

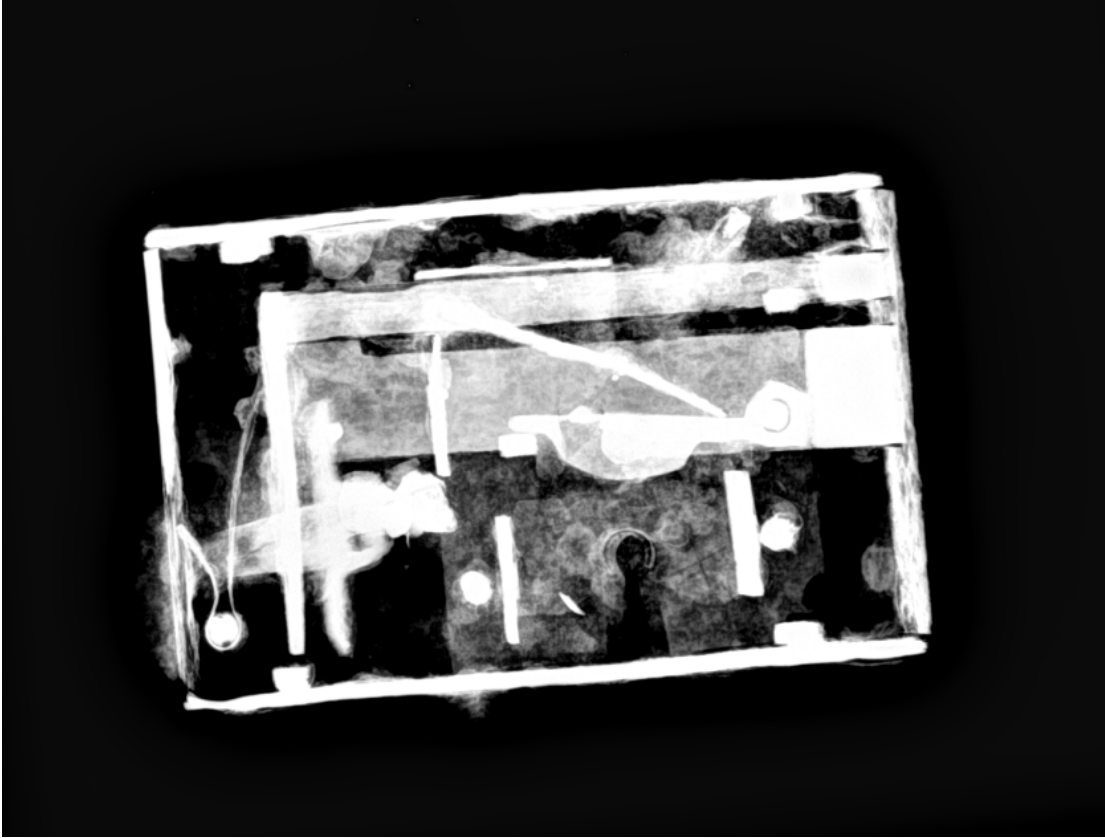
## Lock Cases

Excavation revealed two lock cases, or door lock mechanisms very close to one another in the area of most intense burning in the 1799 Main House. Lock mechanisms in modern homes are usually inset into the wood of a door, but historically surface-mounted lock cases were visible adjacent to a door knob. One of the lock cases is iron, and one is copper alloy (brass). The proximity of the two lock cases could mean that two doors across from one another or along a corridor were both destroyed by the intense fire.



Photograph by Jay Hirsch

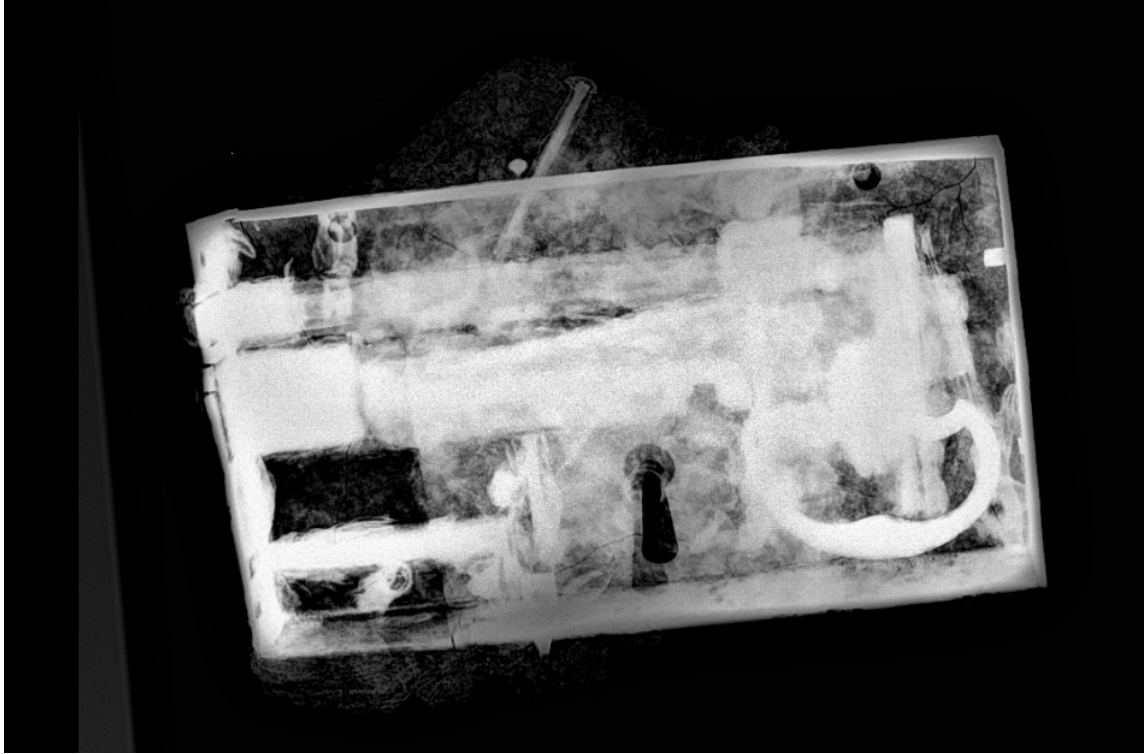
**Figure 1.** The iron lock case is approximately 5.25 x 3.5 inches. *(Photo credit: Jay Hirsch)*



**Figure 2.** An X-ray of the iron lock case clearly reveals the keyhole and locking mechanism.



**Figure 3.** The brass lock case was found with charred wood adhering to it. Some of the wood could belong to the door the lock secured. The brass lock case is approximately 8 x 4.5 inches.



**Figure 4.** An X-ray of the brass lock shows the keyhole and the half-moon shaped handle that released the mechanism.

### **Artifact Based Questions**

1. How is modern technology able to help archaeologists visualize damaged objects?
2. Why are the lock boxes made of two different metals?
3. What data could archaeologists gather from these finds?