United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM  

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

 historic name New Philadelphia Town Site

 other names/site number IAS SITE 11PK455

2. Location

 street & number Section 27, Hadley Township, South of County Highway 2

city or town Barry

 state Illinois code IL

 county Pike code 149

 zip code 62563

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

 As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant x, nationally ___ statewide ___ locally. ( ___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

 Signature of certifying official  

 Date 6-29-05

 Illinois Historic Preservation Agency  
 State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

 In my opinion, the property ____ meets ____ does not meet the National Register criteria. ( ____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

 Signature of commenting official/Title  

 Date

 State or Federal agency and bureau
4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is: 

___ entered in the National Register  
___ See continuation sheet.  
___ determined eligible for the National Register  
___ See continuation sheet.  
___ determined not eligible for the National Register  
___ removed from the National Register  
___ other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper  
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)  
___ X ____ private  
___ public-local  
___ public-State  
___ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)  
___ building(s)  
___ district  
___ X ____ site  
___ structure  
___ object

Number of Resources within Property

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<th>Noncontributing</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0 sites</td>
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Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register  
None

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)  
N/A
6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

**Domestic/Single dwelling**
Commerce/Trade/department store
Commerce/Trade/specialty store

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

**Vacant/Not in use**

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

- Foundation: N/A
- Roof: N/A
- Walls: N/A
- Other: N/A

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheets
8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

___ A  Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
___ B  Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
___ C  Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
___X D  Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

___ A  owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
___ B  removed from its original location.
___ C  a birthplace or a grave.
___ D  a cemetery.
___ E  a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
___ F  a commemorative property.
___ G  less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
- Archaeology – Historic - Non-Aboriginal
- Ethnic Heritage – Black
- Ethnic Heritage - European
- Exploration/Settlement

Period of Significance
1836-1885

Significant Dates
1869

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  N/A

Cultural Affiliation
- African-American
- European-American

Architect/Builder  N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheets
9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)
___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
___ previously listed in the National Register
___ previously determined eligible by the National Register
___ designated a National Historic Landmark
___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # __________
___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # __________

Primary Location of Additional Data
___ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other
Name of repository: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property  42 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

    Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing
    1 15  674613   4396244 3 15  675045   4395868
    2 15  675055   4396259 4 15  674639   4395868
    ___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

See Continuation Sheet

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

See Continuation Sheet
New Philadelphia Town Site
Name of Property

11. Form Prepared By

name/title      Michelle Huttes
organization    New Philadelphia Association
date            11/28/04
street & number 2505 W. Macon
telephone       217 422 3760
city or town    Decatur
state           Illinois
zip code        62522

Additional Documentation
Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs
Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
<td>Larry and Natalie Armstead</td>
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<tr>
<td>R. # 2 Box 94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>217 335 2273</td>
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<td>62312</td>
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</table>

| Darlene Arnett / Larry and Mary K Bennett |
| 604 N. 7th St. |
| Vandalia |
| IL |
| 217 335 2273 |
| 62312 |

| Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Robinson |
| R. # 1 |
| Pleasant Hill |
| IL |
| 217 334 2833 |
| 62366 |

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to Keeper, National Register of Historic Places, 1849 “C” Street NW, Washington, DC 2024.
SECTION 7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The New Philadelphia Town Site is located in rural Pike County Illinois, to the south of County Highway 2, four miles east of the town of Barry, Illinois, in Hadley Township, between the Illinois and the Mississippi Rivers. The historic, abandoned town site is composed of 42 acres, currently unused. The 42 acres are now covered in native prairie grasses, tree cover, a gravel road, and a sign marks the area as the site of the first town founded and platted by an African-American. A small seasonal pond encroaches on the southeast section of the town plat over Maiden Lane and Queen Street and approximately the south quarter of lot eight block eleven and the north half of lot one block twenty. Frank McWorter, a freed African-American, created the town plat of New Philadelphia in 1836 using a gridiron pattern with 144 rectangular lots each measuring 60 x 120 feet and named streets (Walker 1983:134). New Philadelphia grew as a bi-racial community economically based on service to the outlying agricultural community. Both African-Americans and European-Americans purchased town lots and resided within the town limits. New Philadelphia’s population peaked in the 1860s with about 31 households. Several businesses existed within the community, including a merchant, shoemaker, cabinetmaker, postmaster, Baptist teacher, wheelwright, and blacksmith. After it was bypassed by the Hannibal-Naples Railroad in 1869, New Philadelphia experienced a steady decline in population and many of the town lots reverted to farmland in 1885. No building or structures from the town’s life remain above ground on the site. The archaeological record within the town site includes high volumes of cultural artifacts from the nineteenth century, as evidenced by clear artifact patterns found in the pedestrian field survey conducted in 2002/2003 and systematic excavations in 2004. The site possesses excellent integrity of location, setting, materials, feeling, and association (Gwaltney 2004, Martin et al 2005).

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

The 42 acre town site consists of the site and associated features, six non-contributing buildings and a non-contributing stone fence of undetermined age. See map of town site for illustration of contributing and non-contributing elements (Figure 1). Results of the pedestrian survey show that six of the historic town lots are areas of high historic artifact concentration. Three of the non-contributing structures were moved onto the site in order to cover and protect three remaining historic foundations found in the north central area of the site and detailed below. Site elements are described below:

Contributing site elements:

Town block three (particularly lots five, six, four and three and what were the alleyways), block four (in particular lots one and two), block seven (particularly lots one, two, three, four, seven and eight and the alleyways), block eight (entirely), block nine (in particular lots four, five, and six and an alleyway), and block thirteen (in particular lots two, three, and four) are areas with a high concentration of historic artifacts.
Materials found during the pedestrian walkover survey at these locations include doorknobs, nails, flat glass, and brick. Kitchen artifacts include tableware and containers. Personal and domestic items include mirrors, tobacco pipes, rosary beads, clothing items and containers, doll figurines, marbles, and toy tea sets (Gwaltney 2004:13-20).

**Town Block Three**, as shown on Figure 1, is located on the north central section of the town site, bounded on the north by North Street, on the south by King Street, on the west by Broad Way, and on the east by Ann Street. It contains the following features:

1. Feature one is a foundation and unfilled or partially filled cellar found in the north central area of the town site. The foundation appears to be composed of fieldstone likely dating to the earliest era of the town. The foundation is covered by cabin one above, and located on what was block three, lot seven.

2. Feature two is a cistern of undetermined date found north of and associated with feature one foundation and cabin.

3. Feature three is a well of undetermined date found south of and associated with feature one foundation and cabin.

4. Feature four is a foundation that appears to be made of concrete aggregate. It is found in the north central area of the town site, southeast of feature one. It is currently covered by cabin two above and located on block three, lots seven and eight.

5. Feature five is a foundation that appears to be made of concrete aggregate. It occurs in the north central area of the town site, east of feature one and covered by cabin three above. It is located on block three, lot eight.

6. Feature six is a concrete foundation overgrown with grasses and trees. It is located east of cabin three and block three on Ann Street, south of King Street, near lot eight.

**Town Block Four**, as shown on Figure 1, is located on the northwest section of the town site. It is bounded on the north by North Street, the south by King Street, the west by Green Street, and the east by Broad Way. Block four, lot one was, around 1850, the location of the merchant, D.A. Kittle and shoemaker Spaulding Burdick (Walker 1983:133), both European-Americans (U.S. Federal Census 1850).

**Town Block Seven**, as shown on Figure 1, is located in the northwest section of the town site, south of block four. It is bounded on the north by King Street, the south by Main Street, the west by Green Street, and the east
by Broad Way.

Town Block Eight, as shown on Figure 1, is located in the north central section of the town site, south of block three. It is bounded on the north by King Street, the south by Main Street, the west by Broad Way, and the east by Ann Street. Lots one and two were occupied by the postmaster, C.S. Luce and later by Calvin Arnold. C.S. Luce, a European-American from Maine, was also the Baptist teacher whom Frank McWorter sued for failing to construct a Baptist Seminary (Walker 1983:133).

