



Plague, pottery production and plenty of bullets – excavations at Pärnu Rd 59, Tallinn

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INTRODUCTION

In 2020, Georg Ots Tallinn Music School, Tallinn Music High School and Tallinn Ballet School were officially joined to form Tallinn School of Music and Ballet with Pärnu Rd 59¹ chosen as the site of the new school. As Pärnu Rd 59 is by the old Gallow's Hill ('Võllamägi' in Estonian) and on the location of a cemetery from the Great Northern War period, a preliminary survey was carried out in 2017 (Reppo 2018) and 89 *in situ* burials were excavated in 2018 (Malve & Juus 2019) alongside 19th-century pottery production waste pits (Heinloo 2019). In April 2020, archaeological excavations and watching briefs became necessary once again. Fieldwork took place simultaneously with construction and was finished in February 2021 (Reppo & Viljat 2021). This article examines the results of fieldwork carried out at Pärnu Rd 59 in 2020–2021. In total, an area of 9540 m² was surveyed and excavated² (Fig. 1). The results of the excavation and osteological analysis of the burials will be presented in a separate article by Martin Malve in the future.

EARLIER INVESTIGATIONS

Minimal archaeological fieldwork has been carried out in the vicinity of the site, most notable are the rescue excavations of Võllamägi in 1994. There, a post-medieval cultural layer was observed at a depth of 1.3 m (Toos 1994) and a thin, sooty 16th-century layer was found between layers of sand. Burials, commingled human bones as well as some

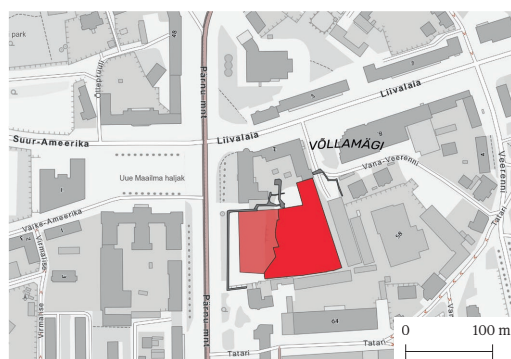


Fig. 1. Area of study at Pärnu Rd 59, Tallinn.

Jn 1. Uuringute ala Pärnu mnt 59, Tallinn.

Drawing / Joonis: Raido Roog, Monika Reppo

¹ Pärnu Rd 59 comprises of the former Pärnu Rd 57b, 59, 59a, 59b, and 61 plots.

² This includes several service trenches around the site, but also the western side of the plot (sector 0, ca. 3275 m²) which was intermittently surveyed.

flint and lithic artefacts were also present (Lavi 1994–1995, 8, 26, 28). On Pärnu Rd 59, the first skeletal remains were reported already in the mid-1950s and in 1964 when constructing Tatari St. 64 and Pärnu Rd 67a respectively.³ A preliminary survey took place in 2017 to ascertain the thickness of the cultural layer and the extent of the cemetery (Reppo 2018). Of the seven test pits excavated, one contained *in situ* burials. Disarticulated human bones were present in two other test pits. A limestone wall and several elongated cuts (ditches or destroyed graves) were also discovered, potentially dating from the 18th century.

Large-scale rescue excavations took place in 2018 on the eastern side and south-eastern corner of Pärnu Rd 59 (Heinloo 2019). Large pits containing pottery production waste and clay were documented. Remains of 89 individuals were found when uncovering the 18th-century Swedish garrison cemetery – possibly the victims of a pestilence outbreak during the Great Northern War in 1710 (Malve & Juus 2019). The cemetery was only partially excavated and the presence of further *in situ* burials was deemed likely. Both in 2017 and 2018, most finds were dated to the 18th–19th century. Very few traces of earlier habitation and finds from the medieval and early post-medieval periods were discovered.

EARLIEST TRACES OF HUMAN ACTIVITIES

On Samuel Waxelberg's 1688 map (RA, EAA.1.2.C-III-1), Pärnu Rd 59 is a vacant area between the north-south oriented road to Pärnu and a sandy knoll connecting the Town Gallows (*Stadt Gericht*) to Toompea Gallows (*Scholls Gericht, Die 3 Creutzer*) in the south. On later maps, it is shown as a suburban pasture and meadow. The lack of medieval and early modern structures is thus expected. Two 14th or early 15th-century Siegburg stoneware fragments (stoneware identifications follow the descriptions in Russow 2006; AI 7855: 66, 71) found here in 2017 represent the only medieval ceramics from the site. Some *pfennigs* found in 2018 (AI 8011: 265, 305, 344) are also dated to the early 15th to mid-16th century. Artefacts from the second half of the 16th century and 17th century are rare as well. There were some light brown Frechen stoneware (AI 8336: 966; AI 8011: 488–490) but also Westerwald stoneware fragments (AI 8336: X⁴; AI 8011: 506), known for their cobalt blue designs. The Westerwald fragment found in 2020 is from the vicinity of three fragments found in 2018 (AI 8011: 566, 567, 571) and a 17th century ornamented ring (AI 8336: 1073). Apart from these, several 16th century coins were found, for example a 1537 killing (AI 8011: 239) and a 1592 öre (AI 8011: 372), and multiple early- to mid-17th century öres, jettons, and other coins (AI 8336: 682, 1095; AI 8011: 315). However, no concrete evidence for 17th century or earlier habitation was discovered.

18TH CENTURY – BURIAL SITE AND THE OLDEST BUILDINGS

In the early autumn of 1710, the plague outbreak of the Great Northern War reached Tallinn. Due to mass casualties, several sandy areas in the suburbs around town were used as make-shift burial sites. The same happened by the sandy knoll in Pärnu St. 59 (see Malve & Juus 2019). In 2020, nine *in situ* burials were uncovered: four from the southern edge of the burial site excavated in 2018 and the other five between 19th–20th century buildings and waste pits in various orientations, following no apparent logic. Commingled human remains were present in the fill of waste pits and other cuts across the site (see further). The most noteworthy *in situ* burial was that of a young soldier buried in a leather coat with a munitions bag under his head (Malve *et al.* 2020).

³ Pers. comm. local resident Gustav Koolberg (June 2019) and archaeologist Jaan Tamm (June 2018).

