

**CURRENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL
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VOLUME EIGHT**

**Edited
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Cover: WPA Crew at the Ward Site (Courtesy of the W. S. Webb Museum of Anthropology).

PREFACE

Since its creation in 1966, the Kentucky Heritage Council has taken the lead in preserving and protecting Kentucky's cultural resources. To accomplish its legislative charge, the Heritage Council maintains three program areas: Site Development, Site Identification, and Site Protection and Archaeology. Site Development administers the state and federal Main Street programs, providing technical assistance in downtown revitalization to communities throughout the state. It also runs the Certified Local Government, Investment Tax Credit, and Restoration Grants-in-Aid programs.

The Site Identification staff maintains the inventory of historic buildings and is responsible for working with a Review Board, composed of professional historians, historic architects, archaeologists, and others interested in historic preservation, to nominate sites to the National Register of Historic Places. This program also is actively working to promote rural preservation and to protect Civil War sites.

The Site Protection and Archaeology Program staff works with a variety of federal and state agencies, local governments, and individuals to assist in their compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and to ensure that potential impacts to significant cultural resources are adequately addressed prior to the implementation of federally funded or licensed projects. They also are responsible for administering the Heritage Council's archaeological programs, which include the agency's state and federal archaeological grants; organizing this conference, including the editing and publication of selected papers; and the dissemination of educational materials, such as the Kentucky Before Boone poster. On occasion, the Site Protection and Archaeology Program staff undertakes field and research projects, such as emergency data recovery at threatened sites.

The Site Protection Program Manager also is the Director of the Kentucky Archaeological Survey, which is jointly administered by the Kentucky Heritage Council and the University of Kentucky Department of Anthropology. Its mission is to provide a service to other state agencies, to work with private landowners to protect archaeological sites, and to educate the public about Kentucky's rich archaeological heritage.

This volume contains papers presented at the Seventeenth Annual Kentucky Heritage Council Archaeological Conference. The conference was held at Western Kentucky University, in Bowling Green, Kentucky on March 26-27, 2000. Dr. Darlene Applegate was in charge of conference details and local arrangements for this conference. Her efforts are greatly appreciated. Heritage Council staff that assisted with conference proceedings included Site Protection Program Manager Thomas N. Sanders, as well as Staff Archaeologist Charles D. Hockensmith.

I would like to thank everyone who has participated in the Heritage Council archaeological conferences. Without your support, these conferences would not have been as successful as they have been.

David Pollack
Site Protection Program Manager
Kentucky Heritage Council

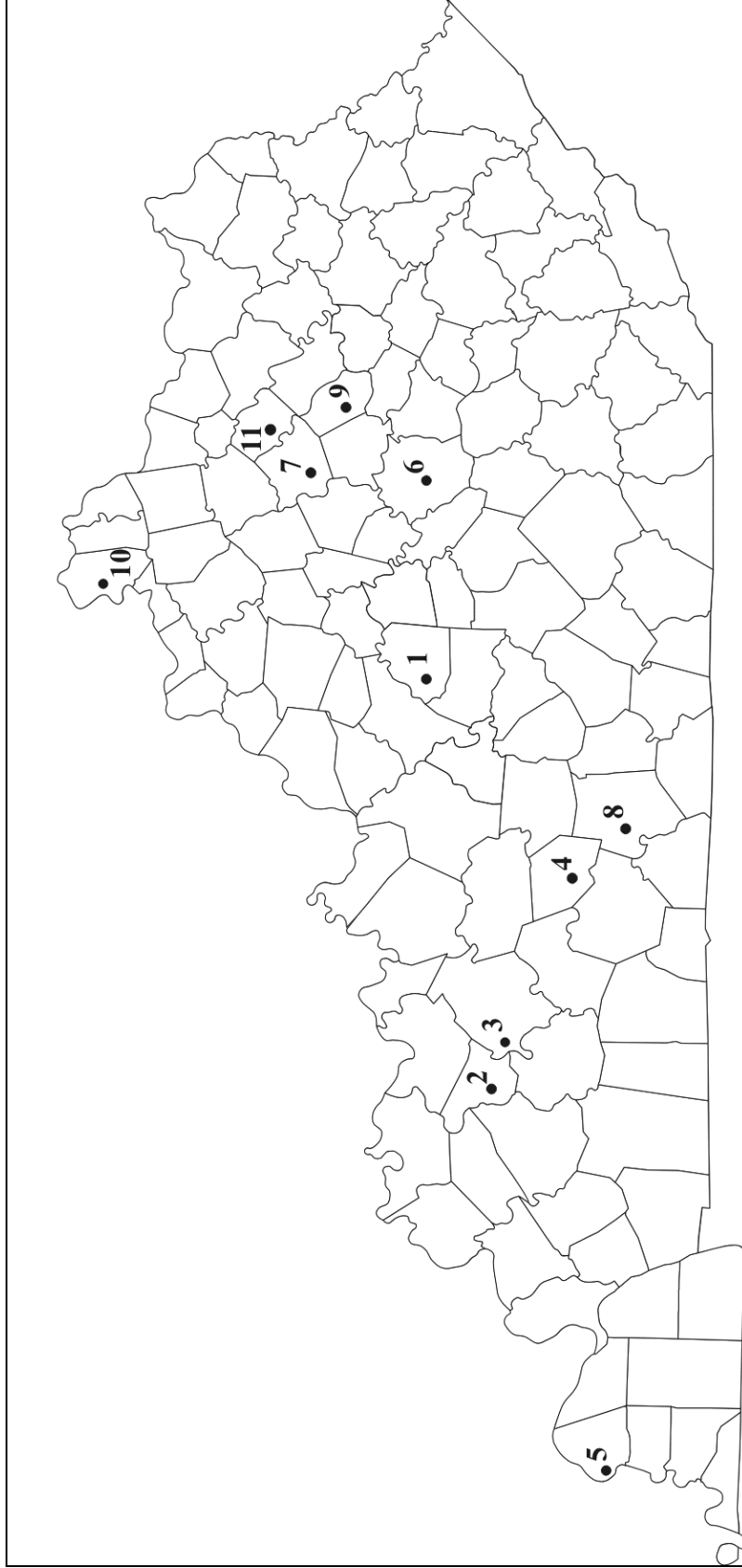


Figure 1. Location of Major Sites and Project Areas in this volume: 1, Upper Rolling Fork and Beech Fork Drainages; 2, Cypress Creek Drainage; 3, Indian Knoll, Ward, and Barrett; 4, Short Cave; 5, Wickcliffe Mound; 6, Broadus; 7, McConnell's Homestead; 8, Bell's Tavern; 9, 15Mm137; 10, Maplewood; 11, Neal-Rice.

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HISTORY SET IN STONE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH AT BELL'S TAVERN, BARREN COUNTY, KENTUCKY

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ABSTRACT

Bell's Tavern was constructed in the 1820s and burned in the 1850s. Efforts to rebuild the tavern in the 1860s were not successful and the site is now an historical park. The Kentucky Archaeological Survey's investigation of the Bell's Tavern site (15Bn109) resulted in the identification of several mid-nineteenth century outbuildings and features associated with the original tavern and demarcated the boundaries of the historic cemetery located within the park's boundaries.

