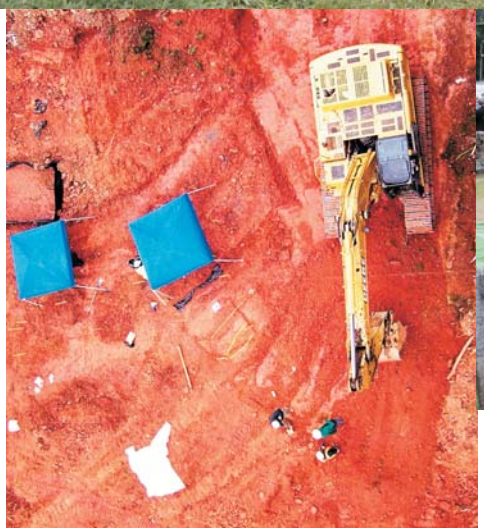
IN THE ANGLE OF THE WOODS:

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL INVESTIGATIONS OF THE SPROTT CEMETERY (31MK1081**)



NORTH CAROLINA
Archaeological Council

NEW SOUTH ASSOCIATES
PROVIDING PERSPECTIVES ON THE PAST

In the Angle of the Woods: Archaeological and Historical Investigations of the Sprott Cemetery (31MK1081**)

Mecklenburg County, North Carolina

Report Prepared For And Submitted To:

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and
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ABSTRACT

The remains of a small cemetery were discovered during construction of a proposed extension to the CMC-Mercy Hospital in Charlotte, North Carolina. Subsequent excavations identified at least 14 individuals in and around 13 mortuary features. Skeletal preservation was poor, but human remains from at least three males, one female, and eight adults were buried in the facility. Artifacts, including pins, wrought nails, and decomposed wood, indicated they were placed in shrouds and coffins and then deposited in the facility during the eighteenth century. These correspond to mid to late eighteenth century dates provided by displaced headstones found buried nearby in twentieth-century fill. Historical records document a small colonial period cemetery in the area; the Sprott Cemetery was formed by some of the first settlers in Mecklenburg County, representing members of the Sprott, Barnett, Bigham, McKnight, Johnston, and Peel families. The cemetery was recovered archaeologically and reinterred in Steele Creek Presbyterian Church Cemetery, in Charlotte, North Carolina.

DISCLAIMER:

The following document addresses the excavation and recovery of culturally sensitive materials. Images and discussions in this text address human remains and funeral-related paraphernalia. Reader discretion is advised.

Title Excerpt: The earliest known description of the Sprott Cemetery comes from Foote's (1846:510) description of Thomas (Spratt) Sprott's burial place as "buried in the angle of the woods near his dwelling."

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Enthusiasm and professional commitment are the hallmarks of a good archaeological and historical research project, and this investigation was lacking in neither. First and foremost, Mr. Bill Merritt and Mr. Dave Pericho of Carolinas HealthCare System need to be recognized for their support at every step of the way. Whenever there was a need, these professionals were there, fulfilling needs even before they were realized. Bill, Dave, and the other CHS staff members we met were always willing to go well beyond the minimum expectation. We also recognize that their job could not have been accomplished so skillfully without support from the Sprott Cemetery descendants. During the recovery, family members visited the site every day. Their keen interest and enthusiasm not only spurred everyone to work a little harder and a little better, but also let us know that our efforts were greatly appreciated. We apologize for not remembering the names of all the folks we met, but we do wish to recognize the role Elizabeth Withers Smith and Thomas B. Spratt, III played in coordinating family needs with the field recovery, and Sarah Keesee for her help with some of our genealogical questions. Mr. Russell Harrings served as our Point of Contact with Terracon. Forest Lawn West Funeral and Cremation Services graciously served as a temporary repository for the remains between recovery and reinterment. Last but not least, our appreciation goes to Kenny Seymour and other members of construction crew, without whose sharp eye none of this would have been possible.

Mr. John Mintz and Mr. Steve Claggett, both of the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology, provided valuable guidance throughout the process. Thanks to Mr. Thomas Beaman, Jr., Editor and Dr. Linda Stine, President of the North Carolina Archaeological Council and to the two anonymous peer reviewers who reviewed and suggested edits for this monograph.

The information we gathered could not have been accomplished without the support of the field crew. The recovery team, Justin Byrnes, Valerie Davis, Jonathan Flood, Nathan Mountjoy, Lindsay Smith, and Graeme Wright, did a wonderful job recovering the impossibly delicate with the smallest of tools in their hands and biggest of smiles on their faces. Kristie Lockerman conducted the historical research. Her help with the project administration and correspondence with family members is much appreciated. Chris Espenshade bore the brunt of the initial project logistics and served as the project's benevolent overlord. Tom Quinn generated the graphics and his input, particularly with the coffin reconstructions, was greatly appreciated. Shawn Patch generously broke free from his other commitments long enough to conduct a GPR examination of the reinterment site. Julie Coco, Jennifer Wilson, and Dr. Joe Joseph edited and formatted the report. Thanks Guys!!!

The Sprott-ley Crew, (left to right), Lindsay Smith, Graeme Wright, Nathan Mountjoy, Valerie Davis, Hugh Matternes, Jonathan Flood and Justin Byrnes (kneeling). (Photo Courtesy Tom Spratt, III)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF FIGURES

LIST OF TABLES

I. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of the excavation and relocation of a small eighteenth-century cemetery located on the grounds of CMC-Mercy Hospital in the City of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. Of the original 18 potential mortuary features identified, 10 were positively identified as graves, one was a possible grave, one was an assemblage containing at least two disturbed individuals, and the remaining six were isolated finds. A minimum of 14 individuals was represented in the assemblage. This document provides a brief background to the current archaeological inquiry, a general description of the project area, the historical background, archaeological methodologies, results and discussion of features, artifacts, and human remains. The findings in this document focus on the historical documentation of the cemetery and technical details of the recovery and subsequent reinterment. Details of the initial discovery were outlined in Espenshade (2007) and a general nontechnical overview of the project was addressed in Gillett et al. (2007). New South Associates' field methods were designed to identify and recover all mortuary artifacts and grave deposits associated with the burial area. All materials were examined and reburied in the Steele Creek Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Charlotte, North Carolina.

These investigations were done in accordance with Chapters 65 and 70 of the North Carolina General Statutes, with particular reference to Article 65-5: Removal of Graves and 70-3: Unmarked Human Burial and Human Skeletal Remains Act. A Disinterment/Reinterment Plan[1] emphasizing the archaeological nature of the burial ground was submitted to the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology and the Charlotte City Council for review, and a 30-day Legal Notice was published in the *Charlotte Observer* in April and May of 2007. Historical and genealogical research was conducted to identify and contact living descendants. Carolinas HealthCare System and New South Associates worked in close conjunction with representatives of the descendant community to insure that all parties were comfortable with the way the relocation was handled.

An archaeological recovery team consisting of a Mortuary Archaeologist (Matternes), an Assistant Mortuary Archaeologist (Davis) and five Assistant Archaeologists (Byrnes, Flood, Mountjoy, Smith, and Wright) undertook field investigations between May 10 and 23, 2007. All recoveries and relocations were conducted under the guidance of the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology. Additional guidelines prescribed by Carolinas HealthCare System and descendant family members were addressed and followed. The Sprott Cemetery was assigned the State Site Number 31MK1081** by the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology in May 2007. The Sprott Cemetery was also registered with the North Carolina Office of Archives and History Cemetery Survey Project.

New South Associates conducted the historical and genealogical research needed to complete this project. They were also responsible for identification, excavation, disinterment, and recovery of all graves, grave contents, and human remains from the Sprott Cemetery. New South Associates also assisted Carolinas HealthCare System with the subsequent reinterment. The recovery project was performed in a professional and ethical manner that was respectful to both the dead and the living.

[1] Components of this document were expanded to form Chapters 2 through 5 and 11 of this report.

Figure 1.
In Honor of Their Scottish Ancestry, a Bagpiper Played at the Reinterment Ceremony

II. FINDING THE CEMETERY

On Thursday, March 22, 2007 construction workers preparing a work area for expansion of the CMC Mercy Hospital uncovered four steatite grave markers with a track hoe. The Senior Project Manager, Mr. Bill Merritt, immediately halted all work until it could be determined what type of archaeological deposit had been encountered. Terracon and Carolinas HealthCare System contacted the Greensboro Office of New South Associates for help. The following morning, Branch Manager, Mr. Chris Espenshade, contacted the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology to alert them of the discovery and seek their advice. In the mean time, the stones were removed from the site to prevent damage, theft, or vandalism and the exact recovery locations were marked with stakes.

Following the advice of the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology, Espenshade visited the site on Monday, March 26 to inspect the find site. An examination of trench profiles and soil auger borings led Espenshade to conclude, "There was no evidence of intact A-horizon in the search area or adjacent, seemingly intact landforms. Indeed it appears that the entire area was stripped well into the clay subsoil, and then fill was brought in to level this portion of the lot. The glass and brick in the fill suggest an early twentieth-century origin for the fill" (Espenshade 2007:2). The find site and surrounding areas were then scraped with a track hoe to ascertain if more gravestones or other mortuary features were present. None were found. Espenshade concluded that the stones had been redeposited during a fill episode, probably dating to the 1916 construction of Mercy Hospital (Espenshade 2007:5). After conferring with the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology authorization to continue construction was granted.

On Tuesday March 27, after having been advised to keep watch for potential graves, construction commenced. Several hours later, suspected human bones were uncovered in a locale outside of the initial examination area. Construction ceased again and Espenshade returned, verifying that the skeletal remains were human and noting the presence of at least one probable grave shaft. A field crew was drawn to assist in identifying other possible grave shafts (Figure 2). A fifth gravestone was found in the fill during this phase of the project. Neither it nor any of the other recovered gravestones appear to have been associated with any given grave. The procedures used to delineate potential mortuary features are outlined as Phase 1 in Chapter V, Archaeological Methods. The archaeological work addressed in the rest of this report focus primarily on investigations conducted after the delineation was completed.

Figure 2.
Survey Crew Delineating Cemetery Features

III. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT AREA

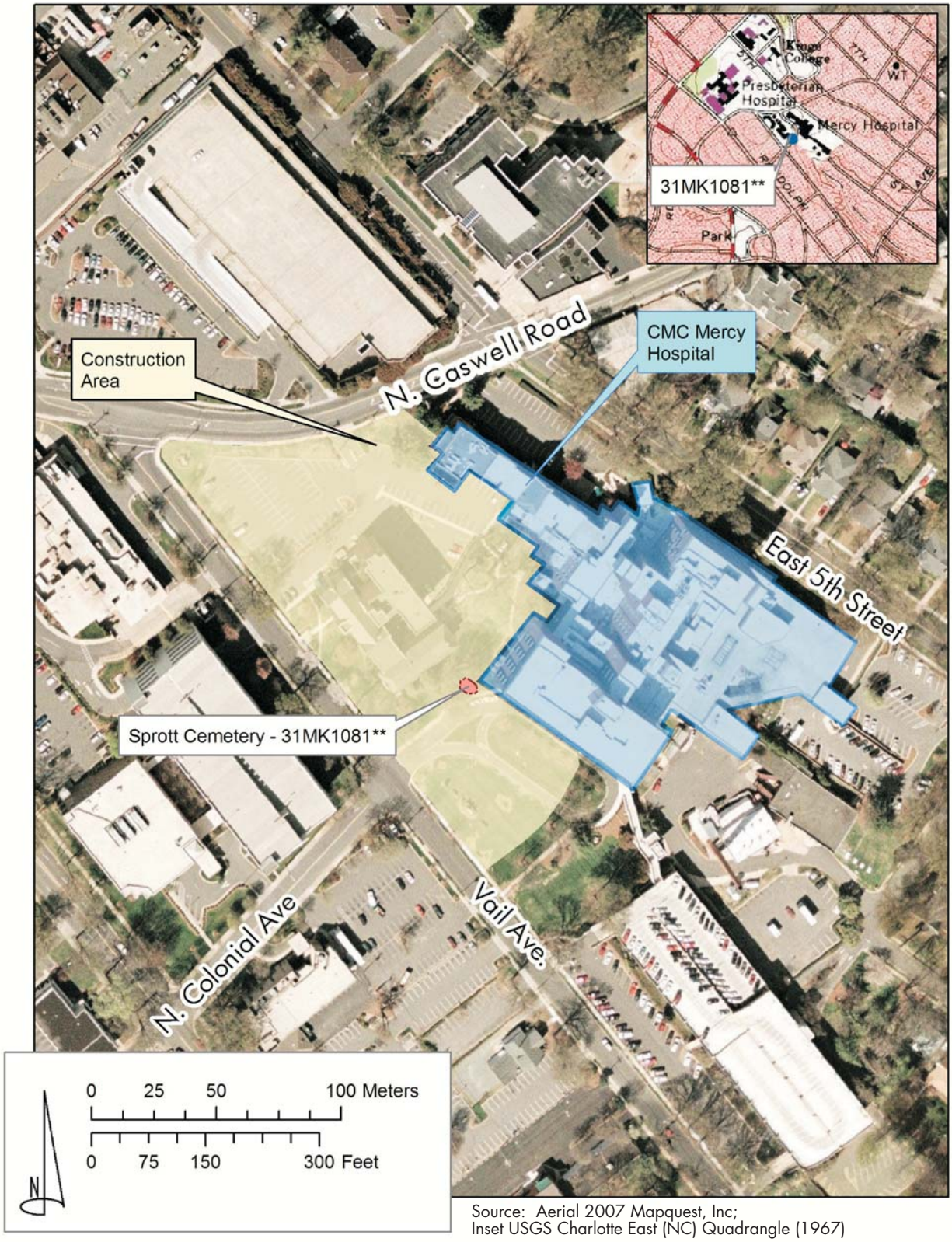
The Sprott Cemetery (31MK1081**) was located in the Elizabeth neighborhood of downtown Charlotte, North Carolina (UTM Zone 17 N3896220 E513231). It was situated approximately 140 meters east southeast of the corner of Vail Avenue and Caswell Road, on the northwest side of Vail Avenue (Figure 3). It was about 50 meters due north of the main entrance of CMC-Mercy Hospital and less than 15 meters from the northwestern-most corner of the hospital. The property had formerly been covered by a parking lot; however, this and much of the surrounding landscape had been removed in preparation for construction of an extension of the hospital's facilities. The burial area had been partitioned off from the rest of the hospital grounds by a chain link fence and appeared as a rise in the midst of a construction zone.

This location places the Sprott Cemetery in the Catawba River Drainage Basin. The nearest permanent water source was Briar Creek, a tertiary creek located about 120 meters southeast of the site. The cemetery was situated on the southeast side of a gently sloping unnamed hill. The cemetery was estimated to be situated about 110 feet above mean sea level. While the landform had undergone considerable modification, this portion of the hill probably appeared as a gently sloping relatively level area in the eighteenth century.

The project area was defined as a concentration of mortuary features plus a five-meter wide perimeter around all probable interments. Visible surface soils consisted of yellow-brown loosely compacted clay containing bricks, nails, glass, and other forms of twentieth-century construction debris overlaying a red to yellow-brown dense clay subsoil. There were no soils approximating A- or B-horizons visible. McCachren (1980:5) identified the Enon-Helena-Vance Series as the likely soils overlying this location in Mecklenburg County.

There was no vegetation present in the project area. An informal survey of flora in the tracts surrounding the project area identified a large number of mature hardwood trees, principally oak and hickory. At least one magnolia and several large pine trees were also observed. Under-story trees, including maple and dogwood, were present. Most non-paved ground surfaces were covered in manicured lawns with planted flowerbeds exhibiting azaleas, tulips, narcissi, day lilies, and a wide variety of other annuals and perennials. Roots within the project area indicated that at least some of these floras had been in the immediate vicinity of the project area prior to terra forming.

Figure 3.
Location of the Sprott Cemetery (38MK1081**) Project Area



Source: Aerial 2007 Mapquest, Inc;
Inset USGS Charlotte East (NC) Quadrangle (1967)

IV. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The families associated with the Sprott Cemetery were among the first pioneers of the present-day Charlotte-Mecklenburg area. The following narrative is an attempt to place these families in the study area and to discover their relationships to one another; thus, this is not a full genealogical study of any of the families. Several spelling variations were found for many of the associated surnames; however, for the purpose of this study the most common spelling will be used, unless quoted directly from a source document.

RESEARCH METHODS

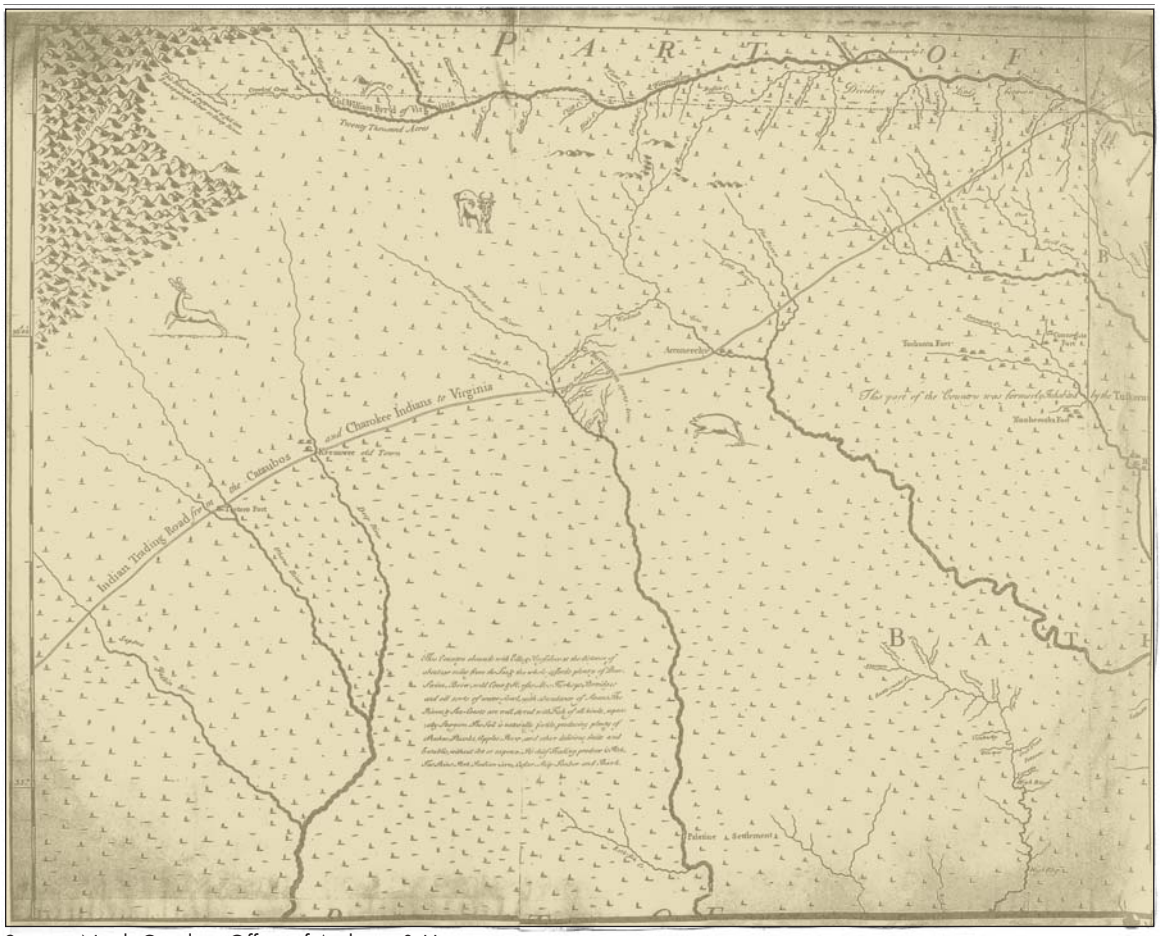
Archival research was performed in the Carolina Room at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Library, which provided a wealth of historical and genealogical information. Resources pertaining to the history of the general area were consulted as were more specific sources concerning the study families. Deed research was conducted at the Register of Deeds Office in the Mecklenburg County Office Building. Historic maps were obtained from the Library of Congress' American Memory map collection, accessible online. The Spratt Family cemetery located in Fort Mill, SC was visited to transcribe the text from the memorial stone of Thomas Sprot, Sr. Some of the most useful sources of information, however, were provided by descendants of the study families, who generously offered their family histories, lineages, and written memoirs to the project historians, the value of which cannot be understated.

AREA DEVELOPMENT

The first Europeans to make their way into the valley between the Rocky and Catawba rivers encountered a lush and rolling landscape, as well as the indigenous population – the people of the Catawba Nation. John Lawson, explorer for the eight Lords Proprietors that had been awarded all the lands south of Virginia, encountered the Catawba in 1701 during his expedition through the area. William Byrd met the Catawba in 1728 and estimated their population at between 5,000 and 8,000 individuals. Byrd described the Catawba as a numerous and powerful people having six large towns on the Catawba River within a distance of twenty miles (Rights 1931). For centuries, ancient trade routes linked these Catawba towns to other tribes along the Eastern seaboard. The first people of European descent to travel through the region were traders bringing English goods to trade for animal hides and other Native American wares. These traders were well acquainted with the long established network of paths; however, it wasn't until 1733 that the first map to show the "Indian Trading Road from the Cataubos and Cherokee Indians to Virginia" to potential settlers was published (Moseley 1733), (Figure 4)[2]. Moseley's "A New and Correct Map of the Province of North Carolina" made known the natural riches of the Carolina backcountry stating, "This country abounds with Elk & Buffaloes at the distance of about 150 miles from the sea…" (Cumming 1958).

[2] Unfortunately Moseley's Map did not illustrate the Catawba towns and pre-Mecklenburg County area, located farther to the west.

Figure 4.
Section from "A New and Correct Map of the Province of North Carolina" (1733)
by Edward Moseley



Source: North Carolina Office of Archives & History

It also showed how to get there. The system of paths was collectively renamed "The Great Philadelphia Wagon Road," and stretched from Pennsylvania down through Maryland, Virginia, and into the Carolinas (Figure 5). Other courses including the Mobley, Camp and Whitner routes were available (Corbitt 1996). During the Colonial Era, Philadelphia was the largest city and seaport on the eastern coast of the United States. Many of the families that were to eventually populate the present-day Charlotte-Mecklenburg area were Scots-Irish Presbyterians who left Ireland for America beginning in the 1730s in search of religious freedom and fertile land. After a few years spent in Pennsylvania, many of these families made their way south along the path to try their luck in the Carolina wilderness. Though this migration began as a trickle, it worked its way into a flood by the latter part of the eighteenth century. This great migration southward can probably be attributed, at least in some part, to Moseley's map.

When many of the families, in this study, made their way into the area circa 1740, they found themselves in Bladen County, which was established in 1734 and stretched from the Cape Fear River in eastern North Carolina to Memphis, Tennessee. In 1750, Anson County was created from a portion of Bladen, and it wasn't until 1762 that Mecklenburg County split off from Anson. The city of Charlotte, established at the crossroads of the major north-south and east-west roads, was not formed until 1766, more than twenty years after the early pioneers had established themselves in the area. The Great Wagon Trail eventually became Tryon Street, named for Colonial governor William Tryon, and the Charleston to Blue Ridge Trail became Trade Street (Bishir and Southern 2003; Hanchett 1998; Hanchett and Sumner 2003).

LAND PATENTS

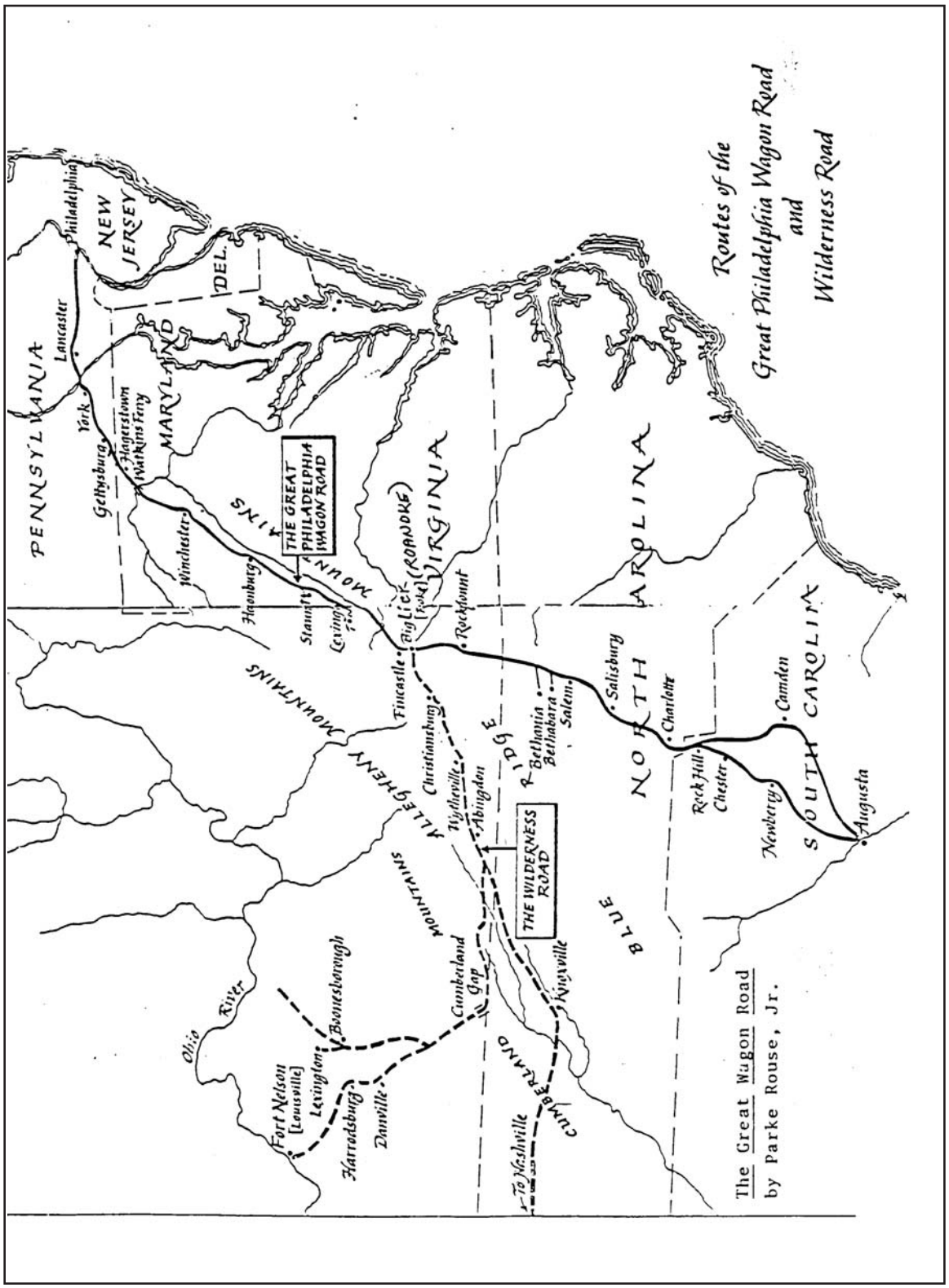
In North Carolina, it was not possible to obtain land simply by squatting on it. Under the principle that ultimate dominion belonged to the discoverer, title to the land belonged to the Crown of Great Britain (Hoffman 1982). In 1663, the King of England vested title to the lands of North Carolina in the eight Lords Proprietors; however, in 1729 the Crown once again resumed title by acquiring it from the heirs and devisees of the original Lords Proprietors (Hoffman 1982). The first land office under the Crown did not open until May 12, 1735, but the first two "Royal" patents were issued the very next day.

Vacant land could be purchased from the government through a time-consuming and somewhat expensive process, which would result in a patent for the land. Once the appropriate fees were paid, the new owner received clear title in fee simple that could then be passed down or sold according to the title owner's prerogative (Hoffman 1982).

The earliest land patents that appear for the study families were recorded on March 31, 1753. One to "THOMAS SPROTS" for "700 acres in Anson County, joining the S. side of the Indian Path leading from the WIDOW PICKINS to the Nation," presumably the Catawba Nation. By cross-referencing that description with Collet's map of 1770, the land would have been situated on Sugar Creek near Pineville (Figure 6). The second was issued on the same day to WILLIAM BARNET, "500 acres in Anson County" (Hoffman 1982).

Seven days later a second patent was issued to "THOMAS SPROTTS" for "443 acres in Anson County on the Northside of the Twelve Mile creek." Today, this land is located in South Carolina, but at that time the border between the two states was still in dispute.

Figure 5.
Map of the Great Wagon Road



Source: Rouse 1992

Figure 6.
"A Compleat Map of North Carolina from an Actual Survey," (1770) by John Collet

Source: Library of Congress Geography and Map Division

The only other patent issued for "THOMAS SPROTT" was recorded April 24, 1762, for "520 (?) acres in Anson County on both sides of Sugar Creek, joining WILLIAM BARNET, JAMES SPROTT and the sd. creek." That same day, a patent was issued to JAMES SPROTT for "400 acres in Anson County on both sides of Sugar Creek, joining THOMAS SPROTT and the East Branch of Sugar Creek on the East side of the Trading path." It appears that these two parcels were adjacent to each other and of the three patents issued to Thomas Sprott, this last one has most potential of being the land on which the cemetery is located. The "Sugar Creek" mentioned in James' patent is likely the present-day Little Sugar Creek, which lies less than a mile west of the study area. There were also several mentions of "Big Sugar Creek" in the patents, which seems to differentiate it from "Sugar Creek" and is more likely a reference to the larger creek, lying several miles to the west.

Additionally, there are land patents, sometimes several, recorded for most of males alleged to be buried in the Sprott Cemetery. Table 1 is by no means a comprehensive list of the patents awarded; however, it does help establish the settlers' presence in the area, as well as the fact that several of the families shared common land boundaries (See Hoffman 1982, 1984).

