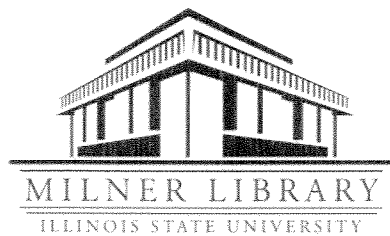


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# The Stone Quarry Cottage Site: Mid-Nineteenth-Century Settlement on Grand Island

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**ABSTRACT** Archaeological testing was recently conducted at the Stone Quarry Cottage Site on Grand Island, Michigan. The site is a mid-nineteenth-century homestead situated on the shore of Lake Superior. The recent rehabilitation of the cabin by the United States Forest Service allowed the placement of archaeological excavation units within the footprint of the cabin. The site has produced a distinct pattern of artifact deposition that has provided baseline data for ongoing studies of the mid-nineteenth-century settlement on the island. Despite its provisional nature, the data generated at the Stone Quarry Cottage identified patterns of site occupation reflecting domestic and transient use of this site, for the island as a whole, and possibly for other nineteenth-century frontier settings. This paper outlines the results of the archaeological testing and offers a discussion concerning the interpretation of the site.

The Stone Quarry Cottage (FS 09-10-03-803) is one of the oldest standing structures on Grand Island. Historical evidence indicates that the cabin was built around 1846 (Dunham 2001; Roberts 1991a). The Hiawatha National Forest was restoring the cabin to its nineteenth-century appearance with the intention to use the structure as an interpretive center for the Grand Island National Recreation Area. The archaeological deposits associated with the cabin had not been tested. Therefore, archaeological testing was conducted in conjunction with the restoration of the cabin (Dunham 2001). This article is derived from that study.

The Stone Quarry Cottage is situated on the shore of Lake Superior's Murray Bay on the south side of Grand Island in Section 15, T47N R19W (Figure 1; see also Figures 1 and 2 in the introductory section of this volume). The parcel associated with the cabin slopes down to the lake shore (Figure 2). The Stone Quarry Cottage consists of a one-story log structure (22 ft long by 16 ft wide) with a gable roof. A one-story frame addition (24 ft by 24 ft) had been added to the rear (west side) of the log structure and a porch to the front (east side). The log structure is the original cabin, consisting of squared log walls with dovetail-notched corners and a fieldstone fireplace on the cabin's north side. The original cabin had a single door on the east side and apparently had windows on both sides of the door and one along the south wall.

The above-ground component of the Stone Quarry Cottage was examined on at least two occasions. These included the initial recordation (Roberts and Vogel 1990) and National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) nomination (Roberts 1991b), as well as the formal historic structure report (MacDonald and Mack Architects [MMA] 1993) and historic documentation summary

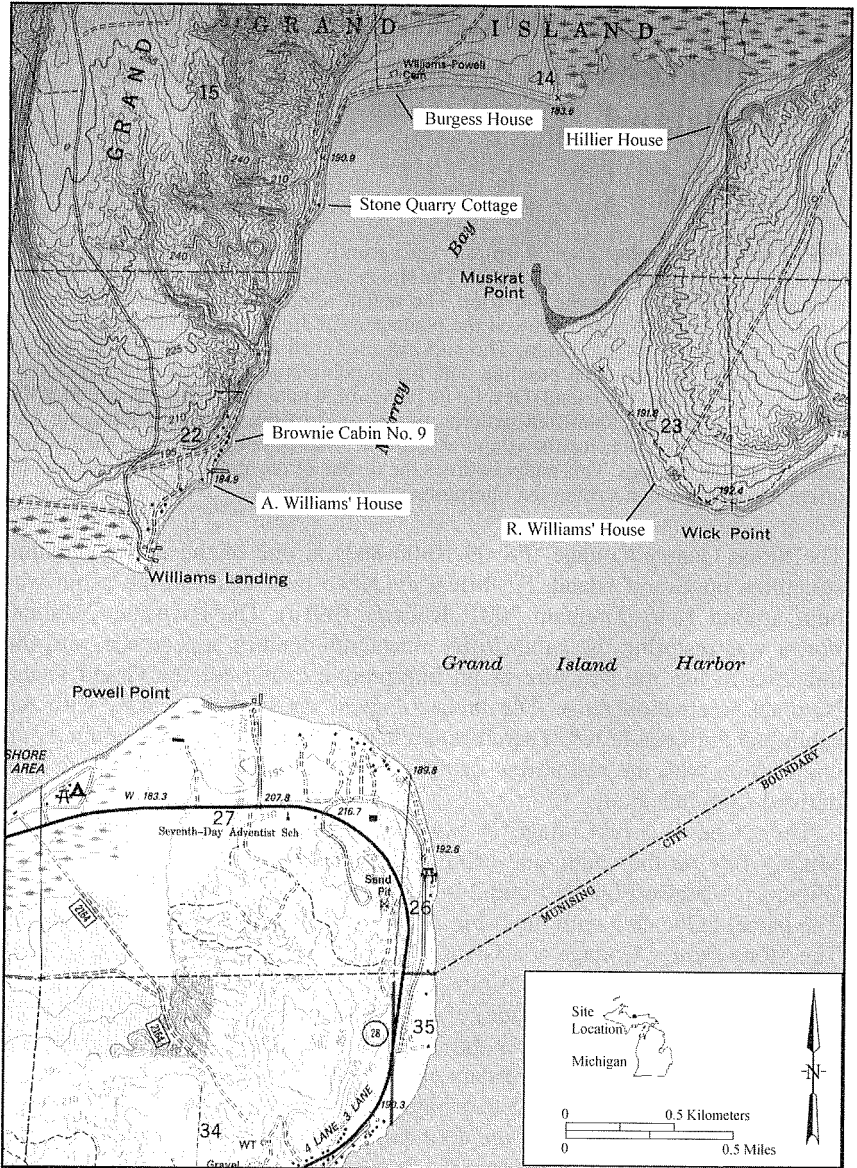


Figure 1. The location of Stone Quarry Cottage site and other mid-nineteenth-century sites (United States Forest Service [USFS 1992]).

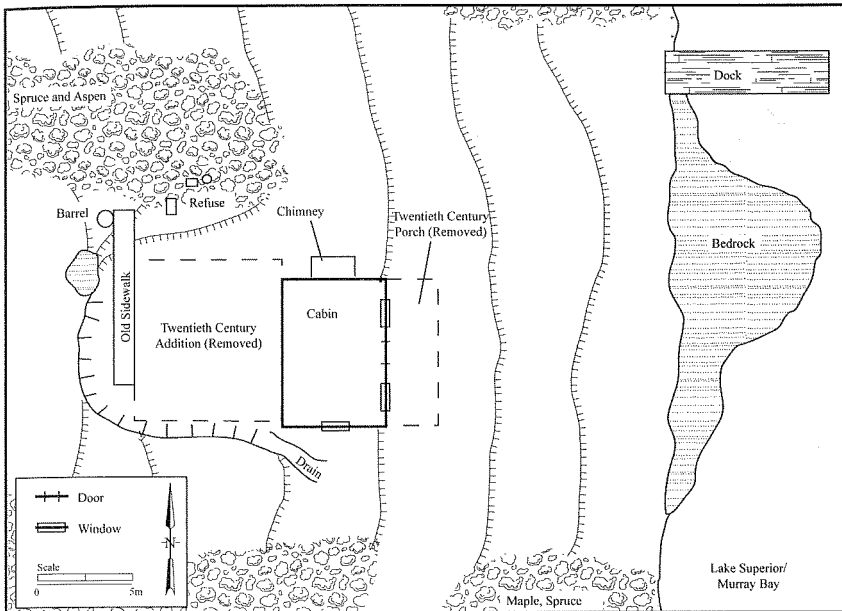
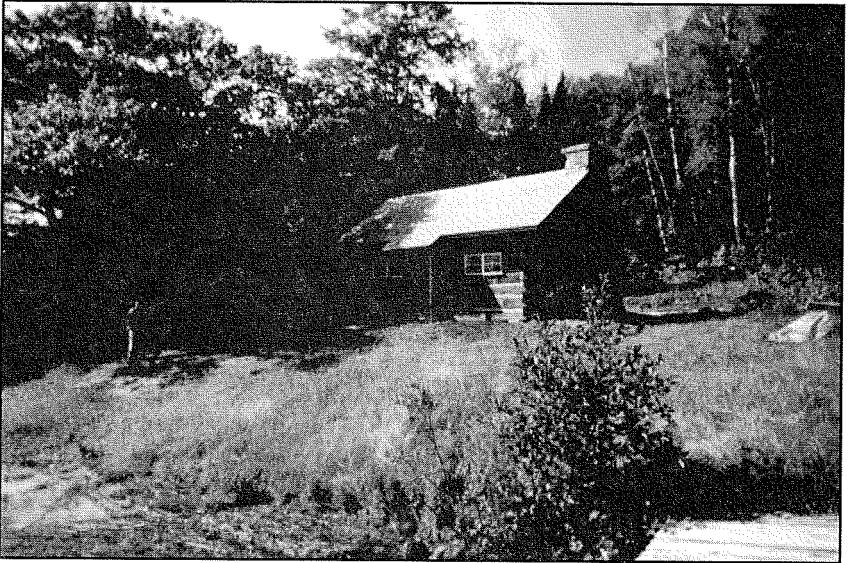


Figure 2. Site map of the Stone Quarry Cottage site.

