ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING
AND DATA RECOVERY
WEST STATE STREET
SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS
NEW JERSEY STATE HOUSE
CITY OF TRENTON, MERCER COUNTY
NEW JERSEY

State of New Jersey
Department of the Treasury
Division of Property Management and Construction

Prepared for:
Edwards and Kelcey

Prepared by:
Richard W. Hunter

FEBRUARY 2007
This technical report describes and interprets the results of archaeological monitoring and data recovery work carried out by Hunter Research in conjunction with the recently completed security improvements along West State Street in front of the New Jersey State House. The security improvements were a capital project of the State of New Jersey Department of the Treasury, Division of Property Management and Construction. Archaeological investigations and documentation were required in this instance in compliance with the New Jersey State Register of Historic Places Act. Work tasks comprised background and archival research, archaeological field monitoring, limited archaeological data recovery, artifact and data analysis, and report preparation.

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken between February and July 2006 and involved the observation of various ground disturbing operations by the project contractor. The relocation of a water main passing along West State Street in front of the State House resulted in the recovery of sections of an earlier abandoned water line. These remains consisted of a series of wooden pipes (or “water logs”), cast-iron couplings and wrought-iron bands, which are thought to date from around 1820 and were probably installed by the Trenton Water Works Company. It is recommended that a sample of the water log, two couplings and three bands be conserved and deposited with the Meredith Havens Fire Museum.

Other monitoring activity recorded: evidence of grading deposits (containing late 19th-century ceramic waste from the Trenton Potteries) related to the reconstruction of the State House following the fire of 1885; foundation remains of 127 and 129 West State Street, respectively early and mid-19th-century residential structures; the top of the brick arch of the Petty’s Run culvert constructed circa 1870; and part of the late 18th-century stone-arched bridge that carried West State Street over Petty’s Run.

During the course of archaeological monitoring, substantial remains of the offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court and a related brick-lined privy shaft were encountered in front of the east side of the West State Street façade of the State House. A limited program of archaeological data recovery was undertaken in late March and early April of 2006 to investigate and document these remains.

The offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court, New Jersey’s first public office building, were constructed in 1795-96 and remained in use until the mid-1840s. The overall 46 by 28-foot footprint of this one-story stuccoed stone building was documented and significant parts of the cellars at both ends of the buildings, along with the remains of at least one front entry stoop and one exterior basement entry, were found to survive. Recommendations are included both for the preservation of these remains and for their interpretive treatment at street level.
Some 45 feet to the rear of the office building, the remains of a brick-lined privy shaft were documented. This feature was identified as part of the State House necessary, a rest room facility erected in the summer of 1797 for the use of legislators and denizens of the office building. Other privy shafts and remains of the necessary may yet be found beneath and alongside the West State Street portico.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Management Summary</td>
<td>i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table of Contents</td>
<td>iii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of Figures</td>
<td>v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of Plates</td>
<td>vii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of Tables</td>
<td>ix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgments</td>
<td>xi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. INTRODUCTION
   A. Project Background                                                  | 1-1  |
   B. Archaeological Background                                           | 1-6  |
   C. Project Setting                                                     | 1-7  |

2. HISTORY OF WEST STATE STREET                                          | 2-1  |

3. OVERVIEW OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING                                 | 3-1  |

4. WEST STATE STREET WATER MAIN
   A. Historical Background                                               | 4-1  |
   B. Archaeological Findings                                             | 4-4  |
   C. Discussion                                                          | 4-11 |
   D. Recommendations                                                     | 4-12 |

5. THE OFFICES OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
   A. Historical Background                                               | 5-1  |
   B. Archaeological Excavations                                          | 5-12 |
   C. Discussion                                                          | 5-39 |
   D. Recommendations                                                     | 5-46 |

6. CONCLUSION                                                            | 6-1  |

REFERENCES                                                               | R-1  |
# TABLE OF CONTENTS (CONTINUED)

## APPENDICES

| A. Summary of Subsurface Investigation | A-1 |
| B. Artifact Inventory | B-1 |
| C. Letter from Trenton Fire Department | C-1 |
| D. New Jersey State Museum Site Registration Form | D-1 |
| E. Resumes | E-1 |
| F. New Jersey Historic Preservation Office Bibliographic Abstract | F-1 |
| G. Project Administrative Data | G-1 |
LIST OF FIGURES

1.1. General Location of Project Site ................................................................. 1-2
1.2. Detailed Location of Project Site ................................................................. 1-3
1.3. Project Plans ................................................................................................. opposite 1-6
1.4. Site Plan Showing Locations of Previous Archaeological Investigations ....... opposite 1-6

2.1. Mahlon Stacy Survey, 1714........................................................................ 2-2
2.2. Lieutenant Fischer Map of Trenton, 1776.................................................... 2-5
2.3. Berthier Map of Trenton, 1781................................................................. 2-7
2.4. A Plan and Survey of Land Belonging to John Cox, 1789 ......................... 2-10
2.5. A Plan of Land the Property of Daniel W. Coxe, Esq., circa 1804 ............. 2-13
2.6. Gordon Map of Trenton, 1836................................................................. 2-17
2.7. U.S. Coast Survey Map of Trenton, 1844.................................................. 2-19
2.8. Sidney Map of Trenton, 1849................................................................. 2-24
2.9. Lamborn Map of Trenton, 1859................................................................. 2-25
2.10. Beers Map of Trenton, 1870.................................................................... 2-26
2.11. Robinson and Pidgeon Map of Trenton, 1881......................................... 2-28
2.12. Sanborn Insurance Map of Trenton, 1890................................................. 2-29
2.13. Lathrop Map of Trenton, 1905................................................................. 2-34
2.15. Sanborn Insurance Map of Trenton, 1927, revised to 1955.................... 2-44

3.1. Site Plan Showing Archaeological Monitoring Zone............................... opposite 3-4
3.2. Plan View and Profile of Portion of 127 and 129 West State Street .......... opposite 3-4
3.3. Sidney View of House and Law Office of Stacy G. Potts, 1849 ................. 3-7
3.4. Representative Cross Section across Northern Half of West State Street ... opposite 3-8

4.1. Reconstructed View of Water Logs............................................................. 4-5

5.1. Nevius Appendix Title to State Capitol Grounds, 1906............................ 5-2
5.2. A Plan of Land the Property of Daniel W. Coxe, Esq, circa 1804 (enlargement) ................................................................. 5-7
5.3. Archaeological Data Recovery Excavations, Site Plan............................... opposite 5-12
5.4. Offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court,
    Excavation Unit 3, Plan View........................................................................ opposite 5-16
5.5. Offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court,
    Excavation Unit 3, West Profile................................................................. opposite 5-16
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figure</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>Offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court,</td>
<td>opposite 5-24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Excavation Unit 3, Elevation of Portion of East Basement Wall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>Offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court,</td>
<td>5-26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Excavation Unit 2, Profile</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>Brick Privy Shaft, Excavation Unit 1, Plan View</td>
<td>5-31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>Brick Privy Shaft, Excavation Unit 1, Profile</td>
<td>opposite 5-40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.10</td>
<td>Offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court,</td>
<td>5-41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Overall Site Plan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.11</td>
<td>Offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court,</td>
<td>5-42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conjectural Floor Plan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.12</td>
<td>State House Lot, Conjectural Oblique View</td>
<td>5-43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LIST OF PLATES

1.1. Aerial Photograph of Project Site ................................................................. 1-4
1.2. View of Press Conference for Public Unveiling ........................................ 1-5
2.1. Colbert, *Trenton Sur La Delaware*, 1798 .................................................. 2-11
2.2. Davis, *State House, Trenton*, 1806-1845 .................................................. 2-14
2.3. Notman, New Jersey State House “as it was in 1794,” *circa* 1845 .......... 2-15
2.4. Notman, *Front Elevation, State House, Trenton, with Additions*, 1845 .... 2-20
2.5. Whatley, *State Capitol of New Jersey at Trenton, Built 1794,*
    *Altered and Enlarged 1845-46, Front View*, 1846 ................................. 2-21
2.6. Historic View of the New Jersey State House, *circa* 1865 .................. 2-22
2.7. Fowler & Bailey, *Aerial View of Greater Trenton Proper and Chambersburgh*, 1874 .......................................................... 2-30
2.8. Historic View of the New Jersey State House, March 20, 1885 ............... 2-31
2.9. Historic View of the New Jersey State House, *circa* 1890-95 ............... 2-35
2.11. Historic View of West State Street, *circa* 1900-05 ............................... 2-37
2.13. Historic Aerial Photograph of the New Jersey State House, the Old Barracks,
    Mahlon Stacy Park and surrounding area, *circa* 1915-17 ......................... 2-41
2.15. Historic Aerial Photograph of the New Jersey State House, *circa* 1930 ........ 2-45
3.1. View Showing Removal of Sidewalk along West State Street .................... 3-2
3.2. View Showing Installation of Bollards and Sidewalk along West State Street ... 3-3
3.3. View Showing Excavations for Eastern Access Ramp ............................. 3-4
3.4. View Showing Trenching for Water Line at Petty’s Run ......................... 3-8
4.1. View of Water Log beneath West State Street ......................................... 4-6
4.2. View of Water Logs from West State Street ........................................... 4-7
4.3. Water Logs from West State Street ....................................................... 4-8
4.4. Cast-iron Couplings for Water Logs ..................................................... 4-9
4.5. Wrought-iron Bands for Water Logs ..................................................... 4-10
5.1. Benjamin Smith’s Account for Building the Offices of the Secretary of State
    and the Clerk of the Supreme Court, 1795-96 ............................................ opposite 5-4
5.2. Bill of Jonathan Doan for Work at the Offices of the Secretary of State and the
    Clerk of the Supreme Court ................................................................... opposite 5-4
LIST OF PLATES (CONTINUED)

5.3. Historic View of the Trenton Waterfront, mid-1840s.................................................................5-11
5.4. Initial Exposure of Office Building Foundations........................................................................5-13
5.5. Initial Exposure of Office Building Foundations........................................................................5-14
5.6. Office Building Foundations in Early Stages of Archaeological Excavation...............................5-15
5.7. Office Building, Excavation Unit 3, Early Stages of Excavation..................................................5-17
5.8. Office Building, Excavation Unit 3, Early Stages of Excavation..................................................5-18
5.9. Office Building, Excavation Unit 3, Early Stages of Excavation..................................................5-19
5.10. Office Building, Excavation Unit 3, Cellar and East Foundation Wall..........................................5-20
5.11. Office Building, Excavation Unit 3, Blocked Exterior Cellar Entry.............................................5-21
5.12. Office Building, Excavation Unit 3, Cellar and East Foundation Wall..........................................5-22
5.13. Office Building, Excavation Unit 3, Cellar and East Foundation Wall..........................................5-23
5.14. Office Building, Excavation Unit 3, Blocked Cellar Entry and Stoop Foundation..........................5-24
5.15. Office Building, Excavation Unit 2, Early Stages of Excavation..................................................5-27
5.16. Office Building, Excavation Unit 2, Cellar and West Foundation Wall.........................................5-28
5.17. Office Building, Excavation Unit 2, Cellar and West Foundation Wall.........................................5-29
5.18. Initial Exposure of Brick-lined Privy Shaft ..................................................................................5-32
5.19. Initial Exposure of Brick-lined Privy Shaft ..................................................................................5-33
5.20. Brick-lined Privy Shaft, Excavation Unit 1, Early Stages of Excavation......................................5-34
5.21. Brick-lined Privy Shaft, Excavation Unit 1, Completed Excavation.............................................5-35
5.22. Brick-lined Privy Shaft, Excavation Unit 1, Completed Excavation.............................................5-36
5.23. Brick-lined Privy Shaft, Excavation Unit 1, Backfilling..............................................................5-37
5.24. Office Building, Excavation Unit 3, Backfilling........................................................................5-38
# LIST OF TABLES

5.1. Building Accounts, of Benjamin Smith, Commissioner, 1795-96 ........................................ 5-5
5.2. Miscellaneous Accounts Relating to the State House Necessary, 1797-98 .......................... 5-8
5.3. Miscellaneous Accounts, 1797-1845 .................................................................................. 5-9
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Over the course of the year that this archaeological monitoring and data recovery project occurred, numerous people assisted in bringing the work to a successful conclusion. Several individuals should be singled out for their enduring efforts at making sure that the historical and archaeological research was conducted in a professional manner. Karl Manger, P.E., Project Manager, administered Hunter Research’s activities for Edwards and Kelcey, the prime engineering consultant to the Division of Property Management and Construction (DPMC), New Jersey Department of Treasury for the West State Street security improvements project at the New Jersey State House. Karl’s patience and assistance with logistics, attention to detail and deep interest in our work are gratefully acknowledged. John Prajzner, Project Manager, Altchem Environmental Services, Inc., the project contractor, deserves special thanks for helping integrate the archaeological field activity into the overall construction work. Not only did he direct his own workers away from archaeologically sensitive portions of the site, but he also made excavation equipment and operators available to the archaeological field team at short notice, thereby expediting the archaeological work.

Within the DPMC, we acknowledge the considerable help of Don Juechter, Pat Papero and Walter Winterbottom in facilitating our work and the necessary coordination with other agencies of state government. Within the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office, Division of Parks and Forestry, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Deborah Fimbel and Daniel Saunders were primarily responsible for this agency’s review of historical and archaeological issues pertaining to this project.

Particular thanks are extended to Karl Niederer, Director, and Joseph Klett, Chief of Archives, Division of Archives & Records Management, both of whom showed intense interest in the results of our work and made available to us the considerable research resources of the New Jersey State Archives. Steven Pietrzak, Building Manager at the State House Complex, likewise assisted our work in countless ways, most notably in arranging for us to gain access to the portico roof for photography purposes and for providing storage space for artifacts. Dennis Keenan, City of Trenton Fire Director, and Gregory Lattanzi, Registrar, New Jersey State Museum, both kindly discussed the final disposition of the wooden water pipes and iron hardware recovered from West State Street. We appreciate the assistance of David Parris, Geologist, New Jersey State Museum, for examining the samples of building stone from the office building foundation and Dr. Richard Veit of Monmouth University for facilitating the dendrochronological analysis of the water pipes by the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory Tree-Ring Laboratory. In a more general fashion, we would also like to thank the staffs of the New Jersey State Archives, the New Jersey State Library, the New Jersey State Museum, the Mercer County Courthouse and the Trenton Free Public Library for their periodic assistance in providing relevant archival materials for this work.

Overall direction for this project was provided by Richard Hunter. Ian Burrow handled public outreach aspects of the work. Background research was performed by Nadine Sergejeff, Cheryl Hendry, Damon Tvaryanas and Richard Hunter. Archaeological field monitoring was mostly carried out by Frank Dunsmore under the direc-
tion of James Lee. The archaeological data recovery excavations were directed by James Lee and supervised by Benjamin Harris with occasional directorial assistance from George Cress and William Liebeknecht. The actual excavations were carried out by Joshua Butchko, Nicole Chamoun, Andrew Martin, Michael Murphy and Rebecca White. Laboratory processing, analysis and cataloging of artifacts were performed by Rebecca White under the overall direction of William Liebeknecht. The report graphics were drafted by Frank Dunsmore and Michael Murphy. Final report coordination and assembly were undertaken by James Lee and Michael Murphy. This report was authored by Richard Hunter.

Richard W. Hunter, Ph.D.
Principal
A. PROJECT BACKGROUND

The following technical report presents the results of archaeological monitoring and data recovery activities performed in connection with the recently completed security improvements along West State Street in front of the New Jersey Executive State House in the City of Trenton, Mercer County, New Jersey (Figures 1.1 and 1.2; Plate 1.1). The project site lies within the State House Historic District, which is listed in the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places. Archaeological investigations were required in this instance in order for the project to receive necessary authorization from the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office (NJHPO) and the New Jersey Historic Sites Council under the New Jersey State Register of Historic Places Act (Chapter 268, Laws of 1970). The work was performed by Hunter Research, Inc. operating as a subcontractor to Edwards and Kelcey, project engineer for the State of New Jersey Department of the Treasury, Division of Property Management and Construction (DPMC).

The subject security improvements (DPMC Project A0995-00), completed in the late summer of 2006, were focused chiefly on the area immediately in front of the north façade of the State House on the south side of West State Street (Figure 1.3). The primary objective of the project was “to improve the overall security of the Executive State House by narrowing the street and widening the sidewalk to move vehicular traffic away from the front of the building” (DPMC Scope of Work, September 9, 2004, page 6). The project entailed the installation of protective, ram-proof bollards along the edge of the reconfigured sidewalk in front of the State House. New handicapped access ramps were also installed leading up to the east and west sides of the main steps and portico of the State House. The areas adjacent to the access ramps were newly landscaped and new lighting fixtures were installed along the edge of the realigned sidewalk.

Extensive relocation of utilities within the street was undertaken as part of this improvement project, most notably the replacement and realignment of the main water line running down the center of West State Street. All told, a 475-foot length of West State Street and the sidewalk along its southern side were repaved from 115 West State Street (the northwest corner of Thomas Edison State College) to a point roughly mid-way between the State House and the State House Annex (opposite 150 West State Street). On-street parking amenities were also reconfigured along both sides of the street and minor improvements were made to the curb on the north side of the street in front of Veterans Park.

All property directly affected by these improvements is under public ownership. The State House, the narrow plaza extending along its northern façade and related grounds are owned by the State of New Jersey. West State Street and its adjoining sidewalks are owned by the City of Trenton.

The scope of work for these archaeological investigations involved the following: a review of pre-existing documentation of the history and archaeology of the project site; assisting the DPMC and project engineer in the development and implementation of an archaeological monitoring protocol; and completion of analysis and reporting of findings in accordance with the standards of the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office (NJHPO). The archaeological monitoring
Figure 1.1. General Location of Project Site (Starred).
Figure 1.2. Detailed Location of Project Site (Outlined). Source: USGS 7.5’ Topographic Series, Trenton West N.J.-P.A. (1955 [Photorevised 1981]). Project site outlined. Scale: 1 inch = 2000 feet.
Plate 1.1. Aerial Photograph of Project Site. Source: City of Trenton, March 2004.
Plate 1.2. View looking east from the top of the portico at the West State Street frontage of the New Jersey State House showing attendees at the press conference for the “public unveiling of the excavation of the original Office and Archives of New Jersey’s Secretary of State and Clerk of the Supreme Court” on Thursday, April 6, 2006; a portion of the foundations of the office building are visible at the upper left (Photographer: Michael Murphy, April, 2006) [HRI Neg. #06024/D6:059].
protocol involved a combination of periodic observation during construction with provision being made for documentation in the event archaeological resources were encountered that merited such treatment. Most of the archaeological work entailed observation and limited recording during construction. One extended period of archaeological documentation took place in late March and early April of 2006 following the discovery of the remains of the office building of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court and a related brick privy shaft (Plate 1.2). Close coordination between the DPMC, the NJHPO, the project engineer and the project archaeologist took place throughout the project.

All work was carried out in keeping with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation and the NJHPO archaeological survey and report guidelines. Senior Hunter Research personnel who were responsible for undertaking these investigations met the federal standards for qualified professional archaeologists as specified in 36 CFR 66.3(b)(2) and 36 CFR 61. Historical research was mostly conducted in the spring of 2006 with additional work of this type being conducted over the fall and winter of 2006-07. Archaeological fieldwork was performed over the duration of the construction activity when ground disturbance was occurring (between February and July 2006). Analysis of findings and production of this report were carried out between August 2006 and February 2007. All documentation and archaeological materials from this study are being stored at the Hunter Research offices in Trenton, New Jersey until the acceptance of the final report by the appropriate agencies. At this point, these materials and data will be dispatched to the New Jersey State Museum, Trenton, New Jersey.

### B. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Land along the West State Street corridor between Barrack Street and Calhoun Street, and especially along the southern margins of the street in and around the New Jersey Capitol Complex, is of considerable archaeological sensitivity (Figure 1.4). This fact has been demonstrated in numerous surveys, excavations and monitoring operations carried out over the past quarter century, beginning with the investigations undertaken by Historic Sites Research and Hunter Research in the mid-1980s in connection with the construction of the Legislative Services Building and related utilities improvements within the State House complex (Kardas and Larrabee 1983, 1987, 1988; Hunter Research Associates 1989a; Historic Sites Research 1990). Subsequent work by Hunter Research in the later 1980s and early 1990s on the Old Barracks property (Hunter Research Associates 1989b; Hunter Research, Inc. 1990; 1991a; 1992a; 1994; 1996; 1998), in the early 1990s on the site of the underground parking garage between the State House Annex and the New Jersey State Library (Hunter Research, Inc. 1991b; 1992b; 1993), and in the mid-1990s in connection with the restoration of the State House dome and on the Thomas Edison State College campus (Hunter Research, Inc. 1999a) has further confirmed the overall archaeological importance of the area lying south of West State Street between Barrack Street and Calhoun Street. In recent years, periodic monitoring of ground-disturbing activities along the southern frontage of West State Street (e.g., installation of fiber optic cable linking several Thomas Edison State College locations in 2004; drainage improvements in front of Thomas Edison State College in 2005) and archaeological survey work for the Parking Lot D security improvements, carried out in 2005 and as yet unreported, have continued to produce archaeological finds of interest (Hunter Research, Inc. 2004; 2005a).
Figure 1.3. Project Plans. Source: Edwards and Kelcey 2006.
Figure 1.4. Site Plan Showing Locations of Previous Archaeological Investigations.
Pockets of prehistoric archaeological deposits have been recorded in many locations along the south side of West State Street. These include Native American burials on the neighboring Thomas Edison State College campus and hearths and refuse pits in the area in front of the New Jersey State Museum and New Jersey State Library. Substantial industrial archaeological remains of a mid-18th-century plating mill and steel furnace, overlaid by the foundations of a 19th-century cotton mill and paper mill, straddle Petty’s Run, a creek that now flows underground across West State Street and down through Mahlon Stacy Park at the eastern end of the current project site. The rear and side yards of the Old Barracks contain prehistoric and 18th-century archaeological deposits of interest. Foundations of numerous 18th- and 19th-century residences have been encountered along the West State, West Front and Delaware Street frontages within Mahlon Stacy Park. Along with most of the substantial masonry span that carried West Front Street over Petty’s Run, traces of the road surfaces of West Front and Delaware Streets also survive below ground.

Of particular relevance to the current project are the results of archaeological survey work carried out in 1992 in connection with a proposed (subsequently shelved) “fire loop” around the northeast perimeter of the State House. Shovel testing in the flower beds immediately in front of the northeast corner of the State House encountered the top of a substantial stone foundation at a depth of 1.9 feet below the ground surface. These remains were preliminarily identified at the time as being part of the building that housed the offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court and were judged “a documented, potentially significant historic archaeological resource” (Hunter Research, Inc. 1992b; 1993:2-1 thru 2-9, 8-1 thru 8-2). These preliminary findings were used as a basis for mapping a segment of the West State Street frontage in front of the State House as being of “prime” archaeological sensitivity in the historic preservation plan prepared for the New Jersey Executive State House in 2000 (Figure 1.4). A major part of the current report addresses the historical and archaeological investigation of the office building of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court (see below, Chapter 5).

C. PROJECT SETTING

The New Jersey Capitol Complex is situated on the western edge of downtown Trenton on the south side of West State Street, the city’s principal east-west street. The main buildings within the complex - the New Jersey State House and the adjoining State House Annex - both face West State Street, as do other major public buildings further to the west (the New Jersey State Library, the New Jersey State Museum and the Department of State building at 225 West State Street). Calhoun Street and Barrack Street (historically known as South Willow Street) delimit the Capitol Complex to the west and east respectively. To the south and southwest, to the rear of the State House and its Annex, is an extensive area of filled land, now containing an underground parking garage and a large surface parking lot used by government employees and visitors to State offices. Beyond, to the southwest, lie N.J. Route 29 (also known as the John Fitch Parkway) and the Delaware River (Figure 1.2).