Town Block Nine, as shown on Figure 1, is located slightly northeast of the center of the town site, to the east of block eight. It is bounded on the north by King Street, the south by Main Street, the west by Ann Street, and the east by Canton Street.

Town Block Thirteen, as shown on Figure 1, is located in the center of the site, south of block eight. It is bounded on the north by Main Street, the south by Queen Street, the west by Broad Way, and the east by Ann Street.

Non-contributing buildings/structures

1. Cabin one is a single room wooden structure located on the north central section of the town. The cabin was moved to the town site from another location and placed over a historic foundation in order to protect it. It is located on block three, lot seven.

2. Cabin two is a single room wooden structure located on the north central section of the town to the southeast of cabin one. The cabin was moved to the town site from another location and placed over a historic foundation in order to protect it. It is located on block three, between lots seven and eight.

3. Cabin three is a single room wooden structure located on the north central section of the town northeast of cabins one and two. The cabin was moved to the town site from another location and placed over a historic foundation in order to protect it. It is located on block three, lot eight.

4. A fieldstone fence of undetermined age is found southeast of the cabins. It measures approximately 3 feet tall and 25 feet long.

5. An unoccupied dwelling, reportedly built circa 1938, located on the southeast section of the site on block nineteen, lots three and four.

6. One outbuilding is a wooden barn of undetermined age that is located south of the dwelling on block
nineteen, lot six.

7. The second smaller wood building of undetermined age is located south of the dwelling on block nineteen, lot three.

The contemporary site is covered in prairie grasses, tree cover, and field terracing. A small seasonal pond encroaches the southeast section of the town plat over Maiden Lane and Queen Street and the south quarter of lot eight block eleven and the north half of lot one block twenty. A gravel road, now known as the New Philadelphia Road, that existed during the town's history as Broadway bisects the property. There is also a sign marking the town site. No historic structures from the 1836 to 1885 period remain above ground at the site.

LIKELY APPEARANCE OF THE PROPERTY DURING ITS PERIOD(S) OF OCCUPATION OR USE

In 1840, New Philadelphia consisted of three houses amid farmland, timber, and prairie (Walker 1983: 123). The town grew to include agricultural service businesses typical of a pioneer town, a post office, and more residences. At its height in the 1860s it contained 31 households. The town was laid out on a gridiron pattern. "Main Street, over which went the mail, divided the town into two equal parts, north and south. Paralleling Main Street were King Street, a block north, and Queen Street, a block south. The town was bounded on the north by North Street and on the south by South Street. The center of this budding metropolis was at the intersection of Main and Broad streets. Paralleling Broad Street and intersecting Main were Green, Ann and Canton streets, with Maiden Lane bounding the town on the east" (Matteson 1964:18).

The homes most likely consisted of horizontal log or wood frame structures, with brick or stone chimneys. A typical log house of the early nineteenth century was described by Pike County immigrant, Rebecca Burlend. She described the house walls as being made up of roughly squared timber, "notched into each other at the corners; the joints filled up with clay." The house contained two rooms and a cellar underneath one of the rooms. It had two doors, "one of which is always closed in winter, and open in summer to cause a draught." The chimney was constructed of stones jointed with clay and mud, and an area of floor in front of the fire was "paved with small stones." The house and the remainder of the floor were covered with oak shingles. This house had no windows, although Mrs. Burlend stated that "many log-houses may now be found having glass windows" (Burlend 1987:47-48). Later homes would have likely been wooden frame with clapboard siding resting on a fieldstone foundation. Juliet E. K. Walker in her book, *Free Frank A Black Pioneer on the Antebellum Frontier*, states the following about New Philadelphia:

New Philadelphia was in many ways representative of small frontier towns in Illinois. It had the air of a flourishing market town and, as a center of Hadley’s social and cultural life, would be a factor in attracting prospective settlers to the township. Its occupational structure and its physical
and spatial development were also representative of early Illinois market centers. The streets, buildings, and houses differed little from those in other frontier towns of that period. Most of the buildings were simple but neat log cabins with sheds in the back for chickens and cows, and some lots were surrounded by picket fences. Vegetable gardens were planted on these lots, with frontier streets and sidewalks that were dirty and dusty during dry weather and muddy when wet. The sidewalks were really only dirt footpaths that paralleled the stagecoach, carriage, and wagon tracks, but all of the buildings were within walking distance, since these towns were invariably small (Walker 1983:145).

Townspeople closely interacted with the surrounding farmers, who frequently bartered their surplus crops for service and supplies. It is likely that the arrival of mail was a big event, bringing farmers from the surrounding area into the town. In early Springfield, "all the inhabitants of the town—and often of the country for many miles around—gathered at Iles' store, where the post office was located for a number of years, to see the mail distributed" (Angle 1935:23). It seems many of the residents of New Philadelphia were Free Will Baptists and most likely worshiped in each other's homes until a schoolhouse was built. In 1848, Frank McWorter planned to build a Free Will Baptist Seminary on blocks fourteen and seventeen of New Philadelphia, which was to be for the use by students without “distinction of person” (Walker 1983:138). Christopher S. Luce was the Baptist preacher in New Philadelphia and the postmaster from 1849 until 1853 (Walker 1983:132). Federal census records show that he came from the state of Maine, and was forty-two in 1850. His wife Sally was forty-one, and they had two sons. George, age fifteen, was born in Maine and listed as a farmer on the census. Moses was eight years old and born in Illinois (U.S. Federal Census 1850). Luce was not found on the 1840 census, so he must have immigrated between late 1840 and 1842, about ten years after Frank McWorter. In 1850 the value of Luce's real estate was just $200, compared to Frank McWorter’s estate, which was valued at $2,000. Luce and McWorter must have had a familiar relationship, doing much work for each other, and that of preacher/parishioner in the same faith.

In 1851 McWorter sued Christopher Luce and D.C. Toppins, who were both of European descent. The lawsuit stemmed from their pledge to build the “Free Will” Baptist Seminary. On December 1, 1848, Luce and Toppins signed a note to Frank McWorter for ninety dollars to be paid in two years without interest in exchange for the deed to lots five, six, and seven in block eleven; lots seven and eight in block twelve; lots one, two, three, eight in block nineteen, and block twenty in entirety (Pike County Circuit Clerk: 1851). The arbitrators of the case noted that some of the lots were to be used for the building of the seminary. Both the deed and the debit note were not explicit in their terms, and as the seminary was not completed within the two years, McWorter sued Luce and Toppin in the spring of 1851 for their failure to build the seminary. The case was to be heard by Arthur Bill, Justice of the Peace, who issued a summons to Luce and Toppin on April 12, 1851, to appear in his office on April 17 to answer the complaint. However, on April 16th Luce issued the following statement: "Christopher S. Luce being duly sworn states on oath that he fears he cannot have a fair and impartial trial
before Arthur F. Bill Esqr and further saith not” (Pike County Circuit Clerk: 1851).
Frank McWorter initially lost the suit and was charged $15.66 plus court costs apparently totaling $50.00. C.S. Hughes was McWorter’s lawyer. Frank McWorter appealed this verdict to the Pike County Circuit Court to be heard during the fall session of 1851. It was agreed that the case was to be heard by arbitrators in the schoolhouse at New Philadelphia. Hughes, McWorter’s lawyer, was concerned over the arbitration, as he stated in a letter to his client: “I find it out of my power to be with you on Wednesday. I am not very favorable to arbitrators when I have a just case at last. But you are into it & I hope you will get an allowance for all that is and Frank one thing I want you to be careful about and that is this if the award is favorable be sure that is redressed to writing, and that it is certain in its terms” (Pike County Circuit Clerk: 1851). Witnesses who had also donated for the building of the seminary were called to testify, although black donors legally could not.
Several pages of notes the arbitrators made when questioning the witnesses exist; unfortunately, they are faded with age and nearly impossible to read. Ultimately the arbitrators concluded that as the seminary had not been built within the prescribed time; both the note for $90.00 and the transfer of deed were null and void. The property was returned to Frank McWorter.

Clearly, in New Philadelphia, African-Americans and European-Americans lived side-by-side and interacted with each other and the surrounding farmers regardless of ethnicity. The townspeople focused on their livelihoods – agriculture and its supporting trades.

