The annual Symposium on Ohio Valley Urban and Historic Archaeology began as a one-shot conference at the University of Louisville in 1983. Dr. Joseph Granger obtained some seed money from his dean, and brought in Marley Brown as a discussant. The papers were a mixed lot, ranging from light descriptions to some fairly informed attempts at establishing and testing patterns of settlement and socioeconomic variation. Just the idea that we got 40 or 50 people together to discuss historic sites in the region was a boost to the discipline. Granger, with Phil DiBlasi and Don Ball, published a proceedings of the conference as well, which was an important addition to the very scant literature for the region.

Since then, we’ve managed to convene the symposium every year. We have published volumes representing most years, although we did not maintain a yearly schedule for several years.

We are not a membership organization. That is, we have no dues structure. We do keep a mailing list, and we consider everyone who has participated in the conference to be a member.

We meet in a different place each year. We depend on colleagues to volunteer to host it, and so far we have not had much trouble finding somebody willing to do it. We appreciate the efforts of the many hosts. We usually have enough papers to hold a full day’s session, occasionally we spill over to a day and a half.

We seek papers concerning all aspects of regional urban and historical archaeology. The Symposium is oriented towards providing a forum for formal papers. To enable as many colleagues as possible to participate actively, we generally seek short (20 minutes) substantive papers on a one paper per person basis.

Papers may be submitted for publication in the Symposium's journal, Ohio Valley Historical Archaeology, edited by Donald B. Ball (address above). This web page contains links to the style sheet, the contents of back issues, and an order form for issues in print.