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Exploratory Excavation at the Price House (38SP1)

Stanley South

University of South Carolina - Columbia, stansouth@sc.edu

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38SP1

EXPLORATORY EXCAVATION AT THE PRICE HOUSE (38SP1)

by

Stanley South

RESEARCH MANUSCRIPT SERIES 5

Institute of Archeology and Anthropology

University of South Carolina

July 1970

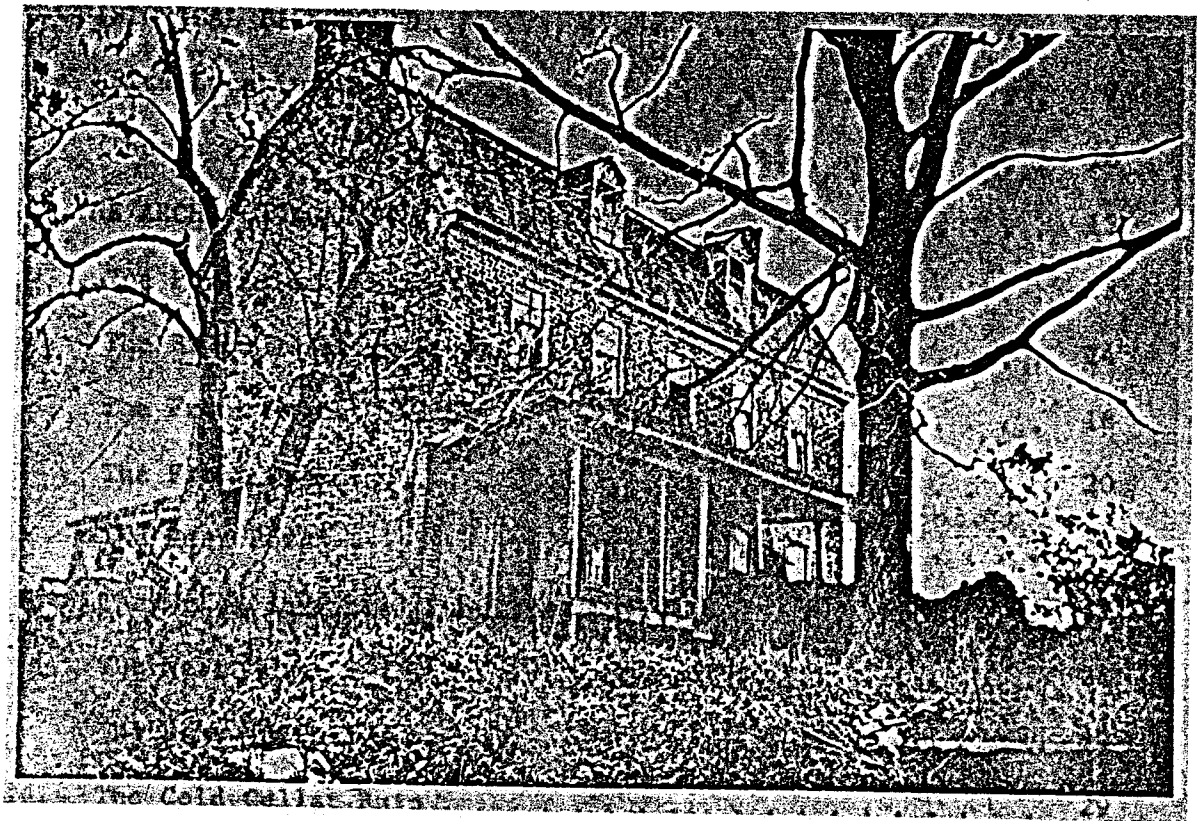
Frontispiece

View of the Price House taken in 1939.

This picture was taken when a portion of the front porch was still attached to the house. Note the fence to the left, found archeologically.

Photo by Anna B. Brooks, taken December 3, 1969.

Spartanburg County Historical Preservation Commission
Collection.



The Coldwater Turn

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INTRODUCTION

In March, 1969, The Spartanburg County Historical Association, through its Vice President, Mr. Edward S. Tennent, requested archeological assistance from the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina, at the site of The Price House. An agreement for this work was drawn up between the Institute and the Association, outlining the steps necessary to effect the minimum archeological examination of the site before restoration should be undertaken. Due to unavailability of funds, this agreement was not immediately executed, but the Institute proceeded with a brief examination of the site in June of 1969.

The goals of the two-week archeological project as outlined in this agreement were as follows:

- A. Partial excavation of the construction trenches along the walls of the main structure and the adjoining rear wing.
- B. Trenching around all existing entrances and around any other suspected earlier entrances, such as beneath the breezeway.
- C. Probing and excavating as needed beneath the floors of the structure with complete excavation of the "cellar" pit beneath the adjoining rear wing.
- D. Probing and minor trenching around the yard to locate walkways, flower beds, etc., especially in front of the structure.
- E. A single, deep pit to be excavated to determine if the structure was or was not built on an Indian mound or village site.

- F. Excavation of the sunken pit or "well" at the rear of the house.
- G. A trench in the area across the road to see if another structure had existed there.

In June, Mr. John Combes, Assistant Director of the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology, assisted by Mr. Paul Brockington of the Institute staff, conducted a preliminary examination of the house and the area around it to obtain a surface collection of artifacts from the site, mainly from the area beneath the floor of the building. The results of this examination are included in this report.

In May, 1970, when money became available, the agreement was redrawn with the same goals, but between the Institute and The Spartanburg County Historical Preservation Commission. The work was carried out under this agreement by the Institute with Mr. Stanley South, in charge of a crew of six men, between June 8 and June 19, 1970. The time from June 19 to July 31 (with assistance from the Institute Laboratory staff) was spent in analysis of the materials and documents and preparation of this report of the results.

The steps outlined in the agreement were carried out, with additional work being accomplished as was found necessary as the project progressed. For instance, the cellar beneath the wing was not excavated because it was determined that it was of a late period and, instead, the cold cellar dating from the original construction of the house was located and excavated. No mention of the possibility of earlier structures now in ruins was made in the agreement; however, three such ruins were located and partially examined, contributing significantly toward a greater understanding of the architectural complex as it once stood.

The discovery of these additional features brings up the problem of more intensive archeological examination of these ruins: What was their relationship to the dwelling house, and what should be their interpretation to the public who visit the restored dwelling? These questions are explored in various sections of this report.

Other than the project goals outlined in this agreement, there were others of concern relating to legends and misconceptions associated with the house, and it was hoped that archeology could help to clarify some of these, such as:

- A. The date of the main house construction.
- B. The date of the wing construction.
- C. The "kitchen-dining wing" use.
- D. The artesian well.
- E. The treasure thirty feet east of the east wing corner.
- F. The graveyard.
- G. The post office location.
- H. The store location.
- I. The name of the project.

Such clarification was derived from the archeological research. The main house construction was determined as definitely occurring before 1800, on the basis of the absence of cut nails in its original construction. The wing was apparently built in the 1820's, after the death of the Prices. The wing was used by the twentieth century occupants as a kitchen and dining room. Its present designation as the "kitchen-dining wing" is inappropriate for purposes of restoration, since the building was obviously not constructed with these functions

in mind. Water was obtained, according to legend, from "artesian springs," and even after the discovery of the stone-lined well revealed an obvious source of water, a visitor interested in the project remarked that, despite the well, he suspected that most of the water was still obtained from the "artesian spring," preferring the chimerical spring to the reality of the well. The point is that whenever research and archeology can be used of clarify and amplify the past, we should welcome the opportunity rather than viewing this addition to knowledge as a threat to our favorite preconception.

Legend has it that a treasure is buried thirty feet east of the southeast corner of the wing. This may have arisen when the cold cellar was being filled in the early 1890's, for it was located where legend says that treasure was to be found. Only rubble, fill-dirt, and the archeological treasure of broken potsherds and tools were discovered in the cellar hole.

A graveyard was once located near the house, but probing in the area where it was said to have been located showed no sign of gravestones that may have verified this tradition. The store and post office were said to have been across the old road from the house site. Probing and exploratory digging revealed stone footings for a barn site, pointed out by Mr. Garland Fortner who had seen it many years ago. Whether the barn site was the same as that for the store was not determined. Since there is no evidence that the post office was in the dwelling house, the house has not been called the post office in this report.

Historical research into the data available on Thomas Price has been carried out by Mrs. Charles Gignilliat of Spartanburg, with specific research conducted by Mr. Terry W. Lipscomb of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

The archeological plan (Figure 1) showing the various features found in the present study is to be found in the envelope on the back cover of this report, and frequent reference to this during reading of the report is helpful in keeping oriented to the site.

The provenience control for all specimens and features was through archeological units surveyed through transit angles and taped measurements from reference points. Reference Point #1 is a large nail driven into a root on the north side of a catalpa tree on the west side of the servant's quarters wing. Ten feet on the magnetic north line from this nail is an iron pipe, which is Reference Point #2. Reference Point #3 is near the northwest corner of the main house, and Reference Point #4 is inside the north end of the east ruin (see Figure 1 for position of these Reference Points). All measurements on the site were taken from one or another of these points. A letter designation was assigned to levels or features within each numbered provenience area.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In acting for The Spartanburg County Historical Preservation Commission, Edward S. Tennent has been most instrumental in making possible the project at The Price House. Mrs. Charles Gignilliat has been very interested in the project and has furnished needed documentary data, for which we are indeed grateful.

