

Small, but Convenient? An Update on the St Paul's Parsonage, Hollywood, South Carolina, USA

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Constructed in 1707, the St Paul's Parish parsonage foundations provide a rare opportunity to study an early colonial residence in South Carolina. Previous excavations in 2010 revealed portions of the structure's foundation, believed to be a traditional hall and parlor plan. In 2014, excavations resumed and revealed the parsonage had an enclosed projecting entrance tower. While this feature was common in mid-to-late-17th-century houses in England, Virginia, and other English colonies, only two examples have been documented in South Carolina. As some of the earliest and most intact foundations in the region, the information gained from the parsonage provides greater insight into early residences in the colony and lead to a rethinking of the image of early colonial South Carolina as a frontier, backwoods colony. Additionally, it is argued that the St Paul's Parish church supervisors intentionally designed the parsonage as a reflection of the Anglican Church's presence, wealth, and influence within the developing Carolina colony.

In a letter dated 20 January 1715, the vestrymen of St Paul's parish, located in the South Carolina Colony, described their parsonage as *'a small, but Convenient House of Brick Erected there upon with a small Out Kitchen and some few other necessary Timber Buildings.'*

This letter, written to the London-based Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts (SPG), the missionary branch of the Church of England that provided missionaries to colonies around the world, is the only known description of the parsonage the vestry had constructed for their assigned missionary (SPG, St Paul's Parish Vestry to SPG Secretary, 20 January 1715). The construction of the nearby church and its associated parsonage resulted directly from the passing of the Church Act in 1706 by the General Assembly of South Carolina. In addition to establishing the Church of England in the colony, the Act created ten parishes, including St Paul's parish. One mandate was that each parish, *'appoint the building of one messuage or tenement, for the dwelling house for the said Rector or Minister, together with convenient out-houses, according*

to such dimension, and of such materials as they shall think fitting' (Cooper 1837, 238).

The locations of both the St Paul's parish church and its parsonage are located near the town of Hollywood, South Carolina, USA, approximately 18 miles west of Charleston (Fig 1). Previous reports provided information on the initial discovery and excavations at the church site (Pyszka, Hays and Harris 2010) and preliminary interpretations of the parsonage architecture based on 2009–11 excavations at the site (Pyszka *et al* 2011; 2013). Based on the partially recovered foundations and the limited information available regarding contemporary houses in the Carolinas (e.g. Bishir 1990; Poplin and Huddleston 1998; Kornwolf and Kornwolf 2002), we concluded that the approximately 18 x 35ft (5.5 x 10.6m) structure was a 2- or 3-room hall and parlour with a garret and an 11 x 11ft (3.3 x 3.3m) brick-lined cellar (Pyszka *et al* 2013, 49–50).

In 2014, excavations resumed at the parsonage site, and exposed most of the remaining brick foundation.

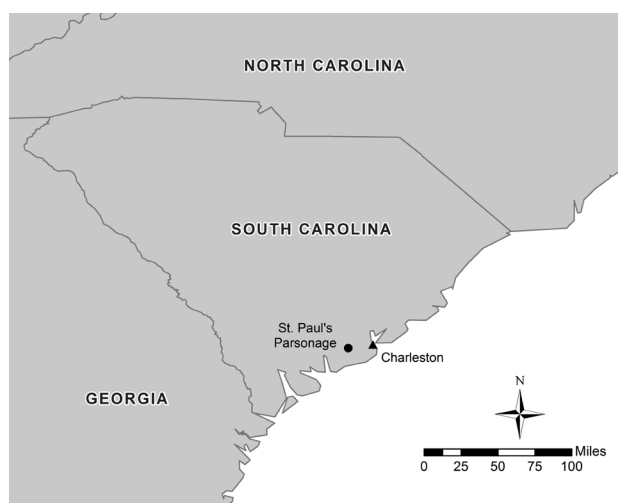


Fig 1
Map indicating location of St Paul's parsonage site
(Map by K. Pyszka, 2014)

It soon became apparent that the parsonage was not the traditional hall and parlour design as originally thought. In this report, new findings are presented and an updated description of the St Paul's parsonage is provided based on new evidence obtained through archaeological excavations, comparisons of colonial houses in South Carolina and other English colonies, and analysis of the mortar used to construct the parsonage. The findings demonstrate that while the parsonage may have been 'convenient,' it was anything but 'small' when compared to other contemporary structures in the Carolinas.