Table 1. Colonial Land Patents

Date	Name	Patent Description
1753 (March 31)	SPROTS, THOMAS	700 acres in Anson County, joining the S. side of the Indian Path leading from the Widow Pickens to the Nation
1753 (March 31)	BARNET, WILLIAM	500 acres in Anson County
1753 (April 6)	SPROTTS, THOMAS	443 acres in Anson County on the North side of the twelve Mile creek
1753 (August 30)	BARNET, JOHN	336 acres in Anson County on the West side of the N. fork of Sugar Creek
1753 (August 30)	MCKNIGHT, JAMES	300 acres in Anson County on the S. side of Broad river on the N. fork of Pacolet river below Charles Beaty's Survey, joining the N. side of the river
1754 (February 23)	BARNITT, JOHN	599 acres in Anson county on the N. side of the Cataba river, joining William McKee near to Alexander Nasbit - including an old cabin
1754 (February 23)	BARNIT, WILLIAM	300 acres in Anson County on the N. side of Cataba river on the Branches of Cain Creek, joining Thomas McKenny and the sd. creek
1754 (February 23)	BARNITT, JOHN	430 acres in Anson County on the N. side of Broad river on Moores creek-being half of a Survey made for Merby to Gyan Moore, joining the N. side of the sd. creek
1754 (February 23)	BARNITT, WILLIAM	450 acres in Anson County on the S. side of the Cataba river, joining Henrys Survey and Jon Turner being the place formerly survey for Thomas Robinson and Followeth the old lines
1762 (April 24)	SPROTT, JAMES	400 acres in Anson County on both sides of Sugar Creek, joining THOMAS SPROTT and the East Branch of Sugar Creek on the East side of the Trading path
1762 (April 24)	SPROTT, THOMAS	520 (?) acres in Anson County on both sides of Sugar Creek, joining WILLIAM BARNET, JAMES SPROTT, and the sd. creek
1762 (April 24)	BARNET, WILLIAM	400 acres in Anson County on the North fork of Steel Creek about a mile and a half above the mouth of sd. fork - Including some Beaver Dams, joining some Rocks on the East side of the fork and both sides of a branch

Date	Name	Patent Description
1763 (April 19)	BARNETT, JOHN	200 acres in Mecklenburgh county on Big Sugar Creek, joining his own land, Maclares line about a Mile below the Indian Path, and Zacheus Willson
1763 (December 21)	BIGHAM, SAMUEL	350 acres in Mecklenburgh County on both sides of Sugar Creek near SPROTTS land - including the ford, joining Hitchcock's line
1763 (December 21)	BIGHAM, SAMUEL	500 acres in Mecklenburgh County on the E. side of the Catauba river on the waters of the Cataube and Paw Creek, joining former property of John McKee near the Catheys and Adam Caruths land
1763 (December 23)	BIGHAM, _____ [William]	350 acres in Mecklenburgh County on both sides of Rocky Sugar Creek, joining James McKnight and Hugh Parks
1763 (December 23)	BARNETT, WILLIAM	200 acres in Mecklenburgh county on the old line of his other land on the E. side of the Catauba River and on Big Sugar Creek, joining JAMES MCKNIGHT
1764 (November 9)	BARNETT, JOHN	86 acres in Mecklenburgh on Sugar Creek Between his own Land and Hitchcocks Land, joining both side of the creek and Mr. Shelvin
1764 (November 9)	BIGHAM, SAMUEL	150 acres in Mecklenburgh on the Main Branch of Sugar Creek, joining WILLIAM BARNETT, both sides of the creek, and Selvins line - including a Shoal
1769 (December 16)	SPROTT, ANDREW	34 acres in Mecklenburgh on the waters of Sugar Creek, joining Sprotts own land, Thomas Polk, Newtons corner, and Garrisons corner

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY

The Sprott Cemetery is situated on property originally patented to Thomas Sprott. Table 2 shows that the ownership of the lands upon which the Sprott Cemetery was located changed hands many times over the last 245 years. It probably remained in the Spratt/Barnett lineage for the better part of a century and was eventually acquired by Mercy Hospital in the 1930s and 1940s. Owing to the absence of maps identifying the cemetery's location, some property ownerships can only be approximated at best. The original land patent was abstracted in Hoffman's *Colony of North Carolina, 1735-1764: Abstracts of Land Patents, Volume One*. The remainder of the information was located by searching the Mecklenburg County Register of Deeds (MCRD); however, several inconsistencies were found in the Colonial-era property record and will indexes, resulting in a broken chain of title for the years between 1770 and 1871.

Table 2. Reconstructed Landownership for Sprott Cemetery Tract to 1941

Year	Ownership Change
1757	Thomas Spratt, Sr. to children Thomas Jr. and Martha Spratt (wife of Thomas Barnett, Sr.), 1757, 520 acres. Thomas Jr. 2/3rds interest, Martha, 1/3 interest (Thomas Spratt will, McArver: 1980).
1762	520 acres acquired through Colonial Land Patent in the name of Thomas Spratt, Sr., April 24, 1762 (Hoffman 1982).
1770	Thomas Sprott, Jr. to Wm. Barnett, March 12, 1770, 356 acres (MCRD Book 5:Page 147).
1778	William Barnett, Sr. to sons William and James, 350 acres, 1778 (Mecklenburg County Will Book A: 131)
	Chain of Title broken until 1871; likely passed down through Spratt/Barnett descendants
1871	Benjamin and Mary Jane Morrow to Henry C. Morrow, December 9, 1871, 197.5 acres (MCRD 7:535).

Year	Ownership Change
1872	Benjamin and Mary Jane Morrow to Henry C. Morrow, February 14, 1872, 21 acres (MCRD 7:630).
1877	Henry C. Morrow to Thomas L. Vail, September 18, 1877, 50 acres (MCRD 17:393).
1877	Henry C. Morrow to Thomas L. Vail, October 15, 1877, 16.75 acres (MCRD 17:438).
1877	Henry C. Morrow to Thomas L. Vail, November 22, 1877, 27.75 acres (MCRD 17:523).
1878	Henry C. Morrow to Thomas L. Vail, January 17, 1878, 15.75 acres (MCRD 18:220).
1879	Heirs of M. J. Morrow, widow of Ben Morrow to Tho. L. Vail, July 10, 1879, 67 acres (MCRD 31:177).
1895	T. L. and S. J. Vail to Florence Ida Johnston and Cora L. Vail, April 19, 1895, 200 acres (MCRD 104:549).
1914	S. M. and Florence I. Johnston to Benjamin Mathes, December 3, 1914 (MCRD 340:133).
1913	S. M. and Florence I. Johnston to M. B. Query, March 27, 1913 (MCRD 314).
1919	Benjamin W. and wife, Hannah B., Mathes to M. B. Query, March 11, 1919 (MCRD 398:196).
1923	M. B. and wife, Georgiana, Query to H. C. Federal, April 20, 1923 (MCRD 506:65).
1924	M. B. and wife, Georgiana, Query to M. M. Wallace, March 25, 1924 (MCRD 525:654).
1935	M. M. Wallace and wife, Eugenia I. Wallace, to Mercy Hospital, Inc., May, 25, 1935 (MCRD 866:245).
1941	George W. King, trustee for H. C. Federal, to Mercy Hospital, Inc., January 23, 1941 (MCRD 1050:184).

THE SPROTT CEMETERY

Tradition holds that no more than 25 people were ever buried in the Sprott Cemetery. During the recent excavation, the remains of approximately 14 persons were recovered. Because of the age of the cemetery and the fact that the gravestones were no longer in their original positions, there is no way to determine conclusively whose remains were disinterred; however, there are several sources that provide clues. One of the most useful of these sources is a record of the cemetery from 1916. Cora Vail, whose family owned the land at the time, was concerned that the Old Spratt Burying Ground was being neglected and that people were stealing headstones for use as hearthstones. Ms. Vail consulted a local attorney who recommended that she bury the headstones to preclude their theft. Before the markers were buried, Ms. Vail transcribed the carvings, and Violet G. Alexander published the record (Alexander 1916). The stones included:

Here lies ye body of
Hugh Bigham who
departed this life
Nov. ye 4th 1765.
also
nearby lies ye body of
Joseph Bigham, a child

Here lies the body of
Mary Bigham who deceased
Jan. 18th 1772 aged 55 years

Here lys the body of
Samuel Bigham junr.
who departed this life
April 25th 1774 aged 33 years.

Here lies the body of
Jean Barnett who
deceased April 20th 1776
aged 20 years

Here lies the body of
Thos. Barnett who deceased
May the 3rd 1776
aged 22 years.*

Here lys the body of
John Jack Barnett who deceased
Jan. 14th 1778
aged 9 months

Here lies the body of
Esther Johnston who deceased
Oct. 22nd, 1775
aged 31 years.**

In memory of Andrew Sprot
who died Nov. 29, 1772
aged 64 years
also here lys his wife
Mary Sprot who died
June 7th 1771 aged 64 years.*

Here lies the body of James McKnight who deceased
Oct. ye 23rd 1764, aged 60 years.**

Here lies the body of
Robert McKnight who deceased
Oct. ye 19th 1778, aged 60 years.**

* recovered in the 2007 excavation undertaken by New South Associates
**recovered in the 1920s and placed in Old Settlers' Cemetery

Over the years, some of those stones were lost but several have been recovered. Four, those belonging to James and Robert McKnight, Esther Johnston, and Catherine Peel, the last of which was not recorded by Miss Vail, were uncovered during the construction of the convent at East 5th and

Caswell Road in February 1926 (Ray 1946). The stones were left in the basement of the new building until the 1950s, when then Mayor Victor Shaw had them moved to Old Settlers' Cemetery.

The stones of Thomas Barnett, Andrew Sprot, and his wife, Mary, were recovered in the excavation undertaken in 2007 by New South Associates, as was the stone of William Barnet, previously unrecorded, and two possible footstones with the initials "EJ" and "TB". In addition, Miss Vail related that Thomas Spratt, himself, as well as "members of the families of Osbourne, Johnston, Barnett, Spratt…Polk…Bingham, McKnight, Jack, and others whose names and graves have been lost, lie buried in this forgotten place (Alexander 1916).

C. L. Hunter confirms this account of the burial ground in his *Sketches of Western North Carolina*: "Near the residence of Thomas Spratt is one of the oldest private burial grounds in the county, in which his mortal remains repose. Here are found the grave-stones of several members of the Spratt, Barnett and Jack families, who intermarried; also those of the Binghams, McKnights, and a few others" (Hunter 1970 [1877]:77).

ASSOCIATED SURNAMES

It has long been thought that many of these families have a shared history. Most of the settlers are Scots-Irish from Ulster Province, specifically County Down, in the North of Ireland. It has been suggested that at least some of the families were acquainted prior to their immigration to America and even sailed on the same vessel. Most, if not all, landed in Philadelphia and temporarily situated themselves in the fertile valleys of southeastern Pennsylvania before heading south in search of less densely populated lands (Clark 1998; McArver 1980). Traveling down the Great Wagon Road from Pennsylvania, they eventually crossed into Virginia and continued south to the Carolinas, where both game and land were plentiful. An average trip along this route would have taken two to three months, depending on the size and speed of the party.

SPRATT AND BARNETT

Among the earliest families to settle in the study area were the Spratts and the Barnetts. Three Spratt brothers, Andrew, James, and Thomas, along with their families, left Ireland in 1731 (Clark 1998). William Barnett, Sr., his wife Mary Merriwether, and their three sons, William Jr., John, and Thomas (McArver 1980) accompanied them. It has been suggested that Patrick Jack, father of John Jack, and several of his brothers were also members of the emigration party (Hunter 1970 [1877]; McArver 1980). The experience of these families fits patterns of Scots-Irish emigration already mentioned.

The Spratt brothers settled near Chambersburg, Pennsylvania in the valley of the Conococheague Creek, but within a few years time, they were ready to move south towards the North Carolina Piedmont (Spratt 1967). Tradition holds that Thomas Spratt was the first person to cross the Yadkin River (called the Deep River and Sapona River on early maps), approximately 20 miles south of present-day Winston-Salem, in a "wheeled vehicle" (Clark 1998). Spratt and his party then continued along the Catawba Trading Path until they reached the Rocky River, where Thomas' family ended their journey, at least temporarily. A marker erected only a few blocks from the Sprott Cemetery on Randolph Road by the Colonial Dames in 1926 reads that Thomas' daughter, Anne, was the first white child born west of the Yadkin; however, Anne was born circa 1718, according

to family histories that were consulted, about twenty-five years too early. Another version of the story says that Anne, who married John Barnett (son of William Sr.) in 1745, instead gave birth to the first white child, a daughter Anne, born between the Yadkin and Catawba rivers (Spratt 1875). Still another source says that Ann Barnett, daughter of Mary Spratt and William Barnett was the first settler child born west of the Yadkin (McArver 1980).

While Thomas settled for a time near the Rocky River, his brothers Andrew and James Spratt continued west to settle along Sugar Creek, then in Bladen County. A Barnett Family history asserts that James Sprat was actually the first settler of Charlotte (McArver 1980). Eventually, Thomas Sr. joined his brothers and settled near present-day Pineville, before finally acquiring the land and building his home near the site of the cemetery study area. Although tradition places the Spratts in the study area as early as 1740, it is quite possible that that is an early estimate. One source suggests 1750 as an approximate date, and the first official document that places Thomas Spratt in the area is a land patent from 1753 (Hoffman 1982). A marker in the 1900 block of Randolph Road marks the spot where Thomas Spratt constructed his log home, also the site of the first court held in Mecklenburg County, February 26, 1763 (Morrill & Hanchett 2007).

Thomas Spratt and his wife, Mary Clark Spratt, had at least eight children that lived to be adults, along with Mary's son by her first marriage. They all traveled south with their parents to North Carolina, where they married and began their own families. As already stated, the Spratts and Barnetts were well acquainted, reinforced by the fact that three of Thomas Spratt's daughters married the three sons of William Barnett, Sr. mentioned earlier (McArver 1980).

- Mary Spratt (1719-1764) m. William Barnett, Jr. (1715-1778), seven children: Abraham, Samuel, Thomas, Mary, Ruth, Ann, and William. Second wife Margaret _____, two children, James and Elizabeth.

- Ann "Betsy" Spratt (1718-1801) m. John Barnett (1717-1804), Seven children: Mary, William, Ann, John, Susanna, Thomas, Jane (Jean?).

- Jean Spratt m. Col. Thomas Neel

- Susanna Spratt m. Col. Thomas Polk (signer of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence)

- Martha "Patsy" Spratt m. Thomas Barnett, Sr. (1720-?), one son, Thomas, Jr.

- Elizabeth Spratt m. Robert Leeper, Jr.

- Rachel Spratt m. Mr. Taylor

- Thomas, Jr. "Kanawha" (1731-1807), born on the trans-Atlantic voyage, m. Ann Barnett (daughter of William, Jr.); another source has him marrying Elizabeth Bigger (possibly his second wife)

- John Clark (stepson)

Thomas Spratt, Sr. died in approximately 1757, as judged by the date of his will, five years prior to the first court of Mecklenburg County, believed to have taken place at his house. By the time of his death, he had been in the area for around 15 years and had managed to acquire close to two thousand acres divided amongst three "plantations." One of these parcels is referred to in his will as "the plantation I now live upon" (McArver 1980). Presumably, this would have been the property on which the project area is located. "Thomas Spratt removed to the spot, near to Charlotte, where he died and lies buried in the angle of the woods near his dwelling" (Foote 1846:510 as quoted in Hunter 1970 [1877]), one and a half miles south of Charlotte. Interestingly, the patent for this land was not recorded until 1762, also five years after his death.

In his will, dated January 15, 1757, Spratt provided for his wife, but left the bulk of his estate to two of his children, Thomas Jr. and Martha Spratt Barnett. Thomas Jr., received the "Plantation situated and lying on Twelve Mill (Mile) Creek," while Martha received the "plantation on Sugar Creek." They were to split the plantation where Thomas Sr. and his wife were living at the time of his death, described as "520 (?) acres in Anson County on both sides of Sugar Creek, joining William Barnet, James Sprott, and the sd. Creek" (Hoffman 1982). Executors of the will were Andrew Sprot (brother) and Thomas Polk (son-in-law); William Barnett (son-in-law), James Sprot (brother), and James Campbell (McArver) were witnesses.

Thomas Spratt, Sr. was possibly the first person to be buried in this location; no record of any earlier burial was located and unfortunately, neither was a marker for his grave. In 1905, some of his ancestors erected a memorial stone for him next to the grave of his son, Thomas "Kanawha" Spratt, which reads:

> "Among the first settlers of Mecklenburg County, NC. Born 1685-1690 in Scotland. Removed from County Down, Ireland to America in 1730. Settling near Charlotte, NC in 1740-45 where he died about 1757-60 and was buried in the family burying ground near his homestead 300 yards south of the present site of Elizabeth College on lands now (1905) owned by Miss Cora Lee Vail. All the tombstones of this old burying ground having been removed or buried his descendents wishing to perpetrate his memory have created this stone by the side of his only son Thomas 'Kanawha' Spratt in the family burying ground one-half mile south west of Fort Mill, SC."

Other people with the Spratt surname believed buried in the cemetery were Andrew Sprot, Thomas Sr.'s brother, and his wife, Mary. Their double headstone was recovered during the 2007 excavation.

As already established, the Barnett and Spratt families were intimate, traveling from Ireland to Pennsylvania and on to North Carolina together, with several marriages between the two families. So it comes as no surprise that some members of the Barnett clan were also believed to be buried in the Spratt burying ground. C. L. Hunter (1970) specifically mentions the stone of Mary Barnett (d. 1764, age 45) in his 1877 history of the area. Cora Vail recorded the stones of Jean Barnett (d. 1776, age 20), Thomas Barnett (d. 1776, age 22), and John Jack Barnett (d. 1778, age 9 months) in 1916. Thomas Barnett's stone was recovered in 2007, as was an additional stone, that of William "Barnet" (d. 1778, age 60).

Research suggests that Mary Barnett was the daughter of Thomas Spratt and the wife of William Barnett, also buried in the cemetery; and that Jean and Thomas Barnett were the grown children of Ann "Betsy" Spratt and John Barnett. John Jack Barnett could have been the infant son of any number of Barnetts; however, it is known that John Jack, son of Patrick Jack, married a Mary Barnett and that William Barnett, son of Ann Sprat and John Barnett, married a Jane/Jean Jack (Hunter 1970 [1877]). The child is most likely from one of these lineages.

MCKNIGHT

James McKnight was one of three brothers to leave Cecil County, Maryland in the early 1750s, intending to settle in Guilford County, North Carolina. While two of the brothers did remain there, James continued on to Anson County, where a land grant is recorded for him in August 1753 (Hoffman 1982).

Robert McKnight is generally believed to be the eldest son of James. According to the information recorded on their tombstones, there was only a 14-year difference in their ages. This ambiguity could be because Robert was actually James' younger brother, James' son from early procreation, or the age difference was the result of a mistake made during the stone's commission.

Because attempts to connect the McKnights and Spratts or Barnetts by marriage were unsuccessful, a connection through land records was sought. The following transactions establish that business relationship. James McKnight obtained land from Martha Spratt in a deed dated February 21, 1761. This would have been the Sugar Creek plantation, described as "700 acres in Anson County, joining the S. side of the Indian Path leading from the Widow Pickens to the Nation," that she inherited in full at the time of her father, Thomas Spratt Sr.'s death. There is also a deed dated 1778, in which Robert and Margaret McKnight conveyed to James (their son) for one dollar, "350 acres on the creek where Armour Road crosses, previously owned by Thomas Sprott, then James (the elder) McKnight, deceased" (Marler 2005). Attempts to locate Armour Road on historic maps were unsuccessful, so it has not been determined whether the above mentioned properties are one in the same, or if the latter was for the land on which the cemetery was located. McKnight ownership of the property at the time of their deaths would explain why they were buried there.

BIGHAM

The Bigham family (recorded as Bingham by Miss Vail) also emigrated from Northern Ireland to Pennsylvania in the 1730s, bringing with them their skill as stonecutters. The Bighams carved gravestones in Pennsylvania until 1763, when they moved to Mecklenburg County, NC. The Bigham shop was likely the first in the area and was certainly the most prolific, producing hundreds of stones during the tenure of the shop, 1765-1810. The Bighams shared a Scots-Irish Presbyterian heritage with most of their clients. Clark (1992) noted that this heritage was emphasized in the art adorning many of their tombstones. Bigham stones were shipped throughout the Catawba Valley of North and South Carolina, sometimes farther. Nine hundred of those stones still survive today (Little 1998; See also Clark 1992).

The stones recovered from the study property are most likely attributable to the Bighams. Land records place Samuel Bigham "near Sprotts land" as early as December 1763 (Hoffman 1982).

Carver William Bigham, Sr., believed to be Samuel's brother, arrived in Mecklenburg County in or before 1769 (Daniel Patterson, Personal Communication April 2007).

It is believed that the four Bigham family stones recorded in 1916, those of Samuel, Jr., Hugh, Mary and Joseph, belonged to two sons, a daughter-in-law and grandson respectively of Samuel Sr. (Marler 2005). Although M. Ruth Little (1998:109) states that Samuel Sr.'s sons, Samuel Jr., William, and Hugh, joined the shop in the 1780s, this date does not comply with the death dates recorded by Miss Vail. No family connection was found between the Bighams and the Spratts; however, we do know that they were neighbors, which may explain why some Bigham family members were buried in the Spratt family cemetery. A marriage between Samuel Bigham and Nancy L. McKnight, (James McKnight's granddaughter and Robert McKnight's daughter) may also provide an explanation, as a McKnight may have owned the property at the time.

JOHNSTON AND PEEL

Johnston is a surname found in various histories of early Mecklenburg County; however, no specific mention of an Esther Johnston was found during research, likewise with Catherine Peel. Unfortunately, it is unknown how these women came to be buried in the Sprott Cemetery.

V. ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODS

Archaeological investigations and recovery of the Sprott Cemetery were broken into three phases. The first phase focused on determining the minimum number of graves present and the cemetery's size. This entailed removal of all surface and disturbed overlying soils to provide access to the undisturbed surfaces within the burial area. Mortuary features were identified and their distribution recorded. During the second phase, each mortuary feature was excavated, and the contents were recovered for relocation. Finally, during the third phase, the mortuary materials were transported to the Steele Creek Presbyterian Church Cemetery and re-interred accordingly. The results of each feature's recovery and subsequent reinterment were the primary focus of this report's findings.

PHASE 1: CEMETERY DELINEATION

One of the most important first steps to cemetery relocation is insuring that all graves have been identified. Existing historical documentation provided only a general idea of the size and contents of the Sprott Cemetery. Unfortunately, the cemetery's surface had been subjected to a variety of disturbances over the last two centuries. These circumstances meant that there were no reliable indications of the Sprott Cemetery's true size and form. The most accurate means of determining these critical features in this type of disturbed subsurface environment was the removal of overlying disturbed soils to a point where grave shaft outlines can be identified. At 31MK1081**, this meant excavation down to undisturbed soil deposits.

A track hoe fitted with a flat blade was employed to carefully grade away the overlying disturbed soils. A monitor was stationed with the track hoe to guide soil removal, identify grave shafts as soon as they appeared and to identify any loose cemetery materials present in the overburden. Soil conditions required the excavation surface to be shovel shaved to clarify whether stains did or did not represent grave shafts. Once areas were cleaned, the supervising archaeologist (Espenshade) examined the excavation surface to determine if grave features were visible. Each identified grave feature was then assigned a burial or feature number.

In a few instances, isolated mortuary artifacts were encountered. When identified, the monitor immediately stopped all backhoe work, physically examined both the isolate and its context to determine if a grave shaft was present. The isolated element was then retrieved, its position mapped, pin flagged and covered with black landscaping cloth for later re-examination by the recovery crew.

Grave shafts were noted as intrusions into the naturally formed, undisturbed subsoils. At the site, overlying fills required as much as four feet of soils be removed before reaching undisturbed subsoils. Much of the original graveshaft had been obliterated by previous disturbances prior to the cemetery's discovery. Mortuary features in the Sprott Cemetery were identified by changes in color, density, moisture content, soil type, and shape. They were identified as large oval, rectangular, or oblong hexagonally shaped stains in the subsoil. Regardless of form, all features in the project area that were larger than one square foot were flagged, given a feature number, logged, and mapped in a plan view sketch of the project area. All graves were individually

mapped, recording the shape, soil features, and any exposed aspects of the grave's morphology. Once recorded, a sheet of black landscaping cloth was placed over the top of the grave and the surface covered with a thin layer of back dirt to protect the grave until excavation could commence.

PHASE 2: EXCAVATION

During the second phase of relocation, the contents of each identified grave were manually excavated using trowels, bamboo picks, brushes, and spoons. Human remains, coffin features, and other artifacts were exposed, their positions in the grave carefully recorded and when fully exposed, maps and photographs of each exposed grave were made following standard archaeological recovery techniques. Human remains were recovered within four to six hours of full exposure. All soils removed from each grave were passed through a 0.25-inch mesh hardware cloth screen to retrieve any elements missed during the excavation. Soils containing organic residue from the grave were retained for inclusion with the reinterment.

Once exposed, a mortuary archaeologist examined each grave's contents. Examination and recovery usually occurred within four to six hours of exposure. An in-field examination included identification of the number, type and orientation of each nail used to construct the coffin; identification of soil and wood stains, recording the shape and dimensions of each grave pit, and an examination of nails, pins and other artifacts. In general, human remains were not well preserved, but a comprehensive in-field examination was conducted to learn, when possible the approximate age, sex and health of each individual. The skeletal data battery consulted is outlined in Chapter IX. The results of these examinations are summarized in Appendices A and B. The skeletal condition scores followed those outlined in Appendix B (See also Matternes (2001). No artifacts or human remains were subjected to destructive examination nor were they retained past reinterment.

PHASE 3: REINTERMENT

Once excavation and examination were completed, all artifacts and human remains were inventoried and carefully wrapped in acid-free tissue. Human remains were arranged anatomically and all materials were placed in a specially designed polystyrene burial container, used by the funeral industry for these types of remains. Burial containers were marked to indicate the head and foot ends to insure proper orientation when placed back into the ground. All recovered materials were transferred to Forest Lawn West Funeral and Cremation Service for temporary storage until the reinterment ceremony. More details of the reinterment phase are addressed in Chapter XI, Reinterment.

VI. RESULTS

During the Delineation Phase, a total of 19 localities were identified as potential mortuary deposits. The contents of these features are summarized in Table 3. The Excavation Phase identified the presence of 12 gravesites. All but one of these soil stains were found to contain mortuary materials, including nails, wood and human remains. The margins of Feature 13 were not recognized until excavation. While no definitive evidence was found to indicate that Burial 13 was a mortuary feature, its form and location were consistent with other better definable mortuary features. Burial 13 was believed to represent the highly disturbed remnants of a grave.

An additional concentration of cemetery materials (Burial 6/7), including nails and human bone, and a possible stain in the overburden was noted. The recovery crew excavated the locality until a uniform undisturbed subsoil floor was reached; however, no feature outlines were found. Material concentrations could not be tied to surrounding interments and were dense enough to suspect that several individuals had been buried there or in the immediate vicinity. A minimum of two individuals were represented in the remaining scatter.

Six isolated finds, each representing human bone, also were recorded. The mortuary archaeologist examined the soils around these elements; nevertheless, no remnant mortuary features could be discerned. These remains could have originated from partially disturbed graves in the recovered Sprott Mortuary Assemblage or represent remains from graves compromised by previous disturbances.

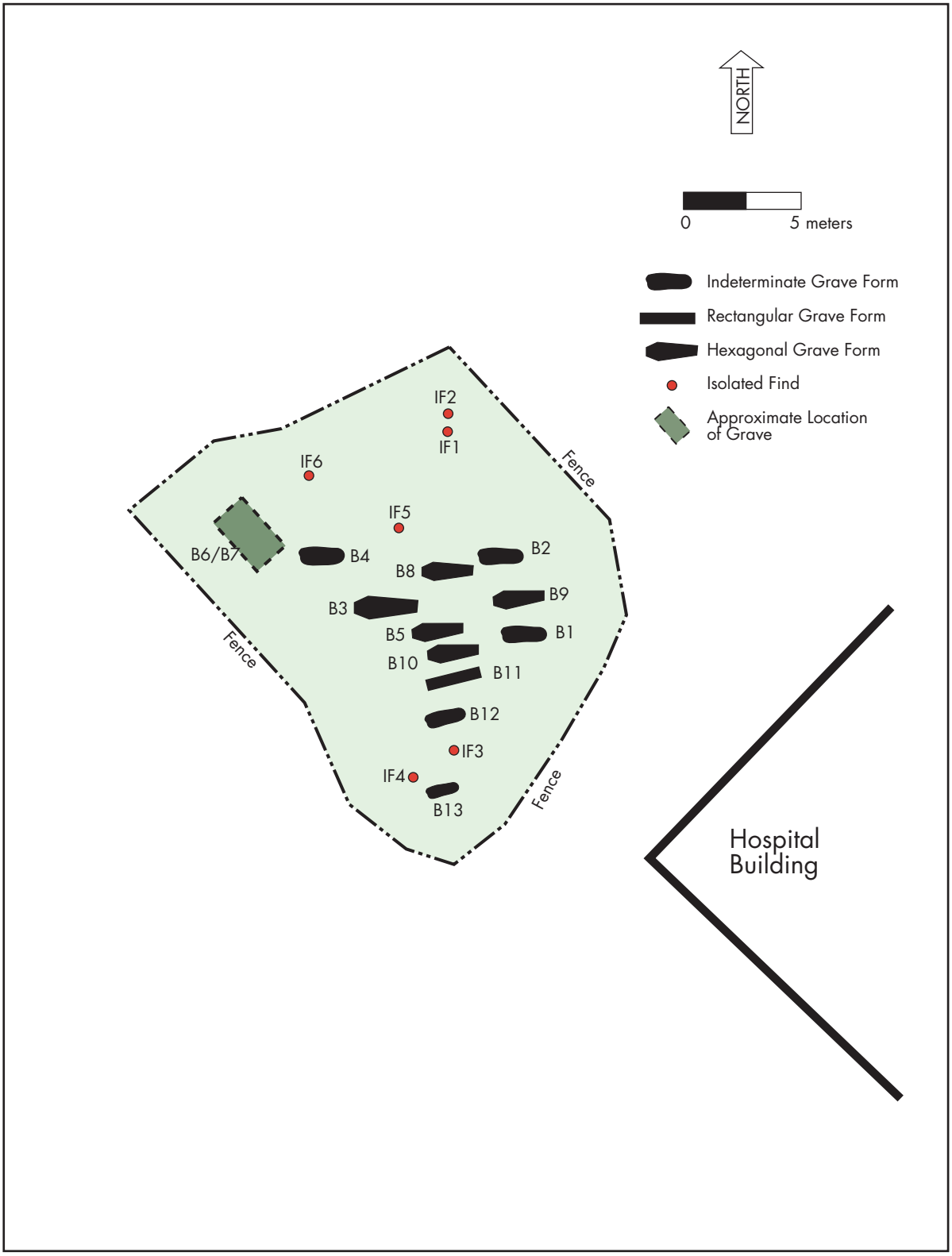
Mortuary remains were concentrated in an area roughly 18 meters long (North-South) and 15 meters wide (East-West), (Figure 7). Given the propensity of disturbed and loose mortuary materials, it is very likely that only a portion of the cemetery survived to the twenty-first century. Most features tended to be generally oriented with their long surfaces in an east to west alignment. At least two columns, one formed by Burials 1, 2, and 9, and the other formed by Burials 5, 8, 10, 11, 12 and 13, were visible. These columns may represent distinct social segments such as nuclear or extended families, unrelated local inhabitants, or even different owners of the property over time. The lack of row arrangement and haphazard scatter of other graves indicates that the cemetery developed informally, with individual graves placed following a general but not universally accepted structural plan. The details of these features and their contents are as follows.

