



# Archaeological monitoring on the northern and northeastern sides of the University of Tartu main building

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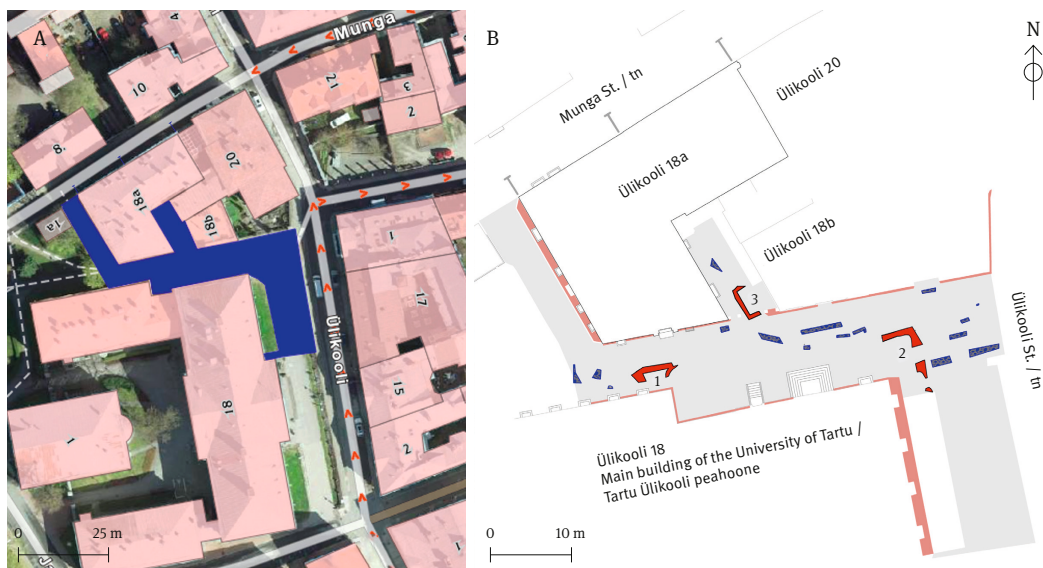
## INTRODUCTION

In late August and early September of 2024, archaeological monitoring was carried out on the northern and northeastern sides of the University of Tartu main building. The work was necessitated due to the installation of new sewage and rainwater piping in the area between the buildings of Ülikooli St. 18, 18a and 18b. In addition, three smaller trenches were excavated on the Munga street side of the Ülikooli St. 18a building. The earthworks, covering almost the entire extent of the pedestrian area between the modern university buildings, revealed numerous remains of stone foundations of houses, most of which were probably built in the Early Modern Period. The buildings were demolished in the late 18th century and the early 19th century.

## MONITORING RESULTS

During the construction works, trenches were excavated along the northern and northeastern sides of the University of Tartu main building (Fig. 1A). For the most part, the excavation depths reached 2 metres or more. This required careful monitoring of soil removal to determine whether any traces of cultural remains in the area might still be preserved, as previous studies had documented even prehistoric layers (Malve *et al.* 2012; Tomson & Randoja 2024). The earthworks revealed that beneath the modern road surface, an earlier cobblestone pavement had been preserved across nearly the entire area. Below this was a thick layer of soil, containing mainly construction debris, such as roof tiles and brick fragments. In front of the exit staircase on the northern side of the University of Tartu main building, numerous disarticulated human skeletal remains were recovered – an expected finding, since the St Mary's Church and its churchyard preceded the university building (built between 1805–1809) on the plot. Elsewhere across the investigated area, only a few loose human bones were found.

On Munga street, three rainwater pipeline trenches were excavated, exposing mainly rubble, mixed soil, and fill layers. Evidence of a possible medieval or prehistoric cultural layer



**Fig. 1.** A – Research area on the northern and northeastern sides of the University of Tartu main building (marked in blue). B – Research areas (marked in grey) with excavated wall remains (marked in blue) and the ruins of three buildings (marked in red).

