

DISCOVER KENTUCKY ARCHAEOLOGY

An Alternative Mitigation Project

<https://archaeology.ky.gov/>

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Kentucky Transportation Cabinet



DISCOVER
KENTUCKY
ARCHAEOLOGY

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The Archaeology of Everyone

- ☐ Paleoindian (? to 8000 BC)
- ☐ Early Archaic (8000 to 6000 BC)
- ☐ Middle Archaic (6000 to 3000 BC)
- ☐ Late Archaic (3000 to 1000 BC)
- ☐ Early Woodland (1000 to 200 BC)

[SHOW ALL TIME PERIODS](#)

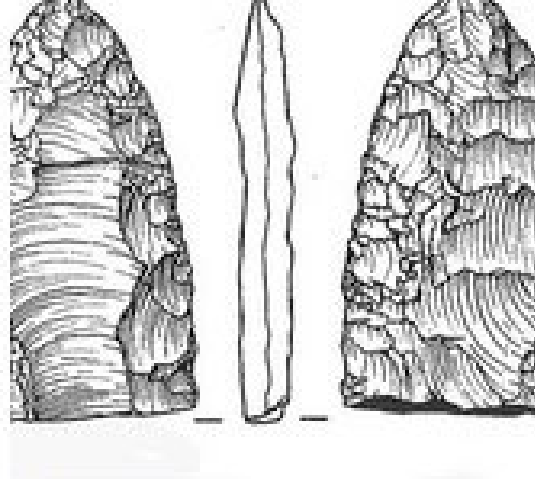
SITE TYPE

- ☐ Battlefield
- ☐ Camp
- ☐ Cave
- ☐ Cemetery
- ☐ Depot

[SHOW SITE TYPES](#)

COUNTY

- ☐ Adair
- ☐ Allen
- ☐ Anderson



Adams

Paleoindian (? to 8000 BC)
Workshop



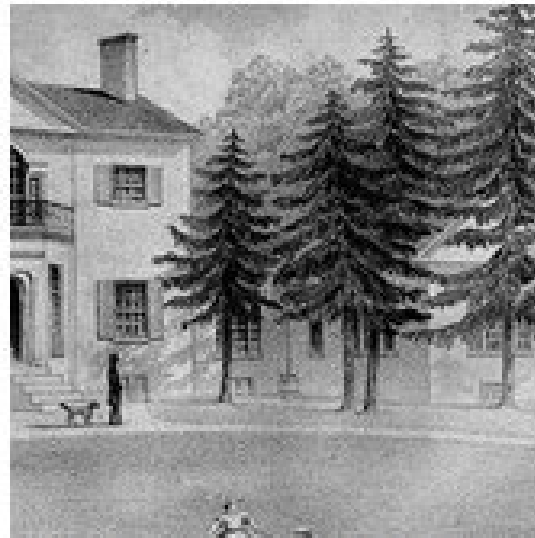
Amburgey

Middle Woodland (200 BC to 500 AD)
Camp



Annis

Mississippian/Fort Ancient (1000 to 1750 AD)
Village



Ashland, The Henry Clay Estate

Antebellum (1820 to 1861)



Baber Hotel

Antebellum (1820 to 1861)
Tavern



Baker

Middle Archaic (6000 to 3000 BC)
Camp

Carpenter Cave

Early Woodland (1000 to 200 BC)
Cave



Clear Creek Furnace

Antebellum (1820 to 1861), Postbellum
and Industrialization (1865 to 1914)
Iron Furnace



Center Street

Postbellum and Industrialization (1865
to 1914)
Neighborhood



Cleek-McCabe

Mississippian/Fort Ancient (1000 to
1750 AD)
Village



Chiggerville

Late Archaic (3000 to 1000 BC)
Camp



Cold Oak

Late Archaic (3000 to 1000 BC)
Rock shelter





Cold Oak

Site ID: 15Le50

Time Period
Late Archaic (3000 to 1000 BC)

Site Type
Rockshelter

County
Lee

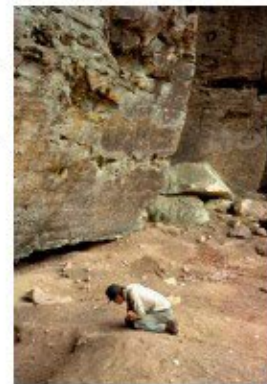
Author
Kentucky Archaeological Survey

Disclaimer:
Unless specified, we cannot provide site location information.

