

Jonathan Pattee Myth & America's Stonehenge

By Mary E. Gage

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Abstract

Gary Vescelius' 1955 excavation report on the America's Stonehenge/Mystery Hill site has long been considered the "gold standard" by the archaeology community for proving definitively that Jonathan Pattee who lived at the site from the 1820s through 1849 was responsible for the site's construction. Vescelius based his conclusions about the site's origins solely on the results of excavation unit "C" located outside of the alcove vestibule wall of the Oracle Chamber. Vescelius' own findings along with other independent lines of evidence show the location at excavation unit "C" was a highly disturbed context containing artifacts from the Pattee era trash dump inter-mixed with late 1930s artifacts from Goodwin's reconstruction crew and all of that mixed together with stones from the partially collapsed vestibule wall (collapse occurred circa 1915-1937). At any other archaeological site, the conclusions drawn from such an excavation would be soundly rejected.

How a Myth Gets Perpetrated

Ryan Wheeler, director of the S. Peabody Institute of Archaeology at Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts in a 2021 interview deferred to the "well-respected" professional archaeologist, the late Gary Vescelius, of the American Museum of Natural History in New York City as the expert on the Pattee Theory. "Vescelius believed that the site [America's Stonehenge] was built in the first half of the 19th century, Wheeler says."¹

Vescelius conducted excavations on the site first as Junius Bird's assistant in 1945 and later as an archaeology graduate student at the University of Michigan in 1955.² He wrote a report in 1955 that was published posthumously in the *New England Antiquities Research Association Journal* in 1982-1983.³ Vescelius's report was preceded by Junius Bird's 1945 report published in the same journal in 1982.⁴ Bird's report was accompanied by a 1945 letter from William Goodwin to Bird. This shows the chain of events leading up to Vescelius' 1955 excavations and report.

¹ Date 2022, M40.

² Vescelius was in the Ph.D. program at the time, a program he never completed. See: <https://www.archaeologybulletin.org/articles/10.5334/bha-588/>

³ Vescelius 1982, 1982a, 1983.

⁴ Bird 1982.

Vescelius's comments in the conclusion of his 1955 report:

“[Junius] Bird obtained possible evidence of an earlier occupation in the form of a charcoal horizon which clearly antedated what may be called the ‘Pattee horizon’.” “... Bird’s crucial excavation, Test Pit 3, may well have yielded misleading evidence. If this does not prove to be the case, the contradiction must be resolved by devising some other hypothesis which will not do violence to the evidence of the Y Cavern’s lateness.”⁵

“As to the period in which they [stone structures] were built there can, I think, be little doubt; in my opinion, they clearly date from the very late eighteenth and the early nineteenth century. Rather we must conclude, as did Hencken, that ‘at least part of the buildings was the work of Jonathan Pattee between 1826 and 1848, though there seems to have been a slightly older nucleus.’⁶

Letter from Goodwin to Bird, dated August 31, 1945

According to Goodwin, Hencken “visited the site on four or five occasions.” But, “Hencken did no excavating ...”⁷

Goodwin also stated, “Professor Hugh O’Neil Hencken came determined to make an adverse report, under threats from Professor Hooten and Professor Samuel E. Morison. He merely belittled the reputation of the Peabody and Harvard scholarship, to save his job, as far as I can see from long talks with him.”⁸

There was obvious discontent between Goodwin and Hencken.

Wheeler deferred to Vescelius. Vescelius deferred to Hencken. Whereas Hencken and Vescelius both did their own investigations on the site Wheeler has not, yet he like his two predecessors claims the site was built in 19th century during which time the only person known to have occupied the site was Jonathan Pattee. Hencken although he did not do any excavations, he did investigate an old rotted tree stump behind the wall of the Collapsed Chamber. He dug around the roots and found the roots worked their way under the chamber’s wall showing the chamber predated the tree. He sought tree experts to see if the tree’s age could be dated. The answer was the tree likely predated Pattee.⁹ Hencken felt this was not a problem as it “seem to reconcile the two local traditions, one that Pattee built the ‘caves,’ and the other that he improved them.”¹⁰

“The local tradition, ... is that he [Pattee] built all the buildings.”¹¹

⁵ Vescelius 1983, 61.

⁶ Ibid, 62,

⁷ Goodwin 1982.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Hencken 1939, 433.

¹⁰ Ibid 441.

¹¹ Ibid 431.

“Mr. Goodwin, however, has obtained the evidence of a reliable and educated witness that Pattee’s youngest son told him his father did not build the structures but ‘improved’ them, a term capable in older usage of meaning ‘occupied and kept up.’ ”¹²

Hencken combined the local tradition that Pattee built the caves with Pattee’s son’s statement he “improved” them. By doing so, Hencken was able to reconcile by implying the Collapsed Chamber was improved by Pattee who built the rest of the stone structures.

Vescelius took a different approach to reconciling the conflicting data. To account for the Collapsed Chamber with the pine tree root growing underneath it’s wall being built prior to Pattee he suggested it “may have been built by Pattee’s father or by his grandfather, or by some other close relative.”¹³

Pattee built his house using the Sunken Courtyard unit for his house foundation. The Sunken Courtyard contains parallel walls enclosing an area that leads down to a chamber. It has been established the wall midway going across the enclosed area was added after the structure was built. The wall has been equated to Pattee for a foundation support wall which makes logical sense. Inside the chamber its walls were partially plastered a Pattee improvement. Embedded in the top wall layer in the northeast corner of the chamber is a single stone with a blast hole. In the unfinished chamber directly across from the finished chamber is another single stone with a blast hole in the top layer of the stone wall. Pattee repaired the top layer of the five foot high wall with two pieces of stone that had been split using a metal drill and gunpowder. All together, he added a short section of walling, repaired the top layer of stone wall and partially plastered the interior wall of the intact chamber likely for use as a root cellar. This work constitutes and confirms Pattee’s son’s statement that his father “improved” a stone structure. Hencken and later Vescelius ignored this evidence. Instead they manipulated the oral history to suite their conclusion Pattee built the stone structures.

In 1938 Goodwin interviewed with the reporter Wesley S. Griswold from the *Hartford Courant* for an article in its *Sunday Magazine*. (June 19, 1938) The reporter wrote:

“Perhaps the most startling relic, from a layman’s point of view as well as the archaeologists, is a mighty slab of granite, 12 feet long and 14 feet wide [reporter’s estimated size, its actual size is 8’ L x 6’W x 10” Thick], which stands on stone legs beside the wall of the biggest hut [Oracle Chamber].

Paralleling its edge on four sides, though several inches in towards the center, runs a groove three inches deep. In one corner there is a drain a foot long. Experts working with microscopes [magnifying glass?] declared no metal had been used to chisel this trough out of the granite. When a flint rock shaped to fit a man’s hand was found with one end pointed it was concluded that this type of implement did the remarkable job of cutting.”¹⁴

¹² Ibid 431-432.

¹³ Vescelius 1983, 61.

