill 3 soil sat atop an irregular deposit of grayish brown silty soil with ash and charcoal flecks throughout. The ashy gray soil was encountered at about 30cmbs below surface in the western corner of the block, but dipped down to the east, petering out at about 60-70cmbs in the middle of block atop the bedrock (see Figure 21). The ashy layer was rich in artifacts, most of which date to the second half of the 18th century. The recovered materials included English white salt-glazed stoneware (c. 1720-1770), debased scratch blue stone ware (c. 1760-1795), Whieldon ware (c. 1740-1775), creamware (1762-1820), hand-wrought nails, glass, an English half penny from 1749, and a large number of kaolin pipe stem and bowl fragments; over 80 stem and bowl fragments were recovered from this stratum in one 1m-x-1m unit. Several of the ceramic sherds recovered from the ashy layer appeared to have been burnt.

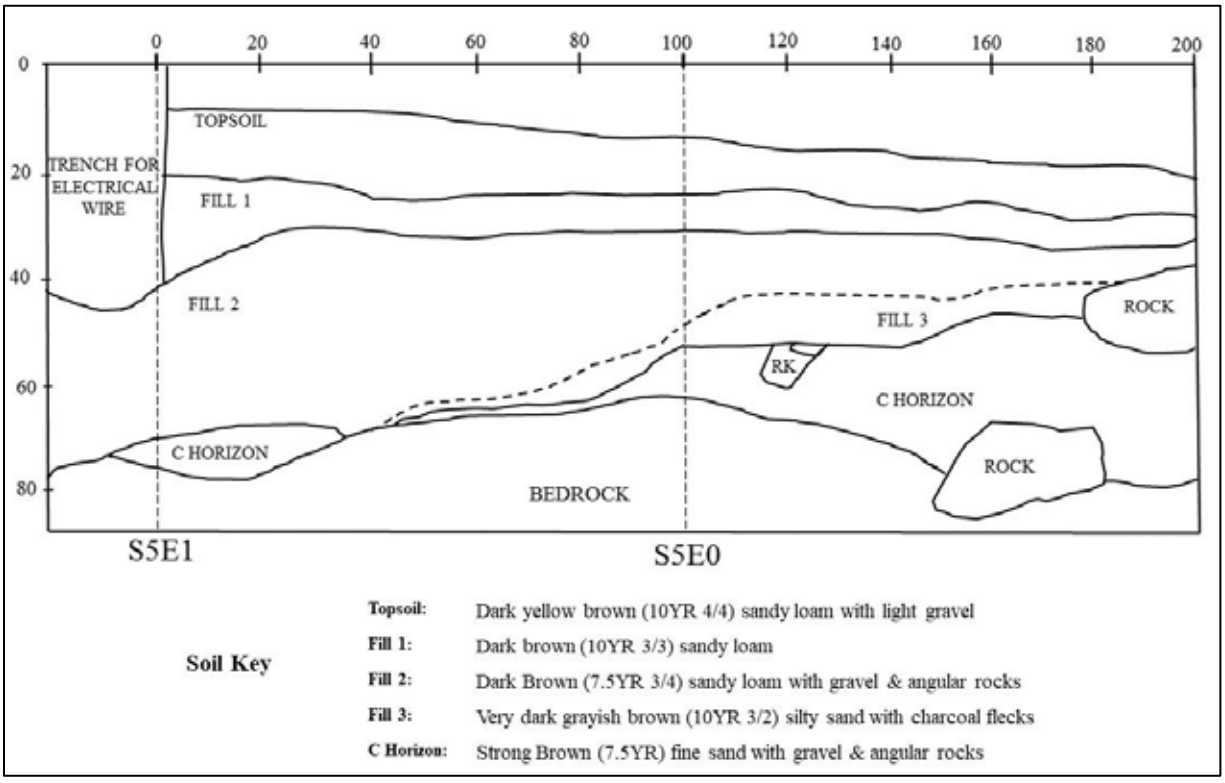

Figure 16: Soil profile, south wall of 2020 excavation block, units S5E1 and S5E0.

