Ms. Jansie Webster President Anguilla Archaeological and Historical Society P.O. Box 252 The Valley, Anguilla

October 21, 2021

RE: 2021 Dissertation Research at Hughes Estate, Lower South Hill

Dear Ms. Webster,

This report is a preliminary summary of the results of the archaeological research conducted at Hughes Estate site in Lower South Hill from July 19 to August 26, 2021. Research permission was obtained from the Anguilla Department of Environment. The Hughes Estate site is currently divided into eleven parcels and owned by four families. Ms. Webster, the president of the Anguilla Archaeological and Historical Society, contacted the parcel owners and obtained permission for archaeological excavation on their property.

The Hughes Estate project was led by Temple University PhD Candidate, Elysia Petras for her doctoral thesis research. She arrived in Anguilla on July 7 and began preparations for the field research which began on July 19th and ran until to August 26th. Joshua Price, the intern from the Anguilla Department of Youth and Culture assisted with all aspects of field work from July 19 to August 20th. Matthew Furlong, who holds a PhD from the University of Chicago, assisted with field work from July 19th-30th. Aveline Wilson, a trained geologist and member of the AAHS, assisted with field work from the first week of August until the last day of the field season. Though the main excavation crew was small, a significant field research program was undertaken and accomplished the goals of the field season. In addition to the main excavation crew, Carl Webster, a member of the AAHS, and volunteer Don Mitchell assisted in clearing bush from the historic structures as well as making paths through the overgrowth to facilitate access to the site. Their efforts allowed us to better obtain photo documentation of the historic structures. Khori Hodge assisted the project by operating a drone. Photographs have been shared with the AAHS and are being shared with the general public through the website created for the project: <u>https://lcdssgeo.com/omeka-s/s/Hughes/page/about</u>.

Through word of mouth, a presentation at the AAHS general meeting, and a press release in the local paper, the project attracted considerable local interest evident in the number of visitors to the site. Volunteers who visited the site and participated in a day of excavation include Tequila Stephen, Melissa Meade, Rhina Meade and Gina Brookes. 11+ other visitors toured the site including Eileen and Ian Smith, Farah Mukhida, Avon Carty, Kenn Banks, Jane Price and her mother, Daphne Niles, her daughter in-law and grandchildren, as well as Carmen Hall and Maureen Niles.

Hughes Estate Historic Background

The Hughes Estate was a moderate sized 17th-19th century sugar plantation. The ruins of an animal mill round, boiling house, animal pen, smokehouse, cistern and two other structures, likely residential, remain on the modern property today. In an 1819 report on the products of the island, Anguilla was estimated to produce 240,000-320,000 lbs of sugar during a good season(C0239.2), which is a marginal amount compared to other sugar producing islands in the British Caribbean.

In the early 19th century the population of Anguilla was estimated at 3000 souls with "2457 slaves amongst 225 proprietors"(C0239.2). The majority of the proprietors were small holders as large plantations were in the hands of only a few families on Anguilla. About 7 estates held 50 or more enslaved individuals, and only fifteen held between 20-50 enslaved laborers (C0 239.2). At

the time of the abolition of slavery, the heirs of Hughes Estate claimed 46 enslaved laborers, placing it among one of the larger estates on the islands.

Historic records referencing the Hughes Estate property are scarce. The earliest record referencing Hughes Estate is a 1795 will, in which an ailing John Hughes Senior leaves his estate to his wife and four surviving sons and gives four enslaved individuals to a "mulatto man, named Jack" in addition to "a salary during the time he [Jack] continues on the estate as manager"(Anguilla Records of Deeds 1792-1803).

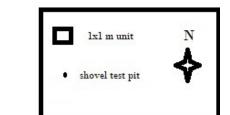
In 1834, at the time of emancipation, a compensation a claim for Hughes Estate was filed by eight joint heirs under the will of John Hughes Senior. It is unclear which of the 8 heirs were living at Hughes Estate in the 1830s as many of heirs appeared in compensation claims of their own. Therefore, after 1795, a person of color is one of the only names we have definitively associated with the property in terms of residence. Jack does not appear in any other deeds, wills or court records, but through archaeological excavation more may be learned about his life as well as the lives of the enslaved who labored at the plantation for the profit of the Hughes Estate, this research will contribute to a body of knowledge centering histories that were silenced in the past. The Hughes Estate site is a uniquely well-preserved site for archaeological research on Anguillan plantation slavery as there has been no significant development on the property since the 19th century.

