

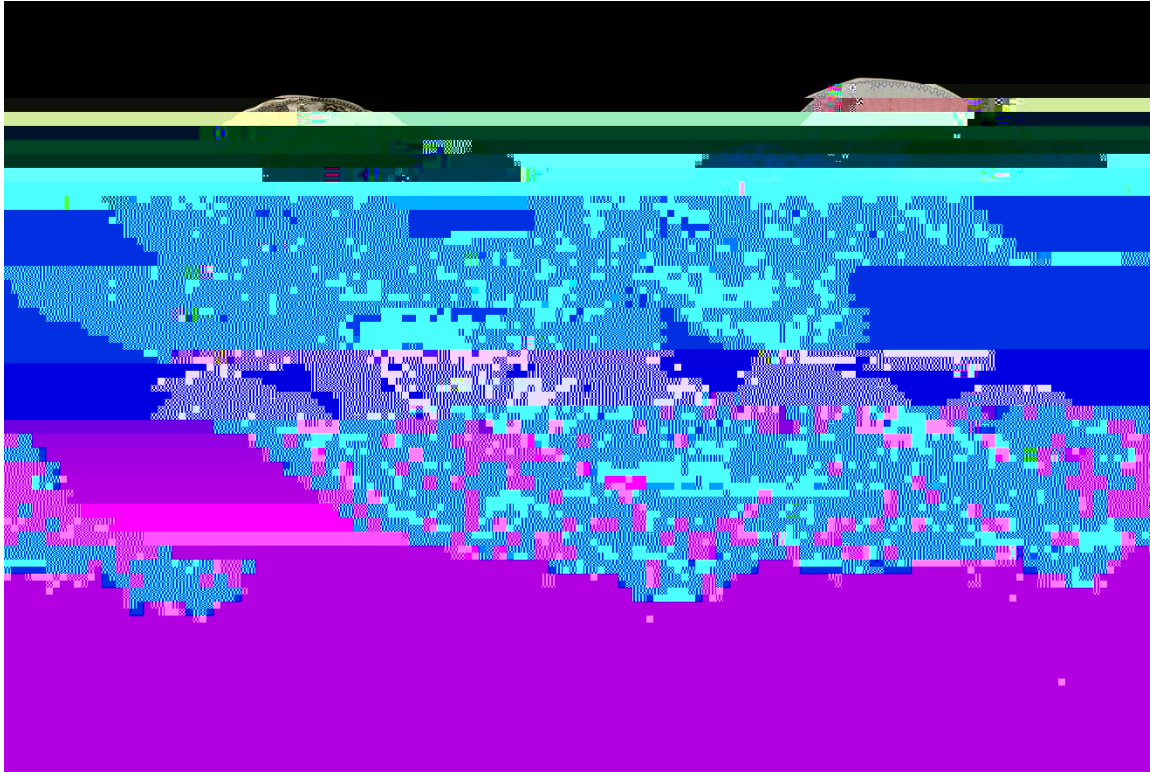
7 Hawley Street Project Conclusion

Precontact Period of Site Use

The historic, post-Contact component of the 7 Hawley Street site had a substantial impact on the precontact cultural remains. Precontact, Indigenous cultural material was relatively sparse, the spatial structure (location of different activities) of the occupation could not be determined, and a chronological date could not be assigned. It is possible that the archaeological signature of the precontact occupation would have been more significant without the damage done by nearly 200 years of intensive historic occupation, but that point is now moot; we have to base our conclusions on what exists.

What exists is a low-density artifact assemblage that contains a small percentage of utilized debitage (flakes of chert from manufacturing stone tools that were used themselves as informal tools for different tasks, such as cutting or scraping). This type of low density occupation would be interpreted as a small resource procurement/processing locale or small camp of unknown temporal affiliation. The larger and denser Chenango Point/Chenango Point South site lies just 300 m (984 ft) south of 7 Hawley Street. It is possible this site is associated with the 7 Hawley Street

The major material culture related to the Bartlett household comes from a privy deposit dated c. 1840-1860. Ceramic and glass vessels comprise most domestic items and reveal certain interesting trends. The ceramic assemblage is dominated by fashionable, more expensive transfer printed wares but there is no evidence that they were purchased as a matching set. The transfer print ceramics are all thematically similar in their emphasis on romantic scenery and generally light blue color but include at least 13 different patterns. The bulk consists of basic tableware pieces, such as plates and platters. What this suggests is somewhat contradictory priorities for fashionable, more expensive dishware but little concern with more refined aspects of presentation. Glass tableware confirms a limited concern with presentation and fashionable aspects of dining; most were basic pressed glass, paneled tumblers. There were no stemmed goblets or other stemware in the assemblage. Combined with the relative lack of personal items and household furnishings, and faunal evidence that indicates pigs and chickens were raised on site, the picture we have is of a household more focused on necessary household goods and food stuffs than fashionable, decorative items.



Transfer print ceramics from the Bartlett privy.

A glass ring, one of the few personal items from the Bartlett privy.

The contextual evidence on the Bartlett household suggests that they had not fully embraced emerging middle class ideals of the home as a private, family space of consumption divorced from production. If the Bartlett household provides a glimpse into a period, and household, where Victorian, middle class ideals had not yet invaded, the late 19th century and early 20th century residents of the boarding houses along Water Street were living within a cultural milieu where this concept of home was fully embedded in native, middle-class life and had become naturalized. These residents (largely single, working-class men, many immigrants), could not, and perhaps had no desire to, live within a “home” setting. Rather, they “lodged” in a house and their material circumstances provide insight into the contradictions of the concept of home and the reality of working-class lives in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Boarding houses were widely criticized in the 19th century as spaces where there was little privacy, strangers and sexes could mingle freely, and, worst of all, domestic relations were reduced to market transactions. The boarding house stood in stark contrast to idealized notions of home as a nurturing, family space where the evils of the market did not intrude. The home as sanctuary work was an ideal; it never truly existed since it rested on the fiction that women’s work in the home was an act of love, rather than labor. The boarding house exposed this myth by charging for women’s labor and revealed the uncomfortable truth underlying middle class ideals. The boarding house, for all its violation of new concepts of home that arose with industrial production, was also essential for sustaining this production. The men and women who flocked to urban centers for jobs in factories or service industries were often young, single, and did not have the economic resources to enact middle class ideals of domesticity. Boarding houses met their needs for shelter and provided meals and other services that would have been more difficult to manage as a single person living alone and working long hours.

The boarding houses\hotels that appeared along Water Street in the project area in the late 19th century primarily catered to working-class men. This relatively undeveloped section of Water Street became an ideal location for such enterprises as commercial and industrial activity increased in the immediate area. The boarding house/hotel period at 128 Water Street began c. 1885 when Fredrick Teufel started the White Horse Hotel, which had a brief existence. Thomas Connolly probably began his tenure as proprietor of the newly renamed Frankl

Bartlett

Smoking pipes from the 7 Hawley project area.

For its residents, life within this area may have been less than salubrious with little escape from the sounds and smells of urban life. The large properties of the early 19th century were gone and where three houses had existed, 12-13 structures were packed together with little to no surrounding yard area. The dwelling on Hawley Street was separated from the saloons along Washington Street by only a narrow alley and by the late 1880s was surrounded on two of its other sides by the lumber yard. Detailed Sanborn maps from the late 1880s through the early 20th century show six to seven saloons in this small area, including the “bowling saloon” at 121 Washington Street and a saloon/beer garden. Several additional saloons were located in the surrounding area along Washington and Water Streets. These saloons drew more peopl