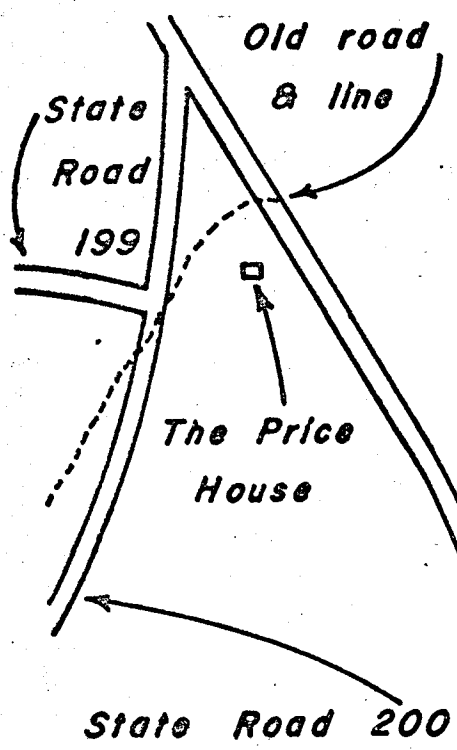
Thanks are also due my field assistant, Richard Polhemus, who was extremely helpful in recording data in the field; and to the crew: Wade Carpenter, Jim Jackson, John Larson, Bob Mills, and David South. I would also like to thank Jane Gardner, who assisted with the laboratory processing of the artifacts, and Virginia P. DuPre for typing the manuscript, editing, and proof reading.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

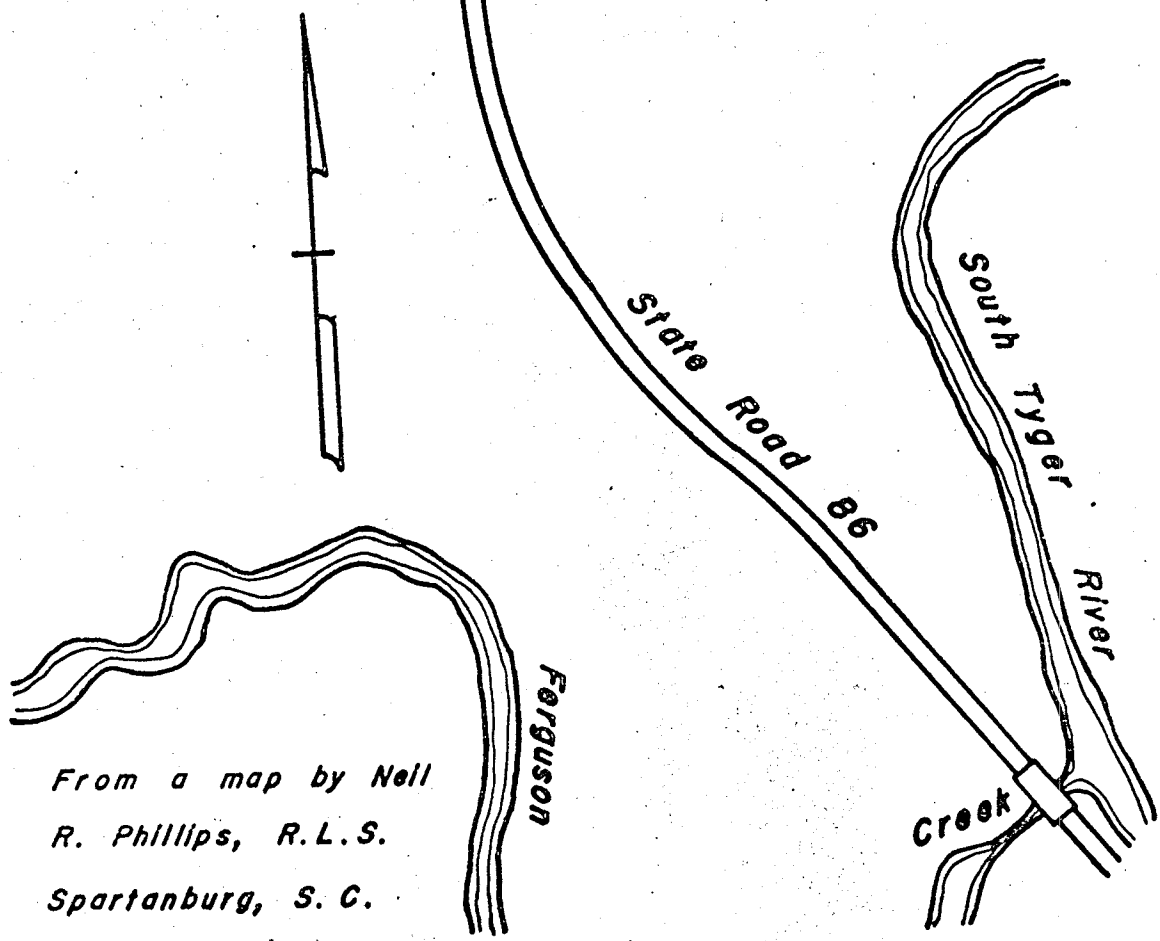
Site Location

The site of The Price House (38SP1) is located in Spartanburg County, on the south side of the South Tyger River at the angle formed by the junction of State Road 200 and State Road 86, at the intersection of State Road 199, 3.4 miles southeast of Switzer, South Carolina. It is located near the fork formed by the intersection of Ferguson Creek with the South Tyger River (Figure 2).

Thomas Price first purchased land between the north and south forks of the Tyger River on September 16, 1793 (A606, Spartanburg County, Register of Mesne Conveyance, Deed Book D, p. 382, 1792-95; Spartanburg County Historical Preservation Commission files; hereinafter cited as Mesne and S.C.H.P.C.). Since this tract was north of the South Tyger River, and the house in question is on the south side of the South Tyger, this tract is obviously not the one under consideration. Several tracts in the area of the Tyger River were purchased by Thomas Price in 1794 and 1795, but the only one of particular interest is a deed dated January 3, 1794, conveying a tract of 144 acres from David Floyd and his wife Jean to Thomas Price, for the sum of fifty pounds sterling (A606, Mesne, p. 382, S.C.H.P.C.). This tract was located on the bank of Tyger River. Later, on June 10, 1799, George Floyd and his wife Esther sold to Thomas Price for fifty Spanish milled dollars, an eighteen acre tract on the south side of the south fork of Tyger River, bordering on Ferguson's Creek to the south and Thomas Price's land on the north (A614, Mesne, p. 40,



Map Showing the Location of
 38 SP 1
THE PRICE HOUSE
 Spartanburg County
 South Carolina
 Institute of Archeology and
 Anthropology
 University of South Carolina



From a map by Nell
 R. Phillips, R.L.S.
 Spartanburg, S. C.

FIGURE 2

S.C.H.P.C.). No previously purchased tract of Price's land bordering on the eighteen acre tract matches this location except that mentioned above, dated January 3, 1794. From this we learn that this 144 acre tract north of Ferguson's Creek, on which "Price's P. O." was shown on Mills' Atlas of 1820 (Mills 1965), first came into Thomas Price's hands on January 3, 1794, and we might assume he built the brick house on the site shortly after that time, probably in 1794. An additional clue tying these two tracts of 144 and 18 acres together is that they were both obtained from members of the Floyd family, which may imply that they were both once part of a single Floyd tract.

The documents indicate that Thomas Price was a merchant as early as March, 1790, and the account book of Price's store for 1819-1820 is still in existence (A605, Spartanburg County Clerk of Court, Minutes, County Court, 1789-94; Report of T.W.L., S.C.H.P.C.). We know then, that Thomas Price operated a store for at least thirty years, and that during the last year or so before his death, he also operated a post office. Of particular interest to those concerned with interpreting the property of Thomas Price are the death dates of 1820 for him, and 1821 for his wife Ann (A630, Spartanburg County, Judge of Probate, Inventory Book B, 1818-24). The period of primary concern regarding the Thomas Price property is, therefore, from 1794 until 1821, the period during which it was being used by the Price family. The following section is a summary of the information regarding Thomas Price prepared by Terry Lipscomb, from a report to the Spartanburg County Historical Preservation Commission.

Thomas Price

Thomas Price who died in April, 1820, left a fairly large estate, including twenty-four slaves. Among his other possessions were a mirror valued at eighty dollars, a bridle and saddle bags valued at \$13.50, and "a box of instruments for the proff of spirits." From the amount of land he purchased we know he was a man of some means, and from his frequent appearances in court we learn that he would not allow a debt to go unpaid, perhaps one of the secrets of his success.

Several tracts of land were purchased by Thomas Price on the banks of the North and South Tyger Rivers beginning in 1793, and continuing for some years. On March 15, 1790, Thomas Price obtained a license to sell spiritous liquors, and a "Licence to keep a Public House of Entertainment & Retail Spirituous Liquors" was granted in April, 1791. From this we might infer that the sale of liquor at his public house afforded sufficient funds to purchase the tracts of land he sought.

For a few years prior to his death in 1820, he operated a post office, probably in his store. When an inventory of his goods was made, as was the case after his wife's death in 1821, we learn that Ann's estate was larger than that of her husband, both inventories reflecting perhaps, a more correct view of the wealth of Thomas Price than his inventory alone.

REFERENCES USED BY TERRY LIPSCOMB

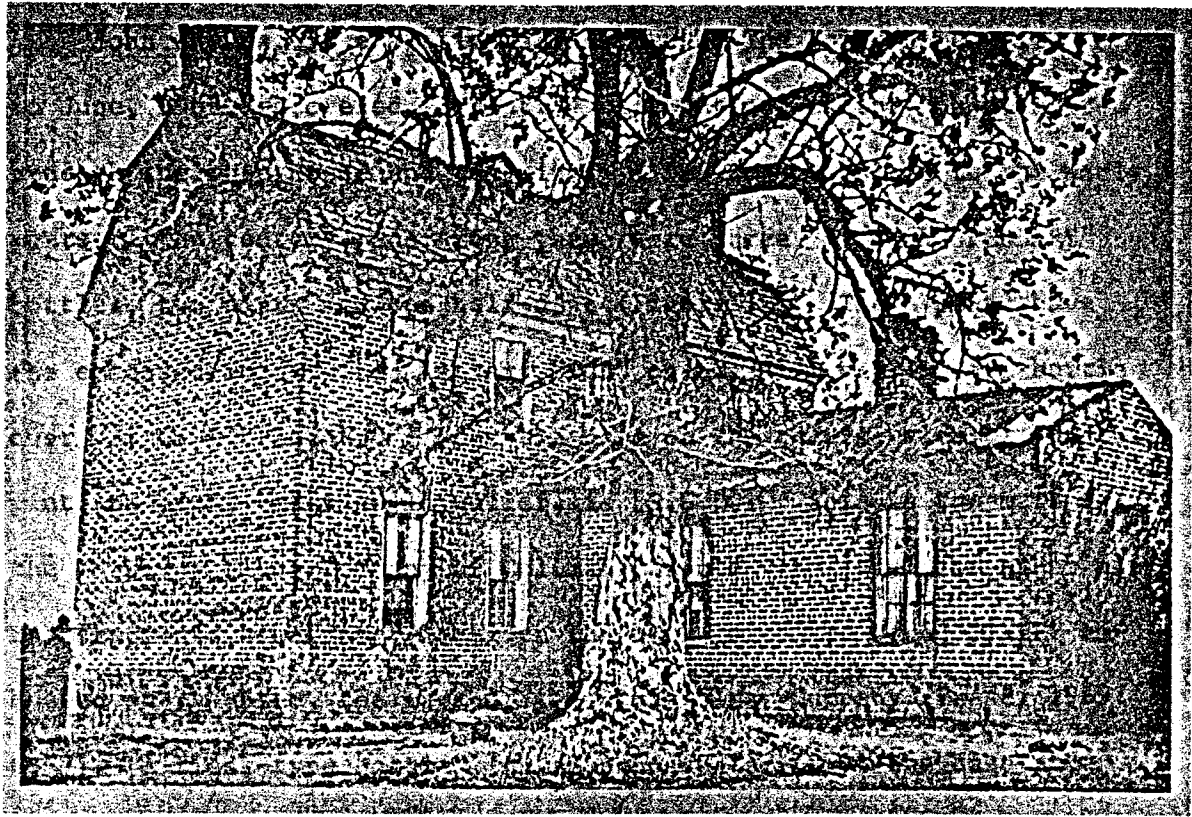
- A602: Spartanburg County, Clerk of Court, Minutes of Common Pleas, 1785-89.
- A605: Spartanburg County, Clerk of Court, Minutes, County Court, 1789-94.
- A606: Spartanburg County, Register of Mesne Conveyance, Abstract of Deed Book C, 1792-95.
- A607: Spartanburg County, Register of Mesne Conveyance, Deed Book D, 1794-95.
- A608: Spartanburg County, Clerk of Court, Order Book, Court of General Sessions, 1794-99.
- A611: Spartanburg County, Register of Mesne Conveyance, Abstracts of Deed Book F, 1797-1800.
- A613: Spartanburg County, Clerk of Court, Minutes of the Court, 1800-02.
- A614: Spartanburg County, Register of Mesne Conveyance, Abstract of Deed Book H, 1801-03.
- A615: Spartanburg County, Clerk of Court, Minutes of Common Pleas, 1802-04.
- A616: Spartanburg County, Register of Mesne Conveyance, Abstract of Deed Book I, 1803-05.
- A617: Spartanburg County, Clerk of Court, Minutes of the Court of Common Pleas, 1803-06.
- A623: Spartanburg County, Clerk of Court, Minutes of the Court of Common Pleas, 1810-11.
- A625: Spartanburg County, Clerk of Court, Minutes of Common Pleas, 1811-17.
- A629: Spartanburg County, Clerk of Court, Minutes of Common Pleas, 1817-19.
- A630: Spartanburg County, Judge of Probate, Inventory Book B, 1818-24.
- A632: Spartanburg County, Clerk of Court, Minutes of Common Pleas, 1820-21.

Figure 3

Rear View of the Price House Taken in 1939.

Notice the vents for circulation beneath the floor in the house and the servants' quarters.

Photo by Anna B. Brooks, in the collection of the Spartanburg County Historical Preservation Commission.



THE ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY

The Preliminary Examination

John Combes, in a preliminary survey of The Price House site in June, 1969, recovered a quantity of twentieth century objects from beneath the main house and the wing. A few objects dated to the early years of the century, and among these were three "S. C. DISPENSARY" bottles, two pints and one half-pint (Figure 13). These pints have the embossed intertwined letters "SCD" on the flat side of the bottle over "S. C. DISPENSARY." Near the base on the reverse side of the half-pint and pint, embossed in relief, is "S.G.CO." This is the mark of the Carolina Glass Company of Columbia, South Carolina. The other pint has fragments of a paper label on the back, with the word "DIXIE" embossed on the base, the mark of the Dixie Glass Company (Fraser 1969: 6, 7). A flask-type bottle with an embossed arrow on the base and the embossed words "THE MURRAY DRUG CO. COLUMBIA, S. C." was also found in this survey. Only one fragment of china of the mid-nineteenth century was found in this surface survey: a piece of blue-edged ironstone. These bottles were made between 1893 and 1907, the type described here probably dating toward the latter part of this period.

The Brick Dwelling House

Measurements on the standing two-story brick house and attached addition were made by John Combes in June, 1969, so no detailed study was carried out as part of the present investigation. Also, architectural drawings have been made by Charles Irvin Pitts, so a detailed examination was not required by the archeologist. Certain observations, however, will be summarized here regarding this historic dwelling.

The merit of the residence lies primarily with its architectural features. Dr. Harold Cooledge, Alumni Professor of Architecture at Clemson University has this to say about the structure:

The style of the building is most unusual for this area, being, in fact, the only example of its type in the South Carolina Piedmont with which I am, now, acquainted. Houses in Flemish Bond (with glazed, or darkened, headers), inside end chimneys, and Dutch Gambrel roof profile are characteristic of the Central Atlantic States (Delaware, Maryland, and E. Pennsylvania) and parts of northern Virginia, but are very rare in the deep South. For this reason alone the building commends itself to the preservationist. (Cooledge 1968)

One of the questions of particular interest regarding the residence house was its date of construction. An examination of the stairs, chair rails, paneling, and other original features of the house revealed that no cut nails were used in these original features. Cut nails were made as early as 1790 (Hume 1970: 252), but did not usually come into general usage until somewhat later. Houses constructed as late as 1800 could have been totally free of cut nails, but those constructed after that time usually contain some cut nails in primary construction timbers. It would appear from the nails, therefore, that the house was constructed before 1800, and since we know that Thomas

Price purchased the land where the house is built in 1794, we can assume that it was probably built shortly thereafter.

The house is constructed of brick containing practically no quantity of quartz sand, whereas the addition to the rear of the house was built of bricks which either contained quantities of quartz sand naturally, or had sand added to improve the firing characteristics. This difference in brick characteristics was helpful in establishing the relationship between the original and later construction on the site. The brick was mortared with red clay with virtually no lime added, resulting in a much weaker structure than would have been the case if lime mortar had been available.

Because of this structural weakness, as well as extensive termite damage to joists and floorboards, probably within a quarter of a century after its construction, there was a need to replace the floor and provide additional support for the floor joists. The original floor was removed and the original joists that had been socketed into the wall of the main house were repositioned on sand-tempered-brick footings. The weight of the walls above, through the years, has resulted in a crumbling and weak foundation as seen from beneath the house. The exterior of the house was furnished with lime-mortar tuck pointed joints, probably during the first quarter of the nineteenth century, which provided exterior protection for the clay-mortared wall. The weak foundation, therefore, is not noticed when viewing the exterior walls of the house. Because of this structural weakness, where the prime support for the walls lies on

the outer half of the foundation wall, the east end of the house has buckled outward in a bulge, and a crack has developed in the east wall.

Probably at the same time the major repair was made to the floor of the house, the hearths were strengthened and made smaller by adding bricks along the inside as a lining. This provided needed additional support for the chimneys which were also showing signs of weakness resulting from the clay-mortared construction. The original fireplaces were square-cornered and to restore these to original condition the brick lining should be taken out, but this re-introduces a weakness first noticed, probably, in the 1820's. In fact, during the time the archeological work was underway, a section of the chimney collapsed into the fireplace sometime during the interval between the first examination of the hearths and the time the project was over.

The interior brown coat of mortar made of clay and some lime was tempered with hair or tow from flax and applied an inch thick directly over the bricks of the interior wall. Over this, a scratch coat containing more lime was applied to a thickness of one-quarter inch, and was scratched to receive the white coat. The white coat was made of pure lime and was one-sixteenth of an inch thick. White-wash had been applied over the white coat in later years. In places, rain has made its way through the walls, resulting in a flaking-off of the scratch coat and white coat plaster and, in some areas, the brown coat as well.

On the front of the house there had been originally four windows, but the easternmost of these had been made into a door by cutting away the bricks below the window, and a photograph exists

showing this area of the porch enclosed to make a room, revealing why it was necessary to cut this door. At the east end of the house, a doorway was cut where there had previously been no opening, as indicated by the chisel-cut bricks extending along the entire face of the doorway behind the framing. Apparently this door was cut in the late nineteenth century. With the cutting of this door, an additional weakness was introduced into an already weakened wall and a crack developed, extending from the top of the door and upward to the roof. This crack has gradually widened as the weight of the floors in the house forced the south wall outward, resulting in a serious structural problem. In masonry walls mortared with cement, the problem can be handled by means of tie-rods between floors extending through the walls, which, when inward tension is applied, tends to force the wall back into position. With walls internally unstable through the use of clay mortar, this solution may not work as effectively, possibly resulting in an inward pull on the walls where the rods are located, with the remainder of the wall continuing its outward thrust. Determining the cause of the problem is considerably easier than arriving at a successful solution.

There is the possibility that the porch footing of early bricks was built of bricks salvaged from an early ruin. If this is the case, the original porch may have been a smaller stoop-type similar to that on the rear of the house, but no archeological evidence was found to support this view. The absence of roof-support sockets across the front of the house in its original masonry argues for the absence of a

porch having been across the entire front of the house when it was originally built.

Archeological work opposite the added east wall door revealed twentieth century artifacts to the subsoil level, along with brick rubble thrown in as fill to make a base for a walkway of bricks extending from this door toward the east to where a fence line existed in recent years (Figure 1 and Frontispiece).

