



Harvard Yard, Engraving by Paul Revere, 1767. Courtesy Harvard University Archives

ARCHAEOLOGY of HARVARD YARD

EXCAVATION EVENTS

Excavation (*Weather permitting*)
September 8–November 17
Thursdays 1:00–4:00 PM

Opening Program
September 8 1:30 PM (*Rain or shine*)

Results Open House
November 3 1:30–3:30 PM (*Rain or shine*)

VISIT US ONLINE

Harvard Yard Archaeology Project:
www.peabody.harvard.edu/harvard_yard

Peabody Museum: www.peabody.harvard.edu

Department of Anthropology:
www.fas.harvard.edu



HARVARD
Department of Anthropology

2016

Anthropology 1130: The Archaeology of Harvard Yard is a collaboration of the Harvard Anthropology Department and the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology. The class will be excavating colonial archaeology in Harvard Yard during Fall 2016. It is the sixth excavation season in this area of the Yard. Four buildings comprised the seventeenth-century Harvard campus. Two of these early buildings have been located in the vicinity of the present excavation: the Old College and the Indian College. The Old College—a large, three-story, multi-purpose wooden structure, and the first college building in America—stood just to the south of this location from 1638 through the 1670s. The Indian College, the first brick building on Harvard's campus, stood southwest of this location, from 1655 to 1698. The Indian College housed students from New England Native American tribes, English students, and the first printing press in the American colonies. The first Bible printed in British North America, known as the Eliot Bible, a translation into the local Algonquian language, was crafted here in 1663. A plaque located on the southwest corner of Matthews Hall commemorates the Indian College.

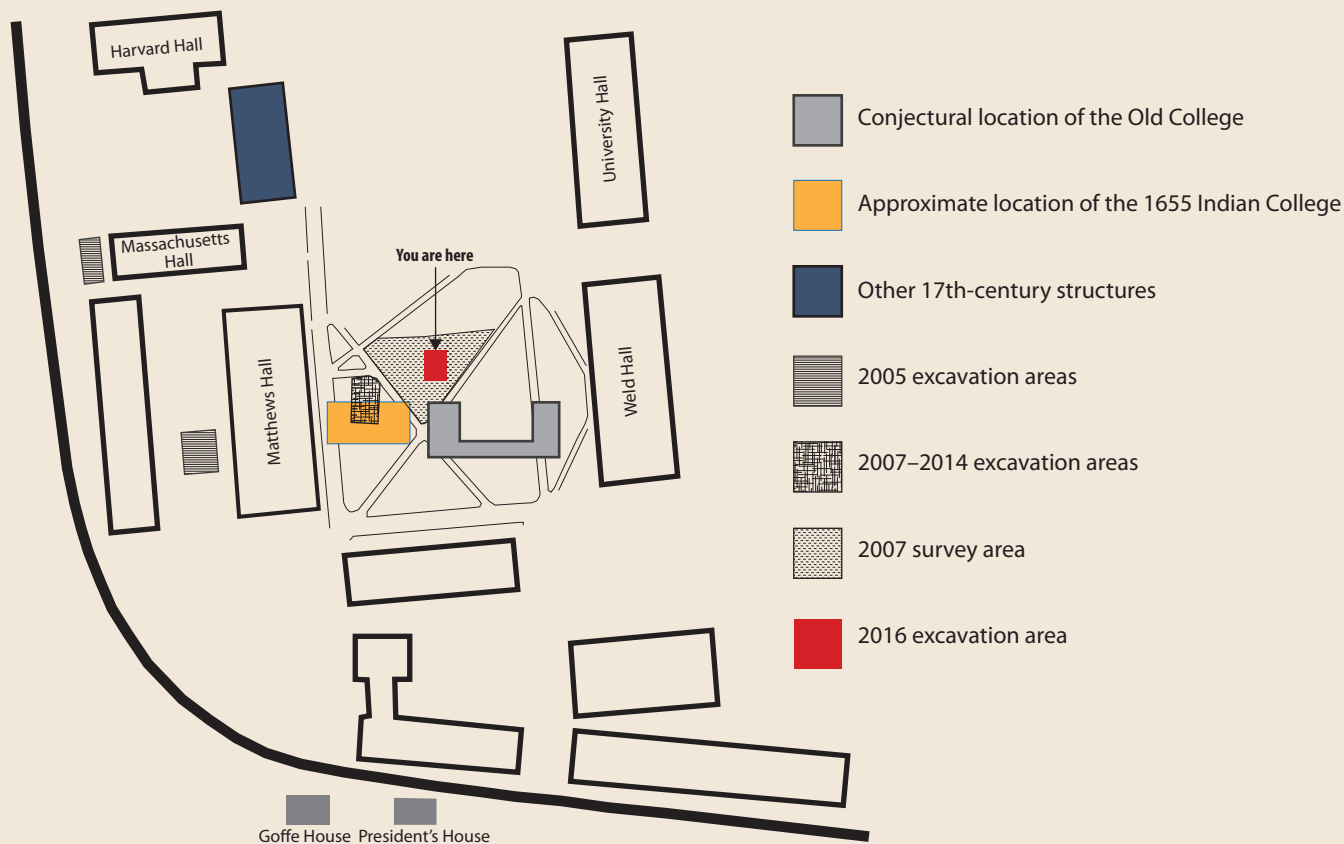
*“for all ... necessary provisions that
may conduce to the education of the
English and Indian youth of this
country, in knowledge and godliness.”*

— Harvard College Charter of 1650

By the turn of the 18th century, university goals began to shift as the institution was in the process of leaving behind its Puritan beginnings to forward Enlightenment ideals of scientific reason and individualism.

The class is excavating to gain a deeper understanding of Harvard's early days and mission. An exhibition at the Peabody Museum, “Digging Veritas: The Archaeology and History of the Indian College and Student Life at Colonial Harvard” details some of the history of the Indian College and the excavations. The Peabody Museum and its partners regard the site as an important nexus of cultures and ideas and a place for remembering Native Americans in Harvard's early history.

Old Harvard Yard

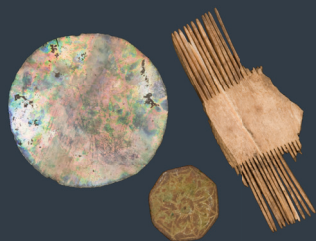


In 2007, ANTHRO II30 students excavated in front of Matthews Hall. They found 17th-through 19th-century artifacts including 17th-century printing type from the first printing press in the nation.

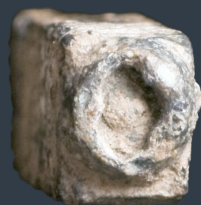
In 2009, 2011, and 2014 ANTHRO II30 students again excavated in front of Matthews Hall. They found more 17th-through 19th-century artifacts, as well as the foundation trench of the Harvard Indian College!

This year, the team will excavate down to a 17th-century ground surface level with the goal of encountering a midden, or colonial refuse zone. Previous test excavation and ground-penetrating radar showed dense deposits at the lowest levels which include the 17th and 18th centuries. To the southern extent of the excavation, the team may come into contact with remnants of the 1638 Old College.

FINDINGS UNEARTHED FROM COLONIAL HARVARD YARD



A spectacle lens, cuff link or sleeve button, and a bone comb.



Print type letter "o."



Pieces of metal print type from the first printing press in Colonial America at Harvard's Indian College.



One of many white clay pipes recovered from the excavations. Left, center, and front