The Capitol Complex is located on the eastern margins of the Piedmont physiographic province close to the Inner Coastal Plain. The State House and Annex both sit astride a prominent bluff that runs through the Greater Trenton area from southeast to northwest along the northeast side of the Delaware Valley. The underlying geology consists of silts, sands and gravels which overlie bedrock of Precambrian gneiss. The term “gneiss” is used in a generic sense here, for this indigenous metamorphic material is also variously referred to as mica schist, schistose
with muscovite and Wissahickon schist. Historically, the gneiss has been an important building material, being widely used for foundations, property walls and stone buildings from the early colonial period until well into the 19th century (Widmer 1963; Wolfe 1977; Chittick and Kalb 1980; Kalb et al. 1982). Bedrock is close to the present ground surface at the eastern end of the project site (within three to four feet in some places), but it dips down sharply some 120 feet or so to the south of West State Street in the central portion of Mahlon Stacy Park between the State House and the Old Barracks.

The silts, sands and gravels that originally overlay bedrock have been extensively re-arranged throughout most of the project site as a result of historic and modern land use. Soils in the immediate project vicinity are classified as Urban Land, Galestown Material, consisting of Galestown and Evesboro sands that have been altered. These sands, which are characteristically fine to medium in texture and medium brown in color, are typically not observed today in their natural undisturbed state, although they do occur mixed in with the cultural stratigraphy along the West State Street corridor.

No surface drainage presently flows through the project site. However, buried beneath West State Street and Mahlon Stacy Park between the State House and Thomas Edison State College, and enclosed within a stone and brick culvert, is the stream once known as Petty’s or Pettit’s Run. This creek, a first-order tributary of the Delaware River, originates in the northern part of Trenton and flows due south, joining the Delaware immediately upstream of Assunpink Creek. Prior to the urban development of the past century or so, the confluence of Assunpink Creek and Petty’s Run with the Delaware River was composed of an area of gravel flats. These flats are now deeply buried beneath fill and have been built over. The Capitol Complex surface parking lot and the War Memorial and the Labor and Industry Building (with their attendant parking areas) cover most of this zone today. The river bed in this section of the Delaware River (between the Calhoun Street and U.S. Route 1 Freeway bridges) is extremely rocky. This is the location of the “falls of the Delaware,” where the gneiss bedrock outcrops in the valley floor and where the river was fordable in prehistoric and historic times.

Adjoining West State Street to the south between the State House and the Thomas Edison State College campus, is Mahlon Stacy Park, a vestige of the much larger park of the same name created in the early 20th century, which formerly stretched to the banks of the Delaware River, downstream to the mouth of Assunpink Creek and upstream to the neighborhood known as “the Island.” The park fragment between the State House and Thomas Edison State College is dominated by a gently sloping expanse of well maintained lawn. Several large oak trees, shrubs and one large flower bed are situated along the West State Street frontage, while other mature deciduous trees are scattered across the park further to the south.
This chapter aims to provide a historical overview of the stretch of West State Street between Barrack Street and Calhoun Street with a particular emphasis on the roughly 500-foot-long segment extending west from Thomas Edison State College and Petty’s Run to the State House Annex. This segment is dominated by the New Jersey State House, the history and architecture of which are treated in many published and unpublished sources (e.g., Trenton Historical Society 1929; Cohan 1969; Heritage Studies 1984; Chalifoux 1988; Quigley and Collier 1984), and will only be generally recounted here. In addition, recent detailed historical accounts exist for the area between the State House and Barrack Street to the south of West State Street (Hunter Research Associates 1989a:Chapters 4 and 5, Appendices A, B and C; Hunter and Porter 1990) and will not be reiterated in full. The rich prehistory of downtown Trenton is not discussed, since no significant Native American finds resulted from the archaeological monitoring and data recovery work undertaken for this project. Further treatment of the history of Trenton’s water supply system and of the office building of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court, both pertinent to the current archaeological findings, are given respectively in Chapters 4 and 5 below.

*    *    *    *

Properties along West State Street in the area of the New Jersey State House were originally part of lands taken up by Trenton’s founding Quaker settler, Mahlon Stacy, in the late 1670s. Stacy’s holdings totaled 3,500 acres and straddled the confluence of the Assunpink Creek and Petty’s Run with the Delaware River, extending north as far as present-day Hermitage Avenue and south almost to the site of Mercer County Waterfront Park. The focus of Stacy’s interest was mostly on the south bank of the Assunpink Creek where he established his home, known as “Ballifield” (named for his ancestral home near Sheffield in South Yorkshire, England), and a gristmill.

In 1683 Mahlon Stacy sold off two tracts in the northwestern section of his plantation – a 400-acre parcel that was acquired by Joshua Ely and a 100-acre parcel taken up by Peter Fretwell. The Fretwell tract, the more southerly of these two parcels, adjoined the western margin of Stacy’s remaining lands, with the lower section of what later became known as Petty’s Run possibly serving as the boundary between the two properties. The bulk of the project site thus probably lay within Fretwell’s 100-acre tract, while the easternmost portion (east of Petty’s Run) continued under Stacy ownership into the early 18th century. During this period, this land was part of Burlington County in the Province of West New Jersey.

In 1714, the area north of the Assunpink Creek lay within the newly formed Hunterdon County and Mahlon Stacy, Jr. sold off the 800-acre core of the Stacy family’s plantation on either side of the creek to William Trent (Figure 2.1). Over the next few years Trent, a wealthy Philadelphia merchant, built a new mansion (today’s William Trent House) on roughly the same site as the original Stacy homestead, rebuilt and expanded the old Stacy gristmill and set about developing a formal settlement, Trent’s Town, on the north side of the Assunpink. By this time the Fretwell tract, on the western edge of Trent’s Town, had changed hands and now formed the basis of a plantation owned by Nathaniel Pettit. It is from the
Figure 2.1. Mahlon Stacy’s Survey of 1714. Scale: 1 inch = 1,000 feet (approximately). Project site circled in red. Source: Basse’s Book of Surveys.
Pettit family that the creek known as Petty’s Run takes its name. The precise location of the Pettit farmhouse is uncertain, but it is believed to have lain between present-day Capitol Street and Pennington Avenue, west of Willow Street.

Late in the second quarter of the 18th century, therefore, the greater part of the project site was under Pettit ownership, while the easternmost section, east of Petty’s Run, was held by the Trent family. Up to this point, the bulk of the project site most likely existed as a wooded bluff top bisected by a narrow ravine containing a sometimes swift-flowing Petty’s Run. The bluff edge just to the south extended east and west of Petty’s Run, sloping down sharply to the Delaware River. The emerging town of Trenton lay just a few hundred feet to the east with an important regional route, the so-called River Road, heading west out of town approximately along the course of modern West Hanover Street (west of North Willow Street), passing to the north of the project site (Trenton Historical Society 1929:21-27; Snyder 1969; Toothman 1977; Hunter Research Associates 1989a).

Expansion of the town toward Petty’s Run began to take place in the early 1730s and was stimulated in part by the potential for development of water-powered industrial activity at the point where the creek dropped sharply over the bluff edge. In 1731 James Trent, the son of William Trent, sold a one-acre parcel of land at this spot, straddling Petty’s Run, to a Trenton blacksmith named Isaac Harrow. Harrow built a stone dwelling and a plating mill on the property, the latter being the first in a succession of water-powered industrial operations to be situated along this stretch of Petty’s Run. While the location of the dwelling is uncertain, the position of the plating mill on the east side of the creek is precisely known since its southwest corner is pinpointed in later documents. The mill building was also partially revealed through archaeological excavations conducted in 1996 prior to the expansion of Thomas Edison State College (see above, Figure 1.4).

Isaac Harrow’s plating mill, in essence a water-powered blacksmith shop, was the first industrial facility of its type in New Jersey and one of the earliest in the Middle Atlantic colonies. The development of the mill, an endeavor likely to have been beyond the means of Harrow alone, may have been financed by James Trent and the brothers Anthony and William Morris, who were partners in a nearby forge established on the Assunpink in the early 1720s. This latter works possibly supplied bar iron to the Harrow mill where a variety of wrought and plate iron products were made through heating and hammering processes. Also referred to as a planing and blade mill, Harrow’s activities apparently involved several buildings, since the inventory of his estate (taken upon his death in 1741) mentions “articles in the plating mills, workshop, blade mill” and also makes note of some 900 bushels of coal (charcoal) in a “coal house.” The Harrow plating mill was certainly a sizeable operation with a substantial production capability. At the time of his death, Harrow’s estate, dominated by the mill complex, was valued at the impressive sum of £440 (Hunter Research Associates 1989a:5-1 thru 5-4).

Following Isaac Harrow’s death, the plating mill appears to have continued in operation under his son, James, while the Morris brothers, as executors of Isaac Harrow’s estate, set about selling off the Harrow property. In 1745, the plating mill was acquired by Benjamin Yard, another local Trenton blacksmith, who, by 1750, had added a steel furnace on the opposite side of the creek, roughly 50 feet further downstream. Yard retained ownership of the plating mill property until his death in 1808, but sold off the steel furnace in 1762 to Owen Biddle and Timothy Matlack, two prominent Philadelphia merchants with a strong interest in the manufacture of iron and steel. Both the plating mill and steel furnace stayed intermittently
in production in the 1760s and 1770s, with the steel furnace passing through the hands of several owners, including other Philadelphia and Trenton merchants, such as John Pemberton and Stacy Potts. While the plating mill with its simple forge and trip-hammer technology seems to have enjoyed a steady production of plate iron goods, the steelmaking facility, using the relatively new and poorly understood cementation process, apparently struggled to make good-quality metal. Part of what is believed to be the base of the steel furnace was observed in a deep archaeological test trench dug in Mahlon Stacy Park in October 1985 and traces of what may be the furnace’s hydropower system are visible in the west side of the Petty’s Run culvert immediately upstream of the West Front Street bridge (Hunter Research 1989a:5-14, 5-38 thru 5-53 and 5-74 thru 5-89; Klett 1989:137-139; Hunter and Porter 1990).

The iron and steel working complex on Petty’s Run was one facility that encouraged the westward expansion of Trenton; the establishment of a British military barracks in 1758 immediately downslope of the plating mill on the east side of the creek was another. The Trenton barracks, one of five such facilities built in support of British frontier actions during the French and Indian War, was deliberately positioned on the western edge of town with a view downriver and across the ford at the falls of the Delaware. Known today as the Old Barracks, this is the only surviving French and Indian War-era building of its type in North America (Mendel Mesick Cohen Waite 1981; Hunter Research Associates 1989b).

However, even though the barracks and the iron and steelmaking complex both encouraged the westward expansion of the town, Petty’s Run likely acted as physical barrier to Trenton’s growth in the colonial period. Part of the reason the River Road crossed the creek in the modern Capitol Street/West Hanover Street vicinity may have been because a millpond extended upstream from the plating mill and steel furnace. No clear archaeological evidence has been found for a millpond, but timbers set in the bed of Petty’s Run roughly 50 feet upstream from the plating mill may represent the base of a dam or sluice gate (Hunter Research Associates 1989a:5-74 thru 5-81).

Trenton’s critical role in the military events of the Revolutionary War is well documented: two battles within ten days over Christmas and New Year of 1776-77 began to turn the tide of American fortunes. The first (and best known) Battle of Trenton on the morning after Christmas swirled in and around the settlement for several hours, with the Hessian forces belatedly mobilizing from downtown houses to suffer defeat at the hands of American troops approaching Trenton from the north and west. The second battle was a more confined affair, centered on the Queen (modern South Broad) Street crossing of the Assunpink, where American forces thwarted the British in the late afternoon of January 2, 1777, enabling the Continental Army to march overnight to Princeton and launch a successful surprise attack the following day (Fischer 2004:234-307).

In the aftermath of the setbacks at Trenton, the British command held several hearings which resulted in a series of maps of Trenton being produced by Hessian officers showing the principal military positions during the first battle (Stryker 1898:124-128). These maps, all relatively similar and equally sketchy in their characterization of the town, show the settlement clustered around the predecessors of the modern Warren, Broad, Front, State and Hanover Streets (Figure 2.2). Petty’s Run is not depicted, but the barracks is clearly visible as a distinctive U-shaped structure west of town. Making sense of the street pattern to the west of modern Warren Street is difficult. There is no obvious alignment corresponding to West State Street: one street passing just north of the barracks, with a short spur south to the barracks building, probably passes south of modern West State (perhaps over a mill dam at the iron and steel working
Figure 2.2. Lieutenant Fischer’s Map of Trenton. 1776. (Reproduced in Stryker 1898). Scale: 1 inch = 1,550 feet (approximately). Project site circled in red.
complex); the street heading west out of town further
to the north is presumably the River Road, roughly
following modern West Hanover Street.

The battles tend to be the main focus of historical
interest for students and scholars of Trenton’s
involvement in the Revolutionary War, but the town
participated in and endured the damaging effects of
the conflict for more than five years. Along with
its related port settlement of Lamberton, a mile
or so downstream, Trenton was a key supply base
for the Continental Army during this period. With
Trenton merchant Moore Furman serving as Deputy
Quartermaster General for New Jersey for much of
this time, the army in the Morristown and Middlebrook
campments and other installations in the New Jersey
Highlands was largely provisioned with the help of
stores and warehousing in Trenton and Lamberton.
The barracks also served a commissary purpose and
was used as a hospital where smallpox inoculation
was carried out.

The role of the iron and steelworks on Petty’s Run
during the Revolution is less clear. Benjamin Yard’s
plating mill was engaged in the manufacture of arms
(specifically gun barrels, scabbards and bayonets)
for the Continental Army in 1776-77, but the mill
building was partially torn down and the nearby coal
house demolished in early October of 1777 under
orders of the Commissary of the Hospital Department.
The reasons for this are unclear; it was perhaps
related to American use of the nearby barracks, rather
than a fear of a British take-over of the mill. From
this point on there is no definitive evidence that the
plating mill was ever reactivated, although it is not
impossible that it operated intermittently in the 1780s.
The steel furnace apparently lay idle during the early
years of the Revolutionary War, but was in occasional
operation under Stacy Potts, Samuel Downing and
John Nancarrow from late 1781 through the spring
of 1783. Almost certainly, the cessation of iron and
steel manufacture along Petty’s Run preceded the
development of the New Jersey State House complex
in the early 1790s (Prince and Ryan 1980:87-88;
Hunter Research Associates 1989a:5-15 thru 5-19;

A slightly more accurate depiction of Trenton during
the Revolutionary War period is given by the maps
prepared by French military cartographers as French
and American forces marched from Newport, Rhode
Island to Yorktown, Virginia in the later summer
and fall of 1781, returning north roughly a year later
(Figure 2.3). Trenton’s characteristic street pattern
(modern Warren, Broad, Hanover and Front Streets)
is again clearly visible, as is the barracks, shown due
west of the western end of Front Street. North of this,
a road roughly follows the alignment of modern West
State Street heading west from Warren Street and then
winds south to the river bank where it enters the ford.
While the River Road is not shown on this map, it is
also clear that West State Street (or Second Street, as
it was then known) did not extend as far as the current
project site.

Development of the State House area west of Petty’s
Run began to take place in earnest shortly after
the conclusion of the Revolutionary War, initially
in anticipation of the town’s westward residential
expansion and then, with still greater vigor, as it
became clear that the land here would be selected as
the seat of state government. At some point in the mid-
1780s, Second Street was extended across Petty’s Run
to Beatty’s Ferry at the foot of modern Calhoun Street,
creating the West State Street alignment that exists
today. In 1784, George Ely, a descendant of Joshua
Ely, began purchasing land extending south from a line
approximating the course of Second Street toward the
Delaware River. In 1788, when Ely purchased more
land extending northward from the same line from
James Emerson, the accompanying deed described a
“New Road or Street laid out from the west end of
Second Street to the old River Road,” which evidently
corresponds to the section of modern West State Street.
Figure 2.3. Berthier, L. *Camp a Trenton le 1er Septembre, 12 miles & 2 de Princetown*. 1781. (Reproduced in Brown and R...tion of the ford at the falls of the Delaware.
between Barracks and Calhoun Streets (West Jersey Deed A-V/289). Another key owner of land lying west of Petty’s Run was Joseph Brittain, who also subdivided property on both sides of Second Street in the late 1780s and early 1790s. Unfortunately, most deeds from Brittain’s many transactions do not survive, and a copy of the subdivision map that once existed has not been found. Second Street continued to be known as such until 1847 when it was officially re-named State Street (Hewitt 1916:22; Toothman 1977:141; Hunter Research, Inc. 2005b:6-11).

Having the distinction of being centrally located on the important stagecoach line between Philadelphia and New York, Trenton was officially established as the seat of state government by an act of the legislature on November 25, 1790 (New Jersey Legislature, Votes of the Assembly 1791-1794). It took nearly a year for a bill to be introduced in the New Jersey House of Assembly “to provide suitable buildings for the accommodation of the Legislature and public offices of the State” (Records of the Secretary of State, November 16, 1791). Passing the House of Assembly after three readings, and passing in the Council (the forerunner of the Senate) by November 22, 1791, the act appointed seven commissioners to purchase or accept land as they deemed fit for the site of a capitol building. With the ability to draw up to £1,500 from the treasury and accept grants of money, the commissioners purchased five contiguous lots totaling three and three-quarters acres of land, located on the south side of Second Street, from Joseph Brittain, George Ely and William Reeder for a total of £240-5s (see below, Figure 5.1). This property probably represented the closest available undeveloped land to the center of the town where a riverfront government “campus” could be located.

Simultaneously, the commissioners also developed plans for a building to be constructed on this property to house the state government. Many of the commissioners’ records that deal with the design and construction of the New Jersey State House still survive and are now in the possession of the New Jersey State Archives. The papers of Maskell Ewing, one of the commissioners, describe the original specifications for the building as they were initially conceived:

“August 6, 1791. M. Ewing from the committee to appoint to draught a proper form for a State House. Reports a draught of the form dimensions there of as follows:

sixty feet front and 30 feet deep in the clear to be two story high with a belfry to be carrying up with a stone wall from the foundation and the probable expense will be £1200” (Maskell Ewing Papers).

Jonathan Doan (1756-1818), a master builder from Pennsylvania known for work in Trenton, Princeton, New York City and Geneva, New York, was selected to construct the first State House. The design Doan offered was grounded in the prevailing architectural trends of the American federal period. Based largely on the work popularized in England by Scotsman Robert Adam, American architecture around this time retained many of the elements of the earlier Georgian style (e.g., overall symmetry; rectangular floor plans), yet many buildings were executed with an elongated, thinner form and a sense of greater delicacy and restraint. Federal-style buildings also were more likely to possess uniquely shaped spaces, including hexagons and curved bays, which were based on Roman Classical precedent. Palladian windows and fan lights were also often key design components. Although fashionable in England for many years previous, during the period of the genesis of American nationalism, this style was interpreted by influential Americans as appropriate for a fledgling democracy seeking its own architectural identity. Thus, many of the first public buildings constructed for the new nation were commonly executed in this style (Calloway and Cromley 1991; Bucher 1996).
Doan’s plan for the building was considerably humbler than those drawn up for most of the other State capitol buildings erected during this period. The Delaware State House in Dover (1792), the old Connecticut State House (1796) and the Massachusetts State House (1795-1798), for example, were all more impressive and much more fully developed examples of the style as it was applied to American public buildings. In fact, Doan’s New Jersey State House design was simpler and less assuming than many of New Jersey’s county courthouses constructed at the same time (Franzen 1964).

Exterior details of Doan’s two-story, stuccoed stone building were somewhat generic, relying on a prominent cupola (later altered to a bell tower), an elaborate main entryway on the north (and probably also south) side, projecting three-sided bays at the east and west gable ends, and simplified cornices with dentil molding to generate visual interest. Although the initial specifications called for by the State House Commission dictated a building with a 60 by 30-foot footprint, the building actually erected by Doan was much larger, measuring approximately 100 feet by 60 feet in plan. The building was opened for the use of the Assembly on October 29, 1792, although the Assembly room was not finished at that time and no facilities were as yet in place for the use of the Senate. The building was not completed until 1795 when final detailing was finished in the second floor of the building (Cohan 1969).

Upon crossing the threshold of the main north or south doorway, a visitor to the building would enter a large central hallway. Various small offices were located directly off the main corridor. Beyond these offices were located the Assembly Chamber on the eastern side of the building, and the Senate Chamber on the western side of the building. The dais of the presiding member of each of the houses of the legislature was located at the head of the semi-hexagonal bays, around which the seating was arranged. A large central stairway was located in the main corridor dividing the chambers and led to various offices located on the second floor. Above these spaces, in the attic formed by the gable roof, were located storage areas and perhaps other small offices.

Perhaps the earliest depiction of the State House occurs on A Plan and Survey of Sundry Pieces of Land Adjoining the Delaware River and Assunpink Creek Belonging to Jn. Cox 1789 (Figure 2.4), which shows the building as being located along Second Street on a lot extending southward down to the banks of Delaware, just upstream from Stacy Potts’ paper mill at the mouth of the Assunpink Creek. The exact date of this depiction remains in question, as the manuscript map bears the date of 1789, yet the bill drawn up to enable the construction of the State House was not signed into law until late November of 1791. Thus either the map actually dates slightly later than the date which appears on it or the image of the State House was added later.

A rendering of 1798 entitled Trenton Sur La Delaware by Edouard Charles-Victurnen Colbert also illustrates the State House within a few years of its completion. This view shows the mouth of the Assunpink in the center foreground with the paper mill tucked down in the valley between the Trent House in the right foreground and the State House just beyond (Plate 2.1). The vessel crossing the river is in roughly the correct location for a ferry boat leaving Beatty’s ferry at the foot of modern Calhoun Street. The depictions of both the State House and the Trent House leave much to be desired in terms of their accuracy. The State House, for example, is shown without one of its principal defining features, its cupola. However, the rendering is valuable in that it stresses the Delaware River prospect of both of these major Trenton buildings, a fundamental characteristic that is gradually lost as the city gradually becomes detached from the river over the course of the 19th century. Indeed, in the case of the State House, the
Figure 2.4. *A Plan and Survey of Sundry Pieces of Land Adjoining the Delaware River and Assunpink Creek Belonging to Jn. Cox.* 1789. Scale: 1 inch = 510 feet (approximately). Project site outlined in red.
Plate 2.1. Charles-Victurnen Colbert, Edouard. *Trenton Sur La Delaware*. 1798. View looking northwest. The New Jersey State House is depicted here beyond the Trent House (right foreground) on the bluff overlooking the Delaware River. Between these two buildings, at the mouth of the Assunpink Creek, is the paper mill of Stacy Potts. Source: New Jersey Historical Society 1962.
southern (riverside) façade was probably initially more important than the one facing Second Street. A traveler’s journal from 1793-98 entitled *Moreau De St. Mery’s American Journey* highlights the visibility of the river façade thus: “North of the river one can distinguish Trenton and see on the highest point near the river the State House” (Roberts and Roberts 1947).

Within a very short time, however, and perhaps as early as the first decade of the 19th century, the Second Street façade of the State House began to assume a greater prominence than the river façade. This is evident on a map of titled *A Plan of Sundry Lots of Land the Property of Daniel W. Coxe, Esq.* dated *circa* 1804 (Figure 2.5) and in several early 19th-century paintings that show the State House before its first major expansion in the mid-1840s (see below, Plates 2.2 and 2.3). The map and all three paintings imply strongly that the primary aspect of the State House was northward toward Second Street.

The Coxe map provides the earliest detailed cartographic depiction of the street network in the western section of Trenton’s downtown and also shows several key state government buildings. Second Street appears as one of the city’s main axial streets, heading west from Warren Street, across Petty’s Run and passing along the northern edge of the State House lot. Front Street runs parallel and to the south, terminating at Delaware Street which ran along the eastern edge of the State House lot. Front Street’s extension westward to the State House across Petty’s Run from Willow (modern Barrack) Street in 1792 represented an act of great republican symbolism: it required bursting through a section of the colonial barracks. The route along Willow Street north of Second Street, across Petty’s Run and then west along Quarry Street (modern West Hanover) probably follows the course of the old River Road, while the short stub of a street that heads northwest to Petty’s Run from Willow Street between Second and Front Streets possibly originally gave access to the Harrow/Yard plating mill. Other lesser elements of the street pattern are still intact today in the form of Capitol Street, Taylor Place, Chancery Lane and Peace Street.

