



PRELIMINARY ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION IN FRONT OF ANIJA MANOR HOUSE

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INTRODUCTION

In October 2012 during the installation of sewerage system, building remains were discovered in front of the west wing of Anija manor house. Archaeological expertise was ordered by the National Heritage Board to find out whether those remains can be regarded as a historically important monument. Archaeological expertise and documentation was carried out by OÜ Agu EMS. Building remains were cleaned and the National Heritage Board decided those to be preserved. As a result, the building remains are being kept *in situ* as the area was filled with sand and the sewerage system was installed away from the wall fragments.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Anija manor is situated in Harju County, more precisely in Anija village. In historical sources Anija village has been referred to in 1241 as *Hanaegus* in Danish Census Book (*Liber Censu Daniae*) (Johansen 1933, 12). Anija manor has been first established somewhere between 1355 and 1482 to the place of Anija village (Ligi 1961, 327). In 1482 Hermann Zoege has been mentioned as the owner of Anija manor (Johansen 1933, 347). Jacob Staël von Holstein became the new owner of Anija manor in 1671 (Stackelberg 1930, 364). On a Swedish map from 1692 compiled by Jürgen Gedhardt (EAA 1.2.C-III-50), Anija manor house has been depicted as a façade drawing reminding a Dutch style palatial baroque manor building. The current Anija manor house was built in 1801 in early classicist style with some elements from baroque (Maiste 1997, 9).

2012 PRELIMINARY ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

Two pits (Fig. 1: 1–2) had been dug in front of the main building of Anija manor by the workers placing the sewerage system. Trench 1 (*ca.* 70 m²) was situated in front of the northeast wing (*ca.* 5 m to the northwest) of Anija manor house. Multitude of wall fragments and other stone constructions was detected there. The main aim was to document as much as possible without damaging the building remains. Therefore the remains were not demolished and natural sand layer was reached only in a few test pits. Trench 2 (*ca.* 8 m²) was situated in front of the southwest wing (*ca.* 6 m to the northwest) of the main building. In that trench no building remains were discovered. Trench 3 was dug through the park situated in front of Anija manor house after the building remains (except a potential limestone pavement) discovered in trench

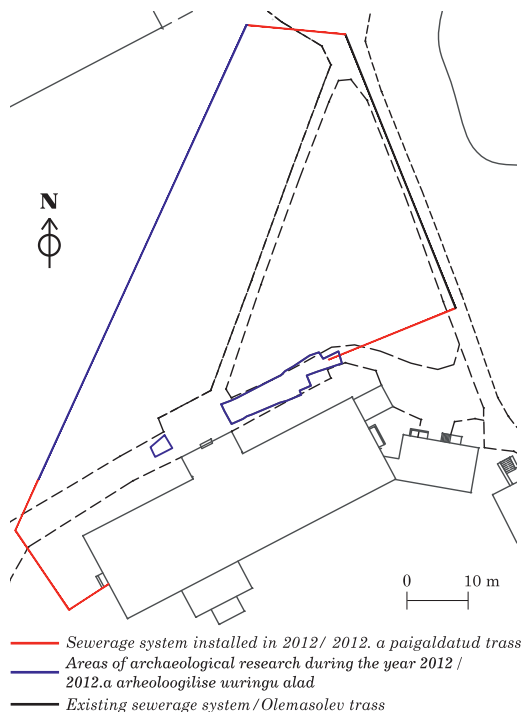


Fig. 1. Location of trenches investigated in 2012.
 Jn 1. 2012. a kaevandite asukohad.
 Drawing / Joonis: Anneli Kalm

1 were found to be valuable. No building remains or cultural layer were detected in that trench, except the remains of one probable late limestone pavement or wall *ca.* 50 m to the north from the east wing of Anija manor house. Based on that it is likely that settlement(s) predating the current manor house might be located mainly near the northeastern wing of the manor house.

Trench 1

Even though the area researched was quite small, a large number of building remains was identified (Figs 2; 5): 13–15 wall fragments from different phases of construction; *ca.* 9 remains of stone floors or pavements; 2 probable wooden floor remains; 2 remains of arches and 3 probable oven remains. Due to the limited nature of research the floor plans of the rooms did not become clear in their full extent. Some of the building remains were also destroyed already in the course of installing sewerage system in the 20th century, which in turn obscured understanding of the building remains.

