Results of Archaeological Monitoring and Data Recovery at the Charles Owen Brown House, Historic Block 215, Tucson, Pima County, Arizona

J. Homer Thiel
Christine H. Virden-Lange

Technical Report No. 2013-02
Desert Archaeology, Inc.
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Submitted to
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Desert Archaeology, Inc.
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ABSTRACT

Historic Block 215 is located in downtown Tucson, and was the home of the Charles Brown family from the 1870s to the 1940s. The Brown House has previously been assigned site number AZ BB:13:33 (ASM). The portion of the Brown House fronting Jackson Street has been suspected to be one of the oldest standing buildings in Tucson, when roof beams were tree-ring dated to the late 1840s. Plans to renovate three rooms of the house, as well as to remove two oleander bushes and construct a wall in the exterior courtyard north of this wing, led to an archaeological monitoring and data recovery project in September 2011.

Monitoring within the courtyard failed to locate any in situ archaeological deposits. Removal of the wooden floors inside the house led to the discovery of perishable materials that typically do not survive at archaeological sites, that is, paper items, cloth, and wood. Additional artifacts were recovered when loose dirt was removed.

Excavation of two 1-m by 1-m units in the northeastern corner of the southwestern and south-central rooms led to the discovery of the original tamped dirt floors of the house. The stone foundations were also discovered, revealing that this portion of the house likely dates to 1879, and that the late-1840s roof beams were reused from an earlier structure.

It is recommended that consultation be undertaken with the Arizona State Museum and the State Historic Preservation Office prior to any future ground-disturbing activities.
COMPLIANCE SUMMARY

Date: 15 January 2014


Client: City of Tucson

Client Project Name: Charles O. Brown House Archaeology. Desert Archaeology Project No. I10.

Compliance Agencies: City of Tucson

Compliance Level: State


Applicable Permits: Arizona State Museum permit 2011-102

Tribal Consultation: N/A

Project Description: Plans to renovate portions of the historic Charles O. Brown House and its adjacent courtyard led to monitoring on the exterior of the house and the excavation of portions of the house interior.

Fieldwork Dates and Person-days: Archaeological monitoring and data recovery took place over five days between August through October 2011. In total, six person-days were expended in the field.

Final Disposition of Project Artifacts, Field Notes, Data, and Records: All artifacts, field notes, data, and records will be curated at the Arizona State Museum (ASM), Tucson, under Arizona State Accession Number 2011-423.

Location (Land Ownership; City, County, State; Legal Description):

- Land Ownership: Arizona Pioneers Historical Society (Pima County parcel 117-13-0320)
- City, County, and State: Tucson, Pima County, Arizona
- Legal Description: City of Tucson Lot 5, Block 214, Section 13, Township 14 South, Range 13 East on the USGS 7.5-minute topographic quad Tucson, Ariz. (AZ BB:13 [NW]).

Area of Potential Effect (APE): The APE for the project is the southern portion of the Charles O. Brown House and the courtyard immediately to the north. The house is located within Pima County Assessor’s Parcel 117-13-0320, and is located at 40 W. Broadway Boulevard in Tucson (see Figures 1.1 and 1.5).

Number of Surveyed Acres: N/A

Number of Sites: 1

List of Register-eligible Properties: Old Adobe Patio [Charles O. Brown House] listed on the National Register of Historic Places on 3 June 1971 under Criterion C based on its architectural characteristics. The house and property are located on Historic Block 215 and has been assigned Arizona State Museum site number AZ BB:13:33 (ASM).

List of Register-ineligible Properties: N/A
Summary of Results: Archaeological monitoring within the courtyard area failed to locate intact cultural resources in the area examined. The wooden floors from three rooms were removed from the interior of the portion of the Charles O. Brown House fronting W. Jackson Street. Perishable materials, including paper, cardboard, fabric, and wood, were present on the dirt surface immediately beneath the wood floor. Removal and screening of the loose soil below the wooden floor resulted in the recovery of additional perishable artifacts, as well as more durable items. Many of these artifacts were deposited in the mid-1930s, apparently when the first wooden floors installed in the house were replaced by the wooden floors present when the current project began. Two 1-m by 1-m excavation units were placed in the northeastern corner of the southwestern and south-central rooms of the house. These uncovered the original tamped earthen floors and revealed that the entire house was built at the same time, probably in 1879, and further, that the belief that the eastern rooms were constructed in the late 1840s was incorrect.

Recommendations: Consultation should be undertaken with the Arizona State Museum and the State Historic Preservation Office prior to any future ground-disturbing activities within and adjacent to the Charles O. Brown House.
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The archaeological fieldwork for the C.O. Brown House project was supervised by Homer Thiel and Allen Denoyer of Desert Archaeology, Inc. The volunteers who participated were Leslie Aragon, Malorie Askansas-Graul, Brandi Bethke, Georgie Boyer, Elizabeth Burt, Rachael Byrd, Vanessa Chin, Cameron Cohen, Cherie Freeman, Jessica Little, Olivia Olson, and Berrett Stradford. Lisa Eppley and Susan Blair processed the recovered artifacts in the laboratory. Christine H. Virden-Lange helped analyze these items. Robert Ciaccio photographed artifacts and Tyler Theriot prepared maps. Emilee Mead and Donna Doolittle edited and formatted the report. Jean Kramer and Trish Castalia provided logistical support. Mark Elson reviewed the report. William Doelle served as Principal Investigator. Dr. Jonathan Mabry, City of Tucson Historic Programs Officer, helped coordinate the project. Jeannette Mare-Packard of Ben’s Bells helped coordinate fieldwork and volunteers.
RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND DATA RECOVERY AT THE CHARLES OWEN BROWN HOUSE, HISTORIC BLOCK 215, TUCSON, PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA

The Charles Owen (C. O.) Brown House is reported to be one of the oldest standing buildings in Tucson, Pima County, Arizona. The house contains roof beams tree-ring-dated to the late 1840s and late 1870s (Robinson 1990). The complex of rooms was home to the prominent Brown family, whose patriarch ran the Congress Hall Saloon in the nineteenth century. The house later became the location of the Old Adobe Patio Restaurant and a variety of other businesses. The building is currently owned by the Arizona Historical Society, who have leased portions of the building to non-profit groups. Ben’s Bells, a philanthropic group, planned to take over the southern portion of the complex fronting Jackson Street.

Renovation work included the removal of wooden floors from three rooms and their replacement with brick floors set in sand in two rooms and refurbished wood in one room, the removal of two large oleander bushes, and the construction of a new courtyard wall along the eastern side of the present parking lot area, immediately west of the house.

Archaeological monitoring of the bush removal and foundation trenches did not reveal any archaeological resources. A variety of perishable materials were present beneath the floors inside the house. Excavation of loose sediment resulted in the recovery of many additional artifacts. Excavation units were placed in two rooms, providing information about construction of the house and suggesting it was built in the 1870s rather than the 1840s.