Summary

The Cold Oak site is a rock overhang in a high east-facing cliff. Daniel Boone National Forest archaeologists recorded the site in 1983 and conducted excavations there in 1984. In 1994, Ohio State University archaeologists returned to the site to do more excavation. Research at Cold Oak, in conjunction with excavations at other rockshelters in eastern Kentucky, has contributed to our understanding of plant domestication in Eastern North America.

Native peoples primarily occupied the site toward the end of the Late Archaic (1000-1000 BC). Analysis of plant remains and associated artifacts indicated that Native hunter-gatherers used the site seasonally throughout the year. At Cold Oak, archaeologists determined that by 1000 BC, although people were still depending on the wild plants they gathered and on the animals they hunted, they were relying more on the crops they grew in their own gardens.



Forest Service archaeologist examines the site's surface.



Site map showing excavation units, boulders, and looter disturbance.

Findings

The Late Archaic deposits at Cold Oak produced an abundance of wild and domesticated plant remains, animal remains, and stone and wooden tools. Wild plant remains consisted primarily of hickory, walnut, acorn (red and white oak), and chestnut. Domesticated plants found in storage pits included charred and uncharred seeds of sunflower, goosefoot, knotweed, marshelder, quack, and possibly maygrass. Among the other preserved plant remains were bits of cordage and a wooden tool that may have been used for weaving. The recovery of the latter suggested that textile production took place at the site. Large quantities of wood chips and a celt fragment indicated that woodworking also may have taken place at Cold Oak.

Animal resources recovered from the shelter included white-tailed deer, turkey, squirrel, black bear, box turtle, and fish bones, crayfish fragments, and freshwater mussel shells.



Site map showing excavation units, boulders, and looter disturbance.

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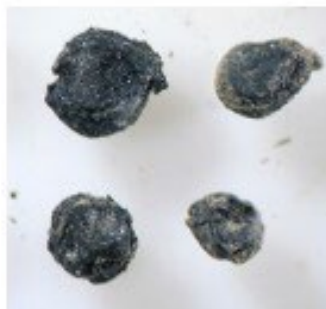
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What's Cool?

Evidence for Plant Domestication

Cold Oak is one of several rockshelters in eastern Kentucky where archaeologists have recovered early evidence for plant domestication. Between 5000 to 4000 years ago, groups throughout eastern Kentucky began to domesticate starchy- and oily-seed plants, such as sunflower, marshelder, and goosefoot. Although many of these plants are considered weeds today, they produce large quantities of nutritious seeds. Researchers use traits such as an increase in seed size, a change in seed shape, or a thinning of the seed coat over several centuries to determine that native peoples domesticated these local plants.

Some archaeologists think that native groups living in Kentucky began growing plants to make up for increasingly un dependable nut harvests. Others think groups may have started to produce and store more starchy and oily seeds because the seeds represented an additional storable food resource families could eat during the lean winter months.



Charred goosefoot seeds.

Related Materials



Keep the Search Alive!

Learn more about the Late Archaic (5000 to 1000 BC).

LEARN MORE

Related Site by Time Period



Indian Knoll

Late Archaic (5000 to 1000 BC)



Mato

Late Archaic (5000 to 1000 BC)



Raised Spirits

Late Archaic (5000 to 1000 BC)



Related Site by Category



Haystack Rockshelter

Rockshelter



Grizzly Newt

Rockshelter



Twin Knobs Rockshelter and Flat Top

Rockshelter



Ashland, The Henry Clay Estate

Site ID: 15Fa206



Time Period

Antebellum (1820 to 1861)



Site Types:

Plantation



County:

Fayette



Author:

Voyager Media Group



Summary

Ashland preserves the main house, gardens, and core grounds of the estate of Henry Clay, one of the nation's most influential statesmen during the Antebellum period. Opened to the public in 1950, Ashland is a National Historic Landmark. Home tours, special events, and educational programs are offered throughout the year.

University of Kentucky researchers conducted archaeological investigations at Ashland beginning in 1990 in advance of planned renovations. This work began with a survey around the main house and close-up work around its foundation, and the foundation of a standing privy. Additional archaeology from 2000 to 2008 focused on gaining a better understanding of Ashland as a plantation site. Investigators surveyed the remaining 17-acre grounds and excavated select outbuildings.

Archaeology at Ashland has provided information needed to assist in building restorations and maintenance. Examples include work around building foundations and in areas where water lines needed to be installed. Additional archaeology was conducted to collect information about the overall layout of the grounds and the location of outbuildings and work areas, and to recover a sample of material culture that could offer insights into nineteenth-century domestic life at Ashland.