¹⁴ Griswold 1938, 53.



Figure 1 – Grooved Stone

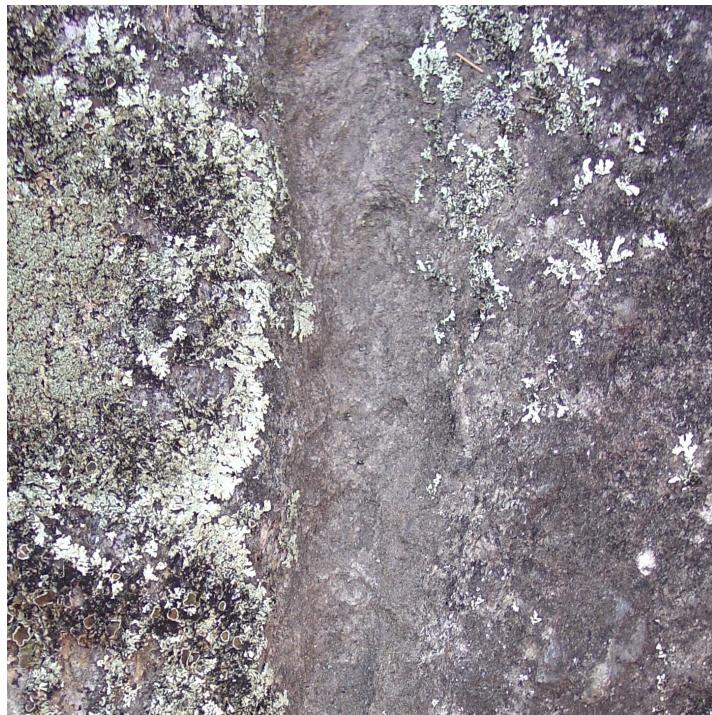


Figure 1A – Close-up photo of groove, pecking marks are evident

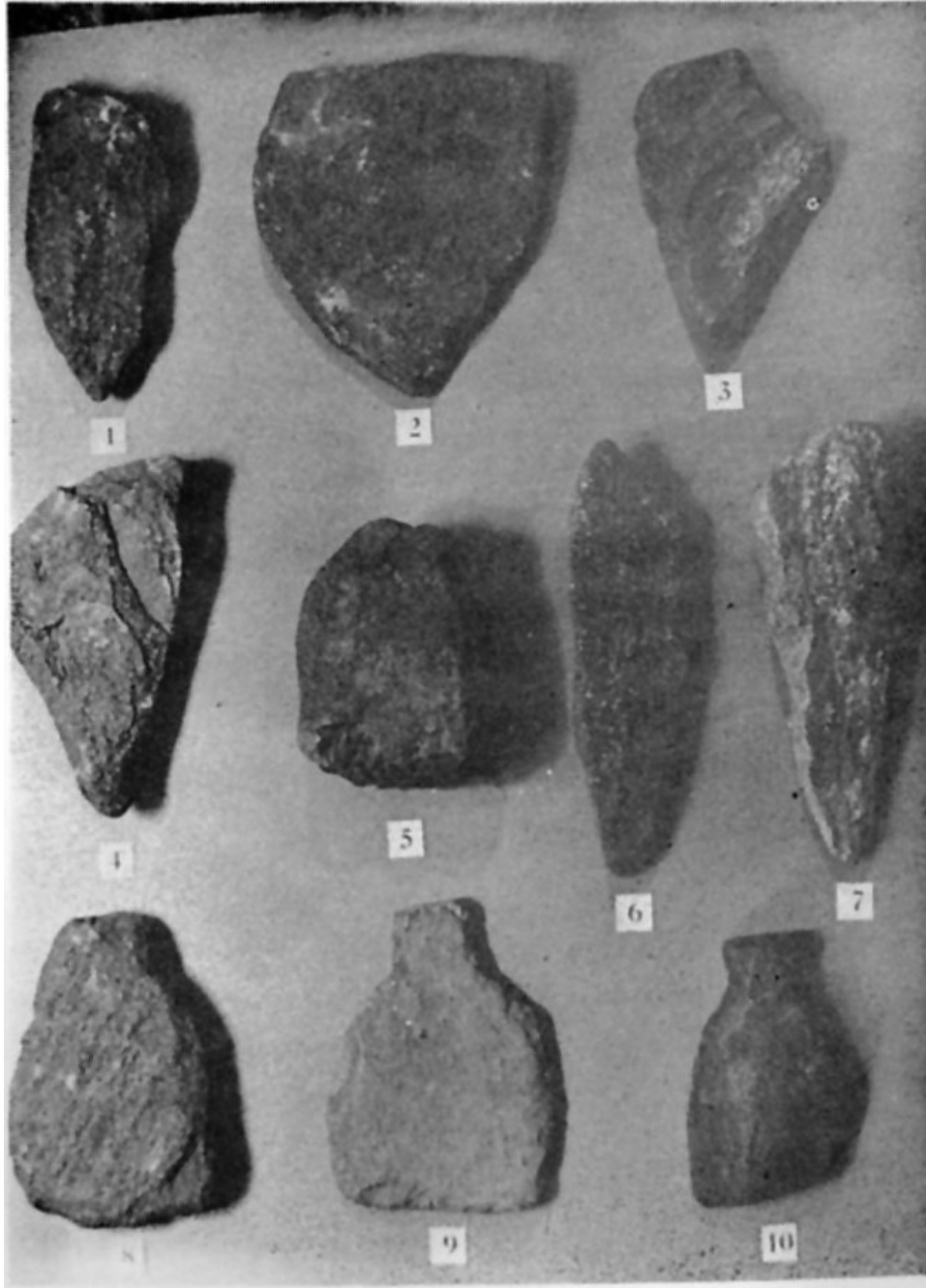


Figure 2 – Artifacts excavated by James Whittall Jr. Artifacts # 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 & 7 with their pointed ends are examples of the stone pick mentioned in the *Hartford Courant* article.¹⁵

The method used to create the groove is Native American in origin and is called “pecking”. The stone pick was used by pecking or hitting the slab repeatedly to chip out, break off small pieces of stone until the desired width and depth of the groove was achieved.

¹⁵ Whittall 1970, 84.



Figure 3 – Pecked drain feature evidenced by the rough surface that was chipped out

Hencken in the article he wrote for *The New England Quarterly* in 1939 says this regarding Native Americans. “It is also most unlikely to be the work of the local Indians. It must therefore date from after the white settlement of New England in the early seventeenth century.”¹⁶

In the first sentence Hencken footnoted his reference to Indians, “The writer is obliged for this information to Dr. A. V. Kidder of the Carnegie Institution of Washington and to Messrs. Douglas S. Byers and Frederick Johnston of the Department of Archaeology, Andover Academy, all of whom visited the site.”¹⁷ He points out three archaeologist visited the site and declared it was not built by Native Americans. There is no mention of the Grooved Stone’s groove having been pecked out with a stone pick using the Native American method. All three archaeologists ignored the evidence with the Grooved Stone.

