Introduction to Archaeology: Class 18
Historical archaeology
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− How is it different from prehistoric archaeology?
  − written records

− Why do it, then?
  − to check and correct historical accounts
    − Battle of Little Big Horn example
    − Plimouth Plantation example, many others
  − to fill in information not recorded in history
    − about poor, slaves, or other people that no one wrote about
    − about aspects of daily life that no one wrote about
    − about things people were not even conscious of
    − examples: Monticello slave quarters, Plimouth Plantation
    − example: ASC Oakland and San Francisco excavations
    − example: the CSS Hunley submarine
  − to check archaeological methods against written records
    − example: ASC Oakland and San Francisco excavations
      − how well does pottery really reflect household wealth or status?

− Some roles or themes of historical archaeology
  − tends to be post-processual, symbolic, emphasizing ideology (or "ideation": ways of thinking)
    − because it can contrast archaeological evidence of what actually happened
    − with written evidence of how people thought it happened
    − this is particularly good for seeing how ideology masks reality
      − as in oppression of certain classes or ethnicities
      − as in convenient myths that justify behavior or glorify ones' own group
  − often looks at
    − colonialism
      − especially the reality of the colonized vs. the history written by the colonizers
    − early capitalism, industry, etc.
      − again, reality of plantations, factories, etc. vs. written views of the capitalists
    − slavery and immigrant groups
      − again, reality of these groups vs. written sources at the time
      − also vs. modern "national myths" or "national ideology"
        − as in the "national myth" that the northern US colonies like New York were not built on slavery
  − using critical theory
    − an orientation towards stripping away the self-serving myths of modern ideology of the dominant sectors of society
      − emphasizing how ideology masks exploitation
      − seeking to expose this and to change it