

**CURRENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL
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VOLUME EIGHT**

**Edited
By
Sarah E. Miller
David Pollack
Kenneth Carstens
and
Christopher R. Moore**

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

PREFACE

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

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

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

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

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

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

David Pollack
Site Protection Program Manager
Kentucky Heritage Council

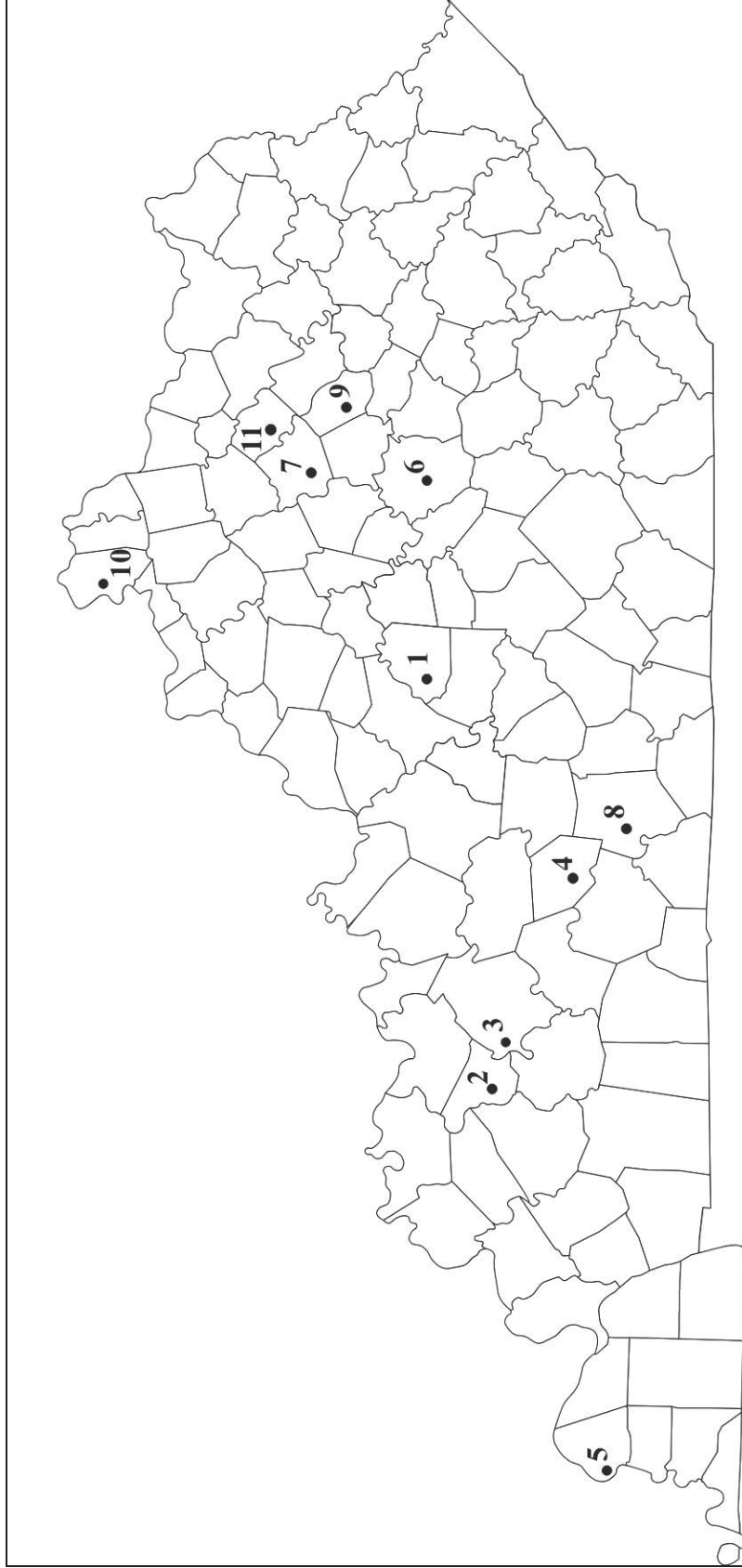


Figure 1. Location of Major Sites and Project Areas in this volume: 1, Upper Rolling Fork and Beech Fork Drainages; 2, Cypress Creek Drainage; 3, Indian Knoll, Ward, and Barrett; 4, Short Cave; 5, Wickcliffe Mound; 6, Broadus; 7, McConnell's Homestead; 8, Bell's Tavern; 9, 15Mm137; 10, Maplewood; 11,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

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FRONTIER STATION OR HOMESTEAD? ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT MCCONNELL'S HOMESTEAD (15Bb75)

By
Grant L. Day
AMEC – Earth and Environmental.
Louisville, Kentucky

ABSTRACT

In 1998, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet contracted with Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc. to complete an intensive archaeological investigation at McConnell's Homestead (15Bb75). This investigation was in compliance with Section 106 regulations associated with the proposed U.S. Highway 27/68 upgrade project. The analyses of artifacts found at this site, such as faunal remains, domestic materials and architectural elements, were particularly useful during this investigation for site dating and drawing socio-economic conclusions about those who occupied this site from the late-eighteenth thru late-nineteenth centuries. Ceramic cost indexing analysis indicates that McConnell and his heirs maintained an upper middle-class status. Dietary preferences, as represented from the faunal assemblage, indicate an adherence to the Upland South tradition. Insights dealing with the application and utility of the historic analytical techniques used during this investigation also are provided. This investigation provides a much-needed database for future comparative analyses of early historic sites in Kentucky. Although McConnell's Homestead was previously referred to as a station, results from this investigation indicate that it is not possible to differentiate it from other early Kentucky households based on architecture and/or artifacts alone.

INTRODUCTION

Topics in this paper are covered in more detail in the comprehensive report submitted to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (Day and Clay 2000). The McConnell Homestead site was located on the Bradyleigh Farm in a grassy pasture overlooking a freshwater spring on the north side of US 27/68, just five to seven km southwest of Paris, Kentucky.

Nancy O'Malley (1987a) first identified this site in 1986 during a Phase I survey of the U.S. Highway 27/68 upgrade. In 1990, O'Malley (1992) conducted a limited Phase II investigation. These investigations uncovered architectural elements of two structures and artifacts believed to be related to the period of McConnell's occupation. In 1998, intensive Phase II investigations successfully located the remains of two structures (Structures 1 and 2), a deep cellar associated with Structure 1, the chimney pad of Structure 2, and two midden areas (Day and Clay 2000). Phase III investigations focused on these two structures and the surrounding features. Structure 1 is assumed to be McConnell's Homestead, constructed ca. 1790. This identification is based upon archival information that places his home in the immediate vicinity and archaeological evidence (primarily the dating of window glass and ceramics) that dates the earliest occupation of this structure to the late-eighteenth century. Eighty-two 1 x 1 m units were excavated during the investigation of Structure 1 and an additional 105 m² were hand-stripped to reveal structural elements and associated features. Approximately 27,000 artifacts were found in association with Structure 1.

Structure 2 was built during the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries. It may have been built for, and occupied by, a tenant farmer(s) and is believed to have had a short period of occupation, less than 40 years. Artifacts from the base of a builder's trench surrounding the chimney pad indicate that the chimney was not constructed earlier than 1875. Thirty-one 1 x 1 m units were excavated during the investigation of Structure 2 and an additional forty-one, 50 x 50 cm units were excavated in this location to reveal architectural information, artifact distributions, and locations of associated features. Approximately 9,500 artifacts were found in association with Structure 2. Fourteen additional 1 x 1 m units were placed in midden areas to investigate features surrounding the structures. A total of 2,413 artifacts were recovered from these 14 additional units.

In this paper, the analyses of artifacts found at McConnell's Homestead (Structure 1) are described and insights to life at this early settlement are provided. The analyses of artifacts, such as faunal remains, ceramics, window glass, nails, and other architectural elements, allow interpretations to be made about the daily lifestyles of the families who lived at this homestead and their transition from a frontier settlement to an agrarian lifestyle. Critical to this discussion is the term "station" and how frontier stations and early settlers in the Bluegrass Region generally have been perceived and described.