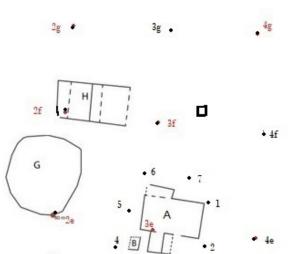
Summer 2021 Fieldwork Goals and Accomplishments

Previously, during the 2019 fieldwork season, the team I led located and mapped 7 historic structures on the property. The main goal of the summer 2021 fieldwork season was to identify

the function of these structures and determine where the enslaved laborers lived on Hughes Estate. Wooden structures that were typical of enslaved housing would no longer be visible on the site surface. To locate possible wooden structures, I proposed to lay a grid across the site and sample every 20 meters. The enslaved also could have lived in some of the masonry-built structures that remain at the site. I proposed to sample deposits associated with these visible historic plantation structures in order to identify the structure function, the period of occupation, as well as the status of the people who occupied them.

To complete the goals of the 2021 fieldwork season, we excavated four 1x1 meter units and fifty 25 cm x 25 cm shovel test pits (STPs) between July 19th and August 26, 2021. Four STPs were excavated at structure SH, twelve STPS and one unit at structure C, one STP at structure D, eight STPs and one unit at structure E, and seven STPs and one unit at structure A. Nine STPS were excavated along transect Line 2, four along Line 3, and five STPS and one unit were excavated on Line 4. At the conclusion of excavation, all shovel test pits and units were back-filled. The artifacts were delivered to the president of the Anguilla Archaeological and Historical Society for storage on August 27, 2021. While there was not enough time to analyze the all the artifacts this season, a preliminary summary of our findings is included below.





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3h •

4h •

2h •

F

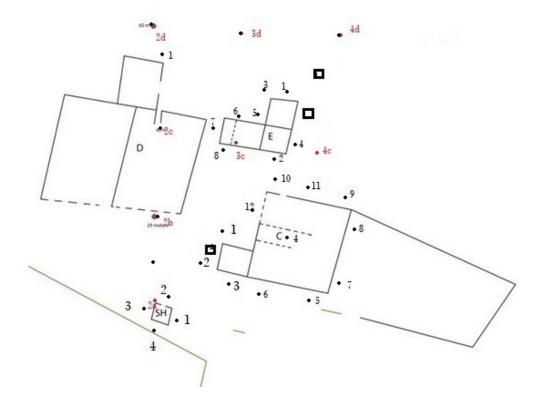


Figure 1: Map of historic structures at Hughes Estate and 2021 excavations

Transects

During the 2021 fieldwork season we laid five 140m transect lines across the site, separated east to west by 20 meters. The first transect we laid, Line 2, began at the NW corner of the smokehouse building, our datum. We put down flagging tape every 20 meters going due north from the datum. 2a was at the 0 meter mark, 2b was at 20 m, 2c 40m, 2d 60m, 2e 80m, 2f 100m, 2g 120m, and 2h at 140m from the datum.

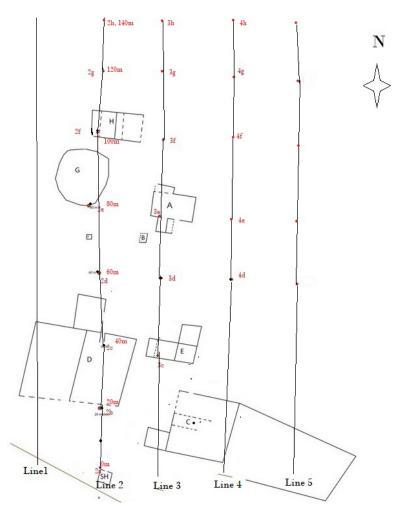


Figure 2: Transect lines 1-5

On Line 2, we excavated 25 cm x 25 cm shovel test pits (STPs) at each 20 m mark, 2a-2h. One additional STP was excavated along Line 2, between points 2, midway between 2a at the Smokehouse and point 2b which was located just south of Locus D, the animal pen. We

