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NEW SALEM'S LOST TAVERN
Archaeological Investigations on Lot 5 South, First Survey,
at Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site



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I. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Robert Mazrim

THE TOWN OF NEW SALEM

The town of New Salem was located in the southwest quarter of Section 25, Township 18 North, 7 West in present-day Menard County, Illinois. The site is situated on a high bluff overlooking the Sangamon River. New Salem was platted by Reverend John Camron on October 23, 1829. Camron had arrived in Sangamon County (which then encompassed present-day Menard County) with his uncle James Rutledge in 1825, settling on Concord Creek, approximately seven miles north of the site of New Salem. Camron and Rutledge had moved to the region from White County, Illinois, where both men had been engaged in various milling operations. Family tradition states that the two had come to Sangamon County intending to continue milling, and had planned to build a mill at their Concord Creek settlement, but found the creek's water capacity too small (Thomas 1954; 7).

On July 19, 1828, Camron entered a 160 acre tract adjacent to the Sangamon River (the southwest quarter of Section 25), and at some point both families moved onto the bluff top overlooking the river. The 1995 archaeological work at New Salem has suggested that prior to Camron's arrival, there was already at least one family "squatting" on site. The recent archaeological and archival research has also suggested that a well-used north-south road had crossed the property for years prior to his arrival (Mazrim and Naglich 1995; 50). In January of 1829, Camron and Rutledge were granted permission by the Illinois State Legislature to erect a mill dam across the Sangamon River, and the two constructed a mill prior to the platting of New Salem that October.

The plat of New Salem is unique in that it consists of two separate, contemporaneous "surveys" aligned at different angles and separated by an unrecorded distance. This plan seems to have been designed to accommodate the irregularly-shaped bluff top on which the town was platted, and possibly to incorporate into the plat an already-existing east-west road, which was to be called "Main Street" (Mazrim 1995; 20). The result was a town plat consisting of four blocks, two of which fronted Main Street on the north, and two of which fronted Main Street on the south (Figure 1).

For some reason, however, when the plat was drawn the numbering of lots was repeated in each block, resulting in four "Lot 1"s, four "Lot 2"s, etc. When particular lots were recorded, it was not always specified as to which "survey", and what side of Main Street, the deed referred. This has created obvious problems in interpreting lot ownership and occupation, and several lot deeds conflict with each other.

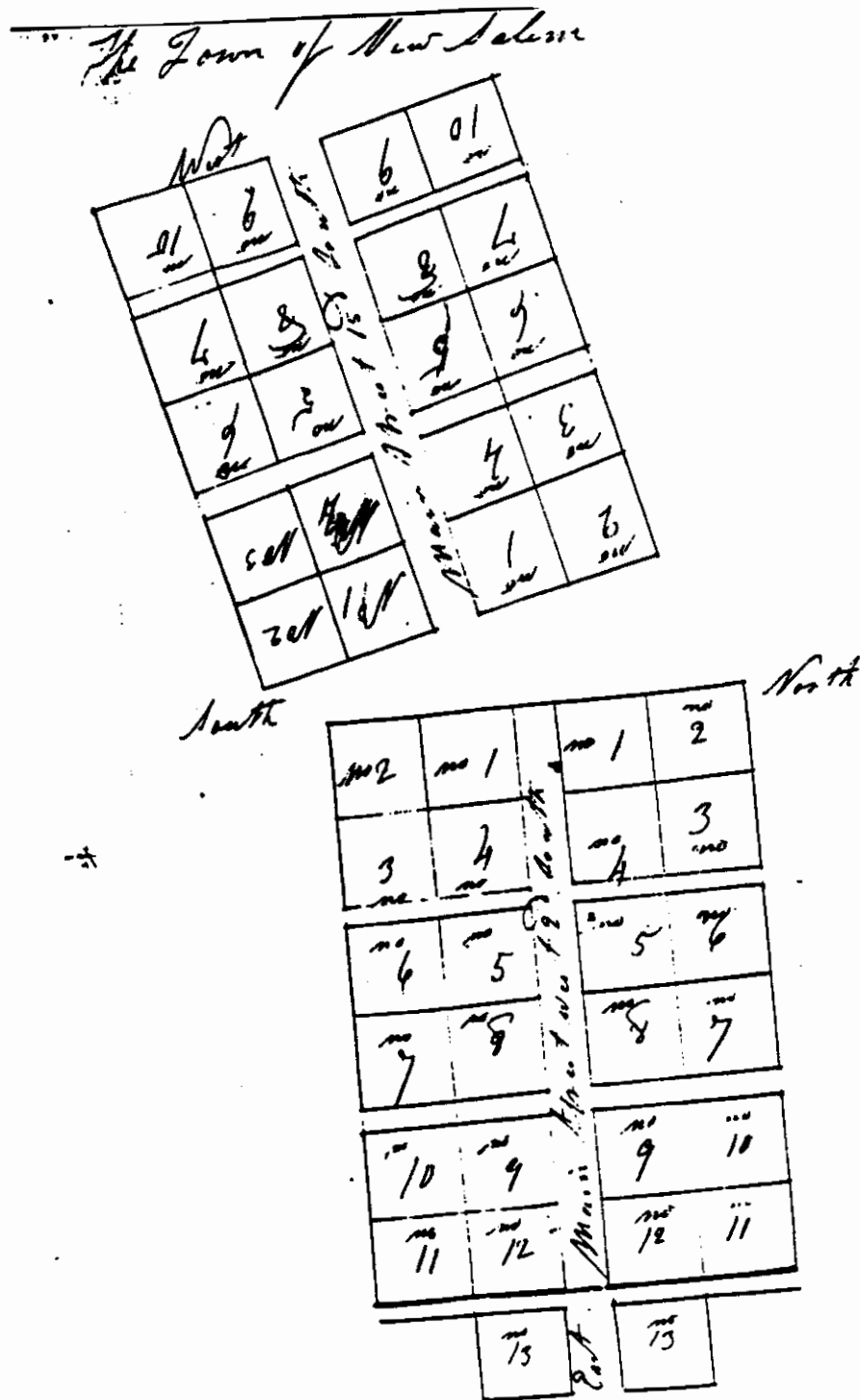


FIGURE 1: 1829 plat map of New Salem

The many oral traditions, as well as the evidence offered by the archival record, seem to agree that the town of New Salem was abandoned by late 1840, with the exception of one site - the Bale residence, which was occupied as late as 1860. The abandonment of the New Salem was due in large part to the creation of Menard County in 1839, and the subsequent placement of the county seat at Petersburg (located only two miles north) which drained the more inaccessible New Salem of most of its residents, and many of its buildings.

The site of New Salem was purchased by the state of Illinois in 1919, and immediately opened as a state park. The site had been in the care of the Old Salem Cumberland Presbyterian State Chautauqua Association (later the Old Salem Lincoln League) since 1906, and the Lincoln League was responsible for the first archaeology and reconstructions at the site, beginning in 1918. The League's initial reconstructed village was based primarily on the research of Thomas Reep, a local lawyer, self taught historian, and chair of the Lincoln League's "sites committee". The League's excavations were among the country's first historical archaeological endeavors.

Under the direction of Joseph Booton, the state continued archaeological investigations at the site, beginning in 1932, in advance of the reconstruction of the entire village. These investigations focused primarily on building size and location, and have been summarized in a previous report (Mazrim 1995).

Although the original plat of New Salem survives, no markers exist that serve to anchor it to the modern topography, and its exact location on the hilltop overlooking the Sangamon River has been a subject of debate since the town was replatted in the early 1930s. The resurvey was crucial, however, in identifying archaeological features with particular families. Such associations were to be the focus of the reconstruction and interpretive program at the site.

THE RUTLEDGE FAMILY AT NEW SALEM

The partners Camron and Rutledge are thought to have built homes for their families in the fall of 1828, shortly after Camron's purchase of the 80 acre parcel on which the town of New Salem would be platted (Thomas 1954; 7). James Rutledge and his wife Mary Ann had 10 children by 1829.

There is no record of James Rutledge's lot ownership within the town of New Salem. This is probably due to the fact that he is said to have been in partnership with his nephew Camron, and would not have been required to purchase the lot on which he lived. Probably shortly after its construction, Rutledge opened his home as a tavern. Traffic along the "Spoon River Road", which crossed over the hilltop where the town would be platted (see below) was probably brisk during the late 1820s, as it afforded access from Springfield to the Fulton County region of the Military Tract. The Rutledges probably had plenty of guests at their tavern, but the family remained at

New Salem for less than five years, moving back to their farm at Sandridge in the spring of 1833.

Upon their departure, the Rutledges are said to have sold the tavern to Nelson Alley, and the deed record does indicate that Nelson Alley purchased a portion of Lot 5 South in November of 1832 from John Camron, who would have still been the title holder for the lot on which the Rutledges had lived. Alley paid 200\$ for the western 66 feet of the lot, suggesting a substantial structure, probably commercial, was included with the property (see below).

Oral traditions remember Alley selling the tavern to Henry Onstot in December of 1834 (Onstot 1904; 150, Thomas 1954; 20). The deed record, however, records only a mortgage taken on the lot by Alley with Springfield retailers Bell and Tinsley, in May of 1833. Onstot is thought to have operated the tavern for one or two years before selling it to Michael Keltner (Onstot 1904; 150, Thomas 1954; 21). Again, there is no primary record extant for this transaction. The tavern was probably abandoned sometime during the late 1830s.

VILLAGERS' MAPS AND THE LOCATION OF THE TAVERN

Four maps of New Salem were drawn during the late 19th century, at least three of which were drawn by former residents. These maps are an important supplement to the archival record. Parthena Hill (wife of retailer and miller Sam Hill), R.J. Onstot, and T.G. Onstot (sons of village cooper Henry Onstot) each drew maps that show locations of specific residences and businesses located with respect to Main Street (Figures 2-4). A fourth uncredited "Sketch Map of New Salem" (Figure 5), included in Henry Whitney's *Life on the Circuit with Lincoln* (1892) may have also been drawn by a former resident, but disagrees with the three villagers' maps in several instances, and for purposes of this study is not regarded as having the same potential accuracy as the Onstot and Hill maps. This uncredited map also exists in a later, redrawn form, also uncredited. A sixth map of the village was drawn by J. McCann Davis for *The Early Life of Abraham Lincoln*, and appears to have been an amalgam of the Hill and uncredited maps.

All four of the primary maps of the village place Rutledge's tavern (referred to as the "Log Hotel" or "Log Tavern") on the south side of Main Street, opposite, and slightly east, of the store building now known as the "Second Berry-Lincoln Store". The three most detailed maps depict the tavern as situated on the southeast corner of the intersection of Main Street and the "Springfield Road", or on Lot 5 South, First Survey.

Parthena Hill's map illustrates a rectangular building labeled "Log Hotel" at the intersection of the two streets. R.J. Onstot's map shows a substantial two story

"Rutledge Tavern and Hotel"