CURRENT AND PAST IMPACTS

Many of the town lots in New Philadelphia reverted to farmland in 1885, although the area continued to be viewed as a small community through the first decades of the twentieth century. The blacksmith shop was “the last of the original business buildings [to remain standing] in Philadelphia” and had been torn down and replaced on the lot by a buggy shed (Matteson 1964:19). Some disturbance to the site has occurred due to plowing, but based on the abundance and spacial distribution of the artifacts recorded, the site has excellent archaeological integrity (Gwaltney 2004, Martin et al 2005).

INTEGRITY

The site possesses excellent integrity of location, setting, materials, feeling and association. Professional land surveys and a pedestrian walkover survey have confirmed the location of the historic site of New Philadelphia. The distribution of artifacts found show that the property retains excellent below ground archaeological integrity. The current setting remains similar to what existed during New Philadelphia’s lifetime. The area has remained rural and agricultural. There are gently rolling hills covered in prairie grasses, agricultural crops, and timber. Materials found during the pedestrian walkover survey include historic artifacts concentrated in areas believed to be dwelling and commercial sites (Shackel, et al 2004: 5-6). Dateable artifacts cataloged from the
pedestrian walkover survey, discounting the open-ended mean ceramic dates, reveal a site mean date of 1862 (Gwaltney 2004:22). The feeling at the site remains rural, somewhat remote, and agricultural. The undocumented loci are very likely to have high archeological integrity because the documented sites have high integrity, and the area has escaped heavy disturbance.

PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

The History of Pike County, published in 1880, refers to “Free Frank” McWorter as the first settler in Hadley Township and briefly mentions New Philadelphia: “At one time it had great promise, but the railroad passing it a mile distant, and other towns springing up, has killed it. At present there is not even a post office at the place” (Chapman 1880:741). Grace Matteson (1964) wrote about the life of Frank McWorter and the “Ghost Town” of New Philadelphia for the Pike County Historical Society. Historian Juliet Walker wrote the book Free Frank (1983) detailing her ancestor’s life and the establishment of New Philadelphia. The New Philadelphia Association was organized in 1996 to promote and protect the site as an area of great historic importance to the Nation. They recruited the help of Dr. Victor White, then chair of the African-American Studies Program at the University of Illinois in Springfield, to assist with organizing the research and preservation of the site. Dr. White contacted Dr. Paul Shackel of the University of Maryland and Dr. Terrance Martin of the Illinois State Museum to arrange archaeological investigations (Shackel et al 2004).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

In September of 1976 the town site of New Philadelphia was visited by professional archaeologists, and in June of 1977 information was submitted to the Illinois Archaeological Survey resulting in the site being designated 1IPK455 (Rovner 1976). This original information on file at the Illinois Archaeological Site File at the Illinois State Museum describes the location of the site as being on “the south side of county road #2, four miles east of Barry, Illinois, on the bluff crest 1/2 mile west of where the north fork of Kiser Creek crosses rd. #2.” At the time the ground cover at site consisted mostly of plowed fields. No archaeological materials were reportedly collected from the town site during the 1976 survey. The space for Remarks on the site form included the information on a sign that had been erected at the corner of County Road #2 and a gravel road, which read:

Site of New Philadelphia, Sept 16, 1836 – May 14, 1885
Consisted of 144 town lots. Laid out by “Free Frank” McWorter, colored; born in slavery in 1777 in South Carolina, purchased his freedom in 1819, was the first settler in Hadley Twp., Pike Co., Ill. 1829. Died in 1854; buried in colored cemetery south and east of Philadelphia. Only building left standing on the site of New Philadelphia replaced Arthur McWorter’s blacksmith shop. This building now owned by Fred ---- and used for a buggy shed. The building referred to above is now in ruins on the south east edge of town (Rovner 1976).
Although an extensive archaeological survey and documentary search for historical archaeological resources was conducted in Pike County in 1979 and 1980 as part of the FAP 408 highway corridor project (Esarey et al. 1982), no archaeological investigations were undertaken at the New Philadelphia Town Site at that time, since the town site was north and outside of the highway right-of-way boundaries.

The site was revisited Oct. 28, 2000, as part of an archaeological survey for a waterline project along the north edge of the site parallel to County Highway 2. The site revisit form on file at the Illinois Archaeological Site File describes the ground cover as consisting of weeds and grass. A pedestrian survey was conducted along the extreme north edge of the town site, but no material was collected. The description is as follows: “Site is located on the south side of County Road 2000N, about 6.4 km east of Barry, IL. It is situated on a north-south trending upland ridge about 600 m west of where Kiser Creek crosses County Road 2000N (Berres et al 2000:13).

Several other archaeological sites are known in the vicinity of the New Philadelphia town site (11PK457, 11PK458, 11PK459, 11PK590, 11PK591, 11PK745, 11PK774, 11PK777, 11PK1215, and 11PK1296 are discussed below), most of which were discovered and assigned site numbers as part of the FAP 408 highway survey project. Most of these sites are prehistoric in age, and only one has a demonstrated association with New Philadelphia.

11PK457, the Mummy Site, was discovered in 1976 by the same archaeologists that reported New Philadelphia to the Illinois Archaeological Site File. This site constitutes a prehistoric activity area located on a bluff crest in an area of steep dissected land bordering the secondary tributary system of Kiser Creek southwest of the town site of New Philadelphia (Rovner 1976).

11PK458, the Segregation site, was also discovered in 1976 and includes the area of the McWorter cemetery, 11PK591. The prehistoric habitation site is located on a high flat bluff top overlooking two large branches of Kiser Creek on the west and south. It is southeast of the New Philadelphia town site (Gigliotti 1976).

11PK459, the Johnson’s Cemetery, is a nineteenth-century cemetery located on the east bluff crest overlooking the junction of two tributaries of Kiser Creek half a mile to the southeast of the town site of New Philadelphia. The cemetery includes individuals who formerly resided at New Philadelphia, such as Sylvester and Mary Baker (Cemetery Records of Pike County 1979:143). Sylvester and Mary were both listed on the 1860 and 1870 Federal Census, classified as white and born in Ohio. Sylvester’s occupation was listed as laborer (U.S. Bureau of the Census 1860,1870). He owned several improved lots in New Philadelphia as illustrated in Tax Assessments and Landowner Records for New Philadelphia.

11PK590, the Smith Site, was visited as part of the FAP 408 highway survey in 1980 and is located southeast of
the New Philadelphia town site. The site consisted of a “rather heavy, but small, scatter of historic debris covering an area of approximately 100 ft by 200 ft. The scatter consisted of nineteenth-century ceramics, glass, and metal” (Esarey et al. 1985:21). Despite its nineteenth-century temporal setting, the precise relationship of the Smith Site to New Philadelphia remains unknown. The archaeological report states that the “site was owned by a Joseph A. Smith in 1872. ... Because of the site’s proximity to the settlement of Philadelphia, it was assumed that Mr. Smith was of Afro-American heritage” (Esarey et al. 1985:21). However, the 1872 Atlas Map of Pike County Illinois lists the owner of the acres directly south of New Philadelphia as J.A. Smith. The land transaction records from the Pike County Courthouse list Jesse Smith as a property owner in the northeast quarter of section 27 in Hadley Township. The 1870 Federal Census does not list a Joseph A. Smith in Hadley Township, but there is a James Smith with a Jesse Smith, age 70, in the household. Both James and Jesse were classified as white and had emigrated from Virginia (U.S. Bureau of the Census 1870).

11PK591, the McWorter Family Cemetery, is a nineteenth-century cemetery located to the southeast of the New Philadelphia town site and within the site boundaries of 11PK458. This cemetery contains the grave of Frank McWorter, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (Esarey et al 1985).

11PK745, the McWhorter Site, is a Late Archaic or Early Woodland prehistoric site located on a flood plain terrace above Kiser Creek, a quarter of a mile south of where County Highway 2 (“Baylis Black Top”) crosses Kiser Creek. This is to the southeast of the New Philadelphia town site (Perkins 1987). Despite the site name, this archaeological site has no connection to the nineteenth-century occupation of New Philadelphia.

