The Eastep Site Revealed
See story on page 8.
Preservation News

2011 Kansas Preservation Conference – Save the Date
Preservation experts, property owners, and community leaders will meet for the 2011 Kansas Preservation Conference, June 2 – 4, in Topeka. Presenters will explore Kansas’ rich vernacular architecture as well as technical preservation topics. The conference is among the many activities sponsored by the Historical Society commemorating the 150th anniversary of Kansas’ admission as the 34th state on January 29, 1861. Look for more information about this conference and other workshops and events at kshs.org.

Santa Fe Trail and Oregon Trail Projects Underway
The Historical Society received grants from the National Trails Intermountain Region office of the National Park Service for two trails-related projects. The Santa Fe Trail project will amend the existing Historic Resources of the Santa Fe Trail 1821-1880 Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) and prepare up to 30 National Register nominations for trail segments and their associated resources. The Oregon Trail project will create a new MPDF for the Oregon and California Trail in Kansas and prepare up to 15 National Register nominations for properties related to these trails and the Pony Express National Historic Trail. As part of these projects, KSHS is making site visits to photograph and document intact trail segments, also known as ruts or swales. Suggestions for trail segments to be considered for nomination to the National Register should be sent to survey@kshs.org.

Upcoming Vernacular Architecture Project
The Historical Society will soon be requesting proposals from preservation consultants to conduct a survey and prepare a multiple property documentation form for vernacular architecture in Kansas during the period of exploration and settlement, 1820s-1880s. The Historical Society is particularly interested in documenting historic buildings in Kansas constructed before 1861, the year of statehood. Information on historic buildings from this period should be sent to survey@kshs.org.

Hollenberg Pony Express Station State Historic Site near Hanover, Washington County, is one of the few extant buildings in the state constructed before 1861.
National Register Nominations

The Historic Sites Board of Review held its regular quarterly meeting November 20 at the Kansas Historical Society in Topeka. The board voted to list one property in the Register of Historic Kansas Places and to forward 13 nominations to the office of the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places in Washington, D.C., to be evaluated by its professional staff. If staff concurs with the board’s findings, the properties will be included in the National Register.

by Sarah Martin
National Register Coordinator, Kansas Historical Society

Broadmoor Ranch House Historic District – 6900-7017 W 68th Street; 6900-7001 W 69th Street, 6900-7019 W 69th Terrace, Overland Park, Johnson County

The Broadmoor Ranch House Historic District is located just off Metcalf Avenue between 68th Street and 69th Terrace in Overland Park and includes 27 contributing residences out of a total of 33. It is significant in the areas of community planning and development and architecture, and for its associations with the suburban patterns of development of the city of Overland Park, in particular the development of the community’s early post-World War II Ranch House subdivisions. The 1953-1959 Broadmoor Subdivision is an early post-World War II example of a variation in residential patterns of subdivision development in Overland Park in which existing lots were re-platted and basic restrictions for the lots were filed by the developer. The development of the district within a six-year period created a significant and distinguishable entity that is part of the district’s associations with the patterns of development in the community. Its individual houses reflect a variety of the popular Ranch House style designs erected for the middle-classes and is an early representative example in Overland Park of the distinctively homogeneous appearance, which was common in post-World War II subdivisions. This is the first exclusively post-World War II residential district in Kansas to be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

Norton Downtown Historic District – Generally bounded by E Lincoln Street, S First Street, E Pennsylvania Street, and S Norton Avenue, Norton, Norton County

The Norton Downtown Historic District comprises the historic business and civic center of the city of Norton and includes 44 contributing resources and 18 non-contributing resources constructed circa 1887 through 1985. The district is locally significant in the area of commerce for its associations with the growth of Norton as a county seat, railroad market center, and economic hub. As county seat and later with the arrival of the railroad, Norton grew to become the railroad agricultural market center of Norton County and major hub in northwest Kansas. The physical and architectural development of the downtown commercial center reflects the importance of the railroad, as well as U.S. 36, in the community’s commercial history. The district’s resources communicate historic trends in downtown development,

Broadmoor Ranch House Historic District, Johnson County; Norton Downtown Historic District, Norton County.
physically representing the spectrum of building technology, design, stylistic features, form, and function that define the history of Norton.

**Florence Opera House – SW Corner of Fifth and Main, Florence, Marion County**

Built in 1883 and 1884, the Florence Opera House was the joint effort of French immigrants Gustave Caze, Émile Firmin, and Francis Ayral. Emporia contractor John M. Anderson built the opera house, which was noted in promotional material as having “imposing height and ornamental finish [that] give grace and dignity to the entire architecture of the town.” The building was completed in just six months at a cost of $15,000. The first floor was designed for commercial use. The second floor was built to house both the opera house and offices, and the third floor was used as a stage and dressing rooms with a balcony at the back. The opening of the Florence Opera House on January 24, 1884, was touted as a “grateful triumph for the drama loving people” and “an important epoch in the history of Florence.” The theater season began the following day with a performance of *The Linwood Case*, a play written by Scott Marble. The opera house closed in 1917, by which time a movie theater had opened across the street. The building is significant for its association with local entertainment history. It was nominated as part of the *Historic Theaters and Opera Houses of Kansas* multiple property listing.

