

ALL POINTS BULLETIN



Make friends with... ..the past, through the....

Colorado Archaeological Society - Denver Chapter

“...in the future, as in the past, the gathering of information will depend to a great extent on cooperation between avocational and professional archaeologists.” (H.M. Wormington, 1978)

Volume 55, No 12

December,

2017

THE BYERS-EVANS HOUSE ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT

By Jonathan Kent and Dan Petschauer

INTRODUCTION

The Byers-Evans House, located at 13th and Bannock, is one of Denver’s most famous and iconic historic structures. It was also the location of a short, hitherto unpublished, archaeological excavation carried out in the basement of the house in the Fall of 1988. During and subsequent to that excavation, the recovered materials were cataloged by the staff and volunteers at CHS and boxed up for storage. The collections have recently been relocated in the remote storage facility of History Colorado. This has prompted renewed interest in the material culture found during excavations. We are carrying out a re-examination and archival curation of the materials from the dig. In this article, we provide some context for this new work.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE HOUSE



The brick Victorian style house (Figure 1) was built in 1883 by William N. Byers, founder of the *Rocky Mountain News*, and his wife Elizabeth. It was occupied by them for six years until purchased by William Gray Evans (the son of John Evans, the 2nd Territorial Governor of Colorado) and his wife (and cousin) Cornelia Lunt Gray.

Figure 1. Byers-Evans House at 13th and Bannock, looking NNE (from Halaas 1991: 25).

For a good, accessible

overview of the history of the house, see the article by David Halaas (1991). Those wishing to learn more details about the people who affectionately nicknamed the house “Victoria” and the structure itself, should consult the books *Victoria of Civic Center* by Elaine Colvin Walsh and Jean Walton Smith (1984) and *The Byers-Evans House* by the same authors (1985).¹

In 1893, a water department assessment of the house lists it as having 12 rooms, two water closets, two bathtubs, one horse and one cow (Long Hoeft Architects 1986:3). Between 1899 and 1909, several modifications and additions were made to the structure (*ibid.*: 3-4). In 1911, the front stairway was moved, resulting in the accumulation of a substantial amount of debris consisting of 1911 and pre-1911 materials in the basement of the house, immediately west of Furnace Room (in the shaded portion of Figure 2).