The principal focus of the Coxe map lay south of the Assunpink, where the bulk of the Coxe family holdings lay at this time. Consequently, few buildings and lots are depicted in the core of the downtown. Nevertheless, the cartographer did choose to show a few key state buildings along Second Street, which are identified in the map’s accompanying key as the “Governor’s House” between Warren and Willow Streets, and the “State House” and the “Clerk of Supreme Court and Secretary’s Office” within the State House lot. The State House is somewhat crudely drawn as a seven-bay structure with a cupola (without its three-sided gable-end projections), but it is broadly accurate in outline. The history of the smaller one-story office building in the northeast corner of the lot, being a major subject of the archaeological investigations described in this report, is addressed in greater detail below in Chapter 5. The lot itself is bordered on its northern (Second Street) edge by a fence, while several rows of trees, probably Lombardy poplars, grace the State House yard. The “cut-out” parcel of land at the northwest corner at the State House lot was still privately owned at this time, and was not annexed by the state until 1849.

While the Coxe map of *circa* 1804 shows only the state-owned buildings along Second Street, there were several other houses strung out along the section of the street between modern Barrack and Calhoun Streets by this time. By 1800, there were two dwellings – one owned by Sarah Appleton, the other by Joseph Baker - on the south side of Second Street between Petty’s Run and Willow (Barrack) Street. Within a decade, Jonathan Rhea had erected a dwelling, and Joseph Fithian a dwelling and cabinet shop, between Petty’s Run and the State House lot. West of the State House and south of Second Street lay the large estate...
Figure 2.5. A Plan of Sundry Lots of Land the Property of Daniel W. Coxe, Esq. Circa 1804. Scale: 1 inch = 225 feet (approximately). Project site outlined in red.
Plate 2.3. Notman, J. New Jersey State House “as it was in 1794.” *Circa* 1845. View looking southwest. John Notman’s ink, wash and watercolor of the State House is virtually identical to a painting by A. Frey, completed around the same time. Source: Greiff 1979.
of Richmond Hill established in the 1790s by Joseph Higbee. The Higbee residence is visible, partly obscured by a tree, to the left of the State House in the Colbert rendering of 1798 (Plate 2.1). On the north side of Second Street were several other dwellings, including the homes of Joseph Brittain and George Ely (Heritage Studies 1984:7; Hunter Research Associates 1989a:4-13, 4-15; Hunter Research, Inc. 1993:2-9).

From around 1800 until the mid-1840s the character of Second Street west of Willow Street changed only slightly. The street continued to be dominated by the State House and was otherwise lined with large, upscale, single-family dwellings on moderately sized lots. At some point during this period wooden water pipes are believed to have been laid beneath the street by either the Trenton Water Works Company or the Trenton Aqueduct Company, and it is assumed that the State House and several of the homes along Second Street will have tapped into this supply system (see below, Chapter 4). In the early 1830s, the Trenton Delaware Falls Company constructed a canal from Scudders Falls into the heart of Trenton to provide water power for industrial development at several sites around the mouth of the Assunpink Creek, along a branch raceway near the Trent House, and at the foot of Federal Street. This canal passed along the left bank of the Delaware through the southern portion of the Richmond Hill property and the State House lot (Figure 2.6). From the late 1820s, on Petty’s Run, immediately above Front Street, a paper mill was in operation on roughly the same site as the earlier iron and steel working complex. Beginning in the mid-1830s there was also a sawmill a short distance downstream.

The first truly detailed and reasonably accurate depiction of the State House dates from this period. This is a watercolor painted by S. Davis at some point between 1806 and 1845 (Plate 2.2). The painting is no earlier than 1806 as, in the background, it shows the Trenton-Morrisville bridge, completed in that year; it is no later than 1845 since this is the year in which the State House underwent a major expansion (most likely it dates from around 1820). The Davis watercolor shows the original Doan-designed and built New Jersey State House as a two-story, seven-bay building with a cupola. A central six-panel door is flanked by pilasters and surmounted by a pediment and fan light. Two-story, three-sided (semi-hexagonal) bays project from each of the gable-end walls. Each of these bays is covered by a copper-sheathed hipped roof. Two pairs of chimneys project from the north wall of the building, but the view is such that it is not possible to see if corresponding chimneys existed on the south façade. The fenestration displays a restrained treatment, with windows on the first floor being accented by arched lintels with a keystone. Detailing of the second-story window openings is limited to rectangular openings, with keystones dividing the lintels.

Two other paintings of the State House produced in the mid-1840s show the first State House in much the same fashion. One is an ink, wash and watercolor prepared by the Philadelphia architect, John Notman, shortly before his designs for an expansion of the State House began to be implemented in 1845 (Plate 2.3); the other, not reproduced here, virtually indistinguishable from and possibly a copy of Notman’s view, is by A. Frey. Both paintings show an additional pair of chimneys in each gable-end wall, an exterior basement entry, iron newel posts lining both sides of the gravel path leading to the masonry steps at the north façade main entry, and a line of what are probably Lombardy poplars ranged behind the building. Another, less well defined walk also appears to head northeast from the door of the State House, presumably leading to the office building of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court (see below, Chapter 5). Both the office building and the river façade of the State House, with its signature end bays, cupola and
Figure 2.6. Gordon, T. Map of Trenton and Its Vicinity. 1836. Scale: 1 inch = 190 feet (approximately). Project site outlined in red.
chimney stacks, are visible in a lithographic view of 1845 showing Trenton from the Trenton-Morrisville bridge (see below, Plate 5.1).

By the end of the first quarter of the 19th century, it was becoming increasingly obvious that the space requirements of state government were outgrowing the original State House and its nearby office building. The condition of both buildings was also deteriorating. The issue was raised in the Council Journal and the House of Assembly Minutes on February 25, 1841. In this year, a joint committee decided against just carrying out more repairs and suggested instead that the State House be expanded through new construction, extending the footprint of building northward within the State House lot (Cohan 1969). By 1843, it was being proposed that $10,000 be appropriated and that proposals should be sought for the design and construction of the new buildings. Consequently “an act to provide for the erection of two fireproof buildings in the yard of the State House Trenton” (New Jersey Legislature 65th General Assembly Minutes 1843), first introduced in February of 1845, was passed into law on April 2, 1845. The commission to refurbish and expand the State House was won by Philadelphia architect John Notman.

Notman’s alterations were plainly spelled out in his elaborate building specifications. Appropriately sensitive to the original architecture of the State House, these centered on the construction of a Roman Classical-Revival style three-story building, flanked by single-story wings, extending north toward Second (West State) Street (Plates 2.4-2.6). This structure was linked to the center of the north façade of the original building by a rotunda, 35 feet in diameter and rising 60 feet into the Trenton skyline, comprising a low dome and drum crowned with a cupola and lantern. The West State Street façade was completed with a colossal portico and balcony supported by eight Doric columns. The third floor of the main block, intended for use as the library, was expressed on the exterior as a single room covered by a closed pediment front-gable, with access to the balcony formed by the portico on the north façade. The river façade of the original State House was also modified through the addition of a two-story façade at ground level, which supported a portico of eight sanded, wooden Corinthian columns, paired and surmounted by a pediment and cornice that blended seamlessly with the refurbished original building (Cohan 1969).

In conjunction with the Notman expansion, the office building of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court was either relocated or, more likely, demolished (see below, Chapter 5) and the State House lot was extensively landscaped. A low wall topped by an iron railing surrounded the northern and eastern (and probably also the western) sides of the lot, and numerous trees and shrubs were planted (Plates 2.5 and 2.6). Notman may well have played a role in the landscaping of the grounds, since he was responsible for some of the greatest works of contemporary cemetery landscape design, such as Laurel Hill (1836-1839) in Philadelphia. The Lamborn map of Trenton, published in 1859, shows a series of circular motifs and winding paths around the State House (see below, Figure 2.9). These are not unlike the landscape design features employed at Laurel Hill and probably reflect Notman’s influence (Greiff 1979).

Maps of Trenton in the 1840s and 1850s continue to show the dominance of the State House in the city streetscape, along with an intensifying, westward spread of residential development along the West State Street corridor. A U.S. Coast Survey map, surveyed in 1844, shows both the State House, with an unusually large footprint, and the office building of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court, tucked into the northeast corner of the lot (Figure 2.7). The southern frontage of West State Street east of the State House and the northern frontage between North Willow and Calhoun Streets
Figure 2.7. United States Coast Survey. *Delaware River from Bordentown to Trenton.* 1844. Scale: 1 inch = 425 feet (approximately). Project site outlined in red.
Plate 2.4. Notman, J. *Front Elevation, State House, Trenton, with Additions*. 1845. View looking south. This architectural rendering depicts the fully articulated new portico, dome and massing of the Notman additions to the Second (West State) Street façade of the original New Jersey State House, the east and west ends of which are visible at the rear. Source: New Jersey Historical Society.
Plate 2.5. Whatley, H. *State Capitol of New Jersey at Trenton, Built 1794, Altered and Enlarged 1845-46, Front View.* 1846. View looking southwest showing the Notman additions to the Second (West State) Street façade of the original New Jersey State House, the east end of which is visible at the rear left. Second (West State) Street is in the center foreground and Delaware Street in the left foreground. Source: Trentoniana Collection, Trenton Public Library.
Plate 2.6. Historic view of the New Jersey State House. Circa 1865. The view is looking southwest showing the Notman additions to the West State Street façade of the New Jersey State House, the east end of which is visible at the rear left. West State Street is in the right foreground and Delaware Street in the left foreground. Note the iron railing along the West State and Delaware Street frontages of the State House lot, and the fire hydrant on the sidewalk next to the figure. Source: Trentoniana Collection, Trenton Public Library.
are shown as extensively built up both on this map and the Sidney map of Trenton in 1849 (Figure 2.8). The Sidney map provides a more accurate representation of the footprint of the State House following the Notman additions and also confirms the removal of the nearby office building. The residences spread along the south side of West State Street, west of the State House, are identified as the homes of some of the state’s most prominent politicians and jurists (e.g., William Dayton, Peter Vroom and Henry Green). The Lamborn map of 1859 (Figure 2.9) presents the State House and its ornately landscaped grounds in a starkly contrasting setting with fine homes along the bluff edge to the west and a series of industrial facilities - a carpentry shop, a paper mill, a spice mill and a tannery - ranged along Petty’s Run to the east.

In 1863, “An act authorizing an addition to the State Capitol,” Senate Bill No. 59, was passed, appropriating $10,000 for the purpose of adding a new wing to the State House for a library and committee rooms. These were attached to the south of the building, effectively extending Notman’s southern portico, which was re-erected on the south facade of this new addition. By 1866 the library had moved into its new, nearly completed quarters and both the governor and comptroller were assigned offices in the building (Cohan 1969). The Beers map of 1870 (Figure 2.10) shows this new southern addition, along with an increasingly built-up West State Street, which was by now serviced with a street railway. Construction of the street railway had begun a few years earlier in 1863 following the incorporation of the Trenton Horse Railroad Company in 1859. One of the initial routes ran along State Street from Clinton Street to Calhoun Street, passing directly in front of the State House. The track was “5.2 gauge and paved with good boulders,” and cars were pulled by horses or mules at no more than six miles an hour (Trenton Historical Society 1929:290-292).

The Beers map of 1870 also shows the heavily developed character of the two blocks east of the State House bounded by Delaware Street, West State Street, South Willow (Barrack) Street and the Trenton Water Power. Houses lined the street frontages and two large industrial facilities, a paper mill and bow factory (where curved wood was manufactured), were situated in the center of the blocks, drawing water power from Petty’s Run. The run itself to the south of West State Street seems to have been wholly or partly encased within a culvert by this time, since its course is not shown on the map. Petty’s Run in the 1870s and 1880s became a serious health hazard as numerous properties along its banks drained sewage into the stream bed. A city-wide study conducted by Philadelphia sanitary engineer Rudolph Hering in the mid-1880s in connection with his design of a comprehensive sewerage system cited Petty’s Run as Trenton’s worst pollution issue. It was not until the early 1890s, when Hering’s system began to be built, that the pollution problems along Petty’s Run were corrected (Hering 1885:3-4; Lee 1895:90-91; Hunter Research Associates 1989a:5-70 thru 5-71).

Meanwhile, as New Jersey’s population and the number of municipalities grew, so also did the needs of state government. In early 1871 Senate bill, No. 362, “An Act to Appoint Commissioners to Erect an Addition and Make Repairs to the State House” was passed. Shortly after, Samuel Sloan (1815-1884), a prominent Philadelphia architect known more for his ecclesiastical and residential architecture, was appointed by the newly-formed State House commission to prepare plans for another expansion of the State House. This phase of expansion involved the construction of two entirely new legislative chambers flanking either side of the recently extended south middle section, each topped by a dome, and the addition of a 26-foot extension to the former Governor’s offices and State Library (known commonly as the south middle section) for offices and committee rooms. The river-facade portico, designed by John Notman in 1845 and...
Figure 2.8. Sidney, J. *Map of the City of Trenton*. 1849. Scale: 1 inch = 250 feet (approximately). Project site outlined in red.
Figure 2.9. Lamborn, R. *Map of the City of Trenton*. 1859. Scale: 1 inch = 155 feet (approximately). Project site outlined in red.
Figure 2.10. Beers, F.W. *Map of the City of Trenton*. 1870. Scale: 1 inch = 110 feet (approximately). Project site outlined in red.
expanded in the 1860s, was to be resurrected again as a porch on the rear of the south middle section, drawing the State House nearer to the Trenton Water Power. It was also during this phase of construction that the end bays of the original State House, altered by John Notman in 1845, were further modified by the removal of the bays and the extension of the wings. All of these changes are clearly expressed in Fowler & Bailey’s Aerial View of Greater Trenton Proper and Chambersburgh produced in 1874 (Plate 2.7).

In 1875, further plans submitted by Samuel Sloan for a major reconfiguration of the north façade of the State House began to be acted on. This round of changes would transform the work of John Notman and his carefully designed 1845 building into a blocky, yet tasteful, Classical-Revival representation (Figure 2.11; Plate 2.8). Gone was the deliberate exterior massing and combination of elements that had been the hallmark of Notman’s Roman Classical-Revival State House. The avant-corps wings flanking the central building mass were raised by two stories; the center block was raised by one story, bringing it to its full three-story height. Most, if not all, of Notman’s architectural detailing was obliterated, leaving only the front portico and the dome as testimony to his contributions to the design. All other traces of Notman’s 1845 State House had by this time been erased (Cohan 1969).

Several improvements to the building’s utility systems took place both before and after the Sloan additions and alterations. Gas lighting was installed soon after 1850 when the subject was first raised during the 74th session of the legislature. Electric lights were in use by at least 1873 and were probably installed during the course of the Sloan-designed construction in 1871-72. By the 1880s, the State House was being serviced by both the Trenton Telephone Company and the Delaware Atlantic Telephone and Telegraph Company (Cohan 1969). In the 1880s and early 1890s, the State House’s power needs were supplied by a steam engine located in a power house nestled in the angle of the Trenton Water Power and Delaware Street in the southeastern corner of the State House lot (Figures 2.11 and 2.12).

Upgrading of the State House water supply system was also being undertaken during the 1850s. In 1853, a resolution was enacted to investigate the plausibility of introducing hydrant water to the State House property requesting: “... that the joint committee on public grounds and buildings be instructed to inquire and report upon what terms a supply of hydrant water can be brought into the capitol grounds and buildings, sufficient for cleaning and protecting from fire the state property, and for watering the trees and ornamenting the public grounds” (State House Commission Minutes 1853).

The resolution was approved in the following year, authorizing the installation of fire plugs and hydrants for use as an effective fire protection system. Hydrants were subsequently positioned at two locations on the south side of West State Street in front of the State House (Figure 2.11; Plate 2.6). Nearly 30 years later, in 1882, the State Treasurer was authorized to hire men to excavate a cellar under front section of the State House to lay a new floor in the north foyer and rotunda. Although a connection between these two actions—the excavation of a cellar in 1882 and the installation of hydrants in the 1850s - could never have been predicted, they shared a common destiny that would become painfully clear during a cold morning in March of 1885 (Cohan 1969).

Early in the morning of March 20, 1885 a fire broke out in the northwest section of the State House and quickly spread across much of the front of the building (Plate 2.8). Cold temperatures froze the hydrants, delaying the response of the firefighters, and the recent cellar excavations helped to destabilize
Figure 2.11. Robinson and Pidgeon. *Atlas of the City of Trenton and Suburbs*. 1881. Project site outlined in red.
Figure 2.12. Sanborn Fire Insurance Company. City of Trenton. 1890. Project site outlined in red.
Plate 2.7. Fowler & Bailey. *Aerial View of Greater Trenton Proper and Chambersburgh.* 1874. View looking northeast showing the area around the New Jersey State House. Note the original State House in the center wedged between Samuel Sloan’s Senate and Assembly chambers on the river side of the building and the Notman additions to the West State Street facade. The north side of West State Street, opposite the State House, and the south side of the street, east of Delaware Street, are both largely built-up. Source: Trentoniana Collection, Trenton Public Library.
Plate 2.8. Historic view of the New Jersey State House. March 20, 1885. The view is looking southwest on the morning of the fire that gutted the Sloan additions on the West State Street façade of the State House. The fire engine is parked beside the fire hydrant at the corner of West State and Delaware Streets. Streetcar tracks are visible in the icy cobbled street surface. Source: Trentoniana Collection, Trenton Public Library.
the ravaged building. Ultimately, most of the front section of the State House (the Sloan additions of the early 1870s) was gutted and was eventually torn down. During the rebuilding that followed, the Notman rotunda was found to be structurally deficient and beyond repair; this was also taken down. The rear portion of the building, including the remaining parts of the original Doan State House built in 1792, was spared destruction (New Jersey Legislature 100th Senate Journal, Report of the Commissioners 1886; Cohan 1969).

The matter of rebuilding the State House after the fire took precedence in the affairs of the state. Governor Leon Abbett, in a report issued the houses of the Legislature March 23, 1885, announced that temporary quarters had been secured for displaced offices, the insurance companies had been contacted, and the Trenton Fire Department had been commended for its bravery. The report also made a point of noting that the previous State House was inadequate to accommodate the business of the state. Governor Abbett suggested that the rebuilt portion of the building be designed to include all of the current Executive offices, as well as those that might be added in the foreseeable future. Soon thereafter, Assembly Bill No. 469, “An Act for the Restoration of the State House” was passed. The new State House Commission, consisting of the Governor, the Secretary of State, the State Comptroller and the State Treasurer, was given wide-ranging powers on behalf of the state to rebuild or restore at their discretion. Unfortunately, the appropriation to accomplish all of this work was a mere $50,000 (New Jersey Legislature 100th Senate Journal, Report of the Commissioners 1886; New Jersey Legislative Document #39 1886; Cohan 1969).

Jersey City architect Lewis H. Broome was chosen to design the new building and initially proposed a simple wood-frame stucco structure, the cost of which roughly matched the meager appropriation. This initial plan was discarded in favor of “a three story building, one hundred and sixty feet long and sixty feet deep,” and after careful examination of plans prepared by a number of architects, the Commission again selected a design by Broome. The estimated cost of this new, much larger building, constructed of gray limestone, with bluestone trimmings, was $175,000 and made allowance for “the construction of nine commodious fire-proof vaults, in the basement, for storage vaults, and a fireproof room in connection with each department, for the care of papers to which frequent reference is necessary” (New Jersey Legislative Document #39 1886).

With winter approaching and the appropriation to fully construct the building not yet official, the Commission hired Abram Swan as the Mechanical Supervisor to oversee the construction of the basement level. It was at this juncture that the Notman rotunda was found to be unstable. This led to discussions about the scale of the new building in proportion to the old structure and it was decided that the old rotunda would be removed and replaced by a new one built on a solid foundation, “surmounted by a dome of sufficient height to achieve architectural harmony.” In 1886, the State House Commission made a formal request for an appropriation of $225,000 to construct, restore and furnish all the various replacement components of the State House; on April 27, 1887, two years after the fire, the legislature appropriated $275,000 for this purpose (Cohan 1969).

The contracts for the new building, the bulk of which were awarded to New Jersey and New York City firms, were issued in late July 1886, but the construction took several years to complete. In an optimistic message to the state legislature in 1889, Governor Robert S. Green reported that the work on the new portion of the State House was “rapidly approaching completion.” Despite this air of confidence, he noted that the contracts had originally called for the building to be completed by November 1, 1887. The front portion of the building was finally finished in late 1889 after a
painful series of delays, mismanagement and changed plans. It was another five years before the rotunda and dome were completed in their entirety (New Jersey Legislature, Document 1, Governor’s Message, 1889; Cohan 1969; Chalifoux 1988).

Broome’s Beaux Arts-style additions to the State House were described by the Legislative Manual of 1890 as “rectangular in shape, Renaissance in style of architecture.” The new construction came to dominate the streetscape of West State Street, measuring nearly 160 feet wide, more than 60 feet wider than the building it replaced, and drawing the new State House some 15 feet nearer to the street. The building rose three-and-a-half stories, with the redesigned rotunda, topped by a gleaming gold dome, 39 feet in diameter and 145 feet high, looming over neighboring brick buildings (Cohan 1969). The completed footprint is depicted on the Sanborn fire insurance maps of 1890 (Figure 2.12) and numerous photographs are in existence showing the West State Street façade of the State House during this phase of its evolution (Plates 2.9-2.12). These photographs show the south side of West State Street as being freshly paved and landscaped, with newly planted trees spaced evenly along the sidewalk. The street itself was surfaced in cobblestones, probably Belgian block, and traversed by at least two sets of streetcar tracks. By the 1890s, the north frontage of West State Street was almost entirely built-up with three and four-story, upscale brick row houses and many building lots had already undergone at least one phase of redevelopment. The south side of the street to the east of the State House was of a similar character, while a series of much larger, freestanding wealthier homes extended west toward Calhoun Street.

While the West State Street façade of the State House changed little during the 1890s and early years of the 20th century, several major modifications were made to other parts of the State House. In 1891, work began on both a new, larger Assembly Chamber to replace the domed structure built by Samuel Sloan in the early 1870s and also an addition to the Executive office, involving a westerly extension to the original State House. These two projects were designed and overseen by architect James Moylan, himself a Hudson County Democratic Assemblyman, a mixing of politics and building construction that was accompanied by extensive corruption in the hiring of contractors and keeping of accounts. A renewed sense of public responsibility surrounded the next construction project, the replacement of the Senate Chamber following a design by architect Arnold Moses. The new Senate building was completed on schedule in 1905, thereby removing the last remaining evidence of Samuel Sloan’s contribution to the New Jersey State House. The State House footprint, with its new Senate and Assembly chambers, and also a new and much-enlarged power house adjoining the Assembly wing to the southeast, are depicted in the Lathrop atlas of the City of Trenton, published in 1905 (Figure 2.13).