ARCHIVAL HISTORY

William McConnell migrated to Kentucky from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania as early as 1781. In 1788, he purchased land in Bourbon County and settled there with his family. In Kentucky, McConnell became a relatively prosperous farmer who raised livestock and periodically rented slaves. McConnell also held several civic positions, including road overseer, deputy surveyor, and grand juror (O'Malley 1992:14).

McConnell lived at this location with his wife Rosanah and at least nine children until his death in 1823, at which time he left his house and land to his heirs.

John Ardery, who married William McConnell's daughter Elizabeth in 1818, inherited the house and a portion of the land after McConnell's death. Like William McConnell, John Ardery also became a prosperous farmer. He increased his land holdings by purchasing surrounding farms and he obtained an increasing number of slaves as his estate grew. Census records indicate there were 20 people living at the Ardery plantation by 1830. Thirteen were family members and seven were probably slaves. Ardery and his family occupied the site until his death in 1853 when Lafayette Ardery, John Ardery's son, inherited the household and farm. Lafayette, Fannie (his wife) and their children may have lived at the site until 1871, at which time archival records indicate they purchased a more commodious house in another location. It is not known for certain how long Lafayette and his family occupied the house or if it was sold or rented to another family after 1871. However, the lack of artifacts dating post-1880 indicates that the structure was abandoned prior to 1880. In addition, the abundance of ash, burned nails, and other burned artifacts indicate that the structure, or a significant portion of it, burned prior to abandonment.

ARCHITECTURAL REMAINS

As discerned from the archaeological investigations, McConnell's Homestead has two main distinguishable sections, which are referred to as the north half and the south half (Figures 1 & 2). The north half was defined by a discontinuous limestone foundation with outside dimensions measuring approximately 12.8 m long by 5.49 m wide (42 ft long by 18 ft wide). The south half was defined by a stone walled cellar that measured approximately 10.97 m long by 7.32 m wide (36 ft long by 24 ft wide).

The most prominent feature recorded in the north half of McConnell's Homestead was a hearth and chimney foundation (Feature 18), and the most prominent feature recorded within the south half was a hearth (Feature 11), located along the eastern wall of the cellar. A brick floor surrounded this hearth and a large number of faunal materials and ceramics were recovered from this area of the cellar.

Another interesting feature discovered in the south half of the McConnell Homestead was a double chimney pad (Feature 26). This triangular shaped chimney pad was one of the more significant architectural features recorded. Such a chimney pad is usually indicative of a three-room plan. German settlers brought the three-room design with them when they settled in areas of Pennsylvania (Kniffen 1986:13; Swaim 1978:34). The three-room plan also has been called the "Quaker plan" or "Penn plan" because it was thought that William Penn encouraged its use in Pennsylvania (Bevins 1981:69; Swaim 1978:34).

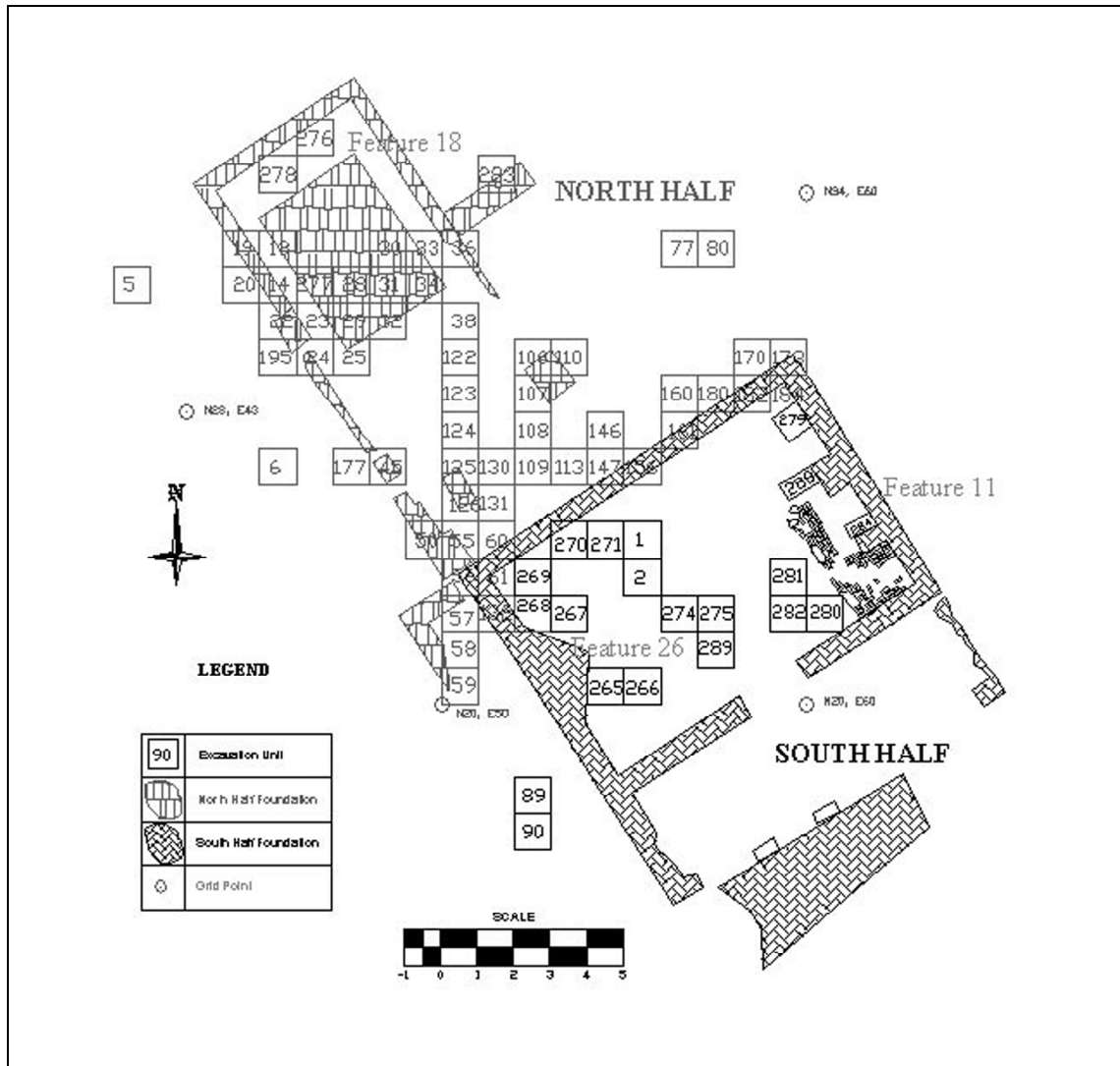


Figure 1. Planview of the 1998 Archaeological Excavation of McConnell's Homestead Showing Stone Foundations of the North and South Halves.

When McConnell built his house, he reached back to the land of his origin, southeast Pennsylvania. His home principally reflects his Scotch-Irish heritage, tempered with Germanic influences from his farming neighbors. The three-room plan had been modified greatly since its European origins. For instance, more fashionable gable-end chimneys replaced the large central chimney. These chimneys probably were adapted from the English I-house, which was considered a symbol of sophistication and attainment during the late-eighteenth century (Kniffen 1986:16). The triangular fireplace, a traditional Pennsylvania Dutch feature, was incorporated, allowing one chimney to service two ground floor rooms and usually a second story room as well.