(Roise 1993). The frame addition was added in the twentieth century after Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company (CCI) acquired the island, and the porch was added at a later date (Roise 1993:II-5-6). CCI also refurbished the cabin in 1906. The frame addition and the porch were removed as part of the restoration of the cabin. The restoration of the Stone Quarry Cottage closely approximates its nineteenth-century appearance (Figure 3).

During the modern rehabilitation of the cabin, two important discoveries were made that have significant implications for this study. First, it was discovered that the extant plank floor, added during the 1906 refurbishment of the structure, was not attached to the walls (Franzen 2000). This allowed the floor to be lifted to gain access to the underlying ground surface. There was no evidence for either floor joists or other components of an earlier floor. This observation raised the possibility that the original cabin had an earthen floor.

Second, graffiti were revealed beneath eight to ten layers of whitewash on the interior of the cabin (Franzen 2001). The graffiti included names, places, dates, and caricatures. The earliest date reads "Nov. 16, 1857" and the latest reads, "W Powell Sept 4 '05". Most of the graffiti appears to be names and dates, perhaps of visitors to the island. None of the initials, names or dates are readily associated with known individuals or events, although the name W. Powell may relate to a member of the Powell family, a family with close ties to Grand Island (see Castle 1987).



*Figure 3. Stone Quarry Cottage after restoration.*

### Historic Background

Abraham Williams was the first permanent Euro-American settler on Grand Island. He arrived at the island with his family in 1840 or 1841 (see Castle 1987; Roberts 1991a). His family included his wife (Anna) and twelve children. The general history of Grand Island and the role of Abraham Williams have been well documented and will not be reiterated here (Castle 1987; Roberts 1991a). The following discussion provides an abbreviated outline of the history of the island after Williams' arrival to provide a context for the more specific discussion of the Stone Quarry Cottage itself.

Abraham Williams built several structures on Grand Island between 1840 and 1862. He used at least three of these as his primary residence during this period. Williams' first house was built in the vicinity of the extant two-story Williams House (FS 09-10-03-811) at Williams Landing. This house is no longer standing. The second house is the Brownie Cabin No. 9 (FS 09-10-03-814). The third house is the extant Williams House. The earliest structure was built in 1840 or 1841, the second between 1847 and 1855, and the third between 1860 and 1862 (Dunham et al. 1994; Franzen 2000; Roberts 1991a). Each of these house sites is located near one another at Williams Landing (Figure 1).

There were several structures associated with Abraham Williams on Grand Island by 1845. A visitor to the island in that year wrote: "Williams had a number of log-cabins, quite comfortable" (Thayer 1906:16). This account noted a house, an unfurnished cabin, and a store. The 1847 United States

General Land Office (U.S. GLO) survey identified three structures at Williams Landing, including a dwelling, a warehouse, and a store (Higgins 1846; Lyon 1847; Roberts 1991a). By 1855 Williams resided at the Brownie Cabin No. 9 (Dunham et al. 1994; Roberts 1991a).

Abraham Williams originally settled on Grand Island as a result of an invitation by the Ojibwe elder Monomonee (Castle 1987; Roberts 1991a). It is thought that Williams' skill as a blacksmith led to the invitation. While on Grand Island, Williams became involved in many entrepreneurial undertakings. Williams traded with the Indians and operated a store on the island. He was a commercial fisherman, a farmer, and operated a sawmill (Roberts 1991a). He employed men in the fishery, to cut wood for steamboat fuel, and at his sawmill. He also hired a teacher to run a school on the island for his children (Castle 1987).

Grand Island was well situated between Sault Ste. Marie and Marquette, and Murray Bay also served as an excellent natural harbor. After iron was discovered near Marquette in 1844, Grand Island became a regular stopping place for steamships bound for Marquette. By 1850 ships were reported as stopping on a weekly basis at the island (Roberts 1991a:97). After the canal was constructed at the Sault in 1855, the island was visited more frequently. People also began visiting Grand Island and nearby Pictured Rocks for recreational purposes (Distuerness 1865; Rawson 1867). An 1890s guidebook indicates that a hotel was present on the island (Julian 1893:17). It is not known who operated the hotel, but it may have been members of the Williams family. It is also evident that Williams and his family provided housing to travelers and sightseers (Roberts 1991a).

As early as 1845, people were being put up by Williams in his house as well as other cabins on the island. One source states that "The gentlemen of our party were comfortably housed in Williams' good-sized house; the oar workers and the cook had an unfurnished cabin at their disposal, in which was a big fireplace with a crane" (Thayer 1906:17). Another account from the same visit noted that the cabins were outfitted "with bunks and a large stone fireplace in each" (Brotherton 1945:16). The presence of the bunks may indicate that these cabins were used, at least in part, to house visitors or employees.

Abraham Williams died in 1873. Little is known about Grand Island from the time of his death until CCI purchased much of the island in 1900. CCI's president, W. G. Mather, was interested in developing Grand Island as a primitive resort (Roberts 1991a).

## The Stone Quarry Cottage

While the precise date of construction is not known, the Stone Quarry Cottage appears on U.S. GLO plats and survey records from 1846 and 1855 (see Adair 1855; Chapman 1856; Higgins 1846; Lyon 1847 [Figure 4]). Based on this evidence, it is likely that the Stone Quarry Cottage was built around 1846.

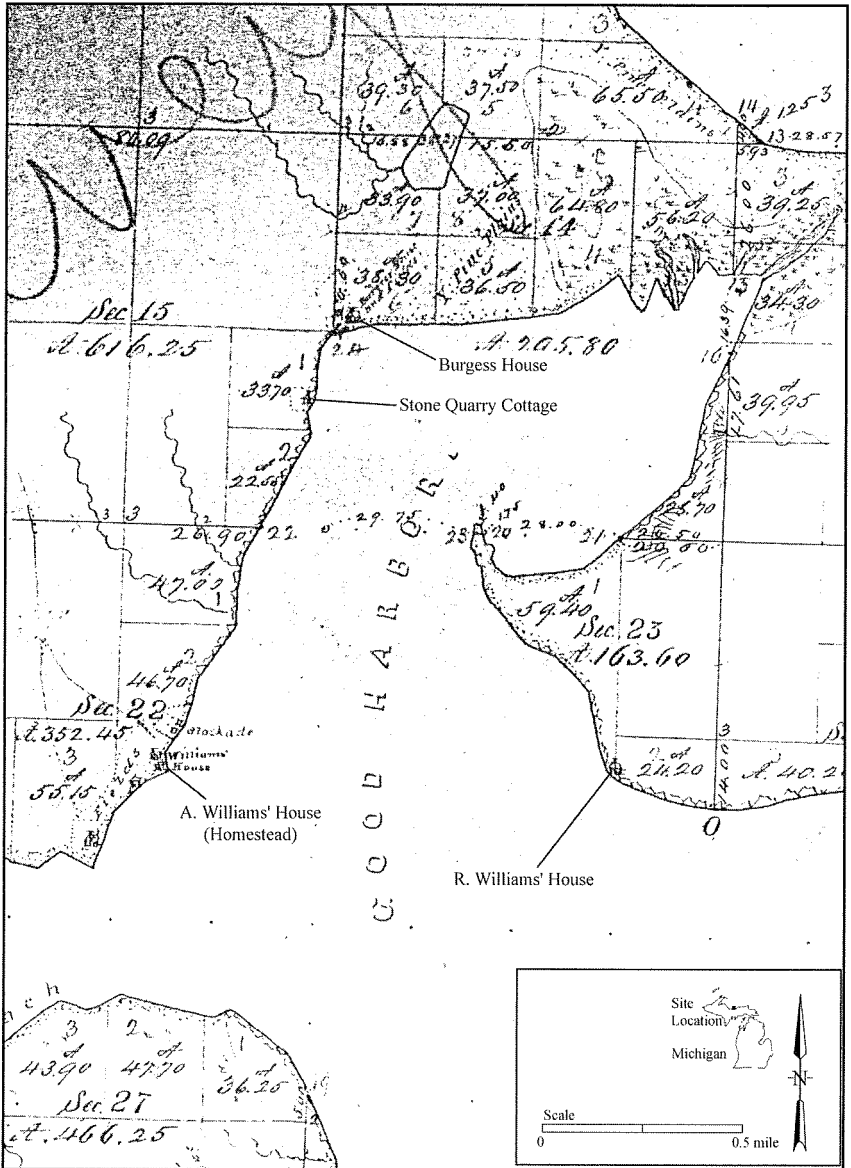


Figure 4. 1847 Plat with Stone Quarry Cottage and other mid-nineteenth-century sites (after Lyon 1847).