Historical overview

As defined by the 1706 Church Act, St Paul's Parish lay to the west and south of Charles Town (Charleston) along the Stono River. In 1707, parish church supervisors Robert Seabrook, Hugh Hext (also Hix or Hicks), and Thomas Farr were charged with supervising the construction of their parish church and parsonage. Once construction of the parsonage was completed, three different SPG missionaries lived at the parsonage complex – Reverends William Dun, John Maitland, and William Bull – along with an unknown number of enslaved people. The parsonage and its outbuildings stood for only eight years when members of the Yamasee Indian Confederation burned it late July 1715 during the Yamasee Indian War (SPG, Bull to SPG Secretary, 10 August 1715). There is no archaeological or documentary evidence to suggest that the parsonage was ever rebuilt (SPG, Bull to SPG

Secretary, 6 February 1716; SPG, Bull to SPG Secretary, 3 January 1717; SPG, Bull to Bishop of London, 10 August 1723).

Because of its short 8-year occupation period, the St Paul's parsonage site provides a unique opportunity to study an early-18th century South Carolina house. The approximate location of many houses from this time period is known in large part because of the 1695 Thornton-Morden map. This map identifies the location of structures, as well as the names of the owners. While archaeologists have identified many of these house sites by the presence of late 17th-century artefacts on the surface (Hartley 1984; South and Hartley 1980), very few have been excavated and little is known about the structures themselves. What did those houses look like? What were their overall floor plans, their dimensions, and the functions of the rooms? And specific to our research, did the parsonage reflect current architectural trends seen elsewhere in the Atlantic World, specifically in other English colonies, or did trends hold fast to those back in England?

Unfortunately, very few of South Carolina's early colonial structures have survived to the present, and those houses that have survived have been subjected to a number of renovations throughout the centuries rendering the original floor plan almost unrecognizable. Archaeological evidence of structures from the early colonial period is also rare with only a few sites undergoing excavations (e.g. Zierden *et al* 1986; Rust *et al* 2000; Agha 2014).

The hall and parlour

From Virginia to South Carolina, as well as back in England, the hall and parlour was the most common floor plan of the colonial period. While there were some minor variations, generally speaking the main level of this design typically included two rooms – a hall and a parlour (sometimes called a chamber). The larger of the two rooms, the hall, served as the location of family activities and where family members entertained guests, while more formal entertaining occurred in the statelier parlour, which often doubled as a main bedchamber. Several examples of 3-room hall and parlour, consisting of a hall, parlour, and a separate bedchamber on the main level also exist (Bishir 1990, 11). For both the 2- and 3- room styles, additional bedchambers would be found in the upstairs garret that was accessed by an interior staircase. Residents and guests entered the house through one of two centrally located doorways

along the longer sides of the structure, with chimneys typically located at one or both of the gables; however, centrally located fireplaces were also common.

Studies of colonial houses in Virginia have discussed the evolution of the hall and parlour house and its social importance to Virginia planters. During the 17th century, many Virginia houses resembled typical English house plans that included a passage located at one end of the house which served to separate the service areas from the hall and chamber. Although there were separate areas of the house, the owner and his family, servants, and enslaved people generally lived and worked in the same area with most daily activities taking place in the hall (Neiman 1986, 307; Upton 1986, 321; Carson 2013; Wenger 2013, 122–3).