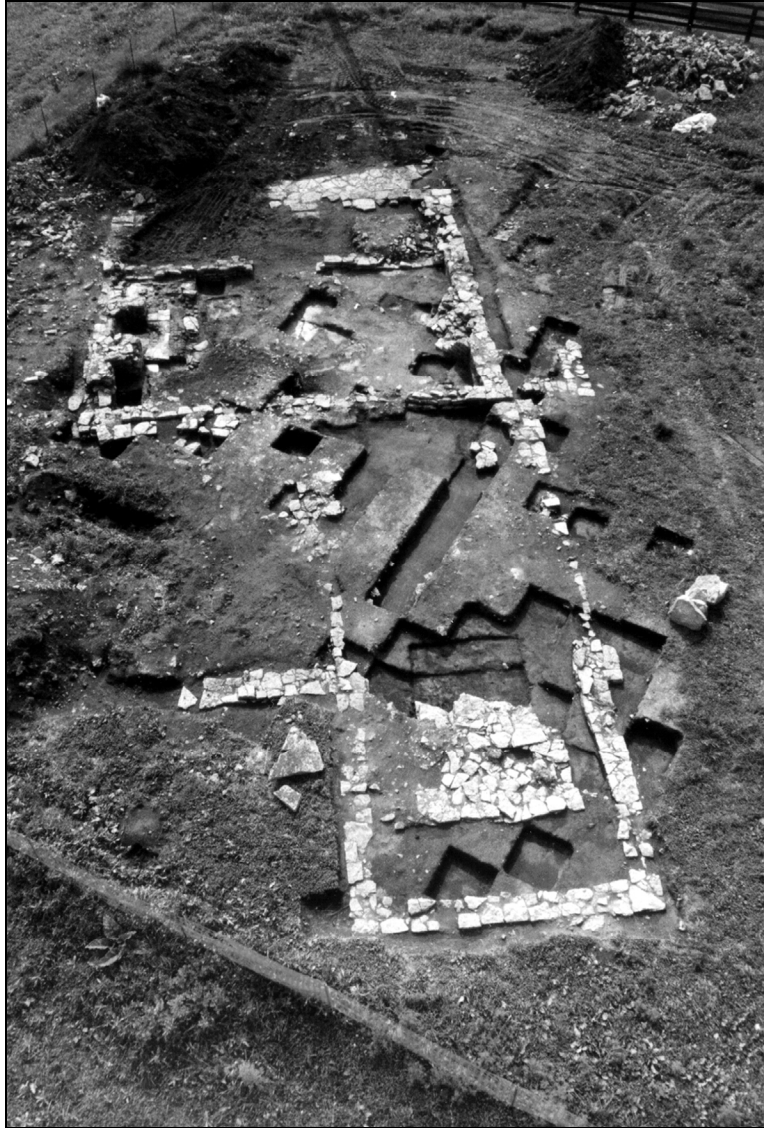


Figure 2. View of the 1998 Archaeological Excavation of McConnell's Homestead, Looking Southeast.

There are several early stone houses built in the Bluegrass region that utilize the three-room plan. Of these, the John Andrew Miller house and the William Thompson house have been well documented and are contemporaneous with McConnell's Homestead (Bevins 1981; Riesenweber and Hudson 1990; Wooley 1982). Conclusions were drawn about the unknown architectural characteristics of McConnell's Homestead by examining the Miller and Thompson houses.

The John Andrew Miller house, built in Scott County around 1790 was very similar to McConnell's Homestead (Figure 3). The structures have many similarities and the original owners have common ethnic backgrounds. McConnell and Miller were both either of Scotch-Irish or of English-Irish descent and arrived in Kentucky from

southeastern Pennsylvania between 1775 and 1781. Miller's house was constructed with sturdy doors, six panels on the outside and bias-batten on the inside. The mantels were high and were finished with fine carvings. The floors were made of ash and the stairways were closeted. The split logs providing flooring and joists were undressed (Bevins 1981:69). It is probable that McConnell's Homestead was constructed in much the same fashion as Miller's house (i.e., six panel doors, split log flooring and joists, and high mantels).

The William Thompson house, built in Boyle County about the same time as McConnell's Homestead (ca. 1790), also utilized the three-room plan (Figure 4). The house is described as having double paneled doors on the front and the rear, pit sawn rafters with collar beams, a closeted corner stairway leading to the second floor and winding to the attic, small attic windows flanking the chimneys, and a separate kitchen. The kitchen of the Thompson house was originally built 3.05 m (10 feet) east of the main house. However, it was connected to the main house during the mid-nineteenth century by a two-story frame addition. In 1806, a room was added to the rear of the main house, but it was later removed (Wooley 1982).



Figure 3. View of the Miller House. [Note: Although modifications have been made and new additions have been added, the basic characteristics of the original house are still intact. Notice the walkout cellar door on the left end of the house. There also was a cellar window that is now below grade.]

Like the Thompson house, the north half of McConnell's Homestead may have been a separate kitchen that was later connected to the main house. The reasons for connecting the kitchen to the main house may have been practical, such as the need for

more sheltered space, but it is more likely that they were adding dining and entertaining rooms to their houses for specific cultural reasons. As the American frontier moved further west, the Bluegrass region became more sophisticated. With this sophistication came change, such as the appearance of the separate dining room (Wenger 1989). Most early houses had a hall and parlor design, where the hall served as the kitchen, dining room, social room, and more. However, as cosmopolitan formality moved into the region the multi-purpose hall became less socially acceptable. In response, additions were added to many houses to accommodate dining rooms, guestrooms, and entertaining areas. These additional rooms became a means of displaying levels of sophistication and wealth.



Figure 4. View of the Thompson House. [Note: This house is constructed with much larger pieces of stone than the Miller house or McConnell's Homestead but the layout and general appearance are similar. The walkout cellar door of the Thompson house is not visible in this picture because it is located on the right gable end toward the backside of the house. There also were cellar windows that are now below grade.]

Based on these architectural comparisons, speculative or interpretive sketches of McConnell's Homestead were drawn (Figure 5). These sketches represent what McConnell's Homestead may have looked like during his occupation, and that of John and Lafayette Ardery's occupations.