Unlike other structures depicted by these sources, the Stone Quarry Cottage is not attributed to an occupant. Therefore, it is not clear who lived there.

Abraham Williams received the original government patent for the lot that included the Stone Quarry Cottage in 1848 (Michigan Department of Treasury [MDT] n.d.). The timing of the GLO surveys and the patent award suggest that Abraham Williams may have constructed the Stone Quarry Cottage and was its original owner. However, there is another possible claimant for the builder and original occupant. John Angus, a "lake captain," may have built the Stone Quarry Cottage and lived there around 1847 (see Castle 1987:57). Additionally, Roberts and Vogel (1990) note that the exterior log notching methods used to construct the Stone Quarry Cottage are not consistent with the techniques used by Williams to construct other cabins on the island (see also Roberts 1991b). For this reason, they conclude that the Stone Quarry Cottage was not built by Abraham Williams. Thus, the identity of the builder of the Stone Quarry Cottage is not known.

The association of John Angus with the Stone Quarry Cottage is somewhat circumstantial. Castle (1987:57) recounts that another "lake captain," John Burgess, "came to live at the Island, and built a small house that stands near the east quarter-post of Section 15...near the cemetery." Burgess was said to have built his house in 1846. This is supported by the 1847 GLO map that identifies a house at this location as Burgess' house (Higgins 1846; Lyons 1847) (Figure 4). Castle (1987:57) records that Angus "joined" Burgess, "the next year, and brought his wife, and a maid-servant." The Stone Quarry Cottage is the only structure in close proximity to the Burgess' house in 1846, thus it is a good candidate for Angus' house (Figure 4).

Further complicating the issue is the fact that Angus and Burgess apparently left the island prior to 1850. Neither of these men, nor Angus' wife or maid, appear on the 1850 census (Roise 1993:II-3; United States Bureau of the Census [USBC] 1850). Likewise, neither of these men filed for land patents on Grand Island. As noted above, Abraham Williams received the patent for the Stone Quarry Cottage parcel in 1848. He also received a patent for the cemetery parcel, including the Burgess' house, in 1849 (MDT n.d.). This generally supports the abandonment of the island by Angus and Burgess. Additionally, it places any structures on those properties in Williams' possession. Thus, even if Angus had built the Stone Quarry Cottage, Williams owned it after 1848.

While the 1850 census does not place Angus on the island, it may place Williams' future son-in-law in the Stone Quarry Cottage. According to that census, the second house visited by the census taker was occupied by Trueman W. Powell, the future husband of Anna Marie Williams who was one of Abraham Williams' daughters (Castle 1987; United State Bureau of the Census [USBC] 1850). Based on the 1847 GLO map, the Stone Quarry Cottage was likely the second dwelling to be visited if one started at Abraham Williams' house. Powell arrived on the island in 1847 or 1848 (Roberts 1991a). Mr. and Mrs. Powell moved to the mainland, opposite Williams Landing, around 1852



(Castle 1987). Powell received a patent for the parcel on the mainland in 1849 (MDT n.d.). This raises the possibility that Anna and Trueman Powell occupied the Stone Quarry Cottage before moving to the mainland. Graffiti noted in the house included “W Powell Sept 4 ‘05”, and may relate to Mrs. Trueman W. Powell who was alive in 1905.

The Stone Quarry Cottage next enters the historical record around 1867–1868 when the Schoolcraft Iron Company was formed. The Schoolcraft Company built a blast furnace opposite Grand Island at the site of Old Munising (Richner 1992). The stone used to build the blast furnace was quarried on Grand Island near the site of the Stone Quarry Cottage (this is the presumed origin of the name of the cabin [Roberts 1991b; Roise 1993:II-4]). The construction of the blast furnace began in 1867 and was completed by July of 1868 (Richner 1992:8). The Schoolcraft Company operated at Old Munising until 1877 (Richner 1992). Thus, the cabin may have been used to house the stone cutters in 1867 and 1868 while the stone was quarried and the furnace was built.

The Stone Quarry Cottage may also have been occupied by Barbury and Bonnie Webber in 1870, based on one interpretation of the 1870 Federal Census (MMA 1993:A-1; Roberts 1991b; Roise 1993:II-4; USBC 1870). Barbury Webber is identified as a fisherman who was originally from Prussia. Another interpretation of the census data places the Webbers in a house next to the Williams House at Williams Landing (Roberts 1991a:103). It is possible that Webber was employed by Abraham Williams, or by his son Warren Williams, in the island’s fishery. It has also been suggested that they may have been in-laws of Williams (Roberts 1991a:103). Unfortunately, the contradictory interpretations of the census data do not allow the Webbers to be confidently linked with the Stone Quarry Cottage.

CCI began buying parcels on Grand Island in 1900. CCI planned to develop a primitive resort on the island and to operate a small hotel and cottages around Williams Landing (Roberts 1991a). The two-story Williams House was refurbished to serve as the hotel in 1904. In 1905 and 1906 several of the nineteenth century log buildings were repaired and rented to vacationers. Most of the resort complex was completed by 1912. The Stone Quarry Cottage was apparently refurbished around 1906 (Roise 1993:II-5). Photographs of the Stone Quarry Cottage dating to the turn of the last century show a dilapidated structure (Figure 5). The cabin is in poor condition in the photograph, hence the early twentieth-century refurbishing. During the CCI era, the Stone Quarry Cottage was used as a recreational cottage by summer visitors.

While it is reasonably certain that the Stone Quarry Cottage was built around 1846, it cannot be directly linked to any specific nineteenth-century occupants. Several individuals are associated with the cottage, but none can be proven to have lived there. The leading candidate for building the cabin is John Angus. Abraham Williams owned the property as well as the cabin after 1848. The cabin remained in his or his family’s ownership until CCI bought most of the island around 1900. Three persons or families are offered as possible occupants



Figure 5. Stone Quarry Cottage around 1900 (Longyear Library n.d.).

of the Stone Quarry Cottage. These include Angus, Powell, and the Webbers. In addition to these persons, stone cutters may have occupied the cabin during the construction of the blast furnace at Old Munising. When these people and events are considered, a possible occupation sequence can be derived based on the available historic evidence presented above (Table 1). While none of these people can be positively linked to the cabin, any or all of them could have lived there.

Alternatively, the Stone Quarry Cottage may have been used by an even wider variety of people during the nineteenth century. Abraham Williams employed men for his various business ventures such as his fishery, sawmill, and wood fuel operation. These men presumably lived on the island. Also, some of Williams' children remained on the island as adults. Williams' employees or his children may have lived in the Stone Quarry Cottage. There is also evidence that Williams and his family housed travelers and tourists who were staying on

**Table 1. Possible Occupation Sequence for Stone Quarry Cottage Based on Historical Evidence.**

<i>Date(s)</i>	<i>Name(s)</i>
ca. 1847–1848	Mr. and Mrs. John Angus
ca. 1848–1852	Trueman Powell
ca. 1867–1868	Stone Cutters
ca. 1870	Barbury and Bonnie Webber

