



Cultural Resources at Naval Weapons Station Yorktown

Dated: 16 October 2024

Mike Makin
Archaeologist and Cultural Resources Manager
Naval Weapons Station Yorktown
Phone: (757) 887-4148
Email: douglas.m.makin.civ@us.navy.mil

Cultural Resources Manager

- **Cultural Resources Manager- Mike Makin**
 - Professional Archaeologist for over 15 years
 - BA in anthropology from University of Virginia
 - MA in anthropology from College of William & Mary
 - Worked in private sector before taking current position with NAVFAC
 - Mostly as a contractor leading archaeological surveys and excavations for utility companies, developers, and governments
 - Some nonprofit experience including Colonial Williamsburg
 - **Lots of experience with archaeological surveys, site evaluations, and data recoveries**
 - And report preparation



Cultural Resources Laws and Regulations



- **National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966**

- **Section 106:** requires that each federal agency identify and assess the effects its actions may have on historic properties. Under Section 106, each federal agency must consider public views and concerns about historic preservation issues when making final project decisions.

- Consulting parties can include but not limited to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), federally recognized tribes, certified local governments, and members of the general public with an economic, social or cultural interest in the project.

- Established National Register of Historic Places (NRHP): a list of historically significant properties

- **Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) of 1979**

- Makes it a crime to remove anything over 100 years old from federal land. (No relic hunting!!)

- **Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of 1990**

- recognizes the rights of lineal descendants, Indian Tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations in Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony.

Cultural Resources Program



• Keys to Compliance

– It is a violation of federal law to remove any artifact from federal property

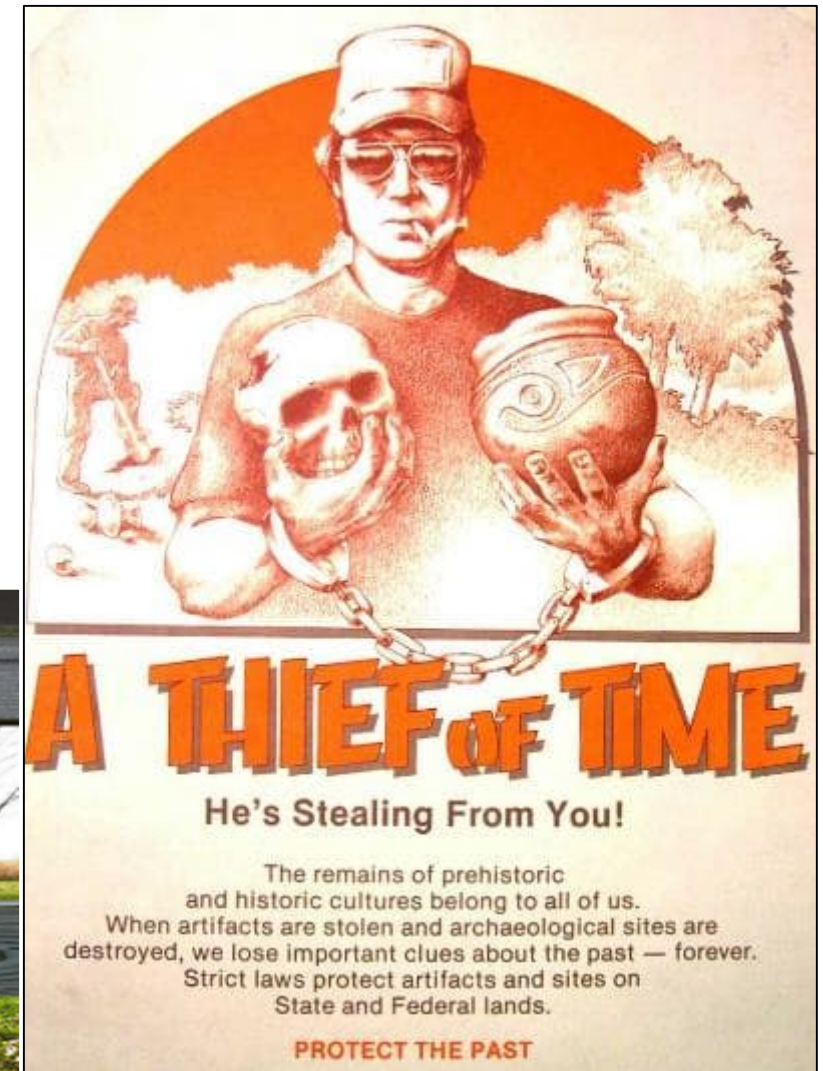
- Metal detecting is illegal and a violation of Navy policy

- Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA), DoDI 4715.16, OPNAV 5090.1E, and OPNAV 5090-M-1

– Contact Cultural Resources Manager immediately if artifacts are found

– Initiate consultations on projects with potential for adverse effect on historic properties

- Ground disturbance
- Viewsheds
- Modifications to buildings



Cultural Resources at NWSY

- **Archaeological Resources**

- NWSY: 367 sites
- Cheatham Annex: 56 sites
- *Total: 423*

- **Architectural Resources**

- Kiskiak House (*NRHP listed*)
- Mason Row Historic District (*NRHP eligible*)
- Skiffs Creek Annex Historic District (*NRHP eligible*)



Archaeological Field School



The Dispersed Creekside Village of Kiskiak



- Location of Kiskiak depicted on John Smith's Map of Virginia
- Subject of field school conducted by Chesapeake Archaeology Lab (CAL)
- Years long project studying sites along Felgates and Indian Field Creeks
- Sites include shell middens and living spaces



Hearth excavation at Mason Row. Photo by Martin Gallivan.



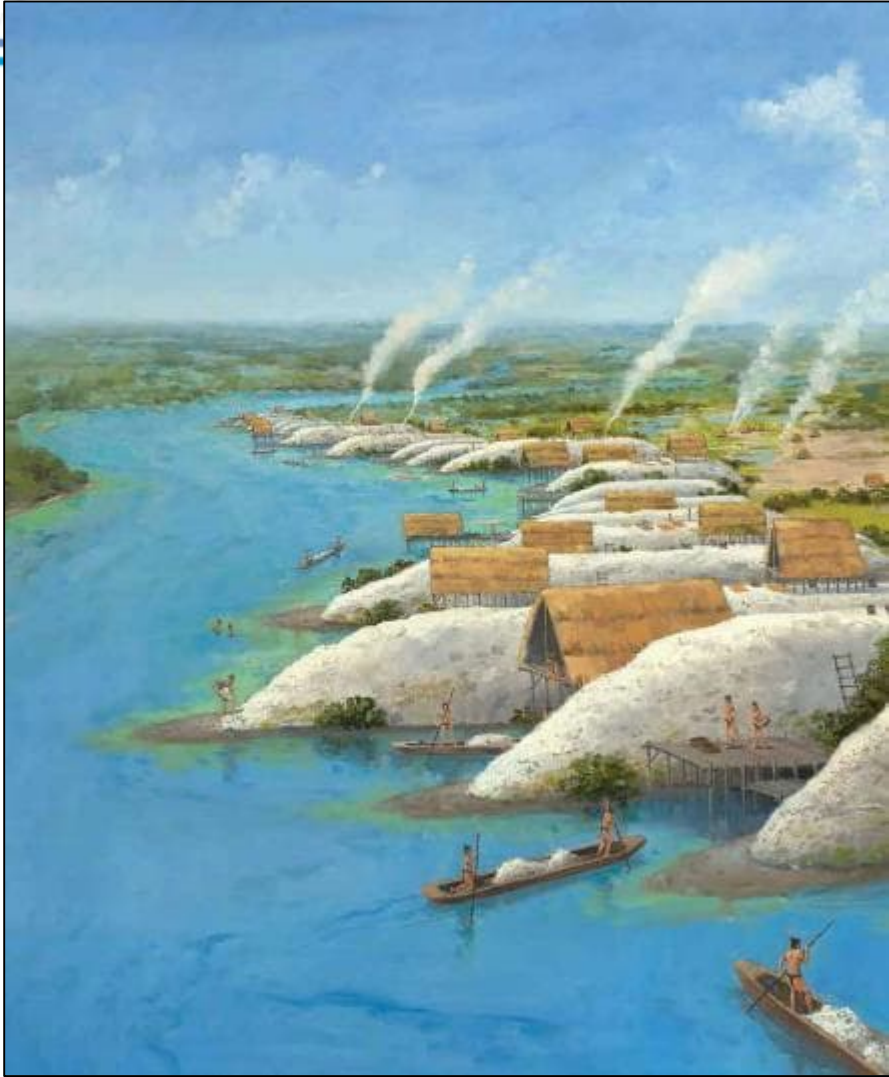
Archaeological Field School at Kiskiak



Palisade Overlooking York River where Mason Row Is Today (Photo by Martin Gallivan).