In Hencken’s second sentence he concluded the site was built by white settlers based on a negative conclusion that neither an “Irish colony”, Norse settlement with “Viking Age” people nor Indians built it.¹⁸ A negative does not make a positive. This type of conclusion is admonished by professional archaeologists. It is not scientifically based and therefore cannot be used.

Now back to Vescelius’s report in which he challenged the result of Bird’s Test Pit 3. Junius Bird was the lead archaeologist who Vescelius assisted with the excavations. Three test pits were opened up which Bird wrote a report on.

¹⁶ Hencken 1938, 441.

¹⁷ Ibid 441.

¹⁸ Ibid 441.

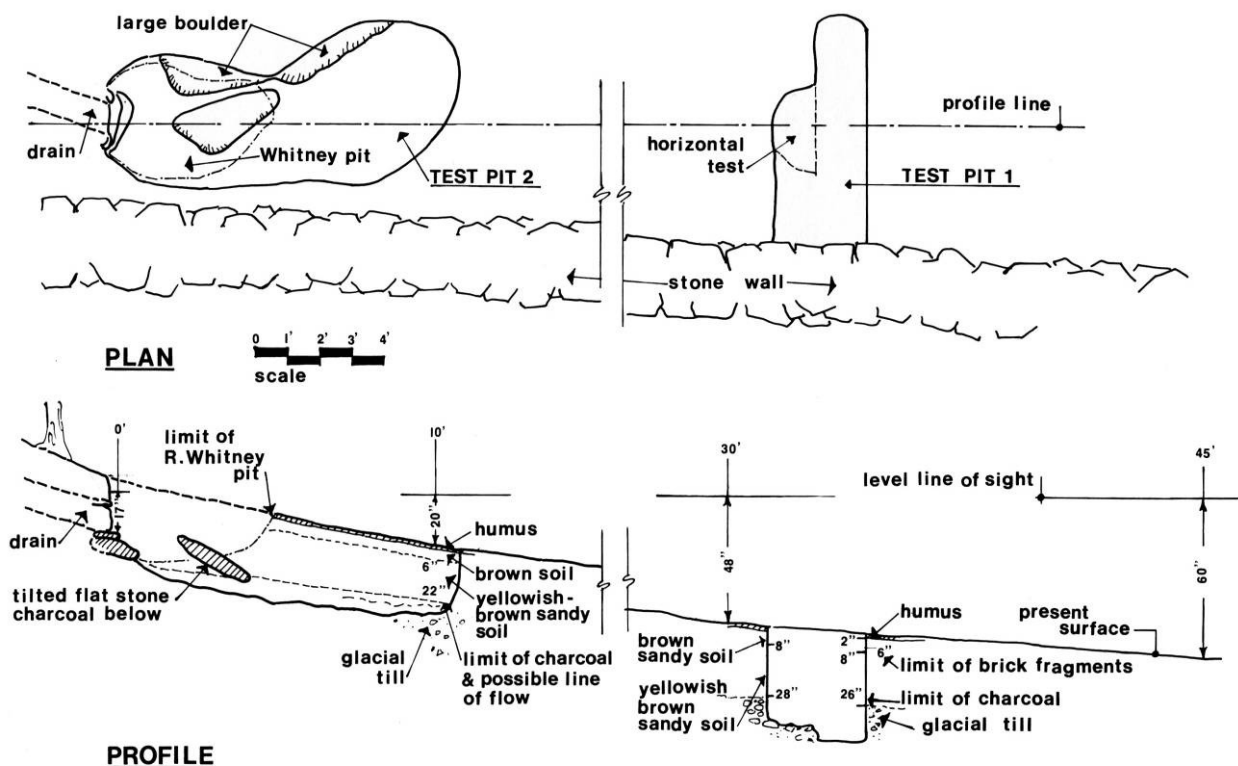


Figure 4 – Illustrations from Junius Bird’s 1945 excavation.

Bird’s Test Pits

Test Pit 1

The test pit was dug downhill of the drain perpendicular to the stone wall. It was extended up to the wall to attempt to date it. Stratigraphy consisted of “Soil: upper 2” dark, spongy forest humus; below this, brownish fine sandy soil, lighter in shade but of uniform texture farther down from surface: 8 – 9” below surface, this blends, with no traceable line of division, into yellowish brown sandy soil: at about 2’4” to 2’6” level, the yellowish blends irregularly with a gray sandy clay containing a greater amount of fine angular gravel than above.” He goes on to explain the occurrence of stones within the various layers. He made a semi-circle cut and did a layer by layer investigation of the charcoal and artifacts. “... concentrated along a level at 8” below the surface were 19 bits of charcoal, as though the ground cover had burned when the surface was at this level. At 9” there was one piece and at 10”, two pieces. There follows a tabulation of the remaining pieces:

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Between 10” and 12” below the surface ... | 70 bits [of charcoal] |
| 12” and 14½” | ... 75 bits |
| 14½” and 16½” | ... 42 bits |

| | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| 16 ½” and 18 ½” | ... 39 bits |
| 18 ½” and 20 ½” | ... 30 bits |
| 20 ½” and 22 ½” | ... 17 bits |
| Also at 22 ½” | ... 1 bit |

From there down to 26” 1 bit showed up at each ½” or 1” with one exception there were 6 bits at level 24”.

Brick Fragments in semi-circular cut

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| At 2” below the surface | ... 1 piece |
| Between 2” and 3” | ... 6 pieces |
| At 4” | ... 1 piece |

“These were all limited to the brownish sandy soil beneath the humus.”¹⁹

“Additional enlargement of Pit 1

An additional portion was removed from the end of the pit, continuing it into the soil beneath the stone wall which is built down the slope beginning just above the end of the drain. Stones fallen from the wall were embedded in and in some cases covered with the dark humus layer which thickens somewhat as it reaches the wall. Fragments and pieces of brick were found in the humus between the fallen stones, while the charcoal-bearing soil extended beneath the lowest wall stones. Hence the wall must post date the distribution of the charcoal and was in partial disrepair when the brick fragments were scattered”²⁰

The brick fragments post date the wall.

Test Pit 2

The test pit was opened up adjacent to the sump pit at the end of the drain. “The stones, which Mr. Whitney believed formed a sump pit, are, I believe, ones which were in their present position when the drain was constructed.” Bird opened his test starting at the edge of the sump pit to 11’ downhill. “The soil structure was similar to that in Pit 1,” and “In the humus against the wall was a complete old-type thin brick. Sifting the humus and underlying brownish sandy soil to a depth of 6”, yielded the following artifacts:

Level 1 (first 6”):

72 tiny fragments of brick, one of which was a corner fragment from standard-size molded brick.

1 old-type thin brick in the topmost humus against stone wall.

1 fragment of stone crockery at 6” level, 5’3” from drain outlet.

