Savannah Under Fire 1779: Expanding the Boundaries

Rita Elliott
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Savannah
Attackers

Americans
Major General
Benjamin Lincoln

French
Admiral Comte’
D’Estaing

British
Major General
Augustin Prevost

Savannah
Defender

1779
October 9, 1779 - Battle of Savannah
NPS Grants Build on Discovery of Spring Hill Redoubt in 2005.
National Park Service
American Battlefield Protection Program Grants

2007-2009; 2009-2011

Goals To:
• Discover, Document, and Verify an Accurate Battle Account
• Determine Location of Battlefield Components on the Modern Landscape
• Ascertain Components’ Locations and Degrees of Preservation
• Interpret Findings in Reports, Presentations, and Social Media
• Develop 4-5th Grade Curriculum
• Meet with Stakeholders
• Promote Preservation
Research at...

Morgan Library, NY

New York Historical Society

New York Public Library

Schomburg Library, NY

Clements Library, MI

Historical Society of Pennsylvania

David Library, PA
GIS Overlays
2007-2008 Fieldwork

A. Emmet Park
B. Spring Hill Redoubt
C. Madison Square
D. Lafayette Square
E. Davant Park
F. Cuyler Park
G. Dixon Park
H. Myers Park

2009-2010 Fieldwork

1. Fahm Street housing development
2. Davant Park (*Southern edge outside of Colonial Park Cemetery*)
3. Calhoun Square
4. Whitfield Square
5. Thomas Square
6. Wells Park
7. Laurel Grove Cemetery (*SE quad*)
8. Kelly Grayson Park
Transit Mapping & Systematic Metal Detector Survey
Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) Survey
Yamacraw Village

Ground Surface

Circa 1850s
Shovel Tests at:

- GPR Anomalies
- Select Metal Detector Readings
Test Unit Excavation

Thomas Park
Madison Square
JOINT RESOLUTION

Concerning the site of “Old Fort Wayne,” at Savannah, Georgia:

1. Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

2. the Secretary of War be, and he is hereby, authorized to purchase or exchange, upon such terms and to such extent as judgment may be conducive to the public interest, the

3. forming the site of “Old Fort Wayne,” or any part thereof,

4. and to execute or receive, on behalf of the United States, any deed or deeds of conveyance that may be necessary for the lawful effectuation of any such sale or exchange: Provided,
Emmet Park (East) aka Centennial Park
Boots, Buckles, & Buttons

Emmet Park & Madison Square Excavations
Lafayette Square
Revolutionary War Barracks:
- 1779 razed by British

US Military Barracks:
- 1834-1889
- 1889 razed for Desoto Hotel

in Andrew Low House
Colonial Park Cemetery
Colonial Park Cemetery, Two Potential Anomalies!
Madison Square
Madison Square
GPR Map
Musket Balls,
Lead Shot,
Sprue & a Die

Madison Square Excavations
18th Century Musket.
Closeup of components.

Gunflint, English Spall.
Madison Square T.U. 4
LN 88

Frizen Spring, Iron.
Madison Square, T.U. 4
LN 81 (Conserved)

Guncock, Iron.
Madison Square T.U. 3
LN 36 (Conserved)
Time Capsule: 3 Years of the Revolution

Oct. 9, 1779 Battle Layer
Sept.-Oct. 8, 1779 - Constructed
Oct. 10, 1779-1782 Used
1782 Refilling

Modern
1800s

Sloping base of ditch
Multi-Tracts, Jewish Cemetery Area
Project Results

- Discovered a 5 foot thick military trench full of weaponry from 1779-1782
- Identified areas possibly related to: the Left Central redoubt and Fort Wayne
- Located numerous Native American & historic sites
- Documented evidence of the Haitian reserve troops at the Jewish Cemetery
- Demonstrated that 18th century features exist in Savannah
- Illustrated that tourists and locals are interested in Savannah’s archaeology
- Established baseline for archaeological research and site protection in Savannah
Who cares about Savannah’s archaeological sites?
Tourists care.
What are we looking for?
Defensive ditchwork from the Revolutionary War. The ditches were filled in a long time ago, but we can still see soil stains that show us where the ditches were.