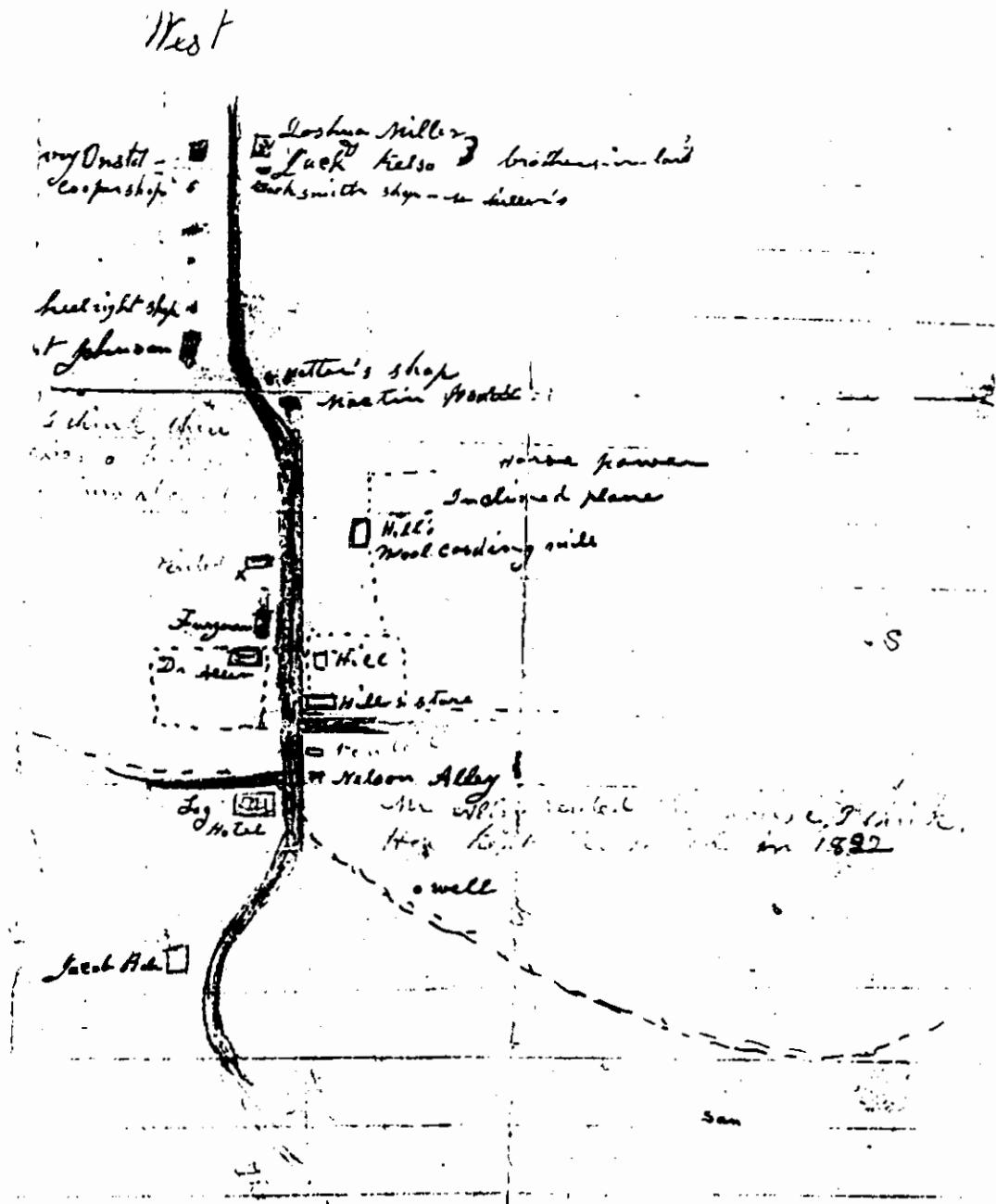


FIGURE 2: Parthena Hill's sketch map of New Salem

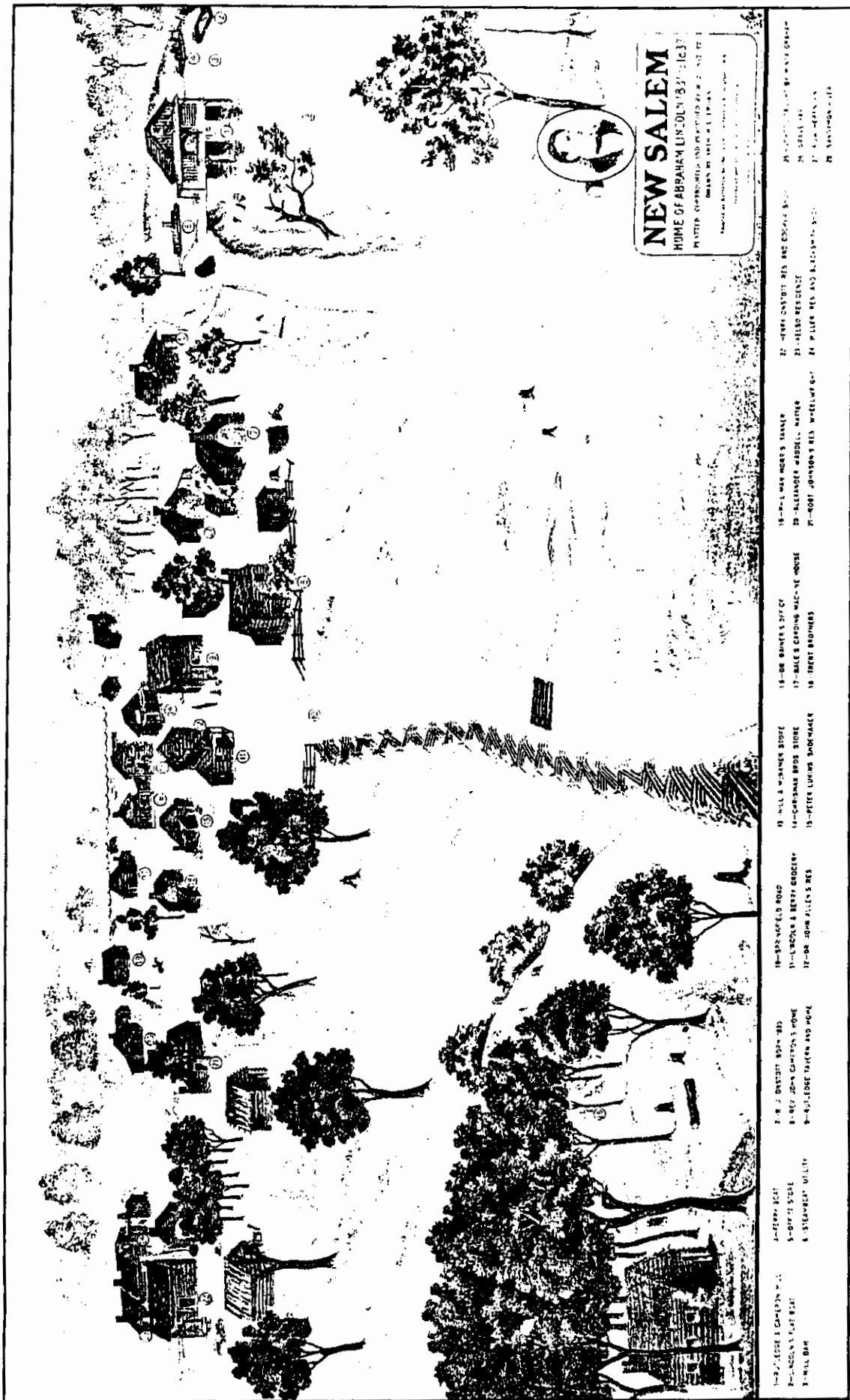
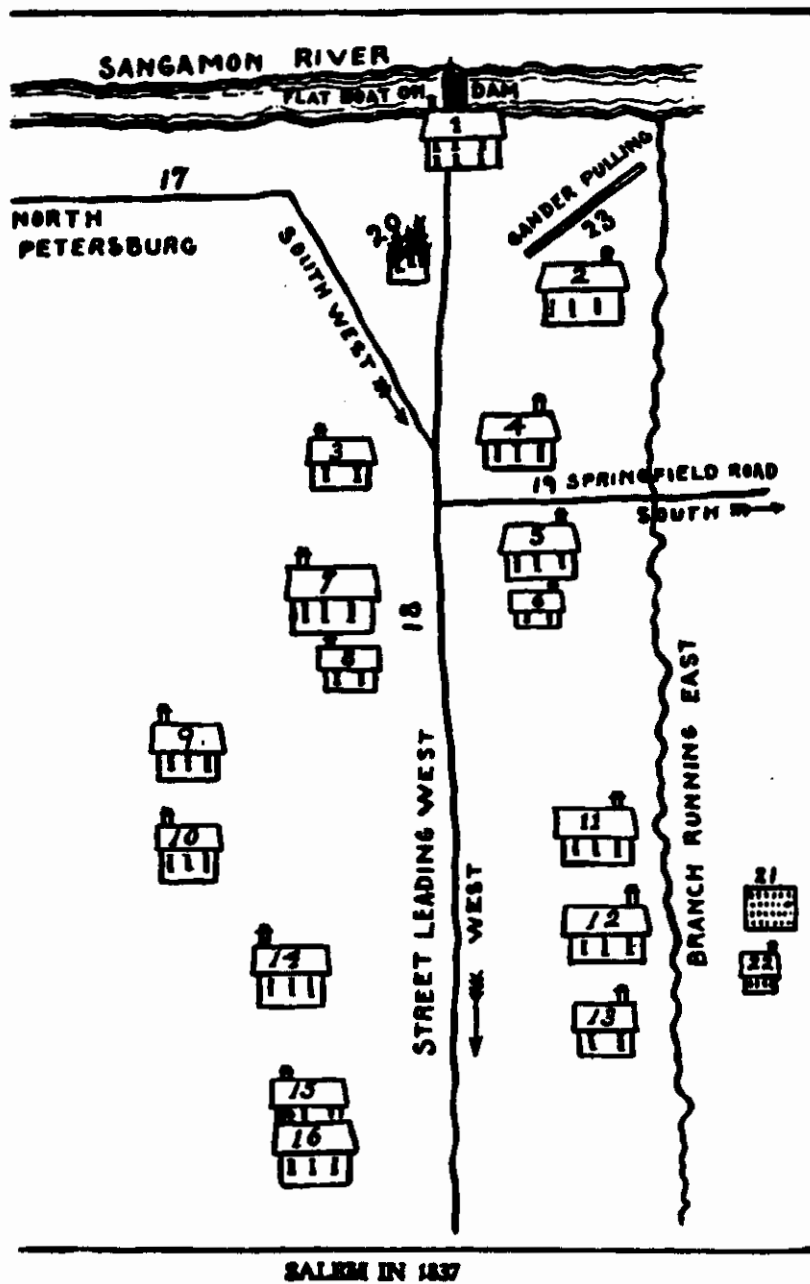


FIGURE 3: R.J. Onstot's bird's eye view of New Salem



EXPLANATION OF MAP

- 1 Mill and Dam.
- 2 Jacob Bales.
- 3 McNamar's store.
- 4 The Log Tavern.
- 5 Dr. Allen's residence.
- 6 Aleck Fergesson's cabin.
- 7 Hill's store.
- 8 Hill's residence.
- 9 The Carding Machine.
- 10 Martin Waddle.
- 11 William McNeely.
- 12 Henry Onstot's cooper shop.
- 13 H. Onstot's residence.
- 14 Miller's blacksmith shop.
- 15-16 Miller & Kelso residence.
- 17 Road from Petersburg.
- 18 Road from Mill—West.
- 19 Springfield road—South.
- 20 The Lincoln cellar with the three trees growing.
- 21 Grave Yard.
- 22 Schoolhouse.
- 23 Gander Pulling.

FIGURE 4: T.G. Onstot's sketch map of New Salem

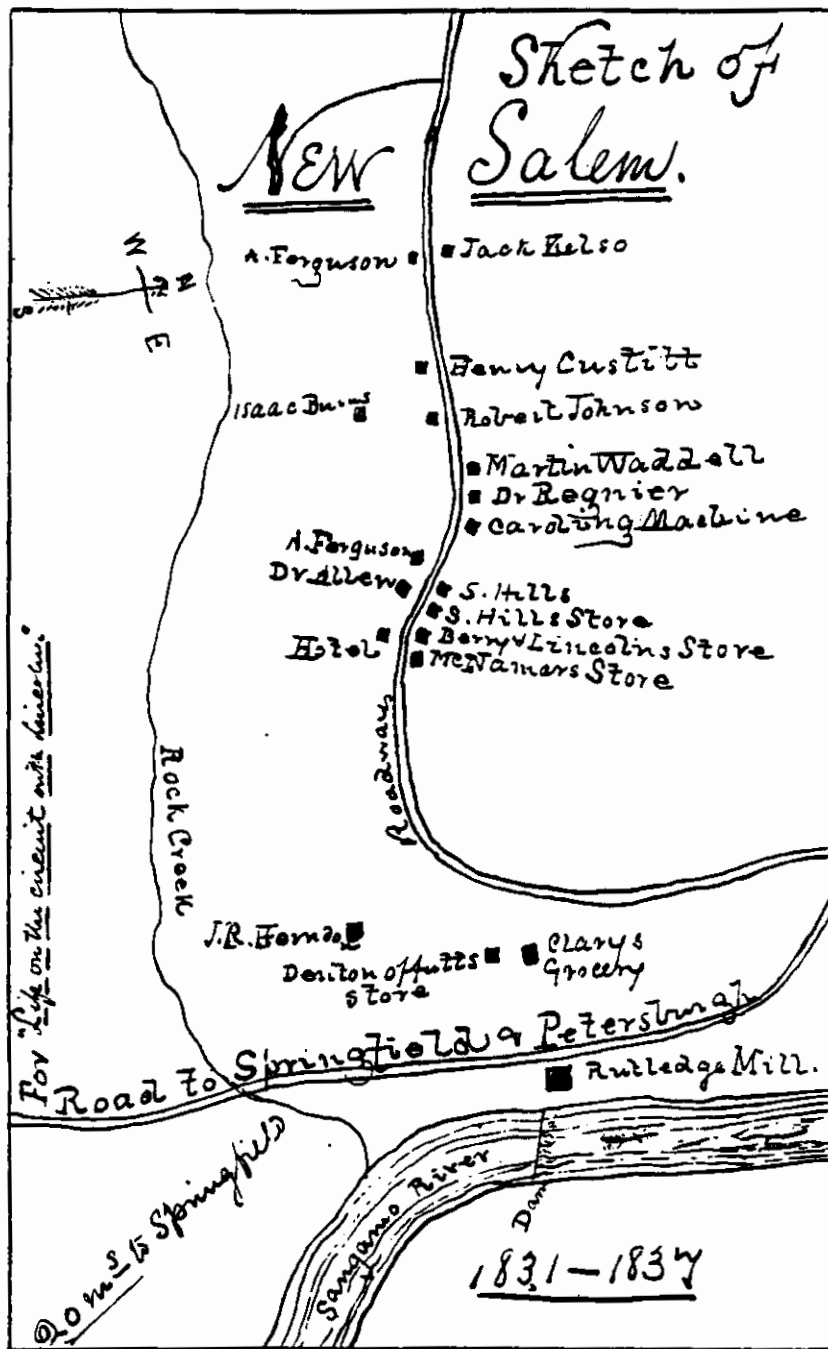


FIGURE 5: Uncredited sketch map of New Salem



FIGURE 6: Detail of RJ Onstot map, showing tavern building.

The less detailed T.G. Onstot map places "The Log Tavern" in roughly the same position. The uncredited "Sketch Map of New Salem" depicts the "Hotel" across Main Street from "Berry and Lincoln's Store".