By this time, space issues once again plagued the State House Commission and in March of 1906 a request was made for $100,000 in a supplemental appropriation bill to remove the east wing of the original State House and erect in its place a building designed by George Poole, State Architect. Demolition work was undertaken quickly, and after 114 years of service, one-half of the original Doan State House was laid to waste within the space of a week. Poole’s replacement, erected in 1906-07, extended out to the Delaware Street frontage and topped out at over 93 feet. The building was also 15 feet wider than its predecessor and constructed almost entirely of fireproof materials, including stone, brick, steel beams and concrete flooring. The exterior was finished in Indiana limestone, with restrained classical lines, a heavy cornice and a rooftop balustrade. The new wing had its main entrance, framed in heavy, arching
Figure 2.13. Lathrop, J.M. *Atlas of the City of Trenton and Borough of Princeton*. 1905. Scale: 1 inch = 80 feet (approximately). Project site outlined in red.
Plate 2.9. Historic view of the New Jersey State House. *Circa* 1890-95. The view is looking southwest and shows the Broome additions to the West State Street façade of the State House, completed in 1889. Also visible at left is the modified east end of the original State House and the east end of Sloan’s Assembly Chamber, built in 1871-72. Streetcar tracks can be seen in the cobbled surface of West State Street. Source: Trentoniana Collection, Trenton Public Library.
Plate 2.10. Historic postcard view, Trenton, N.J.  *State House.*  Circa 1895-1900. The view is looking south-east and shows the Broome additions to the West State Street façade, as well as the west end of the original State House at right. 127 and 125 West State Street are visible at left and the streetcar tracks can be seen in the cobbled street surface. Source: Trentoniana Collection, Trenton Public Library.
Plate 2.11. Historic view of the south side of West State Street, just east of the New Jersey State House. *Circa* 1900-05. The view is looking southwest. From left to right are the residences at 121, 123, 125 and 127 West State Street (all demolished circa 1920 and their sites now occupied by the northern portion of Mahlon Stacy Park). The State House is set back slightly further from the street frontage and the intersection of Delaware Street and West State Street is obscured by 127 West State Street. To the right of the State House is the Green mansion at 155 West State Street, its site now occupied by the State House Annex. Source: Trentoniana Collection, Trenton Public Library.
Plate 2.12. Historic view of the New Jersey State House. *Circa* 1910. The view is looking southwest and shows the Broome additions to the West State Street façade of the State House, completed in 1889. The landscaping displays a more mature appearance with well established trees and shrubs. Source: Trentoniana Collection, Trenton Public Library.
As the official State Architect, George Poole was also the driving force behind the final set of additions to the West State Street façade of the State House, completed early in the second decade of the 20th century, that give the building its present-day appearance. It was principally his design to extend Broome’s front section of the building, completed in 1889, with wing-like appendages projecting from its eastern and western ends. These two additions, constructed in Indiana limestone to match the existing Broome structure, were built by Princeton contractor John P. Gill: the west wing in 1911-12 and the east wing in 1912-13 (Figure 2.14; Plates 2.13 and 2.14). The dimensions of the new addition were 45 by 60 feet, with special attention being given to the use of fireproof materials, particularly with regard to the vault equipment located in the basement (State House Commission Minutes 1911).

In 1911 the first contracts were awarded for construction of the 12-foot concrete river wall that framed the park on its river side and for the channelization of the lower section of Petty’s Run below the Trenton Water Power. The Water Power by this time was largely defunct as an industrial energy source and took on a new life as “Sanhican Creek,” a key landscaping component. A project closely related to the park, the establishment of the School of Industrial Arts in a new building at the corner of West State and South Willow Streets, the brainchild of Secretary of State Henry C. Kelsey, was also completed in the summer of this year. Between 1911 and 1913 the state methodically began buying up properties and arranging for the razing of buildings in the two blocks east of the State House bounded by Delaware, West State and South Willow Streets and the Water Power. Only the Old Barracks and buildings along the West State Street frontage were spared from the demolition process. In May of 1913 the State House Commission hired Charles W. Leavitt, Jr., a “civil and landscape engineer” from New York City, to draw up final landscaping plans and work commenced in earnest on the section of Mahlon Stacy Park east of the State House. The restoration of the Old Barracks, the centerpiece of this part of the park, was largely accomplished in the following year, and by 1915, aside from the acquisition and eventual removal of a half-dozen buildings along West State Street, the northeastern segment of Mahlon Stacy Park was essentially in place (Plate 2.13). The creation of the larger riverfront section of the park occurred concurrently, anchored by the construction of a new filtration plant at the Trenton Water Works in 1914 (Trenton Historical Society 1929:984-988; Hunter
Figure 2.14. Sanborn Map Company. *Insurance Maps of Trenton*. 1927. Scale: 1 inch= 110 feet (approximately). Project site outlined in red.
Plate 2.13. Historic aerial photograph of the New Jersey State House, the Old Barracks, Mahlon Stacy Park and surrounding area. Circa 1915-17. The view is looking northeast. The West State Street façade of the State House now has the west and east extensions designed by George Poole. Note that the residences on the south side of West State Street (117, 119, 121, 123, 125 and 127 West State Street) were still standing at the time this photograph was taken. Source: Farewell Mills and Gatsch Architects LLC corporate archive.
Plate 2.14. Historic view of the New Jersey State House. *Circa* 1925-28. The view is looking southeast and shows the Poole extensions to the West State Street façade of the State House. Note the stone-cobbled street surface and brick sidewalks. Source: Trentoniana Collection, Trenton Public Library.
By the early 1920s, the demand for additional office and legislative facilities within the State House was so great that the State House Commission conceded and made a call for proposals to consider both the reconfiguration of existing space and new construction. Much of the controversy revolved around the State Library and State Museum spaces, while the Court of Errors and Appeals lobbied for a meeting room near the law library. The solution adopted by the State House Commission resulted in the erection in 1922 of the State Office Building on newly acquired property to the north of West State Street. This building faced West Hanover Street, and was linked to the north façade of the State House by a park-like walkway that stepped down from Quarry (Capitol) Street to West State Street. The Sanborn fire insurance maps and contemporary photographs show the overall character of West State Street in the State House vicinity during the mid-1920s (Figure 2.14; Plate 2.14). By this time, 117-127 West State Street had been demolished, opening up the northeastern edge of the Mahlon Stacy Park to the street (State House Commission Minutes 1921; Cohan 1969; Hunter Research, Inc. 2005b).

Further relief of State House office space problems beckoned in 1928 when the cornerstone of the western portion of the State House Annex, lauded by many as the architectural superior of the State House, was set in place west of the State House. The Annex, completed in two stages, the west part in 1928, and the east part in the following year, became the new home of the courts and the State Library and Museum. Its construction necessitated the removal of the three grand 19th-century residences that had been associated with the Dayton, Vroom and Green families. The State House and its immediate environs arguably attained their peak 20th-century aesthetic appearance around this time (Figure 2.15; Plate 2.15). Two impressive architectural structures - one a fascinating agglomeration of architectural history; the other an independent Classical Revival edifice of superior quality – formed a bold and imposing presence across from Trenton’s premiere city streetscape, the 100/200 block of West State Street, encased by parkland stretching down to the Delaware River (State House Commission Minutes 1929; Franzen 1964; Cohan 1969).

During the 1950s and 1960s, yet another phase of urban redevelopment occurred in the Capitol Complex area and around the mouth of the Assunpink Creek. This involved the demolition of a number of 19th-century residences situated on the bluff rim along the south side of West State Street to make way for the cultural complex that today comprises the State Library, the State Museum, the Planetarium, the Museum Auditorium and the Education Building. In 1953, N.J. Route 29 was constructed north of Calhoun Street directly over the filled-in Water Power north to Scudders Falls. John Fitch Way south of the Assunpink was modernized and linked up with Route 29, providing a new and rapid means of access into the city from the northwest (Hunter Research, Inc. 2000).
Figure 2.15: Sanborn Map Company, *Insurance Maps of Trenton*. 1927, revised to 1955. Scale: 1 inch = 110 feet (approximately). Project site outlined in red.
Plate 2.15. Historic aerial photograph of the New Jersey State House and surrounding area. *Circa* 1930. The view is looking south and shows the recently completed State Annex to the right of the State House. Mahlon Stacy Park stretches beyond to the Delaware River. At the upper left are Sanhican Creek (formerly the Trenton Water Power) and the Trenton and Mercer County War Memorial, apparently in the early stages of construction. Source: Trentoniana Collection, Trenton Public Library.
Chapter 3

OVERVIEW OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

Archaeological monitoring of the West State Street security improvements was undertaken intermittently between February and July of 2006 and typically involved a single archaeologist periodically observing construction activity at times when ground disturbance was occurring. Most of this work was confined to the south side of the street where paving was removed from the sidewalk and the area in front of the New Jersey State House between 115 West State Street (Thomas Edison State College) and the State House Annex (Figure 3.1; Plate 3.1). Monitoring was also specifically directed at utility trenching (notably for installation of electric lines for new lighting), at excavations for the new security bollards (Plate 3.2), at excavations for the new access ramps on either side of the main entrance to the State House (Plate 3.3), and at trenches dug for storm drainage modifications. Additional monitoring was conducted along the center and in the northern half of West State Street in connection with the relocation of the water main and individual property water lines that needed to be moved to make way for the sidewalk “bump out” and bollards immediately in front of the State House.

For the most part, ground disturbance was of limited depth (two feet or less), except in areas where utility improvements and relocations were being made. Cultural deposits within the street were also largely compromised in terms of their archaeological integrity, owing to numerous resurfacings and episodes of utility installation. Archaeological finds of particular interest and importance were found in the course of relocating the water lines in the street and also beneath the sidewalk and landscaped beds immediately in front of the eastern wing of the State House. In the former case, traces of Trenton’s early water supply system were recovered and documented (see below, Chapter 4); in the latter, substantial remains of the office building of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court and a related privy were found (see below, Chapter 5). The remainder of this chapter is given over to a brief description of other minor archaeological discoveries made in the course of the monitoring work.

Trenching for installation of an electric line serving new street lights along the south side of the street between the east end of the State House and 115 West State Street exposed traces of mortared stone foundations beneath the sidewalk bordering Mahlon Stacy Park (Figure 3.2). Correlation with historic maps (e.g., Plate 2.13) indicated that these foundations represented the common wall separating the properties that were identifiable in the late 19th and early 20th centuries as 127 and 129 West State Street. The land occupied by 127 West State Street was first developed between 1808 and 1811 by Jonathan Rhea, a Revolutionary War veteran, prominent Trenton attorney and Clerk of the Supreme Court of New Jersey from 1793 until 1807. Rhea built a house which appears to have been in existence by 1811, the year in which he sold the property to Garret D. Wall, another Trenton attorney who later served as a U.S. senator. Wall, an owner of considerable property in downtown Trenton, probably maintained this building as his primary residence from 1811 until the early 1830s (Trenton Historical Society 1929:607-608; Hunter Research 1989a:Appendix A).

The adjoining lot, later identifiable as 129 West State Street, was developed around 1840, a few years after Stacy G. Potts acquired the Garret D. Wall property. Potts, a newspaper publisher and attorney, was a grandson of Stacy Potts, who had been a part-owner of the nearby steel furnace on Petty’s Run, owner of
Plate 3.1. View looking west along West State Street showing initial removal of sidewalk along the south side of the street (Photographer: Frank Dunsmore, February 2006) [HRI Neg. #05016/D1:11].
Figure 3.1. Site Plan Showing Archaeological Monitoring Zone.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Description [Interpretation]</th>
<th>Munsell</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sand with traprock [leveling deposit for sidewalk; late 20th century]</td>
<td>10YR 3/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mottled sandy loam [fill; 20th century]</td>
<td>10YR 3/4; 10YR 4/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mottled clay loam with gneiss flecking and putty [fill; 20th century]</td>
<td>10YR 4/3; 2.5Y 4/3; 2.5Y 4/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Tumbled brick [fallen wall; 20th century]</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Clayey sand with demolition debris [fill; early 20th century]</td>
<td>10YR 4/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Mortar [interior floor; mid-19th century]</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Mortared stone [west foundation wall of 127 West State Street; early 19th century]</td>
<td>10YR 7/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Sand [clean fill for West State Street utility trench; late 20th century]</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Cut for Context 8 [late 20th century]</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend:
- Cellar Floor (Mortar)
- Brick
- Stone
- Limit of Machine Excavation

Figure 3.2. Plan View and Profile of Portion of Front Section of 127 and 129 West State Street.
Plate 3.2. View looking west along West State Street showing installation of bollards and laying of new sidewalk along the south side of the street (Photographer: Frank Dunsmore, July 2006) [HRI Neg. #06024/D9:02].
Plate 3.3. View looking east along the north façade of the New Jersey State House showing excavations for the new eastern access ramp. The brick footings support the eastern extension of the West State Street façade of the State House designed by George Poole and erected in 1912-13; scales in feet (Photographer: Frank Dunsmore, March 2006) [HRI Neg. #06024/D1:60].
the paper mill at the mouth of the Assunpink, and mayor of Trenton from 1806 to 1814. Stacy G. Potts refurbished the Wall residence and erected a one-story law office adjoining to the west. The two buildings are depicted in the surround of J.C. Sidney’s wall map of Trenton published in 1849 (Figure 3.3). By 1874, the one-story law office had been replaced by (or incorporated within) a narrow, two-bay, three-story residence believed to have been erected by Caleb S. Green in the late 1860s or early 1870s (Plate 2.7). This structure and the adjoining early 19th-century residence both remained standing until around 1920 (Plates 2.11 and 2.13) (Trenton Historical Society 1929:611-612; Hunter Research 1989a:Appendix A).

The stone foundation observed during archaeological monitoring, if correctly identified as the common wall between 127 and 129 West State Street, may therefore date from *circa* 1810. The mortar floor on the west side of the foundation probably dates from around 1870, or possibly from around 1840 (Figure 3.2, Contexts 6 and 7).

Monitoring of another segment of electric utility trench that extended east-west immediately in front of the State House (connecting to a new street light positioned in front of the east wing of the building) encountered considerable quantities of late 19th-century ceramic waste (Figure 3.1). This material was also found sporadically scattered across the area in front of the east wing of the State House and above the site of the office building of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court. It includes both wasters (i.e., misfired pottery products) and items of kiln furniture, such as saggars, spurs, saddles/pins and wads (Appendix B). These artifacts are derived from industrial potteries that were active in the city in the final quarter of the 19th century. From the recovery of pieces bearing telltale makers’ marks, three specific potteries are identifiable as sources of this material: the International Pottery (recognizable from the Burgess and Campbell makers’ mark that came into use in 1879); the Star Pottery (in operation in the late 1880s); and the Cook & Hancock Pottery, identifiable through marks used between 1881 and 1892 (Hunter Research, Inc. 1999b). A particular concentration of Cook & Hancock material was recovered from the above-mentioned utility trench. All of this material is though to have been deposited in the course of grading and landscaping operations in front of the State House in the late 1880s and early 1890s following the rebuilding after the fire of 1885. Ceramic waste provides an excellent solid base for constructing landscape features and sidewalks and is found in profusion as a fill deposit all across the city.

The relocation of the water main along West State Street involved trenching for a new line along a more northerly alignment and reattachment of individual property water lines on the north side of the street. This work resulted in the removal of a previously abandoned historic water main (discussed further in Chapter 4), but archaeological monitoring otherwise showed the sequence of roadbed deposits beneath the modern street surface to date largely from the 20th century (Figure 3.4). No intact cobblestone surfacing or evidence of street car tracks was observed, and only the basal layer of sandy clay with pieces of clay and stone was thought likely to date from the 19th century. Excavations for the new water line encountered the top of the arched stone masonry span of the West State Street bridge over Petty’s Run. The remains of this buried bridge, originally built in the late 1780s or early 1790s, were left intact.

Finally, at the eastern end of the project site, trenching undertaken for storm drainage modifications resulted in a long, roughly four-foot-deep cut along the south side of West State Street, also in the vicinity of Petty’s Run. This trenching exposed, but did not pierce, the brick masonry arch which forms the roof of the Petty’s Run culvert (Plate 3.4). This arch, believed to date
from the late 1860s or early 1870s, extends south from
the buried stone-arched bridge that carries West State
Street over Petty’s Run (Hunter Research, Inc. 1989a:
Plate 5.29). The storm drainage tie-in to Petty’s Run
made use of a pre-existing terracotta pipe that drained
into Petty’s Run.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Description [Interpretation]</th>
<th>Munsell</th>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Description [Interpretation]</th>
<th>Munsell</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Stone curbing [late 20th century]</td>
<td>10YR 4/6</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Sandy silty loam [fill; late 20th century]</td>
<td>10YR 4/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sand [bedding for sidewalk; late 20th century]</td>
<td>2.5Y 5/1</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Sand [fill; late 20th century]</td>
<td>2.5Y 6/6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sandy silt [redeposited B horizon; 20th century]</td>
<td>10YR 4/4</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Concrete with rebar [late 20th century]</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Sandy silt [buried A horizon; ?18th/19th century]</td>
<td>10YR 3/2</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Sandy silty loam [fill; late 20th century]</td>
<td>10YR 4/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Mottled sand with large stone [water utility excavation/repair; 1960s]</td>
<td>10YR 4/3; 10YR 4/6</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Cut for Context 23 [late 20th century]</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Concrete [gutter; late 20th century]</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Sand [clean fill for 10&quot; water main; late 20th century]</td>
<td>2.5Y 7/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Concrete road bed [late 20th century]</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Spun iron pipe [modern 10&quot; water main; late 20th century]</td>
<td>10YR 4/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Sandy silty loam with cobble and stone [fill; 20th century]</td>
<td>10YR 3/3</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Sandy silty clay [fill; 20th century]</td>
<td>7.5Y 4/6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Cut for Context 8 [late 20th century]</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>Sandy silty loam [fill; 20th century]</td>
<td>10YR 4/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Sandy loam [?B horizon]</td>
<td>10YR 3/3</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>Cut for utility trench [2006]</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Decayed mica schist [?19th/20th century]</td>
<td>--</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Concrete with rebar [late 20th century]</td>
<td>--</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 3.4. Representative Cross Section across Northern Half of Street at 122 West State Street.
Figure 3.3. View of House and Law Office of Stacy G. Potts. Included in Sidney, J. *Map of the City of Trenton*. 1849.
Plate 3.4. View looking west along West State showing trenching for new water line installation in the vicinity of Petty’s Run. The broken terracotta pipe in the center originally gave access to the Petty’s Run culvert. The arched roof of the culvert runs from left to right immediately beyond this pipe. The brick pier in the left foreground may have defined a vaulted underground space beneath the sidewalk in front of 117 West State Street; scales in feet (Photographer: Frank Dunsmore, April 2006) [HRI Neg. #05016/D3:04].
Chapter 4

WEST STATE STREET WATER MAIN

A. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In the 1790s growing public concern over the quality of water in urban communities and the realization that a link likely existed between recent yellow fever epidemics and polluted water (most notably in Philadelphia) caused many towns and cities along the eastern seaboard to experiment with and develop controlled, piped water supply systems. Trenton was in the vanguard of this movement. Indeed, in the first decade of the 19th century, as Benjamin Latrobe was struggling to establish the first waterworks in Philadelphia, Trenton was taking the first steps toward putting in place its own network of water pipes using a gravity-fed supply from local springs (Podmore 1930-31; Cotter et al. 1992:54-55).

Prior to 1800, Trenton citizens, like most urban dwellers, drew fresh groundwater from wells and springs, and gathered rainwater in cisterns. A public well existed on Warren Street, but by the turn of the 19th century this was beginning to run dry, presumably from over-use by a growing population. Early in the first quarter of the 19th century, springs were ranged along the Assunpink Creek, with a particularly abundant one being located between Front and Lafayette Streets near Broad Street, from which water was reportedly piped across the Assunpink to the Hall and Ewing distillery. However, it was Petty’s Run that was developed as the source of Trenton’s first water supply system. The headwaters of this relatively minor drainage, two to three miles in length, lay to the north and northwest of the town center and fed several different branches. The main stem of the creek, downstream, was well established in the colonial period as a power source for mills behind the Barracks and as a source of water for tanning in the area to the west of King (Warren) Street near Hanover Street. Just upstream from this latter location, however, near the present-day intersection of Pennington Avenue and North Willow Street, a cluster of springs offered the prospect of an easily accessible and steady supply of water that could be distributed down into the core of the community (Podmore 1930 [August]:14).

In 1801, Stephen Scales, who lived near the junction of Pennington Avenue and North Willow Streets close to Petty’s Run, petitioned the state legislature for the right to convey water through the city streets from a spring to which he had water rights on land owned by Richard Way Furman. Although two counter-petitions were presented in November of 1801 by water-using interests downstream along Petty’s Run, Scales prevailed. On December 3, the state legislature passed an “An Act to authorize Stephen Scales to convey the Water from his Spring, through the several Streets of the City of Trenton.” The act gave him authority to route water “through any lots through which it may be necessary for it to pass in its way to the streets of the said city” and to build the necessary infrastructure, subject to agreements reached with affected property owners and with provisions for compensation for damages. In recognition of Scales’ opponents, the act also required:

“...That the said Stephen Scales, his heirs or assigns, shall not take or make use of any water whatever, but such as shall originate or rise from his spring, or upon his said lot, so as aforesaid purchased, but shall permit and suffer all the water, not originating or rising upon his said lot, or from his spring, freely and uninterruptedly to pass, for the use of the tan yards on the stream made thereby” (The Charter of the Trenton Water Works 1841).
Scales did not have the means to implement his plans for providing water to the city. In September of 1802 he assigned his contract with Furman, the landowner, to a newly formed company, which within a few days secured title to the land containing the spring. The company was initially capitalized at $1,200 with 60 shares being issued, valued at $20 each. There were 25 original shareholders, among whom were such city notables as Abraham Hunt and James Ewing. Scales himself held only one share. The company formally incorporated on February 29, 1804 as “The President and Directors of the Trenton Water Works.” Soon thereafter, a fountain was constructed at the springhead to supply water to the system of pipes that began to be laid in the principal streets of the town. The route of the water main from the spring into town was eastward to Warren Street and then south down Warren Street toward the Assumpink with branch mains extending east and west along streets such as Hanover, Second (West State) and Front. Broad Street was also presumably fed from the upper end of town, perhaps via Hanover Street. The pipes took the form of “water logs” – rough-hewn tree trunks that were drilled by hand auger to produce a three- to four-inch bore through which the water flowed. The documentary record remains silent on the type of wood used and the manner in which the pipes were fastened together. One of Stephen Scales’ neighbors, William Closson, a pump maker by trade, evidently played a major role helping Scales in making and laying the pipes (Trenton Historical Society 1929:370-371; Podmore 1930 [September]:23-24; [November]:18-19).

The first three years of operation were reasonably successful. Included among the early customers were the Trenton Banking Company, whose offices were in the old Hunterdon County Courthouse on South Warren Street between East State and East Front Streets, and the Masonic Lodge, located in the southeast angle of South Willow (Barrack) and West Front Streets. It is unclear if the New Jersey State House tapped into the Trenton Water Works at this early date. However, there were difficulties in maintaining a steady supply. Sometime around 1805, efforts at removing a blockage in the system involved taking out a plug under the Warren Street bridge over Petty’s Run, but this did little to improve the flow and still did not prevent the water backing up at the fountain. Scales’ lack of success at tracing the obstruction in the pipes may have resulted in his losing the contract to continue laying new pipes. Other complaints from customers concerned the unsuitability of the water for drinking - its tepid character in the summer months, its tendency to freeze in midwinter – and the fact that users were charged for a whole year’s supply without any adjustment in the fees for breaks in service (Podmore 1930 [November]:18-19; [December]:23-24; 1931 [January]:9-10).

In 1810 a second water company was organized, promising a better product and quality of service. William Closson played a key role again, not only agreeing to supply the infrastructure, but also providing the land with the necessary spring, which happened to lie adjacent to the Trenton Water Works facility. Capitalized at $2,000 with 100 shares issued at $20 apiece, the company quickly attracted some 71 subscribers and in the fall of 1810 presented a petition to the state legislature to incorporate the Proprietors of the Trenton Aqueduct Company. The Trenton Aqueduct Company was duly incorporated in February of the following year, despite the protests of the Trenton Water Works and the industrial water users downstream along Petty’s Run. In April, in response no doubt to the competition, the latter company declared its first dividend of $3 a share (Trenton Historical Society 1929:371; Podmore 1930 [December]:23-24).

Beginning in 1811, there ensued a decade or so of intense rivalry between the two water companies. Both draw water from springs along the same section of Petty’s Run; both maintained small reservoirs at the fountainhead; and both ran pipes along many...
of the same streets. Unfortunately for the citizens of Trenton, although the competition led to some lowering of rates, the draw of two separate water companies on the Petty’s Run springs only strained the supply. The city, in essence, could not support two independent systems. The Trenton Water Works made overtures to the Trenton Aqueduct Company to merge, but was rebuffed. The older company then proceeded, around 1820, to upgrade its facilities. The old mains were dug up and replaced with new yellow pine water logs connected by cast-iron couplings. Lead piping was installed to connect the mains to individual properties, with brass ferrules and stop-cocks being used to reduce waste and control the flow of water. These improvements gave the edge to the Trenton Water Works, which finally succeeded in absorbing the Trenton Aqueduct Company over the summer of 1821 (Trenton Historical Society 1929:371; Podmore 1931 [January]:9-10; [February]:24).

