

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



1. Name

historic Fewkes Group Archaeological Site

and/or common Boiling Springs Site 40 WM I

2. Location

street & number [redacted] not for publication

city, town [redacted] vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Tennessee code 047 county Williamson code 187

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name [redacted]

street & number [redacted]

city, town [redacted] vicinity of state Tennessee 37064

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registrar of Deeds

street & number Williamson County Courthouse

city, town Franklin state Tennessee 37064

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title State Archaeological Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date Filed April 12, 1971 federal state county local

depository for survey records Tennessee Division of Archaeology

city, town 5103 Edmondson Pike Nashville state Tennessee 37211

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Original Appearance

The Fewkes Group archaeological site was selected to occupy [redacted] in present day Williamson County, Tennessee. At this point [redacted]

The site originally consisted of a group of possibly contemporaneous substructure mounds, a plaza, a low burial mound, individual dwelling structures constructed of individual post with wattle and daub walls, and a separate cemetery area. Archaeological research conducted in the 1920's suggest that the site was a well-developed sedentary village dating from what is now known as the Mississippian period (1200 - 1500A.D.).

Previous Investigations

The earliest known reference to the site is found in Jones (1876:132) where an illustration of a clay figurine from the Boiling Springs, Williamson County site is depicted.

In 1895, Honorable P.E. Cox, a local resident, excavated several "stone box grave" burials from the site (Myer, 1928:605). The ease of identification of the stone slab lined burial pits made them a prime target for antiquarians of the late 19th century.

In October 1920, an avocational archaeologist named William Myer conducted what was at the time "scientific" excavation and testing of the Fewkes Group. It was Myer who named the site in honor of J.W. Fewkes, Chief of the Bureau of American Ethnology who had recently visited the site, recognizing its potential for excavation. Myer's work was reported in the Forty-first Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology entitled "Two Prehistoric Villages in Middle Tennessee" (Myer, 1928).

The following section is taken from Myer's detailed descriptions in his excavation report. Although his interpretation reflected the then (1920) state of knowledge, his factual descriptions are sufficient to allow for current reinterpretation.

Results of 1920 Excavations

Myer (1928:559) described the site as a "group of five mounds, one on each side of a level town square [plaza] and the fifth on the edge of the riverbank". It also has traces of about a dozen "house circles" [structures] and a remnant of a stone slab cemetery. Specific site features investigated by Myer included:

MOUND 2, a rectangular or oval subsurface mound, measuring approximately 235 feet N-S by 160 feet E-W by 7.5 feet high. This mound was found to be stratified with three distinct construction phases each associated with rectangular, single post construction structures. The structure associated with the first phase construction contained charred corn kernels, but the structure itself had not been burned. Phase 2 consisted of the deposition of about three feet of earth fill covering the first mound phase. On the summit of Phase 2 stood another single post structure which had burned leaving the remains of a prepared floor, fired daub, charred cane wattle with leaves still attached to the cane, and woven cane mats. The structure also contained a prepared, puddled clay hearth which was exposed during excavation but then recovered for future preservation. The soil deposition

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Myers associated with Phase 3 construction probably resulted from the collapse of an earth roof over the structure described above. The collapsed roof accounted for the carbonization of structural members and organic artifacts. Phase 3 was also surmounted by a single post construction structure presumably also wattle and daub walled. Plowing had obliterated most of the evidence associated with the summit of Phase 3. Mound 2 is currently interpreted to be a Mississippian substructure mound associated with a formal village plan referable to the Middle Cumberland culture described by Ferguson (1972).

MOUND 3 was described by Myer as a low burial mound 100 feet by 110 feet by 3 feet containing 10 or 15 stone slab burials. The artifacts shown as associated grave goods, especially the shell-tempered effigy shaped vessels are diagnostic of Mississippian Cumberland Culture components. It is quite possible that the interments were placed on a natural rise and that the mound size was exaggerated.

MOUND 4 was described as being on the east side of the plaza, but since no archaeological features were found in association nor were any artifacts recovered in the test pits, this appears to be a natural topographic feature possibly accentuated by the excavation of borrow material for other mound construction.