Table 3. Inventory of Sprott Cemetery Features and Isolated Finds

Burial No.	Age	Sex	Grave Form	Grave Length (cm)	Grave Max. Width (cm)	Grave Min. Width (cm)	Coffin Form	Coffin Length (cm)	Coffin Max. Width (cm)	Coffin Min. Width (cm)
1	Middle Aged (26-67)	M	I	>180	>44	I	I	I	I	I
2	Mature (I)	M	Hex.	I	52	34	I	I	I	I
3	Middle Aged (21-51)	M?	Hex.	231	63	36	Hex.	192	48	24
4	Mature (30-70)	M	I	>160	46	I	I	>160	46	I
5	Adult (I)	I	Hex.	222	66	28	Hex.	138	48	22
6	Adult (I)	M?	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
7	Adult (I)	F?	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
8	Adult (I)	F?	Hex.	198	62	65	Hex.	190	52	26
9	Young Adult (17-42)	F?	Hex.	172	66	46	Hex.	164	38	13
10	Subadult-Young Adult (I)	M?	Hex.	230	52	30	Hex.	184	37	14
11	Young Adult? (I)	F	Rect.	194	48	44	Hex.	176	40	15
12	Subadult? (I)	I	I	>135	>54	17	I	>135	>54	17
13	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
IF1	Adult (I)	F?	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
IF2	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
IF3	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
IF4	Adult (I)	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
IF5	I	F?	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
IF6	Adult (I)	M	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I

I=Indeterminate Hex.=Hexagonal Rect.=Rectangular

Figure 7.
Plan View for the Sprott Cemetery (31MK1081**)



VII. FEATURE DESCRIPTIONS

Archaeological feature descriptions were derived from the recovery data results. Where applicable, the surface representation was summarized, followed by the subsurface examination and a description of the feature's contents. Observations and measurements used to determine skeletal age and sex are outlined in the Data Collection section of Chapter 9[3]. Soil colors were standardized to the shades outlined in Munsell Soil Color Charts (1989). This chapter includes descriptions of formally defined features as well as the context and remains recovered in each isolated find.

BURIAL 1

Burial 1 was the grave initially exposed by the Carolinas HealthCare System construction crew. The grave's contents were impacted by heavy equipment; displaced human remains were present on the surface. All loose soils and human remains were temporarily removed from the surface, and undisturbed portions of the feature were examined. Burial 1 was represented by a poorly defined dark yellowish brown (10YR3/4) mottled clay stain in a matrix of compact yellowish red (5YR5/6) clay subsoil (Figure 8). The shape tended towards an irregular linear polygon with the long axis oriented in an east-west plane. Subsequent excavation revealed that only the eastern quarter of the grave shaft could be reliably traced. The true shape of Burial 1's grave shaft could not be ascertained. A scatter of 11 nails provided a general outline for the coffin; however, its exact shape could also not be determined. A light patina of very dark brown (10YR2/2) highly deteriorated coffin wood was noted beneath the legs and feet of the interment. These probably represent portions of the coffin's base.

Despite significant heavy equipment disturbance, the arrangement of remains in Burial 1 was intelligible. The individual was buried fully extended in the supine position with the skull facing south. The arms were mildly flexed so that the hands could rest on the hips. Burial 1's legs were also fully extended towards the eastern end of the feature. The feet faced outwards. Evidence of two cupreous straight pins, representing the fasteners for a shroud, was uncovered. A pin fragment was found on the right parietal, and a stain was noted on an upper cervical vertebra, placing it more-or-less under the interment's chin. No other clothing or personal adornments were recovered.

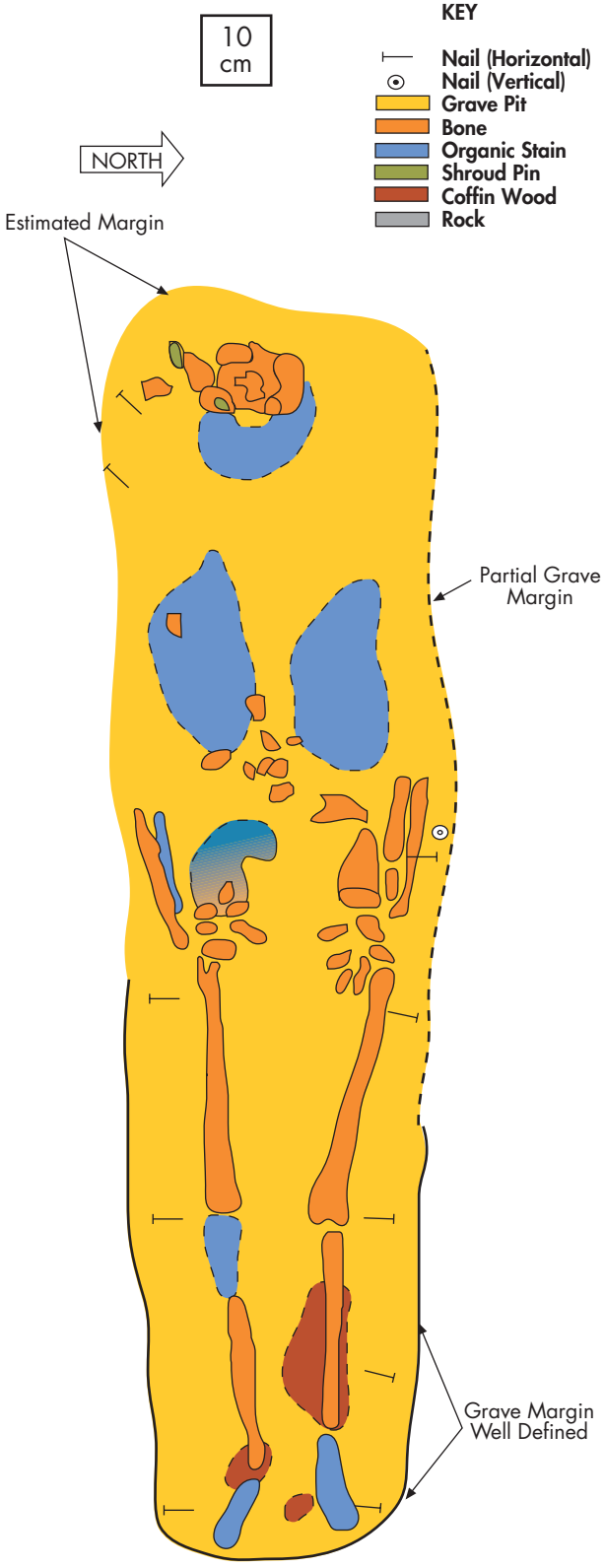
The western portion of Burial 1 had been damaged by heavy equipment and was not well represented. Most of the skull and upper chest were absent leaving only the lower arms and the legs for examination. The average skeletal condition score of 6.0 indicated that the remaining skeleton was severely decomposed. Nearly all the skeleton's trabecular bone had disintegrated, and the remaining cortex was extremely weathered. All but the most robust elements had shattered in place. An organic stain containing many tiny fragments of decomposed bone represented the rib cage and feet.

[3] Readers unfamiliar with the osteological terminology in this text are encouraged to review skeletal landmarks as illustrated in Bass (1987), Steele (1988) or White and Folkens (2000), among others.

Figure 8.
Photographs and Plan View of Burial 1

Opening Plan View

Final Plan View



Burial 1 contained the remains of an adult male. In general the skeleton exhibited a robust structure with well-marked muscle attachment sites. The mandible, displaying a relatively square chin, was a prominent mental eminence. The left ilium's sciatic notch was very narrow. Metrically, the left femoral head diameter was 49.48 millimeters, and the corresponding midshaft diameter was 94.3 millimeters. These features are commonly associated with a male phenotype.

An approximate age at death was established using cranial suture fusion and dental wear. Ectocranial suture closure at the midlambdoid observation site indicated partial obliteration of the suture line. Using a two-sigma standard deviation, ectocranial suture closure placed the age at death between 26 and 67 years of age. Dental wear was moderate with some dentin exposure noted among the few teeth recovered. This wear would be generally consistent with an individual dying closer to the younger rather than the older end of this age range.

BURIAL 2

Burial 2 was a dark yellowish brown (10YR3/4) mottled clay stain surrounded by compact yellowish red (5YR5/6) clay subsoil (Figure 9). The long axis of the feature was oriented east-west, and the stain was roughly hexagonally shaped. Past construction episodes at the site truncated the eastern end of the grave. The entire grave shaft above the coffin had been removed, leaving the skeleton partially exposed. Though the shaft was disturbed, excavation revealed a coffin outline of indeterminate form. There were ten nails found around the base of the coffin stain. Two unmodified fieldstones were found in the grave shaft near the skull. These may have been used to support the coffin when it was originally interred.

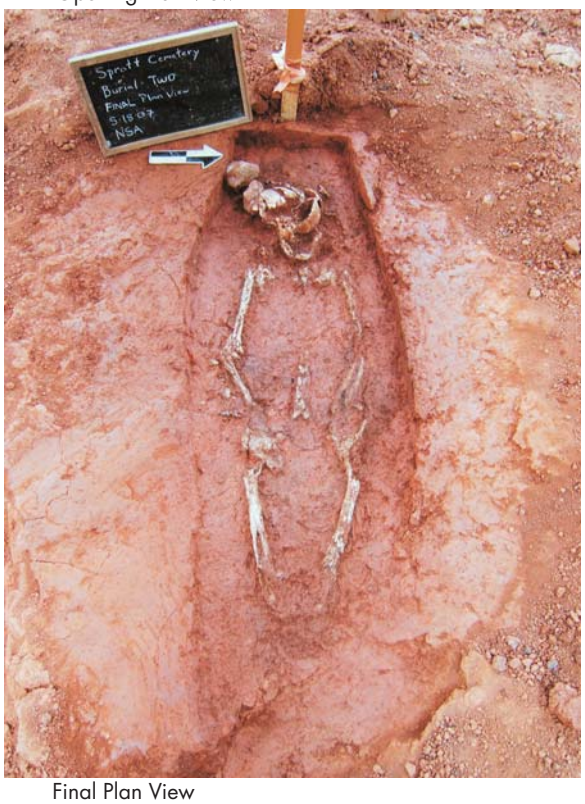
The remains of an elderly male were found within the coffin stain. This individual was buried in a supine position with the skull, shoulders, and pelvis on the base of the coffin. The cranium was disarticulated with the top of the vault (~bregma) lying on the base of the coffin and the face pointing toward the southeast. This disarticulation was most likely due to settling during decomposition. The arms were extended down the sides of the body with the hands resting on the pelvis. Though disturbances had removed the lower legs, rendering their placement unknowable, the upper legs were clearly extended. A total of six cupreous straight pins, representing fasteners for a shroud, were recovered; one was found on the frontal, two were on the left parietal, another was under the chin; one was on the left arm and a final one on the right. No other clothing or personal adornments were recovered.

A partially intact skeleton represented Burial 2. Despite being disturbed by construction, many of the major skeletal elements were still present. An average skeletal condition score of 6.7 indicated that the skeleton was severely decomposed. Most bones were shattered with the worst damage associated with the collapse of the underlying trabecular structure. Edges of the bone had shattered into square and longitudinal pieces, and most exhibited erosion. The ribs, clavicles, and upper vertebrae had completely decomposed, and the hands were too deteriorated to identify unique elements. No evidence of animal activity was noted on the skeleton.

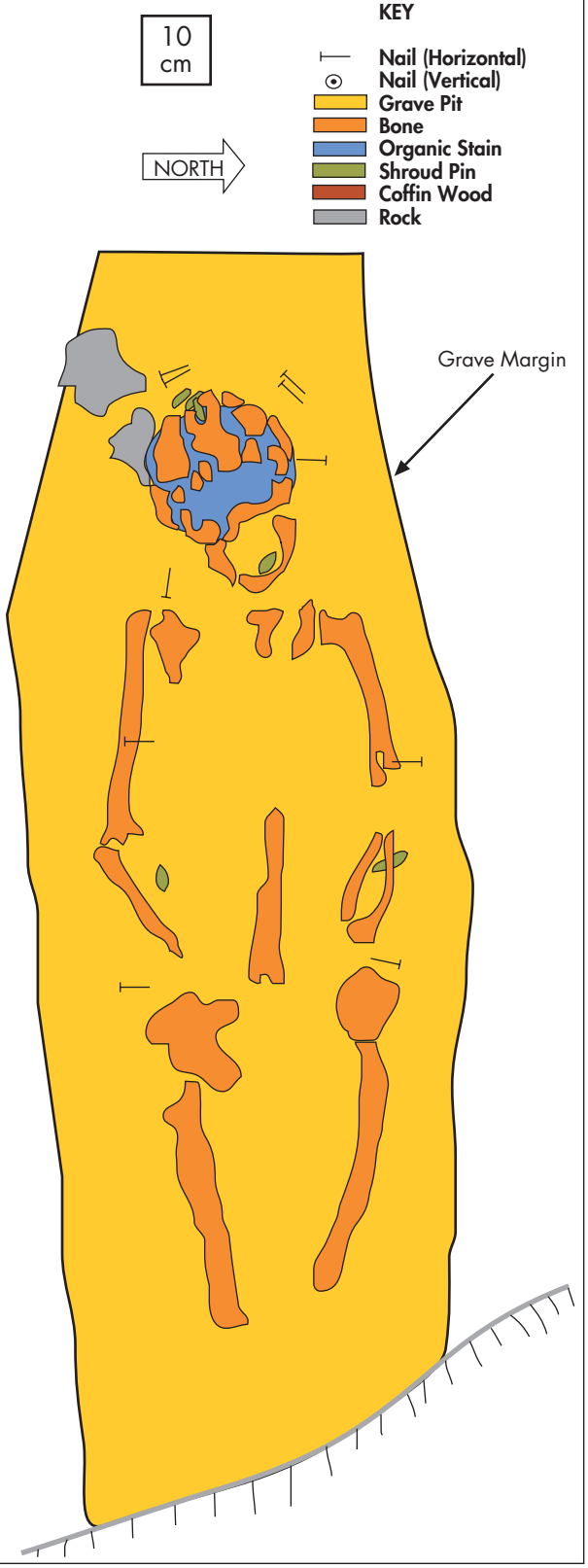
Though preservation did not allow for metric examination, some sexually dimorphic observation sites could be scored. Skeletal morphology suggests that this individual was a male. The left mastoid process tended towards a robust build and projected outward. The occipital exhibited a

Figure 9.
Photographs and Plan View of Burial 2

Opening Plan View



Final Plan View



strong nuchal line, and the pelvis displayed a very narrow sciatic notch. Though the mandible was badly eroded, the overall shape implied a square and robust mental eminence. These are features commonly associated with the male phenotype.

Age at death was established by noting the degree of skeletal degeneration - a result of normal wear and tear during the individual's life. The interment exhibited only two indicators of his age at death. Burial 2 was edentulous with complete alveolar resorption of the former root cavities. Also, the temporomandibular joint (TMJ) exhibited wear, polishing and slight porosity. These features are indicators of tissue loss associated with Degenerative Joint Disease (DJD). Dental loss and DJD are both consistent with skeletal degeneration features found among older individuals. Burial 2 was judged to be a mature adult individual at his time of death.

BURIAL 3

Burial 3 was defined as a dark yellowish brown (10YR3/4) mottled clay stain surrounded by compact yellowish red (5YR5/6) clay subsoil (Figure 10). The long axis of the feature was oriented east-west, and the stain formed a well-defined linear hexagon. The interior of this feature revealed a faint hexagonal coffin outline with the widest part appearing near the elbows. Two highly decayed sections of coffin wood were still present within the grave - one near the right hip and one in the northeast corner. The remaining outline was confirmed by the distribution of 25 nails along the top and base of the receptacle. The coffin outline indicated that its makers had over-dug the grave pit's length by almost 50 centimeters. A small, unmodified fieldstone was uncovered near the southwest corner of the grave. This stone may have been used to support the coffin when the individual was originally interred.

The remains of an adult possible male were found within Burial 3. This individual was buried fully extended in the supine position with the skull lying face up. The arms were positioned straight down his sides, and his legs were fully extended to the east. Three cupreous straight pins, representing the fasteners for a shroud, were uncovered on the skull; one was found on the frontal and two were recovered on the right parietal. No other clothing or personal adornments were recovered.

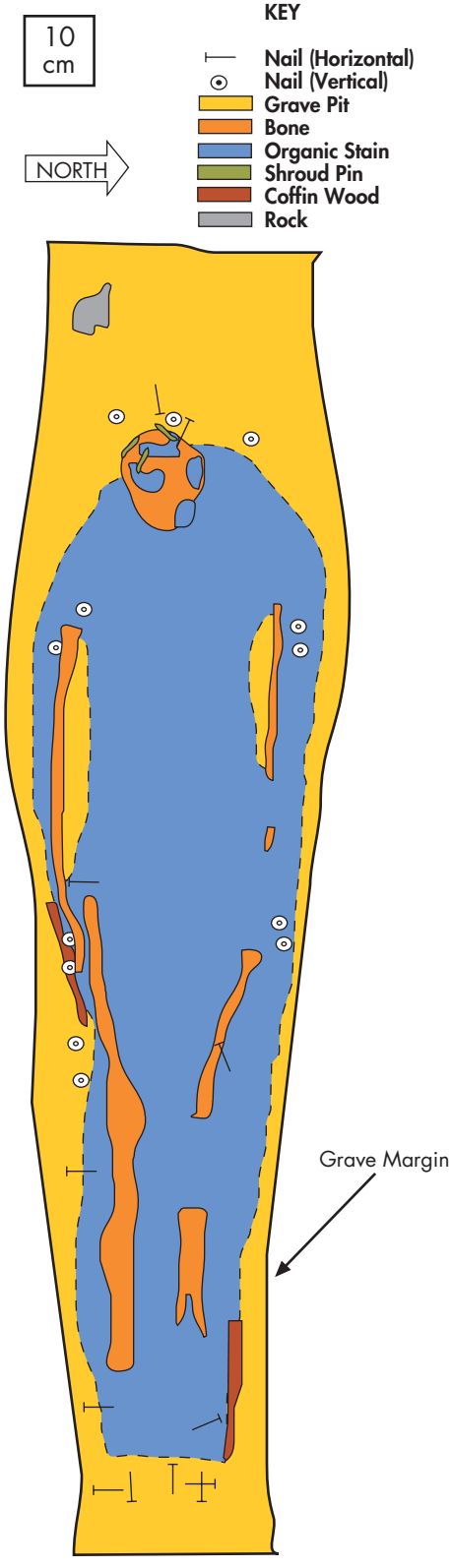
Burial 3 was very poorly preserved, with only portions of the cranium and long bones available for examination. An average skeletal condition score of 7.4 indicated that the skeleton had largely disintegrated. All the skeleton's trabecular bone had decomposed, and the remaining cortex, largely from the more robust long bones, was extremely weathered and had shattered in place. The cranium was in slightly better shape with about half the vault retaining enough mechanical integrity to be recovered in one piece. The ribs, vertebrae, pelvis, clavicles, and scapulae had completely disintegrated.

Despite these preservation issues, Burial 3 still exhibited two skeletal markers associated with the male phenotype. The occipital possessed a very strong nuchal crest and a well-marked zygomatic ridge. These features alone were not enough to confidently classify Burial 3's sex; this individual was identified as a possible male.

Figure 10.
Photographs and Plan View of Burial 3

Opening Plan View

Final Plan View



Age at death was determined using cranial suture closure and dental wear. Moderate dentin exposure, associated with normal wear and tear on teeth during an individual's lifetime, was consistent with what a middle-aged individual would be expected to possess. Ectocranial sutures at the midlambdoidal, obelion, anterior sagittal, bregma and midcoronal sites generally revealed a less than 50-percent synestosis. Using a two-sigma standard deviation, suture closure placed this individual between 21 and 51 years of age. An examination of the endocranial surface for these same sites uncovered complete obliteration of the suture line. There were several large arachnoid depressions on the interior surface of the vault. These pits, associated with the arachnoid granulations, which served to filter the cerebrospinal fluid, increase in size and density with age (Mann and Murphy 1990:33). These observations imply that the individual was probably at the latter end of the ectocranial suture age range when he died.

BURIAL 4

From the exposed surface, Burial 4 was a very poorly defined dark yellowish brown (10YR3/4) mottled clay stain in a compact yellowish red (5YR5/6) clay subsoil (Figure 11). Slightly darker stains, forming linear margins along the north side of the interment and again along the southeastern side, were noted. Another line, identified mostly from changes in soil density, was traced along the western side of the interment. The morphology of these margins were consistent with grave shaft edges seen elsewhere on 31MK1081**; however, there were brick and nail fragments in the soils above and immediately surrounding the interment. These indicated that it had been disturbed by past construction events. While remnants of the original grave pit margin were probably represented, these events rendered the grave shaft's shape as undeterminable. No coffin outline could be discerned. A light patina of very dark brown (10YR2/2) highly deteriorated coffin wood overlay some undisturbed portions of the skeleton. The base of the grave revealed fourteen horizontally oriented nails. These artifacts confirmed the presence of a coffin and defined its general edges, but the coffin's shape could not be positively identified. The long axis of the grave was oriented in an east-west plane.

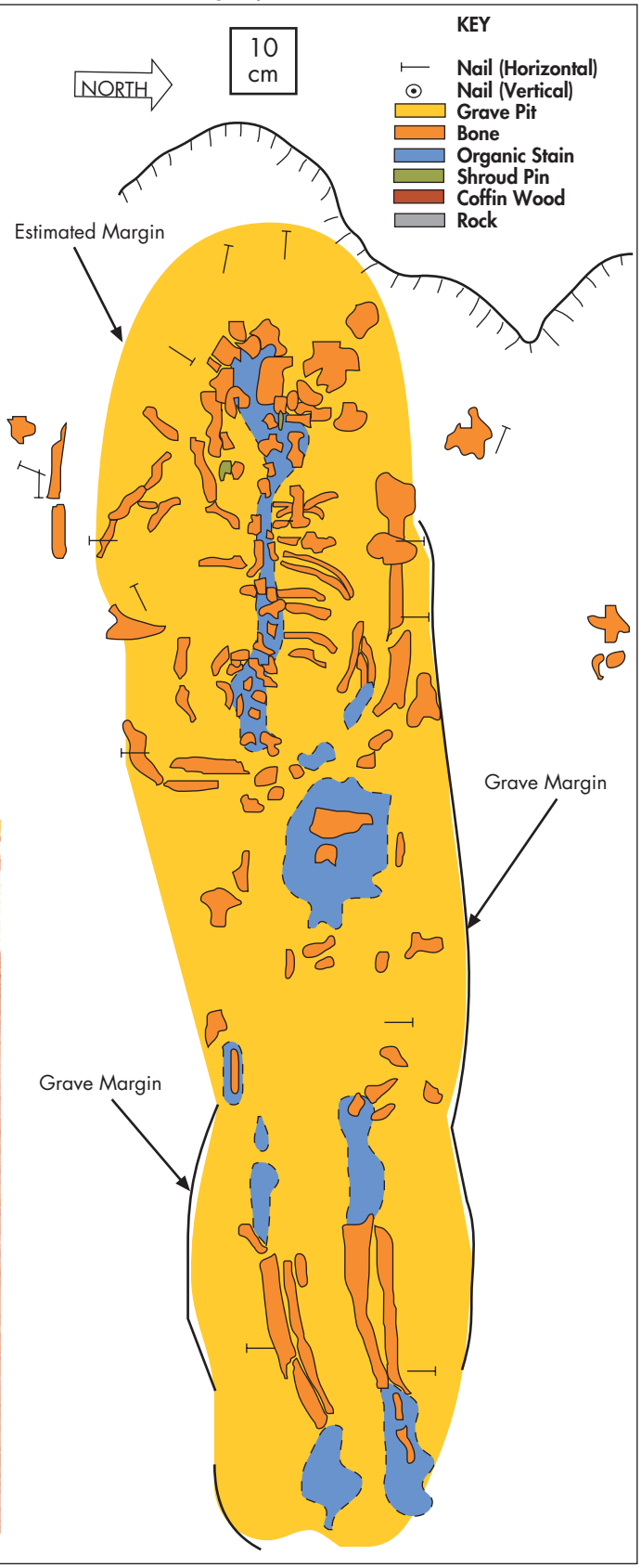
This feature held the remains of an adult male. Burial 4 was buried lying in the supine position with his shoulders, pelvis, and heels resting on the base of the coffin. The skull was at the west end of the interment, and the face pointed towards the north. The right arm was folded so that the hand rested on the belly. The lower left arm was not present for observation. The legs were both fully extended, and the feet had flattened towards the east. Two cupreous straight pins, representing fasteners for a shroud, were recovered with the skeleton. One was found lying on a cervical vertebra, and the other was found loose in the fill near the mandible.

Burial 4 was the best-preserved skeleton in the cemetery. However, disturbances had left most of the bones cracked and broken. Average skeletal preservation was a 5.4, indicating the skeleton was in a decomposed state. Nearly all of the major skeletal elements were present but were in fragmentary condition. Cortical surfaces exhibited a general loss of periosteal surface, and distinct erosional pits were observed throughout the skeleton. Most of the trabecular regions were compromised and, at best, were incompletely represented. Many of the small, dense, and irregularly shaped elements, including the vertebrae, ribs, scapulae and phalanges, were present but only in a very fragmentary state. Fragmentary bone margins were examined. Many pieces had broken into square or rectangular bits, indicative of chronic mechanical failure in an archaeological environment; however, other portions exhibited sharp transverse and obliquely

Figure 11.
Photographs and Plan View of Burial 4

Opening Plan View

Final Plan View



oriented breaks, the result of mechanical failure from exposure to an acutely applied force. These fractures were notably absent in remains that had been displaced by previous disturbances, implying that this damage was not the result of the most recent construction project.

Burial 4 contained the remains of a 30-70 year old male. In general, the skeleton exhibited a robust structure and well marked muscle attachment sites. While the brow ridge was not well developed, the occipital's nuchal ridge was robust, and the mastoids were large and projected outward. The innominate's sciatic notch was very narrow. Metrically, the scapula's glenoid cavity length was 39.34 millimeters, the mandibular gonial angle approached 90 degrees, and the right femoral midshaft diameter was 101 millimeters. These features are commonly associated with a male phenotype.

Age at death was established using cranial suture fusion, dental wear, and general skeletal degeneration. Ectocranial suture closure at the midlambdoid, lamda, bregma and midcoronal observation sites indicated obliteration of the suture line. Using a two-sigma standard deviation ectocranial suture closure placed the age at death between 30 and 70 years of age. Dental wear was moderate with some dentin exposure on most of the teeth recovered. There was some well developed arthritic lipping around the edge of the scapula's glenoid fossa, and the fossa's base had an elevated excavation around one centimeter in diameter. This osteoclastic response was probably associated with some form of cartilage deterioration. In addition, the temporo-mandibular joint (TMJ) was relatively deep, probably the result of changes in mechanical stress in the oral cavity. These features are all indicators of tissue loss associated with Degenerative Joint Disease (DJD), and are consistent with skeletal degeneration features found among older individuals. The individual in Burial 4 probably died closer to the latter rather than the former end of the age-at-death range.

Most of this individual's dentition was available for examination. Notably absent were the mandibular second premolars. Hillson (1996:113) has noted that these are among the most commonly congenitally absent teeth. The first and second left maxillary molars, both mandibular second premolars, and the third right mandibular molar were lost premortem, and the corresponding alveolar bone around the dental sockets had completely resorbed. The right first maxillary premolar was chipped and exhibited a little more wear than in the surrounding teeth. Slight calculus deposits were identified on the labial side of the right maxillary and mandibular molars. These observations indicated that the oral environment was responding to a variety of factors including genetic, traumatic, and pathogenic agents.

While there were no indications of life-threatening chronic health problems in the Burial 4 skeleton, a partially remodeled periosteal lesion on the anterior lateral midshaft of the left tibia was noted. These nonspecific skeletal responses to stress are extremely common in the tibae where isolated lesions usually are the result of minor trauma (Mann and Murphy 1990:109). They are extremely common in the historic and prehistoric skeletons of peoples living in rural environments.

