July 31, 2007

James Gagle
Facility Manager
Lincoln Home National Historic Site
National Park Service
415 South Eighth Street
Springfield, Illinois 62701-1905

Re: LHNHS Stuvé Carriage Barn Investigations
Final Report

Dear Mr. Gagle:

On April 11th, Fever River Research was awarded a purchase order from the Lincoln Home National Historic Site, National Park Service (NPS) to monitor the demolition of an approximate 20’ by 40’ non-historic addition that had been constructed onto the south end of the historic Stuvé Carriage House located on the rear of the Stuvé House lot. The objective of this work—as outlined in the Archaeological Scope of Work, Stuvé Outbuilding Investigation—was to minimize the effect of the demolition work on potential subsurface archaeological features, and if the opportunity arose, to assess the potential of subsurface archaeological features within the project area. This letter represents the final report summarizing the results of that work.

The Stuvé House (HS-05), which is located on the southwest corner of the Lincoln Home National Historic Site, is a large, brick dwelling located on Lots 7 and 8 of Block 6, E. Iles’ Addition to the City of Springfield, Illinois (see Figures 1 and 2). This house was constructed in circa 1869 in the Italianate style for Dr. Bernard Stuvé, a prominent lawyer, historian and author, who—among other things—co-authored the book Complete History of Illinois From 1673 to 1873 (Davidson and Stuvé 1884) (Bearrs 1977:3, as cited in Ferry and Henderson Architects 1979). The suite of Sanborn fire insurance maps from 1884 through 1952 illustrate the evolution of the carriage house and/or automobile garages and store building constructed on the rear of this lot during the later nineteenth and early twentieth centuries (see Ferry and Henderson 1979:5-7). The non-historic store building demolished during this project was constructed onto the south end of the historic carriage house/garage sometime after 1940 and prior to 1952.

The Stuvé house was not the first structure on this property. Both the 1854 and 1858 City of Springfield maps illustrate a school located within the far southwestern corner of Lot 8, Block 6, E. Iles Addition to the City of Springfield (Potter 1854; Sides 1858). This school was a private affair operated by the Methodist Church and known as the “Central Academy” (Ferry and Henderson 1979:3). The 1867 Bird’s Eye View of Springfield illustrates a small building fronting Seventh Street, as well as a small outbuilding along the rear alley, at the southwest corner of this block, and may suggest that this school building survived at this location through circa 1867 (see Figure 3; Ruger 1867). With this in mind, the archaeological investigators were
on the lookout for intact archaeological features that might be associated with both this earlier, pre-Stuvé schoolhouse component, as well as with the later Stuvé occupation.

On May 9-10, 2007, staff from Fever River Research was on-site working with NPS staff monitoring the removal of the poured concrete floor associated with this building. Immediately prior to that time, the NPS staff had demolished the concrete block and brick building down to the existing grade leaving only the poured concrete floor and sub-grade remains of the perimeter walls in place. With the aid of a large track-hoe, the concrete flooring was broken and removed off-site.

Upon removal of the concrete floor, it became apparent that the project area had been scraped of its topsoil and associated middens—probably in the early 1940s when the addition had been constructed. Instead of encountering a dark topsoil midden, a light-colored subsoil was encountered immediately below the concrete floor. It appears that the concrete floor was poured directly onto the underlying disturbed subsoil, and a thin (5-10cm thick) lens of disturbed subsoil fill needed to be removed to assess for the presence of subsurface features.

After removal of the concrete floor, the Fever River Research and NPS staff worked together, and with the aid of a smaller rubber-tired backhoe and a shovel, removed the disturbed subfloor fill deposits from a large portion of the project area in order to assess the potential of subsurface archaeological features (such as privy pits and cisterns) that might have been associated with the Stuvé house and/or earlier components. In this process, approximately 50-60% of the area beneath the floor of the demolished building was shovel scraped in search of features. The remaining 40-50% of the project area was covered with backdirt and was inaccessible to shovel scrap. All features were mapped in plan view on a base map, and covered with a thin lens of sand and topsoil. Figure 9 is a plan map that illustrates the areas investigated and the features encountered. The features were mapped in plan view on this base map, and then covered. No investigations of the features were undertaken. No artifacts were observed on the scraped surface of any of the features identified. Additionally, no artifacts were collected during the course of the investigations. As the topsoil and associated midden had been removed sometime prior to the construction of the building, artifacts were few in number.

Several classes of features were identified in the project area. Although these features have been discussed in terms of a potential original function, as they were not excavated these interpretations are only speculation. Table 1 lists the features mapped.

The vast majority of the features encountered were post molds, which represent the remains of multiple fence lines as well as potential post-in-ground structures (such as a frame carriage house or small shed. At least 45 post molds were identified, with the majority of them being located along the rear and south edge of Lot 8. At least three types of posts were identified, and included 1) large round posts, 2) small square and irregularly shaped posts, and 3) large square regularly shaped posts. The first type appears to represent one or two lines of posts located approximately 4' to 5' west of rear property line of Lot 8. These may represent a fence line associated with the earlier schoolhouse component. It is also of interest to note that the majority of the other posts appear to originate at a location along the rear property line approximately 24' north of the southeast corner of Lot 8—as if they originated at the corner of a once present structure (such as
an earlier outbuilding). Unfortunately, it was not possible to sort out, or make some sense out of these posts without excavating them.