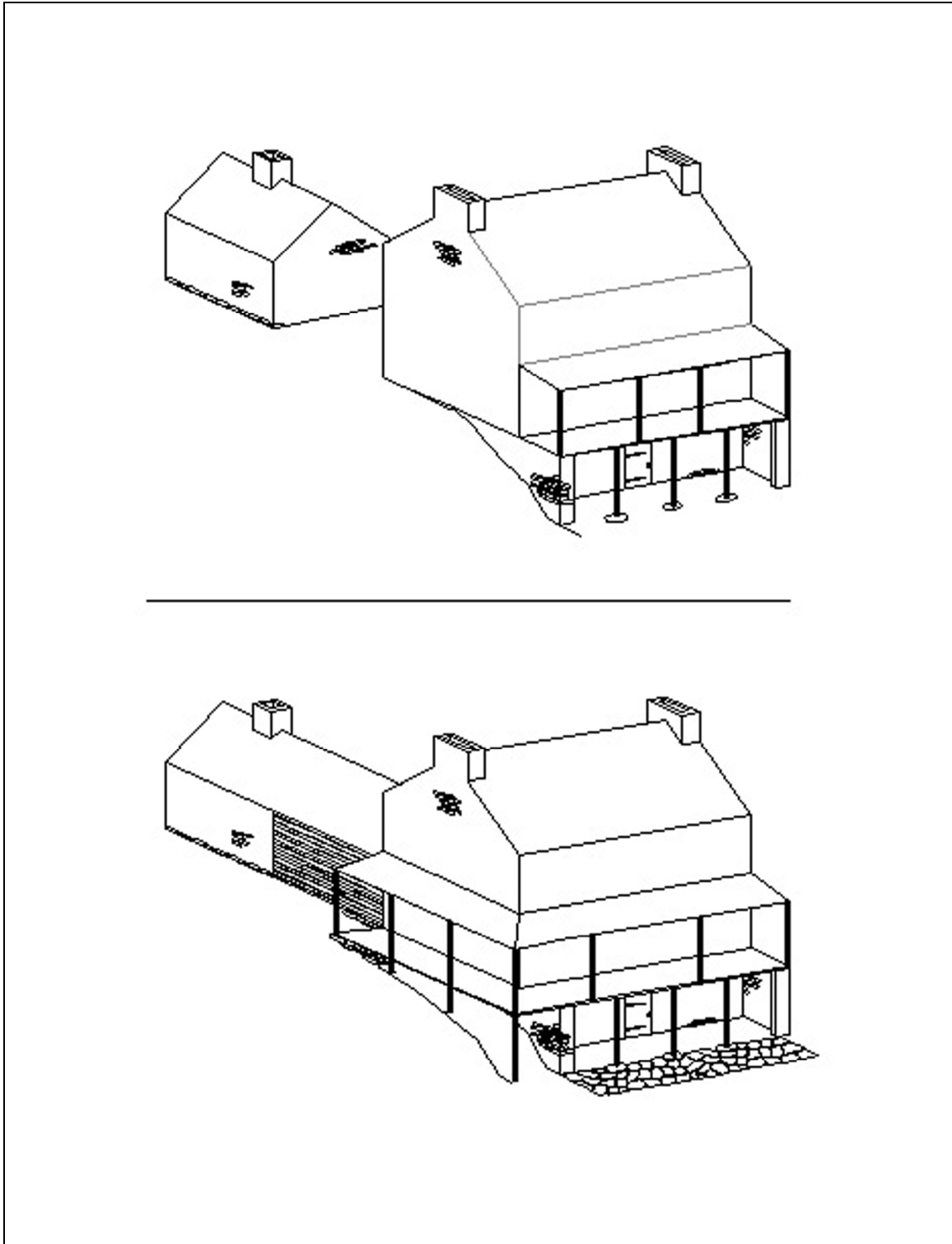


Figure 5. Interpretive Sketches of McConnell's Homestead View Looking Northeast. [Note: (top) represents the house possibly during McConnell's occupation; and (bottom) represents the house during John Ardery's and Lafayette Ardery's occupations.]

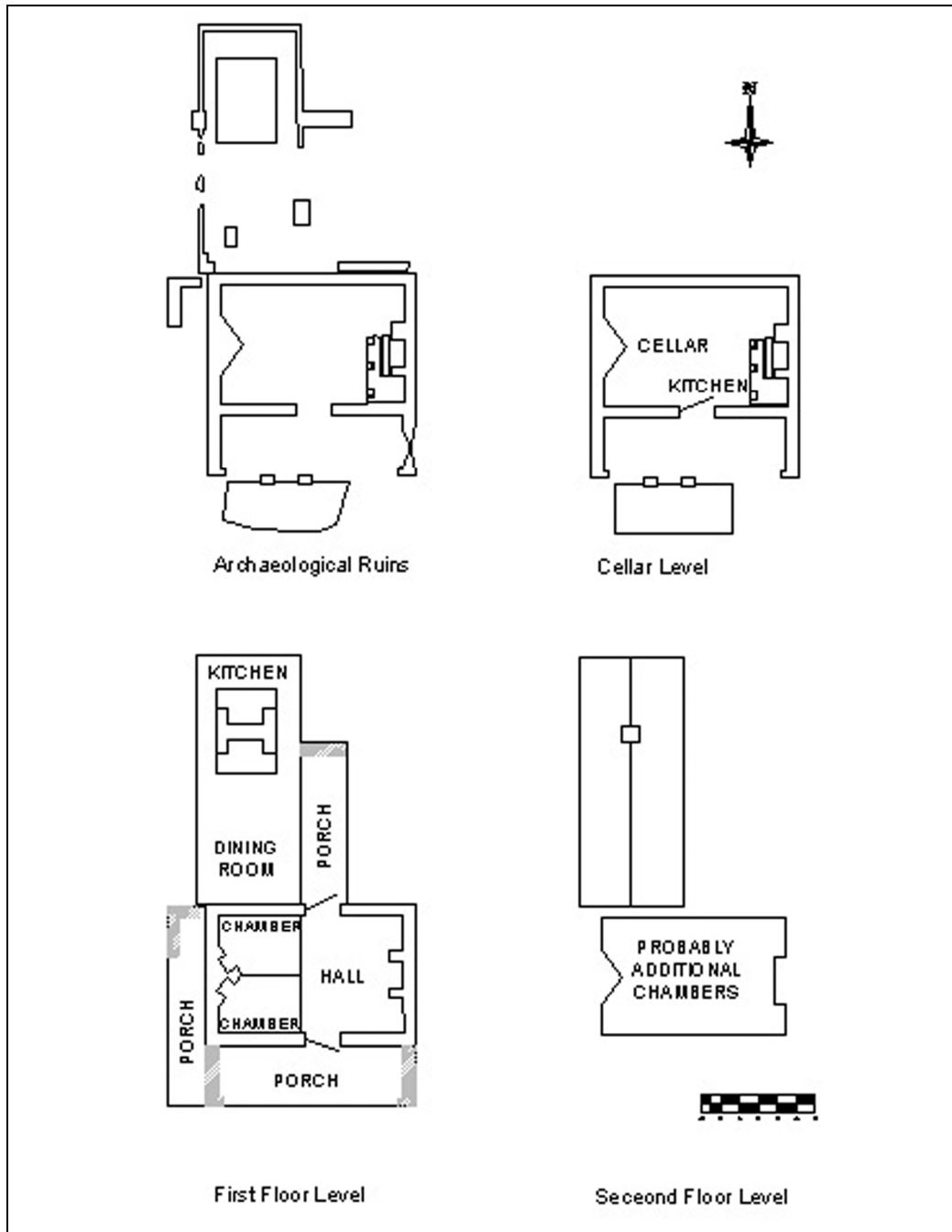


Figure 6. Speculative Layout of McConnell's Homestead: [Note: top left, planview of the archaeological ruins excavated during the 1998 excavations; top right, planview of the cellar or basement level of the house. This level had a brick floor in the southeast corner that surrounded a stone hearth. This area probably served as a kitchen, storage area, and workspace. The rest of the cellar had a clay floor; bottom left, a speculative planview of the first floor level of the house. The designation of rooms and porches was based on the existent stone foundations, artifact distributions, and the layout of similar contemporary structures. Grayed areas under porches indicate the locations of existent supporting stone foundations; bottom right, a speculative planview of the second floor level. Comparative analysis alone indicates the existence of a second floor on the south half of the house. The second floor probably contained additional sleeping areas.]

The designation of rooms and porches on the first floor level was based on the existent stone foundations, artifact distributions, and the layout of other contemporary three-room plan structures. The locations of the porches were determined by the existence of short segments of stone foundations adjacent to the main structure. The existence and design of these porches is speculative but viable. For instance, it is not known whether the porches were covered, open, or fully enclosed additions to the house, but it is fairly certain that the stone foundations in these locations supported some type of addition. The front door and windows are shown slightly off center to accommodate the three-room plan. The north half addition may have been a separate kitchen that was later renovated and connected to the main structure. "Between 1780 and 1820, the wealthiest Kentuckians had separate kitchen buildings for cooking and other heavy household work like laundry and soapmaking" (Riesenweber 1992:254). The existence of the double hearth in the north end of the addition is validated by the existence of the large stone chimney pad. The analysis of the faunal material and the ceramic assemblage recovered from that area indicates that cooking and dining activities took place there. A wash area or possibly a pantry may have been located in the north half of the structure. A number of buttons recovered from the northern end of the north half lends support to the theory of a wash area. Comparative analysis alone indicates that at least the south half of the homestead had a second floor. The second floor probably contained additional sleeping areas.

It is likely that rooms within this structure had an exceedingly complex history of use. The archaeological data offer hints of the types of activities that may have taken place at this location. These data, however, are difficult to relate to particular events that took place at McConnell's Homestead during the almost 90 years of use. What is clear, however, is that William McConnell built a stone home during the late-eighteenth century that set him apart from his neighbors still living in log cabins and reflected his southeastern Pennsylvania origins.

WINDOW GLASS

By analyzing the window glass fragments recovered in association with McConnell's Homestead, it was hoped that the date of initial construction and the span of occupation could be estimated. This analysis provided evidence to determine the construction sequence of the north and south halves of the dwelling. The estimated date of construction was ascertained through a modified use of window glass dating methods suggested by Chance and Chance (1976), McKelway (1992), Moir (1987), and Roenke (1978). A total of 5,096 window glass fragments were collected and dated from McConnell's Homestead. The thickness of each flat glass sherd was measured using digital calipers to the nearest thousandth of a centimeter using digital calipers. These measurements were then processed using Moir's (1987) formula to obtain an associated date of manufacture for each fragment. A histogram was constructed from these calculated dates to illustrate the probable initial construction date and the span of occupation for the structure (Figure 7). Dates derived through this analysis were compared to occupation dates derived from archival sources and analysis of other artifact classes.