The Front Porch

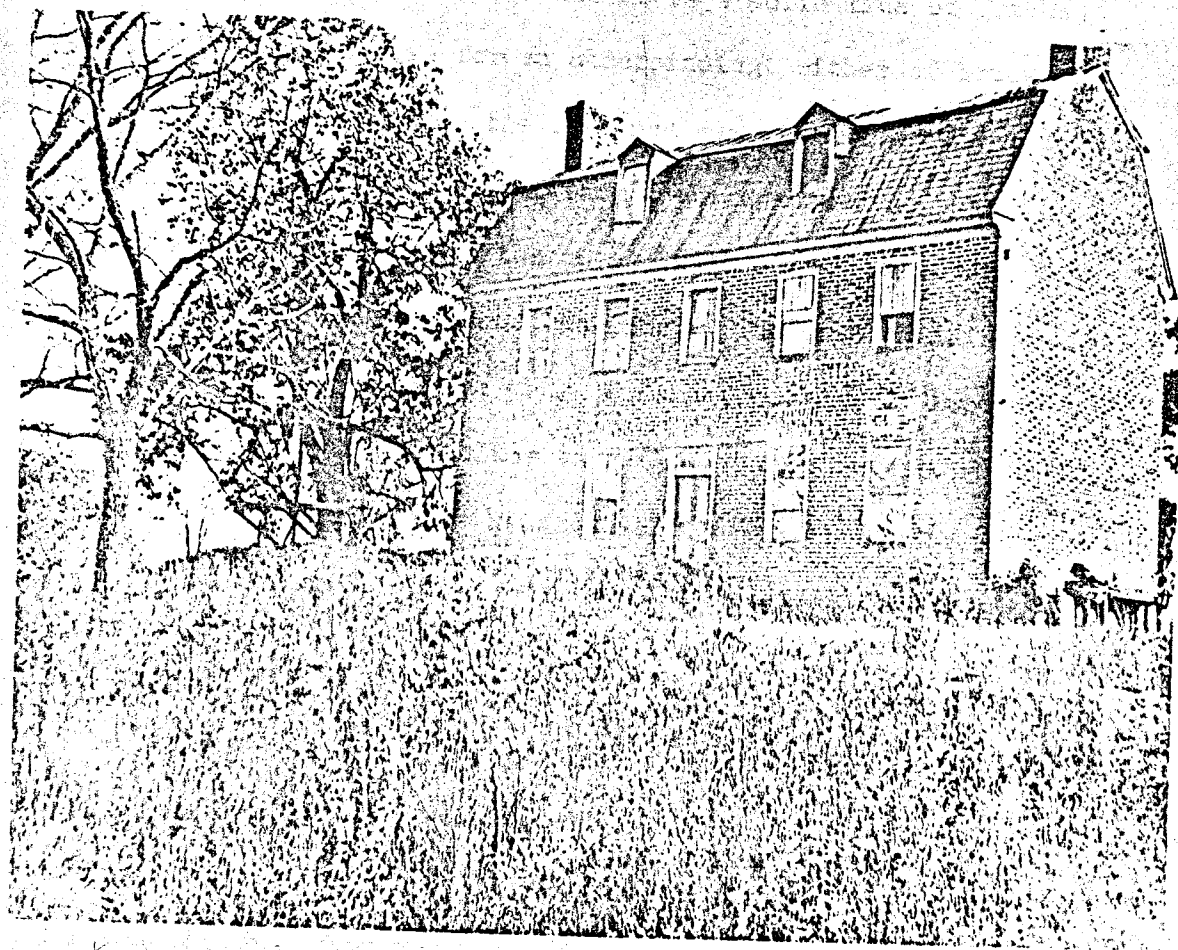
Original sockets for ventilation can be seen along the front of the house, although some have recently been filled in with bricks and mortar. The position for two of these is shown on the master archeological plan of the house (Figure 1) and are spaced six feet apart. The porch and roof were built after the house was completed, probably in the early nineteenth century, at which time holes were punched through the brick wall and tie-rods were inserted to fasten the new porch roof beam securely against the front of the house. This roof became rotten and was removed, leaving only the iron rods to indicate its position, along with the porch outline against the bricks, which can be clearly seen in a photograph of the front of the house after the porch was removed. The porch roof extended to the edge of the house itself (Figure 4). An archeological square excavated at the northwest corner of the house revealed a brick footing wall for the porch. This was a single row of non-sand-tempered bricks, the same as in the house, mortared with clay and extending almost in line with the edge of the house wall.

Figure 4

Front View of the Price House Taken in 1953.

Notice the outline of the porch ceiling against the side of the house and the two central windows and door with original vertical capstone bricks in place (since removed).

Photo by Jane and Fred Haynes, in the collection of the Spartanburg County Historical Preservation Commission.



The roof line of the porch seen against the house and the footing for this porch is evidence that the porch extended all the way across the front of the house. This footing could represent a base for the porch support, but since it is a solid line of bricks, it was very likely the base for an underpinning, either of brick or perhaps wooden lattice. From the evidence seen in the ground and from the house itself, it is clear that a porch measuring nine by forty feet was on the front of the house, with a roof extending the full forty-two feet length across the front. The date of this porch construction is after the house was completed, perhaps as late as the 1820's, in any event, evidence for an earlier porch has not been found, either in the ground or on the house itself. More excavation in front of the door might reveal further evidence not seen in this study.

The Front Walk

Four feet from the front porch footing the edge of a walk, surfaced with crushed rotten stone, was found. Since this surface came no closer to the porch than four feet, we can interpret this distance as representing the front porch steps of wood. Thirty-two feet down the walkway area to the north a test pit was excavated which revealed smoothly worn stones of a walkway. Whether these represent a stone walkway at this point or an erosion-preventing surfacing at this sloping part of the hill is not known, and more excavation is needed to ascertain the direction and extent of this walk and its relation to the rotten stone surfacing found nearer the front porch. Boxwood hedge beneath the undergrowth in this area would indicate that the

front yard of The Price House was once quite formally laid out, and further details of walks and plantings might be determined through further examination of the area beneath the ground.

The Rear Porch

Above the rear door, seated into the brick wall on the inside edge of the windows on each side of the door, are the original beaded porch roof supports that have been boxed in recent years. These original porch supports were tied into the brick addition when it was built, allowing them to continue to serve as supports for the breezeway roof. The distance of these beams from the rear of the house to the inside wall of the brick addition is seven feet, which is evidence that the original porch was probably about eight by twelve feet, judging from the remaining porch roof-supporting beams. From the evidence provided by these timbers, it becomes clear that at the time the brick addition was built, it was positioned at a distance from the main house equaling that of the original porch. Photographs taken in 1939 reveal vent holes along the rear of the house and beneath the floor of the servants' quarters. These original vents should be reopened when restoration is undertaken (Figure 3). The brick porch underpinning walls connecting the servants' quarters with the main house were not added until after 1939, and no evidence was seen either in the ground or against the house for the original porch supports.

The Brick Servants' Quarters

The brick addition to the rear of the main house measures

sixteen by twenty-six feet and is built of bricks containing quantities of quartz sand, quite a different type of brick than those in the main house, which clearly indicates a different construction date. The nails in this structure are cut and do not have the constricted neck below the head, indicating a post-1820 date (Hume 1970: 252-254). This structure was also mortared with clay and then painted with lime mortar, as was the main house. This addition has been referred to as the "Kitchen-Dining Wing," both verbally by those concerned with the site and by the architects who so designate the structure in their plans. This misconception apparently originates from the fact that Jhue Fortner, a twentieth century resident, had a cast iron cook stove in the smaller room and used the larger room for dining. It is unwise, however, to ascribe a functional designation to a structure based on the use made of it by its recent occupants. A room nine by fourteen feet with a fireplace three feet wide was hardly designed originally as a kitchen for a large household; and a room ten by fourteen feet with a fireplace would not likely have been intended as a dining hall. However, such rooms with small fireplaces were often used as servants' quarters, allowing them to be near the house to answer the needs of the master of the house and his family. For this reason, this addition has been designated as the "Servants' Quarters," an interpretation likely to be more in keeping with the life style of the builders than the "Kitchen-Dining Wing" designation (Figure 3).

An examination of the hearth in the south room of the servants' quarters was undertaken by breaking up and removing the recent cement.

A rumored tombstone with a date, supposed to have been used as a hearthstone, was not found. However, the level of the brick hearth was found, and from this and an examination of the floor, it was determined that the original had been lower than the present floor. Also, it was found that the fireplace had been lined, as had those in the main house, perhaps to strengthen the fireplace where fire damage from use had occurred. The floor in this room was a twentieth century floor and is rotten in places. When this floor is removed, a further examination of the area beneath it should be undertaken for any other useful clues which might be of value in the restoration process. Among these clues would be the contents of the construction ditch for the structure that might contain fragments of china which would serve as a definite aid in the pursuit of determining a more specific construction date. Data on the construction ditch was not recovered in this study.

Dating of this structure is based on the nails, which point toward a post-1820 date, and the fragments of china recovered from beneath the brick walk-area to the northwest of this structure (Figures 5 and 6). Recovered here, where they had to have been deposited before the brick walk was laid, were fragments of blue-painted pearlware, banded pearlware, polychrome-painted pearlware, creamware, and a red transfer-printed ware, probably dating no later than 1830 (Hume 1969: 390; 1970: 128). Since the walk was presumably built shortly after the construction of the servants' quarters, using leftover brickbats, we can tentatively assign an 1820's date to the construction of the building.

Beneath the brick walk-area, a shallow ditch was found that was in a position that indicated that it may have served for a short time as a gutter-drain ditch (see 1E on Figure 1). The contents of this ditch included red transfer-printed ware, pearlware, brown salt-glazed stoneware, and a fragment of blue-edged ware with relief feathers around the rim. This material would also fall within the first third of the nineteenth century.

The West Ruin

At a distance of 14.5 feet from the west end of the main house, the brick foundation for a structure measuring fourteen by twenty-seven feet was found (Figure 7). A brick partition divided this ruin into two areas, eleven by thirteen and eleven by nine feet. Only the topsoil was stripped away, in order to reveal the architectural details beneath and, in so doing, artifacts of the twentieth century were recovered, fragments of automobiles, a horseshoe, springs, etc., with only one fragment of polychrome-painted pearlware indicating a clue to a nineteenth century occupation. Half of a blacksmith's tongs was found, which could date from almost any period, since blacksmiths traditionally make their own tools (Figure 12). Again, no construction ditch data was collected, which might provide additional evidence for the time of construction for this structure. The bricks in this ruin contain sand, as do those in the servants' quarters, and this would likely place the construction date at sometime during the first quarter of the nineteenth century.

