

The Hidden Campus: Archaeological Glimpses of UNC in the Nineteenth Century

by

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A few years before returning to Chapel Hill and my alma mater in 1983, my father gave me a remarkable book by Bill Powell titled *The First State University, A Pictorial History of the University of North Carolina* (UNC Press, 1979). From the very moment I opened it, I was captivated by the drawings and photographs of people and places, and ever since it has provided for me a compelling visual framework of the University's rich heritage. Perhaps what struck me the most, however, was how the campus I knew firsthand as a student in the early 1970s was only part of the one revealed in the book. I discovered a campus and a university that before the early twentieth century was largely unfamiliar to me.



Cameron Avenue



Polk Annex to Eagle Hotel



Commons Hall



McCorkle Place (University Inn Annex at left)

Upon my return to UNC, I began comparing the photographs in Powell's book to the modern campus landscape, trying to make sense of those photos that showed no obvious, familiar landmarks. Gradually, I was able to visualize where buildings such as the Eagle Hotel, Steward's Hall, the first Memorial Hall, and the first President's house once stood and how they had contributed to the overall visual character of the early campus.

An appreciation for less heralded buildings such as the Poor House and Commons Hall would come later. Over the past 30 years, I think the broader understanding I've gained from this exercise is that each student's Carolina experience, from Hinton James in 1795 to today's incoming freshman, is unique, shaped as much by the physical place as by curriculum, instruction, and social interactions. Landscape, particularly the built environment, matters in defining one's place at the university.

A Brief Historical Overview

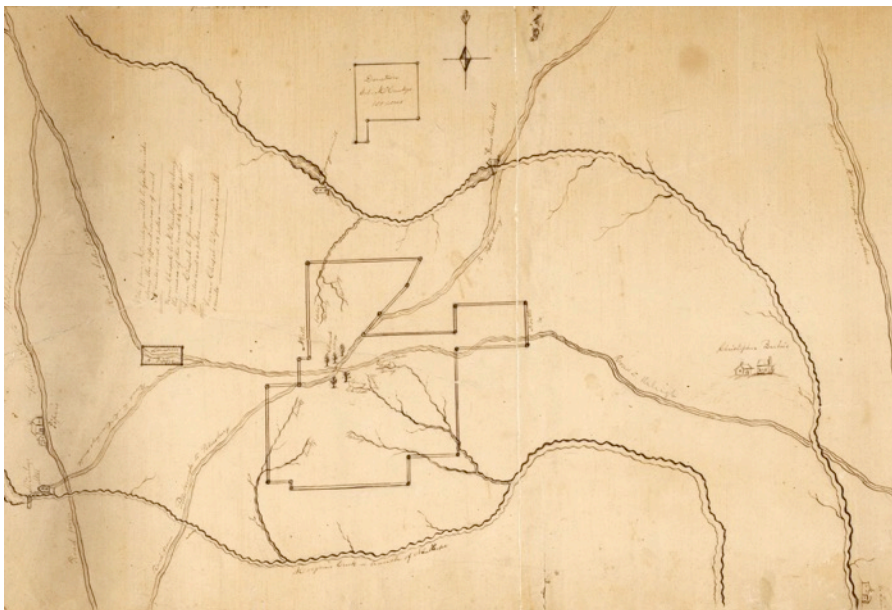


Figure 1: Map by John Daniel showing land donated to the University in 1792.

As most of you well know, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is the nation's oldest public supported institution of higher learning. Chartered in 1789, the decision by the University's trustees to place the campus at

"New Hope
Chapel hill" in
southern

Orange County was made in 1792 after local citizens there offered to donate 1,290 acres of land and £768 toward the endeavor. This generosity was fueled in part by self-interest, as these citizens saw economic advantages in having the university here. For additional financial support, the new state legislature created an endowment fund comprised of debts owed the state prior to 1783; however, this fund initially lacked the ability to support the university, and so it had to rely heavily on loans and private gifts.

In short, the university began with great vision and promise but very little resources, a situation that would persist over much of the following century. The cornerstone for the first building, East Building or Old East, was laid on October 12, 1793, and later the same day 29 two-acre and four-acre lots adjacent to the planned campus were sold at auction to raise money for building construction and to establish a "Village at the University." These lots, most of which were located along newly platted Franklin and Columbia streets, became the town of Chapel Hill.



Figure 2: "Plan of the Village at the University," after 1797.

Despite financial constraints, construction of East Building, a President's House, and a Steward's House (i.e., the dining hall) were sufficiently complete for the university to open its doors to students on January 15, 1795. Within a few years a fourth building, now known as Person Hall, was built as the Chapel. At about the same time, East Building proved to be too small, and an addition was constructed. In 1831, an astronomical observatory was erected a short distance east of the campus center, behind current Joyner dormitory.

This structure reflected then-President Joseph Caldwell's strong interest in astronomy and was the first of its kind at an institution of higher learning in

America. Unfortunately, it was poorly constructed and had to be abandoned just four years later. By 1840, three new buildings had been constructed and a third story had been added to East Building.

Two of the new brick buildings—South Building and West Building—created a horseshoe around the university's well and belfry; the third building—Gerrard Hall—replaced Person Hall as the university chapel.

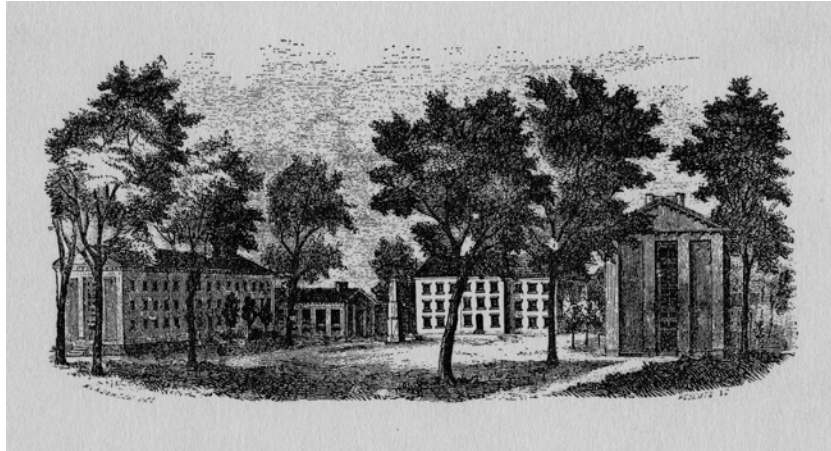


Figure 3: Engraving of the University Campus by W. Roberts, 1855.

During the 1850s, the final episode of antebellum campus construction took place with the erection of two large dormitories flanking East Building and West Building (called New East and New West) and the construction of Smith Hall (now Playmakers) as the university's library.



Figure 4: Chromolithograph of the University Campus about 1861, by E. Valois & Rau.

These new buildings were erected in response to a burgeoning university population that grew from an average enrollment of 160 students and six professors in the 1840s to more than 450 students and ten professors by 1860. With the exception of the President's House, Steward's House, and the observatory, all substantial university buildings which predate 1860 are still standing.

Unlike many southern universities, the University of North Carolina largely escaped the ravages brought on by the Civil War. The campus was occupied briefly by Union forces during the spring of 1865; however, negotiations between the university's President Swain and General William Sherman insured that the occupation did not result in any substantial destruction of the campus buildings or other property. The greatest act of vandalism apparently was the stabling of horses in several university buildings, including the library.

However, far greater outrage, both within Chapel Hill and statewide, resulted when Swain's daughter, Eleanor, fell in love and married General Smith Atkins, commander of the occupying Union forces.



Though the University remained open throughout the war, enrollment sharply declined and only a dozen students were enrolled by war's end. Reconstruction-era politics ultimately caused the University to shut its doors in early 1871. After reopening in 1875, the student body grew slowly but steadily, and the University added a few new buildings to meet their needs, including the first Memorial Hall for commencement and other large gatherings, and a gymnasium.



Figure 5: Memorial Hall, 1885-1929



Figure 6: University Gymnasium, 1885-1897

Despite these additions, the UNC campus by the end of the nineteenth century still consisted of less than a dozen buildings along Cameron Avenue, and much of the modern campus area was still either University-owned woodlands or privately-owned town lots supporting residences and commercial establishments.



