The Archaeological Excavation of an Antebellum Educational Boarding House in Cane Hill, Arkansas 3WA1233

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THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION OF AN ANTEBELLUM EDUCATIONAL BOARDING HOUSE IN CANE HILL, ARKANSAS, 3WA1233
THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION OF AN ANTEBELLUM EDUCATIONAL BOARDING HOUSE IN CANE HILL, ARKANSAS, 3WA1233

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Anthropology

by

Teka McGlothlin
University of Arkansas
Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology, 2010

August 2014
University of Arkansas

This thesis is approved for recommendation to the Graduate Council.

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Dr. Thomas J. Green
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ABSTRACT

This thesis is an archaeological evaluation of the remains of two related structures located in Cane Hill, Arkansas. In order to establish the function and/or affiliation of the structures, historical documentation was combined with the analysis of the artifact assemblage. Based on artifacts recovered and archival sources, these two structures appear to be associated with a former boarding house used for male students attending Cane Hill College. This research provides insight into educational boarding facilities as well as multiple cultures cohabitating in the 19th Century Ozarks.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This project would not have been possible without the support and encouragement of the land owner, T. A. Sampson. It is through her cooperation over the last thirteen years that we have been allowed to revisit this site to address new research opportunities.

I am indebted to Jerry Hilliard who introduced me to this project, guided, and ensured I remain focused on the task at hand when I started to stray, and to the Arkansas Archeological Survey and the volunteers of Arkansas Archeological Society for their assistance with excavation and recording of the site via the multiple visits.

I owe my thanks to many who were involved in this project over time and some key individuals which made themselves tirelessly available to me throughout this process such as: Lela Donat and Randy Guendling for their suggestions of research material, Mike Evans for his expertise in mapping the location, Jared Pebworth for his aid in identifying and dating the artifacts recovered, and to Leslie Walker and Lesley Harmsworth for all of their assistance and support with sorting, cataloging and photographing the artifacts for the record.

Finally, I would like to thank my committee, Dr. George Sabo III, Dr. Jeannie Whayne, and Dr. Thomas J. Green for their direction and helpful feedback regarding this project.
DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my family, Darlene McGlothlin and Rudye McGlothlin, who have loved and supported me unconditionally throughout this process.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter 1: Introduction ................................................................................................................................1

Chapter 2: Historical Background .................................................................................................................4  
  Cane Hill in Regional Context ..................................................................................................................4  
  Site Specific History ..............................................................................................................................7

Chapter 3: Archaeological Investigations ......................................................................................................13

Chapter 4: Artifact Analysis – Site Content ..................................................................................................17  
  Nails ....................................................................................................................................................17  
  Window Glass ....................................................................................................................................19  
  Architectural Plan ..............................................................................................................................21  
  Food Ways – Ceramics .......................................................................................................................27  
  Food Ways – Glass ..............................................................................................................................34  
  Food Ways – Remains ..........................................................................................................................35  
  Personal Items ....................................................................................................................................36  
  Clothing .............................................................................................................................................40

Chapter 5: Civil War .....................................................................................................................................40

Chapter 6: Summary/Conclusion ....................................................................................................................47

References ................................................................................................................................................51
FIGURES

Figure 1 – 1833 survey plat image courtesy Bureau of Land Management, General Land Office Records, (glorecords.blm.gov) ................................................................................................................. 5

Figure 2 – Site map showing features along with 2003, 2004, and 2012 excavation units ........ 15

Figure 3 – Chart showing “Arbitrary Dating Results of Methods by Thickness,”
(Weiland 2009:31) ................................................................................................................. 19

Figure 4 – Partially excavated cellar area with west firebox exposed .................................. 21

Figure 5 - Cane Hill College Dormitory. Walter Lemke Papers. Series 4, box 5, folder 32, item 1297. Courtesy Special Collections, University of Arkansas Libraries, Fayetteville ................................................................................................................. 218

Figure 6 - Using stadia rods to depict foundation on landscape ........................................ 218

Figure 7 – Selection of ceramics showing contemporaneity between Feature 1 and Feature 2. Ceramics in the top row were found in Feature 1, ceramics in the second row were found in Feature 2 ............................................................................................................. 32

Figure 8 – Sampling of decorated ceramics recovered from 3WA1233 ...................................... 34

Figure 9 – Examples of potter maker’s marks, the one on the left is marked St. Louis and the other two are Boonsboro ......................................................................................................................... 35

Figure 10 - Fragments of school slate and pens ........................................................................ 37

Figure 11 - Inkwells recovered from Feature 1 and Feature 2 ................................................. 38

Figure 12 – Clockwise from top left: eyeglass frame, bone handled toothbrush, hard rubber comb fragments, decorated tintype picture frame ................................................................. 40
Figure 13 – Sampling of various overall buttons found along with buckle.  .................................... 42

Figure 14 – Typeset keys with physical stamp in upper right hand corner, from left to right – yu, we, and hi. ................................................................................................................................. 21

Figure 15 - Original syllabary courtesy of Sequoyah Museum, (www.sequoyahmuseum.org/index.cfm/m/3/pageId/48). ................................................................................................. 44

Figure 16 – Page one of Buck & Ball, Microfilm 1862:12:6, courtesy University of Arkansas Library ................................................................................................................................. 47
TABLES

Table 1 - LSN classification of cataloged artifacts .......................................................... 20

Table 2 - Summary of wire vs. cut nails ........................................................................... 21

Table 3 - Decorated ceramic whiteware assemblage with median date ranges ............... 31

Table 4 - Artifact assemblage of button types.................................................................. 42
INTRODUCTION

As is often the case in both history and archaeology, we go in search of a particular thing only to find something totally different. In November 2002, the Arkansas Archeological Survey was contacted in regards to a possible cemetery on private property in Cane Hill, Arkansas. During discussions with the landowner, it was revealed there was also a long forgotten remnant of a domestic structure on the property. Upon further observation the evidence of two structures in close proximity to one another became apparent. The initial interpretation suggested this was a traditional Ozark homestead with a detached kitchen, possibly used as a school at one point according to the local oral histories (Hilliard, 2002). In 2003 and again in 2004, the Arkansas Archeological Survey (AAS) conducted limited excavations on this property in order to determine the age, function, and activities associated with this structure. In 2012 a more intensive excavation was undertaken to further explore the architectural plan and use of the structure.

The significance of this site is of particular interest for many reasons. From the local and regional historic perspective, it may be seen indicative of the American pioneer western migration and early settlement of the Arkansas Ozarks region. The study of such sites can provide insight about cultural intersections along the border of Indian Territory and Anglo-American migration. During the course of research the question arose whether this building was designed as a private residence or was it built as a public building associated with Cane Hill College for use as a boarding house? Additionally, if the house was a boarding house for the college then it was also a part of the religious “missionary” movement being practiced by the
Cumberland Presbyterians. Research has shown the structure was in existence prior to and after the Civil War. This is significant because of the reports following the Union occupation of the burning of many, if not most, of the standing structures in Cane Hill. Why was this particular building spared? Artifactual and archival evidence can teach about boarding facilities used for early educational purposes, as well as when the structure was built and who were the inhabitants. Additionally, because of the public manner in which the house was used investigations should reveal information about the residential social unit composed of a variation of gender, status, race, and age, and how this structure and its occupants functioned in the local community.

James Deetz, in his book *In Small Things Forgotten*, provides one of the first archaeological studies which use written history combined with physical artifacts. In each of the case studies he provides, he shows how one source complements the other and furthers the overall understanding of the evidence. Per Deetz: “When we began our survey of early American artifacts and their place in the life of the people, we saw that the documentary evidence was of great importance. We have now learned that while this is so, the artifactual evidence is more complementary in nature, and depends on and mutually supports the written record,” (Deetz, 1996:256). Practices by Deetz have served as examples to archaeologists of how to draw from a network of resources such as probate and court records in order to reconcile contradictory information. This conciliates the multiple sources, written records and archaeological evidence. It is this method of Deetz’s that was used to elucidate and reconcile the written records with the artifactual evidence.