INTRODUCTION

Bell's Tavern (15Bn109) is a 2 ha (five acre) historical park located in Park City, Kentucky near Mammoth Cave National Park. The site consists of an incomplete stone structure, three wells, a historic cemetery, and a stone-lined vault for an icehouse (Figures 1 and 2). These remains serve as a reminder of the prosperity that once existed at the site of Bell's Tavern in the early to mid-1800s. A devastating fire ended that prosperity and the Civil War destroyed any hopes of rebuilding it. The archaeological resources associated with this site, however, have the potential to contribute to our understanding of the Tavern's history and in so doing restore its prominence as an important place in Park City.

At the request of the Bell's Tavern Historical Park Commission and the City of Park City, the Kentucky Archaeological Survey conducted an archaeological survey and limited excavations at Bell's Tavern. The purpose of these investigations was to locate buildings that were associated with the tavern and intact early to mid-nineteenth century archaeological deposits. Previously known structures consisted of the original tavern, slave quarters, and kitchen. The survey identified these structures and defined the boundaries of a historic cemetery. During the course of this study 455 screened shovel probes, a 1 x 2 m unit, and three backhoe trenches were excavated within the boundaries of Bell's Tavern Historic Park.

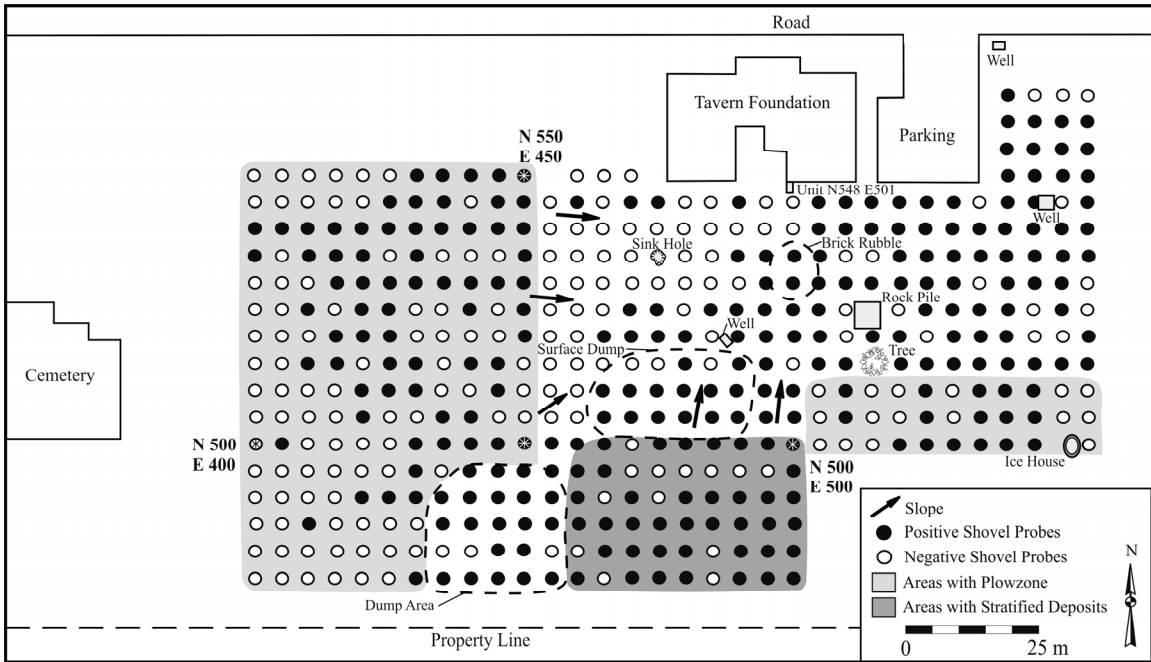


Figure 1. Site Map.



Figure 2. Bell's Tavern Ruins.

The 2,521 artifacts recovered from the site date from the early 1800s to the late 1900s. Based on an examination of artifact distribution maps generated from the shovel probe data, a number of potential areas for the location of the outbuildings and the original tavern were identified. Intact strata and features associated with the destruction of the original tavern and the construction of the second incomplete tavern were documented in a test unit. Backhoe trenches were used to redefine the boundaries of the cemetery. Three sides of the cemetery were mapped; the fourth side was located outside of the project area on private property.

In this paper we provide a description of the site's history, the archaeological field methods used, and a spatial analysis of the architectural artifacts recovered from the shovel probes. The stratigraphic profile documented in the test unit and associated features are then described and interpreted.

HISTORY

William Bell built a wood and brick tavern in the 1820s on part of his large plantation. He erected the tavern along the main stage route between Louisville and Nashville (present day U.S. 31W). One source states: "And it was here that Billy Bell, an aristocratic Virginian with an eye for business, decided to build a tavern. He bought a plantation of some thirty-five hundred acres, and with the aid of slave labor built a large brick inn on the grassy plot near the crossing (Mansfield 1945:3)." The advantageous location allowed the tavern to grow as an important relay station along the network roads leading to Louisville, Nashville, Glasgow, and Mammoth Cave. The town that grew around the tavern became known as Three Forks (Smith, M.T., n.d.). Bell's Tavern became one of the most popular taverns in the United States as Bell entertained many nineteenth-century guests with his hospitality and famous peach brandy (Bridwell 1952:32-33).

William Bell died in 1833 leaving the property to his son and daughter in law, Robert and Marie Gorin. They kept the tavern operating until Robert died in 1853. Robert left the tavern to Maria, who later remarried Major George Proctor (Barren County 1853:339). Major Proctor and Marie successfully managed the tavern and entertained tourists visiting Mammoth Cave. Plans were in place to improve the tavern in advance of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad construction (Moss 1857); however, the tavern burned to the ground in 1858 before any improvements began.

The Proctors immediately wanted to rebuild the famous tavern after the fire. In 1860, slaves started the construction on a more elaborate stone tavern. When the Civil War began, construction was halted again (Bridwell 1952; Mansfield 1945; Thomas 1957). The massive incomplete stonewalls of the tavern served as a landmark for both Union and Confederate soldiers throughout the war. The site became an important strategic point given its proximity to the L & N Railroad. Despite the fact that armies from both sides were stationed near the tavern, no battles or skirmishes took place at the site (Official Record, series 1 vol. 6 [S#23];

vol. 7 [S#7]; vol.4 [S#4], and vol. 23 [S#34]). For example, John Hunt Morgan and his men camped near the unfinished tavern.

Maria Proctor died in 1865 before the end of the war. George Proctor never was able to complete the tavern, though he is credited with developing much of the small town of Three Forks. Later, due to its reliance on the railroad, the town became known as Glasgow Junction. By the 1880s the town was capitalizing on the popularity of nearby Mammoth Cave. The Mammoth Cave Railroad was constructed in town to transport tourists to the cave (Bridwell 1952). Eventually, the town was renamed Park City when Mammoth Cave became a National Park. The tavern remains a stone ruin and the source of many local legends.