OTHER FIRST HAND DESCRIPTIONS OF THE TAVERN

Aside from the depictions on the villagers' maps, there are few descriptions of the tavern building recorded by families who had visited the tavern or lived nearby during the 1830s. The most detailed is that made by Rachel Clark, whose husband had boarded at the tavern in the winter of 1833-34. Clark remembered the tavern as having been situated at the intersection of Main Street and the Spoon River Road. She also stated that the building was located directly against these streets, leaving no room on the west or north for a "yard" (Bale 1944; 29). Clark described the building as

"buildded of logs - the lower floor contained four rooms; two on the front facing north, with an ell on the south, and a small room built in the angle on the east. The one large room upstairs was a half story over the two ground floor rooms, and the house had a platform on the front north." (Booton 1934a; 63).

Harvey Ross, who "put up" at the tavern, described it as

" a hewed log house, two stories high, with four rooms above and four below. It had two chimneys with large fireplaces, and not a stove in the house." (Booton 1934a; 63)

T.G. Onstot described the tavern as a 16' by 30' structure with an ell measuring 16' by 20', and two stories tall (Onstot 1904; 150). Josephine Chandler, niece of Parthena Hill" remembered having been told that the ell was added "about the time Lincoln arrived in New Salem" (circa 1831) (Booton 1934; 64).

ARCHIVAL RECORD OF LOT 5 SOUTH

The 1997 project area is located on Lot 5 South, First Survey, according to the 1932 resurvey of the village. The replated first survey is thought to be reasonably accurate and representative of the original 1829 plat (Mazrim 1995; 16). Today, this lot is part of a large horse pasture at the park. For archaeological purposes, Lot 5 South First Survey was designated as Area EE during the 1997 field work.

Lot 5 is situated in the southeastern corner of the intersection of two New Salem-era streets. The lot fronts "Main Street" on the north, and its western lot line is adjacent to a north-south road which is thought to have predated the 1829 town plat (Bale 1944; 14-15, Mazrim and Naglich 1995; 133). This road was known as the "Spoon River Road" in the mid 1820s (Sangamon County Board of Supervisors, 1826), and its course north of Main Street was abandoned when the town was platted in 1829. Its course south of Main Street remained in use during the life of the village, and was referred to as the "Springfield Road" in the 1830s (Bale 1944;15).

The recorded chain of title for Lot 5 South First Survey begins with its sale by John Camron (who would have been the legal owner of the lot on which his partner lived) in November of 1832 to Nelson Alley. This transaction actually included only the west 66 feet of the lot, as well as most of the western half of Lot 6 south. The date of this sale fits well with the remembered spring of 1833 departure of the Rutledges from New Salem. Nelson Alley is also remembered as the second proprietor of the tavern (Thomas 1954;20), and the \$200 purchase price would suggests a substantial structure (probably commercial in nature) was included with the west half of either Lot 5 or Lot 6. The cellar feature investigated in 1997 was situated on the west half of Lot 5.

In May of 1833, Alley mortgaged the property to the Springfield retail partnership of Bell and Tinsley for 453. 84. Following this transaction there is no archival record of further sales involving Lot 5 South.

RECONSTRUCTION OF RUTLEDGE TAVERN

The Rutledge Tavern was one of the several buildings first reconstructed by the Lincoln League in the 1910s. These structures were replaced by the State of Illinois in 1932/33, although the locations of the reconstructions remained the same. The Lincoln League reconstructed the Rutledge Tavern not on Lot 5 south, at the intersection of Main Street and the Springfield/ Spoon River Road, but to the south, on Lot 6 South.

At the site of the League's reconstruction had been the ruins of a log home, which had been the last structure standing at the site of New Salem. The house had been the residence of the Bale family since the mid 1830s, sometime following Jacob Bale's 1832 purchase of the saw mill from Camron and Rutledge. The Bales continued operating a remodeled version of mill until the mid 19th century, and probably occupied the log house until sometime around the Civil War (Thomas 1954; 20, Bale 1944; 17). Based on villagers' maps, the Bale house appears to have been situated at or near the site of John Camron's home, built in 1828, and may have in fact been the same structure, probably modified during the Bale tenure.

By the early 1870s, the house was in ruin, and was pictured in the Illustrated Atlas Map of Menard County, published in 1874 (Figure 7). The caption of this drawing, however, labeled the building as the ruins the of "Salem Hotel, Lincoln's Boarding House".

Why the 1874 Atlas labeled the Bale home as the ruined tavern is unclear, although it should be remembered that William Herndon had begun visiting the area in the 1860s, interested in "Abraham Lincoln, Miss Ann Rutledge, New Salem, Pioneering and the Poem" (the title of an 1866 lecture). As the ruins of a post New Salem home would have held far less appeal than those of the home of the tragic Ann Rutledge, the identification of the Bale house as the tavern may have begun with pilgrimages made to the site in search of Lincoln connections. It should also be noted that elsewhere in the same 1874 atlas, the last house left standing "amid the eternal solitude that broods over the deserted hamlet" was identified as the former home of the town's founder, John Camron (Brink & Co. 1874; 15).

By the turn of the century, the ruined Bale / Camron house had been demolished, but the identification of the site as that of the Rutledge Tavern had become tradition. It was based on this local tradition, then over 30 years old, that the Lincoln League erected the reconstructed tavern on Lot 6 South.

When the state of Illinois began to rebuilt the attraction in the 1930s, however, several individuals, including members of the Bale family, began to point out the discrepancies between the 20th century reconstruction and the mid 19th century deed and oral record regarding the site of the Rutledge Tavern.

In 1931, Ida Bale, whose father was Jacob Bale's nephew, began a series of letters to the Joseph Booton and the State of Illinois, vehemently stating that the Bale house had never been the Rutledge Tavern, and that in fact the tavern had stood to the north, on Lot 5 South. Miss Bale also claimed that her brother had exposed a portion of a stone cellar wall at the Lot 5 South site. Bale ultimately presented her arguments in a 1944 publication entitled New Salem as I Knew It.

In response to Bale's complaints, as well as a result of his own research, Joseph Booton conducted excavations at the Lot 5 South site in 1934, encountering the eroded remains of cellar feature, and "stone and brick, ashes, pottery, and bits of implements" which he seems to have recognized as early 19th century in origin (Booton 1934b). During the preparation of the 1995 study of the early 20th century archaeological investigations at New Salem (Mazrim 1995), two unlabeled black and white photographs were found, unaccompanied by any report, in files at the Illinois State Archives. These photos, depicting a partially emptied cellar feature on Lot 5 South, appear to be the only extant record of Booton's 1934 work at the site (Figure 8).

Based on the transcription of an interview with Thomas Reep (who had made the initial decision to reconstruct the tavern on Lot 6 South years earlier), as well as

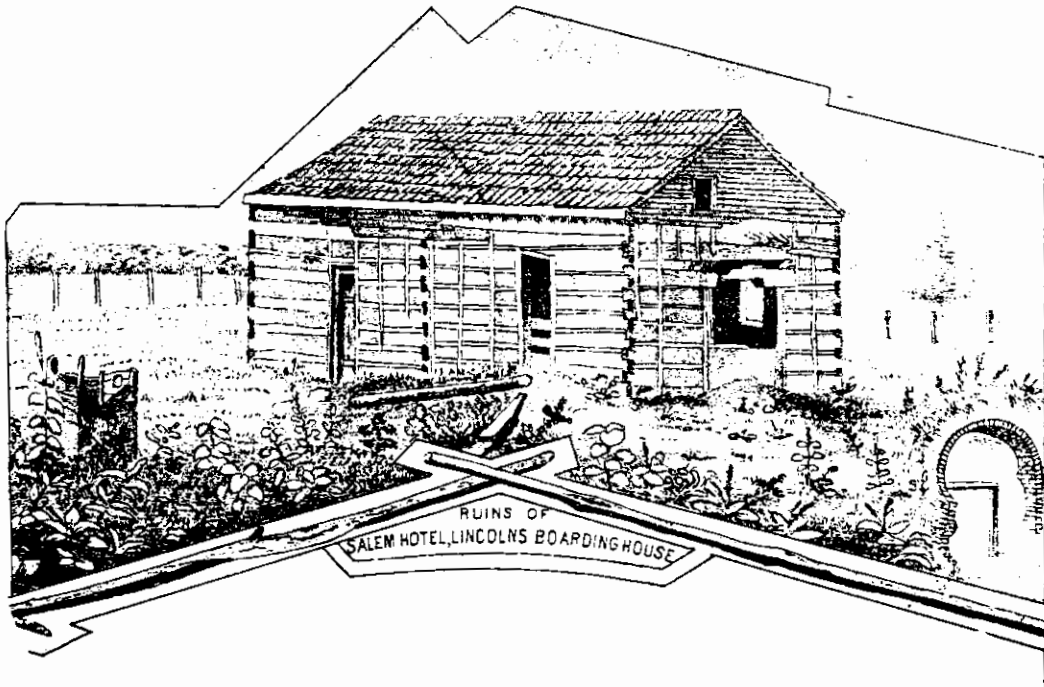


FIGURE 7: Depiction of ruined Bale house in 1874
Atlas Map of Menard County

his personal correspondence, it is clear that Booton encountered considerable opposition to the notion that the Lincoln League reconstruction had been in error. In an apparent nod to a then 60 year old tradition, Booton left his archaeological findings on Lot 5 South unreported, and instead, drafted a rather circuitous argument in favor of the Lot 6 South site, which he published in his Record of the Reconstruction of New Salem.

Based on the findings of the 1997 excavations at Lot 5, Booton removed nearly the entire cellar feature from the site, replacing it with clean fill soil. As a result, Lot 5 was left vacant, and the site of Bale / Camron house was labeled as that of the Rutledge Tavern, thus excluding the home of New Salem's 1829 founder from the reconstructed village.

In an 1932 letter to Booton (on file at the Illinois State Archives), Josephine Chandler may have shed some light on the actual fate of the original Rutledge Tavern. In her letter, Mrs Chandler refers to a conversation with John Goodell, a local surveyor, who told her that he had been told by a "Mr. Bale", prior to 1918, that the Bale family had purchased the tavern from Mr. Onstot when the village had been abandoned, and that they subsequently moved the building to "his place" north of the village site, for use as a corn pen. If Goodell's story was correct, then the home of Ann Rutledge had met a far less romantic fate than that of the ghostly ruin pictured in 1874.

II. Field Investigations

Dennis Naglich

PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

The project locale, Area EE, was excavated in 1934 in order to address questions raised concerning the correct site of the Rutledge Tavern. Joseph Booton, chief draftsman for the state architect's office was placed in charge of research connected with a major reconstruction project at New Salem which began in 1932. That same year he received correspondence from Ida Bale, a descendant of the Bale family which resided at New Salem beginning in the 1830s. Bale believed the Rutledge Tavern had been located at Area EE, adjacent to the village's Main Street and not farther south where the Old Salem Lincoln League had reconstructed it in 1918 (Figure 9).

According to Booton, Bale "built up quite a case for her argument and had acquired many supporters." (Booton 1946:10). Her conclusions were based on both reminiscent accounts of former New Salem residents and on physical evidence uncovered at Area EE. Bale, in her book New Salem As I Knew It, published in 1944, maintained that her brother went to the site and "took out a rock wall at the south side of a depression against Main Street." Bale concluded that the depression marked the location of the Rutledge Tavern cellar. In further support of her argument she recorded that the first caretaker of New Salem State Park, while digging up a locust tree at this same location, had "found stones at the roots." (Bale 1944:30).

Following receipt of Bale's letter, afternoon meetings were held at the custodian's office in the New Salem museum building, to hear arguments on both sides of the matter. Booton recalled that, "All who had any connection with the problem were invited to participate in the discussions. The viewpoints were numerous, the opinions varied, sincere, and apparently sound." Ultimately it was decided that archaeological excavations at Area EE might provide a conclusive answer and so, "We set about to dig up the facts." (Booton 1946:10).

The archaeological project that took place in 1934 presumably centered around the location where Ida Bale's brother had found the "rock wall." Civilian Conservation Corps workers were by then assembled at New Salem and were very possibly employed in the Area EE excavations. Booton implied that he was involved in and perhaps exerted some supervisory control over the project. John Biggs headed subsequent archaeological work at the park and may have been in direct field supervision of this project as well, but this and many other details are lacking in the sketchy accounts of the excavations which were subsequently published.