It is the goal of this thesis to establish a timeline and purpose for the existence of these structures and contribute answers to the following questions:

1) Was this building used as a boarding house for students attending Cane Hill College?
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Cane Hill in Regional Context

Many small communities sprang up early in the nineteenth century along the borderlands and adjacent to Indian Territory. Located in the northwestern corner of what is now the state of Arkansas and close to the border of current-day Oklahoma, a small community arose initially recorded as the Cane Hill Township, referred to throughout this paper as Cane Hill. Cane Hill was one of the earliest Anglo-American settlements in Washington County, Arkansas, and records indicate Euro-Americans were beginning to settle in this region in the mid-1820s, years before Arkansas was accepted into statehood. At this time western Arkansas was designated by the U.S. Government as “Cherokee Land,” thus the first Euro-American occupants of Cane Hill were illegal residents according to the governmental standards of the time. The Treaty of Washington, which involved the removal of the Cherokee to the lands further west into “Indian Territory” and defining the regional boundaries, in Article 3 reads:

“The United States agree to have the lines of the above cession run without delay, say not later that the first of October next (October 1828), and to remove, immediately after the running of the Eastern line from the Arkansas River (located near Ft. Smith, AR) to the South-West corner of Missouri, all white persons from the West to the East of said line, and also all others, should there be any there, who may be unacceptable to the Cherokees, so that no obstacles arising out of the presence of a white population, or a population of any other sort, shall exist to annoy the Cherokees – and also to keep all such from the West of said line in future (Treaty of Washington, 1828).”

This treaty opened up the area of Cane Hill to be settled legally by Euro-Americans with the ability to purchase and sell land and establish official communities.
The establishment of early settlement in the Cane Hill region is evident on the early maps and surveys of the area. The original survey plat dated November 12, 1833, substantiates Anglo-American settlement with indications of agricultural fields, homesteads, and businesses such as Billingsley’s Mill (which is found in the location of what would later be called Moore-Buchanan Mill), as well as an illustration labeled Richard’s store (glrecords.blm.gov). This map was legally registered three years before Arkansas was accepted into statehood, yet shows Anglo-Americans were already securing their ties within the area (Figure 1).

Many of the initial settlers recorded in Cane Hill were members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and it is through the governmental records and land purchases their influx into this area from locations such as Tennessee and Crystal Hill, Arkansas as early as 1827 can be traced (McDonnold 1899). Based on the Bureau of Land Management records, this land began to be parceled out for sale to the general public around 1838, and many of the founding settlers names such as Billingsley, Buchanan, Pyeatt, and Carnahan, all names which are listed as members of the Cane Hill Congregation of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in August of 1828 (Miller 1969), show purchases of land at this time.

The settlement of Cane Hill was initiated by the Cumberland Presbyterians, a group of visionaries, who believed it their mission to bring the gospel to the masses, especially to areas considered the New Frontier. Education was an essential tenet of their faith and was initially designed to prepare young men for missionary and religious purposes. Cumberland Presbyterian Church members sought places to raise their families and cultivate their beliefs, and the area including and surrounding Cane Hill fit their criteria. In an effort to maintain and combine their religious and educational principles, the leaders of the church immediately began to initiate facilities and processes to educate their children, which led to the founding of a school at Cane
Figure 1 – 1833 survey plat image courtesy Bureau of Land Management, General Land Office Records, (glorecords.blm.gov)
Hill in 1834. The school received its official charter and opened in 1835, one year before Arkansas’ statehood was granted, and would eventually in 1850, develop into the Cane Hill Collegiate Institute (Ballenger 1956). This college was initially established as an all-male school where the students studied subjects including Latin, Greek, Arithmetic, and Geography all under the Cumberland Presbyterian guide to instill the Christian beliefs. Cane Hill was one of the first colleges in Arkansas, and the farthest west of the Mississippi established at the time. The onset of the Civil War led to the temporary closing of the school from 1861 to 1868 due to the predominantly male populace leaving to become part of the military action. After the war, the college was reopened in an attempt to regain their former glory and also became the first college west of the Mississippi to award women 4 year degrees. In the history of the Cumberland Presbyterians, Cane Hill holds a special distinction for the college established there and the staunch followers it created: “Cane Hill church founded Cane Hill College, stamping upon it the image of its own deep spirituality, which that institution still bears and impresses on its pupils. A school for Jesus--what a precious thing it is!” (McDonnold 1899:199). It is because of the presence of the College the project researched in this paper is of particular interest.

Site Specific History

In 1838 one John Dodson, according to the original patent, purchased a parcel of land which was located in “the South West quarter of Section nine, in Township fourteen North, of Range thirty two West, in the District of lands subject to sale at Fayetteville Arkansas, containing one hundred and sixty acres” on the “twentieth day of August in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty eight” (Accession Nr: AR0850_.091, gldrecords.blm.gov). This recorded purchase of land serves as a springboard in following the trail of ownership and possible purpose of the domestic structure, as it is the legal description of the property/parcel on
which the researched structural remains are located, known as 3WA1233 in the archaeological record. This piece of property lies to the southeast of the existing college building, across a valley and the main thoroughfare, on a hill overlooking what was once the thriving town of Cane Hill. It would appear from looking at the land records; John Dodson did not inhabit this land for a long period if any, as he sold the parcel that same year to a Charles McClellan. Likely Mr. Dodson was a land speculator, whose primary reason for the purchasing the land upon immediate availability was to resell for a profit, as his name appears as purchaser of many such parcels contemporaneously in the region. This particular parcel went through various changes, sold and bought by multiple individuals, reduced and again increased as it was combined with other purchases of land, sometimes sold incrementally, bequeathed to family, and upon occasion even forfeited. Because of the myriad of ways land was acquired and dispersed, tracing ownership through legal documents becomes an arduous task. While researching the Washington County Arkansas land records of 1850 a particular parcel of interest purchased by Thomas G. McCulloch was found. From the 1850’s deed records page 47, one record for a Thomas G. McCulloh purchasing “Seventeen (17) acres more or less with all the privilege...” from a Levi and Mary Linebarger in “the year of our Lord 1850.” This land shows to be in the vicinity of where the detached kitchen and domestic structure (3WA1233) was excavated by the Arkansas Archeological Survey in 2003. This information helps to closer pinpoint and proof the location, inhabitants and function of this structure. Whether there was a structure on this land prior to the purchase by McCulloch is currently unknown but there is evidence of a structure on the premises as early as 1850, according to census information recorded for that year. The 1850 census record for the Cane Hill Township lists a total of 12 persons residing in this location. Two of these individuals, Thomas G. McCulloch (29) and S. D. Lowry (23), list their occupations as
schoolteacher. The indication of two male teachers living in these quarters could mean they were not only boarders, but possibly chaperones as well to the school age inhabitants. Six of the individuals listed as residing at this address, five males and one female, range from ages 8 to 19 with four listing “student” in their occupation, and all six are listed as having attended school within the last year. Due to the fact they have different surnames: Williams, Peevyhouse, Brown, Kidd and Morrow, it is likely these were students being housed away from their homes to attend school at Cane Hill and other surrounding educational facilities. The young female listed as residing in this household is not unexpected; Margaret Morrow was 15 years old, in addition to the all-male Cane Hill School, there was also a female seminary in the immediate vicinity which would justify her presence. Also listed on the census at this location are: Ann McCulloch (29), Thomas’ wife, and their two children Thomas (6) and Emma (1) (United State Bureau of the Census (USBC), 1850). Lastly, the Slave Schedule of 1850, recorded one 60 year old African-American female, a slave of Thomas G. McCulloch (USBC Slave Schedule 1850). This documentary evidence implies a boarding facility with ties to education at the site of the investigation.

Upon further research it was revealed the two teachers listed above taught at Cane Hill College in its beginning days as an institute of higher learning. Records for Mr. McCulloch indicate he was teaching in the surrounding area prior to his employment at Cane Hill Collegiate Institute. He was an instructor at the female seminary at Elm Grove “located about a mile and a half southwest of the village of Cane Hill,” known to settlers as “The Lower end of the Hill,” (Richardson 1946:354) up until 1850. It was at this time he (Thomas) was approached to relocate to Cane Hill College to begin teaching the male pupils with S. D. (Samuel Doak) Lowry being recruited for the same purpose at this time. These two men along with an individual
named Robert McGee King constituted the beginning faculty for the opening of Cane Hill as a collegiate institute. There are few references to these men other than the census record and a small synopsis introducing them as the new college staff. This information comes from the 1969 dissertation of Robert H. Basham submitted to the University of Arkansas. This dissertation entitled “A History of Cane Hill College in Arkansas,” is helpful in providing names and descriptions of occurrences surrounding the college and area of Cane Hill. On page 118 of Basham’s dissertation he states: “Thomas G. McCollough, who had taught at the Elm Grove School, and Samuel Doak Lowry, of the Cane Hill School, were employed as teachers,” at the incorporation of the Cane Hill Collegiate Institute in December 1850, and with the addition of Robert McGee King as superintendent “composed the entire faculty and administration.” This evidence further extends the likelihood these two gentlemen; McCollough and Lowry, are the same men listed as teachers on the census shown in residence with ten other individuals on this property. Records revealed Thomas spent little time at Cane Hill College, for he would return to the female seminary at Elm Grove after a couple of years around 1851 or 1852 (Basham, 1969). However, Mr. Lowry would retain his position and for a short time serve as the acting college president. By the 1860 census, Thomas McCulloch is no longer listed as a resident of the Cane Hill Community and Lowry has married and relocated to property elsewhere in the community.