**Sunnyside Elementary School – 3003 E Kellogg, Wichita, Sedgwick County**

In 1912 Wichita boasted 20 public school buildings, but by 1916 there were not enough buildings to accommodate the city’s growing population. Among the neighborhoods in need of an elementary school was the Sunnyside Addition, which stretches from Kellogg on the north to Gilbert on the south, and from Hillside on the east to Dixon on the west. The school district hired local architect Lorentz Schmidt and the firm Vandenburg and Pauley to construct the building. Construction was completed in early 1917, and additions were added in 1920 and 1923. The growing neighborhood was impacted by the expansion of Kellogg Avenue in 1955, and as traffic increased, it was no longer possible for pedestrians to safely cross Kellogg. In 1977 the highway was expanded to six lanes and safety dictated that a pedestrian walkway be constructed to allow students and others to cross Kellogg near Sunnyside School. Despite strong opposition from the neighborhood, Sunnyside School closed in 1996. It was nominated as part of the *Historic Public Schools of Kansas* multiple property listing for its association with local education and its architecture.

**Kellogg Elementary School – 1220 E Kellogg, Wichita, Sedgwick County**

Kellogg Elementary School is located in Hunter’s Third Addition to the city of Wichita, a one-block addition stretching from Kellogg Avenue on the south, Hunter Avenue (now Lewis Street) on the north, Laura Street on the west, and Pattie Street on the east. The first Kellogg School, a Richardsonian Romanesque-style building, was completed in 1890. It was not until the 1910s and 1920s that the neighborhood surrounding Kellogg School was fully developed with small bungalows and cottages. By 1935 overflowing classrooms necessitated temporary classrooms northeast of the main building. The school district hired local
architects Overend and Boucher to design the new Kellogg School, and Dondlinger and Sons Construction Company was awarded the contract with a successful bid of $113,980. Construction of the Art Moderne building was completed just in time for the opening day of school on September 8, 1941. The school was closed in 1996. It was nominated as part of the Historic Public Schools of Kansas multiple property listing for its association with local education and its architecture.

Robertson House – 403 N Plum, Eureka, Greenwood County
The history of the Robertson House parallels the rise and fall of the Kansas oil industry. The home’s eclectic Prairie-style design, unique in Kansas, reflected the owner’s financial success. When he built the home in 1923, oil drill contractor Russell Roy Robertson likely believed that oil prices would remain steady. For the first time, oil workers, who had lived in temporary company towns, began to take permanent residence in oil towns like Eureka. In the words of historian Craig Miner, “Oil had become respectable during the 1920s.” The Robertson House likely seemed affordable to oil contractor Roy Clair Patton, who bought the property from Robertson at the dawn of the Great Depression. But when drillers flooded the market, oil prices plunged and yields fell, those who made their living drilling oil wells could no longer afford it. By 1933 the price of oil had tanked to just 66 cents. The Pattons could not pay the mortgage and it was sold at sheriff’s sale. The property was nominated for its association with the local oil industry and for its eclectic Prairie style.

Sunnyside School – 1121 Republic Road, Sarcoxie Township, Jefferson County
Sunnyside School is located on a rural one-acre parcel in Sarcoxie Township in the southern part of Jefferson County. The wood-frame building features a rectangular form and a front-gable roof and has a rather elaborate front elevation with two entrances flanking a set of round-arch windows. Built about 1879, the school is patterned after a design by early Kansas architects John Haskell and Louis M. H. Wood that was published in the Second Biennial Report of the Kansas Department of Public Instruction. At least one other extant school mimics this same design—the White Chapel School in Pottawatomie County. The building was nominated as part of the Historic Public Schools of Kansas multiple property listing for its association with local education and its architecture.

Hoff School – District 42 – Near the intersection of E Union Road and E 1300 Road, Kirwin Township, Phillips County
Hoff School is located northeast of Kirwin in rural Phillips County. The one-room, wood-frame schoolhouse was built by local carpenter Fred Agard in 1899 when the county’s population peaked at just over 14,000 residents. The building served area students until consolidation closed it in 1946. Like many one-room schools, it features a front-entry addition and a front-facing gable roof with three double-hung windows on each of the north and south sides. The building was nominated as part of the Historic Public Schools of Kansas multiple property listing for its association with local education and its architecture.

North Topeka Baptist Church – 123 NW Gordon, Topeka, Shawnee County
North Topeka Baptist Church, built in 1921 and 1922, is located at the southeast corner of NW Gordon and NW Jackson streets on the western edge of the historic commercial core of North Topeka. The building was designed by Williamson and Company of Topeka and built by G. Carlson and Son contractors for $40,000. It is an example of
Classical Revival architecture and features a monumental front-gable portico supported by four Corinthian columns. A key turning point in the history of this building came in 1951 when a devastating flood affected much of the Kansas River valley. Much of North Topeka was under water as the Kansas River spilled out of its banks. Water was several inches deep in the church sanctuary. The congregation salvaged what remained, remodeled the interior, and built a new Sunday school building onto the south side of the church in 1952. The building, which still serves the same congregation, was nominated for its architecture.

**John and Mary Ritchie House – 1116 SE Madison, Topeka, Shawnee County**

The John and Mary Ritchie House is located at 1116 SE Madison Street in Topeka. The Ritchies moved to Kansas Territory in 1855 and became involved in abolitionist activities and local temperance and women’s rights organizations. This house was built on Ritchie’s 120-acre preemption purchased in 1855 adjacent to the original Topeka town site. The house is an excellent early example of the mid-19th century vernacular house type known as a double-cell with two rooms of roughly equal size on each level that reflects trends of the National Folk style. It is constructed of limestone walls, with the front elevation distinguished by a full façade layer of brick applied over the limestone with decorative brick quoins at the corners. The Shawnee County Historical Society acquired the building in 1995 and began a multi-year plan to rehabilitate and interpret the property. The house was nominated for its association with the Ritchies and for its architecture.