Cultural Features

OSA/FOSA identified three cultural features in the 2020 excavation block: a shallow, 20th-century planting feature in the northwest corner of the block in unit S4E0, a trench containing a dead electrical wire in units S4E1 and S5E1, and a large posthole or small pit on the western end of the block in unit S5W1. The planting feature, which was encountered just below the surface in the northwest corner of unit S4E0, extended only to a depth of about 30cmbs and is modern. The feature soils were very loose and scraps of landscaping fabric were found throughout. The trench

for the old electrical line became visible at about 10cm below surface in units S4E1 and S5E1, suggesting the topsoil layer had been added or disturbed in this part of the yard in the years since the wire was installed. The wire appeared to date to the mid- to late-20th century. The posthole or pit feature was identified on the west wall of the block, near the old access ramp. The feature extended from the base of the landscaping fill to a depth of about 60cmbs, and was filled with dark organic soil, cobbles, and a few artifacts (Figure 17). The recovered cultural materials from Feature 2 included two sherds of pearlware (ca. 1780-1830), a machine cut nail, (ca. 1790-1900) a piece of window glass, and brick fragments. The cobbles in the feature were less angular than the rocks and gravels encountered throughout most of the excavation block and may have originally been part of a paving or landscape feature.

Figure 17: Photograph of Feature 2, large post or pit, identified in S5W1.

Cultural Materials

The 2020 block excavations at the Prudence Crandall Museum produced a large material culture assemblage totaling 3,355 artifacts. Although excavated by OSA and FOSA, the recovered artifacts were identified and inventoried by Heritage Consultants, LLC as part of a 2021 contract to carry out additional fieldwork in support of the renovations. A summary of the 2020 assemblage is presented by artifact type and count in Table 2. As reflected in the discussion of the soils above, the excavation block was largely characterized by fill soils with mixed artifact assemblages, reflecting a long history of landscaping and other disturbances to the Crandall Museum's yard. The exception is the apparently intact layer of dark gray, ashy soil with charcoal flecking that was encountered in the western end of the excavation block, primarily in units S5E0 and S5W1.

The ash- and charcoal-rich soil layer contained primarily 18th-century materials. The recovered materials included English white salt-glazed stoneware (c. 1720-1770), debased scratch blue stone ware (c. 1760-1795) (Figure 18), Whieldon ware (c. 1740-1775), creamware (1762-1820), tin-glazed (Delft) ware, red earthenware, kaolin pipe stem and bowl fragments (n=79), including a pipe bowl with a spur that dates to the first half of the 18th century (Hume 1969, 302).

The date range of these artifacts suggests that they are related to the 18th-century occupants of the property, most likely the Cobbs or whomever occupied the site during the Backus family's tenure.

Many of the recovered artifacts from this stratum were burnt, suggesting that this soil represents a fire-place cleaning episode or the result of a dismantled chimney, perhaps from the demolition of the earlier 18th-century house. It is still not known where the original house stood before Luther Paine built the existing structure. No clear archaeological evidence of this structure has been found on the property, so it may have been located within the footprint of the current house. At the very least, this deposit suggests that it was probably situated in proximity to the extant house.

Table 2: Summary of artifacts recovered from the 2020 archaeological investigation.

Material	Description	Count	Date Range
Historic Ceramic	North midlands slipware	8	1675-1770
	Tin-glazed	23	1600-1800
	Dry-bodied red stoneware	1	1670-
	Manganese mottled	7	1680-1790
	Buff-bodied coarse earthenware	2	
	Astbury	1	1720s-1750s
	Buckley	1	1720-1775
	Agateware	2	1740-1770
	Jackfield	1	1740-1790
	Porcelain	7	
	Creamware	234	1762-1820
	Pearlware	150	1780-1830
	Whiteware	175	1820-1900s
	Yellowware	9	1830-1940
	Ironstone	1	1840-1930
Glass	Window	571	
	Bottle	74	
	untyped vessel	40	
	flat	4	
	other	2	
Kaolin	smoking pipe stem	133	
	smoking pipe bowl	67	
Lithic	Slate pencil	4	
	Slate board	2	
Metal			
Ferrous	Hand-wrought nails	35	pre-1800
	Machine-cut nails	705	1790-1900
	Wire nails	215	1890-present
	Two-tined fork	2	

	Scissors	1	
	button face	1	
	other iron	24	
Cuprous	Lincoln penny	1	1960
	hook eyelet	1	1749
	Georgius II Rex 1749 farthing coin	1	
	fragment	2	
White metal	chain link or jewelry	3	
Steel	modern architectural hardware	218	
Faunal	Bone	135	
	Calcined bone	31	
	Shell	2	
Other Historic	Brick	130	
	Mortar	12	
	Coal/coal ash	110	

Figure 18: English white salt-glazed, body and molded rim sherd, and debased scratch blue stoneware sherd recovered from the 2020 block excavation. These artifacts date to the second half of the 18th century. Photo by Heritage Consultants, LLC.

2020 GROUND PENETRATING RADAR SURVEY

During the fall of 2020, when OSA was excavating in the side yard of the Crandall House, Dr. David Leslie, of TerraSearch Geophysical, LLC, conducted a pro bono ground-penetrating radar (GPR) survey of the front (east) and side (south) yards of the Prudence Crandall House property while we were working on the excavation block. The survey included three separate grids

(Figure 19) and was carried out to help guide the archaeological work and to identify any potential archaeological features in the yards to aid in future planning.