The C. O. Brown House is owned by the Arizona Historical Society and is covered by the Arizona Antiquities Act of 1960. Any ground-disturbing work on the property, which is Arizona State Museum site AZ BB:13:33 (ASM), requires an archaeological study. The current renovation project was undertaken by the non-profit Ben’s Bells. Desert Archaeology, Inc., volunteered to undertake archaeological monitoring and data recovery as a cost-savings measure for this non-profit group. Two Desert Archaeology employees supervised the fieldwork, assisted by a number of volunteers who excavated soil, screened the soil for artifacts, and sorted the artifacts for processing in Desert Archaeology’s laboratory. The laboratory work, artifact analyses, and report write up were also undertaken as a volunteer effort. The Arizona State Museum waived curation and project registration fees.

This report provides historical background on the C. O. Brown House and its residents, a description of the archaeological work conducted, and a discussion of the artifacts found. The work was conducted under Arizona State Museum permit 2011-102. Artifacts and paperwork are curated at the Arizona State Museum under Accession Number 2011-423.

PROJECT AREA LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The C. O. Brown House is located at 40 W. Broadway Boulevard on Lot 5 of Historic Block 215 in downtown Tucson. This is Pima County Assessor’s parcel number 117-13-0320, located in Section 13 of Township 14 South, Range 13 East (Figure 1.1).

The C. O. Brown House contains a total of 17 rooms arranged around a central courtyard. The project area was located within three rooms of that portion of the house fronting W. Jackson Street, the northwestern, southwestern, and south-central rooms of this wing of the house. Work was also conducted in the courtyard immediately north and west of the northwestern room.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH

Beginning in the 1840s, families began to construct homes outside the confines of the tall adobe walls of the Presidio San Agustín del Tucson. In 1862, John Mills drafted a map of downtown Tucson. One of two structures, numbers 130 and 131, fronting La Plaza de Mesilla, was thought to be part of the current house (Figure 1.2). Tree-ring dates obtained from roof beams within the C. O. Brown House dated to the late 1840s, supporting this hypothesis (Robinson 1990). The house appears on the 1883 Sanborn Fire Insurance map, essentially in the same configuration as today (Figure 1.3).
Figure 1.1. Reproduction of USGS 7.5-minute topographic quad Tucson, Ariz. (AS BB:13 [NW]), showing the location of the project area, Historic Block 215, AZ BB:13:33 (ASM).
The earliest identified occupants of the property, living in an earlier house, were Henry McWard and his wife Gertrudes Marquez. Henry McWard was born circa 1837/1838 in New York. He was in Arizona as early as February 1863, when he witnessed a deed (Pima County DRE 1:667). In 1864, Henry lived in Tucson (H. McWard entry, 1864 Arizona Territorial census, no. 209). In 1866, Henry lived by himself in Tubac, with the John Ward and Milton Ward families living nearby (Henry McWard entry, 1866 Territorial census, line 1529). He was elected a member of the Third Territorial Legislature, representing Yuma County (Weekly Journal Miner 1866). In 1867, Henry was living in Tucson, next to Philip H. Ward and Horatio Ward (Henry McWard entry, 1867 Territorial census, line 1094). Henry was appointed the first deputy collector of customs at Maricopa Wells, Arizona. Maricopa Wells was located northwest of Tucson, along a trail running westward to California, visited by most travelers of the time.

Catholic baptismal records indicate the couple were the parents of at least three children: Eusebius McWard (born March 1864), Horacio McWard (born July 1869), and Antonia McWard (baptized in November 1870). Gertrudes was also the mother of Maria Benigna Marquez (born April 1873), Juanito Marquez (born May 1875), and Maria Eliza Marquez (born June 1877). The latter two children were apparently fathered by John Bartlett.

Henry McWard died on 19 January 1870, and was buried in the Stone-Alameda Cemetery in Tucson (Catholic Burials, Vol. 1:35). The Weekly Arizonian (1870:3) reported: “Henry McWard, a native of San Francisco, Cal., and late customs officer at Maricopa Wells, died at his residence here on Wednesday. He leaves a wife and two children.”

John Capron owned the property between 1867 and 1870. John Gaffield Capron was born on 2 March 1828, in Franklin County, Ohio, son of John Capron and Electa Babcock. He came to Arizona around 1856, and in November 1857, he was working as a mail rider (Farish 1915:3). In 1859, John worked at the Overland Mail Station at the Pima Villages (Weekly Arizonian 1859). He was married around 1860, to Sarah Rosser, who was born circa 1834/1835 in Kentucky. In August 1860, John and Sarah lived in Tucson, where he worked as a merchant and owned $6,000 in personal property (1860 U.S. census, New Mexico Territory, Arizona, Tucson, page 12). By 1864, John and Sarah had separated, with John receiving a divorce as the second act of the First Territorial Legislature.

John lived in Tucson in 1864, and owned $6,000 in real estate and $4,000 in personal property (J. G. Capron entry, 1864 Arizona Territorial census, Tucson, page 1, no. 12). Capron ran a stage line in 1869 (Weekly Arizonian 1869). On 22 October 1869, John traveled to Ohio, and while there, he married Harriet J. Fox (Weekly Arizonian 1869a). By October 1870, Capron had moved from Arizona to San Diego, California (Arizona Citizen 1870), where he died on 7 September 1914. He was buried there in Greenwood Cemetery.

On 15 October 1870, John Capron sold the property to Clara Brown for $800. The land was described as the “south side of Camp Street and bounded on the north by Camp Street, on the east by the property of Antonio Rodrigues, on the south by a small street, and on the west by the property of Anna
Chapter 1: Results of Archaeological Monitoring and Data Recovery at the Charles Owen Brown House

Figure 1.3. The 1883 Sanborn Fire Insurance map, showing the C. O. Brown House.

Charaleau” (Pima County Deed Record Entry, 1:434-435). A dwelling appears to have already been present on the Camp Street (later Broadway) side of the lot at the time. The Jackson Street home was almost certainly built afterward.

Charles Owen Brown was born on 27 October 1829, in Westport, Essex County, New York, son of Charles Brown and Eloise Raymond Longworthy. His family moved to Whitehall, Greene County, Illinois, when he was 12 years old. He left home when he was a teenager, when he traveled to Mexico (Tucson Citizen 1908).

In the 1850s, Brown was reported to have been a member of the Glanton gang, a group of men who moved about Chihuahua, Mexico, killing Native Americans, and collecting money for their scalps. The gang settled in Yuma, operating a ferry on the Colorado River. Charles moved on to California, and the rest of the gang was subsequently killed by Native Americans in Yuma.

On 11 July 1860, Charles lived with William Z. Brown (born in Maryland, probably not a close relative), and two other men in Mesilla, Dona Ana County, New Mexico Territory (this area later became Arizona). Charles was listed as a “gentleman,” while William Brown was a bookkeeper (1860 U.S. census, New Mexico Territory, Dona Ana County, Mesilla, page 29).

He was reported to be in Tucson in 1861, when the Confederates occupied the community. After the Union arrived, he was given a monopoly for selling liquor and gambling by Colonel West (Farish 1915:185).

Brown followed the troops back to Mesilla, where he was married circa 1864, reportedly in the Mesilla Valley of New Mexico, to Clara Garcia Villescadas. Clara was born on 12 August 1845, perhaps in Los Angeles, California, or in Barcelona, Spain (Farish 1915:185). Her father’s name may have been Maximo Garcia (based on her death certificate). According to the 1910 U.S. census, she came to the United States in 1852. Among the Brown family accomplishments was to bring the first sewing machine into the Arizona Territory. They also ordered a baby carriage from St. Louis when their first son was born (Farish 1915:185).

In 1868, Brown opened the Congress Hall saloon. The building was constructed by William Ohnersorgen, and had one of the earliest wooden floors in Tucson. The building was the meeting location for the first Territorial legislature (Farish 1915:185). The saloon was one of the most popular saloons in Tucson, and it made Charles Brown a great amount of money, although apparently he managed it poorly (Farish 1915:185; Thiel 2009).

On 4 June 1870, Charles and Clara lived in Tucson with three children: Josephine, William, and Louisa, along with a 50-year-old domestic servant, Josepha Sota. Charles worked as a saloon keeper, and he owned $16,000 in real estate and $1,500 in personal property (1870 U.S. census, Arizona, Pima County, Tucson, page 14). In 1874, Charles and his
wife lived in Tucson with six children (1874, Arizona Territorial census, page 31, line 7).

The City of Tucson hired Sidney Foremen to survey the original townsite, and deeds were sold beginning in 1872. Persons who already owned property within the townsite were required to purchase deeds, with the purchase price being used to cover the cost of the survey. Charles Brown bought the deed for Lot 5 of Block 215 on 15 August 1872 (Pima County Deeds, Vol. 3:306-307). On 18 May 1878, he gave the property to his wife Clara Brown “for love and affection” (Pima County Deeds, Vol. 4:341-343).

On 3 June 1880, Clara was living at 72 First [Avenue?] in Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California, with four children: Josephine, William, Tully, and an unnamed 10-day-old baby boy. Clara kept house while the two oldest children attended school (1880 U.S. census, California, Los Angeles County, Los Angeles, ED 23, page 6).

On 22 September 1893, Clara sold Lot 5 of Block 215 to her daughter Josephine Brown McTeague for $10 (Pima County Deeds, Vol. 25:520-321). At the time, Josephine was living in Newark, New Jersey. The probable reason for the sale was to prevent creditors from obtaining the property (there was a severe recession in Tucson in 1893). In 1898, Josephine sold the property back to Clara for $1.00 (Pima County Deeds, Vol. 28:34).

On 6 June 1900, Charles lived at 164 W. Congress Street with a male boarder. He was working as a quartz miner (1900 U.S. census, Arizona, Pima County, Tucson Precinct 1, sheet 6A). Meanwhile, Clara lived nearby at 38 W. Camp Street (later renamed Broadway) with her three youngest children, Owen, Clara, and Charles, and four boarders. The three children were attending school. Clara reported that she had given birth to 13 children (1910 U.S. census states 12 children), but that only six were still alive (1900 U.S. census, Arizona, Pima County, Tucson Precinct 1, sheet 2A). It is unknown why the couple had separated, and they do not appear to have ever lived together again.

Charles died on 13 August 1908, at 327 N. Main Street in Tucson, “presumably abscess of brain” (Charles O. Brown, Return of a Death, online at <genealogy.az.gov>.

On 15 April 1910, Clara lived with her extended family at 38 W. Broadway Boulevard, the modern C. O. Brown House. The family included four sons, William, Steve, Owen, and Charlie, daughter Josie McTeague, Josie’s husband John, their son Harold, another daughter Clara, and Clara’s husband Edward L. Byrd. Two female boarders also lived in the household. All four sons were bookkeepers, John McTeague was a mining engineer, and Edward Byrd was a physician for a mining company (1910 U.S. census, Arizona Territory, Pima County, Tucson Ward 2, ED 106, sheet 1).

The 1919 Sanborn Fire Insurance map indicates that the rooms along Broadway were “lodgings,” probably rented out to other individuals (Figure 1.4). On 5 January 1920, Clara and her son Owen lived at 38 W. Broadway Boulevard. Owen was a deputy sheriff for Pima County (1920 U.S. census, Arizona, Pima County, Tucson Ward 2, ED 100, sheet 4B). In April 1930, Clara and her son William lived at 38 W. Broadway Boulevard. William was working as an office clerk (1930 U.S. census, Arizona, Pima County, Tucson, ED 63, sheet 11B).

Clara died on 19 April 1932, at 38 W. Broadway Boulevard from cancer (Clara Brown, Standard Certificate of Death, online at <genealogy.az.gov>.

Ten of the couple’s 13 children have been identified. Josephine Brown was born in 1866, married John J. McTeague, and died in 1956. William Charles Brown was born in 1868. Maria Louisa Brown was born in 1870, and died in 1877. Charles Brown was born in 1872, and died in 1873. Clara Brown was born in 1874, and died in 1877. Maria Clara Brown was born in 1878, and died in 1879. Steve D. Brown was born in 1880, and died in 1961. Owen Brown was born in 1882. Clara D. Brown was born in 1885, and married Edward L. Byrd. Charles Owen Brown was born in 1887.

William Brown lived at the house at 38 W. Broadway Boulevard in 1934. In 1936, it was vacant.

Beginning in 1937, a series of small businesses occupied the structure. A sample of city directories was examined, and the businesses were generally gift shops, clothing stores, or restaurants.

1937: C. S. Longerio, metal shop; Randall Honwesima, silversmith
1939: Arizona Studios
1941: Arizona Studios; Lucyanna Graves real estate; Book Stall Library
1948: Old Adobe Patio; Print Room; Doll House; Old Adobe Antique Shop; Mrs. Mary Southard (lamp shades); Julie Brix (textiles)
1952: Old Adobe Patio Restaurant; Julia Brox Hand Painted Prints Studio; The Doll Shop; Emily Alexander Gift Shop; The Golden Shell
1958: La Carretta; Old Adobe Patio; Doll Shop; Print Room; Tucson Watercolor Guild; Pierce Gerry School of the Tucson Watercolor Guild; Mrs. C. G. Wheeler Jones; A. J. Messner interior decorator
1959: Old Adobe Patio Restaurant; Doll Shop; Print Room; Tucson Water Color Guild; Lockett’s Clay Patio Shop; Mrs. C. G. Wheeler Jones
1960: Old Adobe Patio Restaurant; Old Adobe Patio Doll Shop; Old Adobe Patio Print Room;
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1963: Old Adobe Patio Restaurant; Old Adobe Patio Doll Shop; Continental Contemporaries; Old Adobe Patio Print Room (printers)
1965: Continental Contemporaries; Old Adobe Patio Doll Shop; Arizona Originals Clothing; Print Room Printers; Old Adobe Patio Restaurant
1972: Thunderbird Gift Shop; Los Santos Stoneware Ceramics; Arizona Originals Clothing; Print Room Gallery; Old Adobe Patio Restaurant
1980: Thunderbird Gift Shop; Corell’s Casual, Inc.; El Adobe Mexican Restaurant
1989: Casa Brown Curios; Thunderbird Shop; El Adobe Mexican Restaurant

By 1924, the six-room structure fronting Jackson Street (street addresses 37, 41, and 45 W. Jackson) was rented out to various people. A sample of 12 city directories for the years between 1924 and 1936 were consulted. They indicate that most residents lived in the building for a few years, and that most were Mexican-American. The six-room structure was apparently divided into two-room apartments. A bathroom was likely shared by all households.

Occupants included the following.

1924: W. Houston.
1926: Fernando Calderon; Luisa Dominguez; Eugenia Elguesabal.
1927: Jose Andrade; Lupe Bernae; Jose Camacho
1928: Jose Andrade; Mrs. Guadalupe Ortiz; Mrs. Luisa Dominguez
1929: Jose Andrade; Francisco Ortiz; Mrs. Rita Morales
1930: Jose Andrade; Mrs. Guadalupe Ortiz; Mrs. Rita Morales
1931: Mrs. Reyes Pogue; Mrs. Guadalupe Ortiz; Mrs. Rita Morales
1932: Juan Perez; Mrs. Rita Morales
1933: Luis Chavez; Mrs. G. Ortiz
1934: Mrs. M. L. Levy; Joaquin Calderon
1935: Mrs. Blanca Garcia; Mrs. M. L. Levy; Mrs. Refugio Corral
1936: Pampelo Osuna

PAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

The Charles O. Brown House was assigned Arizona State Museum site number AZ BB:13:33 (ASM), by the Historic Sites Committee in 1960. The Old Adobe Patio [Charles O. Brown House] was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on 3 June 1971, under Criterion C, based on its architectural characteristics, although the original form also lists history and archaeology as significant factors.

In 1990, the University of Arizona Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research tested beams in the portion of the Brown House fronting Jackson Street (Robinson...
1940s. That analysis revealed that the eastern two rooms contained roof beams cut in 1879. The western four rooms contained beams dating to the late 1840s.

A single archaeological project has taken place on the property (Sterner and Branton 1998). Renovation activities in 1998 inside and around the Jackson Street portion of the home were preceded by archaeological work conducted by Statistical Research, Inc. Archaeological work took place in three areas. Placement of a drain along the eastern and southern exterior walls of the house preceded monitoring of 258 linear ft of a 2-ft-wide trench. The trench was about 18 inches deep. Three archaeological features were documented. Feature 7 was a concrete water-control feature, and Feature 8 was a probable outhouse pit on the eastern side of the house. Feature 9 was a cobble and mortar foundation extending eastward from the Brown house. These later two features were associated with the adjacent lot, which had a dwelling as early as 1862.

Planned grading of the courtyard area led to this area being examined through placement of five 3-ft by 3-ft excavation units. Caliche was located 25-35 inches below the current ground surface. Three features were found. Feature 1 was a charcoal stain, Feature 2 was a pit, and Feature 5 was a cobble foundation for an east-west wall dividing the courtyard.

Artifacts recovered from the monitored trench and the five courtyard units were not analyzed, but were reported to include Native American ceramics, metal, glass, and animal bone. Some of the Native American ceramics were thought to be prehistoric.

The third area examined was inside the northwestern room of the dwelling fronting Jackson Street. The wooden floor had been removed along the north portion of the room, and four 4-ft by 4-ft excavation units were placed against the northern wall. All the units had several inches of very fine loam that ended on a compact surface, which represented the original dirt floor inside the house. Two units were then excavated into the underlying fine-grained silty sand, with pea gravel down to caliche. The depth to caliche was approximately 18 inches below the compact floor.

A large quantity of artifacts was present in the soil above the compact dirt floor. Many of the items dated to the 1920s and 1930s, and included perishable materials, such as cloth, paper, cardboard, and wood. Many sewing-related items were noted. Excavation beneath the floor led to the discovery of Native American ceramics and some historic artifacts, although in much smaller quantities. Some of the ceramics were thought to be prehistoric. Three features were located. Features 3 and 4 were pit features along the western side of the trench, extending beneath the foundation of the room, indicating they predated construction of the room. Feature 6 was a concentration of ash and faunal bone.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK CONDUCTED IN 2011

Archaeological work was conducted over a two-month period in August and September 2011 (Figure 1.5). Work consisted of: (1) monitoring the removal of two large oleander bushes; (2) monitoring the excavation of trenches for new walls in the courtyard area; (3) collection of artifacts following the removal of wooden floors in the south-central, southwestern, and northwestern rooms; (4) excavation of loose soils beneath the floors in the three rooms; and, (5) excavation of 1-m by 2-m control units in the south-central and southwestern rooms.

Courtyard Work

Two large oleander bushes were removed in August 2011. The root balls were each about 1 m in diameter and approximately 60 cm deep. The two areas appear to have been previously disturbed, and recent utility pipes were present.

Trenches for the foundation for a new wall were cut in the courtyard in October 2011. The trench was about 30 cm wide and 40 cm deep. No archaeological features were located in the trench, and no artifacts were found.

C. O. Brown House Work

The first phase of work consisted of the removal of the wooden floors in the south-central, southwestern, and northwestern rooms (Figure 1.6). The tongue-in-groove floor was nailed to 2 x 6 wood joists and a 6-12 inch crawl space was present beneath each floor. After removal of the floor, volunteers collected all visible artifacts. Many perishable items, made from cloth, paper, and wood, were present. This work occurred on 1 September 2011.

Archaeologists then stripped away the loose soil beneath the floors of the three rooms on 17 and 24 September 2011. The south-central room was assigned Unit 1, the southwestern room Unit 2, and the northwestern room Unit 3. Material from each room was excavated separately.

Approximately 10 cm of soil was removed in each room. All the sediment was screened through ¼-inch mesh. Artifacts were collected, sorted, and bagged by material type. During excavation, additional perishable items were recovered, in addition to a vari-
Figure 1.5. Location of archaeological fieldwork at the C. O. Brown House.
Figure 1.6. Location of data recovery on the interior of the portion of the C. O. Brown House facing Jackson Street.
ety of non-perishable items made from metal, ceramic, glass, plastic, hard rubber, and other materials.

Fieldwork was supervised by J. Homer Thiel and Allen Denoyer of Desert Archaeology, Inc. Volunteers who participated included Leslie Aragon, Malorie Askansas-Graul, Brandi Bethke, Georgie Boyer, Elizabeth Burt, Rachael Byrd, Vanessa Chin, Cameron Cohen, Cherie Freeman, Jessica Little, Olivia Olson, and Berrett Stradford.

Additional 1-m by 1-m excavation units were placed in the northeastern corner of the south-central and southwestern rooms (see Figure 1.6). Unit 4 was in the south-central room. The first level was 8 cm of loose brown silt that contained a large amount of construction debris and a few artifacts. The second level was 44 cm deep, and it consisted of fine, loosely consolidated brown silt that sat directly upon the hard caliche layer. Many pieces of caliche were within the layer, but only a handful of artifacts.

Unit 5 was in the northeastern corner of the southwestern room. Only one 11-cm-deep level of silt was excavated. A hard-packed earthen floor was found. A lens of brown organic material lay directly on the floor. The only artifact on the floor was a cartridge shell.

Profiles of structure foundations in these two units, and the two deeply excavated units placed in the northwestern room by Statistical Research, Inc., were carefully examined (Figures 1.7 and 1.8). The foundations were uniform in all three rooms, consisting of a shaped rock and mortar foundation upon which adobe bricks had been placed.

It became clear that all six rooms of the southern portion of the C. O. Brown House had been constructed at the same time. The room beams examined by the dendrochronologists dated to the late 1840s and to 1879. Robinson (1990) concluded that some of the beams were probably cut in the spring of 1879. Given the construction data from the excavations, the entire southern portion of the C. O. Brown House was likely constructed sometime in 1879, with reuse of beams from the earlier house.

Excavation units were backfilled after fieldwork was completed. The recovered artifacts were processed at the Desert Archaeology, Inc., laboratory. Items were washed or dry-brushed clean and re-bagged. Historic artifacts were analyzed by Christine Lange and Homer Thiel; these are described in Chapter 2.
Figure 1.8: Profile drawing of Unit 4, placed in the south-central room of the C. O. Brown House.
CHAPTER 2

ARTIFACT ANALYSES

A large number of artifacts were found beneath the floors of the C. O. Brown House. Analyses of the items recovered focused on identifying the items, determining their age, and exploring how the artifacts can inform about the people who lived at the house. The items recovered are described by functional categories. Printed product names or text are presented as either capital letters or in quotation marks.

KITCHEN

Kitchen artifacts are used to prepare, serve, and store foods and beverages. Kitchen artifacts are typically either the most common or the second-most common (after architectural artifacts) found at Historic era archaeological sites.

Food Preparation

Food preparation items are used to prepare meals or to clean up afterward. A label for a box of BRILLO scouring pads was found in the south-central room. A piece from a wax paper box was found in the same room.

Food Service

Food service artifacts are used to serve meals. Two pressed cardboard spoons were found in the south-central room. Three flat wooden ice cream spoons were found, one in the south-central room and two in the northwestern room. Two tin spoons were also found in the south-central room, and another tin children’s spoon (perhaps a toy) was found in the northwestern room. A wood-handled steak knife was found in the southwestern room.

Eight fragments from ceramic dishes were found in the northwestern room. Two were a decal-print vessel with flowers in a basket and a blue line at the rim. Another was green-tinted porcelain. A piece of Chinese porcelain with a blue geometric design, a plain porcelain fragment, and a stoneware crock were also present. Three pieces of plain whiteware were found in the southwestern room. Fifteen fragments of ceramic dishes were found in the south-central room. Nine were plain whiteware pieces, three of which had an illegible English impressed mark. A relief-molded bowl or saucer was decorated with flowers. Two transferprint dishes were found, one with brown flowers and one with red leaves; two sponge-stamped sherds were also present, one with red flowers and one with green and red flowers. A thin blue Asian ceramic was also found. Two pieces of clear glass tumblers came from the northwestern room.

The last recovered food service artifact was a baby bottle nipple that was found in the south-central room.

Food Storage

Food storage artifacts include containers and packaging for foodstuffs and nutritional beverages. Three circular tags once attached to milk bottles were found in the northwestern room. Only one was legible, originating from the Sunset Dairy, Inc. Three other tags were found in the southwestern room, one marked WASH AND RETURN BOTTLES DAILY, one from the TANQUE VERDE DAIRY, and the third from the U OF A/ UN[iversity of] ARIZONA DAIRY. An illegible tag marked DAIRY was found in the south-central room.

A small card suggests the occupants of the southwestern room received food aid. The card was printed “GOOD FOR ONE QUART OF MILK to be delivered by Yale Dairy... Organized Charities of Tucson Emergency Relief Fund.”

Five sardine or meat can keys were present in the south-central room. Six pieces of light green bottle glass, probably for a peppersauce bottle, came from the northwestern room.

Fragments of a paper bag for popcorn were found in the southwestern room. Fragments from a box of SUNSHINE BISCUITS were found in the south-central room. A piece of a one pound box of confectioner’s sugar was found in the south-central room.

An advertisement for PURITAN MALT EXTRACT was present in the same room. This foodstuff was a nutritional supplement that was available as hop-flavored or plain, with separate “fresh pressed hops.” This substance was popular during Prohibition, and seemed to have been marketed to people wanting a substance that tasted like beer.

A wrapper from a stick of WRIGLEY’S SPEARMINT chewing gum was found in the northwestern room, as was a label marked CREAMY MOLASSES TAFFY.
Three OUR GANG (later called the Little Rascals) bubblegum packages were found in the southwestern room. The packages featured a picture of Spanky on the top, with a group photo of other characters on the bottom. Spanky was an Our Gang character from 1932 to 1942.

A package from DENTYNE gum, found in the same room, purported to keep the teeth clean. A wrapper for MICKEY MOUSE BUBBLE GUM was found in the southwestern room. The wrapper could be turned in for a Mickey Mouse Picture Card Album (Figure 2.1). The album was a clever way to encourage children to purchase more bubble gum, because each package contained a small illustrated card that could be pasted into the album.

A purple and white HOLLOWAY candy wrapper was found in the south-central room. A probable cardboard candy box marked BAGS OF GOLD SWEET VANILLA CHOCOLATE was found in the same room, as was a wrapper from a piece of WRIGLEY’S DOUBLEMINT gum and a cellophane POPSICLE wrapper.

Many homes had ice boxes in the late nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century. These wooden cabinets had a large tin-lined box in their base. An ice man visited regularly to replenish the block of ice that sat in the box to keep the contents of the ice box cold. A label marked ICE, found in the northwestern room, was apparently for a block of ice.

**Beverage Storage**

Recreational beverages consumed by residents of the house probably included both soft drink and alcoholic beverages. A revenue stamp for “½ pint” was found in the northwestern room. A partial label for BOHEMIAN HOP FLAVORED beer was found in the south-central room. Two labels for bottles of BURGERMEISTER BEER, bottled in San Francisco, were found in the southwestern room (Figure 2.2).

The northwestern room contained 121 crown caps, in addition to the metal portion of a Hutchinson’s stopper (used between 1881 and 1912 to close beer or soda bottles) and three bottle corks. Seven more crown caps were found in the southwestern room, as was a bottle cork and two screw-on caps. Nine crown caps were found in the south-central room.

Two pieces of olive, one brown piece, and a portion of clear bottle glass were found in the southwestern room. Four pieces of light green bottle glass, one of which had the raised letters “SA” on it, six pieces of clear glass, and 10 fragments of olive wine or champagne bottle glass were found in the south-central room. Four olive, 2 brown, 2 clear, and 13 pieces of light green bottle glass were found in the northwestern room.

A metal bottle cap opener was found in the south-central room.

**ARCHITECTURAL**

Architectural artifacts include construction materials, as well as electrical and water-related items.
Artifacts in this category are typically very common at historic sites, as many nails and pieces of glass are found discarded.

Large numbers of nails were found inside the house. During fieldwork, a wooden floor was present, nailed to 2 x 6 floor joists, which actually measured 2 inches by 6 inches. When these floors were removed, an earlier floor was found to have once been present, attached with square, hand-wrought nails. Many pieces of the original wooden floor, probably installed in the 1880s or 1890s and replaced in the 1930s, were scattered beneath the floors. The original tongue-and-groove floor was 7/8 inch thick, and was made from Douglas-fir.

Many hand-wrought nails were pulled and discarded when the original floor was replaced. Other nails were discarded in the rooms, including finishing nails, probably used to attach trim work. Some of the nails were probably dropped onto and through the floor during the recent work inside the house.

Hand-wrought square-cut nails found in the house included 65 from the northwestern room, 49 in the south-central room, and 59 in the southwestern room. Machine-cut, round-headed nails consisted of 77 in the northwestern room, 62 in the south-central room, and 35 in the southwestern room.

Twenty-three pieces of window glass were found in the south-central room, 8 more in the southwestern room, and 12 in the northwestern room. Most of the window glass had a slight light blue color, typical of late nineteenth and early twentieth century glass found in Tucson.