By the end of the 17th century, changes to house layouts had begun. These changes were related to changes in social ideology that emphasized separation between people of different social groups, and public versus private spaces (Upton 1986, 316–317; Carson 2013, 92). Changes often included moving fireplaces from the center of the house to one or both of the gable ends, and removal of the passage that had once separated services areas from living areas. As a result, the hall served as more of a public space to welcome and entertain guests (Neiman 1986, 311; Upton 1986, 321). To help create a buffer between the public and private areas, the passage returned in some houses but was now centrally located, separating the hall from the more private parlour. The division of the parlour into two rooms also created such a buffer, resulting in a 3-room hall and parlour, and the beginning of what would eventually become known as the ‘dining room.’ Dining rooms often connected to both the public hall and the private bed chamber, creating a buffer between the two spaces (Upton 1986, 321). While the hall had once been the location of almost all household activities, the dining room now became the ‘heart of the family’s house’ while the hall was ‘the center of the family’s social landscape’ (Upton 1986, 323). Additionally, rooms that had been used primarily by servants and enslaved people now became separate outbuildings which represented the increasing differentiation of social space between people of different social statuses (Upton 1986, 316–7).

New evidence

Excavations resumed at the St Paul’s parsonage site during the summer of 2014, with the primary goal of

revealing more of the foundations to find evidence of entryways, the presence and location of chimneys, and to solidify the interpretation of the hall and parlour design. Proceeding with the assumption that the house was a hall and parlour, entrances into the house should have been centrally located on the long axis of both sides of the structure (north and south walls). Because the south wall faced a nearby tidal creek and the Stono River, it seemed that wall would be the most likely place for the house’s main entrance; therefore, crew members placed a 1.5m² test unit at the center of the south foundation to identify any remaining evidence of an entryway. Within 6cm, crew members revealed a portion of an intact brick foundation at a 90° angle to the main foundation. However, this foundation extended further than expected for a simple entryway. Ultimately, excavations revealed a 3 x 3m ‘room’ that projected from the south wall of the main part of the structure (Fig 2).



Fig 2
Foundation of 10 x 10ft (3 x 3m) projection, facing south-west (Photo by K. Pyszka, 2014)

The unexpected projection immediately raised a number of questions. Was it original to the main structure or a later addition? What was its function? Were there other known examples of this architectural projection in South Carolina? If not, from where does this architectural influence come? Did this foundation have the same load-bearing capability as the main structure to support a one or a one and a half-storey tall solid brick wall, or did it support something more light-weight, such as a wooden porch? This last question was the first to be addressed. Undamaged portions of the brick foundations show that the main section’s foundation and the projection’s foundations

are identical in width (46cm) and construction. Therefore, the projection's foundation was constructed to support the same type of solid brick wall as the rest of the foundation.

Mortar Analysis

The other questions took more time and research. A visual examination of the juncture of the projection's foundation with those of the main section suggested that it was an integrated part of the structure and not a later addition. In order to provide additional evidence supporting a single building episode, however, a mortar sample from each section was collected for analysis. Macroscopically, the samples appeared similar. Both samples were comprised of well-compacted, lime-shell-sand mortar. To determine if the mortars were produced similarly, polished petrographic thin-sections were prepared using a low viscosity blue dye epoxy. These thin sections were then examined and compared using a Motic BA310T polarizing microscope.

The results of this testing confirmed that the mortar from the main structure and the projection are petrographically identical (Fig 3). Both mortars consisted of a well-mixed, compacted high calcium lime shell mortar with narrowly graded fine, sharp-textured quartz sand, typical of early mortars in the Charleston area. The lime within the mortars is incompletely

burned with numerous unburned fine shell fragments present, suggesting that the lime used likely originated from the crushing and burning of oyster shells. Charred embers were also identified within the mortar indicating that wood was the fuel source for the burning of the oyster shells. One difference noted in the mortar samples was the presence of low-fired brick fragments in the sample taken from the projection foundations. However, these particles are believed to originate from the foundation bricks, and were not intentionally added as a pozzolan to the mortar.

To further compare the mortars, 25g of each sample were digested in dilute hydrochloric aggregate to examine and compare the insoluble quartz aggregate used. Each sample was sieved through standard ASTM sieves to determine particle size distribution of the aggregate to allow for further characterization. This analysis shows that aggregate from both samples were identical in composition, grain size, and gradation (Fig 4). Macroscopic analysis, petrographic analysis, and wet chemical digestion all indicate that both mortars were made at the same time and subsequently both foundations were constructed at the same time. Therefore, the projection was not a later addition to the main structure, but instead an integrated original part of the building plan and design.