Why are we looking here?
Historic maps indicate ditchwork ran through this park and the cemetery. (The cemetery was smaller in 1779.)

What have we found?
(Grass penetration radar done in 2008 suggested there is an archaeology feature running through this area. Now we are digging to confirm this evidence.)

Why are we doing this?
To learn more about Savannah’s rich history and preserve it for future generations.

Archaeology
COASTAL HERITAGE SOCIETY
Families care.
City, County, & Federal employees care.
Students care.
Volunteers care.
Residents care.
And clearly YOU care, given your presence here tonight!
Archaeological Sites Require Unique Management

- Usually underground
- Invisible
- Valuable for information
- Requires professionals
- Non-renewable
- Easily destroyed

Savannah Visitors' Center Parking Lot
What are the Benefits of Archaeology?

Archaeological resources are a destination for visitors.

Tour group visits excavation in Madison Square.
What are the Benefits of Archaeology?

- Quality of life is determined by five senses: sense of place, evolution, ownership, identity, and community.
What are the Benefits of Archaeology?

Archaeology can reduce blight and add economic value to neighborhoods.
Archaeology Can:

- Create jobs
- Diversify tourism
- Develop partnerships
- Build community pride
- Generate local investment
- Document & preserve local culture
- Increase revenues to existing attractions
- Increase awareness of an area's significance
- Provide information for tourism content

To paraphrase the National Trust for Historic Preservation, October 2005.
What Cities Benefit from Archaeology?

ARIZONA
Phoenix, Scottsdale

CALIFORNIA
Coachella, San Juan Capistrano, Malibu

COLORADO
Durango

CONNECTICUT
16 towns

FLORIDA
St. Augustine, Milton, New Smyrna Beach, Pensacola

IOWA
Iowa City

KANSAS
Wichita

MARYLAND
Annapolis, Baltimore

MASSACHUSETTS
Boston

NEW MEXICO
Albuquerque

NEW YORK
Albany, New York City

TEXAS
San Antonio, Von Ormy

VIRGINIA
Alexandria

WASHINGTON
State Port Angeles
What Counties Benefit from Archaeology?

- **ARIZONA**
  - Pima County

- **CALIFORNIA**
  - Riverside County, San Diego County

- **FLORIDA**
  - Dade County, Palm Beach County, Sarasota County, St. Johns County, Volusia County

- **MARYLAND**
  - Anne Arundel County

- **VIRGINIA**
  - Fairfax County, Prince William County

- **WASHINGTON State**
  - Clark County
January 2011
St. Augustine City Commission May Name
New Archaeology Center
After Donor

In 2007, local psychologist Sue A. Middleton, Ph.D. donated her Davis Shores home to the City as a center for its Archaeology Division. Her generous gift is now a reality with the establishment of the City’s new archaeological research center.
Jefferson Patterson Archaeology Park, MD

Case Study

Descendants gather at the site in 2000.

Public archaeology brochure details the oral history, documentary, and archaeological research for the project.
Old North St. Louis, Missouri

Case Study

- Collaboration: University of Missouri-St. Louis & residents
- Historic landscapes
- HUD grant
- Multiple products created

Neighborhood Stabilization and Historic Preservation: Recreating a Sense of Place
Alexandria, Virginia

Case Study

- Archaeology Ordinance
- City Archaeologist
- Archaeology Program
- Programs for public schools
- Heritage Trail Information
- Artifacts for exhibits
Baltimore, MD

Case Study

- Archaeology brings economic revitalization
- Sense of place
- Community involvement
- Increased tourism
- Increased land values

The Fallswalk, in need of assistance.

