

Emily Shirilla

Sheltered in Place: Risk Assessment Modeling and Proposed Action in the Red River Gorge
Kentucky Heritage Council Archaeology Conference 2024 Emily Shirilla Department of Anthropology University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Abstract Cultural landscapes in areas frequented for contemporary outdoor recreation and tourism are increasingly at risk of damage. The popularity of hiking, camping, rock climbing, and other activities has continued to increase in recent years. Not only is there valuable archaeological knowledge to be gained from these landscapes, but they often hold contemporary importance to culturally affiliated descendant communities. In Kentucky's Red River Gorge Geological Area, hundreds of cultural sites have been impacted by visitors who may or may not be aware of the full consequences of their activities. This project defines these impacts by developing a risk assessment model investigating the relationship between destructive impacts to rockshelter sites and patterns in recreationist behavior. The model is informed by existing Forest Service site monitoring data and consists of a series of GIS-derived indices assessing slope, visibility, and existing impacts. These indices are combined to develop a ranking system evaluating the vulnerability of each rockshelter site to deterioration from recreational impacts. This model can be used to inform future heritage and conservation planning and action in the Red River Gorge and has potential for application in similar contexts.

Matthew J. Davidson, Jason C. Flay, Dwight R. Cropper, and Charles Holbrook, III

Although over 100 Native American mound and earthwork sites have been recorded in the northeast Kentucky area, the majority have been damaged or destroyed over the last century by development, looting, and other destructive processes. A volunteer effort is underway by the Middle Ohio Valley Heritage Foundation (MOVHF) (501c3 nonprofit) to record and preserve mounds, earthworks and other significant sites in the area. The MOVHF's is also committed to increasing public awareness and appreciation of these resources through educational content, tourism/economic development, and site stewardship efforts. This poster presents a preliminary driving tour concept focusing on carefully selected, publicly accessible mound and earthwork sites. At this preliminary stage we are seeking feedback from the heritage community, tribal citizens, landowners, and other stakeholders with concerns, ideas, or interests in archaeological education and tourism.

Saturday Presentations

8:00 am - Craig Potts and Nicole Konkol – Welcome, Announcements, and KHC Awards

8:20 am - Don Miller - *An Analysis and Interpretation of Functional Changes of Fine Triangular Projectile Point Morphologies Within the Mid-Ohio Valley During the Fort Ancient Cultural Period*

Fort Ancient Fine Triangular types are currently being manufactured with modern materials (steel) and used to procure North American big game animals. This paper will illustrate similarities of Fine Triangular Types as presented by Railey and others with modern broadhead designs and propose potential functional reasons for the similarities. It is suggested that the use of similar morphologies for modern broadheads validate the Fine Triangular typology through an independent lens unobstructed by potential analytical or archaeological biases.

8:40 am - M. Jay Stottman and Lori C. Stahlgren - Beneath the Floor: Excavations in Extant Slave Houses at Oxmoor, Louisville, Kentucky

In this presentation we will discuss the ongoing excavations conducted within three extant slave houses at Oxmoor Farm located in Louisville, KY. We will provide background information on the history of Oxmoor, the Bullitt Family, and the people they enslaved. We will discuss the archaeology previously conducted at the site and present a summary of the most recent work focused on the excavation of three pit cellars, as well as the opportunities for activist and public archaeology.

9:00 am - Brian M. Butler and Paul D. Welch - *What's New at Kincaid Mounds? Research Since the Digging Stopped*

The SIUC archaeological field school field ceased excavations at Kincaid Mounds in 2016. Field research, however, did not stop with the cessation of the digging. From late 2018 to the end of December 2023, the authors conducted small diameter coring of 21 known or suspected small mounds at the site. The 1934 to 1944 University of Chicago (UC) excavations had focused primarily on the large mounds around the main plaza and on a cemetery mound. UC attempts to investigate ridge-top village areas, however, encountered some complex deposits which they eventually classified as “domiciliary mounds.” There were numerous other small mounds and suspicious high places that were not investigated, and the coring project was intended to resolve the status of these topographic features, including the “domiciliary mounds.” In this presentation, we offer some highlights of the just completed work.