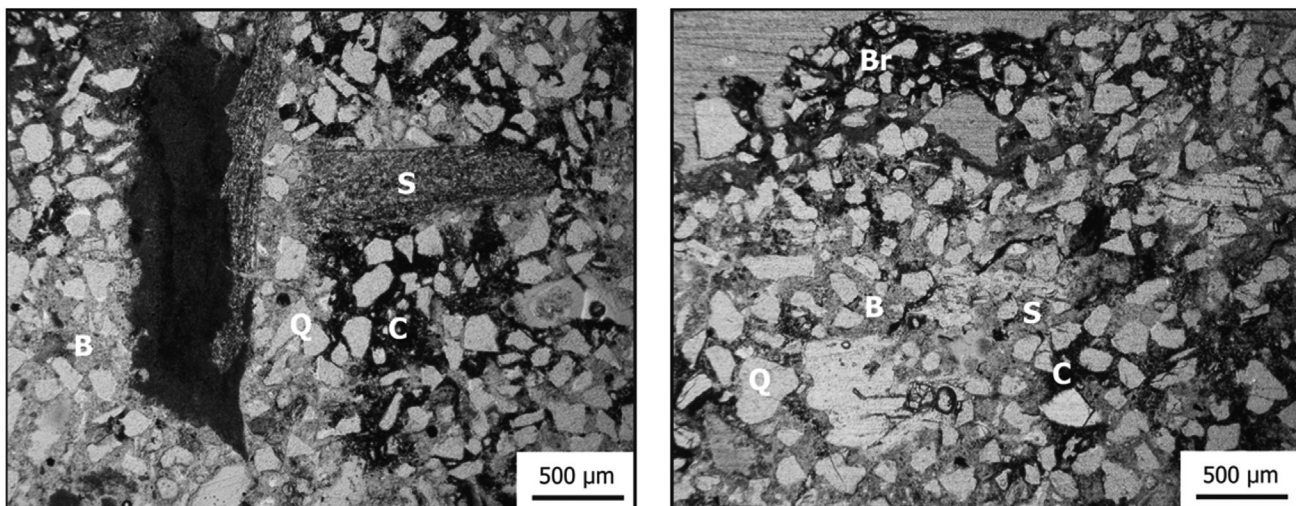


Fig 3
Photomicrograph of bedding mortars from the main foundation (left) and the foundation projection (right). Both samples are compositionally similar with numerous shell fragments (S), quartz aggregate (Q), and calcined clay (C) dispersed within the binder (B). Evidence of a brick fragment (Br) can be seen in the foundation projection sample (Photo by K. McNabb, 2014)