11PK774, the Kolar Site, is a prehistoric site located on an upland knoll slope and above a “Y” of tributaries to Kiser creek and 600 m southwest of the County Highway 2 (“Baylis blacktop”) and New Philadelphia road intersection (Hickson 1989).

11PK777, the Novak site, is a prehistoric site located on an upland knoll summit above the main channel of Kiser Creek, 500 m south and 600 m east of the intersection of County Highway 2 (“Baylis blacktop”) and the dirt New Philadelphia road, 230 m west of the McWorter Cemetery and 280 m northeast of the Johnson Cemetery (Hickson 1989).

11PK1215, the Armistead site, is a prehistoric site located a quarter of a mile south of the Philadelphia School and approximately one eighth of a mile due west of Kiser Creek (Perkins 1989).

11PK1296 is located just northeast of the New Philadelphia town site, on the north side of County Road 2000N (“Baylis Blacktop”). This site was recorded after an archaeological survey that was conducted for a proposed leveling of a road embankment. Pedestrian survey and shovel tests yielded two prehistoric artifacts and thirty-eight historic artifacts including whiteware sherds, mason jar lid fragments, and window glass. Information in
the Illinois Archaeological Site File suggests an occupational history from the 1870s through 1945 (Gifford 2002).

In September of 2002, Likes Land Surveyors of Barry, Illinois, performed a topographical survey of the New Philadelphia site and determined the layout and location of the historic town on the present-day landscape (Gwaltney 2004:viii). A pedestrian walkover survey was conducted over three weekends, the first in October of 2002, the next in November of 2002, and the final in March of 2003. The area was plowed and disked by a local farmer for the purpose of improving ground visibility for the survey. Archaeologists and volunteers flagged artifacts exposed in the soil. Teams returned to record and collect each artifact. Each artifact location was then surveyed and mapped. The walkover survey resulted in the discovery of 7,073 historic and prehistoric artifacts. All artifacts were then washed, “identified, classified, and cataloged according to protocols and typology set forth in the National Park Service’s (NPS) Museum Handbook, Part II (2000) using the coding structure similar to the Automated National Cataloging System (ANCS+)” (Gwaltney 2004:10). Artifacts were then entered into a GIS database. The nine broad categories of artifacts included in this database are: historic period ceramics, curved glass, buttons and toy parts, flat glass, brick/plaster/mortar, nails/spikes, other historic period artifacts, prehistoric artifacts, and unidentified artifacts (Shackel et al 2003:5; Gwaltney 2004).

The New Philadelphia Project Pedestrian Survey: Final Report and Catalog, by Tom Gwaltney, details the procedures and results of the pedestrian surveys. The survey “identified the presence of historic artifacts at the New Philadelphia site, and isolated several artifact concentrations within the town. The results of the survey show that both domestic and architectural cultural resources are present on the site and that discrete concentrations may be noted in the categorizations” (Gwaltney 2004:33). The GIS maps illustrating artifact type and scatter were imposed over the town’s plat map. For example, lots one and two of block four have proven to be areas of high concentration of both architectural and domestic material. Land transaction records, local tax records, census data, and archaeological evidence can be combined to provide the historical background for those lots. The areas of high artifact concentration will provide important information regarding the former occupants of the town lot.

The south half of lot one was sold by Frank McWorter and his wife to Spaulding Burdick on June 18, 1848. Mr. Burdick was listed as a shoemaker on the 1850 census; he was listed as a white man from Rhode Island and a relatively new immigrant to Illinois, with both children (youngest age 9) born in New York. There were two other Burdicks in Hadley Township. Both were young males from New York living in other households and working as laborers. Spaulding was still making shoes in New Philadelphia at the age of 73, as listed on the 1860 census. At this time two other Burdick’s – Abe and Lorneo - had households of their own within New Philadelphia and are listed as farmers. In 1870 Abe was a successful farmer in New Philadelphia. Abe and his family are buried in the Johnson Cemetery south of New Philadelphia. Abe died on Feb 9, 1895 (Cemetery Records of Pike County Volume 4:1979:143). Archaeological research paired with data such as this will
expand our understanding of the New Philadelphia community.

During five weeks of the 2004 summer field season students completely excavated 18 excavation units to subsoil or to the top of a feature. The archaeology work proceeded in two steps. First, a form of sampling using 5 foot x 5 foot excavation units retrieved data from the town lot and gave a sense of the plow zone, subsurface features and artifact concentrations. Once sense of subsurface artifact concentrations and feature locations was established, students proceeded with a larger block excavation using 5 foot x 5 foot excavation units. Since the area was mostly plowed, these excavations proceeded quickly until the archaeology team encountered subsurface features and/or undisturbed sub-plow zone stratigraphy. Features, such as pits, were bisected and excavated according to stratigraphy, and the team systematically collected samples for flotation in order to retrieve archaeobiological data (2004 Archaeology Report).

Excavations indicate that the plow zone is about 1.0 feet to 1.2 feet deep throughout New Philadelphia and it is a bit shallower in the northern portion of Block 9, Lot 5. The archaeology work demonstrates that undisturbed archaeological features exist below the plow zone in each of the areas tested. These features taken together span the entire time period of the town’s occupation. One feature, a filled pit, dates to the 1850s or earlier. Another pit feature is related to the Butler household’s late nineteenth and early twentieth century occupation. A lime slacking pit (for the mixing of lime for the plastering of interior walls) is located in Block 3, Lot 4, and is associated with a yet to be discovered nineteenth-century building. A stone foundation also exists in Block 7, Lot 1 and is probably a late nineteenth-century addition to a mid-nineteenth century building. At this time precise dating of these two latter features is tentative, but they are both related to the nineteenth-century town (2004 Archaeology Report).

Archaeological research will continue during the summers of 2005 and 2006 with field schools funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation – Research Experiences for Undergraduates program (www.newphiladelphia.org/news.htm). Archaeologists from the University of Maryland; the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; and the Illinois State Museum are partnering with the New Philadelphia Association to investigate this historical community (www.heritage.umd.edu; Martin et al 2005).
SECTION 8  SIGNIFICANCE

The New Philadelphia Town Site is nationally significant for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D for Archaeology, Ethnic Heritage and Exploration/Settlement. The archaeological town site has the potential to provide evidence regarding lifeways and economic and social relationships of African-American and European-Americans in a pioneer villages and town settlement on the frontier (Shackel et al 2004). The period of significance for the town site is 1836 to 1885, a time-span that encompasses the initial platting and settlement of the town site until it reverted mostly to farmland in 1885 (Walker 1983:167).

New Philadelphia is an abandoned historic town site located in Hadley Township, Pike County, in Western Illinois. It is the earliest known town platted and registered by an African-American (Cha-Jua 2000: 35; Walker 1983). Founded as a moneymaking enterprise in 1836 by Frank McWalter, a freed African-American, New Philadelphia developed as a bi-racial pioneer village. After being bypassed by the Hannibal-Naples Railroad in 1869, New Philadelphia suffered a steady decline in population. A portion of the town lots reverted to farmland in 1885. At its height, New Philadelphia consisted of over 31 domestic households, commercial (merchant, shoemakers), and industrial (blacksmith, cabinet-maker) properties. The population included people of both African and European descent. Archaeological investigations conducted at the New Philadelphia town site have illustrated that the archaeological resources there have high integrity and the potential to offer significant information about the development of a bi-racial community (as represented by such diverse data as dietary and housing remains, as well as discarded artifacts) in Pike County during the nineteenth century. A key factor in the site’s integrity is the limited post-abandonment development that has occurred.

HISTORY OF NEW PHILADELPHIA

New Philadelphia is the first known town platted and registered by an African-American man. Town founder “Free Frank” McWorter was a formerly enslaved person who immigrated to Pike County in the spring of 1831. He and his family were the first settlers in what became Hadley Township. Once settled on the Illinois frontier, he established the town of New Philadelphia in 1836 as a money making venture. New Philadelphia’s transformation, from a design on paper, to a thriving frontier village, and ultimately to the town’s demise after being bypassed by the railroad, followed many state and national trends. Yet, New Philadelphia is notable not only because a formerly enslaved person who purchased his own freedom founded it, but also because of the interaction between African-Americans and European-Americans residing in a community founded by such an exceptional figure during times of extreme racial tension.