3 fragments of white glazed chinaware, two of which were found about 8’ below the outlet of the drain and 2” to 3” below the surface.

¹⁹ Bird 1982, 103-105.

²⁰ ibid 105.

3 round metal buttons, either silver or silver-plated, with soldered loops on the backs for attachment.

3 pieces of thin window glass.

The next six inches yielded nothing: no bits of brick or charcoal.

Below 12" the soil was scraped away and sifted in approximately 3" separations as uniformly as possible. Charcoal began to appear between 14" and 15", the first seen here except for a few bits along the juncture of the humus and the brown soil. Below 15" the amount of charcoal decreased but pieces were found scattered down to a depth of 22" below the surface."²¹

In both test pits the historic artifacts were found between the top humus level down to six inches below the surface. The charcoal showed up in test pit 1 at 8" below the surface and in test pit 2 14" below the surface. In each test pit there was a sterile layer of soil between the artifacts and charcoal.

Test Pit 3 (165' NW)

This test pit was a control to see if Bird could figure out what took place with the charcoal. Bird wrote, "The situation was such as to closely approximate the situation about Pit 1. The soil structure was similar to that noted at Pit 1. The procedure was the same as at Pit 1: first a test pit was cut down into the till, then a semi-circular area, slightly larger than the one at Pit 1, was removed by horizontal scraping. This yielded only one single charcoal scrap at 8 ½", with no traces whatever below this. No brick fragments or artifacts were found."

"The implication of these tests is that the charcoal found below the drain either was carried there by wash from the drain or washed down the slope from the immediate proximity of the ruins at a time prior to the deposition of the artifacts encountered in the upper 6" of soil. If the charcoal fragments were the result of repeated burnings of the ground cover, one would expect them to occur generally over the slopes of the hill wherever the gradient permitted the buildup of the sandy soil."²² Bird's statement implies the charcoal was likely associated with the stone structures which he points out in his conclusion.

Bird states, "In conclusion, I can only point out that the results of our brief examination are only contradictory. There is the suggestion of age antedating colonial times from the charcoal distribution in the soil in the hill slopes."²³

²¹ ibid 105.

²² Ibid 106.

²³ Ibid 110.

C14 Dates

Radio carbon 14 dates obtained from charcoal recovered in later excavations confirmed Bird's suspicion the site dated prior to Jonathan Pattee's occupation in the first half of the 1800s. The following is a list of C14 dates obtained from the site.

| Date (B.P) | Location | Report # | Citation |
|----------------------------|--|----------|---|
| 6530 +/- 40 (7389 BP)* | "Excavation in wall east of north stone ... down hill" | 8923 | Details from information posted at Visitor's Center & Lab Report (1995) |
| 3475 +/- 210 (3775 BP)* | Flecks of charcoal found lodged between the <i>exterior</i> stones of the north wall of the Collapse Chamber 2 to 4 inches above bedrock. It has been subsequently determined that charcoal was in backfill soil and does not date the chamber. | GX2310 | Anon 1971, 40 Whittall 1991, 64 |
| 3470 +/- 30 (3697 BP)* | Fire pit at North Stone. Excavation by Stewart-Smith, Hume & Hinton. | 8924 | Details from information posted at Visitor's Center & Lab Report (1995) |
| 2995 +/- 180 | Outside of the north wall of Collapsed Chamber (charcoal, fire-burnt stone spalls, hammer stone, broken pick, scraper) 24" level of excavation. | GX1608 | Whittall 1969, 50-53 Whittall 1991, 64 |
| 2120 +/- 95 | Charcoal found on and in a seam of quarried bedrock (below ground near ditch drain & low walled enclosure) | GX2029 | Whittall 1971, 19-20 Whittall 1991, 64 |
| 1910 +/- 190 | Indian Lodge (parking lot) (C13 Corrected) | GX20669 | Lab Report (1995) |
| 1640 +/- 135 | Indian Lodge (parking lot) (C13 Corrected) | GX20670 | Posted at Visitor's Center |
| 1430 +/- 135 | Oracle Chamber / Covered Drain Leading to Sump Pit | GX4732 | Whittall 1991, 64 |
| 1250 +/- 100 | North Stone / Hearth | GX15349 | Whittall 1991, 64 |
| 1195 +/- 75 | Indian Lodge (parking lot) (C13 Corrected) | GX20671 | Lab Report (1995) |
| less than 400 | Covered Drain in Sunken Courtyard / Re- used for House Foundation 18xx - 1849. Archaeologist Frank Glynn argued that the sample came from soil contaminated by Pattee era sediments which intermixed with earlier sediments in the drain. | GX0025 | Glynn 1967, 55 Whittall 1991, 64 Lab Report (1967) |
| 260 +/- 90 | Wood sample from root of a pine stump (Roots of pine stump went under wall of Collapsed Chamber proving the chamber was older than 260 years old) | GX1118 | Glynn 1967, 57 Whittall 1991, 64 |
| 220 +/- 140 | Fire Pit excavated by James Whittall Cover letter mentions brick making suggesting a location near the clay pit. | GX1651 | Posted at Visitor's Center |
| 75 +/- 160 | Excavation by W.E.J. Hinton Jr. (No Information) | GX15348 | Lab Report (1989) |

| | | | |
|-----|---|--------|----------------|
| 140 | Covered Drain (1810 A.D.) Sunken Courtyard / Reused for House Foundation 18xx -1849. Archaeologist Frank Glynn argued that the sample came from soil contaminated by Pattee era sediments which intermixed with earlier sediments in the drain. | GX0024 | Glynn 1967, 55 |
|-----|---|--------|----------------|

B.P. stands for before present which for purposes of C14 dating is the year 1950.

* These are calibrated or “corrected” dates and considered more accurate.

Vescelius’ Excavation C

Vescelius’s illustration of his excavation “C” of the vestibule (alcove) to the Oracle Chamber is a crosswise-cut going the length of the drain (southeastward). The entrance to the drain is inside the alcove and under the detritus pile on the left. There is an intact one-stone-wide wall atop the drain’s capstone. It has a flat face on the interior side of the alcove as shown on Vescelius illustration confirming the wall was intact. Behind the wall on its exterior side is a mound of mixed soil and stone rubble with artifacts. Arthur Carey’s 1938 sketches from visits in October and November of that year have the words “Rubbish Heap” (fig. 5) and “Rubbish Here” next to the exterior wall of the alcove. That shows the mix of soil and stone rubble on the exterior is part of the “rubbish heap”. In a circa 1915 photograph (fig. 8) is a straight on frontal view showing the original intact configuration of the alcove with roof slabs horizontally placed at walk-in height.²⁴ In a later undated photograph (1958 or before) of the alcove a man stands with his arm raised and hand on a slanted roof slab showing the upper half of the wall is missing and the lower half of the wall intact.²⁵ Prior to Vescelius’s 1955 excavation the slanted slab was removed leaving the lower half of the wall standing.