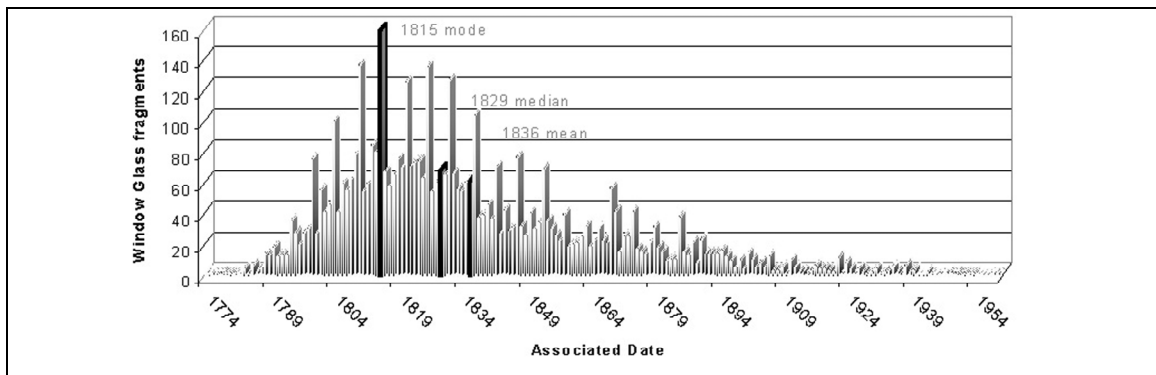


Figure 7. Histogram derived from the analysis of window glass fragments recovered from McConnell's Homestead.

The analysis of window glass indicates a construction date of ca. 1790. This date was established by the sharp increase in the frequency of window glass fragments with a thickness of 0.92 mm (1790) or greater. According to the distribution of calculated dates, the span of occupation for McConnell's Homestead falls predominantly between 1795 and 1886. These dates concur with those of the ceramic assemblage and historical documentation of McConnell's Homestead. According to historical documents, the elevated peaks of window glass fragments between 1800 and 1850 correspond to the peaks of occupation at this site. Between 1800 and 1850, William McConnell and John Ardery were raising their children, purchasing and renting slaves, and most likely expanding and updating their dwelling. The increase of people and construction activities at the site during these years would increase the likelihood of glass breakage and therefore account for the abundance of window glass fragments attributed to this period.

The gradual decline of window glass fragments dating between 1854 and 1886 indicates that McConnell's Homestead was abandoned ca. 1875. However, there is a small but noticeable decrease in the amount of window glass between the years of 1854 and 1870. Interestingly enough, this 16-year period corresponds to the occupation period of Lafayette Ardery. This could indicate that the dwelling was abandoned during this period or that Lafayette replaced few windows during his occupation. Events associated with the Civil War may have diminished Lafayette's access to new window glass.

NAILS

The nails recovered in association with this structure were analyzed to determine its relative age and type of construction. Of the 8,265 nails recovered, nearly 100 percent could be identified as wrought, cut, or wire nails. The majority of nails recovered were cut nails (93.8 percent), with a minor percentage of wrought nails (3.7 percent), even fewer wire nails (2.4 percent) and a negligible number of unidentified nails (0.1 percent). The overwhelming percentage of cut and wrought nails indicates that this structure was constructed during the early- to mid-nineteenth century. However, when the north and

south halves of McConnell’s Homestead are viewed separately, the percentages change slightly. The majority of nails identified from the south half of McConnell’s Homestead was cut nails (85.2 percent), with a minor percentage of wrought nails (12.3 percent), very few wire nails (2.2 percent), and a negligible number of unidentified nails (0.3 percent). The majority of nails identified from the north half of McConnell’s Homestead was cut nails (96.8 percent), with very few wire nails (2.5 percent) and a negligible number of wrought nails (0.3 percent). The higher percentage of wrought nails found in the south half of McConnell’s Homestead indicates that it may have been constructed slightly earlier than the north half, or that wrought nails were used for special building purposes primarily associated with the southern half. A chi-square test of independence indicates that there is a significant difference in the representation of wire versus wrought nails between the two halves of the structure (chi-square = 224.648, df: 1, $p < 0.0001$). An examination of Table 1 indicates that wire nails are over-represented in the north half, while wrought nails are over-represented in the south half. This supports the hypothesis that the south half was constructed earlier than the north half.

Table 1. Chi-square Test of Independence of Wire versus Wrought Nails between the North and South Halves of McConnell’s Homestead.

Chi-square	North Half	South Half	Total
Wire Nails	144 (67.58)*	23 (99.42)	167
Wrought Nails	47 (123.42)	258 (181.58)	305
Total	191	281	472
*Observed (expected)			

The nails also were sorted by size or pennyweight to determine the type, or types, of construction used. Research indicates that different pennyweights can be associated with different functional categories to provide clues about the types of construction used (Walker 1971; Young 1991). Nearly 56 percent of the nails recovered could be assigned pennyweights accurately. Young (1991) created four functional categories: (1) roofing; (2) siding and light framing; (3) flooring; and (4) heavy framing nails. Young determined that roofing nails range in size from 3 to 5 penny, siding and light framing nails are 6 to 8 penny, flooring nails are 9 to 10 penny, and heavy framing nails are larger than 10 penny. Young created models based on the percentages of each nail type expected to be associated with log, timber frame and balloon construction. Using Young’s method, the nails recovered were sorted by pennyweight and then placed into the four functional categories (Figure 8). The results were not similar to any of Young’s structure type models. Suspecting that the north and south halves were of different construction types, the nail assemblages were compared independently and still no similarities were discovered.

The lack of similarity between McConnell’s Homestead and Young’s models is probably due to at least three factors. The first is that McConnell’s Homestead, or at least the south half, probably was constructed of stone. Stone construction does not have an established nail pattern model. The nail assemblage for a stone structure may be very

similar to that of a log or timber frame structure where few, if any, nails are used in the walls. Generally, stone construction would require nails to be used only for the roofing, flooring, framing around doors and windows, and interior trim. Theoretically, this would produce a pattern similar to that of McConnell's Homestead, but there are no comparative data.

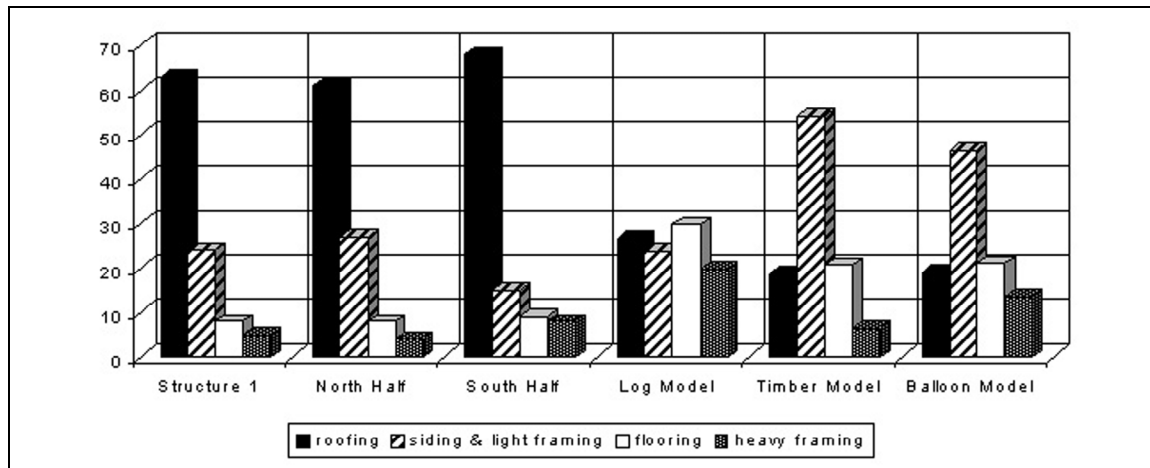


Figure 8. Distribution of Nails by Functional Category Compared to Young's Models for Log Construction, Timber Frame Construction and Balloon Frame Construction (Young 1991).

