

60 Years at 906 S. Franklin Street: Examining Residential and Commercial Life at Mobile's Virginia Street Site

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Features

Phase III excavation identified the south side of the house through a series of postholes. These postholes are aligned roughly east-west in a 34-foot line, which was the length of the structure according to historic documents. Two features with dense artifact deposits were excavated in the vicinity of the house: Feature 124 and Feature 158.

Artifacts

Notable artifacts from Feature 124 include children's items, such as slate pencils, marbles, and fragments of porcelain dolls and tea sets, as well as a large quantity of Albany slip stoneware jugs, many of which are whole. One jug has a printed maker's mark that reads Meyer, Jossen & Co. Fine Whiskies Mobile, Ala. A preliminary inventory of the faunal remains shows a large amount of indeterminate bone, butchered bone, and indeterminate shell, as well as almost equal utilization of cow, chicken, pig, and deer.

Notable artifacts from Feature 158 include a large quantity of smoking pipes, glass bottles, and children's items. One United States silver three-cent piece with a drilled hole was recovered. It may have been used for adornment or as a weight. A preliminary inventory of the faunal remains showed a large number of indeterminate bones, as well as butchered bones. Of the identified faunal remains, over half were attributed to fish and approximately one-quarter can be attributed to pig, specifically to the limbs.

Preliminary Findings

Feature 124 appears to be one deposit, while Feature 158 looks to have been created through multiple depositional events. Feature 124 was likely filled with refuse when 906 S. Franklin was demolished in the 1960s. Artifacts recovered include aluminum cans, a battery, and a high percentage of whole bottles and jugs, which support this hypothesis.

Faunal remains from Feature 124 have an equal amount of domestic and wild vertebrates, including numerous bivalve shells and low meat bearing elements from animals. The faunal remains from Feature