GPR is an active, non-invasive geophysical method that records contrasts in the dielectric properties of subsurface materials (Clark 1990; Heimmer and De Vore 1995; Bristow and Jol 2003; Conyers 2004, 2006; Daniels 2004). During a GPR survey, pulses of energy are transmitted into the ground from the GPR antenna. The pulses are reflected or absorbed, and the equipment records the time it takes for signals to reflect. This data is then used to produce a vertical profile of the soil. The majority of reflections occur at interfaces between materials with different relative dielectric permittivity; that is, at the boundary between different stratigraphic layers, where changes in velocity occur. GPR does not provide precise a stratigraphic profile, but it generates a representation of local dielectric contrasts, which provides a proxy for subsurface stratigraphic changes. This method is useful for identifying buried archaeological features like cellar holes, wells, privies, and foundation remains, as there are often sharp dielectric contrasts between the feature fill or walls and the surrounding soil matrix (Leslie 2023).

The GPR survey at the Prudence Crandall Museum was conducted using a GSSI Utility Scan GPR system with a 350 MHz HyperStacking antenna. GPR data were collected at 50-cm intervals in three grids that were placed to intercept likely buried features associated with the occupation of the house. The start and end points of each GPR grid were mapped with a sub-meter differential Global Positioning System (GPS).

Grid 1 measured 8m-x-10m and was laid out in the south or side yard of the Museum, in the location of the 2020 archaeological investigation. Grid 2, which measured 8m-x-21m, was situated in the front (east) yard of the Prudence Crandall House. Grid 3 was placed immediately west of Grid 1 in the south yard and measured 3.5m-x-16m. As the archaeological investigation was already underway when the GPR work began, the areas comprising three in-progress one-meter units in Grid 1 and the backdirt pile in Grid 3 could not be surveyed; other portions of the side and front yards were also not accessible due to active construction fencing of the property (Leslie 2023).

Figure 19. Aerial view showing the locations of the 2020 GPR survey grids (Leslie 2023),

The GPR survey results reflected what we were learning about the soils in our excavations. The soils in the yard of the Crandall House contain a great deal of stone and gravel, often with shallow bedrock. In the GPR data, bedrock was evidenced by long, linear, but irregular reflective features (Leslie 2023; Figure 20). Bedrock was especially notable in Grid 1, in the vicinity of the 2020 excavation block. The excavations in that area bore this out: by the time we had finished the nine excavation units, we had encountered bedrock in each of them, at depths ranging from about 60 to 75 cm blow surface (see profile in Figure 16).

The GPR survey also identified several anomalies in the yards, including old utility lines, garden features, and likely cultural deposits. The survey identified a probable gray water or sewage drainage line in the side yard in Grid 3. This feature may be related to the old, abandoned sewer system identified during the original access ramp excavations (Poirier et al. 1981, 1994). In the front yard (Grid 2) the survey identified two probable utility lines that run from the house to the circular structure in the front yard. These are likely former water and electrical lines for the fountain that was installed in the front yard during the Robinson's family tenure, between 1923 and 1945 (Poirier et al. 1994, 9). The now overgrown, semicircular brick path in the front of the house (Grid 2) was also evident in the GPR survey. This path, which once circled the fountain, is clearly visible on older photos of the house (see Figure 2 and Figure 21).

Several anomalies of potential archaeological interest were also identified in Grids 1 and 2, in the front and side yards of the Crandall house (Figure 22). While there was no clear evidence of buried cellar holes, wells, or similar features, the GPR picked up four areas that were identified as likely archaeological deposits. These appeared as long, shallow anomalies that may reflect areas with sheet middens. The two possible features in Grid 1 overlap in space, with one at 30-40 cm below surface and the other at 60-70cm (see Figure 20). The archaeological investigations in 2020 and 2021 were carried out in this area and recovered large assemblages of historic-period artifacts.