⁴ At the time of writing, some finds from 2020–2021 were still being processed.

A small wooden box (40 × 27 cm) was found on the northern edge of the cemetery which contained a canine burial (AI 8336: AZ-219).⁵ The dog's north-facing head was placed on its paws. The lid of the box had flecks of red paint similar to sealing wax. The base of an 18th century bottle found against the bottom of the box suggests the canine was inhumed not too long after the burial site fell into disuse or perhaps even at the same time as the burials.

The first known buildings were erected at Pärnu Rd 57 and on the plots by the eastern side of Pärnu road in the mid-18th century after Gallow's Hill fell into disuse⁶ as seen on a city map from 1764 (Orro 2019, 329). In 1744 the site is shown vacant as expected, but neither the cemetery nor the gallows are depicted (RA, EAA.854.4.82). Apparently, at that time the cemetery was no longer used. By the end of the 18th century, the western side of the property/plot was mostly built up (Fig. 2) while the eastern side remained vacant on maps although this does not signify the area was unoccupied.



Fig. 2. The plots in 1793.

Jn 2. Krundid 1793. a.

Illustration / Joonis: LVVA.6828.4.562 p. 2, Monika Reppo

A **stone well** (ø ca. 2 m) was possibly one of the earliest constructions erected on site (Fig. 3: 1; 4). It was mainly laid in igneous rock (possibly granite) with a few hewn limestones. The floor was covered in limestone slabs. Only a single leather shoe sole was discovered in the fill of the well. On its eastern side, a small platform (ca. 2.6 × 2.5 m) laid in limestone was discovered, potentially for ease of access to the well. Burial no 1 was located partially under the platform, suggesting the latter is later in date than the burial site. No traces of a wooden construction connected to the well were discovered.

On the eastern side of the platform, two dry stone foundations laid in granite and limestone were discovered. These could have supported a **lightweight, wooden house** (originally ca. 6.4 × 6.4 m; Fig. 3: 2) next to the well. Initially thought to have been one of the oldest buildings on site, the fill underneath included 19th century finds. However, the presence of earlier finds such as the base of a 17th-century Roemer or Berkemeier (AI 8336: 1322), green-glazed tiles, the proximity of the well and the residual mortar on some of the foundation stones suggest an earlier building stood here but was perhaps rebuilt in the 19th century. Some form of earlier activity is supported by further finds nearby, like a 17th century thimble (AI 8336: 936). A knucklebone filled with lead (AI 8336: 1188) and coarse greyware fragments (AI 8336: 940, 1231, 1289) are also from the same general area, but are harder to date. The wooden house was probably incorporated into the pottery production facility later on.

19TH CENTURY – POTTERY PRODUCTION

By 1825 most of Pärnu Rd 59 was built up but an orchard and some arable land remained in the south-eastern side (RGVIA.349.Revel.627–629). Pärnu Rd 59 was divided into plots 1298, 1299, 1300, 1301A, 3007 and 1301 (from north to south). Multiple buildings, ditches, and a

⁵ Based on archaeozoological analysis by Sander Nuut (TÜ) it may have been a bitch (Reppo *et al.* 2021). Also, some small bones and bone fragments were commingled with the canine bones collected from the box, which may belong to a fetus.

⁶ The last execution at Gallow's Hill took place in 1782 (Mäeorg 2017).

total of 375 round waste pits and cuts were uncovered from these plots. The discovery of a substantial amount of kiln furniture and wasters (defective pottery) indicated on-site production of pottery from the second half of the 19th century.

