

FOUR YEARS OF THE CYPRESS STREET SCHOOL ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT: A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN COLLABORATION WITH SWANN MIDDLE SCHOOL, GUILFORD COUNTY, NC

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*Figure 1: The Location of the
Cypress Street Public School*

In 2020, a partnership was formed between New South Associates, Inc. (NSA) and the neighboring Melvin C. Swann Jr. Middle School (SMS). The collaboration was the direct result of the identification of the footprint of the Cypress Street Public School (31GF601) on the SMS campus as depicted on a 1919 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (**Figure 1**). NSA began working with Social Studies Teacher Ben Porter to incorporate the history of the Cypress Street School into the sixth-grade curriculum at SMS.

Archival research indicated that the Cypress Street School was built circa 1917 and operated until SMS (then known as the Charles B. Aycock Elementary School) was built in 1922. During the 1930s, the four-room Cypress Street School was used as the first Greensboro Historical Museum (**Figure 2**). The building was demolished sometime prior to 1950. The location of the Cypress Street School was verified following a 2021 ground-penetrating radar (GPR) survey conducted by NSA.

Unit excavation began in 2022, in which every student at SMS was taught to excavate, screen soils, and identify artifacts and features (**Figure 3**). Since 2022, student excavations have been held each spring during which each sixth-grade social studies class is brought to the site. In total, nine 1x1-meter units have been excavated at the Cypress Street School. Two units (Test Units 8 and 9) were excavated in 2024. Test Unit 8 was placed to ground-truth a “foundation and building material” anomaly along the building’s façade and Test Unit 9 was placed to ground-truth a foundation anomaly near the southern corner of the building (**Figure 4**).

Since excavations began in 2022, students have identified intact portions of the brick foundations, remnants of building debris that were bulldozed inward, numerous structural materials, and several personal artifacts. Artifacts of note include a 1920s hobble skirt Coca-Cola bottle, a glass inkwell, a Cherokee Brick Company Stamped brick, a pencil fragment, buttons, a ceramic doll arm, a plastic cat figurine, and a housekey (**Figures 5-6**).

Figure 3: Student excavations in Spring 2024

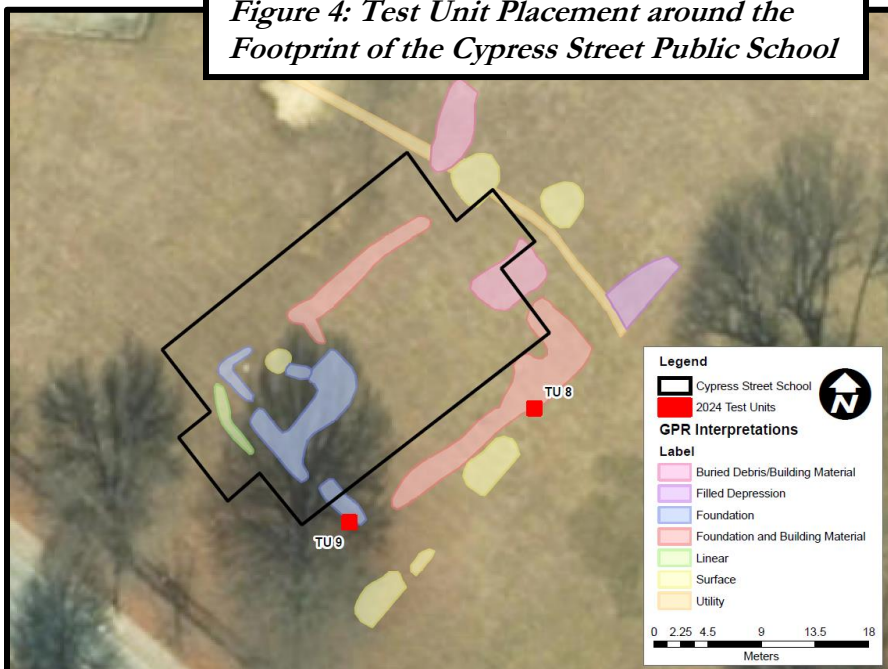


Figure 2: The Cypress Street School used as the Greensboro Historical Museum (1930)

The artifacts are currently curated at NSA’s lab in Stone Mountain, Georgia. However, with the help of the students, we hope to eventually create a small exhibit for the school at the Greensboro History Museum. Unfortunately, SMS will be closing at the end of this school year for renovations. The school will reopen in 2027 as a sixth- through twelfth-grade performing arts school. We hope to find a way to move forward and continue to use the Cypress Street School site as an educational tool for Guilford County schools while SMS undergoes renovations.