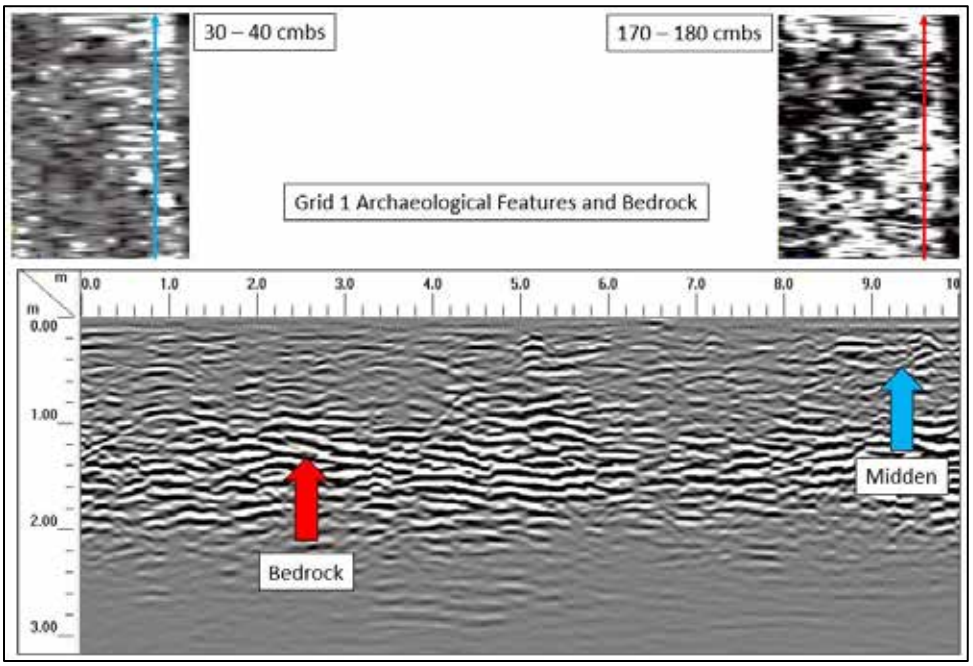

Figure 20: GPR profile (lower) and 3-D amplitude maps (upper left and right with approximate depths), with position of profile transect indicated, of Grid 1 results, displaying locations of bedrock and archaeology midden anomalies.

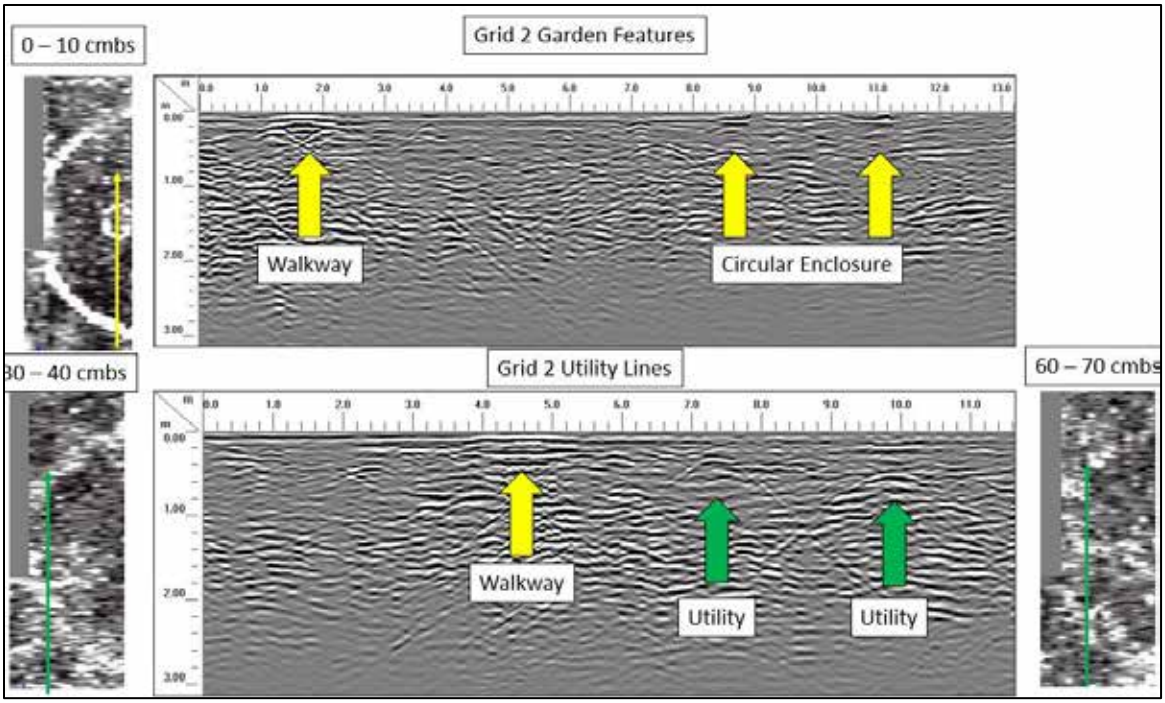

Figure 21: GPR profile (center) and 3-D amplitude maps (left and right with approximate depths), with position of profile transect indicated, of Grid 2 results, displaying locations of garden features and utility lines.