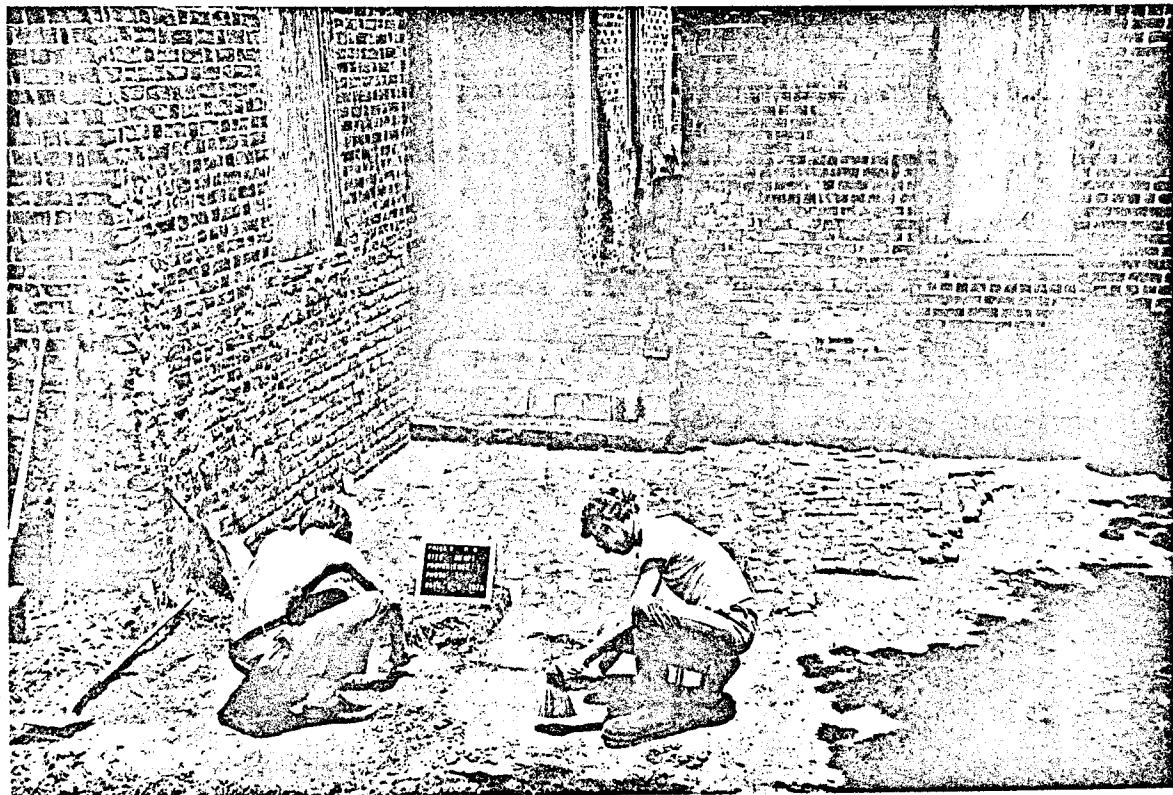
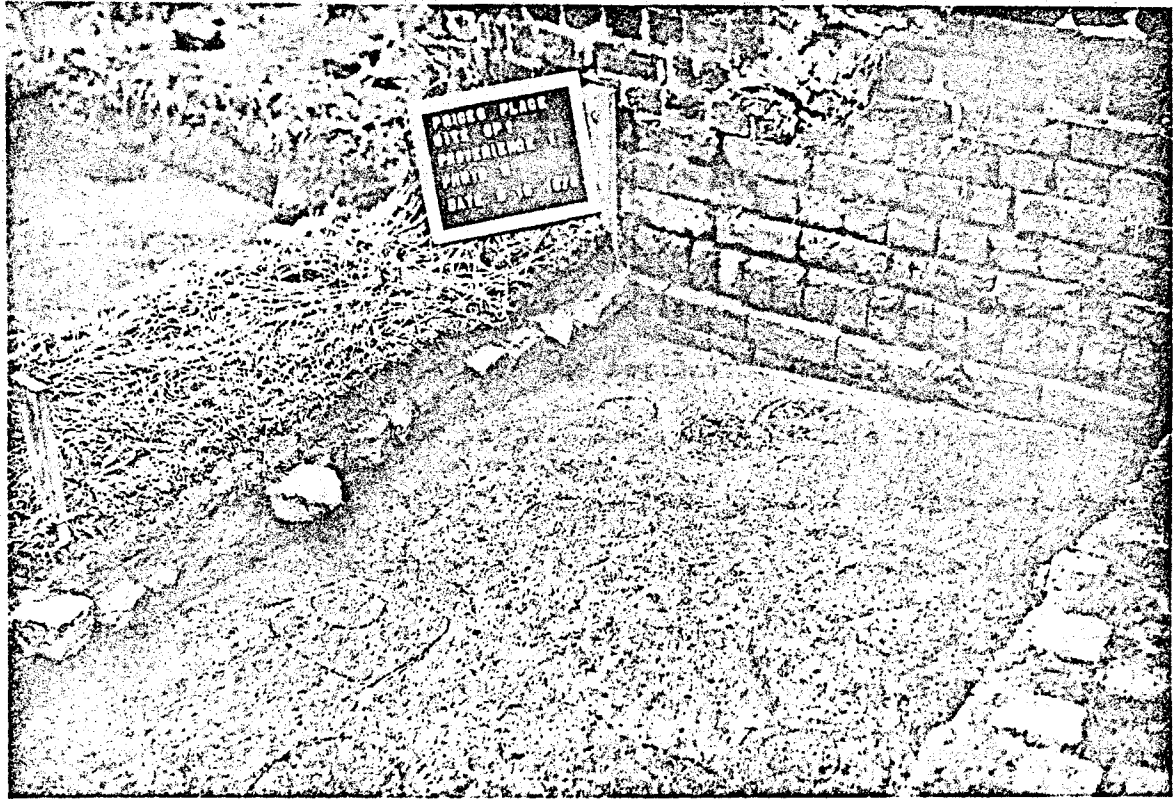
Figure 5

Excavating the Brick Walk at the Rear of the House.

Figure 6

The Brick Walk with a Section Removed.

Features predating the walk can be seen where the bricks have been removed. Note the smeared-on cement over the bricks, done in recent years, which must now be removed.



The partition wall was made of whole bricks in two rows, with the outer wall composed of a single row of stringers with rubble and brickbats inside. In places, the bricks had been salvaged and the trench was filled with rubble from the salvage operation. Whether the brick foundation represents the foundation for a frame building or a brick building is not known. The bricks at this below-ground level were mortared with clay, and it is apparent that this structure was either a frame building on a brick foundation or was a clay-mortared brick structure. The function of the building is not known.

In the north room, on the east side near the foundation ditch, a disturbance was seen extending into the red clay subsoil. Fragments of a high-fired olive-green alkaline glazed crock were found in the top of this feature, but unfortunately time did not allow for its complete excavation in order to recover more artifacts of this nature, which were probably made in South Carolina.

This ruin of unknown function was a structure probably built in the early nineteenth century, at the time of the construction of the servants' quarters. It was built as a matching structure to the one to the east of the main house which had apparently been built at the time the main house was erected.

A photograph taken some years ago shows a two-story barn-type structure standing to the southwest of this west ruin, in an area not examined archeologically.

The East (Kitchen?) Ruin

Twelve feet from the east end of the main house, a brick foundation for a structure sixteen by thirty-two feet was found. The bricks were of the same non-sand-filled clay as was used in the main house, which might indicate that these structures were probably built at the same time. The bricks in the northeast corner were intact enough to clearly reveal the same pattern of Flemish Bond used in the main house (Figure 8). Clay mortar was also used. Portions of the foundation wall had been robbed of bricks and the resulting brickbat rubble was thrown back into the trench as fill. No partition was found, nor was a chimney base located. A twentieth century fence had apparently been located at an angle over this ruin, and the stones beneath the fence, fragments of poles, and some fence wire were found in this area. No construction ditch data was collected here but it is assumed, because of the comparison of bricks, that the building was erected at the same time as the main house, possibly as a kitchen, though no direct evidence of this was found. Indirect evidence, however, was found in quantities of ceramics from the nineteenth century. Early nineteenth century fragments of blue-painted pearlware, blue-edge pearlware, blue transfer-printed ware, engine-turned banded pearlware, and overglazed enameled porcelain were recovered. Later nineteenth century types, such as ironstone, printed wares, and locally-made milk crocks of olive and brown to black alkaline glazed stoneware were also recovered. Wrought nails, cut nails, a hammer head, stove grate

Figure 7

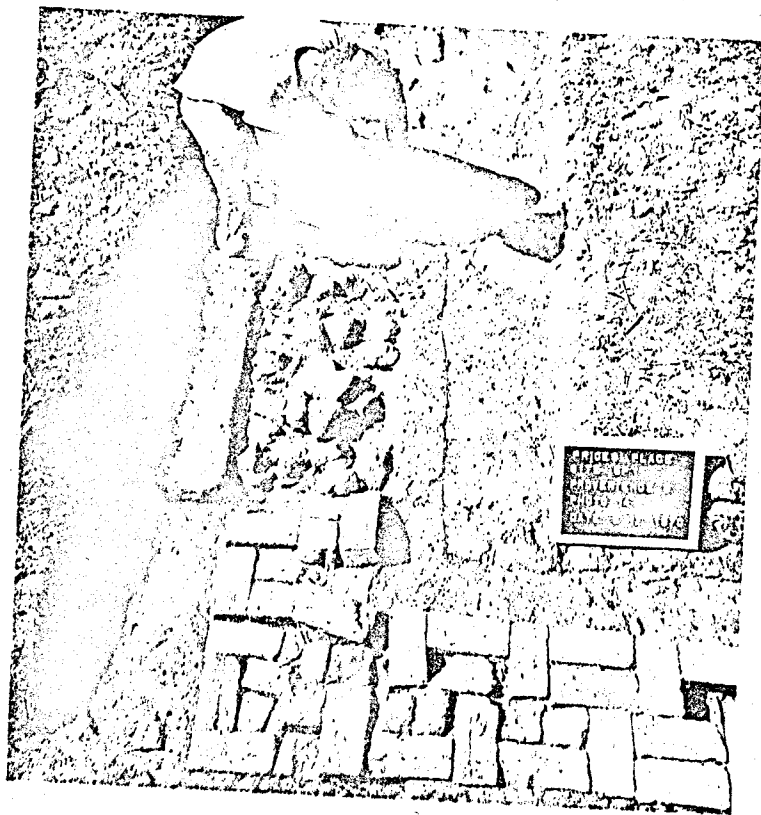
The West Ruin During Excavation.

Note the rubble-filled wall trench and the neatly laid partition wall bricks.

Figure 8

The East (Kitchen) Ruin During Excavation.