The earliest identified cultural layer was a dark brown soil layer deposited directly on top of the natural soil. That layer was stratigraphically older than all the building remains and from the same layer also five fragments of local pottery possibly dating to the 13th – 14th century¹ were found (Fig. 3: 1, 2). This could be connected to the Anija village mentioned in the 13th century in *Liber Census Daniae*. About half a km to the east of Anija manor house archaeological research on a prehistoric cremation burial site at Partsaare has been conducted. Those burials are believed to be connected to the Soodla and Anija prehistoric villages dating to the Late Iron Age (800–1200/1250 AD) (Kiudsoo *et al.* 2012). During the 2012 preliminary research of Anija manor, no finds datable to the prehistoric period were found.

The largest stone constructions found were three walls (Figs 2; 4: 1, 2, 3), that were oriented approximately in northwest-southeast direction and which were secondary to no construction. Due to the similar orientation and massive dimensions (width 1.10–1.35 m; height 0.6–0.9 m) of the walls it is likely that these might have been outer walls of (a) building(s). The most northeastern wall (Fig. 4: 1), was partially destroyed by the installation of 20th century sewerage system and also in the course of installations of sewerage system in 2012. That wall differentiated from the two others as it was composed of large granite stones, which were bonded

¹ Identified by Erki Russow (AI).



Fig. 2. Fragments of structures discovered from the middle and eastern part of Trench 1. 1 – middle main wall fragment (Fig. 4: 2), 2 – secondary wall fragment (Fig. 4: 8), 3 – remains of the heat storage hypocaust (Fig. 4: 7), 4 – arch fragment (Fig. 4: 4), 5 – arch fragment (Fig. 4: 5), 6 – secondary wall fragment (Fig. 4: 6), 7 – wooden pole remains (Fig. 4: 9).

Jn 2. Kaevand 1 kesk- ja idaosast avastatud rajatiste fragmendid. 1 – keskmine põhimüür (Jn 4: 2), 2 – sekundaarne voodermüüritis (Jn 4: 8), 3 – kerishüpokaustahju jäänused (Jn 4: 7), 4 – võlvi fragment (Jn 4: 4), 5 – võlvi fragment (Jn 4: 5), 6 – sekundaarne voodermüüritis (Jn 4: 6), 7 – puidust posti jäänused (Jn 4: 9).

Photo / Foto: Kahrut Eller

by low quality mortar. Considering the way the wall is situated along the slope descending towards northeast, it is likely that it could be the outer wall of a building or a building complex suggesting that it might be the earliest structure. The middle wall (Fig. 4: 2), consisting of limestones that were bounded with mortar, was situated approximately 6 metres southwest from the previous wall. The northeastern side of the middle wall was covered by a secondary wall (Fig. 4: 8, see below) and in the northwestern part of the wall a probable doorway had been walled up (Fig. 4: 6). The most southwestern wall (Fig. 4: 3) was poorly preserved. On the southwestern side of that wall fragment the remains of at least one wooden floor and one limestone floor were detected, which suggests that a room had to have been on that side. On the northeastern side of the wall there were no signs of floor levels. Therefore it is likely that the area between the westernmost and the middle wall has been a yard area or a room which floor level has been higher than the contemporary demolition debris.



Fig. 3. 1–2 – fragments of 13th – 14th century pottery, 3–5 – fragments from vessel-tiles with quadrangular mouth and a flat round base.

Jn 3. 1–2 – 13.–14. saj kohalik keraamika, 3–5 – tasase põhja ja nelinurkse suudmega ahjupottide katked.

(HMK 8850: 28, 30, 40, 41, 47, 55, 69, 70, 71, 74.)