A parking lot that once was a brewery and a casket company.
Design aspects of the park.
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Savannah Under Fire: Unveiling the American Revolution in Savannah, Georgia
A Community Presentation and Stakeholders’ Meeting
February 1, 2011
Rita Elliott, Curator of Exhibits and Archaeology, Coastal Heritage Society

[Slide – Title]
Good Evening! Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to come tonight. My name is Rita Elliott. I am the Curator of Exhibits and Archaeology at the Coastal Heritage Society. Tonight’s presentation contains three parts. The first is a 20 minute overview of the Savannah Under Fire Revolutionary War archaeology project Coastal Heritage Society conducted through funding from the National Park Service with assistance from The LAMAR Institute. The second part of the presentation is a 20 minute look at how archaeology can be beneficial to communities. For the third part of this gathering, we will open the floor to comments, questions, and suggestions from you regarding preservation of archaeological sites in Savannah/Chatham County and the surrounding areas. So we invite you to sit back and relax for the first two portions, but the third is a participatory affair!

[Slide – Commanders] Our talk tonight begins in October 1779. Savannah is in the hands of the British after the 1778 assault. The city is under siege by the combined forces of American and French troops. Unsuccessful, the besiegers attack the city on October 9. Historians continue to debate about the number of troops involved in the 1779 Battle of Savannah. One respected estimate numbers British troops at 4,800 contrasted with 7,700 for the Americans and Allies. Truly a global battle, it involved Irish, Hessian, Haitian, Polish, Scottish, African American and Native American troops. The Battle of Savannah marked the first time French and Americans forces jointly attacked the British in a land attack. The battle resulted in a massive British victory in which 800 American and allied troops were wounded or killed. Less than 50 British troops were casualties.

[Slide – Map] This period map in the Coastal Heritage Society collection depicts 1779 Savannah. (Point out river, Bull Street, redoubts (define), abatis, camps.) [click] Show feint and main Spring Hill attack.

[Slide – 2005 press conference] Fast forward to 2005, when we discovered portions of the Spring Hill Redoubt fortifications on Battlefield Park, next door to where we now sit. This discovery flew in the face of the commonly held belief that development associated with the Central of Georgia Railroad destroyed all evidence of the Revolution on this property. This made us think, if portions of Spring Hill redoubt could survive, what about other battlefield components? (Explain using Spring Hill as the “rosetta stone” to align various historic maps with a modern map through GIS; then determine which components fall in current city-owned greenspaces.)

[Slide – NPS Goals] In 2007 we applied for the first NPS ABPP grant to search for additional battlefield components. This search was immensely successful and we applied for a follow-up grant in 2009 to expand on this work and to incorporate greater community involvement and preservation efforts.
[Slide – Research] Both grants involved much more than excavation. Primary research in New York, Michigan & Pennsylvania, as well as Georgia and South Carolina provided 55 period maps and thousands of pages of Rev. War documents related to the battle.

[Slide – Map overlay] The maps were critical in producing the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) overlays showing what modern greenspaces might contain battlefield components. (Explain old map and new; roads; defenses)

[Slide – Dots on Map] This modern Savannah map shows the locations we examined based on these maps and the resulting GIS information. The red dots are from the first grant field season and the blue dots show locations studied during the second grant field season.

[Slide – Transit] After extensive primary research and the development of a research design we began the most visible part of the project, the fieldwork. Both phases of the project involved using a variety of techniques in the 16 tracts we examined. This included mapping the location of finds with a laser transit, controlled and systematic metal detector survey…

[Slide – Dan GPR] Ground Penetrating Radar or GPR survey…

[Slide – GPR at Yamacraw] …and examining soils in active construction areas…

[Slide – GPR Calhoun Square] …

[Slide – Dan & Laura ST Emmet] Field techniques also include digging small, preliminary shovel tests in areas where the GPR or metal detector surveys showed potential.

[Slide – Shovel Testing WW Law] …

[Slide – Test Unit Excavation] …The final stages of fieldwork involved excavating test units measuring 2x1 m (6x3 ft) in areas that shovel testing, GPR, and/or metal detector survey indicated as promising.