In his writings concerning this archaeological project, Booton gives varying interpretations of the results. In his Record of the Restoration of New Salem,



FIGURE 8: 1934 photographs of cellar feature unearthed on Lot 5 South

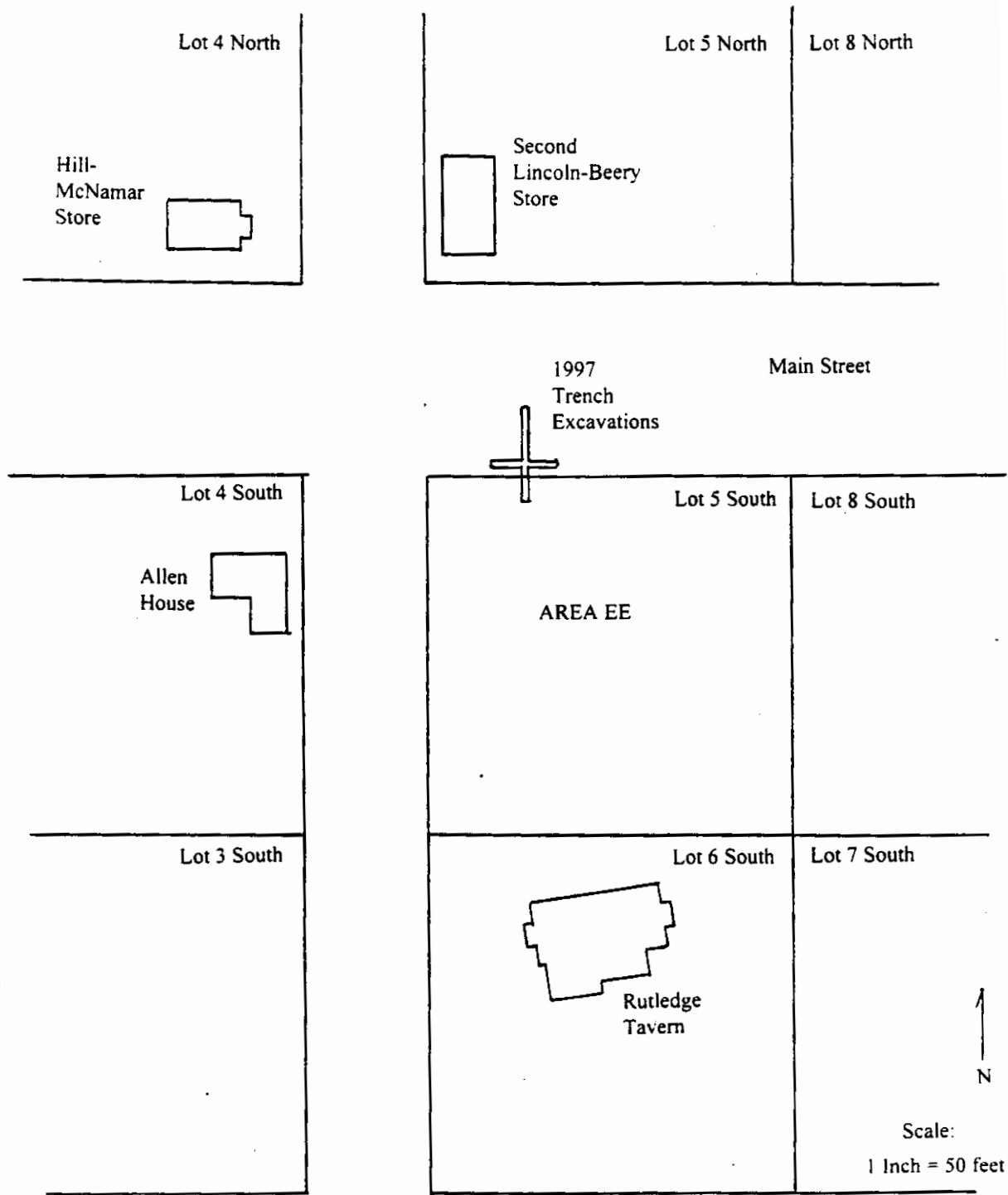


FIGURE 9: Area EE, reconstructed buildings, and 1932 resurveyed lot lines.

completed by September, 1934, Booton wrote that the "recent search of New Salem Lot 5 South, First survey [Area EE] found nothing definite to show foundations or a former basement." Likewise in an article published in 1946, Booton maintained that after digging up both the Lincoln League tavern reconstruction site and Area EE, they "found nothing of value." In Area EE, "in the supposed location of the 'real' Rutledge Tavern, we uncovered an old rubbish heap-- the outline of which had no shape or form." In this article Booton maintained that, "Archaeological work was of no help." (Booton 1946:10).

Yet in the typescript of an interview dated October 18, 1934, Booton reported more positive results. That interview took place between Booton and Thomas Reep, the man who had chaired the Lincoln League's sites committee and spearheaded the first reconstruction efforts at New Salem in 1918. During the course of the interview the two men walked the grounds of the village and Reep defended the Lincoln League's placement of the Rutledge Tavern. Figuring large in his arguments were the recollections of Louisa Clary who had spent part of her childhood in New Salem, moving there in 1840. Clary accurately recalled the location of her home, the former residence of John Allen, but had no memory of either a structure or an abandoned cellar depression across the road to the east, in Area EE.

Reep dismissed the depression in Area EE as a deeply eroded road swale. He pointed out that severe erosion had taken place since the 1830s along that portion of the village Main Street directly to the north and northeast. A natural ravine had indeed back-cut into that portion of the old Main Street track, rendering it useless for traffic and requiring its rerouting to the south, through the center of Area EE. Reep and the Lincoln League had already placed up to two feet of fill in order to restore this portion of Main Street to its original path. Reep believed the depression in Area EE marked the location where westbound traffic on Main Street had once curved to turn south onto the Springfield Road and that the same erosion which damaged Main Street had also deepened the swale of this intersecting roadway.

Booton, however, was not fully convinced by this argument. Findings of the 1934 excavations of the Area EE depression suggested that the feature was something more than a road swale, perhaps a cellar. Speaking of this field work, Booton told Reep, "You know we found a place there and we uncovered it and found stone and brick, ashes, pottery, and bits of implements." Reep suggested that the artifacts were deposited during the Lincoln League's filling project along the Main Street right-of-way, but Booton answered no, only artifacts dating from the 19th century New Salem village period had been recovered. Booton expressed confusion in his efforts to identify the feature: "...just what that is we don't know. It worries me." Finally, however, he admitted that the excavations had produced "meagre evidence to show there was a sort of cellar there or a pit of some kind." (Booton and Reep 1934).

Other than Booton's scant comments and recollections, the only extant information on the 1934 field work at Area EE comes in the form of two photographs

taken while the excavations were still open (Figure 8). One photograph taken from the south side of the excavations looking north shows the reconstructed Second Lincoln-Berry Store, as well as a stone walkway heading south from the store's front door up to the west edge of the excavations. The second photograph was taken from the west side of the excavation toward the southeast; in the background can be seen the east-west gravel road through the park as it existed in 1934, curving through the center of Area EE to avoid the eroded portion of the original village Main Street right-of-way.

Both photographs show a deep block portion to the excavation, roughly rectangular in plan view, consisting of trenches, averaging perhaps 18 inches in width and 2 to 4 feet in depth, around a central pedestaled area. In the top foot of the pedestal can be seen a concentration of stone and brick. The deepest, most regular trenches are along the south and east sides of the pedestal, suggesting excavators there could more easily detect soil differences indicating a possible feature edge. The shallower trenches dug around the north and west portions of the pedestal suggest excavators encountered a much more confused stratigraphic picture in this area. Excavations about 18 to 24 inches deep create a bench around the south, east and part of the west side of the deeper block. Trenches of like depth trail off to the south and east in an apparently random zigzag pattern toward the 1934 gravel road. The roughly consistent depth of these excavations suggests that they were dug to remove topsoil in a search for additional features.

Shovel marks on the walls of the excavations leave no doubt that the digging was done by hand, at least up until the time that the photographs were taken. Backfilling, however, may have been accomplished, at least in part, with the assistance of heavy equipment. Photographs of CCC road work in the park during the 1930s show a steam shovel in use. It may have also been employed to expedite the final restoration of Main Street north of Area EE, a project involving the importation of fill which was completed by 1935. The 1934 archaeological excavations may have been backfilled as part of this operation.

From the limited writings and the photographs that remain it is difficult to conclude exactly what was found during the 1934 archaeological field work at Area EE. Had excavators uncovered "nothing of value" or "evidence to show there was a sort of cellar there?" By reopening those excavations it was hoped that a more definite answer to that question could be determined.

METHODOLOGY

Field work commenced with the laying out of a surface grid established with the use of a transit. Permanent iron markers were set along the base line at South 0, East 0 and at South 0, East 30. A series of shovel tests were then executed along the grid at staggered intervals of 10 feet. Shovel tests falling along the site base line were offset one foot to the north. The tests were performed in an effort to identify the location of the 1934 block excavation of a possible cellar feature marking the Rutledge Tavern site, as well as any associated features and intact deposits not previously identified. The tests, 12 inches wide, were to be excavated down to sterile clay subsoil; all excavated soil was to be passed through a quarter-inch mesh and all artifacts collected, except for brick and limestone of which only samples were to be taken.

The first round of tests revealed that the north portion of Area EE had been heavily disturbed by deep landscaping and filling activities, rendering standard shovel testing inadequate. It was then decided to reduce the test interval to 5 feet within the area where period photographs indicated that the 1934 excavation was located. Tests within this immediate vicinity were dug with shovel and hand auger to a depth of 54 inches-- the length of the auger. The tests disclosed an anomalous area of fill greater than 54 inches deep that could mark the location where excavators in 1934 had opened the possible cellar feature. Yet the tests also indicated that the surrounding area was likewise disturbed to considerable depth and thus the perimeter of the possible feature could not be determined.

Original plans had called for exposure of the feature in plan view, followed by excavation of opposing quarters of its fill. Since tests had disclosed that most, if not all, of the possible feature's walls had been destroyed, a change in excavation strategy was dictated. It was instead decided to test the area with two trenches crossing each other at right angles over the presumed center of the feature. Trench A, 2 feet wide and 30 feet , and Trench B, 28 to 31 inches wide and 22 feet long, were dug down to sterile, undisturbed clay subsoil. All of Trench A was excavated by shovel and trowel. Within Trench B, the upper layers of sterile, imported clay fill were removed by backhoe, while the bottom layers were excavated with shovel and trowel. The imported clay fill was not screened. Lower zones of fill were passed through a quarter-inch mesh and all artifacts collected, except for brick and limestone, of which only samples were saved.

Shovel testing in the south portion of Area EE revealed a shallower zone of disturbed soil and a higher density of artifacts. Where disturbance was minimal, testing intervals were reduced to five feet. At locations with the highest density of artifacts or where soils had been least affected by 20th century disturbance, three units were excavated. Each unit measured three by five meters and was dug to the top of sterile clay subsoil. All excavated soil was screened and all artifacts, with the exception of brick and limestone, were collected.

FIELD SETTING

The 1997 field work at New Salem (11-ME-6) took place at Area EE, roughly conforming to Lot 5 South, First Survey, in the eastern portion of the reconstructed village. The bluff top and slope on which Area EE is located heads a ravine which drains north to Bale's Branch, a tributary of the Sangamon River. Soil conservation reports state that unaltered topsoil at this location should consist of a friable silt loam, dark brown to yellow brown in color, overlying a yellowish brown and brown friable silty clay subsoil. Area EE is located south of the reconstructed Second Lincoln Berry Store and east of the reconstructed John Allen residence. It is bordered on the north and west by modern asphalt roads.

RESULTS

Shovel Tests

A total of 92 shovel tests were dug at intervals of 5 or 10 feet within Area EE, across a portion of an enclosed pasture measuring 60 by 90 feet (Figure 10). Twentieth century disturbance was encountered throughout.

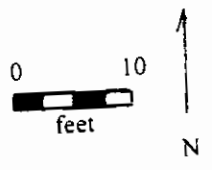
In the south portion of Area EE, at South 40 to 75 and East 0 to 60, disturbance was shallow, consisting of gray brown clayey silt, ranging from 4 to 13 inches in depth. Contained within this soil was tar covered gravel and asphalt chunks of 20th century date, as well as ceramic sherds and cut nail fragments of 19th century date. Beneath this layer was sterile yellow brown clay. A few small local concentrations of artifacts were discovered, including one at South 50, East 15, sufficient to warrant the excavation of Unit 1 (See Unit Excavation Section).

Across most of the center portion of Area EE, at South 20 to 35 and East 0 to 25, shovel tests disclosed a mixture of disturbed and redeposited soils, including gray brown clayey silt, dark yellow brown clay, and yellow brown silty clay, ranging from 8 to 16 inches deep. Appearing throughout these layers and occasionally as a lens at their base were the gravel remnants of the road which passed from east to west through this location during the 1920s and early 1930s. Beneath these fill layers was sterile clay subsoil. At South 20, East 5, a shovel test revealed undisturbed topsoil, consisting of a light to medium gray brown silt, extending down 12 to 14 inches, above sterile subsoil. The silt contained 19th century artifacts. It was decided to excavate a unit at this location to test for the presence of undisturbed village period features. A small number of 19th century artifacts were also recovered from tests along the East 0 line, so another unit was staked at that location (See Unit Excavation Section).

Shovel tests in the north portion of Area EE, from South 10 to North 15 and East 0 to 20, revealed a confused stratigraphy of disturbed and imported soils, including gray brown silty clay and yellow brown silty clay, extending down over 54 inches in

Second Lincoln-Berry Store

Well



22

Key:
• Shovel Test

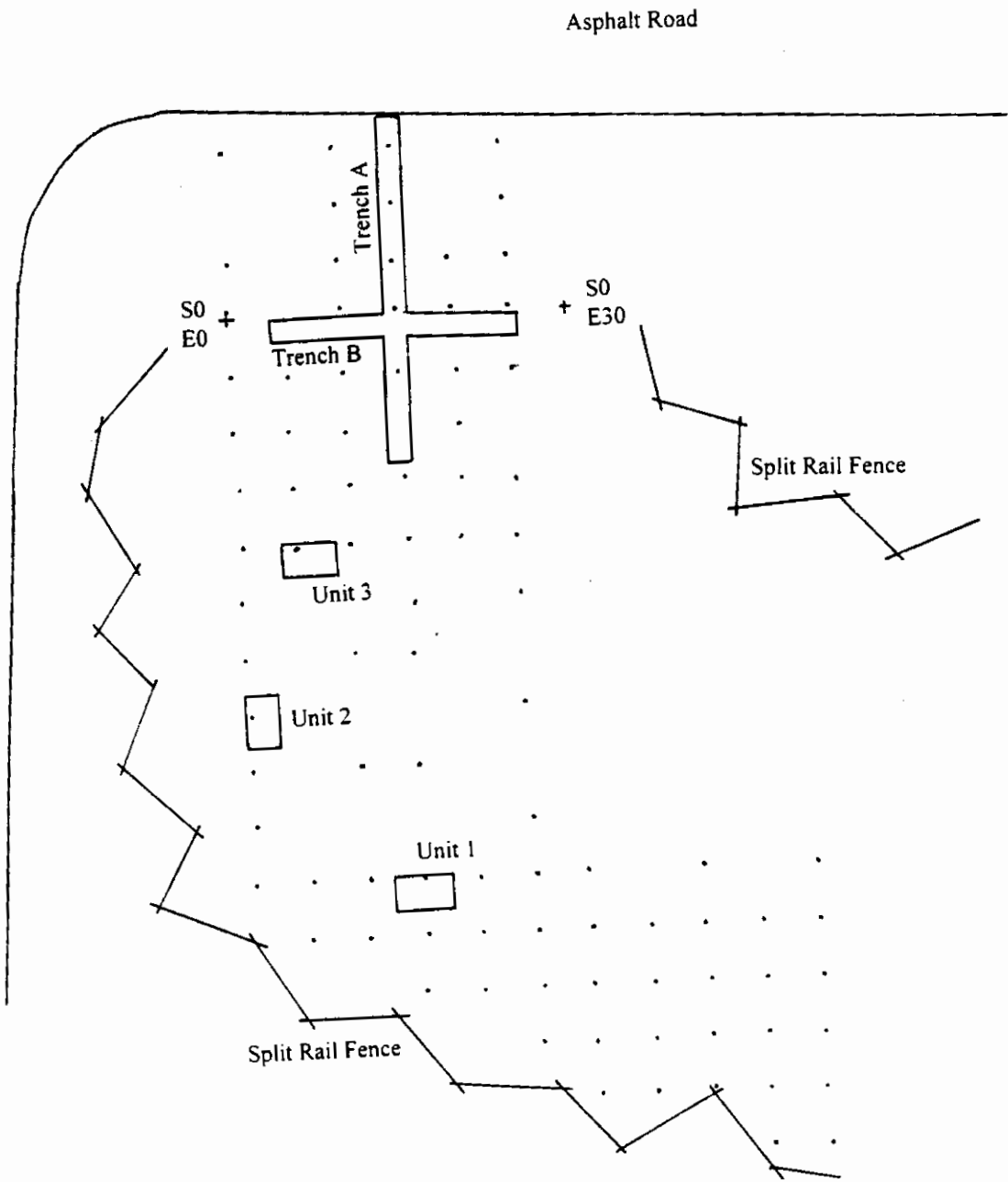


FIGURE 10: Area EE shovel test, unit and trench locations.

depth. Most of the fill layers appeared sterile, those few artifacts recovered appearing at great depth. In the shovel test at North 10, East 10, a wire nail fragment and coal were found at 42 inches below surface. Debris found in soils nearer the surface almost exclusively dated to the 20th century. At North 1, East 0, and at North 15, East 0, pieces of stone were found beneath modern topsoil, at a depth of about one foot. These rocks together with a large stone, three feet long, situated on the ground surface at South 7 to 10, East 0, probably mark the location of a sidewalk leading south from the Second Lincoln-Berry Store reconstruction, visible in photographs taken of the Area EE archaeological excavations in 1934. The extent of 20th century disturbance found in shovel testing across the north portion of Area EE necessitated the excavation of two trenches in an attempt to locate the possible cellar feature uncovered during field work in 1934.

Trench Excavation

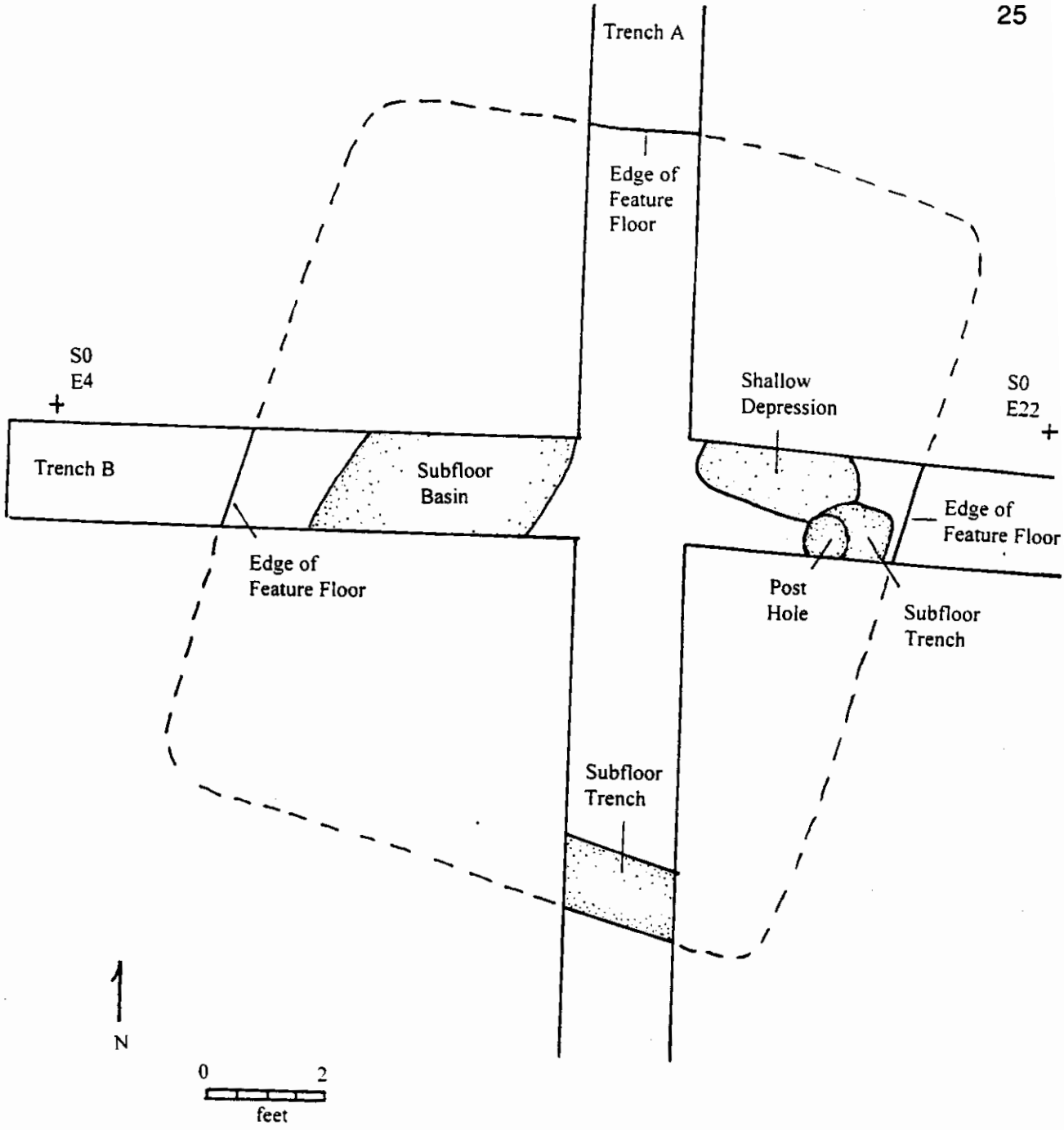
Two trenches were dug in the north portion of Area EE. They revealed the remains of a 19th century feature interpreted as a subfloor cellar. Basal portions of the feature appeared to remain intact, although erosion, as well as 1930s archaeological excavations and backfilling or earth-moving activities, apparently destroyed or obscured most of the feature's walls.

Trench A, measuring 2 feet wide and 30 feet long, extended south from the edge of the asphalt road which currently serves to represent Main Street in the reconstructed village (Figure 11). The trench was situated on the site grid at South 13 to North 17 and East 14 to 16. The probable north and south limits of the cellar base were revealed at the bottom of the trench, its apparent floor defined by the appearance of clay subsoil at 59 to 61 inches below surface. The relatively flat floor extended from North 5 feet 7 inches to South 7 feet 10 inches within the trench. The north end of the feature floor was marked by a change in depth of sterile clay subsoil, which rose up at a sharp angle to a height of about 24 inches above floor level. This rise in the subsoil may have been the bottom portion of the original cellar wall; more certainly it defined the north limit of deep excavations in 1934 (Figure 12).

The south end of the floor within Trench A was marked by a trough or trench feature, 16 inches wide and extending down 11 inches below floor level. Extending across the width of Trench A, its long axis ran northwest to southeast and so did not appear oriented to village lot lines. This trench feature could have accommodated a cellar wall or a foundational support for a building. Perhaps it marked the location of the "rock wall" excavated by Ida Bale's brother prior to the archaeological excavations of 1934 (See Previous Investigations Section). From the south wall of this subfloor trench sterile subsoil was found to rise up at an angle of about 40 degrees. This gradual rise at the south end of the feature may very well have been the product of excavation and backfilling or landscaping activities in the 1930s.

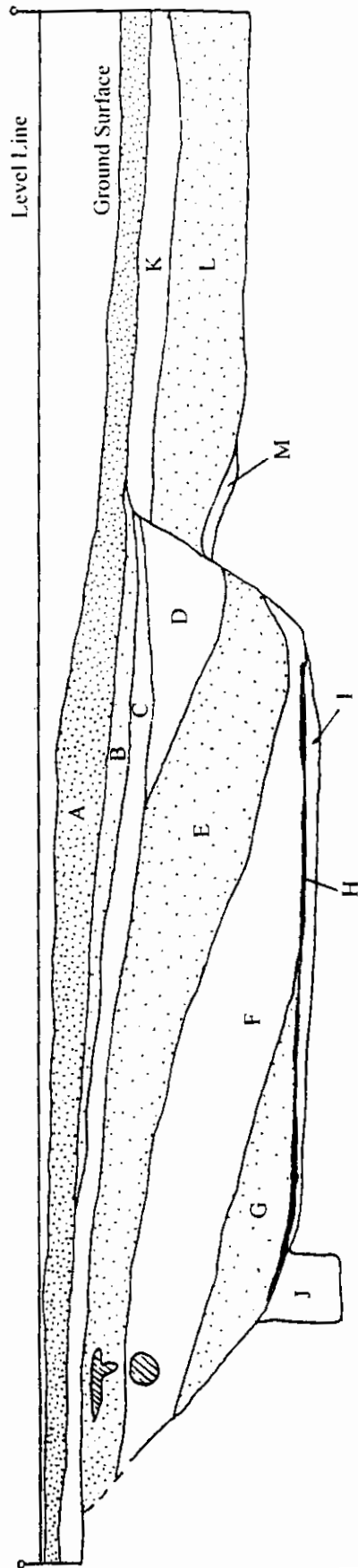


FIGURE 11: Excavation view of Trench A (north).



Key:
- - - Cellar Feature Base
Conjectured Outline

FIGURE 12: Plan view, Feature 1 / Trenches A & B, base



KEY:

- A. Dark gray brown silty clay (10YR 4/2).
- B. Mottled yellow brown and gray brown clay (10YR 5/2, 5/4).
- C. Dark yellow brown silty clay (10YR 4/4).
- D. Brown silty clay (10YR 4/3).
- E. Gray brown clayey silt (10YR 5/2).
- F. Banded yellow brown and dark grayish brown silty clay (10YR 5/4, 4/2).
- G. Brown silty clay with gravel (10YR 4/3).
- H. Banded light gray brown and brown silty clay (10YR 7/1, 4/3).
- I. Yellow brown clayey silt (10YR 5/4).
- J. Banded yellow brown and gray brown silty clay (10YR 5/4, 5/2).
- K. Dark brown clayey silt (10YR 3/3).
- L. Gray brown clayey silt with yellow brown silty clay inclusions (10YR 5/2, 5/4).
- M. Brown clayey silt (10YR 5/3).


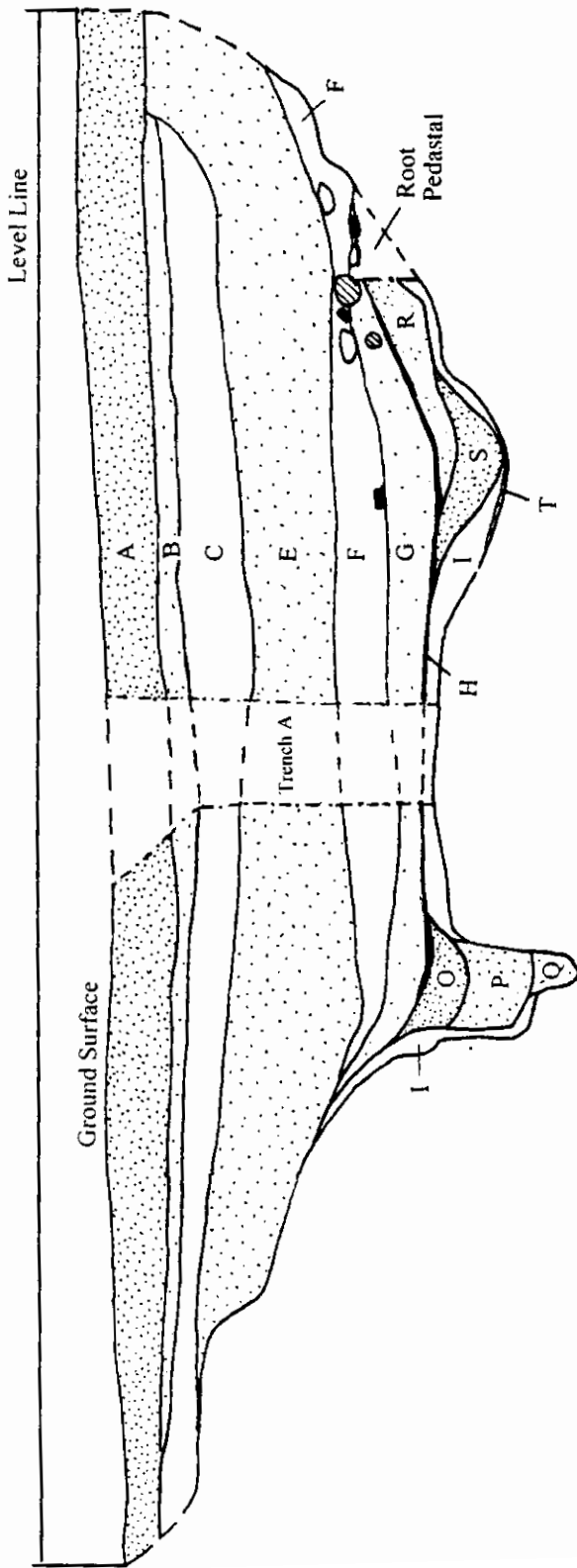
 Roots

FIGURE 13: Trench A, west wall profile



KEY:

- A. Dark gray brown silty clay (10YR 4/2).
- B. Mottled yellow brown and gray brown clay (10YR 5/2, 5/4).
- C. Dark yellow brown and gray brown clay (10YR 4/4).
- E. Gray brown clayey silt (10YR 5/2).
- F. Banded yellow brown and dark grayish brown silty clay (10YR 5/4, 4/2).
- G. Brown silty clay with gravel (10YR 4/3).
- H. Banded light gray brown and brown silty clay (10YR 7/1, 4/3).
- I. Yellow brown clayey silt (10YR 5/4).
- O. Gray brown clayey silt (10YR 5/2).
- P. Mottled dark brown and yellow brown silty clay (10YR 3/3, 5/6).
- Q. Mottled yellow brown and gray brown clayey silty (10YR 5/2, 5/4).
- R. Mottled brown and gray brown clayey silt (10YR 5/3, 5/2).
- S. Laminated light brownish gray clay (10YR 6/2).
- T. Dark grayish brown silty clay (10YR 4/2).

- ⊗ Roots
- ▬ Brick
- ◊ Limestone



FIGURE 14: Trench B, south wall profile

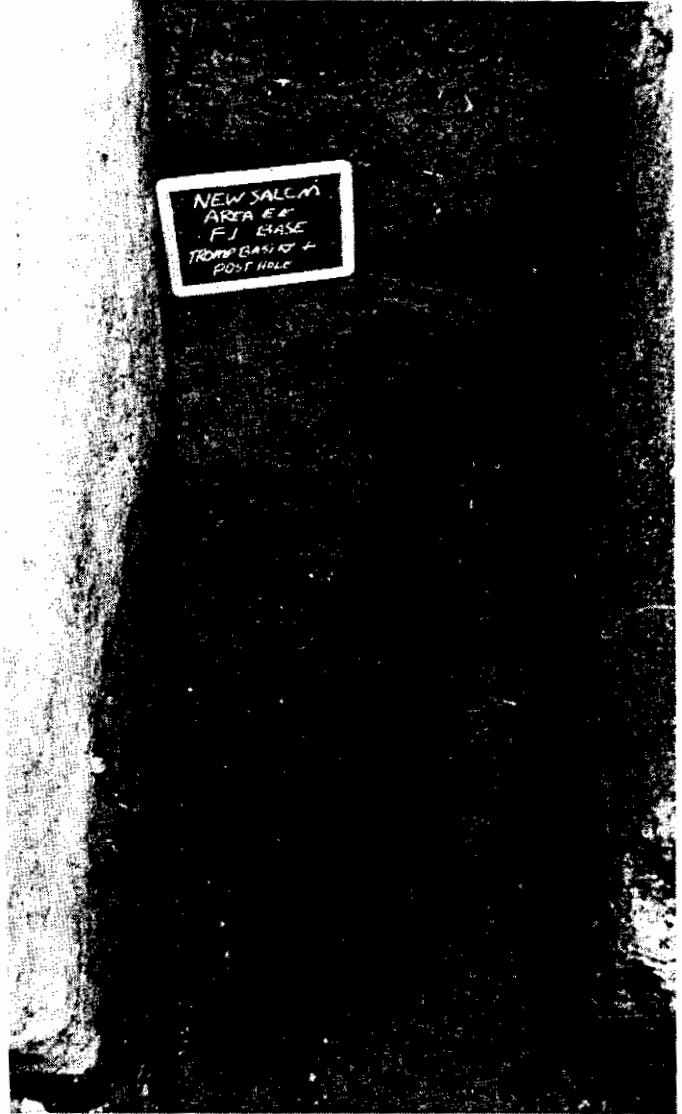


FIGURE 15: Feature 1 base details
a = subfloor basin
b = post hole and tromped area

Fill layers within Trench A included Layer A, a dark gray brown silty clay, modern topsoil containing recently deposited debris, 4 to 12 inches thick (Figure 13). Beneath it across the southernmost nine feet of the trench were zones of modern fill, Layer B, a mottled gray brown and yellow brown clay, and Layer C, a dark yellow brown and gray brown silty clay, together ranging from 4 to 6 inches in depth. Underlying them were sterile soils, Layer D, a brown silty clay, and Layer E, a gray brown clayey silt, which angled downward to the north, terminating at the line presumed to be the north wall of the 19th century feature or the north limit of 1934 excavations. The two layers together reached a maximum thickness of 2 feet, 10 inches, near this north boundary. Neither appears to have been 19th century feature fill removed and then replaced after the 1934 excavation. Rather, both could be soils imported from another locale.

Underlying soils of Layer F, a banded yellow brown and grayish brown silty clay, and Layer G, a brown silty clay with gravel, ranged up to 34 inches in thickness and sloped downward to the north, their base defining in profile a straight line immediately above floor level. Layer F, containing a few artifacts of 19th century date including brick, could, at least in part, constitute feature fill removed and then replaced by 1934 excavators. Also found within Layer F were large pieces of limestone, some of which had been altered by heat, evidence perhaps that they were once used in a fireplace. Layer G, on the other hand, with its large quantity of small gravels, appeared to consist largely of local surficial soils backfilled into the open 1934 excavation, originating from a location to the south, near the gravel road in existence there in the early 1930s.

Beneath these soils was Layer H, ranging no more than an inch or two in thickness, which consisted of a banded gray brown clay and brown silty clay. Sometimes its constituent soils would appear in swirling alternating bands, suggesting they had been water-washed. Perhaps deposited in the interim between the opening and closing of the 1934 archaeological excavations, layer H could mark the bottom limit of those excavations. Noted at the level of Layer H within the bottom of Trench A were several large pieces of limestone, possible remnants of the early 19th century construction at this locale.

Under Layer H was a yellow brown clayey silt, Layer I, which could represent a slump zone at the interface between original feature fill and sterile subsoil. Containing artifacts that could fit an 1820s or 1830s date, but no debris from the 20th century, Layer I was quite possibly undisturbed by 1934 excavations. The absence within Layer I of large pieces of limestone or brick which were present in fill immediately above gives credence to the argument that it was slump deposited by erosion during or just after the use life of the 19th century feature and that it was left untouched by the 1934 field crew. Likewise, Layer J, the fill within the subfloor trench at the south end of the posited feature floor, may have been undisturbed during the excavations of 1934. Consisting of banded yellow brown and gray brown silty clay, it contained a very few artifacts, all of 19th century date.

In the northernmost portion of Trench A, beyond the limits of the feature, Layer A was situated directly over Layer K, a dark brown clayey silt 7 inches thick, and Layer L, 20 inches deep, a gray brown clayey silt with yellow brown silty clay inclusions that appeared to be water deposited. The line separating Layers K and L from the fill of Layer D to the south was a diagonal continuing upward at the same angle as the rise in subsoil marking the north edge of 1934 excavations and the possible north wall of the 19th century feature. The deposition of Layers K and L therefore appears to predate the archaeological excavations. Beneath Layer L was the top of sterile clay subsoil which slanted downward to the south from a high point at the posited north feature wall. Immediately adjacent to this high point, Layer M, a brown clayey silt two to five inches thick, separated Layer L from subsoil. Layer M, the apparent product of water erosion, contained pieces of limestone and handmade brick.

Taken together, Layers L and M provide supporting evidence that a cellar of considerable depth once existed at this location and that significant erosion damaged at least its north wall prior to 20th century excavations. The erosion appears to have cut into feature fill which it redeposited down slope to the north, toward the ravine that formerly existed along the New Salem village Main Street right-of-way.

Trench B stretched 22 feet from East 4 to East 26 on the south site of the site base line. Extending from a west boundary along the East 4 line at South 0 to South 2 feet 4 inches, Trench B intersected Trench A along the same south coordinates at East 14 to East 16. East of that intersection, Trench B slanted slightly to the south, terminating along the East 26 line at South 7 inches to South 3 feet 2 inches. Feature floor was defined within Trench B, as it had been in Trench A, by the appearance of sterile yellow brown clay subsoil as a flat surface at the base of fill, 58 to 61 inches below ground level. At its maximum extent within Trench B, the apparent feature floor extended from East 8 to 20.

The west edge of the feature floor was marked by an upward curve in subsoil, the bottom few inches of which may be part of the original feature contours. Unfortunately, root disturbance interfered with an accurate reading of the exact angle of what may have been the base of the cellar's west wall. The floor edge as defined by the base of the rise in subsoil describes a line pointing roughly northeast to southwest. One foot east of the posited feature wall, the flat line profile of the floor was interrupted by a subfloor basin, apparently contemporary with the cellar feature. Four feet wide and 10 inches deep, the basin extended the width of the trench (Figure 15a). It may have been used for food storage during the 1820s and 1830s while the cellar was in use, although it is somewhat awkwardly placed so as to take up considerable space near what would have been the center of the cellar floor.

At the east end of the feature floor was a subfloor square post pit or small trench, 14 inches deep and 15 inches wide, measuring 11 inches from its north edge to the point where it reached the south limit of Trench B excavations. The trench may have once contained stone work comprising a cellar wall or a structural support for an

overlying building, stone that was subsequently robbed following feature abandonment. The east edge of the subfloor trench, seen in plan view, trended roughly northeast to southwest. Its dimensions are very similar to those of the subfloor trench at the south end of Trench A; both may have served the same purpose.

Within the east portion of the subfloor trench's base was a post hole, 5 inches wide and 10 inches deep, perhaps marking the location of a post that provided secondary support for the floor of a structure which stood overhead. Northeast of the post hole was a shallow depression in the top of clay subsoil. No more than 3 inches deep, it measured 3 feet east-west and stretched 14 inches south from the north wall of Trench B. The depression could have been caused by a concentration of foot traffic, perhaps at the base of a trap door entrance into the cellar (Figure 15b).

Just to the east of the subfloor trench, the top of clay subsoil was found to rise upward at a very sharp angle, then level off at a depth of about 20 inches below ground surface, where it formed a bench about 18 inches wide, before ascending to within about one foot of the surface at the East 27 line. The sharply vertical portion of the sterile clay wall immediately above the subfloor trench probably is the original contour of the 19th century feature's east wall; it defined a line in plan view extending northeast to southwest. The bench above it was probably created by archaeological excavations in 1934.

Fill layers within Trench B were largely the same as those identified in Trench A (Figure 14). Modern topsoil, Layer A, overlay the modern fill of Layers B and C. Beneath these soils was situated Layer E, presumed to be imported fill, which superimposed Layer F. A dense concentration of construction debris occurred within the west portion of Layer F, including limestone and brick fragments up to 6 inches in length, strengthening the assertion that this layer in part consisted of redeposited fill from the early 19th century feature. Beneath it was the gravel laden clay of Layer G.

Layer H again appeared as a straight horizontal band immediately above the flat portion of the feature base, although in the west part of the trench it was found to angle upward beneath the debris concentration in Layer F. If Layer H does indeed mark the bottom of 1934 excavations, then its superimposition over the fill of both the subfloor trench and basin would mean that neither was disturbed by the previous archaeological investigation. As in Trench A, an apparent slump deposit, Layer I, appeared beneath Layer H.

The fill of the subfloor trench consisted of a gray brown clayey silt, Layer O, over a dark brown silty clay with yellow brown clay mottles, Layer P. These soils contained a very few artifacts, all of which could be assigned to the 1820s or 1830s; no gravel or 20th century debris was found therein. The post hole at the east wall of the trench was found to contain a mottled yellow brown and gray brown clayey silt, Layer Q.

The few artifacts found within the subfloor basin also dated exclusively to the

19th century. Soils filling it included Layer R, a mottled brown and gray brown clayey silt that appeared beneath Layer H at the west end of Trench B and curved downward to the east where it comprised the uppermost portion of the basin fill. Beneath it was a laminated light brownish gray clay, Layer S, probably water deposited and presumably laid down after abandonment of the feature in the 19th century. Found along the walls of the basin was the Layer I slump deposit and lining the deepest portion of its base was Layer T, a thin lens of dark grayish brown silty clay, perhaps deposited while the basin was in use.

Taken together the excavations of Trench A and B indicate that a cellar feature was situated in the north portion of Area EE. Most of the feature walls appear to have been altered or obliterated by archaeological excavations and backfilling or landscaping activities which took place in the mid-1930s. The current excavations did, however, uncover what appeared to be the intact and undisturbed original feature floor, overlaid by sediments containing artifacts exclusively of 19th century date. Extrapolating from the feature floor edges defined within the test trenches, the base of the cellar was roughly rectangular in shape. It would appear that the feature measured 13 feet northeast to southwest along its long axis and 11 feet northwest to southeast along its short axis. Considering the presence of what appears to be undisturbed topsoil subsequently uncovered in excavations 10 feet to southwest (See Unit Excavation Section), it would appear that local ground surface in the 19th century was close to the present elevation. The feature therefore would have been roughly four to five feet deep.

