

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES, THE
TENNESSEE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE, VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY,
MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY, AND THE METROPOLITAN BOARD
OF PARKS AND RECREATION,
REGARDING THE DESCENDANT-LED EXCAVATION AT THE
RECONSTRUCTION-ERA BLACK CIVIL WAR VETERAN COMMUNITY AT BASS
STREET, FORT NEGLEY PARK (40DV189)

WHEREAS, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) plans to fund the Archaeological and Ethnographic Field Research Grant RFW-292005-23: Descendant-led Excavation at the Reconstruction-Era Black Civil War Veteran Community at Bass Street, Fort Negley Park (40DV189) (undertaking) pursuant to the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965, Pub. L. 89-209, as amended; 20 U.S.C. § 956 et seq; and

WHEREAS, Vanderbilt University, which directs the Fort Negley Descendants Project, an oral history project focused on revealing Nashville’s Black Civil War history, will be overseeing archaeological excavation work performed by Middle Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, the undertaking consists of archaeological excavations of a Reconstruction era home and two public spaces in the Bass Street Community area of the Fort Negley/St. Cloud Hill site (40DV189), guided by descendant oral histories; and

WHEREAS, NEH has defined the undertaking’s area of potential effects (APE) as described in Attachment A; and

WHEREAS, NEH has determined that the undertaking will have an adverse effect on Fort Negley (40DV189), which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NHRP #75001748) and has consulted with the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800, the regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. § 306108); and

WHEREAS, NEH invited the following tribes to consult: Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, Cherokee Nation, Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The Tribes did not respond; and

WHEREAS, NEH has consulted with Fort Negley Park, Friends of Fort Negley Park African American Cultural Alliance, Afro American Genealogical Society, Nashville Chapter, Metropolitan Historic Commission, Metropolitan Board of Parks and Recreation, Nashville City Cemetery Association, Sons of Union Veterans, Fort Donelson Camp #62, Adventure Science Center, American Battlefield Trust regarding the effects of the undertaking on historic properties and has invited them to sign this Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) as concurring parties. The Metropolitan Board of Parks and Recreation, Nashville City Cemetery Association, African American Cultural Alliance, American Battlefield Trust, and Sons of Union Veterans Fort Donelson Camp #62, accepted the invitation. The Adventure Science Center declined the invitation, and the remainder did not respond to the request; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.6(a)(1), NEH has notified the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) of its adverse effect determination with specified documentation, and the ACHP has chosen *not to* participate in the consultation pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.6(a)(1)(iii); and

NOW, THEREFORE, NEH, the SHPO, and Vanderbilt University agree that the undertaking shall be implemented in accordance with the following stipulations in order to take into account the effect of the undertaking on historic properties.

STIPULATIONS

NEH shall ensure that the following measures are carried out:

I. MEASURES TO MITIGATE ADVERSE EFFECTS

A. Data Recovery Plan The Vanderbilt University and Middle Tennessee State University shall implement the data recovery plan in Attachment B which contains a data recovery plan that meets the Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (36 CFR Part 67), the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation (48 FR 44716 (September 29, 1983)), and the ACHP's Recommended Approach for Consultation on Recovery of Significant Information from Archaeological Sites (64 FR 27085 (May 18, 1999)) and Section 106 Archaeology Guidance (2007) and the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Office Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Resource Management Studies (2024).

B. Technical Reports and Dissemination of Results

1. Vanderbilt University and Middle Tennessee State University shall provide technical reports on the findings within one (1) year after completion of the excavations and descendant interviews. Vanderbilt University shall submit the archaeological field reports to the Metro Nashville's archive. Vanderbilt University will submit physical and digital copies to Tennessee Department of Archaeology, the Metro Nashville Historical Commission, and to the Fort Negley Visitors Center, so that they are available for use by professional archaeologists for comparative purposes, understanding of method and technique, and for

technical recordation for preservation of site information. Vanderbilt University and Middle Tennessee State University shall also update all Tennessee Division of Archaeology archaeological site records for each site investigated during the study.

2. Vanderbilt University and Middle Tennessee State University shall bring interested descendants and their guests and the board members of the African American Cultural Alliance to the archaeology lab at Middle Tennessee State University to witness the processing, storage, and cataloging of the Bass Street Neighborhood artifacts. Andrew Wyatt, Clelie Cottle Peacock, and Angela Sutton will be on hand to answer questions and record their responses to the academic treatment of their material culture and explain the ways in which the study of these objects facilitates more nuanced and inclusive understandings of American History.
3. Vanderbilt University and Middle Tennessee State University staff shall present the undertaking's results at the Nashville Conference on African American History and Culture, at a meeting of the Friends of Fort Negley Board members, to the Nashville Metro Parks Board and a meeting of the Sons of Union Veterans Camp Donelson Camp #62, and shall seek opportunities to publish the undertaking's findings in professional journals, university press volumes, and booklets, such as the Public History Review and the anthology of Fort Negley being created by the Friends of Fort Negley."

II. ARTIFACT COLLECTION, CARE, AND MANAGEMENT

- A. Vanderbilt University and Middle Tennessee State University shall inventory all artifacts collected by qualified professionals at the project sites in accordance with the Data Recovery Plan in Stipulation I.A.
- B. Vanderbilt University and Middle Tennessee State University shall protect the Project sites from deterioration by making sure that all features and excavated surfaces are backfilled following the completion of each excavation season. This step shall also allow further study by archaeologists in the future.

III. QUALIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS

A. Professional Qualifications

Vanderbilt University and Middle Tennessee State University shall ensure that all aspects of the Project that involve the identification, evaluation, analysis, recordation, treatment, monitoring, and disposition of historic properties and that include reporting and documentation of such actions in the form of reports, forms, or other records, will be carried out by or under the direct supervision of a person or persons meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards (48 FR 44738 (September 9, 1983)) in the appropriate discipline, and the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Office Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Resource Management Studies (2024).

B. Documentation Standards

Vanderbilt University and Middle Tennessee State University shall ensure that all reports written in conjunction with the Project and described in this MOA conform to the Secretary of the Interior Standards Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (36 CFR Part 67), the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation (48 FR 44716 (September 29, 1983)), the ACHP's Recommended Approach for Consultation on Recovery of Significant Information from Archaeological Sites (64 FR 27085 (May 18, 1999)) and the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Office Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Resource Management Studies (2024), or subsequent revisions of or replacements to these documents.

IV. DURATION

This MOA will expire if its terms are not carried out within five (5) years from the date of its execution. Prior to such time, NEH may consult with the other signatories to reconsider the terms of the MOA and amend it in accordance with Stipulation VIII below.

V. POST-REVIEW DISCOVERIES

If properties are discovered that may be historically significant or unanticipated effects on historic properties found, the NEH, Vanderbilt University and Middle Tennessee State University shall implement the discovery plan included as Attachment C of this MOA.

VI. MONITORING AND REPORTING

Each year following the execution of this MOA until the project is completed, NEH shall provide all consulting parties to this MOA a summary report detailing work undertaken pursuant to its terms. The report shall include any scheduling changes proposed, any problems encountered, and any disputes and objections received in NEH's and efforts to carry out the terms of this MOA.