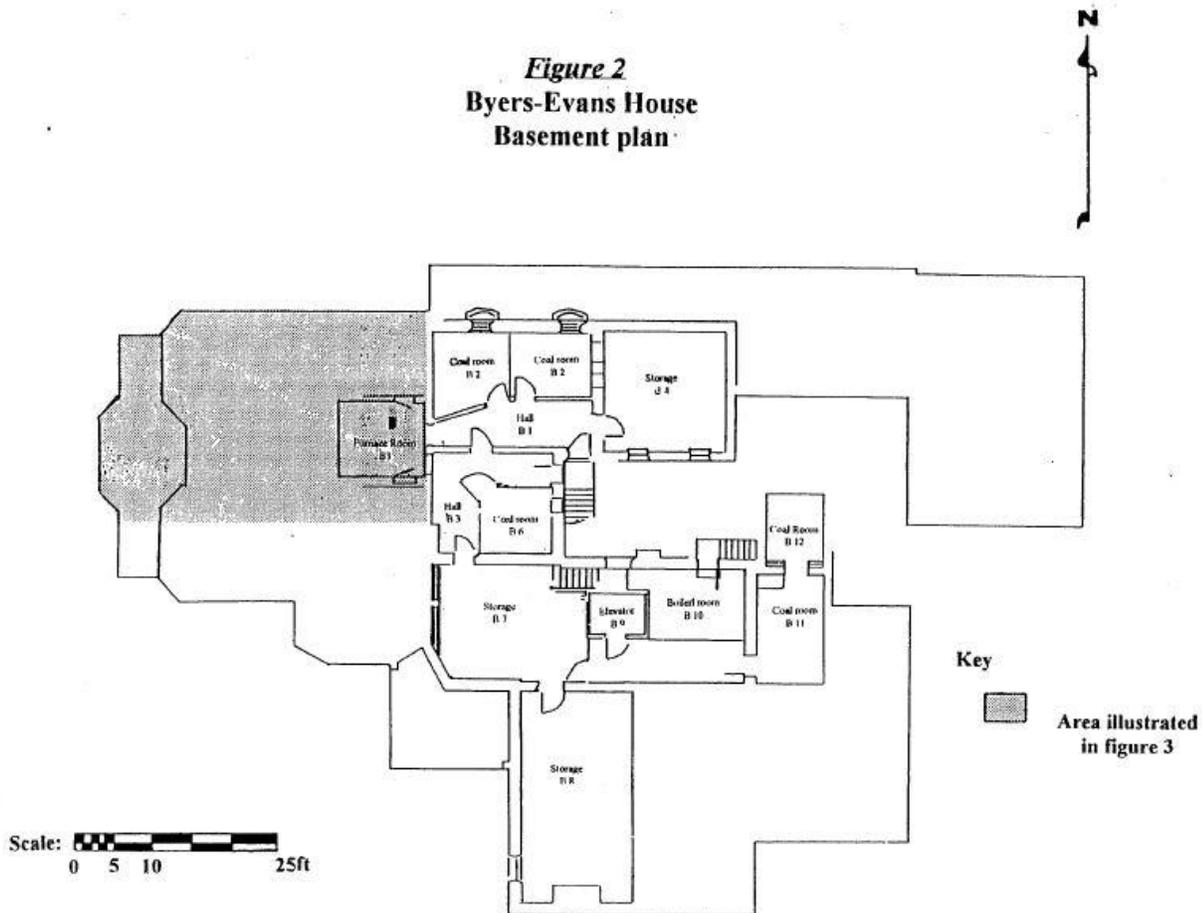


Figure 2. Basement Plan of the Byers-Evans House showing location of excavated debris (shaded). After Long Hoeft Architects 1986:6)

These materials were to become the focus of our archaeological work.

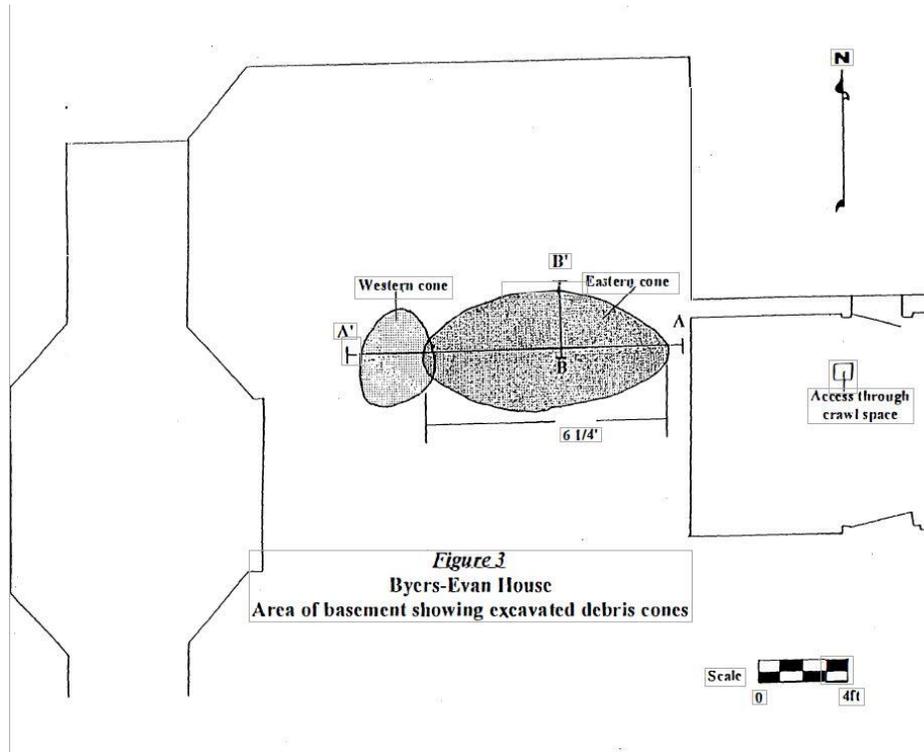
In 1981, after the death of the last of Evans descendants to reside in the house, the property was turned over to the Colorado Historical Society CHS—now History Colorado). In 1986, an historical architectural firm, Long Hoeft Architects, was hired to prepare an Historic Structure Report (Long Hoeft Architects 1986). In carrying out the research for this report, Gary Long noticed the accumulation of the debris from the 1911 stairway remodeling. This was reported to Georgie Contiguglia and Anne Bond, curators of the Colorado Historical Society’s collections. Deciding that archaeological excavations of the debris might prove valuable, they contacted co-author JDK, then Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Metropolitan State College of Denver (MSCD—now Metropolitan State University of Denver) in late October of 1988. Georgie Contiguglia acted as the main liaison between the CHS and MSCD.