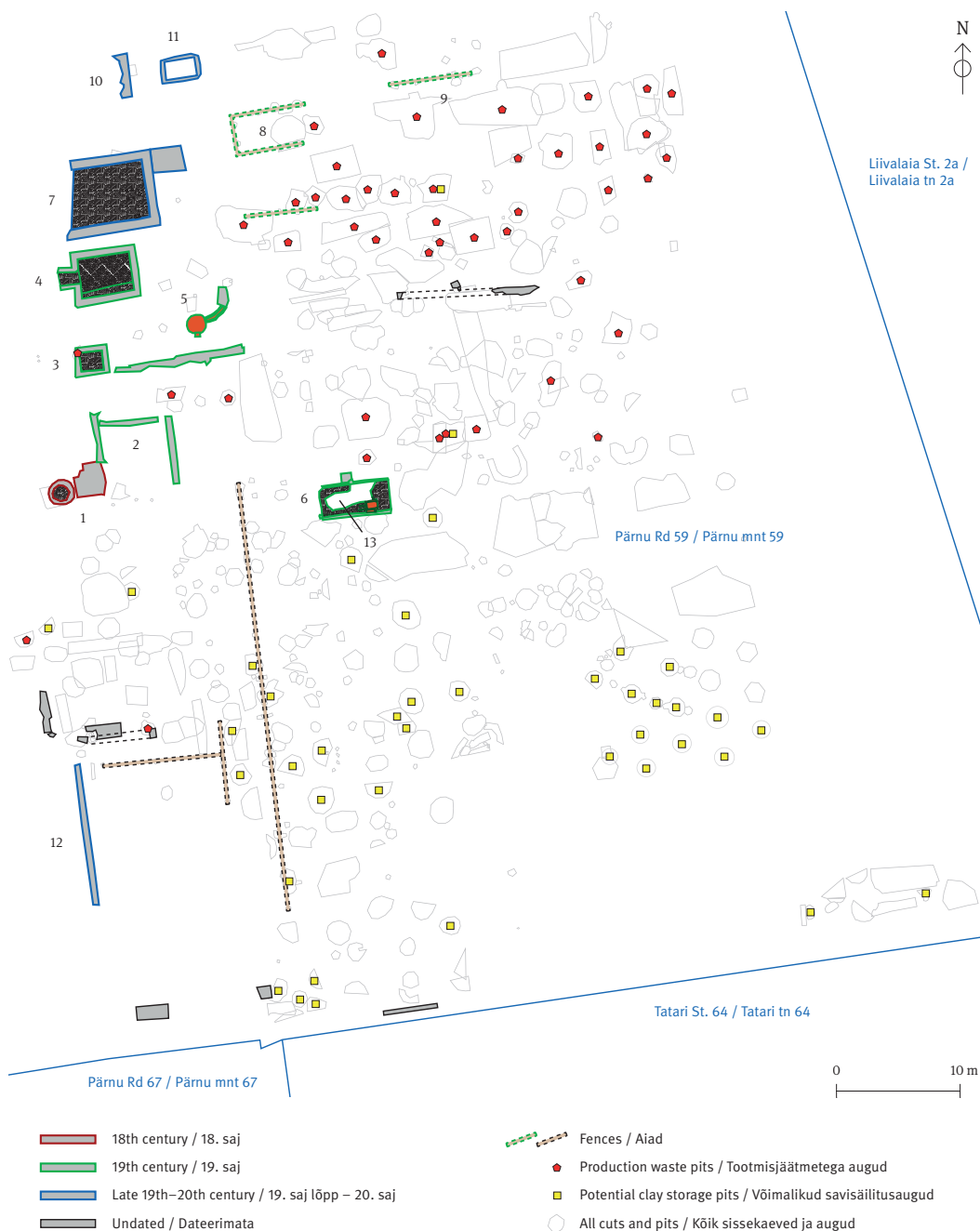


Fig. 3. Constructions found during fieldwork.

Jn 3. Välitööde ajal leitud konstruktsioonid.

Drawing / Joonis: Raido Roog

Plot 1300

In the northern part of the site, roughly on plot 1300, the lightweight house mentioned above, a privy, a clay preparation workshop, a stone house, and two kilns with two wooden sheds could be associated with producing ceramics.

The cesspit for the **privy** (2.5 × 2.5 m; Fig. 3: 3) was laid in limestone, including the floor. The fill included 19th century ceramics. Slightly north of the privy, a building laid in limestone (6.4 × 4.3 m) with a small extending entrance on its western side (Fig. 3: 4) was found. Its walls were 0.45–0.6 m thick. The building had an unusually thick floor – it was laid out of five layers of limestone slabs and covered with a 10–15 cm thick layer of yellow-greyish clay.⁷ Only a small step next to the southern wall and the entrance were left exposed. The function of the floor remained unclear at first, but it appears to be a **clay preparation workshop** – a packed-clay working floor for mixing the clay, often by treading (White *et al.* 2015, 44) or pounding (Leslie & Harmer 1991, 10) and leaving it to set before forming and firing. Both methods of mixing clay are also documented with 19th–20th century Estonian pot-makers (e.g. ERM EA 23: 409; ERM KV 233: 135). The thick limestone floor was useful for durability and stability in this process.

Slightly west of the privy and storage room, a circular red brick-laid base (ø 1.52–1.57 m) was connected via a semi-circular flue (2.1 × 0.5 m) laid in red bricks to a rectangular limestone base (1.38 × 0.83 m) of a possible chimney. A large stone-lined posthole was situated by the chimney (Fig. 3: 5; 5). As the circular base was 40 cm lower than the flue⁸, they were discovered separately (Fig. 6). The height difference suggests the base supported a higher structure to which the flue was connected. The base could belong to either a kiln chamber or annealing chamber where



Fig. 4. 18th century well with a platform to the east. The wooden house was in the top right corner (photo prior to excavating the remains of the house).

Jn 4. 18. saj kaev idaküljel asuva kividest alusega. Puithoone asus ülal paremal nurgas (foto enne hoonejäänuste välja puhastamist).

Photo / Foto: Eero Heinloo



Fig. 5. The eastern side of the flue, chimney, and stone-lined posthole of the potential bottle kiln.

Jn 5. Potentsiaalse pudelahju lõõri, korstna ja kividega vooderdatud postiaugu vaade idast.

Photo / Foto: Silvia-Kristiin Kask



Fig. 6. The circular base of the bottle kiln.

Jn 6. Pudelajhu ringikujuline põhi.

Photo / Foto: Silvia-Kristiin Kask

⁷ Clay with similar texture and colour was collected from the clay storage pits situated south and south-east of the production facility (AI 8336: P1–P3, P21).

⁸ The height of the base was at most +18.2 and the flue at +18.6 – +18.8 m a.s.l (EH2000).

heat was introduced and redirected onto upper levels. It was likely a **bottle kiln** (e.g. Norsker 1987, fig. 2: 12; White *et al.* 2015, 39). On the southern side of the circular base a slightly extending layer of bricks was discovered which could be the fragmented remains of a firebox. The kiln was surrounded by large stone-lined post holes (\varnothing 0.78–0.83 cm) and some smaller holes for posts (Figs 3; 5) which may have supported a wooden structure over the building, possibly a roof extending over the privy and also the clay preparation workshop.

A potential **pottery kiln** (2.7×5.8 m) was located south-east of these buildings (Fig. 3: 6; 7). A small open anteroom in the eastern part allowed access to a red clay brick firebox (0.97×0.76 m) and flue leading heat into the ware chamber laid in limestone with potential spy or vent holes⁹, although these could also be demolition damage. We can only assume a domed or straight brick or limestone vault was built above it. The single preserved firebox stood on a brick base (1.28×0.83 m) built on the limestone floor of the building, extending partially under the flue. The preserved flue fragment may have been a part of an underfloor heat distribution system (e.g. Leslie & Harmer 1991, fig. 3). A potential second firebox north of the preserved one is indicated by a clear-cut edge on the limestone floor and a slot in the northern wall similar to that on the southern side where a brick wall was joined with the southern wall. A rectangular limestone base (0.8×0.7 m) outside the northern wall probably belonged to the chimney base. No doorway was discovered for the ware chamber which could have stood on the western end, not observable in its original extent due to later damage. The centre of the kiln floor was damaged due to the construction of a rectangular latrine inside the building in the 20th century.

Limestone was probably used in the kiln's construction because of its abundance in northern Estonia and its small heat transference. Most of the bricks (27×12.5 cm) used in the firebox



Fig. 7. The rectangular kiln.

Jn 7. Ristkülikukujuline keraamikapõletusahi.