VII. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Should any signatory * or concurring party to this MOA object at any time to any actions proposed or the manner in which the terms of this MOA are implemented, NEH shall consult with such party to resolve the objection. If NEH determines that such objection cannot be resolved, NEH will:

- a. Forward all documentation relevant to the dispute, including the NEH's proposed resolution, to the ACHP. The ACHP shall provide NEH with its advice on the resolution of the objection within thirty (30) days of receiving adequate documentation. Prior to

reaching a final decision on the dispute, NEH shall prepare a written response that takes into account any timely advice or comments regarding the dispute from the ACHP, signatories and concurring parties, and provide them with a copy of this written response. NEH will then proceed according to its final decision.

- b. If the ACHP does not provide its advice regarding the dispute within the thirty (30) day time period, NEH may make a final decision on the dispute and proceed accordingly. Prior to reaching such a final decision, NEH shall prepare a written response that takes into account any timely comments regarding the dispute from the signatories and concurring parties to the MOA and provide them and the ACHP with a copy of such written response.
- c. NEH's responsibility to carry out all other actions subject to the terms of this MOA that are not the subject of the dispute remain unchanged.

VIII. AMENDMENTS

This MOA may be amended when such an amendment is agreed to in writing by all signatories. The amendment will be effective on the date a copy signed by all of the signatories is filed with the ACHP.

IX. TERMINATION

If any signatory to this MOA determines that its terms will not or cannot be carried out, that party shall immediately consult with the other signatories to attempt to develop an amendment per Stipulation VIII, above. If within thirty (30) days (or another time period agreed to by all signatories) an amendment cannot be reached, any signatory may terminate the MOA upon written notification to the other signatories.

Once the MOA is terminated, and prior to work continuing on the undertaking, NEH must either (a) execute an MOA pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.6 or (b) request, take into account, and respond to the comments of the ACHP under 36 CFR § 800.7. NEH shall notify the signatories as to the course of action it will pursue.

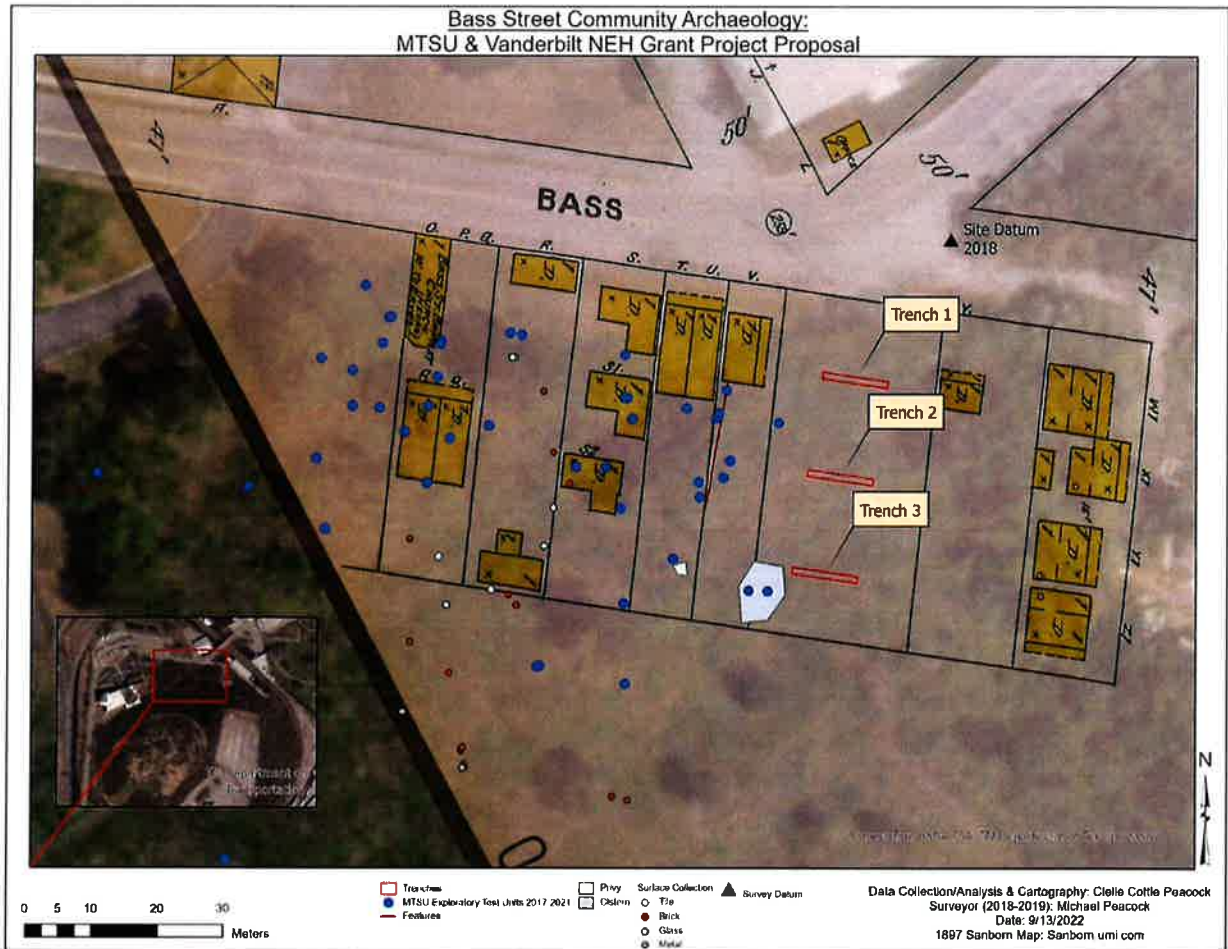
Execution of this MOA by NEH, SHPO, and Vanderbilt University, and implementation of its terms evidence that NEH has taken into account the effects of this undertaking on historic properties and afforded the ACHP an opportunity to comment. **

