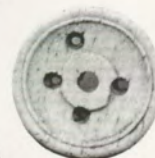
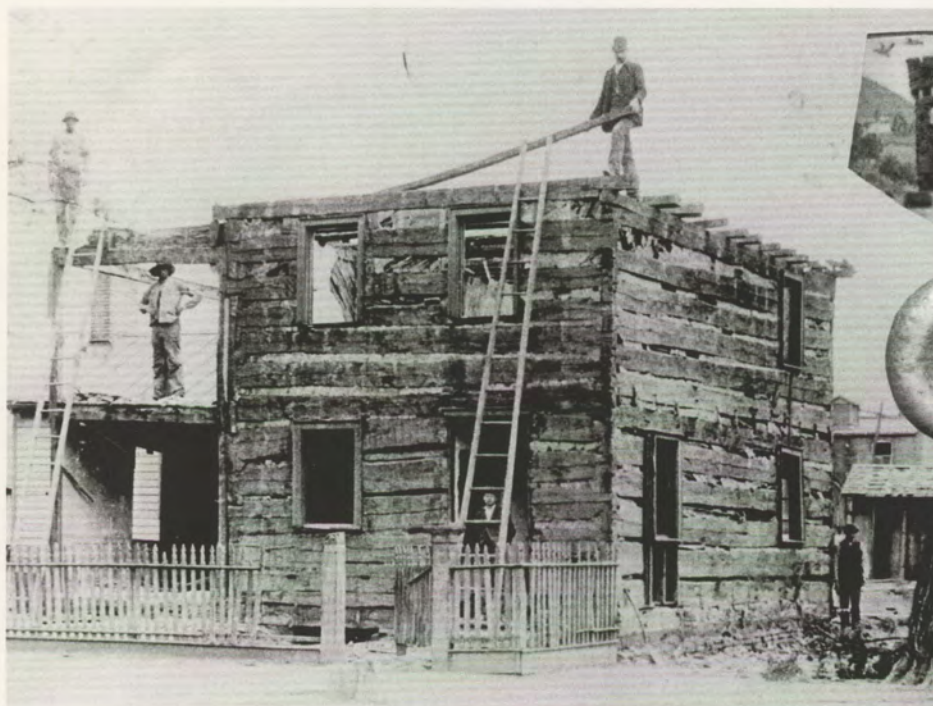


# THE BEGINNINGS OF A STATE CAPITAL

Archaeological Excavations at the  
Elijah Iles' Store Site in Springfield, Illinois.



ROBERT MAZRIM and CURTIS MANN

With contribution by  
TERRANCE MARTIN



SANGAMO ARCHAEOLOGICAL CENTER  
Fieldwork and Technical Reports Bulletin  
Number 11 2005



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The Beginning of a State Capital

Robert Mazrim

Sangamo Archaeological Center

Fieldwork and Technical Reports Bulletin Number 11

Printed by the Sangamo Archaeological Center

Springfield, Illinois

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS AT THE  
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The Beginnings of a State Capital  
Robert Mazrim  
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## Preface

Excavation projects such as those conducted at the Iles Store Site represent an unusual element of archaeology in Illinois. Today, the majority of the archaeological excavations conducted in the Midwest are performed as part of federally funded or permit-based construction projects. Significant archaeological facing damage or destruction by such projects are protected by law, and are potentially eligible for receive state, federal, or mandatory private funding. Meanwhile, however, dozens of significant sites which are not protected by the National Historic Preservation Act (and subsequent amendments) are destroyed by various forms of development each year in Illinois. Further, many sites that may qualify for federal permits (particularly in urban contexts) tend to slip through the cracks of the administrative process, and construction destroys archaeological resources before they can be examined.

One of the missions of the Sangamo Archaeological Center is to address significant, pre-Civil War archaeological sites facing imminent destruction, but which will not receive state or federally funded archaeological attention. In February of 2003, the Center was alerted to construction activity at the site of Elijah Iles' 1821 store in downtown Springfield. Representing the earliest commercial site in the city, the Iles Store Site is clearly of regional significance. The Center immediately approached the owners of the property (Isringhausen Imports), who were in the process of expanding their car dealership, headquartered on the north side of Jefferson Street. The Isringhausens granted permission for a brief archaeological examination of the lot, to be conducted in between phases of construction.

The cooperation of the Isringhausen family has demonstrated that landowners can be historically conscious while developing their property, without suffering financial loses or significant construction delays. The study conducted in 2003, and the framework provided by the Sangamo Archaeological Center, has demonstrated that the private sector can provide a badly needed supplement to state and federal funded salvage programs. Funding, of course, remains the biggest obstacle for such supplemental efforts. The funding for the Iles Store excavations, analysis, and publication was provided by the Sangamo Archaeological Center.

Such research and salvage projects are group efforts, and I would like to thank our field crew: Dennis Naglich, Kenneth Farnsworth, Andrew Weil, James Patton, Curtis Mann, Linda Garvert, Melissa McCarthy, Dick Hart, Elaine Birtch and Nancy Chapin. Further, Curtis Mann (manager of the Sangamon Valley Collection of Lincoln Library) has generously shared his research into the origins of Springfield, and Linda Garvert has provided additional information regarding Iles and his storekeeping activities. The Sangamon Valley Collection also provided several historic maps, photographs, and documents for this report. Finally, we thank the Isringhausen family, for their enthusiastic cooperation.

Excavation projects such as those conducted at the Lee Store Site represent an unusual element of archaeology in Illinois. Today, the majority of the archaeological excavations conducted in the Midwest are performed as part of federally funded or permit-based construction projects. Significant archaeological findings or destruction by such projects are protected by law, and are potentially eligible for rescue, federal, or mandatory private funding. Meanwhile, however, dozens of significant sites which are not protected by the National Historic Preservation Act (and subsequent amendments) are destroyed by various forms of development each year in Illinois. Further, many sites that may qualify for federal permits (particularly in urban contexts) tend to slip through the cracks of the administrative process, and construction destroys archaeological resources before they can be examined.

One of the missions of the Sangamon Archaeological Center is to address significant, pre-Civil War archaeological sites facing imminent destruction, but which will not receive state or federally funded archaeological attention. In February of 2003, the Center was alerted to construction activity at the site of Elijah Lee, 1827 town in downtown Springfield. Representing the earliest commercial site in the city, the Lee Store Site is clearly of regional significance. The Center immediately approached the owners of the property (Jannghusen Imports), who were in the process of expanding their car dealership, headquartered on the north side of Jefferson Street. The Jannghusens granted permission for a brief archaeological examination of the lot, to be conducted in between phases of construction.

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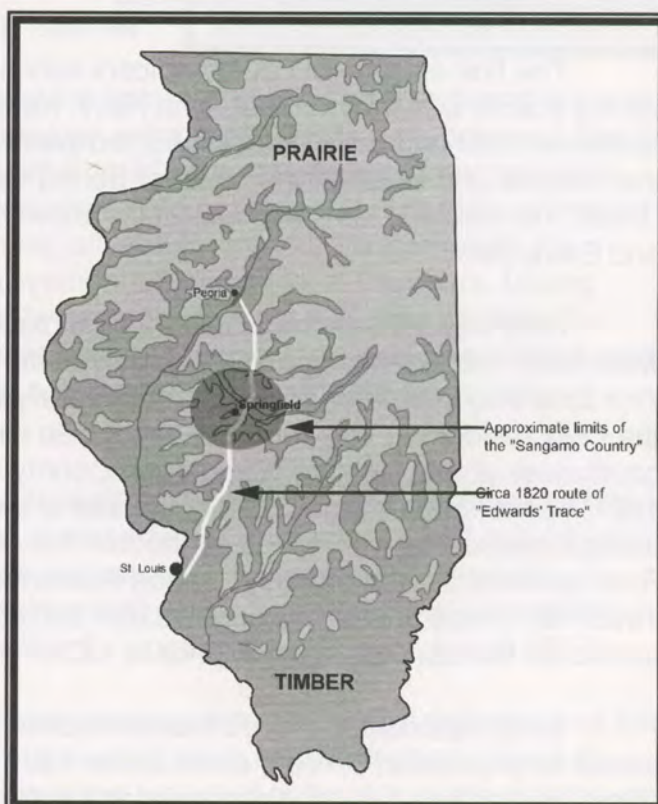
# 1. Archival History

## THE "SANGAMO COUNTRY" FRONTIER

The first American settlements established in what would become the state of Illinois were located in the uplands overlooking the broad Mississippi River floodplain known as the American Bottom (across the river from modern-day St. Louis). American farm families from Virginia began settling this region before the close of the Revolutionary War. By the close of the War of 1812 thirty-five years later, the uplands of modern-day Randolph, St. Clair, and Madison counties were well settled. Following statehood in 1818, many new immigrants (primarily from the Upland South) began scouting out unsettled locations further north.

One of the principal, post-1815 American frontier locales in Illinois was known as the "Sangamo Country", located approximately 75 miles north of the earlier American settlements, and centered on the central Sangamon River Valley. This region was composed of timbered creek valleys surrounded by large expanses of upland prairie. The area was also serviced by a significant, pre-settlement overland trail, which connected the French communities of Cahokia and Peoria. The trail had become known as "Edwards' Trace", after its use by Territorial Governor Ninian Edwards during the war of 1812 (Figure 1).

The limits of the "Sangamo Country" during the first years of statehood are unclear, but based on period accounts and pre-1825 land purchase patterns, the region appears to have encompassed all of present day Sangamon and Menard counties, as well as portions of Christian, Logan, Mason, and Morgan counties. The prairies to the north and east were home to the Kickapoo until ca. 1820. At the northern terminus of Edwards' Trace, the Potawatomi occupied the west bank of Peoria Lake, and were known to seasonally occupy the Sangamon Valley as far south as Menard County as late as the mid-1820s.



**FIGURE 1:**

Approximate limits of the Sangamo Country and Edwards' Trace.

The first permanent American settler of the Sangamo Country is thought to have been Robert Pulliam, who settled along Edwards' Trace and the Sugar Creek timber (in southern Sangamon County) in 1817. By 1821, over 300 "taxable inhabitants" were listed by local officials (Mann 2003), but these families were in fact squatters, as land in the region was not offered for sale by the United States Government until the fall of 1823. The county of Sangamon was created in 1821.

By the close of the Black Hawk War in 1832, the Sangamo Country was well populated, and served by local governments, commercial services, and reliable transportation routes. Thus, the frontier period of the region was concluded by the late 1830s. In 1837, the state capital was moved from Vandalia to Springfield. In 1839, the size of Sangamon County was reduced, and divided into modern-day Sangamon, Menard, Christian, and Logan counties. Although the first railroad lines designed to connect Springfield to the Illinois River were constructed in the 1830s, they were short lived, and reliable rail shipping would not arrive in the area until the mid-1850s.

## THE FOUNDING OF SPRINGFIELD

The founding of the town of Springfield followed close behind the creation of Sangamon County in January of 1821. Upon the establishment of the county, state law demanded the immediate selection of a temporary seat of county government, and a small group of entrepreneurs quickly seized upon this as an opportunity for a speculative and commercial investment.

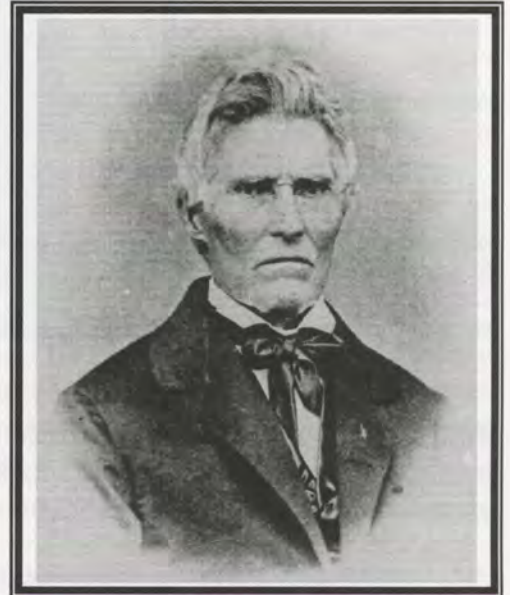
The first election of county officers was held on April 2, 1821, and one of the polling places was the home of John Kelly. Kelly was the head of an extended-family settlement that had been established two years earlier, and which was situated along the margins of a small prairie south of Spring Creek. The region surrounding Spring Creek and the Kelly farm was informally known as "Springfield" as early as 1820 (Mann and Brady 2003).

Kelly's cabin was the site of the first meeting of the county court on April 3. A week later, the recently appointed county commissioners met again in Kelly's cabin. This time they staked off a site for a temporary county seat, located immediately east of the Kelly residence. The commissioners also hired Kelly to build a temporary log courthouse at that location (Sangamon County Commissioners' Court Minutes June 5, 1821). Located on a small hillock, the site of the new courthouse was also situated along a preexisting trail, which connected the central Sangamon Valley to the Illinois River across from the mouth of Spoon River (Mazrim 2002: 44, Mazrim and Naglich 1996: 19). It was probably along this trail that approximately eight or ten families had settled (in the Springfield area) prior to 1821.

Early historians believed that the location of the temporary county seat was based on population density, and that the Kelly settlement would have best provided board and lodging for visiting lawyers and judges (i.e. Angle 1971: 6). In fact, there is no evidence that the small node of settlement along this portion of Spring Creek was any

larger or more improved than others along Spring and Sugar creeks (i.e. Mazrim 2002, Faragher 1989). The initiative displayed by Kelly and his neighbors to accommodate the creation of the new seat of government was probably an important determining factor, however.

