

Statement of Qualifications

For over 45 years, the Bernice S. Warren Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) has remained dedicated to two primary functions: (1) providing cultural resource management services to public and private entities in compliance with federal and state regulations; and (2) conducting archaeological research and educational programs in collaboration with the public, students, and heritage professionals. The overarching mission of CAR is to assist in the identification, investigation, and management of archaeological resources, as well as the curation and presentation of archaeological data.

Services Offered

- Cultural Resources Survey
- Section 106, Section 110, and NEPA Compliance
- National Register of Historic Places Evaluation and Nomination
- Archaeological Excavation and Data Recovery
- Archaeological Monitoring
- Artifact Identification, Analysis, and Curation
- Geoarchaeological Investigations
- Geophysical Investigations
- Educational Programs and Public Events

Headquartered on the Missouri State University (MSU) campus in Springfield, our facilities include a well-equipped archaeological laboratory, comprehensive research library and map collection, extensive comparative artifact collections, educational exhibits, and curation space. We have a compacting storage system for curation of artifact and records collections, with ongoing efforts to upgrade our collections database and digitize older photographic collections. Our lab prepares and maintains all materials and records in accordance with federal curation standards. The Center also owns two total stations and several GPS units (including sub-meter instruments), as well as a complete array of field equipment needed for archaeological projects of any size. CAR owns a G-858 cesium magnetometer/gradiometer, and has access to other specialized equipment and analyses, including ground penetrating radar (GPR), electro-magnetic (EM) conductivity, electrical resistivity, radiocarbon dating, and x-ray fluorescence (XRF).

CAR presently employs a staff of five professional archaeologists and a pool of experienced field and laboratory technicians. CAR operates under the direction of Kevin Cupka Head (Ph.D. Candidate, University of Illinois; M.A., Ball State University, 2010), a Registered Professional Archaeologist with extensive field and lab experience. Other staff members are research archaeologist Michaela Conway (M.A. University of Tulsa, 2021), project supervisor Dustin Thompson (B.A., Missouri State University, 2000), Missouri Archaeological Society (MAS) program manager Lisa Haney (B.A., Missouri State University, 2004), and research specialist Sarah Reid (B.A., Missouri State University, 2013). Thompson has a graduate certificate in Geospatial Sciences, and both Reid and Cupka Head are also versed in GIS.

The Center is supported through the assistance of the university's Financial Services, Purchasing, and Human Resources departments. The Center also utilizes the expertise of consulting specialists in such areas as archaeobotany, geology, geoarchaeology, and history. Several specialists maintain Research Associate status with the Center and are actively involved with Center projects, including three geomorphologists: Dr. F. Scott Worman (Ph.D., University of New Mexico, 2012) of Springfield, Missouri, Dr. Rolfe D. Mandel (Ph.D., University of Kansas, 1991) of Topeka, Kansas, and Dr. Edwin R. Hajic (Ph.D., University of Illinois, 1990) of Sante Fe, New Mexico. Furthermore, Emeritus director Neal Lopinot (Ph.D., Southern Illinois University, 1984) continues to contribute his considerable archaeobotany expertise to the Center, and retired assistant director Jack H. Ray provides lithic analysis.

CAR is funded primarily by external contracts and grants and has completed more than 1,000 projects to date. The center routinely handles all phases of cultural resource investigation including document searches, literature reviews, reconnaissance and intensive cultural resource surveys, test excavations, mitigation or intensive excavations, monitoring, and site preservation. Many of these projects have been undertaken in conjunction with local municipal, county, and state agencies. Major agencies for which CAR works include the Missouri Department of Transportation, the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, the Arkansas Department of Transportation, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Little Rock, Kansas City, Rock Island, St. Louis, and Tulsa Districts), among others. Over the years, CAR has also undertaken investigations for numerous engineering and/or consulting firms throughout Missouri, as well as in Arkansas, Kansas, Illinois, Iowa, and Oklahoma. In addition, CAR projects have been sponsored by private individuals and small businesses.

CAR has traditionally operated the MSU Field School in Archaeology. Previous CAR-operated field schools in southwest Missouri have focused on early nineteenth century Delaware settlement in the James River valley, Osage hunting camps, and early transportation routes, including the Trail of Tears. CAR staff have also taught courses at the university, usually with instruction in the evening or as educational extension classes. The Center also boasts a strong record of public outreach and engagement, including headquartering the Missouri Archaeological Society (MAS), as well as sponsoring monthly meetings of the MAS Ozarks Chapter, an annual Artifact Identification Day, regional efforts for Missouri Archaeology Awareness Month, and volunteer excavations of threatened sites. CAR also welcomes field trips of elementary and secondary schoolers. Our archaeologists publish regularly and are often available to present public lectures upon request. CAR staff hold membership in several professional organizations and routinely attend regional, national, and international meetings.

Should you require cultural resource management services or are simply curious about the archaeology of the Ozarks, please give CAR a call at **(417) 836-5363** or contact us via e-mail at **car@live.missouristate.edu**. We hope to hear from you soon!



Kevin Cupka Head, Director