Figure 7: Franklin Street in the early 1890s

While a majority of the university's earliest buildings and many historic homes near downtown Chapel Hill have survived into the twenty-first century, most commercial and other structures at the town's center are now gone, and significant portions of the early commercial district have been incorporated into

the modern campus. Because of this transformative growth in the twentieth century, the overall character of the early campus and adjacent town is now largely hidden from view, known primarily through early written descriptions, stylized engravings, historical photographs, and, of course, UNC's eight surviving eighteenth and nineteenth-century buildings.

Campus Archaeology



Figure 8: Locations of archaeological investigations of 19th-century sites.

Over the past twenty years, another source of information has been used to reveal glimpses of the early campus. During this time, archaeologists at UNC's Research Laboratories of Archaeology, or RLA, have conducted more than two dozen archaeological investigations on campus, ranging from limited site investigations and monitoring of ongoing construction projects to full-scale excavations. Ten of these studies are highlighted in the current exhibit in the North Carolina Collection Gallery.

Most, but not all, of the campus investigations were undertaken to fulfill the University's statutory obligations under North Carolina's Archaeological Resources Protection Act, and collectively they provide a unique resource for viewing the university community, particularly during its first one hundred years. The buried architectural remains and associated artifact assemblages found at several of these sites, particularly those located adjacent to downtown Chapel Hill and within the core area of the original campus, recall a quaint era of college and town life that now lies beyond personal memory. In short, they reveal glimpses of the now-hidden campus.

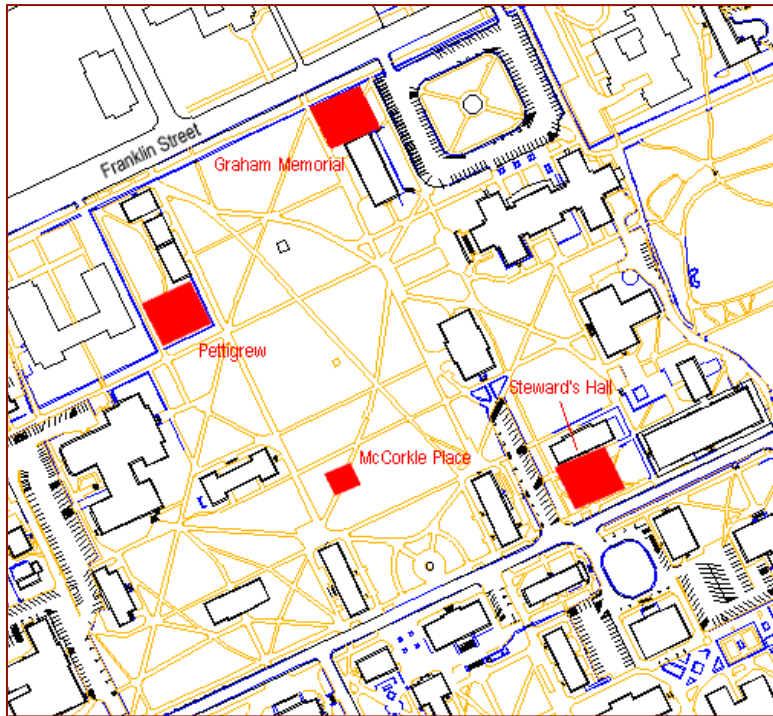
In 1991, students and staff of the RLA initiated a small project to provide a preliminary assessment of the campus' significant and potentially undisturbed archaeological remains as they related to the early years of the university. The reasons for undertaking this project were twofold.

First, we wished to establish a systematic program for assessing the potential impact of construction and facilities-improvement projects on campus archaeological resources. Although a significant portion of the campus is within the Chapel Hill Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, university managers at the time routinely did not consider the impact of their actions upon the grounds surrounding those historic structures. A preliminary archaeological assessment was seen as a first step in helping administrators understand that the university's significant historic properties included more than just the old campus buildings.

The message we wanted to communicate was that the heart of the original campus could reasonably be viewed as one large archaeological district, whose soils contained a rich artifactual and architectural record of the university from its beginnings in the 1790s through the early years of the twentieth century. And, this archaeological record had the potential to inform us about campus and town lifeways in important ways beyond what was accessible solely through the written record.

Second, as UNC prepared for its Bicentennial Observance in 1993, academic departments were invited to participate by undertaking special projects unique to their own interests and abilities. For the staff and students of the Research Labs, our most logical project was to conduct an archaeological investigation on campus

that would shed new light on the university during its earliest years. The preliminary campus archaeological assessment was the first step in determining the feasibility of such an investigation.



Four sites were identified which could potentially yield important information about early campus life. One of these was Steward's House, which stood from 1795 until 1847 and served for a time as the university's first dining hall.

Unfortunately, early plats are not sufficiently accurate to determine this building's location, and a preliminary field investigation failed to locate it.

Figure 9: Potential sites for UNC bicentennial project, 1993.

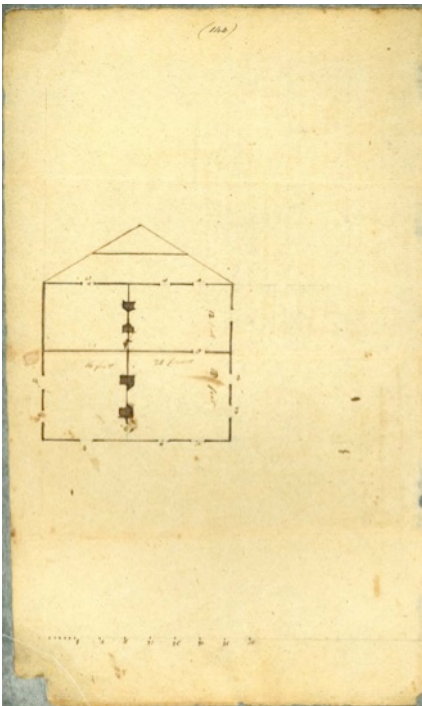


Figure 10: Steward's Hall builder's plan



Figure 11: Steward's Hall location on plat.

Because Steward's House stood near the current footprint of New East, it was thought that the construction of this building in the 1850s could have obliterated all evidence of it. Sixteen years later, excavations for a new steam line behind New East revealed a deeply buried layer of soil containing mid-nineteenth-century pottery, bottle glass, clay tobacco pipe fragments, and discarded animal bone—all artifacts likely associated with this early building.



Figure 12: Investigating archaeological deposits behind New East, 2007.



Figure 13: Excavations in McCorkle Place near Old West, 1993.

Another site, located near Old West, was identified during pedestrian survey of McCorkle Place. This site was defined by a concentration of mid-nineteenth century artifacts eroding from the ground surface along a footpath, and was initially interpreted as possible evidence of the occupation by Union troops of the campus in April, 1865. However, testing of this site prior to sidewalk construction revealed it to be no more than a trash-filled stump hole.

The remaining two sites were the Pettigrew site, adjacent to Pettigrew Hall where maps and photographs placed the Phi Delta Theta fraternity house during early twentieth century, and the Graham Memorial site, where the Tavern House and later Eagle Hotel stood from 1796 until 1921.



Figure 14: Aerial view of the UNC campus in 1919, showing the Phi Delta Theta house (Pettigrew Site) in the center.

The Graham Memorial Site

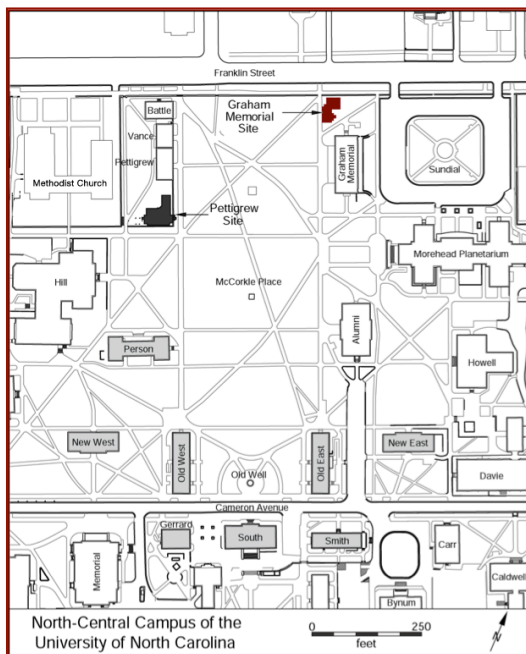


Figure 15: Graham Memorial site

For our bicentennial project, we chose to begin excavation at the Graham Memorial site since it appeared to provide the best potential for yielding preserved archaeological remains from the university's earliest years. The Pettigrew site provided "insurance" just in case we found nothing of interest at Graham Memorial. Indeed, it seemed quite possible that all evidence of the earlier buildings had been bulldozed away when nearby Graham Memorial Building was constructed in 1931. Despite this, our preliminary research indicated that the businesses that stood here were integral to the early life of the university and might yield significant information about student life and town development during the late 1790s and throughout the 1800s.