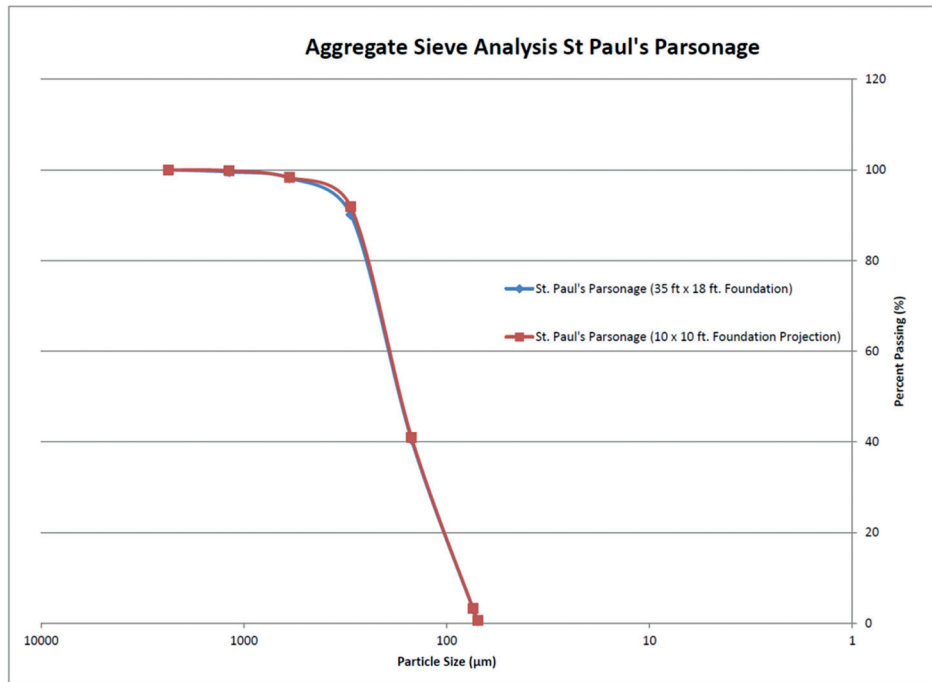


Fig 4

Results of wet chemical digestion of both mortar samples indicating samples are identical in composition, grain size, and gradation (Graph by K. McNabb, 2014)

Other Houses with Projections

With the realization that the structure was not the typical hall and parlour as was previously thought, the search for comparable houses was expanded looking specifically for examples that included one or more projections. This search led to two examples from South Carolina, as well as several examples from other English colonies, namely Virginia, Maryland, Barbados, and Bermuda. A few of those houses are highlighted here.

Built nearly 100 years before the parsonage, the floor plan of the 1619 Yeardley House in Prince George County, Virginia appears very similar to the footprint of the parsonage. The Yeardley House measures 7.6 x 12.2m and has a 3m² room slightly off-center of the rear wall. This floor plan has been interpreted in two ways. The first is that the H-shaped chimney separated a small parlour to the larger hall that may have served as an assembly hall or even a courtroom. The second interpretation is that the large hall may have been divided with a portion of it functioning as the kitchen (Carson 2013, 94). In either interpretation, there was a separation between the more public hall and the more private parlour. While the function of the 3m² room is uncertain, it possibly functioned as a service room (Carson 2013, 94). If that was the case, the floor plan and room functions of the Yeardley House were similar

to a 1670 house identified in Derbyshire, England.

This hall and parlour house had a central fireplace that included an approximately 2.7m² service room centrally located along the back of the house (Carson 2013, 91–2). The placement of service rooms away from the more public rooms of the house is part of a growing trend throughout the 17th century that spatially separated homeowners from their servants (Carson 2013, 92).

With its Flemish gables and prominent chimney stacks, Bacon's Castle is unique among surviving examples of 17th century architecture in Virginia. Built in 1655, Bacon's Castle had a rectangular floor plan with two rooms per storey and two projecting towers centrally located on the structure's north and south sides. The south tower served as the main entrance to the house, leading guests into the hall, the larger of the two rooms on the main level, while the north tower held stairs that accessed the second floor (Pierson 1970, 29–30).

Located in Newport News, Virginia, the c1720 Matthew Jones House was a hall and parlour with gable fireplaces, a back room, and an enclosed projection that functioned as a porch. As seen at Bacon's Castle, the porch was the main entrance that led directly into the hall. Unlike the way porches are thought of today, this example was likely designed to be an enclosed space within the interior of the house (Wenger 2013, 125). Other instances from Virginia of

houses with a projecting entrance or enclosed porch include the John Page House (1662) (Carson 2013, 111), Clifts Plantation (c1670) (Carson 2013, 97), and Nanzatico (1801) (Wenger 2013, 154).

By the end of the 17th century on Bermuda, the enclosed porch was even more common than it was in the Chesapeake. As reported by Chappell (2011, 97), probate inventories between 1668 and 1711 record that 34 of 62 houses had a projecting porch, typically with masonry walls. Even on the island today, there are still 30 surviving examples of Bermuda's early colonial houses with projecting porches enclosed with masonry walls (Chappell 2011, 97). Examples dating back to the early 18th century include Oleander Circle, Smith's parish, St John's Hill House, Pembroke parish, Hillgrove, and Inwood, both located in Paget parish (Chappell 2011, 98–102).