Photo / Foto: Monika Reppo

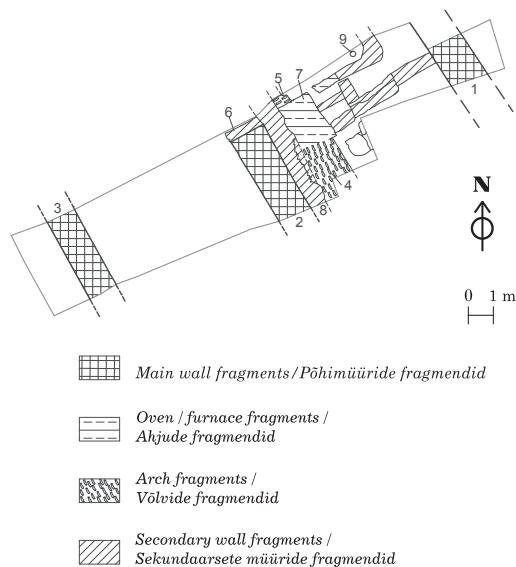


Fig. 4. Plan of building fragments discovered in Trench 1.

Jn 4. Kaevandis 1 avastatud ehitusjäänuste plaan. Joonis / Drawing: Anneli Kalm, Gurlý Vedru

There probably have been many rooms in the eastern part of the excavation area indicated by a multitude of secondary walls between the easternmost and the middle main wall, also at least two different floors (height difference between two floor fragments was 78 cm). Earliest walls seem to be forming interior rooms, which floor plan was obscured by later building fragments and the limited nature of preliminary research.

In the central part of the researched area a rectangular stone construction (Figs 4: 7; 5) could be distinguished, in the middle of which a large number of burnt heat accumulating stones were found. On the southeastern side of the stone construction an arch (Fig. 4: 4) was situated. This indicates a typical medieval heat storage hypocaust that was located in the basement and heated the room above it (for other Estonian examples, see Tvauri 2009). This hypothesis is further supported by a fragment of a typical hot plate with perforated air vent (Fig. 6) found from late demolition debris. These types of the hypocaust are common in medieval urban and manor houses and are dated to the 14th – 16th century (Tvauri 2009).

To the northwest from the supposed heat storage hypocaust was another potential arch (Fig. 4: 5). As only a small part of the construction was visible from the researched area, it was not possible to determine whether it was linked with the potential doorway or hypocaust. Onto the northeastern side of the middle wall and on top of the heat storage hypocaust a narrow (ca. 70 cm) wall fragment (Fig. 4: 8) was preserved, that had traces of mortar. As the wall was not laid deeper than on top of the arch suggests that the wall is probably a part of the main floor of the building that has not been preserved.

All the stone constructions were covered and filled with demolition debris. It was possible to distinguish two different debris layers, the lower of which also had coal and ashes in it. It might suggest a sudden disaster, for example the Great Northern War (1700–1721), during which Anija manor house burnt (Hein 1995, 40) but also it might be demolition debris of the oven(s). The latter is further supported by the large number of vessel-tiles with quadrangular mouth and a flat round base (Fig. 3: 3–5). Tiles were mainly unglazed, but some had glaze on the inside of the base. The dating range of that kind of vessel-tile is wide: from the 15th to the 18/19th century (Roth Heege 2012, 243–244). Still, due to the small amount of works conducted it was not clear how widespread the burnt layer was, therefore it is not possible to determine which hypothesis is more likely.

Finds that could be directly connected with the stone constructions were not found. Insofar as based on the written sources the manor was mentioned as being established somewhere between 14th – 15th century. Therefore, it is possible that the remains found could belong to that period.

Fill layer (consisting of demolition debris) directly beneath the current park path and turf is likely connected to the construction of the current manor house and the oval square in front of the house (Fig. 7) was probably created together with the main house in the beginning of the 19th century. Wooden pole remains (Fig. 4: 9) discovered near the northern edge of the excavated area could belong to one of the poles that bounded the oval square in front of the manor house.

DISCUSSION

According to the written sources, Anija manor was established during 14th – 15th century. This suggests that some traces of the former manor house might have been preserved. There are few similar examples such as the Keila manor house, that is mentioned in the written sources of the 15th century and archaeological research of the 1970s and 1990s confirmed the existence of building remains that probably date to the 14th century (Mandel 1994; Pauts 1997; 1998). Other well-known examples (as ruins of them have been preserved above the ground) of stone manor



Fig. 5. Remains of a supposed medieval hypocaust furnace.

Jn 5. Oletatava keskaegse kerishüpokaustahju jäänused.

Photo / Foto: Kahrut Eller



Fig. 6. A fragment of a plate of hypocaust furnace.

Jn 6. Kerishüpokaustahju katteplaadi tükk. (HMK 8850: 132.)