In keeping with the university's mission of teaching, research, and public service, the excavation of the Graham Memorial site was conducted as an archaeological field school during the 1993-1994 academic year, providing a context to train undergraduate students in field and laboratory methods in historical archaeology. It also provided a highly visible example for the public and



Figure 16: Graham Memorial site

campus community of how archaeologists conduct their research and interpret what they find. Several thousand people visited the excavations during three open houses, and hundreds of visiting school children were afforded an opportunity to observe and, in some instances, to participate in the excavation.



Figure 17: View of Franklin Street with the old Tavern House (Eagle Hotel) on the left, about 1892.



Figure 18: Close-up view of lot 13 showing the Tavern House on northwest corner, about 1797.

The Graham Memorial site is located at the northwest corner of town Lot 13, adjacent to Franklin Street and McCorkle Place. This lot was purchased at auction in 1793 by Jesse Neville, who then sold it to “Buck” Taylor, the university’s first steward. Upon resigning his university position in 1797, Taylor opened a tavern here which he and his son operated until the 1820s. Known simply as the Tavern House, it was one of Chapel Hill’s first businesses. The Tavern House was a two-story, wooden building, and, as with most taverns in the late eighteenth century, it served not only as a drinking establishment but also as an inn and a place for public gatherings.

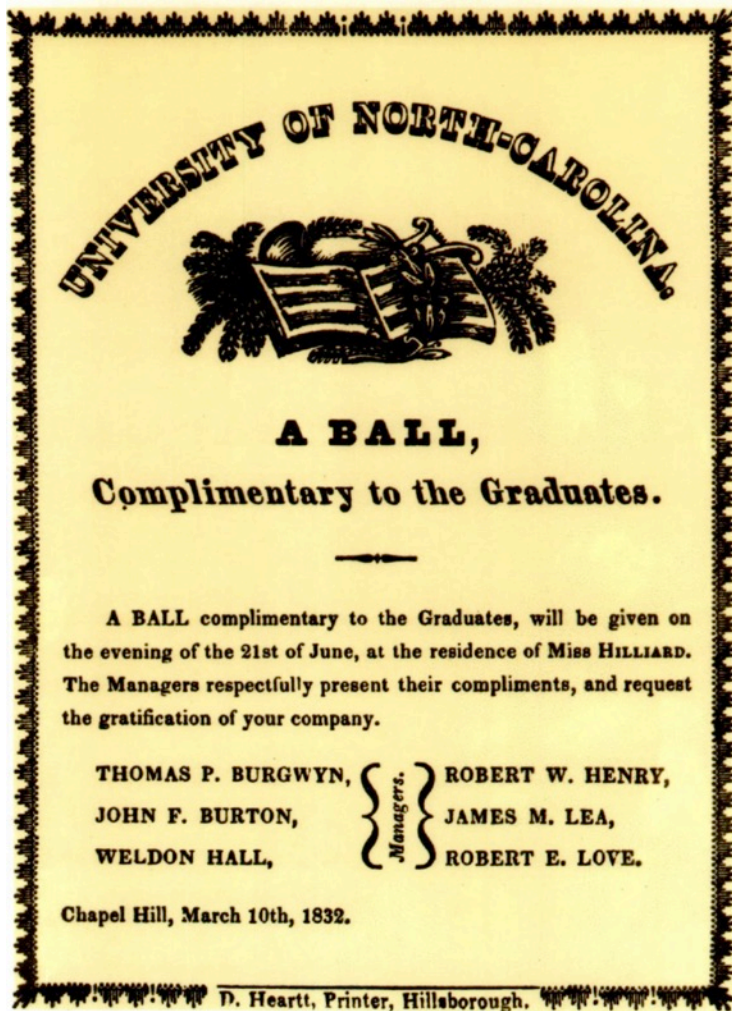


Figure 19: Announcement of the 1832 Commencement Ball at the Eagle Hotel.

In 1823, the property was sold, became a hotel, and began to take in boarders, including university students. It also became a popular place for ceremonial gatherings such as the university’s commencement ball. By the mid-1830s the hotel, now called the Eagle Hotel, began a period of relative prosperity and notoriety.

The best known of the hotel’s proprietors was Nancy Hilliard, who ran the Eagle from the 1830s until 1857. It was during Hilliard’s tenure that the hotel was greatly enlarged, and by 1850 more than 100 students lived here. In reminiscing about Chapel Hill in the mid-1800s, Kemp P. Battle noted that “There was one Hotel, the Eagle,

presided over by the eagle-eyed old maid, Miss Nancy Hilliard, who had all the traveling custom and most of that of the University.

Her table was bountiful and the food well cooked, and the wonder was how receipts could balance expenses. She was accustomed to say that she lost on the students, but the travelers and the rich harvests at Commencements more than supplied the deficiency. How much her uncollected dues from students unable or unwilling to pay, amount to, will never be known, but they were very large" (Battle 1907:612).

With the onset of the Civil War and its aftermath, the hotel fell upon hard times and was never able to fully regain the prominence and prosperity it had achieved during the antebellum years. In 1892, extensive renovations were made to transform the property into a profitable resort hotel.

The old tavern building was torn down and replaced with a large, Queen Anne-style structure with an expansive porch. An annex that had been built at the rear of the building, as well as additions to the east, were left intact.



Figure 20: Nancy Hilliard, proprietor of the Eagle Hotel.



Figure 21: View across McCorkle Place to the old Eagle Hotel and Annex, c. 1892.



Figure 22: Renovated University Inn and Annex, 1890s.

This business venture failed, and in 1908 the University Inn and Annex, as the hotel was now known, was acquired by the university for use as a dormitory. During the following decade, the facility was poorly maintained and in 1921 it caught fire and was completely destroyed.



Figure 23: The old University Inn and Annex burning in 1921.



Figure 24: Beginning the Graham Memorial site excavation.

When excavations began in September 1993, we already had some idea, based on a careful examination of historical maps and photographs as well as limited archaeological testing, of where we might seek out undisturbed traces of the tavern and hotel complex. After establishing a grid of five-foot units across the suspected site area, our initial excavations focused upon an area

behind the original tavern where earlier auger testing had revealed deeply stratified soils containing artifacts and other debris from the building. Although we were clearly beyond the probable site of the original tavern's foundations, we hoped that the area we had selected would contain both artifact deposits in the tavern's "back yard" and architectural traces of the large addition that was constructed on the south side of the hotel sometime during the 1830s and 1840s.

The first unit that the students excavated revealed the top of the shallow foundation trench from the rear addition, less than a foot beneath the ground surface.



Figure 25: Deeply buried strata at west edge of Graham Memorial site.

Just ten feet west of this unit, toward McCorkle Place, a second unit contained much deeper archaeological deposits which extended almost three feet below the surface. Five soil zones were identified and removed separately.

In the uppermost zone, students found artifacts of modern campus life, including aluminum pull tabs, a beer bottle cap, and fragments of phonograph records. As we dug deeper, we found fragments of broken dishes and discarded glassware, wood charcoal, and other building debris that most likely were deposited when fire destroyed the structure in 1921.



Figure 26: Artifacts from buried strata at west edge of Graham Memorial site.

Beneath that were artifacts from the mid-1800s, and at the bottom of the excavation unit, the students found items that dated to the earliest years of the university, and which can be attributed to the Tavern House and the early Eagle Hotel. These included an English gunflint, a clay marble, a lead button, pieces of English white-clay tobacco pipes, and numerous fragments of Staffordshire pearlware pottery.

