

The Hot Springy Dingy Landslide Site



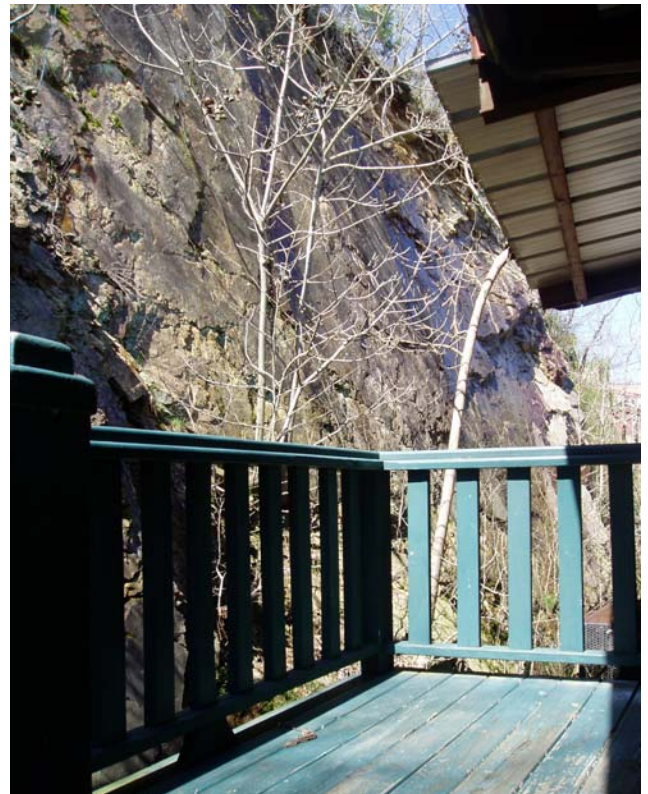
Looking across Central Avenue to the former Hot Springy Dingy Shop in 2008.

On Saturday November, 11, 1995 at about 2:30 PM, a landslide occurred behind a group of buildings located in the 100 block of Central Avenue. The slide burst through the rear wall of two buildings and part of a third, killing one person and injuring two other people inside the Hot Springy Dingy novelty shop. The landslide appeared to be a rock slide from a near vertical highwall exposure. The failed mass was estimated to have been 43 feet long, 30 feet high and about 2 to 3 feet thick (McFarland and Stone, 1995). These dimensions suggest that over 200 tons of rock were involved in the slide. A large amount of brick from the back wall of the buildings fell on the slide debris. A minor amount of other

cultural objects from the slope above added many more tons of material to the talus accumulation. Those who witnessed the landslide recalled hearing what sounded like a bomb detonating inside the shop. Reporters described the scene as being "somewhat macabre." Onlookers came to take pictures of the site, and several Halloween-themed, plastic foam tombstones were placed on the sidewalk outside the novelty shop. One read "Will E Makeit" (Wolfe, 1995). The Hot Spring Dingy Landslide remains yet another tragic reminder of the hazards faced by this city.



The parking lot adjacent to the Hot Springy Dingy Landslide site. Notice the green building extension, which was destroyed in 1995 after the rock slide, but has since been repaired.



2008 picture taken from the back porch of the former Hot Springy Dingy Shop, with highwall looming in the background.

References

McFarland, J. D. and C. G. Stone, 1995, Hot Springy Dingy Landslide, Hot Springs, AR, Prepared as a memorandum to W.V. Bush, Arkansas Geological Commission, 3 p.

Wolfe, Frank, 1995, "Mother's Desperate Dash", Arkansas Democrat Gazette. November, 12, Sunday issue.