Photo / Foto: Monika Reppo

⁹ An opening on the side of the kiln for observation of the heating process or venting the ware chamber. See Norsker 1987, fig. 2: 36.

and flue were plain but a few were stamped with ‘FIRECLAY’ (AI 8336: 1215) or ‘D. Ch. F.’. The former were produced in Borovichi near Novgorod, Russia (Smirnov & Elshin 2017, 158). The latter were manufactured by Dansk Chamottesten Fabrik on Bornholm, Denmark. The factory’s later products included the mark ‘Bornholm’ as seen on examples from Möhkö, Finland kept at Ilomantsin Museosäätö (M186: 13; M186: 14), or Soo St. 34, Tallinn (Toos 2016, 3). Those signed ‘D. Ch. F.’ seem to be dated to 1851–1876(?) (Rigsarkivet 2021).

A rectangular **stone house** (7.6 × 6.2 m; Fig. 3: 7) with limestone floors, walls, and an annexed latrine (2.6 × 1.9 m) is the northernmost building shown on plot 1300 on an 1856 map (Adamson 1856) and as part of a longer building on a 1944 map (TLCAA, u 1940–1944). The floor had nine square post holes, indicating an internal structure. At the bottom of the fill of the plank-lined latrine pit, some earthenware and glass bottles were found. **Two wooden sheds** or shelters (both 6 × 3.5 m) were documented by plotting post holes on the northern edge of the site, just north of the bottle kiln (Fig. 3: 8–9). Based on associated finds, they could have been used for storing fuel, unfired vessels, or even finished products.

Finally, thorough documentation of waste pits revealed a pattern in the site’s management of raw materials and production waste (Fig. 3) – clay storage pits were mostly located south whereas waste pits were situated north, north-east, and east of the kilns (Fig. 8). They extended beyond plot 1300. The stone-lined pits containing clay could have been used for clay preparation (White *et al.* 2015, 44). In Estonia, the storage of raw clay for ‘maturing’ near workshops has been documented in the 19th–20th century ceramic industry (e.g. ERM KV 454: 183). In addition to production waste, faience, porcelain, whiteware, creamware, glass, kaolin clay pipes, bone combs, clothing fasteners (buttons, buckles, hooks), food waste (animal bones), and other more personal, intimate objects hint at workers behind the

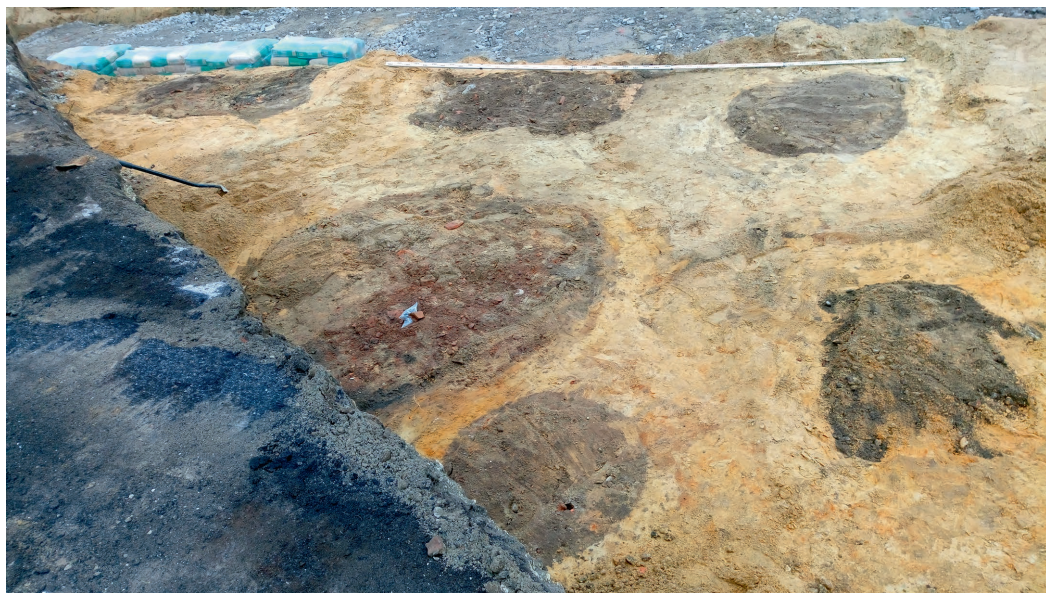


Fig. 8. Circular waste pits nos 26–31.

Jn 8. Korrapärase ümmargused prügiaugud nr 26–31.

Photo / Foto: Monika Reppo

products. Some metal finds could belong to burials, as commingled human remains were also present in the pits. Numerous canine remains (AI 8336: AZ-31, AZ-35, AZ-238) were found from the pits, too, mostly without collars, but one wore a leather and another a chain collar (Reppo *et al.* 2020).

The products

Based on the finds, the factory produced glazed and unglazed redware such as bowls, saucers, platters, and other vessels (Fig. 9: 1–4). Everyday tableware with inner glazing was the most ubiquitous. Most common patterns were simple concentric lines coupled with wavy lines in yellow, white, dark brown, and black. In some cases, monochrome or polychrome slip decoration or luster glaze was used, sometimes both surfaces were glazed. The rims were usually left unglazed. Unglazed flowerpots of different sizes were also made here (Fig. 9: 5), similar to those found 350 m north from two 19th century hothouses at Tõnismägi 11a / Pärnu Rd 44 (Varul *et al.* 2018). The most uncommon vessels were small saucers with three stubby legs (Fig. 9: 6) and inner glazing which was modestly painted in some cases. Similar dishes have been found from Pärnu Rd 22 in Tallinn.¹⁰ Also, only a few small rustic rounded candleholders (Fig. 9: 7–8) with a flat base and a hole for a single candle were discovered. Unlike the saucers, these were likely made for on-site use only just like the fife or whistle fragment (Fig. 9: 9).

Most common defects for vessels were blistering, bloating, crazing¹¹ and dunting¹². Some vessels (excluding flowerpots) may have broken during or after bisque firing as they show no traces of surface glaze. Potential S-cracks¹³ were frequent but these cracks could also result from other types of firing faults. Nevertheless, one saucer was found with a distinctive S-crack on its bottom (Fig. 9: 10). Some wares showed signs of flashing – colour changes in fired clay due to direct flame contact and residual ash deposition in wood firing.