**Jn 1.** A – Uuringuala Tartu Ülikooli peahoone põhja- ja kirdeküljel (markeeritud sinisega). B – Uuringuala (markeeritud halliga) koos väljakaevatud müürijäänuste (markeeritud sinisega) ja kolme hoone varemetega (markeeritud punasega).

Base map for Fig. 1A / Jn 1A aluskaart: Estonian Land and Spatial Development Board / Maa- ja Ruumiamet

Base map for Fig. 1B / Jn 1B aluskaart: P. Pihus

Implementation / Teostus: Silvia-Kristiin Kask, Irina Khrustaleva

was encountered only in one corner of the eastern part of the trench between Ülikooli St. 18 and 18a buildings, where the excavation reached the depth of 2.8 m below the present ground level (38.6 m a.s.l.). In this small, no more than a 0.5 m<sup>2</sup> area, an organic-rich, sticky soil layer, clearly distinguishable from the overlying construction debris, was exposed. Only a few animal bones were recovered from this layer, and its precise age therefore has remained undetermined.

In the area between Ülikooli St. 18, 18a, and 18b, numerous building remains were uncovered (Fig. 1B). In total, 14 partially preserved wall structures and three better-preserved building foundation and wall remains were documented. The partially preserved walls were mostly built of boulders and/or bricks, set with mortar. Some of them were built of larger boulders up to 60 cm in diameter, between which were clumps of mortar, smaller stones and randomly placed fragmented bricks. Most of the documented bricks were 7.5–8.5 cm thick, indicating the structures were erected during the Early Modern Age – a date, which is supported by the finds and stratigraphy. Sparingly, fragments of thicker bricks, around 9–10 cm, were found, mostly in filler layers, indicating that some earlier bricks produced in the Middle Ages (the thicknesses of medieval bricks from Tartu have been described repeatedly, see e.g. Kriiska *et al.* 2010; Bernotas 2013) could have been reused. However, this is still merely an assumption, which does not entirely rule out the possibility that some of the excavated structures were built already in the Middle Ages.

## BUILDING REMAINS

Within the trench areas, the rooms of three buildings were partially exposed. From Building 1, a brick-built room was uncovered, of which the western and northern interior walls and the corner of the eastern wall were mostly visible (Fig. 2). The southern part ended neatly where the university's wing building foundation trench started. The western wall, the best preserved of the three, had been constructed on a foundation of crystalline boulders and was likewise supported by stones on the exterior wall. The bricks, measuring  $30 \times 15$  cm with a thickness of 8.5 cm, rested directly on the foundation stones. In the lower four courses, the wall was four bricks thick, i.e. ca. 60 cm, stepping down thereafter to a thickness of three courses. Between the bricks, a 2–3.5 cm layer of friable whitish mortar was visible. The northern and eastern walls showed comparatively poorer preservation but were structurally identical to the better-preserved western wall. The northern wall measured 1.94 m from corner to corner, while the length of the other walls could not be determined. About one metre southeast of the building was a curved structure made of bricks similar to those used in the walls of Building 1. However, some of the bricks were covered with a layer of black soot. The soil surrounding the building yielded mainly pottery sherds, among which glazed redware dominated, though fragments of wheel-thrown coarseware pottery with incised wavy ornamentation (Fig. 3: 5) and a fragment of a white clay tobacco pipe were also recovered.

The foundation of Building 2 was documented in three sections during different stages of the archaeological monitoring. Considering the similar construction technique, location, and elevation of the structures, it is reasonable to assume that they all belonged to a single building with at least two rooms. The longest documented side of the building extended in the



Fig. 2. Building 1, view from the south.

Jn 2. Ehitis 1, vaade lõunast.

Photo / Foto: Silvia-Kristiin Kask



Fig. 3. Pottery and stove tile fragments collected during archaeological monitoring on the northern side of the University of Tartu main building. 1 – a broken tripod vessel, 2 – a fragment of Westerwald stoneware, 3 – a fragment of green-glazed stove tile depicting a woman with a garland, 4–5 – fragments of wheel-thrown pottery.