Findings

Archaeological research at Ashland determined that many outbuildings were needed to run the plantation. Kitchen-related outbuildings found during investigations included a small square foundation near the kitchen - it may have been a cheese and butter house - and a large circular foundation east of the two standing ice houses that may represent a third ice house or some other sort of cold storage building. Livestock raising was always an important part of the Ashland plantation, and the remains of two barns and a smaller support outbuilding were found southwest of the house. Enslaved blacks provided much of the essential labor at Ashland, and archaeological research has documented the remnants of slave quarters located just north of the present formal garden. Other below-ground features found at Ashland included postholes, small pits, cisterns, and privies.

In 2000, archaeologists began excavating a large privy vault. It was filled with ceramic dinnerware and cookware associated with Henry Clay's original home, which was demolished shortly after his death in 1852. Over a period of three years, archaeologists recovered more than 900 ceramic vessels from this privy - one of the largest Antebellum ceramic collections in Kentucky.

What's Cool?

Dining In

The dishes recovered from the Ashland privy are exceptional for an archaeological collection, because so many could be put back together. They included a diverse range of vessel forms, such as serving platters, compote dishes, and stoneware and redware crocks for storage and food preparation. The collection contains many Chinese and European porcelain vessels, suggestive of the many formal dinners held at Ashland. But locally made vessels also were represented within the collection, such as crockery or a small redware salt dish. Many of these ceramics are on display at Ashland today.



Plates and platters recovered from the privy.

Related Materials

[Ashland Website](#)

[Ashland the Henry Clay Estate - Kentucky Archaeological Survey website](#)

[Historic Archaeology Beneath Kentucky's Fields and Streams](#)



Keep the Search Alive!

Learn more about the Antebellum (1820 to 1861).

LEARN MORE

Related Site by Time Period



Related Site by Time Period



Lewis Pottery

Antebellum (1820 to 1861)



Frazer Farmstead

Antebellum (1820 to 1861)



St. Thomas Church

Antebellum (1820 to 1861)



Related Site by Category



Forest Home



Pepper House

Plantation



Riverside – The Farnsley-Moremen Landing



Portal Usage Statistics*

- Portal launched on July 17, 2022
- Since then, 28,909 page views
- 21,987 unique views
- Average time on page: 1:20

*Current
as of
1/10/23

Other Recent Forms of Alternative Mitigation



Old Places, New Bridges

America's highways and bridges are important. They knit our country together. Without them, travel would be difficult. Commerce would slow to a trickle.

Places where historical events occurred, and the traces that reflect when and how people once lived and worked – our cultural resources, are important, too.

Can't We Have Both?

Building highways and bridges puts America's cultural resources at risk of damage or destruction. For this reason, they need protection.

But the choices are hard. Preserve the sites and structures, or destroy them to make way for the new?

How did governmental agencies involved in the **Louisville Bridges Project (LBP)**, such as the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC), make this choice when planning for the new bridges that now span the Ohio River at Louisville?

Regulations linked to the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and the 1969 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) helped them decide. These laws required officials to **stop, look, and listen** before they made decisions that put the area's cultural resources at risk.

The agencies considered feedback from archaeologists and architectural historians. They also asked for input from local citizens and community groups.



Louisville citizens participate in bridges public meeting

Then they made their decision. The agencies modified construction plans to preserve the best examples of the area's history. They hired specialists who studied historic buildings and neighborhoods and ancient Native American campsites before construction destroyed those places. The agencies let poorly preserved structures and less important archaeological sites go.



Archaeologists excavate in downtown Louisville

For More Information

About NHPA and other preservation laws, go to the National Park Service's website bit.ly/NHPreservationAct

Go to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's website for A Citizen's Guide to Section 106 bit.ly/ACHPSection106