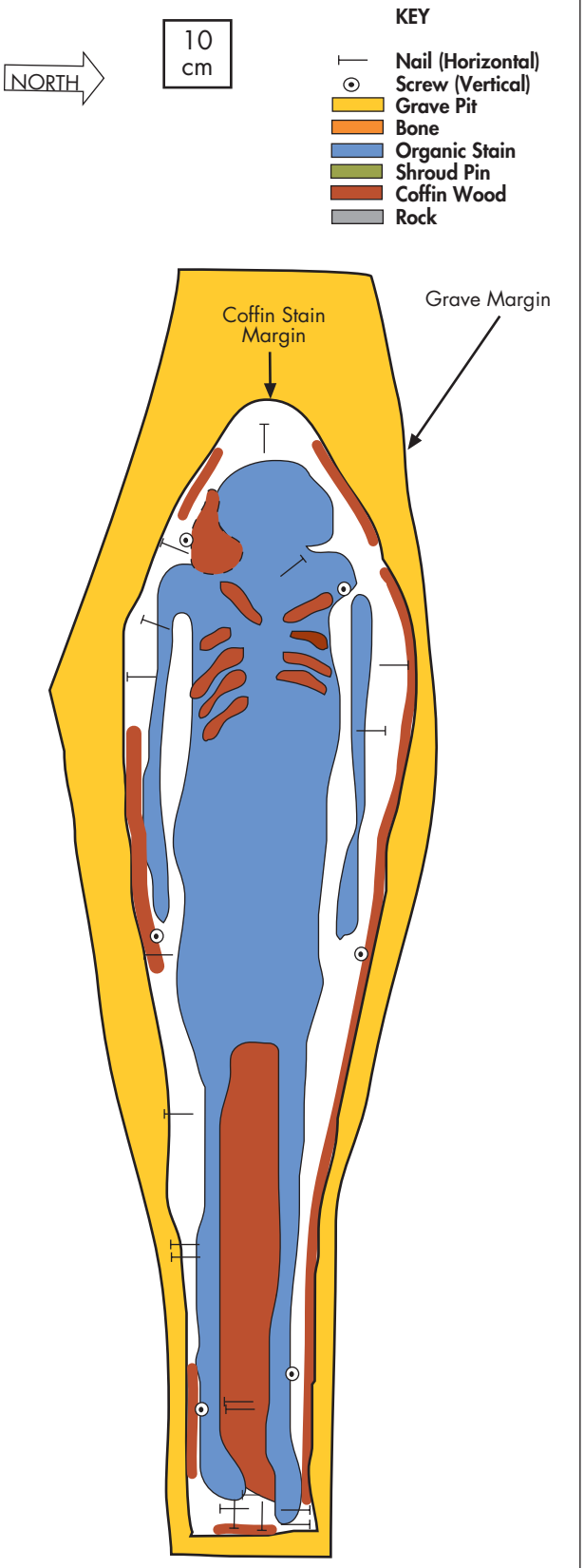
BURIAL 5

Burial 5 was a dark yellowish brown (10YR3/4) mottled clay stain embedded in a compact yellowish red (5YR5/6) clay subsoil (Figure 12). The grave shaft stain appeared as a linear hexagon and was very well marked at the western end. The long axis of the grave was placed in

Figure 12.
Photographs and Plan View of Burial 5

Opening Plan View

Final Plan View



an east-west orientation. No clear coffin stain could be visually discerned within the grave shaft; however, an abrupt change in soil density was traced. As excavations continued, this margin corresponded with a vertically oriented brownish yellow (10YR6/6) stain, interpreted as the margins of the coffin (Similar stains to these were also found underneath the interment and are believed to represent the coffin's base). This was confirmed by the coinciding arrangement of six vertically oriented screws, originally used to attach the coffin lids to its sides, and 19 horizontal nails, distributed largely around the receptacle's base. These features indicated that the coffin was hexagonally shaped with the widest part being between the shoulders and elbows.

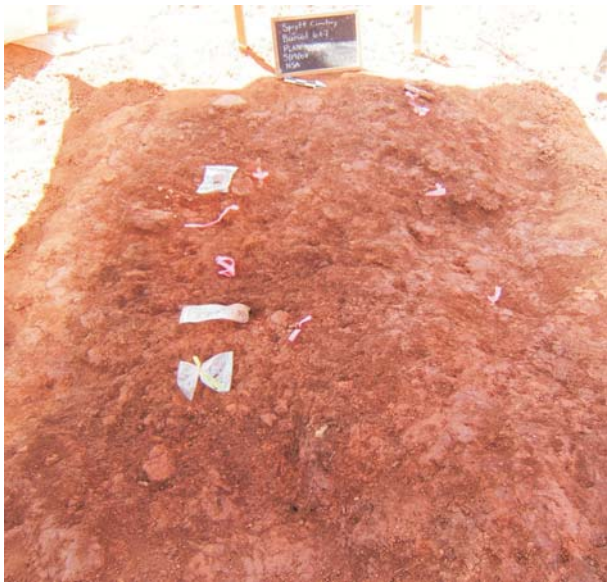
Burial 5 probably held the remains of an adult. The individual was buried in a supine position with the legs extending to the east, arms extended down their sides. The head appeared to have rested facing north. No clothing or personal adornments were recovered. Very little could be ascertained about Burial 5. An average skeletal condition score of 7.5 indicated that the individual had largely disintegrated. A light scatter of badly decomposed bone fragments and an organic stain represented the internment. Only a general outline of the individual was visible; it provided enough detail to delineate the major skeletal elements. None of the bones were measurable or observable. A concentration of highly eroded dental enamel was noted in the northern mass of the skull. It included several premolars, but the remains were too friable for recovery and examination. These teeth indicated that the individual was at least five or six years old; however, the general size of the body (body length estimated to be 165 centimeters or about 5.7 feet) is more in keeping with adult ranges. Burial 5's sex could not be established from the materials present.

BURIAL 6/7

Burial 6/7 was originally identified as a concentration of human remains and artifacts within a tenuously defined area (Figure 13). A closer examination revealed the area to consist of loose, highly disturbed clay-like subsoils. This matrix expressed a slightly darker reddish brown (5YR4/4) color than the surrounding undisturbed compact yellow red (5YR5/6) clay subsoil. The loose matrix was carefully excavated, with the location of all artifacts and bones being recorded before removal. Excavation proceeded through the loose fill with the intent of defining where undisturbed deposits were encountered. These deposits, however, were never encountered. The loose matrix gave way to a uniformly undisturbed floor of yellowish red clay subsoil. All materials associated with these individuals had been disturbed from their primary context.

Artifacts from Burial 6/7 portrayed two distinct temporal representations. Three complete or fragmentary wrought nails consistent with those recovered from other graves at 31MK1081** were identified. These were probably also nineteenth-century coffin nails (See Chapter XIII). In addition, four exceptionally well-preserved machine headed cut nails were recovered. These large (10 and 12 pennyweight) fasteners fell within the range commonly used for architectural construction purposes (Jurney 1987). The development of mechanized nail heading occurred during the 1830s, and they were the dominant nail form until the late nineteenth century (Adams 2002; Nelson 1968). The absence of wire nails in the deposit may indicate that the disturbance responsible for disturbing Burial 6/7 and depositing these nails was a nineteenth century phenomenon.

Figure 13.
Photographs and Plan View of Burial 6/7



Opening Plan View

Final Plan View

The distribution of human remains within the burial area was examined for any spatial patterning, but none could be discerned. The secondary nature of the human skeletal deposit precluded examining these remains as individuals; instead, they were approached as an assemblage (Table 4). A total of 34 fragments, representing materials excavated during the recovery and recovered during the initial exposure, were examined. Cranial materials represented over 90 percent of the assemblage. There were no duplicated skeletal portions, indicating an empirical Minimum Number of Individuals (MNI) of one.

Table 4. Skeletal Representation from Burial 6/7

Element (Fragment)	Count
Cranial Vault Chip	17
Frontal	2
Parietal (Unsided)	3
Temporal (Left)	2
Temporal (Right)	1
Temporal (Unsided)	1
Zygomatic (Unsided)	1
Maxilla (Right)	1
- 1st Premolar	(1)
- 2nd Premolar	(1)
- 1st Molar	(1)
Molar (Indet.)	1
Canine (Maxillary, Left)	1
1st Incisor (Mandibular, Right)	1
Long Bone Chip	2
Femur, Right	1
Total Number of Fragments	34

Morphological characteristics within the assemblage were examined. Many of the elements represented were robust with well-developed muscle attachment sites. A femoral midshaft diameter of 98 millimeters fell within the range of an adult male phenotype. In contrast, other remains were very small and exhibited a more gracile morphology. They were believed to have come from a female or a subadult. All teeth exhibited complete development. Teeth from the maxilla and the molar fragment exhibited minor cusp wear and lack of dentin exposure. Wear among the remaining teeth exhibited a moderate amount of dentin exposure. These suggest that at least two dental arcades, each expressing varying degrees of exposure to abrasives, are represented. In all likelihood, two individuals, a male and a female/subadult are present in the Burial 6/7 assemblage.

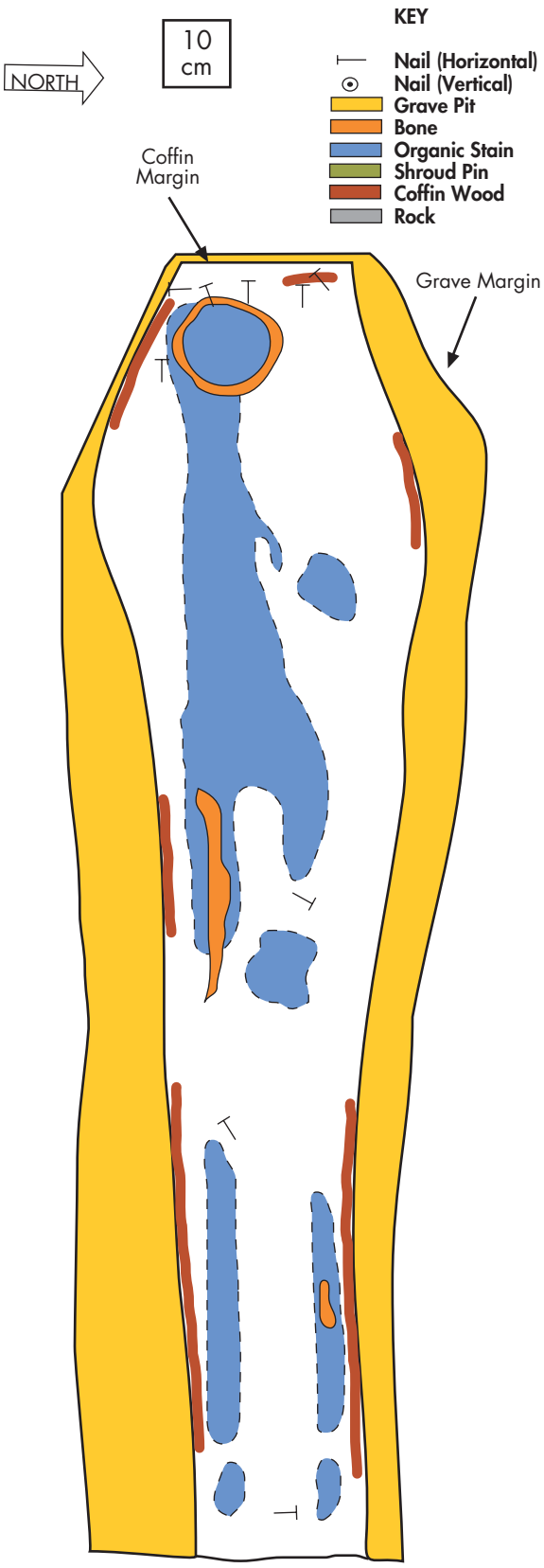
BURIAL 8

Burial 8 appeared as a highly mottled dark yellowish brown (10YR3/4), reddish brown (5YR4/4), and yellowish red (5YR5/6) clay stain surrounded by a more uniform colored compact yellowish red (5YR5/6) clay subsoil (Figure 14). The feature was oriented in an east-west plane,

Figure 14.
Photographs and Plan View of Burial 8

Opening Plan View

Final Plan View



and the stain took the shape of a poorly definable hexagon. The interior of this feature revealed a faint hexagonal coffin outline with the widest part appearing to be near the shoulders. Several brownish yellow (10YR6/6) vertical stains, interpreted as highly decayed sections of coffin wood, were still present. They and the remaining nine nails around the base of the receptacle were used to confirm the size and shape of the coffin. Burial 8 was extremely shallow. Less than five-to-seven centimeters of the original deposit remained. Previous disturbances had served to remove all but the basal portion of the interment.

Burial 8's form was only partially defined. Only the top of the skull, portions of the right femur and left tibia and a few organic stains were present. From these, it could be ascertained that this individual was probably buried fully extended in the supine position. The legs were probably fully extended. The skull had settled on its calva. It therefore was not in its original anatomical position and could not be accurately oriented. No clothing or personal adornments were recovered.

Burial 8's poor representation resulted in an average skeletal condition score of 7.6, indicating that the skeleton had largely disintegrated. The human component was largely defined by an organic stain. The remaining bone fragments were extremely weathered and had shattered in place. None of these fragments were measurable or possessed diagnostic observation sites. In general, the remains tended to be fully developed, gracile and not well muscled. The coffin length (190 centimeters) implied an adult stature. Burial 8 may represent the remains of an adolescent or an adult female.

BURIAL 9

Burial 9 was a sharply defined dark yellowish brown (10YR3/4) linear hexagonal clay stain surrounded by compact yellowish red (5YR5/6) clay subsoil (Figure 15). The widest point along the long axis was close to the feature's midline. The long axis of the feature was oriented east-to-west. The interior of this feature revealed a faint hexagonal outline with the widest part appearing to be near the interment's shoulders. A patina of very dark brown decayed matter, interpreted as partially disintegrated wood, conformed to this general outline. This probably represented the receptacle's lid. The coffin's outline was again confirmed by the distribution of 26 nails along the fixture's top and base. A second patina of wood was found underneath the interment; this probably represented the base of the coffin. The eastern end of the grave shaft had been removed by a twentieth-century builder's trench. This disturbance, however, did not substantially intrude into the coffin or human remains.

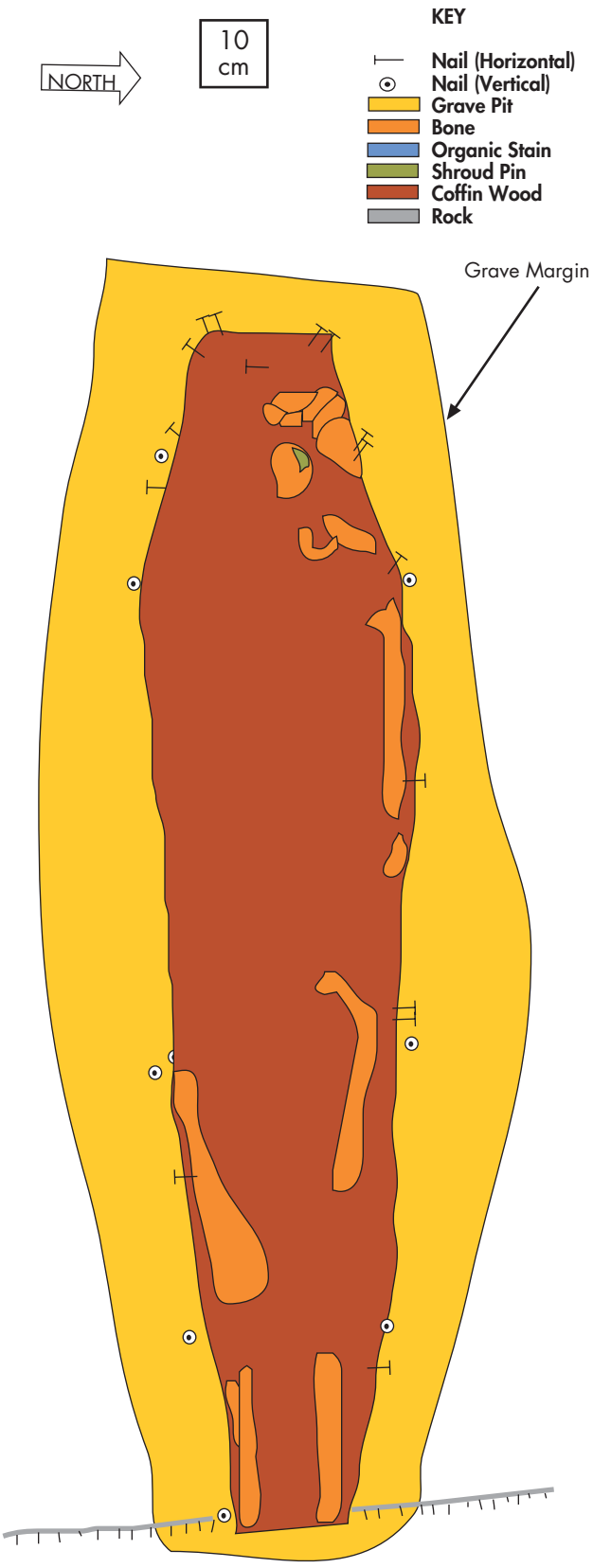
The remains of an adult possible female were found in Burial 9. This individual was buried fully extended in the supine position with the skull facing to the north. The arms were positioned straight down her sides, and her legs were fully extended to the east. A single cupreous straight pin, representing a shroud fastener, was uncovered on the skull's right temporal. No other clothing or personal adornments were recovered.

Burial 9 was very poorly preserved, with only the cranium and long bones available for examination. The average skeletal condition score of 7.2 indicated that the skeleton had largely disintegrated. Nearly all of the trabecular bone had decomposed, and the remaining cortex, those of the more robust long bones, was extremely weathered and had shattered in place. The cranium had collapsed and was shattered into many small heavily weathered pieces. The remaining

Figure 15.
Photographs and Plan View of Burial 9

Opening Plan View

Final Plan View



skeletal material was within the general size ranges of adults, but the muscle attachments and markings tended towards a more gracile morphology. These features alone were not enough to confidently classify Burial 9's sex; it was identified as a possible female.

Age at death was determined using cranial suture closure and dental features. Ectocranial sutures at the midlambdoidal, obelion, bregma and midcoronal sites revealed a lack of synestosis. Using a two-sigma standard deviation, suture closure placed this individual between 12.8 and 42 years of age. Burial 9 exhibited a fully erupted adult dental arcade. The presence of erupted third molars ('wisdom teeth') indicated that the individual was at least 17 years old when she died. Minor dentin exposures, associated with normal wear and tear on teeth during an individual's lifetime, were noted on the first and second molars while later erupting teeth, including the premolars and third molars, exhibited only slight cusp wear. This pattern was consistent with what a young adult individual would be expected to possess. Burial 9's age at death was placed at between 17 and 42 years old.

BURIAL 10

Burial 10 appeared as a dark yellowish brown (10YR3/4) mottled clay stain in a compact yellowish red (5YR5/6) clay matrix (Figure 16). The stain formed a vaguely linear hexagon. The walls of the feature were vertical and scalloped. Presumably these scallops were tool marks left by the shaft's initial excavation. The long axis of Burial 10 was oriented east-west. The interior of this feature revealed a faint, hexagonal coffin outline with the widest part appearing between the shoulders and elbows. Several strips of vertically positioned, highly decayed brownish yellow (10YR6/6) wood were noted around the margins of the coffin outline. The outline's form was confirmed by the distribution of 31 nails along the top and base of the receptacle. The coffin outline was considerably smaller than the grave pit's length, indicating that it had been over-dug by almost 30 centimeters.

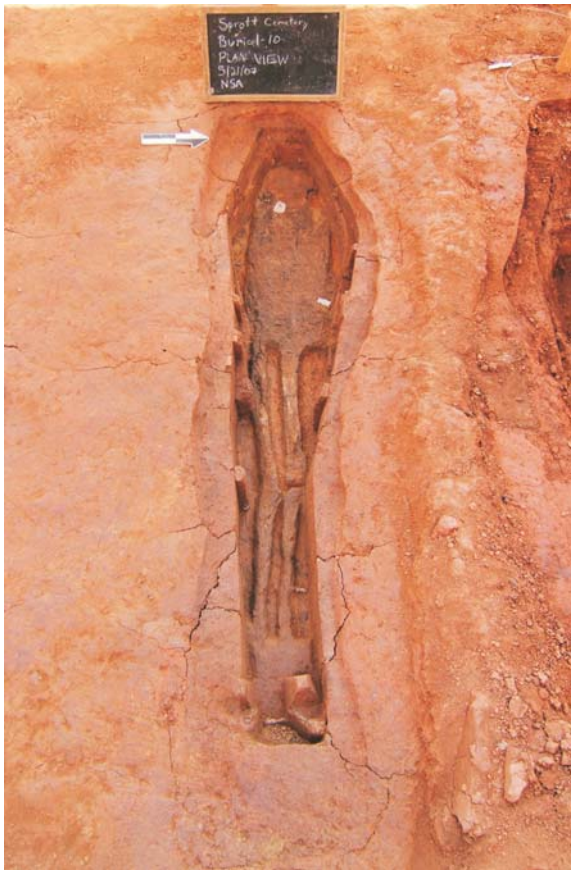
The remains of an adult possible male were found within Burial 10. This individual was buried fully extended in the supine position with the skull lying facing south. The arms were positioned so that the left hand was resting on the right chest and the right hand was placed on the left. This positioning allowed the body to fit into a seemingly very narrow coffin. The legs were fully extended and to the east. While poor skeletal preservation precluded an exact determination of the body length, Burial 10 appeared to have been placed in a coffin that was too long for him.

There was as much as 30 centimeters (about one foot) between the coffin margins and the interment's head and feet. Two cupreous straight pins, representing the fasteners for a shroud, were recovered; one was found at the base of the chin, and the other was by the left elbow. No other clothing or personal adornments were recovered.

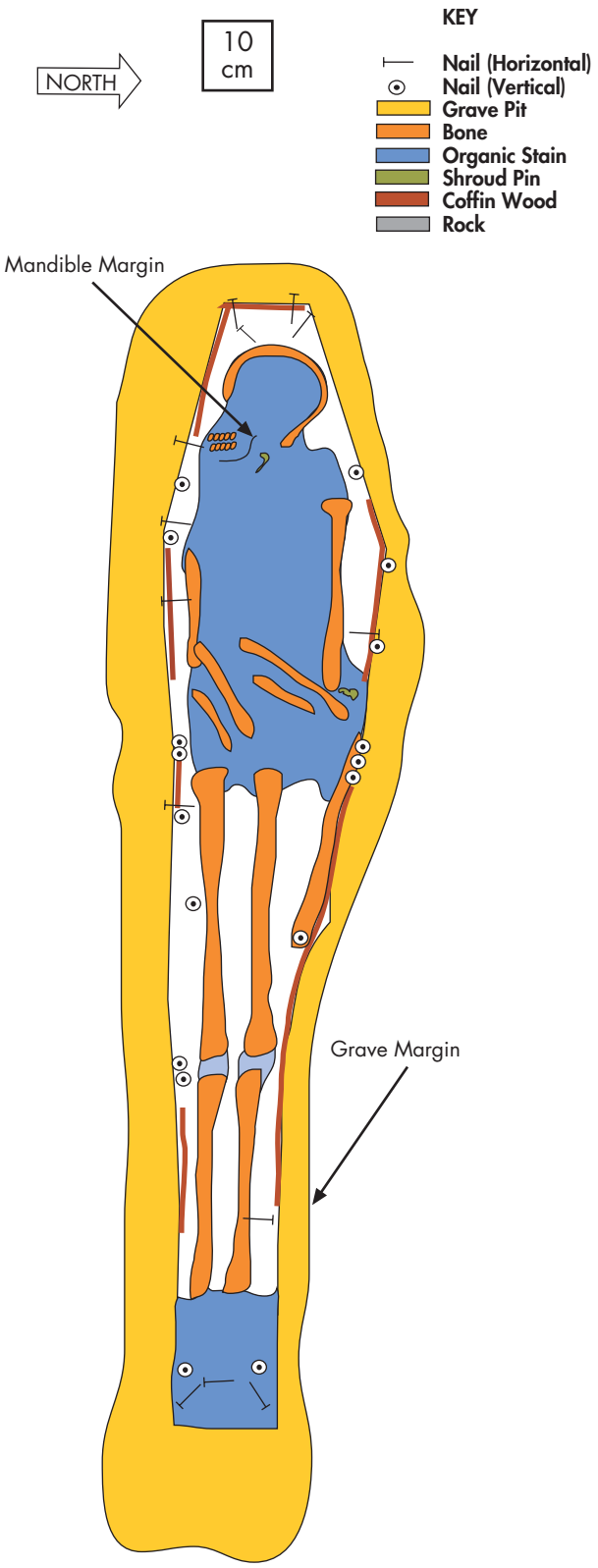
Burial 10 was very poorly preserved, with only the cranium and long bones available for examination. An average skeletal condition score of 6.6 indicated that the skeleton was severely decomposed. All the skeleton's trabecular bone had disintegrated, and the remaining cortex had shattered in place. The cranium was relatively intact but had shattered and collapsed in place. The majority of the human form was discerned more by organic stain than from recoverable bone.

Figure 16.
Photographs and Plan View of Burial 10

Opening Plan View



Final Plan View



Only some general age and sex approximations could be made. Burial 10's skeletal elements tended to be large with robust morphological features. The occipital possessed a very strong nuchal crest. Though these features were not enough to confidently classify Burial 10's sex, it was identified as a possible male. Wear on the molars and premolars indicated that these teeth had erupted but had not been exposed long enough for dentin to be exposed. This wear would be consistent with either an adolescent or young adult. It is doubtful that Burial 10 lived long enough to achieve middle age.

BURIAL 11

Burial 11 was defined as a uniformly colored dark yellowish brown (10YR3/4) clay stain surrounded by a yellowish red (5YR5/6) clay subsoil (Figure 17). The stain formed a well-defined rectangle with the long axis positioned in an east-west plane. The interior of this feature revealed a faint hexagonal coffin outline with the widest part near the elbows. Several sections of brownish yellow (10YR6/6) heavily decayed wood stains were present along the sides and in the base of the grave. The coffin's outline was confirmed by the distribution of 21 nails along the top and base of the receptacle. In addition, 13 nails were observed down the centerline of the coffin and on top of the interment. These are suspected to have held parts of the lid together. A single loose nail was found in the grave fill outside the coffin. It may represent an unintentional inclusion.

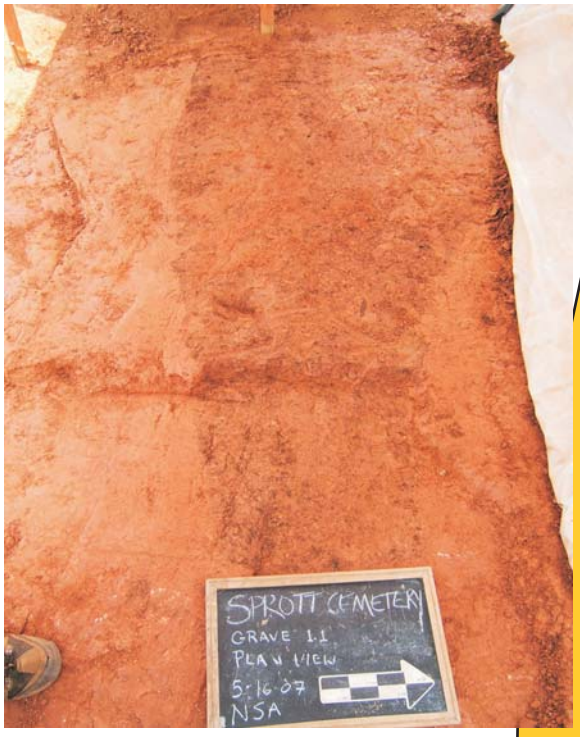
The remains of an adult female were found within Burial 11. This individual was buried fully extended in the supine position with the skull facing southeast. The arms were positioned straight down her sides with her right (and left?) hand on her belly. Burial 11's legs were fully extended to the east. The fragments of three cupreous straight pins, representing the fasteners for a shroud, were uncovered around her skull; one was found on the frontal, one by the mandible and the third was discovered by her left temporal. No other clothing or personal adornments were recovered.

Burial 11 was largely represented by her cranium and long bones. An average skeletal condition score of 6.7 indicated that the skeleton was severely decomposed. Very little trabecular bone had survived, and the remaining cortex had shattered in place and was extremely weathered. The cranium had shattered in place and was represented only by many small fragments of heavily eroded bone. An organic stain defined much of the body's outline.

Despite these preservation issues, Burial 11 still exhibited a number of skeletal markers that are associated with the female phenotype. The skeleton exhibited a fully developed but very slight morphology. The bones did not appear to be well muscled. The cranial profile was rounded, lacking a strong nuchal line and the adult teeth tended to be small. These gracile features, while not conclusive, were consistently represented among the remains; they led the researchers to classify Burial 11 as a female.