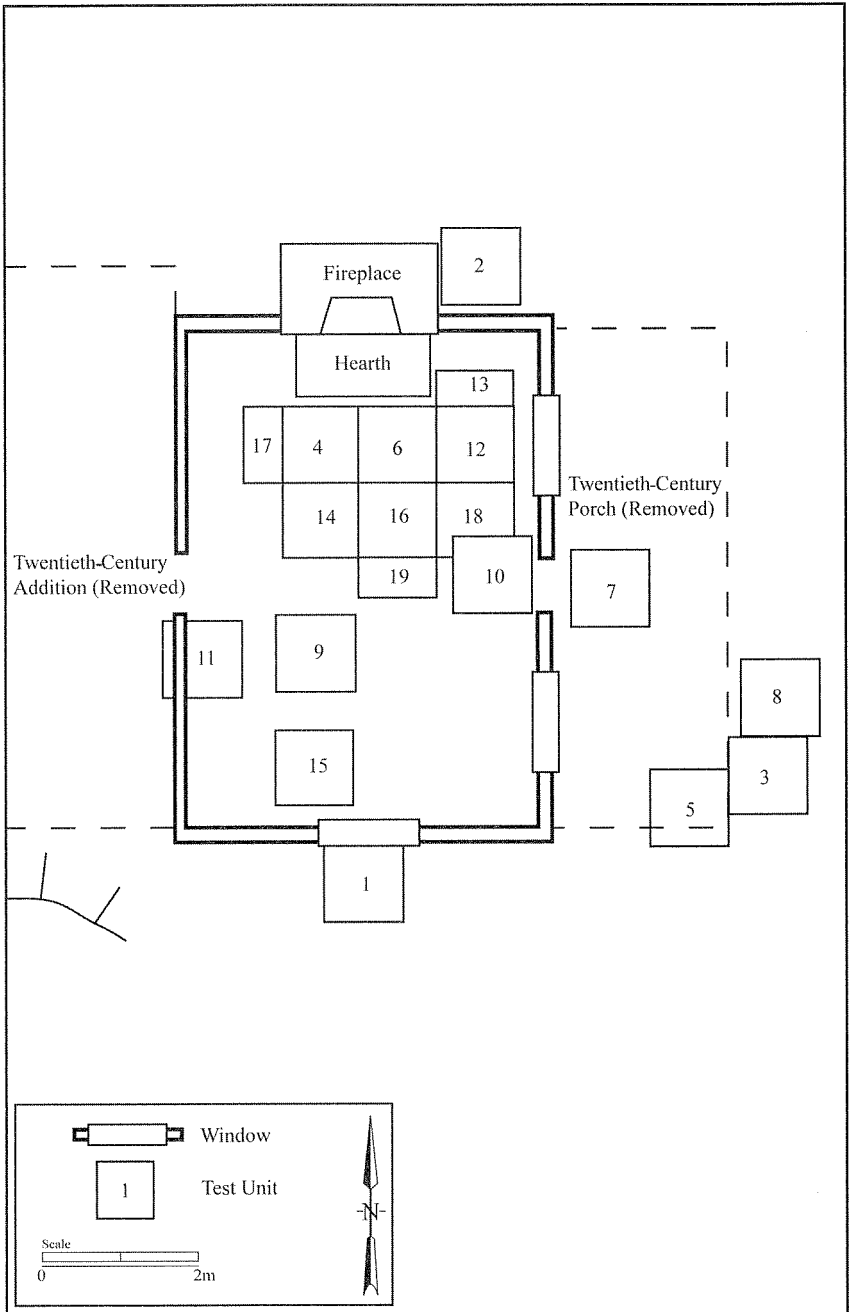


Figure 6. Test unit locations.

the island. The Stone Quarry Cottage could have been used in this manner as well. Thus, the cabin may have served multiple purposes housing workers and travelers. The occupation sequence presented above also accommodates such an interpretation. The graffiti recorded in the cabin may also support a more transient use of the building, especially by travelers or other short-term occupants.

### Results of Archaeological Testing

Archaeological testing at the Stone Quarry Cottage site was conducted during its rehabilitation. Six square meters were tested outside the cabin and an additional 11.26 square meters were tested inside the cabin (Figure 6). The internal dimensions of the cabin include an area of about 27 square meters. Therefore, a 42 percent sample of the cabin interior was tested. The placement of the test units was guided by shovel testing and soil probes as well as the requirements of the cabin restoration (see Dunham 2001). The higher number of interior units was partly the result of the floor being lifted during the rehabilitation, allowing access to the ground below. No units were placed to the west of the cabin because the construction of the frame addition removed the soil to bedrock on that part of the site.

The site has produced a historic assemblage that includes 1,666 artifacts. The historic artifacts were classified into four categories. These include

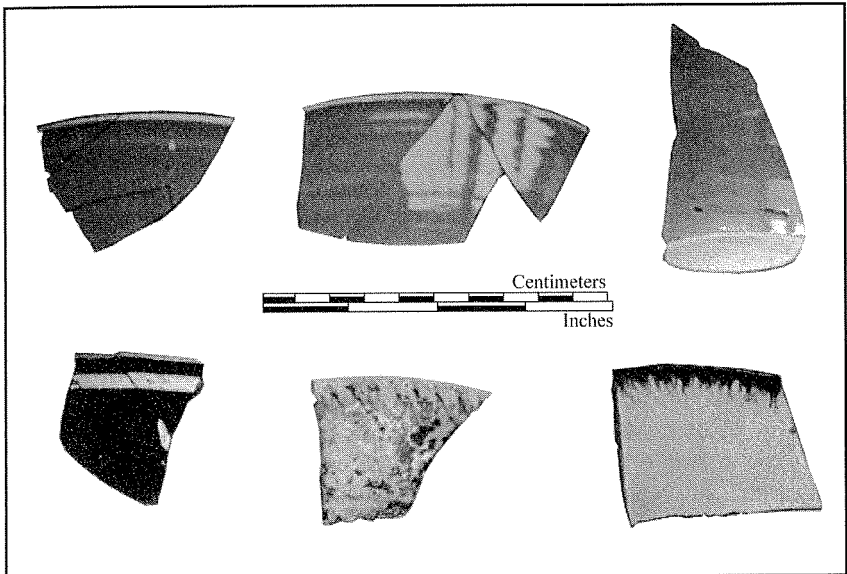


Figure 7. Selected examples of pre-1860 ceramic assemblage. Top row: blue annular decorated vessels. Bottom row: brown annular decorated rim and two-edge-decorated rims (one blue edge and one burned).

ceramics (208 artifacts), glass (518 artifacts), metal (763 artifacts), and other historic artifacts (177 artifacts). The other category includes composite artifacts, such as buttons and jewelry, that are made of glass and metal, as well as leather, coal, and plastic artifacts, to name a few.

A small number of the artifacts provided more sensitive chronological evidence for nineteenth-century activity at the site. These include an 1882 Canadian five-cent piece, decorated whitewares, decorated yellowwares, and some of the bottle glass. For the purposes of this study, these artifacts were grouped into two categories: those likely produced prior to 1860 and those that are likely post-1860 in origin. This division provided some intriguing chronological insights into the use of the site in the second half of the nineteenth century.

The pre-1860 artifacts include annular decorated ceramics (whiteware and yellowware) and edge-decorated whiteware (Figure 7). The blue-slip annular decorated sherds date to the circa 1845–1860 period (Demeter and Lowry 1977; Lofstrom et al. 1982). The blue edge-decorated whiteware sherds date to the circa 1840s–1850s (Lofstrom et al. 1982; Miller 2000). The annular decorated yellowware date to the 1850s–1860s (Liebowitz 1985; Linebaugh 1983), but in this instance they were recovered in direct association with the

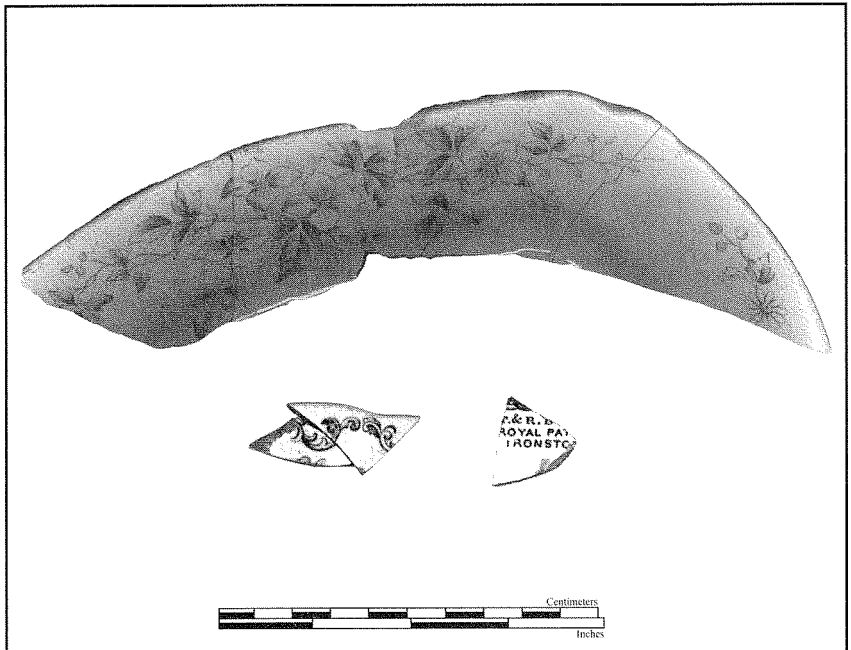


Figure 8. Selected examples of post-1860 ceramic assemblage. Top row: refit brown floral transfer print rim. Bottom row: refit blue transfer print rim and base-marked (T&R Boote) sherd.

edge-decorated wares leading to their placement in the pre-1860 category (Lofstrom et al. 1982).