Of all the British colonies in the New World, Barbados had the closest connection with South Carolina during the late 17th and early 18th centuries. Several colonial houses on the island also indicate the presence of a projection; however, with some

differences in styles from those seen in the Chesapeake. Drax Hall, likely built between 1655 and 1670, has an enclosed projecting porch that serves as its main entrance. Although Drax Hall itself is two stories in height, the enclosed projection is only one storey tall (Fraser 1982, 14–15). Constructed before 1700, Harmony Hall has a two-storey projection. Unlike the examples seen from the Chesapeake, the ground floor of the projection has a triple arcade; therefore, it is not completely enclosed (Fraser 1982, 20–21). Similarly, the Principle's Lodge at Codrington College also has a two-storey projection with a triple arcade on the ground level (Fraser 1982, 18–19).

A review of early colonial South Carolina architecture identified only two examples of houses with a projection – Ashley Hall and Middleton Place. Constructed c1704 by Stephen Bull and his son William, Ashley Hall is located outside of Charleston along the Ashley River (Fig 5). The two-storey brick house measured no larger than 10.7 x 7.6m with approximately 79m² on the ground level (Smith 1999, 244). The overall floor plan of Ashley Hall included a

Fig 5

Ashley Hall, from untitled sketchbook, 1803, by Charles Fraser (American, 1782–1860); watercolor on paper; 3 3/4 x 6 1/2 inches; 1938.036.0088; Image Courtesy of the Gibbes Museum of Art/Carolina Art.

large central hall, dining room, and drawing room on the first floor with two bedrooms and a library on the second floor. A third storey was added on to the house sometime during the early half of the 19th century (Bull 1952, 61; Sirmans 1959, 140). The house was T-shaped due to its central front projection that served as an entrance into the house and for stairs leading to the upper levels (Bull 1952, 140; Sirmans 1959, 140). The T-shape floor plan is nearly identical to the parsonage's floor plan based on its foundations.

Very similar in appearance to Ashley Hall is Middleton Place also located along the Ashley River. Unfortunately, the original owner and construction date of the main house is up for debate with dates ranging from c1705 to c1741. The history of Middleton Place becomes less vague after Henry Middleton, a member of one of the most influential families at the time, acquired the property c1741 when he married the daughter of John Williams (Stoney 1938, 64; Lane 1984, 35). Whether Williams, Middleton, or an unidentified person constructed the house, based on the overall size and design of the house the original owner was likely a very successful planter and/or politician. Only the ruins of the main house survive today due to Union troops burning it in 1865 in the waning days of the Civil War. However, a surviving drawing of the house by a Middleton family member c1842

provides visual evidence of the main dwelling. This drawing shows a three-storey house with a projecting entrance tower on the inland-facing side of the house (Fig 6). Also seen in this drawing are two flankers, also with projections. The former kitchen, the south flanker, survives and is used today at Middleton Place to showcase the history of Middleton Place and the Middleton family.

It should be noted that at least one source credits several other mid-to late 18th-century houses as having projections or porch towers (Smith 1999, 244–5). However, with the exception of Ashley Hall and Middleton Place, this classification is based solely on plat maps indicating a projection. While these houses most likely did have a projection of some sort, based solely on the 2-D plats it is not possible to determine if these were completely enclosed projections, such as suspected at the parsonage, or an open porch.

Discussion

Based on the archaeological evidence, mortar analysis, and comparison with contemporary houses in other English colonies, the projection seen at the St Paul's parsonage was likely an enclosed entrance tower. Such entrance towers were commonly found throughout

Fig 6
c1842 image of Middleton Place sketched by a daughter-in-law of Governor/Ambassador Henry Middleton, the Countess Paolina Bentivoglio – Mrs. Arthur Middleton; Image Courtesy of the Middleton Place Foundation, Charleston, South Carolina

England, Virginia, and other English colonies during the mid- to late 17th century. In some cases houses had projecting towers located on both the front and back sides of the house, creating a cross-shaped, or cross-axial, floor plan (Gowans 1991, 57). Changes in the location and function of such projections are also indicative of changing social ideas, in particular the movement towards separating private versus public spaces, as well as separating service or work areas from parts of the house used primarily by the owner and his family (Upton 1986; Carson 2013).

