

Archaeology

Preface: This document communicates formal Design Guidelines, which are regulatory and enforced by law. It also offers supplemental information through an Introduction, Preservation Principles, Maintenance Tips, Appendices, photographs, illustrations, and captions. This supplemental material explains the concepts and intent underlying the Design Guidelines, and exemplifies or depicts how the Design Guidelines have been -- or might be -- applied in Clifton. All examples and depictions are meant to educate and illustrate, only. Examples deemed appropriate within one context may be deemed inappropriate for another. An applicant should consult with Landmarks staff regarding any questions about how to interpret these supplemental clauses, illustrations, and examples.

Introduction

Abundant archaeological resources are concealed beneath Clifton's yards, walls, and byways, including artifacts, building foundations, privies, cisterns, and historic trash dumps. These resources – when examined by professional archaeologists – often reveal important information about both the history of a given property and the culture of the whole neighborhood. However, because these archaeological resources are so very fragile, exterior property changes that involve digging can destroy them or muddle the stories they tell. These Archaeology Guidelines are designed to prevent such losses, to promote the preservation and study of those resources, and to ensure that any needed or proposed archaeological excavations are properly conducted by qualified professionals.

While any hole dug in Clifton may yield some surprise or other, a major excavation or soil disturbance – say, for a basement, pool, foundation footer, or slope re-grading – is more likely to reveal a hidden archaeological resource than is a hole spaded for a shrub. Therefore, *before* any major digging project, a property owner must notify Landmarks, and must allow qualified professionals to assess and document the excavation from an archaeological resource perspective. A property owner may also be required, on occasion, to alter elements or the schedule of a project in order to protect significant resources.

Some archaeological resources can be revealed by homeowner activities like gardening, tree planting, or landscaping. Even a spontaneous sinkhole might divulge a forgotten cistern or privy. Whenever a property owner uncovers a potentially significant archaeological resource, they are strongly encouraged to report their find to Landmarks immediately. This will assure that it can be professionally documented, and that its role in the history of that property and of Clifton can be properly assessed and shared. In all cases, a core principle of such archaeological assessments is to collect information, and to impose minimal impacts on an owner's property or project.

Preservation Principles

- Historic sites often contain archaeological resources, which should be protected and preserved whenever possible.
- Archaeological resources are easily destroyed; therefore, limit excavations or any other disturbances to the ground.
- If archaeological artifacts, including items such as buried building foundations, privies, trash dumps, or cisterns, are found, notify the Landmarks Commission for an assessment. Again, the purpose of the assessment is to collect information and should have little impact on property owners or on construction.
- The collection of artifacts and investigation of archaeological resources should be conducted by qualified professionals.



A privy found under a concrete parking pad on Pope Street. A property owner discovered and reported this privy. After proper assessment, it was filled in and the construction project was completed.

Design Guidelines → **Please Note:** *“In a local preservation district, physical alterations or changes to the exterior of a building or property require review and approval by the Landmarks Commission in the form of a Certificate of Appropriateness, based on compliance with these Clifton-specific design guidelines, and pursuant to Louisville Metro Ordinance 32.250. Consultation with the Landmarks staff is encouraged to achieve a creative solution that complies with the intent of the guidelines. Rarely is a project pursued in this manner denied.”*

AR 1 For projects subject to Landmarks review, associated excavations or soil disturbances shall be considered for their effect on archaeological resources. Efforts should be made to either limit disturbances to archaeological resources, or to properly document them.

AR 2 Archaeological discoveries such as artifacts, features, and other archaeological deposits should be reported to the Landmarks Commission. Examples include Native American spear points and tools, historic objects, historic trash pits/dumps, privies (outhouse pits), cisterns, wells, and foundations.

AR 3 Prior to excavating to replace or repair underground utilities, notify the Landmarks Commission as to when the work will be scheduled.

AR 4 A property owner must not willingly destroy or disturb archaeological resources, nor allow artifact collectors, amateur archaeologists, or others to do so.

AR 5 In the event that the collection of artifacts through excavation or an archaeological investigation is conducted, the work shall be conducted by a professional archaeologist as defined by the Kentucky Heritage Council.

AR 6 All archaeological investigations must have a research design and proposal that are reviewed and approved by Landmarks Commission staff. When qualified personnel are available, the Landmarks Commission may design research and conduct archaeological investigations.



Archaeological inspection of excavations associated with a garage footer on Coral Ave.



A water cistern found in a yard on Pope Street.

AR 7 All archaeological investigations shall be conducted in accordance with the standards for archaeological fieldwork and the Commonwealth of Kentucky's Antiquities Act.

AR 8 Property owners who wish to retain ownership of artifacts shall provide sufficient time for the Landmarks Commission to properly document the materials. Artifacts recovered through excavation with the intent to collect artifacts or archaeological investigations should not be sold. It is recommended that artifacts be curated (stored) at an acceptable curation facility (museum).

Artifacts may be found at former historic sites or where historic buildings once stood.



The Colored Department of the School for the Blind was designed by prominent local architect C.J. Clarke; it was completed in 1886 and was demolished in 1958.



The above vegetable garden on the Kentucky School for the Blind's grounds furnished fresh produce for the institution's students.

