

Mr. Peed: My name is Lucas Peed and I was taking Public History 305 and the opportunity came up to do archaeology at Mead's Tavern. We were using it as a case study for the class so it was neat how that fit together.

Interviewer: So how many digs did you participate in?

Mr. Peed: Five.

Interviewer: Where on the property with the majority of the work you were doing?

Mr. Peed: It was all behind the tavern. we started out in October were probably about 30 yards behind the house but by late November early December we were at the back of the lot on the perimeter.

Interviewer: What artifacts were you responsible for finding?

Mr. Peed: Anything and everything we could dig up. We were looking for things from the tavern period or colonial times.

Interviewer: Describe a few things that you did find during your digs?

Mr. Peed: We found a lot of pottery dating from the 1700s and 1800s. We also found part of a rifle, a few pieces of flint, a lot of nails from the tavern as well as modern-day. We found pieces of bones from like chickens and pigs. And then mixed with older artifacts we also found newer things including socks from the 80s probably.

Interviewer: How are these artifacts collected? What was the process for collecting?

Mr. Peed: We'd mark out a plot on the lot and it's about every 10 yards we would take a test unit which is 2 x 2' and then we just slowly dig down into the dirt making sure that we didn't disturb any other layers or any other artifacts from other areas in the hole. And then put the dirt in sifters and sift through those and find artifacts after the dirt had been sifted out.

Interviewer: What was done with the artifacts once you dug them out of the ground?

Mr. Peed: They are collected and tagged and put in little bags and taken to the labs of Hurt & Proffitt for further cleaning up and studying.

Interviewer: Okay. Did you learn anything about the building, the actual structure or any of the other structures on the property during your experience there?

Mr. Peed: Yeah the artifacts showed us what most likely went on in the building just like the different types of bone that we found sure that there are probably pigs on the menu, pork, and showed the type of pottery in the tavern. We also found features, like remnants of buildings, foundations, support foundations, piles of nails indicated there was probably a building standing there at one point and it got burned down. So just basic layout of the land.

Interviewer: You mentioned features. How do you distinguish a feature in a hole in the ground?

Mr. Peed: When you're digging down I'll keep a constant look on the color of the soil and so when you see something different maybe dark brown in one section and lighter in another, you just dig a little bit further and then see if there's continuity to that. If there is it's probably something man-made and out of the ordinary so you just record that and see what it is.

Interviewer: How has this experience valuable to you?

Mr. Peed: This is a really good experience. Something that not a lot get an opportunity to do, so it'll look really good on a resume.

Interviewer: Out of what you did personally, the things that you found, what was the most interesting thing that you found?

Mr. Peed: The most interesting thing I found. That was the bottom of the teacup. It was just really weird shape and so we weren't sure what it was. It had many different ridges on it, but after looking a bit closer and talk to the actual archaeologist, they were able to figure out that it was in early 1800s teacup.

Interviewer: Would you recommend participating in an archaeological dig to other students?

Mr. Peed: Definitely was a great experience