Different ceramic building materials such as bricks, floor, and stove tiles were also produced here, mostly found as misfired wasters with bends, blistering and cracks or broken apart entirely. Glaze spots were sometimes present on unglazed floor tiles. Interestingly, warping was observed only with floor tiles or bricks and not in vessel wasters. Simple rectangular tiles were the most common, but a hexagonal floor tile with a half-circular glaze mark of a vessel with a diameter of at least 22 cm (Fig. 9: 10) was found here as well. Stove tiles were mostly unglazed wasters (Fig. 9: 11) but where glaze was applied, solid colours such as black, white, green, or light grey was preferred.

For the most part, tiles were undecorated, but some white-glazed stove tiles had blue painted designs, usually with plant and floral patterns (Fig. 9: 12). These blue-white tiles were not produced on the site as they are earlier in date and unlike other objects found here, they were final products with no defects. They could, however, have belonged to an earlier building on the site as they were found from the same waste pit by one of the sheds (Fig. 3: 9) on the northern side of the site. Some tiles had relief decorations (AI 8336: 509, 549), but these were also probably not produced here.

¹⁰ Uncatalogued, kept at OÜ Agu EMS.

¹¹ Fine surface cracks in the glaze. For further terminology, see White *et al.* 2015.

¹² Serious cracks that occur during cooling, resulting from drawing too soon, from extreme glaze-compression, or from low thermal shock-resistance in overfired wares resulting from overflux and/or over-firing.

¹³ S-shaped cracks in the bottom of wheel-thrown pottery, resulting from inadequate compression and/or excessive water left in the base.



Fig. 9. Examples of ceramic vessels and objects produced and found at Pärnu Rd 59. Fig. 9: 12 was not produced here.

Jn 9. Pärnu mnt 59 keraamikatehase toodangu ja leiumaterjali näited. Jn. 9: 12 ei kuulu toodangu hulka.

(AI 8336: 787, 1681, 1684, 1674, 793, 702, 384, 385, 386, 1680, NA, 627.)

Photo / Foto: Monika Reppo, Janika Viljat

Not products *per se* but countless examples of kiln furniture or setters were also found which have been very rare in Estonian archaeology, until now.¹⁴ These clay pieces were used in kilns to stack, separate, and protect products during the heating process. These were especially important when firing glazed wares (White *et al.* 2015, 40). Tripod stilts with three

¹⁴ A tripod stilt was found from Villardi and Endla St. corner, Tallinn (TLM 12631: A60), possibly from Carl Christian Fick's faience manufactory on Luise St. 15 and a Dutch pipe-making aid (AI 6931: 19) was discovered from Pärnu Rd 33/35 in 2010 (pers. comm. Erki Russow).

legs with pointed ends, rolled or unformed clay pieces, flat ellipsoids, and round balls with a raised edge, circular flat disks, and cubes and cuboids were gathered from Pärnu Rd 59 (Fig. 10). Some had traces of glaze, others (mostly rolled or unformed clay pieces) had distinct grooves from bricks, floor or stove tiles (e.g. AI 8336: 259, an unformed setter with adhering tile fragment).

A full-scale excavation of a 19th-century urban site is unusual in Estonia. Even more surprising is the complete lack of information for pottery production here prior to the excavations. No production of any kind is mentioned in any relevant publications. But a document from October 1861 shows that plot 1300 was bought by potter Leopold Grünfeldt (Krünfeldt) for 1600 rubles (RA, EAA.2840.1.5655). In 1969, Konrad Strauss made note of a silver tag with the inscription “L. D. Grünfeldt 1848” among items from the local Potters’ Guild which is kept at the Estonian Art Museum today (Strauss 1969, 228; EKM j 293:10/130 B 130). This is considered to be his donation to the guild upon completing his apprenticeship and becoming a master. Strauss also identified several potters with the same last name operating in town in the first half of the 19th century (Strauss 1969, 126).

An obligation document from 1902 (RA, EAA.4489.2.632) lists six buildings here: 1) single-story wooden residential buildings with tiled roofs (a house with 4 rooms, kitchen and vestibule, and a house with 3 rooms and a kitchen), 2) single-story auxiliary buildings with board roofs, a pottery (Ger. *Töpferei*) workshop with 4 areas and room for journeymen, 3) privy and 4) a wooden barn, fence, and gate. It is unclear when production stopped here. Upon Leopold’s death his widow Julia (born Zelmer) and daughters Wilhelmine Hammermann and Adele Grobe inherited the plot. Later, Wilhelmine acquired the land and was still living there in 1913. Plot 1300 changed hands in 1934 and was incorporated into the Luther plywood factory (RA, EAA.2840.1.5655).



Fig. 10. Kiln setters used at Pärnu Rd 59.

Jn 10. Pärnu mnt 59 kasutatud ahjufurnituur.

Photo / Foto: Monika Reppo

19TH–20TH CENTURY – OTHER ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA

Plots 1298, 1299, 1301, 1301A and 3007

The other five plots mentioned above (Fig. 2) also revealed some traces of 19th and 20th century activities. Plot 1298 is under Pärnu Rd 57 today and this area has been built up the longest. It belonged to a pauper's home called Alexandra-Anstalt, later renamed Alexander-Anstalt. Although officially operating here from 1810–1839 (Gustavson 1975, 15, 23), it is still present on the 1856 map. Tallinn Polytechnic School was built here from 1939 to 1941 (RA, EAA.2840.1.5653). The cultural layers on the northern end of the area under study were completely disturbed by this and other later earthworks associated with school building.

In 1888, plot 1299 was bought by Nikolai Feldmann (RA, EAA.2840.1.5654). On an 1894 map (Raid 2011, 95), a private stagecoach station (Ger. *Privat Pferdepost*) is shown roughly here (*Gr. Pernausche-St 15*). In 1913, the same address appeared in a newspaper ad for private automobile hire (Pernausche Zeitung 1913, 4). An almost fully intact horse skeleton (AI 8336: AZ-50) buried in a pit and numerous scrap metal and car parts (chassis, motor parts) were found on or by this plot. A fragment of a building shown on the 1856 map was visible in a service trench and in the northernmost area under survey (Fig. 3: 10), a rectangular limestone structure (3.23 × 2.03 m; Fig. 3: 11) and a wall fragment could also be associated with it.