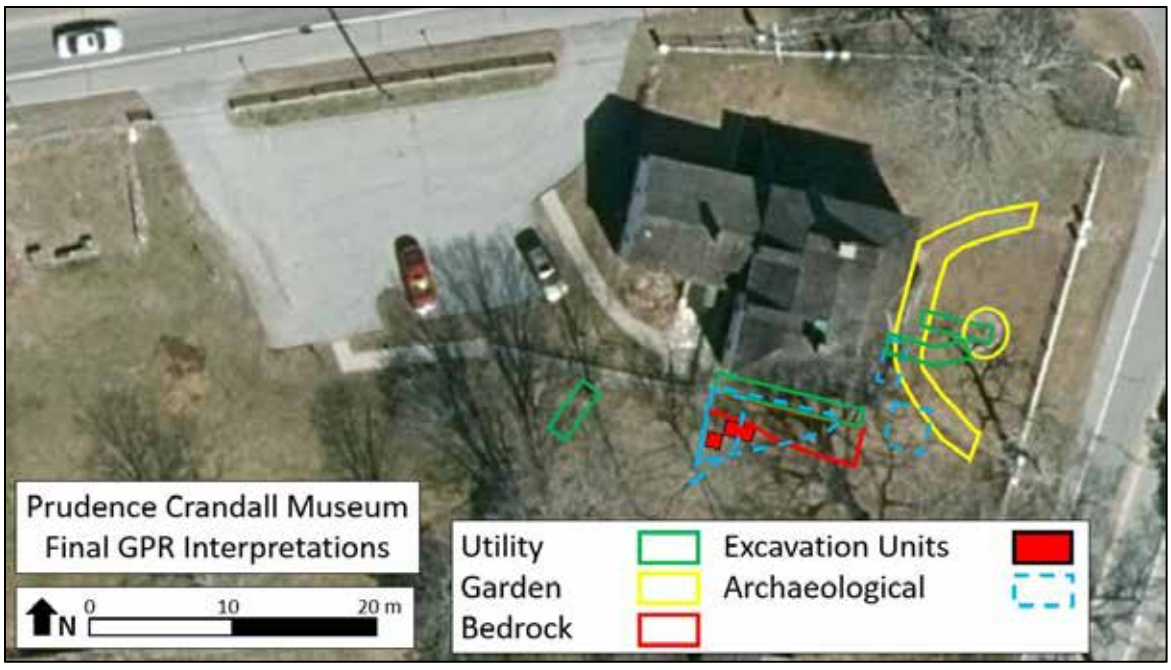

Figure 22: Final GPR interpretations from Grids 1 – 3.

Condensation Tank and New Access Ramp Excavations (2021)

Following the work carried out by OSA and FOSA in the fall and winter of 2020, it was determined that additional archaeological work would be necessary to mitigate the impacts of a new access ramp, as the original ramp did not meet modern accessibility standards. Additionally, the proposed location of the condensation tank needed to be altered. The project was designed to minimize the impact to potential buried archaeological resources in the yard and included installation of a new walkway and posts to support the ramp and expansion of the 2020 OSA excavation block to cover the change in the condensation tank plans. DECD contracted Heritage Consultants, LLC (Heritage) to complete the archaeological work. In May and June of 2021, the archaeological team from Heritage excavated 15 shovel test pits and eight excavation units in the south yard within the new ramp footprint, two shovel test pits in proposed manhole locations, and one excavation unit that abutted the southern edge of the block excavated by OSA and FOSA in 2020 (see Figure 15).

Although a formal report of that work has not yet been completed, the results are summarized here. Archaeologists from Heritage determined that the stratigraphy in the areas they tested was largely disturbed, and reported that their excavations typically contained five soil strata. An example, from Unit 5 is presented in Figure 23. The topsoil consisted of a dark brown (10YR 3/3) fine silty loam and the depth of this layer varied across the tested area. The topsoil sat atop a second fill layer that was characterized as "overburden" and extended from depths of 6-28cmbs. This was similar in color and silt content to the topsoil, but also contained gravel, and matches the description of the layer designated as Fill 2 in 2020. Below that layer was another fill layer, consisting of dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/4) fine silty loam, encountered at depths ranging from 13 to 53cmbs. Below the fill was a disturbed B horizon. The soil was strong brown (7.5YR 5/6) silty loam that was identified between 35 and 70cmbs. This layer sat atop the glacially-derived C horizon, which was a brownish yellow (10YR 6/8) sandy silt encountered at depths ranging from 51 to 98 cmbs.