EXCAVATIONS

¹ Only 50 copies of the book were published. One is in the Stephen H. Hart Library of History Colorado.

The goals of the excavation were to locate and recover materials that might provide additional information on episodes of interior remodeling and construction. Twenty-three volunteers made up our field crew. They consisted of college students, CHS members and staff, and several interested members of the community. A list of those participants is included in the acknowledgements, below. The excavation took place on November 5-6 and 19-20, 1988. JDK served as field director, and Georgie Contigugulia was in charge of on-site registration of the materials recovered and their subsequent accessioning.

As mentioned, our focus was on the debris from the main stairway remodeling in 1911. This debris was deposited in two cone-shaped heaps of materials just west of the basement furnace room. Figure 3 shows the debris cones that we designated as the “western” and “eastern” cones



We removed the northern half of both cones to see if any stratification could be observed. We did observe some differences from top to bottom:

- Layer 1 was the outer layer of the cone and was a light gray to white (5 YR 7.5/1 in the Munsell color chart). Much of the light color was due to plaster from walls covered with different wall paper patterns;
- Layer 2 was found in the interior core of the cones and although it contained some natural topsoil was heavily stained with brick dust and brick crumbs, giving it a pale red appearance ((7.5 R 6/4); and,
- Layer 3, which underlay the brick-stained Layer 2, was a relatively clean (artifact wise) layer of brown topsoil (10 YR 5/3)

All of these layers are somewhat inter-mixed with one another, suggesting that no long-term process was responsible for the differences observed. The term “Layer” may not be the most appropriate one since the differences are not clearly defined nor are they homogeneous. No differences between the eastern and western cones in terms of the materials they contained were noticed either. Figure 4 shows a section profile through the western cone, looking south following the removal of the N ½ of the cone.