Plot 1301 was bought by Fedor Kondraty Bogdanoff in 1868 and plot 1301A by Ivan Kamkow in 1863. They were both acquired by Franziska Luther (born Vahrenhorst) and integrated with the Luther Plywood Factory in 1920 (RA, EAA.2840.1.5656; RA, EAA.2840.1.5657). Only waste pits and modern cuts were found on these plots. Plot 3007 on the southern edge of the site was split from 1301 in 1921 (RA, EAA.2840.1.6207). A **large residential house** already stood here at the time (Fig. 3: 12). The traces of the 9 March 1944 Soviet bombing were most strikingly visible here, leaving behind a layer of heavily burnt rubble and melted glass. The partially preserved walls of the house were also discovered. The remains of a safe or safety box containing a number of burnt, corroded coins (AI 8336: 1110–1150) and pieces of jewellery (AI 8336: 1106) were found as well as broken luxury ceramics (e.g. painted porcelain from Nikolai Langebraun's workshop). The latrine fill associated with the building included a set of personal grooming items, such as a bone comb, a nail brush, and ceramic containers as well as children's metal toy figures.

World War II remnants

On the western side, northern, and south-western end, the earliest layers and structures were completely disturbed in the 20th century by major earthworks and World War II. Only a few individual structures survived here, for example the base of a 20th century wooden well. Ten large rectangular wood-lined latrines or cesspits (on average, 3 × 1.6 m) were discovered (Fig. 3) from other parts of Pärnu Rd 59. An exceptionally large cesspit (4.8 × 2.8 m) was situated on the eastern edge of the site. The cesspits had wooden plank floors and walls which were reinforced by vertical posts. Only one latrine was constructed inside an earlier building – the pottery kiln (Fig. 3: 13; Fig. 7, see above). Most were north-south orientated and contained mid-20th century finds such as printed porcelain, industrial faience, household items, and metal finds. Some lavatories also had remnants or layers of lye. Lye or caustic soda (NaOH) could have been used for its properties as an organic matter dissolvent or for sanitation. It causes chemical burns.

Some of the 375 pits listed above were associated with pre-World War II contexts, filled with 20th century ceramics, glass jar or bottle fragments, smaller metal finds (coins, badges,

pieces of scrap metal), and faunal and other organic remains. However, the latrines and waste pits also contained (live) ammunition and other remnants of World War II. The police and the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Center were called to site five times. For example, four pre-World War II, probably German hand grenades and an artillery shell from waste pit no 34 and about 4–5 kg of rifle ammunition (80 mm) were handed over to the police. 20th century contexts also included some depreciated grenade fuses, bullet casings and a large vat of German tank oil. The live ammunition and tank oil may have been hidden from incoming opposing forces.

From 1941 Tallinn Polytechnic School was used as a military barrack. The Baltic Navy squadrons left the building on 9 July 1945 (Orusalu & Levin 2015, 25–27). An interesting E- or F-shaped World War II trench was found in the northeast corner of the site (Figs 3; 11). It was cut off by the Pärnu Rd 57 building and Soviet heating main in the north and partially damaged by a Soviet sewage drainage in the south. It was lined with wood. Some parts of the trench were big enough for a person or two to be seated. The trench was photographed using geotags to enable building a 3D-model in the future. A cache of 20 depreciated, partially bent rifles (Mauser-type, e.g. MP40) alongside many glass beer bottles and automobile parts were recovered¹⁵ from a cut near the trench, covered by contaminated soil and some lye, and laid on top of oily black granules. The latter seems to have been purposely discarded, poured



Fig. 11. An E- or F-shaped trench at the northeastern corner of the site. View from the south.

Jn 11. E- või F-kujuline kaevik uuringuala kirdenurgas. Vaade lõunast.

Photo / Foto: Monika Reppo

out, hence rendering wetted gunpowder useless. An attempt to destroy the weapons by breaking them is seen as well as using lye to chemically corrode the metal. Some remains of equipment were also found (mugs, mess tin, helmets, camp stove, etc.).

The trenches and latrines dug during World War II also substantially damaged the 18th century burial site. Aside from human remains in the mid-20th century waste pits, a whopping 113 (sic!) 60–100 litre bags of human skeletal remains, 10 canine and several currently unanalysed animal bones were discovered from a rectangular pit covered with wooden planks and a layer of lye. The remains were carefully placed, and it seems they were partially organised as at least skulls, vertebrae, pelvic, and long bones

were grouped. However, the analysis of these remains is incomplete and at present it is not possible to say whether they relate to the earlier Gallows' Hill cemetery or the other 18th-century plague burials.

Almost all of the buildings on Pärnu Rd 59 were destroyed in 1944 during the bombing of Tallinn in World War II, apart from a few small wooden ones. Multiple Soviet-era waste

¹⁵ As per the Estonian Weapons Act § 2.2. and § 9, in case of discovery of firearms produced after 1870, a prompt notification and handover to the police is needed. Unfortunately, in this case the notification was delayed due to lack of preexisting experience and training on the archaeologists' part. Due to miscommunication and misjudgment, multiple rifle remnants were moved from the site before handover to the police who had visited the site several times before and after this. Training on the Estonian Weapons Act and discovery of ammunition and weapons was carried out for professional archaeologists in February 2021, and we urge anyone who discovers live ammunition, weapons or parts thereof to contact the police as soon as possible.

pits and waste layers were discovered. Unfortunately, the fills included plastic, fuel waste, and other environmentally hazardous substances. From 1954 to 2007, a massive university dormitory stood on the western side of the site with a stadium and a garage behind it in the east. For the construction of these two, the final remains of the natural sandy knoll were largely stripped and disturbed. The dormitory and garage were demolished in 2018 for the construction of Tallinn School of Music and Ballet. The new building is planned to be opened on 1 September, 2022.