According to Walker (1983), while he was still enslaved and residing in Kentucky, Frank McWorter started a salt peter mining operation in his free time and persuaded his owner to allow him to keep the profits from that enterprise. He eventually earned enough to purchase his wife’s freedom in 1817, and then his own in 1819.
Throughout the 1820s, McWorter speculated in landholdings in Kentucky (Walker 1983:55). His entrepreneurial zeal, in both Kentucky and Illinois, was motivated by the will to purchase his family from slavery. Anxious to pursue further moneymaking enterprises, McWorter decided to move to a free state (Walker 1983:62). Illinois was such a state, but African-Americans were by no means encouraged to settle there. Yet, he purchased land in Pike County, Illinois, from a Dr. Galen Elliot while still living in Kentucky. In 1830, McWorter sold his farm in Kentucky and prepared to move to his new property (Walker 1983:65-67).

Once established in Illinois, Frank McWorter acquiring land. During the 1830s, he and his sons purchased 800 acres of Military Tract Land in Pike County (Walker 1983:95). New Philadelphia was platted on this acreage, which consisted of rolling prairie bordered by timber in the Military Tract between the Illinois River and the Mississippi River, about 25 miles from the slave state of Missouri. It was centrally located in an area of growth and “at the intersection of several important cross-county roads that offered access to markets” (Walker 1983: 108-109). Water was readily available from a creek that ran nearby. It was first-rate land that fit nicely in the formula for success in town planning. “One study of advertisements associated with 30 towns founded in western Illinois between 1835 and 1838 reveal that four advantages appeared in over half of the ads: rich land, distance from other towns, availability of timber, proximity to navigable water” (Davis 1998: 237). The only variance from the recommended locations was the proximity of Barry, which was also founded in 1836 and was only four miles west of New Philadelphia. Located within a triangle of progressive, alternative communities – Jacksonville, the “Athens of the West”; Nauvoo, the home of the Mormons; and Alton, the town where Elijah Lovejoy was martyred; and flanked by the slave state of Missouri, New Philadelphia grew for a time.

“Only four Illinois towns outside Chicago had Black populations that even approached 100 by 1840 (Springfield, Alton, Jacksonville, and Quincy), those towns were all located in western Illinois within a seventy-mile radius of Hadley township” (Walker 1983:117). In 1860, there were only nine towns in Illinois with a population of 100 or more African-Americans – Jacksonville and Alton were two. Springfield had 203 (Gertz 1963: 502). Though ostensibly a “free” state, the laws of Illinois were hostile to the interests of African-Americans. Similarly, Pike County voting records and newspaper articles indicate the many county residents expressed racist beliefs. Nonetheless, western Illinois seems to have attracted more African-Americans than most of Illinois outside of Chicago. When Frank McWorter moved to Pike County, it was sparsely populated. Several of his European-American Pike County neighbors were amiable toward McWorter’s efforts to establish himself on the frontier (Walker 1983:79). While he won the support of many of his neighbors through his character, industriousness, and success, he remained an African-American man in a racist society (Matteson 1964:7).

New Philadelphia grew with the population increase and growth in speculation that occurred during late 1830s. Frank McWorter sold the first town lots on April 28, 1837, to James Ray. The sale of town lots increased in the late 1840s, with most of the buyers being European-American. Some purchased lots purely as speculation, and
the owners did not live in the town. Others purchased lots and established homes and businesses within the
village (Pike County Clerk, Federal Census Data). In 1841, there were three houses in New Philadelphia
(Walker 1983: 123). The 1850 Federal Census lists two shoemakers, a merchant, cabinetmaker, wheelwright,
and a Baptist Preacher – relatively typical for a small pioneer village. The 1855 State Census reports that the
village had grown to 53 people, the second smallest town in the county. New Philadelphia’s population peaked
in the 1860s with over 100 residents. The Federal Census of 1860 lists occupations of wagon maker, carpenter,
blacksmith, physician, and schoolteacher. Throughout the life of New Philadelphia the majority of the populace
was classified as white (U.S. Bureau of the Census 1850, 1860, 1870).

Both African-Americans and European-Americans purchased town lots and resided within the town limits.
Analysis of census reports cannot be entirely accurate--census records being at times illegible and do not list
specifically when households within the town limits begin and end. Ethnicity was not always consistently
reported in census data – the ethnicity listed for some individuals changing from decade to decade. However,
census takers generally went from house to neighboring house, and when paired with land records detailing lot
transactions in New Philadelphia, the census can provide a profile of the town residents. U.S. federal census
reports for Hadley Township from 1850, 1860, and 1870 show that the residents of New Philadelphia were
primarily categorized as white – in 1850, 27.5% (22 African-American and 58 European-American) were
categorized as black or mulatto, while Pike County population and the population of the state of Illinois was less
than 1% African-American. "New Philadelphia’s population peaked by the time of the 1865 state census. The
number of town residents numbered 160 individuals residing in 29 households. As in the previous state census
of 1855, occupations were not recorded, however, race was noted: 104 residents, 65%, were white; 56
individuals, 35%, were of African-American descent – nearly triple the number recorded on the federal census
just five years earlier. The influx of African-Americans to this biracial town may be attributed to the migration
of formerly enslaved individuals following manumission" (King www.heritage.umd.edu). In 1870, 26% (37
African-American and 105 European-American) of the population of New Philadelphia was categorized as
black or mulatto (King www.heritage.umd.edu July 18, 2004).

These census records also show the varied backgrounds and birthplaces of New Philadelphia residents. In 1850,
there were only two African-American heads of household listed, both from Kentucky. Heads of households
classified as white were almost exclusively from the Northeast. Two exceptions consisted of one from
Kentucky and another from Tennessee. A woman categorized as white that was listed as the head of household
of an African-American family. The 1860 census shows more variety in birthplace of heads of households. The
African-American families were from North Carolina, Maryland, and Indiana while the European-American
families were primarily from the Northeast; some were from Ohio, Pennsylvania, Indiana and Illinois. There
were also some immigrants from Ireland and England. The 1870 census shows the African-American heads of
household were from Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, and Illinois while the European-American heads of
household were from New York, Illinois, Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Ireland, and
England. People also tended to move in family groups. Many of the families in Hadley Township were related to other families in the area. A large percentage of those under 18 years of age in the census were born in Illinois, which helps to track how long a family was in the area. There were more African-Americans in Hadley Township in 1865 than any other township in the county, although African-Americans were still a minority in Hadley Township (Illinois State Census 1865).

The Underground Railroad grew throughout the United States during this era. The Underground Railroad "was readily defined in American mythology as an efficient system operated by a hierarchy of managers, conductors, and agents along an intricate set of routes by which as many as 100,000 [African-American slaves] were helped to freedom" (Meining 1993:306). Alton, 103 miles south of New Philadelphia, was a known stop on the Underground Railroad. Jacksonville, just 48 miles to the east of New Philadelphia, was reportedly another stop on the Underground Railroad and has documented instances of European-Americans assisting slaves to search out their freedom (Doyle 1978: 54). Oral tradition from the McWorter family states that New Philadelphia was a stop on the Underground Railroad as well (Walker 2001:vii; cf. laRoche 2004).