Figure 4
Byers Evans House
Section through eastern and western cones

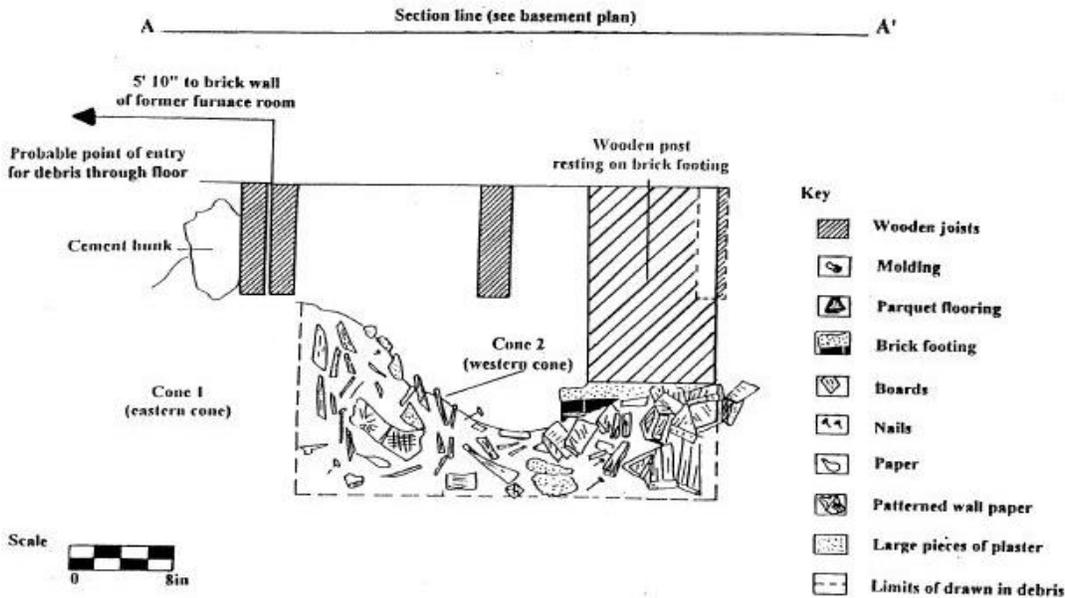


Figure 4. Section through western cone showing its contents. Looking south.

Following the removal of the cones, we were able to observe some construction-related details (see Figure 5). Specifically, a portion of the mortared brick footing was exposed. The newly exposed portion was seen to be resting on a wooden joist. This told us where the original grade of the house was located, a probably marks a pre-1883 topsoil horizon. Normally, this is covered over by the soils accumulating following construction of the house.

Figure 5
Byers-Evans House
Section through western cone after excavation

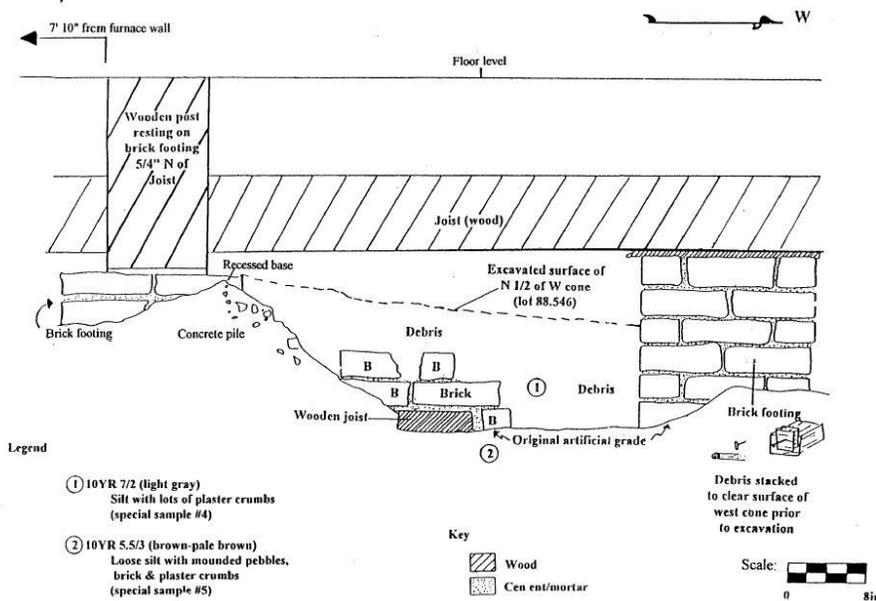


Figure 5. Section through western cone after excavation. Looking south.

POST-EXCAVATION

Following excavations, materials recovered were processed for accessioning and storage by the CHS staff. A report on the cataloging and analysis of the materials was submitted in December of 1989 to Dr. Susan Collins, then the Deputy Historic Preservation Officer (State Archaeologist). The report (Contiguglia 1989) contained descriptions of recovered materials including:

- a variety of wallpaper patterns adhering to plaster;
- three paired photographs (stereopticon pictures);
- half of a calling card with "Property Mrs. William.." perhaps belonging to Mrs. William Gray Evans, but possibly Mrs. William Byers;
- a purchase receipt for lumber dated 12/13/1910;
- an advertisement for the Greater Berkeley residential community in north Denver;
- sections of newspapers including 1900 and 1906 issues of *Denver Republican* and 1906 and 1910 issues of *Denver Times*; and,
- various fragments of wood (including parquet flooring), glass (some etched perhaps from a night shade), and, of course, a large quantity of nails, ranging from about an inch to about 4 inches long, and comprising both wire nails (round) and square nails.