The second factor is that the models themselves need to be further tested and possibly modified. Initially, Young only used two archaeological sites (Garner and Locust Grove) to test her log model and these sites were of unknown construction types. The models need to be tested with archaeological nail assemblages from structures of known construction types.

The third factor is that standard-sized nails are less likely to be used prior to the introduction of machine cut nails and standard-sized lumber, such as the 2" x 4." When investigating structures that were constructed in stages using different sized pieces of lumber, one is likely to recover a variety of nail sizes. The overall pattern for the use of these nails may be difficult to discern and there may be more than one pattern represented in the nail assemblage. Factors that are not accounted for, such as availability, economics, and aesthetics, also play a role in this equation (Ball 1996).

CERAMICS

The ceramics recovered from the McConnell Homestead were analyzed to help determine the socio-economic status of the occupants (McKelway 2000). Pearlware and whiteware were well suited for identifying differences in the ceramic assemblages of McConnell and his heirs John and Lafayette Ardery. Pearlware was manufactured from

ca. 1790 to 1830 and would have been the most prominent ware during McConnell's occupation until his death. Whiteware was manufactured after pearlware, and would have been the primary ceramic type utilized by John and Lafayette Ardery. Cost index values (Miller 1991) were determined for McConnell and Ardery and they were compared to the index values of other nineteenth century individuals to determine social or class rank (Table 2). Based on this analysis, McConnell and Ardery both were classified as upper middle class farmers.

Table 2. Vessel Ceramic Cost Index Comparisons from Other Historic Sites.

Site	Occupation Range	Status	Vessel Cost Index Average for Site
Moses Tabbs	1800-1840	tenant farmer	1.42
Kings Bay Plantation Slave Cabin A	1791-1815	slave housing	1.47
Kings Bay Plantation Slave Cabin C	1791-1815	slave housing	1.64
William Hale	1832-1837	poor farmer	1.67
Harmony Hall	1793-1832	small planter	1.77
Mabry Slaves	1830-1823	small planter	1.78
James King West Kitchen	1806-1823	small planter	1.84
George Mabry	1830-1860	small planter	1.90
John and Lafayette Ardery	1823-1875	upper middle class	1.98
Gowan Site	1830-1860	small planter	2.10
William McConnell	1790-1823	upper middle class	2.21
John Richardson	1810-1816	wealthy	2.31
Walker Tavern	1834-1850	tavern	2.37
Diaz	1842-1858	merchant	2.69

As McBride and McBride (1987) demonstrated, there is an association between expensive ceramics and individuals of means who maintained positions of social prominence. O'Malley (1995) suggests that the social context of an urban residence of a well to do family, where visitations are more likely, might encourage a show of more expensive ceramics. Social contexts also may have influenced the purchasing decision of some rural households. When viewed from this perspective, the wealth reflected by the McConnell and the Ardery's ceramic assemblages would correspond to the prestigious image that these families wanted to project. This is particularly relevant in the context of interacting with one's social peers through social calls, which frequently involved offering tea and coffee along with food. The prominent and highly visible stone house they constructed along one of the more important transportation routes through Kentucky may be another example of the desire to present their success through their material culture.

This analysis is only a beginning point for ceramic analyses of early sites in Kentucky. Additional studies of this type are drastically needed in the state. Analyses of this kind provide comparative data for other historic sites studied in the future, to

understand the importance, manipulation, and function of ceramics within different social contexts.

FAUNAL REMAINS

Faunal remains were identified and analyzed to examine subsistence activities that occurred at this site (Tuma 2000). Domesticated species dominated the assemblage. Pig bones dominated the assemblage in terms of NISP (Number of Identified Specimens), MNI (Minimum Number of Individuals), and bone weight. Other important domesticated species recovered from this site included cow, chicken, and sheep (Figure 9).

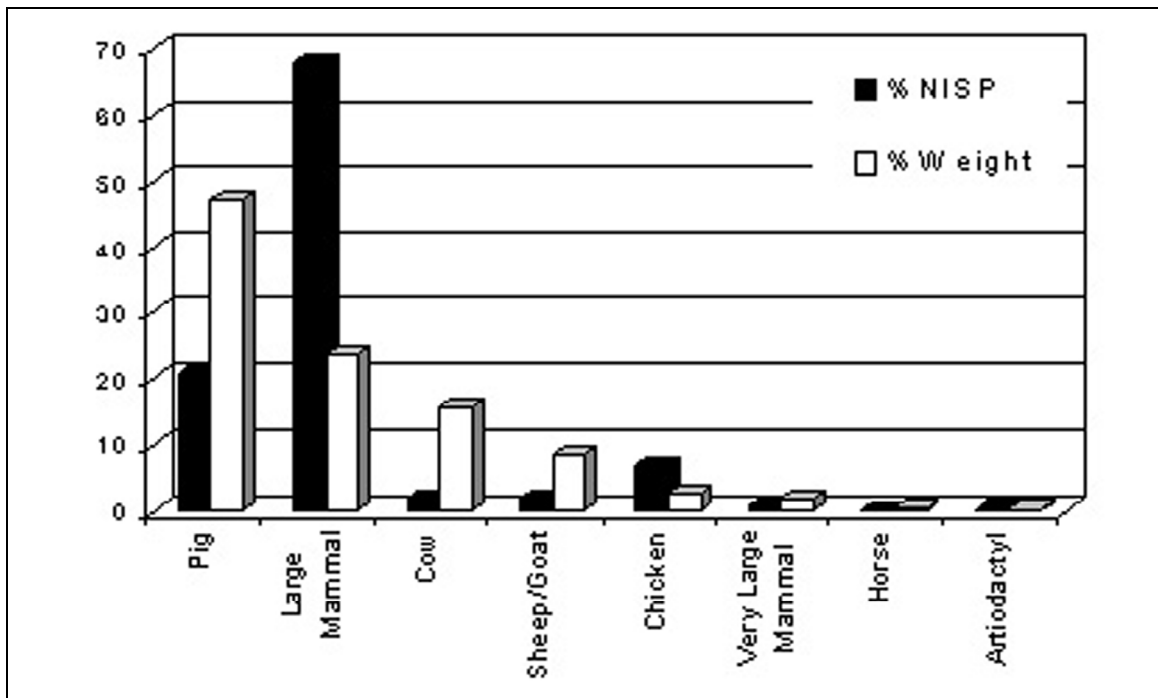


Figure 9. Proportions of NISP and Bone Weight among Domesticated Species Recovered from McConnell's Homestead.

The occupants of McConnell's Homestead appear to have been part of the Upland South Cultural Tradition. This tradition originated in the Upper South during the eighteenth century and spread with the migrations of emigrants from the southern states (McCorvie 1986, 1987:251; McCorvie et al. 1989). The main characteristic of the Upland South populations is their reliance on a diversified farming complex that utilized a variety of resources, enabling each homestead to be self-sufficient in relation to food production (Wagner and McCorvie 1992:7). The Upland South tradition typically

translates into a reliance upon corn, pork, buttermilk, and clabber for a majority of food consumption.

Northerners and Europeans found this reliance “utterly foreign” (Power 1953:106-112). Instead, New Englanders incorporated wheat bread, fresh milk, and beef into their diets. Early nineteenth-century travelers’ accounts of the Bluegrass area voice their disdain for the Upland South tradition. One early traveler reported that the road from Philadelphia to Lexington had small inns located every 10 or 12 miles (16.1 or 19.32 km) of the route. He continued saying, “They are generally log huts, of one apartment, and the entertainment consists of bacon, whiskey, and Indian bread” (Ashe 1809:91).