The post-1860 artifacts include transfer print whiteware, mold-decorated ceramics (whiteware and yellowware), base-marked ceramics, a Canadian coin dated 1882, and some of the glass assemblage (Figure 8). The brown transfer print sherds refit to form the rim of a platter. This vessel appears to date to the 1880s or 1890s. The blue transfer print sherds are late nineteenth-century transfer print (ca. 1890s). The sherds with T. & R. Boote base-marks (stamped and printed) are dated to the 1880s and 1890s (Godden 1964:84). The mold-decorated whiteware sherds and the mold-decorated yellowware sherd are post-1860 artifacts (Liebowitz 1985; Lofstrom et al. 1982). The Genuine Essence perfume bottle dates between 1867 and 1915 (Ward et al. 1977; 1870–1890 [Wilson 1981]). A Cunningham and Ihmsen bottle dates to between 1865 and 1879 (Toulouse 1971:119–121, 132–133).

A small set of artifacts cross-cut the 1860 dating horizon, but are good nineteenth-century markers. These include a gun flint, white clay pipe stems marked McDougall, and a small vial. The gun flint, opaque yellow brown color with a prismatic blade, probably belongs in the pre-1860 category, but would not be out of place after that date. The McDougall pipes date between 1846 and 1890 (Godden 1964; Kenyon 1982). The small vial should be considered in the post-1860 category, but its circa 1850 to 1920 range raises the possibility of an earlier deposition (Lorraine 1968).

## Distribution of the Historic Assemblage

The following is a discussion of the vertical and horizontal distribution of the artifacts from the Stone Quarry Cottage site. This discussion is derived from the historic artifact assemblage recovered only from the test units (1,460 artifacts). Artifacts were recovered in all of the test units at the site.

Artifacts were recovered from the modern ground surface to about 30 cm below the surface. Most of the historic artifacts (762 artifacts or 52 percent) were recovered from Level 1 (0 to 10 cm below the modern ground surface). Thirty-eight percent of the assemblage (554 artifacts) was recovered from Level 2 (11 cm to 20 cm below the modern ground surface). About seven percent (101 artifacts) were recovered from Level 3 (21 cm to 30 cm below the modern ground surface). The vertical stratigraphy on the site was also affected by the shallow nature of the soils and the presence of bedrock. Bedrock was exposed along the east side of the cabin and is present within 30 cm of the modern ground surface in most of the test units. Thus, some units produced no artifacts from arbitrary Level 3 because bedrock was encountered within 20 cm of the modern ground surface.

While the nature of the soils and the deposits recovered at the site were not conducive to the identification of distinct stratigraphic horizons, general observations are offered. Most of the probable pre-1860 artifacts were

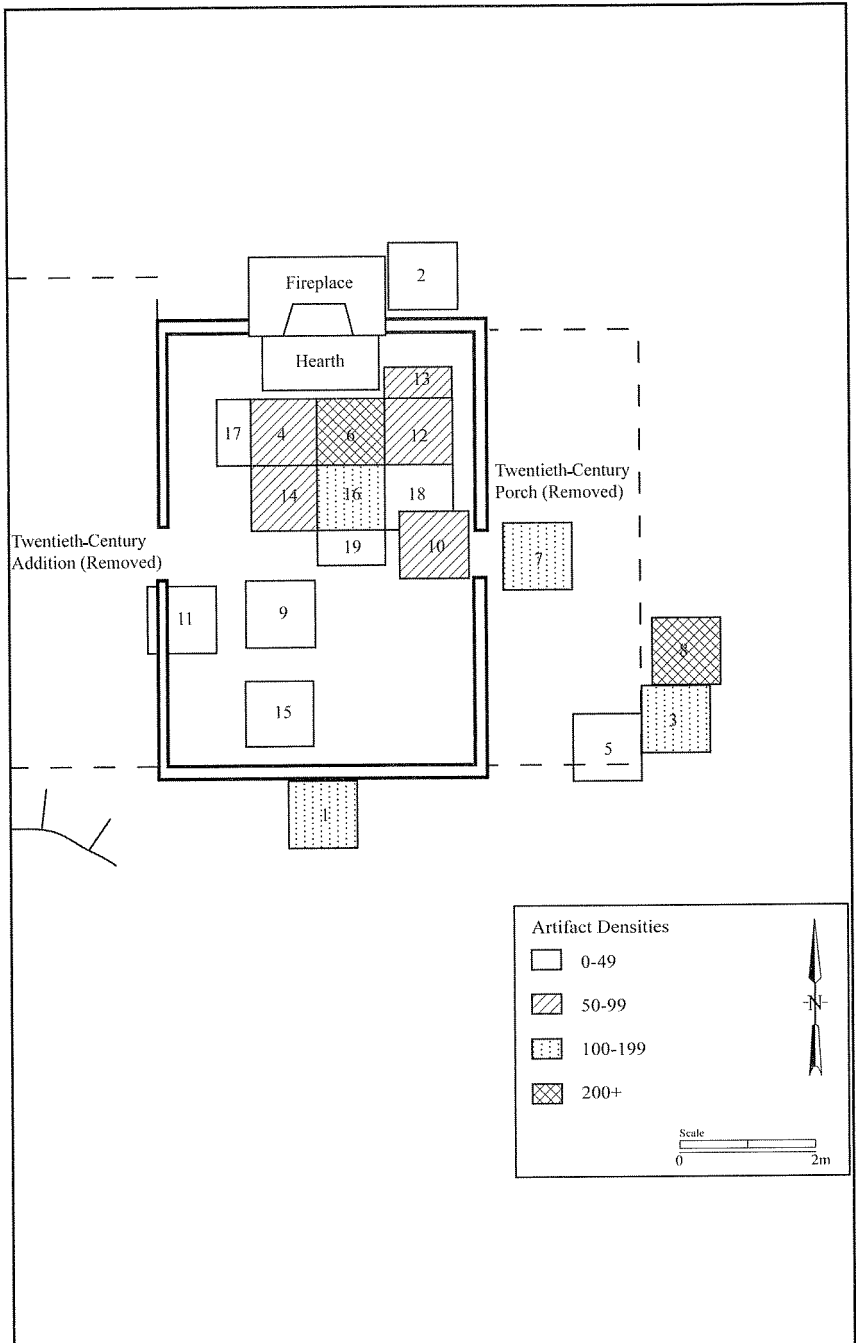


Figure 9. Distribution of the historic assemblage.

recovered from Level 2 and Level 3. Likewise, most of the post-1860 artifacts were recovered from Level 1 and Level 2. In general, the pre-1860 assemblage is stratigraphically deeper than the post-1860 assemblage. This pattern demonstrates that the depositional integrity of the site is largely intact.

The horizontal distribution of artifacts revealed some interesting patterns. The number of artifacts recovered in the test units ranged dramatically from two (Test Unit [TU] 18) to 286 (TU 6), with a mean of 84.6 artifacts per square meter of excavation. Figure 9 graphically illustrates the distribution of the historic artifacts on the site. It may be worth noting that TU 6 and TU 18 adjoin one another inside the cabin. Two test units produced over two hundred artifacts (TUs 6 and 8) and four others (TUs 1, 3, 7, and 16) produced over one hundred artifacts. These test units produced approximately 67 percent of the historic artifacts recovered from the test units, but represent only 35 percent of the total excavation.

The higher density test units (100+ artifacts) are situated in four areas on the site. The first area is located outside the cabin, along its east side and just off the former twentieth-century porch (TUs 3 and 8). The second area is located inside the cabin and next to the fireplace (TUs 6 and 16). The third area is situated outside the cabin along the south wall (TU 1). The fourth area is located immediately outside the original door (TU 7).

The high density test units inside the cabin (TUs 6 and 16) are situated in the northern half of the cabin and adjoin the hearth. While artifact recovery was variable within the cabin, higher densities were recovered from those units adjoining the hearth (Figure 9). Hearth-related test units had a mean artifact density of 89.4 per square meter, whereas non-hearth-related test units had a mean density of 34 artifacts per square meter (a mean of 73.3 artifacts per square meter for all interior test units). While not a surprise, this demonstrates that the hearth was the focus of activity inside the cabin.