EXCAVATIONS

SHOVEL PROBES

During the course of fieldwork, 455 shovel probes were excavated (Figure 1). Examination of the shovel probe profiles indicated that site clearing and dumping activities had disturbed much of the property. However, a large area around the existing tavern walls and in the eastern half of the park was determined to contain intact nineteenth century deposits.

CEMETERY

A nineteenth-century cemetery is located at the western edge of the project area (Figure 1). The cemetery contains 21 intact and broken stone grave markers (Figure 3). Of these, 15 are inscribed with the Bell, Gardner, Proctor, Peticord, Souther, or Whitney family names. The identity of the unmarked graves could not be determined.

Three backhoe trenches were used to determine the boundaries of the cemetery (Figure 3). The trenches were placed near a tree line surrounding the cemetery. No grave shafts or artifacts were uncovered in this area, suggesting that the cemetery was confined within the tree line. The fourth side of the cemetery could not be investigated because it was located on private property.

SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF ARTIFACTS

Artifacts recovered from the site were assigned to one of the following functional groups: activities, architecture, arms, clothing, entertainment, faunal, furniture, kitchen, miscellaneous, personal, and prehistoric (Ball 1984; South 1977). Slightly more than 50 percent of the artifacts were assigned to the kitchen group and 27 percent were assigned to

the architecture group, with the remaining artifacts being assigned to one of the other nine functional groups (Table 1). In an attempt to locate the remains of demolished structures, the spatial distribution of architecture and burned artifacts recovered from shovel probes was examined. Since Bell's tavern had been used as a modern dump site, kitchen related materials occurred across most of the site, and thus the distribution of these materials would not be a good indicator nineteenth century activity areas.

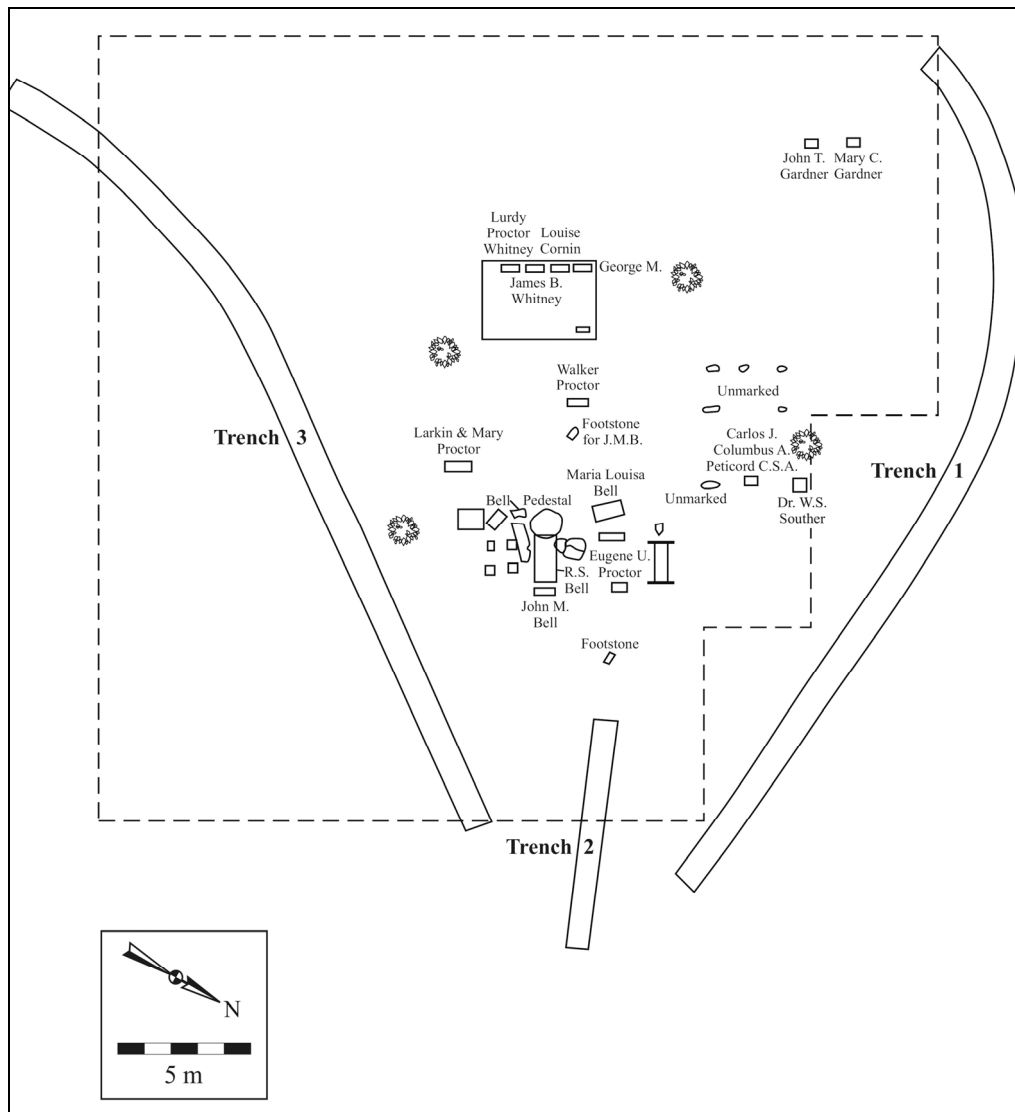


Figure 3. Map of the Cemetery.

Examination of the spatial distribution of architectural artifacts led to the identification of five concentrations, which were primarily located in the eastern half of the site (Figure 4). The northeast corner of the project area contained the highest concentration of architectural artifacts (C-1), mostly burned nails and mortar. Four smaller clusters were identified: C-2 south of the parking lot and east of the icehouse; C-3 southeast of the tavern

foundation; C-4 south of the tavern foundation; and C-5 in the western half of the site near the modern dump. Except for C-5, these concentrations, correspond to high frequencies of brick fragments and stone observed in the shovel probes throughout the eastern half of the site.

Table 1. Functional Groups.

Functional Group	Count	Percent
Activities	60	2.3
Architecture	677	27.0
Arms	30	1.2
Clothing	3	0.1
Entertainment	4	0.1
Faunal	231	9.1
Furniture	46	1.8
Kitchen	1,285	51.0
Miscellaneous	169	6.7
Personal	2	0.1
Prehistoric	14	0.6
Total	2,521	100.0

The architecture artifact distributions indicate that at least two previously standing buildings were located in the eastern half of the site (Figure 4, C.1 and C.2). To further understand these possible building locations, the distribution of specific architecture-related artifacts, specifically nails and window glass, was examined.

