Editor's Preface

Historical archaeology's origins are connected to sites and studies that supported the interpretation and presentation of mainstream history. As the discipline has grown, it has recognized its ability to cast light on peoples previously left in history's shadows. The study of the disenfranchised, of minorities, of the economically repressed, of immigrants, of sects, and of Others in every form has demonstrated historical archaeology's ability to discover, recover, and interpret peoples, places, and cultures that history forgot. As the field has recognized this ability to bring recognition to the forgotten (or perhaps more correctly, the ignored) past, archaeologists have also come to realize their ability to link the past with the present through the recognition and revitalization of history's neglected. "Archaeologies of Engagement, Representation, and Identity" provides a series of insightful presentations that explore activist archaeology and applied anthropology, and the making of meaningful connections between artifacts from the earth and living communities. In preparing this thematic issue of *Historical Archaeology*, Paul Shackel and David Gadsby have sought case studies from archaeologists in the field, in the museum, and in the public forum that illustrate the ways in which historical archaeologists can integrate themselves and their efforts with living communities, as well as ways in which archaeologists and descendants can share

in the creation of new histories and the recrafting of cultural and community identities. The papers in this volume speak to a broad span of the disenfranchised, both on cultural and temporal planes, ranging from Native Americans of the Virginia coast seeking to separate their history and identity from that of the English at Jamestown, to the archaeology of the homeless in modern times. These papers speak to a variety of ways in which archaeologists and descendant communities interact: in associations, in the creation of museum programs, in field excavations, and in outreach and presentation. In addition, these papers speak to the conflicts that can arise between archaeology's interpretation of the past and descendants' own beliefs of history. Paul Shackel and David Gadsby provide an important volume that offers examples of a new stream within our field, an engaged historical archaeology. Paul Shackel and David Gadsby provide an important volume that offers examples of a new stream within our field, an engaged historical archaeology. During the copy-edit and review process, it also became clear that historical archaeologists working in community settings view their work as personal. I have thus relaxed *Historical Archaeology's* restriction on the use of first person to allow the authors in this thematic volume to speak in their own voices. I hope that this issue provides all of us with the motivation to make our own studies of the past meaningful and current for the present.

J. W. Joseph
Editor, *Historical Archaeology*