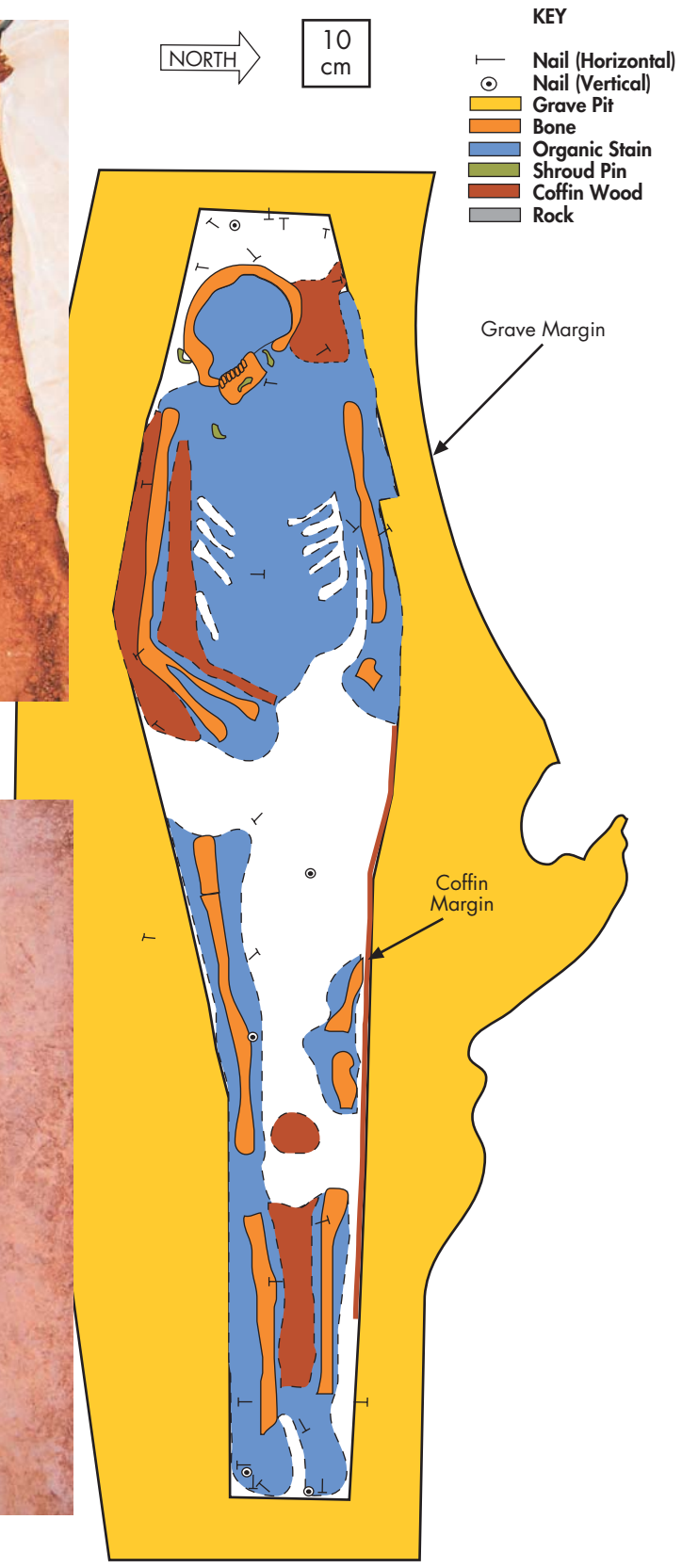
Age at death and quality of health were approximated from the dental arcade. Eruption and wear of the premolars and canine indicated that an adult dental arcade had developed prior to death. While no third molars ('wisdom teeth') were present, Hillson (1996:113) notes that congenital absence can run as high as 33% in some populations. Their absence cannot be assumed to be age-related. Minor dentin exposure among the incisors, first molars and canines indicated exposure to abrasives long enough to wear the teeth. These were conditions more expected among

Figure 17.
Photographs and Plan View of Burial 11



Opening Plan View

Final Plan View



adults, particularly younger to middle aged adults. The individual in Burial 11 most likely died in early to middle adulthood. The mandibular molars exhibited dental caries on the occlusal surfaces, and an abscess had removed a portion of the dental enamel in the adjoining interproximal space. Hypoplasial bands were noted on the left maxillary first incisor and second molar. While indicative that Burial 11 had been exposed to pre- and perimortem stress agents, there is no indication that they were directly related to her cause of death.

BURIAL 12

Burial 12 was defined as a brownish yellow (10YR6/6) and dark yellowish brown (10YR3/4) mottled clay stain in compact yellowish red (5YR5/6) clay subsoil (Figure 18). The stain was poorly defined, consisting of several contrasting colored margins forming an irregular linear hexagon. This stain's long surfaces were generally oriented east-west. In particular, the northern side exhibited several exaggerated feature margins; these were believed to represent heavy equipment tool marks and probably were not part of the original shaft. No reliable coffin outline could be positively discerned; however, a scatter of nine horizontally placed nails, mostly along the southern margin of the grave, verified that the interment had indeed been placed in a coffin.

Very little could be ascertained about the individual found within Burial 12. Prior disturbances had removed or displaced the majority of the skeleton. The individual appeared to be buried in a supine position with the head at the west end. The right arm was fully extended. No clothing or personal adornments were recovered.

Burial 12 was very poorly preserved, with only the cranium and long bones available for examination. Too little of the body remained in-situ to obtain an average skeletal condition score, but it was judged that the skeleton had largely disintegrated. All the skeleton's trabecular bone had completely decomposed, and the remaining cortex was badly shattered and weathered. An irregular organic stain surrounded all skeletal remains. The remains were too badly preserved to accurately draw any biological data. The humeral portion of the right arm appeared to be not well marked and gracile, but it was unclear if this was an expression of subadulthood or a very small feminine morphology. No accurate age or sex could be assigned to these remains.

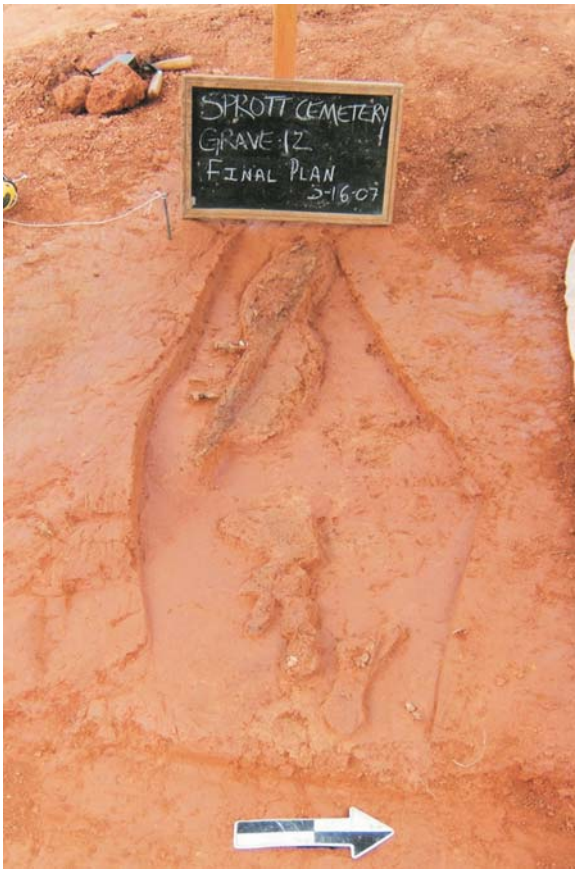
BURIAL 13

Burial 13 was defined as an irregularly shaped dark yellowish brown (10YR3/4) and brownish yellow (10YR6/6) mottled clay stain in a compact yellowish red (5YR5/6) clay subsoil matrix (Figure 19). The feature was linear, following an east-west orientation. There were a great number of tree roots in and surrounding the feature. Excavation revealed the feature to be little more than six centimeters deep, forming an irregular oval shaped, slightly incurvate pit. It was clear that most of the feature had been disturbed. Four degraded unmodified igneo-metamorphic rocks were identified in the fill; no cultural or human remains were positively identified.

While Burial 13's original form could not be discerned, its location, orientation and concentration of brownish yellow soil (organic stain?) were consistent with other mortuary features observed at 31MK1081**. Burial 13 was recorded and treated as a possible mortuary feature.

Figure 18.
Photographs and Plan View of Burial 12

Opening Plan View



Final Plan View

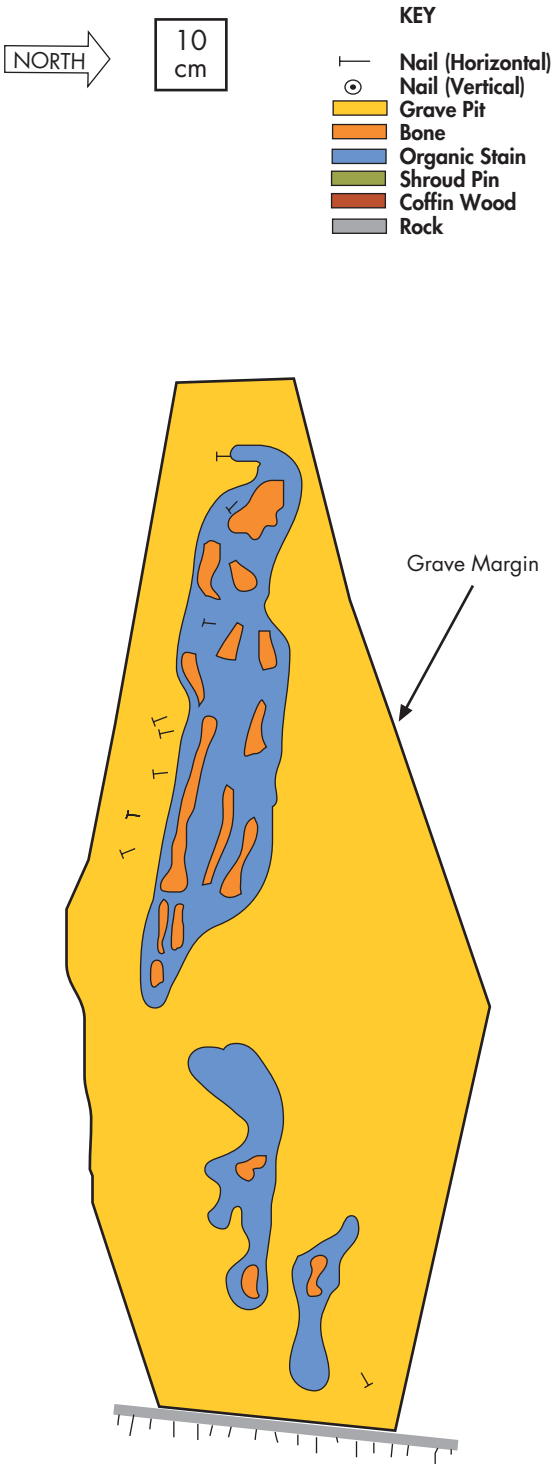
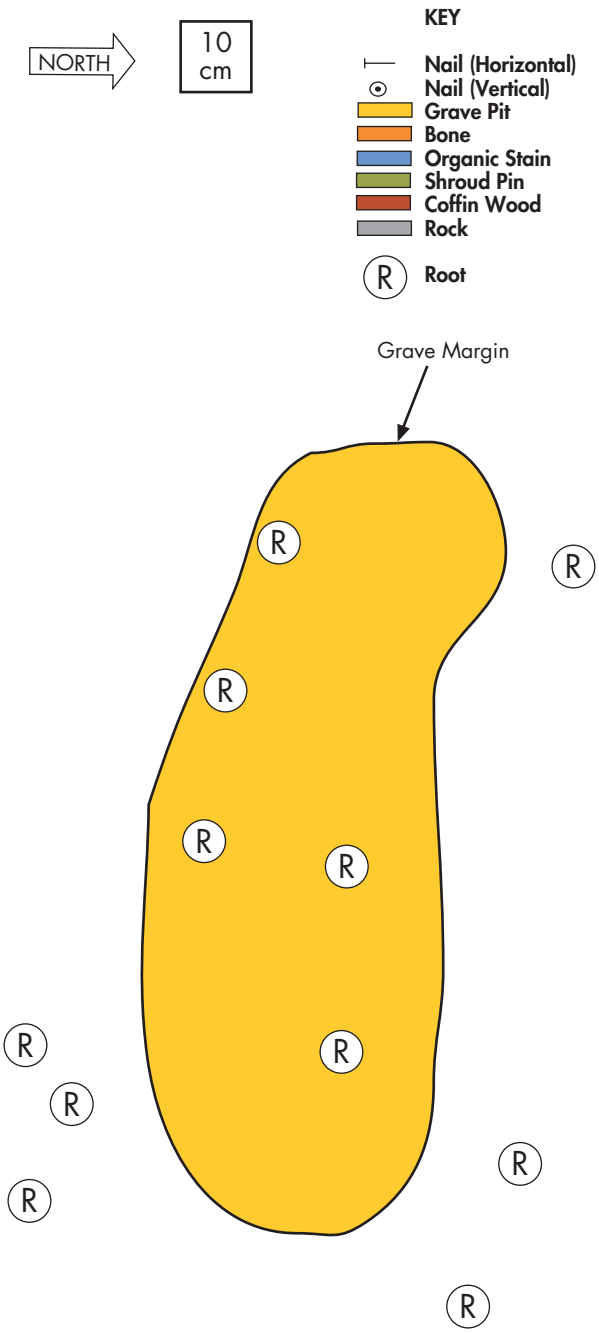


Figure 19.
Photographs and Plan View of Burial 13

Opening Plan View

Final Plan View



BURIAL 14

In addition to the 12 mortuary features recorded as 31MK1081**, a total of six isolated finds were discovered. These remains could not be confidently related back to any particular grave and most were believed to represent remains unintentionally disturbed in the past. They may represent graves that did not survive to the present day examination. The locations of these finds are recorded in Figure 8. All isolated finds were re-interred as Burial 14.

ISOLATED FIND 1

Isolated Find 1 was identified in the northeastern corner of the excavation area. It was found embedded in a loose fill. The area surrounding the find was trowelled down to the undisturbed subsoil to ascertain if a mortuary feature or other remains were present; however, none were identified. Isolated Find 1 consisted of the left distal shaft fragment from an adult humerus. The remains were heavily eroded, and there were several deep longitudinal erosion pits etched into the bone. The element's size and development indicated that it came from an adult. Muscle attachment and other morphological portions of the humerus were not well developed and tended towards gracility. It is likely that Isolated Find 1 came from an adult female.

ISOLATED FIND 2

Isolated Find 2 was located about 50 centimeters north of Isolated Find 1. It consisted of four unidentifiable cortical fragments from an unidentified long bone. The bones were severely eroded, etched, and no longer possessed their original surfaces. It is likely that they originally fit to form a single fragment.

The area around Isolated Find 2 was trowelled back and a small concentration of highly fragmentary bone was found embedded in redeposited fill. The concentration also represented an unidentified long bone. Most of the bone had disintegrated, leaving only highly weathered traces of an ecto-cortical surface. It is likely that materials found embedded and loose in the fill were from the same bone. No age or sex estimates could be drawn from Isolated Find 2. No material was found in the underlying undisturbed subsoil. Isolated Find 2's proximity to Isolated Find 1 may indicate that they were from the same interment.

ISOLATED FIND 3

Isolated Find 3 was recovered between Burials 12 and 13 in a loose fill lens. The area surrounding Isolated Find 3 was trowelled back to undisturbed subsoil, resulting in the discovery of Isolated Find 4 in the same loose fill containing Isolated 3. No features or other human remains were identified. Isolated Find 3 consisted of six heavily eroded cortical bone fragments, presumably from the same element. They were heavily weathered, pitted and their original surfaces had long since eroded away. Their general size and thickness suggested a femoral origin. No age or sex information could be gathered from these remains. Given that Burials 12 and 13 had been heavily disturbed, it is possible that Isolated Find 3 originated from one of these interments.

ISOLATED FIND 4

Isolated Find 4 was discovered in loose fill northwest of Burial 3. The surface around it was cleared to the subsoil, but no features or other remains were found. Two fragments were recovered. They both consisted of highly eroded, severely pitted long bone cortical shaft fragments. None of the original ecto-cortical surfaces survived. By general size, they appeared to represent adult remains, possibly from a femur, humerus, or tibia. Little else could be determined from them. It is possible that these remains originated in Burial 12 or 13.

ISOLATED FIND 5

Isolated Find 5 was identified near the north central side of the project area. It was found embedded in soil that had previously been disturbed. An examination of the undisturbed, underlying subsoil surface revealed no features or additional human remains. Isolated Find 5 was identified as the central shaft from a left tibia. The diaphysis had lost its original outer surface, and there were numerous longitudinal erosional pits running through it. The element was not very large and may have originated with a subadult or female. It may be related to the elements in Isolated Finds 1 and 2, or it could have come from Burial 6/7.

ISOLATED FIND 6

Isolated Find 6 was recovered about three meters northeast of Burial 6/7. It was found embedded in a chunk of previously disturbed fill. The surrounding area was trowelled back to the original undisturbed subsoil, but no additional remains or features were found in association with it. Isolated Find 6 was identified as the midshaft portion of a right radius. A moderate amount of leaching had removed portions of the cortical surface, but the bone was otherwise in relatively good shape. Isolated Find 6 was extremely robust. The bone was large and very well developed. The interosseous crest and associated attachment sites were extremely well marked. The morphology was consistent not only with the male phenotype, but also exhibited the type of development expected in an individual whose lifestyle promoted forearm muscle development (Krogman and Iscan 1986:405). The repetitive use of the forearm in occupations, including agriculture, mining, blacksmithing and carpentry, could have resulted in this type of development.

Figure 20.
Nathan Mountjoy and Jonathan Flood Excavate Burial 11

Figure 21.
Valerie Davis and Lindsay Smith Explain Burial Features to Visiting Sprott Descendants

VIII. ARTIFACTS

The durable remains recovered from historic cemeteries, such as the Sprott Cemetery, can provide a wealth of socio-cultural as well as historical information about how the mortuary assemblage was formed (Brown 1995; Warner 1959). Mortuary artifacts serve more than just utilitarian purposes – they are tangible forms of symbolic communication. By themselves or as components to more complex objects, mortuary artifacts possess shared meanings designed to help the observer interpret important cultural ideas about the dead and the burying community. The artifacts from 31MK1081** were examined to identify what material culture was available and then utilized as part of the depositing community's burial program. Artifacts were broken into three general categories (personal, funerary and burial artifacts), reflecting different dimensions of association with the dead and availability for interpretation by the funerary audience. There were six specific types of materials represented at the Sprott Cemetery.

PERSONAL ARTIFACTS

Personal artifacts were defined as those used to clothe, decorate and convey a social meaning when seen in direct association with the dead's physical remains. They communicate social meaning about the dead only when the dead are viewed. Personal artifacts recovered at the Sprott Cemetery were limited to pins. These artifacts indirectly indicated the presence of burial shrouds.

STRAIGHT PINS (BURIAL SHROUDS)

Cupreous stains, fragments, and complete artifacts indicated the presence of no less than 19 straight pins at 31MK1081**. At least one pin was recovered in nearly every grave exhibiting little to no disturbance. An unbroken pin from Burial 10 was recorded as 2.5 centimeters long. Straight pins manufactured during the eighteenth century consisted of a coil of wire wrapped around the shank of the pin shaft and then secured by hammering or stamping (Noël Hume 1969:254). Pinheads of this nature tend to be shaped like a flattened ball. Two-piece pins were in use throughout the colonial period until replaced by solid one-piece pins, patented in 1824 (Noël Hume 1969:254). Brass tended to be the preferred medium as it resisted rust and corrosion. Straight pins are relatively common eighteenth century mortuary artifacts. They were generally used to secure clothing, shrouds, or hair. Their presence in the Sprott Cemetery helps identify how the dead were attired.

Shrouds are traditional attire for the dead among Christian communities (Hodge 2005:79). With the sixteenth century introduction of the coffin as a common burial receptacle, ready-made burial clothing appeared (Litten 1992:57-72). Burial attire, particularly for those living and dying in more fashion-conscious segments of society, could be elaborate. Some surviving eighteenth and early nineteenth-century examples, like those recovered from the Christ Church, Spitalfields, England, were extremely ornate, featuring punched hole decorations, pleated ruffs and ribbon drawstrings (Molleson and Cox 1993:202-203). Formal coats and gowns are also not uncommon. These materials, however, were not commonly available outside of urban centers. In the frontier and rural areas of Colonial America, less ornate burial attire was more commonly used. Eighteenth-century

American shrouds tended to be relatively simple. They were generally made from linen or cerecloth and were fashioned to form a loose drape or used as winding sheets that were wrapped around the body (Coffin 1976:101; Leedecker 2001:5; King 1996:38-39). They were frequently not sewn together; rather, they were held in place by pins. Shrouds were usually tied below the wearer's feet (McKeown and Owsley 2002:84).

The cumulative distribution of straight pins was diagrammed to illustrate how they were being used (Figure 22). Pins used to secure clothing generally correspond to clothing attachment points, namely the central chest, waist, neck and cuff lines, while those associated with the hair tend to be found around or underneath the back portions of the skull and down the back. Pins from the Sprott Cemetery, however, were found exclusively around the face and elbows. Use of pins around the elbows may have served a dual purpose of securing cloth around these arms and helping the arms maintain a proper placement against the body. Pins around the face imply that the face was the last area covered. Pins were probably used to secure a face cloth or funeral napkin (Riordan 2009:89). During funeral rituals the deceased's face would be exposed and with the ritual's completion the napkin enabled the face to be covered. Seward (1921:291) viewed the funeral napkin as an allusion to the cloth placed around Jesus' face after crucifixion (See *John 20:7*).

FUNERARY ARTIFACTS

Funerary artifacts include materials and material components that are used to add social meaning about the dead in association with a body-enclosing container. They help convey information about the dead when the dead are placed in them. Unlike Personal Artifacts, the dead do not have to be visible for funerary artifacts to carry meaning. Funerary artifacts from the Sprott Cemetery include coffins and two tangible components of the coffin - nails and screws.

NAILS

A total of 186 nail and nail fragments were recovered from reliable mortuary contexts at the Sprott Cemetery. They were encountered in every grave containing human remains, indicating that the dead were uniformly buried in wooden coffins. Most nails were not well preserved. These iron artifacts were covered with a thick coating of iron oxide that obscured many of the surface features. While poor preservation prevented an accurate classification of every nail, each grave contained nails with enough features preserved to verify manufacturing and, ultimately, burial periods. All identifiable nails recovered at 31MK1081** were hand made wrought iron fixtures. Head forms included rose, L-head, T-head and finishing or unmodified heads. Nail tips were classified as either sharp or flat. Table 5 summarizes the nails by form. Among fully classifiable nails, sharp tipped rose head nails were the most commonly recovered form. T- and L-head and flat tipped nails were represented but in minor numbers. These nails indicated that coffins were not constructed using a single nail form. Nail lengths approximated the traditional 8d and 9d sizes. Nails of these sizes and forms were commonly used for construction purposes (Noël Hume 1969:252). Wrought nails were the only nail form available until the invention of cut nails in the 1770s (Adams 2002:67). Cut nails gradually replaced wrought nails as the dominant fastener form in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries (Adams 2002:67-68; Nelson 1968:6-7).

Figure 22.
Cumulative Distribution of Shroud Pins

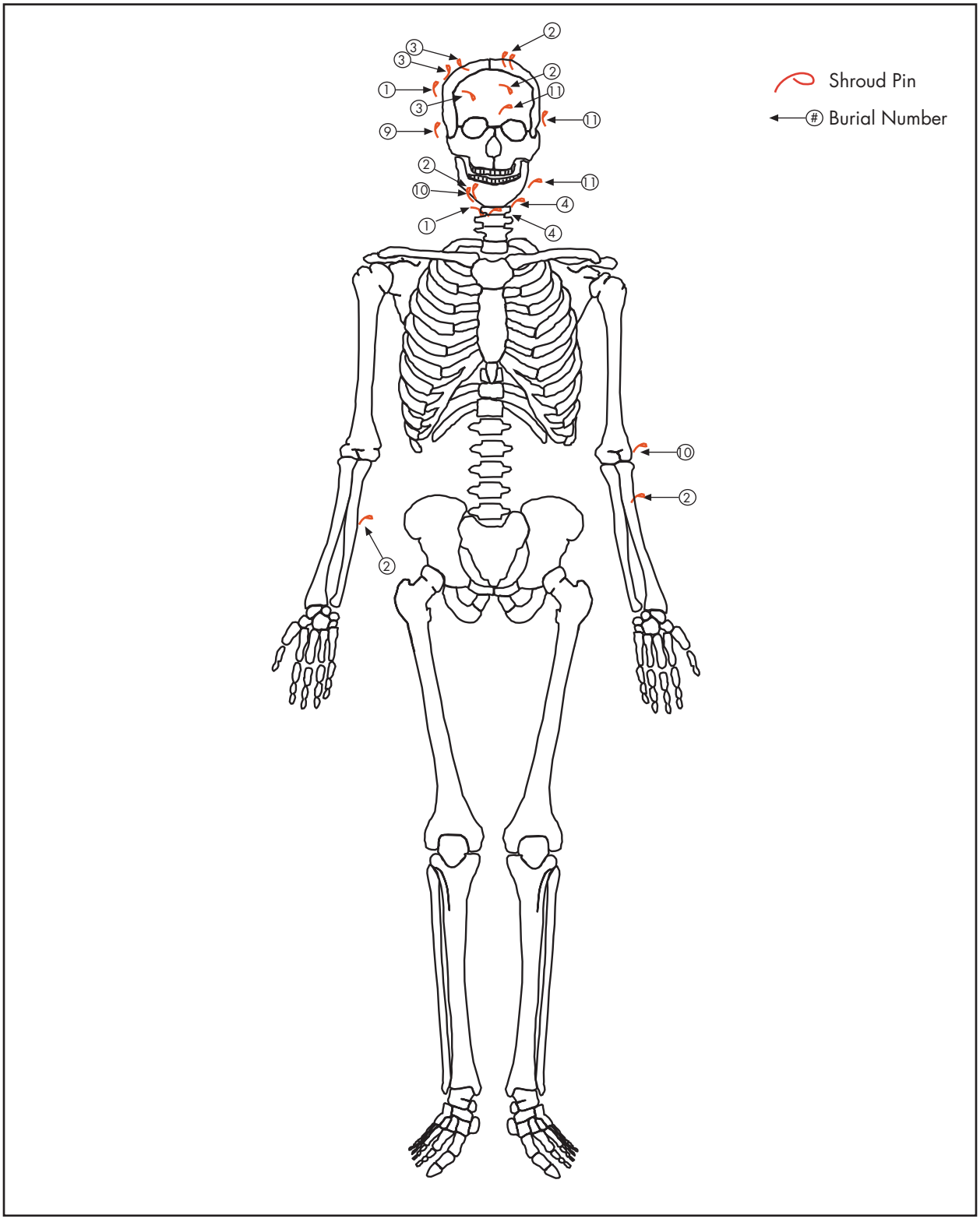


Table 5. Summary Data for Coffin Nails

Nail Type	Head Form	Tip Form	Number Recovered	Average Length in Millimeters*
Indeterminate	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	6	0 (0)
Wrought	Indeterminate	Sharp	21	57.2 (9)
Wrought	Indeterminate	Flat	6	56.6 (3)
Wrought	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	85	0 (0)
Wrought	Rose Head	Sharp	23	53.7 (15)
Wrought	Rose Head	Flat	1	0 (0)
Wrought	Rose Head	Indeterminate	28	57.3 (9)
Wrought	T-Head	Sharp	2	64 (1)
Wrought	T-Head	Indeterminate	7	0 (0)
Wrought	L-Head	Sharp	1	65 (1)
Wrought	Finishing/Unmodified	Sharp	3	55 (3)
Wrought	Finishing/Unmodified	Flat	2	0 (0)
Wrought	Finishing/Unmodified	Indeterminate	1	60 (1)
Total			186	56.3 (42)

Classifiable nails were examined to determine if form variance was related to coffin manufacture (Table 6). Nails found at the top of the coffin were nearly all vertically oriented, while those at the base of the coffin were exclusively horizontal. Burial 11 also exhibited nails down the center of the interment (See Coffins). Nails were not generally found in the interstitial space between top and bottom panels, and their numbers were so sparse as to imply that nails were not generally used in the sides. Several patterns emerged. First, T-Head, L-Head and unmodified nails were not used exclusively in specific coffins; rather, they were used in conjunction with rosehead nails. Second, no nail form was used exclusively to construct the lid or the base of a coffin. Nail lengths were examined to ascertain if there were length variances, but none were found. Choice of nails used in coffin construction followed a haphazard pattern. Coffin makers appear to have used whatever nails were available rather than rely on a standardized size for completion of the coffin.

Table 6. Nail Distribution by Type and Location

Feature No.	Rose Sharp Tip	Rose Flat Tip	T-Head Sharp Tip	T-Head Flat Tip	Unmodified Sharp Tip	Unmodified Flat Tip	L-Head Sharp Tip	Indet. Sharp Tip	Indet, Flat Tip
1 (Base)	X		X					X	
2									
3 (Base)	X				X	X		X	X
(Lid)	X	X						X	X
4 (Base)	X							X	X
5									
8									
9 (Lid)	X								

Feature No.	Rose Sharp Tip	Rose Flat Tip	T-Head Sharp Tip	T-Head Flat Tip	Unmodified Sharp Tip	Unmodified Flat Tip	L-Head Sharp Tip	Indet. Sharp Tip	Indet, Flat Tip
10 (Base)	X							X	
(Lid)	X				X			X	
11 (Base)	X							X	
(Lid)	X		X						
(Center)	X								
12 (Base)								X	
(Lid)									
13									

* Number in parentheses indicates number of nails contributing to average.

BLUNT SCREW

Screws have never been the dominant fastener form associated with coffin construction. Their utility in the mortuary setting has been largely as a means of either fastening hardware to the coffin or as a means of sealing the coffin lid to the rest of the receptacle. A total of six screws and screw fragments were recovered from the top of Burial 5's coffin stain. There was no other hardware in direct association with these fasteners. Screws were all vertically oriented near the top of the coffin stain, implying that they were used to fasten the lid to the receptacle. Complete screws were 30 millimeters long with a single slot across the head, and they exhibited a blunt or 'pointless' tip. While the ribbed and blunted screw of the eighteenth century offered a superior joining power over smooth sided nails, they also required more work to install. The blunt screw was unable to penetrate wood by itself, requiring the wood worker to drill a gimlet hole for each fastener. This problem was alleviated by the invention of the tapered point or gimlet screw in 1846 (DeVeto 1943:214, in Miller 2000:14). The presence of blunt screws implies that the coffin was sealed prior to this date.

COFFINS

The functional and symbolic basis for the use of burial containers, such as coffins and caskets, in American culture is extremely complex. Coffins enable the dead to be displayed with a minimum of mortuary symbolism and with a greater emphasis placed on efficient transport of the dead. Coffins are distinguished from caskets by the amount of anthropomorphism present. They are designed to follow the general contour of the human body, and as a result, they tend to form oblong hexagons (Farrell 1980:171). On the other hand, caskets represent a conscious effort to divert attention away from human death by assuming non-human shapes. Caskets are designed to maximize the amount of material mortuary symbolism associated with the dead. They retain their functional purpose to aid in transporting the dead, but decoration is their primary focus.