Two large, circular pits (Features 1 and 2), located near the south wall of the existing carriage house—probably represent early cisterns. Feature 1 is 4’9” in diameter, whereas Feature 2 was slightly larger measuring 5’2” in diameter. These may represent two episodes of cistern construction, with the smaller Feature 1 representing the earlier cistern. The smaller cistern (Feature 1) pre-dates a structural brick pier or chimney foundation represented by Feature 5, as well as the existing structure to the north. Similarly, Feature 2 predates a utility trench (Feature 3) that appears to connect the alley and the nearby Stuvé House. Two iron pipes—probably representing remains of the City of Springfield’s steam heat distribution system—were encountered in this trench. Both cisterns probably were associated with earlier versions of carriage houses associated with the early years of the Stuvé occupation—or even the earlier schoolhouse component, as the 1867 Bird’s Eye View of Springfield appears to illustrate a carriage house at this location.

A smaller circular pit identified as Feature 9 may represent a brick-lined well. This feature measured approximately 3’5” in diameter. Several larger rectangular features identified may represent privy pits associated with either the Stuvé or earlier occupations. Of particular interest were Features 11 and 12 located within the far southeastern corner of the lot. Feature 11 measures approximately 2’ by 2’6” in size, whereas Feature 12 measures approximately 1’9” by 2’9” in size. These small rectangular pits were not oriented with the cardinal directions and appear to be too large, and out of place to represent posts. Their size, shape, and location may argue that they represent early privy pits potentially associated with the schoolhouse component. Additionally, Features 6 and 7 may represent small privy pits. Feature 6 appears to post-date the construction of the steam heat lines (Feature 3). A potential drain line (Feature 10), robbed of its drain tile, appears to have connected one of the nearby cisterns (potentially Feature 1) with Feature 7. Feature 8 is difficult to interpret, and may also represent a large post pit, or a small privy pit. If this feature represents a privy pit, it may represent a small barrel set into the ground.

To summarize, the demolition of the masonry structure did little-to-no harm to the underlying subsurface archaeological features in this area. Additionally, the investigations conducted at this time indicated that significant subsurface archaeological remains dating from the earlier Stuvé—and potentially pre- Stuvé occupations are present in this area and warrant protection.

Should you have any questions, please give me a call.

Sincerely,

Floyd Mansberger
References Cited

Beck and Pauli

Ferry and Henderson Architects, Inc.

Koch, Augustus

Potter, C.
1854 *City of Springfield, Sangamon County, Ills.* Hart and Mapother, New York.

RATIO Architects, Inc.

Ruger, A.

Sides, William
1858 *City of Springfield, Sangamon County, Ills.* R. L. Barnes, Philadelphia.

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature Number</th>
<th>Potential Function</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Cistern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Cistern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Utility Trench (steam heat)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Utility Trench (water line)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Brick pier or chimney base</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Privy?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Privy?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Privy or large post?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>well</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Robbed drain line trench</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Rectangular pit (Privy?)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Rectangular pit (Privy?)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 1. Location of Lincoln Home National Historic Site, Springfield, Illinois (U.S.G.S. topographic map, Springfield West, 1998).
Figure 2. Location of the Stuvé House (HS-05) and associated maintenance building and/or carriage house (outlined in red) within the greater Lincoln Home National Historic Site, Springfield, Illinois.
Figure 3. View of the four-block Lincoln Home neighborhood as it appeared on the 1867 *Bird’s Eye View of Springfield, Illinois* (Ruger 1867). The Lincoln Home, located at the northeast corner of Jackson and South Eighth Streets, is located immediately to the right of the number “29.” The Stuvé house and carriage house is circled in red.
Figure 4 Site plan for the Stuvé House (Ferry and Henderson Architects, Inc. 1979:24). The solid red line indicates the location of the historic carriage house, whereas the dashed red line indicates the location of the non-historic addition, which was demolished. This addition was constructed as a commercial enterprise (a store) sometime after circa 1940 and prior to 1952.
Figure 5. The project area prior to the initiation of the demolition work. The historic carriage house is located to the rear/back of this photograph, and the non-historic store building is located to the front.
Figure 6. The above-ground fabric of the non-historic building was demolished and loaded onto roll-off drop-boxes with the track hoe leaving the concrete floor (and the underlying archaeological deposits) intact.
Figure 7. After cleanup of the structural debris, the concrete floor was removed with the track hoe. This work was monitored by the archaeologist.
Figure 8. Project area after removal of the concrete floor and prior to the inspection by the archaeologists.
Figure 9. Site plan illustrating the archaeological features exposed during the investigations at the Stuvé Carriage House demolition project.
Figure 10. After removal of the concrete floor, much of the project area was scraped with either the NPS’s small backhoe or with a shovel to expose the underlying features. This work quickly documented the fact that little to no topsoil was present in this part of the Stuvé lot—indicating that the area had been scarped of its topsoil at some previous date. Numerous historic features—presumably dating from the nineteenth century—were exposed during the course of this work.
Figure 11. View of features in the southeast corner of the project area, looking west. Features 11 and 12 are located at the point of the shovel.
Figure 12. View of Feature 9, a potential well.
Figure 13. View of Feature 2, a probable cistern, cut through by a utility trench (Feature 3).
Figure 14. View of Features 1 (cistern) and 5 (brick foundation), adjacent to the south edge of the existing carriage house.