Attachment A: Area of Potential Effects and Proposed Excavation Sites

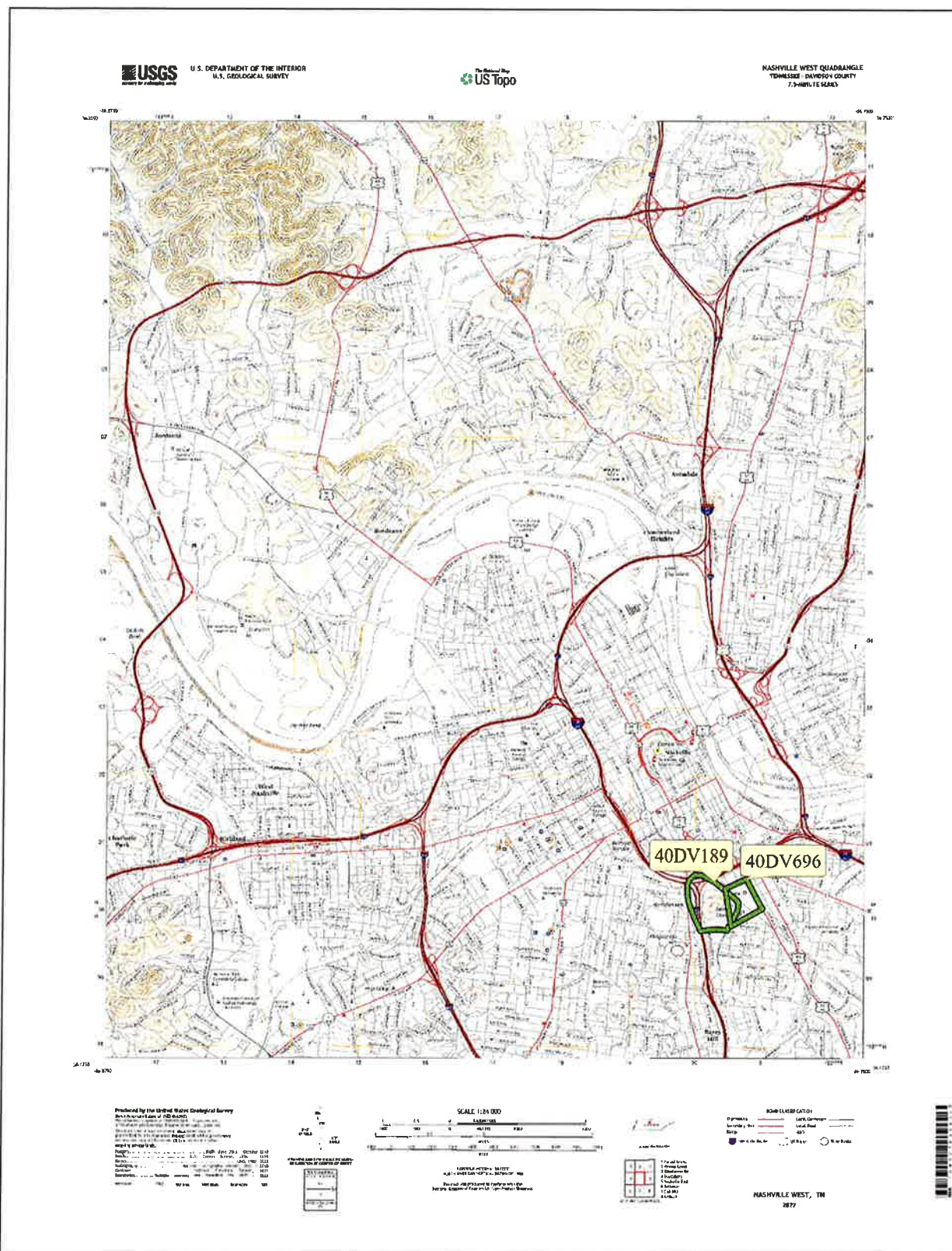
The Bass Street Community site is within the Fort Negley archaeological site boundary (40DV189) at 100 Fort Negley Blvd, Nashville, TN 37203. The address specific to the project parcel upon which our project will occur is 609 Bass Street, Nashville, TN 37203, lot 406, in the “Ewing and Wetmore Subdivision”. This lot is a small subset of the overall Bass Street Community Area of Interest, which itself is a subset of the official Fort Negley archaeological site boundary (40DV189). The Bass Street Community area does not have its own archaeological site number or boundary since it falls within the boundaries of 40DV189.

The coordinates (NAD 1983(2011) UTM Zone 16N) of lot 406’s corners are:

- NW Corner: -86.7734215°E 36.1471069°N
- NE Corner: -86.7732592°E 36.1470859°N
- SW Corner: -86.7734838°E 36.1466946°N
- SE Corner: -86.7733292°E 36.1466780°N

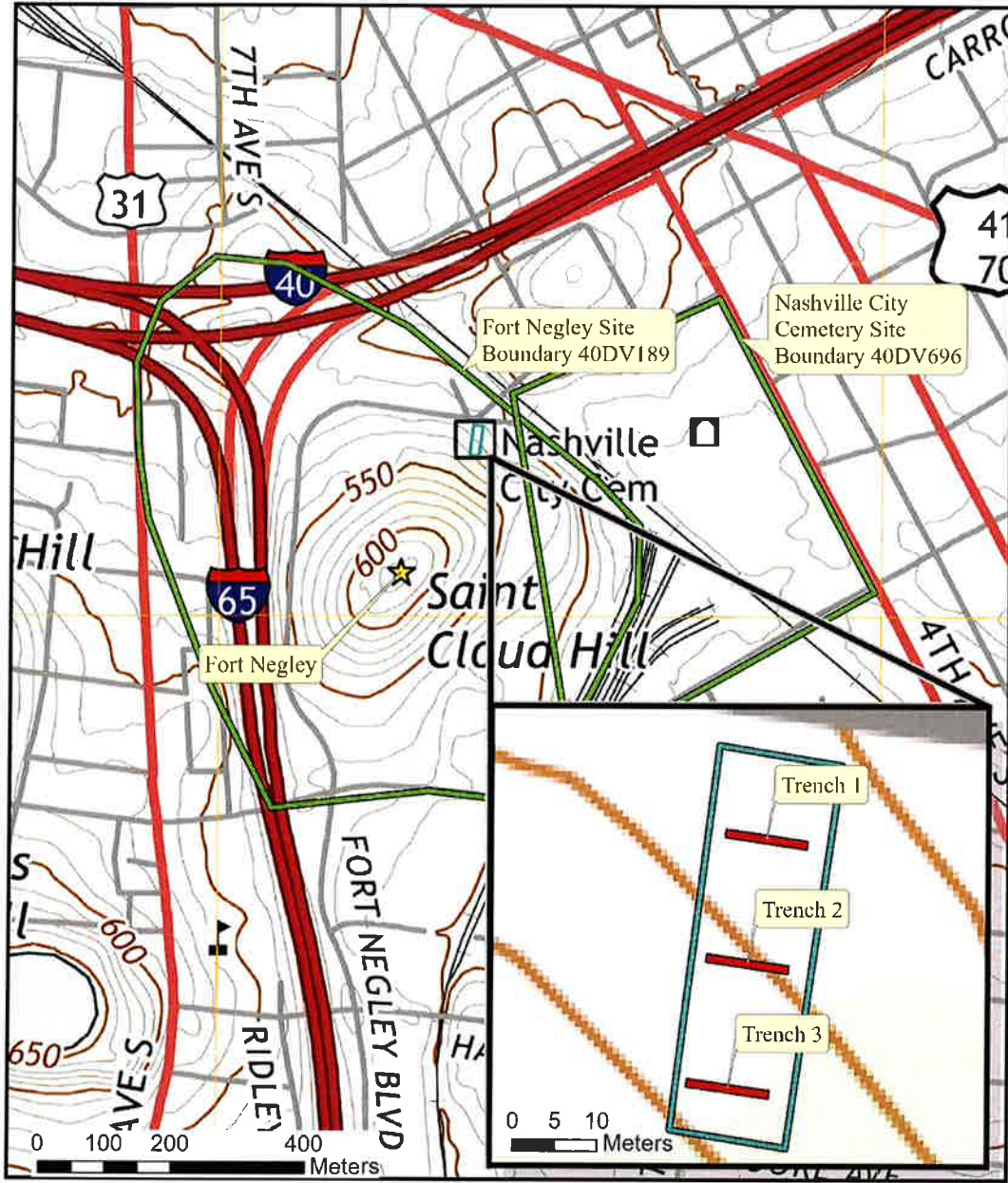


Note, the area of potential effects is limited to the 3 trenches marked in red on the map. It does not extend into the abutting Nashville City Cemetery archaeological site boundary (40DV696). Site 40DV696 will not be affected.