Subsequently, Marge Benham, a history student at the University of Colorado, Denver, conducted an independent study of the wallpaper samples recovered from the excavations. One goal was to see if there were any patterns recovered which had not been identified in the Long Hoeft structure report. In the spring of 1991, Ms. Benham compiled a photographic catalog of the wallpaper samples recovered with comparisons to the known patterns. Several new patterns were discovered and their probable original locations were suggested (Benham 1991).

Following that study, the materials were boxed up and stored by CHS. Eventually, the boxes were taken to the remote storage unit maintained by History Colorado near 40th and Pecos. They remained there until earlier this year (Think of the last scene in the first Indiana Jones movie). In 2017, JDK met with new state archaeologist and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Dr. Holly Norton, and Todd McMahon, an OAHF archaeologist to share various aspects of Metro State's involvement in archaeological work relating to the house. After that meeting, the boxes of material from the excavations were relocated. McMahon observed that the artifacts were in need of re-packaging into more archivally-suitable containers, such as acid-free boxes and tissue wrapping, to guarantee their long-term preservation. Furthermore, some of the original accession inventory was difficult to read (only a faded photocopy of the 1988 accession catalog could be found), and so a process of verifying the contents of the collection with a simultaneous re-assessment of its information was warranted.

Co-author DP volunteered to take on these tasks as a collections intern. There will be about 15 boxes of material. Boxes are organized by material type. Newspapers and other texts, or fragile material are in separate boxes. Wood/metal/plaster are grouped together. Material will continue to be sorted by type: wood, glass, paper, metal, and miscellaneous. All artifacts are being rehoused in Gaylord brand acid-free banker boxes. Artifacts are placed in plastic 4mil bags with a tag. Tag has site number, catalog number, quantity, and contents. A digitized catalog, currently an Excel spreadsheet is being created. Object names vary somewhat between the original 1988 catalog, and 2017 spreadsheet. Dimensions on the spreadsheet are either taken from the CHS catalog inventory, or, if data were missing unreadable, then measurements in centimeters are being added. All artifacts are being rehoused in Gaylord acid-free banker boxes. Artifacts are placed in plastic 4mil bags with a tag. Tag has site number, catalog number, quantity, and contents.

Items previously unreported have also been found during the reboxing phase. Included are brass fittings, various nuts and bolts, and a piece of copper wire that could be an early type used for telephones (see [inspextapedia](#) web site in References). We estimate a minimum of 730 items will need rehousing and additional research. Such research makes up the next phase of the project.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

The authors would like to thank those who volunteered their time and effort to participate in the excavation and subsequent cataloging and processing of materials recovered (listed alphabetically): Roberta Blanc; Anne Bond; James Byrd; Georgie Contiguglia; Kay Engel; JoAnn Fox; Randy Graubard; Moya Hansen; Carol Howell; Geraldine Madrid; Mike Magle; Tracey McPherson; Julie Morgan; John Munro; Penny Nelson; Hilary Purfield; Rich Rodriguez; Ron Schott; Jean Settles; Jude Southward; Erik Strauss; and, Meichell Walsh. Thanks, too, to Anne Bond, Georgie Contiguglia, Kathy Hoeft, and Jude Southward for managing most of the logistics associated with the field work and post-excavation cataloging. Thanks, too, to Marge Benham, a History student at the University of Colorado, Denver, who shared her post-excavation analysis of the wall-paper specimens recovered. We especially want to thank State Archaeologist Holly Norton of the Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHF) and OAHF archaeologist Todd McMahon for relocating the collections from the excavations and providing space, office and archival supplies, and supervisory support for DP's current re-assessment and curation of the materials.

REFERENCES

Benham, Marge

1991 "An Historical Study of Wallpaper Samples from the Excavation of the Byers-Evans House, 1900-1920". Unpublished ms. notes in possession of JDK.

Contiguglia, Georgie

1989 Report on Byers-Evans Investigation in 1988 (Permit 88-29a). On file at the Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. Unpublished ms. in possession of JDK.

Halaas, David Fridtjof

1989 The House in the Heart of a City: The Byers and Evans Families of Denver. *Colorado Heritage*, Issue 4: 2-31.

Inspectapedia web site

https://inspectapedia.com/electric/Old_Electrical_Wiring.php#Copper_Clad_Wire

Long Hoef Architects

1986 *Byers-Evans House Historic Structure Report*. Report prepared for The Colorado Historical Foundation. Unpublished ms. in possession of JDK.

Walsh, Elaine Colvin and Jean Walton Smith

1984 *Victoria of Civic Center*. Volunteers of the Colorado Historical Society. Denver.

Walsh, Elaine Colvin and Jean Walton Smith

1985 *The Byers-Evans House*. Self-Published by Walsh and Smith. Denver.

December Annual Holiday Members' Night:

Monday, December 11, at Auraria Campus, Cherry Creek Building, Room 241 at 7 PM.

Speakers will be fellow members giving short presentations about anthropology and archaeology related topics gathered from trips, vacations and other related events. Please bring goodies to share with everyone.

2018 General Meeting Dates

The Denver Museum of Nature and Science is changing the way they handle room use of affiliate groups such as CAS. At this time, they will be unable to consistently give us the second Monday of each month. This is the date of each meeting for the year:

1/29/2018-Last Monday of the month

2/19/2018-Third Monday of the month

3/19/2018-Third Monday of the month

4/16/2018-Third Monday of the month

5/21/2018-Third Monday of the month

6/18/18-Third Monday of the month

9/4/2018-First Tuesday of the month

10/1/2018-First Monday of the month

11/5/2018-First Monday of the month

Minutes of the DC-CAS Board Meeting, November 7, 2017

The DC-CAS Board meeting was held at the South Classroom Building/Cherry Creek Building, Room 241 at Metro State University Denver Tuesday,

November 8. Attending were Linda Sand, Jon Kent, Ken Andresen, Jack Warner, Cate McNabb, Greg Davis, and Michele Giometti. The meeting was called to order by Linda at 7:15 pm.

The December General Meeting, often referred to as Members Night, will be held 6:30 PM Monday December 11 in Room 241 of the Cherry Creek Building at Metro State University Denver (Jon Kent's Lab).

Short talks will be given by Reid, Jack, and Cate.

Speakers Jon announced the November speaker will be Sarah Trabert talking on Dismal River archaeology. Jon is lining up the speaker for January.

Treasurer Michele submitted the October report by email to board members before this meeting. She noted there is an outstanding bill related to the Annual Meeting. Her report was accepted by the board.

Scientific Jack is wanting volunteers for the Denver Region of the P3 (Projectile Point Project). Neil Hauser is the state leader on P3. Cate is helping with data entry into a GIS. Tasks include field work interviewing projectile point collection owners, and subsequent analysis to classify points.

Measurements include work with digital calipers and protractors.

State CAS Cate wants information from chapter members regarding their archaeological activities during each quarter for her input to the State CAS Scientific Activities Report.

Future State CAS quarterly meeting locations are January 13 in Loveland at the Medical Center of the Rockies, April in Grand Junction, and July in Montrose. The 2019 Annual Meeting is in Pueblo. Cate has leftover auction items from the Annual Meeting.

Meeting Venue The board voted to accept the revised proposal for meetings at the DMNS. The 2018 General Meetings at DMNS will be held in the VIP Room. Dates will vary from time to time.

If you plan to attend Denver Chapter General Meetings on the old familiar Second Monday of the month you are out of luck! There is NO Chapter meeting on the second Monday for any month in 2018!

The January 2018 General Meeting, for example, will be January 29, the fourth Monday.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Submitted by Ken Andresen

Minutes of the DC-CAS General Meeting, November 13, 2017

The meeting, held in the Ricketson Auditorium of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, was called to order by Linda Sand at 7:02 pm.

Linda relayed Jack Warner's notice on the P3 (Projectile Point Project).

The January 2018 General Meeting will be January 29 at the DMNS VIP room.

The slate of 2018 Officers and Directors was presented. Nominations from the floor were requested. Since there were none received, the slate was voted on by the members and duly accepted.

