Field School in Berkeley, CA

Director Laurie Wilkie (right) offers a visitor to her summer 2009 field school a tour of the three excavated areas on the site of a late 19th/early 20th century estate just above Telegraph Avenue between Channing Way and Haste. The 1920s
Summer Research Journal


A quick history of the site: the house was built in 1895 by a wealthy “capitalist” named John Hinkel. Based on the available pictures I can attest that it was a very nice piece of property. On the property was a Victorian-style home (when it became a boarding house it had 24 rooms!), a greenhouse, and a carriage-house (later turned into a garage), all surrounded by a wide variety of well-groomed plants and trees. After he died his property was sold to a wealthy woman who then leased it out to female UC Berkeley students (late 1920s). The home had a Spanish theme and the house was called Casa Hispana. Aerial photos of the property highlight the transformation from well-groomed estate into flattened concrete surface. Much of this occurred during the 1950s, as the county responded to pressures from an increasingly vehicle-centered society. Though it gained a few parking spaces, the university lost a unique piece of its history.

Despite being bulldozed and paved, the site proved resilient. Amazingly we found a number of artifacts representing the domestic lives of the women who lived there. One such artifact was an engraved container of lipstick, cosmetic packed continued on reverse

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Welcome Students!

Tips for survival:

Come to the ARF organizational meeting on Wednesday, August 26.

Check out the ARF web site.

Pick a date that works for you to give a Wednesday brown bag lecture to your colleagues.

Students of historical archaeology at the Berkeley field school

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... tightly inside like some ancient turtle. Marbles and toys were also hidden beneath the rubble, indicating the presence of children... Most of the artifact assemblage is comprised of glass and ceramics, which have yet to be closely examined and identified.

Book Announcement


Other Archaeology Events at Cal

* Stone Tools from Olduvai Gorge, thru Aug 30  Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology
* From the Maker’s Hand, thru Aug 30  Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology
* Ancient Nubia: A View from the Fourth Cataract, Sept. 27, 2:30-4 pm, 20 Barrows Hall, Near Eastern Studies
* 99 Bottles of Beer: Global Brewing Traditions, 2500 B.C. to Present, Oct. 10, 12 to 6 pm, Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology