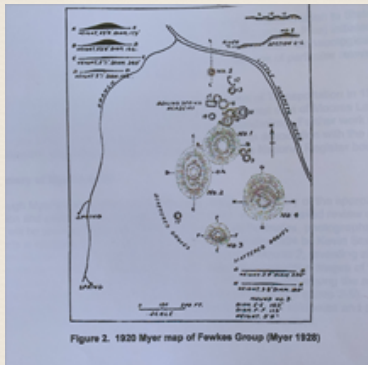


Can You Find It?

- Students of long ago carved their names and initials into the building. Look in the entrance, on the back wall outside, and upstairs for the marks left by these students.
- When the chimneys were removed, the brick-work on the gable ends had to be redone. Can you see where the old chimneys were? What clue inside the building tells you where the pot-bellied stove once stood?
- Acidic tobacco juice dripped onto the old pine floor boards while the structure served as a barn. Can you find the worm-like indentations in the floor carved out by the tobacco juice?
- Look at the lentils over the windows. Which one is the front door and which one is the back door?
- Can you find the boot scraper at the entrance to Boiling Spring Academy? How many do you see at the front door?



Map of the Fewkes Site

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The Brentwood Historic Commission Mission Statement

The purpose of the Brentwood Historic Commission is to promote an awareness of Brentwood's history and appreciation for its heritage.

If you would like more information on how you can volunteer with the docent program, volunteer with any of our events, or send a contribution to help fund our educational programs, please contact

Deanna Lambert, City of Brentwood
P.O. Box 788

Brentwood, TN. 37024-0788
615-371-0060

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www.brentwoodtn.gov/about-us/history



The Academy is open to the public the third Sunday of each month.
(April - October) from 2:00 - 4:00 pm



PRIMM HISTORIC PARK



A Brief History of the
Boiling Spring Academy
and the
Fewkes Group
Archeological Site



BOILING SPRING ACADEMY

HISTORY:

Some 400 years after the Native Americans left the Boiling Spring area, white settlers came into the area. The Wilsons, Crocketts, Hadleys and others chartered the Boiling Spring Academy as a private school for wealthy sons. That they chose to erect a two-story brick building indicates their wealth and commitment to educating their sons. The Academy opened in 1833 with tuition for a half year season starting at \$8. As the Academy's reputation grew, students came from other states to be educated here, often boarding with local families. Little is known about the Academy during the middle part of the 1800's, but it almost certainly saw service during the Civil War for both sides.



Children at the base of mound 1. Looking out the window at mound 1 and smaller mounds.

Mississippian Culture

The Boiling Spring on the Little Harpeth river has attracted settlers since prehistoric times. Here the Native Americans of the Mississippian period (900 1500 A.D.) constructed the huge mounds. Once part of a larger community, these mounds were likely used as ceremonial worship places. Some time around 1450 A.D. the natives left this place for reasons that are not evident. Where they went, and what modern tribes descended from them, is unknown.

It is believed that the Temple Mounds were the ceremonial center as well as the central governing body for the rest of the community. The flat mound tops were thought to be where the rectangular buildings of the community leaders lived surrounded by other lower dwellings. The entire complex would have been surrounded by a wall for safety.

The majority of the Mississippian people lived in small farming communities outside the walled area where they raised their crops.

During the 1920's the mounds were explored by Dr. Myers of the Smithsonian Institution, and some artifacts were removed. Dr. Myers named the site after Dr. Jesse Fewkes. In 1980 the "Fewkes" mounds and the nearby academy were placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Later in the century, the building was converted for use as a church. The two chimneys which once stood at each end of the building were removed. The front door was moved from its original location facing the large mound, and a new door created at the gable end, making the building look and feel more like a church. Eventually the Academy became part of the county school system until the 1920's when purchased by the Primm Family and converted into a barn.

PRIMM PARK AND RESTORATION

In 2003 the Primm family donated the academy and mounds to the City of Brentwood. To protect the site, the City obtained 30 acres around the site as a buffer. This additional land also preserved pastoral farmland along Moores Lane and provided acreage along the Little Harpeth River for the walk/bikeway system. The Brentwood Historic Commission worked with MTSU restoration experts who documented historic and prehistoric findings at the site, and worked with Leatherwood, Inc for the actual restoration..

A DAY IN A ONE ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE

The Boiling Spring Academy, with no electricity or plumbing, opens each fall and spring to give Brentwood elementary students a chance to step back in time and experience a typical old-time school day. Retired teachers in costume teach penmanship with slates, arithmetic on the board, and hold a spelling bee.



Longer lentils above the window indicates the front of the building.



Front as a school house. The church moved the entrance to the left side.



Student handwriting found on wood boards during renovation.



Archeologists found 4,600 artifacts under the floorboards of the academy.



Students working.



Slate chalkboard upstairs.