Jn 3. Tartu Ülikooli peahoone põhjaküljel toimunud jälgimisel kogutud savinõu- ja kahlilikillud. 1 – purunenud kolmjalgne, 2 – Westerwaldi kivikeraamika kild, 3 – vanikuga naise kujutisega ahjukahli tükk, 4–5 – lihtkedrakeraamika killud.

(TM A 309: 47, 49, 55, 39, 19.)

Photo / Foto: Irina Khrustaleva

southeast–northwest direction and measured at least 8.5 m in length. In two documented locations – at its northernmost part and approximately in the middle – the foundation also turned westward, forming the corners of two rooms. In all documented sections, the foundation had been constructed of crystalline boulders, the largest of which measured up to 60 cm in diameter, bonded with both friable whitish and stronger greyish-white mortar. Between the foundation stones, bricks were also used, most commonly measuring  $28 \times 16 \times 8.5$  cm, although bricks 13 cm wide and 8 cm thick were also found. In the interior corners of both rooms, the concentration of finds was considerably denser than in the fill layers elsewhere. The finds consisted predominantly of stove tiles glazed in black, white, brown, blue, or green, including a tile depicting a woman (Fig. 3: 3). Additional finds included a redware tripod, fragments of white clay tobacco pipes (one specimen featuring a human face, Fig. 4: 4), sherds of wheel-thrown pottery, glazed redware and stoneware (Fig. 3: 2), and a fragment of painted glass depicting a saint (Fig. 4: 1).

In the trench section located in the courtyard area between Ülikooli St. 18a and 18b, the remains of Building 3 were exposed. Within the opened area, three walls of a single room – the western, southern, and northern – were revealed. The northern and southern walls ran across the trench, while the western wall was visible in the trench profile. The building was constructed of bricks and crystalline boulders, bonded with abundant whitish lime mortar.

The bricks generally measured  $30.5 \times 9$  cm with a thickness of 7.5 cm. The southern wall had been built mainly of crystalline rocks with abundant lime mortar between them and the interior face plastered. The exterior face had been laid of bricks. The western wall was preserved to its full original extent, measuring 2.6 m from corner to corner on the interior side. From the visible inner side, the wall was constructed of bricks, the surface of which had been plastered. Approximately in the middle of the wall, the brickwork ended in a straight build and continued again 83 cm further on – most likely indicating a doorway. The northern wall was the poorest preserved within the extent of the trench. Similar to the southern wall, it had been built mainly of boulders but also included bricks; plaster traces were also visible on its inner side. The wall itself was nearly one metre thick. A small area of the floor on the room's northern part was covered with a 20–30 cm thick layer of lime. Regarding finds, both the soil in and around the building remains was quite bare. Only a couple of fragments of faience and sherds of green-glazed redware were found.



**Fig. 4.** Finds collected during archaeological monitoring on the northern side of the University of Tartu main building. 1 – a fragment of painted glass depicting a saint, 2 – a leg of a metal vessel, 3 – a fragment of a white clay pipe stem, 4 – a white clay pipe bowl.

**Jn 4.** Tartu Ülikooli peahoone põhjaküljel toimunud jälgimise käigus kogutud leiud. 1 – pühaku kujutisega klaasikild, 2 – metallanuma jalg, 3 – valge piibuvarre tükk, 4 – valge savist piibukaha.

(TM A 309: 59, 92, 66, 57.)