Documentary evidence indicates Thomas McCulloch was a northern sympathizer. Records during the Civil War (enlistment records, etc.) show he left Cane Hill at the start of the Civil War and later appears in his home state of Illinois fighting with the Union troops. This likely explains the departure of McCulloch from the college as historical records indicate the individuals attending the college were staunch supporters of the Confederate cause. More than one resource mentions the majority of the men from the Cane Hill College had Confederate
tendencies including the presiding college president, Fontaine Richard Earle. Earle himself took up arms along with the majority of the students in 1861 and joined the Confederacy, thereby closing the college. However, on an interesting note regarding Thomas G. McCulloch, documentary evidence suggests this information provides a glimpse into the diversity of the residents of this border town in the Ozarks and beyond, additionally as stated prior, the census shows that Thomas himself at one point owned a slave. Though these two men, Thomas and Samuel, cohabitated and shared educational opportunities, there remained an obvious division of beliefs and support of conflicting agendas.

At some point during this time this particular piece of property came under the stewardship of the college as the trail of land records and deeds become muddled. The next account found of this area is in an oral history recounted by Mary S. McCulloch to Conrow Miller regarding the morning of 28 November 1862, when General Blunt and the Union forces marched into Cane Hill (Boonsboro – another name for Cane Hill) and engaged in conflict with the Confederate forces led by General Marmaduke. Blunt’s forces would arrive from the north ridge of Cane Hill, coming through the present-day cemetery in order to face Marmaduke’s forces entering from the South of what was called Jordan Valley. Many accounts of the engagement have been recorded but this particular one is of interest to the site.

*The Battle of Cane Hill as told by witnesses…*

*On November 28, 1862, a group of girls, living on the J. A. L. McColloch farm, heard firing in the direction of Cane Hill. They went to a field high on the east side of the Cane Hill valley. From the top of a hay stack, they could see the slope on the west of the valley from Cane Hill to Clyde, then known as Boonsboro and Russellville.*

*From that point they watched the battle. It must have been like a great drama enacted on a huge stage. The view is perfect and not much more than a quarter of a mile to the Cane Hill cemetery where the battlefield started.*

*General Blunt’s army of possibly 5000 men with 30 cannon were on the hill where the cemetery is now. General Marmaduke with 2000 dismounted cavalry attacked him there.*
My informant, Mary S. McColloch, said that they could see the Confederate soldiers advancing through the trees and along the bluff to the south. The firing of guns and cannon and the yells and screams of the men were terrifying to the girls but they were fascinated by it all and would not leave their place on the hay stack.

Then Marmaduke started to draw away. The Federals pressing him every foot of the way. But there was no panic and no hurry. Just a slow stubborn retreat. Casualties were heavy on both sides. Most of the fighting from Boonsboro to Kidd’s Hill was through woods. But they crossed Jordan Creek about were the mill dam stands now.

The Confederate army took position on the high ground to the south and east and there was bloody fighting again around Kidd’s Mill.

Then again at Russellville they came into open ground and the fighting was fierce and bloody. A lady who was a young girl at that time, said that there were six dead soldiers on their porch at one time.

From there the fight continued south over the mountain (Reed’s Mountain) to Cove Creek. In a valley near John Morrow’s they drew Blunt’s men into an ambush where many were killed. There Blunt stopped and returned to Cane hill or Boonsboro which had almost been destroyed.

The college building was burned along with many homes. And the old female Seminary at Russellville was also burned.

All the livestock was driven away and all food stuff that could be found was carried away. Many old men were tortured and killed in an attempt by renegades, who followed the destruction of battle to make them tell of money or valuables that might be hidden.

So it was that the people of Cane Hill learned of war and of hate as they suffered from cold and hunger through the long winter (Miller 1969:21).

It is unclear how J.A.L. McCulloch acquired this land initially as he was not related to the previous McCulloch (Thomas), but his ties with the college and the community were strong as is evidenced in historical accounts. Mr. Mculoch [sp] appears in the 1850 Federal Census with an occupation of “taylor”, along with his wife Mary, three children: Clemm, Martha and Jerusha, and a farmer by the name of James Latta. McCulloch was listed as being the W.M. (Worshipful Master) of Cane Hill Lodge No. 57 in 1865 (Goodspeed 1889:267) and his signature appears as a trustee on land transactions involving Cane Hill College along with Fontaine Richard Earle, the president of Cane Hill College appointed in 1859. Upon the death of J. A. L. in 1887 (Easley 1996:237) Clem inherits the land.
Once the war ended and the college resumed under the direction of President F. R. Earle in 1865, (Basham 1969) it would appear once again this site began accepting boarders. A later piece of documentary evidence which references the possibility of a boarding house in this area comes from an article of the *Chronicles of Oklahoma*, “The Cultural Relations Between Two Pioneer Communities,” by T. L. Ballenger, which compares the likenesses and differences between educational facilities in Cane Hill, Arkansas and that of Tahlequah, Oklahoma. While discussing the members attending Cane Hill, Ballenger states:

“John Henry Covel, William Peter McClellan, John R. Vann, later principal of the Male Seminary at Tahlequah, Watt Watie, Jess Foreman, John L. Adair, captain in the Confederate service under Stand Watie, and John Drew entered Cane Hill College shortly after the Civil War closed. Most of these went on horseback with their belongings in their saddle bags. Watt Watie boarded with Mrs. McCulloch, who lived across the little valley from the college. It was here that he died after a very short illness, the same year that he entered college. His father, General Stand Watie, came and took him home for burial.” (Basham 1969:292)

Stand Watie was the first Native American to reach the rank of Brigadier General of the Confederate Army and the last General to surrender from the Confederate forces (Franks 1979). Watt attended the Cane Hill College shortly after the war. In a letter sent to his sister he stated: “…about my boding place, I coulnld non be suited any better…[sic]” Although Watt would die the same year he entered college, he left a testament to his living accommodations at the boarding facility along with multiple correspondence to his family members while away at school (Dale and Litton 1969:269).

**ARCHAEOLGICAL INVESTIGATIONS**

November 2002, in response to a call from landowner T.A. Sampson, Jerry Hilliard went to investigate the possibility of a cemetery on this land which then became recorded as 3WA1234 in the archeological record. While present, the landowner requested he observe two
other locations, one a standing structure on the property now known as 3WA1235, and the other, the site of our subject, 3WA1233. Upon initial investigation it was determined the site, 3WA1233, was a burned structure of unknown purposes. Oral accounts from local inhabitants in Cane Hill had referred to an “old school” on this property and these remains led the landowner to believe this was the location of such. Visual surface inspection identified the remnants of a rock wall as well as “dressed stone” along a suspected foundation wall. Additionally it was noted another smaller structure was present a short distance from the primary structure, this was initially thought to be a detached kitchen. Based on these findings the decision was made to return for further investigation.

In April of 2003 a team from the AAS returned to the site to test the area in order to identify possible features and placement of structures, including determining the purpose of a detached structure (Feature 2) and its relation to the larger structure (Feature 1) initially found on site (see Figure 2). Four initial two meter by two meter (m) test units (hereafter referred to as TU) were employed involving: TU 1 located in the northwest corner of the detached building also known as Feature 2. Based on artifactual evidence retrieved from this location including faunal matter (i.e. pig bones, gizzard stones), metal and ceramics, it was believed this feature was a detached kitchen early in its existence and in the later years became a tool shed for farm implements. TU 2 and TU 3 were located on the outer western perimeter of Feature 1. TU 4 was located south of the main structure, Feature 1, in an area of interest appearing as a small depression and labeled Feature 3. This area was originally conjectured to be a privy or cistern but later proved to be the location of a former tree. All dirt removed from the units was screened through ⅛” x ⅛” wire in order to capture any artifactual evidence. Any artifacts were bagged
and labeled with their corresponding field serial number (FSN) to be delivered to the AAS lab for cleaning and further analysis.