excavated an STP between these two points as we were curious about the activity area between the two structures. STPs 2b, 2c, and 2d were located in or near Locus D, the animal pen, and will be discussed in the Locus D section of this report. STP 2e was located about 1m south of Locus G, the animal mill round, and did not yield many artifacts. The site terrain began to slope steeply downhill around the 95 meter mark of the transect, between 2e and 2f. STP 2f was located inside Locus H, the boiling house and will be discussed in the Locus H section of this report. We recovered few to no artifacts at 2h (140 m from the datum) and did not observe artifacts on the surface further north of 2h, which is why we did not extend the transect further. The historic site appears to end between 2g and 2h, around 134m north from the datum, after which historical material is scarce. We observed large fossil gastropods, fossil corals and other fossil shells on the site surface after the 133 m mark, which also suggests that this area was left undisturbed during the historic occupation of the site. The slope of the hill becomes steeper after 2g, which could explain why the historical occupation of the site appears to have ended after this point.



Figure 3: Large fossil gastropod found on site surface after 133 m mark on Line 2

Our initial plan was to lay transect Line 1 20 meters west of Line 2. However, when we measured 20m west of Line 2, we found ourselves off the Hughes Estate property and on the road that had been bulldozed between the site and the modern Skiffles hotel. We instead laid Line 1 ~16 m west of Line 2. We did not excavate STPs along Line 1 this season as we observed modern construction materials along the transect line, with few to no historic artifacts on the surface. Line 1 was likely part of the historic Hughes Estate but has been disturbed due to the construction of Skiffles. I plan to excavate along Line 1 in future seasons as there still may be artifacts beneath the surface.

Line 3 was laid 20 meters east of Line 2, Line 4 was laid 20 E of Line 3, and Line 5 was laid 20 m E of Line 4. We excavated 4 STPs along Line 3: at 3d, 3f, 3g and 3h. As with Line 2, we did not recover many artifacts in STP 3h, the most northern transect point. We did not excavate at 3e nor at 3c as these points fell directly on the walls of standing structures that we had already investigated. We did not have time to excavate STPS 3a and b this season and plan to do so in future seasons.

We excavated at points 4d-4h on Line 4. We did not excavate at 4c and 4b as they were both located near areas that we had already heavily sampled. We did not have time to excavate STP 4a this season and plan to do so in future seasons. We also did not have time to excavate STPS at Line 5 this season, and plan do so in future seasons. While we did not find evidence for wooden structures, such as postholes in the STPs we excavated, the STPS along the transects provided useful information on the distribution of artifact density across the site, analysis of which will help us target areas for excavation in future seasons.

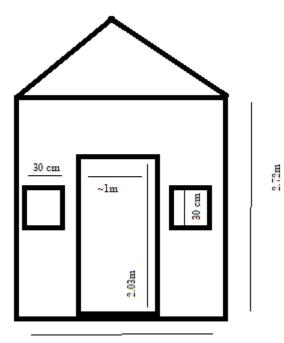
Research at Locus SH

Locus SH is the structure tentatively identified as a smokehouse building, which would have been used for curing and storing meat for the plantation. The smokehouse is best-preserved structure remaining at the Hughes Estate site. We took photographs and measurements inside and outside of the structure documenting the architecture and unique features such as carvings of more than four ships on three of the interior faces of the smokehouse. As this building does not have a direct view of the sea, it is unlikely that the drawings were merely records of ships passing by the plantation.



Figure 4: Ship carving on smokehouse interior wall

While the Smokehouse was part of the plantation infrastructure, ultimately designed for the benefit of the plantation owners, it was enslaved individuals who labored in the space. Ship drawings have been found in enslaved contexts throughout the Americas. Scholars have argued the ship imagery belongs to African diasporic religious symbolism (Lindner 2016), and others as testament to surviving of the middle passage (Singleton and Torres de Souza 2009). 19th century documents reveal that slaveholders from the Road Division, the division in which Hughes Estate is located, were concerned with "the frequent immigrations of slaves from this island to the island of Saint Martin" and called for inspections of foreign boats, as well as established licenses which could only be granted to boats "navigated with one white man at least" (Anguilla Council 1828:119). The ships etched by enslaved laborers at Hughes Estate might communicate and commemorate the self-liberation of family, friends, community members via maritime routes to nearby islands outside of British control. Boat imagery could have represented connections to a larger world and the possibilities therein. Photographs taken in the field were run through the Agisoft Metashape software at Temple University to create a 3d model of the smokehouse structure to document this important building, which is being hosted on the <u>AAHS sketchfab account</u>.