Evidence for the form of burial container used came in the form of wood, nail outlines, and feature morphology. The oblong hexagonal shape of stains noted within the grave shaft, corresponding with the distribution of nails and the form seen in the remaining wood, revealed a strong tendency towards hexagonal receptacles. Coffins made their appearance in Europe as a common burial

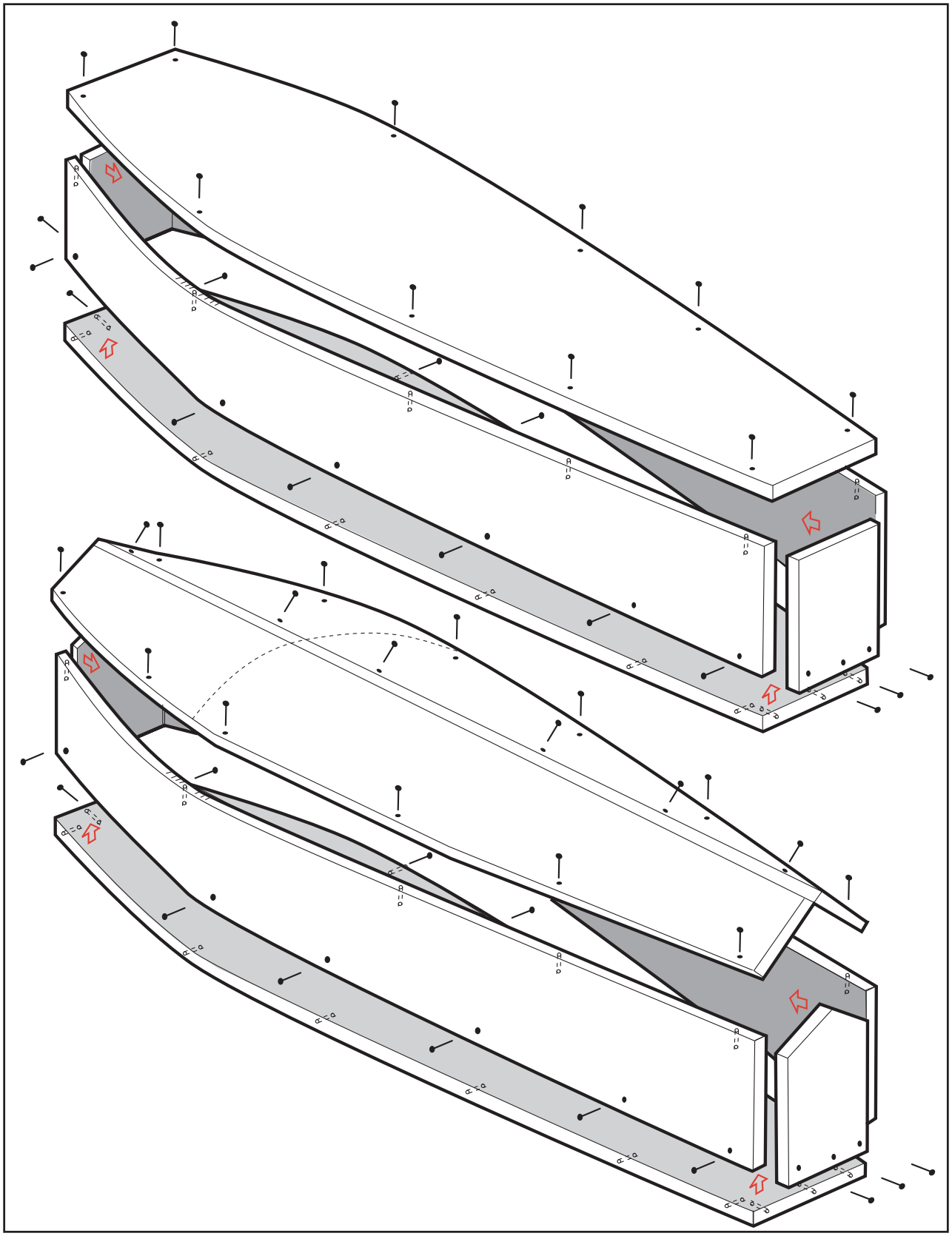
receptacle in the seventeenth century (Riordan 2000:82). Although the exact date of the coffin's introduction to America is not known, it probably was not long after its acceptance in Europe. European (and probably early American) coffin use was generally restricted to the wealthy and to prominent community members. During the early frontier and colonial periods, the dead in America tended to be opportunistically buried in whatever media were available (Santone and Irish 1997:22). The presence of coffins in Sprott Cemetery indicated that the dead were part of a community where capital, in terms of labor, goods, or services, could be expended in a non-returnable investment. The community either had the skills among themselves to build these coffins independent of outside help or had the network and funds to obtain them from elsewhere.

While coffin making and undertaking as a trade can be traced to the seventeenth century in England, American and English wood workers did not specialize in coffin making until the eighteenth century (Leedecker 2001:6). Coffin making tended to fall within the domain of the cabinetmaker, and even then it was approached as a sideline until the nineteenth century. In more rural areas, coffin making was handled by local woodcrafters or by family members. In the American South, this pattern continued up to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries (Crissman 1994:49; Wigginton 1973:312).

The type of wood used to construct coffins varied widely during the eighteenth century; however, in general locally available timbers were used. Eighteenth century coffins from coastal South Carolina tended to be made from cedar, southern pine, or bald cyprus (Rauschenberg 1990:34; Zierden 1986:4-36). Choice of wood seemed to be at least partially related to amount of capital available to invest in the coffin (Lang 1984:20). Leedecker (2001:52) noted that expensive or exotic woods, including walnut and mahogany, were specifically chosen by those who could afford an expensive coffin. It is possible that the differing colors noted among wood stains in the Sprott Cemetery graves reflect differing types of wood used to construct these coffins.

Most of the coffins appear to represent simple break sided containers. Break siding refers to the technology used to create a hexagonal bow at the widest point along the coffin's long sides. Production of a continuous bowed external panel surface was accomplished by soaking and bending the side panel around the previously cut-to-shape base. Narrow slits ('breaks') were cut along the interior panel surface helping the wood conform to the base's shape. Among the Sprott Cemetery graves, nails were distributed along the sides of the coffin stain with their tips pointed towards the coffin's midline (Figure 23). These indicate that the sides were nailed to the base of the coffin. Basal nails with their tips pointing towards the interior were noted along the head and footplate margins, implying that these pieces were also nailed to the coffin's base. Midline-pointing nails were also found in the corners, indicating that the side panels were cut slightly longer than the base and nailed directly to the head and footplates. It is likely that simple butt joints were used between the various components; however, woodworkers may have also used more complex, more secure joints during construction. Head plates were several centimeters wider than footplates, thereby emphasizing the anthropomorphic shape of the receptacle.

Figure 23.
Exploded View Reconstructions of Flat and Gable Lidded Coffins from 31MK1081**



With the possible exception of Burial 10, nails appear to have only been used to affix the sides to the base. A dark resin-like substance was noted around several of the nails found in Burial 3; it is believed to represent a pitch or tar used as a glue or sealant. Similar substances have been noted among other early American coffins (Haberstein and Lamers 1981:110; Leedecker 2001:10). The depth of several mid-line oriented nails in Burial 10 indicated that they were originally placed above the base, probably to add additional structural support to the coffin joints. The general pattern of construction seen at Sprott Cemetery has been observed in other eighteenth-century coffins (Leedecker 2001:6; Reeve and Adams1993: 78-79).

Two coffin lid forms were noted. Vertically oriented nails with the tips pointing downwards implied that most covers were attached flat across the top of the receptacle. These lids probably were little more than flat, appropriately shaped wooden planks. The distance from the midline between vertically oriented nail heads and the heads of the underlying basal nails did not vary by more than a few centimeters. This indicated that the side panels were nearly vertical, forming simple butt joints between the lids and the sides. In Burial 5, the lid was secured by substituting nails with the more tightly fitting blunt screws. Flat, relatively unornamented lids were the dominant form used among the eighteenth century Middle Atlantic colonies (Leedecker 2001:6). This coffin lid form was used throughout the Southeastern United States well into the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

A line of nails was observed running down the midline of Burial 11 and on top of the coffin's contents. This line indicated the presence of an additional joint along the top of the coffin. Among eighteenth-century coffins, construction of a gable lid - where at least two wooden panels are pitched to form two contrasting oblique surfaces meeting on the long axis midline – required that the two panels be secured to each other, usually along the midline. Nails along the upper margins of Burial 11's coffin stain included both horizontal and vertically oriented nails, indicating that the lid was secured by driving nails vertically and horizontally into the side panels. Construction of the gable-lidded coffin required more woodworking expertise than the simple flat-lidded coffin. The tops of head and foot panels needed to be accurately angled to conform to the shape of the gable, the lid margins needed to be precisely cut to allow attachment of the lid to the side panels, and each lid panel needed to be fashioned to account for the coffin's hexagonal shape. One of the advantages to using gabled coffin lids was that it was simpler to build if timber panel widths were limited. Arching the lid enabled the body to be enclosed in a container where narrow height side panels could not provide a deep enough box to encapsulate the body. Angling the lid above the receptacle's margins provided additional space along the coffin's midline. Gabling however required the coffin maker to join the long margins of two side panels together and then cut (or bow) them to conform to the hexagonal shape. Gable lidded coffins are a traditional European design and were in use in Europe well into the twentieth century. While American use can be traced at least into the nineteenth century, they are regularly encountered in seventeenth through early nineteenth century cemeteries (Hume 1979:76-83; King 1996:2; Leedecker 2001:6).

In keeping with English and European traditions at the time, eighteenth-century coffins were frequently a vehicle reflecting the capital available to expend in what many viewed as extreme displays of wealth and status (Bromberg and Shepherd 2006; Howarth 1997; Litten 1997; Richardson 1987). These same patterns were clearly reflected in the coffin manufacturer's trade in large southern urban areas as well (Rauschenberg 1990). Whether as a result of less available capital, restricted access to material resources or as a rejection of more garish displays, coffins used in more rural areas tended to be more conservatively decorated. Coffins were rarely, if ever,

placed in multiple wooden or metal containers. They were frequently painted, stained, darkened with wax, or decorated with a cloth cover (Lang 1984:22-23). Despite the appearance of specialized coffin nails and coffin plates in urbanized southern areas during the latter portions of the eighteenth century, rural communities tended not to use hardware (Rauschenberg 1990:36-39). Coffin handles tended to be borrowed from the furniture maker's repertoire and were not specially manufactured funerary artifacts (Davidson 2006:122-123). Coffins without handles were carried either on the shoulders of the pallbearers or on wooden rails. Coffins were typically lowered into the ground using ropes (Whitley 1977:65).

For the most part, coffins at 31MK1081** were not elaborately constructed. There was no evidence that the coffins were highly decorated, and the lack of hardware emphasizes that their form took a very conservative approach to death. These coffins were designed to conform to the socially appropriate container form of the day and to hold the dead. While these coffins were undoubtedly a vehicle to help convey social meanings to those viewing the dead, they were never designed to detract from the message that they were the final resting place for those who had died.

BURIAL ARTIFACTS

Burial artifacts are those associated with the actual placement of the dead into a subsurface receptacle. Burial artifacts include both surface and subsurface materials. Subsurface burial artifacts convey social meaning only during the preparation of the grave and any gravesite funerary rituals. Their value as a communication medium is therefore limited in time. Surface burial artifacts, on the other hand, have a wider period of transmission. They communicate information about the dead during the gravesite funerary ritual and all times after burial has taken place. Burial artifacts at the Sprott Cemetery included grave markers and grave shafts.

GRAVE MARKERS

An important basic functional aspect of gravestones in American mortuary contexts is that they mark the location of existing graves. They communicate the presence of the grave; imply that the land is reserved for burial purposes, and provide cultural cues (both written and unwritten) about who is represented and important aspects of their social personality. Grave markers assume a wide variety of forms including formal commercially produced stone markers to more informal markers made out of a variety of materials including wood, fieldstone, ceramic, and metal. While grave markers were not encountered *in-situ* during this investigation, there have been a number of reports indicating that the cemetery originally had stones on its surface.

There does not seem to be any question that grave markers were present on the surface of the Sprott Cemetery. In 1877, C.L. Hunter noted, "Here are found the gravestones of several members of the Sprott, Barnett and Jack families…also those of the Bighams, McKnights, and a few others" (Hunter 1970 [1877]:77). Concern about the cemetery's condition prompted Cora Vail and Violet Alexander to transcribe the inscriptions present on the remaining grave markers. After the markers were recorded, they were buried on the site to prevent theft. Alexander's published records indicate the presence of at least 10 markers (Alexander 1916). Given that some stones were stolen prior to transcription, this number should be treated as a minimum. Construction around the cemetery area in the twentieth century uncovered four stone grave markers; in the 1950s these stones were relocated to the Old Settlers' Cemetery (Espenshade 2007:9). In March 2007, construction crews

working in the vicinity of the Sprott cemetery uncovered five markers (Figures 24 and 25), (Espenshade 2007:4-7). All the stones were loose in fill containing a variety of twentieth-century artifacts. None of the stones can be tied to any specific grave in the cemetery.

All of the stones recovered in 2007 and those reinstalled at the Old Settlers' Cemetery were manufactured from steatite. Steatite is a talc-like schist deposited through the piedmont and western foothills of North and South Carolina (Stuckey 1965:455-456). This stone was probably obtained from quarried deposits in southern North Carolina and northern South Carolina (Mattson 1992:28; Alan May, Personal Communication May 2007). The markers exhibit milled, polished surfaces with a variety of hand-etched scrollwork around the margins and well lettered inscriptions. Most stones memorialize single individuals; however, both Andrew and Mary Sprot were recognized on a single stone. This stone is also carved on both the front and back surfaces[4]. Three of the five stones record death dates from the 1770s.

Mecklenburg County, in the mid to late eighteenth century, was home to one of the more prolific stone grave marker workshops in North Carolina. In the early 1760s, Samuel Bigham, Sr., a Scots-Irish immigrant who probably learned stone cutting in Northern Ireland, established a shop in Mecklenburg County after working in Pennsylvania for a number of years (Little 1998:109). Bigham predominantly worked with steatite shaped to reflect large arched and eared tympanums similar to those seen in the Thomas Barnett and Sprott stones. Decoration on both sides of the stone was another feature associated with Bigham's work (Little 1998:110). While highly detailed relief carving has been the hallmark of Bigham's craftsmanship, there are a number of surviving stones that are simply engraved. Samuel Bigham remained the sole carver in his shop until the 1780s, when he was joined by his brothers and later by several apprentices. If the 1760s death dates on the stones recovered in 2007 accurately reflect when these stones were executed, they were probably carved by Bigham, Sr., himself. Grave markers, however, involve investments of labor and frequently capital resources, which are not necessarily available or expendable at the time of a death. As a result, permanent grave markers are not always erected at the time of death. Temporary markers may be placed or knowledge of the cemetery's arrangement was handed down by oral tradition (Crist et al. 2000:37). If the stones recovered near the Sprott Cemetery were commissioned later, other members of the Bigham workshop or local stonecutters Samuel Watson and William McKinley may have carved them (Little 1998:117).

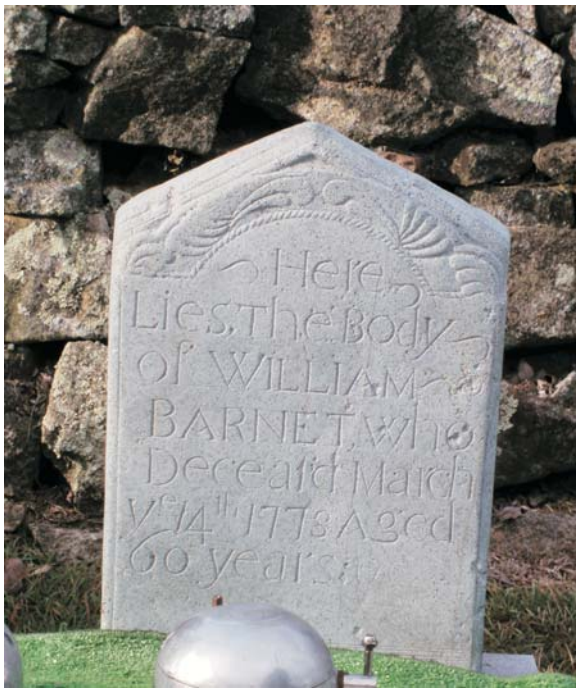
GRAVE SHAFTS

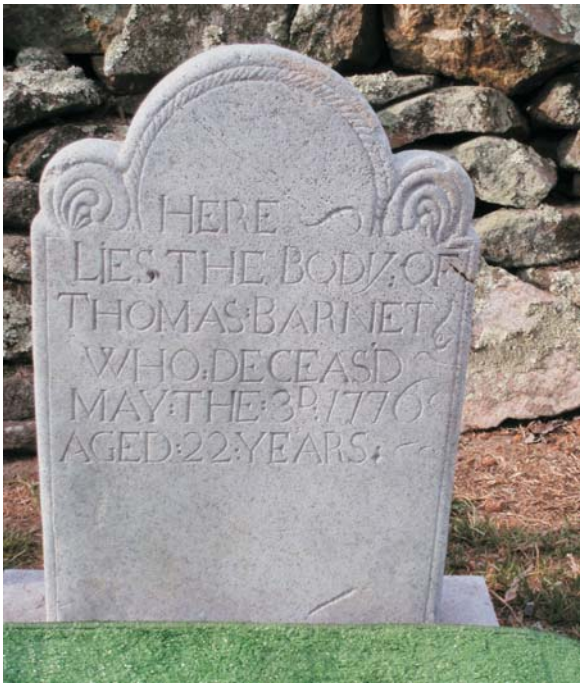
The cultural and temporal dimensions of the grave shaft as archaeological phenomena have not seen the directed research they deserve, and as a result, there is very little that is understood about their characteristics. Traditionally, grave shafts in the lowland Southeastern United States appear as straight sided, rectangular structures with flat floors. There is a tendency towards brick lined shafts in the graves of the more prosperous or socially elite, while less prominent peoples tended to be buried in unadorned pits. This practice extended from the colonial period through at least the nineteenth century (Bromberg and Shephard 2006:70). The construction of a two-stage burial chamber or 'vaulted' graves is common in rural upland mortuary contexts. Graves following this burial style typically exhibit a rectangular shaft dropping several feet from the ground surface. The

[4] The reverse side of the stone was marked with the same checked scrolling as noted on the arch and tympanum found on the face. It was possible that additional verse was present, but these markings were too faint to confirm as script.

Figure 24.
Restored Grave Marker for Andrew and Mary Sprot, Found in 2007

Figure 25.
Restored Grave Markers Found in 2007 (See Appendix C for Inscriptions)





floors of these shafts are leveled off and a second shaft (or 'vault'), approximating the size and shape of the coffin, is then dug in the center of it. Sometimes wood planking was laid across the base of the shaft as a means of separating the underlying vault from the overlying grave fill and as a means of retarding grave slumping (Crissman 1994:62). The use of vaulted grave shafts can be traced to at least the early nineteenth century (Matternes 2001:194; Swauger 1959). Davidson (2006:100) suggests that vaulting may have originated in the British Isles.

Grave shafts from the Sprott Cemetery were extremely narrow. The walls appear to be vertically oriented, and in Burial 10 tool marks indicate that they were probably constructed using a shovel. Basal grave shaft forms could be accurately defined for seven interments (See Table 3). Nearly all of these exhibited a hexagonal shape that roughly approximated the shape of the coffin. While this pattern was consistent with the chamber of a vaulted upland interment, the loss of the upper portions of the shaft prior to this investigation prevented confirmation whether grave shafts followed a single or two stage chambered pattern.

Grave shafts are never placed randomly in a burial area; rather, their location and orientation are highly meaning laden. Grave placement, from the choice of cemetery to the exact location within a given burial area, reflect real or perceived social distances between the deceased, the newly dead, the burying community, and the world around them (Warner 1959). In the American Southeast, burial location traditionally followed lines of kinship. Placement of the dead in a communal family cemetery reaffirmed that social bonds between family members transcended the circumstances of the living world. These cemeteries also served as a physical symbol legitimating a family's claim to the land (Botwick 1997). Within the cemetery, wives tend to be buried at the left hand of their husbands and their children buried around them. The arrangement of interments in less than four rows and the distribution of graves within them cannot therefore be viewed as random, rather reflective of considerable social meaning. Following traditional Christian practices, burials in the Sprott Cemetery were placed in a supine position oriented with the heads to the west and feet to the east. This arrangement meant that on the Day of Judgment, the dead would rise and face Christ (or the sun) as he rose in the east (Crissman 1994:61; Kieffer-Olson 1997:187).

IX. HUMAN REMAINS

DATA COLLECTION

Osteological and dental data from 31MK1081** was collected to understand the human remains as representatives of the past. While numerous cemeteries have been exhumed in North Carolina, the Sprott Cemetery contained one of the few eighteenth-century frontier/colonial period skeletal samples that have ever been available for bioarchaeological examination. There was also a strong desire among the surviving descendants to re-establish identities, if possible, to the individuals buried there. The choice of skeletal observations, structure of the data collection battery and analytical procedures used were designed to meet these two goals.

Unfortunately, skeletal preservation was, at best, poor. Skeletal examination commenced after the interment was exposed. Data was recorded by the Mortuary Archaeologist (Matternes) while the skeletons were still in the grave. Bones and teeth were carefully removed to reduce breakage and dry brushed clean. As each element was recovered, data was recorded and the bone immediately wrapped in acid-free tissue paper. Wrapped bones were placed in relocation containers and transported to a secure temporary on-property storage facility. In some cases, groups of highly decomposed bones were removed and packaged en masse. All organic stains were provided with the same treatment.

Each skeleton was examined following a standardized battery of metric and morphological observations. This database was capable of addressing both complete and fragmentary remains in single and commingled assemblages. Measurements were made using a Mitutoyo Digimatic sliding caliper, a Paleotech spreading caliper, and an osteometric measuring board. Use of these tools to obtain reliable measurements followed the procedures outlined in Bass (1987) and Moore-Jansen et al. (1994). The collection of morphological or non-metric observations required no special equipment. Morphological and metric observations were compiled by observation type, general anatomical location, and skeletal element. No destructive analytical procedures were applied to these remains.

As removed, bones and teeth were inventoried. Inventory records included whether skeletal elements were present and the general state of preservation. Complete bones (>75% represented) were scored as "1". These elements provided near complete sets of measurements and observations. Fragmentary remains were scored as "2", indicating that only incomplete sets of information were available. Missing bones and teeth were not scored and likewise provided no information about the interment. Skeletal and dental inventories were compiled into a master list with other skeletal data (Appendix B).

The individual's sex was determined from a suite of sexually dimorphic skeletal features. Sex was ascertained for adults and older adolescents using a composite estimate, based on pelvic, cranial and limb morphology. Pelvic morphology was assessed and sexual dimorphism described following the standards outlined by Anderson (1962), Bass (1987), Iscan and Derrick (1984) and Phenice (1969). In the cranial vault, particular attention was paid to the nuchal, temporal, frontal,

and maxillary aspects as sources of reliable sexually dimorphic features. Evaluations followed the patterns noted in Bass (1987) and in Krogman and Iscan (1986) and were recorded using the format outlined in Buikstra and Ubelaker (1994). Although measurements were taken, metric evaluation of the skull was not possible for most specimens because of their fragmentary state. Post-cranial metric data was also obtained as a means of evaluating sex. These included measurements of the glenoid cavity length (Stewart 1979:98), humeral head (Stewart 1979:100), femoral head (Stewart 1979:129), and midshaft diameter (Black 1978:229).

The age at death was determined for infants, children, and adolescents from an examination of dental and skeletal development. Individual teeth were examined to learn the amount of enamel and root development among both deciduous and permanent dentition. These observations were compared with results reported by Thoma and Goldman (1960), and Smith (1991). The appearance and fusion of epiphyseal and diaphyseal elements were used to estimate the degree of maturation. These observations were compared to the ranges reported in Bass (1987), Flecker (1932), Krogman and Iscan (1986), and McKay (nd). Because of their sensitivity to young adult ages, particular attention was paid to anterior iliac crest and medial clavicular epiphyses (see Webb and Suchey 1985). Development of the occipital bone was used to assess cranial vault maturity (Suchey nd). Measurements of the limb diaphysis were compared to results obtained by Fazekas and Kosa (1978) and Merchant and Ubelaker (1977) to determine age based on skeletal size.

Age estimation among adults tended to evaluate chronic skeletal responses to everyday stress. The pubic symphysis was evaluated following the observations noted in Todd (1920, 1921) and in Katz and Suchey (1986). Since the auricular surface was one of the more commonly preserved skeletal regions, the age-related changes in morphology outlined by Lovejoy et al. (1985) were extensively used. Rates of suture ossification were also considered. Approximate ages for various aspects of suture closure were obtained from Meindl and Lovejoy's (1985) ectocranial ossification data as a means of identifying age ranges from the cranial vault. Ages for endocranial suture closure were based on data presented by McKern and Stewart (1957) and comments by Cobb (1955). Closure of the maxillary palatine sutures were recorded and evaluated following Mann et al. (1991). Osteophytosis of the vertebrae followed Stewart (1958). Dental wear, following the work of Lovejoy (1985), was used as a relative age indicator.

Aspects of the metric and morphological databases were extracted and used to determine features about the individual, including skeletal representation, their age at death, sex, ancestral affiliation, and the general state of health. These data were then pooled to address the Sprott Cemetery as a biological assemblage.

INVENTORY AND TAPHONOMY

An examination of each set of remains began with an inventory of the recovered bone and bone fragments. The purpose of this inventory was three-fold. First, it served as a logistical base to document what materials were removed and available for subsequent re-interment. These data were organized by general location in the body and then by skeletal element. Second, the inventory identified the number of individuals present in each grave. This helped provide a minimum estimate of the number of individuals represented in the cemetery. Finally, the inventory recorded the completeness of each bone. Skeletal condition, in turn, regulated what types and detail of information were available for each individual.

A minimum number of individuals (MNI) was determined for each grave and for the cemetery using the techniques outlined in Ubelaker (1978). In general, bones were examined for element duplication and major differences in age, sex, health, or morphology. Each set of unique, contrasting remains was treated as a separate individual. Since some graves had been disturbed prior to recovery, isolated bones were compared with those from other disturbed primary interments to verify whether individual elements had traveled across the site. In most cases, bones and teeth were not preserved well enough to allow substantive examination. These graves were assigned a minimum representation of one individual.

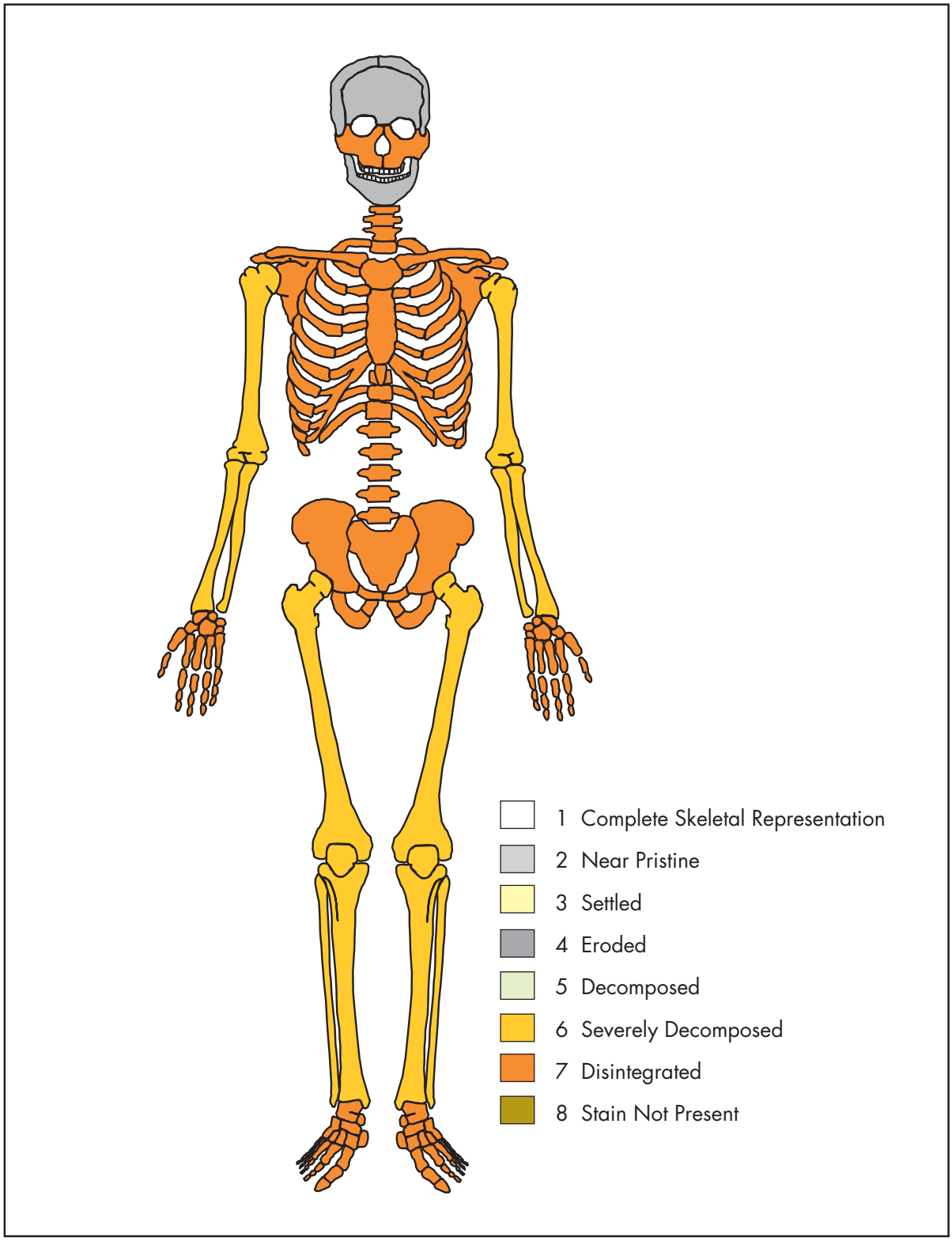
No less than 14 individuals were identified in the Sprott Cemetery. Nearly all of these were represented by single individual primary interments. Among the disturbed remains from Isolated Finds 1 through 6 at least one adult male and probable female were detected. The distribution of these remains, however, is wide, and this is undoubtedly a conservative estimate. Isolated finds were not included in any of the following population examinations.