Note the Flemish Bond of the bricks at the corner and the rubble-filled wall trench left by someone salvaging bricks from the foundation wall. Note also the construction ditch edge on the inside, with no ditch seen on the outside face.



fragments, snuff boxes, milk glass, and recent bottle glass were present. Of particular interest was a lockplate for a flintlock pistol that had been converted into a percussion type weapon (Figure 12).

Also found among the collection of materials from the surface layer over the ruin was a white quartz projectile point of the Halifax type (South 1959: 160-163; 166), dating around 3500 B.C. (Coe 1964: 99; 108). A Morrow Mountain II and a Savannah River Projectile Point were also found in surface layers on the site, indicating that an Archaic Period Indian occupation may have existed on the site between three and eight thousand years ago, or that someone who lived in the house was a collector of Indian relics. The presence of Indian relics on the site probably gave rise to the legend that the house was built on an Indian mound.

The Cold Cellar Ruin

Fourteen feet south of the east ruin, a cellar hole was discovered. This feature measured seven by eleven feet and was found to be a cellar measuring six by ten feet originally, with a depth of three and one-half feet (Figure 10). Three feet west of the cellar was a ditch one and one-half feet wide and fifteen feet long, paralleling the cellar hole. This ditch was in alignment with the west wall of the east (kitchen) ruin, and therefore was probably constructed during the same period. Using this ditch as a guide, as well as its orientation to the east (kitchen) ruin, a conjectural size of sixteen by

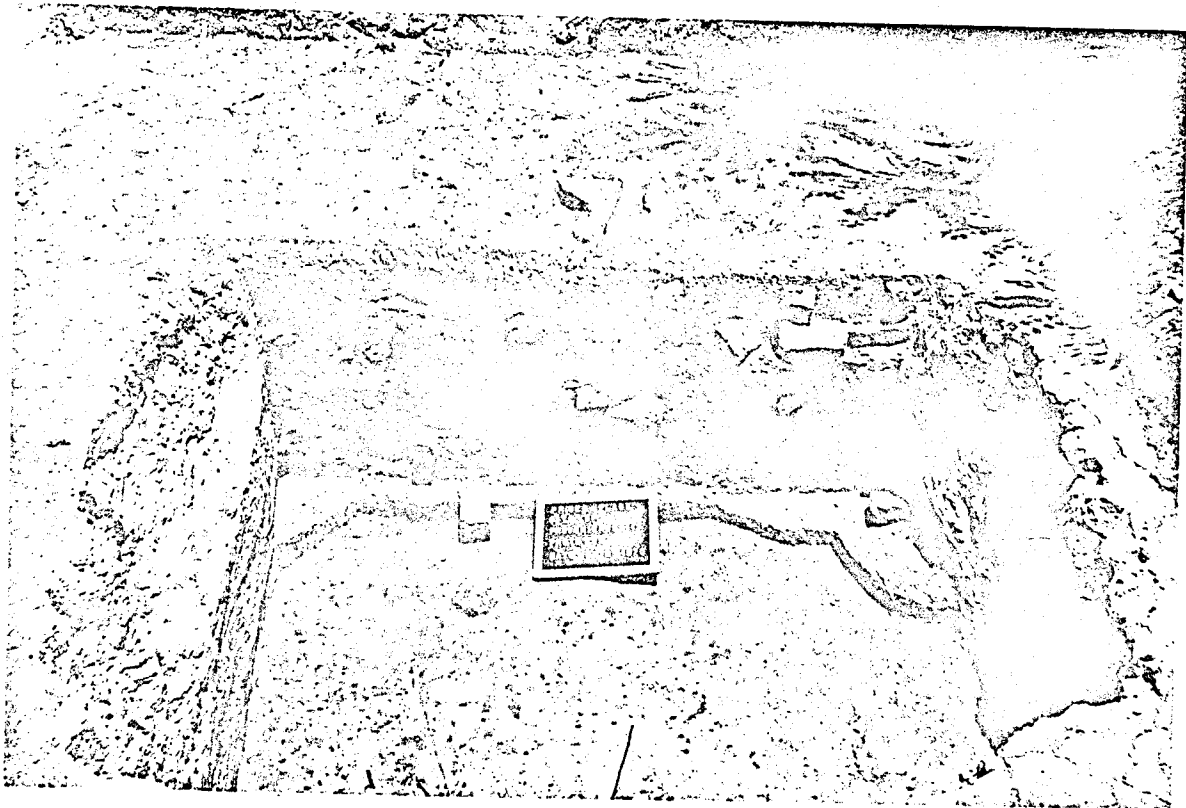
Figure 9

The Stone-lined Well During Excavation.

Figure 10

The Partly Excavated Cold Cellar.

The top of the ledge at the bottom of the profile represents the cellar floor level at the time it was backfilled.



sixteen feet is postulated for this structure (Figure 1). At Walnut Grove Plantation, a short distance from the site of The Price House, there is a cold cellar for cool storage in summer and warm storage in winter that is a possible parallel for the cellar hole found here.

A section of the south end of the cellar hole was removed and the original edges of the hole were found, along with the original floor level. The bottom fill-layer consisted of brickbat rubble thrown into the hole from the north, possibly from the destruction of the east (kitchen) ruin to the north. The contents of the cellar included a plow point, ax heads, a mowing scythe blade, a hoe fragment, a buggy hub, and a small hammer (Figure 12). This last item is of particular interest because, in the inventory of the estate of Ann Price dated May 20, 1821, five shoe hammers were listed (A630-88, on file, Spartanburg Historical Preservation Commission).

The top fill of the cellar was taken out separately from the bottom in order to determine if any time difference in fill was involved, as revealed by the artifacts. However, no temporal difference in the artifacts could be determined between the two levels, so the entire cellar contents are discussed here as a unit. Ironstone china, faded blue transfer-printed ironstone, and ironstone with transfer-printed marks were recovered from the cellar hole. The marked pieces were: (1) a lion in repose in a circle, with the words "SEMI GRANITE - COOK AND HANCOCK;" (2) "WARRANTED COPY RGT." made by the Crescent Pottery Company of Trenton, New Jersey, after 1881 (Thorn 1946: 124);

(3) fragments of rampant lions with "SEMI IRONSTONE;" (4) fragments of a sailing vessel and a woman with a trident; (5) a globe surrounded by a belt and the word "WARRANTED," identical to the mark used by Edwin Bennett of Baltimore, Maryland, between 1856 and 1890 (Thorn 1946: 118); (6) a crown inside an oval belt with the word "WARRANTED," which was used by the Maryland Pottery Company (D. F. Haynes & Co.) of Baltimore, Maryland, after 1879 (Thorn 1946: 136); and (7) a circle with a small scene of a factory and the word "BOSTON." Several fragments of an ironstone alphabet plate were recovered (Figure 11) as well as gilt-painted ironstone.

Fragments of blue-edged pearlware, polychrome-painted pearlware, dating from the early half of the nineteenth century were also found, and represent either older family pieces broken in the late nineteenth century or pieces broken earlier and gathered, along with rubble and soil, to be thrown into the cellar hole as fill. Several fragments of red transfer-printed ware from a single plate were recovered, revealing a bathing pavilion and a beach scene with the words "BATHING PAVILION" underneath. A blue transfer-printed fragment has the word "COLUMBIA" as a mark, and may be a mark registered by J. Wedgewood on August 23, 1848. However, the firm did not produce much transfer-printed ware until after 1860 (Laidacker 1951: 85).

From the ceramics thrown into the cellar hole as part of the fill, we can see that the Crescent Pottery mark could not have been in existence prior to 1881 when the company was begun, thus providing

an earliest possible date for the cellar fill. In other words, the cellar must have remained open until sometime after 1881.

A number of panel-type bottles were found in the fill. These were aquamarine, olive green, or brown in color. A few wine bottle fragments were also recovered. None of the bottles had crown-type lips such as those in use today, an invention of William Painter and patented in 1892, indicating that the cellar was very likely filled before this type bottle came into general use (Putnam 1965: 1). Also absent were fragments of South Carolina Dispensary bottles, which did not appear before 1893 (Fraser 1969: 1). Fragments of this type bottle were found in the surface layers on the site, as well as whole examples from beneath the house itself, by John Combes, in his preliminary survey of June 11, 1969 (Figure 13). The absence of dispensary-type bottles and crown cap bottles in the cellar fill would clearly indicate a date of filling of the cellar around 1893, but not long afterward. From the china date of post-1881 and the glass date of 1893, we have the brackets necessary for dating the cellar fill: i.e., between 1881 and 1893.

From the information recovered from an examination of this ruin, we find that it was probably a cold cellar inside a frame building sixteen feet square, that it was built at the same time as the east (kitchen) structure: i.e., around 1794, and was used for almost one hundred years, probably being torn down before 1894, at the same time as the east (kitchen) structure.

The Stone-lined Well.