**Hughes Conoco Station – 400 SW Taylor, Topeka, Shawnee County**

Built in 1930 at the corner of Fourth and Taylor Streets in Topeka, the Hughes Conoco Service Station was strategically located to be accessible from two primary arterial streets allowing the station to pull in traffic from all directions. Typical of early 20th century gas stations, this one was built in the Tudor Revival-style to both blend in with its residential surroundings and serve as a corporate advertisement. The brick building features a round-arch entrance, narrow multi-light casement windows, and a steeply pitched side-gable roof. Its 198 square feet include a sales room and two washrooms. In 1956 Edwin Hughes leased the Conoco Station and added a cement block garage to the east elevation. The building was listed in the Register of Historic Kansas Places in 2009, and was nominated to the National Register as part of the Roadside Kansas multiple property nomination for its associations with local commercial and transportation history and for its architecture.

**Charles M. Ball House – 702 Spruce Street, Coffeyville, Montgomery County**

Built between 1906 and 1908, the Ball House at 702 Spruce Street in Coffeyville combines the irregular Queen Anne house form with Classical Revival stylistic features and captures an important transitional period in architecture when the two styles were commonly blended. Its asymmetrical massing and variety of shapes and textures distinguish this three-story house. Charles Ball, who gained local notoriety for his banking, business, and real estate dealings during the early 20th century, owned the house until his death in 1922. In addition to his many professional and community-related endeavors, Ball is perhaps most well known for his involvement in the Dalton Gang’s hold-up of

*Left to right, North Topeka Baptist Church, Shawnee County; John and Mary Ritchie House, Shawnee County; Hughes Conoco Station, Shawnee County.*

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Condon Bank on October 5, 1892. As the gang entered the bank that morning, they encountered cashier Charles Ball, who concocted a story about the safe being on a time lock. Four of the five robbers were eventually fatally wounded by the ensuing gunfire outside the bank. Although his link with the Dalton Gang robbery is interesting, it significantly pre-dates Ball’s association with the residence at 702 Spruce Street. Therefore, the house was nominated only for its local architectural significance.

Baden Hall – Seventh Avenue and College Street, Winfield, Cowley County
Built in 1893-1894, Baden Hall, at the former St. John’s Lutheran College, derives its significance from its role as a locally prominent educational facility. Founded by John P. Baden, one of Winfield’s prominent 19th century businessmen, St. John’s was distinguished as one of two such private denominational colleges in the city. Baden Hall was constructed as the original facility at St. John’s—the only one associated directly with Baden himself—and for 20 years the sole building on the campus. The building’s function evolved over time from the primary classroom and dormitory space on campus to administrative offices. The college ceased operations in 1986, and since then most of the buildings have been adaptively reused by the city of Winfield for a variety of purposes. Rehwinkle and Mundinger Halls, both of which are individually listed in the National Register, have been rehabilitated into subsidized senior housing. A similar use is planned for a rehabilitated Baden Hall.

Register of Historic Kansas Places
Augusta Frisco Depot – 618 State Street, Augusta, Butler County
The St. Louis and San Francisco Railway Line built its first depot in Augusta in 1880. This wood-frame building was built at this same location along State Street and accommodated both passengers and freight. The building burned in 1909, and plans for a new depot were immediately drawn up. The plan for the depot closely resembles one of Frisco’s six standard combination depots with a passenger waiting area at one end and a freight room at the opposite end. A detached baggage building was erected immediately east of the depot in 1917, and the two buildings were joined together under a single roof in the 1930s. Passenger service ended in 1960, and Frisco abandoned the building in 1984. The building’s characteristic clay tile, hipped roof with flared eaves was significantly altered during a roof replacement. The current owner, the City of Augusta, plans to restore the roof to its original appearance. The depot was nominated for its association with local transportation history.

The National Register of Historic Places is the country’s official list of historically significant properties. Properties must be significant for one or more of the four criteria for evaluation. Under Criterion A, properties can be eligible if they are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. Under Criterion B, properties can be eligible if they are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past. Under Criterion C, properties can be eligible if they embody the distinctive characteristic of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. Under Criterion D, properties may be eligible for the National Register if they have yielded or may be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history. The National Register recognizes properties of local, statewide, and national significance.
Have you ever wondered what you can do to become involved in historic preservation in Kansas? You need look no further than Cindy Higgins of Eudora. Like others across the state, Higgins has taken the initiative to help document Kansas’ historic resources by becoming a registered user on the Kansas Historic Resources Inventory (KHRI) online survey database. Higgins, however, took informal survey a step further—instead of documenting an individual building, she single-handedly documented Eudora’s historic commercial downtown.

The result is a wealth of survey records for 23 buildings in Eudora’s commercial core.

The survey records that Higgins submitted contain architectural information, building histories, current photographs, and scanned historic photographs. This effort represents a perfect example of what KHRI is designed to do—give Kansans the opportunity to help document their state’s historic resources.

Higgins got her start documenting historic resources during the 2009 Kansas Archeology Training Program in Scott City. During a four-day introduction to surveying historic resources, Higgins and her classmates learned how to conduct field survey, photograph the built environment, and upload survey information and photographs to the KSHS online survey database, KHRI.

We recently spoke with Higgins to hear her thoughts on surveying Eudora using KHRI.

**How did you start?**
I’ve been active in learning more about the city’s past for many years and also live near downtown. Then I took Surveying Historic Resources in the Built Environment, June 10-13, 2009, in Scott City where for a nominal fee, my fellow classmates and I learned about building styles and put our knowledge into practice at Scott State Park where we inventoried park buildings, including 1960s “mushroom” shelters, and a few downtown homes and buildings. When I came home, I furthered that practice with one building and just kept on going with downtown.
Was it difficult because you don’t have an architectural background?
Not at all. Architectural elements are a part of the entry, yes, but so is the legal description (cut and paste from the county appraisal record) and other easy-to-fill-in-the-blanks. Plus, there are pop-up lists from which to choose and other helpful online aids. I also made sure to enter only what I knew for sure and always tried to cite sources.