After these two encouraging discoveries, the students spent the remainder of the fall digging within a 25-ft-by-30-ft area to expose more of the foundation trench and the much deeper deposits of late eighteenth and nineteenth-century refuse that accumulated along the west side of the hotel.



Figure 27: View of the Graham Memorial excavation, Fall 1993.

This excavation also revealed a stone drain that ran along the west side of the foundation trench. By semester's end, we had retrieved over 12,000 artifacts, had located part of the hotel's foundation, and had exposed ample evidence of the 1921 fire; however, we still did not know if any architectural traces of the early tavern remained.

Our goals for the spring semester were to complete the work begun in the fall and to locate the Tavern House. We extended our excavation toward Franklin Street and almost immediately found evidence of the late eighteenth-century structure.



Figure 28: Excavated stone drain at the Graham Memorial site with capstones removed.

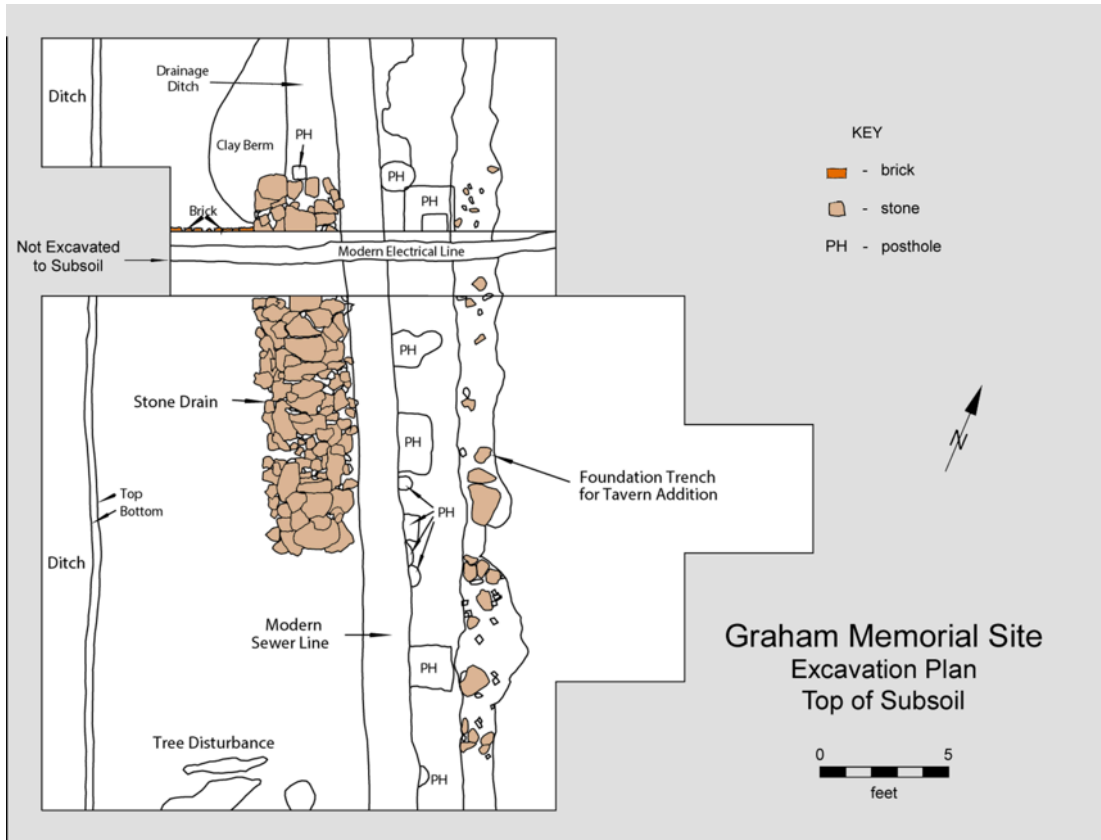


Figure 29: Excavation plan of the Graham Memorial site, Fall 1993.

The first trace of the tavern to be uncovered was the brick base of the west chimney, buried less than half a foot below the ground surface.



Figure 30: Exposed foundation of the Tavern House (c. 1797).

As we removed the topsoil just east of the chimney, we encountered several large stones at the top of a massive, dry-laid foundation that supported an 18-ft-by-18-ft building and enclosed a fifteen-foot-by-fifteen-foot cellar. Oriented along Franklin Street, the cellar extended only about two to three feet below the present ground surface and likely was a half, or English, basement with small above-grade windows letting light into the cellar. The two-foot width of the stone foundation suggested that it supported a two-story structure, a conclusion that is consistent with late nineteenth-century photographs showing the original tavern building. By the 1840s this original structure had doubled in size to 36 feet by 18 feet.



Figure 31: Excavated cellar of the Tavern House with the c. 1892 stone foundation cutting across it.

The fill at the top of the cellar, deposited when the building was torn down in the 1890s, contained numerous artifacts and debris from the demolished tavern. Beneath this debris were three cellar floors, each separated by sand that had been intentionally deposited to help alleviate moisture problems. Several broken plates and bowls, as well as a few coins, buttons, a brass keg tap, and other small artifacts, lay on these floors where they were broken or lost.

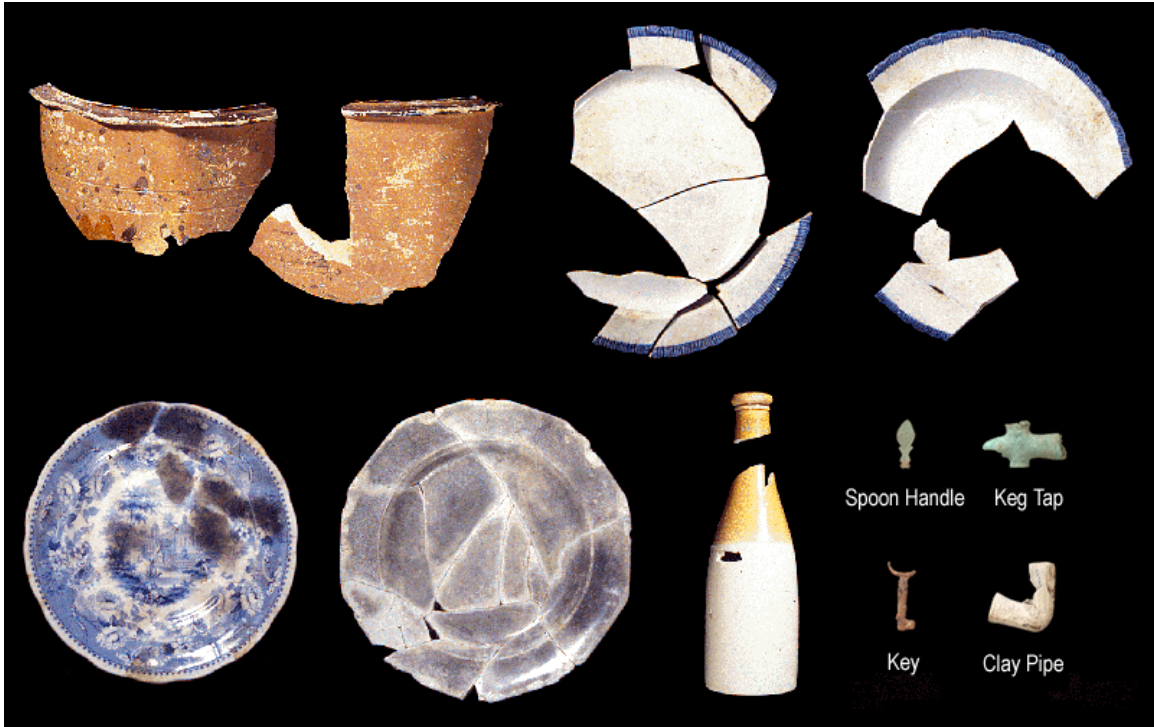


Figure 32: Nineteenth-century artifacts from cellar floor excavations.

One confusing aspect of the cellar was a large stone foundation that cut across its interior. At first, it appeared as if the tavern had two small cellars rather than a single large one. However, once we had excavated the cellar to its original clay floor, we realized that this interior foundation was built later to bridge the old cellar and to support the west wall of the later Victorian structure.



Figure 33: Completed excavation showing later foundation across cellar.