[Slide – Madison Square TU] … pretty much the size of a grave…

[Slide – Emmet Park documents] Tonight I will touch on some of the discoveries of the project, beginning with findings in the east end of Emmet Park, aka Centennial Park. This general area is know from documents and historic maps to contain fortifications on the northeastern corner of colonial Savannah dating to at least 1760 and used during and after the American Revolution. It was known at various times as forts Halifax, Charlotte, Savannah, Prevost, and Wayne. This print out of a GPR scan
shows a side view of what is underground. The large rectangular filled-in depression measures 30 x 10 feet.

[Slide – Carl and Dan in Emmet Park] A small test unit uncovered a 5-foot deep hole in the ground larger than our unit, with wooden planks and wrought spikes across the base.

[Slide – Artifacts] Here are a few artifact examples. While artifacts recovered indicate that the hole was filled in the 19th century, it is likely that the hole was initially dug earlier and may represent a gun emplacement.

[Slide – Sequins] Explain briefly. More work in this area would be needed to determine the function of this 30 x 10 foot historic hole.

[Slide – Joel in Lafayette Square unit.] A large amount of the almost 10,000 artifacts recovered from the first field season came from excavations in Lafayette Square. This included a large number of ceramics from the 18th century, in spite of the fact that the earliest documented settlement of this area was in the 1820s-1830s when the U.S. Government built the Army Cantonment nearby.

[Slide Barracks] The area now Lafayette Square contained two barracks. (Explain.) The presence of older, 18th century artifacts suggest that British soldiers manning the nearby Central redoubts and those living in the brick barracks (before its razing in late September, 1779) threw their debris into the areas around them, including the area that is now Lafayette Square. Some of the debris may have resulted from cooking to feed the soldiers and African Americans toiling to fortify the British defenses prior to the battle.

[Slide – Colonial Park Cemetery] We also conducted GPR survey in the southeastern corner of Colonial Park Cemetery. We hoped to find evidence of some of the defensive works, or redoubt, suggested by our GIS maps as falling in this area. This wasn’t part of the cemetery in 1779.

[Slide Overlay Colonial Park] In addition to locating a large number of unmarked graves, the GPR survey located two suspicious areas. Their locations are depicted on this overlay (Explain). The alignment of these two areas mimicked the alignment of the defenses, so we were immediately interested in their potential. We did not want to excavate in the cemetery. Fortunately, one of the areas of interest fell outside of the cemetery in the greenspace known as Davant Park.

[Slide –Dan, Laura, PT ] We excavated a unit here and uncovered a large amount of 19th century artifacts and a possible privy. These were capped by a thick lens of brick fragments.
While we did not find specific evidence of the GPR anomaly, it is likely that the small size of our excavation unit did not encounter the anomaly precisely. Additional excavation definitely would be worthwhile here.

Unquestionably, the most exciting find of the project was our discovery in Madison Square. Our GIS map overlays suggested that portions of the West Central Redoubt and associated defenses might fall in the square.

The radar map from the GPR survey showed significant anomalies in the northeastern corner of the square, seen here as the dark blue areas angling across the upper right corner of the image.

Our two excavation units, side-by-side came down entirely within a section of a 6 foot deep ditch containing Revolutionary War armament and period dishes and other debris. Here are a few examples of artifacts from the defensive ditch. They include lead musket balls, lead shot, melted lead sprue, and a crude die fashioned from a musket ball. (It was not a pair of dice, just one die with both sides showing).

The 18th century ditch also contained gun parts, including gunflints, a frizen spring, and a guncock, as well as a British 5th Regiment button.

By excavating our test units in precise layers and analyzing those artifacts in each layer separately from each other, we were able to determine that this defensive ditch was originally dug by the British in September and October of 1779. The deep ditch would have enabled soldiers to walk between redoubts and batteries without getting shot or being exposed to shrapnel. At that time it was filled by order of American General Anthony Wayne, when American troops entered Savannah after the British evacuated. I want to point out that we excavated only a six foot square section of this massive military trench from the American Revolution.