What did you learn?
To really look at the whole rather than just the front view! Not only for one building’s relation to another—for example shared walls or similar window styles—but the alley view, the back of the building. Because rear photos are part of documentation, I had the opportunity to learn additional information about the buildings.

What do you like about this database?
Besides being an easy way to access information, database entry templates in general require and deliver a depth of information not always realized. Having an informational framework for photos, old and new alike, too, is really great.

What did you like about procedures?
You can save the entry at any time and go back to it, for one. All changes are documented, and the survey coordinator serves as a “double checker.” For example, in one email she wrote that text for the Eudora State Bank was inadvertently cut off and to go ahead and paste the full text in General Remarks. I did!

What advice do you have for others?
It’s okay to revise another’s entry. I did that for Holy Family Church in Eudora because the existing entry had minimal information. I had access to documented information, photographs, and the church interior, which is only open on special occasions. Also, pace yourself. I typically did one entry each week. I had an advantage in that I already had some research on most buildings, but details such as downsizing photographs or having to go back and check on some architectural elements make each entry a bit of a work of love! Also, a building may not look very impressive but its past is significant, so don’t bypass it. Finally, a building may have been torn down, but include it too, not only because of the significance it once had but also because it’s a placemarker—an old time news article might mention that a certain building was next to “the old Bartusch Building,” so list the existence of a building that may now be an empty lot.

Why do you think your survey project and KHRI in general are important?
For one, KHRI allows local citizens to input data that someone from another city might never know. Also, it’s another way to record history and may have uses down the road about which we don’t even know today. And of course, documenting downtown buildings may help preserve them because it offers people a chance to learn what makes each building special with its own story.

What’s next?
Oh, I still have some more buildings to do and distinctive houses. I heard Hugh Beaumont, the father in Leave It to Beaver, lived in a house on 900 Road, and I might go check out a house in Lane that is related somehow to Laura Ingalls Wilder. Sounds like a fun field trip!

This interview was conducted by former survey coordinator Caitlin Meives, who left KSHS last summer to work for the Landmark Society of Western New York.

Higgins, a journalist employed at the Division of Water Resources in the Kansas Department of Agriculture, has a long-standing interest in local history, particularly in industries now obsolete. On weekends, she enjoys volunteering at Kansas City-area historic homes and museums.

Interested in trying your hand at survey?
Visit http://www.kshs.org/p/building-survey/14669 to learn more about surveying historic resources. Visit kshs.org/khri to view Cindy Higgins’s survey of downtown Eudora and to become a registered user with KHRI.
For most people the KATP field school is an event that lasts for two weeks each summer during the month of June. Yet, for Kansas Historical Society (KSHS) staff members and volunteers the KATP begins much earlier and continues several months after the field school has ended. Prior to this year’s event, a research design was developed that would employ a variety of field and laboratory techniques and technologies that, as a whole, would fill in gaps in knowledge about this part of Kansas during the Terminal Archaic and Early Ceramic periods. Although laboratory work is still ongoing, the field and laboratory techniques and technologies that have been employed already have generated data critical to understanding the Eastep site. In this article I describe some of these techniques and technologies and what they have revealed so far about what life was like for people at the Eastep site roughly 2,000 years ago.

**Background and Previous Research at the Eastep Site**

Professional archeologists recorded the Eastep site more than three decades ago; yet the scientific importance of this site was not realized until recently. For the past several years severe flooding and riverbank erosion along portions of the Verdigris River prompted officials from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to develop plans for a riverbank stabilization project near the Eastep site. As required by federal law, the NRCS requested an archeological survey to determine whether the proposed riverbank stabilization project would have an adverse impact on the site. During the 2008 survey KSHS archeologist Tod Bevitt discovered an unusually well preserved series of intact prehistoric features and associated artifacts exposed in the cutbank of the Verdigris River, all of which would certainly be destroyed by the proposed riverbank stabilization project.

Given the scientific importance of the Eastep site and the unavoidable adverse effects of the riverbank stabilization project, in 2009 the NRCS requested that the KSHS conduct salvage excavations of the exposed features. These excavations demonstrated that the number of features was much higher and the overall extent of the site was larger than previously thought. Finally, the information obtained established that the site was occupied sometime between 500 BCE and CE 1000. During this 1,500-year period a series of profound changes in human adaptation occurred, including major innovations such as cultivating plants, making ceramic vessels, using the bow and arrow, and shifting from a mobile lifestyle to a sedentary one.
Research Objectives
Based on the scientific importance of the Eastep site and the imminent destruction of a major portion of it, the KSHS and the Kansas Anthropological Association (KAA) selected the Eastep site as the location of the 2010 field school. The research objectives were to recover as much information as possible from the parts of the site endangered by the riverbank stabilization project and at the same time conduct problem-oriented scientific research to address key issues in Central Plains prehistory. The overall goal was to generate data that could be used to better understand the types of activities conducted at the site, degree of sedentism, seasonality of occupation, and nature of subsistence practices at the site, all of which would contribute to a better understanding of regional adaptations in the Central Plains during the Terminal Archaic and Early Ceramic periods.