A small part of the McConnell faunal assemblage consisted of wild species, most importantly wild turkey, ruffed grouse, rabbits, and squirrels (Figure 10). In terms of biomass contributed by hunted animals, wild turkey was the most important species. Interestingly, no deer remains were recovered. Several accounts by early explorers and settlers in the region noted the abundance of deer. Imlay (1792:90) observed that “the mountains, hills, and uninhabited parts are abound [sic] in deer...” and that “deer abound in extensive forests” (Imlay 1792:94). Although this region may have never supported a high deer density, they were no doubt present in the Bluegrass Region during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

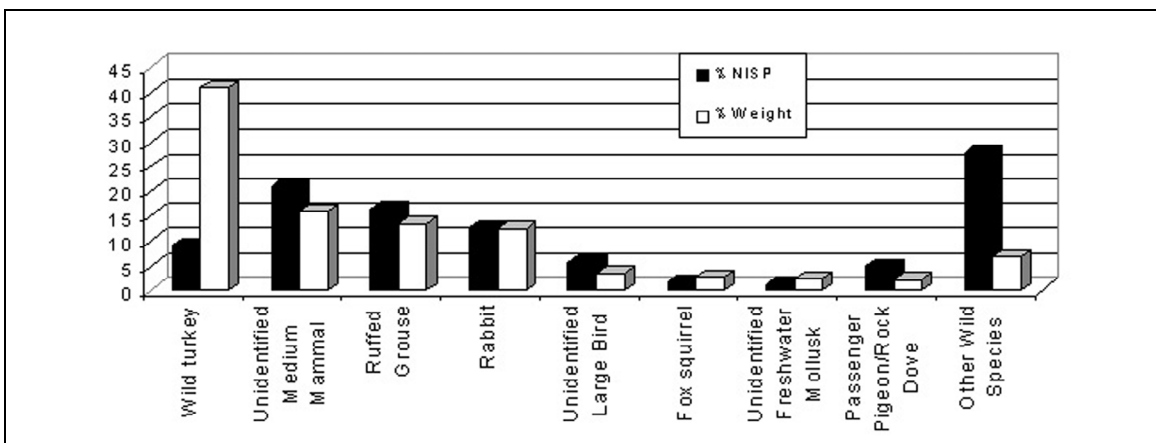


Figure 10. Proportions of NISP and Bone Weight among Wild Species Recovered from McConnell’s Homestead.

The cultural aspects of the Upland South tradition may explain the absence of deer from the faunal record. Frederick Law Olmstead noted that a farmer in east Texas owned land that was abundant with game, including deer, but “he never shot any; ‘twas too much trouble. When he wanted ‘fresh’, ‘twas easier to go out and stick a hog.” This cultural attitude may have been prevalent in Kentucky in the early nineteenth century as well. In addition to the ease of killing a domestic hog over hunting a deer, Kentuckians may have preferred salted pork to fresh venison or fresh meat of any kind. Ashe (1809:216-217) noted that Kentuckians “have an aversion to fresh meat... they find it

unwholesome... they eat salt meat three times a day...” and Michaux (1805:238-239) reported that Kentuckians’ use of salted meats gives them a distaste for fresh meat. Venison was generally too lean for Euro-American tastes and they weren’t adept at processing and storing large lean animals, although they did quite well with bear (Richard E. McCabe personal communication 2001). McCabe also stated that agrarian settlers killed deer when they could, not so much for meat or skins, but to keep them out of crop patches. Thus, the absence of deer from the archaeological record in the eighteenth to nineteenth centuries appears to be a reflection of cultural traditions regarding meat consumption that were in place not only in Kentucky, but also throughout the Upland South.

STATIONS, FORTS, AND HOMESTEADS

One of the more important questions this investigation had to address was, “Whether McConnell’s Homestead was a frontier station?” This question was important because the title or label of “frontier station” has specific connotations about the lifeways, functions, and architecture associated with it. The term frontier station usually is associated with: settlements occupied by individuals, such as Daniel Boone, threats of Indian attacks, hunting and living off the land, cabins with log palisades, dirt floors, wooden bowls and utensils, and crude living conditions in general. However, the term station has been applied to a variety of early settlements in the Bluegrass region, including McConnell’s Homestead, confusing the characteristics that determine the differences between stations, forts, and homesteads.

Nancy O’Malley (1985, 1987b, 1999) has done extensive research regarding the topic of Bluegrass region frontier stations, from which many of the following defining characteristics of a station are derived. Basically, stations were temporary shelters designed to protect settlers from the threats of frontier life. Early settlers in Kentucky were subject to a number of threats including attacks from wild animals, Native American tribes and possibly British troops. The scarcity of food and unpredictable weather also were concerns of early settlers. With the intention of diminishing some of the dangers of frontier settlement, a system of forts and stations was established. “The system embodied features borrowed from earlier frontiers – safety in numbers, erection of physical barriers, a vigilant patrol system” (O’Malley 1999:57). Stations usually consisted of a defensible structure or group of cabins, preferably surrounded by a ditch, rampart and parapet, palisades, stockades, or some other means of defense. They were typically constructed of logs, seated on intermittent stone piers and were heated by chimneys made of stick and mud daub (O’Malley 1987b:37). Essentially they were temporary civilian forts built at varying scales depending upon the number of people they were intended to house.

Stations were not government-sanctioned posts, but many were built and occupied by Revolutionary War veterans. Those who built stations on their land were, in a sense, providing a service for which they were entitled to charge a fee. Those who stayed at

someone else's station generally would pay rent, provide labor, or perform some type of service in exchange for their lodging. Station owners also benefited from the fact that those who stayed at their stations sometimes purchased or rented land from them.

Bryant's Station and Squire Boone's Station are among the many examples of early stations in the Bluegrass region. Descriptions of these stations are nearly identical to what most would consider being a fort (Figure 11). With the exception of four examples in the Bluegrass region, Boonesboro, St. Asaph's, Harrodsburg, and Lexington, the term "fort" is rarely used when referring to early pioneer settlements in the Bluegrass region. Forts are typically associated with military occupation, and early Kentucky stations generally housed civilians. However, historians, when discussing the early history of Kentucky, use these two terms almost interchangeably (O'Malley 1987b:27).