Through the 1820s and 1830s the consolidated water companies, operating under the name of the Trenton Water Works Company, and the improved system of water logs with iron and brass hardware and lead pipes provided a relatively stable supply of water to the community. Problems persisted with frozen pipes in the winter, however, in part because they had not been laid deep enough in the ground. In 1839, it was resolved to substitute the water logs with cast iron pipes, a task that continued through the early 1840s. During this same period, two ventures were started with the goal of distributing a supply of water through the rapidly expanding neighborhoods of Mill Hill and Bloomsbury that lay south of the Assunpink Creek in South Trenton. In 1839, the Trenton Gas and Insurance Company, incorporated in the previous year, was granted the rights to erect a reservoir and lay pipes for this purpose. The project never materialized. In 1848, the Trenton and South Trenton Aqueduct Company was incorporated with much the same goal and was granted the right to draw water from either the Assunpink below the milldam at South Broad Street or from the Delaware River. This company also seems never to have implemented its plans (Trenton Historical Society 1929:371-372; Podmore 1931 [March]:17-18).

Through the 1840s the Trenton Water Works Company struggled to keep pace with the expanding demand for water in the city and it became increasingly obvious that the springs and reservoirs along Petty’s Run were inadequate for the job. They could barely supply the downtown area north of the Assunpink, let alone the communities south of the Assunpink and the northward expansion of the city along the transportation corridor containing the Delaware and Raritan Canal and the Trenton to New Brunswick branch line of the Camden and Amboy Railroad. Following a management shake-up in 1850, the Trenton Water Works Company received authorization from the state legislature in 1852 to draw water directly from the Delaware River. Additional capital stock was issued and the company embarked upon a major infrastructure project that radically changed how the city gathered its water, at the same time laying the basis for the modern supply system. A small stone pump house was built on the banks of the Delaware River, just below the Calhoun Street bridge, at a cost of $3,000. Powered by the Trenton Water Power, this facility was designed to pump up to 600,000 gallons of water a day from the Delaware up to a new reservoir built just north of the original Petty’s Run spring. The reservoir, 12 feet deep and with a capacity of 1,414,082 gallons, was the first of what ultimately became a series of four basins. At 4:00 p.m. on April 29, 1853 the new system was formally inaugurated and put into service amid great fanfare (Trenton Historical Society 1929:372-373; Podmore 1931 [April]:19-20).

Droughts and uneven supply from the Trenton Water Power in the early 1850s prevented the new system from reaching full capacity and the original springs were kept in operation until about 1855. In September of this year, the reservoir was expanded through
the addition of a new basin. In 1856-57, following a harsh winter and persistent problems with frozen pipes, a major overhaul of the mains was commenced, with new and replacement pipes required to be laid at a depth of six feet, well below the frost line. In 1858, following spring municipal elections in which public ownership of the water supply system was a hotly contested issue, the Trenton Water Works Company was finally acquired by the City of Trenton, a move that had first been mooted, but rejected, back in 1852. The city paid the company $88,000 in cash with an additional $12,000 being retained by individual stockholders who were unwilling to sell (these private interests were eventually also bought out by the city). The system functioned adequately through the 1860s and 1870s despite occasional setbacks. A frozen Delaware River in January of 1864 shut down the pump engine, depleting the reservoir to dangerous levels and causing the original springs to be drawn upon one final time with the help of a portable steam engine. In response, a new pump and pump house were opened on January 1, 1865 and soon after new lines were laid from the river to the reservoir. In 1871 the reservoir experienced one more phase of enlargement and the pump house facilities were upgraded yet again. In August of 1874, there was a break in one of the reservoir basins, which resulted in flooding along Petty’s Run and in the western part of the downtown. No loss of life occurred and repairs were made at a cost of $1,000 (Trenton Historical Society 1929:373-374; Podmore 1931 [April]:19-20; [May]:19-20).

The water supply system continued to be maintained and periodically upgraded throughout the final quarter of the 19th century. Following enactment of public works legislation in 1892 the riverbank pumping facilities were greatly expanded. A new river wall was built and a triple compound engine with a pumping capacity of ten million gallons a day was installed in tandem with a new boiler house and electric light plant. These improvements were brought on line in 1896, the same year that land was acquired for a new reservoir at the corner of Pennington Avenue and Prospect Street. This new basin was completed in 1899, replacing the old reservoir, which a decade later was reconfigured as a recreational facility that came to be known as “the Stadium.” In 1906 a high-pressure station and standpipe were erected at the new reservoir. In 1914, the Trenton Water Works erected a large brick filtration plant on the northwest side of the Calhoun Street bridge. This project was implemented at the same time that Mahlon Stacy Park was created along the left bank of the Delaware between the mouth of the Assunpink and the “Island” neighborhood. In 1955, a new filtration plant was constructed over the top of the more southerly of the two Water Power/Sanhican Creek spillways. This plant was expanded in the 1960s and again in the 1990s to facilitate the addition of a dewatering plant (Trenton Historical Society 1929:374; Podmore 1931 [August]:18-19).

B. ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDINGS

As noted in Chapter 3, the New Jersey State House security improvements project also included a cooperative action with the City of Trenton that involved the installation of a new water main along West State Street. This action was precipitated by the enlargement of the sidewalk area in front of the State House. The new water line thus pursued a more northerly alignment in the street; the pre-existing water line was disconnected, but left in place (see above, Figure 3.1). During the course of the trenching for the new water line, chiefly in the area directly in front of the main entrance to the State House and to the west along the street, a series of water logs and related iron hardware from an earlier and previously abandoned water main were encountered (Plate 4.1). At the request of the archaeological monitor several lengths of water log were salvaged for closer inspection and analysis. At the time of writing, four of these logs are stored in the State House power house building and...
Figure 4.1. Reconstructed View of Water Logs Recovered from West State Street Showing Their Means of Attachment.
Plate 4.2. View of water logs retrieved from West State Street (in storage in the Power House of the New Jersey State House). Some logs had splayed ends like this example; others were sawn (Photographer: Michael Murphy, February 2007) [HRI Neg. #06035/D1:10].
Plate 4.3. Water logs from West State Street. *Top [upper left]:* side view showing impression of one-inch cast-iron band on end of log; *[upper right]:* end view of same log showing cross section. *Bottom [left to right]:* end view of two logs showing cross sections; wood sample cut for species identification and dendrochronological analysis (Photographer: Michael Murphy, February 2006) [HRI Neg. #06035/D2:03].
Plate 4.4. Side and end views of cast-iron couplings for water logs from West State Street. Note in the side views the lengthwise seam indicates fabrication using a two-piece mold. The four-inch-wide band of rust in the center of both couplings is the result of this part of the coupling being exposed to the surrounding soil rather than encased within the ends of the two water logs being connected (Photographer: Michael Murphy, February 2006) [HRI Neg. #06035/D2:02].
Plate 4.5. Three one-inch-wide, 12-inch-diameter wrought-iron bands used to seal the ends of the water logs and prevent them from splaying (Photographer: Michael Murphy, February 2006) [HRI Neg. #06035/D2:01].
fifth is in the possession of Hunter Research, stored in the garage to the rear of 122 West State Street. Several cast-iron couplings and wrought-iron bands were also retained and are currently in the Hunter Research laboratory at 120 West State Street.

The water logs ranged between ten and 12 feet in length, were roughly a foot in external diameter, and all appeared to have a 3.5-inch bore (owing to deterioration of the wood measurements of the bore ranged between three and four inches). Some of the logs still retained their bark, and the trunk ends of limbs that had been removed were still visible in places. Most of the logs had sawn ends, although in some cases some ends were also roughly splayed, probably a function of a tree of marginal length being selected and cut with the upper part of its root structure left intact (Plate 4.2). On the specimens with better preserved sawn ends, “ghosting” from the one-inch-wide wrought-iron bands could be seen (Plate 4.3).

A sample of one of the water logs was submitted for dendrochronological analysis and species identification (Plate 4.3). The initial feedback indicated that the log in question was juniper, a species for which no dendrochronological reference material has been compiled. However, questions have been raised concerning the species identification and there remains the possibility that this log may have been white cedar or yellow or white pine. The results of analysis of a second water log sample by the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory Tree-Ring Laboratory and Dr. Richard Veit of Monmouth University are currently awaited.

In addition to the cast-iron couplings, three wrought-iron bands, each roughly a foot in internal diameter, were recovered (Plate 4.5). These bands ranged between one inch and 1.25 inches in width and were closed (possibly on site) with a piece of hammered and soldered metal. From the ghosting on the ends of some of the logs, it is clear these bands were slipped sleeve-like over the ends of the logs and were intended to hold the logs ends from splaying, the couplings from working loose and leakage of water (Figure 4.1).

C. DISCUSSION

On many occasions over past decades, sections of Trenton’s historic water supply system have been unearthed during the course of construction projects, most often during roadway or utility improvements. Several specimens may be seen on display in the Trentoniana collection of the Trenton Free Public Library, where there are also numerous newspaper clippings in the library’s bound volumes and vertical files reporting the circumstances of such finds. The finds from West State Street are therefore not especially rare, but the current project has nevertheless provided a useful opportunity to study them in greater detail.
The water log, cast-iron coupling and wrought-iron band specimens in question are of uncertain date, although they certainly were installed in the street no earlier than 1801 and no later than 1839. They are perhaps most likely to date from around 1820 and may be evidence of the upgrade carried out around that time by the Trenton Water Works Company at the peak of its rivalry with the competing Trenton Aqueduct Company. This dating is supported in large part by the fact that these improvements involved the introduction of cast-iron couplings for the first time (see above). Unfortunately, no clear documentary references have been found to indicate when the State House block of West State Street was first furnished with piped water. It also remains unknown when the State House first availed itself of city water, although this presumably occurred at some point in the first half of the 19th century.

Uncertainty still surrounds the actual wood species of the water logs, with juniper, white cedar, yellow pine or white pine being the most likely candidates. Dendrochronological analysis of an initial wood sample was unsuccessful, although the results from a second sample submitted for tree ring dating and species identification are still outstanding. The quality of the trees used for the water logs left something to be desired. Several of the logs were twisted, of irregular diameter and with splayed ends, perhaps suggesting that sources of good trees suitable for water pipe manufacture were dwindling.

The cast-iron couplings, on the other hand, are finely made and of uniform fabrication. Presumably these were manufactured according to specifications by a foundry under contract to the water company. Such foundries would have existed in Philadelphia and other larger towns (none are thought to have been active in Trenton at this time), but perhaps a more likely manufactory would have been one of the many bog iron processing sites in South Jersey, such as the Allaire, Atsion, Batsto, Etna or Martha furnaces (Boyer 1931; Pierce 1957). The wrought-iron bands were probably supplied by one of Trenton’s numerous local blacksmiths.

D. RECOMMENDATIONS

The few samples of Trenton’s early water supply structure recovered from West State Street are of some local historical interest. They may be considered minor contributing elements to the historical significance of the State House Historic District.

It is not felt necessary to retain all the recovered water logs for posterity. By far the best preserved specimen is held by Hunter Research, although this has already been compromised by the slicing off of two samples for dendrochronological analysis and species identification. In this consultant’s view, it would be appropriate to retain a three-foot-long segment of this water log, including its one surviving original end. The logs stored in the State House power house can be discarded. The two cast-iron couplings and three wrought-iron bands, far more portable and less prone to deterioration, should be retained.

Discussions were held with several institutions and potential repositories concerning the final disposition of the water log sample, couplings and bands. Three repositories were identified as possible final resting places for these artifacts: the New Jersey State Museum; the Trenton Free Pubic Library; and the Meredith Havens Fire Museum.

The New Jersey State Museum has indicated a willingness to accept the artifacts in question, subject to this institution’s storage and conservation requirements. While the discovery of these items resulted from a state construction project that was subject to regulatory oversight by the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office (whose involvement ultimately required that archaeological monitoring
take place, thus ensuring the recovery of the artifacts), their historical connection is much stronger to the City of Trenton than to the State of New Jersey. Furthermore, these artifacts were recovered from the street itself, which is under City of Trenton, not State of New Jersey, ownership. On this basis, it is recommended that the New Jersey State Museum be considered as a back-up repository in the event no suitable city entity can be found.

The Trenton Free Public Library already has items of city water supply infrastructure on informal display in the Trentoniana room, including two small sections of water log, a coupling and two bands. These artifacts, minimally conserved and open to handling by library patrons, are of a similar character to the West State Street specimens. Since the library already has comparable materials and does not display them under museum conditions, this facility is considered somewhat less compelling as a candidate final repository.

The preferred repository for these artifacts is the Meredith Havens Fire Museum on Perry Street in downtown Trenton. Founded as the Trenton Fire Museum in 1959, and re-opened in 2004 in a much expanded facility in the renovated fire station next door to the new Trenton fire headquarters, this repository has charge of a large and growing collection of Trenton fire-related memorabilia appealingly presented on the ground floor of an architecturally significant firehouse. Discussions in recent weeks with Dennis Keenan, Fire Director of the City of Trenton, have revealed that the Meredith Havens Fire Museum, not unexpectedly, has an intense interest in receiving these items, where they would be appropriately displayed and interpreted. A letter from Mr. Keenan indicating this interest is included as Appendix C.

A condition of these artifacts being accepted by either the Meredith Havens Fire Museum or the New Jersey State Museum is that they be stabilized and conserved to prevent their gradual deterioration. Preliminary estimates of the cost to conserve these materials are in the range of $1,000 to $1,500.
Chapter 5
THE OFFICES OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
AND THE CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT

A. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Trenton was officially established as the seat of state government by an act of the legislature passed on November 25, 1790 (New Jersey Legislature, Votes of the Assembly 1791-1794). In November of the following year additional bills passed in both the Assembly and the Council (the forerunner of the Senate) intending “to provide suitable buildings for the accommodation of the Legislature and public offices of the State.” Seven commissioners were also duly appointed to purchase or accept land for the site of a capitol building with authority to draw up to £1,500 from the Treasury to further the establishment of the new seat of government. In January and February of 1792 five lots totaling 3.75 acres were acquired by the commissioners on the south side of Second (West State) Street for £240-5s (Figure 5.1). On this property would soon rise the first manifestation of the New Jersey State House and the first public offices of state government (Records of the Secretary of State, November 16, 1791; Raum 1871:311-312; Cohan 1969).

As early as August 1791, even before the land comprising the State House lot had been formally acquired, the basic specifications began to be developed for the main State House building by Maskell Ewing, one of the State House commissioners. Shortly thereafter, Jonathan Doan, a master builder from Bucks County, was selected to design and build this edifice. The State House was largely constructed over the spring, summer and fall of 1792 and opened for legislative business on October 29 of that year. Work continued on the building and surrounding grounds throughout the 1790s (Maskell Ewing Papers; Cohan 1969).

The need for office space in support of the workings of state government was evident from the outset. In particular, a building was urgently needed to house the offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court and for the storage of public records. Accordingly, on March 4, 1795, the legislature passed An Act for the removal of the Secretary’s Office, and for the Preservation of the public Records of the State of New Jersey (Acts of the Nineteenth General Assembly of the State of New-Jersey 1795: Chapter DXXVIII). The first two items of this six-part legislation authorized the sale of the properties housing the existing offices of the Secretary of State in Burlington and Perth Amboy (excluding the “iron doors” at each office), appointed a commissioner to handle each of these transactions, required that the proceeds be paid into the State Treasury, and established the amount of compensation due each commissioner.

The third item in the act laid out some basic specifications for a new office building in Trenton, as follows:

“3. And be it further enacted, That the commissioner herein last named shall cause to be erected a convenient house for the office of the secretary of the state, and office of the clerk of the supreme court, and for the preservation of the public records of the state, at or near the northeast corner of the state-house lot in Trenton, adjoining the street leading from the market-house in Trenton aforesaid to Beatty’s ferry; the house to be one story of about twelve feet height, and twenty-eight feet wide by forty-six in length, with three rooms for each office, one of which, in each office, of about eight feet wide, extending across the middle
Figure 5.1. Nevius, J.G. Appendix Title to State Capitol Grounds. 1906.
of the building, to be arched over, paved with brick or flagstone, and made fire proof, and to have iron doors, in each of which there shall be proper cases for the depositing the records and other papers of the respective offices; the other rooms to have fire places; the front room in each office to be twelve feet wide by fifteen long, and the back rooms in each office to be nine feet by twelve, with cellars under the two end rooms, to contain wood for their use."

The fourth item of the authorizing legislation appointed the two commissioners for selling the Burlington and Perth Amboy properties of the Secretary of State and named a third commissioner, Benjamin Smith, to oversee the construction of the new office building in Trenton. Smith was authorized to draw up to £600 from the State Treasury for the purpose of building the new office and was permitted a 5% commission “on the amount of all monies laid out by him in pursuance of this act.” Item 5 of the act ordered the new office to be erected “as soon as conveniently may be” and required the records of the Secretary of State (by this time all held in Burlington) and the Clerk of the Supreme Court to be moved to Trenton when the building was ready. Item 6 held the commissioners accountable to the legislature for “the monies they shall respectively receive or lay out” by direction of the act.

Benjamin Smith, a harness maker by trade and a prominent local Quaker landowner, was also Trenton’s first city clerk. He was functioning in this latter capacity at the same time that the offices for the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court were being built (Raum 1871:313, 370, 394, 396; Trenton Historical Society 1929:110, 354). Although no accounts survive for the early stages of construction of the new office building, it is assumed that the project got under way soon after its authorization. Smith retained Jonathan Doan as designer and master builder, a logical choice in view of his ongoing involvement with the construction of the State House. Based on the date of subsequent archival materials discussed below, it would seem that much of the construction - the laying up of masonry, the timber framing, and the roof, walls, floors, doors and windows - was largely complete by the late fall of 1795.

On November 18, 1795 a cost estimate of £135-3s-2d was prepared for “the probable expence of finishing the secretaries Office & Office for the Clerk of the Supreme Court” (Legislature, Papers Relating to the New Jersey State House, Box 1, 1789-1797). Among the tasks that still remained to be done at this point were: plastering of the interior (“plastering the inside complete”), arches and jambs; the laying of four hearths; the installation of door locks; carpentry work (“enclosure of shelves”); painting the roof, windows, doors and interior; and “plastering or rough casting the outside.”

Over the course of the following year, the construction of the office building was brought to completion. Ultimately, on November 4, 1796, a committee of both chambers of the legislature met to review Benjamin Smith’s accounts and verified that he had spent £310-9s-11d “in finishing the said offices.” The committee noted that Smith had previously received £120 from the State Treasurer and had sold “sundry articles belonging to the State” to the value of £20-12s-9d, meaning that he was owed a balance of £169-17s-2d (Papers Relating to the New Jersey State House, Box 1, 1789-1797, Bill #7, November 4, 1796).

Benjamin Smith’s account “for Building the Secretaries Office and Office for the Clerk of the Supreme Court” for the period December 2, 1795 through November 2, 1796 still survives (Plate 5.1), as do all but two of the 35 receipts provided to Smith by the various vendors working on the office building (Papers Relating to the New Jersey State House, Box 1, 1789-1797). This
information is summarized in Table 5.1 and gives a detailed picture of the tasks involved in finishing off the office building construction project.

From the tasks billed to the project in December 1795 and January 1796 it is clear that the construction was well advanced and the basic form of the building was in existence. In December John Anson disassembled the scaffolding and Dinah Tucker cleaned and scrubbed the Secretary’s office; in January Thomas Ryall, a mason, was doing plastering and paving and working on the fireplaces and hearths. A receipt from Ryall in late January references plastering of a partition wall “in the secretaries office that Col. Beatty occupies.” Evidently, Colonel John Beatty, New Jersey’s first Secretary of State from 1795 until 1805, was close to, if not already, installed in his new office by this date (Trenton Historical Society 1929:640-641).

Work continued on both the interior and exterior of the building through the winter, spring and summer months of 1796, with final glazing and painting work and the hanging of shutters apparently being conducted in October. Receipts from Randle Rickey and Alexander Chambers, Jr. in the latter month reference the purchase of pigments (white and red lead, verdigris, Spanish brown and lamp black) and other supplies presumably used in mixing paints for the wall coverings and trim. Maskell Ewing, one of the original seven State House commissioners, arranged for the rental of a ladder from the Union Fire Company, an item probably used to facilitate the painting work. The final receipt listed in Benjamin Smith’s accounts, dated November 2, 1796, is for “Painting 49 letters over the doors,” which no doubt identified the full names and titles of the office holders (Colonel John Beatty being the Secretary of State and Jonathan Rhea being the Clerk of the Supreme Court [Trenton Historical Society 1929:607-608]).

Jonathan Doan’s role as master builder is clearly reflected in Benjamin Smith’s accounts. Doan presented one receipt for £90-12s-7d, easily the single largest amount reimbursed by Smith for the finishing work at the offices (Plate 5.2). The detail of this receipt, paid by Smith on March 21, 1796, shows Doan paying a series of workers (James Monjoy, William Muir, Copperthwait Kimmings and Benjamin Drake) by the day for “carpenter work and other services” between November 17, 1795 and February 16, 1796. Monjoy and Muir were mostly paid at the rate of eight shillings and three pence a day; Kimmings and Drake earned the slightly lesser daily amount of seven shillings and sixpence. A six-day work week was the norm. In addition to his daily labor costs, Doan was also charging for specific carpentered items, such as semicircular sashes (perhaps for above the entrance doors) and two long desks, a table and a “box to carry out ashes” for each of the two offices, and for specific tasks, such as washing shelves and windows and scrubbing floors. The penultimate receipt in Smith’s accounts, dated October 29, 1796, was also from Doan, for 15 shillings setting a post at the corner (perhaps a sign at the corner of Delaware and Second Streets), installing cellar doors and putting iron locks on the windows.