GIS Database Mapping
Mapping is a fundamental aspect of most archeological research, from the mapping of the location of an archeological site on the landscape to the mapping of the locations of individual artifacts within an excavation unit. A great deal of mapping was done during the field school, but the work actually began several weeks before with the design and development of a Geographic Information System (GIS) for the upcoming excavations. A GIS is a relatively new type of computer database that can be used to organize endless forms of spatial data—satellite imagery, topographic maps, survey data, excavation photographs, drawings, artifact locations—and display these datasets as layers in a map. Once the spatial data is organized within a GIS, it is possible to create an almost infinite variety of maps and to visualize data in ways that were previously impossible using traditional paper maps.

Areas Targeted for Excavation
Prior to the 2010 field school, two areas of the Eastep site were targeted for excavation. The first was the component exposed in the Verdigris River cutbank, where previous excavations unearthed a series of well-preserved buried features and associated artifacts eroding into the river. The second area was located atop a low terrace approximately 200 meters from the river. Although the initial plan focused all efforts on the area exposed in the cutbank, the decision was made to investigate the second area for two practical reasons. First, most of the features exposed in the river’s cutbank were located on a narrow shelf of soil—enough space for only a small group of excavators. Second, the levels of water in the Verdigris River fluctuate wildly during the summer, and there was a chance that the entire riverbank could be underwater during the field school. Therefore, excavations atop the terrace served as a back-up plan in the event of flooding.

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By the third day of the field school, the threat of flooding became a reality. Almost overnight heavy rains upstream caused the water to rise several meters, inundating the entire river cutbank. For much of the field school, these excavation units were completely underwater, and there was little hope of returning them. Fortunately, several hot, dry days during the second week of the field school caused the river level to fall, revealing that the flooding had done relatively little damage to the excavation units or the riverbank features. So, excavators returned and recovered a great deal of valuable information on the nature of occupation in this portion of the site.

On the first day of the field school, the Verdigris River was extremely low, exposing the site’s earliest stratigraphic levels in the river cutbank. A few days later heavy rains caused the river to rise over 20 feet in a matter of hours, completely submerging the areas under excavation. In the second photo only the tops of the tent frames and metal fence posts were visible.
In the excavations on the terrace, artifacts were scattered all over the surface of the site, but the presence of intact features beneath the surface was not known. Instead of randomly placing excavation units, hoping to locate buried features largely by luck, another option was to conduct a geophysical survey. This technique uses magnetic and electrical sub-surface sensing to identify anomalies, many of which could be buried features. Thanks to financial support from the KAA’s John Reynolds Memorial Research Fund and the Kansas Historical Society’s Historic Preservation Fund, Geoff Jones of Archaeophysics (archaeophysics.com) was contracted to conduct a geophysical survey of 14MY388. The survey employed both magnetic and electrical methods and identified dozens of anomalies that looked like promising candidates for excavation. Based on the results of the geophysical survey, a large block of excavation units was placed over several of the most promising magnetic anomalies.

**Geophysical Survey of the Eastep Site**

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**Georeferencing of Excavation Photographs and Drawings**

Plan photographs and plan drawings have been standard procedure in archeological excavation for decades. With the advent of GIS-based technologies, it is now possible to integrate documentation of individual excavation units into a GIS and to create a mosaic of excavation photographs and drawings as layers in a map in ways that were previously impossible. This process is called georeferencing. The technique of georeferencing gets its name from its ability to reference an image to a geographic location.

As an example of the utility of this technique, consider the large bright red anomaly at the center of the excavation block. This anomaly was identified across several units, and each of these units was excavated independently and at different times during the field school. By georeferencing the individual excavation photographs, a photo mosaic was created, and the excavated feature could be visualized in its entirety, which was impossible during the actual excavation.
Furthermore, by integrating photographic data into the GIS-based map of the excavations, the correspondence between the central bright red anomaly identified during the geophysical survey and the large pile of burned sandstone encountered during the excavations is clear.

This large pile of burned sandstone, detected in the geophysical survey and confirmed in our excavations, is actually a relatively common type of archeological feature at southeastern Kansas sites. Most of these burned rock features date to the Late Archaic period, and their original function is not altogether clear. There is general agreement that they probably were originally used as earth ovens for food processing. Although it is unclear what types of food were processed, bulbs and other root crops have been suggested. Others have proposed that high fat foods and root crops were both cooked in earth ovens. Some have suggested that acorns were processed in the earth ovens, using heat to leach acids from the acorns and make them suitable for human consumption. Samples of burned rock were collected and sent to a laboratory for analysis in the hope of identifying organic residues and determining the types of food that might have been processed within the feature.

**Artifact Recovery and Laboratory Processing**

In most archeological excavations the process of digging in excavation units is actually a small component of archeological fieldwork compared to the time devoted to artifact recovery and laboratory processing. Excavated soil is screened in search of small artifacts that might be missed by excavators, and samples of excavated soil are processed in specialized ways to recover tiny organic remains. This year three artifact recovery methods were employed: dry screening, water screening, and flotation. Most excavated soil was dry screened through 1/4-inch mesh. In some cases the heavy clay content of the soil made dry screening nearly impossible, so the technique of water screening was employed, using water from garden hoses with spray nozzles to wash the excavated soil through 1/4-inch screen. Finally, flotation of excavated soil samples consisted of agitating the dirt in large barrels of water until charred seeds, plant parts, and other organic remains floated to the surface and were collected. The organic remains will be analyzed to determine the plant resources that were exploited by the site’s inhabitants.

Following the processing of excavated soil, all the artifacts and samples must be cleaned and catalogued, so that the artifacts can be properly analyzed and preserved for archeologists to study. The artifacts and samples from the Eastep site excavations were cleaned and catalogued in the laboratory, supervised by Chris Garst and Mary Conrad. Currently a team of specialists in faunal analysis, ethnobotanical analysis, and freshwater shell analysis are studying many of these samples.