Election results show that most of Pike County had political opinions that differed from the people of Hadley Township. The results of the 1856 Presidential election show that Hadley Township was one of just two townships in Pike County that voted for John C. Fremont, the anti-slavery candidate. The rest of the county, nineteen townships, (and the state) voted overwhelmingly for James Buchanan, a Democrat (Pike County Union Nov 17, 1856). During the Lincoln-Douglas debates for Illinois’ senatorial seat of 1858, the issue of slavery was articulated for Illinoisans. Pike County voted for Stephen A. Douglas while Abraham Lincoln gained national attention. The two returned to the circuit for the presidential election of 1860. Two children listed in Hadley Township in the 1860 census illustrate political disagreements within the township, Abe Lincoln Burton was 5 months old and Stephen A. Douglas Emery was 3 years old. Pike again voted for Douglas in 1860, by a narrow margin. Election returns of 1866 show Hadley Township again in the minority, being one of nine townships voting Republican, while the balance of the twenty-one total townships voted Democrat (Pike County Democrat Nov 8, 1866). Election results for 1868 show that Hadley Township was once again at political odds with most of Pike County (Pike County Democrat Nov 12, 1868). Hadley was one of only five townships in Pike County that voted for Ulysses S. Grant, the remaining sixteen townships voted for William Seymour. The split in Hadley Township was 62% for Grant; while William Seymour won Pike County with 54% of the vote.

The coming of the Civil War did not slow New Philadelphia’s growth. The 1860 Federal Census lists several businesses within the community and the racial category of the owner, including a shoemaker (mulatto), wagon maker (white), blacksmith (mulatto), and a carpenter (mulatto). There was also a physician (white) and a teacher (white). However, New Philadelphia suffered a steady decline in population after the Hannibal-Naples Railroad was routed about a mile to the north and around the town in 1869. New railroad stops could make and break frontier towns. They caused the price of land to increase and “crippled towns they bypassed” (Davis

After being bypassed by the railroad, the town dwindled. In 1885, decreased population and increased taxes led Ansel Vond, Frank McWorter's son-in-law, to gain a county order removing his ownership of town lots in New Philadelphia. The Illinois General Assembly granted this in 1885, and a portion of the town site reverted to farmland (Walker 1983:167). Despite this, what remained of the site continued to be viewed as a community for many more years.

The mid-eighteenth century was dominated by national tension over slavery and the place of African-Americans in society. The Wilmot Proviso in 1847 (free states for free European-American men), the Compromise of 1850, the Fugitive Slave Act, the Kansas-Nebraska Bill of 1854, and the Dred Scott decision in 1857 all made the place of African-Americans an issue of utmost national concern. Yet in New Philadelphia European-Americans and African-Americans lived and worked side by side in the same community. Frank McWorter sold town lots to European-Americans as early as 1837. In April of 1857, Solomon McWorter, an African-American, and Daniel Kirtwright, a European-American, served as co-executors of Squire McWorter's will. There is evidence that suggests that Solomon McWorter was in business with European-American man James Pottle (Walker 1983:131). In 1851, McWorter sued two European-American men, Christopher S. Luce and D.C. Topping, both town citizens of New Philadelphia. Documents relating to the suit illustrate a great deal of business transactions occurred between McWorter and Christopher Luce. Sylvester and Mary Baker, classified as white on Federal census records, bought New Philadelphia town lots from and sold to people of African-American descent. Sylvester also owned lots seven and eight on block fifteen with Louisa (Clark) McWorter, Frank McWorter's daughter-in-law who he had purchased from slavery (Walker 1983:168) listed as subsequent owner. Sylvester is also listed as the subsequent owner of Louisa McWorter’s lots seven and eight on block sixteen (Hadley Township Tax Assessments for New Philadelphia, Illinois).

**EARLY ILLINOIS TOWN PLATTING**

Although New Philadelphia was the first town platted and registered by an African-American, the planning and development of the town followed nationwide trends in land speculation, westward movement, and town planning. Paper towns became abundant as Native Americans were subdued and internal transportation improvements were promoted. Fear of attacks from Native Americans was permanently put to rest after Black Hawk’s War in 1832. This resulted in the removal of the last Native American holdings in Illinois, resulting in a surge of westward movement. The building of the Illinois and Michigan Canal also led to population growth in Illinois during the late 1830s. The increase in population and anticipated increase in trade on the Illinois River after the building of the canal led to an increase in land speculation. “In the thirty months from the fall of 1834 to the spring of 1837, the American people generated the largest land office business in the history of the Republic” (Davis 1998:208). Public domain lands throughout the Midwest were purchased for either
speculation or personal improvement – a chance to start a new life on the frontier.

New Philadelphia, founded in 1836, followed these trends as the population of Pike County nearly doubled from 1835 to 1836, and twenty-two towns were founded in the county between 1835 and 1837 (Walker 1985:51). During this time period over 500 new town sites were established in Illinois (Davis 1998:210). “The record of town plats [in Central Illinois] confirms that the period around 1836 was exceptional. From 1830 to 1834, between 3 and 10 new towns were platted each year. In 1835, 16 towns were laid out. In 1836 the number of towns established was 126” (Walters 1984:333).

These prairie villages required successful farmers to service, enough distance from competing villages, accessible timber, and the ability to transport goods to a larger market. “For prospective Pike town founders, the increase in small landholders represented a population threshold sufficient to support agricultural service center towns” (Walker 1985:51). New Philadelphia also fit a pattern in Pike County town size, although the town was on the small side of the scale. “With some thirty towns still in existence by 1880, only three places – all founded in the 1830s – had populations that numbered over one thousand. The number of inhabitants in other Pike towns ranged from 136 to 770” (Walker 1985:46). Although the founder of New Philadelphia was African-American, the town followed another trend in platting as “an overwhelming majority of town proprietors founded only one town during the boom ... A great number of town site promoters remained at or near the town sites and continued for many years to work actively for local interests” (Walters 1984:339). Frank McWorter clearly conforms to this pattern in his role as town founder.

The geography of the New Philadelphia site also fits the ideal design of new frontier towns. The vast majority of these towns (founded in the 1830s) were west of Decatur, and 84% were near the prairie-timber margin (Davis 1998:236), as was New Philadelphia. “The relative distribution of woodland and prairie was a critical element in town site selection” (Walters 1984:337). Survival rate for towns also depended largely on the distance from neighboring towns. New Philadelphia was four miles from Barry, which was also platted in 1836. This would give her a 29% survival rate, as per Walters’ calculations (Walters 1984:337). “As this distance [from nearest competing 1835-1837 town foundation] increased, so did chances for survival” (Walters 1984:341).

Proximity to the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers also benefited Pike County town founders, with no geographical point in the county located more than twenty miles from one of these rivers (Walker 1985:47). “Whenever possible, proprietors strategically platted their towns on sites accessible to or fronting county roads.... In platting New Philadelphia, Frank McWorter capitalized on the site’s advantages in location. The area was not only central to the settlement of a rapidly increasing farm population but was also strategically located on the site of two prospective cross-county roads that Pike County commissioners had proposed in 1836” (Walker 1985:52-56). New Philadelphia also followed another wider transportation trend, that of failing due to being
bypassed by a railroad (Walters 1984:340).

Positive environmental factors in town location included access to timber, prairie, dryness for health reasons, and transportation (roads, railroad, canals) (Walters 1984:337-338). By these standards, New Philadelphia was well suited to succeed, and it surpassed many in that it developed well past the paper stage, despite the racial limitations set on its founder. Frank McWorter took advantage of the lack of regulations in town planning. While the rights of African-Americans were limited, there was no requirement that a town founder be of European descent. Only a person categorized as a white male could incorporate a town, but to found a town the only requirement was to file a plat with the county office (Law of Illinois 1831: roll no. 30-4549). Frank McWorter’s plat followed, as did most, the common pattern of linear streets and rectangular lots. New Philadelphia grew as a racially integrated community economically based on service to the outlying agricultural community. Both African-Americans and European-Americans purchased and sold town lots and resided within the town limits during a time immersed in racial discord (Pike County Clerk).

OTHER EARLY AFRICAN-AMERICAN OR BI-RACIAL COMMUNITIES IN ILLINOIS

New Philadelphia is dissimilar from other African-American or bi-racial communities, as Frank McWorter actually founded and filed the town plat, being the first known African-American to do so. McWorter was well established within Hadley Township, when he filed the plat for New Philadelphia. He took advantage of current market trends by forming the town as an entrepreneurial enterprise. While his likely intent was for the town to provide an opportunity for other freed African-Americans to settle in a hospitable place and flourish (Walker 1983:118), it is doubtful that his intent was for New Philadelphia to be a solely African-American community. He sold many town lots to people of European descent. McWorter’s main goal was to prosper so that he could purchase the freedom of additional family members who remained enslaved.

