

Methods in Historical Archaeology

Architectural History/Anthropology 385

Fraser D. Neiman

University of Virginia
Fall 2008

Project 2

House Plans, Site Structure, and the Use of Space

1. Historical questions.

Based on the evidence from house plans and site structure, what inferences can be made about the extent to which labor owners and their laborers shared living space on these sites?

To what extent do the patterns of variation in the spatial distribution of white and red-clay pipes on these sites, support the hypothesis that the use of the two types was, at least at some time, dominated by different social groups (owners and laborers)? In our discussion about the results from Project 1, we raised the possibility that before c. 1650, some elite colonists might have smoked red-clay pipes. Is there evidence for that in these data?

How can the spatial evidence from the pipes be used to evaluate inferences about the segregation of living areas for owners and laborers at each site, based on plans and site structure?

How do the patterns of variation and change on these four sites in plans and structure fit into current hypotheses about the way in which Chesapeake labor owners adapted to the Chesapeake economic and social environments?

2. Models

- Site structure (O'Connell 1993).
- Site formation processes (taphonomy) (O'Connell 1993).
- Vernacular English house plans (Neiman 1993, Mercer 1975, Carson n.d.)

3. Data

- There are four sites in our study sample: The Clifts, Richneck, St. Johns, and Compton.
- For each site we have:
 - Variable amount of documentary evidence on ownership, summarized in background reading.
 - Archaeological evidence on house plans, site structure, and how they changed through time.
 - Data on the spatial distribution of white and red-clay pipes across the sites.

4. Guidelines

Your report should discuss:

- The historical problem you are trying to address and its historical context.
- The models you will use in your analysis and how they are relevant to the questions at hand
- The variables you want to measure in the archaeological record and how

they are relevant to the terms in the models and the questions you are trying to answer.

-The patterning you see in the data and their fit or lack thereof to expectations.

-If there is lack of fit, what might explain it?

-Your conclusions and suggestions for further research.

-When you draw on models, data, or background information from the reading, cite their source.

-Makes sure your graphs and maps have labels and captions.

FDN

10.22.08