Vescelius in his write up stated:

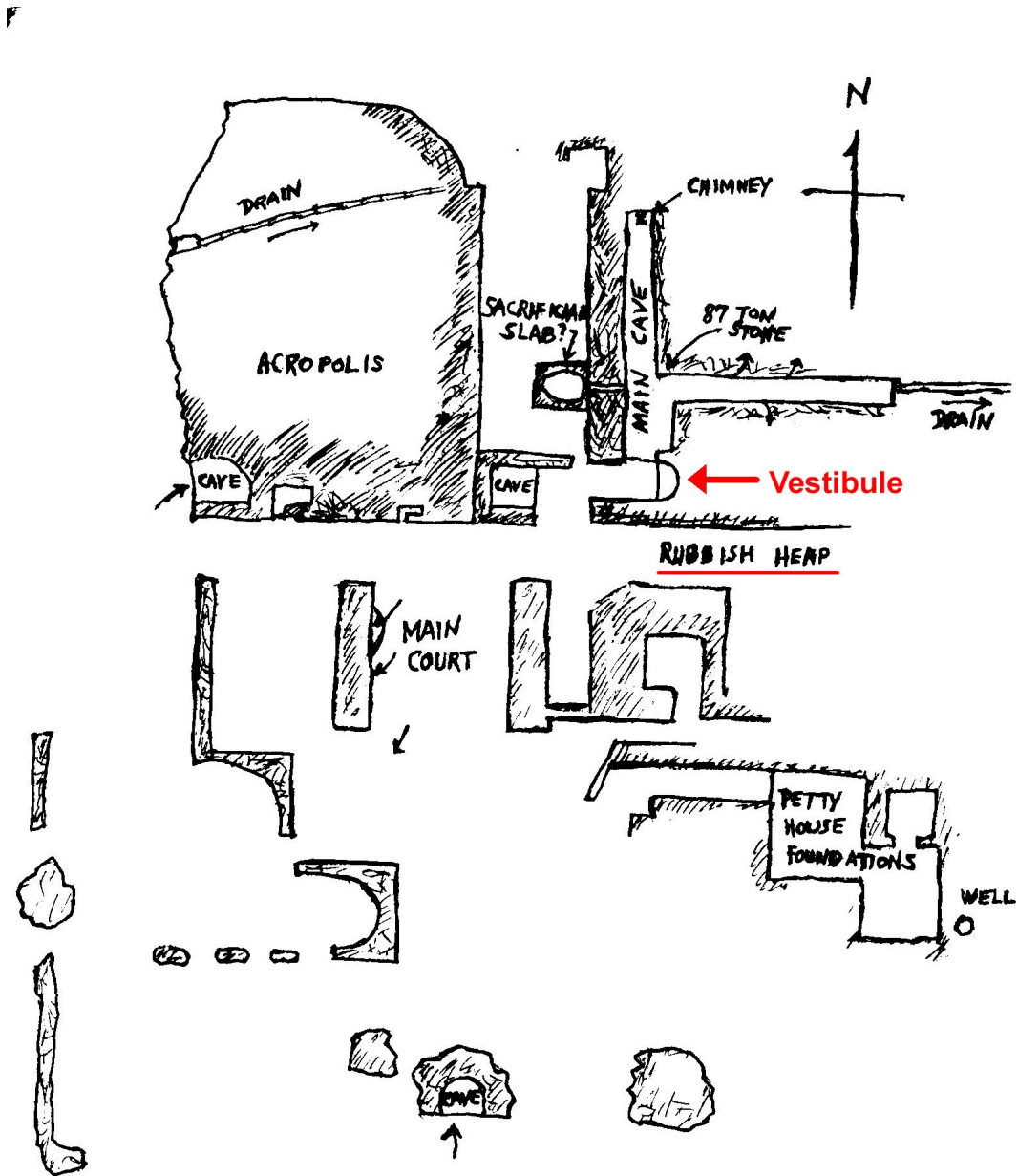
“We began by clearing a spot just to the southeast of the Cavern’s vestibule wall; ... We first dug a pit at a point about ten feet from the middle of the wall; ... Next we stripped the topsoil from the detritus which lay outside the wall, and then removed the topsoil covering the wall itself (Fig. 7; Plate IV, C). This topsoil was littered with objects (Table IV) both old and new: the relics of Goodwin were found mingled with those of Pattee. Our efforts were well rewarded, however, for as we took up the rocks, one by one, a considerable number of artifacts were found in situ (Fig. 7; Plate IV, D). In our opinion, these artifacts, by virtue of their position within the wall, constitute incontrovertible evidence of its age, and, in view of the fact that the wall itself seems to form an integral part of the Cavern as a whole, we feel that they serve to date the entire structure. There can be no question but that they date from the early nineteenth or very late eighteenth century.”²⁶

[NOTE: Vescelius figure 7 is reproduced here as figure 6]

²⁴ Goodwin 1946.

²⁵ Holden 1958.

²⁶ Vescelius 1982a, 34.



ROUGH SKETCH PLAN OF
 STONE WORK AT N.SALEM N.H.
 SCALE APPROX 1 YD = $\frac{1}{8}$ " OCT. 12 '38

Figure 5 – Arthur Carey’s October 1938 sketch map of the America’s Stonehenge site. Carey wrote “RUBBISH HEAP” outside of the south wall of the vestibule. Vescelius’ 1955 excavation at this location dug into a documented trash pile from the Pattee era. Vescelius found additional trash from Goodwin’s reconstruction crew inter-mixed with Pattee’s trash. The situation was further complicated by the partial collapse of the vestibule wall after 1915 and before 1937 when Goodwin purchased the property. Vescelius drew his conclusions about the entire site’s origins from an excavation in a highly disturbed trash pile.

“Level 2 of Excavation C (Fig. 7) consisted largely of rubble derived from the vestibule wall, the uppermost courses of which have collapsed. Beneath this rubble lay a stratum of yellow-brown earth (Level 3) which yielded additional artifacts of nineteenth century vintage. This yellow-brown soil rested, in turn, atop a huge slab which appeared to be part of the wall. In order to investigate the structure of the wall, and particularly to determine the relationship of the wall to this slab we cleared the rubble from the floor of the vestibule itself. As we suspected, the slab served as the capstone of a short drain. This drain yielded a few pieces of pottery, brick, and glass – some of which are modern – and a lump of ostensible plaster.”²⁷