USGS Map showing site boundaries of 40DV189 and 40DV696

Bass Street Community Archaeology: MTSU and Vanderbilt NEH Grant Project
Location on U.S. Topographic 7.5-minute Map - Nashville West, Quad 308-NE



- Official Archaeological Site Boundaries
- NEH Grant Project Site Boundary
- Proposed Trench Excavations

Basemap Credit: U.S. Geological Survey, 2022-09-27, US Topo 7.5-minute map for Nashville West, TN: USGS - National Geospatial Technical Operations Center (NGTOC). Downloaded via National Map Viewer. <https://apps.nationalmap.gov/downloader/>

Cartographer: Clelie Cottle Peacock
Date: 6/12/2024

Attachment B: Research Design and Data Recovery Plan for the Bass Street Community Component of Site 40DV189, Fort Negley, Nashville Tennessee

Prepared by: Dr. Andrew R. Wyatt and Clélie Cottle Peacock
Middle Tennessee State University

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Table 1. Archaeology Work Plan Table18

I. Introduction

The following research design and data recovery plan outlines the approach and research objectives for the data recovery for the Bass Street Community component of site 40DV189 Fort Negley in Davidson County, TN (Figure 1). This work will be conducted under grant RFW-292005 from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) awarded to Vanderbilt University and Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU). The NEH is in the process of reviewing a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) for the data recovery mitigation of 40DV189, a site that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) on April 21st, 1975 (reference number 75001748).

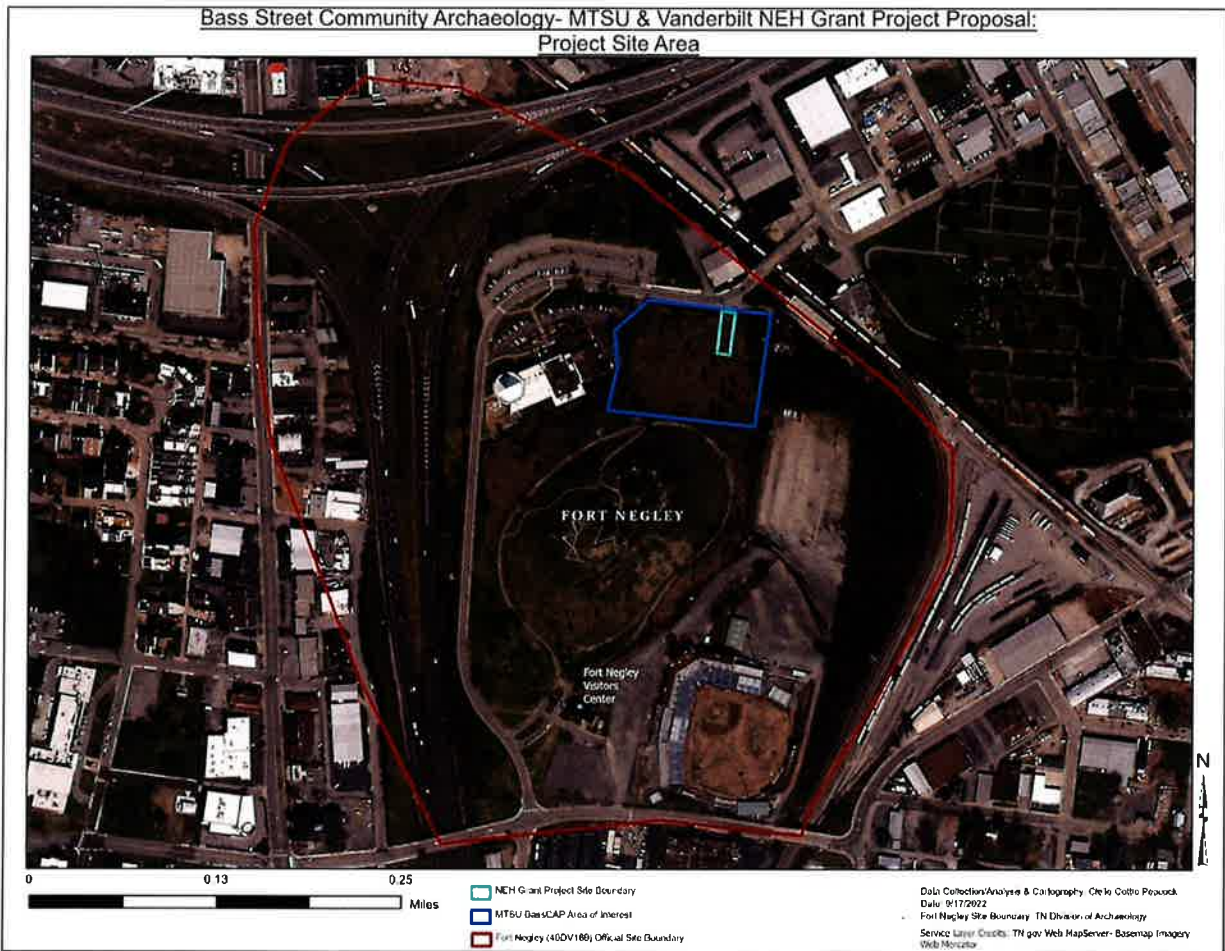


Figure 1: 40DV189 Site Boundary (red), Bass Street Area of Interest (Blue), Project Site Area (light green).

This research design and data recovery plan addresses data recovery at the Bass Street Community

component of site 40DV189, a Civil War-era fort that was the site of a contraband camp that developed into one of the earliest post-Emancipation black neighborhoods in Nashville. Data recovery efforts will target the Bass Street Community component through three trench excavations. This proposal contains six sections, including this introduction. Section II provides a site background for 40DV189. Section III contains the research questions and design. Section IV describes field methods, and laboratory methods for the project. Section V outlines the tentative project schedule. Section VI is the bibliography.

All work conducted under this contract will comply with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 (as amended), the Archaeological and Historical Preservation Act of 1960 (as amended), the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (as amended), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation revised 36 CFR part 800 regulations, the Tennessee Code Annotated § 4-1-412 – Tennessee Heritage Protection Act and § 11-6 – Archaeology, and the Tennessee SHPO Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Resource Management Studies (revised January 2024).

II. Site Background

In 2019, Fort Negley Park (40DV189) near downtown Nashville, Tennessee, was named a “Site of Memory” by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and included in their prominent international Routes of Enslaved Peoples: Resistance, Liberty, and Heritage project. This marks the park as a fundamental site to the public’s understanding of slavery and its legacies. It is home to the largest inland stone fortification of the Civil War, which was built exclusively by enslaved and free Black people and defended by the segregated regiments of the US military, the United States Colored Troops (USCT), in the Battle of Nashville. This battle was among the final major conflicts of the war as well as the battle with the largest participation of soldiers who had been formerly enslaved.

After the war, many of the emancipated veterans refused to return to their places of enslavement and instead remained in the area, founding one of Nashville’s first post-emancipation free Black communities right at the foot of the hill: the Bass Street Community. White terror groups tried unsuccessfully several times to intimidate the newly free citizens of Nashville, and repeatedly, veterans of the USCT used their martial experience to insist on racial justice and repel them by force. A group of veterans led by Leander Woods defeated the KKK in armed conflict in 1868 to finally put an end to the violent harassment. For this, white reporters of the *Tennessean* newspaper shamed him, writing that “the respectable colored men of the city denounced [Woods] as the vilest and most corrupt scoundrel in Nashville,” (Phillips, 2017).