The last example I will share is our work in the area south of us around Garrison Elementary School and the Jewish Cemetery. We were fortunate to have the support of five landowners in that area. We also worked with two relic collectors who shared information with us. Our work showed that the area has 20th century deposits as deep as 4-5 feet across the landscape, obscuring metal detector capabilities, manual access with shovels, and hindering GPR.

A local collector, however, reported having collected one of the school’s playgrounds when the thick, modern deposits of debris and soil were removed with a bulldozer, when the playground was repaired. He and dozens of other collectors retrieved large numbers of Revolutionary War armament, musket balls, gun parts, and similar items. Fortunately, this collector
sketched a map at the time of where he thought some of the objects were located and also shared this information. The numbers of artifacts in his collection and those reported to have been retrieved by the other collectors paint a very different picture of what may have happened here during the battle. Reserve troops, including Haitian soldiers, manned this area and were to provide artillery cover should the French and American troops retreat during the battle. Little mention in the historical documents is made of activity in this area during the battle. The numbers of artifacts suggest a much different scenario. Unfortunately, because no ordinances required that archaeology be conducted prior to the construction of Garrison Elementary School or its playgrounds, the critical information surrounding these artifacts has been lost forever. Was there actual fighting here? Did the Haitian play a more active role than history reports? Did the reserve troops engage in hand-to-hand combat? Can lines of defense be identified by recording exact locations of fired musket balls and artillery? The only hope in discovering what really happened here with Haitian troops in 1779 may lie in the limited areas immediately around the cemetery that have not undergone deep construction disturbance. These too, however, may suffer the same fate as Garrison Elementary School property.

[Slide-Project Results] The Savannah Under Fire archaeology project was a resounding success for two reasons. The project located specific, wonderful, concrete examples of the American Revolution in Savannah. It also demonstrated that there is a hunger among tourists and locals alike to learn more about these archaeological resources.

[Slide Who cares?]…

Auto advance to Mirror slide. -This takes us to the second portion of the presentation tonight. So we care. But is there a way to help other people care? Are there benefits to archaeology that can motivate people to care?

[Slide Unique Management] What are the challenges of managing archaeological sites? Unlike historic standing structures, archaeological sites are usually hidden underground, and invisible to the untrained, and sometimes the trained eye. Archaeological sites can be extremely valuable, but not in the way that a historic house can be restored and sold at a profit. The value of archaeological sites lie in the unique information they offer about our collective past. Archaeological sites require professional archaeologists, trained and experienced, to retrieve, collect, and document information from a site. This includes far more aspects than merely excavation. Archaeological sites are non-renewable resources. Once destroyed, their information is lost forever. The challenge to preserve them, or extract as much information as possible from them before they are destroyed, is on-going.

[Slide- Madison Square dig] What are the benefits of archaeology? One might argue that Savannah already receives tourists without archaeology. But why not increase revenues by tapping additional target audiences? Archaeological tourism brings in visitors that are interested in archaeology as well as
visitors wanting to learn more about specific types of archaeological sites. The Revolutionary War sites in Savannah are one such example.

[Slide – Parade] Archaeology in Savannah and Chatham County can not only benefit residents through tourism dollars, but can improve the quality of life. It can help establish a sense of place in a community. Archaeology also contributes to a sense of the community’s evolution and identity. It gives residents a place of importance in the historical continuum of their neighborhood. Archaeology provides a shared history, allows individuals to feel enfranchised with the past - even those groups silent in the historical record, and provides community pride.

[Slide – Blight] Archaeology is a tool that can reduce blight and add economic value to neighborhoods. —Really! --We will see some examples of this tonight.

[Slide – St. Vincent girls] In summary, archaeology is a tool that can create jobs, expand business, diversify tourism, foster partnerships, attract new visitors, increase revenues, document and preserve local culture, generate investment, eliminate blight, increase neighborhood cohesion, and provide content for a variety of tourism products.