9:20 am – Questions and Break

9:40 am - Anne Tobbe Bader – *Wealth, Power, and Conflict: The Cultural Landscape at the Falls of the Ohio River 5200 Years Ago*

This presentation focuses on a snapshot view - a moment in time - of the cultural landscape at the Falls of the Ohio River 5200 years ago. Rather than presenting hard data obtained through recent fieldwork, this paper relates in narrative form that which is known, that which can be surmised, and that which is speculative about the lifeways of the people who occupied the Falls area at the end of the Middle Archaic period. The Falls area is portrayed as an area rich in resources. This wealth enabled the establishment of a settled and colorful existence, culminating in a nexus of power throughout the region, and ultimately ending ambiguously in the face of growing social conflict and changing environmental realities.

10:00 am - Alexandra Bybee, Victoria Swenson, and Heather Hartlage - *The Evolution of American Coffin and Casket Hardware*

Mortuary artifact assemblages, including materials used to mark grave locations, those used in the construction of coffins and caskets, and items used to clothe and decorate the dead, range temporally, geographically, and culturally based on a variety of factors, including manufacturing advancements, access to goods, and adherence to cultural norms. This paper discusses the evolution of coffin and casket hardware as viewed from a variety of historic catalogs and patents from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

10:20 am - David Pollack and A. Gwynn Henderson - *Seventeenth-Century Fort Ancient Mortuary Practices and Ritual Space*

The 2023 investigations of a small portion of the seventeenth-century Fort Ancient village of Augusta, Kentucky focused on a section of the community's cemetery and ritual space. This work was carried out in advance of planned improvements to the historic town of Augusta's sewage treatment system. The significance of this research lies in the documentation of features reflecting ritual activities that would have taken place near each of the six adult graves encountered during the investigations. These features included large rock-chinked pits where single poles once stood, intensely fired hearths, evidence for ritual feasting, the intentional breakage of ceramic vessels, possible grave structures, and clay-lined grave shafts. These characteristics are similar to those documented at the contemporary Fort Ancient villages of Hardin and Larkin, and at the later lower Shawnee Town, an eighteenth-century village located upstream from Augusta. These features are described in ethnohistoric and historic documents as elements of Shawnee mortuary practices. These investigations suggest that there are strong

links between pre-contact Fort Ancient groups of the middle Ohio valley and historic Shawnee people.

10:40 am – Questions and Break

11:00 am - Amanda Abner - *Frankfort's Last Prison Cemetery (1888-1937)*

The Kentucky State Penitentiary, later known as the Kentucky State Reformatory, was a fixture in Frankfort from 1800 to 1937. The State Office Building now occupies the ground where it stood, but remnants of the site's former use linger. An adjacent park incorporated stone walls and iron bars into the baseball stands. Less apparent are the local cemeteries used to bury many of the prisoners that died while incarcerated. Until 1888, deceased prisoners were buried on a parcel between modern-day Holmes Street and the base of Fort Hill. Conditions at this site spurred the state legislature to authorize the purchase of a dedicated prison cemetery. In 1888 a parcel near Thorn Hill and Wilkinson Boulevard was acquired for this purpose. This plot of land served as the prison cemetery from 1888 to around 1937. Today it has been largely forgotten and exists as an unmarked grassy area within a maintenance lot owned by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. This cemetery, however, tells the story of life, sickness, and death in Frankfort's prison. The total number of burials has not been determined, but the cemetery was in perpetual use for almost half a century. Records reviewed so far indicate between 10 and 20 inmates died every year, the majority of whom were young African American men with tuberculosis. Even conservatively estimating there could be several hundred or even around 1000 individuals interred.

11:20 am - Matthew Meyer - *Predictive Modeling for Archaeological Data on the University of Kentucky Main Campus*

In August 2023, construction workers renovating a building on the University of Kentucky main campus uncovered portions of a cemetery thought to have been removed in the 19th Century. This, compounded with the ongoing Campus Archaeological Project, has brought the necessity for an attempt at modeling potential archaeological sites on campus to the forefront of efforts to preserve the university's history. A model for predicting archaeological sites has been used in the local Bluegrass region, but not in the context of the urban landscape that is Lexington and the university's campus. This project aimed to use this model on the University of Kentucky main campus to identify areas with potential for containing archaeological sites on campus as well as discussing the use of spatial models on the heavily modified landscape. Several areas were identified as having a high likelihood of being the locations of archaeological sites, especially in the southern half of campus. The high degree of surface alteration has impacted

the efficacy of the model, but it was still both able to identify potential areas of interest and open the discussion for mitigation efforts in future development projects.

11:40 am - Questions and Lunch

1:20 pm - Emily Ingram, Forrest Schmidt, Tessa Wilk, Louis Herzner, Rachel Sharkey -
Preliminary Investigation into Discerning between Precontact Fired Clay and Historical Brick Fragments from a Mixed Context Site in Southeastern Indiana

Mixed context sites, due to either disturbance or continued use of an area, can provide unique challenges when it comes to artifact identification. The Archaeological Research Institute (ARI) has been working at the location of a suspected boarding house in Lawrenceburg, Indiana. During excavations during the 2023 season, it became apparent that the site has experienced disturbance in the past due to the small size and fragmentary nature of the recovered artifacts. Additionally, evidence of admixture from an adjacent Hopewell site was evident. This study introduces methods for distinguishing between fragmentary pieces of historical brick and precontact burned clay in an attempt to better understand the degree of disturbance at the site and to provide guidance for other archaeologists who may encounter similar challenges.

1:40 pm - Jay Stottman, Lori C. Stahlgren, C. Daniel Sea, Jim Martin, and Donald A. Miller -
Archaeological Investigations of the Newport Barracks (15Cp103), Campbell County, Kentucky

The Newport Barracks (15Cp103) is a military facility located at the confluence of the Licking and Ohio rivers in Campbell County Kentucky. Occupied and in use from the early to late 19th Century, the site was well-known to historians, but was not recorded with the Office of State Archaeology until 2022. At that time a site form was completed, a plan was developed to conduct archaeological research within the portions of the site owned by the City of Newport. The plan for fieldwork was developed in a staged manner and included a GPR survey that identified nine anomalies of potential archaeological interest. Subsequent ground truthing of the GPR results included mechanical and hand excavation confirmed two anomalies are foundation remnants within intact deposits dating to the period of Barracks use. In addition to fieldwork and extensive archival documentation, an analysis of a collection of artifacts from the privately owned portion of the Barracks was conducted. The project provided a unique opportunity for collaboration between universities, local governments, state and federal agencies, and private citizens to tell the archaeological story of this important resource in American History.

2:00 – Questions and Break

2:20 pm - Jason C. Flay, Matthew J. Davidson, Dwight R. Cropper, Charles Holbrook, III, Renée Bonzani - *Archival Research and Archaeological Survey at the Central Park Mounds Site (15Bd24), Ashland, Boyd County, Kentucky*

In 2021 survey and monitoring work were carried out in Ashland's historic Central Park in order to (1) assess Native American use of the open area around mound site 15Bd24 and (2) advise the City of Ashland about potential effects of proposed playground upgrades in the vicinity of the mounds. A team of professional archaeologists and public volunteers completed a shovel test survey of a five-acre (100x160m) area around the mounds, which identified an open habitation site. Two AMS radiocarbon dates on charcoal recovered from the site returned Terminal Archaic and Early Woodland ages. Archaeological background research indicates the Central Park Mounds site is situated in a region with a rich history of Early Woodland through 18th century mound and earthwork construction, use and re-use. In addition, historic archival background research identified a surprisingly complex 19th – 20th century history of recreation at the park which was confirmed by survey.

2:40 pm - Eric J. Schlarb - *Middle Archaic Corner Notched Projectile Points Recovered from the Sumac Terrace Site (15Ls141) Leslie County, Kentucky*

During Phase II and Phase III investigations at the Sumac Terrace Site in 2021 and 2022, the Kentucky Archaeological Survey recovered more than 70 Middle Archaic projectile points. Projectile points recovered from the site include a large number of Stanly Stemmed points as well as Middle Archaic Raddatz Side Notched, Morrow Mountain I, and White Springs points. Corner notched points recovered from Middle Archaic contexts at the site were initially assigned to the Early Archaic Kirk Corner Notched cluster. However, after further analysis, they were classified as Middle Archaic Corner Notched points. Similar points have been recovered from the Falls of the Ohio Region, where the type was initially defined, and from south central Kentucky. Through the identification of differences in execution of the Middle Archaic Corner Notch and the Early Archaic Kirk Corner Notch, this paper supports the classification of the former as a distinct type.

