

# Independence National Historical Park Artifact Analysis

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



*Above left:* Our offices have large laboratory areas for artifact cleaning processing and cataloging, supported by an extensive library, as well as comparative artifact collections. *Above right:* This small triangular crucible is one of tens of thousands of artifacts cataloged under federally authorized contract with the National Park Service (Photo courtesy of Independence National Historical Park).

## CLIENT

National Park Service - Northeast Region

In 2011, Brockington was contracted by the National Park Service to produce standardized museum catalog records for archaeological specimens associated with the excavation of historic areas in Independence National Historical Park. This park in Center City, Philadelphia preserves many important sites surrounding the American Revolution and the nation's founding history, including Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell. The specimens cataloged originated in eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century domestic and public sites within the park grounds. The excavation of these sites was documented in a variety of ways, including field notes, site reports, object inventories, and site drawings, which were provided to Brockington to aid the preparation of catalog records.

*Brockington and Associates cataloged 40,000 specimens for Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia.*

These specimens were discovered on the grounds of Independence National Historical Park during excavations conducted during the mid-twentieth century. The collections included all manner of historic artifacts: ceramics, glassware, personal items, hardware, and building material ranging in date from contact period to twentieth century, and were excavated from such locations as Franklin Square, Independence Hall, Bishop White House, and the Todd House, as well as the Gloria Dei church.

After transporting the artifacts to the Brockington and Associates laboratory in Charleston, South Carolina, specimens were cataloged and labeled and information regarding the specimen itself and its provenience information was recorded in the Department of Interior's Interior Collections Management System database. Brockington was required to retain the order and lots in which the archaeological specimens were stored, and add curation-quality artifact specimen tags. After transporting the collections back to Philadelphia, Brockington staff even returned all specimens to the original cabinet and drawer locations.

## ELEMENTS

Artifact cataloging and analysis  
Artifact curation