Numerous fragments of wallpaper were found. The pieces included several marked MAXWELL & CO., NEW YORK. This company is still in business today. In the northwestern room, fragments found were in blue, red, and white, and included abstract foliage and small berries attached to branches. Pieces found in the southwestern room feature fleur-de-lis patterns, as well as foliage on a green background.

A piece of linoleum with a red flower outlined in yellow and black was found in the south-central room.

A large screw with a hook end was found in the southwestern room. A piece of electrical wire and a brass clip for a toilet tank float were also found in the southwestern room.

Two staples were found in the northwestern room, perhaps used to hold electrical wires in place. A very large bolt with a screw-like body and a white plastic electrical outlet were also found in this room. A pull-chain for a lamp, or perhaps a toilet, was found in the northwestern room.

HOUSEHOLD FURNISHINGS

Household furnishing artifacts include pieces of actual furniture, as well as functional and decorative items that could be found inside a home. Few artifacts from this functional category are typically found at open-air archaeological sites, partly because many items made from cloth and leather decompose, while some furniture parts, such as screws and nails, cannot be identified as originating from furniture.

A page from a small daily calendar with the date NOV. 18, 1936 on one side (and the date NOV. 19, 1936 on the other) was found in the northwestern room.

A receipt for a towel from J. C. PENNEY CO. from 17 June 1934 was found in the southwestern room.

A bell-shaped tin Christmas ornament was found in the northwestern room. The hanger and attachment for a Christmas ball ornament was found in the southwestern room. A red Christmas tree bulb was found in the southwestern room, as was a piece from a blue bulb.

Two tacks were found in the northwestern room, as were four furniture screws. Three furniture screws were found in the south-central room; another four tacks and two furniture screws were found in the southwestern room.

Three fragments from bisque porcelain figurines were found in the south-central room. One was a green bisque flower vase. Three fragments from a bisque figure were found in the northwestern room. The form could not be identified; it was painted blue on the outside.

Pieces of artificial foliage, probably from a floral arrangement, were recovered from the southwestern and northwestern rooms. Two of the pieces from the southwestern room were green paper-wrapped wire or wood stems for flowers, one of which was red.

A bell and two gears from an alarm clock were found in the southwestern room.

ARMS AND AMMUNITION

Artifacts in the arms and ammunition category include firearm parts, ammunition, and arrow points. Ammunition is almost always the most common artifact found in this category in Tucson.

A centerfire brass cartridge was found on the original hard-packed floor surface in the excavation unit in the southwestern room. The cartridge was unmarked. Three unmarked .22 caliber cartridges
were found in the south-central room. A cartridge marked 1901 REPEATER NO. 12 was found in the northwestern room, along with a centerfire .44 caliber cartridge.

CLOTHING

Clothing artifacts are common at historic sites in Tucson. What is unusual in the C. O. Brown House assemblage is the presence of many perishable items.

Sewing or Clothing Maintenance Repair Items

Fragments of cloth, primarily scraps left over from clothing, were found in all the rooms. The pieces have various printed patterns. A complete children’s sock, with Art Deco embroidered designs, was found in the northwestern room, while a nylon hose was in the south-central room. A shoe lace was found in the northwestern room, and fragments of a shoe were found in the south-central room. A leather belt fragment and two pieces of a fabric belt lay beneath the floor in the southwestern room, as was a label from F. W. WOOLWORTH CO. for a pair of stockings.

Buttons were present in all three rooms. They were made from a variety of materials, including bone, hard rubber, shell, plastic, cloth covered, wood, metal, and china. The buttons came in various sizes, shapes, and colors, with both 2 and 4 holes. Buttons were most common in the northwestern room, with 52 examples, while 30 were in the south-central room, and 26 were in the southwestern room.

Accessories

Accessories are items worn on a person’s body, including jewelry and items used to embellish clothing. Beads were found in all three rooms: wooden (n = 3), plastic (n = 6), and glass (n = 11). These were in all different sizes and colors.

Two finger rings were found in the southwestern room. One was a plain copper ring, while the other was an inexpensive men’s silver ring. Two hatpins were found in the southwestern room, one with a bright green glass end and the other with a black glass end. An identification necklace was found in the northwestern room. It read AMERICA FIRST FRED D. GEORGE BOX 954 GLOBE. A 10-year-old boy, Fred George, was living in Tucson in April 1930, with his parents L. W. and Ruby George (1930 U.S. census, Arizona, Pima, Tucson, ED 43, sheet 28B).

A brass pocket watch vest chain and a cuff link were present in the southwestern room.

A brass bracelet and a chain came from the northwestern room. The bracelet has an abstract geometric design impressed on it. The same room had a small bracelet charm, which had an owl sitting on a crescent moon and a glass bead bracelet. A yellow Bakelite bracelet was found in the southwestern room.

PERSONAL

Personal artifacts are those likely owned and used by a single person.

Medicine

Medical artifacts include medicine containers and devices used to deliver treatments. An instructive advertisement for Walgreen’s aspirin was found in
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the northwestern room: “These Aspirin tablets are carefully prepared and compressed to conform with the high standards set by our research laboratory.” The aspirins were recommended for pain, head colds, and for a gargle for minor throat irritation. An aspirin tin was found in the same room.

Another label came from a bottle of SAL HEPATICA. This salty product was a laxative and cathartic. It “is an affervescent saline combination similar to the nature Saline Waters of certain of the medicinal springs of the United States and Europe; and is fortified by the addition of Sodium Phosphate.”

A label from a tube of MENTHOLATUM came from the southwestern room. This product was a skin ointment that was also purported to cure headaches and insect stings.

A postcard that could be mailed in for a sample of DR. HAND’S TEETHING LOTION was found in the south-central room.

A lid from a small container of ABSORBA, an ointment manufactured in San Antonio, Texas, was found in the southwestern room. This product’s label was in Spanish. The same room yielded fragments of a box of UNGUENTINE, THE ANTISEP-TIC IN SOOTHING OINTMENT FORM, prepared by the NORWICH PHARMACAL COMPANY of Norwich, New York. A receipt from the MARTIN DRUG COMPANY found in the room lists the purchase of Unguentine.

Two pieces of cobalt blue glass were found in the south-central room, probably from a medicine bottle. Another piece of cobalt glass was recovered from the excavation unit in the room. A fragment from a glass plunger for a syringe was found in the southwestern room. An ampule and a glass syringe were found in the northwestern room.

A prescription clear eyeglass lens was recovered from the northwestern room.

Smoking artifacts include tobacco pipes, cigars, cigarettes, and tobacco product packaging. A tag marked OLD NORTH STATE SMOKING TOBACCO was found in the northwestern room. Also recovered from that room was a cigar band marked M. & O. MILD CIGAR. A cigarette revenue stamp was found in the southwestern room.

A CHESTERFIELD CIGARETTES package, manufactured by the LIGGETT & MYERS TOBACCO CO., was found in the southwestern room (Figure 2.3). A TIP TOP WHEAT STRAW CIGAR-LITE PAPER package was found in this room, as well as a label CIGARROS BOHEMIOS and a cigar band MFRA. DE CIGARROS MEL AGUILA’S. Another TIP TOP WHEAT STRAW CIGARETTE PAPER label was recovered from the south-central room. A wrapper for LA WHEAT STRAW cigarette paper was also present beneath the floor of the south-central room.