[Slide – Cities] Now that we know the benefits of archaeology, let us look at what cities are already reaping these benefits. Unlike Savannah and Chatham County, many cities and counties are already enjoying the benefits of archaeological resources and programs. Here is an example of some of the cities who have archaeology ordinances, city archaeologists, and/or public archaeology programs. You can see that it works across the nation, regardless of the region or the size of the city. While it took Albuquerque, New Mexico, 21 years to establish an ordinance and program, it was successful. City Council worked with a variety of interest groups, including local archaeological organizations, the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties, the Homebuilders Association of New Mexico and the Public Service Company of New Mexico. The result is a consensus document that created a city archaeologist and established a process by which development plans are reviewed for potential impacts to archaeological sites. http://www.cabq.gov/council/news/unanimous-approval-of-city-archaeologist/

[Slide – Counties] Counties are also learning that archaeology is good business for the economy and for a higher quality of life. Many counties have established archaeology ordinances, county archaeologists, and public archaeology programs. Florida offers an interesting example. By 2015 ten cities or counties in Florida will have enacted protections for their archaeological sites. Local tourism development councils throughout the state work directly with the Florida Public Archaeology Network to promote archaeological tourism.

Case Studies
It’s easy to stand up here and spout what archaeology can do. Here are a few case studies that provide concrete examples.
St. Augustine drafted an archaeology ordinance in 1987 covering public and private properties and created a City Archaeologist and an Archaeological Program that examines 30 sites annually using volunteers working with professional archaeology staff. The web site states, “The intent of the City’s archaeology program is not to stop or limit development, as St. Augustine is a vibrant and evolving urban community, but to preserve the information of those buried remains…through documentation”. The 24 year old successful program was augmented recently by a donation from a private individual consisting of a building for the city’s new Archaeology Center.

While Jefferson Patterson Archaeology Park in Maryland is a state-run entity, I included it to show how archaeology’s inclusiveness crosses all racial, social, cultural, age, and gender boundaries. Established in 1983, Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum (JPPM) is an archaeological preserve and interpretive site partnering with public schools. The county includes such heritage partnerships policy into the county comprehensive plan, zoning ordinance, and heritage tourism management plan.

An assessment of the site in the 1990s indicated that the site “was perceived as ‘white space’”, only interpreting its Anglo-American history. So the research and education departments started a project to search for and document African-American perspectives to the site. This included an oral history project to identify those associated with a cabin site on the grounds that was identified by archaeologists. The family’s descendants participated in the project. The work resulted in brochures, a web page, public programs, interpretive panels, exhibits, and a teachers’ course. Partnerships were critical to the success of these projects. [http://www.heritage.umd.edu/chrsweb/nps/training/uunila.htm]

The Old North St. Louis neighborhood north of downtown, suffered from failed urban renewal efforts, population loss, disinvestment, and an interstate highway that bisected it. Absentee landlords, boarded up buildings, and a preponderance of low-income rentals became common. Plagued with these problems, the community began a “public-oriented urban archaeology initiative” aimed at collaboration between local citizens and scholars and students at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. The goal was to revitalize the neighborhood through the preservation of a historic landscape. The project served to “stimulate economic investment and reconnect people to the places in which they live”. Community residents trying to rehabilitate homes felt that their efforts would be in vain if there was no respect for the physical environment and that this respect could stem from an understanding of the community’s history.

A 2001 Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant was used to create a broad program that included archaeology. The goal was to “conduct and publicize historical research in order to promote tourism and nurture a greater appreciation for the built environment among current
residents”. It included not only excavations, but the “development of a website, a local history trail/heritage bicycle tour, an oral history project, a video documentary, K-12 educational programs, a community museum, and a published history”. Many of these products were used as marketing tools to increase visitation and appreciation of the community and encourage renovation or purchase of homes there. The project was centered on inclusion and community building among and between all residents “in a manner that resonates with and unifies all segments of the community”.