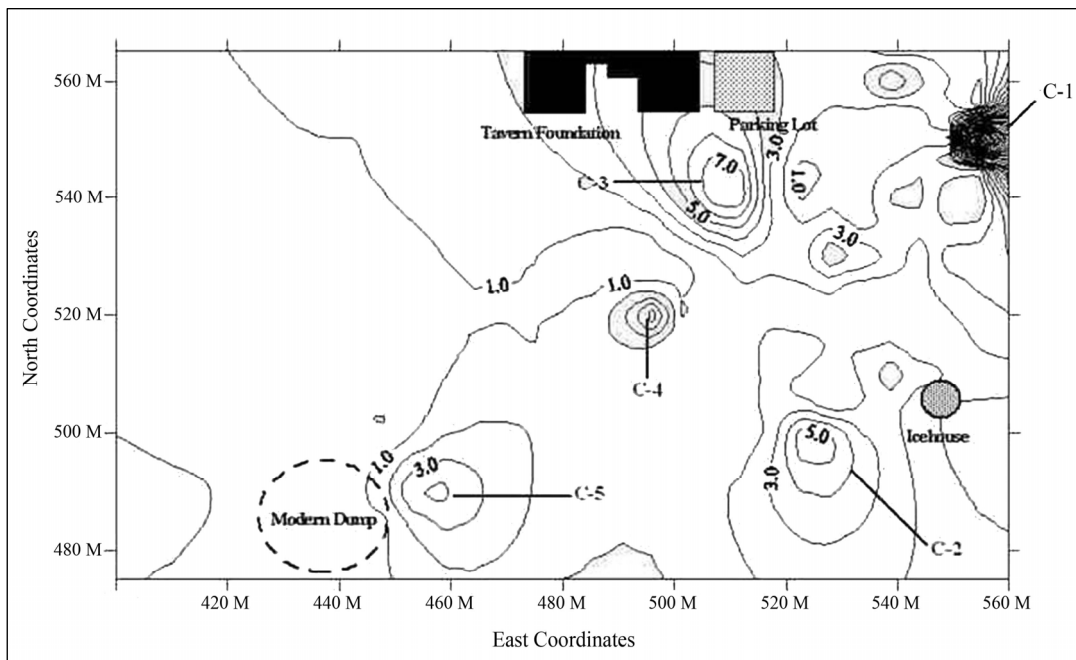


Figure 4. Distribution of Architecture Group Artifacts.

The distribution of machine cut nails illustrates that most nails were associated with the artifact concentration in the northeast corner of the site (C-1) (Figure 5). Smaller clusters of machine cut nails were located to the west of the icehouse (C-2), to the south of the tavern foundation (C-3 and C-4), and near the modern dump (C-5). These clusters correspond to those identified on the distribution map of architectural artifacts (Figure 4).

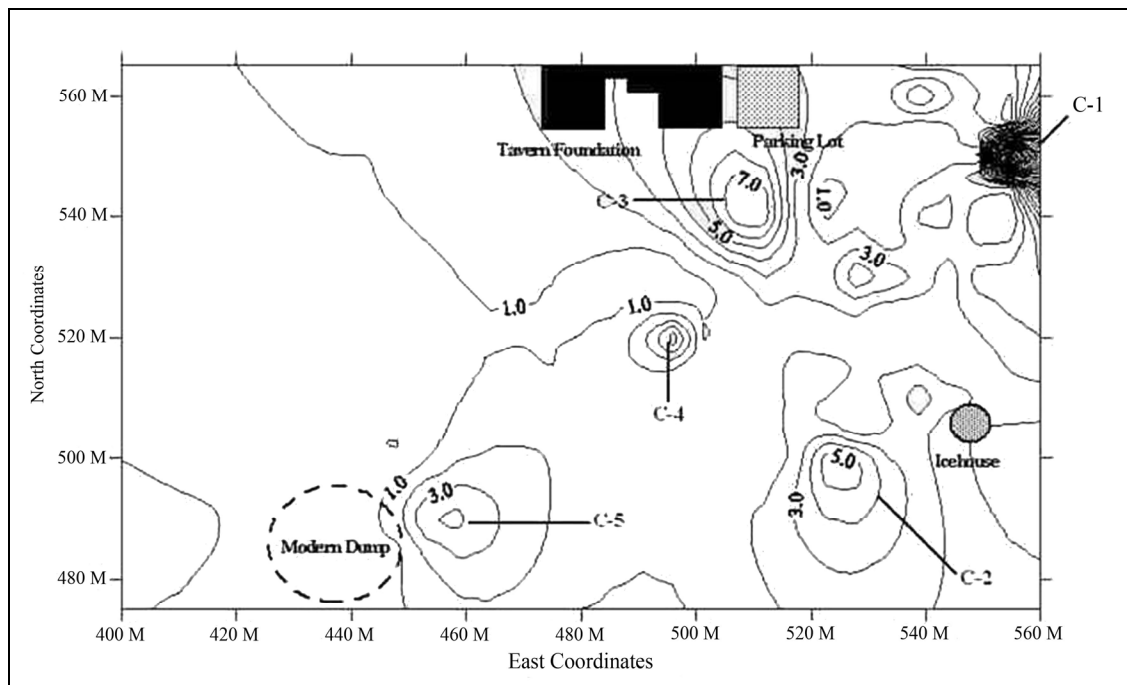


Figure 5. Distribution of Machine Cut Nails.

Figure 6 depicts the distribution of wire nails recovered from shovel probes. Most were concentrated to the west of the icehouse area (C-2) and in the northeast corner of the site (C-1). Lesser concentrations of wire nails were found in the western half of the site and to the east of the modern dump in an area with intact deposits (Figure 6).

The machine cut nail distributions indicate that the clusters in the northeast corner of the project area and near the icehouse probably represent the remains of structures constructed prior to the 1880s. However, the clusters of wire nails that correspond to these same buildings suggest that at least one of these structures was repaired or modified after 1880. This also may be the situation for the building located near the modern dump. It is also possible that some of these wire nails are associated with the dump, if architectural debris was discarded there.

The buildings represented by the artifact concentrations could be remnants of outbuildings, such as a detached kitchen, smoke house, slave house, icehouse, or stables. A tavern, like a domestic site, would have needed such buildings to support the business.

According to the historical documentation of the site, it is known that a kitchen and at least four slave houses were located on or near the tavern (Moss 1857). It is not known whether the kitchen was detached or attached to the tavern. The presence of the cylindrical stone-lined vault in this area provides evidence that an icehouse was at least one of the outbuildings associated with the tavern.