MOUND 1 which is still prominent, was described as a tall oval mound measuring 185 feet N-S by 160 feet E-W by 25 feet high and located on the north side of the "square" [plaza]. Lack of funds prevented Myer from fully exploring this feature and only a test "shaft" was excavated. The test was located 25 feet from the southern edge and was 3 feet by 7 feet by 8 feet deep. The pre-mound surface was encountered at a depth of 5.5 feet below surface. This mound was also constructed on a natural rise. Myer noted that relic collectors had sunk a "small shaft" 8 feet by 8 feet by 5 feet in the center of Mound 1.

MOUND 5 located at the northern end of the site [redacted] was 32 feet in diameter and 3.5 feet high. Myer excavated the center of the mound and found midden materials in the mound fill and features of unworked limestone rock. Affiliation with the Mississippian occupation of the site is undemonstrated.

Other features excavated by Myer included several "house circles" which were found to be semisubterranean pit structures with prepared floors and prepared hearths. Based on his descriptions, illustrations and photographs, the archaeological techniques employed reflected careful recording and a keen recognition that future researchers would follow. He states that "...when partial excavations were completed [the site] was accurately restored to its original shape for the benefit of future explorers. The interesting alters, fire bowls, building postholes, and vestiges of domestic life were carefully preserved and again covered up so as to allow for their future study" (Myers1928:561).

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Present Condition

At present the site is in agricultural use as pasture. Mound 1 is covered with grass and weeds but remains the approximate size as described by Myer in 1920. Mound 2 is slightly discernable but since it has been plowed repeatedly since 1920 some erosion has taken place thus lowering the profile. There are slight indications of the structure sites shown in Myer's site map as numbers 13,6,10,11, and 7. Mound 5 has been apparently destroyed by a farm road and Mound 3 is barely discernable. No graves are apparent and no active "pot hunting" is evident.

Alterations to the site include the construction [redacted] between the springs and branch shown on Myer's site map; the construction [redacted] in 1832 [redacted] of Mound 1, and limited plowing.

Based on Myer's descriptions, the stratigraphy of the site presumably consists of a plow disturbed zone about 20 cm deep, undisturbed subsoil. The mound construction overlays and protects initial habitation features and concentration of artifactual materials. Based on analogous situations, these protected areas have been isolated from agricultural disturbances and natural soil weathering forces. An intact pre mound A₁ soil horizon should be present.

Due to present use as active pasture, no testing or controlled surface collection was permitted during the current evaluation, therefore the boundary depicted in the accompanying maps is based on the distribution of archaeological features shown by Myer, visual examination of the surface topography, and comparisons with other similar temporarily and culturally related sites in Middle Tennessee.

Public acquisition of the site is being considered by the City of Brentwood; at such time limited testing can further define site boundaries and the nomination revised if warranted.

Boiling Spring Academy

[redacted] an unrelated architectural and historical property known as the Boiling Spring Academy. Constructed in late 1832, (Bowman 1971:42) the building has been altered but its original form has been maintained. It is rectangular in plan with the present entrance located in the west gable end. Built on coursed, dressed limestone block, (two courses above present grade), bearing walls are made from hand-made brick laid in common bond on all four elevations. Color variations in the brick indicate that several different firings were used in the two story building.

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The front (west) elevation is a plain undecorated surface broken only by a central door with transom. The gable end is weatherboarded with a small rectangular louvered vent in the center. A severe structural defect has been patched with new brick and mortar which may represent the assigned location of a gable end chimney.

The back (east) elevation is continuous brick to the bargeboard without fenestration. This wall also contains an internal centered brick chimney.

The south and north elevations are divided into five bays with three 6 over 6 double hung sash windows on the first and second stories. Limestone lintels on the south elevation are decorated and those on the north elevation plain. It will also be noted that the lintels located at the first story center window on the south elevation and the first story right hand side on the north elevation are longer than the others. It is also observed that the door in the west elevation does not have a stone lintel. It is inferred that the south elevation was the original front due to the decoration present on the lintels and that the center window was the original front door as shown by the brick pattern differentiation and length of the decorated lintel. Similarly, the present northeast corner window was also a rear door with a longer undecorated lintel.

The school continued in operation until about 1900 when it was converted into a multi-denominational community meeting house, (Bowman, 1971:42). It is surmised that the alterations noted above took place when the function changed from school to church.

The roof framing is half-lapped and pegged principal rafters; the gable ends are plain boxed cornice with return and plain frieze.