We learned a great deal from our excavations about how the hotel's owners dealt with problems of moisture and drainage. Being dug into stiff piedmont clay, the building's cellar acted as a "catch-basin," where seeping water collected. On two separate occasions, the cellar floor was raised by depositing a thick layer of clean river sand. Although this tactic probably worked temporarily, it didn't solve the problem since the water had nowhere to go. Following the apparent failure of the second layer of sand to keep the floor dry, a much more radical step was taken. A shallow drainage ditch was cut diagonally across the sand floor to the northwest corner, where it fed a newly constructed, stone-lined drain. This drain connected to a ditch about six feet west of the tavern that directed water to the edge of Franklin Street.

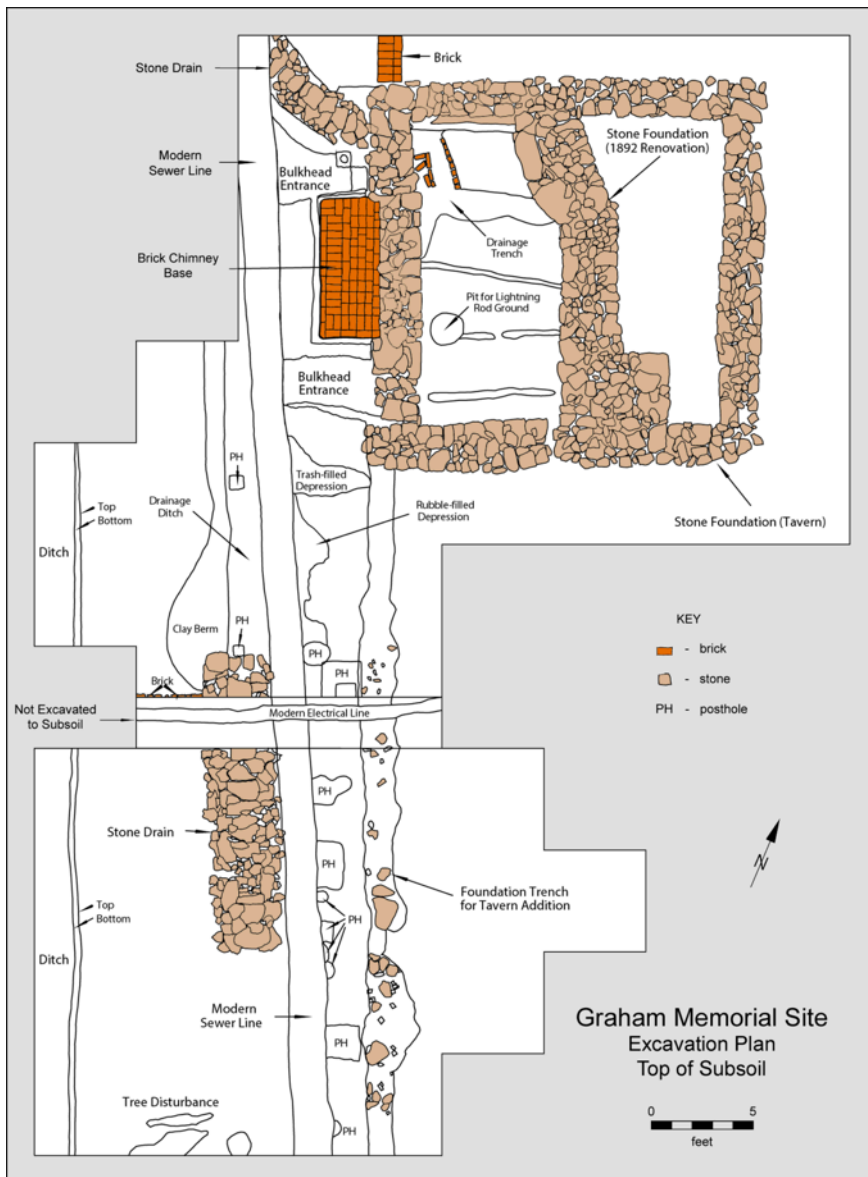


Figure 34: Final excavation plan of the Graham Memorial site.

The Pettigrew Site

Almost three years after the bicentennial excavation, we learned that plans were underway to construct a new building—Hyde Hall—for the university's Institute for the Arts and Humanities. The building was to be placed on the nearby Pettigrew site. Given the success of our initial project at Graham Memorial, a research proposal was submitted and funded by UNC's Office of Facilities Planning and Design for an eight-week excavation during the summer of 1997 to further evaluate the site.

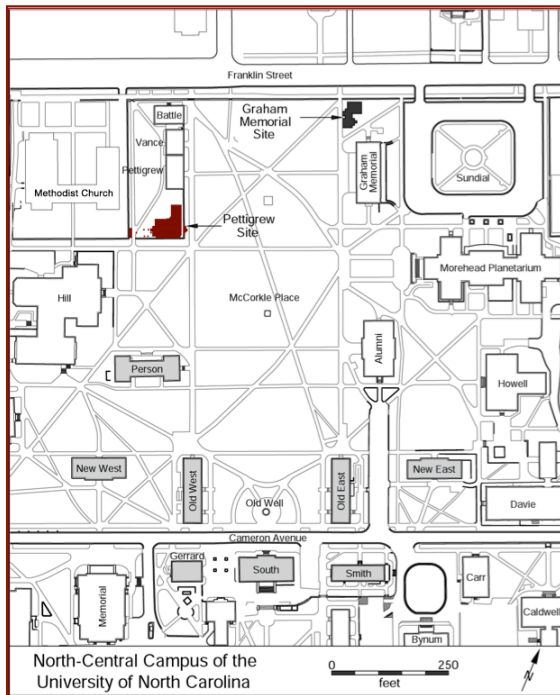


Figure 35: The Pettigrew site (Lot 11)



Figure 36: The Pettigrew site (Lot 11)

The Pettigrew site was originally part of Lot 11, another two-acre lot sold at auction by the university's trustees in 1793. The lot also fronted on Franklin Street and was originally purchased by George Johnston. By the time the university re-acquired the last part of the sub-divided tract in 1929, it had changed ownership some two dozen times.

When first surveyed, it was believed that most of the archaeological remains at the Pettigrew site probably were associated with the Phi Delta Theta fraternity house that stood there from the beginning of the twentieth century until the early 1930s. However, since this area was the back yard of a residence built on Franklin Street during the late 1790s and was also the back lot of the Roberson or Central Hotel

which stood at the site of Battle-Vance-Pettigrew Building in the late 1800s, earlier archaeological remains were expected as well.



Figure 37: The Roberson Hotel about 1898.

What we did not know at the time was that a substantial, privately owned dormitory known as the Poor House also stood at the south edge of Lot 11 from the 1830s or 1840s until about 1880.

A reference to this dormitory, with dimensions and method of construction that could be confirmed archaeologically, was found in an 1883 deed, which described the property as “The land whereon formerly stood a row of Brick offices called the ‘Poor House’ One hundred & twenty feet long & Eighteen feet wide on the Extreme Southern end of the lot on which Jones Watson formerly resided now owned by said Roberson” (Orange County Deed Book 47:568–69).

The university had been plagued by shortages of student housing for most of the nineteenth century, and student letters and diaries of the 1830s and 1840s indicate that housing was at a premium. To help alleviate the problem, many entrepreneurial Chapel Hillians rented rooms or constructed separate buildings in their yards to serve as student quarters.

With the onset of the Civil War, such temporary residences were no longer needed, and during the subsequent Reconstruction period, many fell into ruin and were

removed. In discussing conditions in Chapel Hill at this time, Kemp Battle (1912: 40) observed that “[a]nother effect of the hard times through which the village passed was the removal of many cottages which had been built by the landowners for the accommodation of students of prosperous days, who were unable to procure lodging in the University Buildings. These cottages were torn down, or sold, some re-erected a mile or so away on the neighboring farms. Thus disappeared from the map ‘Pandemonium,’ ‘Possum Quarter,’ the ‘Poor House,’ ‘Bat Hall,’ the ‘Crystal Palace,’ and other places dear to the ante-bellum students.”



Figure 38: Digging test squares at the Pettigrew site.

The Pettigrew site was investigated using a combination of methods ranging from soil-auger testing, remote sensing, and test excavation to broad-scale stripping of the topsoil with a backhoe and hand excavation to sample buried deposits and expose architectural remains.

