



Foundation ruins of the possible block-house. NPS photo.

work. Professor Kraft's initial excavations had identified several structures, including a line of postholes and a rectangular stone structure, which may have been associated with the fort. Local oral traditions suggested that the stone structure, which served as a cowshed in the 20th century, was built on the foundations of the 18th-century block-house shown in the Hampton plan. In 1999, we excavated a section of the stone structure.

We recovered a large variety of artifacts from this excavation including pottery, glass, and metalwork. Among the more interesting objects we recovered were a 19th-century bottle for a patent medicine for treating worms and early Ball mason jars and lids. All of the objects that we recovered could be dated to the second half of the 19th century. No 18th-century objects were recovered. Our excavations suggest that the stone building is more likely to be associated with the 19th-century Hull-Schnure house than with the earlier French and Indian War fort.

In 1999, we also conducted additional excavations along the line of postholes first identified by Professor Kraft. We found that the postholes were associated with 19th- and 20th-century artifacts. The postholes probably represent a fence line associated with the Hull-Schnure occupation. We also excavated several test squares throughout the site in an attempt to identify the line of the 18th-century palisade. Our testing strategy did not identify the location of the fort's palisade.

In all three excavation seasons we dug a series of test pits in an attempt to locate the foundations of the small stone house that stood at the center of Fort Johns. We excavated several test

trenches to the east of the foundations of the Schnure house, as well as a small number of test pits on the north side of the military road. These trenches yielded a wide range of prehistoric and historic artifacts and cultural features. However, we were unable to locate the foundations of the 18th-century house. It is clear that the Fort Johns site was heavily disturbed when the Hull-Schnure house was destroyed in late 1974, and it is possible that the earlier 18th-century foundations were also obliterated at that time.

In the summer of 2001, we decided to explore Fort Nominack (Nomanoc), a fort located approximately eight miles north of Fort Johns. Fort Nominack stood as a ruin until the early 20th century⁴ so its general location is known. Amy Sousa, a New York University student who took part in the 1998 excavation season as part of her senior honors thesis research, conducted preliminary archival research in Fort Nominack. In 2001, we mapped and tested the ruins of a building that had been identified as Fort Nominack in early archeological surveys of the park. This building may be an old barn on the property. We are currently consulting with area residents who remember the location of the Nominack ruins, and we hope to carry out further archeological testing of Fort Nominack in future seasons. In future years we also hope to look for the remains of Fort Hynshaw on the Pennsylvania side of the river.

Notes

- ¹ J. C. Harrington, *Washington's Fort Necessity: A Report on the Archeological Explorations at Fort Necessity National Battlefield Site*, (Richmond, VA) (Conshohocken, PA: Eastern National Parks and Monuments Association, 1977).
- ² Herbert C. Kraft, *The Minisink Settlements: An Investigation into a Prehistoric and an Early Historic Site in Sussex County, New Jersey* (South Orange, NJ: Seton Hall University Museum, 1977).
- ³ Ibid.
- ⁴ C. G. Hine, *The Old Mine Road*, (New Brunswick, NJ, 1909) (Rutgers, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1985).

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