Photo / Foto: Irina Khurstaleva



## FINDS

A total of 118 artefacts were collected during the work. The most numerous group of finds is pottery sherds, with a total of 61 collected. Of these, the majority – more than 40 – are redware. Most of the vessels are covered with brown or green glaze, some sherds have engobe paintings. In at least eleven cases, the fragments belonged to tripod vessels, including separate legs (8) and handles (1) and two better-preserved small, low broken tripod vessels (Fig. 3: 1). Based on analogies (e.g. Tvauri & Metsallik 2006; Kriiska *et al.* 2011), most of the redware fragments can be dated to the Early Modern Period. Ten sherds are from wheel-thrown coarseware, including five rim sherds, four body sherds, and one bottom fragment. One of the rim sherds belongs to type 5 of Northwest Russian ceramic tradition according to Tvauri (2000, 107–108), characterized by a short, everted rim (Fig. 3: 4). This type of pottery was probably introduced into Estonia during the Livonian War in the second half of the 16th century, by Russian soldiers and civilians who settled in Estonian towns, strongholds, and villages, including Tartu (Tvauri 2004, 400). Three pottery pieces may be attributed to Tvauri's group 6 and dated to the 18th century.<sup>1</sup> One rim fragment of this type bears an incised wavy ornament (Fig. 3: 5). Only three sherds of stoneware were found, for which the production area of two can be identified (based on Russow 2006). One sherd is Siegburg stoneware (TM A-309: 79) and is among the few objects in our assemblage that may date from the Middle Ages, while another piece is Early Modern Period stoneware from Westerwald (Fig. 3: 2).

The finds include 11 stove tiles fragments covered with green (4), black (3), brown (1), or white (1) glaze. One fragment of a green-glazed stove tile depicts a woman with a garland (Fig. 3: 3). Based on analogies (e.g. Tvauri & Metsallik 2006; Kriiska *et al.* 2011; Ose 2013), most of the tile fragments can be dated to the 17th–18th centuries.

A large group of finds consists of fragments of white clay pipes. Altogether, 28 pipe fragments were collected, including two bowls and the rest stem fragments. Among the stem pieces, four are decorated. One stem features lilies enclosed in a diamond pattern (TM A-309: 67), which occur on Dutch pipes dating from 1630–1650 (Heege 2003, 16, 47 and references cited therein). Another stem (TM A-309: 67) bears a baroque plant ornament characteristic of clay pipes produced in the Netherlands between 1620 and 1660 (Duco 1987, 89). Both found pipe bowls are of the Dutch type, which predominates throughout Estonia (Russow 2005; Kriiska 2008; Kriiska & Küng 2008; Iisma 2019). One bowl depicts a human head, with the inner side of the bowl portraying a face with a moustache and beard, and the back featuring ears and hair (Fig. 4: 4). The small bowl is biconical and protrudes relative to the stem; the heel is oval, unmarked, and the bowl opening is surrounded by a denticulated motif. Such pipes are usually classified as the so-called Jonah-type, assuming that the figure represents the biblical Israelite prophet Jonah, who spent three days in the belly of a whale. Often, a fish head is attached to the stem of pipes with a human-headed bowl, appearing as if the bowl is emerging from it. Notably, a stem piece with a fish head depiction (Fig. 4: 3) is also among our finds, however it cannot be determined whether it belongs to the same pipe. Jonah-type pipes are characteristic mainly of the 17th century, biconical Jonah-type bowls were produced in the Netherlands between 1650 and 1670 (van der Meulen 2003, 18).<sup>2</sup> The stylisation of the face could also indicate that this pipe was made after 1650, when the depiction is dated to have been simplified (Duco 1987, 91). Such pipes have also been found elsewhere in the Eastern

<sup>1</sup> Andres Tvauri (TÜ), personal comment, 30.09.2025.

<sup>2</sup> A very similar Jonah-type pipe was produced around 1640–1665 in Amsterdam, see <https://www.claypipes.nl/17e-eeuw/jonas/> (accessed 29.09.2025).

Baltic, including one bowl and a stem fragment with a fish motif from Tartu (Pallo & Russow 2008, 24; Iisma 2019, 15, 18, fig. 2; Žvirblys 2021, 101). The second small pipe bowl is funnel-shaped with a polished surface. Based on its shape and size, this pipe may have been made in the decades between the late 17th century and the early 18th century in the Netherlands (Duco 1982, 111). The bowl also has a heel mark, but it is worn and therefore unidentifiable. It may depict a milkman or milkmaid, but this would not help with dating, as the motif was used by several masters between 1660 and 1940 (Duco 1982, 56).



**Fig. 5.** A fragment of a floor tile found during archaeological monitoring on the north side of the University of Tartu main building.

**Jn 5.** Tartu Ülikooli peahoone põhjaküljel toimunud jälgimisel leitud põrandaplaadi katke.

(TM A-309: 7.)