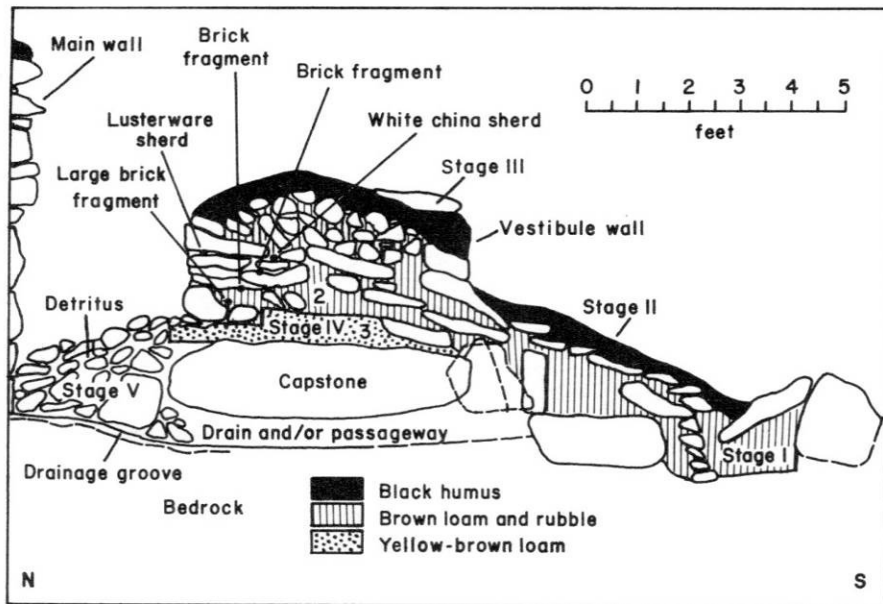


Figure 6 – Vescelius’ drawing of Excavation C (figure 7 in Vescelius’ report)

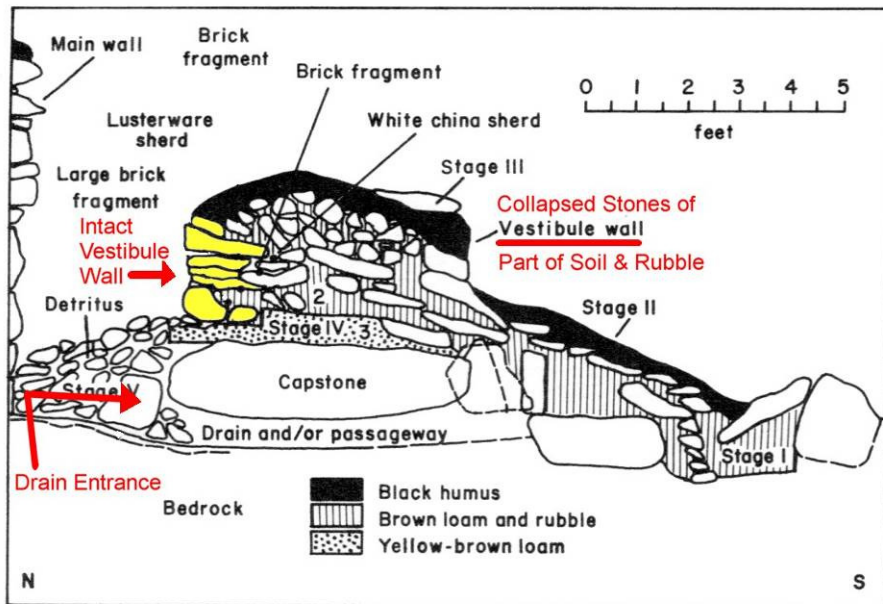


Figure 7 – Vescelius’ drawing of Excavation C with corrected labeling by author

²⁷ Ibid.

Under “level 2” which refers to the soil layers, Vescelius clarifies what he calls the “wall” “rubble derived from the vestibule wall, the uppermost courses of which have collapsed.” The “rubble” was a mound of soil, stones and artifacts behind the intact lower section of the alcove wall. The rubble was what Carey pointed out as the “rubbish heap”. The scattered nature of the stones on top of a base of “brown loam” within the mound confirm Vescelius’ statement it was the remains of a collapsed wall. However, Vescelius cheated when he said, “these artifacts, by virtue of their position within the wall [collapsed wall remains behind the intact wall], constitute incontrovertible evidence ...” He misleads everyone into thinking he was excavating a wall when in fact he was excavating down through the collapsed wall rubble. However, he did find a single artifact in between two stones within the intact wall shown in Plate IV, C. Plate IV, C is a Vescelius photograph of the intact one-stone-wide wall forming the back wall of the alcove. The one-stone-wide wall is confirmed in his illustration Fig. 7.

Vescelius dismantled the intact wall “we took up the rocks, one by one”. In doing so he found a single shard lodged under a flat wall stone. It is shown in Plate IV, D. In the photograph is a single, tiny (1/2” to 1”) thin sliver of a lusterware shard atop a wall stone. Its size is estimated as there is no scale card in the photograph. The shard shows up as a tiny white spot. It’s tiny size made it easy to get lodged in a narrow gap between the wall stones. When Vescelius dismantled the wall there may no longer have been a gap as the wall had likely suffered from shifting due to the removal of the large roof slabs covering the alcove and the collapse of the upper section of the wall. The shard’s presence *cannot* date the Oracle Chamber and by default all the stone structures as Vescelius attempts to make people believe.

He said some of the artifacts were mixed in with the lowest level of soil, the yellow-brown layer which he shows covering the whole length of the capstone including a thin layer of the soil under the intact section of wall. What he fails to do is show where in this layer the artifacts were located. When he dismantled the intact wall he only found a single shard, there is no mention of artifacts under the bottom stone in the wall atop the capstone. Had he found any he would have surely mentioned it for it would have greatly supported his argument for the wall being built by Pattee. Therefore it can be concluded there were no artifacts in the thin layer of yellow-brown soil under the bottom stone of the intact wall section.

As noted in the old photographs the alcove wall was intact as of 1915 post dating Pattee’s occupation of the site by sixty-four years. Sometime between 1915 and 1937 when Goodwin purchased the site the upper half of the wall collapsed. Hence, the stones from the collapsed wall should be on top of Pattee’s early 19th century rubbish not mixed in with it. Yet Vescelius says “the relics of Goodwin were found mingled with those of Pattee” in the topsoil covering rubble pile. For the topsoil to contain Pattee’s artifacts above the collapsed wall rubble shows the old artifacts had to have been placed there after 1915 as the alcove wall was intact at the time. The mound of rubble came about first by Pattee dumping trash in the area, followed by early visitors leaving their trash, and next from backfill shoveled into the chamber by the town of Salem to keep people out of it which Goodwin’s crew in turn dug out and tossed on top. Thus Vescelius found Goodwin era trash mixed in with Pattee trash in the black humus. This is totally disturbed context and is useless for analysis.

Vescelius hypothesis is filled with holes. He excavated in disturbed soils. He made unsubstantiated claims that do not hold up such as claiming Pattee artifacts found in “black humus” on top of the collapsed wall rubble that occurred post Pattee circa 1915-1937 are proof that the site was built in the early 19th century. There is no evidence Pattee built the site.



Figure 8 – Circa 1915 photograph of the intact alcove vestibule entrance.