For three generations, the descendants of this tight-knit community lived together at Bass Street until Nashville’s Urban Renewal policy destroyed the neighborhood in the 1960s to make room for a Children’s Museum and Interstate 65. For decades, it was assumed that this process had destroyed all vestiges of this neighborhood, until an exploratory dig in 2017 led by Dr. Andrew Wyatt of Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) uncovered foundations and intact cultural deposits of this community on the grounds of Fort Negley Park. Continued excavations through 2021 have reaffirmed the value of continued archaeological explorations at the site (Figure 2).

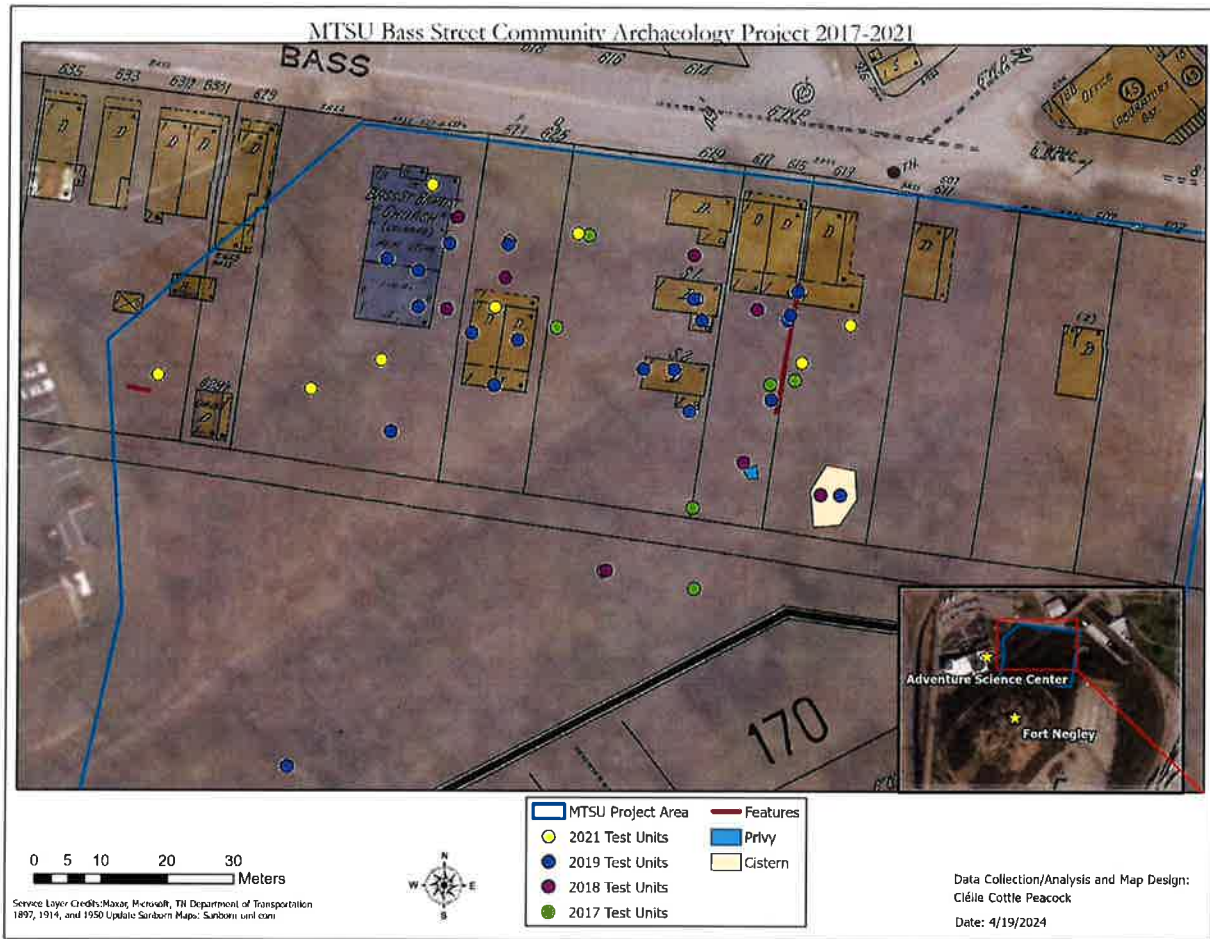


Figure 2: Locations of previous MTSU excavations in the Bass Street Community.

Archaeology of African American sites in the United States overwhelmingly focuses on plantations and enslaved communities, though the last few years have seen a turn toward expanding our understanding of the crucial years following enslavement (Agbe-Davies 2010a, 2010b; Barnes 2011, 5; McDavid 2010). The Bass Street neighborhood provides a rare opportunity to explore the history of a community of people who, because of the legal constraints of enslavement, were not in the position to leave behind much written evidence about their first few years of freedom. The remnants that Civil War veterans and their families left behind allow us to understand the genesis of Black freedom, and critical underexplored questions of not only African American history, but US history throughout Reconstruction and most of the Jim Crow era. The proposed collaboration falls under the NEH Initiative of *A More Perfect Union: Exploring America's Story and Commemorating its 250th Anniversary* and will allow descendants of an under-represented group of Americans to help archaeologists and historians recover cultural remnants that were lost or actively suppressed in the evolution of the American landscape. These remnants are key to helping Americans reexamine our understanding of the wide-ranging effects the Civil War and lack of sufficient Reconstruction process have had on issues of racial equity and equality.

Archaeological sites of Free Black populations in the US can be found in Bronzeville, Chicago, Annapolis, Maryland, Weeksville and Skunk Hollow in New York, New Philadelphia, Illinois,

Nicodemus, Kansas, as well as several Black towns and communities in New Mexico (Agbe-Davies 2013, Shackel 2011, Price 2003, Wood et. al. 2018). These are sites of the Black people who fled the Jim Crow South for opportunities in the North and West. In the South, work has been done on some urban free Black settlements, but many originally fell outside of the city boundaries, such as North Dallas Freedman's Town in Texas (Davidson 2004) and community sites in and around Washington, DC (Johnston 1993, Furlong and Washington 2013). Specifically in the Southeast, the studies that have been done were mostly prompted by cultural resource management projects, such as Birmingham, AL (Reed 1989); Mobile, AL (Reed 1994, Joseph et al. 1996); Springfield in Augusta, GA (Joseph 1993, 1997); Charleston, SC (Zierden and Calhoun 1984,1986); and Alexandria, VA (Cressey et al. 1982, Cressey 1985). There are virtually no active archaeological sites of urban communities of free Blacks in the South who remained during Reconstruction and throughout the virulent backlash of the Jim Crow era, such as the Bass Street Community.