The feature base as uncovered within Trenches A and B did not appear oriented with New Salem village lot lines. This would fit the surmise that the feature was a cellar located beneath the Rutledge Tavern which was probably built prior to the platting of New Salem. Plotted on the 20th century resurvey of the village the feature extends beyond the north boundary of Lot 5 South, First Survey, into the village Main Street right-of-way. A possible explanation for this fact is that the 20th century resurvey is in error. The north edge of the feature base as exposed in Trench A is almost exactly 60 feet from the south edge of a cellar feature identified as the Second Lincoln-Berry Store by excavators in 1918. In the original survey of New Salem the width of the Main Street right-of-way was 60 feet. Adjusting the east-west lot lines of the resurvey five feet to the north would put both features completely within town lots (Figure 16). Research has indicated that each of the features may have been located under buildings erected prior to platting of the village (Mazrim and Naglich 1995). Perhaps the distance between them was used to establish the width of Main Street when New Salem was originally surveyed in 1829.

Unit Excavation

Unit 1 was located in the south portion of Area EE at South 0 to 3, East 13 to 18. Excavation of the unit revealed two layers of disturbed fill, a gray brown silty clay and

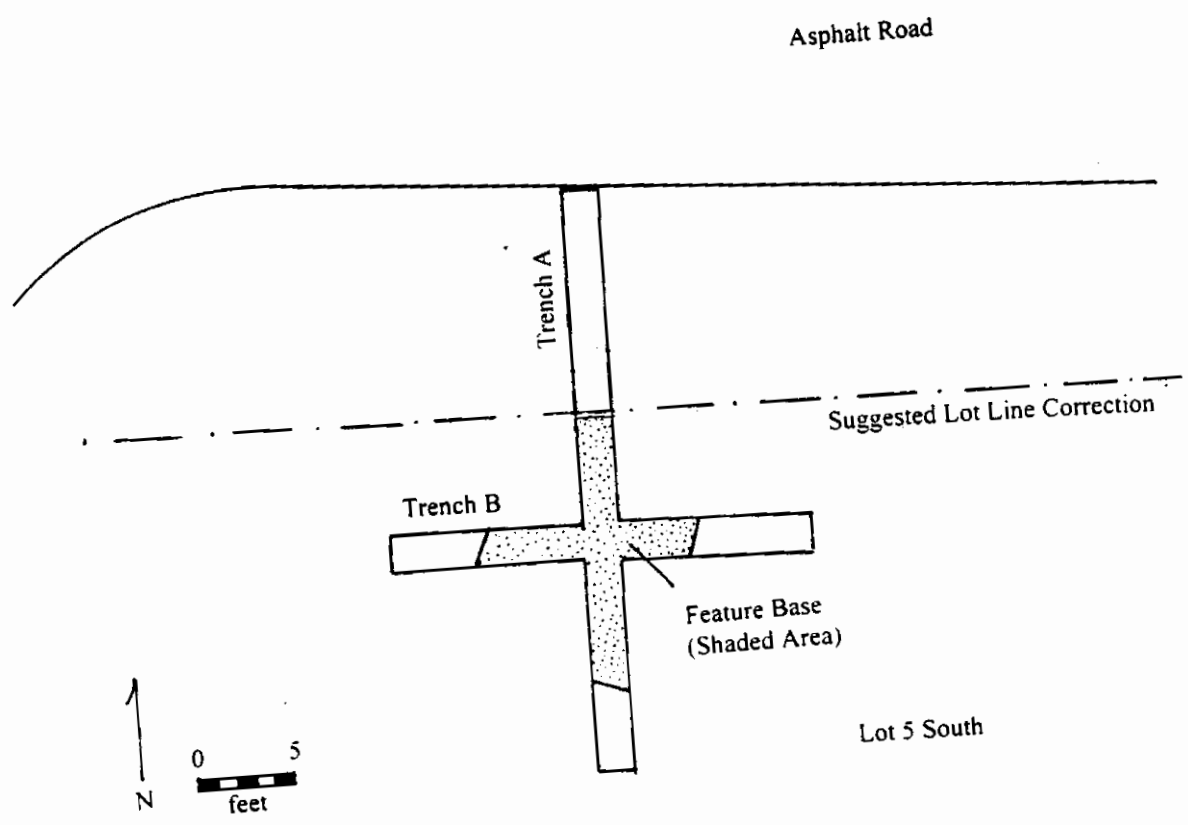
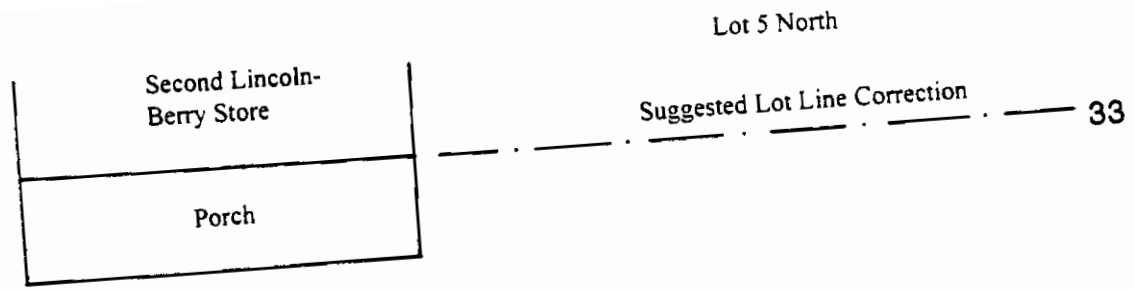
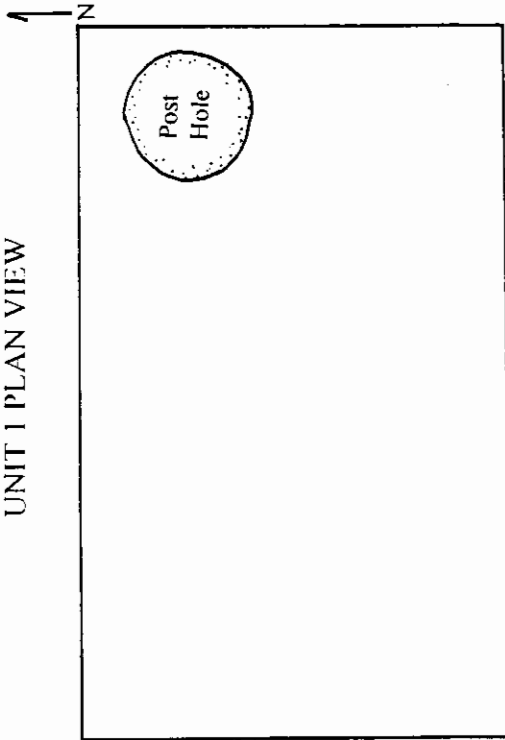
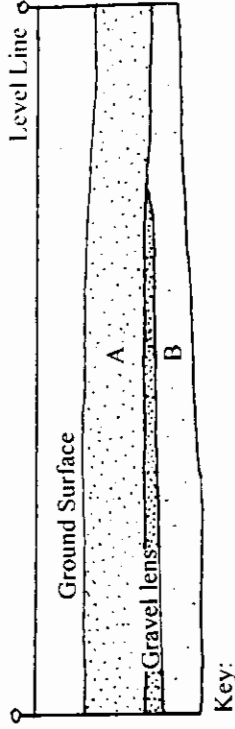


FIGURE 16: Feature 1 base, and Second Berry-Lincoln Store Reconstruction

UNIT 1 PLAN VIEW



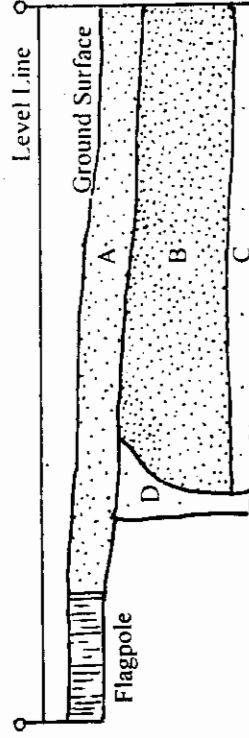
UNIT 2 EAST WALL PROFILE



Key:

- A. Mottled gray brown and yellow brown silty clay (10YR 5/2, 5/4).
- B. Yellow brown clay (10YR 5/4).

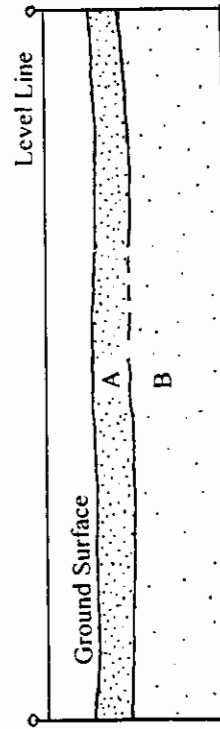
UNIT 3 NORTH WALL PROFILE



Key:

- A. Yellow brown and gray brown silty clay (10YR 5/4, 5/2).
- B. Gray brown silt (10YR 5/2).
- C. Yellow brown clay (10YR 5/4).
- D. Yellow brown clay with brown silty clay mottles (10YR 5/4, 4/3).

UNIT 1 NORTH WALL PROFILE



Key:

- A. Gray brown clayey silt (10YR 5/2).
- B. Brown clayey silt (10YR 4/3).



FIGURE 17: Unit excavations in plan view and profile

a brown silty clay, 9 to 11 inches thick, overlying sterile yellow brown clay subsoil. The fill contained 19th century artifacts as well as tar covered gravel, an apparent remnant of a road which passed just to the north during the 1920s and 1930s. Defined within the top of subsoil in the unit's northeast corner was a circular post hole, over 11 inches in diameter and 15 inches deep (Figure 17). Its brown silty clay fill contained mortar and small brick fragments. The feature probably marks the location of a post and chain fence that can be seen in photographs of this area taken during the 1920s.

Unit 2 was placed in the west portion of Area EE, at South 33 to 38, East 0 to 3. Excavations penetrated a surface layer of disturbed fill, consisting of gray brown and yellow brown silty clay, five inches thick, which contained 19th century ceramics as well as modern debris. At its base was a lens of gravel, ranging up to two inches thick, a vestige of the road that existed at this location in the 1920s and 1930s. Beneath the gravel was sterile clay subsoil.

Plotted at South 20 to 23, East 4 to 9, Unit 3 was excavated in the west central portion of Area EE. Uncovered in the west end of the unit's north wall was a chemically treated post, 11 inches in diameter, probably the base of a tall flagpole visible at this location in photographs taken in the 1930s. Extending four inches below surface in the unit was a yellow brown and gray brown silty clay, a disturbed fill containing displaced road gravel. Beneath it at 4 to 14 inches below surface was a gray brown silt containing 19th and 20th century debris. This layer appears to be topsoil undisturbed by plowing, landscaping, or earth-moving activities during the 20th century. CCC workers and machinery may have left this small area of original topsoil intact because of its proximity to the flagpole.

Conclusions

Excavation of Trenches A and B in the north portion of Area EE revealed the basal portion of a feature interpreted as a subfloor cellar, probably located beneath the Rutledge Tavern during the 1820s and 1830s. Archaeological investigations conducted in 1934 had previously excavated most of the feature fill, but had apparently left undisturbed the original feature floor, as well as a slump layer immediately above it. The edges of the floor as defined within the trenches indicated that the feature was roughly rectangular in shape, measuring about 11 by 13 feet. The sides of the feature base do not appear to have been oriented to New Salem village lot lines and so fit its identification as a cellar located under the Rutledge Tavern which was probably built prior to the platting of the village in 1829. The feature may have been situated just within the north boundary of what was in that year surveyed as Lot 5 South of the village's First Survey. Twentieth century disturbance has apparently obliterated any other archaeological remains of the tavern structure itself, as well as shallow yard features which may have been associated with it. The cellar base may very well be the only trace of the Rutledge Tavern to survive down to the current day.

III. ARTIFACT ANALYSIS

Robert Mazrim

As Area EE was found to have been heavily impacted by erosion and park-era road ways, and as the substantial cellar feature at the site was nearly emptied of 19th century fill during the 1934 excavations, very few artifacts were recovered during the 1997 investigations. Only a single test unit (Unit 3) encountered what may have been partially intact midden deposits associated with the structure on Lot 5 South, and the cross trenches in Feature 1 recovered a only small number of artifacts in and below the wall slump of the cellar feature.

FEATURE 1

Four cultural fill layers within Feature 1 produced 19th century artifacts. Three of these layers (I, O and T) were not disturbed by the 1934 excavations, and were found in-situ in 1997. Layer F produced the largest number of artifacts, but as this layer is associated with the backfilling of the 1934 excavations, their original origin is unsure. It is very possible that the debris from this layer represents original feature fill, removed and redeposited in 1934.

LAYER F

The artifacts from Layer F are presumed to represent a fraction of the early 19th century debris encountered in Feature 1 by Booton's crews in 1934, and which were redeposited during backfilling. This layer is also contaminated with 20th century debris, including a wire nail and a quantity of asphalt and road gravel.

