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Project Archaeology Presentation
Herbert Hoover National Historic Site

Office of the State Archaeologist
The University of Iowa
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Figure 1. General location of Blacksmith Shop /13CD18 excavations (from Highway and Transportation Map, Cedar County, 2003; inset showing darkened Southern Iowa Drift Plain from Prior 1991 and red oblong indicating project area).
Figure 2. Jesse Hoover Blacksmith & Wagon Shop/13CD18 excavation location (from USGS West Branch, Iowa Quadrangle 1965, 7.5' series; scale = 1:24,000).
Figure 4. View of West Branch in 1878 by Labian Miles. Looking north along Downey Trace (adapted from Wheeler 1993:2). Jesse Hoover Blacksmith & Wagon Shop and Birthplace Cottage identified.
1897 Photograph of Oliphant and Michner’s Wagon Shop. Hill’s blacksmith shop is to left and stood in this location from 1888 through 1897 (from Bearss 1970:Plate LIX).
1931 Grant Wood painting: The Birthplace of Herbert Hoover. On display, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, co-owned by same and Des Moines Art Center (sometimes dated to 1928). Note the rock and fire hydrant in front of the house.
Birthplace Cottage

View of Hoover House in 1928 with bridge over 'Hoover' Creek in foreground (from Bearss 1970:Plate XLII).
View of Caretaker's Quarters behind the restored Birthplace Cottage in the early 1940s. The arrow points to the Hayhurst house (from Bearss 1970:Plate XLIV).
View of restored Birthplace Cottage in the early 1940s with the Caretaker's Quarters behind to the left. The arrow points to the Hayhurst house. Note the rock and fire hydrant (from Bearss 1970:Plate XLIII).
Figure 7. Allen Philbrick's 1928 interpretation of Birthplace Cottage as it would have appeared in 1874 when Herbert Hoover was born (from Bearss 1970:Plate IV). Compare the blacksmith door bracing to Standing's 1928 drawing.
Figure 8. W. L. Morgan's 1933 interpretation of Birthplace Cottage and Blacksmith (from Bearss 1971:Plate V). Morgan was a boyhood acquaintance of the Hoover children but the blacksmith had been moved in 1888. Compare the blacksmith door bracing and the horses' rear quarters to Standing's 1928 drawing.
Figure 9. Copy of Theodore Hoover's sketch of the blacksmith shop. The sketch was made 25 April 1948 and is meant to depict the shop in 1878 (from Anderson 1973:Figure 6). Tad was 77 when he drew it but was 14 when he last saw it.
Figure 10. Bill Wagner's 1956-1957 sharette rendering for the replica blacksmith shop (from Bearss 1970:PlateLVIII).
Figure 6a. Copy of Figure 2 from Husted (1970:219). Original caption: 'The test trench after removal of the sod cover and during initial efforts to locate the smith.' View is to northeast with C. E. Smith house (HS-08, IDLCS 06148, SHPO 16-000173) in left midground. Note three closest trees for later comparisons.
Figure 13a. Blacksmith Shop/13CD18 early excavations. Facing south/southwest; Birthplace Cottage on left (Cottage is HS-01, IDLCS 00659, SHPO 16-00198; fence & gates are HS-33, IDLCS 06169). Note how fence attaches to cottage. Caretaker’s cottage is beyond end of fence to right. Crew, left to right: Dick Cech, Rob Whitlam, Darrell Fulmer with Art Hoppin partially hidden behind Fulmer.
Figure 17a. Blacksmith Shop/13CD18 excavations facing southwest with tripod used for overhead photography. Background: on extreme left is portion of Birthplace Cottage fences & gates (HS-33, IDLCS 06169; easier to identify in Figure 10a), just left of center is Port Scellars' Barn (B 29, SHPO 16-00086), on right is replica Blacksmith Shop (HS-16, IDLCS 00661, SHPO 16-00081).
Figure 18c. Annotated reproduction of original planmap (Anderson 1973:Figure 3), Hoover Blacksmith Shop/13CD18 excavations. Many intrusive disturbances removed from map. Scale: 1" = 6'.
Figure 19. Adrian Anderson, 1971, at Blacksmith Shop/13CD18 excavations facing east/southeast. Sidewalk behind Anderson is eastern edge of excavation block with Downey Street/Trace beyond. White oblong object behind head is Parkside Drive bridge over ‘Hoover’ creek.
Figure 20. View of excavations to southeast; a portion of the photograph tripod is visible. The top of the silver water hydrant to the right of the fire hydrant is datum. To the right of the datum is the DAR monument (HS-44, IDLCS 06177). The building beyond the bridge on the left side of the photograph has been removed as has the small square structure near the center. The latter was an information booth operated by the West Branch Heritage Foundation. The edge of the Friends Meeting House (HS-03, IDLCS 06143, SHPO 16-00175) is in the upper right.
Figure 22. Excavation block (black) and grid (red) superimposed on 2002 color infrared aerial photograph of HEHO. Digital aerial photograph base map from Iowa Geographic Map Server (http://ortho.gis.iastate.edu/client.dgi?zoom=1&x0=637638&y0=4614459&layer=cir&action=zoom0.5&width=550&height=550). Accessed 19 September 2008.
Figure 37a. Overhead view of unit 4D. Several features are clearly visible in color image. Note horseshoes south of north wall to compare to Figure 36b.
Figures 26a and 26b. Overhead mosaic view of central portion of excavation block with selectively annotated version.
Figure 37b. Close up of debris in western portion of Forge/Feature 4, facing north. Portion of north wall/Feature 12 also visible.
Figure 38. Close up of southern sill/Feature 12. Stone in upper portion is Feature 3A. Looking east. Note the nails in the circle lying perpendicular to the wood.
Figure 39a. Southwest corner of shop looking north. Nails mark sill lines. Metal ring is inside structure.
Figure 42. Western wall and northwest corner of shop looking northeast. The sill plate and nails, which are not clearly visible, are Feature 12. Bricks are Feature 2. Arrow points to an artifact match for Figures 43a and 43b.
Figure 44a. Rubble and iron in northwest corner of shop, note boot toe, north is up. Arrow points to an artifact match for Figures 42 and 43b.

Figure 44b. Color version of Figure 44a; looking north. Rubble and iron, in northwest corner of shop. Arrow points to an artifact match for Figures 42 and 43a.