Jon Kent announced the scheduled speaker for the evening, Sarah Trabert, had taken ill and unable to attend. Jon introduced Reid Farmer as the evening's speaker. As may be recalled, Reid was in the midst of speaking at last month's meeting when the Museum's fire alarm sounded, terminating the meeting. Reid graciously agreed to complete his talk on Cherokee Ranch Archaeology 1971 to 2017.

After reviewing the earlier interrupted talk in October, Reid discussed the field school work in 2014 through 2016. Shovel test pits at 10 meter spacing were done in the plateau below the rockshelter. Debitage and fire affected rock (FAR) were found up to 1.2 meter depth. A cooking feature was found in 2014. Little or no groundstone was found. More recently auger tests have been done.

In 2016 the field school surveyed about 70 acres in the Southeast and South areas of the ranch. One Taos black on white sherd was found. At the Foster Site rhyolite cores were found at a quarry together with a lot of debitage. Also found were about 40 petrified logs. It is theorized that in ancient time

these logs had washed down from higher elevation and subsequently became silicified. Future work planned includes more auger tests in the plateau below the rock shelter where shovel test pits were done.

The ranch sells private elk hunting permits in the fall. This activity can conflict with the weekend field school. Hunters claim the field school students scare away the elk.

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.

Submitted by Ken Andresen.

Projectile Point Project

In the August, 2017 APB Neil Hauser described the P3 project (Projectile Point Project) that he is leading statewide. He also described the project at the 10/28/17 CAS Annual Meeting. Please contact Jack Warner (jackeagle@aol.com), our Denver Chapter coordinator, for more information or to volunteer to be part of the team. A joint training is in the planning stages by Neil with the Indian Peaks & Denver Chapter targeted for January, 2018.

Other Lectures

A Question of Life or Death: Renewing the Inquiry into the Shaft Tomb Figures of Western Mexico

Dr. Chris Beekman, Professor, University of Colorado Denver

The ceramic effigies found in shaft tombs of West Mexico have been used as evidence of shamanistic obsession with the underworld but Dr. Beekman will be discussing how recent excavations and analysis of museum collections has called this interpretation into question.

Wednesday, December 6, 7:00 p.m.

Paleontology Hall, CU Museum of Natural History

Technology and Culture Change along the Proto Silk Roads

Dr. Rowan Flad, John E. Hudson Professor of Archaeology, Harvard University

Tracing the nature of technology and technological change migrating along the routes of the proto Silk Roads, and the changes wrought on the culture and society of the area by the introduction of that technology, Dr. Flad discovered a complexity that radically transformed material culture and human lives in Northwest China about 4000 years ago. That

transformation laid the groundwork for the Chinese Bronze Age.

Admission to the lecture and reception following is free, but reservations are requested and will be accepted starting in mid-October.

Friday, December 15, 2017 - 6:30pm – 7:30pm.
Denver Art Museum, Hamilton Building - Lower Level

COLORADO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
DENVER CHAPTER
Prepared by Michele Giometti
Balance Sheet
October 31, 2017

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

Key Bank Checking	5,139.53
1st Bank CD 182 day 1/3/18 .05%	5,700.93
1st Bank CD 182 day 4/17/18 .05%	4,812.97
1st Bank CD 1 Yr 2/20/18 .10%	<u>5,006.47</u>

Total Checking/Savings 20,659.90

TOTAL ASSETS 20,659.90

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Current Liabilities

State CAS Dues Payable 0.00

Total Checking/Savings 0.00

Temp. Restricted Net Assets

Scientific Applications Fund	3,995.91
Swallow Report Project Fund	2,353.81
D Bucknam Memorial Speaker Fund	1,747.10
Blackfoot Cave Fund	0.00
Education Fund	52.40
Field Trips / Social Fund	483.01
Student Membership Fund	57.50
Speakers Meal Fund	<u>432.78</u>