Soon after the temporary county seat was established, a store clerk named Elijah Iles arrived at the site (Figure 2). Iles was originally from Kentucky, and had previously settled in Franklin, Missouri where he worked as a buyer for land speculators. It was there that he learned of the "richness" of the Sangamo County. He visited the Springfield area in the spring of 1821, and decided to relocate there. Iles then returned to Missouri, settled his business affairs, and moved to the Sangamo Country. He boarded with the Kelly family temporarily, contracted for the construction of a log storehouse to be built near the planned site of the courthouse, and then left for St. Louis to purchase a stock of goods. He completed his move by June of 1821. John Kelly completed the new courthouse about the same time (Sangamon County Commissioners' Court Minutes June 5, 1821).

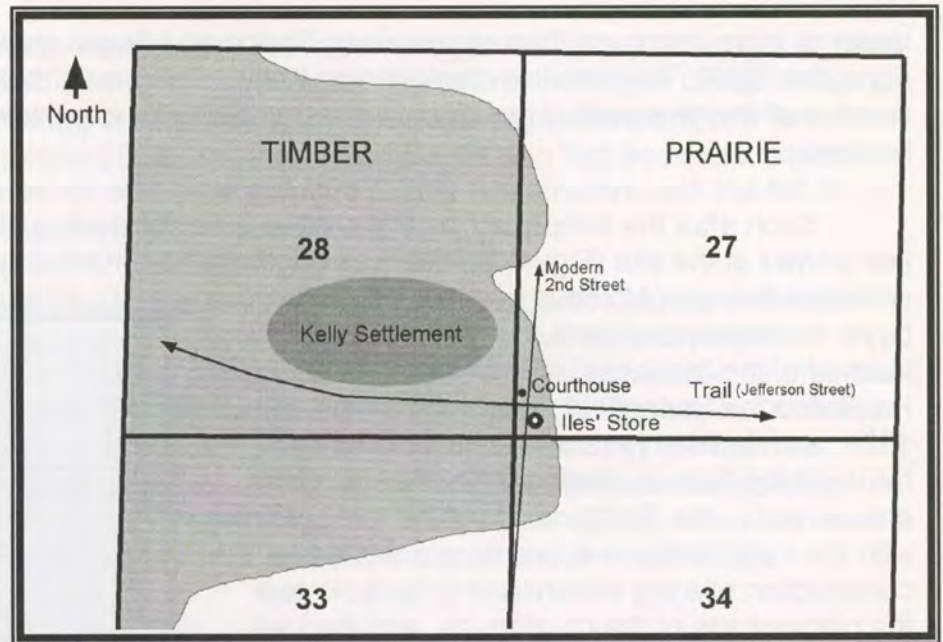


**FIGURE 2:** Elijah Iles

The creation of the county preceded the completion of government land surveys, and thus all of those who had settled the region were "squatting" on government-owned land. Until the surveys of the immediate area could be completed, no improvements could be legally purchased from the government, and no town plats could be anchored to the rectangular system of survey. Further, all lands were to be auctioned to the highest bidder, thus threatening the improvements made by local squatters. During certain periods, squatters were protected by preemption laws that allowed them first right of purchase. During the early 1820s in Illinois, however, no such laws existed, and "squatters rights" were based on informal agreements, rather than legal ones (i.e. Mazrim 2002: 25-28, Rohrbough 1968)

The township which included the future site of Springfield was surveyed by the Edwardsville Land Office in May of 1821, or immediately following the first meeting of the county commissioners. The land office plat map of the township (from which individual surveys of properties would later be tied) was not certified until December, however, and the land would not be available for purchase until November of 1823.

The survey of the area placed an east-west section line immediately south of the old trail along which the courthouse and store would soon be constructed (Figure 3). The surveyors also laid a north-south section line just west of the site of the courthouse and the site of Iles' store. It was probably from a surveyor's stone placed at this junction



**FIGURE 3:**  
Early 19<sup>th</sup> century setting  
of Iles' Store Site,  
showing timber lines,  
section lines, and trail.

that Iles made the decision to build his store at that location. At the same time, Kelly finished construction of the temporary courthouse. Both the store and the courthouse were located in the quarter section ultimately claimed by Elijah Iles.

By the summer of 1821, the informal Springfield community was still located on government land, which would soon be placed at auction and sold to the highest bidder. Those who had improved the properties surrounding the new courthouse would have been actively anticipating the auction, preparing to purchase lands that included not only their improvements, but the property that would ultimately become a county seat town. While speculative towns came and went on the early nineteenth century frontier, those that received a seat of government were insured high traffic, longevity, and high real estate values.

Perhaps as early 1821, Elijah Iles (as well as two other newcomers to the area) began purchasing the improvements and "squatters claims" of several area residents. Iles himself was remembered to have paid \$200 for "improvements" in 1821 or 1822 (Angle 1971; 12n). This was probably part of a property claimed by a member of the extended Kelly family. John Kelly himself probably reserved a claim in what would be the southeast corner of Section 28, which included his farm. Further, Illinois Representative Daniel Pope Cook was remembered to have paid \$130 or \$140 for a claim in the area, on which he erected a cabin and placed ten acres in cultivation. This was probably in the northwest of Section 34, which Cook ultimately sold to Pascal Enos. Finally, John Taylor purchased the improvements of another early settler, Richard Doggett, in 1822 for \$130. (Angle 1971; 12n). This parcel was located in northeast quarter of Section 33, which Taylor purchased from the government upon its availability for sale. Taylor was then serving as the first sheriff of Sangamon County.

In the spring of 1822, the Springfield Land District Office was created by an act of Congress. Located in the Springfield settlement and along the same trail, the office would be in charge of auctioning lands that extended from the Sangamon Valley south to Edwardsville. Pascal P. Enos and Thomas Cox were appointed the land office receiver and register respectively. Enos had studied law and served in the Vermont legislature before coming west to Illinois and settling in the vicinity of Edwardsville. Cox had fought in the War of 1812 as an Illinois Ranger, and served as a senator in the first General Assembly as well.

Historian Paul Angle stated that Iles began informally laying out streets for a new county seat as early as 1822 (Angle 1971; 11), thus acting as the "proprietor" of the town that would become Springfield. The platting of a town was usually a reasonably straightforward affair - even if the town was planned as a county seat. In most cases in central Illinois (during the frontier period), would-be proprietors of a town would improve or occupy government land and await its availability for purchase. Then the individual (or sometimes a partnership of two or three men) would purchase an 80 or 160 acre parcel. Following this purchase, a local surveyor would be contracted to plat the lots and streets of the new town, often conforming to topographical concerns or preexisting trails and improvements. If that town was competing for a seat of county government, the plat would include a "public square" property, which would be gifted to the county for the construction of a permanent courthouse.

Although Elijah Iles and John Kelly were in an excellent position to purchase the lands surrounding the new courthouse (and to then plat a town across one or both of their parcels), the preparations for what would become the town of Springfield were much more complex. Angle suggests that Iles was somehow responsible for urging Taylor, Cook, and land office employees Cox and Enos to purchase the surrounding claims as part of a "business venture" (Angle 1971; 11).

Complicating matters, on August 21 of 1823, Governor Edward Coles formed a commission that was to select thirty-six sections of government land to be reserved from public auction. These lands were to be sold later, and the proceeds of the sales earmarked for education. Coles instructed the commission to examine the Springfield area, and to consider lands with "an intrinsic and permanent value" based on such considerations as soil fertility, townsites, timber, prairie and coal (Greene and Alvord 1909: 49).

On October 11, 1823, Coles wrote a letter to Cox and Enos at the Springfield Land Office, stating which sections of land the commissioners had selected for use as "Seminary Lands", and which should be restricted from the public sale. Among these restricted properties was the quarter section immediately south of John Kelly's farm, on which John Taylor had recently purchased Richard Doggett's squatter's claim.

Later that month, Iles' complex plans for the county seat community were put in more jeopardy by the sudden death of his partner John Kelly. Kelly would have claimed

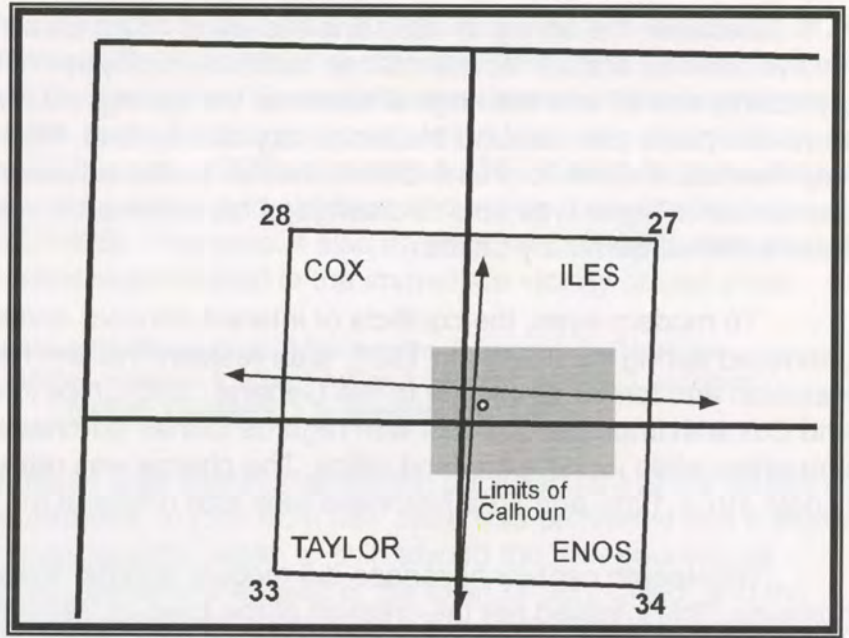
an important portion of the land on which Iles intended to plat a town, and his family's hold on this land was now potentially threatened. A recently discovered letter from Iles to Cook (who was actually living in Edwardsville at the time) reflects not only Iles' response to Kelly's death, but also appears to support Angle's interpretation of a business venture involving at least six men, and several quarter sections of land surrounding the new courthouse (Appendix 1).

In his letter, dated October 21, 1823, Iles reported Kelly's death and indicated that Kelly's improvement could be bought for \$150 or \$200. Iles also mentioned Taylor's improvement had been selected for use by the state. With the land auction less than three weeks away, Iles instructed Cook: "if you see any speculators speaking of going on to purchase, to hold out an idea the Town will be moved in consequence of the Location." This was clearly an effort on Iles' part to confuse speculators and to discourage them from bidding against himself and his partners. He also noted that the residents of the Springfield community had already petitioned Governor Coles to remove the selection of Taylor's land and make it available for public auction. Iles also informed Cook that his improvement "goes now in the name of Enos", as Enos would ultimately purchase Cook's quarter section of land. Why the property was not purchased under Cook's name, or if Enos actually paid for the property himself, is unclear. Enos, it should be remembered, was in a delicate position in such matters, as he served as the receiver of monies at the land office.

The need for such complexity is unclear. Although Iles was understandably worried about the possibility of his improvements being purchased from beneath him at public auction, this rarely occurred in the 1820s in Illinois. Squatters' rights were a long held tradition, and enforced by local mob rule if not a law from Congress (Mazrim 2002: 25-28, Rohrbough 1968). As Iles was heavily invested in his store, however, he may have been in need of financial support for the project.

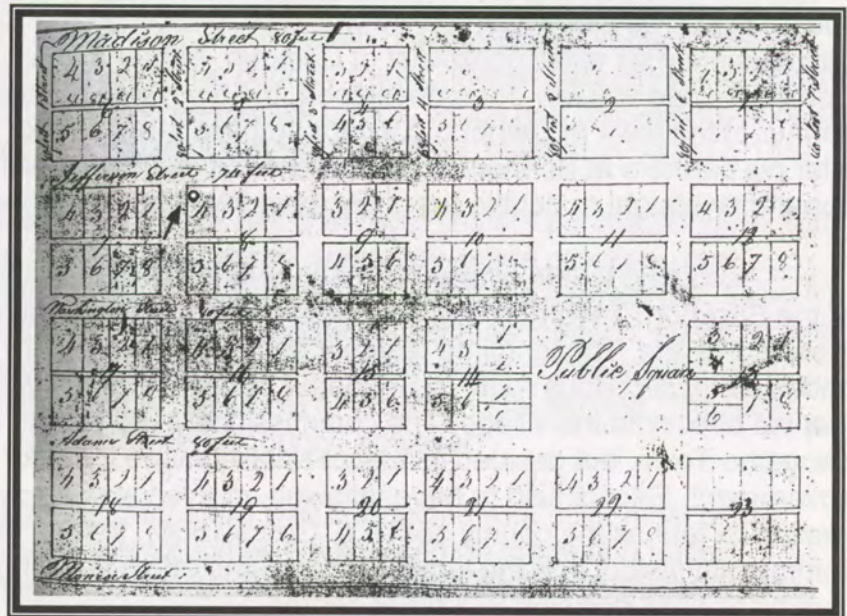
The auction of public land at the Springfield office was opened on November 6, 1823, and despite their apparent concerns, Iles, Enos and Cox made their purchases on the following day. Iles purchased the southwest quarter (160 acres) of Section 27, Enos the northwest quarter of Section 34, and Cox the southeast quarter of Section 28. (Figure 4). None of the men were bid against, and each parcel sold at the minimum price of \$1.25 per acre. John Taylor was forced to wait until the fall of 1824 to purchase his parcel (the northeast quarter of Section 33), when the Governor removed Section 33 from the list of Seminary Lands.

The plat of the town of "Calhoun" was recorded a month later, to the chagrin of area residents accustomed to the place name Springfield (Figure 5). The position of the plat was surprising. Predictably it fell across both Iles and Enos' property - reflecting their partnership. The plat also fell across the lands held by Cox and Taylor, who had also clearly been involved in the "business venture". Their properties combined, however contained only four blocks of town lots, or less than 20% of the plat. This would seem to have been hardly profitable for them, and yet would have added an unnecessary legal complexity to the new town.