A small crew returned in November of 2003 with further emphasis on the detached structure (Feature 2). Previously mentioned TU 1 in the northwest corner was reopened in order to reach complete and culturally sterile soil. TU 5, in the southwest corner, TU 6 in the northeast corner and TU 7 in the southeast corner were also initiated. Additionally, TU 8, a one by one meter area located in the northwestern corner, was excavated in an attempt to identify the floor of this feature. As with the earlier excavation, artifacts discovered included heavy ceramic and bone concentrations along with metal and glass.

In March 2004 the AAS crew returned to the site to complete the interior excavations for Feature 2. All units were excavated to a depth of approximately 60-70 centimeters at which point bedrock was encountered and excavation in this area ceased. In the Site Survey Revisit Form, Mr. Hilliard determined “Archeological deposits indicate a detached kitchen was built around 1840. The structure was built over an historic midden and pit feature. A few whole dart points and one full grooved axe found within the Feature 2 floor of the detached kitchen are evidence the historic occupants collected Indian artifacts from the area sites.” Features 6 and 8 were also recorded at this within Feature 2 and were listed as an ash deposit and pit respectively. In addition during this visit Feature 7 was mapped, recorded and listed as a possible root cellar. This feature is positioned to the east of the primary structure, down the ravine and towards the location of the previously recorded spring box (Feature 5).

Lastly, in December of 2012 one more visit was made to the site in order to reconcile the larger structure, Feature 1, with the previously excavated structure, Feature 2. Although the majority of the excavations over the preceding years were focused on the detached building, in
December of 2012 the primary focus was the larger, primary structure and its correlation to the property, as well as to excavate and record the exact dimensions of the foundation in order to establish the layout. Three units were excavated in the interior and two units were placed outside the main walls perceived to be the locations of the front and rear entrances. All of these units were placed in hopes to establish a timeline of the structure as well as its primary function.

Identified Features

- Feature 1 = house
- Feature 2 = detached kitchen?
- Feature 3 = circular depression
- Feature 4 = rock wall
- Feature 5 = spring box
- Feature 6 = ash deposit in F2
- Feature 7 = root cellar?
- Feature 8 = pit in F2
- Feature 9 = east fireplace in F1
- Feature 10 = road

Figure 2 – Site map showing features along with 2003, 2004, and 2012 excavation units
Upon arrival at the Arkansas Archeological Survey, all artifacts were washed and processed following standard AAS laboratory guidelines. The artifacts were then processed using the XENA artifact inventory system, a classification of historic artifacts developed for the Arkansas Archeological Survey (Kwas 1999). The artifacts were then separated into categories based on material type using the following log sequence number (LSN) categories:

Table 5: LSN classification of cataloged artifacts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LSN</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ceramic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Glass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Metal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Faunal - bone/shell used for buttons/clothing, mussel shell, non-consumption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Prehistoric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Floral – wood, walnut shells, peach pits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>School slate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Building materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Bone - bone and teeth (primarily consumption items)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Other – synthetics, etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ARTIFACT ANALYSIS – SITE CONTENT**

**Architectural Interpretation**

To estimate a date for this building, it is necessary to rely on the architectural artifacts located within the site. Architectural items include: nails, window glass, door hardware, etc. For the purposes of this paper the items are broken down by provenience into Feature 1 (the primary structure or house) and Feature 2 (the secondary structure or detached kitchen) to examine contemporaneity of the two structures.

**Nails**

For structures in the Ozarks, the evidence of machine cut nails on a site is indicative of being erected prior to the 1890’s (Hilliard 2008). After this point, wire nails became readily available in this region thereby squeezing out the use of cut nails in construction (Wells, 1998).
Both types of nails were found on this site and were retrieved in both Features 1 and 2. All nails were separated based on level of completeness (complete vs. scrap) then type (cut and wire) then size if discernible. The results are shown in the table below.

Table 6: Summary of wire vs. cut nails

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Totals</th>
<th>Cut</th>
<th>Grams</th>
<th>Wire</th>
<th>Grams</th>
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<td>10554.0</td>
<td>1212</td>
<td>2864.0</td>
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<tr>
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<td>620</td>
<td>2332.3</td>
<td>677</td>
<td>1688.1</td>
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Upon analyzing the wire nails independently, they were broken down into three categories for Feature 1; along the front - or south side of the house (porch area), rear of the house, and inside the house. These findings resulted with 601 (49.6%) of the wire nails located along the south wall of the house, or front porch. This distribution of wire nails along with the foundation profile indicates the front two-storied porch was an addition to the house and not part of the original plan. The one unit excavated off the back wall of the main house, likely the back door, contained 229 (18.9%) of the wire nails, possibly another addition. A total of 360 (29.7%) wire nails were located in the interior of the structure, mostly from the eastern hearth and TU 12 placed towards the center of the structure. The remaining 22 (1.8%) wire nails were located at various places along the outside of the foundation. Overall, with the ratio of 1:3 wire nails versus cut nails, it is likely this structure was erected prior to the 1890’s and stood into the early 20th century. As the needs and desires of the inhabitants evolved, additions and upgrades were made over the years to adapt.

The lower ratio of the nails in Feature 2 could be a result of many factors. Initially this structure could have been created as a living unit until the larger house was built. If this is the case, it may have been a log rather than a frame structure, which would account for fewer cut nails other than those used for the roofing. Additionally evidence, i.e., the excavated plan of the building, shows this is a much smaller structure than Feature 1. Based on some of the artifact
evidence retrieved, such as farming implements, it was used as a storage building near the end of its existence. This use as a later storage facility also accounts for the finding of the higher ratio of wire nails, as they would have been incorporated as fasteners into various items stored in the building.

**Window Glass**

Evidence of glass used in window panes is also present. As with the analysis of the nails, the concentration of the pane glass was located along the exterior walls of Feature 1, predominately the front of the house along the south wall. For Feature 1 a total of 1,459 pieces weighing 3,263.6 grams were recorded as being window glass with only 23 pieces being located within the structure rather than along an exterior facing wall. Feature 2 resulted in 75 pieces (80.8 grams) showing there were likely no window panes in this feature, if so, only a small one.

Pane glass, like machine cut nails, is an artifact that has been studied widely for the purpose of dating historical structures. Dating is based on the thickness of the glass and method of production. Taking a random sample from the glass found along the exterior walls of the structure, and using a micrometer to measure the thickness, the resulting range revealed measurements from 1.08mm to 2.98mm for a total of 113 pieces. Striking the single lowest and highest measurements, I acquired a measurement of 247.33 mm and divided by the 111 pieces remaining. These results give a mean measurement of 2.23 mm. Based on the multiple methods of glass dating outlined by Jonathan Weiland; this would give the house a mean date ranging anywhere between 1843 and 1902 which is within the timeline according to artifact analysis and historic documentation.
### Table 2. Arbitrary Dating Results of Methods by Thickness.

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Figure 3 – Chart showing “Arbitrary Dating Results of Methods by Thickness,” (Weiland 2009:31)

[Technological Briefs in Historical Archaeology]
Other clues to the architectural picture of this structure include the presence of plaster found among the remains of the interior excavations of the house, with a selection of pieces large enough to reveal the imprint of the walls to which it was adhered, thereby providing evidence of the finished interior walls. In addition to this, charred remains of the wooden floor boards measuring 21.2mm in thickness were recovered within the interior with one small section located in situ along the eastern hearth. These structural details as well as the size of the foundation are suggestive of a building serving or housing persons of higher economic status than just those of a farming family settled in the Ozarks for this time period.

**Architectural Plan**

Based on the artifact evidence recovered the primary structure, Feature 1, began its existence as a frame house with finished board exterior. This structure was built and rested upon a dressed limestone foundation and two dressed stone fireplaces, on the west and east ends of the structure, forming a traditional “I plan” structure, common in the region during the mid-19th century (Sizemore 1994:74). Much of the foundation stone has been robbed, but the remaining stonework along the foundation and what is left of the fireboxes suggests someone with masonry skills was involved in the development. Details such as engravings along the foundation stones marking fireplace placement along the East wall and incorporated cellar/basement, suggest this structure was intentionally planned from its induction rather than a single pen structure which was expanded through time. During construction of the cellar the floor area was excavated to bedrock and the cellar walls were then encased in carefully laid stone. While it is possible this cellar was created as a storage space for canned goods and food, it is also feasible this space could have been used for a living area based on its size. When first encountered in 2003, the cellar was filled with refuse dating to the mid-20th century and because of this was never fully
excavated. The entrance to this space was located on the west side and was likely only accessible from the outside, based on the following interview with historic architect Tommy Jameson:

“The cellar leans more towards a domestic space or room based on the size and outside entrance, (harder and more labor intensive to carry food around building that from another outside building). Fireplace itself would have been located within the current stone structure of the cellar, likely out of brick making it easier to replace once brick is burned. Likely door to cellar was “Auntie Em” style with a leaning wood door over entrance” (Tommy Jameson, personal communication 2014).