The Bass Street Community site at Fort Negley (40DV189) specifically is significant for several other reasons. Edgehill (the larger neighborhood district in which the Bass Street Community fell) and the other early Black neighborhoods in Nashville were the reclaimed and expanded sites of refugee ("contraband") camps. Consequently, these neighborhoods were right in the middle of the city from the onset- not land that freed Black individuals specifically chose to make their own permanent settlements (like Freedmen's towns) that stood apart from the rest of the city. Even the one other known example of a Black neighborhood that grew out of a refugee camp that has been studied archaeologically, "The Fort" community in Alexandria, Virginia, still existed on the edge of town (Furlong and Washington 2013). Centrally located urban neighborhoods like the Bass Street Community and the experiences of the Black Americans who established them were prevalent throughout the Southeast, but only a small fraction remains accessible to archaeologists. Often the remnants of these sites were the first targeted for development by a region eager to literally and figuratively bury this aspect of history, as Fort Negley itself nearly was in 2018 when part of the park was sold for condominiums (Wilson 2017).

III. Research Questions and Design

The descendants of the Bass Street Community helped to shape the research questions for archaeological excavation. Both the project team as well as the descendant collaborators are interested in investigating land usage. From its inception, the Bass Street Community had inadequate and intermittent access to public services and utilities, which forced the Black Civil War veterans and their families to become interdependent to ensure survival of the community (Ekulona 2022). This intermittent access persisted through the 1950s, when the neighborhood was blighted and denied electricity and access to public sewers the adjoining white neighborhoods enjoyed, despite being less than two miles from downtown Nashville. In an October 2021 preliminary interview, Mr. Minter demonstrated how conceptions of and use of property, as well as amenities, within the community were based on what individuals needed, regardless of individual contribution. This communitarian approach to land use can be traced back four generations to Civil War veterans providing for one another what the federal government failed to provide, such as disability benefits and pensions for many widows. This attitude toward communal property and sharing of material possessions reflected and created unique patterns of consumption in the assemblage (such as altered, gifted, and repurposed building materials and household items) as well as tight-knit bonds within the neighborhood.

Our research focuses on the ways that Bass Street Community residents utilized material culture in both public and private spaces to socially confirm and fortify their new status as free Black Americans in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. There is a deep body of research in historical archaeology that dissects the relationship between material culture and identity (Cochran and Beaudry 2006). Individuals employ material culture to cement individual identities and manipulate social relationships (Diaz-Andreau and Lucy 2005). As Black neighborhoods were established during Reconstruction and grew up to and through the Civil Rights Era, individuals and families found ways to create community identities through different means, including the establishment of neighborhood institutions like businesses. The purchase, display, sharing, and repurposing of material culture, such as fine tableware, decorative display items and nationally advertised items such as foods, toiletries, pharmaceuticals, and other household goods also provided a very visible means for Black Americans to demonstrate their self-reconstructed identities as free citizens while upholding communitarian principles, which emphasize that community can make up for and provide that which a government committed to racial injustice refuses (Mullins 1999a). We draw upon archaeologically documented consumer trends in the late 19th and early 20th centuries when Black Americans leveraged purchasing power and consumer tactics to resist racism, reinforce belonging, and establish and negotiate community identities in the post-Emancipation Jim Crow Era South (Bridges and Salwen 1980; Fennell in Barnes 2011; Mullins 1999b; Mullins and Jones in Barnes 2011; Palus in Barnes 2011; Teague and Davidson in Barnes 2011 among others). By documenting how these trends in material culture, consumerism, land use, and public infrastructure access persisted or changed over time, we will explore how the Bass Street neighborhood persisted and thrived, despite the institutional racism and the violent intimidation tactics directed against their community.

To address these archaeological research questions, Wyatt and Cottle Peacock propose to recover assemblages from both a known private residence context and a known public/communal space context, along with a liminal space between the two of unknown use. These assemblages, when analyzed individually and collectively, along with the histories shared by former residents and descendants, will provide key insights into the community's use of objects and spaces. The team will open three 1-meter by 10-meter trenches in key locations at the eastern portion of the Bass Street Community site at Fort Negley Park (Figure 3). All field and laboratory data recovery, processing, and analysis will be overseen by Associate Professor and Professional Archaeologist Dr. Andrew Wyatt, who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards (Appendix A of 36 CFR Part 61).

IV. Methods

Field Methods

To look at a private space, the three trenches will include one that spans across the former location of a residential structure at 607 Bass Street including the east-facing front porch (Trench 1- northernmost trench). The ten-meter length of the trench, which extends beyond the recorded width of the structure, will account for possible horizontal variations between the house structure's location shown on the hand-drawn Sanborn maps and the actual physical location of the structure's foundation. If the maps do accurately represent the location, the 1.5-meter extensions to the east and the west will allow for data collection in the areas immediately in front of the porch and in the rear of the house (the "backyard"). The 607 residence was chosen specifically because it was erected between 1897 and 1914 - over a decade after the neighborhood was established (Lovett 1999:75) but still relatively early in its 100-year residential occupation-on a lot that was apparently vacant (or at least did not contain any permanent

structures) in 1897. The empty lot created a spatial separation between the early structures on lots 605 and 603. This construction of this home-whether intentionally or not- served to connect the early eastern and western portions of the block into a continuous row of residences, making it unique among the others that flanked it. In addition, the 607 dwelling may increase the likelihood that our sample will include materials related to nuclear families as it is located farther away from the clustered dwellings on 603 and 605, which may have housed one or more extended families and would not provide the same privacy that 607 appeared to have.

Regarding the questions concerning material culture and land use in public spaces, a second trench will be opened between trenches 1 and 3 in a large space south of the aforementioned residence that was consistently open (with no structures) throughout the neighborhood’s existence (Trench 2- 13 meters south of Trench 1 and 13 meters north of Trench 3). Finally, the third (Trench 3) will be placed in a space approximately 2 meters northeast of the block’s communal cistern. (Figure 3)