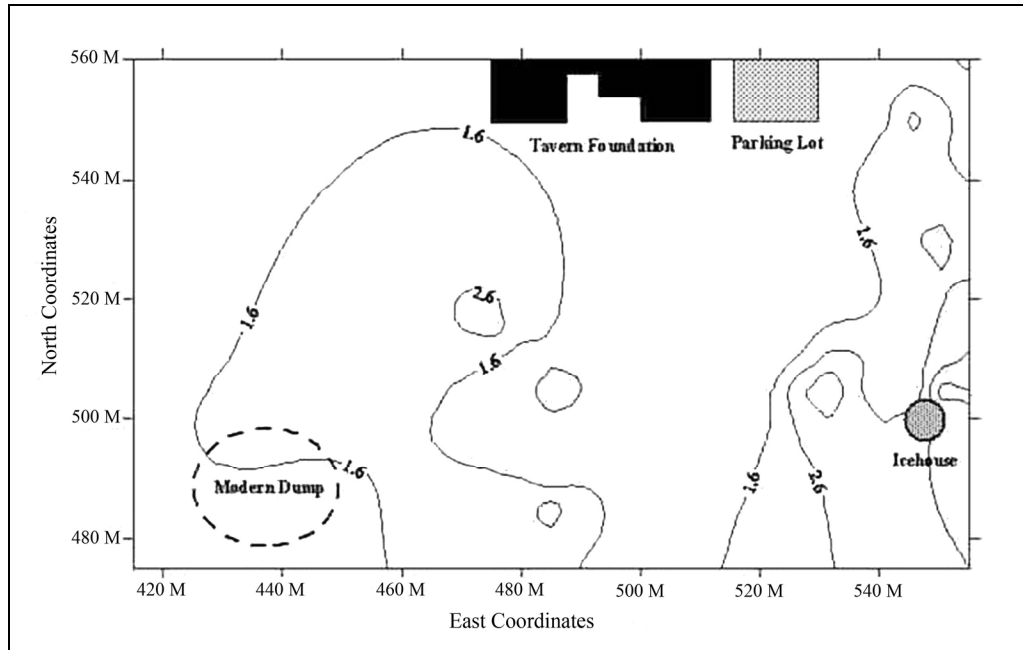


Figure 6. Distribution of Wire Nails.

The distribution of window glass was examined to determine the possible functions of these buildings. Window glass is distributed in low frequencies across the site, except in two locations (Figure 7). One concentration is situated near the modern dump and the other is located near the southeastern corner of the tavern foundation. Both correspond to concentrations of the machine cut nails. This indicates that these buildings were likely associated with a domestic function rather than an agricultural function, as smokehouses or icehouses rarely contain windows. The two concentrations of window glass and associated nails could represent the remains of a kitchen or slave house.

It is also possible that some of the architectural artifacts may represent debris from the tavern that burned in 1858. According to oral tradition, the second tavern was built on the site of the original tavern. However, it has been suggested that the original tavern was located further to the east of the existing tavern foundation near the northeastern corner of the property. That area corresponds to artifact concentration C-1 (Figure 4). Since the original tavern was constructed in the 1820s, its wooden elements were most likely built with machine cut nails. In addition to machine cut nails, several large foundation stones were noted right beneath the gravel in the parking lot located to the east of the tavern ruins. As with the nails, these stones also may have been associated with the original tavern.

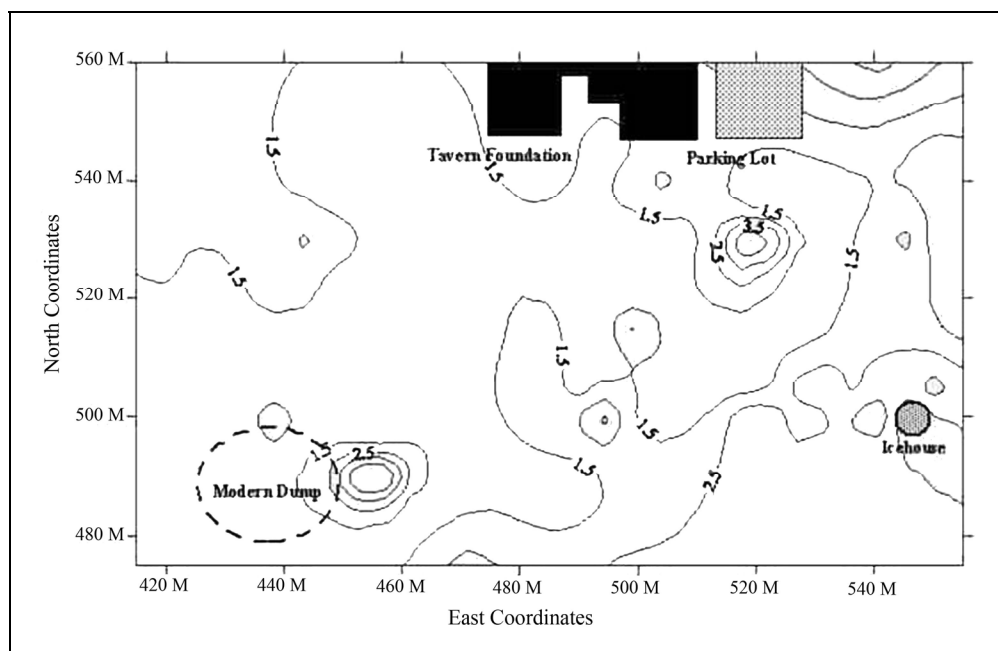


Figure 7. Distribution of Window Glass.

The distribution of burned artifacts was examined to locate the remains of the original tavern burned in 1858 (Figure 8). Most of the burned artifacts are concentrated in the northeast corner of the site and in an area south of the existing tavern ruins. There were smaller concentrations located near the southeastern corner of the tavern foundation and near the icehouse. This distribution, along with the other artifact distributions, indicates that the northeast corner of the site may have contained at least a portion of the original tavern.

While no building foundations or architectural features were identified in any of the shovel probes, concentrations of architecture-related artifacts indicated that several buildings could have been located at the site. As many as three buildings could be represented by concentrations of building remains located in the eastern half of the site. One of these buildings was the icehouse for which a stone vault still exists. The others are possibly a kitchen or slave houses. Much of the building remains identified were probably associated with the original tavern, which was most likely located in the northeastern portion of the site encompassing the existing parking lot. Another outbuilding could be associated with intact deposits near the modern dump. However, it is difficult to determine whether architectural artifact concentrations in that area are associated with materials in the dump, or building remains disturbed by the dump.

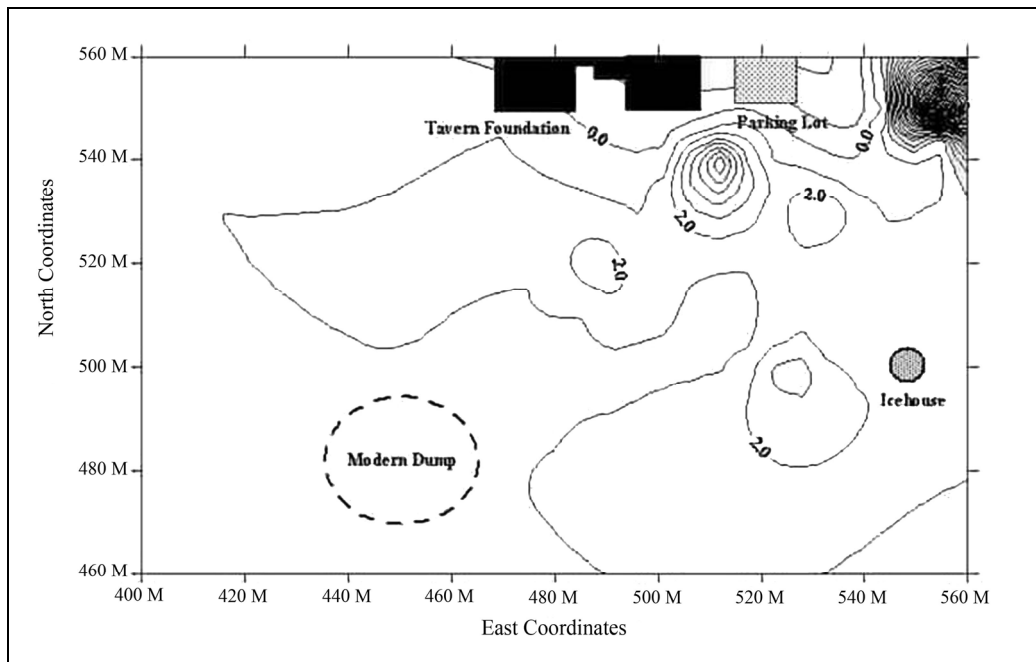


Figure 8. Distribution of Burned Artifacts.