Photo / Foto: Anneli Kalm



Fig. 7. Glass plate negative of an aquarelle of Anija manor house from 20th century by H. Martinson.

Jn 7. Klaasnegatiiv H. Martinsoni akvarellist Anija mõis 20. saj algul.

(EAA 1414-2-95-1.)

houses and vassal fortresses include Kiiu, Vao, Purtse, Järve, and Kiltsi (Virumaa), all of which have been mentioned in the medieval sources. Based on the 2012 preliminary documentation some of the building fragments, mainly the three main walls, and the remains of heat storage hypocaust oven lead to the suggestion that these might originate from the medieval manor house presumably built between the 14th and 15th century.

Another development – known from the historical sources – of Anija manor house is possible to indicate at the end of the 17th century when it was bought by engineer and military officer Jacob Staël von Holstein, who commissioned the building of a two story manor house. Dur-

ing the 1680s the ruins of an old manor house are still visible (Hein 1995, 41). Jacob Stael von Holstein is also thought to be the architect of Maardu manor house (Hein 1995, 32), which is one of the Palladian palatial baroque manor houses that were erected in Estonia in the second half of the 17th century (Hein 1997, 38). Furthermore, on a map from 1692 Anija manor house has been depicted as a façade drawing reminding a Dutch-style palatial baroque manor house (EAA 1.2.C-III-50). Similar cartographic symbol has been used on a map where Maardu manor house has been depicted in 1692 compiled by land surveyor J. Holmberg (EAA 1.2.C-III-11). Based on that it can be assumed that Anija manor house has been re-built somewhere in the end of the 17th century as a palatial baroque manor house. But whether the medieval manor house or some parts of it have been re-used in the construction of baroque manor house is hard to say. The main building of the current Anija manor has some elements that indicate previous manor house – funnel chimney and also the basement of the current manor house has elements of two building phases. It is also important to note that the current manor house has a basement only under the east wing in front of which the building remains were discovered in October 2012. Therefore, it is likely that inside and under the basement of the current manor house earlier building fragments can be found.

CONCLUSION

Preliminary archaeological research at Anija gave an excellent example of continuous dwelling on one site. Starting at least from the medieval times, based on ceramic finds and historical sources, maybe even before that, extending to contemporary times as the 19th century manor house is currently in use as a community centre. Still, based on the preliminary research, it is not clear whether the oldest building remains documented (the main walls and heat storage hypocaust) are the remains of a medieval manor house or fragments of some other more recent building predating the current main house.

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ARHEOLOOGILISED EELUURINGUD ANIJA MÕISAHOONE ESISEL ALAL

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2012. a oktoobris avastati kanalisatsioonitorude paigaldamisel Anija mõisa peahoone (Harjumaa, Anija vald) eest (jn 1; 2) müürikatked, mille kultuuriväärtuse tuvastamiseks tellis Muinsuskaitseamet arheoloogilise ekspertiisi. Ehitusjäänused otsustati säilitada esialgses asukohas. Müüridega alal toimusid arheoloogilised eeluuringud, mille eesmärgiks oli paljandunud ehitusjäänuste kultuuriväärtuse tuvastamine ja nende dokumenteerimine.

Anija (*Hanaegus*) küla on esmakordselt mainitud Taani hindamisraamatus aastal 1241. Anija mõisa rajamine toimus ajavahemikus 1355–1482 Anija küla asemele. 1692. a kaardil on kujutatud Anija mõisa fassaadijoonisena, mis meenutab hollandipärast barokklossi. Anija praegune varaklassitsistlik mõisahoone ehitati 1801. a.

Kanalisatsioonitorude paigaldamisel avati Anija mõisa hoone ees kaks ala – kaevand 1 (mõisahoone kirdeosa ees) ja kaevand 2 (mõisahoone edelaosa ees). Lisaks kaevati eeluuringute ajal läbi mõisahoone esise pargi kraav (kaevand 3), et paigaldada torustik ehitusjäänustest eemale (jn 1). Kaevand 1 oli u 70 m² ala mõisa peahoone idatiiva ees, kus paiknes arvukalt erinevate kivikonstruktsioonide jäänuseid. Kaevanditest 2 ja 3 ehitusjäänuseid ei leitud (v. a võimaliku paekivisillutise jäänused kaevandis 2 ja oletusliku hilise paekivimüüri või sillutise jäänused kaevandis 3) ja pinnasekihid olid looduslikud.

