

Fieldwork



RIVERFRONT PARK ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT



1856 Mutual Assurance Society Policy showing the residence of A.P. Rowe (A) and a second dwelling (B)



1863 Fredericksburg Waterfront, looking NW. Home and yard of A.P. Rowe. Civil War earthworks are visible in the foreground.



607 Sophia Street circa 1920, looking NE. William and Celia Goeltrick owned both 607 & 609 Sophia Street. Celia hired E.G. "Peck" Heflin to construct a dwelling at 609 Sophia Street in 1921.

Situated along the Rappahannock River, Native Americans, colonists, and Fredericksburg citizens have continuously used this land for shelter, food, travel, and recreation. From the initial settlement in the early 18th century through the mid-19th century, the wharfs and warehouses along Sophia (Water) Street grew as trading, storing, and selling commerce increased.

Although there is no archaeological ordinance in the City of Fredericksburg, City Council and the Office of Parks, Recreation & Public Facilities wanted to conduct a cultural resource study of the proposed Riverfront Park development area. Archaeologists are excavating this site to gain a better understanding of how the riverfront landscape has changed over time. Excavations will uncover valuable information about the people who lived here and what their lives were like.



705 Block of Sophia Street looking SE. Circa 1920s photograph (top) 1920s photo overlaid on current image showing approximate location (bottom).



Bird's Eye View of Fredericksburg, VA, Nov. 1862. Project area including Riverfront Park is highlighted. Shows (from left to right): A.P. Rowe's house, yard, and outbuildings; dwellings owned by Russell, Johnston, and Taylor; and, an early 19th-century ice House owned by Forneyhough.

ANOTHER ICE HOUSE.

THEY who flow inform their future customers that they have built a large Ice House, for the use of supplying the Brick Baptist Church, which will be filled with Ice this winter. If the season will permit. All who are fond of their health, and who are desirous of securing their health, will be glad to give their patronage.

A person will be kept at the Ice House, for the purpose of Ice all day, and night on Sunday, when he will be there at the usual hours.

THOMAS WRIGHT
JOHN FORNEYHOUGH.

Nov. 27, 1862.

Political Arena

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