CONCLUSIONS

Our fieldwork suggests that despite the presence of some earlier chance finds, the area south of Gallow's Hill now known as Pärnu Rd 59 remained a suburban pasture and meadow until the beginning of the 18th century. Around 1710, a short-lived cemetery was established here. Soon after, low-scale habitation followed when a platform next to a stone well was built on top of a grave, providing access to water for a small building east of it. From the mid-18th century onwards, numerous buildings were erected on the western side of Pärnu Rd 59, but the area developed even more rapidly in the 19th century. In the 1860s, large quantities of ceramic vessels and building materials started to be produced here on plot 1300 owned by potter Leopold Grünfeldt. A light wooden house linked to the earlier well, a clay preparation workshop, a privy, two kilns, a stone house, hundreds of waste and clay pits, and two wooden sheds found on Pärnu Rd 59 were associated with the production site. Both glazed and unglazed, painted, and unpainted vessels, and ceramic building materials were produced here at least until 1902. During World War II, the remains of the burial site were significantly disturbed, and the area was actively used in war-related activities as is evidenced by the abundance of ammunition and weapons found on-site. Nearly all the buildings were destroyed in 1944 air raids.

The production site on Pärnu Rd 59 is unique, as it is the only 19th century ceramics manufacturing facility that has been archaeologically excavated and studied in Estonia. As a previously unknown industrial operation, it is easy to imagine how the data we have collected could have simply been lost. The pottery produced here is common all over Tallinn and thus these finds will hopefully become the basis of an important reference collection, but also allow for new research avenues like the previously rare kiln furniture and wasters. The documentation of World War II-related activities within Tallinn beyond war graves and air raid damage is also notable. Often bulldozed away in urban contexts, we hope that the study of 19th and 20th century archaeological remains at this magnitude highlights the potential and value of late post-medieval and modern contexts in understanding and uncovering our shared, not so distant past.

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KATK, KERAAMIKA TOOTMINE JA KORRALIK KOGUS PADRUNEID – ARHEOLOOGILISED VÄLITÖÖD PÄRNU MNT 59 KRUNDIL TALLINNAS

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2020. a alustati Pärnu mnt 59 krundil (jn 1) Tallinna Muusika- ja Balletikooli ehitusega. Kuna krunt asub Võllamäe vahetus läheduses 18. saj katkukalmistul, algasid ettevalmistustööd ehituseks 2017. a eeluuringutega, selleks kaevati seitse prooviauku. 2018. a järgnesid päästekaevamised, kus avastati 89 *in situ* paiknenud matust ja keraamikatootmisele viitavaid leide. Nende teadmiste valguses toimusid 2020. a aprillist kuni 2021. a veebruarini ehitustöödega samaaegselt arheoloogiline jälgimine ja väljakaevamised (jn 3), mille tulemusi käesolevas artiklis esitatakse. Matmisala uuringu tulemused avaldatakse eraldi.

Pärnu mnt 59 krundil või selle vahetus läheduses on seni tehtud vaid väikesemahulisi arheoloogilisi uuringuid. Lisaks juba nimetatutele on märkimisväärsamad 1994. a päästekaevamised Võllamäel, seal leiti hulgaliselt inimluid, uusaegne kultuurkiht ja üksikuid eriaegseid tulekivist esemeid. Ajaloolistel kaartidel on Pärnu mnt 59 ala veel 18. saj alguses hoonestamata linnaäärne karja- ja heinamaa, mis jääb Võllamäelt Toomvõllani kulgeva liivaluite ja Pärnusse suunduva tee vahele. Kaevamiste tulemused kinnitavad kesk-aegse hoonestuse puudumist. Toonasest inimtegevusest on vaid üksikuid jälgi, varaseimad neist kaks 14.–15. saj alguse Siegburgi kivikeraamilise nõu kildu ja mõned 15. ja 16. saj keskpaiga pennid.

16. saj teise poole ja 17. saj leide esines veidi enam, sealhulgas Westerwaldi ja Frecheni kivikeraamika katkeid, sõrmus, münte ning arvestuspenne. Leitud vanim ehitusjäänus on 18. saj laotud raudkividest kaev selle kõrval paikneva paekividest platvormiga veevõtu lihtsustamiseks (jn 3: 1–2; 4), mille idaküljel asusid hoone jäänused. Kuigi kuivlaos kerghoone oli 19. saj (ümber) ehitatud, annavad mõrdijälgedega kivid, seos kaevuga ning 17. saj leiud alust pidada seda mingi varasema hoone kohale rajatud ehitiseks. Platvormi kagunurga alla jäi üks 2020. a avastatud üheksast *in situ* matusest. Kalmistu rajati ilmselt 1710. a paiku ja platvorm tõenäoliselt üsna peatselt pärast kalmistu kasutusest jäämist.

18. saj keskpaigast alates ehitati Pärnu mnt 59 lääneküljele mitmeid hooneid ning 1825. a-ks oli kogu läänekülj hoonestatud, ülejäänud osas paiknesid kruntidel viljapuuaiad ning kaguosas, endise kalmistu kohal, aia- või põllumaa. Uuringuala jagunes põhjast lõunasse liikudes ajaloolisteks kinnistuteks nr 1298, 1299, 1300, 1301A, 3007 ning 1301 (jn 2). Lisaks ehitusjäänustele avastati arheoloogilistel kaevamistel

kruntidelt 375 prügiauku (jn 3). Prügiaukude täitest leiti lisaks looma- ja inimluudele enim 19.–20. saj klaasi- ja keraamika katkeid, münte, riidekinniseid, ehteid, mõned kaoliinsavist piibutükid ning silmapaistval hulgal keraamika tootmise jääteid, nii praaki kui ka ahju pakkimise vahendeid, mis viitavad kohapealsele tootmisele. Keraamikakojaga võib seostada eelmainitud kerghoonet, postidest varjualuse all asunud savisõtkumisruumi, kuivkäimlat ja tellistest kambri, lõõri ja paekividest korstnaalusega pudelahju (jn 3: 3–5; 5, 6). Samuti kuuluvad keraamika-koja juurde eraldiseisvana avatud eesruumi, tellistest küttekolde, lõõri ja paekividest kambri ja korstnaalusega riskülükukujuline ahi (jn 3: 6; 7), kivihoone, kaks postidele toetunud kuuri või varjualuse jäänust (jn 3: 7–9) ja sajad tootmispraagi ja savi ladustamiseks kasutatud pinnasesüvendid (jn 8).