**Ethnobotanical and Faunal Analysis**

Organic remains recovered from water screening were sent to Dr. Andrew Wyatt of the University of Illinois at Chicago. It is expected that Dr. Wyatt’s ethnobotanical analysis will clarify the degree to which plant cultivation was an aspect of Terminal Archaic and Early Ceramic period subsistence at the Eastep Site. Mark Volmut, a specialist in faunal analysis at the University of Kansas, is studying the animal bones and has

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*Left to right, Abigail Frese dry sifted excavated soil through 1/4-inch screen in search of tiny artifacts (photo by Byran Strom); (left to right) Beth Olson, Chris Hord, and Beth Good used water-screening techniques to recover artifacts from the clay-rich soils of the Verdigris River cutbank; Beth Olson (left) and Lindsay Zeller (right) recovered the smallest of plant remains using water flotation techniques (photo by Rose Marie Wallen).*
already demonstrated that the Eastep site inhabitants relied upon a variety of animal resources, including deer, bison, fish, duck, beaver, and mussels. When completed, Volmut’s research will contribute to the understanding of the importance of these animals in the subsistence practices of the people at the Eastep site.

**Mussel Shell Analysis**

Preliminary research by Edwin Miller of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks already has generated some interesting patterns in the collection of mussel shells, including seasonality of occupation. The Eastep site people harvested mussels as a food source, and several of those mussel species can still be found in the Verdigris River today. Based on the growth rings of the mussel shells in this collection, Miller determined that they probably were harvested during late summer. So the Eastep site probably was occupied during the late summer. Whether the site was inhabited throughout the rest of the year or repeatedly over a number of years remains unclear.

**Chipped Stone Artifact Analysis**

The chipped stone artifact analysis has barely begun, yet a few things can be said about the tool types and raw material sources exploited. Although a few arrow points were recovered, most of the formal stone tools are dart points. These contracting stemmed points (Justice 1987) are diagnostic of the Terminal Archaic and Early Ceramic period in this area of Kansas.

The vast majority of chipped stone artifacts appear to be made of local cherts, but a few artifacts are fashioned from raw materials acquired from hundreds of miles away. For example, a single piece of obsidian, black volcanic glass that is available in only a few places in North America, was
analyzed using X-ray fluorescence. This technique, in which X-rays are used to identify and measure chemical elements within the stone, determined that the obsidian originated at an outcrop known as Obsidian Cliff, the location of an ancient volcanic eruption within modern-day Yellowstone Park, Wyoming, more than 900 miles from the Eastep site. Several other artifacts appear to be made of a fine-grained, coffee-colored chalcedony from the Knife River region of western North Dakota, more than 800 miles away. The distinctive color of Knife River chalcedony, when examined under ultraviolet light, allowed visual identification of the raw material source. In the future, ongoing analysis of the lithic artifacts may clarify the degree to which local and non-local raw material sources were exploited by the inhabitants of the Eastep site.

**Archeological Site Survey**

In addition to the excavations at the Eastep site, valuable information was generated as a result of pedestrian survey of more than 100 acres of land around the Eastep site. The locations of artifacts were recorded with a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver, artifacts were collected, and the distribution of artifacts on the surface was used to define the overall extent of the site. This survey proved that the Eastep site is much larger than initially recorded, and the artifact types provide additional evidence regarding the nature and timing of occupation.

Left to right, Melonie Sullivan excavates along the edge of the Verdigris River; Britten Kuckelman (left) and Jayden Wodke (right) excavate a 2,000-year-old spearpoint; Jerry Finke kneeling beside his excavation unit.
CONCLUSION

The 2010 excavations at the Eastep site generated scientific data critical to the understanding of human adaptation during the transition from the Terminal Archaic to Early Ceramic period. In the process, archaeologists had the opportunity to employ relatively new techniques like georeferencing and to locate buried features based on the geophysical survey. Although a great deal of laboratory research remains to be done, preliminary results indicate that the information generated by these excavations should make a significant contribution to our understanding of regional adaptations in Kansas from about 500 BCE to CE 1000.

SUGGESTED READING

Adair, Mary J.

Bevitt, C. Tod

Blackmar, Jeannette M., and Jack L. Hofman

Justice, Noel D.

Thies, Randall, and Thomas Witty

Thoms, Alston V.

Wandsnider, LuAnn
Kaw River State Park, our newest and only urban state park, was officially opened to the public September 4, 2010. Acquired by donation in 2005, the park is on a steep, forested slope that meets the south bank of the Kansas River. People hiked on this property for years when it was owned by the Menninger Clinic and before that by the Security Benefit Association Home and Hospital.

My wife and I were walking in the park before the official opening and noticed broken pieces of tableware and bottles near the head of a trail that was under construction. Soon afterward the Kansas State Historic Preservation Office received a letter from Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks stating that development of the park was about to commence and asking if there were historical resource issues that needed to be addressed. This spurred me to take a closer look at the tableware and bottles—were they old enough to be recorded as an archeological site?

As it turns out, the new park trail abuts a dumpsite from the Security Benefit Home and Hospital, established in 1919. Between 1919 and 1929 the Security Benefit Association built an orphanage, residences for the aged, and a hospital for Security Benefit members. The addition of a power plant, a water plant, and a farm made the complex self-sufficient. The SBA complex closed in 1954 but soon reopened as the Menninger Clinic, which operated until 2003.

While a dump may not sound too exciting, this particular dump is older than 50 years and thus falls under the category of antiquities, which are protected by the Kansas Antiquities Commission Act (see Kansas Preservation, volume 27, number 3, May-June 2005, for an overview). As State Archeologist, it falls to me to ensure the proper treatment of antiquities on municipal, township, county, and state lands.