Figure 4 – partially excavated cellar area with west firebox exposed

The revealed footprint of the structure is evidence of this house being an imposing structure for its time and location. Encompassing roughly 1200 square feet at its base, with two stories and large stone chimneys on either end, this building would have been clearly visible from its vantage point upon the hill overlooking the Cane Hill valley.

Included among the landscape of this structure was a separate, smaller building located approximately nine meters to the east of Feature 1. This building also exhibited a stone
foundation yet was only 256 square feet at the base. No evidence of a fireplace was located in the excavation of this structure nor were any particular archaeological features that suggested its use. This building could have been used for a number of functions over its life, such as a detached kitchen, as there was evidence of pieces of a cast iron stove such as burner covers and possible legs recovered in the artifacts. It could have been used as a smokehouse as these were common structures on the landscape during this time however, based on an interview with Tommy Jameson, this would have been a rather large smokehouse for those typical of the time and the area. There are other possibilities such as a separate living quarters or slave quarters, or merely storage space. Artifact evidence recovered within however; does reflect it was contemporaneous with the larger structure nearby. Based on its substantive size as well as the range of artifacts recovered, it is possible at some point it served as a separate living quarters and if used for the primary food preparation, this was achieved with a cast iron wood burning stove rather than the use of a firebox as most detached kitchens reflect.

The remains of a root cellar were also located in the vicinity of these structures at a distance of thirty one meters to the east of Feature 1 along with a spring house across the ravine east of this cellar and the main compound. Evidence of a long forgotten road was discovered as well, approaching the house from the north side, or rear of the structure winding around the front of the house and trailing back towards the town of Cane Hill.

While conducting archival research, a historic photograph of a particular building became of special interest as a possible candidate for the archaeological remains of Feature 1. Often as a building attributed to Cane Hill, the initial picture of this house can be found in the Lemke collection taken during the 1930’s (see Figure 5). The house itself is quite imposing. On the landscape, a two story structure, which by this time was past its prime, sits alone, with a few
plants and a dog on the porch to cue the fact it was still occupied. The house also boasts two nicely dressed stone fireplaces, one on each end of the house. A total of five doors line the front view to the outside, two upstairs along the balcony and three downstairs along with eight visible windows. Additionally upon close inspection, a single electrical wire can be seen stretched from a white insulator attached to the house and reaching towards the tree on the left side of the photo. This shows at the time this photo was taken the house had some form of electricity.

When compared with the archaeological evidence unearthed at 3WA1233 it could be postulated the building rendered in this photograph was the same as our site based on the footprint size, structural and personal items located. However, further analysis was warranted to narrow down this theory.

While researching local accounts and histories from citizens of Cane Hill a description by Ellen Richardson of what once was the primary boarding house for the ministerial students of the college was encountered. Ms. Richardson was a lifelong resident of Cane Hill and the daughter of Fontaine Richard Earle, former president of the college.

“There was a fourth building, not on the campus; its date of erection is unknown. This was a house often called the “Uncle Buck House” because the money to build it was given by the Rev. Andrew Buchanan of Prairie Grove, who was usually spoken of as “Uncle Buck.” This was to be used as a home for young ministerial students at Cane Hill College. This home, situated a short distance south of the campus, was not burned when the College was, as it was being used as a hospital for wounded soldiers.

This white-painted building faced south and there were wide porches all the way across the front, both upstairs and downstairs. A wide staircase went from the downstairs porch to the upstairs porch, and two large bedrooms opened on that upper porch. Another stairway was in the hall at the back, with a bedroom on each side, above and below. A dining room and a kitchen, built toward the west, joined the main part of the building at the back, forming an ell, with a narrow hallway connecting them.

This house was used for church services for three years after the war, the partition between the two large front rooms being taken out, making one large room with a fireplace at each end. The Ayers family bought this place some years after the war and lived there many years, after that it changed hands many times.
Mr. G. Russell, Mr. Fogg, Mrs. Griffith, Mr. G. W. Morrow, Dr. T. E. Hodge, Mr. Hubert Yates, and other owned it at different times. The house burned in the summer of 1937.” (Richardson 1955:57)

The Richardson description of the house not only matches the Lemke photograph, but her testament of its orientation, setting, use, and destruction by fire in 1937, are all supportive of the archaeological findings with regard to the Feature 1 structure.

Based on the photograph and the few descriptions regarding the dormitory, especially Richardson’s, in January 2014, a small team from the Arkansas Archeological Survey returned to the site in order to take additional photographs focusing on the location of the structure in regards to the surrounding landscape. Using stadia rods placed around the foundation to provide a more accurate assessment of depth and height, an attempt was made to recreate the angle in the photograph. Although the angle of the photographs was not 100% accurate, it appears this would be a likely candidate for the house in the photograph judging by the size, the rise in the landscape as well as the tree line in the background.

Finished board exterior with glass window panes and a porch accessing a stone walkway would have greeted any visitor. Upon entrance the visitor would have been surrounded by plaster walls and solid wood floors, with large, inviting fireplaces along the eastern and western walls. Evidence of plaster was located as well in Unit 12 which was an interior room of the home. This plaster was formed to the walls and the imprint of the boards is visible. Architectural hardware was located within these units as well including: doorknobs, both ceramic and metal, door hardware such as hinges, strike plates, key covers, and keys.

No evidence of indoor plumbing such as sewer pipes, toilet-sink-bathtub hardware was located within this structure, however, pieces of washbasin sized vessels and chamber pots were
found. Ceramic insulators such as those used to secure electrical wire were located, providing evidence there was a measure of electricity to this structure at some point.

Figure 5 - Cane Hill College Dormitory. Walter Lemke Papers. Series 4, box 5, folder 32, item 1297. Courtesy Special Collections, University of Arkansas Libraries, Fayetteville.

Figure 6 - Using stadia rods to depict foundation on landscape
Food Ways – Ceramics

The analysis of ceramic artifacts continues to be one of the most efficient temporal markers in historic archaeology. The mode and style of decoration establishes a timeline for occupation of a site as well as in some cases, affluence of the site’s residents (Majewski and O’Brien 1987). For this site a total of 3,455 ceramics were cataloged and analyzed. From this total, 3,390 pieces were identified as relating to food ways either as service or tableware such as tureens, dishes, bowls, cups, or storage containers such as stoneware crocks or jugs.

Encountered at the site was evidence of Pearlware, (n=51) which dates from 1780-1840s identified by a bluish colored puddling of cobalt in the crevices, i.e. where the footring joins the base (Price 1979). Although thought to be earlier than initial appearance of the structure, Pearlware may be indicative of the inhabitants bringing supplies or tableware with them upon their arrival to this location. Due to the size of the sherds and lack of footrings or handles found, it is unclear exactly how many decorated pieces were Pearlware.

While numerous amounts of ceramic were uncovered related to serviceware, the majority appeared to be common undecorated whiteware, generally tablewares. This is not to say they were not possibly a part of a larger decorated object, but they cannot be identified as such, nor identified by individual patterns. For the purpose of this analysis, the dates of the ceramics were based on Cande’s analysis of decorated whiteware of the Lambert farmstead (3CW674) in Crawford County, Arkansas (Cande 1995).

From the tablewares there were a total of 584 decorated ceramics broken down in the following table based on type, date range, location and totals.
In order to establish a mean date of occupation based on the ceramic assemblage the formula developed by Stanley South for analyzing 18th century ceramics was utilized (South 1977:217). Calculated by the occurrence of fragment types and median dates of manufacture, the following formula was applied:

\[
Y = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} X_i \cdot f_i}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} f_i}
\]

Where:

\(X_i\) = the median date for the manufacture of each ceramic type

\(f_i\) = the frequency of each ceramic type

\(n\) = the number of ceramic types in the sample

\[
Y = \frac{968520}{518} = 1869.7
\]

Based on the formula, the mean date for the decorated whiteware ceramic assemblage for 3WA1233 is 1869.7
Much of the assemblage the ceramic types span a period of approximately one hundred years which also encompasses the occupation of the site. Although there was a vast number of ceramic sherds found at this location, there were few if any that resembled complete settings for a family, but a large number of varying patterns and decoration. Most pieces were fragments small enough to have slipped through cracks in floorboards or have been swept out of the door, additionally there were few refits. Due to the nature of the small size of the pieces, it is impossible to determine the exact function of the majority of these pieces, whether they are bowls, saucers, cups, etc. thereby most analysis is based on varieties of types and numbers.