As a control, the distribution of the refined earthenware assemblage (e.g., white paste earthenware or whiteware) was examined and compared to the overall distribution of the historic artifacts. This was carried out because some of the test units with high artifact densities contained very high amounts of fragmentary and/or unidentifiable artifacts (particularly unidentifiable metal, mortar fragments, brick fragments, or flat glass). For example, at least 50 percent of the artifacts from three of the high density test units was comprised of such materials, potentially skewing the overall artifact density (e.g., TU 1 [68 percent flat glass and mortar fragments], TU 6 [56.2 percent unidentifiable metal and mortar fragments], and TU 16 [53.3 percent brick fragments and unidentifiable metal]).

While the whiteware assemblage is relatively small at 111 artifacts, the distribution of the assemblage generally reflects the overall distribution of historic artifacts at the site (Figure 10). The highest densities of whitewares are outside the cabin in TUs 3 and 8. The area adjoining the hearth also exhibits higher concentrations of whiteware (particularly TU 4). This exercise clarifies the depositional patterns on the site. Specifically, it illustrates the focus of



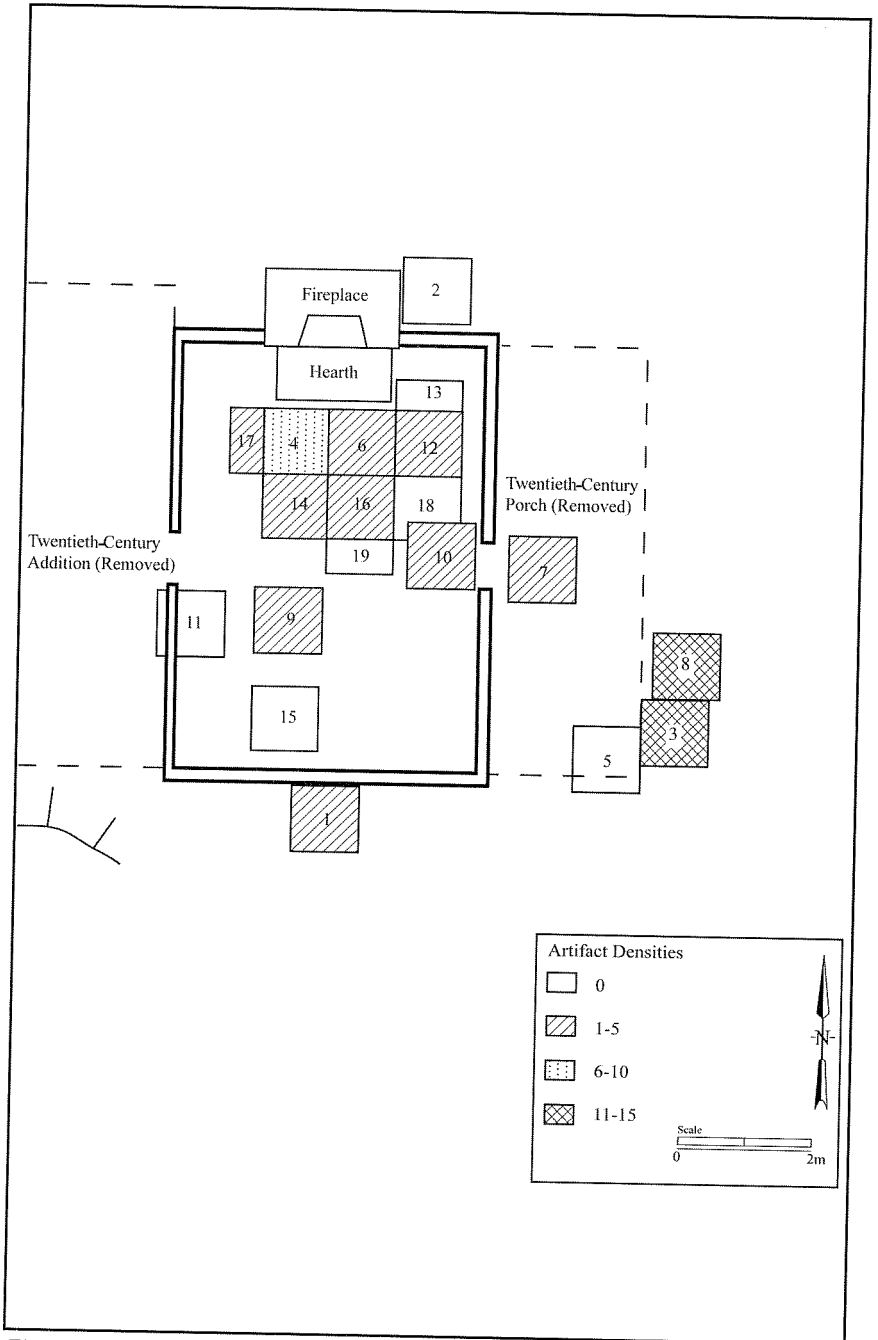


Figure 10. Distribution of the refined earthenware (whiteware) assemblage.

domestic deposition at the TU 3 and TU 8 area outside the cabin and in association with the hearth on the inside of the cabin.

When the more temporally diagnostic artifact classes are considered, an interesting trend is observed. Almost the entire pre-1860 ceramic assemblage was collected outside the cabin in TUs 3 and 8 (Figure 11). Most of the post-1860 ceramic assemblage was recovered inside the cabin in TUs 4, 6, 9, 12, 14, and 16 (Figure 11). The diagnostic glass assemblage, all post-1860, parallels the distribution of the diagnostic ceramics with the majority recovered inside the cabin. Finally, the 1882 coin was also found inside the cabin.

### Interpretation of the Artifact Distribution

The preceding discussion has identified at least two primary activity areas at the Stone Quarry Cottage. The first is the location of possible refuse deposition outside the cabin and the second is a generalized midden adjoining the hearth inside the cabin. Another, probably related, pattern indicates that the majority of the identifiable pre-1860 assemblage was recovered outside the cabin, whereas much of the post-1860 assemblage is associated with the inside of the cabin.

The distribution of the historic assemblage has been interpreted to indicate that the cabin was more regularly cleaned prior to 1860 than after this date. The pre-1860 ceramic assemblage is almost exclusively associated with TUs 3 and 8. These test units also have produced some of the highest densities of historic artifacts from the site as well as the highest densities of refined earthenware (Figures 9, 10, and 11). These units are situated outside the cabin and the artifacts are interpreted to reflect housekeeping/cleaning activities that involved dumping or sweeping debris from the inside of the cabin to the outside. The pre-1860 character of the deposit suggests that this was an area used for the disposal of domestic refuse prior to 1860. The lack of pre-1860 markers inside the cabin may also be the result of regular cleaning. Likewise, the high incidence of post-1860 artifacts inside the cabin may indicate that cleaning was a less important activity than before this date.

Potentially related to the discussion of cabin cleanliness and use is the presence of a number of large artifacts recovered from inside the cabin. Large artifacts recovered from inside the cabin include the brown transfer print sherds, the perfume bottle, the Cunningham and Ihmsen bottle fragments, two axe heads, a fork, and the vial. The bottles may have been whole, or nearly so, when they were initially deposited. Most of the large artifacts were recovered from Level 1 contexts (within 10 cm of the modern ground surface), including all the bottles, one of the axes, and most of the brown transfer print sherds. All of the chronologically diagnostic large artifacts are post-1860 in origin and most were probably produced after 1870. Thus, it appears that the larger artifacts were likely deposited after 1870. Additionally, the size of the artifacts and the fact they were recovered at or near the surface suggest they were simply left where they lay.