**FIGURE 4:**  
Land purchases associated with the location of the plat of Calhoun.

The plat of Calhoun consisted of a rectangular grid of twenty-three blocks and a public square. Iles' store fell on Lot 4 of Block 8. The temporary courthouse, which had been constructed along the old trail (now Jefferson Street), had been situated in the heart of the fledging commercial community established by Elijah Iles. The new public square, however, was platted on the eastern edge of the plat, and well away from this district. If Calhoun were to receive the permanent seat, the land on which a new courthouse was to be built would become property of the county. With this in mind, it was probably the consideration of the potential value of the lot on which the old courthouse stood (as well as the surrounding commercial properties) that inspired the relocation of the center of county government.



**FIGURE 5:**  
Plat of Calhoun, recorded in 1823.

Between the spring of 1821 and the fall of 1823, Elijah Iles had managed to involve not only a state representative, but two employees of the General Land Office, the county sheriff, and the original settler of the Springfield area, in his plans to build a store and plat a town around the temporary county seat. Further, he had conspired with Representative Cook to create disinformation to distract potential competitors, and his partner John Taylor was able to disengage his soon-to-be-valuable property from the state-selected Seminary Lands.

To modern eyes, the conflicts of interest abound, and in fact, they did not go unnoticed during the 1820s. In 1826, area resident William Hamilton (son of Alexander Hamilton and former employee of the General Land Office in St Louis) accused Enos and Cox with improper conduct with regards to their purchase of Springfield area properties while running the land office. The charge was retracted two months later (Angle 1972; 12n), and area historians took little notice of the affair.

Nineteenth century historians did recount another story of political intrigue, however. This involved not the creation of the town of Calhoun, but its selection as permanent county seat. The designation of the Springfield community in 1821 as the site of county government had been a temporary one. In March of 1825, the Illinois State Legislature appointed four commissioners to select a permanent site of the Sangamon county seat. The town of Calhoun now had competition in the form of two new towns platted along the Sangamon River: "Sangamo Town" and "Centerville".

At the time, Sangamo Town (platted by Moses Broadwell) was serviced by a tavern, a general store, and at least one grist mill (Interstate 1881:914, Roll 1926, Mazrim n.d.a). The town was situated directly along the Sangamon River approximately ten miles northwest of Calhoun, and was technically an excellent candidate for the county seat. The site of Centerville was also located on the Sangamon River, approximately six miles northwest of Calhoun. Although there is no evidence that Centerville had actually been developed, the town was platted by John Taylor - a partner in the town of Calhoun. Taylor purchased the land for Centerville just weeks after his partners at Springfield had purchased their land. With this in mind, Taylor apparently sought to double his chances of investing in a county-seat town.

According to late nineteenth century oral traditions, Andrew Elliot (the proprietor of the Buckhorn Tavern in Calhoun) volunteered to guide the commissioners to each prospective site. The longtime resident of the area apparently chose the most undesirable, circuitous route to Sangamo Town, instead of following a well-blazed trail that led directly to the village. The commissioners are said to have thought highly of Sangamo Town, but decided its inaccessibility made it a poor choice for the seat of government. Elliot is said to have followed an even worse route back to Calhoun, thus sealing its fate as the county seat (i.e. Gross 1866). In fact, the quickly developing commercial district and the location of the land office at Calhoun probably influenced the commissioners' decision to a great degree.



Peter Cartwright remembered Calhoun as it appeared in 1823 as consisting of "a few smoky, hastily-built cabins, and one or two very little shanties called 'stores' " (Cartwright 1856: 246). In 1825, the town of *Springfield* was chosen as the permanent seat of Sangamon County - the name "Calhoun" having fallen from use. An informal census conducted at Springfield in early 1825 enumerated 236 individuals, consisting of 70 males over the age of 21, 159 women and children, and seven "people of color" (Edwardsville Spectator 2/22/1825). The census also inventoried the businesses in town, most of which would have been located in the immediate vicinity of Iles' store:

5 lawyers 3 stores 3 shoemakers 3 blacksmiths 3 carpenters 2 taverns  
1 physician 1 saddler 1 tanner 1 tailor 1 hatter 1 tinner 1 butcher 1 bricklayer  
1 cooper 1 distillery 1 ox powered grist mill

In 1826, a new courthouse was constructed on the public square at the eastern edge of the plat. The old courthouse, across from Iles' store was converted into a store. Gradually, however, commercial activity began to shift toward the new courthouse square. By the early 1830s, this became the heart of the town of Springfield, and the original core of the community anchored by Elijah Iles' store would become increasingly less significant in the business affairs of the town.

## NATURE OF DRY GOODS STORES

Along with taverns and mills, dry goods stores formed the nuclei of small commercial centers that served as "towns" during the earliest years of frontier colonization of Illinois. Such stores stocked a wide variety of durable goods and non-local foodstuffs. Retailers such as Iles usually stocked their stores at the nearest city - such as St. Louis, which served as the commercial entrepot for Illinois during the first half of the 19th century. Dry goods wholesalers often created prepackaged crates designed specifically for merchants of "the country trade". These packages contained a selection of middling essential and non-essential goods, which had become traditionally popular in rural communities (i.e. Mazrim and Walthall 2002, Mazrim 2002: 173-189).

It was from the local stores such as Iles' that most settlers purchased cloth from New England, Staffordshire table and teawares, regionally-made crockery, cast iron vessels from the Upper Ohio Valley, hats and shoes made in the nearest city, as well as household utensils and tools, hardware, and foodstuffs such as tobacco, sugar, coffee, tea and salt for curing pork. Such stores also sold locally made or imported liquors, either by the barrel, the bottle (filled in the store) or the individual serving. The latter usually required a "tavern" license from the county, however.

While some trade at the country store was conducted with coin, most of the purchases made in rural, frontier communities were based on credit and trade. Customers could, and usually did, exchange a variety of farm produce for imported wares. The storekeeper, then, liquidated this stock at the nearest commercial entrepot - such as St. Louis.

A typical frontier community dry goods store probably consisted of a single front room fitted with rough plank counters and shelves, and a back room storage area. Large cellars were also important for the storage of valuable goods (such as whiskey) or foodstuffs such as coffee, sugar and tobacco. The building also often served as residential quarters for the owner or the store clerk. Outside of the main structure were additional storage buildings or sheltered areas for more bulky goods, as well as for the storage of incoming produce.

#### STOREKEEPING AT "MAJOR ILES' CORNER"

Elijah Iles published three accounts of his first years at Springfield, and each described his store slightly differently. Each of Iles' accounts describes an initial visit to the site of Springfield, followed by a return to Kentucky to settle his affairs. Upon his return to the site of Springfield, Iles may have made arrangements with another individual for the construction of the store building, or he may have built it himself. In an 1883 recollection, Iles stated that he "bargained for the erection of a store house... eighteen feet square, with sheds on the sides for shelter. The house was to be of hewn logs, covered with boards with heavy poles laid on to the keep the boards from blowing off. The plank for the shelves and counter had to be sawed with a pit saw" (Iles 1883: 28). In another recollection (published two years earlier), Iles remembered erecting a 16 by 16 foot cabin "with sheds", implying that he built the building himself (Interstate 1881: 582). In a much earlier (1859), recollection, Iles again suggested that he erected a building, which he described as a "hut with a cabin fifteen feet square" (Illinois State Journal 8/15/1859).

An account of a visit to the store in 1821, prior to its opening for business, described a building "made of bark [that] was simply intended as a temporary" (Chapman and Company 1879; 206-207). This might be interpreted as a reference to the "hut" mentioned by Iles in 1859, and may suggest that the log store building replaced a temporary structure sometime after the spring of 1821. In his 1883 recollection, Iles remembered that upon return from his first buying trip to St. Louis (in the late Spring), the log building that he had contracted for was "not quite ready, for want of nails". This, however, could have simply referred to a log structure not yet sided, floored or trimmed. Erastus Wright described Iles' store as a "log cabin, ten by fourteen" (Interstate 1881: 514). Samuel Williams, who made purchases at the store in 1822, also remembered it as a log building (Interstate 1881: 445), although John Smith's account of the store in February of 1822 described it as very small, and made of round logs (Power 1876: 671).

After his second visit to the Springfield area, Iles traveled to St. Louis to purchase wholesale goods. He remembered that most were purchased at auction. He then chartered a boat to ship the goods up the Mississippi and Illinois rivers to the mouth of the Sangamon. He found a vacant cabin, into which he unloaded his goods. He believed that the structure had been constructed by Thomas Beard, who settled the site of Beardstown in 1819.

Iles found a trail that led to the southeast. Reaching the site of Springfield, he hired teams to follow the trail back, to haul the goods stored in the cabin on the shore of the river to his new store site. Iles claimed that his stock consisted of 25 tons of merchandise, which took more than a month to transport.

William Davis, a hunter for a land office surveying party working in vicinity of Springfield, visited the site of the store in the spring of 1821. His shoes had recently fallen apart, and the young man saw that Iles was "putting up a place in which to open a stock of goods". He approached Iles, who opened a box of shoes, and according to Davis, made the first sale at his new store (Chapman and Company 1879; 206-207). The first sale in Springfield may have been a pair of shoes sold to a barefoot surveyor.

Iles officially opened his store in June of 1821, and lived in the building as well. He later remembered that "for some time my sales were about as much to Indians as to the whites" (Iles 1883: 31). He also recalled that it was from the Kickapoo that the community first obtained blue grass seed used in area pastures throughout much of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Illinois State Journal 8/15/1859). Erastus Wright remembered that visiting Kickapoo and Potawatomi referred to the fledgling community as "log town" (Interstate 1881: 514).

Iles also remembered that he had stored some merchandise in open sheds and outdoors "for several years". He apparently had little trouble with theft, except for an incident that occurred in the fall of 1821, while he was in St. Louis to purchase another load of goods. During his absence, two families who were living near the Illinois River west of Jacksonville stole a large quantity of goods from his store (Iles 1859).

In the fall of 1824, John Williams was hired as a store clerk, and received a salary of ten dollars a month plus board. Just prior to his marriage to Malinda Benjamin in 1824, Iles built an addition on the rear of the store, consisting of a "shed" and a brick chimney with "an open fireplace". The addition served as "a cooking and dining place", and "soon gave place to a more comfortable cook and bedroom".

Iles sold his stock of goods to his clerk John Williams in 1830 or 1831, retiring from the retail business and moving to a nearby farm (Iles 1883: 34). Williams moved his goods out of the building in the spring of 1833, relocating to the Public Square. Looking for a new tenant in April, Iles advertised to rent "the oldest and yet considered the best stand for a mercantile house in the town of Springfield". He stated that the property included a "storeroom, warehouse and a good cellar"

In July 1833 William Bassett announced that he was opening a new dry goods store at "Major Iles Corner", previously occupied by John Williams. Goods "recently purchased at Philadelphia" could be exchanged for country produce (Sangamo Journal 9/28/33). In March of 1836, John Hay purchased the building, and converted it into a residence for his family, thus concluding the mercantile history of the old store building.

The Iles' Store building is depicted on several 19<sup>th</sup> century maps of Springfield. The earliest, dating to 1854, shows a small structure located on the northwestern corner of the lot, with a series of additions connected to the southeast corner of the structure (Figure 6a). A bird's eye view of the city, published in 1872, depicts a two story building on the northwestern corner of the lot, with what appears to be a two-story ell on the southeast corner (Figure 6b). The earliest Sanborn Fire Insurance map of Springfield, published in 1884, depicts a two story wooden structure (measuring approximately 25 feet square) situated along the western edge of the lot, less than ten feet from the front (or northern) lot line. A large addition is shown attached to the building on its southeastern corner (Figure 7).

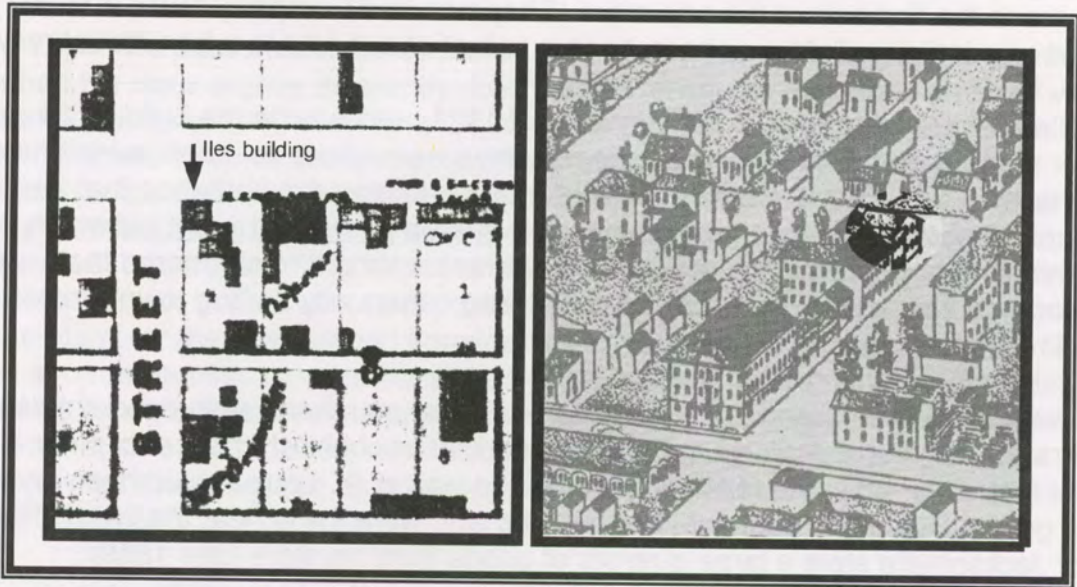


FIGURE 6: Iles' Store Site on 1854 and 1872 maps of Springfield (courtesy Sangamon Valley Collection).