Worked Stones

The groove pecked into the Grooved Stone was not the only stone to have been worked using a Native American method. Many more stones were discovered over the years. The following are brief descriptions of a few of the worked stones taken from a 2021 article by the author *Native American Worked Stone at America's Stonehenge* posted on Academia.edu²⁸ and another article titled *Drains and Basin* posted on the America's Stonehenge: Documentation – Analysis – Interpretation website.²⁹

Methods

Percussion Flaking – produces a flaked surface
Abraded or Ground – produces a smooth finish
Pecking – produces a rough chipped surface

²⁸ <https://www.academia.edu/44897431>

²⁹ <http://mysteryhillnh.info/html/drains-basins.html>

Examples of Worked Stones

Stone Shovel

This artifact was found by a member of Goodwin's crew and named by him. The name shovel may or may not apply. The flat, thin stone was worked using the percussion flaking method to form its shape. Note the edges are flaked a method used to create projectile points.

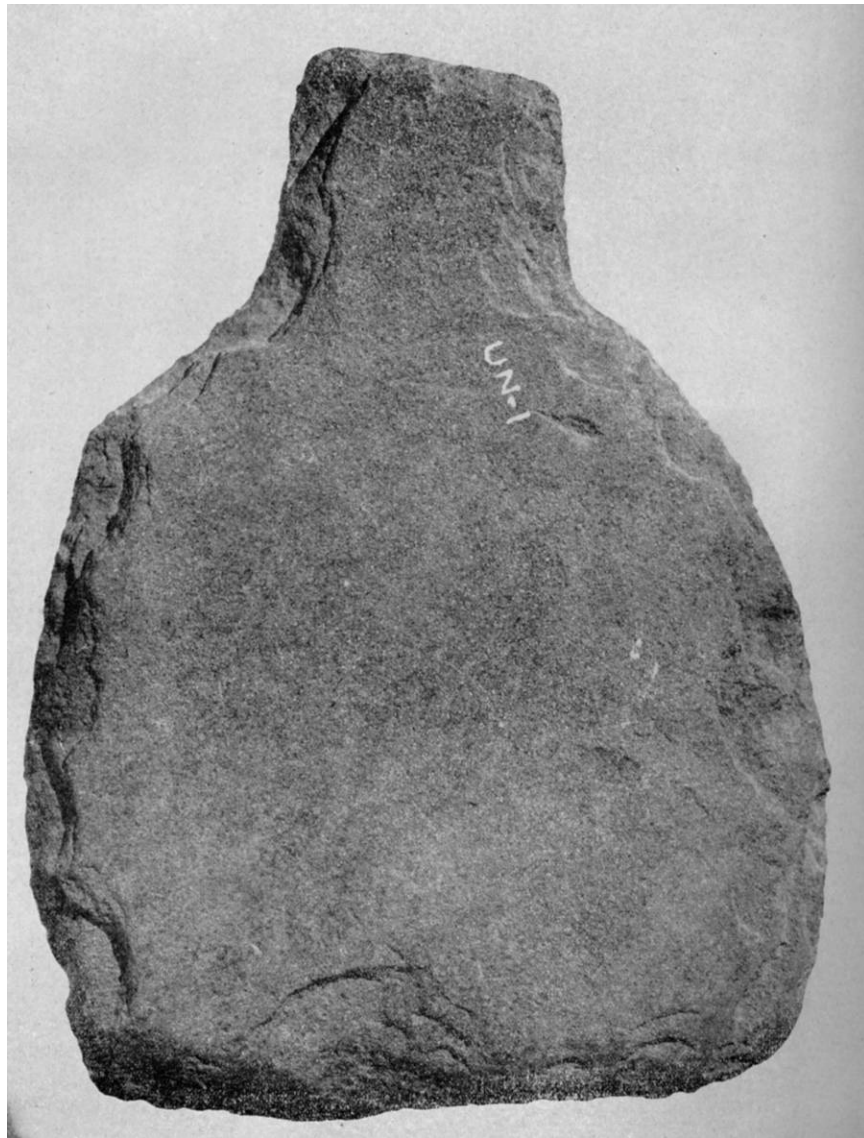


Figure 9 – Flaked stone “shovel” artifact found by William Goodwin’s crew and now currently on display at the visitors center. Photograph by Malcolm Pearson.³⁰

³⁰ Goodwin 1946, 420.

Grooved Drains and Basins

A total of twenty-three grooved features were documented. Nineteen were grooves pecked into the bedrock. Two were grooves pecked into flat stone slabs that were raised off the ground. Two were grooves pecked into in-ground boulders. Of the total five were basins with and without an integrated grooved drain. One long grooved drain was integrated with a stone covered drain. The grooved drains ranged in length from six inches long up to sixteen feet long. None had a utilitarian function. An example is seen with features D18 & D30. The description comes from the Drains & Basin article: “A basin was pecked into the bedrock beside the exterior wall of the Collapsed Chamber & enclosure structure. It has a teardrop shape which was smoothed by rubbing. A rust colored quartz vein curves around the wide south end. Perpendicular to the basin is a grooved feature D30. A protruding ridge in the bedrock separates the two features. Neither the basin nor the drain has an exit point. Any liquid such as water poured into either feature was contained within the feature. The two features are paired together.”