In comparing the ceramics of Feature 1 and Feature 2 (Table 3), the quantity of decorated ceramics found in Feature 2 is comparable to those found in Feature 1. However, Feature 2, a 16’X16’ structure, was fully excavated, yet the artifacts found in Feature 1 represent only a sample of the structure. These artifacts were recovered from only five units excavated in and adjacent to the structure itself. Regardless of this, the ceramics acquired in Feature 2 are coeval with those found in Feature 1 spanning the same timeframe and containing some of the same patterns (Figures 8 and 9). This supports the interpretation that this smaller structure was present and was in use at the same time as the larger structure. This could also support the theory that this structure was built as a temporary housing unit while the larger structure was under construction.
Decorated Ceramic Types

**Annular or Dipped Ware** - Distinguished by the variable sized horizontal bands around the vessel; these wares were produced from the late 18th century up until the end of the 19th century. Dates are often determined by the mode of decoration on the vessel itself. Based on the rims excavated and the patterns, there were no fewer than six vessels of the annular style. Included in these are: one with a cabling or finger-trailed pattern and two vessels exhibiting roulette bands (1840-1900), others with varying color patterns and sized bands (Jefpat.org).

**Sponge or Spatter Ware** – Dating from 1830-1870, sponge ware comes in a variety of colors and patterning. Eight of the pieces encountered exhibit a blue with yellow sponge decoration and appear to be, if not from the same vessel, likely from matching pieces and were encountered in both Feature 1 and Feature 2.

**Edged Ware** – Edged decorated wares are also often referred to as scalloped edge, feather edge or shell edge and have dates ranging from 1840-1870. From the twenty nine rims, seven
green and twenty two blue patterns included: Dot & Grass, Cord & Tassel, and Bead & Feather. Analyzing of the rim sherds reveal there are at minimum five distinctive green decorated edge sets and a minimum of eight blue decorated edge sets.

**Hand Paint** - based on the rim sherds a minimum of 11 different patterns, including sprig (1840-1870), polychromes (1830-present), and tea leaf (1850-1880), were identified.

**Transfer Print** – the widest variety of decorated ware encountered on the site was that of the transfer print style. Beginning around 1780 and continuing to present-day, transfer ware was produced in a variety of patterns and colors often containing scenes of exotic places, wildlife, or floral motifs. Based on the size of the specimens recovered, the identification of particular patterns was difficult. Rim analysis revealed 24 distinctive set patterns in the following colors: Green (2), Blue/Flow (10), Mulberry (1), Red (1), Black/Brown (7), and Polychrome (3). From these samples one pattern was identified as “Florentine Fountain” and dates to the 1830’s.

**Maker’s Marks** – of the maker’s marks recovered there are a minimum of twelve distinctive marks. However, again based on the size of the artifact complete identification is limited. Among the marks identified were: “Alfred Meakin” dating 1907+, “J & G Meakin Hanley England” dating 1890+, “Thomas Furnival & Sons,” with a Royal arms mark dating 1878-1890. The first of these marks contains a crown with the other two exhibiting a “modern” form of Royal arms showing a lion and a unicorn. All three of these marks originate from pottery manufactures out of England (thepotteries.org). Limoges, Standard and Davenport were also among the marks recovered.
Utilitarian Ware – Based once again on rim analysis a minimum of 26 vessels were identified involving an assorted number of sizes. Three of these vessels included maker’s marks, one from a pottery in St. Louis, one identified as Red Wing pottery and two marks which came from a local potter by the name of J. D. Wilbur. Wilbur came into the Cane Hill area around 1870 and set up a pottery production making various sized vessels for a variety of needs such as storage and service. Because of the indigenous nature of the kiln, the temper and finish is distinctive and is reflected in many of the surviving pieces of stoneware present in these artifacts, although only two pieces have been positively identified with his personal mark (shilohmuseum.org/collections/wilbur_crock.php)
Food Ways – Glass

Of the glass objects, only one vessel was recovered which would be considered whole and would appear to be a type of capers or pickle bottle. Of the 43,352.8 grams of glass, a predominate part of it appears to be the type used for canning jars and the preservation of food as some markers were identified as Atlas, Ball, and Mason. Additionally, pieces of zinc canning jar lids and opaque glass seals were recovered; this type of combined threaded closure began to appear around 1810 with a particular version being patented by Mason in 1858 (sha.org/bottle/food.htm#Canning/Fruit Jars). Also recovered were pieces of drinking glasses, a vast array of bottle necks ranging from cork sealed to twist, and decorative glass such as that found on gas lamp globes and in one particular case what appears to have been a demijohn, or a large narrow-necked bottle often found in taverns or public outlets where a large number of
individuals would have been served from the same vessel. Colors of glass include dark green or olive glass most often used for wine or spirits, amethyst – caused by the manganese oxide exposed to the sun, cobalt – as in cold cream containers, amber – household cleaners and liquor, and clear – from storage bottles to decorative glassware.

The largest quantity of glass 86.8% was retrieved from Feature 1 with a large volume located in the vicinity of the eastern hearth, 23,207.6 grams (53.5%). In the same area of this concentration two iron hinges with springs such as those used for a trap door were also recovered. Although heavily molten, the majority of this glass would appear to be canning jars, this with the addition of the hinges points to a storage space located under the floor of the structure. As this area would have been dark and fairly cool, it would have been appropriate for the storage of canned goods in large quantities.

**Food Ways – Remains**

Often through archaeology the only insight into diet and foodways is remains such as bone and shell. 2,344.4 grams of bone were recovered and only a minute amount of shell. Of this amount 2,178 grams were recovered from Feature 2 again offering evidence this building was probably used for food preparation as a detached kitchen at some point. Of the bone identified, traces of deer, cattle (including one possibly femur exhibiting saw marks for preparation), and pig were the largest concentration Much of the bone was charred but whether this was due to preparation or the burning of the structure is unclear. Of the bone located in Feature 1, remnants were found around both entrances, front and back as well as in both fireboxes likely discarded refuse.
Personal Items

If this structure was constructed and used as a boarding house primarily for educational purposes, then the artifact evidence should reflect as much. Such artifacts would include evidence of multiple inhabitants, educational-based items, and items that reflect the younger predominately male population who would have been attending Cane Hill College. Some of the obvious artifacts that point to this conclusion are the 35 pieces of slate and five slate pencils in and around both Features 1 and 2. Implements such as these were used for school purpose of writing and recording, and were a common material in use through the nineteenth century and into the earlier twentieth century until paper became readily available and affordable. In addition to these, two complete inkwell bottles were unearthed, one made of glass (accession # 2004-301-13-2-8) found in Feature 2 along the north wall, and one made of brass (accession # 2012-366-48-3-3) which was found in the area of the east hearth in Feature 1.

![Fig. 10](image-url)  
*Figure 10 - Fragments of school slate and pens*
Among the excavated and identifiable personal items were the remains of five clay tobacco pipes and fragments of brown glass snuff jars, reflecting the use of tobacco products on the site. Additionally, two multi-blade pocket knives, one with a handle made of antler and the other with a handle made of wood, as well as two whetstones used for the sharpening of knives were recovered. Remnants (10 pieces) of harmonicas were found throughout the site and pocket watch components, such as gears and housings. These items possibly indicate a higher male population, and are the type of items usually kept upon one’s person and individually owned, rather than used communally. Artifacts such as these give some insight to recreational activities and pastimes of the individuals, and are in line with the interpretation that a group of young men boarded here while attending school across the valley.
Other recreational items included toys such as dolls and marbles. The majority of both items were found in or around Feature 1 in TU 9 and TU 14 which were located along the front entrance. This is consistent with Stanley South’s Brunswick pattern of refuse disposal which tends to show heavy concentration of artifacts being swept out of the structures primary entrances and exits after damage (South 1978).