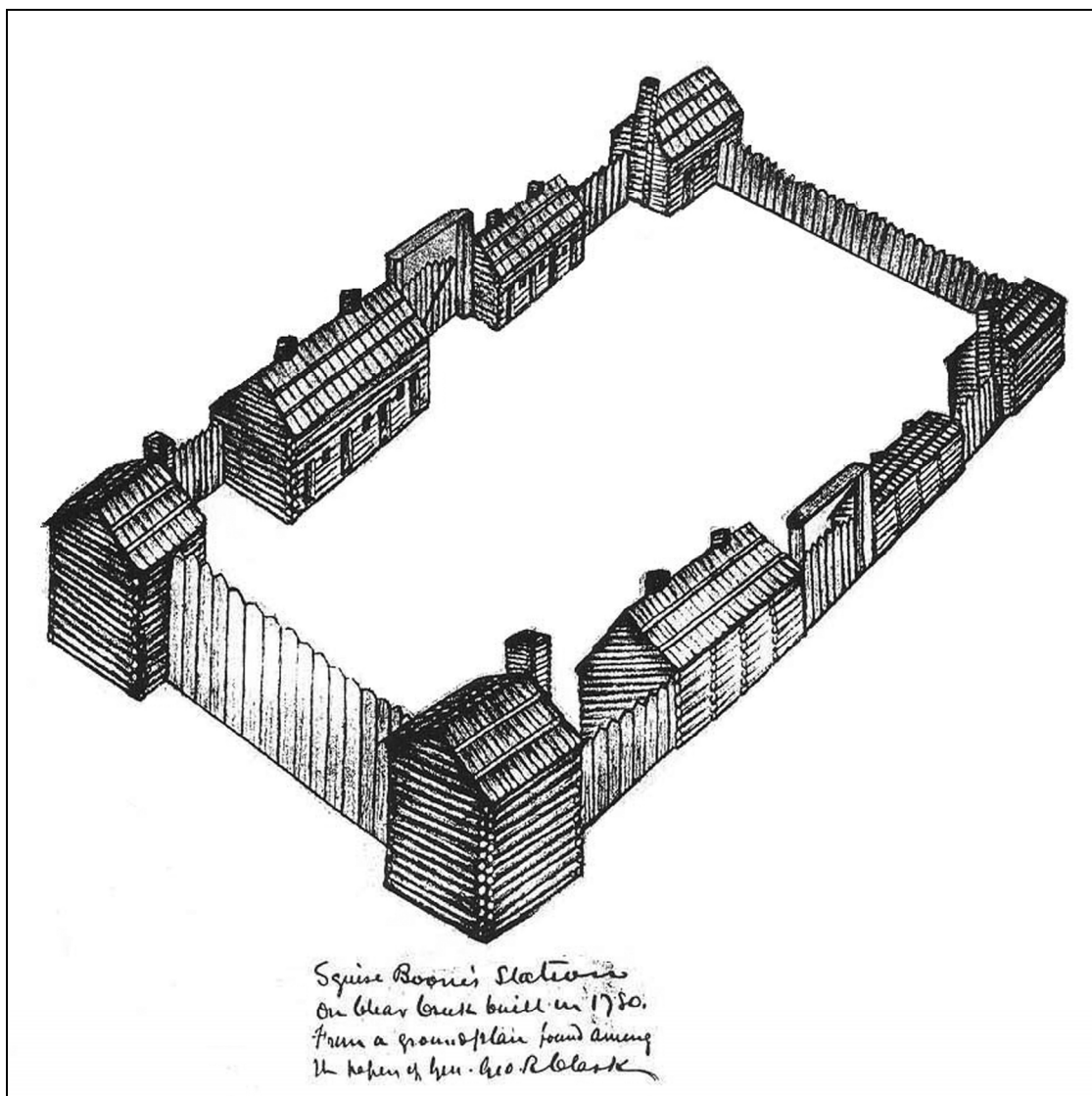


Figure 11. Interpretive Sketch of Squire Boone's Station (Durrett Papers).

The 1792 account of Gilbert Imlay, a Captain in the American Army and a Commissioner for laying out land, may be one of the earliest descriptions of frontier stations in the Bluegrass Region:

The perturbed state of that period, and the savage state of the country, which was one entire wilderness, made the object of the first emigrants that of security and sustenance, which produced the scheme of several families living together in what were called Stations. These stations were a kind of quadrangular, or sometimes oblong forts, formed by building log-houses connectedly, only leaving openings for gate-ways to pass as they might have occasion (Imlay 1792:132-134).

Even Imlay, writing as early as 1792, uses the term “fort” to describe stations.

Most stations were established between 1770 and 1785 and were “abandoned within a period of only ten or twelve years” (O’Malley 1987b:30). As the threats of frontier life decreased over time, stations were no longer needed. So, they generally were abandoned as people began to settle on their own land. Many people probably built simple log cabins to live in until arrangements could be made for a more substantial structure. Imlay described this process by writing, “As the country gained strength, the stations began to break up in that part of the country, and their inhabitants to spread themselves, and settle upon their respective estates” (Imlay 1792:132-134).

However, the term station continued to be used beyond the frontier period (after 1785) and was being used in reference to homesteads that more resembled a typical family dwelling as opposed to a fort in miniature. O’Malley (1987b) documented a rise in the number of stations being built after 1785. Many of these later dwellings were constructed with little or no defense capabilities, but they were still labeled as stations. It appears that by the 1790s, stations were viewed less as defensive retreats and more as landmarks or resting areas along the trail.

The term “station” has been applied to a broad spectrum of early housing in the Bluegrass Region. At one end of the spectrum is Bryant’s Station, consisting of a solid rectilinear row of cabins and stockades with blockhouses in the corners, housing approximately 44 families near its peak. And at the other end of the spectrum is McConnell’s Homestead consisting of a single-family stone dwelling with no apparent stockade, that may have housed only one additional person or family for a relatively short period of time. This illustrates how misleading it can be to classify Bryant’s Station and McConnell’s Homestead together under the same heading of “station” because the two are quite different.

McConnell’s Homestead does not conform to the stereotypical station description of a stockaded fort in miniature. Archival information indicates that McConnell built his house toward the end of the frontier period, around 1788. Excavation revealed that McConnell’s house had a substantial and continuous stone foundation, a full sized cellar with stonewalls, large and substantial stone hearths, and the main portion of the house

itself was constructed of stone. There was no evidence of a stockade, or other nearby contemporary cabins, and this structure was not built for short-term occupation. McConnell planned to live in this house long after the threats of frontier life had diminished and stations were part of the past. In fact, McConnell and his descendants occupied this structure for nearly one hundred years.

So, why is this site sometimes referred to as McConnell's Station? In the few known documents associated with McConnell, he never refers to his house as a station. "McConnell's Station" is not labeled on any known early maps. In fact, in his last will and testament he refers to his house as a "mansion" and he refers to his farm as a "plantation." There is only one known historic reference where McConnell's Homestead is actually referred to as a "station." This is a 1798 court case, Lanier vs. Protzman, where William McDowell deposed that he lived at McConnell's Station about four miles from Paris around 1789-1790 (Bourbon County n.d.). McConnell provided shelter for at least one person for a short period of time and it is likely for this reason alone that this site is known as McConnell's Station instead of McConnell's Homestead. So, although history has recorded McConnell's house as a "station," it is actually more representative of an upper-middle class homestead or farmstead. It is possible that McConnell built an earlier temporary structure in another location which resembled a fort in miniature; however, this investigation found no evidence for this possibility.

Early stations in the Bluegrass region, such as Bryant's Station were basically temporary forts that were designed primarily to protect groups of settlers from attacks by Native Americans and British troops. Later, it appears that the term was applied to more permanent homesteads where neighboring families or individuals may have stayed while they were building their own homesteads. It also is possible that these later homesteads may not have been erected as stations, but later acquired the title because of their location or because they provided shelter to new settlers in the region. The term station may have evolved from meaning "a fort in miniature" to meaning a "frontier hotel or rest area." Other possibilities for the evolution of the term station might include a rallying point for surrounding settlers in case of an attack or possibly a place where travelers or soldiers were welcome to rest and acquire supplies. However, these lines of inquiry require additional research and investigation before they can be substantiated.

CONCLUSIONS

This investigation has provided new insights into Kentucky's frontier and settlement periods and the way early historic sites in Kentucky are investigated. The analysis of window glass, ceramics, nails, and faunal remains for site dating and drawing socio-economic conclusions about the site occupants were particularly informative during this investigation. The method of graphing the calculated dates of manufacture for each individual window glass fragment by frequency to show the full distribution of fragments proved very successful for the analysis of this structure, yielding good correspondence between artifact dates and archival evidence. Much needed comparative information has

been added to Kentucky's database for conducting ceramic cost indexing analyses. Two hypotheses for conducting nail analyses were tested. The first, which proved useful, indicates that the relative age of a structure can be determined by dating the nails used to build that structure. The second hypothesis, which indicates different types of construction (i.e. log, timber frame, and balloon frame) that can be identified by the archaeological nail assemblage (Young 1991), was inconclusive for the McConnell's Homestead but should not be ruled out for future investigations. The faunal analysis from this site indicates that McConnell and Ardery adhered to the diet of the Upland South tradition. This diet typically refers to a reliance upon corn, pork, buttermilk, and clabber for a majority of food consumption. The main characteristic of the Upland South tradition is a diversified farming complex that utilized a variety of resources, enabling each farmstead to be self-sufficient in relation to food production (Wagner and McCorvie 1992:7). However, McConnell and Ardery were much more than just self-sufficient. They were producing surplus hogs, cattle, and crops with the intent of making a profit. They participated in local government and made investments in stocks. With their earnings they bought status items, such as fashionable ceramics, and they expanded their landholdings when possible and made additions and improvements to their home. This investigation of McConnell's Homestead was the first full-scale excavation of a Bluegrass so-called "station" and it is one of the few large-scale excavations of a late-eighteenth to early-nineteenth century farmstead in Kentucky to date. Although McConnell's house has been referred to as a station, it would be hard to differentiate it from other early Kentucky households based on architecture and/or artifacts alone. The term station may have evolved from meaning "a fort in miniature" to meaning a "frontier hotel or rest area." Clearly, a substantial amount of new research is needed to fully understand the changing role of the term "station" in the history of the Bluegrass region.

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