The dominant artifact class from Layer F is architectural, including 28 fragments of cut nails, 26 fragment of window glass (approximately 2 square inches in total), a small amount of clay daub, and soft mud brick fragments. Burnt limestone was also noted during the excavation of the trenches.

Domestic debris from this layer includes portions of a minimum of two refined earthenware vessels; a pearlware banded bowl and a pearlware blue transfer printed small plate. Two unrefined vessels are represented by two very small redware body sherds and a larger redware base fragment. All exhibit lead glazed interiors.

A minimum of two glass containers are present in Layer F, represented by four fragments of at least one lead glass tumbler, and two fragments of an olive green wine bottle.

The proximal end of a large mammal femur was found near the base of Layer F. Four prehistoric chert flakes were recovered from Layer F; all are Burlington chert, and

one had been heat treated.

LAYER I

Layer I is interpreted as clay slump of the feature walls, deposited during the use life of the feature or shortly after its abandonment. As it was evidently mistaken for sterile clay in 1934, it was left partially undisturbed. Trenches A and B encountered fragments of four cut nails and a single sherd from a pearlware edge decorated (green) plate in this slump layer.

LAYER O

Layer O consists of the undisturbed fill of the subfloor trench found along the eastern wall of the cellar feature. This layer provides the only sample of undisturbed post abandonment fill of Feature 1. Recovered from Layer O were seven fragments of cut nails, seven fragments of window glass (approximately one square inch total), two undecorated type-indeterminate refined earthenware sherds, a rim sherd from a redware bowl or jar, and a single flint glass tumbler sherd. Soft mud brick, heavily reduced limestone and wood charcoal were also present.

LAYER T

Layer T consisted of a thin lens of silty organic fill found at the base of the subfloor basin in western half of Trench B. This layer may have been deposited while the building above was still standing, and was found to contain a fragment of window glass and a rib bone fragment

DISCUSSION

Little can be said from the small sample of artifacts recovered from Feature 1. Portions of at least three pearlware vessels - two plates and a bowl are represented, and probably reflect pre 1835 occupation of the site. Two redware vessels are also present, one of which is probably a bowl or milk pan. At least one flint glass tumbler and one wine bottle are also present, both associated with the consumption of alcohol.

TEST UNITS

Three excavation units were placed south of Feature 1. Only one of these units (Unit 3) is thought to have encountered a midden potentially associated with the structure on Lot 5 South. Unit 2 encountered an artifact laden soil which had been redeposited on top of an early 20th century road surface. As such, the actual origin of the Unit 2 artifact is uncertain. Unit 1, placed at the southern extremity of the tested area, encountered an artifact rich midden probably associated with the dwelling located on Lot 6 South - the Bale residence- which was occupied well in the mid 19th century.

UNIT 3

The artifacts from Unit 3 represent the only midden sample potentially associated with the Rutledge Tavern, preserved due to the presence of a flag pole erected at the spot in the 1920s. Included in this sample are a range of vessels typical to an occupation dating to the late 1820s or early 1830s. This consists of a minimum of four refined tablewares, all of which are pearlware. Fragments of a green shell edged plate, two hand painted saucers (one monochrome, one polychrome) and a type indeterminate hand painted vessel are represented.

At least two lead glazed redware vessel are present, but are represented by small, type indeterminate sherds. Glass containers include at least one flint glass container- probably a tumbler, a wine bottle, and one aqua glass container, possibly a medicine.

Architectural debris from Unit 3 consists of 14 cut nail fragments, 11 pieces of window glass, and a sample of soft mud brick fragments.

UNIT 2

The artifacts recovered from Unit 2 were associated with soils redeposited on top of a 1930s road surface. As such, their origin is uncertain, and may have been imported into site from elsewhere in the park.

The Unit 2 sample contains artifacts of a later date than those from Unit 3, representing vessels more typical to a mid to late 1830s context. These include a thick bodied whiteware black transfer printed plate, a whiteware mulberry transfer printed small plate or saucer, a whiteware blue sponged saucer, and a type indeterminate blue shell edged plate. A rim from a salt glazed exterior, Albany-slipped interior stoneware jar, probably post dating the late 1830s, was also recovered.

Glass containers include a flint glass tumbler(?), an olive green wine bottle, and

a thin bodied aqua bottle. Compared to Unit 3, architectural debris was light, and includes only a single cut nail and a single soft mud brick fragment.

UNIT 1

The proximity of Unit 1 to the site of the Bale residence (and now the reconstructed "Rutledge Tavern") suggests that the midden encountered here is probably associated primarily with that dwelling. Nearby gardening activity has continually encountered a dense midden surrounding this site, producing artifacts from the late 1820s through the mid 1850s, corresponding primarily with the long Bale family tenure there.

Unit 1 produced portions of a minimum of eight refined earthenware vessels, most of which are whiteware. The assemblage consists of two pearlware saucers - one hand painted monochrome and one deep blue transfer printed, one whiteware shell edged (blue) plate or platter, two whiteware saucers (one hand painted polychrome and one brown transfer printed), three whiteware cups (one hand painted polychrome "sprig", one brown transfer printed, and one mulberry transfer printed) and a type indeterminate banded bowl.

At least two type indeterminate lead glazed redware vessels are present, as is a single salt glazed stoneware bowl or thin bodied jar with an Albany slipped interior. At least four glass containers are represented; a wine bottle, a flint glass tumbler (?), and amber and aqua type indeterminates. Architectural debris was slight, consisting of five cut nails, approximately one square inch of fragmentary window glass, and a small amount of soft mud brick.

DISCUSSION

Each of the three excavation units at Area EE appear to represent middens with different origins. Unit 3 may reflect the base of a midden associated with the Rutledge Tavern, and more specifically, the pre 1835 occupation of that site. Unit 2 contains artifacts primarily of a post 1835 origin, and which may have been imported to the site. Unit 1 probably represents a sample of the midden associated with the Camron and Bale family occupation of Lot 6 south. Most of the artifacts from that unit appear to reflect mid to late 1830s activities, presumably of the Bale family.

IV. SUMMARY

Robert Mazrim

The 1997 field work at Lot 5 South was designed to properly document the archaeological feature uncovered and photographed at the site in 1934, and to test for other potentially undisturbed archaeological features or deposits associated with what is now thought to have been the actual location of the Rutledge Tavern. What was encountered was a site heavily disturbed by erosion and park-era road ways, and a large cellar feature almost entirely destroyed sometime following the photographs taken in 1934.

Based on the stratigraphy encountered in Trenches A and B, Joseph Booton's 1934 crew emptied the stone and clay-walled feature of all of its post abandonment fill, including the central balk still extant when the two photographs of the feature were taken. It was only a lens of clay wall slump, which the crew evidently mistook for a sterile feature base, that protected the floor and lower four inches of the feature walls, as well as a very small sample of period artifacts.

Upon the removal of the feature fill, however, the 1934 crew also dismantled the intact vertical clay walls of the feature (which are documented in the two photographs), creating a large basin which was centered on the original center of the cellar feature. In doing so, the excavators essentially removed all traces of the original feature above 52 inches below ground surface. The resulting "crater" was then filled primarily with clean imported soil, leaving no traces of 19th century activity on the site. Why this was considered necessary is unclear.

Although the 1997 investigations revealed that the cellar feature had been almost entirely destroyed, the intact base of the feature provided several glimpses into the construction of the tavern building, and the use of the cellar.

There is evidence that the Feature 1 cellar was lined with at least one stone wall, on the south, against the back of the slope on which the building was constructed. It may have been this wall which was uncovered by Ida Bale's brother in the early 20th century.

A subfloor pit or small trench encountered in the east end of Trench B may have originally held a wooden post or stone column support against the east wall of the cellar. In his 1932/33 excavations elsewhere in the village, Booton encountered four instances where stacked stone columns were found notched onto what would have been otherwise earthen cellar walls (Mazrim 1995; 28). The presence of what appears to have been clay wall slump may also reflect the lack of a full stone lining of the cellar.

Also against the center of the east wall of the cellar, a deep, tapered post hole

and nearby "tromp basin" may mark the location of a trap door entrance and small ladder or stair, descending into the cellar from above. In the north facing 1934 photo of the exposed cellar, a "stepped back" western excavation wall can be seen (Figure 8). Although exactly what was encountered there is difficult to ascertain, the 1934 investigators may have unearthed the eroded remains of a "keyhole" or exterior stair, descending into the cellar from the west. If such was the case, then the trap door implied by the sub floor features in the east end of Trench B provided a second entrance to the cellar. It should be noted, however, that no evidence of such an western exterior stair was encountered in the western end of Trench B in 1997.

A four foot wide and ten inch deep ovoid subfloor basin, found in the western half of Trench B, appears to be a rather unique subfloor cellar storage facility. Although such basins are commonly found in "backyard" settings during the frontier period, such a pit located in the base of a deep sub-structure cellar is atypical to the archaeological literature. Such a pit, however, would have probably afforded convenient storage of root vegetables such as potatoes; if covered with planking, the smaller space below would have remained cooler than the rest of the open cellar, and would have still allowed for foot traffic over its covered surface.

The artifacts recovered from Feature 1 and the Unit 3 midden sample represent only a small fraction of what would have been encountered in the initial 1934 excavations. Unfortunately, any artifacts collected during those excavations appear to have been lost.

The very small sample of artifacts recovered in 1997 appears to reflect a primarily pre-1835 occupation of the site. This includes a typical range of pearlware tea and tablewares, as well as unidentifiable unrefined redware vessels. The tavern function of the site may reveal itself even through this small sample; of the sixteen ceramic and glass vessels which can be attributed to the site, four (or 25%) are associated with the serving of alcohol, and consist of two wine bottles and two flint glass tumblers.

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ARTIFACT INVENTORIES

The following is a listing of all artifacts encountered in trench and excavation unit contexts.

PW = pearlware ,WW = whiteware
SE = shell edged, ED = edge decorated (not shell edged)
HP = hand painted ,TP = transfer printed,
MC = monochrome (blue), PC= polychrome
UD = undecorated
RW = redware, SW = stoneware
TI = type indeterminate

FEATURE 1

Layer F

- 1 PW TP small plate
- 1 PW annular bowl
- 9 UD TI
- 4 RW body TI
- 1 RW base sherd
- 2 olive glass
- 4 flint glass
- 26 window glass
- 26 cut nail
- 2 clay daub
- 1 large mammal femur end
- 2 burnt bone
- 1 wire nail
- brick present

Layer I

- 1 PW SE green plate
- 4 cut nail

Layer O

- 2 UD TI
- 1 RW rim
- 1 flint glass
- 7 window glass
- 7 cut nail

Layer T

- 1 window glass
- 1 rib bone fragment

UNIT 1

Layer A

- 1 WW (?) SE blue plate rim
- 2 WW TP mulberry cup
- 3 UD TI
- 1 window glass

Layer B

- 3 PW TP saucer
- 2 PW HP MC saucer
- 2 WW SE blue plate or platter
- 2 WW HP PC saucer
- 1 WW HP PC sprig cup
- 3 WW TP mulberry cup
- 1 WW TP brown cup
- 1 WW TP brown saucer
- 13 UD TI
- 7 RW body sherds
- 2 SW salt glazed exterior Albany-slipped interior body sherds
- 1 olive green glass
- 1 amber glass
- 2 flint glass
- 1 aqua glass
- 13 window glass
- 1 bone
- 5 cut nail
- 1 iron wire mass
- 1 rubber shoe heel
- brick present

UNIT 2

Layer A

- 1 TI SE (blue) plate
- 1 WW TP mulberry plate or saucer

Layer B

- 1 WW TP black plate
- 3 WW sponged (blue) saucer
- 6 UD TI
- 1 SW salt glazed exterior Albany slipped interior jar rim
- 1 olive green glass
- 1 flint glass
- 1 aqua glass

- 1 cut nail
- 1 brick fragment

UNIT 3

Layer B

- 1 PW SE green plate
- 1 PW HP PC (brown, blue) saucer
- 5 PW HP MC saucer
- 1 PW HP MC TI
- 11 UD TI
- 4 RW hollow TI
- 3 flint glass
- 2 aqua glass
- 8 window glass (approx 1 sq inch)
- 10 cut nail
- brick present

Layer C

- 7 UD TI
- 3 RW hollow TI
- 2 aqua glass
- 1 olive green glass
- 3 window glass (< 1 sq inch)
- 4 cut nail



Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

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MENARD COUNTY
New Salem SHS
APRPA 3-97
Rutledge Tavern
Archaeological Research summer 1997

PLEASE REFER TO:
IHPA LOG #970305006MME
SRS, permit report

July 1, 1998

Mr. Dennis Naglich
‡ Sangamo Research Services
PO Box 320
Athens, IL 62613

Dear Sir:

We have received the reprot compelted by you and Robert Mazrim concerning the above referenced project on public land and have reviewed it for its potential effect upon archaeological and/or paleontological resources under the auspices of the Archaeological and Paleontological Resources Protection Act (20 ILCS 3435).

Our staff has reviewed the archaeological report performed for the project referenced above. The fieldwork and assessment of the archaeological resources appear to be adequate.

Please arrange for curation of the project documentation and artifacts at the Illinois State Museum as required by the statute.

Also please submit a site form update to the ISM for this work, and the work you conducted at the site in the past few years.

Please retain this letter in your files as evidence of compliance with the Archaeological and Paleontological Resources Protection Act (20 ILCS 3435).

Sincerely,

Mark E. Esarey, PhD
Chief Archaeologist

cc: Mr. David Hedrick, Site Manager, Lincoln's New Salem SHS
Dr. Terrance Martin, ISM-Curation
Mr. Nick Klobachar, ISM - Site files