Fragments of porcelain dolls akin to the “Charlotte” doll were found with several of the pieces coming from large painted, bisque porcelain dolls and show evidence of facial features such as blush on the cheeks and painted eyelashes. Often the bodies of these dolls were made of cloth with the porcelain usually reserved for the head and appendages, thereby leaving only parts of the dolls extant. These larger and more detailed dolls likely had a higher cost than their small, plain glazed cousins, the “penny” dolls found on many sites such as that of Old Washington (Kwas 2009: 111-112). Evidence of young girls occupying the site are found in both the census associated with Thomas, not only his daughter - but young school aged girls possibly attending the female seminary at the time, as well as family members of J. A. L. McColloch, with his daughters and their female cousins who were residing close by. While marbles were easily accessible and some in abundance, such as the simple clay marbles often rolled by hand, marbles made of materials such as china and glass were somewhat harder to acquire. Like the porcelain dolls, many of the porcelain (china) marbles were imported from Germany. Of the eight marbles found, three appeared to be of the finer china variety. One was identified as a Bennington marble, identified by the coloring and firing marks upon its surface, one exhibited hand painted stripes around the surface, and another was either initially undecorated or had lost any evidence of decoration over time. These types of marbles rose to popularity around the turn of the century.
as young boys whiled away the hours participating in games (Sprague 2002). These items are evidence of children at this site both male and female.

Other personal effects found while not always gender specific provide a more intimate outlook on the day-to-day lives of the individuals residing in this house. Items such as small, round, brass eyeglass frames, the bone handle of a toothbrush with a “warranted japan” stamped into it, hard-rubber parts of combs, and even a small decorative tintype frame measuring two inches by three inches likely carried by someone housing a picture of a loved one, all bring a closer look to formulating an overview of daily lives and practices of the house’s residents.

Figure 12 – clockwise from top left: eyeglass frame, bone handled toothbrush, hard rubber comb fragments, decorated tintype picture frame

Also, among the artifacts recovered were five coins of United States currency, two “wheat” pennies with mint dates of 1916 & 1919, one “Indian head” penny with a date of 1883, one “shield” nickel dated 1868 and a silver “seated liberty” dime with a mint date of 1838. One note of interest is the dime, as it is perforated/pierced appearing to be used as a charm or amulet
of some nature. Coins, especially those made of silver, have been used as charms for an eclectic group of reasons such as warding off evil or a cure for ailments and date to pre-Christianity, likely a practice brought into the Americas via European immigrants. Pierced coins have also been documented among African American burials such as Cedar Grove and Freedman’s cemeteries (Davidson 2004:26-31). One can only speculate its use in this environment as it could have belonged to the recorded slave who once occupied this site or any other border.

**Clothing**

An array of clothing paraphernalia was recovered including buttons, pins, and various accoutrements associated with dress. From this assemblage a total of 119 buttons were recovered including bone, shell, china and metal. The largest collection being those of the Prosser variety, with 51 (42.9%) buttons. Recognized by the pitting on the surface of the back of the button brought on by the firing process, Prosser buttons become common to the archaeological record around 1840 (Sprague 2002:111-118). The majority of these buttons are of the four hole variety and mostly undecorated excluding two blue, one black, one brown and one whistle, a hollow button which hid the thread in its interior (Kwas 2009:116). The second largest identified group was those made metal 32 (26.9%) and then shell 15 (12.6%) ranging in a multitude of sizes and possible applications from infant or doll clothing to larger vest or coat size. An assortment of bone 13 (10.9%) and synthetic buttons were also retrieved. The following table shows the distribution of the buttons between Feature 1 and Feature 2.

**Table 8: Artifact assemblage of button types**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Totals</th>
<th>Prosser</th>
<th>Bone</th>
<th>Shell</th>
<th>Metal</th>
<th>Synthetic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feature 1</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feature 2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perimeter</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Of the metal buttons, a variety of overall buttons as identified along with pieces of overall and cinch buckles. Brand names such as Big Smith, Trojan, Wild Goose, Nunnally’s Engineer and The Flyer were all present. These were mostly found in Feature 1 and would be indicative of a generally male population of this time.

![Image of various buttons and a buckle](image)

**Figure 13 – Sampling of various overall buttons found along with buckle.**

**CIVIL WAR**

**Typeset**

Some of the unique items unearthed during the 2012 excavations were pieces of typeset such as those used in printing presses for newspaper and other reading materials. Printing presses were not uncommon during this time and although most were used primarily for commercial purposes, smaller private ones did exist. The distinctiveness of this printing setup resides in the type of characters recovered as well as the oral accounts of a printing press in the area. A total of fourteen typeset keys were found, some with legible characters, some broken,
and some used as blank spaces. Of these fourteen keys, three keys are distinctly characters of the Cherokee syllabary, which was developed in the early nineteenth century by Sequoyah, “the brilliant inventor of the Cherokee alphabet,” (Sabo 1992: 88) and adapted in 1828 by Elias Boutinot, “editor of the first American Indian newspaper, the Cherokee Phoenix,” (Cushman 2011: 113) for use in the printing press. The Cherokee syllabary allowed the printing of newspapers and translations of European works such as the Bible into the Cherokee language. As such, the syllabary factored into Cherokee educational practices and is still in use today.

Figure 14 – Typeset keys with physical stamp in upper right hand corner, from left to right – yu, we, and hi
Figure 15 - Original syllabary courtesy of Sequoyah Museum, (www.sequoyahmuseum.org/index.cfm/m/3/pageId/48)
Given the vicinity Cane Hill was to Indian Territory, and although the Washington Treaty sought to move the Cherokees out of Arkansas and into what is now Oklahoma, it is important to note interaction with the Native Americans and the Euro-Americans of Cane Hill did not cease. It is no surprise there would be interaction between its citizens and the Native Americans through trade, business and in some cases education. As T. L. Ballenger pointed out in his essay *The Cultural Relation Between Two Pioneer Communities*: “Not only did several of the faculty members teach both at Tahlequah (Male Seminary and Female Seminary) and at Cane Hill but many of the young men and women of the Cherokee nation attended school at Cane Hill College, particularly before the Cherokee seminaries were opened and during the intervals when they were closed, just before and immediately after the civil war” (Ballenger 1956:291). The intercourse between these two communities was likely a common occurrence given Cane Hill was a community on the United States border and living under different expectations and needs than those of an older more established community further east.

In “The Life of Preston B. Plumb 1837-1891,” William Connelley recounts a printing press “had been in use in the Cherokee Nation, and was sent to Cane Hill when the war began (Connelley 1913:126).” According to him, the press was acquired by Reverend Jones; a Baptist missionary located a few miles west of Cincinnati, Arkansas, for use in the education of the “Pin” Indians and operated to print Bibles in the Cherokee language. The “Pin” Indians were a secret society of Cherokee intent on trying to preserve Indian traditions and customs and were so named because of the pins worn upon their apparel in the form of a cross (Dale and Litton 1969:57). Later the press would come to Cane Hill in lieu of debts owed by Reverend Jones at the beginning of the war (Connelley 1913). A later publication by Kim Allen Scott, “The Fighting Printers of Company E. Eleventh Kansas Volunteer Infantry,” raises the claim that the
press was possibly owned by the Park Hill Press, based on the account of the former press owner recording the demise of this printing press around the same time as the one appears in Cane Hill. Park Hill Press was located near the Cherokee capital of Tahlequah, Oklahoma, a location which was approximately 40 miles from Cane Hill. Regardless of its previous location, at some point around the onset of the Civil War, a printing press with the associated type sets, including one of the Cherokee syllabary, arrives in Cane Hill. Prior to its arrival, no evidence has been found of a press in use before this particular press, no newspapers or school printouts have survived or been recovered reflecting the use of a press for the town or the College itself.

In the fall of 1862, as the Union soldiers marched into Cane Hill to engage the Confederate forces, a group of Union soldiers, including Major Preston Plumb of the Eleventh Kansas encountered printing equipment and type in “a small printing office in a log cabin at the edge of the town” (Connelley 1913:126). Accounts indicate the discovered press included both English and Cherokee characters which were scattered, or pied, upon discovery. Coming from a printing background themselves, they opted to take advantage of the discovered press in their idle hours and gathered the strewn pieces. Preston Plumb began working in a printing office at an early age to help fund his education and would go on later to found the *Xenia News* in Ohio. Plumb, after the war would go on to become a U. S. Senator from Kansas, 1877-1891 (Connelley 1913). With Plumb at the discovery of the press was the commander of Company E, Eleventh Kansas, Captain Edmund G. Ross, another man with a printing background and the founder of the *Kansas State Record* (Scott 1987:263). With the new discovery, these individuals proceeded to produce a Union propaganda paper named *The Buck & Ball*. 
Although there is no doubt of the biased attributes of this publication, it provides invaluable insight into the events of the Civil War in the Ozarks, particularly in Northwest Arkansas and Cane Hill. Accounts included in this paper mention how its publication was interrupted in order for the “publication staff” to march to and fight in the Battle of Prairie Grove. One compelling aspect about this paper is the fact that after this horrific battle, the men returned to Cane Hill to pick up the publication where they had left off. The results of this leave immediate accounts and sentiments both before and after the engagement of Prairie Grove by the Union troops. The discovery of these pieces of typeset, along with other Civil War related artifacts such as a Union Eagle button and .69 caliber Minie balls, indicate the likely presence of Union soldiers at 3WA1233 either before or after the engagement of Prairie Grove, or possibly both.