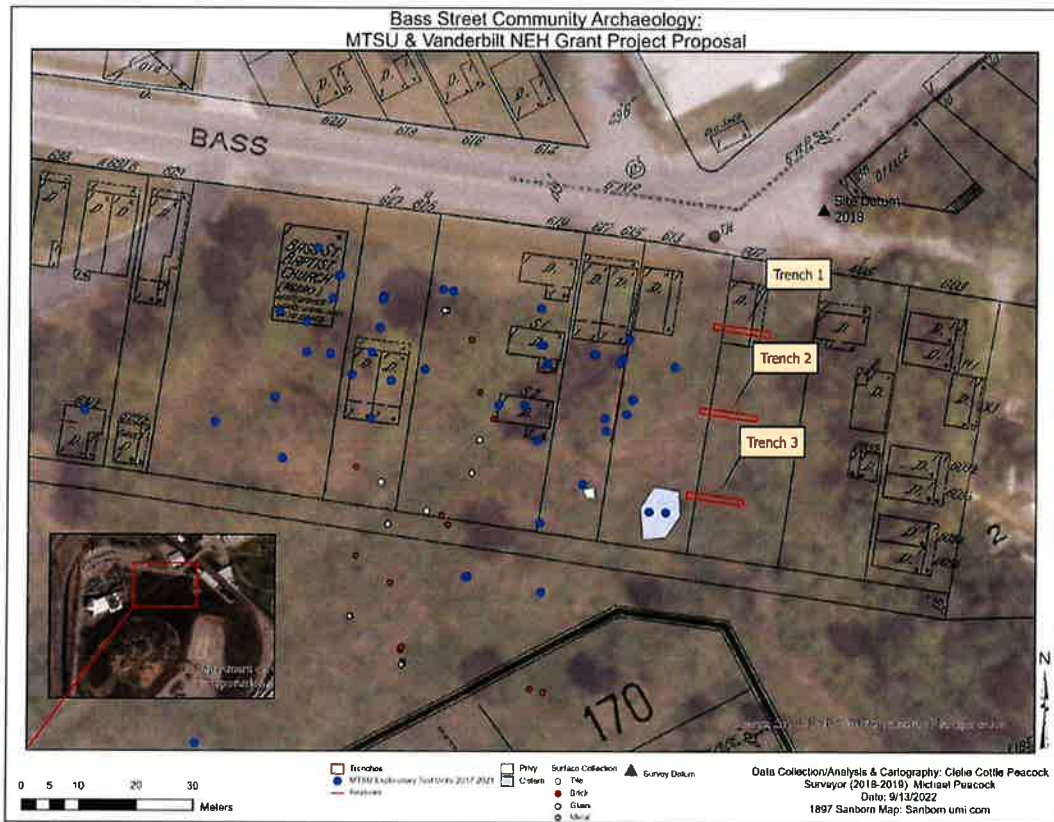


Figure 3: Location of Proposed Excavations

Each trench will be approached as five 1x2-meter units and excavated in standard arbitrary 10-centimeter levels using shovels and hand-trowels to maximum depth. All removed soil will be screened using 1/4-inch screens. Maximum depths will be determined by reaching sterile subsoil and/or bedrock. Each level of each unit will be recorded, photographed, and mapped with particular attention paid to the profile stratification which could not be clearly seen in the team’s previous, small (50x50 cm) exploratory test units. Exceptions to the exact placement of the trench units may need to occur based on geological,

environmental, and property limitations. Those decisions will be made on-site at the time of the excavation. Artifacts will be collected and bagged in the field according to unit and level.

After each day of excavation, the recovered artifacts will be taken to the Middle Tennessee State University Anthropology and Public History laboratory in Wisner-Patten Science Hall for cleaning, sorting, cataloging, and analysis. During this process, MTSU will house and store the artifacts in the laboratory, which is a locked room only accessible to those with documented permission via a personal keycard. When the project is completed, the artifacts will be returned to Metro Parks and the Fort Negley Visitor Center for curation and storage with the rest of the Fort Negley/Bass Street Community collection. After the excavation of a trench is completed and all data has been documented, it will be backfilled with the same soil that was removed until it is full, allowing it to be fully and seamlessly reintegrated with the landscape of the site and preventing any long-term damage. We will avoid any trees by either adjusting our unit/trench placement or working around roots (as opposed to removing them) to mitigate any long-term damage to the current visual landscape and natural environment. Further, by limiting our excavation to three trenches in very specific locations and forgoing any use of heavy machinery, we will ensure minimal impact from our project while also providing information on the (previously unexplored) eastern portion of the site. This information should suffice to reduce- if not totally negate- the need for additional exploratory test pits that would further disturb large areas of the site. Any future projects will have the ability to further minimize impact on the site and target specific locations because of the data from this proposed excavation. Additionally, by performing excavations in partnership with the descendants and open to the public and sharing our findings, we will bring more attention to the site and aid preservation efforts, further mitigating long-term damage through development.

Access to the site has been and will continue to be managed by employees of Metro Nashville Parks & Recreation who work at the Fort Negley Visitors Center. No previous requests for archaeological research by Wyatt and Cottle Peacock have been refused, and staff have indicated they will continue to approve future requests and welcome the team to return with their students and the descendants.

Archaeological Laboratory Methods

Each of the trench assemblages will be cleaned as appropriate for each type of material, type-sorted, cataloged in an Excel database with record of excavation year, provenience, material, count, measurements, and presence or absence of diagnostic features. If a date-range for manufacture can be determined, this will also be included. The Excel database will be formatted consistently with the current accession catalog in use at the Fort Negley Visitors Center for ease of eventual integration. Finally, the artifacts will be analyzed and interpreted. Special attention will be given to artifacts that are able to be identified and determined to have been manufactured within or before the date-range of the camp and resulting community occupations (roughly 1860-1970) as they are more likely to have been deposited by the community members. Materials originating in the years since 1970 will be cataloged but excluded from the analysis.

It is anticipated that the artifacts will fall into two distinct categories of construction materials (e.g. brick, cut limestone, nails) and household goods (glass bottles/jars/containers and ceramic, glass, or stone dinnerware and serving ware) based on prior experience with the site. Additional categories for residual

items may be included and will be characterized based on those residuals and how they would be classified in the Sonoma Historic Artifact Research Database (S.H.A.R.D.).

The qualitative aspect of artifact analysis and interpretation will be approached with these expectations in mind. Based on the former residents' shared recollections and documentary sources regarding the socioeconomic status of the neighborhood, our methodology will incorporate, draw inspiration, and adapt methods and perspectives from a broad theoretical perspective. These diverse perspectives include a focus on descendant collaborations and alternative artifact interpretations that challenge stereotypical notions of the lives of the poor and marginalized by displaying the self-reliance and ingenuity seen in artifact salvage, reuse, and repurposing (Reilly 2016); studies that emphasize intersectionality and reject ideas of homogeneity in African American communities (Yamin 2020); research that actively addresses, and offers suggestions and methods for dealing with issues inherent in working with disturbed urban sites, sites of former Civil War refugee camps, and sites of urban renewal (Bridges and Salwen 1980, Furlong and Washington 2013, Howard et al. 2015, McBride and McBride 2011, McDavid 2010, Minkoff 2015, Mullins 2006); and works looking at the re-creation and reclamation of space (Agha 2006, Apaydin 2020, McDavid 2006, Stack 1996).

Pulling from such a variety of methods will allow methodological adaptation based on the nature of the Bass Street Community trench assemblages. For example, past exploratory test units appeared to display disturbed contexts due to the construction of the Adventure Science Center and the razing of the neighborhood during urban renewal- though the full profile was difficult to record due to the small size (50x50 cm) of the units and shallow bedrock. Excavating the trenches will provide a much clearer view of the stratigraphy and possible disturbance. If the horizontal soil stratigraphy of the trench areas prove to be too disturbed to utilize a standard chronological approach, the team will heavily focus on and use the methods developed by Salwen and Bridges for use at the Weeksville free Black community site in Brooklyn, NY (Salwen and Bridges 1974; Bridges and Salwen 1980). Because the Weeksville site was disturbed due to urban renewal, Salwen and Bridges approached the artifact assemblage as an undifferentiated surface collection. Salwen and Bridges chose to focus their initial interpretations on recovered household ceramics due to their connections to the residents' daily lives, the fact that many could be easily dated, and their abundance at the site. They then used careful analysis of the ceramic artifacts' attributes and manufacture dates, supplemented by oral histories and other historical data, to group the artifacts chronologically, look for patterns and clusters, and draw tentative conclusions regarding the community's socioeconomic and demographic changes (1974). However, as this project will not be under the same strict time constraints that the Weeksville project had to contend with and is examining both a household context and public areas, the analysis will not prioritize any one specific material. The consideration of the assemblage as a surface collection depending on the stratigraphy observed in the trenches will be useful, nevertheless.