Constant exposure to moisture has been recognized as one of the more destructive agents to skeletal tissue (Rodriguez 1997:460). At the Sprott Cemetery, graves were dug into undisturbed dense clay subsoil, creating localized reservoirs for ground water accumulation. Grave contents would have been exposed to ground water saturation until water was able to percolate out through the surrounding clay. Given these conditions, poor skeletal preservation would be an anticipated norm. Two graves, however, stand in exception to this observation. In Burials 1 and 4, relatively complete skeletal remains were recovered. These indicate that a dramatically different subsurface environment was present. Unfortunately, the graves had been badly impacted by previous disturbances and it was unclear what caused a difference; however, some agent is believed to have retarded water accumulation in these graves. Agents that could have been responsible for this include the presence of a water-impermeable cap on top of the grave, a subsurface break or fault allowing water to move freely through the surrounding clay, use of a more water-tight coffin than normally found, or changes in water drainage in and through the graves as a result of past disturbances.

A general indication of preservation in the Sprott Cemetery was obtained by averaging each interment's skeletal preservation scores. On a scale from one to eight, where one represented pristine fully represented bone and eight represented complete skeletal disintegration, individual grave scores ranged between 5.4 and 7.5. These indicated that skeletons varied from weathered, relatively complete representations to barely recognizable organic stains. In general, the less densely ossified skeletons of younger and older individuals tended to be more decomposed. Skeletal density was therefore also seen as an important component to bone preservation.

The ability to derive information from each skeleton was directly related to the presence and condition of the bones. Bones that were absent or poorly preserved were not able to provide the same degree of information as more completely represented specimens. To understand how preservation biases affected this assemblage, skeletal element representation was examined. Figure 27 illustrates how bones from the skull, arms and legs tended to be the best represented.

Figure 26.
Sprott Cemetery Composite Skeletal Representation



Elements such as the temporals, occipitals, ulnae, femora and tibiae, which were composed largely of dense cortical bone, were the best preserved and most frequently recovered. Measurements and observations from these remains were the most obtainable for the cemetery population. In contrast, more delicate and highly trabecularized remains, including the ribs, pubis, and bones of the face, feet, and hands, were the least represented. Unfortunately, some of the best indicators of age, sex, and ancestry were found on these remains. The incomplete nature of these bones had a negative affect on the quality of information obtained by forcing the examination to depend on less reliable skeletal estimators.

POPULATION STRUCTURE

The extremely poor preservation of skeletal remains from Sprott Cemetery greatly hampered addressing the human assemblage as a vital part of the archaeological record. At best, only broad approximations could be obtained.

SEX STRUCTURE

The physical demands placed on the human skeleton differ between males and females. As a result, human bones exhibit a measure of sexual dimorphism. Sex can also be inferred from historical documentation and by the presence of clothing, jewelry, inscriptions, and other artifacts associated with a given grave. Unfortunately, sex could only be accurately determined for four individuals – males recovered from Burials 1, 2, and 4 and a female from Burial 11. The resulting female-to-male ratio of 0.33 is highly over-representative of males and likely is more a reflection of better skeletal preservation among the more robust male skeletal remains than of a true condition in the community. If it can be assumed that the 'possible male' and 'possible female' assignments have correctly identified the individual's sex, then a female-to-male ratio of 0.66 is obtained. These data still identify that more males than females are present in the Sprott Cemetery sample. There are more males than females identified by gravestones; however, it must be recognized that this is also a biased sample. Given the small skeletal sample size and wide array of preservation biases, it is unlikely that the sex structure is an accurate representation of the community's composition.

AGE STRUCTURE

Human communities are composed of people of different ages. A generation's ability to successfully survive one age and into the next provides many important clues about the community's success in a given environment. In recent years, the use of cemetery assemblages as a means of reconstructing community/population structures has come under some scrutiny (Boquet-Appel 1986; Jackes 1982; Konigsberg and Frankenberg 1992). Assessments, particularly of age, are frequently not precise. They are not based on uniform observation batteries, and they tend to embed parts of the reference population's age composition in the study sample's structure. The human assemblage at 31MK1081** clearly suffers from these same problems.

Skeletal data and dental development could only be used in four graves to assign a numeric range for the age at death. The remaining 66 percent of the assemblage's age estimates relied heavily on indirect evidence, namely general dental wear and joint deterioration, as a means of assigning broad age approximations. These data are not reliable enough to reconstruct cohort-based demographic profiles. Given these limitations, some very general aspects of the age structure, however, can be derived.

Age approximations for the Sprott Cemetery populations were divided into two general categories – children under the age of 12 and teens/adults who were believed to be at least 16 years old. For comparative purposes, age 15 was chosen as a dividing line between adult and subadult age groups. Several archaeologically derived cemetery assemblages were apportioned accordingly to compare with Sprott Cemetery (Table 7).

Table 7. General Age Profiles from Selected Archaeologically Recovered Cemeteries

Cemetery	Subadult	Adult	Total	Source
Sprott (31MK1081**)	0	11	11	
Christ Church at Spittalfields (Eighteenth-Century)	88	287	375	Molleson and Cox (1993)
Blue Springs (1SC320) (Nineteenth-Century Rural SE US)	12	7	19	Matternes and Serio (2004)
Tate (44HN333) (Eighteenth - Nineteenth Century Middle Atlantic US)	10.5	15.5	26	Matternes (2003)
Old Quebec (Eighteenth-Century POWs)	3	47	54	Cybulski (1988)

The absence of children in the Sprott Cemetery is highly inconsistent with other eighteenth-nineteenth-century communities. These data seem to imply that childhood survival to adulthood among the Sprott Cemetery community was absolute. This survival rate is simply not realistic. Among eighteenth-nineteenth-century communities, factors leading to high child mortality, including inadequate medical care, malnutrition, and poor disease prevention measures have not been overcome; hence, a substantial portion of their cemeteries should be represented by subadults. The general age structure observed at Sprott Cemetery should be on par with populations in Stage 1 of the demographic transition, that is, reflecting a high (greater than 20 percent) infant mortality rate (Relethford 1994). Since the Sprott Cemetery was formed prior to the recognition of the epidemiological measures needed to reduce mortality in the nineteenth century, there should be at least some subadult component (Rockett 1999:4-10).

The absence of children is indicative that another agent is biasing the sample's representation. There are at least three potential explanations for this phenomenon. First, children may have been segregated to a portion of the cemetery not represented in the recovered sample. While not specifically seen in eighteenth-century cemeteries, infant/child segregation is a feature observed in many planned burial areas, including Salem and Bethabra North Carolina's God's Acre, Savannah Georgia's Laurel Grove Cemetery, Macon Georgia's Rose Hill Cemetery and Knoxville Tennessee's Woodlawn and Highland Memorial cemeteries. A second possibility was that children might have been buried in a separate cemetery from the Sprott Graveyard. This seems highly unlikely as the bodies of John Jack Barnett (age 9 months) and Joseph Bigham (unaged child) were among those recorded in gravestone data from the cemetery (Alexander 1916). Finally, subadult graves may have been removed from the burial area prior to recovery. Digging subadult-sized graves to the same depth as adult graves is extremely difficult, because the gravedigger has to

extract soil from a considerably smaller work area. Maneuverability is substantially constrained; hence, subadults tend to be buried in shallower pits than adults. The remaining grave shafts at the Sprott Cemetery represent only the bottom portions of the graves; the tops, and all the overlying surrounding soils have been removed by prior construction events. They all represent adult graves, and while some are very narrow, they could all be excavated many feet below ground surface without extreme difficulty. It is very possible that construction disturbances have biased the age sample by removing shallower and younger-aged individuals from the recovered sample. Like sex, Sprott's age structure had probably been biased by taphonomic and/or cultural practices.

HEALTH

Unlike other tissues in the human body, bones and teeth are limited in the number of responses available to stress agents (Ortner and Putschar 1981). These general responses usually require long periods of time to develop, making bones and teeth poor record keepers for anything but chronic health issues. Given that acute respiratory infections have been the predominant cause for death in most human populations, the health of the individual and cause of death are frequently not ascertainable (Sheldon 1988). Poor skeletal preservation has compounded the issue at Sprott Cemetery; only dental tissue was represented well enough to draw some health inferences.

The state of dental health at 31MK1081** was indicative that oral pathogens were placing stress on the population's health. Evidence of this was noted in the partial dental arcades from four individuals. In general, these teeth exhibited relatively minor amounts of wear. Most of the posterior teeth exhibited facet formation, but very few were reduced to dentin exposure. Age and diet were dental stress agents that were most likely responsible for this wear pattern. The light amounts of dental wear provided reason to suspect that the subsistence pattern for this population did not focus on abrasive foods (Cran 1959). In the absence of an abrasive diet, microorganisms had a greater opportunity to remain in the oral cavity to feed off dental tissues and residual food particles.

Hildebolt and Molnar (1991) documented that bacterial deposits in the oral cavity frequently were able to overcome the body's immunological defenses. These irritants triggered skeletal health responses. In the Sprott Cemetery, this phenomenon was demonstrated by bone loss along the alveolar margins. Clear indications of alveolar resorbtion were documented in Burial 4's dental arcade. In this case, bone loss was so severe that the dental roots were clearly exposed, providing additional and unprotected surfaces for pathogenic infestation.

Exposure of the dental roots was clearly exploited by dental pathogens. Carious lesions have been demonstrated to be a product of a number of microorganisms with Streptococcus bacilli being the most common form (Hillson 1996:262). The distribution of carious lesions among the remaining teeth indicated that molars were the most prone to decay.

Evidence of past dental stress was not limited to dental decay. If stress agents successfully impact the growing child, they can halt or slow down dental development, leaving a permanent depression in the maturing enamel (Hillson 1996; Pindborg 1970). Linear hypoplasias represent one of the best-understood variations of this growth arrest (Goodman and Rose 1990). Timing of the stress event can be estimated by determining the proportion of tooth formed at the superior–most point on the hypoplasia and comparing this with the corresponding age of dental development outlined in

Moorees et al. (1963a, 1963b) and Goodman et al. (1980:520). Linear hypoplasias were observed in the incisors and molars from Burial 11 (Table 8). Linear hypoplasias indicated that growth-disrupting events occurred around ages three to five. Loss of maternal antibodies and nutrition frequently occur at this age and has been associated with weaning (Hillson 1979, 1996; Goodman et al. 1984). In addition, prolonged illness, injury, and malnutrition were also likely agents.

Table 8. Approximate Ages of Hypoplasial Events

Arcade	Tooth	Burial	Location of Hypoplasia1	Age of Hypoplasial Development (In Years)
Maxillary	M2-Left	11	C2	3-4
Maxillary	I2-Left	11	C2; C3	3-5

1C=Crown Quarter from Occlusal Surface

X. PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION

One of the primary goals of this project was to establish possible identities for sets of human remains. Traditionally, this approach compares biological and cultural characteristics in the skeleton to the socio-biological features of potential candidates (Rathbun and Buikstra 1984). When possible, the sum total of all life events recorded in a skeleton is evaluated to narrow down the range of possibilities. When preservation allows, genetic comparisons with kinsmen (both living or dead) can help determine relatedness. Artifacts in graves, especially personal belongings, can also be used to associate specific skeletons with a given individual. Temporally diagnostic objects are especially important identification references. They eliminate candidates that fall outside of the grave's temporal boundaries. Finally, the position of one grave to another can sometimes be used to infer relationships, including marital affiliation, family association, and progeny.

Poor skeletal and dental preservation precluded the possibility of exploring genetic testing as a source of information. Personal identification therefore had to focus solely on what could be learned from each grave's contents. Historical and genealogical data associated with cemetery and with families tied to the Sprott Family Cemetery were reviewed, and a total of 17 people were identified as likely candidates for burial in the Sprott Cemetery (Table 9). It is doubtful that all individuals buried at the Sprott Cemetery are included on this list. Age and sex, and to a lesser extent marital relationship, were characteristics extracted from the literature that could be tied to these graves. This information was contrasted against the mortuary data, and candidates with the best fit were identified.

Table 9. A Historically Derived List of Individuals Who May be Represented in the Sprott Cemetery Assemblage

Candidate	Age (Years)	Sex	Year of Death	Primary Source
Barnett, Mary	45	Female	1764	Hunter (1970 [1877])
Barnett, Thomas	22	Male	1776	Recovered Stone, Alexander (1916)
Barnett, William	60	Male	1778	Recovered Stone
Barnett, Jean	20	Female	1776	Alexander (1916)
Barnett, John Jack	(9 Mos)	Male	1778	Alexander (1916)
Bigham Jr., Samuel	33	Male	1774	Alexander (1916)
Bigham, Hugh		Male	1765	Alexander (1916)
Bigham, Joseph	Child	Male		Alexander (1916)
Bigham, Mary	55	Female	1772	Alexander (1916)
Jack, John		Male		Oral History
Johnston, Esther	31	Female	1775	Recovered Stone, Alexander (1916)
McKnight/McNight, James	60	Male	1764	Recovered Stone, Alexander (1916)
McKnight/McNight, Robert	60	Male	1778	Recovered Stone, Alexander (1916)

Candidate	Age (Years)	Sex	Year of Death	Primary Source
Peel, Catherine	50	Female	1778	Recovered Stone
Sprott, Thomas	72	Male	1757	Oral History
Sprot, Andrew	64	Male	1772	Recovered Stone, Alexander (1916)
Sprot, Mary	64	Female	1771	Recovered Stone, Alexander (1916)

The results of this comparison are provided in Table 10. Unfortunately, skeletal preservation severely limited the information available from the graves, and no single grave could be positively correlated with a single individual. In a few cases, the circumstances of specific graves fit certain individuals better than others. Narrowing down the range of possibilities, however, would require more information than was available at the time of this examination. Personalized characteristics such as cause of death, distinct genetically based morphological characteristics or cultural modifications were not well preserved and could not be used to narrow the range of possibilities. Likewise, historical documentation failed to record life events such as injuries, dental attrition or the degree of infirmity noted in these remains. Further inquiry with this information may, however, in the future uncover evidence to further link individuals to specific sets of remains.

Table 10. Possible Identities for Sprott Cemetery Graves (Possible Matches Marked with 'X')

Candidate	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6[Θ]	B7[1]	B8	B9	B10	B11	B12	B13
Barnett, Mary					X		X	X	X				
Barnett, Thomas	X[2]				X	X					X[3]		
Barnett, William	X	X[4]	X	X	X	X							
Barnett, Jean					X		X	X	X[5]	X[6]			
Barnett, John Jack													
Bigham, Samuel, Jr.	X		X	X	X	X							
Bigham, Hugh[7]	X	X	X	X	X	X				X			
Bigham, Joseph[8]													
Bigham, Mary					X		X	X					
Jack, John[9]													
Johnston, Esther					X		X	X	X		X		
McNight, James	X	X	X	X	X	X							
McNight, Robert	X	X	X	X	X	X							
Peel, Catherine					X		X	X					

Candidate	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6[Θ]	B7[1]	B8	B9	B10	B11	B12	B13
Sprott, Thomas	X	X		X	X	X							
Sprot, Andrew[Ω]	X	X	X	X	X	X							
Sprot, Mary					X		X	X					

[Θ] Close association of recovered remains imply that Burial 6 may represent the husband or a kinsman of Burial 7.

[1] Close association of recovered remains imply that Burial 7 may represent the wife or a kinswoman of Burial 6.

[2] The position of Burial 9 to the left of Burial 1 would imply a married couple. If this is Thomas Barnett, then Burial 9 could be Jean Barnett.

[6] The position of Burial 11 to the right of Burial 10 would imply a married couple. If this is Thomas Barnett, then Burial 10 could be Jean Barnett.

[4] If the easternmost column of graves represents the Barnett line, William Barnett is the best fit for Burial 2.

[5] The position of Burial 1 to the right of Burial 9 would imply a married couple. If this is Jean Barnett, then Burial 1 could be Thomas Barnett.

[6] The position of Burial 10 to the left of Burial 11 would imply a married couple. If this is Jean Barnett, then Burial 11 could be Thomas Barnett.

[7] The lack of an adult-child burial deposit implies that Hugh Bigham may not be represented.

[8] The lack of child-adult burial deposit implies that Joseph Bigham may not be represented.

[9] This is probably the same person as John Jack Barnett. The lack of infant burials in this assemblage implies that John Jack is not represented.

[Ω] Use of a single gravestone to memorialize Andrew and Mary Sprot, both representing elderly individuals, indicates that Mary was buried next to and on the left side of Andrew. This combination of features was not recognized in the mortuary assemblage.

XI. REINTERMENT

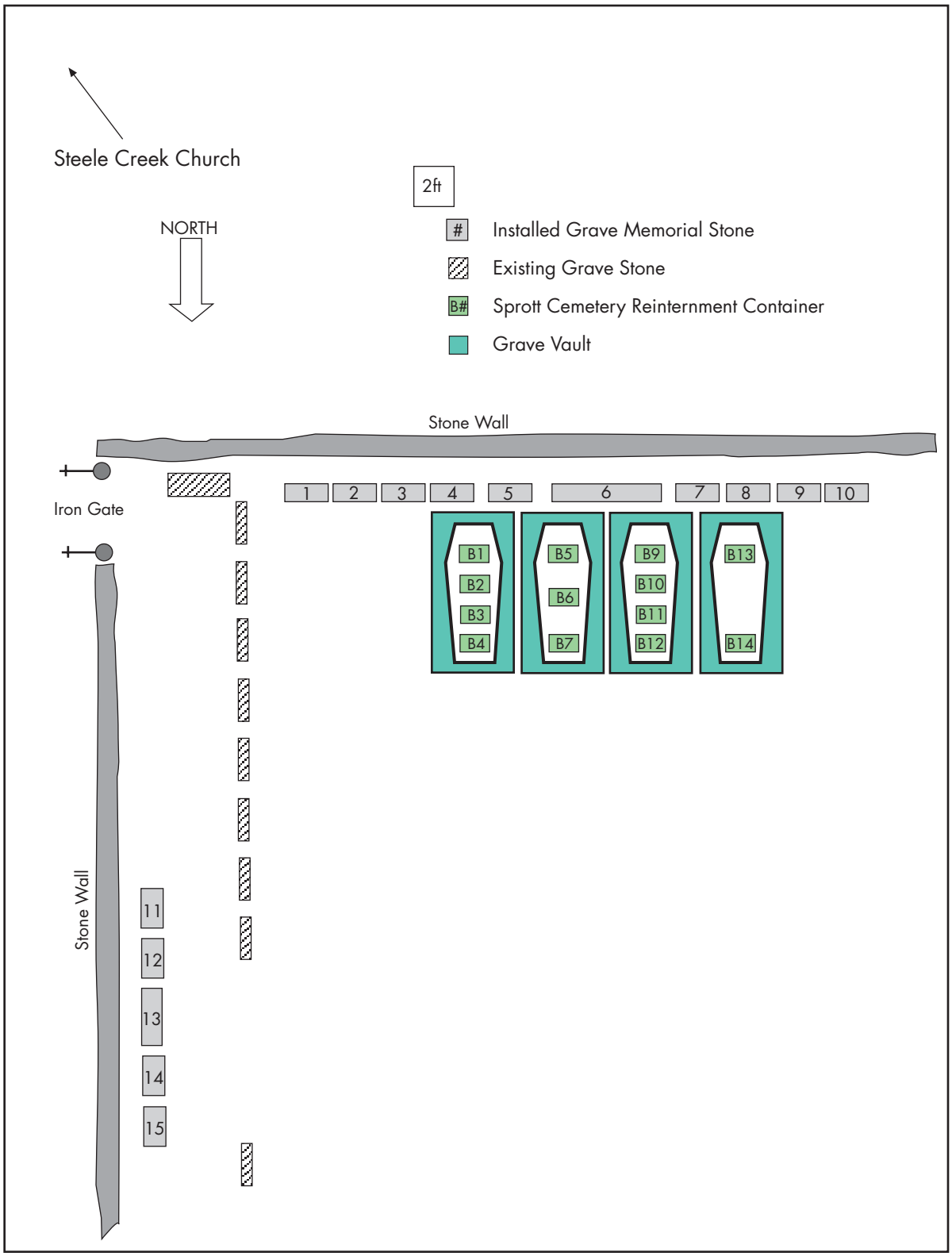
On July 14, 2007, all remains recovered from 31MK1081** were reinterred at Steele Creek Presbyterian Church, 7407 Steele Creek Road in Charlotte, North Carolina. Members of the descendant families, the church congregation, and project participants were invited to attend a reinterment ceremony organized by Carolinas Healthcare and members of the descendant families. The ceremony included temporally appropriate music, hymns, scripture readings, reflections from family members, prayers, and a formal witnessing of the reinterment. Approximately 200 people attended the ceremony.

The Steele Creek Presbyterian Church Cemetery was recognized as the most appropriate relocation site for several reasons. First, the church, organized during the eighteenth century, was located in the general vicinity of the Sprott Cemetery, on lands originally owned by families represented in the Sprott Cemetery. Second, the colonial period section of the Steele Creek Presbyterian Church Cemetery, where the graves were placed, was contemporary with the Sprott Cemetery. This meant that the relocated graves would be reinterred in an appropriate temporal context rather than reinterred among earlier or later period graves. Third, documented relatives and descendants of the families represented in the Sprott Cemetery were interred in the Steele Creek Presbyterian Church Cemetery. Placement would therefore be among the Sprott Cemetery's kinsmen. Finally, the same stone carvers whose work was represented in the Steele Creek Presbyterian Church Cemetery carved the gravestones recovered from the vicinity of the Sprott Cemetery. Use of the Sprott Cemetery stones to memorialize the relocated graves preserved the colonial look of the church cemetery.

During recovery, reinterment containers had been marked to indicate the orientation and the remains organized accordingly in the container. These containers were then placed in an additional presentation receptacle. Mr. Bill Merritt of Carolinas Healthcare designed and constructed four hexagonal coffins specifically for the purpose of preserving the integrity of the original orientations and facilitating transport of the remains during the reinterment ceremony. Reinterment containers were placed with their long panels perpendicular to the coffin's long axis. These coffins were witnessed by the mortuary archaeologist, sealed, and sent to the relocation site. At the relocation site, the coffins were oriented with the head plate to the south and the footplate to the north. This positioning insured that the interments in each receptacle were oriented with their heads to the west and feet to the east, as they had been originally interred.

Reinterment of the dead did not commence until approval was obtained from state and local authorities, church representatives, descendants, and Carolinas HealthCare. Church records were consulted, and an appropriate burial site within the colonial section of the Steele Creek Presbyterian Church Cemetery was chosen. Church records indicated that no interments were recorded in the proposed burial site; this was confirmed by a ground penetrating radar (GPR) examination of the locality. A physical examination of the newly dug grave pits by the mortuary archaeologist also confirmed that the soils in this area had not been previously disturbed. Four burial pits, roughly eight feet long and four feet wide, were excavated to a depth of about six feet (Figure 27).

Figure 27.
Reinterment Site Plan View (Steele Creek Presbyterian Church Cemetery)



A metal vault liner was then installed in the base of each grave. Soils containing organic stains from the recovery site were deposited in the vault underneath the appropriate burial location. One coffin was positioned over each grave pit, lowered and sealed into the vault and appropriately buried with earth (Figure 28).

A variety of markers were installed around the relocated interments. A large granite memorial (Stone 6) was placed immediately adjacent to the relocation site; this stone identified the original cemetery, those buried in it, and the general circumstances of its discovery and relocation. To the west of this memorial, stones recovered during the construction project were re-erected (Stones 7, 8, 9 and 10). In addition, stones from the Sprott Cemetery that were discovered in the 1950s were reunited with their counterparts and installed east of the granite memorial (Stones 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5). Four other stones from the Barnett-Smartt Family Cemetery, representing related kinsmen to those in the Steele Creek and Sprott Cemeteries, were also re-erected nearby (Stones 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15). The inscriptions of all stones are provided in Appendix C.

Figure 28.
Reverend Dr. Jeff Pinkston Leads a Prayer for the Sprott Cemetery Remains

XII. CONCLUSIONS

TEMPORAL CONCLUSIONS

Cemeteries are not formed by single depositional events; rather, they are accretional deposits accumulating over time. As a result, their temporal affiliation is not a single date but a range. Changes in artifact technologies and popularity reveal a broad, absolute temporal range. Some artifact styles, including the coffins, shrouds and grave shafts, appeared more or less with Anglo-American colonization and were in use until these forms were standardized and replaced by the commercial funeral industry in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Changes in technology in pins and screws indicate that these graves were probably interred prior to the 1820s and 1840s, respectively. The absence of cut nails indicates a deposition period terminus somewhere between the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Gravestone forms correspond with this date range as well.

Unlike many archeological deposits, however, graves frequently provide exact dates of deposition. Marker inscriptions commonly record the year of death; in the case of 31MK1081** markers indicate that deaths occurred in the 1760s and 1770s. Development of burial features would have occurred shortly after these recorded dates. There are no temporal contradictions between marker and artifact data; the artifacts recovered could have easily been deposited in the mid-to-late eighteenth century.

HISTORICAL CONCLUSIONS

Although the cemetery's location was clearly lost, its existence had not been forgotten. There is ample historical documentation validating the existence of a small early colonial/frontier period cemetery in the vicinity of 31MK1081**. This cemetery held the remains of some of the first settlers in Mecklenburg County and undeniably represented one of the first Anglo-American burial grounds established in the region. Family records, land grants, and other documents confirm families including the Sprotts, Barnetts, McKnights, Bighams, Johnstons and Peels as among the first inhabitants and among those who were buried in this little cemetery. Scots-Irish Presbyterians, who followed Indian-trade-routes-turned-wagon-trails from Pennsylvania to the southern North Carolina Piedmont, heavily represented these families. They arrived in Mecklenburg County in the mid-eighteenth century, and many of their descendants still live there today.

Although popular opinion believed that the facility had been destroyed by urban development, the remains found at 31MK1081** demonstrate that that may not have been the case. Recognizing that the assemblage is an incomplete representation and the cemetery sample is small, with only 13 features identified, this is a reasonable approximation of the original 20-25 reported by earlier chroniclers. The cemetery is from the right time period. Artifacts found in the graves coincide nicely with a mid-to-late eighteenth-century deposition period. Finally, inscriptions on gravestones

found close to the cemetery coincide with those obtained from the Sprott Cemetery almost a century ago. Concordance between archaeological and historical information indicate in all likelihood, the Sprott Cemetery and 31MK1081** are one and the same burial ground.

BIOLOGICAL CONCLUSIONS

Information on the community's ability to adapt to early Mecklenburg County is extremely limited, largely by poor skeletal preservation. However, some inferences can be drawn. Historical data indicates that people with a considerable amount of Anglo–American ancestry were largely responsible for developing the cemetery. The examined skeletal sample is composed largely of adult males. This is undoubtedly not representative of the community's true age structure and there is considerable reason to suspect that the sex distribution is also biased. Historical records indicate that more females and children were originally present; however, it is doubtful, particularly among the subadults (who frequently did not receive the same surface treatment as adults) that all interments in the cemetery were adequately recorded. In order for the community to survive and counterbalance the effects of high infant/child mortality, fertility had to be maximized. Living household structures with comparable numbers of male and female adults generating a large number of children would be needed in hopes that at least a few biologically fit progeny would live long enough to reach adulthood.

Unfortunately, the causes of death could not be determined for any individuals in the cemetery. There were clear indications of some of the stress agents present. Well-developed muscle attachment sites in the arms indicated that community members were engaged in strenuous manual labor; this would be consistent with a historical model of the cemetery representing agriculturalists developing lands on the North Carolina frontier. Hard tissue deterioration, in the form of arthritic lipping, is evidence that chronic exertion was a stress agent requiring a skeletal response.

Diet was clearly another source of stress. Life on the periphery of mainstream Colonial America meant that access to goods was limited; in dietary terms this meant that most foodstuffs had to be raised or obtained locally. Traditionally, in the south, this meant a diet based on cornmeal, molasses syrup, dairy, and pork products (Etheridge 1988). Consumption of goods like these, which are rich in carbohydrates, particularly sucrose, promoted the proliferation of streptococcus bacilli and increased the risk of dental caries (Hillson 1979). Coupled with less than adequate dental care and lack of highly abrasive foods, caries would have led to dental loss, which in turn reduced the individual's ability to consume foods. Hypoplasial bands, indicating growth arrests, from malnutrition, prolonged illness and/or weaning, recorded evidence of childhood-related stress in the oral environment.

CULTURAL CONCLUSIONS

The burial practices used by Colonial Period frontiersmen are not strongly represented in either the historical or archaeological records. In the American South, they are very poorly understood. The cultural norms that guided burial of the dead at 31MK1081** were not independent inventions. Rather, they were derived from larger more widespread cultural traditions adapted to address the deceased's social personality, the social, and the physical environments present in eighteenth-century Mecklenburg County.

Important components of these funerary beliefs were culturally acceptable presentations of the dead. Following Goffman (1959) and Hertz (1960), the dead provide a means of communicating and re-emphasizing fundamental cultural beliefs. Personal Group artifacts included shrouds and pins; these indicate that cloth was used as a vehicle for conveying information. Objects may also be associated with the dead as a means of communication. Artifacts among the Funerary Group objects provide ample evidence that coffins were an integral component to the mortuary display. The shape of the coffin emphasized the shape of the dead, and coffins were probably sparsely unadorned. These features helped reduce the eighteenth century mainstream cultural focus on the dead's family wealth and status and probably helped emphasize the association between death and the individual. This may have been a choice dictated by limited resource availability; however, the presence of Burial 11's gable lidded coffin indicates that the resources needed to craft a finely made receptacle were available to expend on a social display.

Material expression can also be interpreted from the gravesite. While fieldstones may have been used to mark some graves at 31MK1081**, resources were clearly expended to obtain well-crafted formal markers. The burial community was fortunate to have a skilled stone worker in their area. This presence clearly facilitated the acquisition of culturally appropriate memorials. Bigham's work reflected years of practice in Colonial Philadelphia and an undeniable sensitivity to the period's gravestone norms. The stones recovered from the Sprott Cemetery are considerably simpler than many generated by the Bigham stone shop. They do not show the full range of the carvers' repertoire, social expression or ability (Clark 1992; Little 1998). It is possible that these too may be reflections away from expressions of wealth and status and a conscious message memorializing the loss of a community member whose value transcended their wealth and status.