UNIT

To further investigate the intact tavern wall, a 1 x 2 m unit (N548 E501) was excavated adjacent to it (Figure 1). Stratified deposits and intact features were found in this unit. Features consisted of a builder's trench, an ash and charcoal pit, and a possible robber's trench (Figures 9 and 10). The profile contained dark brown topsoil followed by mottled red clay, mottled brown silt clay, and red clay subsoil. These intact deposits and features will be interpreted further in the discussion section of this paper. Each deposit or portion of a deposit and each feature was assigned a unique context number. The following descriptions and analysis refer to these context numbers.

TOPSOIL

The topsoil was a 4 to 8 cm thick dark brown silt loam (Context 462) (Figure 10). It contained 377 artifacts, consisting mostly of twentieth century objects, such as beverage container glass fragments, .22 caliber shell casings, and a variety of unidentified plastic. However, some nineteenth-century artifacts also were found in this layer, such as an applied bottle lip, transfer printed whiteware (n=2), and machine cut nails (n=2). Most (85 percent) of the topsoil artifacts consisted of twentieth century kitchen related objects, with the next most common artifacts (8 percent) being shell casings. The remaining groups were minimally represented and included architecture (4 percent), furniture (2 percent), and activities (1 percent). No faunal remains were recovered from the topsoil layer. Based on the functional group analysis, the activities associated with the deposition of the topsoil

consisted primarily of refuse disposal during the mid- to late-twentieth-century when the site was overgrown and used as a dump and for target shooting.

BUILDER'S TRENCH

A builder's trench (Contexts 463, 465, and 470) associated with the construction of the existing tavern foundation was documented immediately below the topsoil. Following the construction of the tavern wall, the trench was filled with a mottled red clay that extended to various depths within the unit. This fill was divided into three contexts, which are described and interpreted below.

Context 463 consists of the 8 to 12 cm thick upper portion of the mottled red clay builder's trench fill. This portion of the builder's trench fill most likely represents excess soil spilled over from the filling of the trench. Context 463 contained considerably fewer artifacts (n=104) than the topsoil. Most were clear bottle glass fragments (n=25) and window glass fragments (n=23). Other artifacts included machine cut (n=6) and wire (n=1) nails, green tinted container glass (n=3), transfer printed pearlware (n=9), undecorated whiteware (n=1), unidentified transfer printed ceramics (n=1), and porcelain (n=3).

Kitchen group artifacts comprised slightly more than one-third of the materials from this context (37 percent), closely followed by the architecture (28 percent) and faunal groups (28 percent). The furniture (6 percent) and activities (1 percent) groups were minimally represented. Several pieces of plastic were noted at this deposit's interface with the topsoil. Although much of the glass probably dates from the late nineteenth-century to the present, many of the other artifacts date exclusively to the nineteenth-century. A mean date of 1821 and a T.P.Q. date of 1877 were acquired for this context (Table 2). However, the mean date is misleading, because most of the later artifacts do not have ending manufacture dates and were not factored into the calculations. The T.P.Q. date is probably a more accurate reflection of when this deposit was formed. Many of the later artifacts were found in close proximity to the interface with the topsoil and may have originated from that deposit.

In the northern portion of the unit, the mottled red clay builder's trench fill continued, although it had ended elsewhere in the unit (Figure 10). This portion of the builder's trench fill was excavated as Context 465. At this point, the builder's trench fill began to taper with depth towards the foundation and remained a consistent mottled red clay until 45 cm below the surface when it became mottled with dark brown silt loam.

Most of the 72 artifacts associated with this context were body fragments of a black glass bottle (n=48). Other artifacts included clear glass (n=6), blue tinted glass (n=3), hand painted pearlware (n=1), transfer printed pearlware (n=1), undecorated pearlware (n=3), undecorated porcelain (n=1), a machine cut nail, window glass (n=2), and animal bone (n=4). These artifacts represented only three functional groups, with the kitchen group comprising the majority (87 percent) of the assemblage. The architecture group (7 percent) and the faunal group (6 percent) comprised the remainder. A mean date of 1818 and a T.P.Q. date of 1800 was calculated from the diagnostic artifacts recovered from this deposit (Table 2).