Total Temp. Restricted Net Assets 9,122.51

General Fund 7,352.24

General Fund Net Income 4,185.15

Total Equity 20,659.90

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 20,659.90

Income Statement

October 1-31, 2017

General Fund	MTD	YTD
Income		
Membership Dues	-	2,866.00
Interest-Savings, Short-term CD	3.30	11.10
Donations Received		618.00
Annual Meeting Income:		
Sponsorships	250.00	1,000.00
Member Registrations	1,590.00	3,160.00
Non-Member & Late Registrations	1,100.00	1,400.00
Student Registrations	420.00	500.00

Board Meeting Dinner	420.00	940.00
Box Lunch Income	315.00	705.00
Banquet Income	1,785.00	3,465.00
Speaker Only	30.00	70.00
Subtotal: Annual Meeting Income	<u>5,910.00</u>	<u>11,240.00</u>
Total Income	5,913.30	14,735.10
Expenses		
Bank Service Charges	-	10.00
Dues Paid to State	-	1,308.00
Supplies	-	-
Insurance		280.00
PO Box Rental	-	-
Website	-	40.34
Transfer to Scientific Applications	-	196.00
DMNS Annual Membership	-	-
Annual Meeting Expenses:		
Catering	5,533.37	7,668.00
Keynote Speaker Honorarium	500.00	500.00
Printing	242.50	361.25
PayPal Fees	96.46	186.36
Subtotal: Annual Meeting Expenses	<u>6,372.33</u>	<u>8,715.61</u>
Total Expenses	<u>6,372.33</u>	<u>10,549.95</u>
Net Income	(459.03)	4,185.15
Scientific Applications Income		
Transfer from General Fund	-	196.00
Donations Received		48.00
Total Income	-	<u>244.00</u>
Net Income	-	244.00
Speakers' Meals Income		
Donations Received	-	2.00
Total Income	-	2.00
Expenses		
Speakers' Meals	51.20	129.50
Total Expenses	<u>51.20</u>	<u>129.50</u>
Net Income (Expense)	(51.20)	(127.50)
Swallow Report Project Income		
Donations Received	-	128.00
Total Income	-	128.00
Expenses		
Contract Services		500.00
Total Expenses	-	<u>500.00</u>
Net Income (Expense)	-	(372.00)

Denver Chapter
Colorado Archaeological Society
P.O. Box 100190
Denver, CO 80250-0190

The All Points Bulletin is published monthly by the Denver Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society, and is governed by the bylaws of the Denver Chapter. Articles appearing in the All Points Bulletin do not necessarily reflect the views of the officers or members of the Denver Chapter. The All Points Bulletin is published monthly by the Denver Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society, and is governed by the bylaws of the Denver Chapter. Articles appearing in the All Points Bulletin do not necessarily reflect the views of the officers or members of the Denver Chapter.

CIRCULATION: Cashel McGloin

EDITOR: Cashel McGloin

ASSISTANT EDITOR: Amy Howard

Denver Chapter CAS, P.O. Box 100190, Denver, CO 80250-0190

WEBSITES: Denver Chapter: www.cas-denver.org

Colorado Archaeological Society: www.coloradoarchaeology.org

DENVER CHAPTER OFFICERS

PRESIDENT - Linda Sand
11341 Quivas Way
Westminster, CO 80234
llsand@comcast.net

VICE PRESIDENT - Jon Kent
Campus Box 28, Metro State University
Denver, CO 80217
(W)303-556-2933, (H)303-504-4463
kentj@msudenver.edu

SECRETARY – Kendra Elrod
6742 S. Holland Way
Littleton, CO 80128
303-948-4229
elrod@snet.net

TREASURER -Michele Giometti

michgio@msn.com

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON - Cashel McGloin
cashel@zoho.com

CAS REP - Teresa Weedon
1189 Norfolk St.
Aurora, CO 80011-7513
303-366-7843
weedon@comcast.net

PAAC REP - Preston Niesen
preston.niesen@gmail.com

EDITOR - Cashel McGloin
303-990-2758
cashel@zoho.com

DIRECTORS

Jack Warner
11042 Main Range Trail
Littleton, CO 80127-3625

Reid Farmer
trfarmer60@gmail.com

Lisa Yeager
liyeager@msn.com

revised 05-29-2017