A tobacco pouch was found in the southwestern room (Figure 2.4). The fabric pouch still has its revenue stamps and a tag reading LIGGETT & MYERS TOBACCO CO. DURHAM, N.C. A tobacco tin from the southwestern room was marked UNION LEAD-ING SMOKING TOBACCO.

Many wooden matchsticks were found: 20 in the south-central room, 77 in the southwestern room, and 180 in the northwestern room. Both red and blue tips were found, as well as both burned and unburned matches.

Also recovered was the cover of a matchbook featuring a Native American wearing a chief’s headdress and marked BOXED BY F. L. ANDREWS CORP, GLENDALE, N.Y. (Figure 2.5c). Another matchbook was found in the southwestern room, and was marked DIAMOND MATCH CO.

A match box lid marked THE OHIO MATCH SALES CO. OFFICES/ CLOSE COVER BEFORE STRIKING was also found in the northwestern room. Other fragments found in the room may have come from the same box, and were marked OHIO BLUE TIP MATCHES and DIAMOND MATCH CO.

The matches could also have been used for lighting fires in stoves and fireplaces, as well as candles and kerosene lanterns.
A tobacco pouch found in the south-central room, C. O. Brown House (Catalog No. 2011-423-04).

A brass cigarette lighter top was found in the south-central room.

Religious

A small fragment of paper containing a list of Saint’s days in Spanish was found in the northwestern room. A fragment of a print depicting a winged, flying saint was recovered from the southwestern room. The same room contained a card for a Jehovah’s Witness meeting; it read at the top, THE 144,000 WHO ARE THE PEOPLE MENTIONED IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION? The rest of the card stated that Catholics and Protestants were going to Hell.

A piece of cardboard found in the northwestern room had a religious print glued to it. The left side had an image of Madonna and Child, while the right side had Mary, Jesus, and Joseph (Figure 2.6).

A milagro charm recovered from the northwestern room was a left arm and hand (Figure 2.7). This was probably used to ask for help with a problem with an arm.

Hygiene and Cosmetics

Hygiene and cosmetic artifacts include items to groom and maintain one’s body.

A box that once contained STAR SUPER EDGE BLADES for razors was found in the southwestern room. One razor blade was recovered from the south-central room and two from the southwestern room. A stone razor strop was present in the southwestern room.

The south-central room contained a box of LUXOR COMPLEXION POWDER. A brass Luxor powder compact was found in the northwestern room.

A brass tube marked PRINCESS PAT. LTD CHICAGO, found in the northwestern room, probably contained some sort of cosmetic.

A small knife blade from a pair of finger clippers was recovered from the northwestern room.

Hairpins were found in all three rooms, with six examples in the southwestern room and two examples in each of the northwestern and south-central rooms. Plastic combs or comb teeth were also found in each room.
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Figure 2.5. Three paper items from the northwestern room, C. O. Brown House: (a) a Fox or Lyric theatre ticket (Catalog No. 2011-423-09); (b) a World-Master harmonica label (Catalog No. 2011-423-10); and, (c) a matchbook fragment (Catalog No. 2011-423-11).

Figure 2.6. Religious prints found in the northwestern room, C. O. Brown House (Catalog No. 2011-423-05).

Coins

Many coins were expected to be found, because these were likely to fall through the cracks in the floor. In all, 12 were recovered. Three were present in the south-central room: 1909, 1921, and 1927 pennies. Four coins were found in the southwestern room, a 1920 2-peso coin from Mexico and three pennies, one from 1926, one from 1927, and another that was illegible. Five coins were recovered from the northwestern room, 1927 and 1932 pennies and a 1919 Indian Head nickel, in addition to an illegible penny and a completely corroded coin.

A trade token found in the south-central room displayed GOOD FOR 5c IN TRADE HUITT’S CIGAR STORE ROSEVILLE CAL.

Locks and Keys

A large padlock was found in the northwestern room, as was a short key.

ACTIVITY

The activity category includes items that do not fit well into other categories.

Toys

A toy coin, marked HEROES JOHN PAUL JONES 1792 on one side and MAZUM 10 MONEY on the other, was found in the northwestern room. A 20-cent PLAY MONEY coin was recovered from the south-central room.

Playing cards were found in the northwestern room. One was a King of hearts. Another was for a Horse (11) card from a Malilla card deck (Figure 2.8).
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Figure 2.7. A milagro from the northwestern room, C. O. Brown House (Catalog No. 2011-423-06).

Figure 2.8. A malilla card from the northwestern room, C. O. Brown House (Catalog No. 2011-423-07).

This card game originated in Spain, and is popular in Mexico.

A folded paper boat was present beneath the floor of the south-central room.

Two pieces from a plain white hollow-body bisque doll were found in the southwestern room, along with a purple-tinted doll teapot lid. Three fragments from a bisque porcelain doll were found in the northwestern room. The doll had black hair. A plastic doll head was recovered from the south-central room.

Many different toys were found in the south-central room, including a wooden top, two rubber balls, a promotional clicker marked FOR REAL SERVICE ENDICOTT-JOHNSON SHOES FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY, a bingo tile or checker piece marked 29, an alphabet block, and a jump rope handle. Three rubber balls and a ping pong ball were found in the northwestern room. A miniature basket with tiny eggs, probably for a doll house, was also recovered from that room (Figure 2.9). A wheel and an axle from a Matchbox-style toy car was recovered from the southwestern room.

Clay and glass marbles were found in all three rooms: 17 in the south-central room, 11 in the southwestern room, and 9 in the northwestern room (Figure 2.10). The glass marbles included solid color and swirled, while the clay marbles were plain.

Three poker chips were recovered from the northwestern room and two from the southwestern room. The chips were painted blue, red, and white. A red, wooden gaming piece from the northwestern room was used for a board game.

A toy watch bracelet was recovered from the northwestern room. A toy brass finger ring was found in the southwestern room; the ring originally had a small glass gem. A baby pacifier was found in the northwestern room.

Entertainment

A small red ticket was found in the northwestern room, marked DROP THIS STUB IN LOBBY BOX OF FOX OR FOX LYRIC THEATRE (Figure 2.5a). The Fox Theatre opened in April 1930, in Tucson, and was located a block north of the C. O. Brown House. A ticket coupon from the LYRIC THEATRE could be used as a raffle ticket, providing the owner an opportunity to win one of 10 turkeys on Tuesday, December 19, probably in 1940.

A label from a harmonica was in the northwestern room. It featured a man playing a harmonica, and was marked WORLD MASTER, MADE IN GERMANY (Figure 2.5b).

Two fragments from a Disney character coloring book page were found in the south-central room; a dog is on one side and a cow wearing a suit and Mickey Mouse are on the other side.

A small decorative Mexican flag was recovered from the south-central room. The flag may have once adorned a cupcake or a pastry.

Communication Artifacts

Communication artifacts include items used for reading and writing, for passing and preserving information. Historic sites in Tucson often contain pencil leads or eraser holders, ink bottles, and occasionally, printer’s type. A large number of communication artifacts were found in the C. O. Brown House, primarily paper goods.