NSA would like to acknowledge the following folks: Ben Porter, David Cranford, Terry Brock, Jackson DeWitt, Abigail Bythell, Marty Gimson, Sherry Teal, Brittany Hyder, Angela Hronek, Noah Currey, Danny Gregory, Tamara Cagle, Shawn Patch, the Swann Middle School Social Studies Department, and the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology.

Figure 4: Test Unit Placement around the Footprint of the Cypress Street Public School



Figures 5-6: Pencil Fragments and a Glass Inkwell



CHANGES TO THE NCAS EXECUTIVE BOARD



Please note the following changes to the NCAS Executive Board. In February 2024, our new president (as of the October 2023 meeting) suddenly resigned, leaving a vacancy of leadership. After discussion amongst the seated BOD members and consultation with our current By-Laws, the board agreed to ask Danny Gregory, the newly elected President-Elect, to step into the President's position, and he agreed. Secondly, the BOD asked immediate past President, Shane Petersen, to step into the now vacant President-Elect position until the upcoming fall elections in October 2024. At that meeting, four positions will be filled, a new President-Elect, two new at-large directors, and renewal of the executive secretary position (currently held by Linda Carnes-McNaughton). Danny Gregory will serve as President until October 2026. If you, or anyone you know, are current members and interested in serving on the Board of Directions, please notify any of the board officers and we'll provide you with details and terms of tenure. We thank all our members for their dedication to the NCAS mission and service.

2024 SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE ON HISTORIC SITES ARCHAEOLOGY (SECHSA) – CALL FOR PAPERS

Theme: Community Engagement in Historical Archaeology

We are excited to announce the call for papers for the 2024 Southeastern Conference on Historic Sites Archaeology (SECHSA), which will take place September 6-7, 2024, at Brookgreen Gardens, Murrells Inlet, South Carolina. This year's theme recognizes the vital role of community engagement in historic sites archaeology, acknowledging the diverse perspectives, collaborations, and methodologies that enrich our understanding of the past.

SECHSA recognizes the importance of engaging with local communities in the design, implementation, and dissemination of archaeological research. Community engagement fosters dialogue, empowers marginalized voices, and promotes stewardship of our shared heritage. This conference aims to explore innovative approaches, successful partnerships, and ethical considerations in community engagement in historic sites archaeology. However, posters and papers on additional historical archaeology topics and research are always welcome.

Papers should be 15-20 minutes long. If you plan to give a presentation or bring a poster to display, abstracts are due by July 31, 2024. Thematic sessions are welcomed, but all abstracts for the session must be grouped together at the time they are submitted. Due to wall space, posters must be no larger than 5 feet wide.

Please include the following information:

Paper/Poster Title

Authors and their affiliation

Email address for senior author

Abstract: no more than 300 words

Please email abstracts to Carolyn Dillian at cdillian@coastal.edu by July 31, 2024. Please follow up if confirmation email is not received.

Please go to www.SECHSA.org to register and for additional conference details.

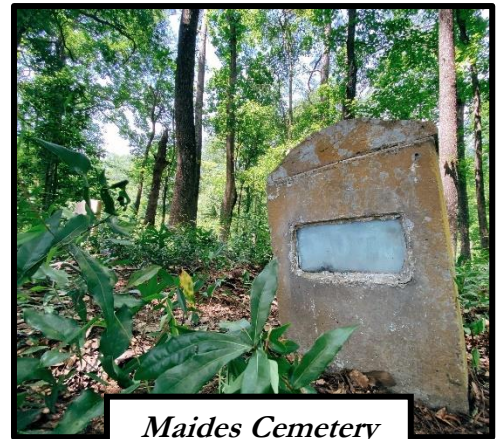
AFRICAN AMERICAN BURIAL GROUNDS PRESERVATION PROGRAM

The African American Burial Grounds Preservation Program (S.3667 and H.R.6805) was authorized by Congress in late 2023. This program authorizes the National Park Service, in consultation with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and members of the Black heritage community, to establish a \$3 million annual grant program to aid preservation efforts across the country to research, identify, document, preserve and interpret historic African American burial grounds.