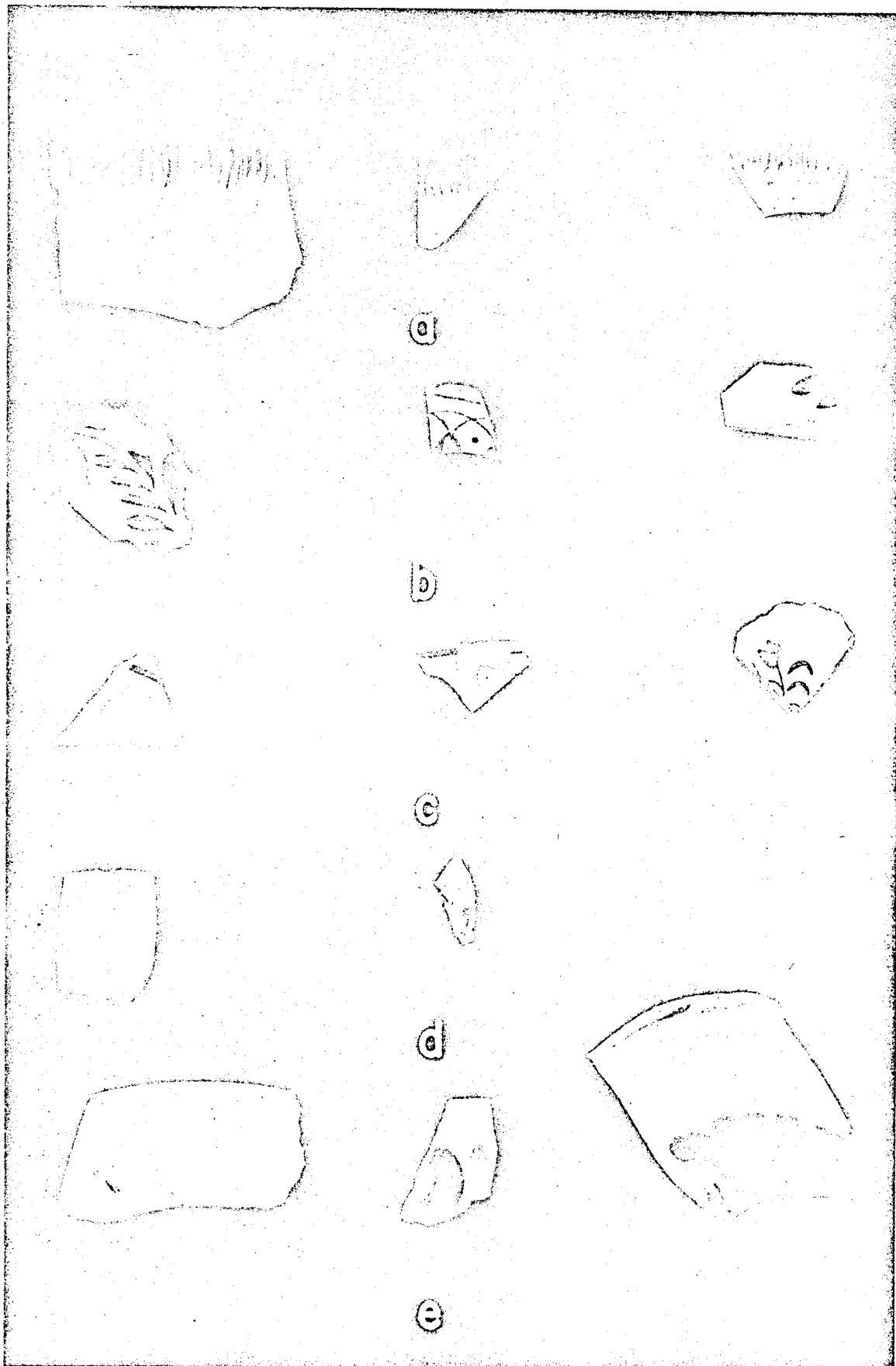
Twenty feet east of the cold cellar ruin, and in alignment with the space between the cold cellar and the east (kitchen) ruin, a stone-lined well was found (Figure 9). The square shaft measured five feet square, and when the stones were in place, the circular well opening was only two and one-half feet across. In the top stone fill of this well, just below the plowed soil zone, was found the barrel section of a double-barreled shotgun. The top section of the well was blocked with stones thrown in as fill but, below the top two-foot level, a cavity could be seen, extending to a depth of four feet. When these stones were removed, excavation of the well continued to a depth of nine feet from the surface before it was necessary to stop because of lack of time. The artifacts coming from the well fill included wire nails, late nineteenth century panel-type bottles, a fragment of a door lock, tin gutter fragments, tin can fragments, a cast iron stove fragment, milk crock fragments of green glazed earthenware, and other rubble, including bricks and stones. One panel bottle had the words "DR. A. BOSCHEE'S GERMAN SYRUP - L. M. GREEN," and several bottles were of the "S. C. DISPENSARY" type, with the "SCD" initials, and the letters "C.L.F.G.Co." on the base. These bottles were in use after 1893 and were discontinued in 1907 (Fraser 1969: 1-8). The initials on the base stand for C. L. Flaccus Glass Company of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The presence of these fragments in the well would indicate that it was filled later than the cold cellar hole, perhaps

Figure 11

Some Ceramic Types from the Excavation.

- A. Blue-edged pearlware (38Spl-11C; 12A-37; 9A-2).
- B. Blue-painted pearlware (38Spl-11B-34; 12C-38; 9A-4).
- C. (left) Banded creamware; polychrome pearlware (38Spl-7C-3; 6A-11; 11B-41).
- D. (left) Sponged ware (7B-14).
(center) Red transfer-printed ware (1E-3)
(right) Blue transfer-printed ware (38Spl-11B-42).
- E. (left) Fragment of ironstone alphabet plate (38Spl-11C-1).
(center) Mid-nineteenth century polychrome-painted pearlware (7B-2).
(right) Late nineteenth century faded blue-stenciled ironstone (7A-79).

Types A - D are those most likely to have been used by the Price family, whereas those in E are from the mid- to late nineteenth century. The polychrome-painted pearlware in E-center is identical with whole mugs, cups and saucers recovered from a blockade runner sunk in 1864, and on file at the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology of the University of South Carolina.



some years later, around 1900 or in the early years of the twentieth century.

Ironstone fragments were also recovered from the well, including a large restored platter with no mark. Fragments of flowing blue-stenciled ironstone were also present (Figure 11). None of these fragments would provide a more refined date for the filling of the well than that afforded by the dispensary bottle fragments. The fact that the stone-lined well was apparently oriented to a center line between the cold cellar and the east (kitchen) building tends to imply a path between these structures for access to the well, and therefore may date at the same time period. A stone-lined well is also present at Walnut Grove Plantation, a mid-eighteenth century restoration a short distance from the site of The Price House.

Before this feature is restored, further excavation should be conducted to recover more evidence from the well and surrounding area that may prove of value in its interpretation.

Late Nineteenth Century Well

Six feet from the southwest corner of the servants' quarters, a well hole was found, standing open to a depth of four feet when the archeologists arrived on the site. The top of this hole had been used in recent years as a dump area for trash. When this layer was removed, the well hole was found to be five feet square with red subsoil-type clay and stones thrown into it as fill. The late nature of the

Figure 12

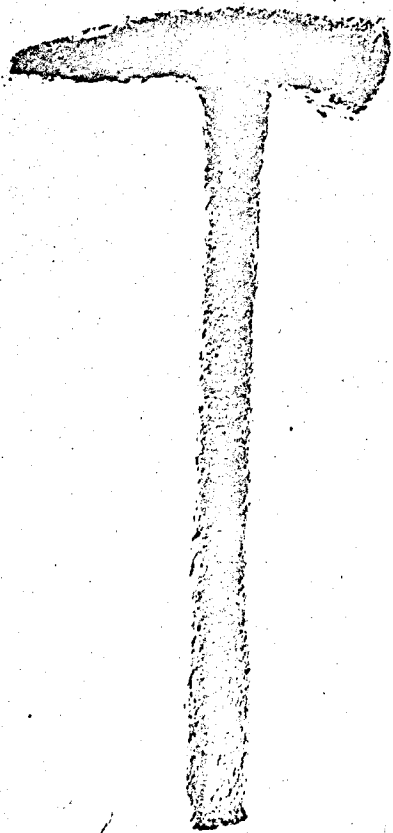
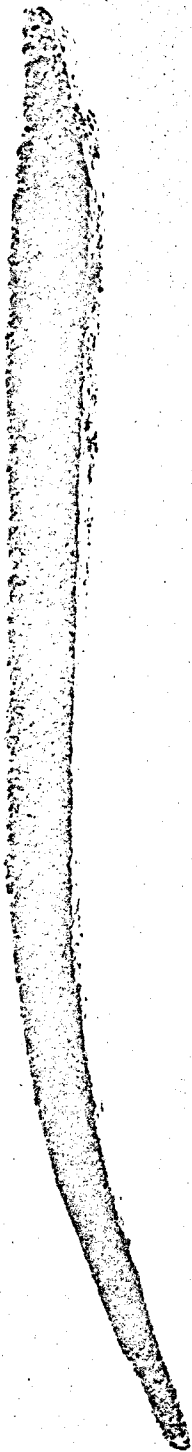
Iron Objects from the Excavation.

(Left) Half of a blacksmith's tongs.

(Top center) A blacksmith's shoe hammer.

(Right) Strap hinge.

(Bottom) Flintlock plate converted to
percussion cap.



artifacts from the hole, plus the fact that it was still standing open, produced enough doubt as to its early date to cause it not to be examined deeper than six feet.

Some days after work had been abandoned on this well, Mr. Garland Fortner of Woodruff visited the site and said that his grandfather, Jhue Fortner, had filled in this well and had two others drilled during the twentieth century when he was an occupant of the house. The two drilled wells were found to be cased, one with terracotta pipe, and the other with cast iron pipe.