Photo / Foto: Irina Khrustaleva

Among other finds, a fragment of painted glass depicting a saint (Fig. 4: 1), a piece of a lead window frame (TM A-309: 90), and a leg of a metal vessel, found in the trench at Munga street (Fig. 4: 2) are also remarkable. Finally, a specific ceramic tile can be highlighted. It bears the impressed manufacturer's name, Бергенгеймъ, and the place of production, Харьков<sup>3</sup> (Fig. 5). This floor tile was produced sometime in the late 19th or early 20th century in Kharkiv, in present-day Ukraine. The factory, which operated from 1877/1878 until 1917, was founded by Baron Edward Ferdinand Bergenheim (1844–1893), a Finnish-born military officer, railway engineer, industrialist, and politician. The factory's products were widely distributed across the Russian Empire (Nezvitskaya 2012).

## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

During the 2024 fieldwork along the northern and northeastern sides of the University of Tartu main building, remains of several buildings were found, among which it was possible to distinguish 14 smaller parts of walls and three larger building ruins (Buildings 1, 2, and 3; Fig. 1B). The remains are very fragmentary and filled with soil containing demolition debris.

Chronological reference points for their construction are provided by the finds collected from the fill layer, the stratigraphy of the wall remains, and the size of bricks used in construction. Based on analogies, most of the artefacts – pottery, fragments of white clay pipes and stove tiles – were produced in the 17th–18th centuries. No medieval cultural layer was found anywhere, not even at the levels of the building's foundations. This can also be indirectly verified by the thickness of the bricks used in the constructions, which mostly ranged from 7.5 to 8.5 cm. On this basis, it can be assumed that the majority of the exposed building remains were constructed in the Early Modern Period.

Historical sources offer little additional clarity. On historical maps of Tartu, the study area – situated immediately north and northeast of the present main building of the University of Tartu, in the vicinity of the former St Mary's Church, is depicted repeatedly from the 1630s onward (Raid 2015). In most cases, only the church is shown on the city plans. An exception

<sup>3</sup> The letters X and a can be seen on the broken side.

is the city plan made in the 1640s<sup>4</sup> (RA, EAA.5393.1.17, p. 1), which shows the names of the plot owners, and may refer to possibly built-up properties. The buildings are shown only on some of the maps, reflecting the situation of the 1760s. Georeferencing of the historical and present-day plans indicates that the three building remains excavated correspond – though not entirely, yet with sufficient accuracy – to the three buildings shown on the 1767 map, while the remains of other walls cannot be associated with any historical plans (Fig. 6).<sup>5</sup>

Due to the paucity of evidence, both the construction and destruction phases of the buildings must remain conjectural. The archaeological record suggests that the structures are probably not entirely contemporaneous. In the light of Tartu's urban history, it is unlikely that new buildings were erected near St Mary's Church – which had survived during the Livonian War (1558–1561) – already in the late 16th or early 17th century, as construction activity in the town intensified only from the mid-17th century onward (Tarvel & Piirimäe 1980, 97, 104). St Mary's Church, like much of Tartu, was damaged during the Great Northern War (1700–1721) (EAA 1965, 245; Altkoa 2009, 12). The adjacent built environment may have perished at the same time and was likely rebuilt or newly established only in the 18th century.

On a city map made in 1775, after the fire that broke out the same year, some buildings shown on the town plan of 1767 are marked with a dotted line (like St Mary's Church), indicating presumably that the buildings are in ruins (Estonian National Archives: EAA.995.1.6842 page 4). On the plan drawn up by Johann Barclay de Tolly in 1780, only one building remained



**Fig. 6.** A – a map, probably from 1845, compiled based on earlier city plans (RA, EAA.2623.1.2049, p. 49), on which the main research area (marked in blue) has been georeferenced, B – a detail from Figure 6A.

**Jn 6.** A – hinnanguliselt 1845. aastal varasemate linnaplaanide alusel koostatud kaart (RA, EAA.2623.1.2049, l. 49), millele on georefereeritud uuringuala (markeeritud sinisega), B – jn 6A detail.