Shell Middens



Artist's Rendition of Middens at
Archaeology site in Florida



Left: Felgates
Creek; Below:
Indian Field Creek



2024 Archaeological Field School at Kiskiak



Shell Midden Site on northeast side of Felgates Creek

The Kiskiak House

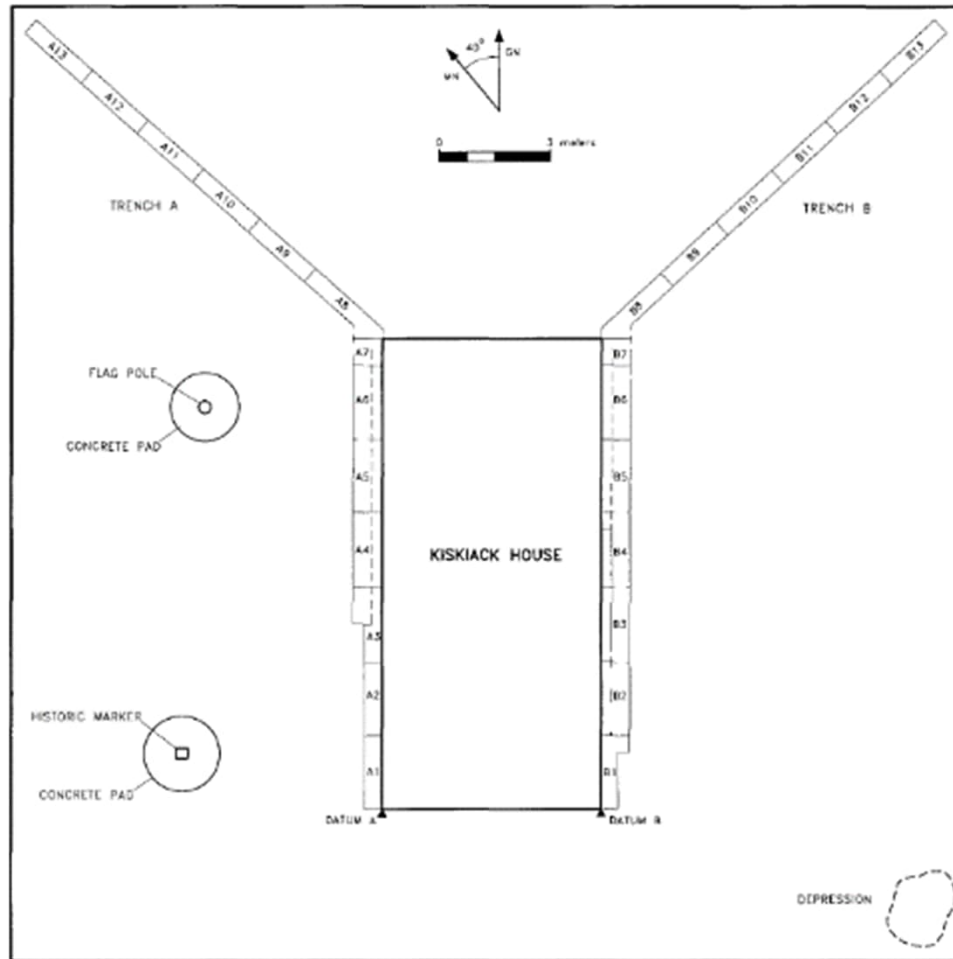


1880s



1944

Archaeology at the Kiskiack House



Trenches Excavated during 2003 Archaeological Studies.