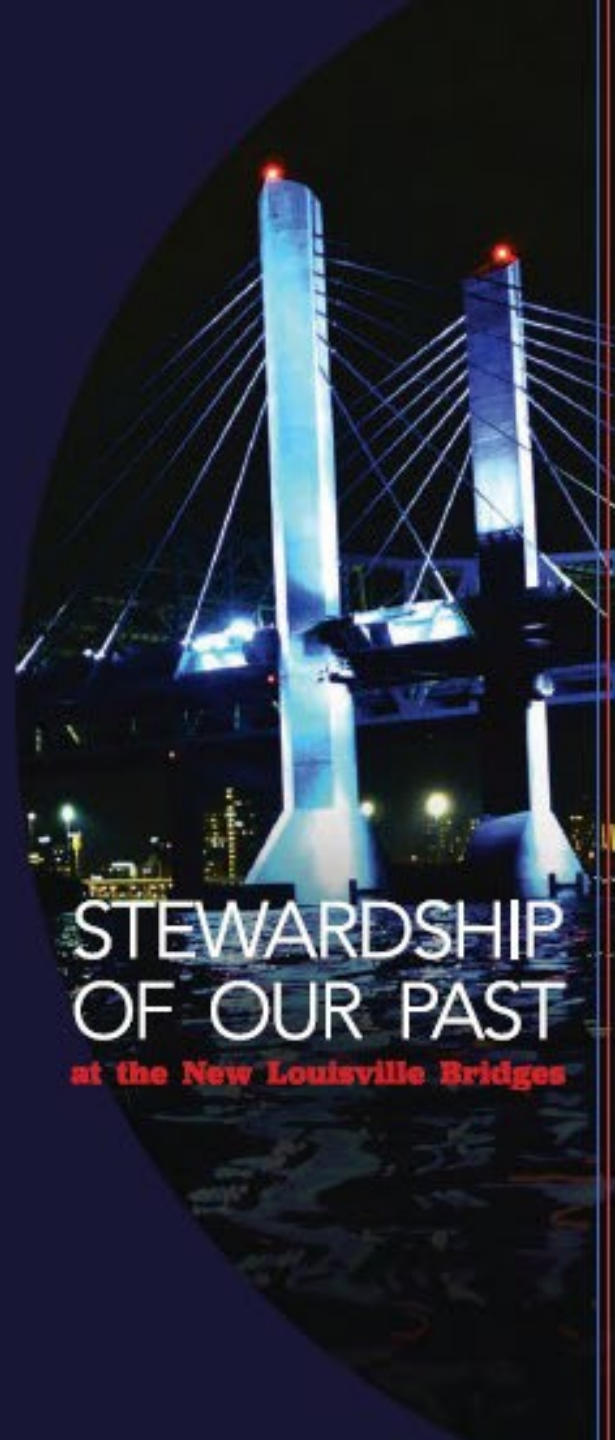
About NEPA, go to the Council for Environmental Quality web site ceq.doe.gov/get-involved/citizens_guide_to_nepa.html

Visit www.in.gov/indot/3696.htm for other Ohio River Bridges educational materials

Find other KYTC archaeology information at transportation.ky.gov/Archaeology



Scan me



**STEWARDSHIP
OF OUR PAST**
at the New Louisville Bridges



American community life. NHPA is designed to preserve these historical and cultural foundations for future generations. If a cultural resource cannot be preserved, NHPA makes sure that it will be investigated, documented, interpreted, and remembered.

NHPA established federal and state regulatory offices to decide – through the Section 106 Review Process – which cultural resources should be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The National Register is the official list of cultural resources that are worth preserving. It includes districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects. To be listed, a resource must be important in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and/or culture.

Jefferson County has 488 listed cultural resources – the most of any Kentucky county! Examples include the Harrods Creek and Highlands historic



1906 Grocers Ice and Cold Storage Company building

districts, the KYANG and Port and Wharf archaeological sites, Jefferson-town Colored School, Church Downs, Bernheim Distillery Bottling Plant, and the Olmsted Park System.

The Section 106 Review Process requires all projects involving federal action, funding, or approval (through permit or license) to follow several steps before they start.

Agencies must identify the cultural resources listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register that might be affected. They must assess what those effects might be.

Agencies must consult with individuals and community organizations to make informed decisions.

Then, agencies must look for ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate (lessen the severity of) project impacts to the most important cultural resources.

Only then can a project begin.



Brick foundation uncovered by archaeologists

environmental protection.

Like NHPA, NEPA requires agencies to find out how publicly funded projects will affect the human landscape. Agencies must look for ways to mitigate negative impacts a project may have on cultural resources.

Unlike NHPA, under NEPA, agencies also must consider impacts to endangered or sensitive species and their habitats, and social and economic impacts to communities.

Stewards of Our Past

America's historic and archaeological sites and structures are the traces of our past. These places hold our collective stories – stories often not found in history books. They link us to people and times long ago, and remind us of who we are as Americans.

Knowing about how governmental agencies use NHPA and NEPA means you can help agencies make informed preservation choices. You can bring your community's important cultural resources to their attention.

KYTC is a responsible steward of Kentucky's cultural resources. When making decisions, its goal is to strike a balance.

KYTC mitigates the potential impacts of highway and bridge construction on Kentucky's rich, but fragile cultural resources. It also maintains, modernizes, and improves the safety of Kentucky's transportation network.

KYTC can't save every site...

and documents those we will lose.

For the LBP, archaeologists and architectural historians recorded many ancient Native American and historic sites and structures prior to construction. They excavated and reported on several of the most important ones.

The LBP illustrates how KYTC considers old places even as it builds new bridges. And with this brochure, KYTC seeks to inform citizens how it accomplishes both goals, for the benefit of all Kentuckians.