After Doan, the vendors proffering the largest receipts to Smith for payment were Thomas Ryall (four receipts totaling £41-13s-4d), Joseph Milner (three receipts, £39-18s-10d), John Johnston (one receipt, £33-16s-3d), William Rippon (one receipt, £16-15s-6d), Abraham Hunt (one receipt, £11-13s-7d), Alexander Chambers, Jr. (one receipt, £11-2s-9d) and Joseph and Randle Rickey (four receipts, £21-10s-8d). Ryall and Johnston were both masons, the former working on the interior and the latter responsible for stuccoing the exterior. Their extensive services help establish that the building was of masonry (almost certainly local stone) construction. Milner, Rippon, Hunt, Chambers and the Rickeys were all local merchants providing supplies to the building.
Plate 5.1. The State of New Jersey in Account with Benjamin Smith Commissioner for Building the Secretaries Office and Office for the Clerk of the Supreme Court (December 2, 1795-November 4, 1796). Source: New Jersey State Archives (New Jersey Department of State), Legislature: Papers Relating to the New Jersey State House, Box 1, 1789-1797.
Benjamin Smith Esq. To Jonathan Duan [debit] for Carpenter work and other services at building Secretary and Clerks Office

1795
November 4th, 6 Days work James Monjoj 2/3 - £ 2 = 9 = 6
11th 6 To William Muir 2/3 - £ 2 = 9 = 6
12th 6 To William Muir 2/3 - £ 2 = 9 = 6
21st 5½ To James Monjoj 2/3 - £ 2 = 5 = 3
28th 5 To James Monjoj 2/3 - £ 2 = 1 = 3
December 5th 6 To William Muir 2/3 - £ 2 = 5 = 3
6th 2 To William Muir 2/3 - £ 2 = 1 = 3
7th To James Monjoj 2/3 - £ 2 = 1 = 3
To James Monjoj 2/3 - £ 2 = 1 = 3
To William Muir 2/3 - £ 2 = 1 = 3
To James Monjoj 2/3 - £ 2 = 1 = 3
1796 January 2 2 Days work and attending the building 1 = 10 = 0
9th 6 To James Monjoj 2/3 - £ 2 = 9 = 6
16th 6 To William Muir 2/3 - £ 2 = 9 = 6
23rd 6 To James Monjoj 2/3 - £ 2 = 9 = 6
30th 6 To William Muir 2/3 - £ 2 = 9 = 6
1st To Copperth rust & Kimmins 3 1/6 £ 1 = 13 = 9
February 4th 6 To Benjamin Drake 3 1/6 £ 1 = 9 = 6
6 To James Monjoj 2/3 - £ 2 = 9 = 6
6 To William Muir 2/3 - £ 2 = 9 = 6
6 To Benjamin Drake 3 1/6 £ 1 = 9 = 6
Carried forward £ 68 = 18 = 11
Benjamin Smith Esq. To Jonathan Doan [debit] for Carpenter work and other services at building Secretary and Clerks office (November 7, 1795-February 18, 1796 [Bill No. 34]). Source: New Jersey State Archives (New Jersey Department of State), Legislature: Papers Relating to the New Jersey State

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill #</th>
<th>Date Paid</th>
<th>Vendor</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Item/Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>12-2-1795</td>
<td>William Chadwick</td>
<td>1-13s-0d</td>
<td>Labor (unspecified); 2.75 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>12-9-1795</td>
<td>Joseph Milner</td>
<td>11-5s-0d</td>
<td>Lime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>12-12-1795</td>
<td>John Anson</td>
<td>0-7s-6d</td>
<td>Taking down scaffold poles and “filling up the holes”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>12-22-1795</td>
<td>Dinah Tucker</td>
<td>0-9s-0d</td>
<td>Cleaning and scrubbing Secretary’s office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1-4-1796</td>
<td>Thomas Ryall</td>
<td>39-11s-6d</td>
<td>Plastering, delivering water, “turning 4 arches for fireplaces &amp; laying hearths, paving arches, laying cellar door jambs, sand, hair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>1-7-1796</td>
<td>Joseph Milner</td>
<td>12-17s-3d</td>
<td>White pine boards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>1-20-1796</td>
<td>William Betterley</td>
<td>0-3s-9d</td>
<td>Painting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>1-24-1796</td>
<td>Betts &amp; Parmele</td>
<td>1-3s-5d</td>
<td>23 lbs of nails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>1-30-1796</td>
<td>Thomas Ryall</td>
<td>0-15s-0d</td>
<td>“two dollars in part on acct of plastering the petition wall in the secretaries office that Col. Beatty occupies”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>2-9-1796</td>
<td>James Kirkpatrick</td>
<td>0-16s-6d</td>
<td>Carting sand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>2-9-1796</td>
<td>Thomas Ryall</td>
<td>0-10s-0d</td>
<td>“for Altering Chimney and putting up the Stove”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>2-17-1796</td>
<td>Samuel Taylor</td>
<td>1-8s-0d</td>
<td>Fitting 4 iron bars for the fireplaces, 4 hooks for the hook doors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>3-14-1796</td>
<td>William Rippon</td>
<td>16-15s-6d</td>
<td>“one new iron door”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>3-18-1796</td>
<td>Joseph Rickey</td>
<td>5-0s-0d</td>
<td>Painting and glazing; putty, Spanish brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>3-21-1796</td>
<td>Jonathan Doan</td>
<td>90-12s-7d</td>
<td>Chiefly labor of others, mostly carpentry work; also sashes,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>3-25-1796</td>
<td>Matthias Day</td>
<td>0-7s-6d</td>
<td>Inserting proposals for building Secretary’s office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>4-11-1796</td>
<td>Randle Rickey</td>
<td>3-5s-10d</td>
<td>Oil, white lead, glass, red lead, lamp black</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>4-13-1796</td>
<td>Elijah Gordon</td>
<td>6-15s-8d</td>
<td>Locks, scutchons, screws, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>4-13-1796</td>
<td>John Johnston</td>
<td>33-16s-3d</td>
<td>Cement plastering of exterior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>5-24-1796</td>
<td>Alexander Chambers, Jr.</td>
<td>1-16s-1d</td>
<td>Bill not found (?painting supplies)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>6-13-1796</td>
<td>James Kirkpatrick</td>
<td>6-19s-6d</td>
<td>Sand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>7-7-1796</td>
<td>James Yard</td>
<td>1-4s-6d</td>
<td>Ironwork, incl. spikes, door hinges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>8-3-1796</td>
<td>Joseph Milner</td>
<td>15-16s-7d</td>
<td>Boards and lime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>8-23-1796</td>
<td>Betts &amp; Parmele</td>
<td>0-6s-7d</td>
<td>Bill not found (?nails)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>8-29-1796</td>
<td>Samuel Pinkerton</td>
<td>0-5s-0d</td>
<td>“To turning 4 sticks to go round the Office Doors”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>9-30-1796</td>
<td>Thomas Ryall</td>
<td>0-16s-10d</td>
<td>Labor (unspecified)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>10-8-1796</td>
<td>Peter Hunt</td>
<td>0-8s-9d</td>
<td>500 lath</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>10-13-1796</td>
<td>Joseph Rickey</td>
<td>8-3s-8d</td>
<td>Labor, putty and glass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>10-13-1796</td>
<td>Randle Rickey</td>
<td>5-1s-2d</td>
<td>White lead, Spanish brown, lamp black, red lead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>10-17-1796</td>
<td>Alexander Chambers, Jr.</td>
<td>11-2s-9d</td>
<td>Oil, spirits, verdigris, turpentine, Spanish brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>10-27-1796</td>
<td>Maskell Ewing</td>
<td>0-7s-0d</td>
<td>14 days use of a ladder belonging to the Union Fire Company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>10-29-1796</td>
<td>Joseph Palmer</td>
<td>2-1s-6d</td>
<td>Hooks and staples for shutters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>10-29-1796</td>
<td>Abraham Hunt</td>
<td>11-13s-7d</td>
<td>Scaffoldiing, nails, lime, oil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>10-29-1796</td>
<td>Jonathan Doan</td>
<td>0-15s-0d</td>
<td>Setting post at corner, cellar doors, iron locks to all windows</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>11-2-1796</td>
<td>John Rozell</td>
<td>1-2s-6d</td>
<td>Painting 49 letters over the doors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>295-14s-2d</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: The State of New Jersey on Account with Benjamin Smith Commissioner for Building the Secretaries Office and Office for the Clerk of the Supreme Court (December 2, 1795-November 4, 1796) and Related Receipts. New Jersey State Archives (New Jersey Department of State), Legislature: Papers Relating to the New Jersey State House, Box 1, 1789-1797.
project. Hunt and Chambers, both well known in the city (in part for their involvement in the First Battle of Trenton), operated wharves on the Delaware River - Hunt in Lamberton and Chambers at the foot of Ferry Street. Joseph and Randle Rickey ran a local hardware business, but also appear to have provided the labor for some of the glazing and painting work (Raum 1871; Trenton Historical Society 1929).

Even with the office building project finally closed out in November of 1796, work on the State House and its surrounding lot continued over the next few years. Bills for ongoing modifications to the State House and for enclosing, paving and landscaping the State House lot survive from the late 1790s. One particular project of relevance to the current archaeological investigations was the construction of the “State House Necessary,” which was accomplished in August and September of 1797. A handful of receipts help to document the emergence of this vital facility (Table 5.2) and one wonders how legislators were satisfying their bodily functions in the five immediately preceding years of state government (perhaps with chamber pots and expedient emptyings into Petty’s Run).

Nicholas Redner provided stone for the construction of the necessary as well as 15 loads of dirt “to raise the ground around the building.” Thomas Ryall supplied the necessary masonry services as well as more stone, brick, lime and lath. James Kirkpatrick delivered still more stone, along with sand and road gravel. Judging by the volume of materials involved, the structure appears to have been quite substantial, while the sets of three hinges, lock fastenings, thumb latches and stock locks provided by the local blacksmiths, Samuel and Joseph Laning and Benjamin Yard, imply that there were at least three separate “temples of convenience” under the one necessary roof. That the necessary was in place and functional is demonstrated by the receipt presented to Maskell Ewing by Nelly Phillips on March 3, 1798 “for soap and scrubbing the State House necessary …” The relationship of the State House necessary, as reflected in the documents summarized in Table 5.2, to the archaeological remains encountered in the early spring of 2006 is discussed further in Chapter 5C below.

A few years later, around 1804, a survey map was prepared of the Trenton and Bloomsbury holdings of Daniel W. Coxe, Esq., in advance of their subdivision and sale. This map includes a depiction of the State House lot, the New Jersey State House and the office building of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court (Figure 5.2). Located in the northeast corner of the lot at the intersection of Second and Delaware Streets, the office building occupied the ¼-acre lot (Lot 4) acquired by the State of New Jersey from William Reeder and his wife on January 19, 1792 for £62-10s (Secretary of State Deed AS 285) (Figure 5.1). It is clear from the manner in which the building is depicted that its form and layout closely followed the specifications given in the authorizing legislation of March 4, 1795 (see above). The structure is shown as a one-story gable-roofed structure oriented north-south and fronting on to Delaware Street. Chimneys project from its north and south gable ends, and its Delaware Street façade has two doors, each symmetrically flanked by a pair of windows. Clearly, the two offices each had their own front entrance, although there is no means, either from this map or from other archival information, of distinguishing which office was at which end of the building. However, collectively, the Coxe map, the wording of Item 3 in the authorizing legislation and the various tidbits of physical information about the building contained in Benjamin Smith’s accounts and the vendor receipts provide a solid basis for interpreting the archaeological remains (see below, Chapter 5C).

Over the course of the office building’s active life, which extended from 1795-96 into the mid-1840s, various improvements and maintenance and repair tasks were carried out. In November of 1820, for
Figure 5.2. A Plan of Sundry Lots of Land the Property of Daniel W. Coxe. Circa 1804. Scale: 1 inch = 100 feet (approximately). Enlarged View of State House Lot.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill #</th>
<th>Date Paid</th>
<th>Vendor</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Item/Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>8-7-1797</td>
<td>Nicholas Redner</td>
<td>5-2s-3d</td>
<td>18 3/4 perch of stone “for State House necessary”; hauling 5 1/2 perches; 15 loads of dirt “to raise ground round the Building”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>8-22-1797</td>
<td>Thomas Ryall</td>
<td></td>
<td>Stone, brick, lime, lath, etc. “for work done and materials found as above stated for building the necessary in State House yard for the State of New Jersey”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>9-1-1797</td>
<td>James Kirkpatrick</td>
<td>1-9s-0d</td>
<td>“To carting stone to the State House Necessary”; also carting sand (4 loads) and road gravel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>9-22-1797</td>
<td>Samuel &amp; Joseph Laning</td>
<td></td>
<td>Three pairs of hinges, three fastenings for locks; “The above work was done for the State House necessary …”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>11-6-1797</td>
<td>Benjamin Yard</td>
<td></td>
<td>3 thumb latches, 1 1/2 door screws, 3 stock locks, 9 screws; also “to work done at State House Necessary,” labor by J. Bowen, W. Yard “my boys,” putting on locks and fastenings, 971 feet white pine board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-3-1798</td>
<td>Nelly Phillips</td>
<td></td>
<td>0-3s-9d</td>
<td>“Received of Maskell Ewing for soap and scrubbing the State House necessary …”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8-1-1798</td>
<td>Abraham Hunt</td>
<td></td>
<td>Benjamin Yard witnessing 170 feet of lath and 18 feet of boards “were got by me at Abr. Hunt’s for the State House necessary &amp; charged to Mr. Ewing”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: New Jersey State Archives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill #</th>
<th>Date Paid</th>
<th>Vendor</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Item/Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>8-7-1797</td>
<td>Nicholas Redner</td>
<td>£0-9s-3d</td>
<td>18 3/4 perch of stone “for State House necessary”; hauling 5 1/2 perches; 15 loads of dirt “to raise ground round the Building”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>8-22-1797</td>
<td>Thomas Ryall</td>
<td>£2-4s-0d</td>
<td>Stone, brick, lime, lath, etc. “for work done and materials found as above stated for building the necessary in State House yard for the State of New Jersey”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>9-1-1797</td>
<td>James Kirkpatrick</td>
<td>£1-9s-0d</td>
<td>To carting stone to the State House Necessary”; also carting sand (4 loads) and road gravel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>9-22-1797</td>
<td>Samuel &amp; Joseph Laning</td>
<td>£8.17</td>
<td>Three pairs of hinges, three fastenings for locks; “The above work was done for the State House necessary …”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>11-6-1797</td>
<td>Benjamin Yard</td>
<td>£3.50</td>
<td>3 thumb latches, 1 1/2 door screws, 3 stock locks, 9 screws; also “to work done at State House Necessary,” labor by J. Bowen, W. Yard “my boys,” putting on locks and fastenings, 971 feet white pine board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>3-3-1798</td>
<td>Nelly Phillips</td>
<td>£0-3s-9d</td>
<td>Received of Maskell Ewing for soap and scrubbing the State House necessary …</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8-1-1798</td>
<td>Abraham Hunt</td>
<td>£0-88</td>
<td>“lock for office … to putting on [80] finishing screws …”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1-4-1831</td>
<td>Enoch W. Green</td>
<td>£0-88</td>
<td>“lock for office … to putting on [80] finishing screws …”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1-31-1831</td>
<td>Martin Howe</td>
<td>£36.67</td>
<td>To repairs, labor and work done and materials furnished for State House and offices of Clerk of Supreme Court and Secretary of State as from bills and vouchers No. 1 &amp; 2 “…”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>2-1-1831</td>
<td>James Westcott</td>
<td>£10.00</td>
<td>To Stove for office bought by Peter Lott … Pipe, putting up, scuttle (C.B. Howell) “…”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>2-9-1831</td>
<td>Bashford</td>
<td>£6.00</td>
<td>For check book and receipt book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>2-10-1831</td>
<td>Rosell, Hancock, McDermott</td>
<td>£2.50</td>
<td>“Voucher 2. To cash pd. Wm. Hancock for repairing lock &amp; screw press in Clerk’s Office …” [duplicate]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>2-15-1831</td>
<td>John Cook</td>
<td>£1.00</td>
<td>“To 3 large Hooks 3 Staples put in Secretary’s Office …” + additional entries not identifiable as relating to the office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1831</td>
<td>Peter Lott</td>
<td>£8.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>“To one stove &amp; pipe for Secretary’s Office …” [duplicate]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill #</th>
<th>Date Paid</th>
<th>Vendor</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Item/Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>11-1-1797</td>
<td>Joseph Palmer</td>
<td>£0-9s-0d</td>
<td>“For Secretary’s office 2 wedges for press wt. 7 lb 1/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>11-5-1797</td>
<td>Betts &amp; Parmele</td>
<td>£2-4s-0d</td>
<td>46 lb of 10d nails “for Office”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2-22-1798</td>
<td>Joshua Newbold</td>
<td>£1-16s-0d</td>
<td>“For making an Iron Fender for fireplace in Secretary’s Office …”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12-27-1798</td>
<td>John Beatty</td>
<td>£1-16s-0d</td>
<td>“For repairing the Seal Press in Secretary’s Office …”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12-29-1798</td>
<td>Jonathan Doan</td>
<td>£1-16s-0d</td>
<td>“For altering seal press in Secretary’s Office …”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>6-21-1821</td>
<td>Samuel Paxson &amp; Sons</td>
<td>£2.88</td>
<td>“1 Scotch spring knob lock, 1 patent pad lock, 1 pad lock” for Secretary’s Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>9-10-1830</td>
<td>William Hancock</td>
<td>£2.50</td>
<td>“To finding paint &amp; painting Secretary’s Office … To white washing the office … To scrubbing &amp; washing windows … 1 cwt of boards … 2 lb nails … cleaning cellar … 1 Stamp … 3 Locks … 6 Blinds … 3 for Supreme Court Office …” + additional entries not identifiable as relating to the office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-13-1830</td>
<td>Martin Howe</td>
<td>£8.17</td>
<td>“To repairing lock &amp; key to Office of Clk of Sup. Court … To repairing &amp; fixing screw press for Sup. Court”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>6-21-1821</td>
<td>Samuel Paxson &amp; Sons</td>
<td>£2.88</td>
<td>“1 Scotch spring knob lock, 1 patent pad lock, 1 pad lock” for Secretary’s Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>9-10-1830</td>
<td>William Hancock</td>
<td>£2.50</td>
<td>“To finding paint &amp; painting Secretary’s Office … To white washing the office … To scrubbing &amp; washing windows … 1 cwt of boards … 2 lb nails … cleaning cellar … 1 Stamp … 3 Locks … 6 Blinds … 3 for Supreme Court Office …” + additional entries not identifiable as relating to the office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-13-1830</td>
<td>Martin Howe</td>
<td>£8.17</td>
<td>“To repairing lock &amp; key to Office of Clk of Sup. Court … To repairing &amp; fixing screw press for Sup. Court”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-21-1830</td>
<td>C.B. Howell</td>
<td>£2.00</td>
<td>“To Putting Stove in Sect’y office … 1 coal scuttle for office … 1 elbow for stove …”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1-4-1831</td>
<td>Asa Belden</td>
<td>£1.80</td>
<td>“12 lb iron for Secretary’s Office …”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1-31-1831</td>
<td>Enoch W. Green</td>
<td>£0.88</td>
<td>“lock for office … to putting on [80] finishing screws …”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2-1-1831</td>
<td>Martin Howe</td>
<td>£36.67</td>
<td>“To repairs, labor and work done and materials furnished for State House and offices of Clerk of Supreme Court and Secretary of State as from bills and vouchers No. 1 &amp; 2 …”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>2-1-1831</td>
<td>James Westcott</td>
<td>£10.00</td>
<td>“… To Stove for office bought by Peter Lott … Pipe, putting up, scuttle (C.B. Howell) …”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>2-9-1831</td>
<td>Bashford</td>
<td>£6.00</td>
<td>For check book and receipt book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>2-10-1831</td>
<td>Rosell, Hancock, McDermott</td>
<td>£2.50</td>
<td>“Voucher 2. To cash pd. Wm. Hancock for repairing lock &amp; screw press in Clerk’s Office …” [duplicate]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-15-1831</td>
<td>John Cook</td>
<td>£1.00</td>
<td>“To 3 large Hooks 3 Staples put in Secretary’s Office …” + additional entries not identifiable as relating to the office</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1831</td>
<td>Peter Lott</td>
<td>£8.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>“To one stove &amp; pipe for Secretary’s Office …” [duplicate]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>10-24-1842</td>
<td>John B. Boling</td>
<td></td>
<td>Glazing work in Supreme Court Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>11-5-1842</td>
<td>John B. Boling</td>
<td></td>
<td>Glazing work in Supreme Court Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2-6-1843</td>
<td>John B. Boling</td>
<td></td>
<td>Glazing work in Supreme Court Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>3-22-1845</td>
<td>Charles Scott</td>
<td></td>
<td>Office supplies for use of Supreme Court &amp; Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>3-22-1845</td>
<td>Charles Scott</td>
<td>£104.41</td>
<td>Office supplies “as ordered by Dr. Charles G. McChesney, Sec. Of State for the use of the Governor &amp; Secretary of State’s Office”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Daniel Coleman</td>
<td>£5.87</td>
<td>“To cash paid for masonry done to the Secretary’s Office, glazing do. … repairing lock at Secretary’s Office …”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>T. Rossell</td>
<td>£2.63</td>
<td>For andirons for Supreme Court office “Bought off Thomas Woodruff”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: New Jersey State Archives (New □
example, a joint committee reported to the legislature on recent improvements to the State House grounds, one of which involved the construction of a walkway from the Clerk of the Supreme Court’s office to the door of the State House. The committee noted that this was an accommodation “long and much wanted, the former walk from the rain and dissolving of snow rendered in many places impassable” (New Jersey Legislature, 45th General Assembly 1820:61).

Several other maintenance and repair activities are attested in still more receipts held in the collections of the New Jersey State Archives (Table 5.3). The press used for affixing the seal of the Secretary of State to state papers seems to have presented some problems, as reflected in the purchase of wedges for this piece of equipment, along with repairs and modifications, in 1797-98. A screw press in the office of the Clerk of the Supreme Court was also repaired and fixed in 1830. Other bills show the occasional purchase of items for the offices, such as an iron fender for the fireplace in the Secretary of State’s office and various locks.

Even though the archival record is incomplete, the office building appears to have experienced a fairly major episode of repair and improvement over the fall and winter of 1830-31. In September 1830 and again in February 1831 Martin Howe billed the state for various jobs, including the painting and whitewashing the Secretary of State’s office. Over the same period, a new stove was installed in the office of James Westcott, then Secretary of State, and a coal scuttle was purchased, an indication of improvements in interior heating systems (Table 5.3).

In 1841 another joint committee report on the condition of the State House complex expressed dismay over the condition of the grounds:

> The grounds around the State House are very uneven and desolate, a common for the cattle of the town to rove over. The committee believe that for the credit of the State of New Jersey they ought to be upgraded, planted with shade and ornamental trees, and made to appear as though they belonged to a people who had made some advances in civilization and the arts, and worthy of the character of one among the eldest of her sister states (Senate Journal 1841:211-212 [quoted in Cohan 1969]).

The report further noted that the office building was in dilapidated condition, too small for the papers and records now being stored there, and not fireproof. Over the fall and winter of 1842-43, extensive glazing work was done by John B. Boling, probably an attempt to correct deterioration of the building (Table 5.3). By this time, however, steps had already been taken toward a long-term solution of the state’s need for improved and expanded office space. Following the critical joint committee report of 1841, it was suggested that, rather than repairing the old offices, two new office buildings should be erected. By 1843, a proposal had been made that $10,000 be appropriated for the erection of these new buildings and that designs should be solicited. As a result, “an act to provide for the erection of two fireproof buildings in the yard of the State House Trenton (New Jersey Legislature, 65th General Assembly Minutes 1843), first introduced in February of 1845, was passed into law on April 2, 1845.

Architect John Notman’s design for what ultimately proved to be a major expansion of the State House did not in the end entail the construction of two separate fireproof buildings in the northern part of the State House lot, as had originally been envisaged. Rather the new office facilities were incorporated into the northward extension of the State House as one- and two-story stepped wings attached to the east and west of a new three-story central core.

As the construction of the Notman additions took place, beginning in the spring of 1845, the offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme
Plate 5.3. Historic view of the Trenton waterfront from the Trenton-Morrisville bridge in the mid-1840s. The small building next to the New Jersey State House (indicated by arrow in enlarged inset) housed the offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court. Source: Barber and Howe 1845:284.
Court continued in operation in the old building. Stationery supplies were ordered for the use of both offices in March of that year (Table 5.3). Another meager illustration of the office building appeared around this time in John W. Barber and Henry Howe’s *Historical Collections of the State of New Jersey*, published in 1845 (Plate 5.3). The structure is just visible, gable end on, next to the State House, which itself already was sprouting its Notman additions.

The old offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court were still standing in early 1846, as the Notman construction rose nearby. This much is clear from a report of February 16, 1846 submitted by the commissioners appointed under the authorizing legislation of April 2, 1845. In the penultimate paragraph of their report, the commissioners state:

“The old building at the northeast corner of the yard and the old privy now sold, standing, for $163.50, and they have made sale of iron and other things to the amount of nearly as quite $100, and they will have some old chairs, old carpet and other things to dispose of in the spring” (State House Commission, State House Construction Records, 1845-1905, Box 1, Folder 1846).

This reference appears to indicate that the old office building (along with an attendant privy) had been recently sold, probably for salvage, and that its contents were to be sold off or discarded in the spring. Before the year was out, one may safely conclude that the original offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court were no more, replaced by the new Notman-designed facilities just a short distance away.

**B. ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS**

On March 24, 2006, archaeological monitoring of the removal of the sidewalk and related grading along the south side of West State Street immediately in front of the east end of the north façade of the State House encountered remnants of a substantial mortared stone foundation in the approximate location of the building that housed the offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court (Plates 5.4-5.6). On the same day, contractor excavations for a new access ramp leading up to the east side of the main West State Street entrance to the State House uncovered a brick-lined shaft feature, soon identified as a privy, immediately adjacent to the east side of the portico in front of this entrance. Roughly midway between these two locations, also within the trench excavated for the base of the access ramp, vestigial traces of additional foundations and building debris were also found (Figure 5.3).