The earliest documented house in the Chesapeake is the Yeardley House. As discussed above, the rear projection at the Yeardley House is thought to have functioned as a service room. A service room basically open to the larger hall would have fit with social ideas of the time that owners and servants shared the same space (Carson 2013, 94). However, by the mid-17th century there was a growing desire to separate the spaces used by servants or enslaved people and the owner's family, as well as to separate private spaces from more public ones. Consequently, distinct lobby entrances began to be used as a waiting area for guests and service rooms began to be replaced by outbuildings (Chappell 2011, 107; Carson 2013, 94–5; Wenger 2013, 124–5).

The enclosed entrance tower, or porches as they are also called, fit well into these changing ideas of separate spaces. By the mid-to late 17th century such projecting porches were being used on public buildings as well as some of the houses of the wealthiest Virginia planters (Graham 2013, 300). While the enclosed porch served as the main entrance into the structure, more importantly it served as a lobby, or waiting area, for a visitor to wait for their host or to wait until they were granted entrance into the hall or one of the more private areas of the house (Wenger 2013, 125). Probate inventories from Bermuda often indicate the presence of chairs, benches, and tables in enclosed porches, also suggesting that they served as waiting areas for guests (Chappell 2011, 98). In many cases, an additional function of the enclosed porch was to house an interior staircase leading to the house's upper level(s) (Upton 1986, 322).

The projecting enclosed porch remained popular through the end of the 17th century, but its popularity began to decline throughout much of the English world in the early decades of the 18th century due to Georgia influences (Gowans 1991, 57; Graham 2013, 300). Although the projecting enclosed porch all but disappeared, its function as a lobby or waiting area continued. In 18th-century Virginia, the central-passage

plan became common. This plan added a passage between the hall and parlour creating a central passage on the main floor that served as a space for guests to wait for their host (Upton 1986, 323). Another way the idea behind the enclosed projecting porch persisted was through the open projecting porch design, commonly seen throughout the 18th and 19th centuries (Graham 2013, 300–1). It should be noted that on Bermuda, the central-passage plan did not have the same popularity as seen in the Chesapeake and elsewhere, with the tradition of the enclosed porch lasting well into the 18th century (Chappell 2011, 105).

St Paul's Parsonage

Due to its early-18th-century construction, the 3m² projection seen at the St Paul's parsonage was more likely an enclosed projecting entrance porch rather than a service room. Service rooms attached to the main house began to disappear by the mid-17th century, being replaced by outbuildings. Based on the description that St Paul's Vestrymen provided, the parsonage complex included an out-kitchen and other outbuildings (SPG, St Paul's Vestry to SPG Secretary, 20 January 1715). Therefore, it is unlikely there would have been a service room attached to the main house. Further evidence that the projection was an entrance rather than a service room is that service rooms were most likely located on the rear or sides of a house, while the parsonage's projection was likely the front side of the house as it faced the nearby tidal creek and the Stono River beyond. Due to the lack of roads in the area, most visitors to the parsonage would have likely arrived via water. It should be noted that at both Ashley Hall and Middleton Place, the projecting entrance faced inland rather than the Ashley River; however, both houses were situated along a major land route at the time, today's Ashley River Road.

The presence of the projection and the social meanings associated with it strengthens earlier interpretations of the site. At the parsonage, tobacco pipe stem fragments, bottle glass, and ceramic drinking vessels such as tankards, comprised a relatively high percentage of the overall assemblage. Using Bragdon's (1981, 35–6) characteristics of domestic sites and colonial taverns, the parsonage assemblage more closely resembled one from a tavern (Pyszka 2012, 78–79). While not a tavern, the parsonage likely functioned similarly as a social gathering place, serving an important social function within the parish community. During the early-18th century, frontier towns,

settlements, and houses were widely scattered on the landscape. As seen back in England, the local parsonage often served as a gathering place for people to socialize, catch up on gossip, and conduct business transactions (Pyszka 2012, 82).

In the Chesapeake, the enclosed porch served as an intermediary place - a waiting room before being granted entrance into the main hall. Interesting, separate lobby entrances were commonly found at the residences of some of Virginia's highest government officials, strongly suggesting the lobby or porch '*may have sorted and separated callers on official business*' (Carson 2013, 96). Although not a member of the colonial government, the minister would have also received guests on official business, as well as personal guests. As there is no mention of a separate vestry house in the historical documents, nor is there any indication of one archaeologically, the parsonage would be a likely location of vestry meetings since it was only 200 yards or so from the church. Therefore, whether guests were there to socialize, to conduct business, or for a vestry meeting, the enclosed porch would have served the same function as with the government officials in Virginia.

