



# Archaeologists Continue Investigations

The emerging picture of life on the Monticello plantation became a bit clearer over the summer.

Artifacts once owned and used by enslaved African Americans – including ceramics, wine bottle glass, brick fragments, and nails – were among the discoveries made during fieldwork by Monticello's Archaeology Department.



**Archaeological Field School student Courtney Childs digging at Site 8.**

The summer digging took place along the eastern edge of Site 8, a location about 700 yards east of the main house that was home to field hands on the plantation from around 1770 to 1795. The work was carried out by staff archaeologists and the 15 students enrolled in the annual Monticello-University of Virginia Archaeological Field School under the direction

of Sara Bon-Harper, Monticello's archaeological research manager.



The field school students also further investigated two sub-floor pits that had been identified and partially excavated in 2002. The complete excavation of these pits – storage spaces dug under the floors of slaves' dwellings – confirmed that the inhabitants of the house at the site moved away in a planned abandonment of the building. It is likely that the building was later burned, probably to clear the land that was then turned into an agricultural field.

Based on the distribution of artifacts, staff archaeologists believe that there was at least one other house on the site, and in the final days of the season's

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# MONTICELLO



## Archaeologists

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excavation they found possible evidence of that structure. A single post-hole dug to support part of a building or fence may indicate the location of the house or its yard.

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