The 2021 excavations did not identify any cultural features, nor did the excavators note additional evidence of the 18th-century ashy fill soil encountered in the 2020 excavation block. As in previous excavations, the majority of artifacts recovered in this investigation were collected from the topsoil and disturbed fill contexts. The artifacts included a mix of materials spanning the mid-18th century through the late 19th-century (Figure 24). These included a range of ceramic types similar to those previously reported: creamware, pearlware, whiteware, yellowware, domestic, English, Rhennish stoneware, English white salt-glazed stoneware, English yellow slipware, and porcelain. Also recovered were architectural materials including hand-wrought and machine-cut nails, brick fragments, and window glass. A small faunal assemblage of primarily domesticated mammal bones (n=244) was also collected. A total of 91 of these specimens (37%) were all part of a single cow cranium recovered from excavation unit 1. As in other years, there was an overall dearth of faunal material. Notable cultural materials from the 2021 excavations include a second 1749 half penny, a musket ball, numerous kaolin pipe fragments, and an array of personal items, including cuprous buckle fragments, buttons, clothing fasteners, and a cuprous hair pin/comb fragment.

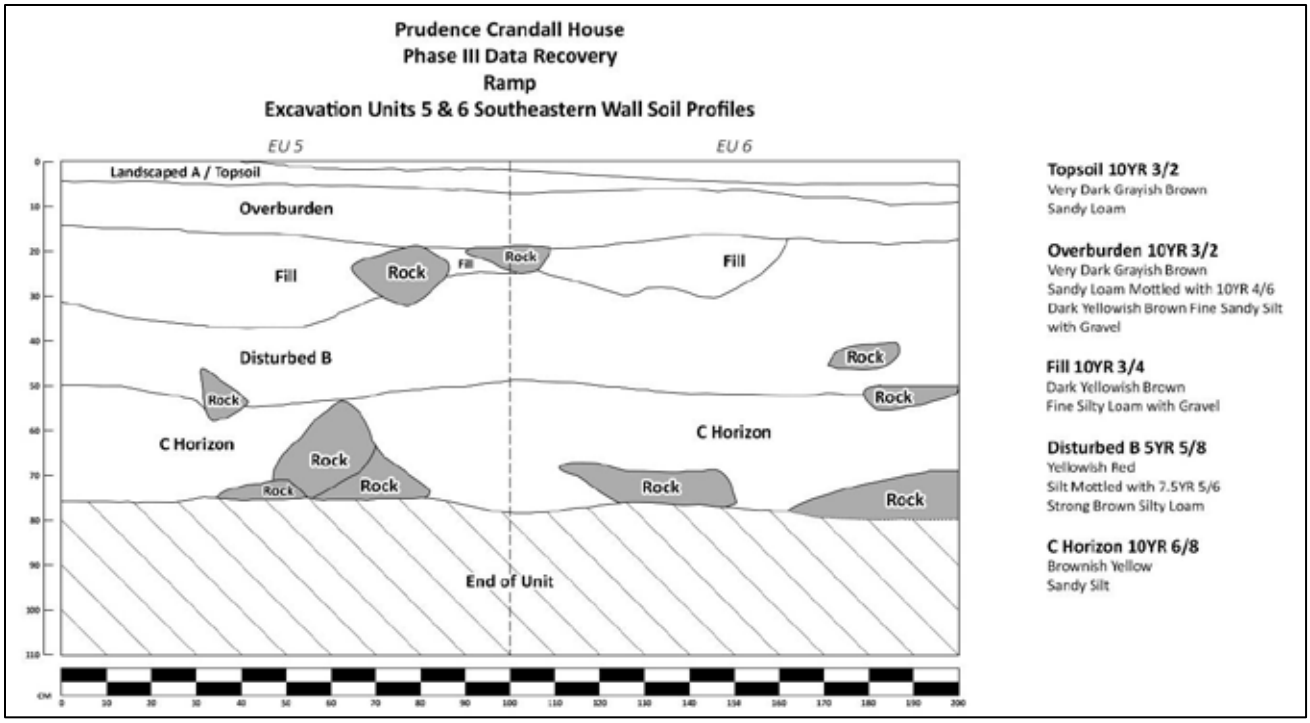

Figure 23. Representative soil profile from the 2021 excavations, units 5 and 6.

Figure 24. Representative sample of ceramic artifacts recovered from the 2020 (OSA) and 2021 (Heritage) excavations. Photo by Heritage Consultants, LLC.