At present it is unknown if 3WA1233 was the location at which the printing press was first encountered by the Union soldiers, and no artifacts were recovered that could be distinguished as being a definitive part of a printing press. However, it would have not been out of the ordinary to have had the press relocated to this location, especially if the site spent some time as a temporary headquarters or hospital for Union forces.
Under other circumstances, the evidence of a printing press would not be a notable artifact in itself, but the uniqueness of the printing press artifacts physically unearthed (namely the presence of Cherokee type characters), combined with the recorded history of a printing press in Cane Hill from both the inhabitants of the town and the invading Union forces, provide a prime example of Deetz’s tenet in use - the historical record compliments the physical evidence and vice versa.

The contents of the Buck & Ball give a unique perception to the research area such as how the soldiers of the Federal Army was conducting themselves in the area: “The occupation of Cane Hill and vicinity by the Federal army was followed by acts of pillage disgraceful to the perpetrators and calculated to bring discredit upon the whole army and upon the cause for which the army is fighting” (Buck and Ball 1862:4). In an effort to quell some of the chaos and rogue behavior, the publication implores the soldiers to remember their cause, “This army is fighting to restore the supremacy of the Government in the south, and it is not deemed necessary, to that end, to inflict needless suffering upon defenceless [sp] women and children by indiscriminate robbery of their household effects” (Buck and Ball 1862:4). Multiple accounts mention the burning of much Cane Hill, according to William L. Shea: “The chaos intensified as the column passed through Boonsboro (from Cane Hill to the engagement at Prairie Grove). Disabled wagons, broken harnesses, piles of corn, and anything else that could not be moved was put to the torch, and columns of smoke rose into the air” (Shea 2009:205). The Cane Hill Story by Miller and Williams states: “The school buildings were destroyed during the War. At this time there were four buildings. The only one spared was what had been a dormitory for ministerial students and this was used as a hospital and thus escaped the fire” (Shea 2009:12). There are no accounts for exactly which buildings were burned however, it would appear that 3WA1233 was
left intact at this time; this is further evidence this building could indeed have been the male dormitory in question.

If the account of Ellen Richardson is to be believed, then her description of the dormitory not being burned during the occupation and going on to be used as a hospital for wounded soldiers, would explain the building as still standing through the turn of the century as well as being a location likely to house Union troops which had encountered the printing press. This account and description also enforces the validity of the photographic found referring to the dormitory.

It possible these accounts are witnessed from the location of or near the site, and the processing and cataloging of artifacts from the structure turned up various artifacts which are coeval to the Civil War and in particular the accounts regarding the Battle of Cane Hill. Artifacts such as a loop shank uniform button from a Union military jacket showing an eagle and shield, ammunition, both fired and unfired from weapons contemporaneous with the war, shows it is possible both Union and Confederate personnel were present at one point near the location of our site. Personal accounts such as those above enable focus on more precise locations.

**SUMMARY/CONCLUSION**

Education was an essential component in the practices of the Cumberland Presbyterian faith. An excellent example of the effort and importance they attributed to such can be seen in the settlement and founding of Cane Hill. Immediately upon settling into this area the inhabitants of Cane Hill made their first priority a place of worship by establishing the church in 1828 along with a Sunday school for the instruction of the children. Within six years (1834) they would set their sights on a more formalized educational system by organizing a school focused on the education of boys. By 1850, the members of the Cumberland Presbyterian church would
be granted a charter to open the Cane Hill College with the hopes of educating its young men in the faith and ministry in order to send them out into the world to preach the word.

With the establishment of the college and influx of young men, who were often attending school far away from their homes, the logistics of lodging had to be taken into consideration. A large structure would have been desired in order to house multiple boys and provide the instruction and mentoring needed for their ministerial future. A structure of this size would have allowed ample room for many individuals with space for sleeping, congregating, and dining. With a living area of around 2400 square feet, this house (Feature 1) was a large structure even by today’s standards. In addition to at least one other structure (Feature 2) and a separate root cellar (Feature 7) located, this site seems to have been built to house a sizable population by nineteenth century standards.

Historic memory was an important factor in the research of this property. As per the current property owner’s accounts, it had been mentioned as the site of an “old school” Although the exact descriptions from local accounts have become convoluted over time, the archival evidence shows even if it was not remembered as a school in the physical sense it had active and close ties with the college and was an extension of this entity by use as a student boarding facility.

Archival records such as the trail of land title documents, historic accounts of the dormitory, and the Lemke photograph, support the archaeological data. The excavated plan of the structural footprint is compatible with the photograph of the building described as the ministerial dormitory for Cane Hill College. Historic records connecting the inhabitants with the College is consistent with the documentation of the two teachers, Thomas McCulloch and Samuel Lowry, known to have resided at the location as early as 1850, to be followed by J.A.L.
McCulloch who was later listed as a trustee of the college on land transactions. Although these two men were not related, their ties to Cane Hill College were equally strong.

The archaeological evidence and ceramic data for this site suggests its use as a public structure housing multiple individuals with varying backgrounds. If the building was a single family dwelling we would anticipate finding matched sets of tableware akin to a family owning a set of dishes, however in this case a mass quantity of types ranging in all colors and applications was recovered. This would be expected if perhaps the rotation of young men in the household brought in dishes they had collected from varied sources, such as donations or if the residents were providing or transporting their own utilitarian ware for use during their stay. Patterns consisting of annular ware, sponge ware, transfer ware and others were all recovered from this site yet the evidence of matched sets were vague.

Evidence of educational practices was present in the discovery of the school slate, pencils, and inkwells, and although artifacts recovered provided evidence of both genders, it appears that the majority of the artifacts indicate a larger male populace which is appropriate if this was the ministerial boarding house for Cane Hill College. The collection of buttons such as overall and suspender or trouser buttons, buckles and personal items such as pocket knives, and pipes also show a strong male presence.

In 1862 the war had arrived full force in Northwest Arkansas; military troops both Union and Confederate were fighting to establish boundaries to control liminal territories. Although the Battle of Cane Hill was not considered one of the major battles in Arkansas, its significance should not be underplayed. The occupation of the area, first by Confederate troops for its economic ability to supply needed resources, then by Union troops to suppress Confederate movement north, it was vital to the outcome of the battle of Prairie Grove. For the Union
purposes, Cane Hill made the troops accessible and able to travel quickly to the battle. Union reports from the occupation chronicle the town’s buildings and homes being burned with the departure of their troops, yet it is obvious this household remained intact. Based on the artifacts recovered, the possibility of it being utilized as a staging location or headquarters for Union troops is conceivable as it is in a prime location on a ridge overlooking the community of Cane Hill. Additionally, the discovery of the typeset places the Union troops in this location on some occasion, either upon the discovery of the press or as the typeset was being transported. In either situation the Union troops occupied the site for a period of time when they were trying to initiate publication of the Buck and Ball, or when they resumed publication after the disruption of the Battle of Prairie Grove.

Whether or not it was used as a hospital during the war, or a church following the war per Ms. Richardson’s testimony remains speculation. There have been no artifacts recovered which can be specifically attributed to either of these purposes. However, per Mary (McCulloch) Pyeatt, the house did once again resume its function as a boarding house for the college soon after the war, for she remembered the three young men along with Watica Watie arriving to board in her father’s home around 1868 (Bashan 1969:226).

In 1859 upon becoming the President of Cane Hill College, Fontaine Earle Richards delivered his inaugural address with the opening:

"Diverse as are the members of the human family, there is yet a sameness. Though they differ in language, in manners, in education, in civilization, there are still some fundamental principles with reference to which there is a perfect accordance" (Earle 1859)

At the time he was addressing not only the Cane Hill College faculty and students, but the community at large. These words would foreshadow the events to come to this small community nestled in the Ozarks, for the war would shatter their ideas of civilization and sameness. But this
bucolic idea was evident and could be applied to inhabitants of the boarding house, for during its existence it would house master and slave, men, women, boys and girls, Anglo and Native Americans, as well as Union and Southern supporters all in some manner seeking accordance.
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