



December 28, 2007

Douglas McLearn,
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Bureau for Historic Preservation
Commonwealth Keystone Building, Second Floor
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093

**RE: Administrative Summary - Phase II Archaeological Research
SugarHouse Casino Property
Philadelphia County, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

Dear Mr. McLearn:

On December 21, 2007, A.D. Marble & Company completed the Phase II Archaeology Survey at the proposed location for the SugarHouse Casino in the City of Philadelphia.

The Phase II fieldwork followed the recommendations presented in the Phase IB Management Summary (October 2007) and the general agreements reached at the project meeting of October 25, 2007 attended by representatives of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC), Keating Consulting, LLC, Urban Engineers, and A.D. Marble & Company.

The Phase IB field work identified four areas of moderate to high historic archaeological potential. They have been identified as Historic Areas H-1, H-2, H-3, and H-4. Background research identified properties of historic potential based on the time period, property use, and the social characteristics of the individuals who resided within the bounds of the subject property. Background research also identified areas of potential moderate to high disturbance from late 19th and 20th century industrial activities on the subject property.

The most prominent of the four areas identified was the part of Historic Area H-1 that contains residential foundations dating to the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, along with shaft features. This is also the largest of the areas recommended for further study. It measures roughly 200x150 feet and was investigated by Trenches 1, 2 & 15 during the Phase IB study. Within Historic Area H-2, two areas were recommended for Phase II testing: the southernmost area directly north of H-1 (measuring roughly 150x100 feet) and the small foundation remnant along its extreme northeastern edge (measuring roughly 50 feet square). In Historic Area H-3, the foundation ruins from an oil processing mill and other residential usage identified in Trench 13 of the Phase IB were recommended for evaluation-level studies.

This area roughly measures 80x50 feet. Finally, Phase II testing was also recommended in Historic Area H-4 where brick features and timber cribbing were identified around ten feet below the present surface. Historic Area H-4 measures approximately 100 feet square.

Field Methods:

The vast majority of the initial Phase II field work consisted of mechanical stripping of large areas monitored by the project's Principal Investigator and the Field Director. These areas were identified in the Phase IB Management Summary and depicted in Figure 17. The mechanical stripping exposed full foundation remains, associated features such as shaft features (privies, wells and cisterns), fill soils, intact A and B horizon soil contexts, and areas of previous disturbance. The archaeological field team proceeded to shovel-scrape, brush and clean the varying features and soils uncovered by the stripping procedures. The cleared foundation ruins, shaft features, and other features were mapped, drawn, and photographed.

Results:

A total of 171 features have been identified by all the combined studies. During the Phase IA geomorphological study, Features 1 – 6 were identified. During the Phase IB identification level studies, Features 7 - 84 were identified. The Phase II investigation has identified Features 85 - 171. These features represent mainly architectural remains of stone and brick foundation walls, many of which relate directly to 19th century historic maps of the subject property. Other features of architectural function also were recovered including brick chimney supports inside buildings and occasional brick floors within buildings. Nineteen shaft features were found and evaluated during the Phase II survey.

Shaft features were recovered primarily from Historic Area H-1. Sixteen of these features were circular in shape and lined with brick and were primarily located in the rear yards of the residences that once existed in Historic Area H-1. One oval shaped cistern, constructed of a concrete-like substance and lined with mortar, was identified in Historic Area H-1. Also in Historic Area H-1, a rectangular, brick-lined shaft feature was found within the brick floor of a rear addition to one of the residential buildings facing Laurel Street. A barrel privy, built using buried wooden barrels positioned one above the other, was found in the extreme southern end of Historic Area H-2. We strongly believe that all the shaft features in H-1 suffered some degree of truncation by previous construction and demolition episodes, perhaps as much as one foot.

During the Phase II field work, all shaft features were individually mapped and photographed. Subsurface testing was undertaken to establish the integrity of the shaft feature contents and to record their depths below surface. A portion of each feature was investigated through hand excavation and mechanical means when archaeologically appropriate. Of the 19 shaft features identified, six have been found to contain historic artifact remains of contextual and stratigraphic integrity. Photographs 1 and 2 show the typical horizontal manner in which the shaft features were found and the manner in which they were investigated. It should be possible to link these artifacts with particular residential lots and thereby with individual owners or inhabitants of those properties. We believe that four of the six shaft features containing significant historic remains will provide artifact material that will date to the mid 19th to early 20th century. The other two shaft features appear to contain artifacts from the mid 18th to early 19th centuries.