Georeferencing and implementation / georefereeringu teostus: Irina Khrustaleva

<sup>4</sup> Discussion about the dating of this city plan see Altkoa 2016, 317–318.

<sup>5</sup> Basis of georeferencing: Tartu Cathedral, St John's Church, the mid-18th-century building at Lutsu Street 2 (currently the Tartu Toy Museum), the old street network including Lai, Jaani, Munga, Lutsu street etc., as well as the 1842 'Plan der Fundamente der projectierten Bäumen bei der Dörptschen Universität', which shows the outlines of St Mary's Church and, partially on its site, the university church and another university building (R.Est.D-53).

(Raid 2015, map 27) located at the northeast corner of the later main university building, and it could correspond to Building 2 that was studied during fieldwork. On the plan drawn up by Johann Wilhelm Krause in 1818, which recorded the situation at the start of the construction of the main building in 1803, our study area is shown without buildings and is marked instead as the Commandant's Square (Maiste & Ormisson-Lahe 2016, 110–111). Thus, it can be assumed that the buildings investigated in 2024 were for the most part destroyed in the fire of 1775, and by the beginning of the 19th century, all of them had been demolished and the area levelled.

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## ARHEOLOOGILINE JÄLGIMINE TARTU ÜLIKOOI PEAAHOONE PÕHJA- JA KIRDEKÜLJEL

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2024. aasta augustis ja septembris toimusid arheoloogilised uuringud Ülikooli tn 18, 18a ja 18b hoonete vahelisel alal ning Ülikooli tn 18a hoone lähedal Munga tänaval seoses sademeveetorstike rajamise ja kanalisatsiooni uuendamisega (jn 1A). Avatud alal (jn 1B) paljandus enamasti ehitusrusune katusekivide katkeid ja tellisetükke sisaldanud täiteline pinnas. Leiti irdiniimluid, arvukamalt Tartu Ülikooli peahoone põhjapoolse küljeukse eest, mis seonduvad peahoone alal varem asunud Maarja kiriku ja selle juures paiknenud kalmistuga. Kuna uuringuala läänepoolses osas avastati 2,8 m sügavusel maapinnast must orgaanikarikas pinnas, mille puhul ei saanud välistada, et tegemist võib olla esiaegse või keskaja kultuurkihiga, siis vältimaks ulatuslikke väljakaevamisi, tõteti torustike rajamissügavus kavandatust mõnevõrra kõrgemale.

Uuringualalt kaevati välja 14 müürikatket ja kolme ulatuslikumalt säilinud hoone seinad. Hoonest 1 (jn 1B) oli säilinud kolm tellistest laotud seina, neist läänepoolne suuremas mahus (jn 2). See oli alumiises osas nelja tellise laiune ning kahanest astmeliselt kolme tellise laiuseks. Müüri all oli näha maakivist vundament ning kive oli laotud ka läänepoolse välisseina vastu. Hoonevare 1 lähedusse jäi tellistest laotud kaarjas konstruktsioon. Hooneosa väljapuhastamisel leiti selle vahetust lähedusest arvukalt savinõukilde, valdavalt pärinevad need glasuuritud punastest savinõudest, kuid leidus ka üks lainelisejoonornamendiga ketrakeraamika kild (jn 3: 5) ja kaoliinsavist piibuvarre katke. Hoonega 2 seostati kolme kivivundamenti osa, mille sarnane ehituslaad ning paiknemine ühel joonel ja kõrgusel lubab arvata, et tegemist on ühe ehitisega. Kahe müüriosa juures avati nii ruumi põhja- kui ka läänepoolne vundament. Täitepinnas oli selle hoone siseküljel leiurikkam kui ülejäänud uuringualal. Hoone 3 oli samuti ehitatud tellistest. Avatud alale ulatus selle põhja-, lõuna- ja läänessein, viimane oli säilinud kõige terviklikumalt. Läänesein

oli vaadeldav 2,6 meetri pikkuselt ja selle keskel paiknes 83 cm laiune avaus, tõenäoliselt ukseava. Seinte siseküljel oli paiguti säilinud krohvi. Ruumi põhjaosast kaevati välja mõnekümne sentimeetri paksune lubjakiht, arvatavasti omaaegne põrand. Hoone lõuna- ja põhjasein oli välisküljelt toetatud kividega. Müüride puhastamisel leiti vaid üks fajanssnõu katke ja glasuuritud punase savinõu kild.