This new evidence further supports the interpretation that the Anglican Church desired to visually express its prosperity and wealth in the design and construction of its parsonage (Pyszka *et al* 2011; 2013, 53). As we previously reported, initial archaeological excavations suggested the parsonage was 5.5 x 10.6m or 58.5m² and was most comparable

in size and design to the Lynch house. Thomas Lynch, a political figure and wealthy planter, constructed this house along the Wando River, north of Charles Towne, no later than 1713 (Poplin and Huddleston 1998, 1). Archaeological evidence indicates that the Lynch house measured 9.9 x 10.6m or 54.3m² on the ground level, and that it likely was a one-and-a-half-storey tall, two-room hall and parlour (Poplin and Huddleston 1998, 57). With additional foundations uncovered, it is now possible to say that the parsonage was actually 11 x 6.4m and had a 3m² projection totaling 79.5m² on the ground level (Fig 7), approximately 30% larger than the Lynch (Poplin and Huddleston 1998, 56). With this additional evidence, the closest comparable house in regard to overall size, appearance, and construction date is Ashley Hall, and possibly Middleton Place if the c1705 construction date is correct - houses of two of the most prominent families in the colony.

The presence of the projection at the parsonage may also symbolize the intensions of South Carolina Anglican Church leaders. Early colonial houses with enclosed projections often belonged to elite, wealthy, and influential people. They reinforced the separateness of elite people from their enslaved or hired labor and created a lobby for visitors to wait until invited into the more private areas of the house. Therefore, by designing their parsonage with an enclosed projection, St Paul's church supervisors may have been expressing their desire to showcase the importance of the minister, themselves, their parish, and the colonial Anglican Church.

Conclusions

The 2014 excavations at the St Paul's parsonage site significantly altered our initial interpretations of the house plan. Rather than a traditional hall and parlour, the parsonage had a projecting entrance tower, or porch, rarely seen in South Carolina. With this new discovery, despite the vestrymen stating the parsonage was, '*small, but convenient,*' the house was relatively large when compared to that of a wealthy planter (Lynch House) and by just the ground level square footage alone, it rivaled that of one of the most prominent families (Ashley Hall).

These excavations also help to strengthen previous arguments about the social function of the parsonage and the use of architecture by St Paul's Parish church supervisors to express the wealth and prosperity of their parish and the South Carolina Anglican Church. As with most research, more questions linger. Was

Fig 7
Floor plan of St Paul's parsonage (Plan by Kendy Altizer, 2014)

the projecting entrance or porch more widespread in South Carolina than has been believed? Admittedly, few houses from the late 17th to early 18th centuries of South Carolina have been excavated, so the possibility exists that this feature was common, but the evidence just does not exist at this time. If this was indeed the case, it shows that South Carolina was not the backwards, frontier colony that was relatively isolated from the larger English world, as it was often thought. Instead, within a couple of decades of its initial settlement, at least some South Carolinians constructed houses that kept up with the most fashionable architectural styles found in England, Virginia, and other English colonies in the New World. Could the projection at the St Paul's parsonage be a rarity along with Ashley Hall and later Middleton Place, reserved only for the wealthiest people, or at least those who aspired to project wealth and influence such as the Anglican Church? As archaeologists in the state continue to investigate the early colonial sites and associated structures, more information will come to light providing more definitive answers to questions about South Carolina's early colonial houses.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank those people who contributed to this research namely Carl Lounsbury, Carter L. Hudgins, and Martha Zierden for their advice. Robert Nusbaum, geology professor at the College of Charleston provided the polarizing microscope to analyze the mortar samples and Kendy Altizer generated the parsonage floor plan. Special thanks goes out to the students of the 2014 College of Charleston field school whose hard work revealed the parsonage foundations. Funding for this research was provided by Auburn University at Montgomery's New Faculty Grant-in-Aid and the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the College of Charleston.

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