As noted earlier, the excavations and archival research documented the existence of two buildings at the site: (1) the Phi Delta Theta fraternity house, and (2) the row of eight brick rooms known as the Poor House.



Figure 39: Removing recent and disturbed deposits with a backhoe.

Architectural debris associated with the Poor House was the most extensive and included window glass, cut nails, and brick rubble in addition to stone foundations. Fewer artifacts could be attributed to the fraternity building, perhaps because these items were removed when the university demolished the structure in the 1930s and by mechanical stripping prior to hand excavation.

Items clearly associated with this later structure included plumbing pipes and fixtures, electrical insulators, light bulbs, tile, window glass, wire nails, a doorknob, and a door lock. Artifacts associated with the occupations of both buildings included whiteware, porcelain, and stoneware sherds, glassware, bottle fragments, lamp glass, personal items, and animal bones. Smaller quantities of creamware and pearlware sherds, some found beneath the Poor House, pre-date both structures and likely are associated with the original occupants of Lot 11 during the late 1700s and early 1800s.



Figure 40: Late nineteenth and early twentieth-century artifacts from the Pettigrew site.



Figure 41: Early- and mid-nineteenth-century artifacts from the Pettigrew site.

Interestingly, numerous shallow plow scars also were observed which cut into the subsoil clay beneath the Poor House. These reflect the property's use as a garden before the Poor House was constructed.

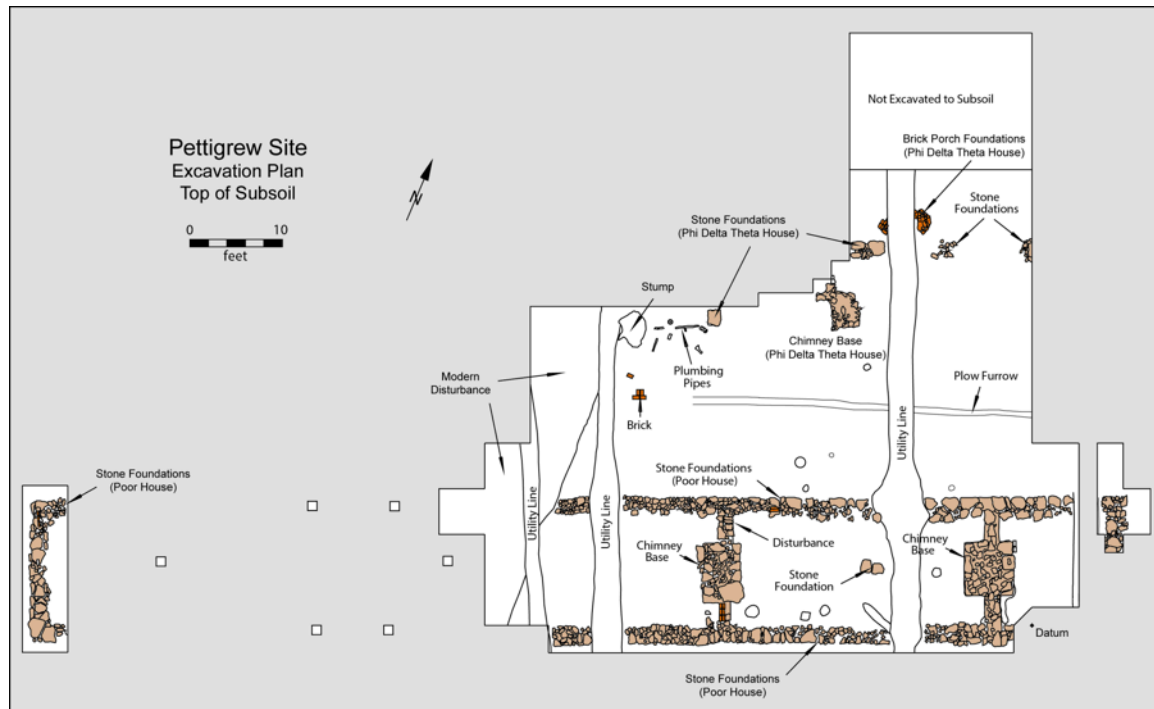


Figure 42: Excavation plan of the Pettigrew site showing the architectural remains of the Poor House and Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

The physical remains of the Poor House are much more substantial than those of the fraternity and consist of continuous stone foundations for the exterior walls, interior walls, and chimneys. These foundations indicate a building that was 120 feet long and 16 feet wide.



Figure 43: Exposing the top of the Poor House foundation.



Figure 44: View of the exposed Poor House foundation.

rooms that were approximately 15 feet by 16 feet in size, with each room heated by a single fireplace.

Although its width and eastern end were determined fairly early during the excavation, the western end was not located until the 1883 deed was discovered that described the building's dimensions. The length was then quickly confirmed through excavation. The building had four interior chimneys, and the foundations for two of these were fully exposed. The floor plan consisted of a row of eight

Structures similar to the Poor House were built on other southern college campuses during the 1830s. Elm Row and Oak Row, built in 1836-1837 and two of the oldest buildings at Davidson College, were single-story brick structures that originally served as dormitories, and each housed 16 students. This building style apparently was inspired by Thomas Jefferson's academic village at the University of Virginia.



Figure 45: Elm Row at Davidson College.

The Vance Site

More recently, we conducted another archaeological excavation on Lot 11. During renovations of Battle, Vance, and Pettigrew Halls in 2011, construction workers uncovered a deposit of broken pottery fragments and glassware while digging to replace a stormwater pipe in front of Vance Hall.



Figure 46: Vance Hall site.



Work was temporarily halted while we investigated a 3-meter-by-3-meter area between the building and the adjacent brick walkway. This excavation revealed that the construction trench had cut through a nineteenth-century stone drain and a cellar pit.

The subsequent excavation of the still-intact portions of these archaeological features yielded significant information concerning antebellum Chapel Hill. In particular, a large quantity of kitchen and dining debris in the form of animal bone and ceramics was recovered. Both historical accounts and the faunal remains recovered from the Vance Hall excavation indicate that pigs were the most common animal consumed in antebellum Chapel Hill.



As a majority of the recovered pig bones were from lower legs, it is possible that the Lot 11 residents consumed not only ham and bacon but also meals that included prepared pig's feet. Other domesticated animals, including cow, sheep or goat, chicken, and mallard, also were represented. Bones from wild animals included cottontail rabbit, opossum, squirrel, turkey, catfish, bullhead, seatrout, and oysters. These provide a sense both of the variety of animals that were being consumed and their availability.

The cellar pit likely was associated with the private dwelling, built by John McCauley, which stood on Franklin Street at the north edge of Lot 11. It may have been a sub-floor storage facility within a detached kitchen, and the artifacts from it indicate that it was filled sometime after 1840. The stone-lined drain can be identified as part of an engineering project designed by UNC professor Elisha Mitchell and built by slaves in the early 1840s. Its fill contents indicate that domestic trash was dumped into it during the following two decades.



Figure 47: Vance Hall site.

Second President's House and Well House



Figure 48: The Second President's House and Well House (Lot 19) 2004 and 2014 excavations.

Two other related excavations have provided information about another building important to the University's history; namely, the Second President's House.

But first, a little background information is warranted.

One of UNC's first buildings, completed in 1795, was a wood-frame house for the president of the University.