Brooklyn, Illinois, began as an “unplatted all-black freedom village” (Cha-Jua 2000:73). Oral tradition holds that during the 1820s eleven families, “consisting of free persons of color and fugitive slaves, led by “Mother” Priscilla Baltimore, fled the slave state of Missouri, crossed the Mississippi River, and settled in the wilderness in St. Clair County, Illinois” (Cha-Jua 2000:1). This settlement became the town of Brooklyn. Brooklyn changed from a purely African-American freedom village into a bi-racial town when, in 1837, five men of European descent platted the land (Cha-Jua 2000:1). Brooklyn differed from New Philadelphia not only in its founding, but also in the primary occupation of it’s residents. Brooklyn’s African-American male population worked primarily as “laborers on the docks, at the stockyards, in the rolling mills, and on the railroads. ... Whereas nationally 57 percent of African-American men worked in agriculture in 1910, no Black men in Brooklyn did” (Cha-Jua 2000:2).
Other organized African-American communities were the result of philanthropic efforts by European-Americans. "The first organized Black community was established in 1819 when Edward Coles, a former secretary to President James Madison and the future governor of Illinois, freed his seventeen slaves. Cole compensated his former bondsmen by giving each male family head a quarter section, or 160 acres of land. The farmland was located near Edwardsville, Illinois, in Sections 14, 15, and 16 of the Pin Oak Township" (Cha-Jua 2000:34). *The History of Madison County, Illinois* published by WR Brink & Company, states, "there is quite a large colored settlement in the township. The first colored man, Robert Crawford, was located here by Governor Coles, who gave him a small farm situated in section 9. Crawford was a preacher, and he induced others of his race to settle here. . . This settlement increased steadily until it numbered fully three hundred. It is now considerable diminished. They built two churches on section 15, of the Methodist and Baptist denominations respectively. They have a separate school district, and conduct their own school, generally employing colored teachers" (Brink 1882: 448).

Other bi-racial villages and settlements of freed African-Americans existed throughout Illinois: Miller's Grove in Southern Illinois (Fuller 1999), Lakeview (Jeffries 1987), Grayson, and South America in Saline County (Aberle et al 2003). However, none of these villages were actually platted by an African-American and apparently have different genesis than that of New Philadelphia and none are bi-racial towns that have been examined archaeologically.

**AFRICAN-AMERICAN SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND POLITICAL CONDITION**

Throughout the nineteenth century, European-Americans were greatly preoccupied over where freed African-Americans would settle. Many in the free states feared a mass migration of former slaves into their states. Not only would they provide competition for lower class laborers of European descent, African-Americans were commonly viewed as a fiscal peril to European-American society. "Senator Stephen A. Douglas asserted that his state would not become 'an asylum for all the old and decrepit and broken-down Negroes that may emigrate or be sent to it'" (Litwack 1961:67).

The belief that slavery was wrong, but that African-Americans were inferior and had no place in European-American society, was widespread throughout the United States. The Colonization Society promoted an answer to the "Black question": the relocation of African-Americans to Liberia. Pike County had Colonization advocates. In the *Pike County Free Press* on April 22, 1847, there was an announcement for a meeting at which "Reverend Mr. Snow, Agent for the Colonization Society of Illinois will address the people on the subject of Colonizing the African, from the U.S. into Africa (The Pike County Free Press, April 22, 1847). The vast majority of unenslaved African-Americans were against the Colonization movement. Attempts to establish rural agricultural settlements where African-Americans would be welcome were rare. There were only about 100 "Black towns built in the US between the early 1800s and the mid-1900s" (Cha-Jua 2000:2) The "Black
question" loomed large in the national conscience. It was in this racially charged environment that the integrated community of New Philadelphia developed (Walker 1983: 125).

Fearful of an influx of African-Americans, free states, including Illinois, passed restrictive Black Codes. Illinois had legally restricted the rights of free African-Americans even before becoming a state. In 1813, under territorial legislations migration of African-Americans into Illinois was prohibited. Shortly after becoming a state, the “black laws” were passed by the state legislature which reiterated territorial laws restricting African-Americans from entering the state. African-Americans residents of Illinois had to post a bond of $1,000 as a guarantee that he would not become a county charge. An African-American could not hire or testify against a European-American. Free African-Americans already residing in the state had to file evidence of their freedom. Every African-American found without a certificate of freedom was considered a runaway slave and was to be advertised and sold for a year (Gertz 1963: 454-469).

A bill to exclude African-Americans from settling in the state was introduced in the Illinois legislature in January 1853. The so-called Black Law passed both houses without difficulty and was signed by Governor Matteson on February 12, 1853. This law provided that anyone “aiding a Negro to settle in Illinois was subject to a fine of not less than one hundred dollars, nor more than five hundred dollars and imprisonment in the county jail for not more than one year. If any Negro remained in the state for ten days with the intention of continuing his residence, he was subject to a fine of fifty dollars. If the fine was not paid, the Negro was arrested, advertised for ten days by the sheriff, and sold to the person who would pay the fine and costs for the shortest term of service” (Campbell 1970:51). Significantly, the bi-racial population of New Philadelphia reached its peak in the decades after the passage of these restrictive laws.

Between 1850 and 1857, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, and Oregon maintained disfranchisement of African-Americans and prohibited further entry of African-Americans to great popular support (Litwack 1961:263). As tension between slave and free states grew, “The North was exposed to such ridicule and accusation because it was abundantly clear that its great interest was not in abolition but in containment – of free Blacks, as well as of slavery” (Meinig 1993:299). Other states had similar laws if for no other reason than that they feared if they provided an inviting environment for unenslaved African-Americans, they would migrate en-mass from other states.

CONCLUSION

“The archaeological material from New Philadelphia will reveal aspects of life there that cannot be found in historical records. We may see how the material culture may have changed as racism influenced the development of New Philadelphia and the everyday lives of its inhabitants” (Shackel et al 2004:6). Until recently the history of minorities was largely ignored. Historical focus had largely been on colonial America
and the “great men” of our nation’s history. The history of the everyday and often illiterate people was marginalized. These histories are now being told and their importance to our national history stressed, although much of the focus on the African Diaspora has been on slavery and plantation life. Archaeologist Mark Mack and Michael Blakey assert that a variety of areas should be studied to compare and contrast the experiences of enslaved and free Africans (Wilkie 2004:113). Historical documents for these previously neglected groups are often rare, inaccurate, and biased adding value to information garnered from non-literary sources. Archaeological information can often add to, or contradict, the historical documentary evidence or the oral tradition and creates a more complete view of the past. Sites like New Philadelphia will provide significant information about relations between African-Americans and European-Americans. By examining these places, we can create a more representative picture of our national history (cf. Singleton and Bograd 1995; Paynter 1992; Ryder, R.L. 1991; Mullins 1999).

Artifact remains are vitally important to the understanding of past lifeways. Lack of historical information regarding previously neglected groups and areas lends even more value to the material culture of those groups. The study of lost and discarded artifacts aids in creating more complete and accurate views of the past. “African-Americans of the late nineteenth century also exercised their consumer choices and used objects like dishes and knick-knacks to distance themselves from the racial stereotypes that White America had constructed. These important studies show how much archaeologists can learn about the relationship between racial perceptions and material objects” (Orser 2002:11). The durability and unbiased nature of material remains may challenge existing views of social change. Artifacts can express gender, ethnicity, class, and power relations (Shackel 2003: 249). These issues are all awaiting study in New Philadelphia. “Most artifacts in use before our own technological times governed somebody’s personal relationship with somebody else, be they family, friends, neighbors, or business associates” (Carson 1978: 57). Paul Mullins contends that consumption was, and is, a complex process that allows the consumer to imagine “new social possibilities” (Mullins 1999:29).