Unfortunately, while the African American Burial Grounds Preservation Program has been authorized by Congress, no appropriation has been approved yet to actually implement it. To move this program forward, please contact your Members of Congress to ask that they approve \$3 million for the African American Burial Grounds Preservation Program in the FY 2025 Interior Appropriations bill.

The quickest and easiest way for you to do this is by going to the National Trust for Historic Preservation's advocacy page at: <https://support.savingplaces.org/page/64151/action/1> and entering your information. Your letter in support of the appropriation will be sent automatically to your Senator and Representative.

We hope you will take a few minutes to contact your Members of Congress and ask for their support of this important program.



*Maides Cemetery
(Wilmington, NC)*

OPPORTUNITY – The University of Missouri Research Reactor's Archaeometry Laboratory is organizing a free workshop on the use of archaeological science in historical archaeology on August 5th-8th, 2024. The workshop is open to graduate students and early career researchers studying historical archaeology. Attendees do not need previous experience with archaeological science as the workshop is primarily aimed at historical archaeologists who are curious about how they could incorporate archaeometry into their research but are unsure where to begin. The workshop will be held in person in Columbia, Missouri, but each attendee will be reimbursed up to \$600 for travel and housing expenses. More information and a link to the application for the workshop here [[Historical Archaeology Workshop \(missouri.edu\)](https://historicalarchaeologyworkshop.missouri.edu)]. Questions about the workshop can be sent to Matt Greer at mcgkbb@missouri.edu.

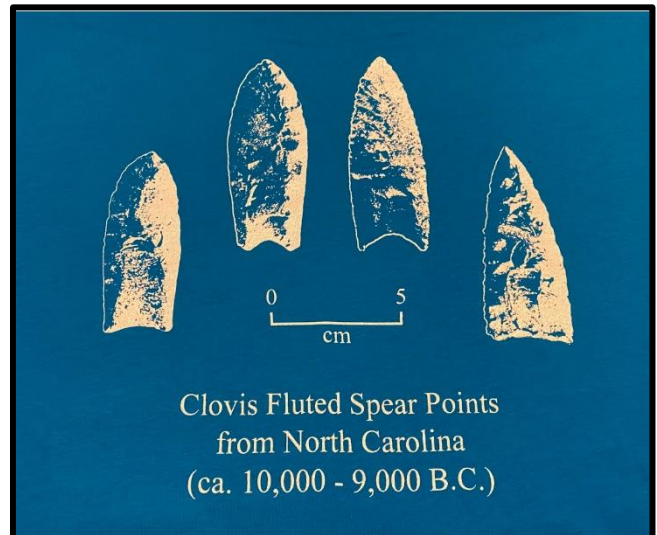
UNCW Archaeological Field School will be investigating the archaeological and historical heritage of the Lower Cape Fear region by excavating outbuildings around the Russelborough section of Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site, from **May 20-June 18, 2024**. We will be in the field Tuesday-Friday if anyone wants to drop by and visit us!

The area of Russelborough served as the Governor's mansion in North Carolina for Governors Dobbs and Tryon, and so was the seat of North Carolina government from 1758-1770. Governor Tryon abandoned the area after he was besieged by irate colonists during the Stamp Act crisis. Russelborough was bought by local wealthy merchant William Dry and burned by the British during the American Revolution. The site of Russelborough is interesting for several different reasons. It was one of the earliest rice plantations in the region. Brunswick Town was built by enslaved African people, as were the house and outbuildings at Russelborough. Excavation in the area will hopefully help us learn more about the lives of enslaved people during the 1700s in the Lower Cape Fear.



NCAS Merchandise – We’ve reprinted a classic! This design was featured on our gray sweatshirts over the last few years, but they were all sold at the SEAC conference last November. This time, the fluted point design is featured on an aquamarine color tee, available in crew neck from small to 4XL, and in v-neck from small to extra-large.