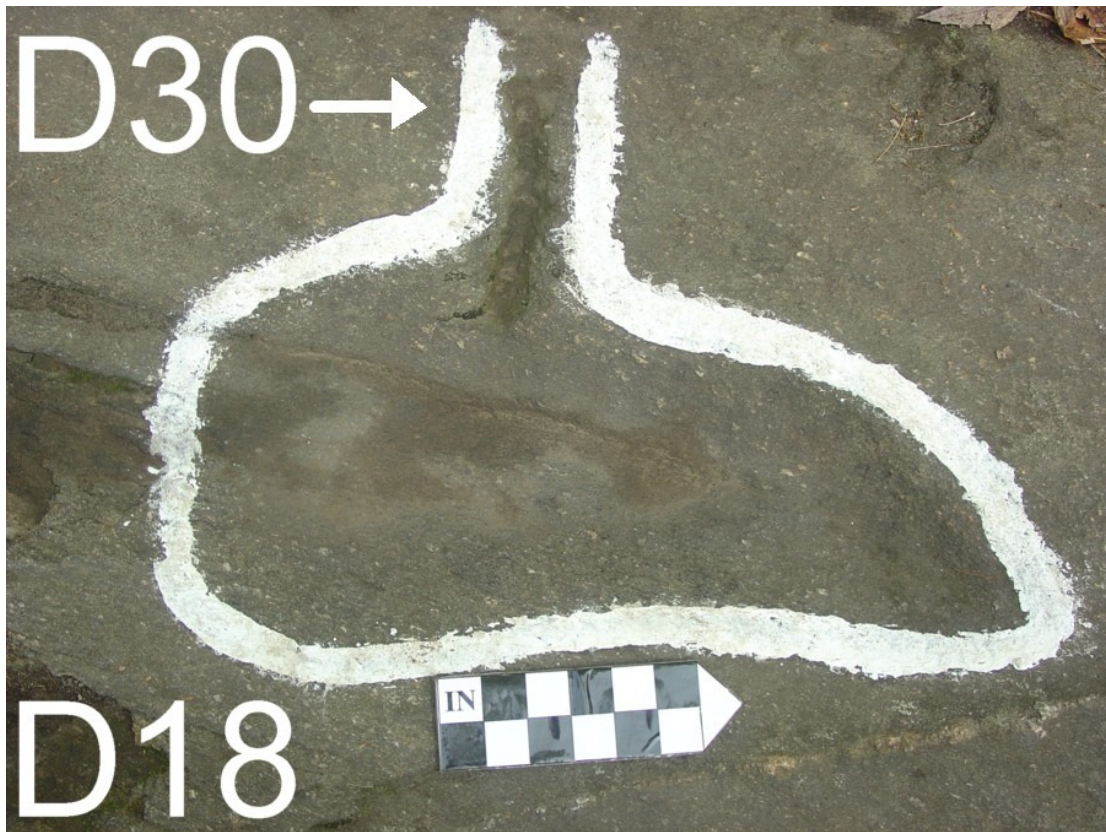


Figure 10 - Basin with attached drain

Pendants

The small stone pendant has the same shape as the summer sunrise alignment stone. Though not of stone a bone pendant is also on display at the visitors center. These are Native American artifacts.



Figure 11 – Stone pendant with the same shape as summer solstice sunrise stone & bone pendant



Figure 12 – Comparison of stone pedant and summer solstice sunrise stone.

Alignment Stones

The summer solstice sunrise stone in the early 2000s when the field documentation was conducted had a remarkably smooth abraded finish over its entire surface. Acid rain has caused the surface to pit and become rough. In comparison, the winter solstice sunset stone was shaped using the percussion flaking method.



Figures 13 & 14 – Summer solstice sunrise stone with a smooth abraded finish (top)
Winter solstice sunset stone with flaked edges (bottom)

Large Stone Slab

The worked stone slab was discovered in the woods north of the North Stone. “One large concoidal flake and hundreds of smaller “dressing flakes” were removed from the underside face.” (From the Worked Stone article) The slab is thirteen feet long by five feet wide. For unknown reasons work on the slab was halted and it was left where it had been worked. What this example does is provide evidence of Native Americans working large stone slabs on the hilltop.

The various features and stones worked using Native American methods in conjunction with the C14 dates present a strong argument in favor of a Native American built site.



Figure 15 – Large worked stone slab

Crystal Well

In the 1960s Robert Stone did an excavation of the well attached to the Sunken Courtyard.³¹ The structure Pattee used for the foundation of his house. It had been backfilled with large stones. No water was present which seemed strange. Stone worked his way down twelve feet to the well's bottom. At the bottom he encountered a muddy patch of stone in the bedrock from which he pulled out a quartz crystal cluster covered in a reddish orange substance. This was not a water source for Pattee as Stone never encountered water seepage inside the well. The well shaft was used to keep open access to the crystal geode. To the Native Americans crystals were highly sacred objects with spiritual power.

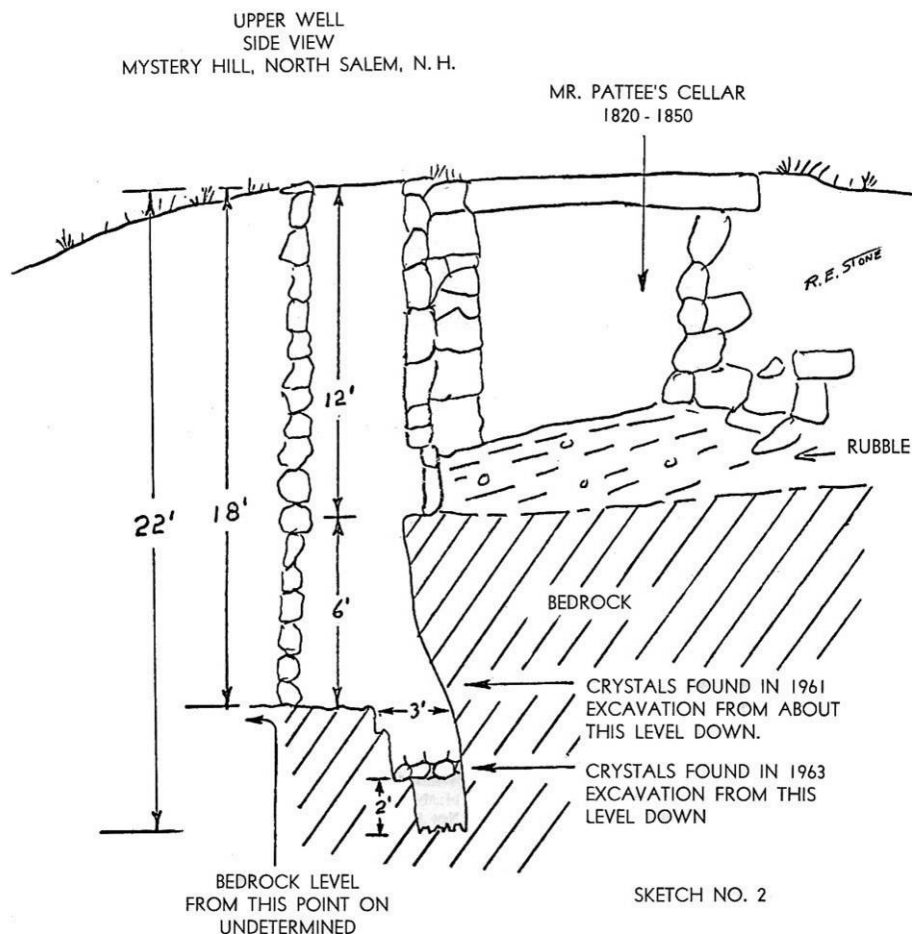


Figure 16 – Robert Stone’s illustration of the well shaft. Note: The 12 foot measurement should have been 6 feet giving a total of 12 to the bedrock level.

³¹ Stone 1963.

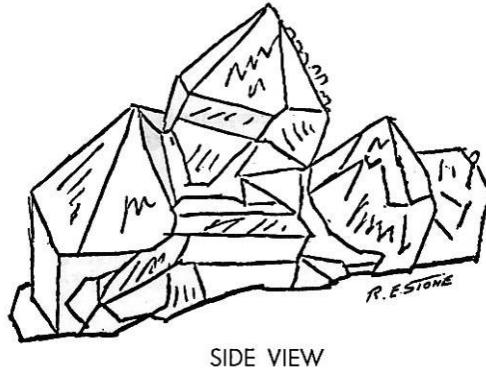


Figure 17 – Robert Stone’s illustration of the crystal cluster

Conclusion

Vescelius says if you disagree with me “the contradiction must be resolved by devising some other hypothesis”. The evidence contradicts the Pattee Theory. It supports the Native American built theory. Yet 21st century archaeologists continue to perpetuate the Myth: Pattee built the site.

Archaeologists

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