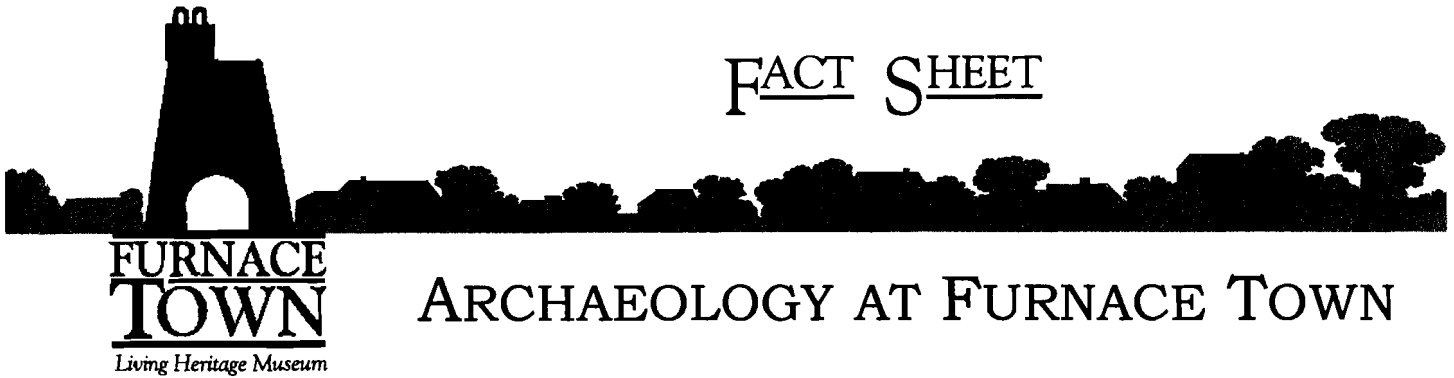


FACT SHEET



ARCHAEOLOGY AT FURNACE TOWN

Why do you do archaeology?
Archaeology helps us learn more about the people who lived and worked at Furnace Town.

Where do you dig?
A site is selected by researchers following clues from maps, stories, or finds from previous digs. Currently, researchers believe there was a building located in the area northeast of the Mansion House site, possibly during the operation of the Nassawango Iron Furnace. A dig is underway in this area to confirm this hypothesis.

What happens to the artifacts?
Artifacts are bagged by type and kept in boxes by dig date. They are later cleaned, labeled, and accessioned. All artifacts are the property of Furnace Town. They remain in storage and are used for exhibits.

How can the public help?
Individuals can participate in an actual dig at Furnace Town. Each dig is supervised by staff or volunteers trained in appropriate archaeological technique. All equipment is provided, as is pre-dig training.

When are digs conducted?
Each spring a calendar of dates is established for digs open for public participation. Contact the Furnace Town office for the next available date.

How do you do archaeology?
Several 5' x 10' excavation grids are outlined at the selected site. Excavation teams are made up of a Secretary, Excavator and Sifter.

The **Secretary** records all information about artifacts found and organizes the artifacts for further analysis.

The **Excavator(s)** use a trowel, paint brush, and dust pan to remove soil and expose artifacts.

The **Sifter(s)** place removed soil into a strainer to look for small artifacts, such as charcoal, pebbles, wood, glass, shell, and mortar.

Each team is given a specific 12" x 12" grid area to excavate. Using a layer-by-layer removal technique, excavators remove an entire layer of soil watching and listening for artifacts in the soil. The removed soil is then given to the Sifter, who strains the soil, looking for smaller artifacts.

Neat Finds at Furnace Town

A Domino
Many Buttons
Part of a Toothbrush
Nails & Hinges
Scissors & Knives
Spoons
Broken bits of Redware, Stoneware, Window glass, Bottle glass, & Dinnerware of many patterns
Slag
Shells
Bricks, Mortar & Pebbles

When an artifact is found, a paint brush is used to sweep away the excess soil until the artifact can be removed. The Excavator and Sifter must use eyes, ears, and hands to find artifacts in their original location, and report their find to the Secretary. The Secretary records a description of the artifact and its exact location to be used in analysis and interpretation of the site .

Once the excavation time period is complete, the removed soil is sifted one more time to check for any missed artifacts. The team makes sure their area is clean and ready for the next team to begin. Artifacts are catalogued and stored for further research of Furnace Town.