Vaatamata kaevandi 1 väiksusele oli sellel alal säilinud arvukalt konstruktsioonide jäänuseid (jn 2; 4). Kohe looduslikul pinnasel paiknes tume orgaanikakiht, mis sisaldas 13.–14. saj keraamikat (jn 3: 1–2); tegemist oli stratigraafiliselt vanima ladestusega, mida võib tõlgendada kui märki 13. saj eksisteerinud Anija külast.

Suurimad kivirajatised olid kolm massiivset loode-kagu suunalist müüri (jn 4: 1–3), mis polnud ühegi teise kivirajatisse suhtes sekundaarsed. Ühetaolise suuna ning suhtelise massiivsuse (paksus u 1,10–1,35 m; kõrgus 0,6–0,9 m) põhjal võib oletada, et tegemist on hoone(te) välismüüridega. Kirdepoolseim müür (jn 4: 1) oli varasema torustiku paigaldamisel oluliselt lõhutud. See müür erines ülejäänud kahest nii materjalilt kui ka lao poolest, olles laotud valdavalt maakividest. Arvestades ka müüri paiknemist piki kirde suunas langevat nõlva, võib see olla hoone või hoonetekompleksi välismüür.

Keskmise müüri (jn 4: 2) kirdekülg on suuresti varjatud sekundaarse voodermüüritisega (jn 4: 8), müüri sirget katkestust kaevandi loodeserva ligidal võib pidada ukseava või värava kohaks. See oletatav ava on hiljem voodermüüritisega (jn 4: 6) kitsamaks ehitatud. Edelapoolseim põhimüür (jn 4: 3), mis on halvasti säilinud, kulges läbi kaevandi. Müürist edela pool tuvastati šurfis vähemalt ühe puitpõranda ning ühe kivi-põranda jäänused, mis seega viitavad seal asetsenud ruumile. Edelapoolse ja keskmise müüri vahelisel alal põrandaid ei avastatud, ebamäärane kivikogum võis pärineda sillutisest. Tegemist võib olla kas õuealaga või ruumiga, mille põrand on asunud tänapäevasest lammutusrusu kihist kõrgemal, st tegemist on olnud keldrita alaga.

Kaevandi kirdeosas paiknes arvukalt (vahe)müüre ja muid rajatisi, mille omavahelisi seoseid ei õnnestunud eeluuringute piiratud mahu tõttu selgitada. Kaevandi keskosas paiknes võlv (jn 4: 4), millest loode poole jäid oletatavad keskaegse kerishüpokaustahju jäänused (jn 4: 7; 5). Hüpoteesi toetab hilisest lammutusrusust leitud hüpokausti katteplaadi tükk (jn 6).

Kõik nimetatud kivirajatised olid täidetud ja kaetud mõrdist ning kividest koosneva rusuga. Profilides sai eristada vähemalt kahte eriaegset rusu ladestumist, millest alumine sisaldas ka põlemistunnuseid. Kas seda on võimalik seostada mõne sõjaga nagu nt Põhjasõjaga, milles Anija mõisahoone põles, või oli tegemist mõne lokaalse sündmusega (nt ahju lammutamine, jn 3: 3–5), jääb hetkel lahtiseks. Kõige pealmine rusukiht on tõenäoliselt seotud 1801. a valminud praeguse mõisahoone esise väljaku (jn 7) tasandamisega, millega on ilmselt seotud ka kaevandist 1 leitud puitpost (jn 4: 9).

Kivirajatisetega otseselt seostatavaid leide ei saadud, seega võib vaid kirjalikele allikatele toetudes oletada, et mõisahoone rajati Anijale 14. või 15. sajandil ja osa leitud ehitusjäänustest (3 põhimüüri ja hüpokaustahi) võivad pärineda sellest hoonest. Samuti võib osa müüri fragmente olla seotud 17. saj. rajatud barokklossi või selle juurde kuulunud hoonetega. Kuna kõik tuvastatud ehitusjäänused paiknesid mõisahoone kelderdatud kirdetiiva ees, võib oletada, et ka peahoone keldrist võib leida varasemate ehitiste fragmente.