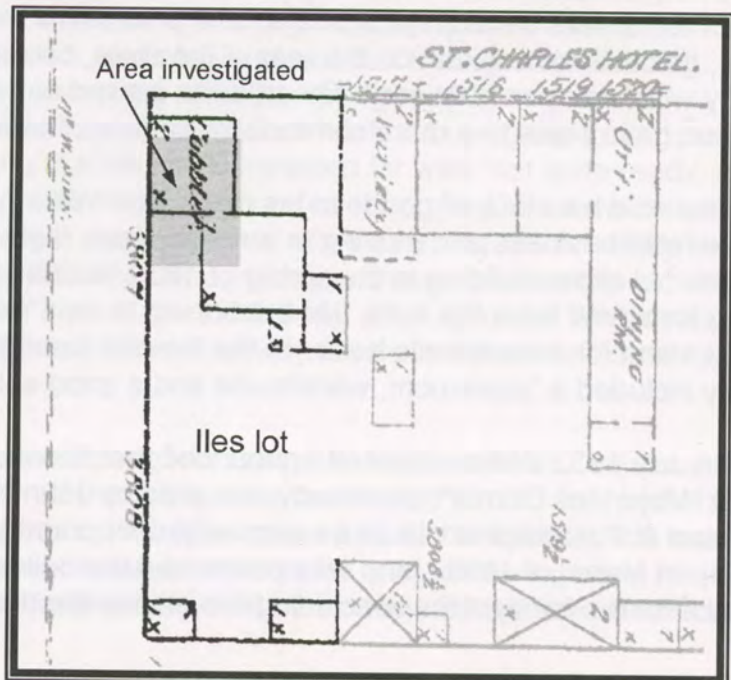


FIGURE 7:  
Detail of 1884 Sanborn map,  
showing area excavated in 2003.

At least two nineteenth century photographs of the Iles Store building are extant. The first, probably dating to the 1880s or 1890s, shows a rectangular, two story, clapboarded structure with a gabled end facing Jefferson Street (Figure 8). The western edge of the building is located near the western edge of the lot line, against Second Street. A chimney is visible on the southern gabled end of the building. On the east side of the structure is a two story addition, also clapboarded.

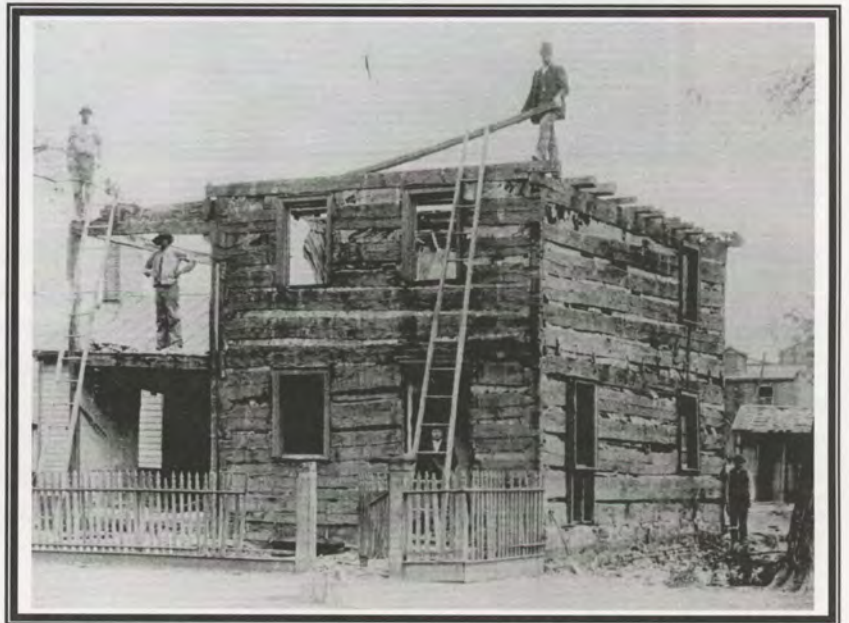
The second photo of the store was taken during the demolition of the historic building in 1896 (Figure 9). In this image, the log core of the building has been exposed, as has the timber frame addition on the east side of the building.

The original structure is fashioned of hewn logs. The front of the building is fitted with three windows (two up, one down) and a doorway on the northwest corner. The west side of the structure appears to have been originally fitted with two windows (one up, one down), and a second door on the northwest corner. That door was later partially filled, and converted into a window.

Additional structures can be seen to the south and southeast of the building, but their age and method of construction is unknown.



**FIGURE 8:** Iles Store building circa 1880.



**FIGURE 9:** Iles Store building under demolition in 1896.

(courtesy Sangamon Valley Collection)

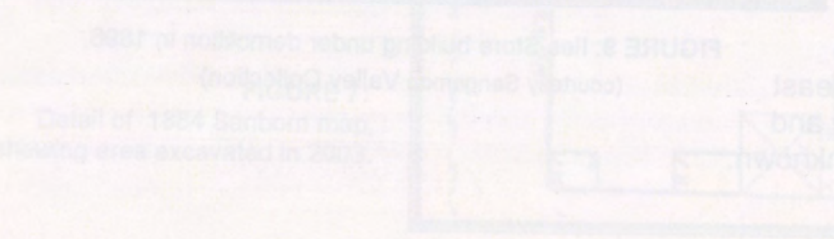
The two-story building is situated on a corner lot in the center of the block. The building is a two-story structure with a gabled roof. The building is located on the corner of the block. The building is a two-story structure with a gabled roof. The building is located on the corner of the block.



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FIGURE 3. The two-story building under demolition in 1938.

(courtesy, Genesee Valley Collection)

from a 1934 Sanborn map

(1938 in Delaware were destroyed)

## 2. Archaeological Excavations

The Sangamo Archaeological Center was alerted to construction activity at the corner of Second and Jefferson streets in February 2003. A one-story, metal frame building (constructed on a concrete slab) had recently been demolished, and the lot had been lightly bulldozed. Upon the arrival of the archaeological crew, the ground surface consisted of a compacted smear of clayey loam and building debris overlaying the clay subsoil to a depth of four to ten inches.



**FIGURE 10:** Shovel scraping the machined surface.

A series of shovel tests was performed to establish the integrity of the subsoil, and to locate evidence of the structure depicted on the Sanborn map. These tests immediately encountered the southern edge of a bricklined cellar entrance. The tests also encountered an area of undisturbed clay immediately to the rear of that cellar. Beyond this area, the front or northern portion of the lot was found to have been heavily impacted by utility lines and the recent construction of concrete piers and footings. The southern half of the lot was also heavily impacted by earthmoving activities, including deep bulldozer cuts, isolated backhoe gouges, and recent water and sewer line trenches.

### FEATURE 1

Feature 1 is a stone, brick, and earthen-walled subfloor cellar believed to have been associated with the original store building constructed by Iles circa 1821-1822. The cellar measures 12 feet wide on its east-west axis (Figure 11). As the northern wall of the feature was obscured by construction-related trenches, the north-south length of

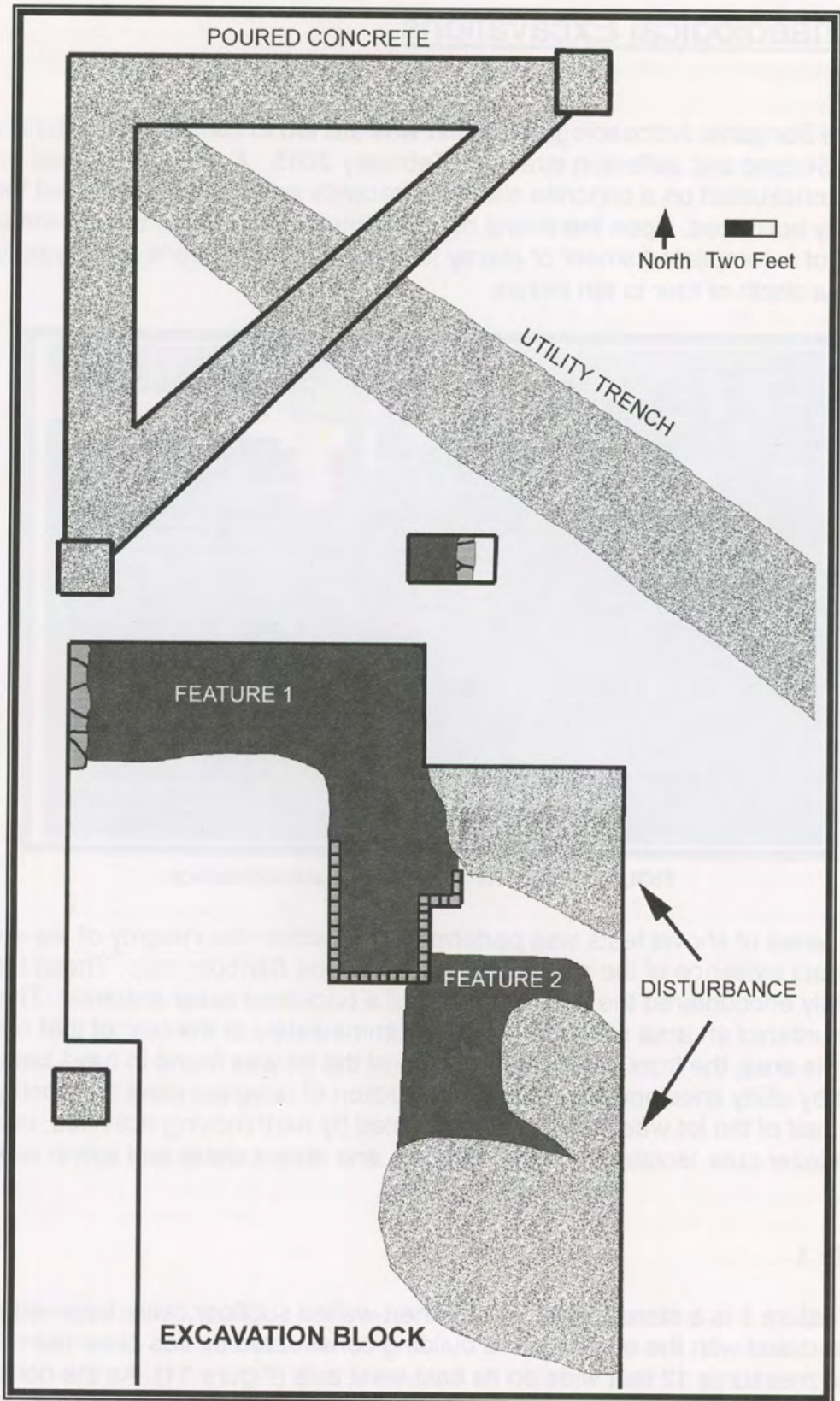


FIGURE 11: Base map of excavations.



the cellar is unknown, but is assumed to have been approximately 12 feet, based on the north wall of the building as depicted on the Sanborn map. The compacted clay floor of the cellar was found at three feet below scraped surface, and would have been approximately four feet deep originally.



**FIGURE 12:** In-situ remnant of the western stone wall of Feature 1.

In-situ, sandy limestone walls were encountered on the west and east walls of the feature (Figure 12). The stones were encountered at a depth of 18 inches below scraped surface. On the west wall, utility trenches had removed the upper courses of stone. Four courses of stone remained. These consisted of roughly dressed, tabular stones laid with a soft, sandy mortar.

No stone lining was found on the south wall of the feature. Instead of evidence of the robbery of a previously existing wall, however, the unlined clay wall of the feature appeared to be original. Further, the stone lining of the western wall was found to have been notched into the southern clay wall, at the southwest corner. It would appear that the cellar was originally constructed of adjacent stone and clay walls. A similar wall design is believed to have been used in the cellar of the Rutledge Tavern (ca. 1829), in nearby Menard County (Mazrim and Naglich 1998).

An exterior entranceway was found on the southern wall of the feature, at its southeast corner (Figure 14). Measuring eight feet long and five feet wide, the entrance was lined with soft mud brick laid with a sandy mortar. No brick was found elsewhere in the construction of the cellar. At the rear of this entrance was a ramp (rather than a set of stairs), constructed of brick and large limestone slabs. The design of the entrance, which narrowed to a width of less than three feet at its rear, suggests that it was modified sometime after the cellar was constructed. This involved the lengthening of the entrance from five feet to eight feet, the lining of the walls of the entrance with brick, and the construction of a ramp, built of both brick and stone. The stones used in the ramp