Pencils were found in each room: 8 in the south-central room, 6 in the southwestern room, and 7 in the northwestern room. Several had manufacturer’s marks, VENUS DRAWING, and others, EBERHARD FARER U.S.A. 465, COLLEGE, ENS NEW YORK U.S., and 1040. Most were painted yellow on the exterior. A pencil lead was also found in the northwestern room, and three more were in the southwestern room.

Two pieces of writing chalk were recovered from the northwestern room. A metal pen nib was found in the southwestern room.

A 2-cent cancelled stamp, bearing the image of George Washington, was found in the southwest-
ern room. A Christmas card from the REXALL drug store, advertising that the store sold cards and stationery, was present in the south-central room, in addition to a Christmas present tag with a pot of poinsettias.

All three rooms contained fragments of English and Spanish language newspapers. None contained dates; however, one had the headline, “MRS. LAURA HOLLAND DIES AT HOME HERE.” Laura (Huffman) Holland died on 15 July 1934, in Tucson, and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery. One newspaper fragment was from the LOS ANGELES EXAMINER.

Someone who lived in the house was employed by the Arizona Daily Star. Items discarded by the worker included “STATEMENT OF YOUR ACCOUNT” receipts from January 1937, while another piece was a complaint form if your newspaper did not arrive. A bill found in the southwestern room for F. R. ROMERO reveals that a week’s subscrip-

An unusual find were individual words cut from magazines or newspapers. In the northwestern room, the words EASTER, HAPPY, NOISE, PUTS, and PAN were recovered, while in the southwestern room, the words HONEY, BEGINNING, BOIL, and PLEASE were found. Two possibilities are presented. One is that someone cut the words out to create a note or sign (similar to a kidnapper’s letter). Another option is that someone was learning English and cut out words as a study aid.

A poster advertising a sale on Southern Pacific Railroad tickets was found in the south-central room. It cost $1.00 to travel every 100 miles. A fragment of a bill printed in Spanish, states “Mire Vd. Adelante Compre Ahora… Costaran Mas Este Otono.”

Fragments of musical graph paper, some with hand-written musical notation, were recovered from the northwestern room.

Many pieces from a Big-Little Disney book, featuring Mickey, Minnie, Pluto, and Dippy (later called
Goofy), were found in the southwestern room. The use of the name Dippy indicates the book dates to between 1932 and 1934 (possibly *Mickey Mouse in Blaggard Castle*).

Two pages from a letter written in Spanish were recovered from the southwestern room. The letter was in poor condition and mentioned Tucson and San Jose. A Spanish lesson prepared by Ygnacio Ortiz was found in the south-central room. The same room yielded a drawing of a rooster. A card on which someone had practiced typing in December 1930, was also present. Two drawings were recovered from the northwestern room. One was a pink and black animal or monster (Figure 2.11); the other was a blonde woman wearing a red and blue shirt, with a black heart or bow in her hair.

Pages from an unidentified English-language magazine page were present in the south-central room. The pages featured advertisements for a knitting book and POST-TENS multi-cereal cartoon.

A lead printing plate with the words WASHINGTON D. C. was found in the northwestern room. A spacer plate for printing was also recovered from this room. A large rectangular printing plate from the southwestern room had an image of an automobile on it.

Two paper staples were in the northwestern room, as were four paper clips. Five paper clips were present in the south-central room, while another four were found in the southwestern room.

A glass lid for a SANFORD’S INK bottle, with red ink, was found in the southwestern room.

**Miscellaneous Items**

A pair of nuts for bolts were recovered from the northwestern room. A tool handle, perhaps from an awl, came from the southwestern room. A screwdriver and three washers were present in the south-central room.

**TRANSPORTATION**

A horse harness rivet and buckle were found in the south-central room. A stem cap for a bicycle inner tube was in the southwestern room.

**UNIDENTIFIED ITEMS**

Some artifacts could not be identified. Three labels had red images of a male Native American, with the opposite side reading MADE BY AMERICAN INDIAN. One label had a strip of leather running through it. A small blue and green label is marked BABY DOT SIZE 1. Other labels were marked 25, and their purpose is unknown. A blue cardboard box with the cursive word MANHATTAN used as a design element was found in the south-central room.

Some 20 pieces of iron and one piece of copper wire were found in the northwestern room, as were six pieces of unidentifiable metal items, one of which had three brass chain links. Another was a circular tin item that was affixed to fabric and was marked EMERY IND — LITTLE FLOWER.

Three pieces of melted lead were present in the south-central room, as well as a strap with holes, a small screw, a brass staple, and two pieces of iron.

Eleven screws, a nut, a piece of wire, a C-shaped iron piece, and several pieces of tinned metal were recovered from the southwestern room.

**DATE OF TRASH DEPOSITION BENEATH THE C. O. BROWN HOUSE FLOORS**

When was the trash discarded beneath the floors of the C. O. Brown House? As noted, many artifacts could be dated, either because they bore actual dates, or because their date of manufacture could be determined.

The American and Mexican coins recovered ranged from 1909 to 1932. A piece from an *Arizona Daily Star* newspaper was from July 1934. Other *Arizona Daily Star* items, receipts and complaint forms, dated from 1936-1937.

Many of the artifacts found beneath the floor probably relate to the replacement of the original floors and the installation of new floors in 1936-1937.
CHAPTER 3

CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological monitoring and excavation at the C. O. Brown House was conducted in 2011, prior to use of a portion of the house by Ben’s Bells, a non-profit group. Monitoring of the removal of two oleander bushes and the excavation of trenches for a wall in the courtyard area failed to locate any archaeological features on the exterior of the house. The oleander area had been disturbed by prior utility work. The foundation area lacked features.

Removal of the wooden floors within the northwestern, southwestern, and south-central rooms revealed large amounts of perishable materials. Loose dirt was removed down to the original tamped dirt floor, uncovering many additional artifacts. Two 1-m by 1-m excavation units were placed in the southwestern and south-central rooms.

Artifacts found beneath the floor dated mostly to 1936 and 1937. Scattered among the mostly perishable artifacts were pieces of a thick wooden floor, which was probably replaced with the thinner, tongue-and-groove floor that was present when the current project began.

Excavation revealed the original tamped dirt floor below. When the house was built, it almost certainly had a tamped dirt floor, which was replaced by a wooden floor, probably shortly after the railroad arrival in 1880. This allowed large quantities of milled lumber to be brought into the community.

The two excavation units, as well as the two units previously excavated by Statistical Research, Inc., revealed the stone and mortar foundations of the house along the northern wall, the central east-west wall, the western wall, and the two interior walls. The foundation was identical in all the exposed areas, indicating it was built in one event. A layer of mud mortar was placed on the foundation to provide a smooth surface and the adobe brick walls of the house were subsequently constructed.

Given the identical foundations and adobe brick walls present throughout the house, the hypothesis that the eastern rooms of the house were constructed in the 1840s has been disproven. Instead, the six rooms appear to have been built around 1879, based on other tree-ring dates. At that time, the builders likely reused an earlier set of beams, perhaps from a previous structure on the property that was dismantled at that time.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that consultation be undertaken with the Arizona State Museum and the State Historic Preservation Office prior to any ground-disrupting activities beneath the floors of the existing house, in the courtyard and parking lot area, or on the exterior of the C. O. Brown House.
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