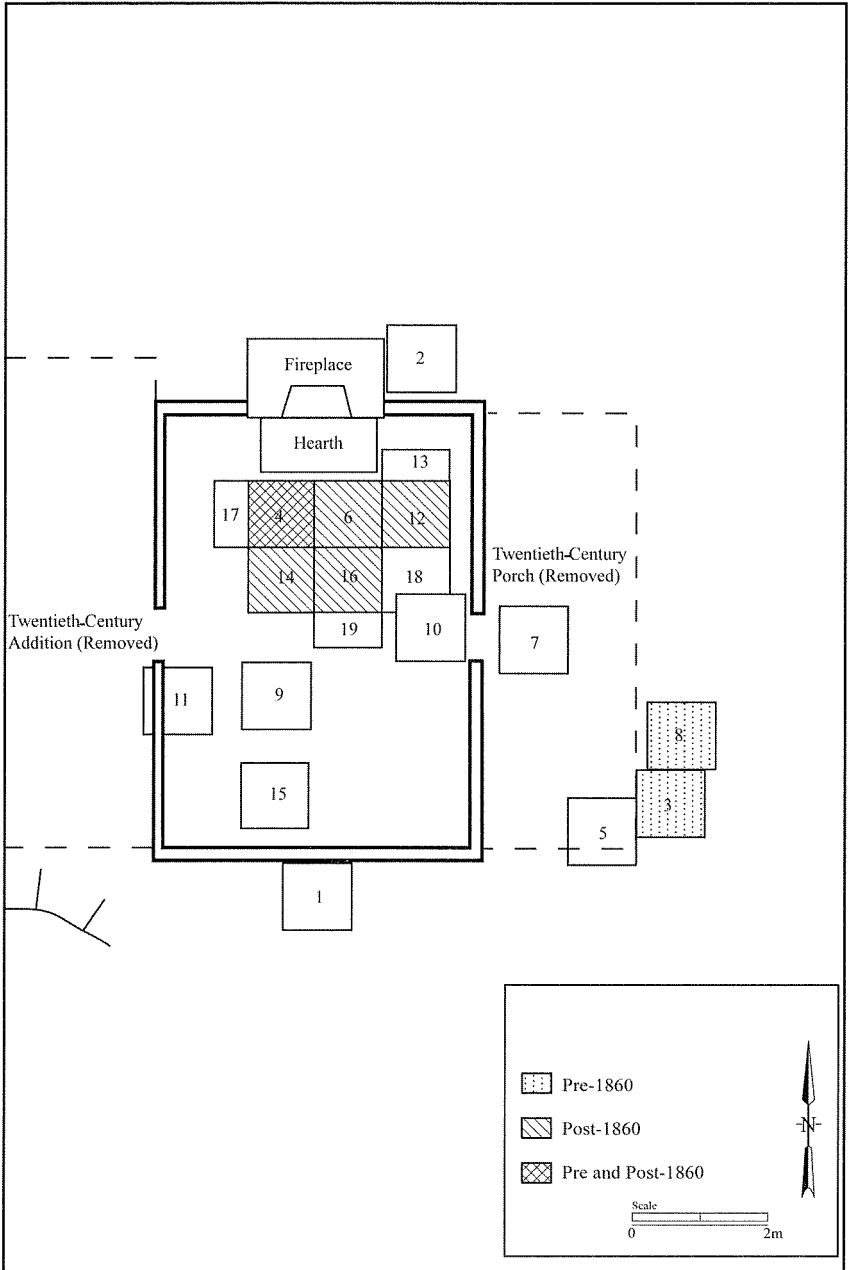


Figure 11. Distribution of the decorated ceramic assemblage by age (pre-1860 and post-1860).

Very few twentieth-century artifacts were found inside the cabin. One notable exception was a small, tear-shaped plastic object recovered in arbitrary Level 1 in TU 14. The extant wooden plank floor is thought to have been placed in the cabin during the 1906 rehabilitation. This floor may have effectively sealed the pre-1906 horizons beneath it. Since most of the pre-1860 artifacts were found outside the cabin and many of the post-1860 found inside were large, it is believed that the original nineteenth-century cabin had an earthen floor. Regular cleaning of the cabin (including sweeping the floor) would have led to the collection of pre-1860 artifacts that were then redeposited outside. Later, without regular cleaning, larger artifacts would have been left on the surface only to be covered by the 1906 floor.

The outside artifact concentration included a wide variety of domestic refuse. These units produced nearly all the pre-1860 ceramic assemblage and all of the cultural botanical remains (peach pits) as well as white clay pipe fragments, buttons, buckles, and other domestic and personal artifacts. This area also included a small assemblage of faunal remains including saw cut cattle bone. The relatively high number of artifacts recovered from these units along with the apparently domestic and personal nature of much of the material indicates that this area was used to deposit refuse.

The area around the hearth had a variety of artifact types including objects associated with personal or domestic use such as buttons, a silver pendant, a thimble fragment, a straight pin, an ornamental pewter bird (a finial?), an earring, beads, and a purple glass pin. Additionally, artifacts associated with food and food preparation were observed such as the brown transfer print platter, the fork, and faunal remains. TUs 4, 6, and 16 produced cattle remains including saw cut bones from at least one immature individual. The artifacts recovered around the hearth span the nineteenth-century use of the cabin. Not surprisingly, this area was the focus of activity within the structure throughout its occupation and use.

**Table 2. The Dates of Construction, Primary Period of Occupation, and Current Status of the Mid-Nineteenth-Century House.**

<i>Site</i>	<i>Construction</i>	<i>Primary Occupation</i>	<i>Current Status</i>
Williams Homestead (03-811)	1841	ca. 1841–1850	not standing
Williams House (03-811)	1862	ca. 1862–1900	standing
Stone Quarry Cottage (03-814)	1846	ca. 1846–1852	standing
Brownie Cabin No. 9 (03-819)	1850	ca. 1850–1900	standing
Rufus Williams Cabin (03-832)	1846	ca. 1846–1855	not standing
Burgess Cabin (03-833)	1846	ca. 1846–1850	not standing
Hillier Cabin (03-856)	1846	ca. 1846–1855	not standing

## Mid-Nineteenth-Century Grand Island Settlement

The Stone Quarry Cottage is not the only mid-nineteenth-century homestead on Grand Island that has undergone archaeological testing (see Figure 1). To date, five such sites have had some degree of archaeological investigation. These include the aforementioned Abraham Williams' Houses (Franzen 2000; Roberts 1991a), Brownie Cabin No. 9 (Dunham et al. 1994), as well as Stone Quarry Cottage (Dunham 2001), the Rufus Williams House (Drake and Franzen 2004), and the Burgess House (Franzen 2004). Another cabin, the Hillier House, also dates to this period (Roberts 1991a). Table 2 is derived from the various site reports and from Roberts' (1991a) historical overview. The table provides basic information concerning these sites, specifically their date of construction, their primary period of occupation, and their current status (standing or not standing). With the exception of the Abraham Williams' House and Brownie Cabin No. 9, the Grand Island cabins appear to have had relatively short primary occupations and long periods of unknown use.

The following discussion relates to data derived from archaeological testing at four of these sites: Brownie Cabin No. 9 (Dunham et al. 1994); Stone Quarry Cottage (Dunham 2001); Rufus Williams House (Drake and Franzen 2004); and Burgess House (Franzen 2004). Superposition of materials and the intensive, long-term use of the Williams' House locale made the use of this data problematic for the purposes of this study (Franzen 2000).

Three of the mid-nineteenth-century cabins share an artifact deposition pattern associated with the front yard. The Stone Quarry Cottage exhibited a refuse deposit situated immediately outside of and to the right of the front door. This pattern generally parallels that associated with Brownie Cabin No. 9 where archaeological testing revealed the highest concentration of artifacts at either end of the porch and in the yard immediately in front of the structure (Dunham et al. 1994:216). A similar depositional pattern has been identified at the Rufus Williams Cabin (Drake and Franzen 2004). It is believed that this pattern is, at least in part, the result of housekeeping activities that involved dumping or sweeping debris from the inside of the cabin to the outside.

The Stone Quarry Cottage and Brownie Cabin No. 9 have the advantage of a standing structure to aid in the determination of refuse deposition in relation to the structure. The pattern of artifact deposition outside these cabins, in the front yard, is reminiscent of the Brunswick Pattern of refuse deposition presented by South (1977) albeit with the materials distributed outside the front of the house as opposed to out the back.

The Grand Island cabins were situated on the shore of Lake Superior and had lake-facing doors. One might speculate that refuse was regularly dumped into Lake Superior by the mid-nineteenth-century islanders. When the lake was open in the warm season, this may have been an efficient means of refuse disposal. Murray Bay freezes during the winter. Likewise, deep snow and extreme cold may have led occupants of the cabins to simply open their door

**Table 3. Artifact Group Ratios and Ratio of Architectural Group to Kitchen Group Artifacts.**

<i>Group</i> (artifacts)	<i>Stone Quarry</i> (n = 2,197)	<i>Brownie No. 9</i> (n = 1,243)	<i>R. Williams</i> (n = 641)	<i>Burgess</i> (n = 580)	<i>Mean</i>
Kitchen	21.5%	26.8	10.0	21.6	20.0
Architecture	74.7	64.0	72.4	56.2	66.8
Furniture	0.1	—	—	—	—*
Arms	0.6	1.5	0.5	1.7	1.0
Clothing	0.9	4.3	0.3	4.7	2.6
Personal	0.1	0.6	0.0	1.7	0.6
T. Pipes	1.2	1.7	11.9	2.4	4.3
Activities	0.8	1.0	4.9	11.7	4.6
Total	99.9	99.9	100.0	100.0	
<i>Ratio of Architectural/ Kitchen</i>	3.5/1	2.4/1	7.2/1	2.6/1	3.3/1

\* = 0.025

and toss refuse into the yard rather than stepping forth into the elements. The artifact patterns are densest to the right of the door, as one faces out, and scattered a casual throw away—reminiscent of tossing the contents of a bucket or dustbin from the doorway.