3.08m

The smokehouse has a footprint of 3.08 x 3.08 meters. The walls are entirely stone and mortar built, are 45 cm thick, and 2.72 meters high before joining with the domed roof. Three arched vents, 50cm tall x 43 cm wide, are located on the southern face of the building. **Figure 5: Smokehouse measurements**



Figure 6: Smokehouse vents on southern face of Smokehouse building

In the interior of the smokehouse, we documented 6 square post holes located where the walls meet the roofing. These indicate that at least three wooden beams, likely for hanging meats, ran at ceiling height inside the smokehouse. We also documented evidence of a stone bench that would have once sat above the vents inside the smokehouse.



Figures 7 & 8: Smokehouse interior, 2 rectangular beam holes pictured in image on the left. Remnants of bench over vents inside in the smokehouse in image on the right.

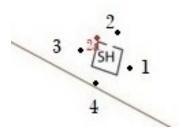


Figure 9: Locus SH Excavations

We excavated five 25cmx25cm shovel tests around Locus SH during the 2021 fieldwork season. The shovel tests were placed ~1m out from the center of each exterior face (N, S, E, W) of the smokehouse. Shovel test pit (STP) 2a was excavated at the northern corner of the smokehouse as the first STP for the north-south transect Line 2. In addition to the five shovel tests, we collected artifacts from the surface within 2 meters of the structure on all sides. Artifacts found at Locus SH include ceramic, glass, metal, brick, mortar, shell and charcoal. We did not find a large midden of ash and charcoal as expected for a smokehouse in our shovel tests. It is possible that the refuse was swept more than 2 meters away from the structure or that other activities took place at this location. I plan to excavate more shovel tests further out from the structure in future seasons to further investigate this locus.



Figure 10: Ceramics collected from surface within ~2m of smokehouse.

Locus C

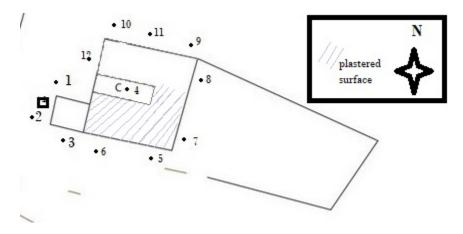


Figure 11: Excavations at Locus C

Locus C consists of an ~19x19 meter raised platform containing a 2 meter deep cistern (3x10 meter W and L), a 6x6.3 meter room attached to the platform on the SW, as well as a fence of stacked limestone which connects to the NE corner of the raised foundation and encloses a large outdoor area. The fence may have protected a garden or field crop from grazing animals or other intruders. In 2019 we had tentatively identified the ~19x19 m structure as a raised water catchment platform that would drain into the cistern. During the summer 2021 season we cleared brush from the surface at 2 meter intervals and uncovered a salmon colored plastered surface across the platform to the east and the south of the cistern. Crew member Aveline Wilson took dip measurements and determined that the plastered platform sloped at an angle towards the cistern. These findings support our hypothesis that the raised 19x19 meter foundation acted as a catchment area to collect and feed water into the cistern. We did not uncover a paved surface on the side of the platform north of the cistern. This area was overgrown by trees, and as such the

roots may have disturbed the plaster. Alternatively, the northern side of the platform may not have been a catchment area.



Figure 12: Plastered surface on 18x19m raised platform.



Figure 13: Feed hole of Locus C cistern.