3:00 pm – Questions and Break

3:20 pm - Christopher Blair, Anne Bader, Tim Sullivan, Todd Grote, and William Hill - *Lithic Procurement and Resource Variability in the Middle Rolling Fork River Basin*

This paper draws on recent surveys completed by Corn Island Archaeology along the Rolling Fork River framing the basin as a unique physiographic and landscape unit. Our analyses focus on the nature of chert resource procurement and preferences in the Rolling Fork basin through an examination of local and non-local chipped stone tool assemblages and site location. Site-specific assemblages provide a snapshot of land use inferring lithic procurement strategies in

the middle Rolling Fork spanning the Early Archaic through Middle Woodland Periods. Patterns of land use are discussed through a geospatial examination of chert availability, landform morphology, site position, and mobility cost.

3:40 pm – Zada Komara – *Modern Material Cultural & The Archaeology of Hanging Out: Trash and Liminality at the University of Kentucky*

Parking garages at the University of Kentucky are popular hangout spaces for faculty, staff, undergraduate students, and people experiencing houselessness, particularly after business hours. Garages provide multi-use spaces for recreational activities, notably: eating, smoking cigarettes and marijuana, drinking alcohol, having sex, taking selfies, sunbathing, skateboarding, napping, and car stunts. Students, faculty, and staff describe UK's parking garages as liminal spaces, existing between indoor and outdoor and between public and private. Garages provide hangout spaces for solo and group recreation outside the surveillance of peers, administrators, and law enforcement. Fall 2022 undergraduate honors students in the seminar *Modern Material Culture & the Archaeology of Us* performed archaeological survey of UK's Rose Street Parking Structure, a notorious hangout space. Trash and activities- both literally and figuratively out of pocket- reveal the importance of liminal spaces to campus life. Material remains- notably vomit, urine, alcohol containers, cigarette butts, condoms, joint roaches, and blunt wrappers- mapped on the decks, stairwells, and garage perimeter suggest that recreators subvert panoptic control by finessing this liminality. Fieldwork, including oral testimony, suggests revelers utilize Rose St. in acts of both shame and defiance integral to daily life, recreation, and work at UK. This paper discusses how material culture studies are an underrepresented element of experiential education in honors and argues for its value as an "out of pocket" creative honors pedagogy, notably for collaborative publishable research, community-building, and interdisciplinary scientific inquiry.

4:00 pm - Thomas A. Jennings, Ashley M. Smallwood, Kathryn Marklein, Angela Storey, Cenetria Crockett - Center for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage, Department of Anthropology, University of Louisville - *Engaged Archaeology at CACHE – Fieldwork with Blind and Visually Impaired Students, Mitigating Historic Cemetery Necroviolence, and Developing a Curation Database*

Over the past two years, the University of Louisville's Center for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage (CACHE) has focused on three engaged archaeology projects. The first is a partnership with the Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) and Kentucky School for the Blind Charitable Foundation. In summer 2022, UofL held an archaeological field school on KSB property. The goal was to relocate the former Segregated School for the Blind and learn more about the lives of those who lived and attended it. KSB students excavated alongside UofL students, and we summarize fieldwork and outline future goals of this project. The second, in partnership with

Friends of Eastern Cemetery, is an NEH-funded project to help better document and mitigate the criminal necroviolence that occurred at Eastern Cemetery through mapping, remote sensing, and collecting ethnographies of descendants of those buried at Eastern. Lastly, we summarize work on an NEH-funded project to build a publicly accessible curation database.

4:20 pm – Questions and Break

End of General Session Presentations

Kentucky Organization of Professional Archaeologists (KyOPA)

Presentations, Awards, and Business Meeting at CACHE

4:40 pm – Introduction and Awards

5:00 pm – KyOPA Business Meeting

5: 30 pm – Adjourn

KyOPA Silent Auction and Reception

6:30 pm – El Nopal Mexican Restaurant, 2745 Crittenden Dr., Louisville

Food and drink to be ordered individually

Sunday Presentations – Rockshelter Session

8:15 am – Nicole Konkol and Wayna Roach - Welcome and Introduction

8:20 am - Jon Endonino - *Invisible Histories of Indigenous Presence – The Potentials, Perils, and Pitfalls of Assessing Looted Rockshelter Sites*

Looted rockshelter hold significant records of Indigenous and Euro-American lifeways that are too often overshadowed by their destruction for both personal enjoyment and saleable artifacts. Assessing the extent of subsurface disturbance requires testing beyond one or several shovel test pits. This paper presents a case study of post-Contact rockshelter use in Daniel Boone National Forest where an assemblage of features and archaeological deposits with presumed Late Archaic and Woodland associations based on diagnostic lithic and ceramic artifacts were, in fact, created by Indigenous groups during the proto-Historic and Historic periods based on a series of AMS assays. For archaeologists working in disturbed rockshelter contexts this example serves as a cautionary lesson for component interpretation, chronology, and assessment; further highlighting the need for radiometric assays.