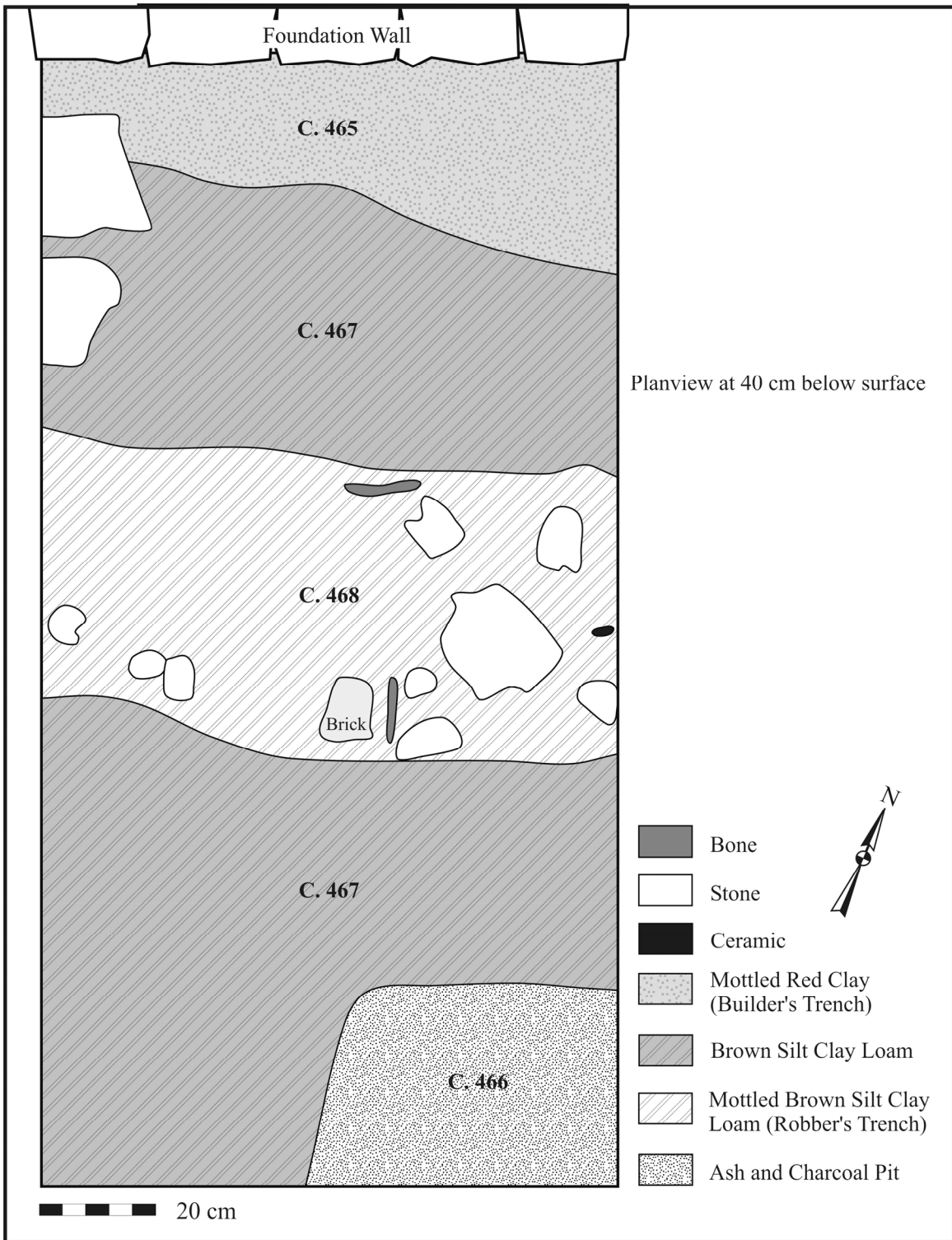


Figure 9. Planview of Test Unit.

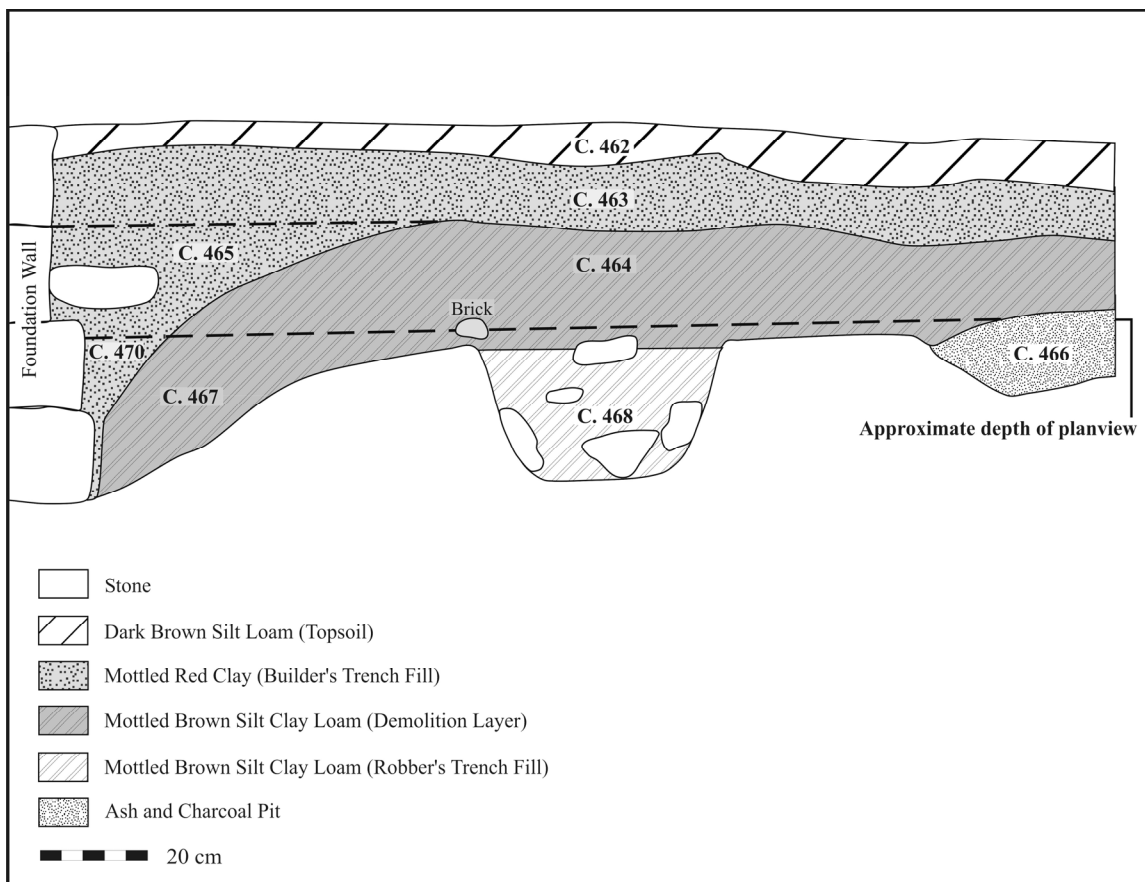


Figure 10. East Wall Profile of Test Unit.

The builder's trench fill became mottled with darker soil at a depth of 45 cm below the surface. This portion of the builder's trench was excavated as Context 470. At this point, the initial excavation of the builder's trench probably disturbed an existing darker soil layer, which was mixed with the fill soil when the feature was backfilled. The builder's trench continued to taper until a depth of 67 cm below the surface where it was only 5 cm wide. It is likely that the lowest portions of the foundation walls were constructed directly against the walls of the trench with little or no unoccupied space remaining in the trench.

Only 15 artifacts were recovered from Context 470. They consisted of undecorated creamware (n=1), undecorated pearlware (n=1), transfer printed pearlware (n=2), undecorated porcelain (n=1), machine cut nails (n=2), a fragment of unidentified metal, window glass fragments (n=2), clear container glass (n=1), and animal bone (n=4). As with the upper portion of the builder's trench fill, only three functional groups were represented: kitchen (40 percent), architecture (33 percent), and faunal (27 percent). A mean date of 1814 and a T.P.Q. date of 1800 were calculated from the diagnostic artifacts recovered from this portion of the builder's trench (Table 2).

Table 2. Diagnostic Artifacts for Builder's Trench Contexts.

Context	Artifact	n=	Date Range	Mean	TPQ	Reference
463	whiteware-undecorated	1	1830-1870	1850	1830	Smith 1983
	pearlware-transfer print	9	1780-1830	1805	1780	South 1977
	machine cut nails	6	1800-1880	1840	1800	Nelson 1968
	wire nail	1	1877-P	*	1877	Loveday 1983
	Total	17	1780-P	1821	1877	
465	pearlware-undecorated	3	1780-1830	1805	1780	South 1977
	pearlware-handpainted	1	1780-1830	1805	1780	South 1977
	pearlware-transfer print.	1	1780-1830	1805	1780	South 1977
	machine cut nails	3	1780-1880	1818	1800	Nelson 1968
	Total	8				
470	pearlware-undecorated	1	1780-1830	1805	1780	South 1977
	pearlware-transfer print	2	1780-1830	1805	1780	South 1977
	creamware-undecorated	1	1762-1820	1791	1762	South 1977
	machine cut nails	2	1800-1880	1840	1800	Nelson 1968
	Total	6	1762-1880	1814	1800	
All	Total	31	1762-1880	1819	1877	

*Diagnostic artifacts with no ending dates were not used in the calculation of the mean date.