DISCUSSION & CONLCUSIONS

Archaeological Investigations

As is often the case at historic house sites, the archaeology on the Prudence Crandall Museum property has been driven by a need to maintain and renovate and the house and grounds, rather than with specific research goals in mind. As a result, the archaeological work carried out since the late 1970s has been limited in size, scope, and budget, and has targeted portions of the property that were slated for disturbance. Nonetheless, the results of the archaeological investigations on the Museum grounds over the last 40 years reflect the long occupation of the property and the many households that have called it home**.**

While historic house sites often appear to be frozen in time, long-occupied sites are not static. Most extant historic structures and landscapes have been modified over the years. We know from the documentary record that since at least the 1750s, the Prudence Crandall Museum property served as a residence to numerous families, as well as the location of a mercantile shop, a school, and finally a museum. As the property changed hands and each new group of people settled in, they left their imprint on the site, altering the structures and grounds to meet their needs. These processes are visible in the archaeological record on the Prudence Crandall Museum property.

The extensive evidence of fill soils and the largely mixed deposits of cultural materials across the site reflects the long history of construction, demolition, renovation, and modernization required to keep an old property habitable and desirable. Several of the cultural features identified in the archaeological investigations were associated with the upkeep of the property. Examples include the gravel layers found around the foundation during the initial excavations in the 1970s, the 20th-century well discovered in the west yard in 2014, and the old dead electrical wire buried in the south yard. Other features relate to landscaping and aesthetic changes. The remains of the fountain and walkway in the front yard, the buried decorative walkway in the west yard near the cellar door, the planting feature in the south yard, and the buried stone paving associated with the former coal door all reflect cosmetic changes that were made to the house and grounds by various residents over the years.

After the state of Connecticut purchased the property, additional large-scale alterations were required to prepare the house and grounds for use as a museum. These renovations, which required extensive earth-moving for the foundation work and access ramp, also left their mark on the landscape. Across much of the property, the upper soil layers, which were variously identified in the field as landscaping fill and overburden, are largely the result of the renovations carried out in the early museum period. Some of the soil removed from the foundation area and access ramp was probably spread around the yard when it was landscaped after construction. This is evidenced by the 2014 work in the west yard near the cellar door, where we encountered a thick, artifact-rich fill deposit just below the current ground surface. Old photos showed a different grade near the cellar door, and the fill is interpreted as having originated in the access ramp area. The gravelly upper soil layers encountered in many of the excavations may also be related to landscaping after the early renovation work. Poirier et al. 1994 noted layers of gravel deposited around the foundation to facilitate drainage. These soils were likely spread around the south yard after the foundation work and encountered in the later excavations.

Despite the prevalence of mixed cultural deposits and modern disturbances, intact cultural features and deposits do exist on the property. The ash pit, north entrance stairway footing, builders' trench, and possible privy found in the 1970s and 1980s excavations were all intact cultural features. While these features were unfortunately not well-recorded or studied in detail at

the time, they illustrate the potential for extant features in less disturbed parts of the site. Additionally, the 2020 excavations in the south yard encountered a large intact post or pit feature and a small portion of an intact 18th-century soil layer. Poirier et al. 1994 reported another 18th-century stratum near the foundation. It is possible that similar intact deposits exist in other areas.

Given what we know about the property from the documentary record and past archaeological and remote sensing investigations, we can suggest future avenues of research at the site. First, a more extensive ground-penetrating radar study of the entire property would provide important base-line data for future planning purposes. When the 2020 survey was carried out, there were several obstacles in the south and east (front) yards related to the renovations and archaeological excavations. As a result, large portions of these areas were not surveyed. To-date, no GPR work has been carried out in the north yard or northeast part of the front yard. Land records describe the former shop on the property as "bounded north and east by highways" (CLR 10, 315), suggesting that it may have been located near the corner of Routes 169 and 14. Ground-penetrating radar is the least invasive way to discern if there are any remaining traces of the shop or the original 18th-century house.

Finally, if any other large cultural features such as the likely privy remain on the property, it may be possible to identify their locations with GPR. This would provide a useful planning tool for future renovation or landscaping work on the site. Identification of such features or verification of their absence may also be instrumental in interpreting the cultural landscape history of the property. For example, apart from the likely privy feature, no significant middens have been found on the property. The absence of such features may be meaningful, and reflect intentional maintenance of the yard spaces to keep them clear of debris. Trends in decorative or presentable yard space did not come widely into vogue in rural areas until the 19th century, when they were incorporated into an ideology of "improvement" (Larkin 1992; Lewis 2016). As such, the lack of a midden feature may be related to intentional clean-up and maintenance of the property when Luther Paine built his house in 1805, but it is possible that an 18th- or 19th-century midden is present and simply has not yet been found.