Another observation was derived from comparing the artifact group ratios from the four Grand Island sites (Table 3; after South 1977). When the assemblages from the Grand Island sites are compared, there is a striking pattern favoring the architectural and kitchen groups derived from South's (1977) artifact patterning model. While the use of South's model might be perceived as anachronous, it proved an expedient way to draw comparisons between the disparate assemblages recovered from these four sites.

South (1977:146–148) differentiates the Frontier Pattern from the Carolina Pattern based on the ratio of architectural group to kitchen group artifacts. The pattern shows a nearly 2 to 1 ratio of architectural artifacts to kitchen artifacts for the Frontier Pattern, and the inverse for the Carolina Pattern. The Carolina Pattern was derived from longer-term British Colonial and American domestic occupations of the later eighteenth to mid-nineteenth centuries, whereas the Frontier Pattern was derived from British Colonial frontier sites of the eighteenth century. South (1978:229–230) offers the explanation that there is a “shorter occupation period per architectural unit on the frontier than in the

settlements not on the frontier, thus increasing the Architectural Group artifacts in relation to secondary midden deposits of Kitchen Group artifacts" as one finds in the Carolina Pattern.

On Grand Island, the ratio of architectural group to kitchen group artifacts is well over 2 to 1, with a range of 2.4/1 to 7.2/1 and a mean ratio of 3.3/1 (Table 3). At first blush, it seems reasonable to assume that the pattern observed on the island is attributed to a relatively short occupation for each site. In other words, building a cabin generated architectural group artifacts and the short occupation limited the deposition of kitchen group artifacts. This is likely the case for the Burgess and Rufus Williams cabins. However, Brownie Cabin No. 9 was continuously occupied from its construction into the twentieth century (Dunham et al. 1994). One explanation for the high architectural ratio at the Brownie Cabin No. 9, as well as the Stone Quarry Cottage, may be their reconstruction and continued use as "summer" cabins in the twentieth century. The structures indicated as still standing on Table 3 were each rehabilitated, refurbished, modified, and maintained following CCI's acquisition of the island in 1900. The testing at Brownie Cabin No. 9 was limited to the outside of the cabin and South (1978:230) acknowledges architectural group artifacts are more prominent on Carolina Pattern sites outside of the structures. In any case, the pattern is evident and short primary occupations and reconstruction are viable explanations for the pattern.

### Transient Use of the Grand Island Cabins

There appears to be a precedent for the short-term use and re-use of structures on the frontier. Think for a moment about the *Little House* series by Laura Ingalls Wilder. In this series the author recounts her childhood on the frontier of the 1870s and 1880s. The stories revolve around her family moving from one place to another occupying a house or cabin, often for about a year, and then moving on. In some cases, the cabin is built by her family and in other cases they occupy a house built by someone else. This appears to be a synonymous pattern to what is seen on Grand Island, a pattern where houses were built, occupied, abandoned, and reoccupied.

When Williams first arrived at Grand Island around 1841, he used an abandoned cabin on the mainland as temporary quarters while he built a home on the island (Castle 1987; Roberts 1991a). He occupied at least two cabins on the island before he built his permanent house around 1862 (Castle 1987; Dunham et al. 1994; Franzen 2000; Roberts 1991a). Burgess, Angus, Hillier, and Rufus Williams also occupied and abandoned cabins on the island (Castle 1987; Roberts 1991a). Further, the 1860 census listed six vacant houses on the island, possibly including the Stone Quarry Cottage (USBC 1860). The abandoned cabins were occupied by later settlers, fell into disrepair, or were used on a temporary basis by visitors, travelers, or laborers.

A late-nineteenth-century (ca. 1878–1900) cabin site situated near Durango, Colorado offers some insight into the transient use of frontier cabins (Horn et al. 1986). This site was situated on a wagon road and was thought to have been

periodically used by miners, freighters, and hunters. The earthen-floored cabin also had a fireplace. Artifacts were recovered inside the cabin, particularly in and around the fireplace, and outside in a refuse scatter and a refuse pit. The artifact assemblage lacked typical domestic artifact types such as ceramics, glass tableware, or glass food containers. The site was interpreted as occupied by “numerous individuals for short periods of time” (Horn et al. 1986:29). The lack of domestic or luxury goods was thought to reflect the transient use of the site by men engaged in a limited set of activities such as traveling, hunting, or prospecting.

Archaeological testing at a circa 1911–1912 dam construction camp in northern, lower Michigan has also produced evidence pertinent to the study of the Stone Quarry Cottage (see Dunham and Benison 1999). In this instance, the camp was occupied by dam workers and their families who lived in their own houses on the site for about a year. Although artifact densities associated with structural features were relatively low, the assemblages included artifacts typically associated with domestic activities such as ceramic tableware, food storage bottles and jars, glass tableware, and utensils. Refuse was removed from the residence and placed in designated refuse pits located behind the house. For example, one refuse pit at the site included ironstone cups and saucers as well as a milk bottle and a cocoa jar. Despite the temporary nature of the camp, the artifact assemblage suggested a more structured, domestic occupation where the house was maintained.

The assemblage recovered from the Stone Quarry Cottage included a large number of domestic artifacts. The presence of domestic artifacts suggests that the Stone Quarry Cottage was used as a residence. The cabin has also produced evidence for less structured, more transient use as well. It was relatively common for settlers to establish a temporary residence that was occupied until a permanent house was constructed. The original cabin was often reused as an outbuilding. In other instances, unoccupied cabins were used on an as needed basis for a variety of activities. The transient use of cabins in frontier settings also appears to have been common. The Stone Quarry Cottage appears to encompass elements of temporary as well as transient use. Continuing research into these practices may reveal additional archaeological manifestations of these patterns.

The transient use of cabins in frontier settings is an important consideration in the investigation of the Stone Quarry Cottage. While other mid-nineteenth-century homesteads have been archaeologically investigated in Michigan, these studies have typically focused on sites with longer-term occupations or have addressed larger settlement trends as opposed to the themes of short-term or transient use of sites (see Branstner 1999; Davis 1999; Lewis 1999).

## Conclusion

The Stone Quarry Cottage served primarily as a residence for an individual or family from its construction to about 1860. After this date, the cabin was used for a variety of purposes including as a residence, worker housing, and for



housing travelers. This interpretation is based on the nature of the artifact assemblage—which suggests the cabin was better maintained prior to 1860—as well as the historical record. While it is unclear who built the cabin, the most likely candidates for its early use are John Angus and Trueman Powell. Angus, along with his wife and maid, was the most likely occupant prior to 1850. Powell may have lived there from about 1848 into the early 1850s. The graffiti recorded in the cabin also supports such a chronology. The earliest date listed in the graffiti is 1857 which is within a couple of years after the cabin was likely vacated by Powell. The cabin was probably used sparingly after 1870, based on the presumed presence of refuse on the floor, and primarily as housing for travelers, inferred from the graffiti. In 1900, when CCI first visited the island, the cabin was in a state of disrepair reflecting its transient use.

The presence of a refuse scatter in front of the cabin is a characteristic of all the mid-nineteenth-century homestead sites on the island. This indicates a pattern of refuse disposal possibly associated with dumping in the lake. Likewise, the other mid-nineteenth-century sites on the island share a pattern of high architectural to kitchen group artifacts (mean ratio of 3.3/1). This pattern appears to be linked to short-term nineteenth-century occupation and/or the rehabilitation and reuse of these structures in the twentieth century.

The Stone Quarry Cottage is the most completely examined of the mid-nineteenth-century sites on Grand Island. The site has produced a distinct pattern of artifact deposition that has provided baseline data for ongoing studies of the mid-nineteenth-century settlement on the island. Despite its provisional nature, the data generated at the Stone Quarry Cottage identified patterns of site occupation reflecting domestic and transient use of this site as well as for the island as a whole. As archaeological investigations continue on the island, these patterns can be more clearly defined and explored. In the end, we have a better understanding of the mid-nineteenth-century occupation and use of cabins on Grand Island.

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