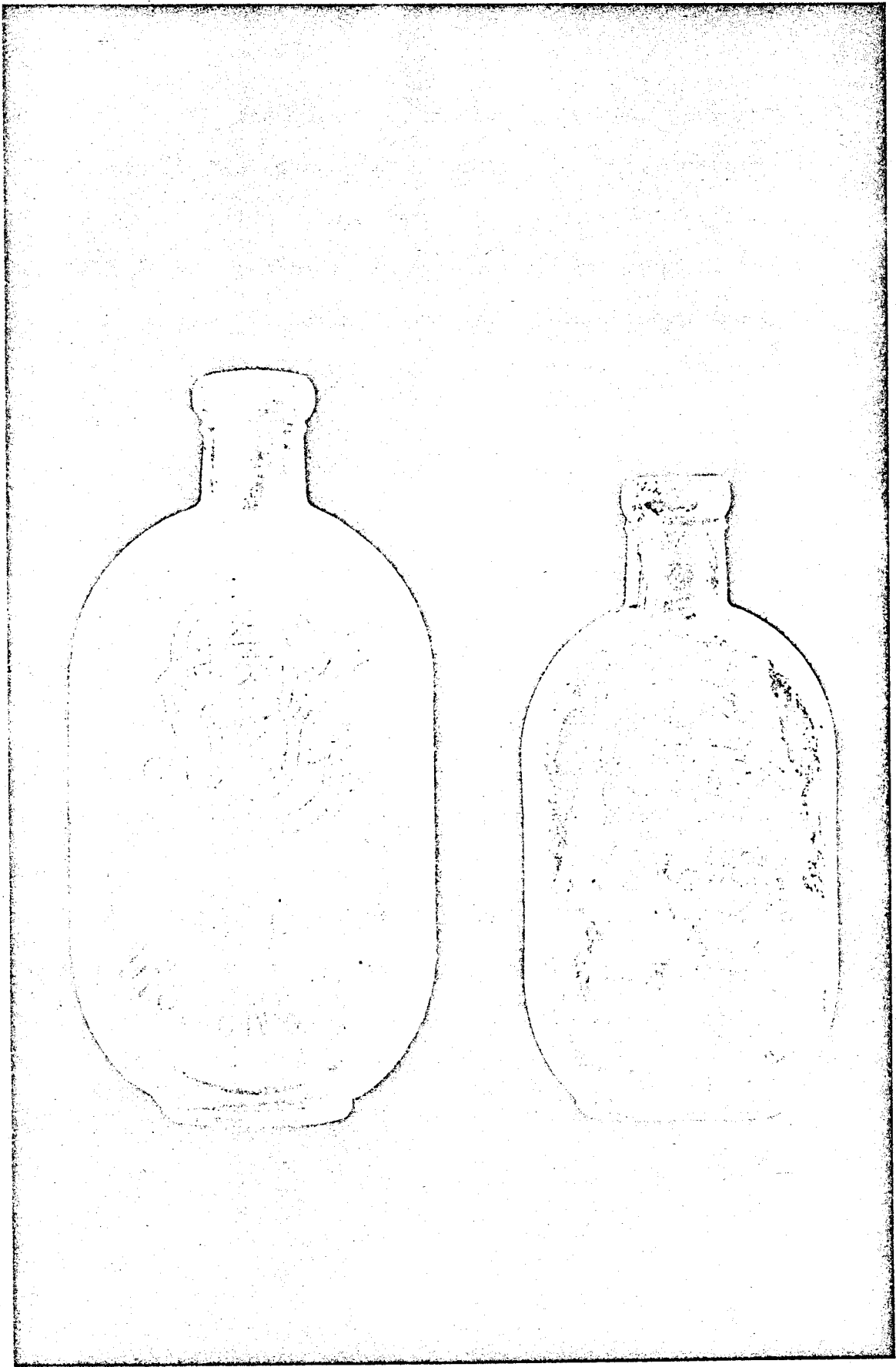
Summary

From the documents and the two-week archeology project, we find that a merchant, Thomas Price, purchased a tract of land in 1794, located on the south side of the South Tyger River, north of Ferguson's Creek, and probably built a brick house on the property shortly thereafter. Lime was in short supply, so he used clay to bond the bricks together. The house was three stories tall, with an added full porch across the front and a smaller one on the rear. To the east of the house, a separate wing was built on an axis lying at a right angle to the main house. This structure was probably the kitchen. To the south of this building was a smaller square structure over a cold cellar designed to keep milk, butter, and other supplies cool in the summer and to prevent freezing in the winter. A path probably ran between these building toward the east to the stone-lined well, which

Figure 13

South Carolina Dispensary Bottles.

These were located by John Combes during the preliminary survey of the site (38Sp1-2 and 3).



furnished water for the household, and toward the west leading to the back porch. Food was stored in the cold cellar and prepared in the kitchen, from which it was carried to the house by servants. Other outbuildings such as a smokehouse, servants' quarters, and privy were probably located in a flanking position around the backyard court, but remains of these were not found in the exploratory excavations.

In the first two decades of the nineteenth century Thomas Price was a merchant, and in 1820 "Price's P.O." was indicated on a map of the area made by Robert Mills and published in his Atlas. The post office was likely operated out of his store which was, no doubt, nearby. No evidence for the location of the store has yet been found, either through documents or archeology, though some evidence may yet come to light. It was probably located across the road from the high ground on which the house and outbuildings were built.

After the death of the Prices in the 1820's, the new owners of the property undertook a number of significant improvements to the house and outbuildings. A new separate west wing was built to balance the east wing building and a servants' quarters was built onto the rear of the house, resulting in the porch becoming a breezeway joining the main house to the new rear wing. A brick patio or walkway was laid to the southwest of this wing, using bricks left over from

the construction. The front porch may have been added at this time.

During the quarter-century since the house was built, the weight of the floor joists on the bricks of the main wall, and termite damage, had caused the clay-mortared bricks to slip out of place, producing a weak and unstable floor. To correct this problem, the original floor was removed, along with the joists, and these, along with some new ones, were positioned on new brick footings placed at proper intervals along the inside of the house wall. This work was done using bricks like those used to build the new wings. The roof of the main house may have been resingled at this time, or possibly begun by the Prices, for in Ann Price's estate were a quantity of shingles, perhaps indicating repairs being undertaken at the time of her death in 1821. It may have been about this same time that the needed strengthening of the chimneys was undertaken through the addition of brick linings inside the fireplaces.

With these repairs made, the house and outbuilding complex would serve another half-century before major changes took place. This period of the 1820's, with the main house flanked by wings and other outbuildings, was the most elaborate and impressive time in the history of the house, reflecting ownership by an affluent man with many servants; truly the grandest period for The Price House.

Sometime in the late nineteenth century, between 1881 and 1894, the cold cellar building was torn down, as well as the kitchen. With cast iron cook stoves available, there was no longer a need for open-

hearth cooking in the old kitchen building, which had apparently fallen into disrepair. Rubble from these ruined buildings was thrown into the cold cellar hole, with the bricks being salvaged for use elsewhere. Shortly after this, probably around 1900, a new well was dug to the west of the servants' quarters wing and the old one was filled in. From this time on, the primary activity regarding food preparation centered around the converted servants' quarters-kitchen, and the well to the west and the area to the east of the house was turned into a plowed field.

A window on the front of the house was converted into a door which entered an added front porch room, and a door was cut through the wall of the east end of the house, resulting in a structural weakness which caused problems years later. Repairs to the servants' quarters wing were made about this time also, including the addition of brick lining to the fireplaces.

In the twentieth century, the dug well was filled in and drilled wells were utilized. A new rear porch floor was built and the front porch was removed. Pictures taken on December 3, 1939, by Anna B. Brooks of what was then known as the "Capt. George B. Dean" place, reveal that the porch was still on the front of the house at that time.

Another series of photographs taken in 1953 show the porch gone by that time and the house in much better repair than at present. Since that time, extremely unsightly "repairs" have been undertaken to the

brickwork, which will require considerable expense in removing. The east wall has also cracked in recent years, producing a dangerously weakened south and east wall. This is only a symptom of the weakness caused by continued erosion of the bricks of the main wall beneath the house, which produced a major structural problem not easily remedied.

In order to learn something of the personal preference of the Price family, a trash deposit from the period 1794 to 1820 would be an excellent source for such information. However, throughout the excavation, a trash dump of this period was not found. A few fragments from beneath the brick walk did date from this time, however, and these pieces, plus a few others scattered around the site, particularly in the area of the stone-lined well, can be used to determine the type of china used by the Price family. These include blue-edged pearlware, blue-painted pearlware, polychrome-painted pearlware, banded pearlware, blue transfer-printed ware, and creamware (see Figure 11).

COMMENTS ON INTERPRETIVE DEVELOPMENT

The Dwelling House

Competent architectural guidance from one experienced in structural repair and restoration of historic buildings has recently been secured in Mr. Henry Boykin. His recommendations should be closely followed regarding the proper strengthening of the foundation walls of the house. It is the archeologist's opinion that a really proper job could only be done by contractors, under the guidance of Mr. Boykin. It will be necessary to remove the present ground floor, to allow for access to the foundation wall and thoroughly strengthen the interior base of the walls of the house by removing loose brick and properly buttressing along the entire foundation wall with brick or cement. The crack in the east wall is only a symptom of the structural problem, created by the cutting of the door in the wall. This door should be resealed with brick after the wall has been repositioned, but such work must be under the architect's guidance. The front porch was an early added feature of the house and could be rebuilt at the time of restoration or added later on. Original ventilation vents should be located and reopened, instead of artificially creating modern vents by knocking holes through the house wall as someone has suggested.

The Servants' Quarters

The servants' quarters could be interpreted as a house-servants'

quarters of the 1820-1860 period, with china, furniture, and furnishings of the early part of this period or earlier. This would be far better than the kitchen-dining functional interpretation of the period of the early twentieth century which is now being utilized.

The Brick Walkway

The brickbat walkway area to the west of the servants' quarters could be replaced as it was originally in the early nineteenth century.

The East Ruin and the West Ruin

In order to interpret the ruins of the wings flanking the main house, the development of the project should have proceeded to the point that a permanently-employed, full-time director be on hand, with available funds for maintenance on a year-round basis. Once this is accomplished, the excavation of the ruins could be completed and the bricks mortared into place over the excavated ditches and remaining wall sections. These bricks would serve as a cap to the surviving foundation wall and would stand two or three bricks high above ground level, which would clearly indicate the location of the structure which once stood there. The lawn could be maintained to the stabilized ruin and kept mowed, with soil poison used a few inches from the bricks, to allow for mowing by machine as close to the ruin, and around it, as possible.

A small field exhibit case could be used to house an interpretive exhibit, showing the archeological work underway through photographs, an interpretive drawing of what the structure may have looked like, and an artifact or two from the ruin itself. This interpretive

presentation could be used with both the east and west ruins. An alternative to this plan is to backfill these ruins and maintain grass over the area, with the interpretive exhibit case alone telling that a ruin lies beneath the visitor's feet. This is by far the cheapest and most expedient solution to the problem created by the archeological discovery of these ruins.

The Cold Cellar

The simplest means of solving the problem created by the discovery of the cold cellar is to backfill it again and, using field exhibit cases, tell of the functional role played by such cold cellars in eighteenth and early nineteenth century households. However, if a surviving house over such a cellar could be found, it might be moved to the site and restored over the original cellar hole. Such an interpretation would be far superior to the backfilling solution. Such a building should be selected with great care, however, and only through guidance from Mr. Boykin.

The Stone-lined Well

The excavation of the original stone-lined well could be completed and the well restored. Or it, too, could be backfilled and interpreted only through a field exhibit.

The Nineteenth Century Well

The well to the west of the servants' quarters, representing the period of the late nineteenth century, should be backfilled completely.

Interior Furnishings

The main house could have pieces of china of the type found on the site dating from 1794 to 1820, and emphasize the Thomas Price use of the property. The servants' quarters could be similarly supplied with pieces matching those found to have been used on the site between 1820 and 1860, emphasizing the use of the property by owners following Thomas Price (Figure 11). Details of this nature should, however, be carried out by specialists in American culture after a very careful study and analysis of inventories, wills, and archeological specimens is made, with a view toward restoration.

With the archeological study completed, examination and interpretation of The Price House site has only begun, with years of research and work ahead before the proper interpretation of this fine historic structure is completed.

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