We excavated 12 shovel tests and one 1x1 m unit at Locus C. We placed two STPs roughly 2m out from the southern wall of the 19x19 m platform, two to the east, three to the north, one inside the cistern itself, two to the west of the platform, and two in association with the small attached room. Preliminary analysis supports the identification of the 19x19 meter platform as a catchment area. We found few artifacts in the STPS on the south, and the east of the platform. We found more artifacts in the STPS excavated north of the catchment area, though these may be associated with a scatter from Locus E which is roughly 10 m north of Locus C. We found artifacts related to the household, such as ceramic sherds in the STPS near the attached room. As the attached room appeared to have a different artifact signature than the main foundation of Locus C, we excavated a 1x1 meter unit ~2m to the west of the attachment.



Figures 14 & 15: Ceramics from excavations at attached building of Locus C

We hit plaster ~10 centimeters below the surface in the unit, which indicates that the ground outside of the attached building was paved. As the surface at Hughes Estate is uneven due to rocky limestone soil, this area outside of the building may have been paved to allow for a more even surface to walk to and from the main water source of the plantation. The unit we excavated near the attached room did not yield many artifacts, as few artifacts were located in layers

beneath the pavement. We will need to further investigate the attachment in future seasons. It may have been a home to the enslaved laborers who worked in the enclosed field behind the cistern.

Locus E

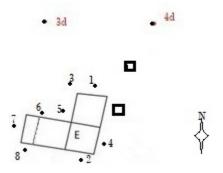


Figure 16: Excavations at Locus E

Locus E is an L shaped building of three large rooms and one small room. It is the most centrally located building at Hughes Estate. From this structure all aspects of the plantation are in view. This building could have been the main estate house, the residence of the plantation manager, or the housing of enslaved laborers. As Locus E is located between areas in which the enslaved labored (the sugar works, animal pens, and cistern/kitchen) it is strategically located for surveillance. We excavated 8 shovels tests roughly 2 meters from the faces of Locus E, we also excavated one 1x1 meter unit ~3 meters to the east from the NE corner of Locus E. We selected this placement for the unit as we observed a large artifact scatter on the surface of the site to the east of locus E. This unit yielded a large quantity of household goods that far exceeded the number of artifacts in association with Locus C and Locus SH. Locus E appears to have been a residence based on a preliminary analysis of the artifacts types and density. I plan to compare the

dates and price index of the ceramics associated with Locus E to those of other structures on the plantation to determine the social status of the household that occupied Locus E.



Figure 17: Ceramic Sherds from level 1 (0-10 cm below surface) of the 1x1m unit at Locus E.

The scatter of artifacts on the surface continues from the eastern wall of Locus E for about another 11 meters to the east, and extends as far south as the northern wall of the Locus C. We put a second 1x1 m unit ~7.3 meters to the NE of Locus E along Line 4, which is one of the north-south grid lines we set up across the site. The unit on line 4 also yielded a substantial quantity of artifacts that appear to be very similar in type to those of the nearby unit at Locus E. Analysis will include looking for ceramic refits and analysis of sherd decoration to determine if the two units are composed of the same artifact scatter. A shovel test on line 4 (STP 4d), roughly 14 meters from the NE corner of Locus E also was densely concentrated with artifacts, and upon preliminary analysis appears to be part of the same scatter as the two units. Upon preliminary analysis of the STPs excavated around Locus E, there seems to be far less artifacts to the south, west, and NW of Locus E than there are to the east and the NE. Household refuse from Locus E may have been swept to the east of the building. Line 3 was laid 20 meters west of Line 4. We did not find any household artifacts in the shovel test pit on Line 3 that was parallel to the high yielding STP on Line 4. There appears to have been a refuse-free outdoor courtyard between structures A, D and E. The scatter east of E could be the result of sweeping the courtyard clean.

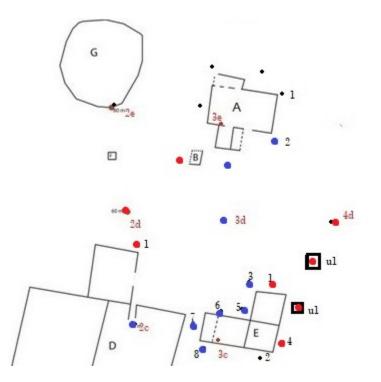


Figure 18: Red indicates STPs and units with high artifact density, blue indicates lower density.

