

REMAINS OF HISTORIC BAHAMAS PINEAPPLE CANNERY DISCOVERED

In December 2008 archaeologists from the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy documented the remains of a pineapple cannery in Green Turtle Cay. The survey was funded by the Leeward Yacht Club as part of their residential development. It was authorized under an antiquity permit issued by the National Museum of the Bahamas, Dr. Keith L. Tinker, Director.

The site is beautifully set on Blackwater Bay. The cannery was built in the late 19th century. It was the first such cannery in the Abacos. Archival documents reveal that 6,000 dozen crates of pineapples were shipped from Abaco in 1870, at a time when 1,200 people lived on Green Turtle Cay.



Ruins of the cannery foundations were found surrounded by tropical foliage. The horizon overlooks Blackwater Bay.

The factory's original foundation and two cisterns survive. Evidence of the boiler foundation, associated with large quantities of coal, was found, and a number of household artifacts associated with the cannery residence were collected, including iron nails, ceramic sherds, broken bottles, and tobacco pipes. Many of the artifacts will repose at the Albert Lowe Museum in the town of New Plymouth on Green Turtle Cay.

Pineapple Cannery, continued:

Project director Bob Carr and archaeologists Joe Mankowski and Ryan Franklin documented a subsurface processing system that utilized cut holes—one holding a wooden barrel—drained by cutting a trough into the limestone bedrock. Carr reports that this is the first pineapple industry archaeological site documented in the Bahamas.



Archaeologist Joe Mankowski excavates a trough and cut hole feature.

DUBOIS HOUSE YIELDS HISTORIC TREASURES

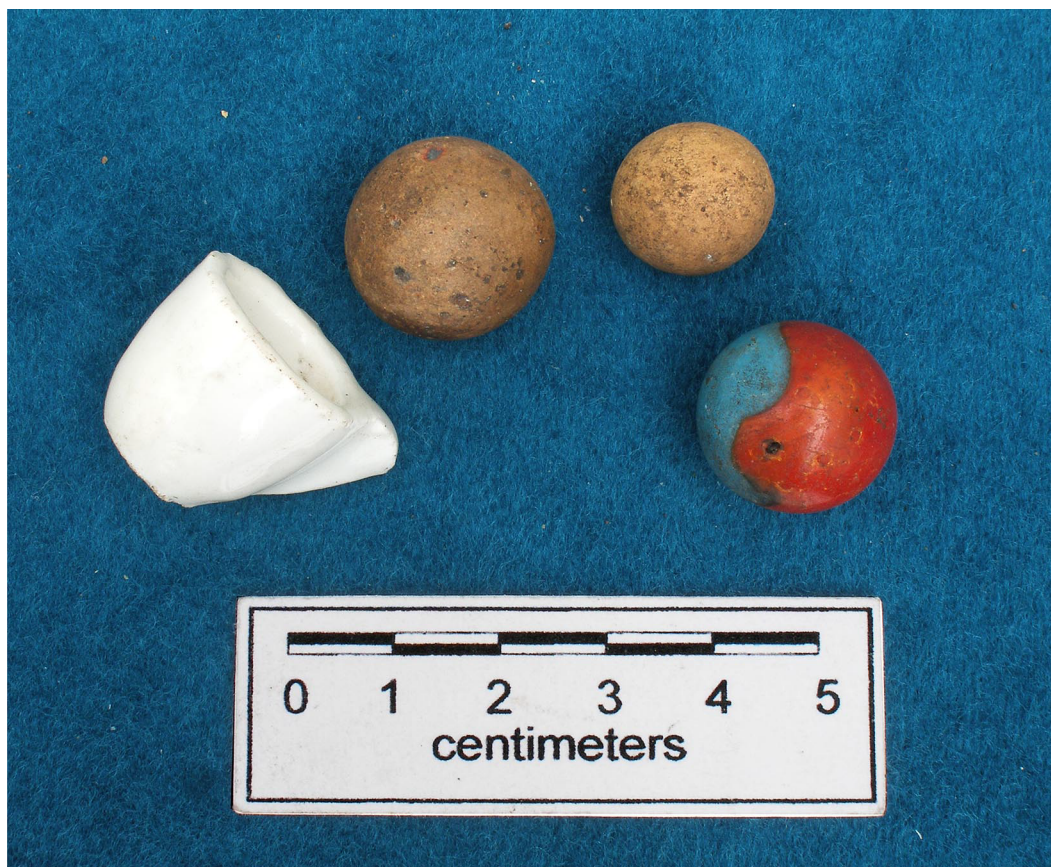
Monitoring renovations at Jupiter's oldest house has yielded prehistoric and historic artifacts associated with the pioneering Dubois family. The house, built in 1898, has been preserved on the grounds of a Palm Beach County Park. Adding a porch to the house required 22 new piers. The house is situated on the summit of a fifteen foot-high shell mound, 8PB34. Holes for the piers, rather than being dug by the building contractor, were dug as units by AHC archaeologists.



The yellow squares mark the location of test units dug by AHC archaeologists, which will later be the locations of the new piers.

Dubois House, continued:

Hundreds of prehistoric pottery sherds were collected and are still being analyzed. Of special interest are several artifacts associated with the historical occupation of the mound. The oldest of these are a 17th century Spanish glass trade bead and a square iron ship's spike. 19th and early 20th century artifacts include a pocket knife with bone handles and various children's toys, among them nine marbles—three of clay and six of glass—and a porcelain tea cup from a doll house.