Tööde käigus koguti 118 leidu. Arvukaim leiurühm on savinõukillud, neist enamik glasuuritud punaste savinõude, sh kolmjalgnõude katked (jn 3: 1), kuid esines ka lihtkedrakeraamikad (jn 3: 4–5) ja üksikuid kivikeraamika kilde (jn 3: 2). Enamik savinõukildudest on varauusaegsed, erandiks üks Siegburgi kivikeraamika katke. Kümmele glasuuritud ahjukahli tükki (jn 3: 3) pärinevad 17.–18. sajandist. Suhteliselt arvukalt saadi valgete savipiipude tükke, sh kaks kaha. Liiliatega ja barokse taimornamendiga kaunistatud varretükid ja Joonase-tüüpi kaha ja kalaga varretükk (jn 4: 3–4) on Madalmaades 17. sajandil valmistatud piipude katked. Üks väike lehtrikujuline piibukaha on samuti Madalmaade toodang, kuid selle valmistusaeg võib ulatuda ka 18. sajandi algusesse. Muudest leidudest on märkimisväärsed tinast aknaraami katke, metallanuma jalg (jn 4: 2), pühakujutisega klaasikild (jn 4: 1) ja üks keraamiline plaat. Viimasel on peal tootja nimi „Бергенгеймъ“ (jn 5), mis osutab, et see on tehtud parun Edward Ferdinand Bergenheimile kuulunud tehases Harkivis (tänapäeva Ukrainas) millalgi vahemikus 1877/1878 kuni 1917.

Arvestades kogutud leide, müürijäänuste stratigraafiat ning ehituses kasutatud telliste mõõte, võib oletada, et väljakaevatud hooned on kõik või vähemalt enamikul juhtudel rajatud varauusajal ja need ei ole samaaegsed. Tartu ajaloolistel kaartidel on uurimisala – mis paikneb otse praeguse Tartu Ülikooli peahoone põhja- ja kirdeküljel, endise Maarja kiriku vahetus läheduses – kujutatud alates 1630. aastatest. Enamasti on linnaplaanidel esile toodud vaid Maarja

kirik. Erandiks on ilmselt 1640. aastatel valminud linnaplaan, millel on välja toodud ka krundiomanike nimed, mis võib kaudselt viidata, et piirkond oli hoonestatud. Hooneid endid on esitatud ainult mõnel 1760. aastatest pärineval kaardil. Ajalooliste ja tänapäevaste linnaplaanide georefereerimine osutab, et kõik kolm välja kaevatud hoonejäänust vastavad üldjoontes kolmele 1767. aasta linnaplaanil kujutatud hoonele (jn 6). Arvestades laiemalt Tartu linna ajalugu, sh hävinguid sõdades ja tulekahjudes, võib oletada uuringute käigus paljandunud hoonete ehitusaegadena 17. sajandi keskpaika või teist poolt ning Põhjasõja-järgset perioodi 18. sajandil. 1775. aastal

pärast suurt tulekahju tehtud linnakaardil on hooned markeeritud punktiiriga, mis ilmselt osutab, et hooned olid varemetes. 1780. aastal koostatud plaanil on alles vaid üks hoone, mis paiknes hilisema Tartu ülikooli peahoone kirdenurgas ja võiks vastata hoonele 2. 1818. aastal Johann Wilhelm Krause koostatud plaanil, mis kujutab Tartu ülikooli peahoone rajamise aega 1803. aastal, on uurimisala ehitisteta ning märgitud hoopis Komandandi väljakuna. Nii võib arvata, et 2024. aastal uuritud hooned hävisid valdavalt 1775. aasta tulekahjus ning 19. sajandi alguseks olid nad lammutatud ja ala tasandatud.