Locus D

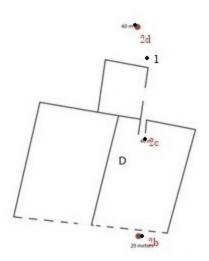


Figure 19: Excavations at Locus D

Locus D is a stone enclosure divided into 2 large sections (22x15 and 23x15 m) with a smaller room (6.25 x9.2 m) off the northern wall of the main enclosure. Locus D was likely an animal pen with attached shed or barn building. It is located roughly 20 meters south of Locus G, where some of the estate's animals would have worked to power the mill round. Transect Line 2 ran through Locus D, with STP 2b lying along the southern wall of the eastern pen of Locus D. We did not uncover many artifacts in STP 2b, nor did we uncover many artifacts at STP 2c which fell inside the pen. We did however find a large quantity of household artifacts at STP2d which was located ~4 meters north of the pen's smaller room. To further investigate this finding, we put in another STP (Locus D STP 1) roughly ~2m north of the NE corner of the small room. We uncovered a large quantity of artifacts in this STP as well. The artifacts from STP 2d, and Locus D STP 1 will be compared with artifacts recovered from Locus E. It is possible that these artifacts also represent refuse swept away from Locus E, as Locus D is located only 4m to the west of Locus E. If the artifacts appear to be different that those from Locus E, this might indicate that the attachment on Locus D was occupied by the enslaved individuals who cared for the estate farm animals.



Figure 20: Sherds from the scatter starting ~2m north of the small room on Locus D

Locus A

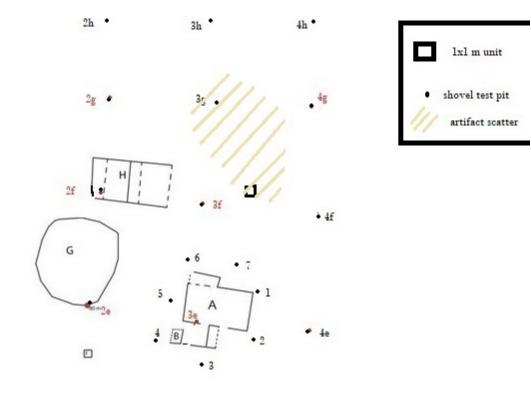


Figure 21: Excavations at Locus A

Locus A was a moderate sized building. Today the walls of an above-ground cellar remain, as well as attached exterior staircase off the NW wall. There is also evidence for an attached room with an exterior staircase off the SW wall of the main foundation. Locus A is the NE most plantation building of Hughes Estate. The bottom portion of the cellar walls is made of cut limestone, while the top half of the remaining walls are constructed from poured limestone brick. The attached room has been reduced to rubble. Perched on the ridge, locus A overlooks the ocean to the north. In addition to the sea, this location lends itself to surveillance of the sugar works and animal round to the west, and of Locus E and D across the swept yard to the south. We excavated seven STPs at Locus A. One ~2m from the NE corner of the structure, one ~2 from the SE corner, one ~2m S from the rubble of the attachment on the S face, one near the southern staircase, one ~2m from the center of the W wall, one ~2m from the NW corner, and

one ~2m from the center of the N face of the building. The only STP to yield many artifacts was the STP located ~2m from the staircase connecting to the smaller attached room on the SW of the main foundation. The soil of this STP was ashy grey and may be evidence for a kitchen. While few artifacts were recovered from the STPs ~2m from Locus A, we observed a significant scatter of artifacts starting roughly ~17m down the slope (to the north) from Locus A. We put in a 1x1 m Unit ~21m due north from the NE corner of Locus A. In this unit we recovered a large quantity of artifacts related to the household. Upon initial observation, the ceramics found in this unit appear to be distinct in style and type from those found near E and D. The scatter dropped off as we walked further east when we were no longer parallel to Locus A. It also dropped off as we walked west and were downhill from the boiling house. I plan to compare the artifacts from the unit downhill from A with artifacts from the unit associated with Locus E. Comparison will focus on dates of occupation as well as the status of the occupants. The artifacts downhill of Locus A appear to be of finer quality than those near E upon preliminary observation, which lends to the tentative identification of Locus A as the plantation Greathouse, or main estate house.