Through a series of communications, it quickly became apparent that the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks was aware of the dumpsite. While they knew that it had potential for historic studies, they also were cognizant that it posed a potential risk to the public using the trail. That sharp fragment of blue bottle glass would be likely to attract the four-year-old hiking with her family on the trail. To mitigate the dangers, the Topeka South Rotary Club was poised to clean up the hazardous dumpsite. That’s great, but the dump also is an archeological site—it is now registered as 14SH379—and thus deserves some level of preservation.
Jeff Bender, park manager of Kaw River State Park, was instrumental in working out a solution. The Rotary Club would come and do its weekend cleanup as scheduled, and I would join them. In the process, we would collect the artifacts that appear to have some historical value, and the sharp nasty pieces that seemed less useful would be removed from the reach of hikers.

In short, a consortium of the Topeka South Rotary Club, Kansas Historical Society, and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks collected several hundred artifacts and disposed of trailside hazards. Artifacts from different areas were kept separate, as they appear to represent disposal of materials from different facilities at different times. In the days that followed, Kansas Historical Society staff revisited the areas, removed the few remaining materials visible from the trail, mapped the extent of the dump, and documented an area that had been excavated earlier, apparently by bottle collectors. Unauthorized collection of artifacts from the park is illegal under the Kansas Antiquities Commission act.

Kansas Historical Society archeology lab volunteers, under the direction of Chris Garst, are currently preparing the artifacts for analysis. A first impression of the collection is that it is exclusively from the time of operation of the Security Benefit Hospital and Home and not later periods. Domestic tableware and containers dominate the collection, including cafeteria ware with the Security Benefit Association logo, but we also recovered artifacts related to the medical practice—large bottles with the names of chemical manufacturing laboratories on their bases, drug vials, and what appear to be blood sample tubes. These are not typical artifacts found in dumps, and they may help clarify the kinds of medical practices that took place in the first half of the 20th century. Also, we noticed that not all of the tableware is institutional, suggesting that some of the orphans or elderly people living on the grounds brought some possessions from their homes. Analysis of the artifacts may give us clues to life at the orphanage and home for the elderly that do not exist in the records.

Work was not limited to the dump. I had informed the Antiquities Commission about the situation, and commission member Dr. Peer Moore-Jansen of Wichita State University asked if a cemetery is present on the hospital grounds. There is, and we probably would not have found it without Dr. Moore-Jansen’s inquiry and some additional historical research. We made an accurate map of the gravestones and assigned an archeological site number to the cemetery: 14SH380. A list of burials—all patients of the hospital or residents of the orphanage or home for the elderly—is part of the site form.

This project is an example of how well preservation can work—two state agencies teaming up with a community service organization to collect an archeological site in compliance with state law, while at the same time ensuring the safety of hikers and preserving the natural appearance at Kansas’ beautiful new state park. Once again the cooperative nature of Kansas ensured that everything would work out for the best.

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Most of the artifacts are from the Turkey Creek drainage near Chapman, Verna’s lifetime area of residence. As a child, Verna visited sites with her father, a mail carrier, and began working with the Kansas Anthropological Association (KAA), a statewide amateur organization, in 1974. She participated in the annual Kansas Archeology Training Program field school for 24 consecutive years. She took classes in anthropology, wrote articles and helped edit KAA publications, and worked for the Kansas Historical Society conducting archeological fieldwork and managing the archeology laboratory.

Between 1978 and 1980 Verna, along with other Mud Creek Chapter KAA members, conducted a systematic survey of the Turkey Creek drainage. This work was published in The Kansas Anthropologist in 1996, and the artifact collection from that survey is the bulk of the donated collection.

From the standpoint of an archeologist, Verna got it right. She and her fellow KAA members collected artifacts in a systematic fashion. While it is nice to have artifacts from a site, it is even better to have several collections from a region. This allows archeologists to understand the kinds of landscape features that people chose to occupy in the past and which ones they did not. Sometimes it becomes clear that people lived in one area—a terrace above the floodplain of a creek, for instance—but carried out other tasks, like making stone tools, on a high point where they also could watch for game. Regional surveys, like Verna’s, provide that kind of information. Verna recorded 57 archeological sites, and there are site numbers and site forms for all of the artifacts she collected and donated.
Verna donated artifacts from 37 sites and kept the artifacts from the different sites separated. Each site is unique and potentially has its own story to tell. Keeping artifacts from different sites apart avoids confusing those stories. Verna also cataloged nearly all of her artifacts, labeling the artifacts with the site number. If someone wants to compare all of the scraping tools from a number of sites, they easily can return the artifacts to the right site collection when they are done.

Verna’s interest in archeology and her willingness to work with others, to learn from others, to teach others, to make her collections available, and to write about her findings make her an example of a responsible artifact collector and a model amateur archeologist. Some people shy away from labeling an individual as an amateur because it smacks of second-rate or diminished value. But look at the etymology of the word: French, amator or lover of. Verna is passionate about archeology, and the care that she has taken with learning about archeology and sharing her knowledge with others reflects that love.

“I guess we were just intelligent people who wanted something interesting to do. It’s better than housework.”

— Verna Book Detrich
The Kansas Historical Society (KSHS) was well represented at the Kansas Council for History Education’s Fall History Conference, October 24-25, in Derby.