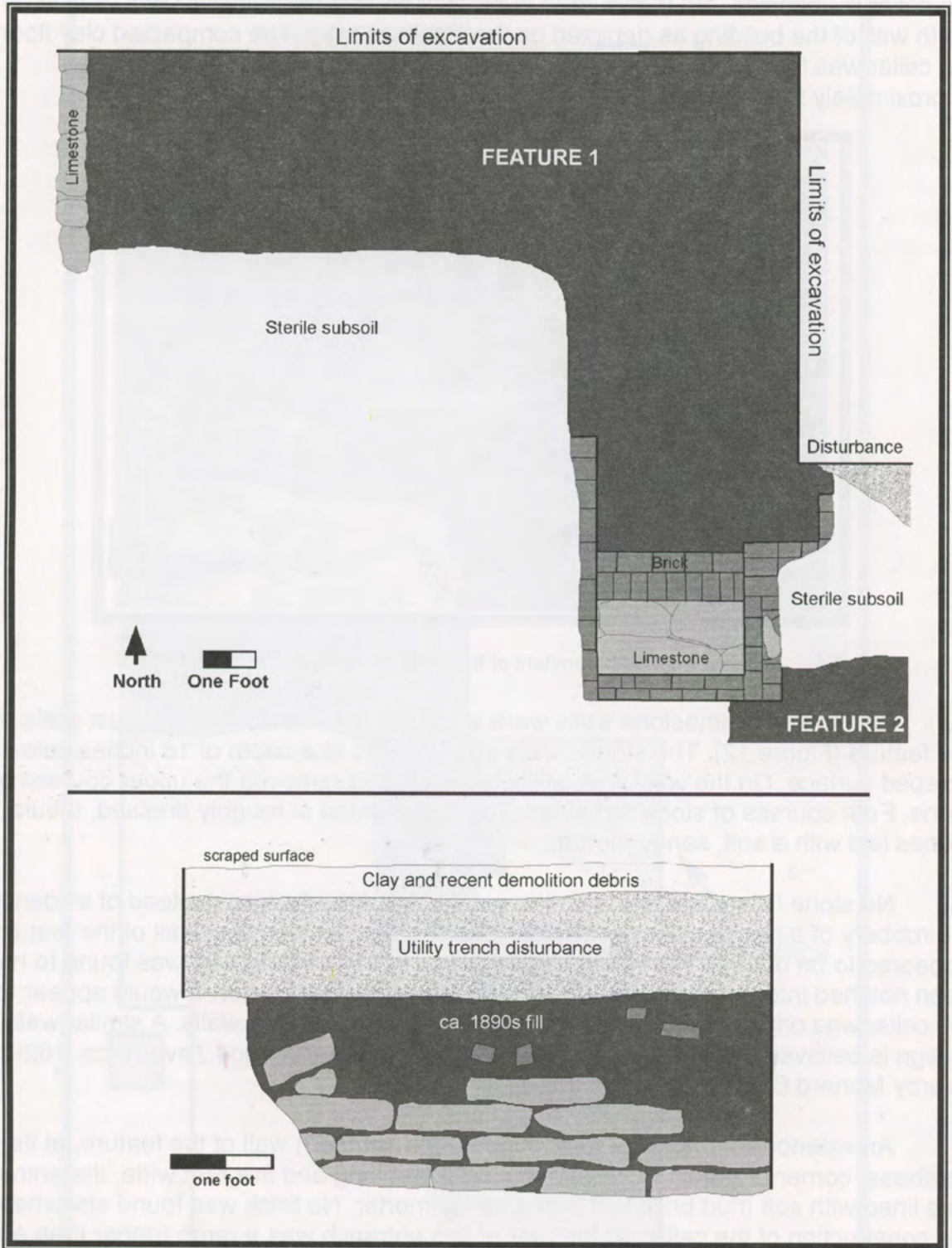
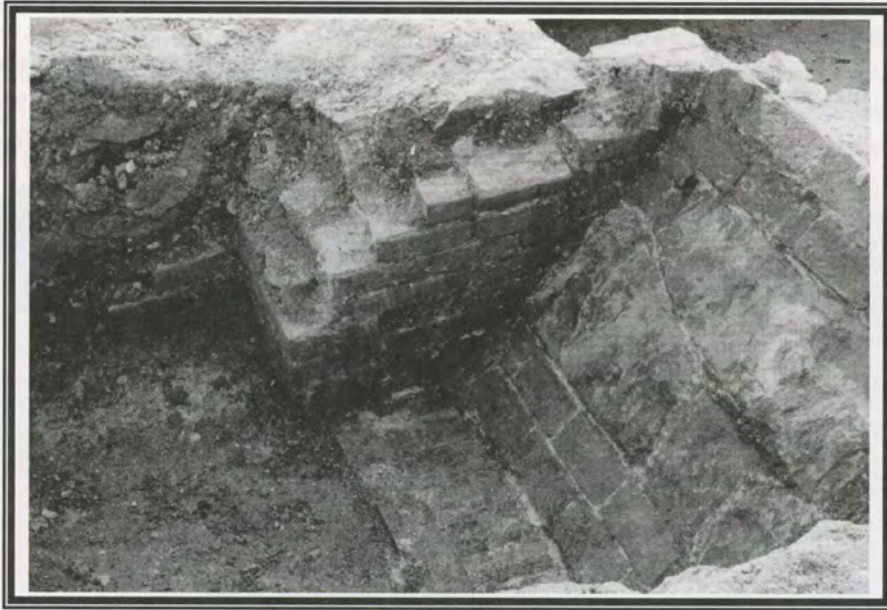


FIGURE 13: Feature 1, plan and west wall profile.

were the same type of stones used to construct the east and west walls of the cellar, but were much larger - and may have been used in the original entryway.



**FIGURE 14:** Modified entrance to Feature 1 cellar.

The modified ramp or entryway may have been designed for the easier loading of the cellar with crates or barrels, or perhaps more likely, as a coal chute, fitted to the cellar after the occupants of the building had switched to coal heating sometime in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The fill of Feature 1 consisted of a very loose, dark gray-brown silty loam, heavily laden with clinkers and wall plaster. The homogeneous character of the soil, and a lack of silting or distinct banding within the fill, suggests that the cellar was filled rapidly after the demolition of the building above, circa 1896. A moderate quantity of both primarily and secondarily deposited domestic debris was found in this fill, consisting of undecorated ironstone, decal decorated porcelain, jigger-molded Albany-slipped stoneware, and soda-lime bottle glass, all dating to the fourth quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This material will not be examined in this report.

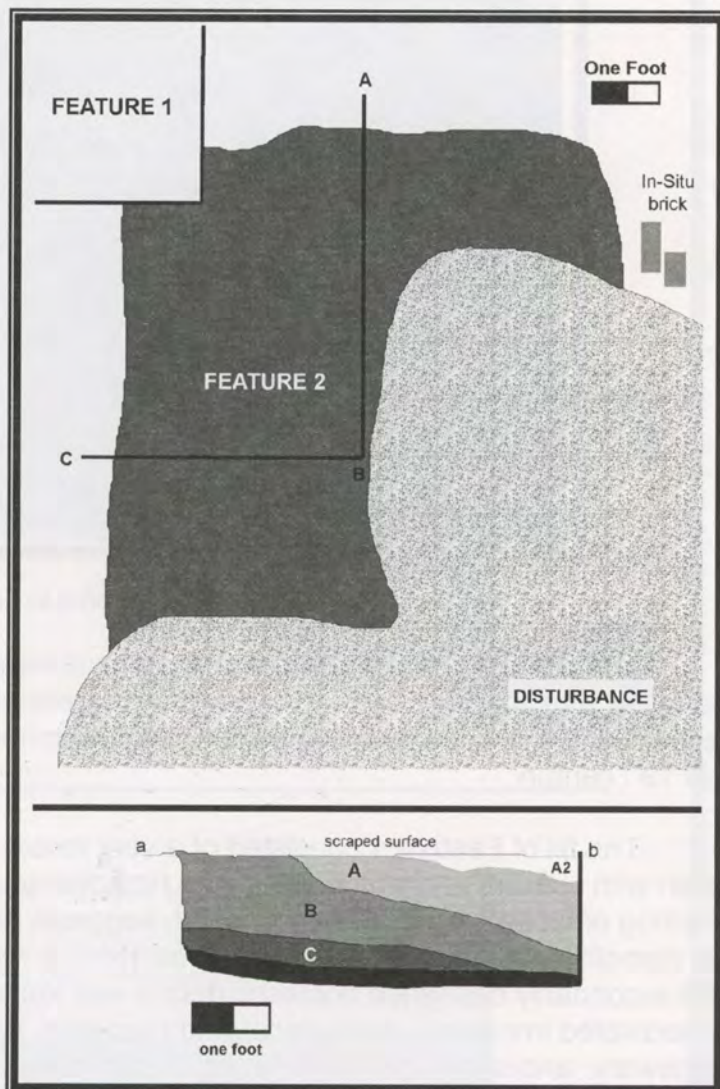
## FEATURE 2

Located immediately adjacent to the southeast corner of the Feature 1 entrance, Feature 2 consisted of a shallow, rectangular, earthen-walled pit cellar (Figure 15). The cellar may have been associated with the kitchen addition constructed by Iles in 1824. That addition may have been remodeled or replaced upon the arrival of the John Hay family in 1836, and the pit cellar may have been closed during this transition.

The east-west axis of the Feature 2 cellar measured eight feet. The north-south measurements are unknown, as the southern portion of the feature was removed by recent backhoe disturbance. The cellar was probably about 10 feet long originally. Feature 2 extended to a depth of 16 inches below scraped surface, or approximately 2.5 feet deep originally.

Feature 2 was carefully constructed, with vertical walls, sharp corners, and a flat bottom. The northwest corner of the feature was superimposed by the lengthening of the Feature 1 entrance, indicating that Feature 2 had been closed (and the building above it removed) prior to this mid 19<sup>th</sup> century modification. Traces of a soft mud brick pier were found on the surface of the clay subsoil at the eastern edge of the feature, near its northeastern corner. Whether this was once associated with the superstructure above is unclear. Any further evidence of this structure had been removed by mechanical disturbance of the surface of the clay subsoil.

**FIGURE 15:**  
Plan and profile  
of Feature 2.

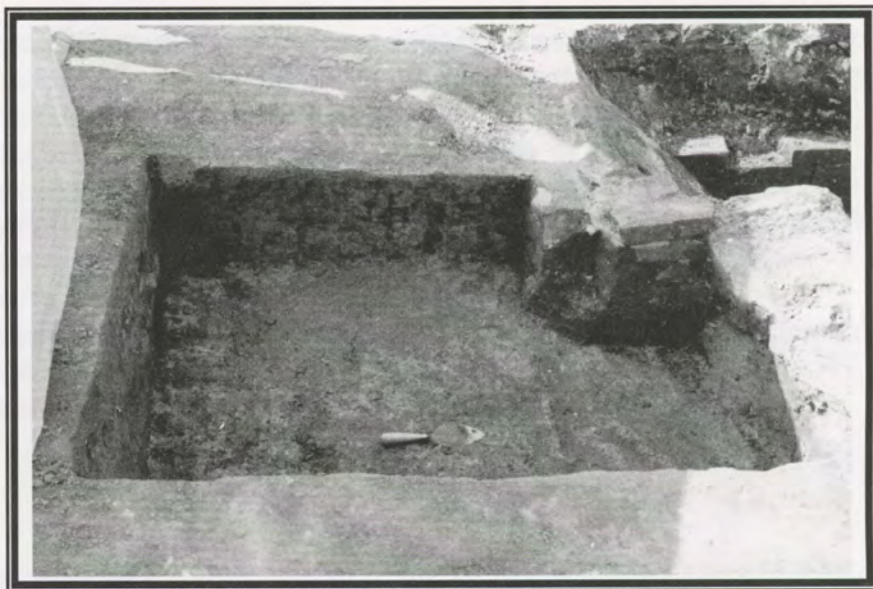


Upon its abandonment, Feature 2 was filled with redeposited topsoil and clay backdirt from an excavation elsewhere on site. Four zones of fill were recognized in profile. Zone D consisted of a thin band of very dark brown, greasy silt loam laying on the floor of the feature. This zone represents a semi-organic "tromp" that probably developed during the use of the pit cellar. Found within this zone was a partially restorable pearlware plate, that had been discarded directly onto the floor of the pit.

Zones B and C consisted of dark gray brown silty loam, separated only by a change in soil density, and higher quantities of domestic debris in Zone B. Within the southwest quarter of the feature, a three-inch lens of yellow clay subsoil was noted at the transition of Zones B and C. This soil (not visible in profile) appears to reflect a load of clay backdirt deposited into the abandoned pit. Zone A consisted of Zone B soils heavily mottled with small brick fragments, charcoal, and domestic artifacts. Zone A2 consisted of a disturbance of Zone A. Present in Zone A2 were domestic artifacts post dating 1840, and pre-dating 1860.

**FIGURE 16:**

Northwest quarter of Feature 2. Feature 1 entrance, superimposing Feature 2, is visible in the upper right.



**FIGURE 17:**

Excavation view of Features 1 and 2 (looking northwest).



those Zones B and C deposited at the same time as the Zone A. The Zone A soil is a brown forest soil with a high content of humus and a high content of iron. The Zone B soil is a brown forest soil with a high content of humus and a high content of iron. The Zone C soil is a brown forest soil with a high content of humus and a high content of iron.



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### 3. Material Culture

#### SAMPLES

Excavations at the Iles Store Site produced two discrete samples of artifacts: those sampled from the circa 1890s fill of Feature 1, and those recovered from Feature 2, predating 1840. It is the Feature 2 assemblage that is the focus of this report.

The artifacts found in Feature 2 represent redeposited debris that originated in a ground surface midden or nearby rubbish pile. Because some of the glass artifacts are still in large pieces, some of this debris may have been left in an area protected from heavy foot traffic. It should also be noted, however, that many of the refined ceramic vessels are represented by only a few, small sherds - indicative of a ground surface midden deposit. The Feature 2 cellar appears to have been sealed sometime during the mid to late 1830s, using debris rich topsoils. A portion of the fill of the feature was disturbed at a later date, introducing a small quantity of domestic debris dating ca. 1845-55. This material has been examined separately from the undisturbed portions of the feature fill. The undisturbed portion of the feature produced a sample of artifacts dating to the first 15 years of occupation of the site.

#### CERAMICS

Refined ceramics represent the most temporally sensitive artifact sample in the Feature 2 assemblage. From the undisturbed portions the feature fill, these consist primarily of pearlware and whiteware vessels dating to the late 1810s through the mid 1830s. A minimum of 31 refined vessels are present in undisturbed contexts from Feature 2 (Table 1, Figure 18).

The pearlware assemblage from Feature 2 consists of a minimum of 21 vessels. These include seven tablewares, eleven teawares, and three type-indeterminate vessels. Hand painted vessels are present in nearly equal amounts to transfer printed vessels. Tablewares consist of five shell-edged plates, a single dark blue printed plate, and a dipt or annular-decorated pitcher that includes a cabled motif and a rouletted rim.

Pearlware teawares include three cups, four saucers, a teapot, a waste bowl, a creamer and a cup plate. Both "tea bowl" and "London" shaped cups are present: the former dating to the 1810s and the latter to the 1820s. The tea-bowl shaped cups are decorated in fine-line blue painted, soft-pastel polychrome painted, and medium blue printed motifs - all of which were popular before the mid 1820s. One of the London-shaped cups (which is blue printed) has a handle. Most cups sold in country stores of the period were without handles. A dark blue printed creamer, cup plate, and cup and saucer date to the mid to late 1820s.