This shirt, and the Woodland projectile point shirts, are now available. Go the NCAS website merchandise page ([Merchandise — North Carolina Archaeological Society \(ncarchsociety.org\)](https://www.ncarchsociety.org)) and hit up Mr. Tom Beaman (tbeamanjr@aol.com) if you’re interested!



NCAS JOURNAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Volume 72 of *North Carolina Archaeology* is now out, and our Journal Editor is now taking submissions for Volume 73! If you have an article idea you would like to share with NCAS members, please contact David Cranford (david.cranford@ncdcr.gov) for more information. Deadline for Volume 73 submissions is **September 1, 2024.**

NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH



National Trust for
Historic Preservation®

May is recognized as Historic Preservation Month, and in North Carolina, this is a time to celebrate and raise awareness about the importance of preserving historic places. The theme for Preservation Month in 2024 is “People Saving Places,” which highlights the efforts of individuals and communities in protecting and cherishing their local historic sites. During this month, various events and activities are organized to promote heritage tourism and demonstrate the social and economic benefits of historic preservation. It’s a great opportunity for people to connect with their shared history and contribute to the preservation of America’s historic places. For more information on events and how you can get involved in North Carolina, you might want to check out the resources provided by organizations like the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Preservation North Carolina.



NCAS FALL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT



A little bird shared that this year’s Fall Meeting may be held in October in tandem with a Public Day at the Joara Site. Be on the lookout for more details in the Summer issue of the NCAS newsletter or other society “blasts.”



As the summer months approach and in preparation for the NCAS Fall Elections, the NCAS Membership Committee will be soliciting candidates for positions on the society's Board of Directors. The following positions will be up for election/re-election: President-Elect/Vice President, Secretary, and two (2) At-Large Members. When it comes to elections, I am always reminded (thank you, Brian O.) of what Tom Padgett shared in our very own newsletter ([Volume 1 No. 1.pdf \(unc.edu\)](#)). Let's be more inclusive of the membership. Let's be open to new ideas. Let's be willing to put new talents to work.

Lyle M. Stone (1941-2024) Dr. Lyle Stone passed away at his home in Arizona on February 21, 2024. In 1974, Lyle and his wife Betsy established Archaeological Research Services, Inc., Arizona's first private sector contract archaeological research firm. He was also one of the first to promote historical archaeology in the state, at a time when most archaeologists focused exclusively on the prehistoric period. Lyle was a founding member of the SHA and served as President in 1979. In addition to his notable work in Arizona, Lyle made considerable contributions to the field in Michigan. While still a graduate research assistant at Michigan State University, Stone directed the joint MSU/Mackinac Island State Park Commission archaeological excavation at Michilimackinac for the 1966 and 1967 field seasons. His subsequent dissertation summarized the first eight seasons of archaeology at the site and provided a detailed typology of the artifacts recovered. Stone became the commission's first full-time staff archaeologist in 1969, a position he held until his move to Arizona in 1974. A revised version of his dissertation was jointly published by the MISPC and the MSU Museum in 1974 as *Fort Michilimackinac 1715-1781: An Archaeological Perspective on the Revolutionary Frontier* and became a classic in the young field of historical archaeology.

mark  your **Calendar**

Association for Gravestone Studies
Emory University, Atlanta, GA (June 18-23, 2024)
[2024 Conference \(gravestonestudies.org\)](https://www.gravestonestudies.org)

2024 SECHSA
Murrells Inlet, SC (September 6-7, 2024)
www.SECHSA.org, see CFP in this issue)

Southeastern Archaeological Conference
Williamsburg, VA (November 13-16, 2024)
<https://www.southeasternarchaeology.org/annual-meeting/details/>

SHA will be in New Orleans in January 2025!

NCAS Board

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NCAS Newsletter Publication Schedule

All NCAS members should submit articles and news items to Paul J. Mohler (pjmohler@ncdot.gov) for inclusion in the Newsletter. Please use the following cut-off dates as guides for your submissions:

Winter Issue – January 31 Summer Issue – July 31
Spring Issue – April 30 Fall Issue – October 31



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