DEMOLITION LAYER AND ROBBER'S TRENCH

Beneath the upper zone of the builder's trench fill (Context 463), a 12 to 22 cm thick demolition layer (Contexts 464 and 467) that consisted of mottled dark brown silt clay loam with brick, mortar, and charcoal inclusions was identified (Figure 10). This layer was first encountered in the southern half of the unit and was partially excavated as Context 464. In the northern portion of the unit, at a depth of 40 cm below the surface, Context 464 was arbitrarily subdivided, with the lower portion of the deposit excavated as Context 467. It is unclear why this deposit dips, but it may be associated with the construction of the foundation and the filling of the builder's trench. Since Contexts 464 and 467 yielded similar types of artifacts they are discussed together in this section. The demolition layer contained significantly more artifacts (n=328) than the soil associated with the builder's trench. Artifacts recovered from this layer, include ceramics (n=74), container glass (n=58), window glass (n=67), nails and unidentified metal (n=54), and animal bone (n=75).

Most of the artifacts represented the kitchen (37 percent) and architecture (36 percent) functional groups. The faunal group comprised 22 percent of the materials, while the furniture (4 percent) and activities (1 percent) groups were minimally represented. A mean date of 1840 and a T.P.Q. date of 1830 were calculated for these materials (Table 3). This was probably the most accurate date attained from all of the contexts due to the high number of diagnostic artifacts present. Based on the high density of domestic refuse and architectural artifacts, the deposit represented by Contexts 464 and 467 was most likely a

demolition layer contemporaneous with the destruction of the original tavern in 1858. Demolition of the original tavern probably disturbed early to mid-1800s topsoil/midden deposits.

Directly below the demolition layer, a trench-like feature (Context 468) was found in the center of the unit (Figure 9). This trench paralleled the builder's trench and the existing tavern foundation. It may represent the former location of a foundation, with the foundation stones having been removed and the resulting void filled with soil and artifacts. Such a feature is often referred to as a robber's trench. The fill removed from this trench consisted of a mottled dark brown silt clay loam that was nearly identical to the dark brown silt clay loam associated with the builder's trench, except that it contained a large amount of limestone rubble and brick fragments. A total of 62 artifacts was recovered from this feature, including undecorated creamware (n=2), undecorated pearlware (n=4), transfer printed pearlware (n=13), hand painted porcelain (n=1), undecorated porcelain (n=5), machine cut nails (n=5), unidentified metal (n=3), clear container glass (n=1), window glass (n=4), and animal bone (n=24). Most of the artifacts represented the kitchen (41 percent) and faunal (39 percent) functional groups. The remaining functional groups represented were the architecture (15 percent) and activities (5 percent) groups. A mean date of 1811 and a T.P.Q. date of 1800 was calculated from the diagnostic artifacts recovered from this deposit (Table 3). These dates are probably inaccurate due to the low frequency of diagnostic artifacts. However, they do indicate that the deposit dates to the nineteenth-century, and most likely the Antebellum period. The artifacts found in the trench fill were comparable to those associated with builder's trench with respect to type and age. However, a much higher percentage of domestic refuse relative to architecture-related artifacts were associated with the robber's trench relative to the builder's trench. After the foundation had been robbed, the trench may have been filled with domestic trash and then sealed by demolition debris mixed with the topsoil.

Table 3. Diagnostic Artifacts from Contexts 464, 467, and 468.

Context	Artifact	n=	Date Range	Mean	TPQ	Reference
464 and 467	creamware-undecorated	1	1762-1820	1791	1762	South 1977
	whiteware-undec	23	1830-1870	1850	1830	Smith 1983
	whiteware-transfer print	6	1830-1860	1845	1830	Price 1979
	pearlware-transfer print	4	1780-1830	1805	1780	South 1977
	pearlware-undecorated	1	1780-1830	1805	1780	South 1977
	machine cut nails	49	1800-1880	1840	1800	Nelson 1968
	Total	84	1762-1880	1840	1830	
468	creamware-undecorated	4	1762-1820	1791	1762	South 1977
	pearlware-undecorated	4	1780-1830	1805	1780	South 1977
	pearlware-transfer print	13	1780-1830	1805	1780	South 1977
	machine cut nails	5	1800-1880	1840	1800	Nelson 1968
	Total	24	1762-1880	1814	1800	

*Diagnostic artifacts with no ending dates were not used in the calculation of the mean date.

PIT FEATURE

A portion of an ash pit (Context 466) was located below the demolition layer in the south end of the unit. It was rather shallow, extending only 15 to 20 cm below the demolition layer and yielded very few artifacts (n=40), mostly blue tinted container glass (n=26). A transfer printed pearlware sherd (n=1) and machine cut nails (n=4) also were found in this feature. This feature predates the demolition layer and was most likely associated with the original tavern or one of its outbuildings.

INTERPRETATION

Based on an examination of the stratigraphy and analysis of the artifacts recovered from the different contexts identified in Unit N548 E501, an interpretation of these deposits can be put forth. The initial deposit was most likely the ash pit, which was filled with refuse in the early 1800s. Unfortunately, only a small portion of this feature was excavated and its function and relationship to either of the original taverns is not known. Following the burning of the original tavern in 1858, the foundation stones were removed and the resulting trench filled with debris. Both the ash pit and robber's trench were then covered with demolition debris.

In 1860, a trench or large hole was excavated for the construction of the second tavern's foundation. Once the foundation was complete, the builder's trench was filled in with a mixture of subsoil and the disturbed demolition layer.

Overlying the builder's trench was a dark brown soil that represents the most recent topsoil at the site. This topsoil formed over the last 140 years since construction on the second tavern was halted.

CONCLUSION

An examination of the spatial distribution of architectural and burned artifacts at the Bell's Tavern site resulted in the identification of the remains of several possible nineteenth century outbuildings. Based on the association of machine cut nails and window glass, some of the outbuildings may have served a domestic function, such as a kitchen or slave quarters. This work also documented that the Bell's Tavern site contains intact features (ash pit) associated with the original tavern, and that the walls of the existing foundation (builder's trench), parallel the footprint of the original foundation (robber's trench). Finally, the boundaries of three sides of the historic cemetery were defined.

This study has demonstrated that the spatial examination of historic artifacts from shovel probes can generate important information on site structure and that the Bell's Tavern site contains significant early to mid-nineteenth century deposits. More intensive investigations of the Bell's Tavern site have the potential to contribute to a variety of

archaeological research topics relating to early tavern lifeways, nineteenth-century stone masonry architecture, slave architecture and lifeways, architectural layout and function of outbuildings, and nineteenth century transportation.

This study will hopefully be used as a planning tool that will help guide the development the Bell's Tavern Historical Park and the protection of the historic cemetery. Consideration also should be given to the site's potential importance as an educational resource. The proximity of the Bell's Tavern site to a school and its good research potential provide an excellent opportunity to engage students in ongoing research related to local history, architecture, and past lifeways.

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