[Slide Alexandria, VA] The City of Alexandria established the Alexandria Archaeological Commission in 1975. The commission professionalized the practice of archaeology and elevated it from a rescue operation in the Old Town to a city-wide community archaeology program. Since then, the program has worked with city developers and planners to document over 100 sites “prior to their destruction from commercial and residential growth”. The information and artifacts gathered from these archaeological investigations are used to create museums, heritage centers, a walking and biking trail, and K-12 educational programs. This has resulted in a huge economic benefit to the city through its eight museums, which enjoy “1.2 million visitors annual and generate over $8 million in lodging and restaurant business”. The “Alexandria Archaeology” Program “empowers the public by allowing them to actively participate in all levels of archaeological work from the research design to interpretation and education” resulting in a greater respect and appreciation of the city’s diverse heritage among the public. Between 1977-1987 alone, over 2,000 individuals were involved in the program, which included over 7,000 hours of volunteer time. Bauman et al earlier **** (of “Economic Stability…”) (Baumann et al 2008)

[Slide- Baltimore, MD] The last case study I leave you with tonight is Baltimore, Maryland. The Mayor of Baltimore saw the benefits of archaeology to promote a particular area of the city. For the first time archaeology was viewed as a positive force for the city, rather than being “perceived as a nuisance by the City and developers”. The Baltimore mayor wanted to promote a newly constructed portion of the river walk called Fallswalk that was “…bounded by low-income housing projects and severed from the main part of downtown” by a busy thoroughfare. A city-owned parking lot was selected for the focus, as the location once held a historic brewery where the Star Spangled Banner was sewn together on its floor in 1814. In the 1870s the site was occupied by the National Casket Company. It became a parking lot in the 1960s.

[Slide- Collage] Thus, “The Great Baltimore Brewery Dig” was born. Research, exhibit placards, and brochures detailed the history of the site for the public. The public came out enmasse for tours. Archaeologists developed a field school of students from local colleges and universities who learned archaeological techniques on the site while receiving college credits. High school and college students from a summer job corps program sponsored by the Mayor’s Office participated in the project. The general public volunteered and businesses supplied equipment and materials. Thousands of visitors came to the excavations and over 300 volunteers assisted in field and lab work.
What is so helpful to us about this project is not that the parcel had fascinating information in the ground, nor the fact that the excavations generated an incredible amount of public attention and city support. Excavations always attract visitors. The lesson to be learned here is what happened next.

The city turned the lot into an interpretive historical park, linking the fascinating history it contained to the modern geography of the city. The park integrates exposed building foundations with interpretive signs and a reconstructed building frame. The Brewery excavations and park creation gave area residents a sense of place in history and a source of pride in their historic neighborhood while providing historic value to the former parking lot. The park attracts residents and tourists, which translated into economic value to an area that was once deemed unaesthetic, non-historical, and seldom visited.

The project also marked the establishment of a City Archaeologist in Baltimore, along with the initiation of its first public archaeology program. Simultaneously, Baltimore created a Museum Zone, which included the new park, several historic buildings, and the city archaeology program, lab, museum, and offices. This synergy has generated increased revenues through additional tourism, admissions, and sales in the community. http://www.eacarchaeology.com/publicBalto.html

Summary

[Slide-William Jasper Monument] In summary I leave you with a quote from a National Park Service report, “Most archaeological sites lie undiscovered and unrecorded, thus both unappreciated and unprotected by the community whose cultural heritage they represent. They are especially vulnerable to the ravages of neglect and development activity. Communities can prevent the loss of their archaeological heritage by acknowledging and acting upon their responsibility to protect it. Indeed, many communities across the United States have implemented ordinances, regulations, and permit systems…”

Protection of archaeological sites can result in economic development of blighted areas, increased revenue streams through new tourism avenues, a source of community pride developed from an understanding of a sense of place, public participation in community history, and increased educational opportunities. In 1779, America and her allies made a gallant call to arms in Savannah. In 2011, are we willing to answer the call to save our non-renewable archaeological sites?

Thank you! I open the floor now to your comments, ideas, and suggestions…