

SOUTHSIDE HISTORICAL SITES FOUNDATION

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY  
COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY  
WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA 23185

2 October 1974

Mr. William L. Barlow IV  
Architect, Historic Preservation  
Denver Service Center  
P. O. Box 25287  
Denver, Colorado 80225

Dear Bill,

I apologize for not contacting you sooner. Dr. Clements of the Geology Department at William and Mary has examined the cobbles from Langley and has related the following information. Both samples are a sandstone, specifically quartzite, and this material is native to the Tidewater region of Virginia. To date we have evidence that cobbles were used as the foundation material at the Dudley Diggs House in Yorktown, the Nelson House kitchen at Yorktown, the Wythe House at Langley Airforce Base, and the well at Flowerdew Hundred in Prince George County. Dr. Clements has agreed to examine other specimens from these sites, and as I obtain this information I will pass it along. Dr. Clements is interested in this project and suggested that the Department of Anthropology and the Department of Geology submit a joint research proposal. If you have any ideas or insights along these lines, I would be most anxious to hear them. This project could be expanded to include other naturally-occurring materials used in seventeenth and eighteenth century Tidewater architecture. Other materials which might warrant consideration are marl, used in Grace Church and William Roger's kiln in Yorktown, and perhaps stone brought into the area from the Piedmont. I have also examined the ruins of "Stone House" in York County. This structure is probably eighteenth century, based upon the scanty information I now possess, and appears to have been constructed entirely from bog iron. Incidentally, the seventeenth century glass kilns at Jamestown were also of cobble; perhaps Paul Hudson has more information.

Sincerely,

*Edward McManus*

Edward McManus  
Conservator