Table 1: Iles Store Feature 2 (undisturbed zones) Minimum Refined Vessel Count	TABLEWARE					TEAWARE						TOILET WARE			OTHER	TI	
	Plate	Platter	Bowl	Pitcher	Other table	Cup	Saucer	Tea/sug Pot	Cream	Waste	Other Tea	Chamber	Pitcher	Basin	Salve pot		Type Indeterm.
Porcelain: undecorated																	
Porcelain: painted																	
Porcelain: printed																	
Creamware: undecorated														1			
Creamware: banded																	
Creamware: painted																	
Creamware: printed																	
Creamware: other																	
Pearlware: shell edged	5																
Pearlware: other edged																	
Pearlware: dipt				1													1
Pearlware: china glaze painted																	1
Pearlware: PC pastel painted							1			1							
Pearlware: MC broad painted						1	2										
Pearlware: PC broad painted								1									
Pearlware: blue printed	1					2	1		1		1						1
Pearlware: other printed																	
Pearlware: other																	
Whiteware: undecorated																	
Whiteware: shell edged																	
Whiteware: other edged																	
Whiteware: dipt																	
Whiteware: PC broad painted																	
Whiteware: PC sprig painted							1										
Whiteware: spatter/sponged																	
Whiteware: blue printed	1																
Whiteware: red printed	1					1											
Whiteware: green printed																	
Whiteware: purple printed	2																
Whiteware: brown printed																	
Whiteware: black printed						1	1										
Whiteware: Other											1						
Basalt																	
Red paste																	
Yellow-glazed																	
Luster																	
Other																	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>10</b>				<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>			<b>1</b>			<b>3</b>



The whiteware assemblage from Feature 2 consists of nine vessels: four plates, two cups, two saucers and a cup plate. Unlike the pearlware assemblage from the feature, whitewares are dominated by printed motifs (n=7). The blue, red, purple and black patterns were popular throughout most of the 1830s. At least one of these cups is also handled. A single "sprig" painted saucer and a green-banded cup plate is also present. A single creamware vessel is present in the Feature 2 assemblage. The small vessel is represented by a base fragment, and appears to be an ointment or salve pot.

From the disturbed zone of Feature 2 are fragments of six additional refined vessels. These include a whiteware, pink-luster-painted saucer, three English bone china vessels (a cup and saucer, and a sugar pot handle), an undecorated ironstone plate, and a blue printed ironstone cup. The vessels were manufactured between 1840 and 1860.

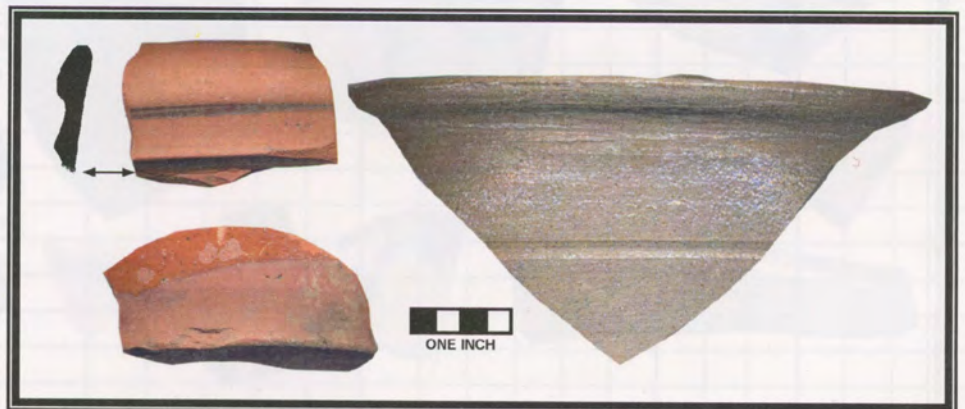


FIGURE 18: Selected refined ceramics from Feature 1.



**FIGURE 19:**  
Intact, non-archaeological examples of vessel types found in Feature 1.

Portions of two unrefined ceramic vessels were recovered from undisturbed contexts within Feature 2: rim and foot fragments of a lead-glazed redware pot, and the rim of a salt-glazed stoneware pot (Figure 20). Both fit comfortably into an assemblage predating the mid-1830s. The cordoned rim of the redware pot is similar to specimens recovered from pre-1835 contexts at the Ebey-Brunk Kiln Site, located eight miles south in southern Sangamon County. One of the proprietors of that pottery, John Ebey, also operated a short-lived kiln near the public square in Springfield during the early 1830s (i.e. Mazrim 2003: 11).

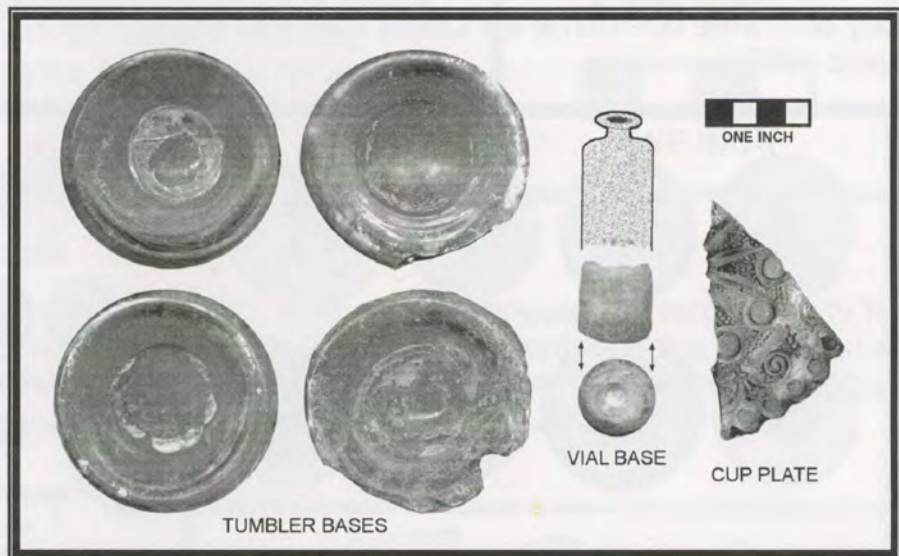


**FIGURE 20:**  
Redware and stoneware from Feature 1.

## CONTAINER GLASS

A minimum of eleven glass vessels were recovered from undisturbed contexts within Feature 2 (Figure 21). Only two of these are product bottles - the remainder consist of flint glass tumblers and a cup plate. The product bottles include an aqua, dip-molded narrow vial (base only), with an open, blowpipe pontil scar. Such vials were used for medicines or household chemicals. The second product bottle is represented by a body fragment of an olive-green, dip molded ale or porter bottle.

The table glass assemblage is dominated by dip-molded, flint glass tumblers. These vessels are very thin walled, and have unusually crude blowpipe pontil-scarred bases. All of the tumblers from Feature 2 are two inches in diameter at their bases. Finally, a press-molded, flint glass, "lacy" style cup plate is present in the assemblage. It is three inches in diameter, and was probably manufactured in the upper Ohio Valley. Pressed glass cup plates and small serving dishes seem to be some of the earliest American decorative glass products to appear in Illinois, beginning in the 1830s.



**FIGURE 21:**  
Selected container  
glass from Feature 2.

From the disturbed zone of Feature 2 are three additional glass vessels. These include an aqua "JOHN BULL'S EXTRACT OF SARSAPARILLA" with a tapered lip and an improved pontil-scarred base. John Bull established himself in the patent medicine business in Louisville, Kentucky in 1847, and his extract of sarsaparilla was a popular patent medicine during the second half of the nineteenth century (Blasi 1992: 8). Also present is a small aqua fragment of a sodawater bottle base, and a flint glass bottleneck. Like the John Bull's bottle, the soda water bottle probably dates to the late 1840s or 1850s.

## SMALL TOOLS

Only a small number of tools or utensils were recovered from Feature 2. These include a slate writing stylus, a large brass thimble (7/8 inch tall, 5/8 inch opening) with a Greek key design along its rim, and 15, one-inch long brass straight pins with wirewound heads.

## CLOTHING

Feature 2 produced 19 buttons from undisturbed contexts. The assemblage is dominated by bone buttons (n=12), followed by shell (n=4), glass-set (n=2), and brass (n=1) (Figure 22).

Twelve bone buttons, ranging from 1/4 inch to 5/8 inch in diameter were probably once attached to utilitarian shirts, dresses, or undergarments. Four are fitted with a single hole (1 = 1/4 inch, 3 = 5/8 inch), corresponding with South's "Type 15" button style (South 1964). Three (1/2 inch) are finished with four holes and rounded backs, corresponding with South's Type 20, and five (5/8 inch) have five holes and rounded backs, also corresponding with South's Type 20. Buttons fashioned from animal bone (usually cow) were common in the United States for much of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (i.e. Luscomb 1967).

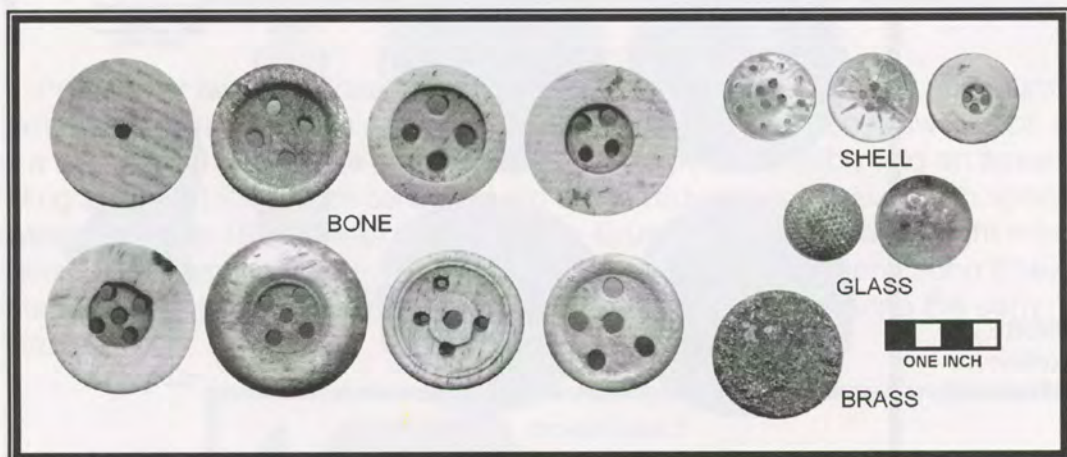


FIGURE 22: Selected buttons from Feature 2.

Four small buttons made of mussel shell, or "mother-of-pearl", were recovered from Feature 2. These were probably used on dresses or shirts. All are 3/8 inch in diameter, and finished with four holes. Three are decorated on their front surfaces with incised lines or dot patterns. During early nineteenth century, buttons of this type would have probably been imported from Europe (Luscomb 1967).

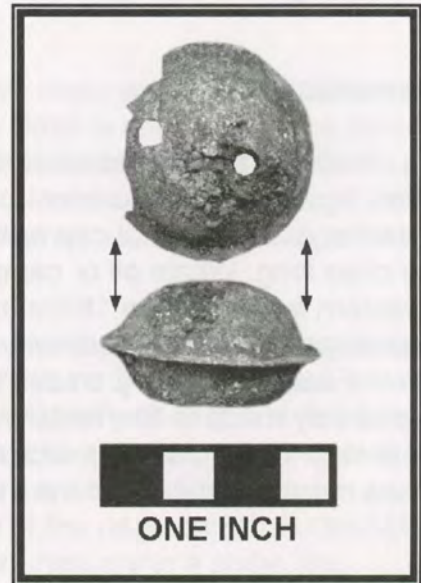
Two small buttons were composed of brass backs fitted with decorative glass sets or bezels. One is intact, consisting of a flat brass disk (with a brass wire back loop), to which is attached a domed, clear glass setting. It measures 3/8 inch in diameter. The second button, also measuring 3/8 inch in diameter, is represented by the glass setting

only. It is domed, and made of a deep red glass. Such decorative buttons were probably used primarily on dresses.

A single brass, flat disk button was recovered from Feature 2. Measuring 1/2 inch in diameter, the button (which was originally gilded in gold), was probably used on a vest. Such buttons were commonly backmarked during the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, but the mark on this specimen is obscured by corrosion.

A small, fragmentary brass "hawk bell" was also recovered from Feature 2 (Figure 23). Such bells were common to the Indian trade during the eighteenth and early nineteenth century, and were sewn to clothing or clothing accessories. While hawk bells are reasonably common on Native American or fur trade related archaeological sites, they are rare on domestic sites of the period. Iles recalled that his sales "were about as much to Indians as to the whites" during the early 1820s. This specimen may have been lost by a visiting customer, or may have been part of an Indian trade-related inventory stocked by Iles during the first years of his business at Springfield.

**FIGURE 23:**  
Brass bell from Feature 2.



## LEISURE

At least one English, long stem, white clay smoking pipe is represented by two bowl fragments and two stem fragments. The bowl is decorated with a leaf design along its front seam. English white clay smoking pipes were common in Illinois, beginning in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and extending into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Three marbles are present in the Feature 2 assemblage. Two are made of marble, and one is made of a gray-brown clay. All three measure 5/8 inch in diameter. Stone marbles such as those recovered at the Iles Store Site were probably imported from Germany, and generally



**FIGURE 24:** Thimble, smoking pipe, marbles, brass hasp.

appear on sites predating 1840 in Illinois. Plain clay marbles were manufactured throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

A small, heavily corroded iron "Jew's harp" (or mouth harp) was recovered from Feature 2. It measures 1 3/4 inches long, and is missing its tongue. Mouth harps were widely used by both French and Native Americans during the 18<sup>th</sup> century in the Midwest, and also appear to have been in common use in American households in Illinois through the 1830s (i.e. Stone 1977: 141, Mazrim 2002: 22).