On the interior, the first floor walls are plastered, the second floor interior walls are decorated with pencilled mortar joints. Second floor access is by stair in the southwest corner.

The building is currently used to store feed corn and other agricultural products.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates _____ **Builder/Architect** _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Archaeological Site

The Fewkes Group site has two general areas of significance--the role it played in the development of archaeological method and theory in Tennessee and the archaeological research information the site has yielded and can be expected to yield. Historically, it was one of the earliest examples in Tennessee of "scientific" investigations in which emphasis was placed on detailed observation, publishing the results in a scholarly journal, and preserving archaeological features for future research. The second aspect of its significance lies in the contributions it can make to the understanding of the development of maize-oriented sedentary villages in the Nashville Basin, a manifestation seen to involve a complex interrelationship with soil productibility, ecotone site selection criteria and the carrying capacity of microenvironments.

Specifically, the previous research conducted in the 1920's produced significant data relating to substructure mound construction and the recognition of sequential phases of mound occupation; description of wattle and daub construction with detailed observation on materials and techniques; direct evidence of maize agriculture; association of stone box grave cemeteries with village features; and described patterning of major features within the site.

For future research potential, the site is likely to yield critical information on the relationship of Middle Cumberland Mississippian cultural manifestation to high phosphorus content soils and microenvironments. As a result of extensive work at the Averbuch Site (40DV60), (Kippel 1978), a National Register eligible site mitigated through data recovery, several hypothesis are being developed that could be tested, in part, by additional excavations at the Fewkes Site.

Previous work has demonstrated that the Fewkes Site contains extensive samples of charcoal which with radiocarbon dating techniques, can provide temporal/cultural data to be used to test hypothesis relating to the expansion of population groups from the main streams to relatively minor sized streams. Averbuch, Fewkes, and the Sellars site are located on small streams; a distribution which may be related to overpopulation along the more desirable settlement areas (Klippel, personal communication).

Future research appears to be feasible since public acquisition is being planned. In summation, Myer in 1928 stated that in his opinion "The citizens of Tennessee strongly urge that the Fewkes Group be made a national monument" (1928:561). He would strongly support nomination of this significant site to the National Register.

Boiling Spring Academy

The primary significance of this building rests with its exposition of the architectural characteristics of an 1830's educational institution. It shows that in this particular case, the community saw the need to raise an impressive educational structure that was

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very permanent in nature as evidenced by the brick construction and simple decorative treatment.

It is also significant as an early example of adaptive reuse. Although it was common to reuse schools for churches and vice versa, this building does show quite graphically by the alterations that the church users felt that a "proper church" should have its main door in the gable end.

Therefore, the Boiling Spring Academy building is a reflection of the different architectural values represented by an 1830's educational institution and a ca. 1900 religious institution.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bowman, Virginia M. 1971 Historic Williamson County, Old Homes and Sites, Nashville, Blue and Gray Press
Klippel, Walter 1978 Unpublished manuscript to Interagency Archaeological Services, Atlanta, Georgia, copy on file in SHPO Office.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 14

Quadrangle name [REDACTED]

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Zone Easting Northing

B [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Zone Easting Northing

C [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

D [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

E [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

F [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

G [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

H [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Verbal boundary description and justification

The site is triangular in shape and is bounded on the west [REDACTED], on the east [REDACTED], and on the south [REDACTED]. The boundary is based on 1920 archaeological

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title George F. Fielder, Historical Archaeologist

organization Tennessee Historical Commission date

street & number 4721 Trousdale Drive telephone 615/741-2371

city or town Nashville state Tennessee 37219

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert E. Hoyle

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 2/29/80

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

W. Ray Luce date 4/21/80
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: J.R. Luce date 4-18-80

Chief of Registration

HR-8-300A
(11/78)

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Myer, William Edward 1928 Two Prehistoric Villages in Middle Tennessee. Washington: Forty-First Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology, 1919-1924. SIAS 1972 reprint edition.

Ferguson, Robert B. (Ed.) 1972 The Middle Cumberland Culture. Publications in Anthropology No. 3. Vanderbilt University Press, Nashville

Jones, Joseph 1876 Explorations of the Aboriginal Remains of Tennessee. Washington: Smithsonian Institution, Knoxville: Tenase Company 1970 reprint edition.

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testing and topographic features.