A roomful of teachers were introduced to Project Archaeology by Nathan McAlister, Royal Valley Middle School teacher and Preserve America History Teacher of the Year, and KSHS Public Archeologist Virginia Wulfkuhle. Wulfkuhle summarized the background of the national and state Project Archaeology programs and the curriculum model used in developing educational materials. McAlister guided enthusiastic participants through two activities from the national Project Archaeology: Investigating Shelter curriculum: “Every Picture Tells a Story,” which teaches observation and inference skills, and “Investigating a Pawnee Earthlodge,” which uses the floor plan of an excavated earthlodge at the Pawnee Indian Museum State Historic Site in Republic to study artifact distribution and make inferences from scientific evidence. At the conclusion of the session, 33 sets of the Kansas-specific unit “Migration of the Pueblo People to El Cuartelejo,” correlated to seventh grade standards (see kshs.org/p/project-archaeology-in-kansas-how-to-participate/15252) were distributed. Wulfkuhle and McAlister also announced plans for a teacher/facilitator workshop August 3-5, 2011, in Hutchinson, Kansas. The two-and-a-half day workshop will use Investigating Shelter with the Pawnee earthlodge investigation (grades three through five) and the Kansas migration (grade seven) and food and culture (grade five) units. If funding is secured, there will be no charge for registration, curriculum materials, or lunches. College credit will be available. Watch the KSHS web site (kshs.org) for details or contact Virginia Wulfkuhle at vwulfkuhle@kshs.org.

Other KSHS staff members participating in the KCHE conference were education specialist Marcia Fox, who presented a special elementary workshop, “Reading, History and the Standards,” and digital initiatives coordinator Michael Church gave a presentation on Kansas Memory, the KSHS digital archive.

McAlister leads a receptive group of history teachers through part of the Pawnee earthlodge lesson. The floor plan is based on Kansas’ own Pawnee Indian Museum State Historic Site.
David Griffen joined the staff as a project reviewer. He received his bachelor's degree in architecture from Oklahoma State University and his master's in architecture from Rice University in Houston. Griffen studied for one year at L'Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris and spent a second year traveling throughout Europe. He is a professor emeritus in the School of Architecture at the University of Kansas and is a registered architect in Kansas and Missouri.

Matthew Holtkamp is a tax credit reviewer. A native Kansan, he is happily back home after a decade in New York City and New England. He holds a master's degree in historic preservation from the University of Vermont and is drawn towards vernacular architecture and rural landscapes. Holtkamp also works as a humble carpenter in Lawrence.

Amanda Loughlin (pronounced lock-lin) is a survey coordinator and came to the Historical Society from Kansas City, Missouri. She graduated from Kansas State University in 2004 with a bachelor's degree in interior architecture and immediately went to work for the Historic American Buildings Survey in Gettysburg for the summer. She completed a master's degree in historic preservation from the University of Kentucky in 2009 after an International Council on Monuments and Signs internship with the Transylvania Trust Foundation in Romania. Her interests include crawling around historic buildings, advocating the preservation of historic landscapes, and researching Kansas City history.

Kenneth Price is the new agency architect. He will be working with the Historic Sites Division to oversee maintenance and restoration work, and with the Cultural Resources Division to assist with Heritage Trust Fund project reviews. He is a native Kansan and graduated from the College of Architecture at Kansas State University. Previously, he worked on historic preservation projects at Great Overland Station, Cedar Crest, and the Kansas State Capitol.

Mary Smith received her bachelor's of fine arts degree in design from the University of Kansas. She joined the Historical Society as a volunteer in the archeology department and is now working as events coordinator, planning the 2011 State Historic Preservation Conference and Workshops.
Historic Sites Board of Review

The Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review is a group of 11 professionals from various fields that meets quarterly to review and recommend nominations to the National Register of Historic Places and the Register of Historic Kansas Places, and award preservation planning and rehabilitation grants. As prescribed by the Kansas Historic Preservation Act of 1977 (K.S.A. 75-2719), the board is comprised of the following members: the governor or the governor’s designee, the state historic preservation officer or such officer’s designee, and nine members appointed by the governor for three-year terms. At least one member must be professionally qualified in each of the following disciplines: architecture, history, prehistoric archeology, historical archeology, and architectural history.

Jennie Chinn, State Historic Preservation Officer
Craig Crosswhite, Ness City, chair
J. Eric Engstrom, Wichita, governor’s designee, vice chair
John W. Hoopes, Lawrence
Nancy Horst, Winfield
Leo Oliva, Stockton
Billie Marie Porter, Neodesha
Daniel Sabatini, Lawrence
David H. Sachs, Manhattan
Jay Price, Wichita
Margaret Wood, Topeka

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Happenings in Kansas

January 1, 2011
State holiday – New Year’s Day

January 8, February 12, March 12, 2011
Grinter Place – Second Saturdays by the Grinter Stove

January 13, 2011
Preservation Workshop – Emporia

January 17, 2011
State holiday – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 28, 2011
150 Things I Love About Kansas
Kansas Museum of History, Topeka

January 28, 2011
Kansas Day for schools
Kansas Museum of History, state historic sites

January 29, 2011
Kansas Day event
Kansas Museum of History, state historic sites

January 30, February 6, 13, 27, 2011
Constitution Hall – Bleeding Kansas Series

February 12, 2011
Historic Sites Board of Review
Kansas Historical Society, Topeka

February 19 – 20, 2011
Kansas Anthropological Association Certification Seminar
Bethany College, Lindsborg

March 15, 2011
Historic Preservation Fund Grant deadline

May 14, 2011
Historic Sites Board of Review
Kansas Historical Society, Topeka

June 2 – 4, 2011
State Preservation Conference
Kansas Historical Society, Topeka

June 4 – 19, 2011
Kansas Archeology Training Program, check kshs.org/events
for more information

Join the Preserving Kansas listserv under Historic Preservation at kshs.org.