Partly excavated ancient Native American pit feature



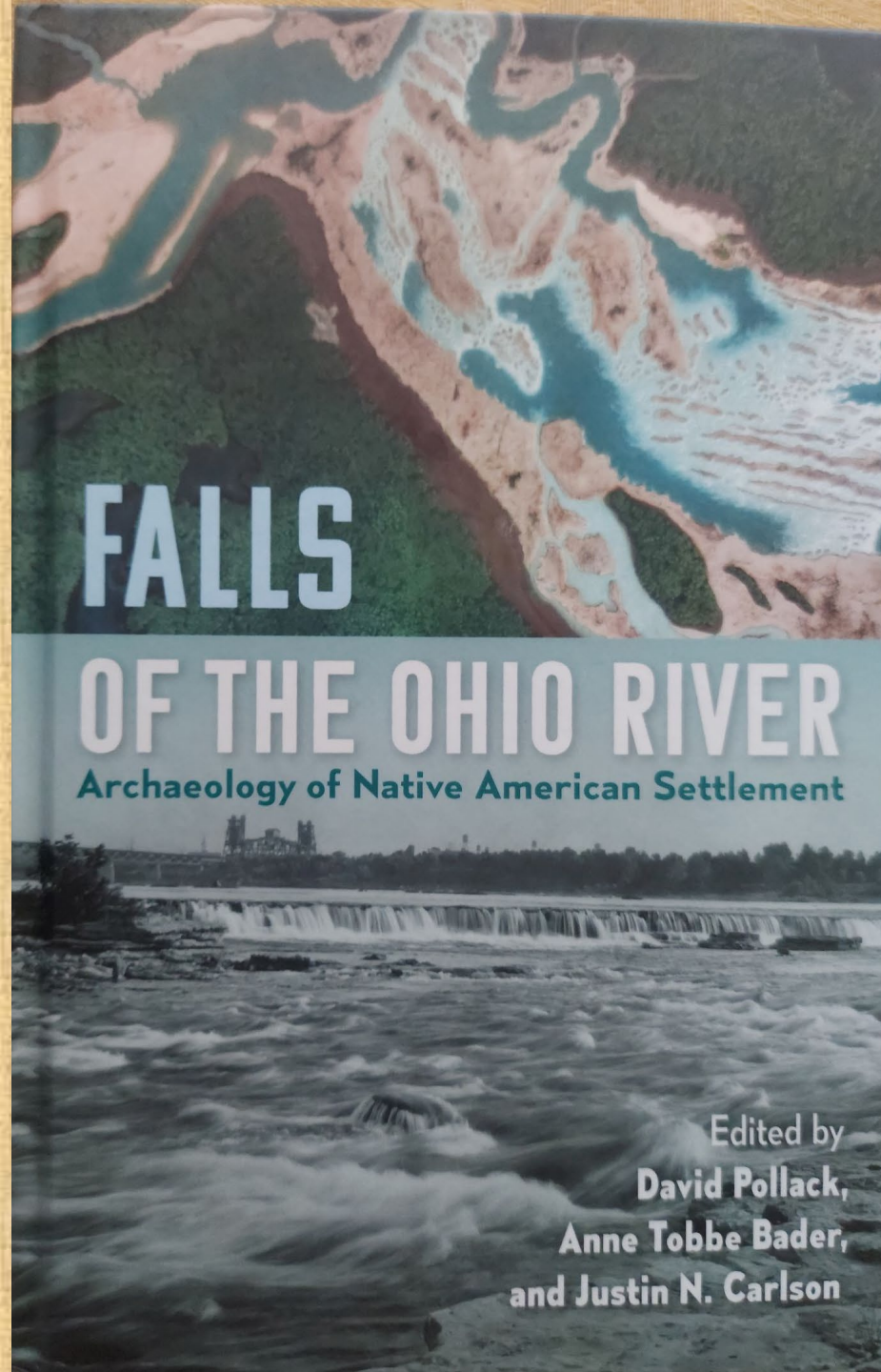
Printing made possible with funding from the Federal Highway Administration and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet as part of the Louisville Bridges Project (Louisville-Southern Indiana Ohio River Bridges Project) public education component.



Developed by the Living Archaeology Weekend Steering Committee as part of a KYTC grant supporting education and outreach to teachers and the general public.

Shared with:

- University libraries
- INDOT
- KY & IN SHPO
- Filson Library
- KY OSA
- Falls of the Ohio State Park





LIVING ARCHAEOLOGY WEEKEND

3RD WEEKEND IN SEPTEMBER

RED RIVER GORGE



THANK YOU!

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