## FURNISHINGS

From the household furnishings category are fragments of an oil lamp, a mirror, a ceramic figurine, and a trunk or upholstery tack. The lamp is represented by fragments of a pewter or white metal cap and font. The cap is 3/4 inch in diameter, and the font is 1 1/4 inches long. Whale oil or camphene would have been an expensive luxury on the midwestern frontier of the 1820s or 1830s, and lamps of this kind are rare in the archaeological literature of Illinois. One fragment of a mirror, or "looking glass" was found in Feature 2. A very small fragment of a pearlware figurine was also recovered. It was probably made in Staffordshire England, and appears to represent the body of lamb or dog. Finally, a brass tack may have been used on upholstered furniture, or perhaps more commonly on the frontier, a studded leather and wood trunk.

## COINS / TOKENS

A Spanish colonial eight reale, minted in Durango and dated 1826, was found in Zone A of Feature 2. It is heavily corroded. During the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, an eight reale was worth one dollar. The use of foreign coinage during the early 19<sup>th</sup> century (across the county) reflected the shortage of coins minted in America (Noel-Hume 1969: 171).

A Scottish, one-penny copper token was also recovered from Feature 2 (Figure 25). Dated 1813, the obverse of the token reads "PHOENIX IRON WORKS / GLASGOW" with a view of the Phoenix iron works building. The reverse of the token reads "ONE PENNY TOKEN / 1813". Also on the reverse is a standing justice figure, next to a cask labeled SJ & Co. The token measures 1 3/4 inches in diameter.



FIGURE 25: Scottish copper token.

Tokens were issued by merchants as a supplement to government issued currency in times of low production, as well as to encourage purchases at a particular business. Such tokens were apparently negotiable in a variety of commercial settings. This example the was probably carried with an immigrant to America in the 1810s, where it was ultimately exchanged for goods at Iles' store before it was lost to the archaeological record.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

A brass, press-molded, heart-shaped, decorative clasp was recovered from undisturbed contexts in Feature 2. The function of the clasp is unclear, but the item appears to have been designed to decorate clothing or leatherwork. It is fitted with a front hook that may have suspended a ribbon or other decorative element. How the item was attached to clothing or leatherwork is unclear, however, as it has no suspension hole or back rivets.

Two 1/4 inch brass eyes (one of wire, and one which appears to be cast) may have been part of clothing related items, or watches. Feature 2 also produced seven pieces of flat, one-inch wide iron band, which may have been part of barrel or bucket bands. A fragmentary and heavily corroded iron padlock key, measuring three inches long may have been used with a padlock that secured the door of Iles' store or outbuilding. Finally, reflecting a prehistoric occupation of the ridge on which Springfield was platted, is a Burlington chert flake, from making or sharpening a stone tool.

#### ARCHITECTURAL

One hundred and seventy three very corroded cut nail fragments were found in Feature 2. Most of the intact specimens are between two and three inches long, and would have been used in trim, flooring, shelving, or weatherboarding at the store building. Approximately one pound of sandy, whitewashed wall plaster was recovered from the fill of Feature 2. The plaster varies in thickness, and appears to have been quite irregular on its exterior surface. The deposit in Feature 2 may reflect a demolition or remodeling activity that occurred immediately prior to the abandonment of the small cellar, sometime in the late 1830s.

A larger than average quantity of window glass was found in Feature 2. Over 60 square inches of thin, light aqua window glass was recovered. The enhanced quantity of window glass at the site probably reflects breakage of windowpanes during shipment, which were discarded behind the building. Several large pieces of glass represent intentionally cut strips, measuring 1 1/2 inches wide and five inches long. The function of these strips is unknown.

## ANIMAL REMAINS

Feature 2 produced 174 fragments of animal bone, which like the other debris found in the feature, appear to have been secondarily deposited some time after their initial discard. The remains were examined by Terrance Martin of the Illinois State Museum (see Appendix 2). The sample includes a nearly equal amount of domesticated and wild animals, including cattle, swine, goat, and chicken, as well as squirrel, rabbit, turkey, dove, and buffalo fish. The character of the faunal sample suggests that it was consumed by those living on the site. There is, however, little evidence of on-site butchering of pigs or cows, and instead, the meat consumed at the site may have been processed elsewhere. It is very likely that much of the domestic and wild foods consumed by the Iles and Williams families were obtained in trade at their store.



## 4. Summary

The features and artifacts examined as a result of our 2003 excavations appear to be associated primarily with the storekeeping era of the property, circa 1821-1836. The Feature 1 cellar was probably constructed in 1821 by Elijah Iles. The Feature 2 pit cellar may have been associated with the 1824 kitchen addition. That addition was probably demolished (and the pit cellar filled) during the late 1830s, by the Hay family. Feature 1 was filled as part of the demolition of the main log structure, during the 1890s.

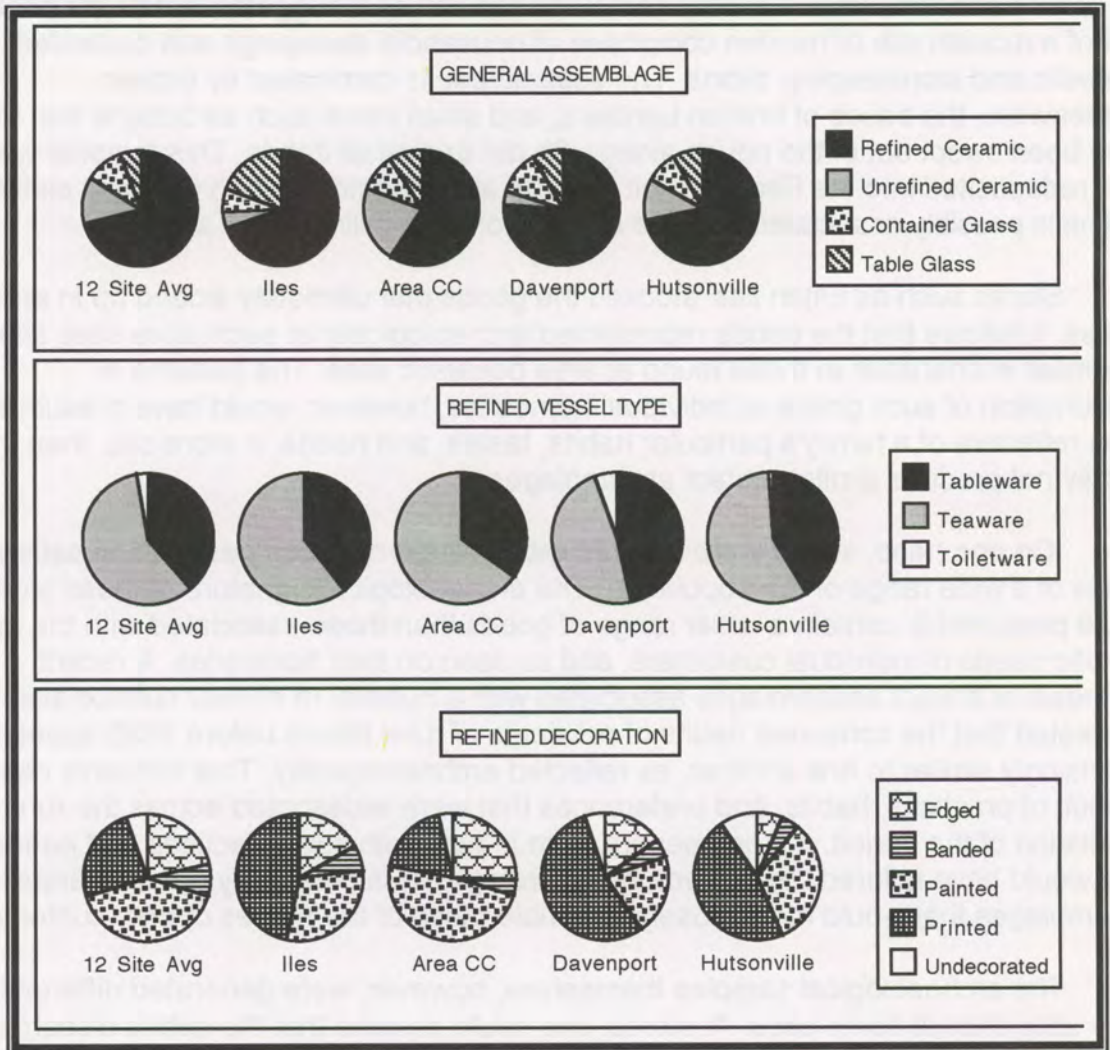
The character of the artifact sample from Feature 2 suggests that it was once part of a rubbish pile or midden composed of household sweepings and discarded domestic and storekeeping debris. The assemblage is dominated by broken earthenware, the bases of broken tumblers, and small items such as buttons that may have been swept out of the house along with dirt and other debris. This material was then redeposited into the Feature 2 pit upon its abandonment, along with wall plaster and nails possibly associated with the removal or remodeling of the addition.

Stores such as Elijah Iles' stocked the goods that ultimately wound up in area homes. It follows that the goods represented archeologically at such store sites should be similar in character to those found at area domestic sites. The patterns of consumption of such goods at individual homesites, however, would have presumably been reflective of a family's particular habits, tastes, and needs. A store site, then, may or may not produce similar artifact *assemblages*.

On one hand, stores were stocked with a range of goods designed to satisfy the needs of a wide range of the population. The archaeological signature of those stores would presumably contain a wider range of goods than those associated with the more specific needs of individual customers, and as seen on their homesites. A recent synthesis of artifact assemblages associated with a number of frontier context sites has suggested that the consumer habits of residents of rural Illinois before 1835 appear surprisingly similar to one another, as reflected archaeologically. That similarity could be a result of practices, habits, and preferences that were widespread across the rural population of the period. If storekeepers were in tune with such practices and needs, they would have tailored their inventory accordingly, thus potentially creating artifact assemblages that would more closely resemble those of the homes of their customers.

The archaeological samples themselves, however, were generated differently at store sites than at home sites. At stores, one could assume that the debris discarded on site would have reflected the breakage (in the store or during shipping) of unsold goods, as opposed to the natural attrition of items during their use life. Complicating this, however, is the fact that most storekeepers of the period (including Iles) lived on the store property, and their own consumer habits would have been blended into the commercial archaeological signature of the site.

With these issues in mind, a frontier-context store assemblage could actually be predicted to resemble those of individual homesites, but with attenuated quantities of certain fragile goods, and perhaps a wider range of goods than found on the average farmstead. It is this pattern that appears not only in certain aspects of the Feature 2 assemblage from the Iles Store Site, but at other early to mid 19<sup>th</sup> century store sites in Illinois. For this study, the artifact assemblages associated with three additional store sites were compared to the Iles assemblage, as well as the 12-site domestic averages from Mazrim 2002 (Figure 26). These include Area CC at the New Salem Site in Menard County (1829-1832); the Davenport trading post at Rock Island (1818-1834); and Lots 25 and 32 at Hutsonville, Illinois (ca 1832-1849) (Mazrim and Naglich 1996, Naglich and Cramer 2004, Mazrim 2004, Mazrim 1999). Each site functioned both as a dry goods store as well as a residence for its proprietor.



**FIGURE 26:** Feature 2 assemblage compared to 12-site average and three additional store sites.

While the general ceramic and glass assemblage at the Iles Store Site is similar to the domestic average of the period, the table glass category is significantly elevated by the presence of a number of flint glass tumblers. Elevated quantities of tumblers

were also found at the Area CC and Hutsonville sites. These objects probably reflect the serving of liquor at the store, which was a common practice of the period. It should also be noted, that in this instance, it is specialized *activity* within the store (as opposed to broken inventory of the store itself) that is visible in the archaeological record.

With regards to the refined ceramic assemblage, the ratios of tablewares and teawares at the Iles Store Site are very similar to the domestic average of the period, probably reflecting the "typical" consumer behavior of the Iles and Williams families. It is unlikely that breakage during shipping would produce such similar vessel type assemblages. The nearby Area CC assemblage was also nearly identical to the pre-1835 domestic average, while the Davenport and Hutsonville assemblages contained slightly larger percentages of tablewares.

The decoration of refined ceramic vessels at the Iles Store Site reflects a higher than average percentage of printed wares, however. A similar pattern was present at the Davenport and Hutsonville sites. While it has been argued that enhanced ratios of printed earthenwares represent an elevated "socioeconomic status" of their users, the relatively low cost of printed pottery (when compared to other common household goods), coupled with their ubiquity on a range of frontier context domestic sites, suggests that such artifacts cannot be assumed to reflect the wealth or economic pretensions of their users (Mazrim 2002: 256-258). Instead, the slightly more expensive wares were perhaps more subject to changes in the fashions and aesthetics of middle class home furnishings (than were painted earthenwares), and thus reflect simply an effort by these storekeeping families to present a slightly more formal atmosphere at the table.

The Feature 2 assemblage at the Iles Store Site produced a larger than average number of furnishing-related objects. The site also produced an unusually large quantity of window glass, based on the over all size of the sample. Similarly, the Davenport Site produced a very large quantity of window glass, although most of this was recovered from undisturbed plowzone contexts, as opposed to a pit feature sample. The Area CC and Hutsonville sites produced a larger than average number of slate pencils, probably associated with account keeping at the sites, but the Iles sample produced only one such object.

The artifacts found at the Iles Store Site represent some of the earliest goods brought into the young community of Springfield. The Feature 2 artifact assemblage probably reflects both the personal activities of the Iles and Williams families, as well as aspects of the mercantile trade conducted at the store. Although the refined, mass produced goods stand in contrast to our traditional notions of pioneer life on the Illinois prairie, they also fall within predictable categories of goods found at frontier sites across the state. Perhaps one of the most significant aspect of the Iles Store assemblage is its lack of surprises, demonstrating that the "crates for the country trade" packaged by wholesale merchants in cities such as St. Louis were based on well tested and well understood consumer traditions on the western frontier.