8:40 am - Larry Gray – *An Archaeological Investigation of Lost Image Rockshelter (15Po303), Powell County, Kentucky*

Lost Image (15Po303) is a heavily looted rockshelter located within the Red River Gorge in the Daniel Boone National Forest. Even so, much information was gleaned from recovered artifacts. These artifacts offer two possible scenarios. Ancient Native peoples may have used Lost Image at various times from the Middle/Early Late Woodland period to the early Fort Ancient period, making it a multicomponent site. Alternatively, Native groups may have used the rockshelter for a short period dating from the terminal Late Woodland period to the early Fort Ancient period, reflecting a single component site. Ceramics represent both Late Woodland and Fort Ancient time periods. Diagnostic projectile points and a single acceptable radiocarbon date corroborate the ceramic data. Based on artifacts a provisional terminal Late Woodland ceramic series, the Chimney Top Ceramic Series, was defined and a possible connection to the Intrusive Mound Culture found in Ohio. Examination of site assemblages within a 5km radius of Lost Image identified other examples of the new ceramic series. Lost Image holds valuable information concerning the utilization of rockshelters within the Red River Gorge and potentially holds important information about the movement of Native peoples within the wider Ohio River drainage region.

9:00 am - Matthew Davidson - *A Framework for Standardized Rockshelter Recording*

The western Appalachian escarpment of eastern Kentucky is known for its abundance of rockshelter sites, which have been a focus of academic and cultural resource management (CRM) studies for nearly 100 years. In the context of cultural resource management, site inventory surveys since the late 1960s have recorded thousands of rockshelter sites based on a variety of recording methods. Consequently, there are challenges and limitations for the use of uneven legacy data. This presentation urges us to consider a framework for standardizing rockshelter inventory records. An example recording method is described; developed based on nearly a decade of recording and revisiting hundreds of rockshelter sites in the Red River Gorge and adjacent parts of the Kentucky and Licking River Drainages within the Daniel Boone National Forest. The purpose of a standardized framework is to provide data accurate and detailed enough to efficiently relocate sites and assess their function, age and cultural affiliation, and also consistent enough for meaningful inter-site comparisons within and across regions.

9:20 am – Break

9:30 am - Cheryl Claussen - *Some Rockshelter Rituals in Kentucky*

Rock shelters across the United States have evidence of ritual activities conducted within them. In this review of Kentucky shelters one can see rituals using turtle shells, turkeys, stone caches, flakes, sandals, weavings, burning, petroglyphs and pictographs, and burials. Ritual elements of burials include burial in the center of the shelter, burials weighted with rocks, burials of infants face down and between rocks and burials of an adult and/or infant and 4+ individuals. Some of these burials may be illegitimate infants, people who were killed by other people, and childbirth deaths.

9:50 am - Danielle Criswell - *The Benefits and Limitations of Using LiDAR in Recordation of Rockshelters*

This presentation is an evaluation of the benefits and limitations of using LiDAR technology in recording rockshelters during archaeological surveys

To establish the usefulness of this technology within the Archaeological field, several approaches were utilized. First, a comparison was made on how much time is taken to draw planview and profile maps using traditional methods such as hand drawing compared to the time taken to conduct a LiDAR scan of a rockshelter of similar size and then producing the required planview and profiles in an office setting. This second step could be completed by the field archaeologist or by the graphics staff in the office. Secondly, reflection of LiDAR

Basic observations pertaining to rockshelters will be presented, from identifying them as Land Forms and not as a Site Type; patterning of spatial use in and around shelters; frequency of use and how it seems to change across the escarpment in Ky; how to measure disturbance; and how disturbed is “too disturbed.”

11:00 – 11:30 am – Questions and Discussion with Presenters

11:30 am – Adjourn

End of Presentations

12:30 – 1:30 - Tour at [Oxmoor Farm](#) (**\$5.00 per person – travel on your own**)

720 Oxmoor Ave., Louisville

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