Figure 21: Artifacts from the 1x1m unit excavated downhill from Locus A

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Locus H



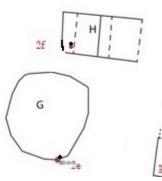


Figure 22: Loci G and H

Based on artifacts, soil, location and shape, the north-most structure of the plantation, Locus H, is identified as the sugar boiling house. Locus H is located ~4m downhill from Locus G, the animal mill round. After being processed in the mill, raw cane juice would have flowed through gutters down the incline to Locus H where the cane juice would be boiled in a series of coppers. Locus H is divided by partitions into four sections, two of which are ~2m in width, and two which are ~4m in width. These different sections may have housed the various coppers. Transect Line 2 ran through Locus H, with STP 2f falling in the interior SW corner of the structure. Little to no artifacts were found in this STP as expected, for refuse would have been swept out of the structure. Red brick and metal scraps were visible on the surface scattered from just outside the north face of the boiling house to about 20 meters downhill. STP 2g, located ~14m south of the N face of Locus H yielded ashy grey soil.

Beachfront Access

Visitors to the archaeological site who grew up near Hughes Estate recalled to us that there used to be a path that cut between Locus D and E and ran all the way down to the shore. We were able to access the shoreline by finding a path along the eastern boundary of the site. To get to the beach we had to climb down a rope that had been tied to a tree. Despite necessitating a rope, this eastern portion was the only access to the beach as most of the site ended in a cliff with a vertical drop to the water.

Though the beachfront is not part of the modern parcels, the occupants of the historic estate likely accessed the water from this same point. We found little to no artifacts along the coast, and conducted no excavations as it is not part of the modern property. However, we did note about 6 dense green brick-sized stones along the shore.



Figure 23: Greenstone found at the Hughes Estate Beachfront

We identified the stones as greenstone likely originating from Saint Martin through email correspondence with Dr. John Crock who had recovered artifacts made from this material on Anguillan Amerindian sites. Aveline Wilson, a trained geologist, confirmed that this type of stone would not be found naturally on Anguilla and would have been imported in from a volcanic island. We hypothesize that these stones may have been used as ballast for ships arriving at Hughes from St. Martin. The presence of these stones on the Hughes' shoreline indicate potential interaction between the historic occupants of Hughes Estate and the French/Dutch island of St. Martin. Court records from the 19th century document the anger of slaveholders over the frequent escape of the enslaved from the Road Division of Anguilla (the division in which Hughes was located) to St. Martin. With these historic documents in mind, it is tempting to view the presence of these stones as representing connections between the enslaved

of the two islands and their networks of freedom. There is, however, no way to confirm when the stones were brought to Anguilla as the stones were found on the beach surface and not in association with a dated midden. Even if they were associated with middens dated to the 18-19th century, there is no way of knowing for sure who brought these stones over- the slaveholder class or the enslaved. If indeed ballast stones, they do however represent the social and trade connections between British Anguilla and nearby French/Dutch St. Martin.

Next Steps

The majority of 2021 summer season was spent in the field as opposed to the laboratory. A trip is planned for December 2021 for laboratory analysis of the artifacts excavated. Analysis of the artifacts will shape the goals of the next field season planned for summer 2022.

As of now, I propose to continue to excavate the remaining STPs along the transects laid during summer 2021. Excavations along lines 1 and 5 will give us a better idea of the eastern and western boundaries of the site. I also propose to extend all of the lines further south as the Smokehouse does not appear to be the southern boundary of the historic site based upon observation of surface artifacts. I plan to excavate more STPs and possibly a unit near the smokehouse as the soil from the STPs was not ashy as expected for a smokehouse, so further investigation is required to understand this Loci.

I propose to excavate a unit to the south of the attached room of Locus C to further understand the function of the room. The one 1x1m unit we excavated near the attachment did not yield many artifacts as a paved surface was uncovered across the unit around 10 cm below surface. The shovel tests near the attachment however did yield ceramics of interest. Analysis of ceramics found near Locus D, E and A will determine future plans for those Loci.

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Sincerely,

Elysia Petras

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