Based on these initial finds and prior knowledge of the site and related archival materials, Hunter Research staff were reasonably confident that important archaeological remains of the offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court might still survive within the zone of construction impact. Construction activity was consequently reassigned to other areas of the project site, while meetings were held involving the client (the New Jersey Division of Property Management and Construction [DPMC]), the review agency with responsibility for overseeing project impacts on historical and archaeological resources (the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office [NJHPO]), the New Jersey State Archives, the project engineer, the contractor and Hunter Research. An eight-day block of time beginning on March 28, 2006 was then set aside for further archaeological investigation and for execution of an appropriate level of archaeological data recovery. Ultimately, minor design changes were also made to minimize project impacts on archaeological resources. Early in the
Figure 5.3. Archaeological Data Recovery Excavations, Site Plan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Description [Interpretation]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Silty loam [fill; late 20th century]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mottled silty loam [fill; mid-19th century]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sandy clay [B horizon]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Coarse sand with small and medium stones [C horizon]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>Builders' trench for privy shaft [mid-1790s]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>101</td>
<td>Sandy loam with brick and stones [trench for privy shaft; mid-1790s]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>102</td>
<td>Brick [privy shaft; mid-1790s]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>103</td>
<td>Plaster, mortar, brick with sand [demolition debris, privy shaft fill; mid-1840s]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>118</td>
<td>Burnt wood [cellar fill; circa 1795-mid-1840s]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>119</td>
<td>Mortared stone foundation [west wall of office building; 1795]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>121</td>
<td>Mortared stone foundation [south wall of northern cellar in office building; 1795]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>122</td>
<td>Mortared stone foundation [east wall of office building; 1795]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>123</td>
<td>Mortared stone foundation [stoop footings for entrance into northern half of office building; 1795]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>124</td>
<td>Dry-laid stone [infill blocking cellar entry; early 19th century]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>127</td>
<td>Stone rubble with brick [infill blocking cellar entry; early 19th century]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>128</td>
<td>Stone rubble [infill blocking cellar entry; early 19th century]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>131</td>
<td>Silty loam with demolition debris [cellar fill; 1846]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>153</td>
<td>Mortared stone foundation [northwest corner of office building; 1795]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>163</td>
<td>Brick and stone rubble [grading deposit; late 19th/early 20th century]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Munsell

10YR 3/3
7.5YR 4/6; 10YR 4/3
10YR 4/6
10YR 4/3
--
10YR 4/4
10YR 7/6
10YR 2/1
--
--
--
10YR 4/3
--
--
--
--
10YR 7/6
--
--

New Jersey State House
Plate 5.4. Offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court: view looking northeast showing initial exposure of the foundations of the office building during archaeological monitoring of grading for new sidewalk and eastern access ramp (Photographer: James Lee, March 2006) [HRI Neg. #05016/D2:05].
Plate 5.5. Offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court: view looking south showing initial exposure of the foundations of the office building during archaeological monitoring of grading for new sidewalk and eastern access ramp. The eastern extension of the West State Street façade of the New Jersey State House is in the background; the hydrant in the foreground occupies approximately the same location as a hydrant shown in historic photographs (see above, Plates 2.6 and 2.9) and is still operational today (Photographer: James Lee, March 2006) [HRI Neg. #05016/D2:03].
Plate 5.6. Offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court: view looking north showing foundations of the office building in early stages of archaeological excavation. The section of foundation being examined is the northern end of the east wall with portions of the stoop foundation at the entrance to the Clerk of the Supreme Court’s office partially exposed at right. Note the hydrant at left, which is still operational today. The three-bay building with arched entry is 128 West State Street (Photographer: Michael Murphy, March 2006) [HRI Neg. #06024/D1:77].
week of April 10, archaeological excavations were backfilled and the construction activity resumed in this portion of the project site. The exposure of the office building foundations and related privy aroused considerable interest within state government and the media. A press release was issued in advance of a public unveiling of these archaeological remains on April 6 (see above, Plate 1.2).

The additional archaeological investigations and data recovery entailed the opening up of four excavation units: three on the site of the office building (Excavation Units 2, 3 and 4) and the fourth on the site of the privy (Excavation Unit 1). The numbering sequence assigned to the excavation units reflects the order in which they were opened up. For ease of understanding, these units are described out of their numerical sequence with the office building excavations being discussed first (Excavation Units 3, 2 and 4) followed by the privy excavations (Excavation Unit 1). Site north was considered to lie along a line perpendicular to the alignment of West State Street (which in actuality is aligned on a west northwest/east southeast axis). The north arrow/scale used in many field photographs was positioned to approximate a true north compass direction; directions of view in plate captions are keyed to the site north as adopted for the project. The archaeological remains of the offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court have been assigned the Smithsonian site registration number 28Me361 by the New Jersey State Museum (Appendix D).

Excavation Unit 3 was initially laid out as a 5 x 12-foot area with its longer east-west axis straddling the location of what was thought to be the main east wall of the office building. This unit was subsequently expanded both to the north and south to cover a maximum north-south distance of 15 feet as additional features of the building - stoop foundations, an exterior cellar entry and an interior wall foundation – came to light (Figures 5.3 and 5.4; Plates 5.7-5.10). A roughly 15-foot length of the east foundation wall of the office building [context 122] extended through Excavation Unit 3 from north to south (Figure 5.5; Plate 5.10). This foundation was composed of mortared blocks of schist with rough-dressed pieces being used to produce relatively smooth interior and exterior wall faces. The core of the foundation contained smaller irregular pieces. Two feet in width, the foundation extended to a depth of between four and five feet below grade at this northern end of the building where a cellar lay beneath the first floor office space. At the southern end of the excavation unit, to the south of the corner where an interior east-west foundation wall [121] projected westward to support an interior partition and define the southern end of the cellar space, the east wall of the building was evidently shallower and did not survive. The central portion of the office building beneath the two adjoining vaulted storage areas had no cellar and thus did not require the same depth of masonry as the northern and southern cellared ends of the building.

Toward the northern end of the exposed segment of the east foundation wall, 6.5 feet from the southeast interior corner of the cellar, a seam was clearly visible in the masonry (Plates 5.10-5.12). North of the seam the stone masonry consisted of roughly laid irregular blocks of stone [127] that contrasted with the well-built character of the foundation extending to the south. Further exploration, both inside and outside the footprint of the office building, revealed that the less regular masonry filled a roughly 3.5-foot wide opening that is interpreted as an exterior cellar entry. At the bottom of the blocked opening, a one-foot-high segment of the main east foundation wall [164] continued northward. This presumably represented the bottom step of the entry into the cellar. The deliberate blocking of this outside entry into the northern cellar did not necessarily mean that the cellar ceased to be used, as an interior cellar stair probably also existed. The reasons for blocking off this outside
Description [Interpretation]

- Silty loam [fill; late 20th century]
- Mottled silty loam [fill; mid-19th century]
- Sandy clay [B horizon]
- Coarse sand with small and medium stones [C horizon]
- Mortared stone foundation (south wall of northern cellar in office building; 1795)
- Mortared stone foundation (east wall of office building; 1795)
- Mortared stone foundation [stoop footings for entrance into northern half of office building; 1795]
- Dry-laid stone [infill blocking cellar entry; early 19th century]
- Cut for Contexts 121 and 125 [builders' trench for south wall of northern cellar in office building; 1795]
- Silty loam with brick and mortar [fill of builders' trench for south wall of northern cellar in office building; 1795]
- Stone rubble with brick [infill blocking cellar entry; early 19th century]
- Silty clay with mortar [cellar fill; 1846]
- Silty loam with demolition debris [fill; 1846]
- Brick and stone rubble [grading deposit; late 19th/early 20th century]

Munsell

- 10YR 3/3
- 7.5YR 4/6
- 10YR 4/6
- 10YR 4/3
- 10YR 4/4

Figure 5.4. Offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court, Excavation Unit 3, Plan View.
Figure 5.5. Offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court, Excavation Unit 3, East Profile/Elevation.
Plate 5.7. Offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court: view looking west showing Excavation Unit 3 in the early stages of archaeological excavation. The archaeologist is kneeling on the stoop foundation at the entrance to the Clerk of the Supreme Court’s office with a section of the northern end of the east wall visible immediately beyond. The West State Street façade of the New Jersey State House is in the background. The oak tree surrounded by orange plastic fencing is located roughly in the center of the footprint of the office building (Photographer: Benjamin Harris, March 2006) [HRI Neg. #06024/D4:17].
Plate 5.8. Offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court: view looking northeast showing Excavation Unit 3 in the early stages of archaeological excavation. The archaeologist is kneeling on the stoop foundation at the entrance to the Clerk of the Supreme Court’s office. In the foreground is a section of the northern end of the east wall of the office building (Photographer: Benjamin Harris, March 2006) [HRI Neg. #06024/D4:15].
Plate 5.9. Offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court: view looking west showing Excavation Unit 3 in the early stages of archaeological excavation. The stoop foundation at the entrance to the Clerk of the Supreme Court’s office is in the foreground with a section of the northern end of the east wall of the office building beyond. Scales in feet and tenths of feet (Photographer: Joshua Butchko, April 2006) [HRI Neg. #06024/D4:38].
Plate 5.10. Offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court: view looking northeast showing Excavation Unit 3 upon completion of archaeological excavation. The foundation in the foreground is the northern end of the east wall of the office building. The cellar beneath the office of the Clerk of the Supreme Court has been partially excavated in the foreground. At the left end of this wall is a blocked exterior cellar entry; at the right end is part of an east-west interior foundation that defined the southern end of the cellar beneath the Clerk of the Supreme Court’s office. The stoop foundation for the entrance into the office and the blocked exterior cellar entry are visible beyond. Scales in feet and tenths of feet (Photographer: Benjamin Harris, April 2006) [HRI Neg. #06024/D7:08].
Plate 5.11. Offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court: view looking northeast showing detail of blocked exterior cellar entry in Excavation Unit 3 upon completion of archaeological excavation. The vertical scale pole stands at the southern end of the cellar entry. At upper right is part of the east wall of the office building. In the foreground is the un-excavated fill inside the cellar beneath the office of the Clerk of the Supreme Court. Scales in feet and tenths of feet (Photographer: Benjamin Harris, April 2006) [HRI Neg. #06024/D7:06].
Plate 5.12. Offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court: view looking south showing detail of the cellar beneath the office of the Clerk of the Supreme Court in Excavation Unit 3 upon completion of archaeological excavation. The vertical scale pole is positioned in the southeast corner of the cellar where all fill has been removed. At left is the northern end of the east wall of the office building with the blocked exterior cellar entry in the foreground. Scales in feet and tenths of feet (Photographer: Benjamin Harris, April 2006) [HRI Neg. #06024/D7:16].
Plate 5.13. Offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court: view looking southeast showing detail of the cellar beneath the office of the Clerk of the Supreme Court in Excavation Unit 3 upon completion of archaeological excavation. The vertical scale pole is positioned in the southeast corner of the cellar where all fill has been removed. Scales in feet and tenths of feet (Photographer: Benjamin Harris, April 2006) [HRI Neg. #06024/D7:11].
Plate 5.14. Offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court: view looking west showing Excavation Unit 3 upon completion of archaeological excavation. The stoop foundation at the entrance to the Clerk of the Supreme Court’s office and blocked exterior cellar entry are in the foreground with a section of the northern end of the east wall of the office building beyond. Scales in feet and tenths of feet (Photographer: Benjamin Harris, March 2006) [HRI Neg. #06024/D7:10].
Figure 5.6. Offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court, Excavation Unit 3, West Profile.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Description [Interpretation]</th>
<th>Munsell</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Silty loam [fill; late 20th century]</td>
<td>10YR 3/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mottled silty loam [fill; 20th century]</td>
<td>10YR 4/6; 10YR 4/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mottled silty loam [fill; mid-19th century]</td>
<td>7.5YR 4/6; 10YR 4/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sandy clay [B horizon]</td>
<td>10YR 4/6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Coarse sand with small and medium stones [C horizon]</td>
<td>10YR 4/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>121</td>
<td>Mortared stone foundation [south wall of northern cellar in office building; 1795]</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>129</td>
<td>Silty clay with mortar [cellar fill; 1846]</td>
<td>10YR 4/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>130</td>
<td>Burnt wood and charcoal in darkened soil [cellar deposit; circa 1795-1846]</td>
<td>10YR 2/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>131</td>
<td>Silty loam with demolition debris [cellar fill; 1846]</td>
<td>10YR 4/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>132</td>
<td>Cement/gravels [fill; late 20th century]</td>
<td>10YR 4/3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend:
- Burnt Wood
- Concrete
- Brick
- Stone
- Limit of Manual Excavation
- Limit of Machine Excavation

Scale: 0 - 4 Feet (0 - 1 Meter)
cellar entry and the date at which it occurred are not known. Possibly, it was implemented as a security measure or as an effort to control drainage.

Within the cellar, a 3.5-foot thick deposit of silty loam with demolition debris [131] sealed a series of two thin layers that are thought to have accumulated during the use of the building (Figure 5.6; Plates 5.12 and 5.13). Immediately below the demolition deposit was a two- to three-inch-thick layer of silty clay with mortar [129] which probably represents a build-up of sediment and deteriorated building debris over several years. Beneath this was a one- to two-inch-thick layer of charcoal, burnt wood and darkened soil [130]. This deposit is not thought to be the result of a major fire within the building, but rather may be connected to the use of the cellars for the storage of wood (presumably for fuel), which is referenced in the basic specifications for the building included in the authorizing legislation of March 4, 1795 (see above). Alternatively, it may be a deposit that accumulated during the construction of the building. No evidence was found for a wood plank floor or for a flagstone or brick floor surface within the cellar. Most likely it had a dirt floor, perhaps occasionally covered with straw. Directly beneath the burned layer were undisturbed C horizon soils consisting of coarse sand with small and medium sized pebbles [5].

Within Excavation Unit 3 an area roughly seven feet north-south by ten feet east-west was partially excavated outside the office building (Figure 5.3; Plate 5.14). At the southern end of this area, part of a mortared stone foundation for what was probably a stoop and stair was uncovered [123]. This feature, likely the base for the main entrance into the northern office, extended out for a distance of almost seven feet from the east face of the office building into Delaware Street. The north-south dimension of this foundation was not established, but it was probably at least four feet. To the north of the stoop an extensive spread of stone rubble, roughly five feet square in area, was exposed. A 1.5-foot-wide portion of this masonry, extending along the eastern exterior face of the building for almost five feet, was quite tightly packed [124]; further away from the building the rubble was more loosely formed [128]. These two patches of rubble are interpreted as infill of the exterior cellar entry identified on the interior face of the east foundation wall of the office building. The more tightly packed, better laid stonework up against the east foundation wall would have filled an area where the cellar entry was at its deepest and probably helped in stabilizing the abandoned entryway.

Few artifacts were recovered from Excavation Unit 3 (Appendix B). The burnt wood and charcoal layer in the bottom of the cellar [130] yielded just four pieces of metal, including one whole clinched nail. The overlying fill [131], probably deposited in the cellar in 1846, produced one clay pipe stem fragment and four sherds of pottery, including one piece of underglaze transfer-printed pearlware with a landscape motif probably manufactured between 1815 and 1835. The small number of artifacts found in association with office building is perhaps not unexpected for an institutional site undergoing daytime office use. The uppermost fill deposits within the eastern half of Excavation Unit 3 (specifically context 163) produced a sherd of ironstone china made by the International Pottery Company (in operation from 1879 into the early 20th century) and several pieces of kiln furniture (saggers, saddle/pins and wads). In view of other more closely datable Trenton ceramic materials found nearby (see above, Chapter 3), it is thought that these fill deposits were laid down in the late 1880s or early 1890s and probably are the result of landscaping and grading that took place when the Broome additions were erected after the fire of 1885 (see above, Chapter 2).

Excavation Unit 2, ten feet east-west by four feet north-south in plan, was laid out within the base of the trench excavated for the new access ramp in an area
Figure 5.7. Offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court, Excavation Unit 2, South Profile.
Plate 5.15. Offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court: view looking south-east showing Excavation Unit 2 in early stages of archaeological excavation. The eastern extension of the West State Street façade of the New Jersey State House is in the background (Photographer: Benjamin Harris, March 2006) [HRI Neg. #06024/D4:08].
Plate 5.16. Offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court: view looking south showing Excavation Unit 2 upon completion of archaeological excavation. The fill of the cellar beneath the office of the Secretary of State is visible in the far wall of the excavation unit. Traces of the west wall of the office building and a lens of charcoal are visible in the base of the excavation unit. The eastern extension of the West State Street façade of the New Jersey State House is in the background. Scales in feet (Photographer: James Lee, March 2006) [HRI Neg. #06024/D4:13].
Plate 5.17. Offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court: view looking south showing detail of the cellar beneath the office of the Secretary of State in Excavation Unit 2 upon completion of archaeological excavation. The fill of the cellar beneath the office of the Secretary of State is visible in the far wall of the excavation unit. Traces of the west wall of the office building and a lens of charcoal are visible in the base of the excavation unit. Scales in feet (Photographer: James Lee, March 2006) [HRI Neg. #06024/D4:10].
where a pronounced change in soil color corresponded with a concentration of building debris (Figure 5.3; Plate 5.15). As the excavation of this unit proceeded downward, the soil color change became stronger and it became apparent that it marked the edge of a substantial cut into the underlying subsoil. Suspecting that this might mark the western edge of the office building, excavation continued downward into the fill of the cut feature at the eastern end of the trench, while undisturbed sandy clay B horizon soils [4] to the west were left intact (Figure 5.7; Plates 5.16 and 5.17).

Within the eastern end of Excavation Unit 2, the uppermost deposit consisted of a mottled silty loam [3] and probably represented the bottom portion of late 19th/early 20th-century landscaping soils laid down around the State House perimeter. Beneath this deposit was a thick layer of medium sand with brick, mortar and stones [116], which in turn overlay a layer of sandy loam with mortar and stones [117]. These two layers are interpreted as fill put down in the late 1840s to landscape the grounds around the Notman additions. Below this and directly overlying the bottom courses of the mortared west foundation wall of the office building [119] was a roughly one-foot-thick layer of loamy sand with demolition debris [115]. This latter deposit is interpreted as dating from 1846 when the office building was demolished. Beneath this demolition deposit was a thin layer of burnt wood and charcoal in darkened soil [118] similar to that identified as context 130 in Excavation Unit 3. As noted above, the interpretation of the burnt wood and charcoal layer is problematic, but this deposit is not thought to be the result of a major fire within the office building and may be related to wood storage in the cellar or even construction activity during the mid-1790s. This deposit directly overlay C horizon soils of coarse sand and pebbles. While the cultural stratigraphy in Excavation Unit 2 broadly resembles that found in Excavation Unit 3, far less of the foundations of the office building survived.

As was the case with Excavation Unit 3, very few artifacts were recovered from Excavation Unit 2 (Appendix B). The upper fill layers considered to date from the late 1840s landscaping around the Notman additions produced a few ceramics of late 18th- and early 19th-century date, fragments of drainage tile, brick and glass, and part of one Native American argillite biface of Fox Creek type. It is presumed that these materials were derived from late 18th/early 19th-century yard deposits dispersed across the State House lot. These soils were likely redeposited into the cellar hole of the office building after it was demolished.

**Excavation Unit 4** entailed an informal, rapid exposure of the northwest corner of the office building. Using as points of reference the remains identified in Excavation Units 2 and 3 and the overall 46 by 28 feet dimensions given in the archival record, fill was removed by pick and shovel in the projected location of the northwest corner of the building. This brief episode of work, undertaken over a half-hour period, revealed the mortared stone foundations of the northwest corner of the building within a few inches of the freshly graded surface of West State Street. The remains were covered over again and remain intact.

**Excavation Unit 1,** five feet square in plan, was laid out to half-section the brick-lined privy shaft found 45 feet to the rear (west) of the office building (Figures 5.3 and 5.8; Plates 5.18-5.20). The top of this feature, clearly truncated, was first identified 5.5 feet below the level of the portico floor in front of the West State Street entrance into the State House, immediately adjacent to the east side of the porch. The full outline of the circular shaft [102], roughly 3.5 feet in exterior diameter and 3.0 feet in interior diameter became visible at a depth of 6.8 feet below the portico floor. The pit dug for the shaft was roughly four feet in diameter.
Figure 5.8. Brick Privy Shaft, Excavation Unit 1, Plan View.
Plate 5.18. Privy Behind Offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court: view looking west showing brick-lined privy shaft after initial exposure and cleanup. Beyond is the portico of the West State Street façade of the New Jersey State House designed by Lewis Broome and completed in 1889. Scales in feet (Photographer: Michael Murphy, March 2006) [HRI Neg. #06024/D1:34].
Figure 5.9. Brick Privy Shaft, Excavation Unit 1, West Profile.
Plate 5.19. Privy Behind Offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court: view looking down at the brick-lined privy shaft with its upper fill of demolition debris. The hole is from a soil auger test excavated to establish the depth of the shaft. Scales in feet (Photographer: Michael Murphy, March 2006) [HRI Neg. #06024/D1:37].
Plate 5.20. Privy Behind Offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court: view looking west showing Excavation Unit 1 and brick-lined privy shaft in early stages of archaeological excavation. Scales in feet (Photographer: Benjamin Harris, March 2006) [HRI Neg. #06024/D4:05].

Plate 5.21. Privy Behind Offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court: view looking southwest showing Excavation Unit 1 and brick-lined privy shaft upon completion of archaeological excavation. Scales in feet and tenths of feet (Photographer: Benjamin Harris, April 2006) [HRI Neg. #06024/D4:31].
Plate 5.22. Privy Behind Offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court: view looking west showing Excavation Unit 1 and half-sectioned brick-lined privy shaft upon completion of archaeological excavation. The fill of the shaft comprises layers of demolition debris overlying an accumulation of sediment. Scales in feet and tenths of feet (Photographer: Benjamin Harris, April 2006) [HRI Neg. #06024/D4:29].
Plate 5.23. Privy Behind Offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court: view looking northwest showing Excavation Unit 1 being backfilled with concrete slurry (Photographer: Frank Dunsmore, April 2006) [HRI Neg. #05016/D4:03].
Plate 5.24. Offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court: view looking north-east showing Excavation Unit 3 being backfilled with concrete slurry (Photographer: Frank Dunsmore, April 2006) [HRI Neg. #05016/D4:10].
Manual excavation of half of the privy shaft and documentation of its profile showed its dry-laid brick masonry to extend to a depth of 3.8 feet (Figure 5.9; Plates 5.21 and 5.22). Its original depth was probably around six feet. The uppermost fill deposit within the shaft consisted of a six-inch thick layer densely packed with plaster, mortar, brick and sand [103]. This deposit is interpreted as a post-abandonment fill probably dating from 1845 or 1846, when the privy was removed to make way for the Notman additions (see above, Chapter 2). Beneath this deposit was a three- to six-inch thick layer of mottled sandy clay [105], probably reflecting a late period of privy use in the 1840s, since this overlay a similar thickness of sand with coal ash [106] which would seem to indicate an earlier episode of abandonment. Beneath the sand with coal ash was a 2.6-foot-deep sequence of mottled sandy clays and loams [107-109] which more certainly represent privy usage over an extended period of several years, most likely during the second quarter of the 19th century. While not documented archivally or archaeologically, it seems reasonable to expect that the privy would, on occasion, have been cleaned out. The base of the privy shaft was set into C horizon soils of coarse sand and pebbles [5].

A total of 31 artifacts were recovered from Excavation Unit 1 (Appendix B). The paucity of artifacts may be partly a result of the privy being related to an office as opposed to a domestic use. The basal deposit within the privy shaft produced 11 items, comprising five sherds of late 18th/early 19th-century date, three pieces of glass, a fragment of coal and two prehistoric jasper flakes.

The identification of this shaft feature as a privy is based on its location within the State House lot, its projected depth of around six feet, and its permeable base and dry-laid masonry which allowed for gradual breakdown and dispersal of human waste into the surrounding soils. As indicated above in the historical background section of this chapter and discussed below in the following section, there is also strong archival support for this archaeological feature being one of what were probably several “necessaries” constructed within the State House lot.

* * * * *

Following the completion of the archaeological data recovery activities Excavation Units 1, 2 and 3 were backfilled with a concrete slurry of low cement/high sand content that would both protect the archaeological remains and facilitate their re-excavation (Plates 5.23 and 5.24).

C. DISCUSSION

The basic history of the offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court is simply stated. The office building was formally conceived by act of the legislature on March 4, 1795 and then in gestation and physically born over a period of several months between the spring of 1795 and late fall of 1796. An appropriate official date of birth might be November 4, 1796, the point at which the “Report of the Committee of Both Houses on the Account of B. Smith” concerning the building of the offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court was heard and apparently accepted. The cost of construction was £310-9s-11d. No record has been found of a ceremonial ground breaking or grand opening.

The offices were periodically maintained and repaired, and remained in use until 1845. A major upgrade appears to have occurred over the fall and winter of 1830-31 involving painting and whitewashing, as well as the installation of at least one new stove, probably in place of a fireplace. The building was likely vacated toward the end of 1845 or in early 1846 following the completion of new office space in the Notman additions to the original State House. The
old offices were still standing in February of 1846, but had, by that time, been sold, for salvage. They were almost certainly demolished by year’s end.

The archival record contains considerable information about the physical character of the office building. General specifications for the proposed building (overall dimensions, basic layout and certain other requirements) were included in the authorizing legislation of 1795, while the financial accounts and vendor receipts pertaining to the building’s later stages of construction and subsequent maintenance and repair offer countless other details about its design and construction and about the materials being used. The relatively limited archaeological exploration described above fills out the picture in other important ways, providing tangible evidence and additional detail of the building’s form and floor plan, and showing that the structure that was actually built closely matched the description of what was originally called for by the legislature.

The combined historical and archaeological research reveal a one-story building roughly 46 by 28 feet in plan, 12 feet in height, oriented with its long side parallel to Delaware Street at this street’s intersection with Second (West State) Street (Figure 5.10). The dimensions of the building in plan are now well documented archaeologically. The 12-foot height of the structure probably relates to the distance from the ground floor to the base of the roof gable (i.e., the peak of the gable would have been several feet higher). The ground floor of the building, roughly projected from the archaeological remains of the cellars and one of the main entries on its east side, was raised above grade by perhaps two or three feet.

The offices were tucked neatly into the northeast corner of the State House lot close to the edges of its two bordering streets. The lot itself was enclosed by a fence along Second Street (perhaps originally wood picket; later replaced by an iron railing [Figure 5.2]); a low stone wall may have extended along Delaware Street to the south of the offices. The building clearly faced east on to Delaware Street and toward the center of town, which may perhaps be taken as an indication of the secondary or even tertiary role of Second (West State) Street in these early years. Arguably the primary aesthetic orientation of the State House at this time was toward the Delaware River; the next most important aspect being to the east toward the town along Front Street; followed by the Second Street frontage, which perhaps provided the main operational access to the lot. To the west, upriver, lay the grounds of the Higbee estate known as Richmond Hill, a property that lay well beyond the fringes of the urban area.

Even though only two small excavation units were opened up on the site of the office building (amounting to roughly 6.5% of the area of the footprint), these have been sufficient to enable a confident extrapolation of the building’s cellar and first-floor plan (Figure 5.11) and a conjectural reconstruction of the building in its entirety (Figure 5.12). Again, the archaeological evidence strongly echoes, but also amplifies the archival record. The building was arranged symmetrically about its central east-west axis with matching office suites to the north and south. Each suite comprised three rooms: one large room, 12 by 15 feet in plan, at the front of the building; a smaller room, 12 by nine feet in plan, to the rear; and a “vault,” where records would have been stored, 28 by eight feet, which extended across the full width of the building. The two vaults were situated side by side straddling the center of the building. It is not known which office (the Secretary of State’s or the Clerk of the Supreme Court’s) lay in which half of the building.

The archival record discloses that the building had four fireplaces - two sharing a common chimney in each gable end wall (see above, Table 5.1, Bill #5; Figure 5.2). The excavations were not positioned
5.10. Offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court, Overall Site Plan.

Footprint of the Offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court

Privy

West State Street

Delaware Street

New Jersey State House

sidewalk

0

10 meters

50 feet

0

50 feet
Figure 5.11. Offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court, Conjectural Floor Plan.
Figure 5.12. State House Lot, Conjectural Oblique View.
to encounter remains of the fireplaces (although these almost certainly exist), so their placement in the corners of the four office rooms is speculative. The rear room fireplaces will almost certainly have been corner situated; the fireplaces in the larger front rooms could equally well have been gable end wall situated. At least one office also had a stove installed at the time of the building’s original construction (see above, Table 5.1, Bill #11).

There is similarly a speculative aspect to the projected placement of the side and rear windows and rear doors, although the Coxe map of circa 1804 (Figure 5.2) does indicate that each office suite on the Delaware Street façade had a central door flanked on each side by a window. That the building had at least one rear entrance is evidenced by the reference to a walkway being constructed from the Clerk of the Supreme Court’s office to the State House in 1820. More than likely both offices had rear entrances, if only to allow the shortest route to the privy (see below).

The location of one of the front doors was confirmed by the archaeological work, which uncovered the base of a stoop and stair giving access to the northern office. While no actual steps survived, most likely a simple set of perhaps four to six treads stretched up from Delaware Street to the front door. It would seem that the main entrances sported a modicum of architectural ornament, as suggested by the receipt “[t]o turning 4 sticks to go round the Office Doors” (see above, Table 5.1, Bill #25).

Archaeological investigation contributed in particular to our understanding of the cellars. Besides confirming their existence under the northern and southern ends of the building (i.e., beneath the front and rear offices, but not beneath the vaults), archaeological study showed the cellars to have probably been around six feet in height and to have had dirt floors. An outside cellar entry (sealed off at some point during the building’s history) was documented on the Delaware Street façade in the northernmost bay. A matching entry likely existed in the southernmost bay. Access to the cellar from the interior is conjectured in the northwest and southwest corners of the building from the smaller rear offices. As the remains of the offices have been truncated to the point where all trace of the first floor has been removed, no evidence was found to indicate whether the uncellared vaults in the center of the building were paved in flagstone or brick, as requested in the authorizing legislation.

The cellars were apparently used for storage of wood (and perhaps other materials), but they may well have been damp and otherwise of limited utility. Traces of a thin lens of charcoal and burnt wood were found in the base of the excavations in both cellars; these are not of sufficient substance to indicate a major fire within the building and their interpretation is problematic. This material may date from the initial period of construction, be related to the storage of wood during the building’s lifetime, or be an initial demolition deposit. The bulk of the soils excavated from within the cellars comprised debris and fill most likely dating from 1846 when the office building was torn down to make way for the Notman additions and related landscaping.

Very few artifacts were recovered from the fill of the cellars. This is in part a function of their limited storage use, but is also a result of the building’s predominantly daytime office (as opposed to domestic, commercial or industrial) use, which will have been accompanied by minimal build-up of cultural debris. The demolition and grading deposits elsewhere on the office building site, probably derived from the immediately surrounding area, also contained only small quantities of artifacts, again reflecting the low intensity historic period land use prior to the construction of the State House and the relatively specialized institutional use from the 1790s onwards, which one would expect to be “light” in terms of material culture remains. The occurrence of prehistoric
artifacts within the historic deposits on the site is testimony to the widespread Native American activity along the bluffs overlooking the Delaware River at the Assunpink Creek confluence. The proliferation of late 19th/early 20th-century Trenton-made ceramics and kiln furniture in the uppermost grading deposits on and immediately around the office building site is a common feature of the city. Ceramic waste serves as an excellent material for leveling deposits used in landscaping and building and road construction. In this instance, such material was likely brought in when the Lewis Broome additions were made in the late 1880s and 1890s following the destruction by fire in 1885 of the West State Street Notman-designed portions of the State House.

Samples of the building stone used in the construction of the office building were collected with a view to characterizing this material with greater precision. One large rough-dressed block of stone (approximately 16 x 5 x 4 inches with mortar encrusted on part of one surface) was recovered from the eastern foundation wall of the building. A smaller fragment (approximately 3.5 x 2 x 0.5 inches) was also recovered from the stoop foundation for the northern entry into the building. A brief visual and microscopic examination by David Parris of the New Jersey State Museum characterized both pieces as quartz orthoclase muscovite schist with a preponderance of quartz (and perhaps also small quantities of apatite and hornblende). The term “gneiss” is a generic term frequently and loosely used to describe this material. It is a metamorphic rock commonly found in the Wissahickon formation which outcrops in the Trenton area and at the falls of the Delaware River. It was almost certainly quarried locally, possibly from the bluff that extends along the left bank of the Delaware River between West State and West Hanover Streets and Willow and Calhoun Streets. The lithology is very similar to that observed in cores taken on the site of the New Jersey State Museum in the 1960s. This same building stone was used in numerous other nearby structures, including the Old Barracks, the Masonic Lodge and probably also the State House itself.

Very likely the entire shell of the office building, and not just its foundations, were composed of Wissahickon schist, although there is no clear archival documentation to confirm this. The building was certainly plastered on the exterior (see above, Table 5.1., Bill #19), probably in a manner that was intended to match the masonry of the State House. The fireplace hearths may have been built in brick, but the chimneys most likely were stone. The roofing material is unknown, although slate would probably have been the most suitable covering from the standpoint of protection against fire. Other than slate, a relatively expensive material, wood shingle would most likely have been used. Floor, wall, door and window framing and trim would have been of timber construction, while the archival record references the use of lath and plaster (presumably for wall coverings) and white pine boards (presumably for the office floor surfaces). The floors of the two “vaults,” as noted above, were laid in either brick or flagstone. These latter rooms are thought to have been sealed behind iron - probably sheet iron - doors (see above, Table 5.1, Bill #13), again a precaution against fire.

Little is known about the interior furnishings, although from the work conducted by Jonathan Doan and his workmen (Plate 5.2) it is clear that the offices were supplied with at least some custom-made desks and tables and boxes for gathering ashes from the fireplaces. Other clues in the archival record hint at ample shelving, perhaps built-in along the office walls.

The discovery of a four-foot-deep, truncated, brick-lined privy shaft roughly 45 to the rear of the southwest corner of the office building was of no small interest. This feature, apparently the receiving end of a one-seater facility, yielded few items of
material culture to help date its construction, period of use and abandonment. However, because of its location, it must certainly have pre-dated the Notman additions of the mid-1840s and may be confidently linked to the denizens of the office building. On this spot there no doubt squatted a whole succession of Secretaries of State and Clerks of the Supreme Court conducting (one at a time, of course) a very private and evacuative form of state business.

It is tempting to link the brick-lined privy to the documentation that survives detailing the construction of the State House necessary in the late summer of 1797. Unfortunately, this connection cannot be made with total certainty. The archival record implies that the State House necessary, presumably designed for the use of the legislature, was a sizeable structure, probably with three or more separate privies (see above, Table 5.2). The brick-lined privy shaft to the rear of the office building at this juncture exists in archaeological isolation, although other shafts may yet survive beneath or close to the portico of the West State Street façade. While the shaft may indeed be a remnant of a larger “rest area” (i.e., the purpose-built State House necessary of 1797), most of which has subsequently been destroyed, it might be more prudent to regard it as merely the toilet that served the office building.

Nevertheless, this location lies roughly 100 feet to the north of the east end of the original State House within range of where one might expect legislators to conduct just this type of necessary business. Allusion has already been made to the likelihood that this side of the State House was originally considered the rear of the building, which further strengthens the case for the State House necessary being in this part of the State House lot. Interestingly, the early 19th-century depictions of the original State House are from vantage points that exclude from view, perhaps deliberately, both the office building and the spot where the brick-lined privy shaft has been found (see above, Plates 2.2 and 2.3). Especially tantalizing in the Notman view is the path shown angling off into the left foreground from the north door of the State House. Although noted earlier as being a walkway linking the State House to the office building, formalized in 1820, this may also have served as the well-trodden path to the necessary. It does not require much imagination to conjure up the image of the state’s earliest assemblymen and legislators, and governors no less, scurrying back and forth along this pathway, adjusting choice articles of clothing along the way, as personal bodily needs took precedence over the affairs of state government. On balance, this writer prefers to view the brick-lined privy shaft lurking beneath the front steps of today’s State House as part of the original State House necessary.

The remains of both the brick-lined privy and the office building of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court continue to survive today with a high degree of archaeological intactness. Only one half of the privy shaft was excavated; the remainder survives, securely packed in easily removable concrete, available for further study in the future. The footprint of the office building is also still largely preserved and recoverable through archaeological means, although the central uncellared portion of the structure may no longer survive. The northern and southern ends of the building footprint, however, are still very much in evidence with up to five feet of upstanding cellar masonry and the base of the stoop and steps of at least one of the Delaware Street entrances into the building still remaining in place.

D. RECOMMENDATIONS

The subsurface remains of the offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court and the brick-lined privy shaft some 45 feet to the rear of the building represent important archaeological elements
that contribute to the historical significance of the State House Historic District. The following seven recommendations are offered:

- These archaeological remains should be preserved in place.

- Wherever possible, future ground disturbing actions in excess of one foot below the present grade of the West State Street sidewalk on the site of the office building footprint, and for ten feet surrounding the building perimeter, should be avoided.

- If ground disturbance in excess of the above-stated depth is unavoidable on any portion of this site, this should be preceded by archaeological testing and documentation at the location where such disturbance is anticipated. Subsequent ground disturbance at the location by others should be monitored by a qualified historical archaeologist.

- Copies of this technical report should be disseminated, at a minimum, to the following State of New Jersey and City of Trenton agencies and institutions: the Division of Property Management and Construction, Department of the Treasury; the New Jersey State Archives, Department of State; the Clerk of the Supreme Court; the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office, Department of Environmental Protection; the State Capitol Joint Management Commission; the New Jersey State House Tour Office; the New Jersey State Library; the New Jersey State Museum; the City of Trenton Fire Department; the Trenton Free Public Library; and the Trenton Historical Society.

- The 28 by 46-foot footprint of the office building of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court should be accurately demarcated in the paving of the West State Street sidewalk and the eastern access ramp in front of the State House in the same vertical plane as the buried archaeological remains. This demarcation should be accomplished by inlaying within the paving, flush with its surface sufficient to prevent the tripping of pedestrians, a two-foot-wide, four- to six-inch-thick band of stone masonry designed to simulate the office building foundation. The stone used should visually and texturally approximate the Wissahickon schist used historically as a foundation building material in downtown Trenton.

- A historic interpretive sign, approximately two feet by four feet, should be installed within the office building footprint in the landscaped bed between the eastern access ramp and the West State Street sidewalk. The sign should contain informational text and illustrative materials explaining the former existence of the office building and giving details of its history, archaeology, design and use. The sign should be fabricated in durable, weatherproof materials that are compatible both with other historical and informational signage along West State Street and with the materials used to delineate the office building footprint. The sign should be installed approximately at knee height and be easily viewable by pedestrian or disabled passers-by.

- The proposed demarcation and interpretation of these remains should be integrated with and incorporated into the ongoing planning and design of the Capital Parks system.
Chapter 6

CONCLUSIONS

The program of archaeological monitoring and associated archaeological data recovery performed adjacent to the north side of the New Jersey State House within and along the south side of West State Street has yielded significant historical data about the State House Historic District and in particular concerning the configuration and use of the State House lot. This information deserves careful consideration within the context of the ongoing design and planning of the Capital Parks system.

Substantial remains of the offices of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of the Supreme Court have been shown to lie intact beneath the sidewalk, access ramp and landscaping beds immediately in front of the east side of the West State Street façade of the State House. Erected in 1795-96 and in use until the mid-1840s, this one-story stuccoed stone masonry building was New Jersey’s first public office building – the birthplace of the state bureaucracy. Divided into two office suites, each with two offices and a storage vault for state papers, it occupied the northeast corner of the State House lot at the corner of Delaware and Second (West State) Streets.

A combination of archival and archaeological research has allowed for a richly detailed picture of this building to be reconstructed. The holdings of the New Jersey State Archives include accounts pertaining to the building’s original design and construction, its repair and maintenance. From an archaeological standpoint, the overall 46 by 28-foot footprint of the building has been recoverable and significant parts of the cellars at both ends of the buildings, along with the remains of at least one front entry stoop and one exterior basement entry, still survive. Recommendations are included both for the preservation of these remains and for their interpretive treatment at street level.

Some 45 feet to the rear of the office building, immediately adjacent to the east side of the State House’s West State Street portico, the remains of a brick-lined privy shaft were documented. With reasonable certainty, this feature - half of which was excavated, the other half preserved in place – is identified as part of the State House necessary, a rest room facility erected in the summer of 1797 for the use of legislators and denizens of the office building. Again, records relating to the construction and maintenance of this facility may be found in the New Jersey State Archives. Other privy shafts and remains of the necessary may yet be found beneath and alongside the West State Street portico.

Archaeological monitoring of the relocation of a water main passing along West State Street in front of the State House resulted in the recovery of sections of an earlier abandoned water line. These remains consisted of a series of 12-foot-long, one-foot-diameter wooden pipes (or “water logs”) with a 3.5-inch bore, cast-iron couplings and wrought-iron bands. They are thought to date from around 1820 and were probably originally laid in the street by the Trenton Water Works Company. It is recommended that a sample of the water log, two couplings and three bands be conserved and deposited with the Meredith Havens Fire Museum.

Other monitoring activity recorded the following: evidence of grading deposits (containing late 19th-century ceramic waste from the Trenton Potteries) related to the reconstruction of the State House fol-
ollowing the fire of 1885; foundation remains of 127 and 129 West State Street, respectively early and mid-19th-century structures on the south side of West State Street; the top of the brick arch of the Petty’s Run culvert constructed circa 1870; and an intact portion of the late 18th-century stone-arched bridge that carried West State Street over Petty’s Run.
REFERENCES

Acts of the Nineteenth General Assembly of the State of New-Jersey
1795 Acts of the Nineteenth General Assembly of the State of New-Jersey.

Boyer, Charles S.

Bucher, W. (editor)

Calloway, S., and E. Cromley

Chalifoux, M. S.

Charles-Victurnen Colbert, E.

Charter of the Trenton Water Works

Chittick, W. F., and K. R. Kalb

Cohan, Z.
1969 A Thesis Presented to the Faculty of the Department of Fine Arts Newark State College in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts. Newark State College, Newark, New Jersey.

1979 History of the State House. On file, New Jersey State Library (NJDE), Trenton, New Jersey.
Cotter, J., D. G. Roberts, and M. Parrington

Council Journal

Davis, S.

Fischer, D. H.

Fowler & Bailey
1874 Aerial View of Greater Trenton Proper and Chambersburgh. On file, Trentoniana Collection, Trenton Public Library, Trenton, New Jersey.

Franzen, M. D.

Frey, A.

Greiff, C. M.

Hering, R.

Heritage Studies Inc.

Hewitt, L. (compiler)

Historic Sites Research
House of Assembly Minutes
1841 *House of Assembly Minutes.* On file, New Jersey State Archives (NJDS), Trenton, New Jersey.

Hunter Research Associates
1989a Archaeological Investigations at the New Jersey State House, City of Trenton, Mercer County, New Jersey. On file, New Jersey Historic Preservation Office (NJDEP), Trenton, New Jersey.

1989b Intensive Test Excavations at the Old Barracks, City of Trenton, Mercer County, New Jersey. Volume One - Text; Volume Two - Appendices. On file, New Jersey Historic Preservation Office (NJDEP), Trenton, New Jersey.

Hunter Research, Inc.
1990 The Old Barracks, City of Trenton, Mercer County, New Jersey. Summary of Results of Archaeological Investigations 1988-89. On file, New Jersey Historic (NJDEP), Trenton, New Jersey.

1991a Supplementary Archaeological Investigations at the Old Barracks, City of Trenton, Mercer County, New Jersey (Revision). On file, New Jersey Historic Preservation Office (NJDEP), Trenton, New Jersey.


1999b Trenton Potteries Database. On file, New Jersey Department of Transportation, Trenton, New Jersey.

2000  Route 29 Bikeway Preliminary Cultural Resources Assessment, City of Trenton, Mercer County, New Jersey. On file, New Jersey Historic Preservation Office (NJDEP), Trenton, New Jersey.


Hunter, R. W., and R. L. Porter


Kalb, K. R., J. Kopleck, D. Fimbel, and I. J. Sypko


Kardas, S., and E. Larrabee


Lamborn, R. H.
1859  Map of the City of Trenton and Part of Hamilton Township Mercer County, New Jersey. Robert H.
Lamborn, Trenton, New Jersey.

Lane, Sally
2006  Thomas Edison State College: A Campus with a History. Thomas Edison State College, Trenton, New
Jersey.

Lee, F. B.

Maskell Ewing Papers.

Mendel Mesick Cohen Waite Architects
Preservation Office (NJDEP), Trenton, New Jersey.

On file, New Jersey State Archives (NJDS)
1906  New Jersey Laws. On file, New Jersey State Archives (NJDS), Trenton, New Jersey.

New Jersey Legislature
1791-1794  Votes of Assembly. On file, New Jersey State Archives (NJDS), Trenton, New Jersey.

1820  New Jersey Legislature 45th General Assembly. Trenton, New Jersey.

1843  65th General Assembly Minutes. On file, New Jersey State Archives (NJDS), Trenton, New Jersey.


1889  Document 1, Governor’s Message. On file, New Jersey State Archives, Trenton, New Jersey.

New Jersey State Legislature

New Jersey Historical Commission
1980  The Papers of William Livingston, Volume 2: July 1777-December 1778. Edited by C. E. Price and D.
P. Ryan. New Jersey Historical Commission, Trenton, New Jersey.

On file, New Jersey State Archives (NJDS)
1789-1797  Papers Relating to the New Jersey State House. On file, New Jersey State Archives (NJDS),
Trenton, New Jersey.
A Plan and Survey of Sundry Pieces of Land Adjoining the Delaware River and Assunpink Creek Belonging to Jn. Cox.
1789   On file, New Jersey State Archives (NJDS), Trenton, New Jersey.

A Plan of Sundry Lots of Land the Property of Daniel W. Coxe, Esquire, Part of His Bloomsbury Estate.
1804   On file, New Jersey State Archives (NJDS), Trenton, New Jersey.

Pierce, Arthur D.

Podmore, H. J.


Quigley, M. A., and D. E. Collier  

Raum, J. O.  

Records of the Secretary of State  
1791  *Records of the Secretary of State*. On file, New Jersey State Archives (NJDS), Trenton, New Jersey, November 16.

Secretary of State Deeds.  
On file, New Jersey State Archives (NJDS), Trenton, New Jersey.

Sidney, J. C.  

Snyder, J. P.  

State House Commission  
1845-1905  *State House Construction Records*. On file, New Jersey State Archives (NJDS), Trenton, New Jersey.

1853  State House Commission Minutes. On file, New Jersey State Archives (NJDS), Trenton, New Jersey.

1906  State House Commission Minutes. On file, New Jersey State Archives (NJDS), Trenton, New Jersey.

1911  State House Commission Minutes. On file, New Jersey State Archives (NJDS), Trenton, New Jersey.

1921  State House Commission Minutes. On file, New Jersey State Archives (NJDS), Trenton, New Jersey.

1929  State House Commission Minutes. On file, New Jersey State Archives (NJDS), Trenton, New Jersey.

Stryker, W. S.  

Toothman, S. S.  
Trenton Historical Society

U.S. Coast Survey
1844  *Survey of the Coast of the Delaware River from Bordentown to Trenton New Jersey.* On file, National Archives, Record Group 77, Washington, D.C.

West Jersey Deeds
On file, New Jersey State Archives (NJDS), Trenton, New Jersey.

Widmer, K.
1963  *Geology of Mercer County in Brief.* Bureau of Geology and Topography, Trenton, New Jersey.

Wolfe, P. E.