## A GLOSSARY OF COMMON ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS

### AQUA GLASS

The natural color of untinted glass. The most common and inexpensive type of glass used for bottles blown during the 19th century.

### ARCHAEOLOGY

A form of cultural anthropology that employs the controlled excavation of culturally disturbed soil, and the study of artifacts found in association with these disturbances.

### CREAMWARE

A modern term referring to a cream colored, refined earthenware developed in England during the 1750s. Creamware was discontinued around 1820.

### EARTHENWARE

Any form of low fired, refined or unrefined ceramic that is not vitrified, as is porcelain.

### EXCAVATION UNIT

A controlled area of excavation of a prescribed size.

### FEATURE

Any form of discrete human disturbance or alteration of the topsoil or subsoil. This can include a post hole, a pit, a well, a foundation, or a concrete slab.

### FLINT GLASS

A heavy, clear glass made with lead. Flint glass was the principal form of American-made glass tablewares during the early to mid 19th century, and fell from common use during the early 1870s.

### IRONSTONE

A 19th century product term used in conjunction with several types of refined ceramic, and an archaeological term referring specifically to a thick-bodied, semi-vitrified earthenware that was introduced around 1840. Ironstone is still manufactured today.

### MIDDEN

A concentration of artifacts found in the topsoil that once surrounded a dwelling or activity area on a particular site.

### PEARLWARE

A modern term referring to a refined earthenware developed in England during the 1770s. Cobalt blue glazes and enamels were used on pearlware vessels to imitate more expensive Chinese porcelains. Pearlware was discontinued around 1830.

### PONTIL

A scar on the base of a blown bottle, left behind from the removal of the bottle from a blow pipe or rod after the finishing of the lip of the bottle. The development of the "snap case" around 1850 allowed bottles to be produced without such scars. In America, pontil scars usually indicate that a bottle was made prior to circa 1860.

## PROFILE

The cross-section of an archaeological feature and its zones of fill.

## PRIMARY DEPOSIT

Artifacts discarded directly and intentionally into a feature - such as the disposal of empty bottles into an abandoned well.

## QUEENSWARE

A product term coined by potter Josiah Wedgwood in the 1760s, referring to his new creamware products. The term was adopted by most Staffordshire potters, and eventually referred to most forms of inexpensive English earthenware. The term fell from use during the mid 19th century.

## REDWARE

A term used to describe low-fired, unrefined crockery made of common red clays. Redware was usually lead glazed, and was developed in the early medieval period in Europe. In North America, redware was the principal form of utilitarian crockery from the late 1500s through the mid 1800s.

## REFINED CERAMIC

Thin bodied, decorative ceramics which were manufactured most often for food service. Refined ceramics include both vitrified porcelains and lower fired earthenwares. Today, all forms of refined ceramics are often generically known as "china".

## SECONDARY DEPOSIT

Artifacts that were inadvertently included in the fill of a feature - such as the filling of an abandoned cellar with debris-laden topsoil.

## STONEWARE

A semi-vitrified form of unrefined crockery made of a gray colored clay. Stoneware required higher firing temperatures than redware, and created more durable and food safe utilitarian crockery. Stoneware was developed in late medieval Europe, and became common in the Midwestern United States during the 1830s. The term also applies to a form refined ceramic made in England during the mid 1700s.

## UNREFINED CERAMIC

Heavy, coarser ceramic vessels designed primarily for food storage or preparation, as opposed to food service. What we generically refer to as "crockery" today.

## WHITEWARE

An archaeological term referring to a form of refined English earthenware, introduced around 1830. Whiteware vessels were made with clearer glazes, as opposed to those traditionally tinted with blue. This allowed for a new palette of painted and printed colors. Whiteware is still made today.

## YELLOWWARE

A semirefined form of ceramic made of a distinctive yellow clay. Made both in England and in America, yellowware became popular in the Midwest during the early 1840s, and was most often used for kitchen and toilet wares.

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Appendix 1:**Letter to Daniel P. Cook from Elijah Iles**  
**October 21, 1823 (previously unpublished)**

Edwardsville, Ill  
October 21, 1823

D.P. Cook Esq.

Dear Sir

*I called at your house and found you not at home. I should have been very proud to have saw you before you went to Washington, but as I shall be at St. Louis until the 30<sup>th</sup> Inst it will be out of my power.*

*Mr. John Kelly, the man who owned the adjoining qrt. to Springfield is dead, arrangements will be made to purchase his improvement, one of the administrators asked me if I would give 200\$ for the Improvement. I think that, it can be had for 150 or 200\$. Taylors farm is located, therefore there will be 3 qrs to purchase. I want you if you see any speculators speaking of going on to purchase, t hold out the idea the Town will be moved inconsequence of the Location.*

*We have petitioned the Governor to remove the location made near town, what affect this will have I do not know. Your improvement goes now in the name of Enos'. We shall be glad to hear from you, any arrangements, advise etx you make leave with your Family. I will call as I return from St. Louis you may possibly not be gone before I return.*

Yours Respectively  
Elijah Iles

*Secry should be observed*

## Appendix 2: **Animal Remains from Feature 2**

*Terrance J. Martin*  
Illinois State Museum

A total of 174 animal remains were associated with Feature 2 at the site of the Iles Store in Springfield, Illinois (Table 1). Mammals contribute 64.4% of the assemblage by specimen count and 86.8% by specimen weight. Although domesticated species comprise 96.5% of all identified mammal remains by weight, specimens from cattle, swine, and sheep or goat altogether contribute only 46.5% of all identified mammal remains by count. Considerable diversity comes from the presence of three small wild mammals. Bones from Norway rat (a minimum of four individuals, determined from maxilla fragments) are most numerous of any mammal taxon. Two individual fox squirrels are indicated by the presence of two left mandibles. An eastern cottontail was identified from a lumbar vertebra. Table 2 presents the skeletal composition of each of the domesticated species. Noteworthy is the virtual absence of cranial fragments, isolated teeth, and foot bones from swine and cattle. Sheep or goat is represented only by the dorsal portion of a first rib. Bone modifications consist of butchering marks and gnawing marks from scavenging rodents. A total of 13 bones were sawed: eleven were on cattle bones (Table 2), and two appeared on small fragments of unidentified large mammal. Five bones were severed by a cleaver or hatchet. Three of these chopped bones were on swine, and two were on unidentified mammal specimens. Noticeable rodent-gnawing marks were observed on two mammal vertebra fragments: a pig axis vertebra and a fragment from an unidentified species.

Avian bones, representing 31.0% of all remains by count and 12.7% by weight, come from four species. Domesticated chicken dominates the bird bones (78.3% of all identified bird bone) with at least two mature individuals, two subadults, and one juvenile. At least two individual turkeys are indicated by an ulna, tibiotarsus, and tarsometatarsus from a small individual and a radius from a larger individual. Specimens from wild birds include a bobwhite proximal humerus and the anterior portion of a sternum that is most comparable to a rock dove. Interestingly, 14 (17.5%) of all animal specimens from Feature 2 were gnawed by rodents, but twelve of these are from birds (10 chicken, 1 turkey, and 1 unidentified bird bone).

Whereas eight fish bones were encountered in Feature 2, seven are rib, ray, or spine fragments from a large fish. The only identifiable specimen is a basipterygium from one of three species of buffalo, the archaeological bone representing an individual that was 48-to-54 cm long (standard length). Buffalofishes are members of the sucker family that inhabit the Sangamon River.

Although the sample is limited to a single pit cellar context and is rather small, the Iles Store faunal assemblage seems consistent with household consumption. The refuse suggests that meat from large domesticated mammals was purchased or acquired in trade instead of having been raised on the site premises. Cattle bones

represent preferred portions of meat that were prepared by a professional butcher (using a meat saw) in a market, and sections of pigs were chopped with a cleaver. Absent are the abundance of isolated teeth, cranial fragments, and bones from the lower legs and feet that would be expected from a site where animals were being raised (see discussions by McCorvie 1987:263-265; Martin 1989; Price 1985). Chickens, on the other hand, were probably available close at hand, as indicated by the presence of bones from juvenile, subadult, and mature individuals. Turkey, bobwhite, dove, squirrel, cottontail, and buffalofish seemed to be procured occasionally as dietary supplements. The presence of rodent-gnawed bones, along with bones from Norway rats themselves, attests to the practice of discarding food remains in areas that were accessible to scavenging rodents. It seems likely that the refuse encountered in the pit cellar was secondary; i.e., the animal remains were swept or redeposited into the abandoned cellar after some time had passed after the primary disposal.

Category	Subcategory	Count	Percentage
CATTLE	Cranial fragments	1	0.1
	Isolated teeth	0	0.0
	Vertebrae	2	0.2
	Ribs	1	0.1
PIGS	Proximal humerus	2	0.2
	Isolated teeth	0	0.0
	Vertebrae	1	0.1
	Ribs	1	0.1
SHEEP	Proximal humerus	1	0.1
	Isolated teeth	0	0.0
	Vertebrae	1	0.1
	Ribs	1	0.1
BIRDS	Proximal humerus	1	0.1
	Isolated teeth	0	0.0
	Vertebrae	1	0.1
	Ribs	1	0.1
FISH	Proximal humerus	1	0.1
	Isolated teeth	0	0.0
	Vertebrae	1	0.1
	Ribs	1	0.1

**Table 1**  
Species composition of animal remains from Feature 2 at the Iles Store

	NISP <sup>1</sup>	MNI <sup>2</sup>	NISP Wt (g)
<b>MAMMALS</b>			
Eastern cottontail, <i>Sylvilagus floridamus</i>	1	1	.7
Fox squirrel, <i>Sciurus niger</i>	7	2	3.4
Old World rat, cf. <i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	30	4	10.5
Swine, <i>Sus scrofa</i>	18	1	48.0
Sheep/goat, <i>Ovis/Capra</i>	1	1	1.7
Cattle, <i>Bos taurus</i>	14	2	353.7
Unidentified large mammal	31	—	42.1
Unidentified medium/large mammal	5	—	3.4
Unidentified small mammal	5	—	.7
<b>BIRDS</b>			
Red junglefowl (domestic chicken), <i>Gallus gallus</i>	36	5	36.6
Turkey, <i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	8	2	28.9
Northern bobwhite, <i>Colinus virginianus</i>	1	1	.2
cf. Rock dove, <i>Columba livia</i>	1	1	.6
Unidentified medium bird	8	—	1.7
<b>FISH</b>			
Buffalo, <i>Ictiobus</i> spp.	1	1	.6
Unidentified fish	7	—	2.0
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>534.8</b>

<sup>1</sup>Number of identified specimens.

<sup>2</sup>Minimum number of individuals.

Table 2  
Skeletal portions of domestic mammals from Feature 2 at the Iles Store

	NISP	%	NISP sawed	NISP chopped
<b>SWINE</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>99.9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
Cranial fragments	0	—	—	—
Isolated teeth	1	5.5	0	0
Vertebrae	3	16.7	0	0
Ribs	10	55.6	0	3
Proximal forequarter	1	5.5	0	0
Innominate bone	0	—	—	—
Proximal hindquarter	1	5.5	0	0
Distal appendages/foot	2	11.1	0	0
<b>CATTLE</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>99.9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>
Cranial fragments	0	—	—	—
Isolated teeth	0	—	—	—
Vertebrae	5	35.7	4	0
Ribs	3	21.4	2	0
Proximal forequarter	2	14.3	2	0
Innominate bone	0	—	—	—
Proximal hindquarter	3	21.4	3	0
Distal appendages/foot	1	7.1	0	0
<b>SHEEP/GOAT</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Cranial fragments	0	—	—	—
Isolated teeth	0	—	—	—
Vertebrae	0	—	—	—
Ribs	1	100.0	0	0
Proximal forequarter	0	—	—	—
Innominate bone	0	—	—	—
Proximal hindquarter	0	—	—	—
Distal appendages/foot	0	—	—	—

Table 2  
Skeletal portions of domestic mammals from Feature 2 at the site  
Species composition of animal remains from Feature 2 at the site

Species	NISP	%	NISP	NISP	%
SWINE	18	99.9	0	3	0
Cranial fragments	0	-	-	-	-
Isolated teeth	1	2.2	0	0	0
Vertebrae	7	16.7	0	0	0
Ribs	4	22.2	3	0	0
Proximal forequarter	81	3.3	1	0	0
Isolated bone	1	-	-	-	-
Proximal hindquarter	41	2.2	1	0	0
Distal appendages/foot	13	11.1	2	0	0
Identified	4	-	-	-	-
Unidentified	5	-	-	-	-
CATTLE	14	99.9	11	0	0
Cranial fragments	0	-	-	-	-
Isolated teeth	0	-	-	-	-
Vertebrae	2	35.7	4	0	0
Ribs	1	21.4	3	0	0
Proximal forequarter	1	14.3	2	0	0
Isolated bone	0	-	-	-	-
Proximal hindquarter	3	21.4	3	0	0
Distal appendages/foot	1	7.1	0	0	0
Identified	7	-	-	-	-
Unidentified	7	-	-	-	-
SHEEP/GOAT	1	100.0	0	0	0
Cranial fragments	0	-	-	-	-
Isolated teeth	0	-	-	-	-
Vertebrae	0	-	-	-	-
Ribs	1	100.0	0	0	0
Proximal forequarter	0	-	-	-	-
Isolated bone	0	-	-	-	-
Proximal hindquarter	0	-	-	-	-
Distal appendages/foot	0	-	-	-	-
Number of specimens for minimum	0	-	-	-	-
Minimum number of specimens	0	-	-	-	-
Grand Totals	173	-	-	-	-