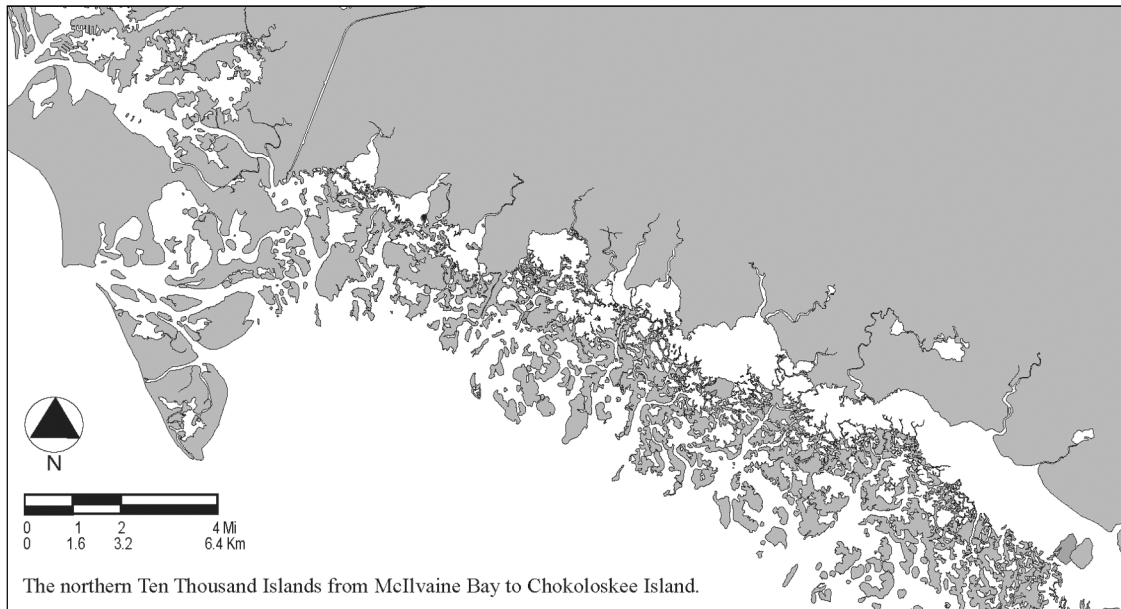


Child's porcelain teacup and clay marbles recovered from the Dubois House site.

AHC ASSISTS IN TEN THOUSAND ISLAND SHELLWORKS MAPPING

In August, 2008 AHC staff joined Margo Schwadron, archaeologist with the Southeastern Archaeological Center of the U.S. Park Service, in assessing sites in the Ten Thousand Islands. Over the last three years, five large shellwork complexes have been investigated including Dismal Key, Fakahatchee Key, Russell Key, Gopher Key and Sandfly Key. These large sites are each up to 60-80 acres in area and include mounds, plazas, radiating causeways, canals, breakwaters, and other constructed features. The team also documented smaller neighboring sites, including ring-shaped shellworks.

Ten Thousand Islands, continued:

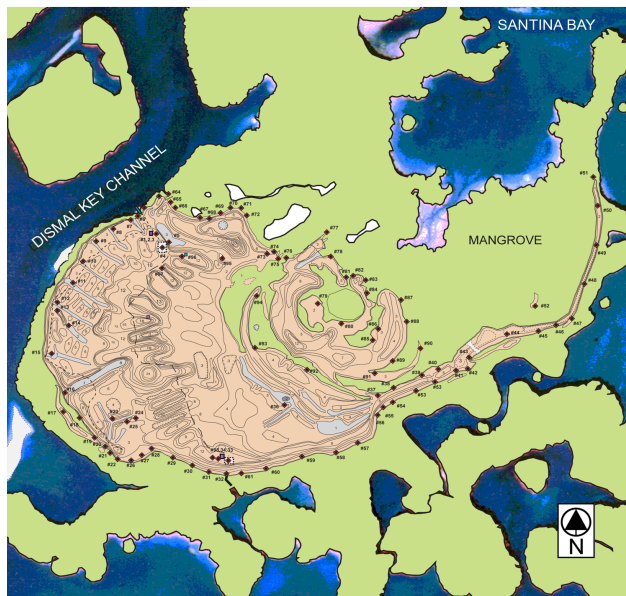


Map showing the area encompassed by the 2008 Ten Thousand Islands Shellworks Mapping Project

This latest 2008 research was funded by a National Geographic grant. The study area included a large number of shellworks sites that the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy mapped in 2003 in conjunction with the University of South Florida and the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Reserve.

The 2008 survey included controlled surface collections and the strategic excavation of test units to obtain diagnostic material and samples for radiocarbon dates. More than one hundred dates

were amassed, an impressive series that represents shellwork construction and occupation changes throughout the northern Ten Thousand Islands over a three-thousand year span. Maps were created based on GPS readings and visual ground truthing by AHC archaeologist John Beriault. Schwadron applied state-of-the-art software to these maps to create 3-dimensional contour versions. She hypothesizes that nearly all of the large shellworks are accreted from Archaic period ring-shaped shellworks. She anticipates that her final report and shellworks chronology will be published in 2009.



Contour map of Dismal Key shellworks