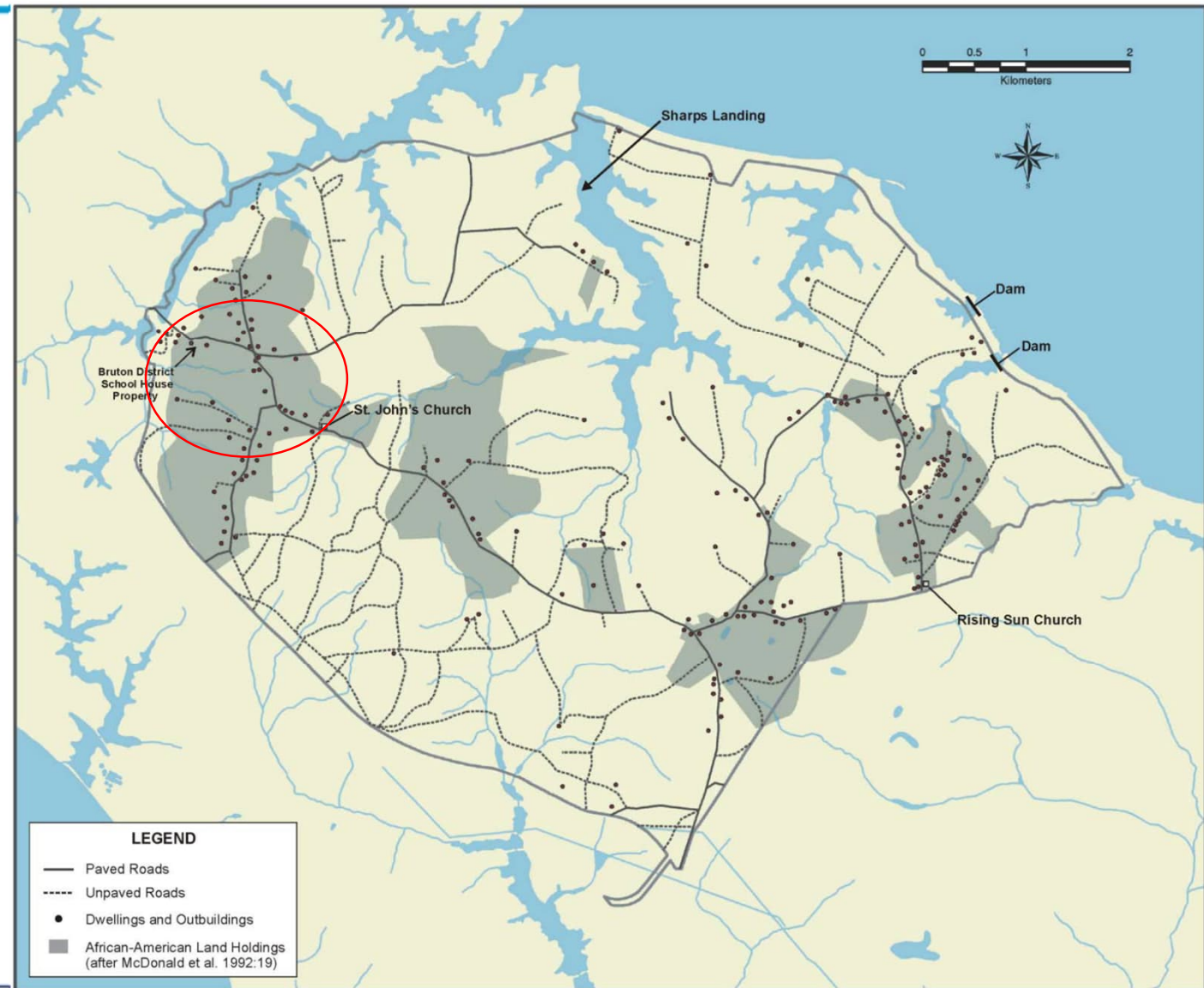


Builder's Trench (WMCAR 2004).

Charles Corner



- **Map of Naval Weapons Station Yorktown (approximate Charles Corner area circled in red)**
 - **African American landholdings at time base was established shaded in Gray (SEARCH 2011)**



Archaeology at Charles Corner



Clockwise from upper left: Shell Midden Feature; Ceramic Sample; Rake; Buggy Frame (all photos from SEARCH 2011)



Cheesecake Cemetery



- **Cheesecake is a derivative of Kiskiak**
- **Burial ground for residents of Charles Corner**
- **Only a handful of tombstones remain. Most are broken and shattered**
- **2009 Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey by SEARCH identified 38 potential burials**
- **Sergeant Major Edward Ratcliff**
 - **Born into slavery**
 - **1st African American medal of honor recipient- Civil War veteran**
 - **September 1864 Battle of New Market Heights**
- *Commanded and gallantly led his company after the commanding officer had been killed; was the first enlisted man to enter the enemy's works.*
 - Edward Ratcliff's Medal of Honor citation



Cheesecake Cemetery



Circa 1940 Photo by George Carrington Mason.



Recent photos of two headstones.