Pärnu mnt 59 toodeti nii glasuuritud kui ka glasuurimata, maalitud ja maalinguteta punaseid savinõusid – kausse, taldrikuid, liudasid, potte, lillepotte, näsadega alustasse, samuti glasuuritud ja glasuurimata ehituskeraamikat nagu ahjukahlid, põrandaplaadid ja tellised (jn 9). Üksik vilepill ning ümarad lihtsad küünlajalad olid ilmselt kohapeal kasutamiseks. Kausid olid peamiselt sisepinnalt glasuuritud, maalitud nõudel esinesid kollased ja valged kontsentrilised ringid või lainelised jooned. Glasuur varieerus helepruunist tumelillani, kusjuures nõude servad olid üldjuhul glasuurimata. Praakkahlid on enamasti glasuurimata, kuid esineb nii musta, valget, rohelist kui ka helehalli glasuuri. Lisaks praaktoodetele leiti prügiaukudest ka ahju pakkimise vahendeid – kolmjalgu, pulki, kettaid ja kuubikuid (jn 10). Samast leiti igapäevaelu ja olmega seostuvaid esemeid, mitmeid koera- ja teiste loomade skelette ning inimluid.

On märkimisväärne, et enne Pärnu mnt 59 kaevetöid puudus igasugune suuline ja kirjalik info keraamika tootmisest sellel objektil. Rahvusrhiivi toimikute abil oli võimalik kindlaks teha, et 1861. a ostis krundi nr 1300 pottsepp Leopold Grünfeldt (Krünfeldt) ning ilmselt algas siis siin ka keraamika tootmine. 1902. a on obligatsioonitoimikus loetletud siin asunud hooned, sh keraamikakoda 4 tööalaga. Pole selge, millal tootmine lõppes, kuid Leopoldi tütar Wilhelmine Hammermann elas seal veel 1913. a. Arhiivuuringutel leiti andmeid teistegi nimetatud kruntide kohta, näiteks paiknes hiljemalt 1894. a krundil nr 1299 erahobujaam, kus 1913. a pakuti ka

autorendi teenust. Siit leiti peaaegu terviklik hobuse skelett ja ümbrusest hulgaliselt autoosi ja vanametalli.

Uuringuala lääne-, põhja- ja edelaküljel on varasemad rajatised hävinud Teise maailmasõja ja 20. saj keskpaiga ehitustööde käigus (jn 3: 10–11). Kalmistu ala ja krundi idaosa oli sel perioodil jätkuvalt valdavalt hoonestamata. Väljakaevamistel leiti sealt kümme suurt puidust ristkülikukujulist lampkasti (kaevatud ka läbi keraamikaahju, jn 3: 13), mis sisaldasid lisaks lagundavale seebikivipastale (NaOH) mõnel juhul ka laskemoona ja relvade osi. Laskemoona esines ka prügiaukudes ja teistes sissekaevetes. Leiti 4 käsigranaati, 1 mürsk, 4–5-kilogrammiline kogum vintpüssi (80 mm) padruneid, hulgaliselt lahtiseid padruneid ning 20 amortiseerunud Mauser-tüüpi vintpüssi. Viimaseid on ilmselt tahtlikult hävitada püütud, sest need olid osaliselt väänatud ja osalt kaetud NaOH pastaga, mis hävitab ka rauda. Relvad paiknesid mustal õlisel kihil, mis osutus märjaks (st kasutuskõlbmatuks) tehtud, laiali aetud püssirohuks. Samuti esines varustust ja selle jäänuseid (joogikruusid, kateloki katke, kiivrid, väliahi) ning üks tankiõlivaat. Nii relvad kui varustuse osad tulid välja krundi kirdeosas, kust leiti E- või F-kujuline puiduga vooderdatud kaevik, mis jätkus Pärnu mnt 57 all (jn 11). Kokku käisid politsei ja demineerijad Pärnu mnt 59 objektil taoliste esemete ülevõtmiseks viiel korral.

Näib, et sõjaagsete tegevuste juures avastati hulgaliselt inimpluid, sest neid sisaldasid nii tollased lampkastid ja prügiaugud kui ka suur auk kaeviku lõunaotsas. Siit saadi 113 (!) 60–80 liitrist leiukotti inimpluid ning vähemalt 10 koera ning teiste loomade säilmeid. Luud olid asetatud auku süstemaatiliselt (toruluud koos, koljed koos jne) ning kaetud lauda-

dega, mis olid kokku määratud NaOH pastaga. Pole veel selge, kas nimetatud luud seostuvad Võllamäe või katkukalmistuga.

Peale nende dokumenteeriti puidust kaev ning suur kivist eluhoone ja selle käimlakasti jäänused, mis olid saanud tabamuse 1944. a märtsipommitamises ja hävinud nagu pea kõik teisedki hooned Pärnu mnt 59 alal (jn 3: 12). Objektil leidis ka mitmeid hilisemaid prügiauke, mis sisaldasid plastikut, kütusejääke ning teisi keskkonnale ohtlikke jäätmekäike, aga ka inimsäilmeid. 1954.–2018. a paiknes Pärnu maantee servas massiivne ühiselamu hoone, millest itta jäänud maa-ala jäigi kogu nimetatud ajaks hoonestamata, kuid staadioni ja selle tribüünide rajamisega lõhuti liivaluude pea lõplikult.

Pärnu mnt 59 on ainuke arheoloogiliselt uuritud 19. saj keraamikakoda Eestis. Kuna selle kohta puudus igasugune varasem teave, jäänuks ilma arheoloogiliste uuringuteta antud aspekt Tallinna ja Eesti tööstusajaloos tähelepanuta. Pärnu mnt 59 toodetud keraamikavorme esineb Tallinna linna arheoloogilises leiumaterjalis hulgaliselt ja nii saavad siit kogutud leiud loodetavasti oluliseks võrdlusmaterjaliks. Haruldased keraamilised põletusahju pakkimise vahendid avardavad aga keraamika uurimise teemaderingi. Jättes kõrvale sõjahauad ja põlengukihid, pole ka Teise maailmasõja ja sõdurite jälgi Tallinnas olnud võimalik sellises ulatuses arheoloogiliselt dokumenteerida. Linnakeskkonnas 19.–20. saj kontekstide, leidude ja olme arheoloogiline uurimine on oluline samm Eesti uusaja arheoloogias. Loodame, et oleme näidanud selliste leidude potentsiaalset väärtust (lähiminekuviku uurimisel ja mõtestamisel.