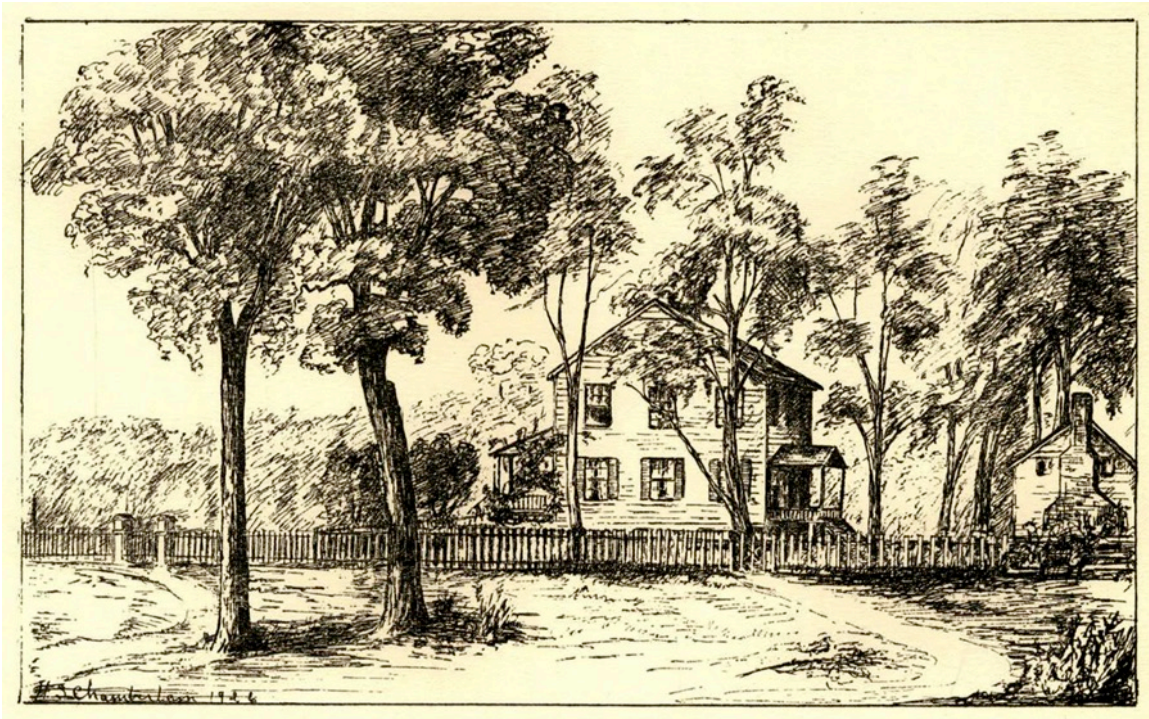


Figure 49: Sketch of the first president's house, from *Old Days in Chapel Hill*, by Hope Summerell Chamberlain, 1926.

Until 1913, it stood on Cameron Avenue at the west edge of the campus where Swain Hall is now located. While intended as the president's residence, it is most closely associated with Professor Elisha Mitchell who lived there from 1818 until his untimely death in 1857. The University's first president, Joseph Caldwell, occupied the house from 1796 until 1812, when he resigned his position, and afterward his successor, President Robert Chapman, lived there.

When Caldwell was reappointed president of the University in 1816, a position he would hold until his death in 1835, he chose to remain in the house he had built in 1811-1812 on Lot 19, along Franklin Street northeast of campus. In a letter to his brother in February 1812, Caldwell described his new house as follows:



Figure 50: UNC professor Elisha Mitchell.

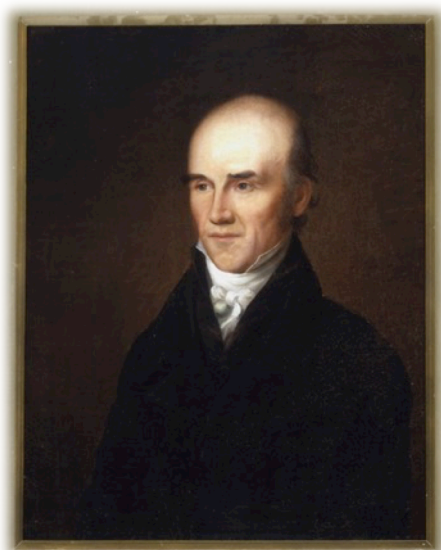


Figure 51: UNC's first president, Joseph Caldwell.

"I have been building a house for more than a year past, which takes up all the money I can collect for it. It is 40 feet by 24, two stories high, with a piazza both above and below, along the whole length, 12 feet wide on one side, and a double porch on front. It is an improvement which altogether has cost me not less than \$2000 and is not finished" (Caldwell 1812).

This house became known as the Second President's House. Caldwell's second wife, Helen Hogg Hooper Caldwell, continued to live in the house until her death in 1846, and from 1849 to 1868 it was the residence of President

David Swain, Caldwell's successor. After Swain's tenure, the house was occupied by several other prominent individuals associated with the

University until Christmas morning 1886 when it caught fire and burned. Its last resident was the unfortunate Professor Thomas Hume.

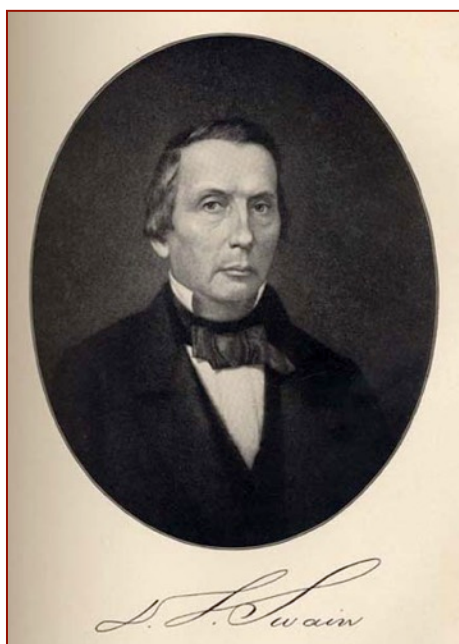


Figure 52: David Lowry Swain (1801-1868)



Figure 53: Thomas Hume (1836-1912)

According to Kemp Battle, "He [Hume] moved into it with his family the day before Christmas. A quantity of goods, boxes, straw and other combustible material was accumulated in an outhouse about ten feet from the main building and the negligence of a young negro servant girl set them in flames. It was about dinner time and the neighbors quickly gathered to fight the fire. But there was in Chapel

Hill no fire engine. There was no hook and ladder company to tear down the outhouse, which was built of heartpine. Buckets of water proved insufficient to retard the spread of the flames, although there was no wind blowing, and soon the historic edifice was in ashes” (Battle 1912:345).

The following year, the University trustees agreed to lease the eastern half of Lot 19 to Professor James Love, who built his residence there. As part of this agreement, Love and Hume, who was to retain the other half of the lot, were instructed to clean up the debris from the fire and fill in the full basement beneath the former house. Other structures, including a detached kitchen, a well house, and the outbuilding where the fire had begun, also were razed at this time.



Figure 54: James Love House (late 19th century)

Today, the only visible remains from Caldwell’s residence are the bases of two brick meridian pillars, once seven feet high, that Caldwell built about 1825 in his backyard to assist with astronomical observations.



Figure 55: Meridian pillars.



Figure 56: Aerial photo of Lot 19 showing identified features associated with the Second President's House.



Love's house, located at the corner of Franklin Street and Battle Lane, is now home to UNC's Center for the Study of the American South. Hume didn't rebuild, and his portion of the original lot stood vacant until 1907 when the current UNC President's house was built.

Archaeological investigations associated with the Second President's House were first undertaken in 2004. The purpose of this work was to evaluate a planned addition to the back of the Love House. In addition to finding evidence for a prehistoric Native American occupation more than 1,000 years old, the excavations exposed the foundations of an early nineteenth-century well house and a well that had been filled in following the destruction of the Second President's House. Brick rubble and other debris from that catastrophic event and its aftermath also were revealed.



Figure 57: Beginning excavations at the Love House.



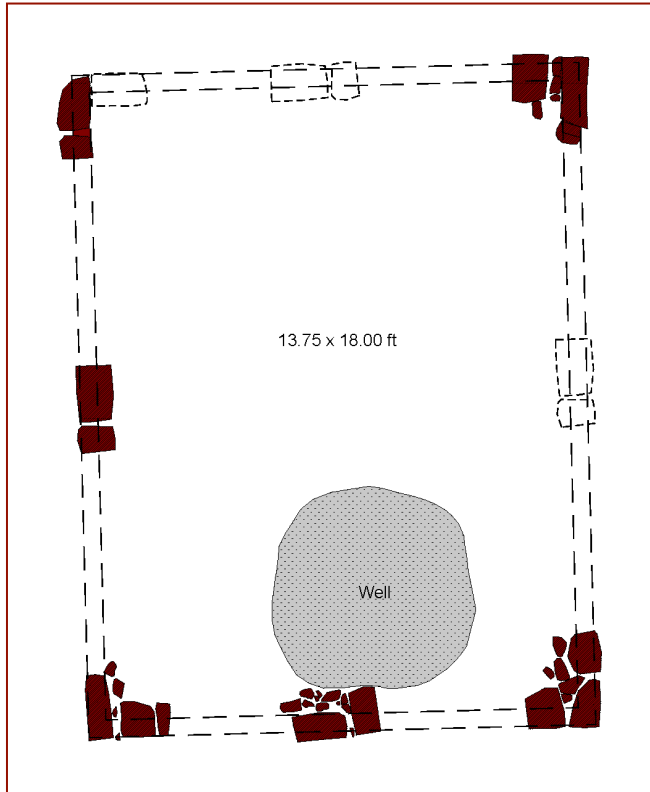
Figure 58: The Love House excavation showing stone foundations.