Funerary presentation does not end when the grave is backfilled, rather it is conveyed as long as the cemetery is visible. Botwick (1997) has observed that Southern Cemeteries serve as a physical means of legitimizing a community's place in the world. The cemetery's location on the Sprott family holdings emphasizes the association between family and the land. Graves were not arranged haphazardly; instead they were organized to reflect relationships with the dead buried around them. They were social expressions of unity (Warner 1959). A common orientation emphasized a shared Christian belief in the afterlife. Proximity between graves probably communicated real or perceived distances within the community. The arrangement of graves in rows or columns probably expressed relatedness among distinct, yet deeply intertwined families.

Among the first settlers to Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, were those buried in the Sprott Cemetery. They arrived in an undeveloped region forming semi-isolated self-sufficient communities to provide for those things that they could not obtain on their own. These first settlers were not blank cultural slates; rather, they came armed with social values, largely derived from their Scots-Irish and Anglo-European heritages and from their experiences in more northerly colonial communities. They used these values to create burial traditions that merged their cultural expectations with the physical realities of their world. As demonstrated, the materials used to bury the dead at 31MK1081** were not simply functional artifacts, they were carefully manipulated to express a variety of complex social messages.

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APPENDIX A. PIN AND FASTENER DATA

Burial	Object No.	Fastener Form	Condition	Length	Location	Depth (cmbd)
1	31	Shroud Pin, Cuprious Metal	Fragment		Parietal, Right	8
1	32	Shroud Pin, Cuprious Metal	Stain Only		Cervical Vertebra	7
2	1	Shroud Pin, Cuprious Metal	Fragment		Ulna, Right	Not Recorded
2	2	Shroud Pin, Cuprious Metal	Fragment		Radius, Left	Not Recorded
2	2	Shroud Pin, Cuprious Metal	Fragment		Mandible (Under chin)	Not Recorded
2	3	Shroud Pin, Cuprious Metal	Fragment		Frontal	Not Recorded
2	4	Shroud Pin, Cuprious Metal	Fragment	~1.7 cm	Parietal, Left	Not Recorded
2	5	Shroud Pin, Cuprious Metal	Fragment		Parietal, Left	Not Recorded
3	1	Shroud Pin, Cuprious Metal	Fragment		Frontal	Not Recorded
3	2	Shroud Pin, Cuprious Metal	Fragment		Parietal, Right	Not Recorded
3	3	Shroud Pin, Cuprious Metal	Fragment		Parietal, Right	Not Recorded
4	1	Shroud Pin, Cuprious Metal	Fragment		Cervical Vertebra	Not Recorded
4	1	Shroud Pin, Cuprious Metal	Fragment		Mandible	Not Recorded
9	1	Shroud Pin, Cuprious Metal	Fragment		Temporal, Right	Not Recorded
10	27	Shroud Pin, Cuprious Metal	Complete	2.5 cm	Base of Chin	22
10	28	Shroud Pin, Cuprious Metal	Fragment		Elbow, Left	22
11	38	Shroud Pin, Cuprious Metal	Fragment		Mandible	Not Recorded
11	1	Shroud Pin, Cuprious Metal	Fragment		Frontal	7
11	10	Shroud Pin, Cuprious Metal	Fragment		Temporal, Left	

Feature	Object No.	Hardware Form	Fastener Type	Tip	Condition	Size (mm)	Depth (cmbd)	Location	Notes
1	1	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		8	Horizontal	
1	2	Wrought Nail	Rose Head		Fragment		9	Horizontal	
1	3	Wrought Nail	Rose Head	Sharp	Complete	43	5	Horizontal	
1	4	Wrought Nail	T Head	Sharp	Complete	64	10	Horizontal	
1	26	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		10	Horizontal	
1	27	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		10	Horizontal	
1	28	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate	Sharp	Complete	45	7	Horizontal	
1	29	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		11	Horizontal	
1	30	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		7	Horizontal	
1	33	Wrought Nail	Rose Head		Fragment		13	Horizontal	
1	34	Wrought Nail	Rose Head		Fragment		13	Horizontal	
2	1	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		7	Horizontal	
2	2	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		12	Horizontal	
2	3	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		15	Horizontal	
2	4	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		15	Horizontal	
2	5	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		15	Horizontal	
2	6	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		15	Horizontal	
2	7	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		13	Horizontal	
2	8	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		12	Horizontal	
2	9	Wrought Nail						Horizontal	Field Error, not analyzed
2	10	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		12	Horizontal	
3	1	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate	Spatulate	Complete	55	21	Horizontal	
3	2	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment	35	15	Horizontal	
3	3	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate	Sharp	Complete	55	17	Horizontal	
3	4	Wrought Nail	Rose Head	Sharp	Complete	50	34	Horizontal	
3	5	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate	Sharp	Complete	60	33	Horizontal	
3	6	Wrought Nail	Finishing	Sharp	Complete	55	34	Horizontal	
3	7	Wrought Nail	Finishing	Spatulate	Complete	60	35	Horizontal	
3	8	Wrought Nail	Rose Head	Sharp	Complete	60	33	Horizontal	
3	9	Wrought Nail	T Head		Fragment		25	Vertical	

Feature	Object No.	Hardware Form	Fastener Type	Tip	Condition	Size (mm)	Depth (cmbd)	Location	Notes
3	10	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate	Sharp	Fragment		29	Vertical	
3	11	Wrought Nail	T Head		Fragment		18	Vertical	
3	12	Wrought Nail	Rose Head	Sharp	Complete	20	20	Vertical	
3	13	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate	Sharp	Fragment		22	Vertical	
3	14	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		36	Horizontal	
3	15	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate	Sharp	Complete	60	18	Vertical	Pitch On Nail
3	16	Wrought Nail	Rose Head		Fragment		16	Horizontal	
3	17	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate	Spatulate	Complete	60	37	Horizontal	Pitch On Nail
3	18	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate	Sharp	Fragment		21	Vertical	
3	19	Wrought Nail	Rose Head	Spatulate	Fragment		18	Vertical	
3	20	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate	Spatulate	Complete	55	26	Vertical	
3	21	Wrought Nail	T Head		Fragment		21	Vertical	
3	22	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate	Spatulate	Fragment		24	Vertical	
3	23	Wrought Nail	Rose Head	Sharp	Complete	60	20	Vertical	Pitch On Nail
3	24	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate	Sharp	Fragment		27	Horizontal	Pitch On Nail
3	25	Wrought Nail	Rose Head	Sharp	Complete	50	19	Vertical	
4	1	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate	Sharp	Complete	70	17	Horizontal	
4	2	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		17.5	Horizontal	
4	3	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate	Sharp	Fragment		16.5	Horizontal	
4	4	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate	Sharp	Complete	70	16	Horizontal	
4	5	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		13	Horizontal	Disturbed Context
4	6	Wrought Nail	Rose Head		Fragment		13.5	Horizontal	Disturbed Context
4	7	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		16.5	Horizontal	
4	8	Wrought Nail	Rose Head	Sharp	Complete	55	15.5	Horizontal	
4	9	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate	Sharp	Fragment		8	Horizontal	
4	10	Wrought Nail	Rose Head	Sharp	Complete	60	14	Horizontal	Disturbed Context
4	11	Wrought Nail	Rose Head		Fragment		15	Horizontal	
4	12	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate	Spatulate	Fragment		17	Horizontal	

Feature	Object No.	Hardware Form	Fastener Type	Tip	Condition	Size (mm)	Depth (cmbd)	Location	Notes
4	13	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		19	Horizontal	
4	14	Wrought Nail	Rose Head	Sharp	Complete	55	17	Horizontal	
5	1	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		9	Horizontal	
5	2	Screw	Slotted		Fragment		12	Vertical	
5	3	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		19	Horizontal	
5	4	Screw	Slotted		Complete	30	9	Vertical	
5	5	Screw	Slotted		Complete	30	19	Vertical	
5	6	Screw	Slotted		Complete	30	12	Vertical	
5	7	Screw	Slotted		Complete	30	23	Vertical	
5	8	Screw	Slotted		Complete	30	23	Vertical	
5	9	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		25	Horizontal	
5	10	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		24	Horizontal	
5	11	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate	Sharp	Fragment		23	Horizontal	
5	12	Wrought Nail	Rose Head		Fragment		22	Horizontal	Bent - probably clinched
5	13	Wrought Nail	Rose Head		Fragment		31	Horizontal	
5	14	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		23	Horizontal	
5	15	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		31	Horizontal	
5	16	Wrought Nail	Rose Head		Complete	30	31	Horizontal	
5	17	Wrought Nail	Rose Head		Fragment		31	Horizontal	
5	18	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate	Spatulate	Fragment		11	Horizontal	
5	19	Wrought Nail	Rose Head		Complete	70	30	Horizontal	
5	20	Wrought Nail	L Head	Sharp	Complete	65	30	Horizontal	
5	21	Wrought Nail	Rose Head		Fragment		30	Horizontal	
5	22	Wrought Nail	Rose Head		Complete	55	30	Horizontal	
5	23	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		30	Horizontal	
5	24	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		30	Horizontal	
5	25	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		30	Horizontal	
6/7	1	Wrought Nail	Rose Head		Complete	49	Not NC2	N/A	
6/7	2	Cut Nail	Machine Headed		Complete	10D	Not NC2	N/A	Bent
6/7	3	Cut Nail	Machine Headed		Complete	10D	Not NC2	N/A	

Feature	Object No.	Hardware Form	Fastener Type	Tip	Condition	Size (mm)	Depth (cmbd)	Location	Notes
6/7	4	Wrought Nail	L Head		Complete	64	Not NC2	N/A	
6/7	5	Cut Nail	Machine Headed		Complete	12D	Not NC2	N/A	
6/7	6	Wrought Nail	Rose Head		Fragment		Not NC2	N/A	
6/7	7	Cut Nail	Machine Headed	Blunt	Complete	12D	Not NC2	N/A	Recovered from Screen
8	1	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		4	Horizontal	
8	2	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		4	Horizontal	
8	3	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Complete	65	4	Horizontal	Clinched
8	4	Wrought Nail	Finishing		Fragment		4	Horizontal	Bent
8	5	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		4	Horizontal	
8	6	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		4	Horizontal	
8	7	Wrought Nail	Rose Head		Fragment		4	Horizontal	
8	8	Indeterminate	Indeterminate		Fragment		4	Horizontal	
8	9	Indeterminate	Indeterminate		Fragment		4	Horizontal	
9	1	Wrought Nail	Rose Head		Complete	52	5	Vertical	
9	2	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		5	Vertical	
9	3	Wrought Nail	T Head		Fragment		5	Vertical	
9	4	Wrought Nail	Rose Head	Sharp	Complete	82	5	Vertical	
9	5	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		5	Vertical	
9	6	Wrought Nail	Rose Head		Complete	65	5	Vertical	
9	7	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		5	Vertical	
9	8	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		5	Vertical	
9	9	Wrought Nail	Rose Head		Complete	70	5	Vertical	
9	10	Wrought Nail	Rose Head		Fragment		20	Horizontal	
9	11	Wrought Nail	Rose Head		Complete	64	20	Horizontal	
9	12	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		20	Horizontal	
9	13	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		20	Horizontal	
9	14	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		21	Horizontal	
9	15	Wrought Nail	Rose Head		Fragment		21	Horizontal	
9	16	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		22	Horizontal	
9	17	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Complete	76	21	Horizontal	

Feature	Object No.	Hardware Form	Fastener Type	Tip	Condition	Size (mm)	Depth (cmbd)	Location	Notes
9	18	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		21	Horizontal	
9	19	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		21	Horizontal	
9	20	Wrought Nail	Rose Head		Fragment		20	Horizontal	
9	21	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		20	Horizontal	
9	22	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		19	Horizontal	
9	23	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		19	Horizontal	
9	24	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		19	Horizontal	
9	25	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		20	Horizontal	
9	26	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		20	Horizontal	
10	1	Wrought Nail	Rose Head		Fragment		8	Horizontal	
10	2	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		19	Horizontal	
10	3	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		19	Horizontal	
10	4	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		8	Vertical	
10	5	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		8	Vertical	
10	6	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		21	Horizontal	
10	7	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		8	Vertical	
10	8	Wrought Nail	Finishing	Sharp	Complete	45	8	Vertical	
10	9	Wrought Nail	Rose Head	Sharp	Complete	50	8	Vertical	
10	10	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		8	Vertical	
10	11	Wrought Nail	Rose Head	Sharp	Complete	55	9	Vertical	
10	12	Wrought Nail	Rose Head		Complete	60	23	Horizontal	
10	13	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		9	Vertical	
10	14	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate	Sharp	Complete	60	10	Horizontal	
10	15	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate	Sharp	Complete	45	17	Horizontal	
10	16	Wrought Nail	Rose Head	Sharp	Complete	56	10	Horizontal	
10	17	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate	Sharp	Complete	50	9	Vertical	
10	18	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		9	Vertical	
10	19	Wrought Nail	Rose Head		Fragment		9	Vertical	
10	20	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		17	Vertical	
10	21	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		8	Vertical	
10	22	Wrought Nail	Finishing		Fragment		8	Vertical	

Feature	Object No.	Hardware Form	Fastener Type	Tip	Condition	Size (mm)	Depth (cmbd)	Location	Notes
10	23	Wrought Nail	Rose Head	Sharp	Complete	60	22	Horizontal	
10	24	Wrought Nail	Finishing	Sharp	Complete	65	8	Vertical	
10	25	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		21	Horizontal	
10	26	Wrought Nail	Rose Head	Sharp	Complete	50	7	Vertical	
10	29	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate	Sharp	Fragment		22	Horizontal	
10	30	Wrought Nail	Rose Head		Fragment		10	Horizontal	
10	31	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		8	Vertical	
10	32	Wrought Nail	Rose Head		Complete	50	23	Horizontal	
11	2	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		5	Horizontal	High - Lid?
11	3	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		8	Vertical	
11	4	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		9	Horizontal	Center Line
11	5	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate	Sharp	Fragment		11	Horizontal	
11	6	Wrought Nail	T Head	Sharp	Fragment		4	Horizontal	High - Lid?
11	7	Wrought Nail	T Head		Fragment		11	Horizontal	
11	8	Wrought Nail	T Head		Fragment		10	Horizontal	Center Line
11	9	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		11	Horizontal	
11	11	Indeterminate	Indeterminate		Fragment		12	Horizontal	Center Line
11	12	Indeterminate	Indeterminate		Fragment		12	Vertical	Center Line
11	13	Wrought Nail	Rose Head	Sharp	Fragment		13	Horizontal	
11	14	Wrought Nail	Rose Head	Sharp	Complete		5	Horizontal	
11	15	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		12	Horizontal	
11	16	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		13	Horizontal	Center Line
11	17	Wrought Nail	Rose Head	Sharp	Fragment		3	Horizontal	High - Lid?
11	18	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		14	Horizontal	Center Line
11	19	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		2	Horizontal	
11	20	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		3	Horizontal	Center Line
11	21	Indeterminate	Indeterminate		Fragment		14	Horizontal	Center Line
11	22	Wrought Nail	Rose Head	Sharp	Fragment		3	Horizontal	Probably Disturbed
11	23	Wrought Nail	Rose Head		Fragment		4	Vertical	Center Line
11	24	Wrought Nail	Rose Head	Sharp	Fragment		13	Horizontal	Center Line

Feature	Object No.	Hardware Form	Fastener Type	Tip	Condition	Size (mm)	Depth (cmbd)	Location	Notes
11	25	Indeterminate	Indeterminate		Fragment		13	Horizontal	Center Line
11	26	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		13	Horizontal	Center Line
11	27	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate	Sharp	Fragment		8	Horizontal	High - Lid?
11	28	Wrought Nail	Rose Head	Sharp	Complete		6	Vertical	
11	29	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		6	Horizontal	Center Line
11	30	Wrought Nail	Rose Head	Sharp	Fragment		6	Vertical	
11	32	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		4	Horizontal	High Lid?
11	33	Wrought Nail	Rose Head	Sharp	Complete		16	Horizontal	
11	34	Wrought Nail	Rose Head		Fragment		12	Horizontal	
11	35	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		12	Horizontal	
11	36	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		14	Horizontal	
11	37	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		14	Horizontal	
12	1	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate	Sharp	Fragment		3	Horizontal	
12	2	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		3	Horizontal	
12	3	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		3	Horizontal	
12	4	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		4	Horizontal	
12	5	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		4	Horizontal	
12	6	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		4	Horizontal	
12	7	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate	Sharp	Fragment		4	Horizontal	
12	8	Wrought Nail	T Head		Fragment		4	Horizontal	
12	9	Wrought Nail	Indeterminate		Fragment		9	Horizontal	

APPENDIX B. OSTEOLOGICAL DATA

Element	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6/7	B8	B9	B10	B11	B12	B13	I1	I2	I3	I4	I5	I6
1. Decidious																		
I1-Max-Left																		
I1-Max-Right																		
I2-Max-Left																		
I2-Max-Right																		
C-Max-Left																		
C-Max-Right																		
M1-Max-Left																		
M1-Max-Right																		
M2-Max-Left																		
M2-Max-Right																		
I1-Mand-Left																		
I1-Mand-Right																		
I2-Mand-Left																		
I2-Mand-Right																		
C-Mand-Left																		
C-Mand-Right																		
M1-Mand-Left																		
M1-Mand-Right																		
M2-Mand-Left																		
M2-Mand-Right																		

Score: 1-75-100% Complete, 2=<75% Complete, R-Resorbed Socket, X=Postmortem Loss

Element	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6/7	B8	B9	B10	B11	B12	B13	I1	I2	I3	I4	I5	I6
2. Adult																		
I1-Max-Left			1							1								
I1-Max-Right								2		2								
I2-Max-Left										2								
I2-Max-Right				1				2										
C-Max-Left	1			1		1		1		1								
C-Max-Right				1				2										
PM1-Max-Left				1				1	2	2								
PM1-Max-Right				1		1		1	2									
PM2-Max-Left				1				1	2	1								
PM2-Max-Right				1		1		1	2	1								
M1-Max-Left				R					2	1								
M1-Max-Right				1		1		1	2	1								
M2-Max-Left			2	R				1	2	1								
M2-Max-Right								1	2	1								
M3-Max-Left			1															
M3-Max-Right				1														
I1-Mand-Left		R						1		2								
I1-Mand-Right		R				1		1		2								
I2-Mand-Left		R						1		2								
I2-Mand-Right		R						2										
C-Mand-Left		R		1				2		2								
C-Mand-Right		R						1		1								
PM1-Mand-Left		R		1				1	2	1								
PM1-Mand-Right		R		2				1	2	1								
PM2-Mand-Left		R						1	2	2								
PM2-Mand-Right	1	R						1	2	1								
M1-Mand-Left		R		1				1	2									
M1-Mand-Right		R		1				1	2	1								
M2-Mand-Left		R	1	1				1										
M2-Mand-Right		R		1				2		1								
M3-Mand-Left		R		1				1										
M3-Mand-Right		R		R				1										
Tooth Frags (Count)						1												
Acc.Teeth																		

Skeletal Inventory

Element	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6/7	B8	B9	B10	B11	B12	B13	I1	I2	I3	I4	I5	I6
1. Cranial																		
Frontal		2	2	2		2	2	2	2	2								
Parietal-Left		2	2	2			2	2	2	2								
Parietal-Right	2	2	2	2			2	2	2	2								
Occipital	2	2	2	2			2	2	2	2								
Temporal-Left	2	2	2	2		2			2									
Temporal-Right		1	2	2		2		2										
Zygomatic-Left				2														
Zygomatic-Right		2		2														
Palatine-Left																		
Palatine-Right																		
Maxilla-Left				2														
Maxilla-Right				2														
Nasal-Left																		
Nasal-Right																		
Ethmoid																		
Lacrimal-Left																		
Lacrimal-Right																		
Vomer																		
Thyroid Cartilage																		
Sphenoid		2		2														
Auditory Ossicles (Count)																		
Vault Fragments (Count)						21												
Face Fragments (Count)						1												
Mandible	2	2		2					2	2								
2. Spine																		
Neural Arch Frags (Count)																		
Arch Frags-Cervical																		
Arch Frags-Thoracic																		
Arch Frags-Lumbar																		
Centrum-Cervical																		
Centrum-Thoracic																		
Centrum-Lumbar																		
Centrum Frags																		
Cervical 1				2														
Cervical 2				2														
Cervical 3-Cervical 6				2														
Cervical 7				2														
Thoracic 1-Thoracic 9				2														
Thoracic 10				2														
Thoracic 11				2														
Thoracic 12		2		2														
Lumbar 1		2		2														
Lumbar 2		2		2														
Lumbar 3		2		2														
Lumbar 4		2		2														
Lumbar 5		2		2														
Sacrum				2														
Coccyx																		
Accessory Vertebrae																		
Hyoid																		
Sternal Body																		
Manubrium																		
Xiphoid										2								

Scoring Key: 1=75-100% Complete , 2=<75% Complete

Skeletal Inventory

Element	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6/7	B8	B9	B10	B11	B12	B13	I1	I2	I3	I4	I5	I6
Rib Frag-Left (Count)										2								
Rib Frag-Right (Count)																		
Rib Frag-(Count)																		
Rib-lst-Left				2						2								
Rib-lst-Right				2						2								
Rib-2nd-Left				2						2								
Rib-3to10-Left				2						2								
Rib-3to10-Right				2						2								
Rib-11-Left				2						2								
Rib-11-Right				2						2								
Rib-12-Left				2						2								
Rib-12-Right				2						2								
Vert-Epiphysis																		
Rib-Epiphysis																		
3. Pectoral Girdle																		
Clavicle-Left				2					2									
Clavicle-Right				2														
Scapula-Left	2	2		2														
Scapula-Right		2		2														
Humerus-Left		2	2	2				2	2	2	2		2					
Humerus-Right		2	2	2					2	2	2							
Radius-Left	2	2	2					2	2		2							
Radius-Right	2		2	2					2	2	2							2
Ulna-Left	2	2	2						2		2							
Ulna-Right	2	2	2	2					2	2	2							
Sesimoid-Hnd																		
Navicular-Left	2			2														
Navicular-Right	2			2						2								
Lunate-Left	2			2														
Lunate-Right	2			2						2								
Triquetal-Left	2			2														
Triquetal-Right	2			2						2								
Pisiform-Left	2			2														
Pisiform-Right	2			2						2								
Greater Multangular-Left	2			2														
Greater Multangular-Right	2			2						2								
Lesser Multangular-Left	2			2														
Lesser Multangular-Right	2			2						2								
Capitate-Left	2			2														
Capitate-Right	2			2						2								
Hamate-Left	2			2														
Hamate-Right	2			2						2								
Phalange-Hnd-Phalanx	2			2						2								
Phalange-Hnd-Terminal	2			2						2								
Metacarpal1-Left	2			2														
Metacarpal1-Right	2			2						2								
Metacarpal2-Left	2			2														
Metacarpal2-Right	2			2						2								
Metacarpal3-Left	2			2														
Metacarpal3-Right	2			2						2								
Metacarpal4-Left	2			2														
Metacarpal4-Right	2			2						2								
Metacarpal5-Left	2			2														
Metacarpal5-Right	2			2						2								
Metacarpal-Frag (Count)																		

Scoring Key: 1=75-100% Complete , 2=<75% Complete

Skeletal Inventory

Element	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6/7	B8	B9	B10	B11	B12	B13	I1	I2	I3	I4	I5	I6
Clavicle-Epiphysis																		
Scapula-Epiphysis																		
Humerus-Epiphysis																		
Ulna-Epiphysis																		
Radius-Epiphysis																		
Metacarpal-Epiphysis																		
Phalange-Hnd-Epiphysis																		
4. Pelvic Girdle																		
Ilium-Left	2	2		2														
Ilium-Right	2	2		2														
Ishium-Left	2			2														
Ishium-Right	2			2														
Pubis-Left																		
Pubis-Right																		
Ilium-Epiphysis																		
Ishium-Epiphysis																		
Pubis-Epiphysis																		
Femur-Left	2	2	2	2				2	2	2								
Femur-Right	2	2	2	2		2	2	2	2	2								
Patella-Left				2														
Patella-Right				2					2									
Tibia-Left	2		2	2			2	2	2	2							2	
Tibia-Right	2		2	2				2	2	2								
Fibula-Left	2		2	2														
Fibula-Right	2		2	2				2										
Talus-Left	2			2						2								
Talus-Right	2			2						2								
Calcaneus-Left	2			2						2								
Calcaneus-Right	2			2						2								
Cuboid-Left	2			2						2								
Cuboid-Right	2			2						2								
Navicular-Left	2			2						2								
Navicular-Right	2			2						2								
Cun1-Left	2			2						2								
Cun1-Right	2			2						2								
Cun2-Left	2			2						2								
Cun2-Right	2			2						2								
Cun3-Left	2			2						2								
Cun3-Right	2			2						2								
Phalange-Ft-Phalanx	2			2						2								
Phalange-Ft-Terminal	2			2						2								
Metatarsal1-Left	2			2						2								
Metatarsal1-Right	2			2						2								
Metatarsal2-Left	2			2						2								
Metatarsal2-Right	2			2						2								
Metatarsal3-Left	2			2						2								
Metatarsal3-Right	2			2						2								
Metatarsal4-Left	2			2						2								
Metatarsal4-Right	2			2						2								
Metatarsal5-Left	2			2						2								
Metatarsal5-Right	2			2						2								
Metatarsal-Frag (Count)																		
Sesimoid-Foot																		
Femur-Epiphysis																		
Tibia-Epiphysis																		

Scoring Key: 1=75-100% Complete , 2=<75% Complete

Skeletal Inventory

Element	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6/7	B8	B9	B10	B11	B12	B13	I1	I2	I3	I4	I5	I6
Fibula-Epiphysis																		
Metatarsal-Epiphysis																		
Phalange-Epiphysis																		

APPENDIX C. GRAVESTONE INSCRIPTIONS

Inscriptions for all Grave and Memorial Stones Installed at the Steele Creek Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, North Carolina, July 14, 2007

See Figure 27 for Stone Locations.

Stone 1: E J

Stone 2:
Here
Lies the bod[y]
Of Esther
Johnson who
Deceasd Octr
The 22nd 1775
Age 31 years

Stone 3:
In
Memory
Of Catherine
[Pe]el who departed
This the May ye 24th
1778 Aged 30 years

Stone 4:
Here lies
The body of
James Mcnight
Who deceasd
October ye 23d
1764 Aged 60
years

Stone 5:
Here lies the
Body of Robert
Mcnight who
Deceasd Octobr
Ye 19th 1778 Age 60
Years

Stone 6: In
Memory of Our
Beloved Families
For 250 Years, circa (1740-2007), the Historic Spratt Family Cemetery was located
At the corner of E. 5th Street and Caswell Rd in Charlotte. Through the years,
The grave sites and markers were covered over and the cemetery location was lost.
Excavation in 2007 uncovered the cemetery and the graves of 14 settlers. The fragile
Remains of Thomas Spratt, his descendents and these settlers were disinterred and
Reburied here at the Steele Creek Presbyterian Church July 14, 2007.
These settlers were the founding families of Mecklenburg County, N.C.

The numbered markers denote 14 sets of remains from the Spratt Cemetery
And may include the following individuals:

Thomas Spratt, The Pioneer, 1685-1757

Andrew Sprot D. November 29, 1772, Aged 64 yrs., his wife Mary Sprot, D. June 7, 1771, Aged 64 yrs.

William Barnet D. March 14, 1778, Aged 60 yrs., Mary Barnet D. October 4, 1764, Aged 45 yrs.
Jean Barnet D. April 20, 1776, Aged 20 Yers., Thomas Barnet D. May 3, 1776, Aged 22 yrs
John Jack Barnet D. January 14, 1778, Aged 9 mos.

James McKnight D. October 23, 1764, Aged 60 yrs.,
Robert McKnight D. October 19, 1778, Aged 60 yrs.

Hugh Bigham D. November 4, 1765, Also Lies, ye body of Joseph Bigham, a child
Mary Bigham D. January 18, 1772, Aged 55 yrs., Samuel Bigham, Jr. D. April 25, 1774, Aged 33 yrs

Esther Johnston D. October 22, 1775, Aged 31 yrs.

Catherine Peel D. May 24, 1778, Aged 50 yrs.

Other persons by name of Osbourne, Polk and Jack are said to have been buried in the Spratt Cemetery, but their gravestones were not found.

May They Rest in Peace

Stone 7: Here
Lies the body
Of William
Barnet who
Deceasd March
Ye 14 1778 Aged
60 years

Stone 8:

In	|	Also here
Memory	|	Lys his wife
of	|	Mary Sprot
Andrew Sprot	|	Who died
Who died	|	June the 7th
Novr the 29	|	1771 aged 64
1772 Aged	|	Years
64 years	|	

Stone 9: Here
Lies the body of
Thomas Barnet
Who deceasd
May the 3d 1776
Age 22 years

Stone 10: T B

Stone 11: G.W.S.

Stone 12: Here
Lies the body of
George White Smartt
Born August 1764
Died May 1810
He was an honest man and a kind and
Affectionate father and husband

Stone 13: Historic Memorial Gravestone

These gravestones now rest near their family

Ann Spratt Barnet D. July 8th 1801, 83 yrs

George White Smartt B. August 16, 1764, D. May 16 1809/1810,
"One of the Representatives of the General Assembly
from Mecklenburg County" Ann's Son-in-Law

TBS – Thomas Barnet Smartt
B. March 2, 1799, D. September 20, 1833 Ann's Grandson

Remains were removed from the Barnet-Smartt
Family Graveyard on Nation's Ford Road
And entombed in Sharon Memorial Park

Dedication was July 1988
Courtesy of Vulcan Materials Company

Stone 14: Sacred to the Memory
of
| Ann Barnet
| Who died July
| 8th 1801 Aged
| 83 Years

Stone 15: T.B.S.