DATA SETS

The pedestrian surveys conducted in 2002 and 2003 yielded 7,073 historic and prehistoric artifacts. Artifacts numbering 5,932 were considered “historic” and the balance labeled prehistoric or non-cultural (Gwaltney 2004:19). The historic artifacts were categorized using National Park Service (NPS) definitions – Archeology (Class 1) and Historic (Class 2). Historic artifacts were then broadly categorized as Animal, Mineral, or Vegetal (Class 3) and given a subset (Class 4) applicable to the New Philadelphia Pedestrian Survey, such as bone, glass, etc. After being broadly categorized, the historic artifacts were given an object name, dated when possible, and mapped (Gwaltney 2004:10-11). Types of historic artifacts recovered were: brick, buttons, ceramics (including earthenware, porcelain, stoneware, and terra cotta), ferrous, glass, kaolin/ball clay, mortar/plaster, slag, slate, faunal, and others (Gwaltney 2004:21). Over 2,000 of the historic artifacts were dateable. An end date of 1940 was given in instances where items are currently being manufactured. “Date
ranges were assigned where possible and a mean ceramic date (MCD) was calculated" (Gwaltney 2004:22). Artifact scatter by category and average artifact date was mapped, showing areas of high interest on the New Philadelphia town plat. The pedestrian surveys “show that both domestic and architectural cultural resources are present on the site” (Gwaltney 2004:33) and date to the historic occupation of the town site.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS/TOPICS:

African-American historical archaeology has been an important topic within historical archaeology for at least the last three decades. Sites such as New Philadelphia will contribute to our understanding of pioneer settlements and ethnic relationships within those settlements. (for examples of archaeological studies that highlight relationships between people of different ethnicity see Mullins 1999; Orser 1999; Paynter 1988, 1989; Shackel 2003; Warner 1998) Some basic questions include:

1) What can the variability of diet, possessions, and dwellings reveal about the remnant material culture of New Philadelphia and the interaction and differences between ethnic groups. Study between households of African-American descent and those of European-American descent, and the comparison of archaeological remains of New Philadelphia residents to those of other pioneer villages, will provide significant information regarding the development of New Philadelphia and how ethnic origin was a factor in the town’s existence and development.

2) What was the socioeconomic status of those living in New Philadelphia and variability between differing households. For example, how did the lifeways of the European-American merchant vary from that of the African-American blacksmith? Quality of life standards can be measured by the study of remnant material culture. Both the quantity and quality of items discovered at the site can address such basic questions regarding the early settlers’ standards of living. Aside from indicating quality of life, the artifacts recovered might also elaborate on personal identity (ethnic, political, religious).

3) What was the basic site structure of the town (identifying various components at the site) and its change through time? How did Emancipation influence the development of the community? Comparisons to studies on other pioneering communities could provide interesting information on whether New Philadelphia was different from other, all European-American, pioneer villages.

4) Did racism influence the social and economic interactions between residents both within New Philadelphia and in the surrounding community? According to Matteson (1964), the town has been presented as a racially peaceful society. Further archival and archaeological research might challenge currently perceived ideas regarding relationships between people of varying ethnicity in New Philadelphia.
5) What other evidence of occupation, other than that listed in census records, can the site reveal? Census records are often incomplete or illegible. For example, while the women in New Philadelphia typically have no occupation listed, or that of "housewife," they likely added to their family’s success through their own endeavors (c.f. Scott 2004:4-6).

Archaeological remains found at the New Philadelphia site will add to our understanding of material consumption and the relationships between African-Americans and European-Americans at New Philadelphia. The site has the potential to illustrate another lifeway of the African Diaspora – not plantation life or even life in other small towns that were founded for African-Americans, like Edwardsville, Illinois, by European-American philanthropy, or freedom settlements like Brooklyn, Illinois – but a town founded as the product of African-American entrepreneurial skills and desires (Cha-Jua 2000). Mullins describes real estate as “the most empowering of all African-American commodities” (Mullins 1999:2). The ownership of town lots and the material culture left behind by the people who occupied those lots have the potential to add to our understanding of African-American consumerism and the sociopolitical implications of their material culture (Mullins 1999:8). Laurie Wilkie states that African-Americans of the past “are presented as always enslaved, always engaged in agricultural pursuits, always living under the shadow of the planter’s residence, and most importantly, always separate” (Wilkie 2004:111). New Philadelphia offers an opportunity to study just the opposite. New Philadelphia followed many state and nationwide trends, such as town founding on the frontier, the significance of the development of the railroad to rural areas, and the enigma of relationships between people of varying ethnicity in the nineteenth century, yet New Philadelphia also symbolizes many neglected areas in our nation’s history – the story of successful free African-Americans in rural areas, rural farming villages, and the average person in rural America during the nineteenth century. The study of New Philadelphia will add to our knowledge of these previously overlooked groups in our nation’s history.
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Fuller, Elizabeth L.

Gertz, Elmer

Gifford, R.

Gigliotti, J.


Gwaltney, Tom

Hickson, Robert


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www.anthro.uiuc.edu Last visited March 22, 2005

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10  Page 30

New Philadelphia Town Site, Pike County, Illinois

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

NW 1/2 of NE 1/4 of Section 27, Township 4 South, Range 5 West, Hadley Township, Pike County, Illinois.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The National Register boundaries drawn for New Philadelphia corresponds to the limits of the New Philadelphia original town plat. The boundaries thus encompass all of the known, as well as undocumented, loci located within the town limits. This approach avoids the confusion that would result in attempting to establish the boundaries of individual sites. Middens have a tendency to overlap in town settings, and the odds are high that this happened in New Philadelphia, considering that town lots were relatively narrow and were being abandoned and reused over time. Vacant lots would have been convenient dumping grounds for trash from neighboring properties, particularly if they had a cellar depression or were useful as other forms of work areas.
New Philadelphia Town Site, Pike County, Illinois

Photographs

New Philadelphia Town Site
Pike County, Illinois
Michelle Hutes
September 11, 2004
Michelle Hutes

PHOTO 1: camera looking south east, Taken from the north central section of the site.
PHOTO 2: camera looking south, Taken from the north central section of the site.
PHOTO 3: cabin one, Western most cabin.
PHOTO 4: foundation of cabin 2, In the north central section of the site, to the south east of cabin 1
PHOTO 5: cabin 3, Camera looking west
PHOTO 6: Cabin 3 foundation
PHOTO 7: camera looking northeast, foundation east of cabin 3
PHOTO 8: camera looking southwest, fieldstone fence
PHOTO 9: camera looking north, Cabin 3
PHOTO 10: south of cabin 1, Well
PHOTO 11: camera facing south, From north east section of site
PHOTO 12: camera facing south, From north central area of site
PHOTO 13: camera facing north, From southeast area of site
PHOTO 14 camera facing east From southwest area of site
PHOTO 15: camera facing west, From south central area of site
PHOTO 16: camera facing northeast, From south central area of site
PHOTO 17: camera facing east, House in south east section of site
PHOTO 18: camera facing east, Chicken coop and barn in south east section of site
Topographic Map Showing Location of New Philadelphia Town Site, Pike County, Illinois.
1861 Sectional Map of the State of Illinois Showing of Philadelphia
New Philadelphia Town Site, Pike County, Illinois
Map of Philadelphia, 1872 Atlas of Pike County
New Philadelphia Town Site, Pike County, Illinois
1895 Atlas of United States Shows the Towns of Barry (Established in 1836) and Hadley Station (Established in 1870), But Does Not Depict New Philadelphia
New Philadelphia Town Site, Pike County, Illinois
Aerial Photograph with Overlay of New Philadelphia Town Plat
New Philadelphia Town Site, Pike County, Illinois
Summary of Historic Artifacts Recovered During Pedestrian Survey

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### Functional Category Breakout of Artifacts by Block

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Functional Category Breakout of Artifacts by Block continued

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<th>MEAN DATE</th>
<th>BLOCK: LOT</th>
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New Philadelphia Town Site, Pike County, Illinois
HISTORIC ARTIFACT SCATTER

New Philadelphia Town Site, Pike County, Illinois
New Philadelphia Town Site, Pike County, Illinois
THIMBLES

New Philadelphia Town Site, Pike County, Illinois
INTERIOR FIELDSTONE FOUNDATION

New Philadelphia Town Site, Pike County, Illinois