As previously mentioned, Matthew Reilly's work in Barbados will also provide a methodological framework for how to approach interweaving traditional archaeological analysis with oral history accounts from the former Bass Street Community residents and their descendants, especially regarding how and when to collect the oral accounts. Additionally, Reilly's work provides guidance on approaching sites of impoverishment from unconventional perspectives that challenge biased historical narratives. For example, Reilly underscores how the absence of certain artifact types can lead to alternative

interpretations of others, especially when paired with their in-situ context. His excavations recovered an abundance of tin cans recovered from within dwelling-contexts (as opposed to being in the associated trash pits, which would be more typically expected), which he then considered alongside the lack of glassware/stemware in the same context, leading to tentative conclusions about cans being used as drinking vessels- which was ultimately (and independently) supported by the former residents (2016:331-333). The team will follow Reilly’s model of considering obvious interpretations as well as alternative ones, making connections between absence and presence of artifacts, and supplementing archaeological research with former resident and descendant oral histories and insights in order to create a more complete and accurate picture of what life was actually like in the Bass Street Community, as opposed to how it has been stereotyped and characterized by others, and complicate the existing historical narrative.

V. Archaeology Work Plan Table

Objective	Tasks	Dates
<i>Archaeological Excavations</i>	Excavate trenches at the Bass Street Community. Trenches will be excavated simultaneously.	September 2024-October 2024
<i>Artifact Analysis</i>	Clean, count, weigh, identify artifacts from excavations. We will also incorporate artifacts from previous excavations in this analysis.	November 2024-January 2026
<i>Artifact Accessioning</i>	Artifact data input into Excel spreadsheet; data incorporated into existing artifact spreadsheet; accession catalog uploaded to public-facing project website alongside interpretation from Bass Street Community descendants	November 2024-March 2026
<i>Dissemination of Information</i>	Presentation at Southeastern Archaeological Conference (*attendance not funded from this award)	November 2025
	Bring descendants, their family members, and members of the African American Cultural Alliance to the MTSU Archaeology Lab to explore the cleaning, processing, and treatment of Bass Street Community artifacts.	TBD Spring 2025
	Write and submit article to <i>Historical Archaeology</i> on results of excavations and analysis and including information from oral histories (*not funded from this award)	April 2026-June 2026
	Transferring Excel database to PastPerfect software (an industry standard for accessioning artifacts); creating 3D scans of artifacts	November 2024-July 2026
<i>Cataloging Artifacts</i>	Creation and maintenance of website for public access to artifact database, 3D scans of artifacts, and information from oral histories	November 2024-July 2026

<i>Public Availability</i>	Creation and maintenance of website for public access to artifact database, 3D scans of artifacts, and information from oral histories	November 2024-July 2026
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Attachment C: Post-Review Discoveries

If unknown properties are discovered that may be historically significant and/or unanticipated effects on historic properties are found, Dr. Wyatt and his team (Clelie Cottle Peacock and AnnaLevi Chavis) shall implement post-review discovery procedures in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated §§ 11-6-107 (2023) – Discovery of Sites, Artifacts or Human Remains — Notice to Division, Contractors, and Authorities (available at this link via the Tennessee State government website as hosted by Lexis Advance [Tenn. Code Ann. § 11-6-107](#)). In the event that human remains are encountered, the team shall implement procedures for the treatment of human remains in accordance with the aforementioned policy and §§ 11-6-104 and 11-6-119, and/or § 46-4, if applicable. Undertaking activities shall not resume in the area of the discovery without written authorization from the Tennessee Division of Archaeology, the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Office, and/or local law enforcement agencies.

Citation for 11-6-107

Tenn. Code Ann. § 11-6-107 (Lexis Advance through the 2023 First Extraordinary Session of the General Assembly. The Tennessee Code Commission may make editorial changes to this version and may relocate or redesignate text. Those changes will appear on Lexis Advance after the publication of the certified volumes and supplements. Pursuant to T.C.A. §§ 1-1-110, 1-1-111, and 1-2-114, the Tennessee Code Commission certifies the final, official version of the Tennessee Code. Until the annual issuance of the certified volumes and supplements, references to the updates made by the most recent legislative session should be to the Public Chapter and not T.C.A. Case annotations are current through September 15, 2023)

Notify National Endowment for the Humanities.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES, THE
TENNESSEE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE, VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY,
MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY, AND THE METROPOLITAN BOARD
OF PARKS AND RECREATION,
REGARDING THE DESCENDANT-LED EXCAVATION AT THE
RECONSTRUCTION-ERA BLACK CIVIL WAR VETERAN COMMUNITY AT BASS
STREET, FORT NEGLEY PARK (40DV189)

SIGNATORY:

National Endowment for the Humanities



Ann E. Piesen, MCP
Federal Preservation Officer

7/8/2024

Date

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES, THE
TENNESSEE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE, VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY,
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STREET, FORT NEGLEY PARK (40DV189)

SIGNATORY:

Tennessee Historic Preservation Office



E. Patrick McIntyre, Jr.
State Historic Preservation Officer

7/8/24
Date

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

**BETWEEN THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES, THE
TENNESSEE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE, VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY,
MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY, AND THE METROPOLITAN BOARD
OF PARKS AND RECREATION,**

**REGARDING THE DESCENDANT-LED EXCAVATION AT THE
RECONSTRUCTION-ERA BLACK CIVIL WAR VETERAN COMMUNITY AT BASS
STREET, FORT NEGLEY PARK (40DV189)**

SIGNATORY:

Vanderbilt University

Jean M. Mercer Digitally signed by Jean M. Mercer
Date: 2024.07.10 15:23:13 -05'00'

Jean Mercer
**Senior Assistant Provost for Sponsored
 Programs Administration and
 Compliance**

7/10/2024
Date

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

**BETWEEN THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES, THE
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STREET, FORT NEGLEY PARK (40DV189)**

SIGNATORY:

Middle Tennessee State University



Digitally signed by Drew Harpool, Associate
Vice President for Business and Finance,
acting for and on behalf of Middle Tennessee
State University
Date: 2024.08.09 18:12:20 -05'00'

For Alan R. Thomas
Vice President, Business and Finance

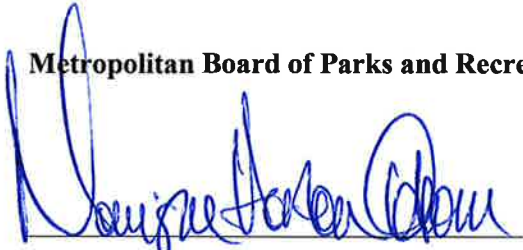
8/9/2024

Date


**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
BETWEEN NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES AND THE
TENNESSEE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER, VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY,
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RECONSTRUCTION-ERA BLACK CIVIL WAR VETERAN COMMUNITY AT BASS
STREET, FORT NEGLEY PARK (40DV189)**

SIGNATORY:

Metropolitan Board of Parks and Recreation



Monique Horton Odom
Director of Parks



Date

Notes:

** This document assumes that the term "signatory" has been defined in the agreement to include both signatories and invited signatories.*

*** Remember that the agency must submit a copy of the executed MOA, along with the documentation specified in Section 800.11(f), to the ACHP prior to approving the undertaking in order to meet the requirements of Section 106. 36 CFR § 800.6(b)(1)(iv)*