Figure 59: The Love House excavation showing stone foundations and well.



Figure 60: The well house foundations and excavated well.



The well house was a rectangular, wooden structure that stood on eight stone piers and measured about 14 ft by 18 ft. At one end of the building was a circular, unlined well five feet in diameter. The uppermost three feet of well fill contained bricks, ceramics, glass, and other debris. The age of these artifacts suggests that they likely were deposited following the 1886 fire. Beneath this deposit of debris was clean fill, and excavation was terminated at about five feet due to safety concerns.

Well houses apparently were not uncommon in nineteenth-century Chapel Hill. Lucy Phillips Russell, writing about the house she lived

Figure 61: Excavation of the well house.

in across from the Second President's House in the 1860s, noted that "A well-house also stood in the yard, containing a primitive bathtub over which hung a still more primitive shower, both being filled...by ice-cold water drawn from the sixty-foot well..." (Russell 1957:23).

in across from the Second President's House in the 1860s,



Figure 62: Excavating the well. (Note the abundant brick rubble.)



Figure 63: Artifacts removed from the well (ceramics, bottle, spittoon, toothbrush, and clay pipes).

A second archaeological investigation occurred this past August, after construction activity to resurface the driveway at the current UNC President's House exposed the stone foundations and filled-in basement of the Caldwell house. Over a brief period of 10 days, UNC archaeologists, students, and volunteers rushed to document and evaluate those remains before they were paved over.



Figure 64: Cleaning the exposed remains of the Second President's House.



Figure 65: Exposed remains of the Second President's House.

This investigation cleaned and mapped the top of the building's foundation and end chimneys, providing information about its dimensions and exact location. These dimensions roughly correspond to Caldwell's description of a 24 by 40 ft structure, and its placement indicates that it was centered on Lot 19 and set back from Franklin Street the same distance as the current president's house.

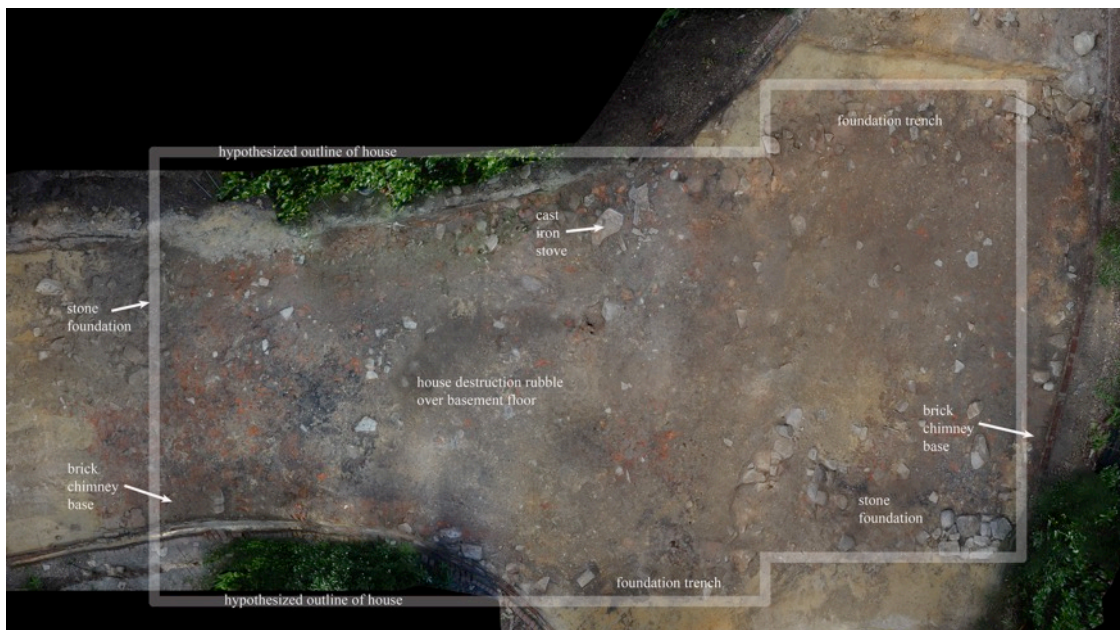


Figure 66: Overall view of the exposed remains of the Second President's House.

An exploratory trench also was dug into the basement, providing information about its depth, overall extent, and the nature of the debris contained within it.



Figure 67: Excavating the exploratory trench into the cellar.

Historical accounts indicate that the house had a full basement that was used for dining. Excavation revealed that this basement was only slightly deeper than the one beneath the Eagle Hotel, so that the house must have been somewhat elevated to provide sufficient ceiling height for a functioning dining room. Also, no evidence was found to suggest how the basement was floored.



Figure 68: Door lock from cellar fill.

Artifacts found within the basement fill consisted mostly of bricks from the toppled end chimneys, fragments of wall plaster, cut iron nails, and window glass. In addition to scattered fragments of ceramic dishes and bottles, more notable artifacts from the basement included two large door hinges and a large exterior door lock, probably from the front door.



Figure 69: Door lock from cellar fill.

The most spectacular find was the remains of a cast iron parlor stove. Fragments of this stove were found in a cluster at the top of the basement fill, and all of the stove except for the feet and top ornament were recovered.

This particular stove model was patented by Henry Stanley in 1845 and was manufactured in West Poultney, Vermont. Given its patent date, this stove likely dates to the beginning of President Swain's residency.



Figure 70: The Henry Stanley Patent Parlor Stove No. 8.



Figure 71: Stove from the Second President's House.

Conclusion

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is fortunate that many of its early buildings are still standing, as they provide a unique character to the campus that evokes both a sense of tradition and an appreciation of the university's formative years. However, the present campus bears only a superficial resemblance to the campus of the late eighteenth, nineteenth, and early twentieth centuries. While a partial understanding of the university and Chapel Hill's physical character in this bygone era may be gained from diaries, contemporary histories, and a handful of early photographs, places such as the Tavern House/Eagle Hotel, the Poor House, and the Second President's House can never be fully understood by those sources alone. Archaeological studies, such as the ones just described, uniquely allow us to map past cultural landscapes and also gain insights about campus and town life through their associated material remains. Our continuing challenge at the University is to insure that the rich archaeological resources on campus are not lost as new facilities are built to meet the educational demands of future generations.



Figure 72: UNC campus, 1907.

Acknowledgments

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the many students and colleagues who conducted much of the field, laboratory, and archival research just presented. Archaeology is usually most successful when undertaken as a collaborative endeavor, and both this presentation and the exhibit in the North Carolina Gallery would not have been possible without the collective effort of undergraduate and graduate students, RLA staff, volunteers, and other university personnel. I especially want to recognize the following individuals: my colleagues Trawick Ward (deceased), Brett Riggs, and Vin Steponaitis of the Research Laboratories of Archaeology; present and former graduate students Linda Carnes-McNaughton, Jane Eastman, Patricia Samford, Elizabeth Jones, Tom Maher, Tony Boudreaux, David Cranford, Ashley Peles, and Mary Beth Fitts; and Gordon Rutherford, Anna Wu, Tom Bythell, Paul Kapp, and the many other helpful folks from UNC Facilities Operations, Planning, and Design. Finally, our articulation of the archaeological evidence with the documentary evidence has relied greatly upon the knowledgeable staff and extensive resources of UNC Libraries' North Carolina Collection and University Archives.

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Davis's archaeological research interests focus on the impact of European colonization upon native people of the Carolina Piedmont and the greater American South. He also has participated in numerous investigations of historic archaeological sites on the UNC campus.