Another possible future line of inquiry is food and diet at the site. The recovered faunal assemblage from all of the excavations is relatively small (n=687 specimens). Cursory review indicates that the represented animal foods include cow, pig, sheep, and shellfish, the expected taxa at an historic house site in New England. A more detailed analysis of the of the recovered faunal remains, including their contexts, taphonomy, butchery patterns, and age profiles, conducted in the context of documentary records and artifacts related to food preparation and consumption, would provide details about the diet, as well as food procurement and disposal patterns. This information could be used in interpretation and educational programming.

Although the work conducted to date has not identified an archaeological context that definitively dates to the school period, the overall archaeological assemblage is rich in its interpretive potential for that time period. As Harper (2008) noted, much of the material recovered from the likely privy feature was consistent with what would have been in use in many households in 1832-1834. Since that excavation, the inventory of period artifacts has grown considerably. The relatively large numbers of slate board and pencil fragments recovered across the site suggests that materials from the school period are present in the assemblage. These materials, which include cooking and tablewares, tools, sewing artifacts, personal items, and food remains, represent an excellent opportunity for exploring and interpreting the material world of Prudence Crandall and her students.

The Prudence Crandall Museum Today

The Prudence Crandall Museum reopened to the public in the summer of 2022. The "final completion" of the restoration process was met at the end of February of that year. When staff moved back into museum offices in April, the stabilized site now included several new systems: HVAC, fire and burglar detection, drainage, and rewiring, as well as a new roof, exterior painting, and a new ADA ramp for accessibility (Figure 25).

Figure 25. The newly-restored Prudence Crandall Museum, site of the Canterbury Female Boarding School. Photo by the Prudence Crandall Museum.

While the museum was closed during 2020-2022, staff conducted research, worked with a diverse team of scholars, and interviewed peer museums throughout the nation to write and develop a reinterpretation of the history of the Canterbury Female Boarding School, and the role that Prudence Crandall, Sarah Harris, and the teachers and students of the school played in shaping the history of the nation. The mission statement was revised from a standard "preserve and interpret" to one that encourages visitors to continue the mission of equity in education:

> *The Prudence Crandall Museum: site of the Canterbury Female Boarding School, a National Historic Landmark, places the school in its historic context from abolition to Civil Rights, confronts the continued struggle for equitable schooling, and through dialogue and activity encourages its audience to dismantle educational injustice.*

The reworking of the core mission included discussion on changing the name of the museum itself—while an official new name has not yet been determined, staff is fully committed to this process. No longer interpreted as a historic house museum that tells the chronology of

predominantly one individual, this summer (2023) the museum will install a banner-style exhibit encompassing all five rooms of the first floor of the building (the second floor will remain closed to visitors at present). Titled "The Canterbury Female Boarding School: Courage, Conscience, and Continuance," this exhibit will share the complete and complex narrative of the collaborative work of Prudence Crandall and Sarah Harris in establishing a school of higher education for young Black and Brown women, and the actions, reactions, and legacies that followed.

The museum is now a member of the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, and the resources available from the ICSC have allowed staff to create a dialogic and conversational visitor experience that resulted in visitors having a deeper and fuller understanding of the history of the site. The success of this new approach, launched last year, was clear both in the amount of time visitors spent on tour, and in reviews, comments, and emotional responses to the story that reverberated beyond the tour experience:

> *"This past Summer my family had the pleasure of your guided tour through the museum. It was a wonderful microcosm of an important era and of one of the most serious problems in American history. My school age children and I were delighted. I have just found your business card and wanted to make sure you knew how valuable what you are doing is to our future generations and to our country."*
>
> -Marc M., Colorado (email, 10/5/22)

The archaeology completed over the past half-century on the museum grounds will continue to inform the interpretation of the site and the visitor experience. As the school closed due to a violent racist attack, there are precious few items of material culture from the school, the teachers, or the students to enhance the story of the complicated events that occurred in Canterbury during the tumultuous seventeen months in 1833-1834. Those students and teachers who were there on that fateful September night in 1834 packed up their personal belongings and left. Prudence Crandall, now Prudence Crandall Philleo, did the same; she moved with her husband to his property in New York. Only a few artifacts with any connection to Crandall or to the school have been donated to the museum for display.

While museum staff and archaeologists may never be able to fully confirm that the excavated slate pencils (Figures 14 and 26) were used by African American students at Crandall's school or be able to say with certainty that the fragmented pieces of window glass are from the repeated attacks against the school, these uncovered artifacts still offer visitors an insightful resonance that deepens their connection to this National Historic Landmark. The understanding that these artifacts both represent and emphasize aspects of the lived human experience at this historic site supports the relevance of the story of the Canterbury Female Boarding School, and the need to continue the progress toward equitable access to education for all students today.

Figure 26. Museum Curator & Site Superintendent holds a piece of slate pencil discovered during the 2020 excavations with OSA Photo by Prudence Crandall Museum.

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